A Message from the Executive Director

My normal letter for the annual report talks about our accomplishments from the past year. But this is not a normal year.

Since the November presidential election, there has been speculation about what would happen to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) which provides almost 40% of our funding. Early this year, LSC had one of its quarterly board meetings in Atlanta. They met with our staff and heard about our cutting edge work; they even had lunch in our new building. I heard from many sources, including their board president, about how impressed they were.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty of LSC’s fate put a pall over the meeting. And since that time we have found out that the President’s budget contains no funding for LSC at all.

While I do not know what Washington will finally do, I do know what I expect from our program. I know we will continue to do aggressive, high-quality legal work for our clients.

When Ronald Reagan became president in 1980, he had as a stated purpose to eliminate the LSC. During that time, we represented the Mariel Cubans and one of our lawyers mediated the takeover of the Atlanta Penitentiary.

In the middle 1990’s, there was another attempt to eliminate the LSC. During that time we litigated our groundbreaking Olmstead case, giving people with disabilities the right to get community care. And our lawyers were the canaries in the coal mine about predatory mortgage lending.

The recent great recession caused the program to lose $1.5 million almost overnight and caused our client base to swell by 91%. During that time, we continued to handle over 20,000 cases a year and got almost $20 million dollars annually in benefits for our clients. Our lawyers won a case that had the Georgia garnishment statute declared unconstitutional because it allowed exempt funds to be taken without due process. We also compelled the Department of Housing and Urban Development to pass new rules protecting the widows and widowers of seniors with reverse mortgages. These surviving spouses were at risk of losing their family homes before Legal Aid stepped in.

Our most recently adopted strategic plan sets out Atlanta Legal Aid’s enduring values. Two bear repeating here:

We Value Helping Clients Meet Their Basic Human Needs

We Value Making a Difference, One Client at a Time

Throughout our 82 years, Legal Aid has always focused on providing high-quality legal services to our clients on every day, critical problems, and if appropriate, having that work systematically deal with client needs. By following closely our core values no matter the climate in Washington, I have no doubt our talented advocates will continue to make a difference, one client at a time.

Steve Gottlieb
Atlanta Legal Aid Society attorneys, paralegals and caseworkers opened 20,723 cases in 2016.

Cases by Location
Total: 20,723

- Cobb: 2,870
- Decatur: 4,409
- Downtown: 4,843
- Southside: 1,929
- Gwinnett: 2,368

Georgia Senior Legal Hotline 3,999
Health Law Partnership 305

We Protect:
Children and Families
- Over $1.67 million in child support ordered.
- 1,110 people provided stability through adoption, visitation, custody, guardianship or legitimation.
- $250,000 in special education services secured.

We Access:
Healthcare
- Nearly $1 million in ongoing health benefits and $2.4 million in skilled care and personal care secured or retained for disabled and elderly clients.

We Save:
People’s Homes
- In 2016, Atlanta Legal Aid saved 94 homes from foreclosure, preserving over $2.16 million in equity and eliminating over $815,000 in mortgage debt. Atlanta Legal Aid also secured almost $1.67 million in Section 8 housing benefits.

We Help:
The Working Poor
- We secured over $2.18 million in assistance benefits for our clients, including over $493,000 in Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits and retained or secured nearly $1 million in SS/SI/SSI Benefits.
A Blue-Ribbon Year for Litigation

By David Webster, General Counsel, & Charles Bliss, Director of Litigation

In all areas of our practice, Legal Aid lawyers won substantial litigation victories during 2016, benefiting individual clients and others who may be assisted directly or indirectly.

HELPING GENERATE A SPLENDID VICTORY. Legal Aid filed an amicus brief in the Georgia Supreme Court. An unresolved question in this state was how long a creditor may wait, after repossession and sale of a vehicle, to sue for any “deficiency” balance remaining on the car debt. The creditor argued for a 6-year statute of limitations that is generally applicable to contracts in Georgia. Legal Aid argued, and the Supreme Court accepted, that a 4-year statute of limitations applies. That limitation is in the sale of goods portion of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Anne Carder and Angela Riccetti had argued these issues successfully in the trial courts. Erik Heath wrote Legal Aid’s amicus brief in the Supreme Court, with input from Angela, Anne and others. The case on appeal was litigated by private attorneys. Legal Aid filed amicus briefs in both appellate courts, and helped prepare for oral argument before the Supreme Court, with a moot court in our new courtroom at the downtown Legal Aid office.

CONSUMER

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A SOUTHSIDE OFFICE CLIENT’S EX-BOYFRIEND CAME TO HER APARTMENT, WAVING A GUN AT HER CHILDREN. The landlord terminated our client’s lease because of this and other family violence on the premises. The notice sent to client was explicit that she was being terminated for domestic violence. Moreover, the property manager told her, “If you don’t leave immediately, I’ll make sure you never are able to get into subsidized housing again.” Our client got the message and left.

However, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), in 2013 amendments, makes it unlawful to evict because of victimization by family violence. Legal Aid attorney Sarah White therefore demanded reinstatement of client’s lease and transfer to another complex. Landlord took a “so sue me” attitude. When Sarah threatened to do exactly that, landlord relented and offered an informal hearing. There, the client explained all the incidents in question as domestic violence and described the horrific consequences.

Client’s tenancy was reinstated. She transferred to another of landlord’s mixed income communities. (The property manager who threatened her also disappeared from the scene.) This is a huge victory. It highlights how VAWA 2013 protects tenants from still further disruptions, after suffering family violence.

While Southside attorneys worked on the housing issues, Lori Anderson provided advice about safety planning and temporary protective orders - a nice illustration of Legal Aid’s full-service, collaborative representation!

In a Cobb County case, client tried to file his answer to a dispossessory warrant but could not navigate the difficulties online. He missed his deadline to respond. The court entered a default judgment. When client called Legal Aid, the landlord was coming soon with a sheriff’s deputy and a signed writ (the very last step in the process), ready to evict. Client had nowhere else to go. Cristina Dumitrescu jumped on the emergency.

Because both the client and his spouse were military veterans with a special military housing voucher, Cristina sought practical assistance from the client’s caseworkers with the Veterans Administration and the local housing authority. She then filed a complex court motion for permission to file a late answer and for other relief.

The court stayed (held up) the writ. Before a hearing was needed, Cristina worked out a consent order that set aside the writ and allowed the client to stay a little longer while finding somewhere to move. The client also managed to save about five stray cats previously taken in. Finally, dismissal of the writ kept the client’s rental voucher available for a new place. Great work all around!

HOUSING

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SENIORS

Steve Krumm represented a client whipsawed by state health care plan requirements. Special Medicaid subprograms, titled SLMB and GI-1, pay Medicare participation premiums for low-income seniors. Both programs, and another called QMB, cover Medicare coinsurance and deductible costs. By reducing health expenditures, all these programs provide a substantial financial boost to our elderly clients.

But many of our clients were losing out. Although federal law requires that eligibility be based on family size, Georgia counted a spouse as “family” only if the spouse received Medicare. Many applicants with younger or non-disabled spouses were counted as families of one, rather than two, therefore were denied eligibility because of income limits.

