

2017-18 IMPACT REPORT

Providing free urgent civil legal services
to low income residents in 16 counties
of Northeastern New York



Legal Aid
Society

NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Letter from the Executive Director

I am delighted to share with you this report of the Legal Aid Society's outcomes and impact in Northeastern New York for the last two years. As you can see, we have continued our life-changing work providing the full range of legal services from information and referral, advice and brief service, negotiation, and full representation. **All of the services we provide help our clients to achieve more successful outcomes.** The few stories that we have space to highlight in this report demonstrate the extraordinary impact legal aid services can have on a family's life. We are grateful to Donna and Donald Connors, Julianne White, and Nyjah Pringle for their willingness to share their stories.

In addition to great services to our clients, we continued to strengthen our infrastructure and our engagement with the communities where we live and practice. At the Center for Civil Legal Services (95 Central Avenue, Albany) and at all five of our offices, staff are fully engaged with their local communities. Board service, community coalitions, outreach and education are just some of the ways that we interact with our client community and others who serve them.

We continue to provide training to attorneys in our program and collaborate with others statewide in order to provide the best possible, qualified staff. We participated in the statewide New York State Bar Association Partnership Conference to provide training in key areas of poverty law. We also continued our internal commitment to fulfill our strategic planning priorities: succession planning, considering a race equity priority, and continuing to affirm and grow greater impact in our communities.

Our Private Attorney Involvement Program (PAI) welcomed of Myleah Misenheimer as the PAI Director in 2017 and continue to seek the involvement of new and continuing private attorneys to give their time and talent to our low-income clients. We are honored to have received *the Community Service Award* from the Capital Region Pride Center for our **PAI Name Change Project** at their Gala in October 2018.

In addition, we have seen LASNNY's profile raised in the media with the positive coverage of our transformative impact on client's lives throughout the region.

In January 2018 we opened the doors to the Center for Civil Legal Services, a great success. Thank you to everyone, particularly our donors, who joined us for our well attended Grand Opening on May 3rd. Local leadership at the City of Albany, the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) and a \$300,000 grant from the Regional Economic Development Council allowed us to complete our first and largest phase of the new Center for Civil Legal Services, located at 95 Central Avenue in

West Hill. We continue to move forward toward the next phase of renovation of the remaining Center's space so that our remaining staff at Colvin Avenue can join us at 95 Central Avenue. The Center also has an exciting initiative on the horizon to work towards ameliorating the poverty experienced by our nearest neighbors surrounding the Center, where 54% of the people are living below the poverty level. For those who of you who missed our incredible grand opening feel free to email me, Myleah Misenheimer or Deanne Grimaldi for a tour of LASNNY's Center for Civil Legal Services.

Our ongoing work meeting the essential legal needs of our low-income clients continued. **In 2017, we handled a total of 9,148 cases, benefiting 19,587 low income residents in our service area. And in 2018, we handled a total of 10,340 cases, benefiting 21,784 individuals.**

We continue to create new programs to better serve our clients. I am proud of our new **Medical/Legal Project**, a new partnership formed in 2017 with **St. Peter's Health Partners and the Albany Law School**. Staff Attorney Alexis Kutski did a great job teaching our colleagues at St. Peters' when and how to contact us on behalf of their patients who need health stabilizing legal services. We look forward to the continued growth and success of the MLP.

I am grateful to our 24-member Board of Directors for their guidance, leadership, and service. Heartfelt gratitude to our Board Chair, Sanjeev DeSoyza of Bond, Schoeneck and King Attorneys for seven years of service and friendship and availability 24 hours a day.

I am especially proud of the work that all of our staff do. We need all of you! Together we have helped our clients access the income, shelter, safety, and stability that they need to thrive. **We continue to plan for the future to ensure our actions, services, and engagement in the community will meet our neighbors' most pressing needs.**

Julian M. Mroz



We continue our life-changing work providing the full range of legal services from information and referral, advice and brief service, negotiation, and full representation.



2017-18 PAI Attorneys

As I look back on the past two years, I am humbled by what our Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program and volunteers have accomplished. **In 2017 the PAI Program closed 264 cases, assisting 605 individuals in our service area. In 2018 our numbers increased to closing 412 cases, assisting 965 individuals.** I am happy to have this opportunity to share some of the highlights of the past two years.

In January of 2018, we re-opened our *Assigned Counsel Program* for clients residing in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, whereby we assist clients petition the court for an attorney to handle their contested matrimonial matters. In 2018, we also expanded our Pro Se Divorce Program to include clients in Saratoga, Washington, Warren, and Albany Counties. We now offer Pro Se Clinics in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Amsterdam, Hudson, Saratoga, Plattsburgh and Canton for clients seeking an uncontested divorce. We also expanded our *Attorney for the Day Program*, an in-court limited-scope representation program where volunteers assist tenants at their first appearance. We increased our presence from two to three days a month. We also added a second tier to the program, so that any client put down for trial could potentially be placed with a volunteer beyond first appearance on a full representation basis.

The PAI program continued to host professional CLE trainings in 2018. In the Spring and the Winter we co-sponsored *Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Family Court*, a biannual CLE held at the Legal Project. In April we held an *Ethics in Technology* training, in addition to our annual *Attorney for the Day Training* in the Fall, both held at NYSBA. Since 2017 LASNNY has been working with the Pride Center and In Our Own Voices to help meet the demand for name and gender marker changes. At the Pride Center Annual Gala in October 2018 LASNNY, along with name change volunteer attorney, Sharon Couch DeBonis, was honored to receive a Community Service Award. LASNNY also acknowledged the firm Nixon Peabody, LLP for their attorneys' outstanding work in the area of name and gender marker changes. Expanding the name change program, **LASNNY now assists with name changes for Domestic Violence Victims and First Name Unknown (FNU) clients** whose names were incorrectly listed on US arrival and entry documents such as green cards and other immigration documents.

On May 1, 2018, NYSBA awarded two of LASNNY's PAI attorneys with Pro Bono Service Awards. Alexander Dunshee received the President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Fourth Judicial District and G. Kimball Williams received the President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Third Judicial District. At the 2018 Holiday Party jointly sponsored by LASNNY, the

Legal Project and the Albany County Bar Association, LASNNY awarded PAI attorneys Sharon Couch DeBonis and Kathy Walters with Distinguished Service Awards.

