

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

# THE DIFFERENCE A LAWYER MAKES



**MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID**

*Advancing*  
**Human Rights and  
Justice for All**





Staff Attorney Sunny Desai

## MISSION

To provide high-quality legal services to Maryland's poor through a mix of services and to bring about the changes poor people want in the systems that affect them.

## VISION

To lead in providing high-quality legal services; to build on mutual respect for clients, staff, and others; to advocate for justice; and to add maximum positive value to all who request legal assistance.



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## IMAGINE...

You are laid off from your job. You are the primary wage earner, so the stress on your family's finances is considerable. You fall behind on the mortgage payment and your home goes into foreclosure. Maryland Legal Aid helps you secure a loan modification that reduces your monthly payment to an amount you and your spouse can afford.

**Your home is safe from foreclosure and your family can maintain security.**

You are a 71-year-old Vietnam Veteran with full VA health benefits. You needed emergency surgery. You are being sued for \$60,000 for services related to the surgery that your VA benefits will not cover. Maryland Legal Aid proves the surgery was pre-approved by your VA benefits. The outstanding medical claims can now be processed correctly.

**You avoid a default judgment and the burden of overwhelming debt.**

You overcame a life filled with abuse to achieve your academic goals. You have a criminal record because of charges tied to your abusive encounters. You are concerned that having a criminal record will hinder your ability to find a job or further your education. Maryland Legal Aid expunges all of the charges on your criminal record at one of its workforce development legal clinics.

**You find employment and earn your degree.**

## THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES NOTED HERE DEMONSTRATE THE DIFFERENCE A LAWYER CAN MAKE.

Maintaining safe and affordable housing. Securing life-saving benefits and resources. Clearing the way for second chances. These are just a few of the ways that MLA and pro bono attorneys impacted 125,000 people in 2018. Without the assistance of attorneys providing free civil legal assistance, these real-life client scenarios could have had dramatically different outcomes. Studies consistently show that low-income litigants are far more likely to receive favorable outcomes when they have legal representation.

**TENANT  
+LAWYERS=  
2X  
BETTER RESULTS<sup>1</sup>**

**DEBT COLLECTION  
DEFENDANTS  
WIN 4X  
MORE WITH A  
LAWYER<sup>2</sup>**

**VIOLENCE  
SURVIVORS GET  
PROTECTIVE  
ORDERS  
2X+  
MORE OFTEN<sup>3</sup>**

By providing access to justice for hundreds of thousands of Marylanders each year, MLA brings equity, stability, and empowerment to individuals, families, and communities. Support from donors and pro bono attorneys plays a critical role in MLA's statewide delivery of legal services. Contributions of time, talent, and treasure have and will continue to have a significant impact on MLA's ability to serve the needs of vulnerable Marylanders in every part of the state.

MLA's client victories, organizational successes, and achievements are made possible by dedicated staff, donors, pro bono attorneys, Board members, members of the Equal Justice Council and Equal Justice Associates, volunteers, foundations, and governmental funders—most notably the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and the federal Legal Services Corporation—and all of our community partners. Thank you for your continued and invaluable support.

Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esq.  
President



Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq.  
Executive Director





# 2018



## FEBRUARY

MLA's Rent Court Study was featured in *CHANCE Magazine's* special issue on Human Rights (Vol. 31, No. 1).

MLA's advocacy for patients at the Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville led the Center to institute a new policy for obtaining appropriate consent and approval from patients regarding grooming practices.

## MARCH

MLA attorneys testified before the Maryland Court of Appeals in support of restoring police officers' names to records accessible via MD Case Search. Excluding officers' names from Case Search would have impacted thousands of criminal record expungement cases for MLA clients.

MLA welcomed the Slovenian delegation from the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. In 2018, MLA also welcomed delegations from France and Kyrgyzstan.



The Slovenian Delegation with MLA staff in front of MLA's Baltimore City office

## APRIL

MLA was named *The Daily Record's* 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Law Firm in Maryland.

MLA held an open house reception to celebrate its renovated Baltimore County office and to officially introduce Chief Attorney **Janine Scott** to the Baltimore County legal community.



Attendees at the EJC's 21st Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast

## MAY

MLA held an open house reception at its Montgomery County office in Rockville to officially welcome Chief Attorney **John Marshall**.

## JUNE

MLA's Equal Justice Council (EJC) held its 21st Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards (pg. 12).

MLA's Baltimore County office held their annual Pro Bono Day at Owings Mills Library.