Steve contested this Georgia policy in an administrative hearing, successfully for his client. Legal Aid and Georgia Legal Service Program jointly helped a private attorney brief a similar case. Steve followed up with a demand letter challenging the current rule. Initially, we were informed that the state would comply with federal law, but it has since backed off. Look for more to come! Hillary Leland and Charlie Bliss also are working on these issues.
PUBLIC BENEFITS

Domestic violence prompted a client of Lindsey Seigel and Mary Irene Dickerson to give up an excellent job. Client’s victimizer once punched her in the face, leading to permanent loss of an eye; came to her job repeatedly; and stalked her. At the workplace, he threatened to hurt her and other employees. She and her supervisor agreed it would be best for her to quit. Our client felt so endangered that she left the state.

The client applied for unemployment compensation but was denied initially. She represented herself at two appeal hearings, where she offered undisputed and detailed testimony about the violence and stalking; and directly connected that violence to her reason for leaving. Yet she was denied benefits again. She appealed to the unemployment board of review, where Legal Aid wrote her brief.

She was denied again, for lack of documentary evidence of the abuse, which is required by state law to justify a quit for domestic violence. Client appealed to the Superior Court under a pseudonym (for her protection).

Before court briefing, the state agreed to send the case back and allow client to document the abuse. At a third hearing, Legal Aid presented a letter from her domestic violence counselor and medical documents showing her eye injury. Her former supervisor came as a witness. The employer did not oppose granting benefits. Client won the hearing and $4,620 in back benefits. This case confirms the value of Lindsey’s earlier court victory establishing domestic violence as an excusable basis for quitting, but also shows the hurdles created by the state’s implementing rules.

FAMILY LAW

Lori Anderson’s client attended a high-quality school, to train for a good job. She needed care for her kids while in class. Child care expenses to permit school attendance can be recovered from an absentee parent, as part of child support. But Department of Human Services (DHS) agents were unaware of that rule. Administrative law judges who heard the case on appeal likewise resisted awarding child care expenses as child support. The commissioner of DHS finally reversed those rulings. Although his decision may evidence a different and more constructive view, we may need to continue to push this issue with the child support collection authorities. Here’s to perseverance!

When client passed out, the woman put her back in the car and drove to an abandoned field. Still trussed and blindfolded, she was left to die. A jogger discovered client hours later and called the police. Shortly afterward, client’s mother was deported, so client was left to fend for herself at just 15 years old.

Legal Aid sought a U Visa (for domestic violence victims). Included in the petition were her mother and sister in El Salvador, as “derivatives.” Legal Aid obtained a pardon for mother. Client won her U Visa and a work permit, and her mother and sister were able to return to this country and reunite with her. Our client now has a job, is back in school and has her family by her side.

A client of Yazmin Sobh was kidnapped at age 15, by a woman who accused the client of “flirting” with her husband. The woman forced client into a van, beat her with brass knuckles, suffocated her and knocked her teeth out. The woman then took her to a church, where she was tied up, blindfolded and forced to kneel and plead for her life, with a gun to her head.
General Law Practice The core of Atlanta Legal Aid Society’s representation comes through the General Law practice. General Law offers advice and representation in employment cases, landlord-tenant disputes and public benefits. General Law also helps with a wide variety of consumer and public education issues. Each office has a General Law practice, which covers the most basic needs of our clients, yet can also offer advice and assistance in complex issues. General Law clients are typically the lowest income individuals who seek help from Atlanta Legal Aid, and therefore, often the most vulnerable.

James’ Story

The Department of Labor wrongfully accused James of fraud in relation to a supposed overpayment on an unemployment claim. Legal Aid attorneys found no evidence of fraud in James’ files, nor of an overpayment, and the DOL presented no evidence in his hearing. Despite that, the administrative hearing officer determined that James was “irresponsible” on the issue of the so-called overpayment and supported the DOL. However, Legal Aid filed an appeal in Superior Court. The judge carefully reviewed the evidence and agreed with Legal Aid - James had received no overpayment and had not committed fraud. Making sure clients like James get the help they need to keep their families secure and are not lost in the complexities of the system is what legal aid lawyers do every day.

The Home Defense Program [HDP] provides advice, referrals, and legal representation to homeowners who are facing the loss of their homes, have been targeted for predatory mortgage lending or servicing practices, and/or have been wrongfully denied loan modifications or HomeSafe Georgia assistance. Most clients are longtime homeowners, elderly and/or disabled living on modest retirement or disability income, or families experiencing layoffs or substantially reduced wages.

During 2016, HDP attorneys have continued to address abusive mortgage servicing practices on behalf of homeowners (as well as surviving spouses and other heirs) wrongfully denied loan modifications and/or HomeSafe Georgia benefits. In addition, HDP saw a drastic increase in the number of low-and-moderate-income, aspiring homeowners being targeted for land contracts and other home purchase scams. HDP clients also faced foreclosure threats on phantom second mortgages for which monthly statements and all collection actions had stopped years ago. Another new predatory servicing practice involves aggressive, unauthorized break-ins by banks of client homes regardless of whether the client is current on the mortgage or in default pending the statutory foreclosure process, or facing post-foreclosure judicial eviction.

HDP saved clients’ homes in 2016 by stopping and rescinding foreclosure sales, cancelling mortgage loans, modifying mortgage loans with lower balances, interest rates, and monthly payments and obtaining mortgage assistance from HomeSafe Georgia.

James’ Story

Ms. Badera lost her vision due to a chronic illness and is unable to work. In 2012, she obtained a mortgage modification and was told that her first and second mortgages were combined in the modification. At the same time, monthly mortgage statements for the second mortgage stopped. She contacted HDP in 2016 after receiving foreclosure threats from a company claiming she was delinquent on her second mortgage. HDP determined that her 2012 modification had not combined her two mortgages. Using deed records and other investigative research, an HDP attorney verified the authenticity of the caller as the owner of the second mortgage and successfully negotiated a mortgage modification that reduced her interest rate to 1% and dropped her monthly payment on the second mortgage by over $100. This resulted in a sustainably affordable payment and avoided foreclosure. In addition, HDP successfully obtained a new modification on her first mortgage that reduced the interest rate to 3.875% and her monthly payment by over $455. Ms. Badera is now able to afford her two mortgages and other expenses, and save for future home repair and healthcare needs. Most important, Ms. Badera is no longer at risk of losing her home.
Families and Children

Family Law Atlanta Legal Aid Society lawyers do a lot of family law work. Much of that work helps victims of family violence. We represent violence survivors in a wide range of family law matters. Often, the survivor’s first step is to get and enforce a temporary protective order (“TPO”). These are often simple cases for our staff attorneys, but the resulting TPO gives the client a start on a new life.

Ms. Yancey’s Story  |  Ms. Dailey’s Story

Ms. Yancey, a single mom with a young child, dated Mr. Mathis for a few years. Last year, Mathis accused Ms. Yancey of cheating on him, and almost strangled her to death when she denied the accusation. The next day, she woke up covered in gasoline while Mathis held a lighter over her and accused her again, saying, “What’s his name?” She begged him not to kill her or her child, and ran for the door. Mathis caught her and covered her mouth to stifle her screams for help. When he left for a moment, she was able to call the police and he was arrested.