I am personally grateful for the guidance offered by Judge Bresin, Judge Caruso, Dan

Hurteau, Mal O'Hara, Beth Diebel, Joel Peller, Carl Hasselbarth and Lisa Mills, who currently sit on our PAI Committee. Additionally, I am thankful for the PAI Staff at LASNNY including Ryland Wiseman and Sarah Buckowski, our PAI Coordinators and Melody Harkness, our PAI Paralegal. *Thank you all for your time and hard work and for truly being committed to justice for all.*



Myleah Misenhimer,
PAI Director



Attorney for the Day Volunteers, left to right: Associates at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP – Jon Crain, Eric Weinhold, Gabriella Levine, Tara MacNeill, James Wisniewski, and Taylor Cuomo



Recipients of 2017 LASNNY PAI Program Distinguished Service Award, left to right: Attorneys from Nixon Peabody – Stephanie Duker, Caitlin Donovan, Dana Stanton, Dan Hurteau, and LASNNY's Executive Director Lillian Moy



Recipients of 2018 LASNNY PAI Program Distinguished Service Award, pictured with LASNNY Executive Director Lillian Moy, left to right: Kathy Walter, Esq. and Sharon Couch DeBonis, Esq.

Private attorneys provide important civil legal services through LASNNY's PAI (Private Attorney Involvement) Program, which encourages and supports attorneys who offer pro bono services to low-income residents of Northeastern New York. Support for PAI volunteer attorneys includes client and case screening, CLE credits, free training, secondary professional liability insurance and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

ALBANY

Stanton F. Ackerman
Mara Afzali
Jennifer Albright
Courtney Alpert
Paula Barbaruolo
Lawrence Becker
Will Bergland
Justin Birzon
Joel Blau
Ira Bloom*
Leah Bojnowski
Michael J. Boxley
Frank Brennan
Michelle Browne***
Paul Cardinal
John Casey*
J. Rochelle Cavanagh
Jordan Chisolm
Anne Reynolds Copps
Kelly M. Curro
Jon Crain*
Nina Daratos
Elizabeth D'Agostino
Justin deArmas
Melissa Dobson
Caitlin Donovan

Joseph Dougherty
Christian Dribusch
Eric Dyer
Byrgen Finkleman
Brent Frary*
Tara Gaston
Charles Harding
Carl Hasselbarth
Stephen Hayford
Daniel Hurteau
Jellisa Joseph
Thomas Keefe*****
Alexis Kim
Kristen King
Christopher Langlois
Mark Lansing
Chelsea Lester
Gabriella Levine
Max Lindsey
Salvatore Lomanto
Gloria Lopez
Erin Lynch*
Tara MacNeill
David Marinucci
Justin Myers*
Vanessa Murphy
Michael O'Brien**

Michael J. O'Connor*****
Thomas O'Connor
Matthew O'Neil
Lynne Papazian
Kristin Petrella
Joseph Pinto*
Tara Anne Pleat
Saima Qureshi
Erica Rangel**
Margaret Surowka-Rossi
Morgan Ruthman**
Robin Pforr Ryan
Lawrence Schillinger**
Tina Sciochetti*
Arthur Siegel*
Harvey Silverstein
Breanna Staffon*
Mary Louise Stanford
Christopher Stevens
Edwin Tobin
Peter Trimarchi
Alex Turnello*
Raysheea Turner
Bruce J. Wagner
Kathy Walter*****

Listing is of PAI Volunteers from January 2017 through December 2018

Stephan Weiss*****
Marissa Wiley**
G. Kimball Williams*
Melissa Zambri
Jeffrey Zimring

CLINTON/ESSEX/FRANKLIN

Heidi Dennis
Joel Peller***
Jack Pillar

COLUMBIA/GREENE

Veronica Kosich
Lisa Mills***
Louise Roback
Max Zacker

MONTGOMERY/FULTON/SCHOHARIE

Robert H. Cohen
Eileen Walsh Gallagher
Theresa Levine
Shain Neumeier
Amanda Rose*****
Bethany Schumann-McGhee***
Vikki Prager***

RENSSELAER

Laura Darling
Sharon Couch DeBonis*****
Teresa Eddy

Marc S. Ehrlich**
Robert Hussar
Joseph Kay
David Morgen
Erik Pinsonnault
Jena Rotheim
Mia Wolfe

SARATOGA

Tammy Arquette
Heather Brondi
Christine Carsky
Daryl Cutler
Nancy Delain
Andrea Didomenico
John Dormin
Alex Dunshee*****
Michael Englert
Meg Gilmartin
Ron Kim
Christopher Luhn
Robert Anfrew McNee
Mireille Nitti
Brianna Pearce
Bruce Steves
Debra Verni
Jon Whalen**
James Wighaus

SCHENECTADY

Michael Basile
Paul Callahan
Hermes Fernandez

James Gross
Nicole Helmer Simon
Gwenn Mayers
Rachel Rappazzo
Veronica Reed
Lauren Sharkey
Jessica Zwicklebauer

ST. LAWRENCE

Andrew Moses****
Daniel Pease
Denice Smith
Megan Whitton

WARREN/WASHINGTON

Courtney Delia
June Caudill*
John Patterson
Richard Rowley
Jessica Vinson***

OTHER

Clifford Eisenhut
(Utica, NY)
Shain Neumeier
(Springfield, MA)
Helen Lee (NYC)
Rebecca Janes (New Zealand)

ALBANY/RENSSELAER COUNTY ASSIGNED COUNSEL PROGRAM

Robert L. Adams
Michael Assaf
Ellen Bennett Becker
David Brickman
Lisa Brown
Murray Carr
Rochelle Cavanaugh
Kevin Colwell
Ryan Cooke
Anne Reynolds Copps
Gloria Arroyo Copland
JoAnn E. Coughtry
Daniel Cunningham
Justin DeArmas
Elenor Decoursey
Kathryn Dell
Paul Devane
Dennis Englert
Shawn D. Flaherty
Joyce Galante
Eric Gee
David Goldin
David Gruenberg
Thomas Hall
Trevor Hannigan
Michelle Haskin
Chad Jerome
David Kavanaugh
Andrea Kelsey



PAI Volunteer Attorney, Morgan Ruthman, The Spinney Group and Myleah Misenhimer, LASNNY PAI Program Director

Randall Kehoe
Barbara King
Larry Kivitz
Charles Kriss
Gerald Leary
Barrett D. Mack
Jean M. Mahserjian
David Marrinucci
Mark McQuery
John McFadden
Stephen Molinsek
Robert Molloy
Joanne Monagan
Asa Neff
Roy Nestler
Kevin O'Brien
Karen Rhoades
Florence Richardson
Peter J. Scagnelli
Jo Ann Shartrand

David Siegel
Wayne Smith, Jr.
Thomas A. Snyder
Justine Spada
Edward Stano
Carol Stiglmeier
David Swyer
Margaret C. Tabak
Kevin Tollisen
Megan Van Aken
Bruce Wagner

*5 or more cases
** 10 or more cases
*** 15 or more cases
**** 20 or more cases
***** 25 or more cases

The Connors

By Megan Harrington

Donna Connors and her husband, Donald, purchased their Columbia County home back in 2004 when Donna says, “Banks were giving away mortgages like hot dogs at a baseball game.” Their modest \$225,000 home sits on 5 acres of property, just outside the city of Hudson and at first; their monthly payment was a reasonable \$1,300. However, they soon saw their payment spike under an adjustable-rate mortgage. During this same time period, their small business began losing money due to the downturn in the economy and the Connors found themselves unable to keep up with their mortgage payments. Donna explains, “The most lucrative areas of our business were major kitchen and bath renovations and water treatment. When the economy started heading down the toilet, most of our customers (as well as ourselves) were mainly concerned with keeping their homes and the focus became repairing instead of renovating or upgrading.” She continues, “At the same time, our mortgage payments doubled. It was the perfect storm. Legal aid was the lifeline that saved us, and I’m certain, many others too.”