Pro Bono Program Director Julianne Tarver (top left) with summer law clerks at Camden Yards

Attorneys at MLA's annual New Lawyer Training



Project Director and Supervising Attorney Meaghan McDermott

## JULY

MLA welcomed the 2018 Summer Law Clerks.

MLA hosted Law Links students **Tyeqwan McCray** from the National Academy Foundation and **Aamirah Parham** from Green Street Academy at its Baltimore City office for a summer internship.



Human Resource Specialist Pia Taylor, Law Links students Aamirah Parham and Tyeqwan McCray, and Supervising Attorney Gary Herwig

## SEPTEMBER

MLA held its annual New Lawyer Training at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD.

MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* was featured in the *Daily Record's* Maryland Family Law Update about MLA's legal clinic for female sex workers in Baltimore.

## OCTOBER

MLA launched its Pro Bono Program (pg. 8) and hosted a series of events to recognize private attorneys who have done outstanding pro bono work in Maryland.



Attorneys at one of MLA's Pro Bono Recognition events in Frederick, MD.

MLA's Equal Justice Associates (EJA) celebrated their official launch with a reception at Pratt Street Ale House.



The Honorable Susan K. Gauvey at the EJA launch reception

## NOVEMBER

MLA commemorated International Human Rights Day during its annual All-Staff and Board Conference held at the Hotel at Arundel Preserves in Hanover, MD.

## DECEMBER

The Honorable Chief Judge **Mary Ellen Barbera** paid a visit to MLA's Montgomery County office in Rockville.

MLA and community organizations partnered to host five "Coats and Clinics" events around the state. MLA assisted 76 clients and filed 266 criminal record expungement petitions.

MLA's Southern Maryland office moved to a new location in Hughesville, Charles County, which offers greater accessibility for clients and a more modern professional work environment for staff.

## AUGUST

MLA established a referral partnership with the Office of the Public Defender and began assisting clients with their civil forfeiture cases.

MLA began partnering with Chrysalis House, a women's substance abuse recovery program in Anne Arundel County, to provide civil legal assistance and criminal record expungements for Chrysalis clients.





## MLA'S MARYLAND WORKFORCE LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Staff Attorneys **Kimberly Connaughton** and **Rashad James** work under MLA's Maryland Workforce Legal Services Program funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC). MLSC's grant supports the work of MLA attorneys who work full time at workforce development centers in Western Maryland, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City. The attorneys provide brief legal advice, criminal record expungements, and full legal representation to financially eligible participants seeking employment. Attorneys also give "Know Your Rights" presentations on topics such as child support, consumer rights, domestic violence, housing law, and public benefits.

Amy Peřkovsek, Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono, oversees a number of MLA programs including the Maryland Workforce Legal Services Program.

# "I FEEL LIKE MLA SAVED MY FUTURE."

— Ms. B.

### MS. B. & STAFF ATTORNEY KIMBERLY CONNAUGHTON

Ms. B. suffered from severe physical and emotional abuse from the time she was an infant. She excelled academically as a freshman in high school, but had low self-esteem as a result of her abusive upbringing. It wasn't long before Ms. B. became romantically involved with her boyfriend, a much older student who viewed himself as her "protector."

At fourteen years old, Ms. B. became pregnant and was pressured by her mother to marry her boyfriend. Ms. B. quickly realized that her husband was physically and emotionally abusive: he isolated her from her friends and eventually manipulated her to drop out of high school. However, Ms. B. was able to persevere and earn her GED.

After several years of trying to leave her abusive marriage, Ms. B. and her husband had a physical altercation and the police became involved. Suffering from an emotional and mental breakdown relating to longstanding abuse, Ms. B. was charged with assault on an officer and resisting arrest.

Several months after their altercation, Ms. B.'s husband left her and their child and moved out of state. Finally free from abuse, Ms. B. was able to turn her life around. While working and taking care of her family, she enrolled in community college and received her associate's degree. Ms. B. went on to graduate magna cum laude from Frostburg University with her bachelor's degree in social work.

Ms. B. was concerned that her previous criminal record stemming from her domestic dispute with her ex-husband would impact her future employment opportunities. Through a friend, Ms. B. was connected to Staff Attorney **Kimberly Connaughton** who provides legal assistance for attendees at various workforce development centers in Western Maryland. Staff Attorney Connaughton was able to expunge Ms. B.'s criminal record, clearing the way for her continued path to success.

"Each time I have to apply for a job or go on interviews, I no longer have to justify myself when they ask if I have a criminal record. I don't have to relive my abuse or lose my confidence," said Ms. B. "I feel like MLA saved my future."