While he was awaiting trial, Ms. Yancey filed for a TPO and got the ex parte order. A lawyer from our Southside office represented her at the subsequent hearing. Because Ms. Yancey and Mr. Mathis had never lived together or had children together, she did not qualify for a traditional family violence TPO, and could only file for a stalking TPO. So, no matter how horrific Mathis’s violence was, Ms. Yancey would have to prove stalking to get the twelve-month TPO.

At the TPO hearing, the judge expressed doubts about whether Mathis’s physical violence could constitute “contact” under the stalking statute. The Legal Aid lawyer briefed the issue and persuaded the judge that the physical violence could qualify as “contact” under the stalking statute, and the court granted Ms. Yancey the twelve-month protective order.

The TPO proceeding was used to stop the physical violence and stalking in quite a different situation last year. Ms. Dailey had been struggling with breast cancer for some time. Even so, her husband abused her physically and sexually, forcing her to have sex and targeting her breast for violence. Ms. Dailey finally left her husband and got a TPO. At the contested hearing, the court granted the twelve-month TPO.

But, that wasn’t enough. Mr. Dailey stopped his physical violence at that point, but used stalking to continue the abuse, thinking he was getting around the TPO. He called Ms. Dailey repeatedly, using other people’s phones so that she would answer the calls. He used intermediaries to arrange encounters with her at their places of business. He called her hair stylists, and asked them to call him when she arrived there. He asked a car dealer to call her and set up a meeting at the dealership to apply together for refinancing on her car. He had his son call her to offer “sympathy” and tell her he still loved her.

Ms. Dailey’s Legal Aid lawyer went back to court over and over, filing for contempt, fighting off modification, and asking the court to make the TPO permanent, and she also talked to Mr. Dailey’s divorce lawyer to ask him to rein in his client. Finally, both the stalking and the physical violence were stopped, and Ms. Dailey can at last focus on restoring her health.
The Disability Integration Project expanded into many new areas in 2016. We started the Olmstead Disability Rights Clinic at the Georgia State School of Law. We brought in two attorneys to our team who specialize in special education law. And we greatly expanded our advocacy on behalf of children with autism and behavior related disabilities. The heart of our work continues to be enforcing Olmstead, which is the Atlanta Legal Aid Society’s 1999 United States Supreme Court victory that gives individuals with disabilities the right to live in the community rather than in institutions. We continued to work with the U.S. Justice Department, the Independent Reviewer, Georgia, and disability stakeholders to ensure the implementation of Georgia’s 2010 Olmstead settlement. Our Nick Project, which is a partnership with the state, mental health providers, the DeKalb Jail, and DeKalb County public defenders, continues to be a national model for ensuring people with mental illness and developmental disabilities who are leaving jail receive the supports and housing they need. We continue to do similar advocacy on behalf of Georgians civilly committed in state forensic hospitals. In September, we partnered with Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice to host a conference on advocating for individuals found incompetent to stand trial who are not likely to become competent.

In 2016, we were honored to receive a major grant from the Rich Foundation to advocate on behalf of children with autism and related disabilities. We successfully obtained what we think is the first approval in Georgia for a child with autism to receive ABA therapy through Medicaid. We have begun to work with local autism organizations in advocating for clients. We also successfully represented children with significant disabilities in disciplinary tribunals.

Health Law Partnership [HeLP] The Health Law Partnership is an interdisciplinary community collaboration among Atlanta Legal Aid, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia State University College of Law. The social and economic conditions in which children live can seriously affect their health. Attorneys intervene to address issues, such as poor housing conditions, lack of protection from domestic violence and failure to protect the legal rights of disabled children, with the goal of improving the physical, social or economic environments in which many children live. HeLP has on-site legal offices at Children’s at Scottish Rite, Children’s at Egleston, and Children’s at Hughes Spalding Hospitals. In addition, HeLP has a legal clinic located at the Georgia State University College of Law, in which law students work with clients to address legal issues affecting the health and wellbeing of the children.

HeLP receives calls concerning disability benefits, special education, Medicaid, problems related to housing conditions, and all aspects of family law and stability, protection from violence. The attorneys have also assisted with problems related to food stamps, utilities, employment and health insurance.

Ms. Farley’s Story

Ms. Farley’s 4- year-old daughter, Sarah, has uncontrollable seizures, suffering dozens each week. She had applied for Social Security Insurance (SSI) benefits for the child and had been denied multiple times. Ms. Farley received a referral to HeLP from the child’s doctor for assistance in representing her at a hearing to try to obtain these benefits. One of HeLP’s attorneys gathered medical records, spoke to providers and researched the child’s disorder. She subsequently represented this child at a hearing and received a fully favorable decision. Sarah is now receiving $733 a month in benefits, greatly increasing the household income and received nearly $27,500 in back benefits. Her mother is now able to purchase special learning tools for her, and she has greater access to healthcare services with the type of Medicaid that accompanies SSI.
The Health Law Unit provides comprehensive and compassionate legal services to low-income individuals living with serious health conditions such as cancer and HIV/AIDS. The Unit assists clients across metro Atlanta with a wide range of illness-related legal issues that are barriers to care and affect the clients’ ability to focus on treatment and wellness. The Health Law Unit focuses on the most essential of legal issues, such as access to health care, safe and affordable housing, preservation of benefits and income, protection of rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and HIV confidentiality rules, end of life planning and other legal assistance that helps our clients focus on their health and well-being.

We began our newest collaboration with Grady Cancer Center for Excellence this summer through our Breast Cancer Legal Project and Cancer Initiative where our outreach paralegal is present in the hospital to meet with our cancer population for in-person intake twice a month. The Breast Cancer Legal Project assisted a young client diagnosed with breast cancer. She had Stage IIB breast cancer and was undergoing treatment. The client was a student paying for her health insurance through her tuition. Her insurance was covered in the student fees but she was unsure how much it cost out of pocket. She had the option to extend the coverage since she was graduating soon. She was advised by her doctor that she needed to undergo fertility preservation if she wanted to possibly have children since the chemotherapy would cause damages. Our client stated that she has to start the treatment right away and indicated that there was a pending authorization for the medicine. When she sent to the pharmacy, the prescriptions were denied. She paid for the medicine out of her pocket and it cost $1,200. Our Breast Cancer Legal Project attorney drafted an appeal brief to her insurance company on behalf of the client stating that the client should receive reimbursement of her claims, citing fact and legal arguments. The insurance company responded stating that her claims would be granted and she should receive reimbursement.

The Cancer Legal Initiative assisted a cancer client who had Stage IV Cervical Cancer, with emergency estate planning needs. She was a young mother with 3 very young children so drafting her estate planning documents was important for her well-being as well as the safety and well-being of her children.