Donna and Donald first contacted a local housing agency where they discussed their options. From there, they were referred to the Legal Aid Society of Northern New York (LASNNY). Donna says, “We visited the LASNNY office and met with Shruti Joshi, a staff attorney.” Joshi was assigned to the Connors’ case and immediately got to work. Donna says, “Shruti was so professional and it was so easy to work with her.”

Joshi says, “The Connors reached out to us in early 2017 because they had fallen behind in payments due to loss of income. They had already been declined for a loan modification, but they were given vague boilerplate reasons for the denial.” Joshi says that fortunately when she got involved, the Connors were still in settlement conferences. She explains, “It’s required under law that both parties [lender and homeowner] negotiate under good faith to try and avoid foreclosure.” In an effort to reach a deal, Joshi went over the modification denial in more detail and she was able to point out to the bank why their initial responses were incorrect.

Thanks to Joshi’s diligence, the Connors were granted a loan modification and their new payment is much more affordable. Joshi says, “The bank eventually came back with an offer and now the Connors have a lower monthly payment and a lower interest rate.” She continues, “Donna and Donald’s life really turned around at this point and things started looking up.”

Donna couldn’t agree more. She says, “After we received the modification, we were able to reconstruct our lives and move forward.” With their load lightened, Donald was able to secure a new job as a full time plumber and Donna began running her own home business, a doggie daycare. Donna says, “Our property has great fencing and a big yard – it’s ideal for the daycare as well as the therapy dogs that we raise.”

By staying in their home/at their property, the Connors have been able to keep their dogs – something that might not have been possible if they lost their home and had to look for a rental. The pets are a part of the Connors family, but they also benefit the local community – Donna takes the therapy dogs for visits at a nearby assisted care home and youth detention center.

The Connors’ story has a happy ending, thanks in part to Joshi’s hard work and Donna and Donald’s willingness to seek help. Joshi says, “Homeowners don’t always understand legal jargon... the Connors could have just ‘Okay, we’re headed for foreclosure, there’s nothing we can do,’ but instead we were able to help them understand their options.”

Geri Pomerantz, managing attorney of Legal Aid’s foreclosure prevention project, reiterates the importance of having legal help. She says, “Donna’s case demonstrates the difference that having an attorney—especially a highly competent, tenacious, and dedicated attorney like Shruti Joshi—can make for a homeowner in a residential mortgage foreclosure action.”



*“Legal aid was the lifeline that saved us,
and I’m certain, many others too.”*

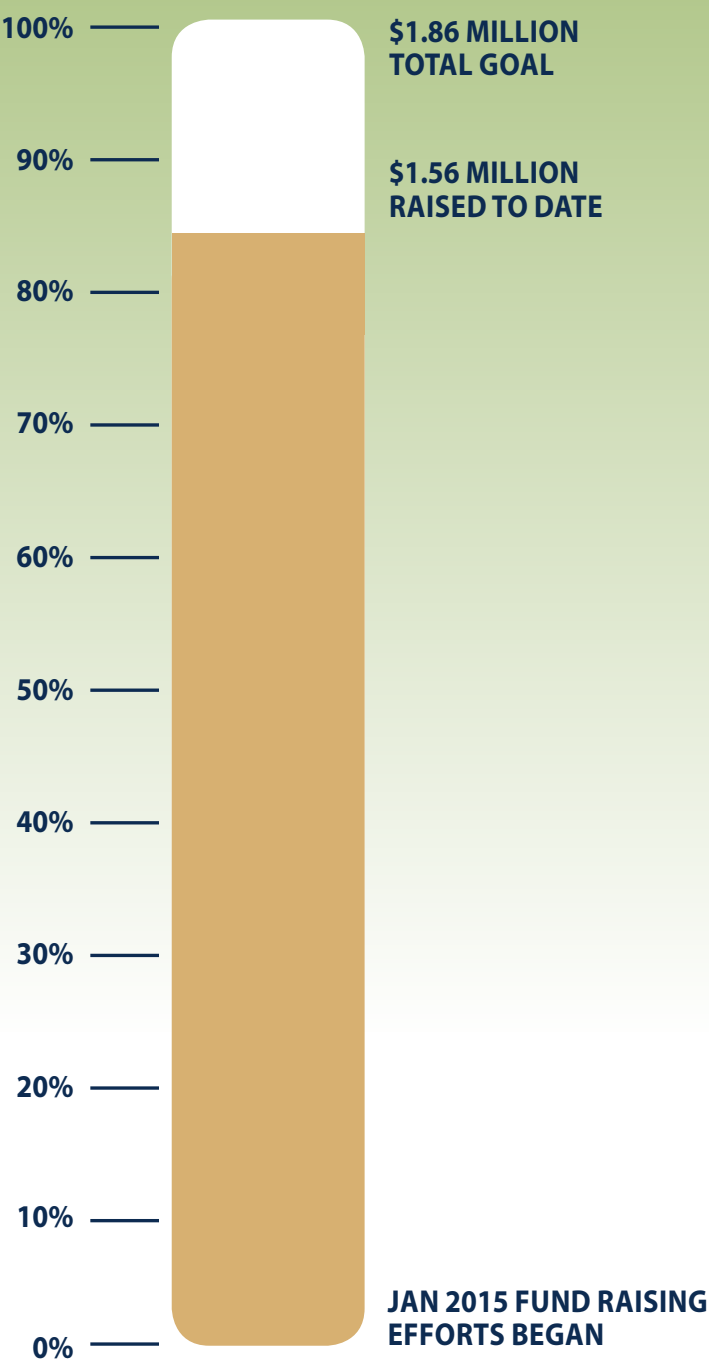
— Donna Connors



L to R: Shruti Joshi, LASNNY Staff Attorney; Donna and Donald Connors with their therapy dogs Butters and Betty White

The Center for Civil Legal Services

Capital Campaign Contributions:



Listing is of all those making commitments of \$1,000 or more through May 2019

- \$300,000+**
 - Empire State Development, Capital Region Economic Development Council Award
- \$100,000 to \$299,999**
 - Honorable Patricia A. Fahy
 - Honorable John T. McDonald, III
 - Honorable Phil Steck
 - Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
- \$50,000 to \$99,999**
 - E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy, LLP
 - Martin, Harding & Mazzotti, LLP
 - Carl E. Touhey Foundation
- \$20,000 to \$49,999**
 - Anonymous
 - Jeffrey & Martha Baker
 - Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
 - GE Foundation Matching Gifts
 - Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C.
 - James E. Hacker
 - E. Stewart Jones, Jr. & Kimberly Sanger Jones
 - O’Connell & Aronowitz, Attorneys at Law
 - Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP
- \$10,000 to \$19,999**
 - Carrow Real Estate Services
 - Peter V. Coffey
 - Sherry M. Gold
 - Carol A. Hyde & Sanjay Correa
 - Edward & Kim Kaplan
 - Thomas J. O’Connor
 - Dale M. Thuillez
 - F. Michael Tucker, Esq.
 - G. Kimball Williams & Margaret J. Gillis
- \$1,000 to \$9,999**
 - Matthew P. Barry
 - Connie Cahill
 - Capital District Women’s Bar Association
 - CDWBA Legal Project, Inc.
 - Beth & Marshall Coulter
 - Sanjeeve & Amy DeSoyza
 - Deanne L. Grimaldi
 - Peter Halewood & Donna Young
 - Leonard Hermann
 - Ronald J. Kim
 - Amelia M. Klein
 - Anne M. Malak, Esq.
 - Norma G. Meacham
 - Tara Moffet
 - Lillian M. Moy
 - Cornelius D. Murray
 - William S. Nolan
 - Patricia L.R. Rodriguez & Robert Colborn
 - Schenectady County Bar Association
 - Bethany Schumann-McGhee, Esq.
 - Spada Law Firm
 - Leslie K.L. Thiele & Ken Larsen
 - Jenifer M. Wharton

The Center for Civil Legal Services

95 Central Avenue

LASNNY has made a bold move—one that will change the perception of the Legal Aid Society and its presence and ability to serve the community. To accommodate the growing demand for urgently needed legal services, LASNNY completed the first wave of its move into a larger facility in Albany. The Center is more accessible to clients, and closer to many community partners and client resources.

While this location has significantly more space, its storefront visibility on a main thoroughfare of the Capital Region also allows for much more. Most importantly, with the completion of the Center, LASNNY will be more effective in how it provides the urgently needed, stabilizing legal services so crucial to helping people to move out of poverty.

The Center for Civil Legal Services is a three-story, 21,000 square-foot building, erected in the early 1900s, and later redesigned. With our modest renovation, it will house 47 offices, several small consult rooms, a large conference room for 75 people with remote meeting technology to be phased in, a pro bono volunteer space called The Beehive with amenities, and an expansive walkout basement.

Help us meet our goal!
We currently have \$296,000
to raise to meet our \$1,860,000 goal.

Your support is crucial to complete this project. Contact Deanne at dgrimaldi@lasnny.org or call (518) 689-6336.

To donate by check, indicate “Albany Capital Campaign” and mail to: LASNNY, 95 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206.

To donate online, visit our website www.LASNNY.org/donate/center-civil-legal-services for more information.



The Center’s New Pro Bono Bee Hive offers volunteers amenities and a private office for working meeting with clients.



Grand Opening

On May 3, 2017 supporters gathered to celebrate the opening of the Center for Civil Legal Service located at 95 Central Avenue in Albany and thank you again to those whose donations made the first phase possible. (For more about this initiative see article on page 9)



F. Michael Tucker, Senator Neil Breslin, Lillian Moy, Mike Yevoli, Regional Director Empire State Development, Dan McCoy, Albany County Executive



Steve Longo, Albany Housing Authority Director



Ed Swyer, Leslie Thiele, Steve Longo, Kim Williams, Tom O'Connor



Caitlin Rooney, Regional Director, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Marien Levy



E. Stewart Jones, Jr., Kimberly Sanger Jones, Lillian Moy, Assemblymembers Pat Fahy and John McDonald, Ed Kaplan



Victor Mazzotti, Deanne Grimaldi



Sanjeeve DeSoyza, LASNNY Board President



Mindy Derosia and Jackie Mahoney, Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region.



Michael Whiteman, Lillian Moy, Phil Gitlen



Assemblyman John McDonald at the podium



Kim Williams, Tom O'Connor, Sanjeeve DeSoyza, Will Nolan, David Cost, John Henry, Marquita Rhodes, Jeff Baker, Michael Murray, Thad Rutherford, Norma Meacham



John Henry, Carolyn Slovic, Michael Whiteman, Leslie Thiele, Michael Murray, Phil Gitlen, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna

Justice for All Campaign

The Annual Fund for the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Thanks to our donors who contributed in 2017 and 2018, improving access to justice for our low income neighbors throughout Northeastern New York.

Contact Deanne Grimaldi, Director of Development at dgrimaldi@lasnny.org or (518) 689-6336 for more information about the campaign or how to become a member.

List of Firm Donors appears in The Annual Business Review Book of Lists, www.lasnny.org, LASNNY newsletter, Annual Impact Report, ACBA Court of Appeals Dinner Program Book and ACBA Newsletter.

2017

Campaign Co-Chairs: E. Stewart Jones, Jr and Thomas J. O'Connor

PLATINUM

Anderson, Moschetti & Taffany, PLLC
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy
Englert, Coffey, McHugh & Fantauzzi, LLP
Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm, PLLC
Labatt, LLC
Law Office of Mark S. Mishler
Law Office of Patricia L.R. Rodriguez
Law Offices of Ronald J. Kim, PC
Martin, Harding & Mazzotti, LLP
Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC
Wilson Elser

GOLD

Bendall & Mednick
Boies Schiller Flexner LLP
Brian F. Mumford PLLC
Buckley, Mendleson, Criscione and Quinn, P.C.
Dreyer Boyajian, LLP
Hinckley Allen
Hinman Straub P.C.
Law Office of Brian Wang, PLLC
Maxwell & Van Ryn, LLP
McNamee Lochner P.C.
O'Connell & Aronowitz Attorneys at Law
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
Young/Sommer LLC

SILVER

Barclay Damon LLP
Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart, & Rhodes, P.C.
Bowitch & Coffey, LLC
Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP
Carbone & Associates
Carter Conboy
Couch White, LLP
Friedman, Hirschen & Miller, LLP
Girvin & Ferlazzo, PC
Gordon, Tepper & DeCoursey, LLP
Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.
Hodgson Russ LLP
Jean Mahserjian, Esq., P.C.
Joy M. Smith Attorney at Law PLLC
Lavelle & Finn, LLP
Law Offices of Stephen Johnston
Lombardi, Walsh, Davenport & Amodeo, P.C.
Maynard, O'Connor, Smith & Catalinotto, LLP
Nixon Peabody LLP
Rivkin Radler LLP
Spada Law Firm
Teresi & Little, PLLC
Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Butler & Monroe, LLP
Vella, Carbone & Associates, LLC

