

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY *Annual Report* 2013 - 2014

2014



*The Legal Aid Society
of Rochester*



Executive Message



Alan S. Harris | **President and CEO**



José Cruz | **Chair, Board of Directors**

The 93rd Annual Report to the community finds the Legal Aid Society of Rochester undergoing a major transition. After almost 40 years of dedicated service to the organization, Chief Financial Officer, Linda Kammer, retired. She worked with previous Executives, Benjamin Solin and James Boyle and now with current CEO, Alan Harris. She was instrumental in assisting Legal Aid's growth from an agency with a \$300,000 annual budget when she started in 1974 to over \$4.4 million in 2014. Ms. Kammer's ability to crunch numbers earned the Legal Aid Society praise from all of its funders by providing timely and correct financial statements, budgets, and vouchers. A large measure of the success of the Legal Aid Society and its growth over the past 24 years was due to her diligence in ensuring that the Legal Aid Society's finances were of the highest quality.

This, however, is not the only transition that is to take place at the Legal Aid Society. In March, 2013, CEO, Alan Harris, advised the Board that he also intended to retire at the end of 2014. To address the transition, the Board appointed a Succession Planning Committee to meet and determine a final plan of succession. The Committee, after consultation with Mr. Harris, convened a Special Board meeting in June, 2013 and adopted a well-conceived plan of transition for the CFO and CEO positions in 2014. To that end it determined that when Mr. Harris retires on November 30, 2014 Carla Palumbo will become President/CEO of the Legal Aid Society on December 1, 2014.

The plan started to take effect on July 1, 2013 when Legal Aid announced the planned retirement of Mr. Harris and choice of Ms. Palumbo as his successor. Ms. Palumbo was given the title of Chief Operating Officer for the transition period. Then, in November, 2013, the search for the CFO's

replacement began. After a rigorous vetting and interview process, William M. F. Davis, a former CFO of The Center for Youth Services and of Lifespan, was selected. He began his new job at the Legal Aid Society in early March, 2014.

Mr. Harris started his Legal Aid career in 1977 as a staff attorney providing legal services in the areas of family law and housing. He was appointed Assistant Executive Director in 1981 and Executive Director in 1990. His title changed to President/CEO in 1998.

Some notable achievements of his tenure include the growth in attorneys providing legal services and the scope of services provided by the Legal Aid Society, adding the Education and Immigration programs. The number of attorneys providing these services grew from 5 to 20. He also advocated for the growth of the Attorney for the Child Program (formerly known as the Law Guardian Program) and it grew from 5 attorneys to its current attorney staff of 12.

In 1990, he reorganized the civil program into units to provide specialized services with the highest priority given to victims of domestic violence. This Domestic Violence program was the first of its type in the New York State civil legal services community.

When asked about his time at the Legal Aid Society, Mr. Harris said, "I would like my final Executive message to note that it was a privilege to work at Legal Aid for 37 years and an honor to lead it for the past 24 years. It gave me the opportunity to fulfill my life's personal work goal to become a lawyer recognized in my profession and the community for providing high quality legal services to people who could not otherwise be represented."

CIVIL DIVISION

FAMILY LAW UNIT

Domestic Violence Program provides legal services and counseling to victims of domestic violence in Monroe, Genesee, and Orleans Counties. The focus of the Domestic Violence Program is to provide representation in Family Court to assist battered women to obtain and enforce orders of protection to prevent continued violence. The Domestic Violence Program also provides legal representation in divorce, custody, or visitation cases when domestic violence is the predominant issue. The Domestic Violence Program conducts community workshops and provides technical assistance to community social service providers on the issues of domestic violence.

Client retained the Legal Aid Society in a matrimonial action. She came to us after decades of abuse by her husband which culminated in a stand-off with police after her husband held her hostage and attempted to kill her. Our representation lasted over a year as the matrimonial matter was carried along with the resulting criminal case. Unfortunately, our client's husband could only be charged with crimes that ultimately resulted in no jail sentence. After prolonged advocacy by her attorney with the DA's office, the Office of Probation and the Court, the client's husband was ultimately sent to prison for numerous violations of the Order of Protection and of his probation terms. The Legal Aid Society successfully prepared and argued a motion, which prevented the client's retirement account from being subject to equitable distribution based on the egregious conduct by the husband. While it was not a large sum of money, it was significant to our client as her only financial asset.