The AIDS Legal Project collaborates with Grady’s Infectious Disease Program and assists our HIV/AIDS client population on a weekly basis through on-site in-person intake outreach. The AIDS Legal Project also works with AID Atlanta with monthly outreach education on housing, employment rights and estate planning issues. We began a new collaboration this spring with Positive Impact Health Centers in Gwinnett where our outreach paralegal meets with our HIV/AIDS clients twice a month. The AIDS Legal Project assisted a mobility-impaired HIV client in obtaining a reasonable accommodation request from her landlord. The client lived in a third floor apartment at the back of a large complex. The client has great difficulty utilizing stairs and walking more than 75 feet without assistance. Her complex did not have elevators, and she was experiencing daily pain and swelling from walking up and down the stairs to her apartment. She was also having difficulty walking from her apartment to take out her trash, check the mail, and pay her rent, as these amenities are near the front of the complex. The AIDS Legal Project attorney coordinated with the client and her health care provider to determine exactly what reasonable accommodations the client needed. Several advocacy letters were sent and several phone calls were made to her landlord requesting that the client be moved to a street level apartment near the amenities at the front of the complex. The landlord agreed to transfer the client to an apartment meeting all of the requested specifications, and the client will hopefully be able to move into her new apartment this year. The AIDS Legal Project also assisted a client with another housing issue. After a rainy month, our client had water leaking into his first floor apartment. The leak made his carpet so damp that water would seep from the carpet whenever he walked on it. The landlord made half-hearted attempts to fix the damage by replacing the carpet and replacing the door frames to his closet, but failed to locate where the water was coming into the apartment. The AIDS Legal Project requested a reasonable accommodation of an early lease termination without paying any of the penalties or fees stipulated in the lease terms, and we were successful in assisting the client after multiple phone calls and multiple letters to his landlord.

The Health Law Unit worked with Georgia State University College of Law’s Health Law and Equity Class where law students worked on creating In-Service Education Curriculum on the priority practice areas of law on which we regularly educate our providers and clients. The Health Law Unit has most recently expanded into assisting transgender HIV clients where we began our newest outreach collaboration at Positive Impact Health Centers this summer. With transgender clients needing to legally change their name in order to apply for public benefits, we have made this a priority in the Health Law Unit and are working on creating a Transgender Name Change Project to assist more clients facing this hardship.

The Health Law Unit was adopted by Troutman Sanders this year, and the wing that the Unit sits has been named the “Troutman Sanders Health Law Suite” to honor the long-standing work and dedication the firm has provided our clients at the Veterans Administration Legal Clinic twice a month and for the hundreds of estate planning documents they have drafted for our low-income cancer and veteran clients through this collaboration.
Housing & Consumer

The Georgia Senior Legal Hotline is a statewide service that provides advice, brief service, and referrals to economically and/or socially disadvantaged Georgians over 60 and to relative caregivers of any age who are raising minor children. If the Hotline cannot resolve the senior’s legal problem through brief service, it refers the senior to free legal services, if available, or the private bar. The Hotline works closely with the Elderly Legal Assistance Programs, Georgia Legal Services Program and the State Division on Aging. In 2016, the Hotline opened over 4,000 cases and fielded thousands of calls from across the state of Georgia.

The Hotline’s work is supported by an army of volunteers. Every single day, volunteer support staff from Alston & Bird and Coca-Cola provide hours of administrative support allowing staff attorneys to handle a greater volume of cases. In addition, Georgia’s seniors benefit from projects with the lawyers of Alston & Bird and Troutman Sanders as well as the expertise of individual attorneys who spend hours every week speaking with seniors about their legal issues.

Jane’s Story

Sixty-four-year-old Jane contacted the Hotline when her mortgage company refused to allow her to refinance. Since the passing of her husband, she was struggling to make ends need and was desperate to lower her monthly payments. The mortgage company refused to allow the finance, because it incorrectly assumed that the client only had a life estate in the home she shared with her husband when in fact, she had been granted full title through a year’s support proceeding. The Hotline Attorney contacted the loan officer and explained that Jane did have full title to the home and should be considered for the mortgage refinance. After the Hotline attorney contacted the lender, the client was able to refinance and her mortgage payments decreased by over $600 per month, a 59% decrease in her monthly payments.

2016 Honors and Awards

William H. Stanhope
Randall L. Hughes Lifetime Commitment to Legal Services Award

Dawn Smith
Volunteer of the Year

Luke Lantta
Extraordinary Pro Bono Service

Legal Aid of Cobb County
Recognition of 41 Years of Service by the Cobb County Commission

Laura Rashidi-Yazd
Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Visionary Award 2016
The Honorable Debra Bernes Community Volunteer Award, 2016

Lori Anderson
State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division Star of the Quarter

Erik Heath and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.
Georgia Watch’s Tommy Malone Access to Civil Justice Champions
From left: Charlie Bliss, Erik Heath, David Webster, Cathy Vanderberg, Don Coleman

J. Rachel Scott
National Consumer Law Center Rising Star

Emory Law School
Atticus Finch Award for Top Fundraising Law School
Legal Aid of Cobb County provides free legal services and education to individuals living at or below the federal poverty level in a variety of civil legal matters. Without Legal Aid of Cobb County, those seeking advice, education and representation through the program would have limited access to legal assistance. The organization also provides assistance in areas of law that most private attorneys do not, such as assisting clients with food stamp and Medicaid issues, as well as providing advice and representation in unemployment hearings and social security overpayment cases.