# "I HOPE THAT EVERYONE CAN HAVE THE RESULTS THAT ATTORNEY JAMES HELPED ME ACHIEVE."

— MR. S.

### MR. S. & STAFF ATTORNEY RASHAD JAMES

Mr. S. was hired by a company to work as a security guard. During his first month on the job, the company conducted a background check on Mr. S.'s criminal record as part of the required security guard licensing process with the Maryland State Police Licensing Division. The State denied Mr. S.'s security guard license due to items on his criminal record. Despite Mr. S. being able to provide the State with an official Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) report indicating that his criminal record had been expunged in 2002, his license was still denied. As a result, Mr. S. was fired.

Staff Attorney **Rashad James** guided Mr. S. through his ordeal by obtaining the required documentation

from the court that showed Mr. S.'s criminal record had been expunged years ago. Staff Attorney James appealed the State's decision and the State approved Mr. S.'s security guard license registration. After Mr. S. finally received his "guard card" from the State, Maryland New Directions—one of the workforce development centers where Staff Attorney James provides legal assistance—helped Mr. S. secure employment as a security guard with a different company. "Attorney James worked hard on my case," shared Mr. S. "I hope that everyone can have the results that Attorney James helped me achieve. I can work again, and I owe that to him."





Pro Bono Program Director  
Julianne Tarver

## It Starts With

### MLA'S PRO BONO PROGRAM

In October 2018, MLA launched its Pro Bono Program under the slogan, "It Starts with ONE." Through this program, attorneys in Maryland can lend their talents, skills, and experience to benefit low-income individuals and families throughout the state by accepting cases for representation, providing assistance at legal clinics, and/or mentoring other volunteer attorneys.

MLA's Pro Bono Program also provides attorneys with opportunities to learn new areas of law through trainings, legal clinics, participation in MLA's task forces on substantive areas of law, and mentorship.

At <https://probono.mdlab.org>, attorneys can search cases by practice area, county, keywords, or sign up to receive case alerts for specific types of cases as they become available.

#### CRITICAL ASSISTANCE WITH END-OF-LIFE PLANNING

Time was of the essence for Ms. L. when she came to MLA for assistance. She had been diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer and her doctors had given her a bleak prognosis. She was desperately in need of a will and testamentary trust to ensure the best for her 16-year-old son. Understanding that Ms. L.'s need for legal assistance was extremely time-sensitive, MLA's Pro Bono

Program Director **Julianne Tarver** worked diligently to place Ms. L.'s case with a pro bono attorney. Shortly after, Ms. L.'s case was assigned to Pro Bono Attorney **Kelly McCrea**. "Kelly was exceptional," said Ms. L. "She was so professional and punctual when it came to calling or meeting with me." Attorney McCrea helped Ms. L. create a will and review statutory

power of attorney and advanced medical directive forms. "Getting set up with MLA to help Ms. L. was very easy," said Attorney McCrea. "It was very rewarding being able to help her." Ms. L. now has the necessary legal arrangements in place to protect her son and maintain financial stability for him in the years to come.

# "PRO BONO ASSISTANCE HELPED SAVE MS. C.'S HOME."

—STAFF ATTORNEY BILL STEINWEDEL

#### COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS LEAD TO CLIENT SUCCESS

Before his death, Ms. C.'s husband applied for a reverse mortgage. Ms. C. did not meet the age requirement at the time of the reverse mortgage origination, so her husband, without Ms. C.'s knowledge, removed her name from the deed to qualify for the loan. After her husband's death, the entire reverse mortgage became due since the last borrower had died.

Ms. C. received a notice that she was on the verge of losing her home of over 30 years. She needed assistance from an estate attorney immediately.

Working together, Pro Bono Attorney and Equal Justice Associates (EJA) Chair **Darryl Tarver**, and Staff Attorneys **Bill Steinwedel** and **Helen Zhang** from MLA's Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project, applied for a non-borrower spouse deferral of the reverse

mortgage default, which included executing a deed transfer to Ms. C. This timely and collaborative effort meant that Ms. C. was able to save her home. "Ms. C. was extraordinarily appreciative of the work that we did to save her home," said Attorney Tarver. "It really hit home for me when I met her...she was extremely emotional because of how our assistance impacted her life."