Office of Victim Services Program directly serves victims of interpersonal violence by providing legal advice and representation in order of protection proceedings. In addition, these attorneys assist clients in completing Office of Victim Services claim applications, which provide financial relief to innocent victims of crime. Office of Victim Services will pay victims for unreimbursed expenses related to crimes committed by the abusers. Compensation is available for a variety of expenses, including but not limited to medical and funeral expenses, loss of earnings or support, counseling fees, crime scene clean-up, repairing or replacing items of essential personal property, court transportation expenses, as well as the cost of residing at or utilizing the services of a domestic violence shelter.

After enduring years of abuse at the hands of her young son's alcoholic father, the client left and obtained her own housing for her and her children. The client attempted to co-parent with her abuser, hoping to provide a normal life for her young child, but her worst fears materialized when her son's father was found shortly after he attempted to take his own life, with their young son in the same room. A Legal Aid attorney represented the client in both an Order of Protection and Custody proceeding and was able to obtain safety for both the client and her child in the form of Orders of Protection, Sole Custody and Supervised Visitation, as well as an Order that the Father obtain mental health and alcohol counselling. The Legal Aid attorney was able to provide legal support, as well as connect the client with the myriad agencies and services throughout the County to begin her new life free from her abuser.

Legal Assistance to Victims Grant Program is a multi-county collaborative that provides civil legal services, advocacy and support to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in Monroe, Orleans, and Genesee Counties. This project addresses problems facing survivors of violence: the need for holistic civil legal services in cases other than orders of protection; the unmet civil legal needs of survivors of sexual assault; increased advocacy and expanded screening and outreach to survivors of sexual assault, stalking or dating violence, and increased access to legal information for all survivors of violence. This Project provides representation in family law, housing, immigration, privacy, crime victim's compensation and other civil matters such as name changes, which enhance the safety and well-being of victims of violence. This program focuses on other civil legal needs which, if left unresolved, compromises safety.

Legal Aid Society was retained for representation in a domestic violence case. Client had recently broken up with her abuser/respondent, whom she had been dating for over 23 years, and was seeking an order of protection against him. He stalked and harassed her by following her and continuously calling/texting/emailing her. In one instance, she received over 400 calls from him in one night where he proceeded to threaten her life. Needless to say, she was fearful for her safety. During the course of litigation, Legal Aid not only zealously represented the client in the domestic violence case but also mobilized efforts within the community to help. The Legal Aid Society called for volunteers through the Domestic Violence Consortium to help her physically pack belongings and separate from the respondent. Legal Aid also called on community leaders to collaborate on a safety plan, as she was fearful of his continued abuse. After a two-day trial and 18 months of litigation, the Legal Aid Society secured a final order of protection against the respondent. The Legal Aid Society is now currently representing her in Appellate Court, as the respondent has filed a notice of appeal of the matter.

Child Support Program provides representation in Supreme Court matrimonial actions or Family Court child support actions to obtain and/or increase child support and to obtain medical insurance coverage and other child care expenses, such as uninsured medical expenses and child care costs.

Limited Means Program provides affordable civil legal representation to low and moderate income people. Limited Means Program clients are people who do not qualify for services from any other Legal Aid Society program or other legal services agencies, and who cannot afford the fees charged by private attorneys. Most Limited Means Program cases are in the area of family and matrimonial law. Clients pay a flat fee retainer based on a sliding scale at the onset of their cases.

Assigned Counsel Program was created to provide for the right to counsel in Supreme Court Matrimonial cases, in custody, visitation and domestic violence issues. The right to counsel is provided only for these issues and does not extend to the other issues in the case. For the other issues, including the division of property, establishment of child support or the actual grounds for the divorce, there remains no right to counsel. To remedy this, the Legal Aid Society is now appointed to represent litigants on all issues of the case.

GENERAL LAW UNIT

Immigration Legal Services Program provides legal representation and technical assistance in immigration-related matters to persons residing in a 14 county area of western New York. Through unique partnerships with Legal Aid offices in Albany and Syracuse, we now assist persons residing throughout upstate New York. While our assistance to those offices largely involves case supervision and mentoring, persons served by those offices that require representation before the Immigration Court and USCIS in Buffalo, are directly referred to us. Representation includes cases involving asylum, permanent residence, removal defense, meritorious appeals, extension of immigration status, and work authorization. The Immigration Program has two outreach clinics during the local growing season to provide legal representation and information and referral to migrant farm workers at Brockport and Alton.