SUPPORTER

Caffry & Flower Attorneys at Law
Ganz Wolkenbreit & Siegfeld LLP
Goldman Attorneys, PLLC
Goldston & Storrs PC
The Law Office of Ed Ryan
Marinstein & Marinstein Esqs., PLLC
Moynihan & Hayner
Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP
Thorn Gershon Tymann and Bonanni, LLP

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Albany County Bar Association
Capital District Women's Bar Association
Italian American Bar Association
Schenectady County Bar Association

CORPORATE

ABS Solutions
The GE Matching Gift Foundation
Rappahannock United Way
United Way of Northern New York, Inc. (SEFA)
United Way of the Greater Capital Region (SEFA)



2018

PLATINUM

Anderson, Moschetti & Taffany, PLLC
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy
Jonathan P. Harvey Law Firm, PLLC
Kenneally & Tarantino
LaBatt, LLC
Law Firm of Alex Dell, PLLC
Law Office of Mark S. Mishler, P.C.
Law Office of Patricia L.R. Rodriguez
Martin, Harding & Mazzotti, LLP
Melody A. MacKenzie, PLLC
Peter V. Coffey, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

GOLD

Barclay Damon LLP
Robert A. Becher, Attorney At Law
Bendall & Mednick
Boies Schiller Flexner LLP
Brian F. Mumford PLLC
Buckley, Mendleson, Criscione & Quinn, P.C.
Couch White, LLP
Dreyer Boyajian LaMarche Safranko
Farrell Fritz
Fitzsimmons & Mills, P.C.
Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Hinman Straub P.C.
Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP
Lombardi, Walsh, Davenport & Amodeo, P.C.



Maxwell & Van Ryn, LLP
McNamee Lochner P.C.
O'Connell & Aronowitz Attorneys at Law
Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Butler & Monroe, LLP
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna, LLP
Young/Sommer LLC

SILVER

Barbaruolo Law Firm, P.C.
Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes P.C.
Berhardt Karp, Attorney At Law
Bowitch & Coffey, LLC
Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP
Carlisle Firm, P.C
Carter, Conboy
Girvin & Ferlazzo, PC
Gordon, Tepper & DeCoursey, LLP
Greenberg & Greenberg
Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.
Hodgson Russ LLP
Jackson Lewis P.C.
Jean Mahserjian, Esq., P.C.
Joy M. Smith Attorney at Law PLLC
Lavelle & Finn, LLP
Law Office of Mark Schneider
Law Offices of Stephen Johnston
Maynard, O'Connor, Smith & Catalinotto, LLP
Nixon Peabody LLP
Spada Law Firm

SUPPORTER

Abdella Law Offices
Claudia Slovinsky and Associates, PLLC
Goulston & Storrs PC
Jones Steves
Law Office of Moynihan & Hayner
Mafrici Law Office, P.C.
Marinstein & Marinstein Esqs., P.L.L.C.
Powhida Stern PLLC
Rivkin Radler LLP
Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP
Stephanie A White Law PLLC
The Law Office of Ed Ryan
The West Firm, PLLC
Thorn Gershon Tymann and Bonanni, LLP
Vella, Carbone & Associates, LLP

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Albany County Bar Association
Italian-American Bar Association
Schenectady County Bar Association

CORPORATE

ABS Solutions
Bethany Reformed Church
CSM Group, LLC
GE Foundation Matching Gifts
JP Morgan Chase & Co (Workplace Giving)
MK Dignum Insurance Agency
United Way of the Greater Capital Region (SEFA)
University at Albany

Nyjah Pringle

By Megan Harrington

Nyjah Pringle, a permanently disabled 24-year-old, was enrolled at the University of Albany when illness interfered with her studies. Nyjah, who suffers from sickle cell anemia and other chronic health issues, was hospitalized and ultimately fell into a coma. "I became very sick and needed to withdraw from school for medical reasons," Nyjah says.

Unfortunately, Nyjah didn't complete the withdrawal process in time, so she was still responsible for the semester's tuition, room, and board. According to Nyjah, that's where her troubles began. She recounts, "While I was in the hospital, the University sent bills to my old dorm address. I didn't find out about any of this until I woke up from the coma." SUNY eventually sued Nyjah for the outstanding balance and a \$5,000 default judgment was placed against her.

Nyjah sought help from Legal Aid Hudson Valley and Legal Aid NYC, but because Nyjah lives out of the service area and the venue being in Albany County, it was a struggle to find representation. Eventually Nyjah received assistance from the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, primarily, the Closing the Gap program. With this assistance, she was able to represent herself in court against the State of New York.

The Closing the Gap program is funded by the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC") Pro Bono Innovation Fund. Its aim is to close the urban/rural service gap in northeastern upstate New York through innovative uses of technology and cross program collaborations. Closing the Gap's primary goal is to aid unrepresented litigants in consumer debt and housing matters.

Nyjah says, "I represented myself, but I received a lot of help from Melody Harkness [LASNNY program coordinator for Closing the Gap]. Instead of going on Wikipedia or YouTube, like most people my age do, I was able to get real legal advice." At her court date this past August, Nyjah was able to provide pertinent records to support her case. Even more importantly, the advice she received from the Closing the Gap program helped her keep those health records private and off the public record.

Despite the long shot, Nyjah won the case against the Attorney General and SUNY Albany and settled for a \$500 payment. LASNNY Development Director Deanne Grimaldi says, "This isn't a case that someone would have taken, but through the Closing the Gap program we were able to assist." Melody Harkness was thrilled with the case's outcome, saying, "Ms. Pringle was so diligent, and her faith was so strong. The judgment ultimately went in her favor despite being told over and over again that she had a 'loser case.'"

Nyjah says the experience has inspired her to keep fighting for disability rights and encourage others to work with LASNNY and the Closing the Gap program. She says, "I'm just so happy that this ordeal is over and that I can focus on my health now." Nyjah is currently in the hospital, but someday hopes to re-enroll in school and finish her studies. She says, "I want to earn that degree. I want to hang it on the wall for my mom."