Staff Attorney  
Bill Steinwedel



## PRO BONO ATTORNEYS & VOLUNTEERS

|                          |                        |                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ricky Adams              | William Haltzinger     | Marilyn Ogburn              |
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| Fred Barrera             | Adeline Hutchins       | Lorraine Prete              |
| Ian Bartman              | Teresa Iannaconi       | Tim Price                   |
| Gregg Bernstein          | Kendall Jaeger         | Sheri Redwood               |
| Sylvia Borenstein        | Steve Jaffe            | Seana M. Reichold           |
| Richard Boswel           | Patricia Jividen       | Mary Riley                  |
| James Bragdon            | Carmen Holmes Johnson  | Karen Robins                |
| Dawn Burke               | Ashley Jones           | Michael Rosofsky            |
| Jessica Burgard          | Paula Junghans         | Laure Ruth                  |
| Megan Burnett            | Chelsea Kadish         | Stephen Salisbury           |
| Marian Callahan          | Shraga Kawior          | Regina Scott                |
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| Steve Campen             | Megan Kemp             | Tim Sessing                 |
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| Jonelle Clark            | Jonathan Lane          | Eric Simanek                |
| Gary Compton             | Chris LoVetro          | Jason Shafer                |
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| Megan Davis              | Shawntel Madsen        | Thomas Slater               |
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| Cara Derr                | Danielle Makia         | Aleisha Stacks              |
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| Carin Golze              | Daniel Moylan          | Caylin Young                |
| Dawn Gould               | Andrew Murphy          |                             |
| Paul Guang               | Jim Nolan              |                             |
| Karen Guthrie            | Sean O'Keefe           |                             |
| Edward Hagan             | Lee Ogburn             |                             |



### 2018 MCLA UPDATE

The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MLA. Through a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts, MCLA operates the District Court Self-Help Centers in Baltimore City, Glen Burnie, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers in Annapolis and Frederick. The District Court Self-Help Centers are walk-in facilities that assist with District Court civil matters, including landlord-tenant, small claims, debt collection and protective orders. In addition, the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers also assist with a broad range of issues including custody, divorce, and expungement of criminal records via phone, live chat, and a new walk-in center in Frederick. MCLA staff include a managing director, 30 attorneys, and 6 administrative assistants.

Number of visitors assisted by the Maryland and District Court Self-Help Centers:

# 95,960



Attorneys from MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative and Montgomery County office at the Dec. 13 "Coats and Clinics" event in Silver Spring

### 2018 "COATS AND CLINICS" EVENTS

In December, MLA partnered with Clothes4Souls, Macy's, and local community organizations to distribute 2,500 new coats to adults and children in need. At "Coats and Clinics" events in Annapolis, Baltimore City, Hagerstown, and Silver Spring, financially eligible adults also received free help to resolve their civil legal issues and expunge their criminal records.

### EVENT PARTNERS:



## MLA'S COMMUNITY LAWYERING INITIATIVE

Since launching in 2015, MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative (CLI)* has placed staff attorneys, pro bono attorneys, and law students directly in underserved neighborhoods to provide free, life-changing legal assistance. In 2018, the *Initiative* expanded statewide, as the demand for legal services and criminal record expungements continued to increase.

### 2018 CLI HIGHLIGHTS:

CLI hosted one of its largest expungement clinics ever in Prince George's County, where

# 209 CLIENTS WERE SERVED & 791 EXPUNGEMENT PETITIONS WERE FILED.

## CLI EXPANDED TO WESTERN MARYLAND

and hosted clinics in three libraries in Allegany and Garrett counties.

CLI established a civil forfeiture program and was successful in **RECOVERING FORFEITED MONEY FOR CLIENTS.**



## INCREASING & DIVERSIFYING RESOURCES



MLA's Equal Justice Council (EJC) actively promotes equal access to justice for Maryland's most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable residents. The founding members of the EJC recognized that traditional funding sources could not come close to meeting the need and the demand for MLA's services. In order to address this shortfall, the primary goal of the EJC is to improve access to justice for low-income Marylanders by increasing and diversifying MLA's resources, financial

and otherwise, and serving as ambassadors on behalf of MLA. The EJC is composed of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community.

### Equal Justice Council Leadership

Co-Chairs:  
Martin S. Himeles, Jr., Esq.  
Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.



Left to right: MLA Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. and keynote speaker Laura Coates; Laura Coates speaks to the crowd at the breakfast

EJA Co-Chair Darryl L. Tarver, Esq. and EJC Co-Chair Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.

### EJC 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS BREAKFAST

The EJC held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards on June 6, 2018 and welcomed keynote speaker Laura Coates—CNN Legal Analyst, best-selling author, and host of the “Laura Coates Show” on SiriusXM.

#### Champion of Justice Awards:

The Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais  
The Honorable Brett R. Wilson

#### Community Partners for Justice Awards:

Baltimore County Public Library  
Soles4Souls  
Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc.

#### Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year Award:

Ballard Spahr LLP

#### Pinnacle Partner for Justice Award:

Venable LLP



MLA's Equal Justice Associates (EJA) was established in spring 2018. This group of attorneys under the age of 40 support MLA's mission of providing equal access to civil legal assistance for low-income Marylanders through pro bono service and fundraising.

The EJA serves as the “young lawyer” division of the longstanding Equal Justice Council (EJC). In addition to organizing pro bono service opportunities, fundraising activities, and social networking events, EJA members also receive high-quality training and mentoring from MLA attorneys in a variety of practice areas.

### EJA Leadership

Chair:  
Darryl L. Tarver, Esq.  
Vice Chair:  
Ernie Dominguez, Esq.  
Secretary:  
Aaron DeGraffenreidt, Esq.  
Treasurer:  
Alicia Shelton, Esq.  
Member-At-Large:  
Megan E. Davis, Esq.  
Pro Bono Committee Chair:  
Joanna Diamond, Esq.



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\*Law Firms of Distinction contributed a minimum of \$300 per attorney.

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## WAYS YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your tax-deductible donation ensures access to justice for Marylanders in crisis who would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

### DONATE ONLINE

Visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org) to make a one-time gift online.

### MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly donations make it easy to support access to justice. Visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org) to set up monthly donations.

### PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE

Join a community of generous supporters who invest in equal access to justice by donating \$1,000 or more each year.

### MAIL A CHECK

Maryland Legal Aid  
Development Unit  
500 E. Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Stock transfers can be made through Maryland Legal Aid's account at Charles Schwab.

- Account Name: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.
- DTC #: 0164
- Account #: 78352614

### EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Double your gift's impact! Check with your employer to see if they match charitable contributions.

### WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Use the following campaign designation numbers:

- United Way: 54
- Maryland Charity Campaign: 520591621
- Combined Federal Campaign: 15755

### PLANNED GIFTS/BEQUESTS

Leave a Legacy for Justice by including Maryland Legal Aid in your will or estate plan. All it takes is a quick call to your lawyer to add a charitable gift to your will.

### EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

Each year, EJC members raise funds from lawyers and law firms across Maryland. Organize a campaign in your law firm or company this year.

### EQUAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATES

The EJA is a dynamic group of young attorneys who raise funds and awareness to support Maryland Legal Aid's mission. Visit [www.mdlab.org/ways-to-give/equal-justice-associates](http://www.mdlab.org/ways-to-give/equal-justice-associates) for more info.

If you plan to make a bequest, gift of stock, or have any other questions about supporting Maryland Legal Aid, please contact Director of Development Graham Cowger at (410) 951-7706 or [gcowger@mdlaborg](mailto:gcowger@mdlaborg).

# 7,457

People benefited from criminal record expungements

Ms. B. can focus on achieving her career goals and furthering her education after having her criminal record expunged.

# 237

Parents secured custody of their children

A pro bono attorney assisted Ms. L. with end-of-life planning, giving her peace of mind that her son will remain financially stable in the years to come.

# 230

People obtained critical medical benefits

Thanks to our donors and pro bono attorneys for making the following outcomes possible in 2018:

# 454

Veterans served

Mr. S. secured employment after receiving assistance through MLA's Maryland Workforce Legal Services program.

# 1,268

People avoided eviction or foreclosure

Ms. C. avoided foreclosure of her home thanks to a collaborative effort between MLA and a pro bono attorney.