The Immigration Program represented a 34 year old man who entered the U.S. with his parents as visitors in 1992, when he was 13. His parents applied for asylum, which was denied by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Immigration Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). Our office, back in 2004, was able

Legal Aid Society celebrates 90 years

The Daily Record, September 27, 2011

to help his parents obtain permanent residence through an application filed by his father's brother in 1990. However, our client was unable to obtain permanent residence through that application because he was over 21 at the time. Our client's mother applied for our client after she became a permanent resident. After seven years, that application became current. We then helped our client re-open his 10 year old deportation order by filing a motion with the BIA. The BIA terminated his deportation case. This allowed him to file his permanent residence application with Immigration. We represented him on that application, which was approved.

Department of Health Program provides legal services to clients with HIV/AIDS. This program is a collaboration with the Empire Justice Center, Volunteer Legal Services Project, and Monroe County Legal Assistance Center. The Empire Justice Center is the lead agency and is responsible to screen and refer clients. The Legal Aid Society provides legal services in family law, housing and immigration.

Client was referred to our office by the Department of Health. The client was brought to the United States by her husband from Cameroon via a marriage visa and he had promised to support her in the immigration documents that he signed. After three years of marriage the husband forced our client to leave the marital home, and refused to continue to support her while she completed her registered nursing degree. During the pre-trial divorce conferences the husband refused to pay any spousal maintenance to our client. A trial was held, after which the judge ordered the husband to pay \$14,000 in spousal maintenance during the one year she needed to complete her education. Additionally, the court ordered that our client should receive her marital share of husband's retirement account, \$35,000. The client was very grateful for this result, which enabled her to complete her education and get a fresh start to life on her own in America. Lastly, the court ordered the husband to reimburse the Legal Aid Society \$1500, the value of our services that were not paid by our DOH grant; awarded because of the frivolous positions taken in court by the defendant.

HOUSING UNIT

Home Ownership Initiative provides representation for home purchases, home preservation matters, consumer credit issues and complex legal cases. Home Ownership Initiative addresses illegal evictions, home purchases, foreclosure prevention, and bankruptcy. The primary goal of the Home Owner Initiative is to create or maintain sustainable homeownership.

A low income senior came to the Legal Aid Society to request assistance in buying a house. She had custody of her 2 grandchildren and lived in a high risk neighborhood. Both of her grandchildren were honor students at a local charter school and nearing high school age. Her goal was to move into a more stable community. Her credit score was very low due to several old late debts and some charge-offs due to an illness that had forced her to stop working several years ago. Letters were sent to all her creditors explaining her situation and asking them to change the status of the account to paid or current. While we waited for responses, she signed up for First Home Club and applied for grants through the City of Rochester. Over 18 months, Legal Aid successfully removed the old debts from her credit report which improved her credit score, helped her apply for grants, qualify for a mortgage at a prime rate and purchase a home in December 2013.

Rental Stabilization Program provides alternative dispute resolution and mediation services to eligible landlords and tenants who reside in the City of Rochester. Resolution of these disputes allows tenants to maintain their apartments, decreases transiency in the community and prevents court action. The Legal Aid Society has added services for landlords in the form of trainings and pro se clinics. Providing service for landlords and tenants raises the quality of housing and further increases housing stability in city neighborhoods.

A former client stopped in unexpectedly in bit of a panic because she had an emergency that needed immediate attention. It turns out that she had previously been served with a warrant for eviction by her landlord, but he had agreed informally to

give her until noon, this day, to get confirmation from DSS that they would be making payment to bring her account current. The problem was that DSS had given her an unreadable print-out that, to the extent that it could be parsed, only showed that DSS was certifying future rent would be paid. Additionally, the DSS worker explicitly denied the client's requests for corrected documents. Let stand, the landlord would have the warrant executed and the tenant evicted. The Legal Aid Society managed to get the DSS worker to call back and verbally confirm that they would, in fact, be paying the desired money for the current month, but they would only do so on the condition that the landlord promise to accept this payment in order to extinguish the warrant. Legal Aid Society then contacted the landlord's attorney to broker the deal and get the landlord to give his written assurance to DSS that he would drop the warrant, allowing DSS to release the funds. The agreement terms were confirmed via email to the landlord's attorney and he responded in the affirmative while copying the DSS contact via fax. At about 30 minutes to the noon deadline, the client left the office knowing that her housing situation was secure: an example of how non-litigation advocacy can help smooth out the often discordant aims and understandings of the parties to a housing dispute.