*"This isn't a case that someone would have taken,
but through the Closing the Gap program
we were able to assist."*

—Melody Harkness



Melody Harkness, LASNNY Closing the Gap Coordinator and Nyjah Pringle

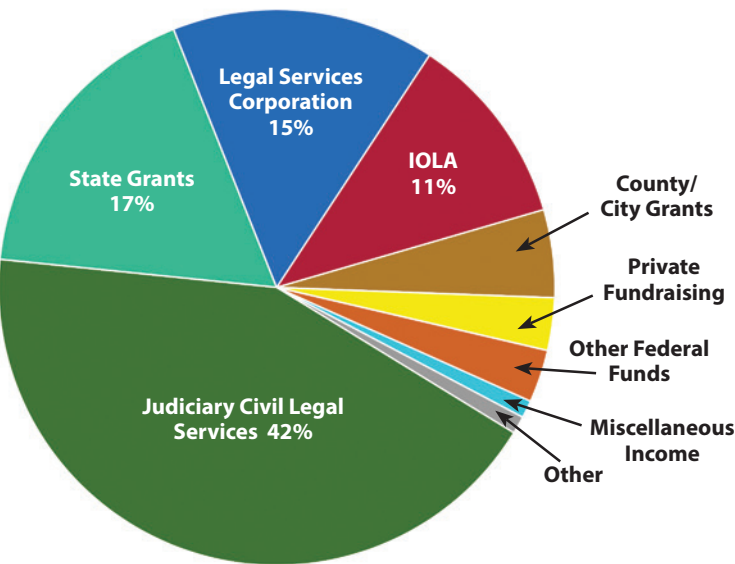
2017 Revenue and Expenses

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) is a non-profit law firm, providing assistance and representation to poor and low-income people in civil, not criminal, cases. There is no cost for any of the services we provide. We believe that everyone has the right to equal justice regardless of the ability to pay.

2017 LASNNY NUMBERS: 9,148 cases closed 19,587 people benefitted \$1,168 cost per case

REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| State Grants | \$ 2,349,339.39 |
| County/City Grants | 425,480.66 |
| Other Grants..... | 494,858.80 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 98,765.12 |
| Private Fundraising | 438,103.22 |
| Legal Services Corporation | 1,424,308.29 |
| Other Federal Funds..... | 377,726.93 |
| Interest on Lawyers Accounts..... | 1,035,625.00 |
| Judiciary Civil Legal Services..... | 4,332,353.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 10,976,560.41 |



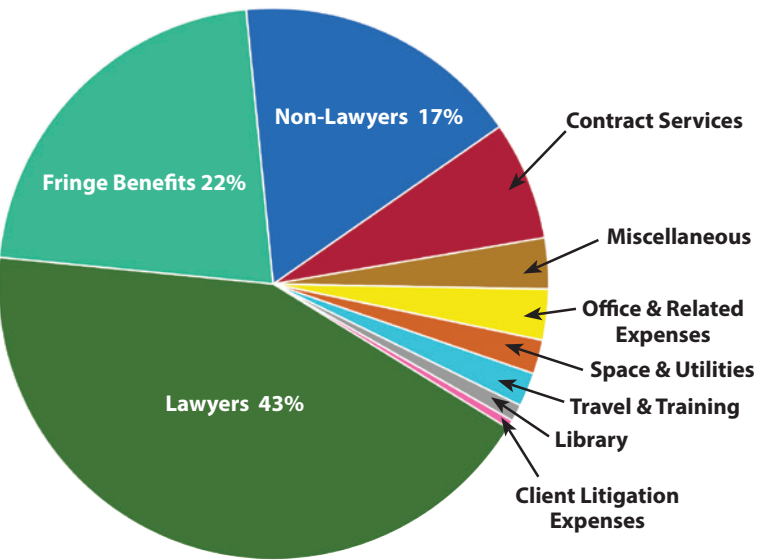
EXPENSES

PERSONNEL:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Lawyers | \$ 4,572,222.42 |
| Non-Lawyers | 1,854,141.11 |
| Fringe Benefits..... | 2,339,650.70 |

OPERATING:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Space & Utilities | 214,020.99 |
| Office & Related Expenses..... | 279,542.18 |
| Contract Services..... | 790,764.42 |
| Library..... | 117,157.60 |
| Client Litigation Expenses..... | 18,524.32 |
| Travel & Training..... | 216,674.58 |
| Miscellaneous | 283,228.15 |
| TOTAL | \$ 10,685,926.47 |



2018 Revenue and Expenses

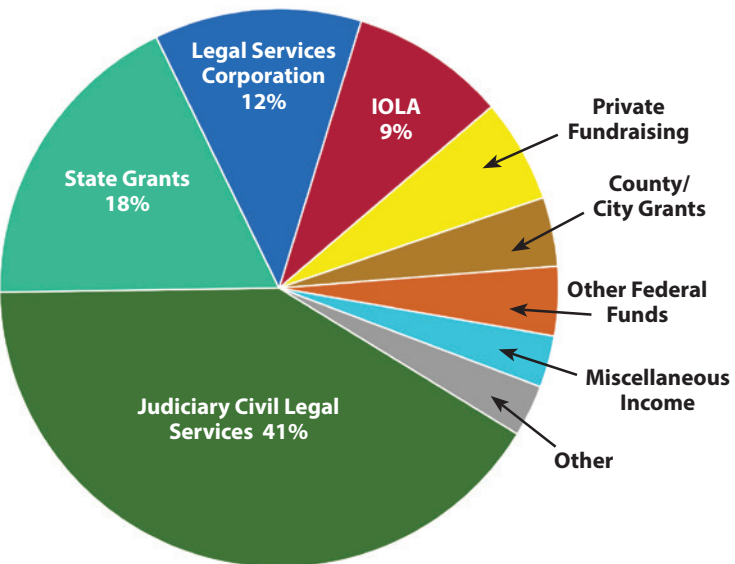
AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness Prevention (Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention)
- Public Assistance Denials
- SSD and Medicaid
- Family Law

2018 LASNNY NUMBERS: 10,340 cases closed 21,784 people benefitted \$1,064 cost per case

REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| State Grants | \$ 2,135,408.27 |
| County/City Grants | 478,775.65 |
| Other Grants..... | 356,785.13 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 306,656.27 |
| Private Fundraising | 705,715.67 |
| Legal Services Corporation | 1,366,492.47 |
| Other Federal Funds..... | 452,902.34 |
| Interest on Lawyers Accounts..... | 1,050,000.00 |
| Judiciary Civil Legal Services..... | 4,799,926.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 11,652,660.80 |



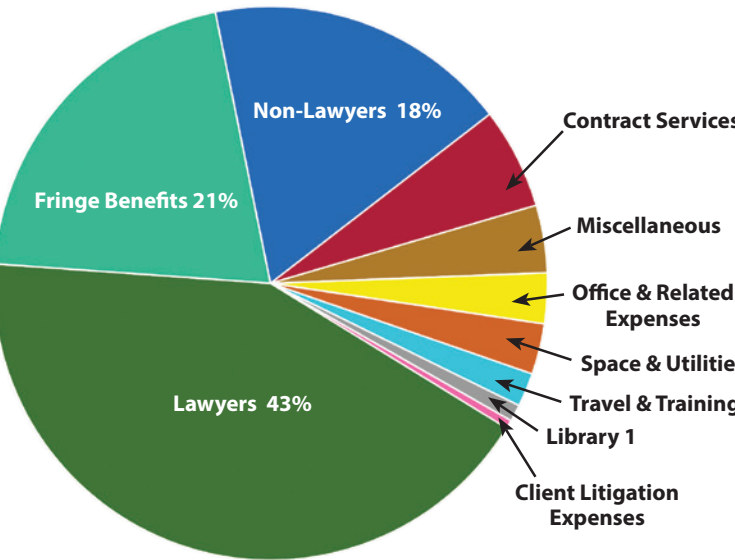
EXPENSES

PERSONNEL:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Lawyers | \$ 4,716,944.89 |
| Non-Lawyers | 1,972,815.65 |
| Fringe Benefits..... | 2,343,678.08 |