Staff Attorney Seana Reichold

# 49

Persons with disabilities secured benefits

# 8,860

Vulnerable children were represented

# 2,500

Coats were distributed to families in need at "Coats and Clinics" events

# 166

Pro bono attorneys provided legal assistance to clients



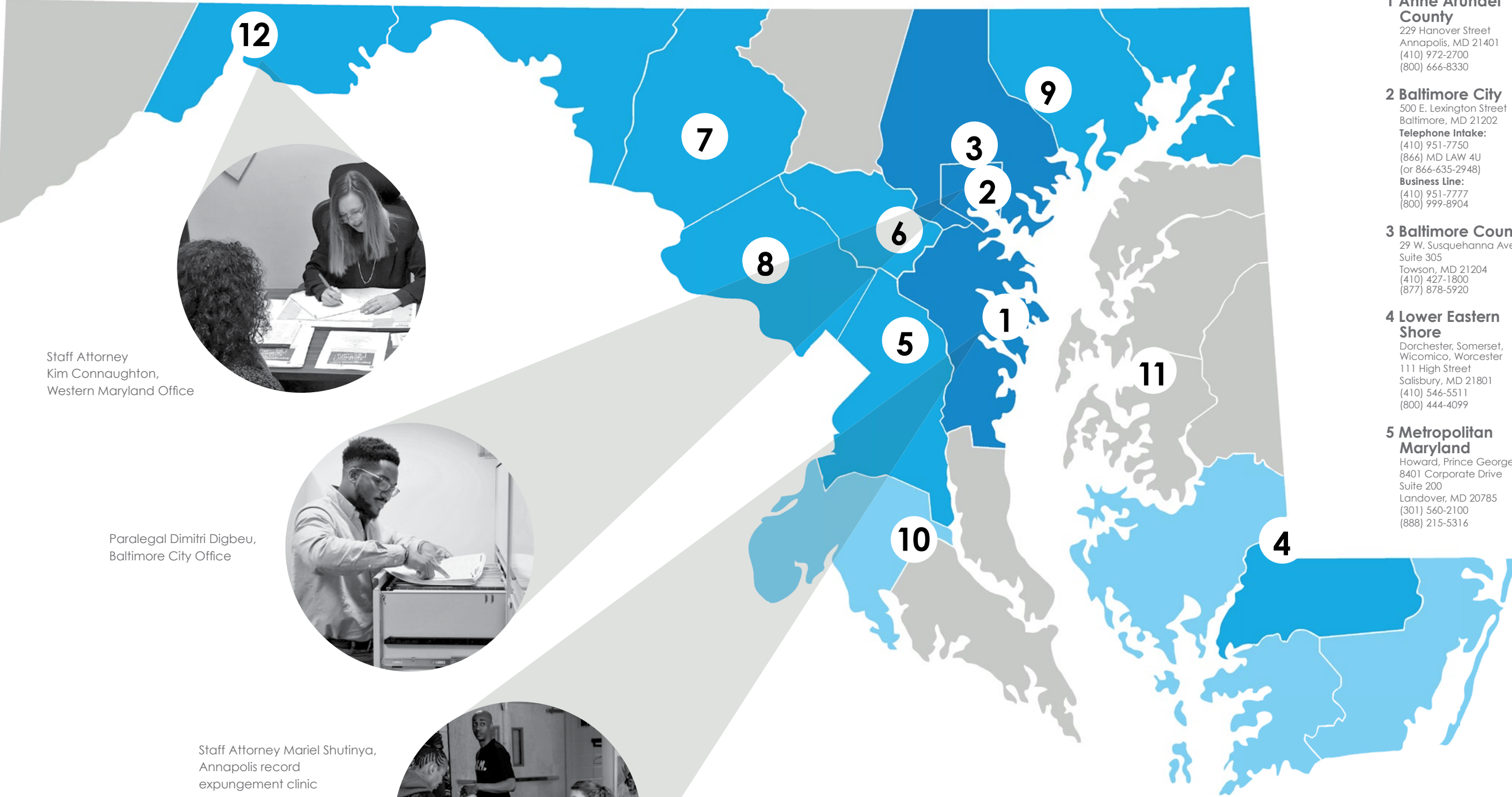
**MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID**

*Advancing  
Human Rights and  
Justice for All*



# 2018 STATEWIDE CLIENT IMPACT

## MARYLAND LEGAL AID OFFICE LOCATIONS



- 1 Anne Arundel County**  
229 Hanover Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 972-2700  
(800) 666-8330
- 2 Baltimore City**  
500 E. Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
**Telephone Intake:**  
(410) 951-7750  
(866) MD LAW 4U  
(or 866-635-2948)  
**Business Line:**  
(410) 951-7777  
(800) 999-8904
- 3 Baltimore County**  
29 W. Susquehanna Avenue  
Suite 305  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 427-1800  
(877) 878-5920
- 4 Lower Eastern Shore**  
Dorchester, Somerset,  
Wicomico, Worcester  
111 High Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410) 546-5511  
(800) 444-4099
- 5 Metropolitan Maryland**  
Howard, Prince George's  
8401 Corporate Drive  
Suite 200  
Landover, MD 20785  
(301) 560-2100  
(888) 215-5316
- 6 Howard County**  
3451 Court House Drive  
2nd Floor  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 480-1057
- 7 Midwestern Maryland**  
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Washington  
22 S. Market Street, Suite 11  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 694-7414  
(800) 679-8813
- 8 Montgomery County**  
600 Jefferson Plaza  
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(240) 314-0373  
(855) 880-9487
- 9 Northeastern Maryland**  
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(866) 389-5243