Tenant Advocacy Program provides representation to qualified tenants who face eviction in Rochester City Court. The Tenant Advocacy Program also provides information and referral to applicants who do not qualify for direct services and to tenants who are not facing eviction. The Tenant Advocacy Program conducts intake at the Hall of Justice before the beginning of the Rochester City Court, Landlord Tenant Part.

A client sought assistance from the Legal Aid Society in an eviction case where the landlord was seeking non-payment of rent even though all her rent would be paid by the department of Human Services if the landlord corrected the health and safety issues in the rented apartment. Since the landlord refused to correct the problems, the landlord could not get a warrant or judgment against the client. However, this did not stop the landlord from using multiple attorneys and bringing the client back to court several times to try and find a judge who would evict her. The Legal

Aid Society represented the client each time to make sure that she would not be evicted and that the landlord could not avoid her responsibilities and simply bring in another unknowing client to a house that had health and safety violations.

Foreclosure Prevention Program is a collaborative program with the Empire Justice Center, Volunteer Legal Services Program, the Housing Council and Consumer Credit Counseling of Rochester that represents homeowners in foreclosure. The Legal Aid Society represents individuals seeking loan modifications, attempting to do a short sale or deed-in-lieu, or need to file bankruptcy as part of a plan to save the home.

A client requested assistance with a foreclosure. The bank was claiming over \$10,000.00 of additional costs and fees for which there was no explanation and they refused to discuss or account for these added costs. The client had previously filed a chapter 13 to pay off mortgage arrears. The Legal Aid Society worked with the client to file an affordable chapter 13 plan to pay the arrears and put in the petition what she actually owed. The bank filed a claim with the Court that included the \$10,000 in unexplained fees. The Legal Aid Society filed an objection to the claim, requesting proof and basis for the unexplained fees. When the bank finally provided proof, calling the fees "prior servicer fees", they included amounts that had been paid off in the first bankruptcy and almost \$4000.00 for a foreclosure action that was never filed. After several hearing dates, the bank refused to show up and the Court entered an order granting the claim amount in the favor of the client and resolving all the issues regarding the bank's questionable accounting practices.

Entrepreneur Legal Services Program is a collaborative program with the Urban League of Rochester and the Child Care Council that provides legal representation and advice to qualified entrepreneurs, small business and micro-enterprises. Additionally, the Legal Aid Society will provide trainings and clinics to further assist new entrepreneurs with legal issues. The Legal Aid Society advises small business owners and entrepreneurs about entity formation and the distinctions between various business structures, including the tax liabilities for LLCs, S-Corps and C-Corps. Additionally, Legal Aid has advised clients regarding employment law and drafted contracts and agreements for start-up businesses in the community.

JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

Attorney for the Child Program provides legal representation to children who are involved in proceedings before the Monroe County Family Court. The child may be the Respondent in a Person In Need Of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquency matter. The child may also be the subject of a child abuse, neglect, custody, visitation or foster care petition. The Attorney for the Child is appointed only by an order of a Family Court Judge.

Our ten year old client witnessed his father's murder in February. He was being placed with various relatives in temporary placements, but he desperately wanted to live with his grandmother in Florida. His mother lived out of state and was never involved with his life. Within 12 hours of receiving the case, the social worker assigned to this boy met with him, obtained his school records and spoke to his teachers. The attorney was able to go to court within 24 hours, advancing our client's desire to reside with his grandmother in Florida, and because the social worker had obtained his school records, there were no administrative delays to getting him settled in his new residence and school district.