OPERATING:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Space & Utilities | 312,482.87 |
| Office & Related Expenses..... | 278,406.19 |
| Contract Services..... | 652,021.11 |
| Library..... | 114,847.17 |
| Client Litigation Expenses..... | 23,366.95 |
| Travel & Training..... | 190,429.85 |
| Miscellaneous | 392,566.20 |
| TOTAL | \$ 10,997,558.96 |



Individual Donors – Justice For All Annual Fund

Donations & Pledges Received 1/1/17 to 12/31/18

\$2000 TO \$5000
Lewis Black Family Fund
Eleanor DeCoursey +
Amanda K. Hiller
Rosamond Pope-Meyer
Patrick L. Seely, Jr. +
Arthur J. Siegel

\$1000 TO \$1,999
Joseph S. Basloe +
Ira Bloom+
Glen Bruening +
M. Cornelia Cahill
Sanjeeve DeSoyza +
Amelia Klein +
Cornelius D. Murray +
Susan P. Read +
Jeffrey J. Sherrin
Richard E. Sise

\$500 TO \$999
Lynne E. Ackner +
John L. Allen +
Mary Barbaro
Melissa Bennett +
David Bruso
Charlotte Buchanan
John R. Casey +
Ronald Dunn
Lillian Moy +
Thomas J. O'Connor +
Mark Powers +
Peter Racette
George L. Sarachan
Peter H. Schiff &
Nancy Willie-Schiff +
Christian Soller
Edward J. Trombly +
Marjorie Tsang +
Bruce J. Wagner +
William & Amy Yates +

\$200 TO \$499
Anonymous
James B. Ayers +
Jeffrey S. Baker +
Matthew Barry
William Better
Frank Bifera +
Paula Binder
Todd Bishop
Veronica Cano ^S
George Ceresia
Linda Clark +
Thomas P. Connolly +
Peter & Terri L. Coseo
David Cost
Brian Culnan
Jondavid Delong
Richard DiGiovanna ^{S+}
Stephen Dorsey
William Foster +
Jeremy Freedore ^S
Julie Garcia
Kevin Glasheen +
Thomas F. Gleason +

Michael Greco
Deanne Grimaldi +
Dawnald R. Henderson +
Howard & Mary Jack +
Donald & Pauline Kinsella +
A. Spruce Krier
Howard Levine +
Ricki Lewis
Edward Lindner ^{S+}
Matthew Ludemann
Tara Moffett
John Moran ^S
Tolga J. Morawski +
Timothy Morrison +
Elizabeth Mors ^S
Cheryl A. Mugno
George Pond +
David Quinn
Brian Saboda +
Robert Salkin ^S
James R. Sandner +
George Sarachan +
Bethany Schumann-
McGhee
Darius Shahinfar
Edward O. Spain +
Craig Stillwell ^S
Dennis J. Tarantino
Joseph Teresi +
Randolph Treece +
Vincent L. Valenza +
John Warner
Richard Weisz +
Joanne White
G. Kimball Williams +
Melissa M. Zambri +

\$100 TO \$199
Anonymous
Lynne Ackner
Janet R. Axelrod +
Roger Bailey
Michael Boxley +
Kristina Burns
Robert Callahan
Cathleen Cenci ^{S+}
George Ceresia
Nancy Chu
Robert Conway Jr. ^S
April Daryanani
Laura Davis ^S
Garrett DeGraff
Bonnie Devine ^{S+}
Kevin Donovan
Stephen J. Easter
Fiona Farrell
William Fitzgerald
Sheila Foglietta
Michael & Jacqueline Foster+
Dennis Galliher
Aja Griffiths ^S
Margaret Gonsowski ^S
Herb Gordon
Stephen Gottlieb
Stephen Grimaldi
Karen Halaco

M. Mark Jacquinot ^S
George P. Kansas
Robert Keyes
Mark Koblenz
Richard Kruger
Neil Lebowitz +
Michael Levitz ^{S+}
Lorna Littleway
Brian Lusignan ^{S+}
Mary A. Lynch
Maureen Madden
Joan Matalavage ^S
John Moran
Deborah Damm O'Brien
Richard Pine
Erik Pinsinnault +
Sarah Rapke +
Robert W. Redmond +
Roberta Reid ^S
Steven Rodway
Jena Rotheim
Mary Ryan
Robert Salkin ^S
James & Robin Sevinsky
Alexa Schumann ^S
Marcella M. Sgroi
Leslie E. Stein +
John Sullivan +
Alejandro Taylor ^S
Peter Thaisz ^{S+}
Ida L. Traschen
Richard M. White +
Michael Whiteman +
Mary M. Withington +

\$99 AND UNDER
Florence Abrams
James K. Albrecht
Beverly Artis
Robert Barker
Anthony Bernini
Gary Bartolina ^S
Judy Burnell
Kristina A. Burns
Elizabeth Callahan
Gerald Carpenter
Tracey Casey ^{S+}
Jasmine Ceniceross
Michael Cuevas
Theresa Cupano
Patrice Decoster ^S
John DeLong
Karen Diligent
Sarah E. Dougherty
Allegra Edelman
Carole Fisher
Elizabeth L. Foster-Nolan
Anthony Furciniti
Alita Giuda
Dorothy Gorman
Emma Jenkins
Dylan Keenan ^S
Matthew J. Kelly +
Donna Kerwin
Carolyn Lannon
Ann Lapinski ^{S+}
Alan Lawitz ^{S+}
Deborah Liebman
Oksana Ludd

Lula Maggy
Sherry Marozas
Paul Mason ^S
Robert McCann
Joyce A. Michel
Shyam Mohanka
Ann E. Cole Myers
Troy Oechsner +
Charles Orsini
Andrew Oritis
Paul Paksarian
Peter Pappas
Burnetta Parker
Marsha Piccolo
Robert Plattner +
Ida Rheome
Martin Ricciardi
Patricia Roberts
Sandra A. Schuessler
Timothy Service
JoAnn Shartrand
Carol A. Smith
Susan Spang
Alexandra Sussman
Barbara K. Thomas +
Geraldine Thompson
Carol A. Viola
Thomas C. Walsh
Mary Walters
Dick Wyles