In 1991, Legal Aid of Cobb County partnered with the Cobb Bar Association and, along with the local judiciary and leaders within the community, created a strategic initiative to increase volunteer and financial support for Legal Aid. The Cobb Justice Foundation (CJF) was born through that collaboration. Today, as a vital project of Legal Aid of Cobb County, CJF recruits over 200 active volunteers who take cases for over 400 Legal Aid of Cobb County clients and raises a little over $11,000 annually. This special project provides not only opportunities for pro bono attorneys to be involved with Legal Aid of Cobb County, it also provides legal education opportunities to both potential clients and pro bono attorneys. Educating clients on their legal rights has become especially significant in the last thirteen years. Since 2000, the number of indigent individuals eligible for Legal Aid of Cobb County services has increased by almost 150%. With this increased demand for services, educating clients to avoid legal problems has become a significant focus. With this increase in the number of clients, there has also been an increase in the need for Legal Aid attorneys. Because Legal Aid does not have the funding to provide attorneys to keep up with the demand, recruiting and training pro bono attorneys to help with this building caseload has become a very vital part of Legal Aid.
Lawyer bands rocked the third annual Justice Jam battle of the bands on October 8 at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre on the square in Marietta. Proceeds from the event benefited Legal Aid of Cobb County and the Cobb Justice Foundation. This year’s winning band was Attractive Nuisance with 120 East taking the Judge’s Choice trophy. Nearly 200 tickets were sold for the event, at which Legal Aid grossed nearly $15,000.
TPD Project | Contributors
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Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. | Platinum ($1000+)
Bryan Cave LLP | The Heyman Foundation
Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP | Dawn Levine
Taylor English Duma LLP | The Center Family Foundation, Inc.
Thomas Mimms | Gold ($500 - $750+)
Huff, Woods & Steele | Barnes Law Group
Silver ($50-$250+)
Chalker & Chalker, P.C. | Jody Miller
Hallman & Wingate, LLC | Loretta Mitchell*
Robert D. Ingram | Joyce Mocek
Kirke W. Keene | Paul Mooney
John H. Moore | Grady Moore
Brendan Murphy | Kevin G. Moore*
Frank Slover | Sam Morgan
Lynn Stevens | Tracy Morgan
Bronze ($25)
J. Scott Jacobson | Larry Myers
J. Kevin Moore | John Nelson
**Volunteers**
Kyra Abernathy* | Edward Danowitz
Randal Akers | Olivia Davis*
Patricia Ammari | Jeffrey Daxe*
Laura Anderson* | Mike Deegan
Brian Amnino* | Ann Dettmering
James Ausenbaugh* | Mary Ann Donnelly*
Sarah Avraham | Robert Donovan
Neera Bani* | Angelia Duncan
Nick Bakatsas | Adalia Durrette
Kyle Baker | Joy Edwards
Jeremie Beaudry | Shelley Elder
Tamora Boyd | Ian Falcone*
Donald Boyle | Julia Fenwick Ost
Kim Brantley | Carrie Fiedler*
Cynthia Bridges | Max Fishman
Heather D. Brown | Kathleen Flynn
Jenni Brown | Zachary De Gaeta
William B. Brown | Kynna Garner
Zainab Brown | Heidh Geiger
Browning & Smith, LLC | Sonya George
Mark Bryce | Mica German
Jeffrey Bunch* | Linda Gettle
Lawrence Burke* | Brenton Givens
Kathryn Burmeister | Sylvia Goldman*
Juliana Burrall | Fatima Goodman*
John Bush | Gina Grady
Surinder Chadha Jimenez | Matthew Grattan
Christopher Cahill | Natalie Green
David Canale* | Joyce Green-Armstrong
Nicole Carson | Beth Guerra
Mark Carter | John Gunn
Amanda Cash | Lori Ann Hale*
J. Wickliffe Cauthorn* | Scott Halperin*
Marijane Cauthorn | George Hamilton
Dari Champion, Jr.* | John W. Hammond
Ophelia Chan* | Alex Harmon
Diane Cherry* | Caitlin Herndon*
Chuck Chesbro | Sam Hicks*
Nick Chester* | Doug Hill
Sarah Clipperty* | Michael Hill
Clark & Washington LLC | Kathryn Hinton
Bert Cohen* | Margaret Hobson
Shannon Collier | Ken Hodges
Monique Collins | James Hogan, Jr.
Valeria Cometto* | Soo Hong*
Edwin Cook | Alyssa Hopson
Pamela Correlli* | Coleen Hossack
Ken Crosson* | Montoya M. Ho-Sang
Mike Dalton | Franklin Hughes*
Holly Hughes | Christopher Ivory
Elizabeth Jabaley | Wesley Jackson
Jennifer Johnson* | LeeAnn Jones
Justice Café/

The Manely Firm, P.C. | Neal Kaplan
Adam Keating | Reid Kennedy
Jason Khano | Dina Khismatulina
Daryl Kidd* | Leila King-Wade
Tracie Kline
Derek Krebs | Steve Kwon
Madeleine Kvalheim | Tricia Kline
Sarah LaFavano | Lindsey LaFarge
Brian Lake | Luke Lantta
Diana LaRoss | Raquel Leibovitch
Erla Lee*
Alan Levine | Dawn Levine*
Quintin Lewis | John Lippincott
Austin Lomax | A. Keith Louge
Ronald Lowry | Bryan Lutz
Jack Lyle*
Brad MacDonald | Sheila Manely
Alex Manning*
Hughes & Manning, LLP* | Priscilla Roberts
Rod Martin* | Morgan Robertson*
Amanda Mathis* | Amanda Mathis*
Megan McClinton | Bekahb McClavey
Rebekah McGregor* | Terence McGinn*
Maureen Meleod | Janné McKay*
Leah Fioreza McNeill | Larry Meyer
Robert Meyring*
In-Kind Support
Donovan Reporting, PC | Stearns-Montgomery
Investigative Services & Proctor
The Hon. Adele Grubbs | The UPS Store at Woodlawn
The Hon. Ann Harris
The Hon. Conley Ingrahm
The Hon. Toby Progers
The Hon. Stephen Schuster
The Hon. Kathryn Tanskley
Keith Puckett
Luke Thomas, CPA,

IAG Forensics

Judicial and Government Giving Members
The Hon. Adele Grubbs | Donovan Reporting, PC
The Hon. Ann Harris
The Hon. Conley Ingrahm
The Hon. Toby Progers
The Hon. Stephen Schuster
The Hon. Kathy Tanksley
Keith Puckett
Investigative Services
Luke Thomas, CPA,

IAG Forensics

Stearns-Montgomery

& Proctor

* = Lifetime Member
In 2016, continuing the goal of providing justice for all

In 2016, the Gwinnett Pro Bono Project, through its network of private attorneys, assisted 372 people, both through full service representation and through our clinics, who had an average monthly income of $2,104 per month. Eighteen percent of full service clients were victims of domestic violence.

These clients sought assistance in a variety of issues, including family law and domestic violence prevention; bankruptcies and other debt collection issues; drafting end of life planning documents; housing issues; public benefits; educational issues; and employment issues.

In an effort to help more people the Project continued to serve clients through the monthly Probate Clinic, which in 2016 saw 237 people. The Project also launched a new monthly Consumer Law Clinic, assisting clients with matters involving landlord-tenant issues, debt defense, bankruptcy advice, and small claims cases. The semi-monthly Family Law Information Classes continue to provide resources for self represented litigants, providing them with general information about family law matters, such as common terms, how to ask for a hearing, what to bring to a hearing, and how to serve the other side. Approximately 274 people attended the classes in 2016. There are no income limits for either the class or the clinics.

In 2017, the Project will focus on limited-English and non-English speakers who are at a significant disadvantage in the court process. Gwinnett County residents speak more than 180 different languages. In order to better serve this population, the Project will begin offering the Family Law Information Class once a month in common languages (Spanish, Korean, etc). The classes focused on limited English speakers will include information on requesting an interpreter and resources available.

2016 CLE Classes

We continue to offer our popular CLE series, free to active pro bono attorneys and open to all.

- January: The Ethics of Getting Paid
- February: Using the Law Library
- March: Effective Public Speaking for Lawyers
- April: Military Family Law Issues
- May: Garnishments Post-Strickland
- June: Social Media Law
- July: Technology in your Legal Practice
- August: Effective Boundaries with Clients
- September: Ten Commandments of Legal Writing
- October: Private Violence- a documentary on domestic violence
- November: A Conversation with the Honorable Tadia Whitner
- December: Managing Your Legal Practice
Gwinnett Pro Bono Project By the Numbers: 2016

120  Number of attorneys actively offering to volunteer their time.

264  Number of CLE credit hours provided to local attorneys right here in Gwinnett.

247  Number of pro se probate litigants assisted by the Clinics, reducing the number of unnecessary filings.

$2,104  Average monthly income of families our volunteers helped.

$82,264.51  Amount of crushing consumer debt eliminated by the work of volunteer attorneys.