Youth Advocacy Program serves youth with disabilities and non-disabled youth (birth to age 21) and their families in Monroe and Livingston Counties. The Livingston County Program is based in Geneseo. Advocacy services are provided to resolve school and youth-related issues including Committees on Special Education (CSE), school suspensions, reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504, eligibility for school enrollment, enrollment for homeless students and access to appropriate school or community services.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program provides dedicated attorney and non attorney volunteers the opportunity to learn about a law office and contribute to the community at large through their time at the Legal Aid Society. Volunteer attorneys and Law students gain valuable court room experience and assist staff attorney with representation and research. Non-attorney volunteers and students assist legal assistants, support staff and social workers to provide support to our clients.

“ Legal community announces \$1.5M capital campaign.

\$1M already raised to help 'ensure access to justice for all' ”

The Daily Record, January 11, 2007

A Year in Transition

2013-2014 was a year of transition for the Legal Aid Society of Rochester. Early in 2013 long time CFO, Linda R. Kammer, announced her intention to retire in March of 2014 after 39 years of service. In June of 2013 CEO, Alan S. Harris, announced his intention to retire from the Legal Aid Society of Rochester in 2014 after 37 years at the agency. Those early announcements provided time to develop a clear plan for a smooth transition of leadership. Both the Board of Directors and the Management Team wanted a plan for the transition that would ensure that the Legal Aid Society would continue to provide high quality legal services and remain a fiscally stable and secure agency.

At the June 2013 Annual Meeting, the Legal Aid Society's Board of Directors announced that Alan S. Harris would retire on November 30, 2014 and that current Chief Operating Officer, Carla M. Palumbo, would assume the position of President and CEO effective December 1, 2014. In addition, the Board authorized an eight week transition period for the out-going CFO to work with a newly hired CFO so that there was a smooth transfer of Legal Aid's financial management protocol. In December 2013 the Legal Aid Society's senior management, joined by several board members, began to interview for a new CFO. William M. F. Davis joined us in March of 2014.

Linda and Alan, combined, have dedicated over 70 years to the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, staff and clients. They ensured the financial success of the agency, providing years of stable fiscal management and have ensured that we have the resources we need to fulfill our mission and provide high quality civil legal services to the community.

They will be missed.

Carla M. Palumbo, Chief Operating Officer



ALAN S. HARRIS

Alan S. Harris started with the Legal Aid Society of Rochester in 1977 as a staff attorney. He had recently graduated from Brooklyn Law School (1976) and was admitted to the Bar (1977). He was hired by the Legal Aid Society's director, Benjamin Solin, and moved his young family, wife Patty, and children, Meagan and Joshua, to start a new life in Rochester. It's not clear that he ever intended to come to the Legal Aid Society and stay...but stay he did. Now, 37 years later, he will bring his legal career at the Legal Aid Society to a close when he starts his retirement on November 30, 2014. He has had a long and distinguished career in legal services both as a staff attorney and Director.

Alan became the Executive Director in 1990 when then Director, James R. Boyle, retired. Alan brought a new style of leadership to the Legal Aid Society, creating a management team so that Program Directors could have input into the direction that the agency was taking. He also changed the manner in which we delivered services. Believing that we were not reaching all the clients that we could, especially victims of domestic violence and those on the verge of homelessness, Alan envisioned a service delivery model that had specialized units. With that idea in mind, the Legal Aid Society developed, and continues to develop, specialized programs

such as Domestic Violence, Housing, Hispanic outreach, Immigration and many more. This approach has clearly resulted in increased access for clients. In 1990 we provided legal services to 75 victims of domestic violence; in 2013 we represented over 1000. The specialized units allow the Legal Aid Society to focus resources and to seek additional resources to support its initiatives.

Not only was Alan active in managing the Legal Aid Society but, through the years, has been active across the state in not-for-profit management and promoting funding for civil legal services. He has served on a number of boards and committees. Alan was Chair of the Monroe County Council of Agency Executives, a member of the Monroe County Bar Association Membership Committee, Ethics Committee, Family Law Section and the President's Commission on Access to Justice. He was a key member of several committees of the United Way of Greater Rochester and has been active in his city neighborhood. Alan currently serves as Chair of the New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc., NYCON, and is active with the Legal Assistance Funding Alliance of N.Y.

LINDA R. KAMMER



Linda Kammer started her career at the Legal Aid Society of Rochester in 1974 as the office manager. At the time that Linda began, Legal Aid was a small agency that operated on a very small and tight budget that did not have the capacity to increase its administrative staff. Linda covered all tasks. She not

only managed the office and staff, she prepared budgets, did all the purchasing, payroll and case statistical reports. Linda also was the administrative liaison to the Board of Directors, taking minutes and generally assisting with Board needs.