### STATEWIDE PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

- Farmworker Program  
(800) 444-4099
- Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project  
(888) 213-3320
- Long-Term Care Assistance Project  
(866) 635-2948
- Maryland Senior Legal Helpline  
(866) 635-2948
- Veterans' Hotline  
(443) 863-4040
- TTY Users:  
Call Maryland Relay, Dial 7-1-1



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Western Maryland Office



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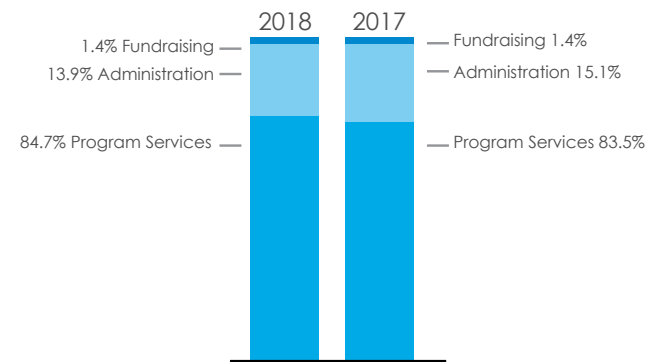




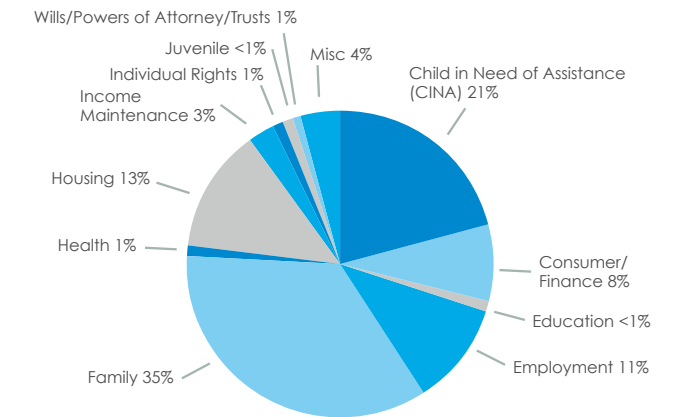
Staff Attorney Charlotte Ahearn

# 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

## EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION



## CLIENT CASE TYPES



|   | 2018         | 2017         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| INCOME  | \$29,779,083 | \$27,267,778 |
| EXPENSES  | \$29,165,576 | \$23,601,590 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR   | \$22,717,958 | \$22,104,451 |
| Unrestricted funds: \$15,329,636; Restricted funds: \$7,388,322 |              |              |

## SELECTED FUNDING RECEIVED

|   | 2018         | 2017         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Federal:</b>   |              |              |
| Legal Services Corporation  | \$4,310,953  | \$4,042,042  |
| Legal Assistance to Victims Grant (OVW)   | \$203,293    | \$192,854    |
| Ryan White / HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance  | \$137,461    | 135,039      |
| Violence Against Women's Act – Victims of Crime Act   | \$335,280    | \$179,120    |
| <b>State:</b>   |              |              |
| Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC)  | \$11,159,524 | \$10,707,049 |
| Other MLSC grants for:  |              |              |
| Extended Representation   | \$196,362    | –            |
| Foreclosure Prevention  | \$533,400    | \$800,000    |
| One-Time Needs Assessment and Technology Enhancements   | \$254,368    | –            |
| Workforce Development   | \$420,000    | \$384,100    |
| Maryland Housing Counseling Fund (Foreclosure Prevention)   | \$160,000    | \$375,250    |
| Contracted provision of services for self-represented litigants and representation of abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons confined to mental health institutions through the Maryland Department of Health, parents in child custody matters, and the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance |              |              |
|   | \$8,673,705  | \$8,681,371  |
| Title III-B/Elderly Assistance: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and St. Mary's Counties; Lower and Upper Eastern Shore   | \$298,896    | \$317,159    |
| <b>County:</b>  |              |              |
| Anne Arundel  | –            | \$27,000     |
| Baltimore City  | \$135,530    | \$99,616     |
| Baltimore   | \$70,000     | \$64,167     |
| Frederick – Community Partnership   | \$22,500     | \$17,777     |
| Harford   | \$30,000     | \$29,559     |
| Howard  | \$105,890    | \$105,890    |
| Montgomery – County Council   | \$42,292     | \$18,818     |
| Prince George's – Community Partnership   | \$20,000     | \$25,000     |
| Prince George's – Community Development Block Grant   | \$53,431     | \$26,569     |
| Prince George's – Local Development Council   | –            | \$15,000     |
| <b>Circuit Court Pro Se Grants:</b>   |              |              |
| Anne Arundel  | \$178,000    | \$176,001    |
| <b>Private Donations:</b>   |              |              |
| Contributions   | \$437,355    | \$677,347    |
| Foundations   | \$212,300    | \$280,250    |