$1,175.75  Average monthly family support obtained

228  Number of people following us on Facebook

“I have found over my legal career that one never gets enough appreciation for what one does as a lawyer. There will always be a judge, client, or opposing counsel that will treat you as if you are second rate no matter how good of a job you do. However, when my soul needs a recharge, I reach out to the Pro Bono Project for a client referral. Why? Everyone, from start to finish, is grateful that you to give your time to help out another human being. My most grateful clients have come from volunteering and I love them all!”

–Sarah Avraham
2016 volunteer attorney

Volunteers

Lisa Baggett
Cha’Ron Ballard-Gayle
Faith Barrett-Hill
Wallace Berry Jr.
Katrina Breeding
Lauren Bryant
Clarissa Burnett
Raymon Burns
Lindsey Cambardella
Constance Carter
Walter Clarke
Jim Cline
Arlene Coleman
Glenn Cooper
Jerry Daniels
Brook Davidson
Andrea David-Vega
Elliott Schuyler
Barbara Evans
Douglas Fox
Kathryn Franklin
Laura Friedman
Tiana Garner
Casey Gibson
John Hogan
Donald Horace
Robby Hughes
Jason Kang
Wally Kellerman
Kathryn Khashan
Vanessa Kosky
Frances Kuo
Christopher Lee
Matthew Lettich
David Lipscomb
Patricia McKenzie
John Miles
Andy Morgan
Raina Nadler
Jennifer Neal-Jones
Patricia O’Kelley
Donald Osborne
Shawn Owen
Nathan Powell
Steven Reilly
Sumner Riddick II
Carlton Rouse
Ashley Scarpetta
Candace Sneed
Deana Spencer
Keisha Steed
Mark Stuckey
Melanie Thompson
Charles Tingle
Nelson Turner
Mark Wells
John Welsh II
Michelle Wilson
Crystal Wright
Emily Yoat
Joseph Zdrilich
Pro Bono Projects

Cancer Volunteer Outreach
Members of the private bar meet with cancer patients and conduct client interviews and applications for legal assistance at our frequent outreach at Dekalb Medical Center Comprehensive Breast Center.

Clayton Pro Bono Project
Volunteer attorneys represent clients in Clayton County in landlord-tenant disputes, family law, wills and advance directives, small claims, bankruptcy, and general civil litigation.

Cobb Justice Foundation
Volunteer attorneys represent clients in Cobb County in landlord-tenant disputes, family law, wills and advance directives, small claims, bankruptcy, and general civil litigation.

Cobb Family Violence Project
This project trains volunteer attorneys to represent victims of family violence in temporary protective order hearings in Cobb County Superior Court.

The Enhanced Services Project
Enhanced Services Project trains volunteer attorneys to perform vital follow up work with clients who have received brief advice, counsel and self-help materials from Atlanta Legal Aid attorneys, but who may need additional support or basic legal advice on a given topic to be successful. Attorneys can also assist clients through brief appointments to review or complete simple legal documents. Providing such continuing legal services to clients can improve success rates by as much as 30%. Volunteers can participate at any of our Legal Aid offices or remotely, once initial training is complete.

Eviction Defense Project
The Eviction Defense Project matches trained volunteer attorneys with low-income individuals and families facing eviction and homelessness.

Georgia Senior Legal Hotline
The Hotline provides free legal advice and brief legal service to seniors throughout Georgia. The Hotline uses volunteer attorneys to contact client telephone interviews and prepare Wills and Advance Directives.

Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project
The project trains volunteer attorneys to represent grandparents and other relative caregivers in adoption and guardianship cases in the metro Atlanta area. The project also provide wrap around estate planning after finalizing an adoption or guardianship.

Gwinnett Pro Bono Project
Volunteer attorneys represent clients in Gwinnett County in landlord-tenant disputes, family law, wills and advance directives, small claims, bankruptcy, family violence protective orders, and general civil litigation.

Health Law Partnership [HeLP]
HeLP is a partnership between Atlanta Legal Aid, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia State College of Law. HeLP provides free legal assistance to patients of Children’s and their families. HeLP also partners with volunteer attorneys to prepare wills and obtain minor guardianships on behalf of its clients.

Special Needs Adult Guardianship Project
This project assists parents of children with severe special needs as they reach the age of majority obtain an adult guardianship to allow for continuity of medical care, educational services, and benefits. Cases are referred from partnering organizations and screened to ensure the guardianship is needed, would not be contested, and has the support of medical or psychological providers.

Wills Project – Health Law Unit
Private attorneys assist cancer patients with the drafting of wills and advance directives. Members of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys prepare wills and advance directives for low-income individuals living with HIV and AIDS. Volunteer attorneys from Troutman Sanders, Baker Donelson, Hunton Williams, Krevolin Horst; and Women in the Profession section of the Atlanta Bar Association prepare wills and advance directives for low-income individuals living with cancer.

Wills Project Program-wide
The wills project places simple estate planning matters with volunteers to assist with drafting last will and testament, advance directive and financial powers of attorney. The project serves seniors, relative caregivers and clients in need of end of life planning.

Veterans Administration Legal Clinic
Volunteer attorneys and paralegals meet with veterans in the palliative care of the VA Hospital twice a month to complete an intake application regarding their legal issue and the attorneys will complete wills and advance directives for veterans they meet.
### Clayton County / South Fulton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valie Abrahams</td>
<td>Marliza Ramos</td>
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<td>Allan Alberga</td>
<td>Darrel Reynolds</td>
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<td>Emmett Arnold</td>
<td>Arlene Sanders</td>
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<td>Tamorra Boyd</td>
<td>Jewel Scott</td>
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<td>Fred Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Pool O’Neal</td>
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### DeKalb County

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<tr>
<td>Robert Castellani</td>
<td>Lois Shingler</td>
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<td>Glenda Cucher</td>
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### Domestic Reations

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<td>Craig Brazeman</td>
<td>Dawn Smith</td>
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<td>Emily McBurney</td>
<td>Che Williams</td>
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<td>Ansley Sluss</td>
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### Enhanced Services Project

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<td>Beth Baer</td>
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<td>Anne Emanuel</td>
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<td>Kathryn Lee</td>
<td>Kabir Uddin</td>
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<td>Mary McCallum</td>
<td>Suzanne Wakefield</td>
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### Fulton County Eviction Defense Project

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justice Barber</td>
<td>John Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Drummond</td>
<td>Pia Rich</td>
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<td>Arielle Eisenberg</td>
<td>Seyfarth Shaw</td>
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<td>Lauren Gregory</td>
<td>Ian Smith</td>
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<td>Kylian Kershaw</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Whiteside</td>
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<td>Christina Meddin</td>
<td>Kevin Young</td>
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### Fulton Unemployment Benefit Project

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<tr>
<td>Sada Baby</td>
<td>Kathryn Guinn</td>
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<td>Jeremy Berry</td>
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<td>Austin Bersinger</td>
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<td>Dylan Bess</td>
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<td>Melissa Cerqueira</td>
<td>Caryn Wang</td>
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<td>Josh Curry</td>
<td>Jeff Zachman</td>
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### Grandparents/Relative Caregiver Project

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<tr>
<td>Katie Balthrop</td>
<td>Victoria Kealy</td>
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<td>Stephanie Banks</td>
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<td>Lou Barbieri</td>
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<td>Bethaney Embry</td>
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<td>Brenda Holmes</td>
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<td>Richard Horder</td>
<td>Terri Simmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Huff</td>
<td>Joanna Smith</td>
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### Health Law Unit