+ Donated both years
^S SEFA Donor

| HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS | | |
|--|---|--|
| In Memory of Hon. Frank J. Barbaro Mary Barbaro | In Honor of Alexis Kutski Loida Vera Cruz | |
| In Honor of Scott A. Barbour & Richard Cirincione Bruce Wagner | In Honor of Mary Maguire Barbara Case Henda Strasser | |
| In Memory of Betty Grimaldi Troy Oechsner | In Honor of Lillian Moy Jena Rotheim | |
| In Memory of Lisabeth "Libby" Harrison Employees Of Mintz & Gold | In Honor of Patricia Rodriguez Ricki Lewis James Martin | |
| In Honor of Amanda Hiller Anonymous | In Memory of Sean Seely Patrick Seely | |
| In Honor of Jim Kelly Matthew Kelly | In Honor of Michael E. Basile & Michael R. Supronowicz Dick Wyles | |
| | In Honor of Sarah Moore Wagner Bruce Wagner | |



State Employees Federated Appeal

our SEFA number is

150-50

BECOME A SUSTAINER

Make a monthly donation online at

www.lasnnny.org

LASNNY in the News



Woman’s fight got Glens Falls Housing Authority to change policy on support animals

MICHAEL GOOT mgoot@poststar.com Sep 25, 2018

SARATOGA SPRINGS — All Glens Falls Housing Authority tenants can now have emotional support animals, regardless of where they live, thanks to the persistence of Julianne White.

White filed a complaint with the housing authority last year, which had denied her request to have a dog. A settlement was finally reached in March after the Legal Aid Society of North-eastern New York got involved.

White decided to get a dog in March 2017 after years of depression. Her ex-husband, with whom she was very close, died in December 2015 after living with dementia.

“I had emotional problems and anxiety and I had had dogs before. I felt that I needed to get an emotional dog back in my life to help,” she said in an interview on Monday.

White was living in subsidized housing at the Earl Towers in Hudson Falls, which is managed by the Glens Falls Housing Authority.

“I got to the point where I felt so alone,” she said.

White was already working with the Legal Aid Society, which was helping her apply for SNAP benefits and drafting a will, and they took up this complaint.

Attorney Brenna Sharp said there were three designated apartments where tenants could have emotional support animals.

The three apartments were occupied, and housing authority officials said they could put White on a waiting list. They would not budge from their position, which Sharp said surprised her, because Legal Aid has had a good relationship with the housing authority.

Sharp said Legal Aid reaches out to the involved authorities before filing complaints.

Legal Aid in June 2017 filed complaints with the state Division of Human Rights and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development on the grounds of housing discrimination based upon disability.

“When tenants have been diagnosed with a disability, if there is a change to a policy that can be made to allow them to continue living there, the housing authority has to make that change, unless it creates an undue burden or (is) too expensive,” Sharp said.

“For the housing authority to blatantly say no and not comply with federal discrimination law is a big deal,” she added.

Last December, White found a small apartment in Saratoga Springs, which cost a little more but allowed support animals. She moved out and adopted a chihuahua from a friend who has sold her other dogs in the past. The dog was already named Fiona, which is technically an acronym.

“Every letter stands for something, but I couldn’t tell you what,” White said.

Fiona has been a great companion, White said.

“She’s a real sweetheart,” she said. “She’s there when you walk in and she’s always there, and she’s helped a lot.”

White takes Fiona on walks and rides in a little stroller.

“She means everything to me. I can’t imagine not having her and not having a dog in my life,” she said.

Even though she had moved out, she continued the fight with the housing authority.

After months of negotiations, Legal Aid Society reached a “conciliation agreement” with Glens Falls Housing Authority in March.

“They had to change their policy to comply with the law to allow people to request an emotional support animal,” Sharp said.

The agreement requires housing authority staff to be trained and posters to be displayed in their properties about the policy, Sharp said. Also, White received \$500 in reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Even though she is no longer living in a Glens Falls Housing Authority unit, White said she feels good that current tenants will benefit from this change.



“We wouldn’t have had this outcome if I had just stopped, and it wouldn’t have helped other people,” she said.

Glens Falls Housing Authority Executive Director Robert Landry said Tuesday he was satisfied with the settlement.

“It gave us some more guidance on how to proceed forward with emotional support animals, and I think all parties were served,” he said.

Landry said the authority did allow the support animals in first-floor apartments, because it is easier to walk dogs from the first floor. Landry said the authority was concerned about White having the dog in a seventh-floor unit because of the impact on other tenants who did not like dogs or were allergic to them.

“The state and the federal government felt that we couldn’t restrict it to those areas,” he said.

White also shared her story Monday in testimony before Chief Judge Janet DiFore, who was holding a public hearing in Albany about civil legal services.

Deanne Grimaldi, director of development for the Legal Aid Society, said White’s situation is the type of case the society deals with because they can transform people’s lives.

“This is a health issue. It’s an emotional health issue,” she said.

The society covers a 16-county region that includes Warren, Washington and Saratoga counties. Among the services it provides are help dealing with foreclosure and domestic violence, and eviction prevention. All of the services are free.

“Someone comes in the door with one legal problem and we can help them with a variety,” Grimaldi said.

Article reprinted with permission from Lee Publications, dba The Post-Star, Lawrence & Cooper Streets Glens Falls, NY | www.PostStar.com



Legal Aid Society

NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

95 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT #370

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



**2019 CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

**DONATE ON LINE AT
WWW.LASNNY.ORG**

DONATION ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

How Can You Support LASNNY?

- Tell your legislators that you support funding for civil legal services
- Volunteer with our Private Attorney Involvement Program (PAI)
- Support our Annual Justice for All Campaign at the leadership level
- Become a Guardian of Justice. Make a gift to the LASNNY Endowment Fund

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

Legal Aid Society's Endowment Fund

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous | Tim and Carmelina Morrison |
| James B. Ayers | Lillian M. Moy |
| Jeffrey and Martha Baker | Miriam M. Netter* |
| Richard J. Bartlett | Thomas J. O'Connor |
| Charlotte S. Buchanan | Patricia Rodriguez and Robert Colborn |
| David and Kathleen Burke | The Ruthman Family |
| Paul M. Callahan | Arthur and Ronnie Siegel |
| Peter and Mary Coffey | Keith St. John |
| John R. Dunne | Henda and Samuel Strasser |
| Deanne Grimaldi | Leslie Thiele and Ken Larsen |
| Richard C. Heffern | F. Michael Tucker |
| Leonard Hermann | Wendy L. Wahlberg |
| E. Stewart and Kimberly Jones, Jr. | G. Kimball Williams and Margaret J. Gillis |
| Thomas V. Kenney, Jr. | Mary Withington |
| Amelia M. Klein | |
| Skip and Merri P. Meislahn | |

* deceased