## SERVED BY COUNTY 2018

|                  | MLA CASES     | MLA PERSONS    | MCLA MATTERS HANDLED <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Allegany         | 874           | 2,401          | 525                               |
| Anne Arundel*    | 9,539         | 19,795         | 15,816                            |
| Baltimore City   | 12,759        | 38,166         | 15,743                            |
| Baltimore County | 4,075         | 12,094         | 11,903                            |
| Calvert          | 454           | 535            | 1,201                             |
| Caroline         | 122           | 728            | 413                               |
| Carroll          | 374           | 979            | 1,145                             |
| Cecil            | 364           | 2,327          | 1,273                             |
| Charles          | 944           | 1,174          | 2,272                             |
| Dorchester       | 285           | 1,925          | 293                               |
| Frederick        | 1,483         | 4,795          | 3,026                             |
| Garrett          | 367           | 938            | 136                               |
| Harford          | 1,175         | 5,534          | 1,510                             |
| Howard           | 581           | 2,581          | 2,253                             |
| Kent             | 54            | 278            | 120                               |
| Montgomery       | 2,557         | 7,230          | 7,000                             |
| Prince George's  | 3,835         | 9,395          | 21,651                            |
| Queen Anne's     | 57            | 325            | 340                               |
| St. Mary's       | 635           | 742            | 1,299                             |
| Somerset         | 159           | 1,396          | 470                               |
| Talbot           | 130           | 744            | 264                               |
| Washington       | 712           | 2,595          | 1,199                             |
| Wicomico         | 779           | 5,213          | 4,000                             |
| Worcester        | 194           | 1,137          | 663                               |
| Out-of-state     | 465           | 1,163          | 493                               |
| Undetermined     | –             | –              | 952                               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>42,973</b> | <b>124,190</b> | <b>95,960</b>                     |

\* Includes pro se litigants through Maryland Legal Aid's Circuit Court family pro se project

† Includes pro se litigants assisted by the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) through the District Court Self-Help Resource Centers in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in this listing. If we have inadvertently omitted any donor, please accept our sincerest apologies.

The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income people in every Maryland community. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling our office: (410) 951-7719. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and mailing.

All funds received by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et. seq., its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et. seq., and other applicable law.

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income individuals in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. The firm provides life-changing legal help to clients by handling cases that involve a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, education, employment, and consumer law. MLA also represents children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings in 14 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 PROVIDES LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR CLIENTS FOR A VARIETY OF ISSUES, SUCH AS:

- Fighting unlawful evictions
- Advocating for improvement of substandard housing
- Acquiring critical health care
- Obtaining disability and other income assistance
- Maintaining custody of their children and obtaining, preserving, or increasing child support
- Preventing foreclosures or mitigating their effects
- Recovering unpaid wages
- Remedying fraudulent sales practices and predatory contracts
- Restoring utilities
- Dealing with debts and debt collectors
- Obtaining unemployment benefits
- Obtaining protection against domestic violence
- Securing educational services
- Expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, child custody, and a driver's license



**MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID**

*Advancing  
Human Rights and  
Justice for All*

This report contains a summary of 2018 financial information and selected funding sources. Complete audited financial statements are available from MLA upon request.

1. Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA) analysis of data from the Philadelphia Municipal Court, 2006-2015.  
2. PLA analysis of data from the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County and the Philadelphia Department of Records, 2014-2015.  
3. Jane Murphy, "Engaging with the State: The Growing Reliance on Lawyers and Judges to Protect Battered Women," 11 Am. U. J. Gender Soc. Pol'y & L. 499, 511-12 (2003).





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## THE STORY OF THE RED WAGON

When MLA introduced its *Community Lawyering Initiative* in 2015 with its Lawyer in the Library clinics as the centerpiece, the idea was simple: place attorneys in libraries, a trusted location in the community, so that individuals and families could benefit from civil legal assistance directly in their neighborhoods.

Since then, the *Initiative* has expanded to include lawyers in a number of unconventional locations, including places of worship, schools, and other gathering places.

This increase in services has resulted in MLA implementing mobile technology—laptops, printers, and

WiFi hot spots—that enable more efficient service for clients.

Our advocates can often be spotted across the state pulling red wagons to shuttle equipment to and from various work sites to assist clients.



# LAWYERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Find out how you can get involved as a donor, pro bono attorney, or volunteer with MLA, and help change someone's life.

[www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)