



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All

For Immediate Release

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Lee Ogburn, former Managing Principal at Kramon & Graham, P.A., joins Maryland Legal Aid

Ogburn assists low-income Marylanders with housing/consumer legal issues as a full-time staff attorney in MLA's Baltimore City Office

BALTIMORE, Md., (June 16, 2021) - Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is pleased to announce that Lee Ogburn has joined the organization as a full-time staff attorney in its Baltimore City General Legal Services Unit, focusing on housing/consumer issues. Through his extraordinary commitment to equal justice, Lee has already made a significant, positive impact on MLA and its clients. In his new role, Lee is expanding upon that commitment by representing low-income clients in landlord-tenant, tax sale, and mortgage foreclosure matters.

Prior to joining MLA, Lee worked at Kramon & Graham, P.A. for 42 years where he served for many years as the firm's Managing Principal and helped build the firm's reputation as one of Maryland's premier law firms. As former chair of Kramon & Graham's insurance coverage practice, Lee established an outstanding national reputation, serving as lead counsel in trial and appellate courts nationwide while handling multi-million dollar insurance disputes and claims. Lee has been recognized in *Chambers USA*, and named in every edition of the *The Best Lawyers in America* publication since 2008. His *Best Lawyers* recognition includes Baltimore Insurance Lawyer of the Year, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, and Insurance Law. In 2018, Lee and his wife Marilyn, who is a longstanding pro bono attorney for MLA, received MLA's Equal Justice Council's (EJC) *Executive Director's Award* for their extraordinary leadership and commitment to equal justice.

Since 2010, Lee has been an effective and enthusiastic member of MLA's EJC, and has served, since 2015, as Co-Chair of the EJC, along with Marty Himeles of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP. Lee's outstanding leadership and tireless fundraising efforts have played a vital role in helping to increase the support and involvement of the private bar on behalf of MLA. Lee also volunteered with MLA's *Lawyer in the Library* program beginning in 2017, where he assisted clients with criminal record expungements to help them remove barriers to obtaining employment and housing.

When asked about his decision to join MLA beyond a volunteer capacity, Lee shared, "The Equal Justice Council piqued my interest in MLA's work, but providing pro bono assistance to MLA clients convinced me that legal aid work was what I wanted to do. It felt right. MLA had an opening, and so I am fortunate to find myself in a new and interesting career."

MLA's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. shared, "Lee's commitment to this critical work is unmatched, his legal acumen is top-notch, and his energetic advocacy on behalf of underserved clients is inspiring. MLA clients and staff greatly benefit from Lee's knowledge, wisdom, and tenacity. We are honored that Lee chose to commit the next chapter of his legal career to practice law at MLA."

Kramon & Graham announced that the firm will donate an additional \$10,000 to MLA in Lee's name to honor his contributions to the firm as a "trusted colleague and cherished friend." MLA sincerely appreciates Kramon & Graham P.A.'s pledge, which bolsters the firm's exceptional, ongoing support for MLA's mission to advance human rights and equal access to justice for all.

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About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to people who are in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. As Maryland's 3rd largest law firm, MLA handles cases involving a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, employment, and consumer law. MLA also represents children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings in 16 jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, people with developmental and mental health disabilities, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects. MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative, which includes its *Lawyer in the Library* program, assists with expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody through clinics held in libraries, community centers, non-profit organizations, places of worship, schools, medical facilities, and other gathering places.

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