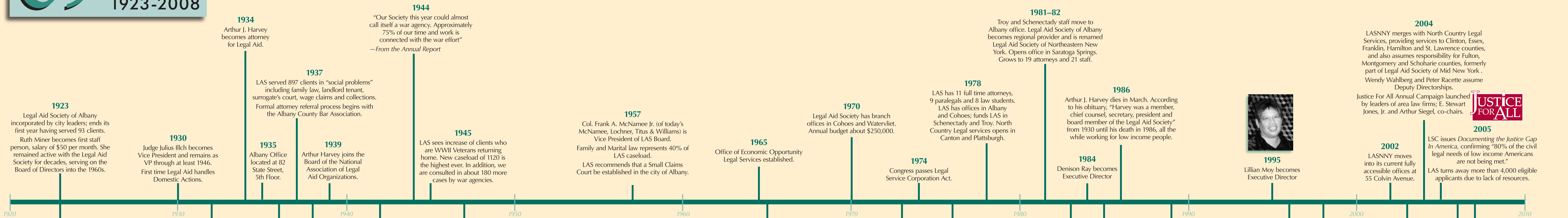




The History of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York



Legal Aid Society staff in 2007.



- First Board of Directors:**
- Bertram M. Aufessesser
 - Helen J. Delehanty
 - Leo M. Doody
 - Margaret B. Farrell
 - Ella A. Gregory
 - Hon. William S. Hackett
 - Mayor of Albany
 - Edmund N. Huyck
 - President of the Albany Chamber of Commerce
 - Julius Ilch
 - Judge and Attorney
 - Charles H. Johnson
 - Susan F. Peck
 - William J. Picard
 - Reverend Joseph Scully
 - Director of Catholic Charities
 - George F. Shevlin
 - Celia M. Sporborg
 - Charles J. Tobin
 - Catholic Conference
 - Grace N. Whitney



Leo M. Doody

Original Constitution of the Legal Aid Society

"The purpose of this Society shall be to assist, in the pursuit of any civil remedy, worthy persons without means who are unable to procure assistance elsewhere."



The Dynamic Trio:
The first three directors of the Legal Aid Society in Albany, who led the organization from its inception to 1983: Lawrence Klepper became director in 1966; Ruth Miner took the helm in 1923; and Arthur Harvey served the longest, starting in 1942.



"Through its work [the Legal Aid Society] is making sound citizens of a large number of people. To know at first hand the result of your labors is an inspiration. The young men from this school whom the Society has permitted to assist it under its attorneys are warm in their appreciation of the opportunities given them for service. The Society brings helpful results in cases in which its clients' property, character, happiness and even liberty are involved. It is bound to grow in good works. The years may pass, but it will keep carrying on."

—Harold D. Alexander, Dean, Albany Law School
From the 1939 LAS Annual Report

Albany Law School students continue to learn at the Legal Aid Society in 2008.

- What else happened in 1923?**
- US Attorney General says women may wear trousers.
 - First nonstop transcontinental flight: New York City to San Diego.
 - Disney Company founded.
 - Cecil B. DeMille debuts the first version of "The Ten Commandments."
 - New York Yankees' Lou Gehrig hits the first of his 493 home runs.



Ruth Miner, Legal Aid's first attorney (7th from left) at the National Meeting of Legal Aid Attorneys in 1930.

- Legal Aid Society Board Presidents**
1976 to present
- Anne Viglione: 1976-1980
 - Harry "Skip" Meislahn: 1980-1982
 - Roger Kiley: 1982-1984
 - Miriam "Mimi" Netter: 1984-1986
 - George F. Carpinello: 1986-1988
 - Richard C. Heffern: 1988-1989
 - Thomas Kenney: 1990-1992
 - Philip H. Dixon: 1992-1996
 - Keith C. St. John: 1996-1998
 - G. Kimball Williams: 1999-2000
 - Arthur J. Siegel: 2001-2003
 - Peter V. Coffey: 2004-2005
 - Jeffrey S. Baker: 2006-present