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<tr>
<td>Tera Bailey</td>
<td>Sherron Harris</td>
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<td>Brandon Van Baelen</td>
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<td>Hailey Barnett</td>
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<td>Amy Hanna</td>
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<td>Melissa Oelerich</td>
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### Health Law Partnership

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sara Adams</td>
<td>Valerie Ponder Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tala Amirfazli</td>
<td>Meredith Hilton</td>
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<td>Reid Barricau</td>
<td>Yolanda Johnson</td>
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<td>Aisha Slade Broderick</td>
<td>Kwendes Jones</td>
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<td>Laila Kelly</td>
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<td>Laurice Rutledge Lambert</td>
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<td>Kelsie Cross</td>
<td>Jim McCarten</td>
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<td>Sharon Davis</td>
<td>Courtney Newman</td>
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<td>Ashley Kent Fox</td>
<td>Charles Ruffin</td>
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### Georgia Senior Legal Hotline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audra Frimpong</td>
<td>Lisa Steuer</td>
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<td>Randy Hughes</td>
<td>Phyllis Talley</td>
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<td>Andrew McClintock</td>
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### Disability Integration Project

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary LeShaw</td>
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### Home Defense

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<tr>
<td>Rick Alemek</td>
<td>Adam Herring</td>
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<td>Frank Alexander</td>
<td>Frederick King</td>
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<td>Andy Bailie</td>
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<td>John Bennett</td>
<td>Elizabeth Rose</td>
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<td>Mary Benton</td>
<td>Howard Rothbloom</td>
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<td>Henry Sommer</td>
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<td>Jodi Greenberg</td>
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### Wills

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<td>Kimberlynn Davis</td>
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<td>Irma Griffith-Steele</td>
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<td>Melodee Henderson-Silmon</td>
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<td>Tom Holcomb</td>
<td>Brittany Raway</td>
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<td>Amy Kluasner</td>
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### Willingness

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<td>Michael Singer</td>
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<td>Rex Veal</td>
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<td>Tiffany Williams</td>
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Introducing the 2016 Service Council

Back in 2014, two young law firm associates, Laurice Rutledge Lambert and Crissy Wolfe, decided they wanted to do more for Atlanta Legal Aid and introduce the program to the growing number of service-minded lawyers in metro Atlanta. They found a role on the traditional board and advisory committee did not require enough of its members, and they wanted to form a group devoted exclusive to service, both traditional pro bono and more creative outlets. The determined women set about to form a new service model for Atlanta Legal Aid. The Service Council continued to grow in 2016, raising money through the collaborative Beer Tasting and BBQ Battle with Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and support with law firms and community groups.

MEMBER LIST

Scott Campbell
Shiver Hamilton

Mark Carter
Taylor English

Darla Champion
Champion Firm, P.C.

Emily Rutledge Early
Baker Donelson

Meagan Griffin
Paul Hastings

Rebecca Stork

Laurice Rutledge Lambert
Baker Hostetler

Cheryl LeGare
LeGare Attwood & Wolfe

Amanda Moulthrop
Levine Raichling

Mary Alexander Myer
Jones Day

Lauren Simons

Ansley Sluss
Delta Air Lines, Inc. Law Dept

Isaac Tekie
Reynolds Law Group

Andy Tuck
Alston + Bird

Karlie Webb
Troutman Sanders

Jennifer Whitton
Baker Hostetler

Crissy Wolfe
Dentons

Nathan A. Wood
McGuire Woods

Legal Aid Society Service Council Liaisons

Stephanie Carman
Kimberly Charles
Cari Kaiser-Sielbach
Laurie Rashidi
Lindsey Siegel
Angie Tacker
Chad Shultz
Steve Gottlieb
Cocktails and Connections

With our role in the Atlanta legal community in mind, Legal Aid brings you Cocktails & Connections. The purpose of this ticket-limited event is to facilitate introductions and business opportunities between our many committed volunteers. Tickets include a buffet, open bar and access to the bidding.

At Cocktails & Connections, guests can bid for access to decision makers at two levels. First, attendees can bid for the rights to have lunch with the general counselors of various corporations – the life blood of corporate law offices. Secondly, attendees can bid for the chance to have lunch with the administrative decision makers of various law firms. The 2016 Cocktails & Connections raised nearly $40,000 for Legal Aid programs.

Thank you Sponsors:

Partner Level

Gordon & Rees
Scully Mansukhani

Associate Level

Beacon Hill Legal
Economists Incorporated
Navigant

Run for Justice

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society held its 26th Run for Justice in Oakhurst on November 12th, 2016 at 9:00 AM. The event benefitted the general operating fund of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Participants in the Run for Justice enjoyed a beautiful 5K course. Others enjoyed the crisp autumn day with the 5k walk, great for families and children.

Jogging strollers, kids and pets were welcomed! Awards were presented to the top 5-k finishers and teams in a variety of categories, including pets, children and strollers. Special thank you to the nearly 1,000 registrants and our generous sponsors. Because of your support, Run For Justice raised $20,000 for Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

Sponsors
Events and Fundraisers

The Great Whiskey Debate

DeKalb Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and Atlanta Legal Aid Society – DeKalb cosponsored the Great Whiskey Debate on April 28th. Local restaurants provided the mixologists, George Dickle provided the spirits and nearly 250 attendees provided the fun! The sold out evening raised $16,000 for two deserving organizations.

The Beer Tasting and BBQ Battle

The Beer Tasting & BBQ Battle is a collaborative effort of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to raise funds – and awareness – to support critical programs administered by each organization in the Atlanta area.

The 4th annual BBT sold over 800 tickets and provided nearly $40,000 for each organization.
Events and Fundraisers

picturing Justice

In conjunction with the 2016 Atlanta Celebrates Photography Festival, Atlanta Legal Aid Society presented an exhibition curated by independent curators Louise E. Shaw and Mary Stanley. Reflecting upon the mission-driven programs of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Picturing Justice features five documentary photographers whose work comments upon issues such as the working poor, disability rights, housing inequities, and grandparents or other relatives caring for children. Collectively, the photographs provide a deeper understanding of the challenges facing vulnerable populations in Atlanta and throughout the United States. Photographers include: Sheila Pree Bright, Dustin Thomas Chambers, Matt Eich and Harvey Finkle. In addition, Atlanta-based photographer Bryan Meltz was commissioned to tell the story of one family’s experience with Atlanta Legal Aid’s Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project.

Sponsors

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Second Self Beer
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John H. Fleming
Judy Lampert
Lubo Fund
Mary Stanley Studios

Susan Anderson
Gordon & Rees LLP
Randy Hughes
Contracts

Legal Aid works with community partners to deliver our legal services as a part of their objectives. These partnerships are a growing and mutually beneficial source of funding for our work.

DeKalb County: Family Law Information Center
Latin American Association
National Consumer Law Center
Project Healthy Grandparents
United Way of Greater Atlanta: Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program
West Tennessee Legal Services

Foundation and Government Grants

Legal Aid receives its grant funding from a wide range of sources. These donors, who make our work possible, illustrate the broad base of support that we enjoy:

Administrative Office of the Courts
American Bar Endowment
American College of Bankruptcy
Atlanta Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service
Atlanta Bar Foundation
Atlanta Regional Commission
Charles and Mary D. Grant Foundation
City of Atlanta: Community Development (HUD)
City of Atlanta: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HUD)
Clayton County
Cobb County
Cobb County CDBG Program Office, Board of Commissioners, County Manager (HUD)
Cobb Law Library
Combined Federal Campaign
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (VOCA)
DeKalb County Community Development Department (HUD)

DeKalb County Human Development Department
Equal Justice America
Equal Justice Works
Fulton County: Ryan White Care Act
Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Foundation
Georgia Bar Foundation (IOLTA)
The Goizueta Foundation
Gwinnett Law Library
Ida A. Ryan Charitable Trust
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
Osiasion Educational Foundation
The Rich Foundation
State of Georgia Department of Human Services
Susan G. Komen Greater Atlanta
Thalia and Michael C. Carlos Foundation
United Way of Greater Atlanta
UPS Foundation
The Atlanta Legal Aid Annual Campaign Has Raised Over $32,000,000 Since 1982

Matt Calvert is not completely sure that he was actually asked to re-up as Annual Campaign chair 2016. He recalls expressing his willingness to engage again in what has become Atlanta Legal Aid’s annual Rite of Spring. Bingo! He had the job and, of course, quickly turned to his 2015 co-chair, Tye Dariand, who agreed enthusiastically to co-lead the effort once more.

Tye and Matt were not the first set of co-chairs, but they are the first to repeat as co-chairs. The Terrific Teri and Terry Team (Teri Plummer McClure and Terry Walsh, the first) co-chaired in 2006; the Brothers Hays (Robert and Richard) in 2010. Robbie Dobson and Tom McNellie led the campaign in 2013. Robbie captained again in 2014 with Bob Pennington as co-chair. Two former chairs, Bill Kitchens (2008 and 2009) William Hill (2011 and 2012) headed the campaign two years in a row, both solo.

Both campaign leaders work in environments that encourage working pro bono publico. When Tye moved to Atlanta as Georgia-Pacific’s General Counsel in late 2005, Steve Gottlieb and Terry Walsh were among his first callers. The two visitors recounted the long history of campaign kick-off breakfasts hosted by Georgia-Pacific in the company’s fiftieth floor dining room, as well as the company’s support of the campaign.

Matt was a founding member of Hunton & Williams’ pro bono committee. Not long after he moved from the firm’s home base in Richmond to Atlanta in 1984, he was introduced to Atlanta Legal Aid. He was Legal Aid board president in 2010 and has continued to serve in numerous capacities.

After two successful campaigns, the Calvert-Dariand team raised nearly $3.3 million dollars to support the general operating fund of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, which allowed lawyers and advocates to help over 6,500 clients.
## Pacesetter Firms and Corporate Legal Departments

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<th>Firm Name</th>
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<td>Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &amp; Berkowitz, PC</td>
<td>Parker, Hudson, Rainer &amp; Dobbs LLP</td>
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<td>Paul Hastings LLP</td>
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<td>Butler, Wooten, Cheeley &amp; Peak</td>
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<td>Schreeder, Wheeler &amp; Flint LLP</td>
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<td>Dentons</td>
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<td>Holland Roddenbery LLP</td>
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<td>Troutman Sanders LLP</td>
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<td>Jenkins &amp; Roberts, LLC</td>
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## Honor Roll Firms and Corporate Legal Departments

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<td>Craig A. Gillen</td>
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## Supporter Firms and Corporate Legal Departments

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<td>Georgia-Pacific Corporation</td>
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<td>$150 per attorney</td>
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## Contributor Firms and Corporate Legal Departments

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<td>Cushing, Morris, Armbuster &amp; Montgomery</td>
<td>Pursely Friese Torgrimson</td>
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<td>Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett &amp; Dunner LLP</td>
<td>Rubin Postaer Atlanta</td>
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<td>Freisem, Macon, Swann &amp; Malone</td>
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<td>Hawkins Parnell Thackston &amp; Young LLP</td>
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## Associate Campaign Matching Firms

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<td>Hunton &amp; Williams LLP</td>
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### Sustaining Partners

**Champion of Justice** [[$25,000]]

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- John A. Chandler
- Clarence F. Seeliger

**Joseph F. Haas Fellow** [[$7,500 – $9,999]]

Peter Kontio

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- John A. Wallace
- Donna P. Bergeson
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- Teri McClure
- of North Georgia
- Thomas C. Daniel
- Richard C. Mitchell
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- Gregory J. Digel
- Paul N. Monnin
- and Children
- Robert N. Dokson
- Michael T. Nations
- The McAliley Endowment
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- Melissa Oellerich
- David A. Stockton
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- Dean W. Russell
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- Robert A. Schapiro
- John A. Witte
- Julie Seaman
- Kathryn M. Zickert
- Debbie Segal
- Catholic Foundation
- Wendy L. Shoob
- of North Georgia
- Thomas E. Smith III
- Crane Fund for Women
- Michael L. Stevens
- and Children
- The McAliley Endowment
### Sustaining Partners

#### Pacesetters  [$500 – $749; $250 for public interest employees]

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#### Supporters  [$151 – $499]

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<td>D. Garner</td>
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<td>Catherine Little</td>
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<td>Lisa Golan</td>
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<td>Sharon Scriven</td>
<td>Norman Zoller</td>
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<td>Joyce Grangent</td>
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In Memory of Judge Horace T. Ward  Clifford Alexander
In Memory of Bohanii Bakari  John R. Fitzpatrick

In Honor of Lindsey Craft & Jonathan Goin  Anonymous
In Honor of Rita Damon  Beth Damon
In Honor of the Marriage of Haley & Erin  Bitsy Bloom
In Honor of Christine Murphy  Brian Lake
In Honor of Disability Integration Project  Carl McKinnay
In Honor of Katherine Blaska Dodd & Michelle Lynn Bloch  Carol M. Wood
In Honor of Ken Chalker, Sr.  Chalker & Chalker, P.C.
In Honor of Velimir Westmoreland  Charis Stephens
In Honor of John Wachol  Daniel Deckbar
In Honor of Sarah Dooley  Deborah Dooley
In Honor of Steve Gottlieb  Dennis Goldstein
In Honor of Robert McCormack  Elizabeth Steele

In Honor of Eric K. Renz  Emeline Renz
In Honor of Jon Fee  International Bond & Marine Brokerage, LTD.
In Honor of Fred Orr  Joyce Glat Lewis
In Honor of Sheree Granger  Joyce Granger
In Honor of Kevin Belote and Rachel Gage  Kevin Balote
In Honor of Elmer E. Cooper  Lawrence Cooper
In Honor of Andrea Landers  Margaret Stone
In Honor of Randolph Thrower  R. William Ide
In Honor of Scott Max Haiperin  Ranie Haiperin
In Honor of the marriage of Drew Zoller and Lindsay Siegel  Rita A. Sheffy
In Honor of Gabrielle Rich  Sanford Hartman
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