In those early days we used handwritten cards for keeping track of clients, typewriters and carbon for all legal documents, handwritten accounting records and payroll and had an “old fashioned” plug in switch board. In an old resume Linda wrote “at my insistence we now use Dictaphone equipment, copying equipment, and word processing and we are investigating automated fiscal and case management reports”. With Linda’s steadfast fiscal stewardship the Legal Aid Society was able to grow. Linda became the Chief Financial Officer with a staff of administrators as computers replaced word processors and Dictaphones. Not only did Linda grow into the position of Chief Financial officer as the agency grew, but she always served as our Personnel Director and Chief Friend to all who needed her. She produced budgets and financial statements and kept us on the straight and narrow fiscal path and she celebrated life with the staff. Linda stayed for 39 years because of the people at the Legal Aid Society and the work that we do. She is currently enjoying her retirement in the sun.

ficer. From a management perspective it is that person that helps keep the agency operating smoothly, ensuring we have a clear picture of our financial position and that we remain in compliance with all of our funding requirements. We were thrilled that Bill agreed to join us.

Bill Davis comes to Legal Aid after 13 years in the not-for-profit sector in other local agencies. Bill also worked in the for-profit sector as an accountant and comptroller and has a very strong financial background. Bill, building on the strong fiscal legacy that Linda left behind, is looking at new ways to streamline operations. He has jumped into the job with both feet, starting at our fiscal year end and just prior to our annual agency audit. He has already helped put together two large grants. He has a bright fresh attitude and is a welcome addition to the Management team.

CARLA M. PALUMBO



Carla M Palumbo has been an attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Rochester since 1984. She served as Director of the Civil Division from 1990 to 2013 and was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer to prepare for the transition. Throughout her tenure at the Legal Aid Society, Carla has

focused on program development from both a substantive and financial perspective. She provides direct client representation to victims of domestic violence. Carla has conducted numerous trainings and seminars in the area of domestic violence, including the Rule of Law program in Russia.

Carla received her law degree from Syracuse University College of Law in 1982 and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Italian from SUNY at Albany in 1979. She is the recipient of the 1999 NYS Bar Association Public Interest Law Award and the 2000 YWCA Women First Award 2012 Rosewood Commander Club Distinguished Service Award (Rochester Police Department) and the 2013 Italian American Woman of the Year Award.

As Chief Operating Officer Carla is responsible for the day to day management of the Legal Aid Society and is working with Alan to transition the full management of the Legal Aid Society. Carla is active in the community, serving on several boards and committees. Carla will become CEO on December 1, 2104.

WILLIAM M. F. DAVIS



Bill Davis joined the Legal Aid family in March of 2014. After a long search for a new CFO that involved a three step interview process, we were pleased to offer the position to Bill. One of the most important positions to the future health of Legal Aid is the Chief Financial Of-



Collaborations

Court Advocacy Program with Alternatives for Battered Women provides court accompaniment, legal representation, and supportive services to victims of domestic violence who are seeking orders of protection in Monroe County Family Court.

Attorney of the Morning Program with the Volunteer Legal Services Project provides pro bono representation to tenants who face eviction in Rochester City Court.

Home Ownership Initiative Program with the Rochester Housing Council and Empire Justice Center addresses illegal evictions, home purchases, foreclosure prevention, and bankruptcy to residents of the Greater Rochester/Monroe County region.

Immigration Legal Services with the Hiscock Legal Aid Society and the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY provides immigration legal services to the entire Buffalo Region of the USCIS except Erie County.

Department of Health Program with the Empire Justice Center, Volunteer Legal Services Project and Monroe County Legal Assistance Center provides legal services to clients with HIV/AIDS. The Legal Aid Society provides services in family law, housing, and immigration.

Minority Clerkship Program with the Monroe County Bar Association provides, on a rotating basis, a minority law student to work full time at the Legal Aid Society.

Legal Assistance to Victims Project partners include The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY as lead agency; Alternatives for Battered Woman, the certified Monroe County domestic violence service provider; YWCA of Genesee County, Inc., the certified Genesee County domestic violence provider; and PathStone, one of the certified Orleans County providers.

“ Legal Aid Society’s influence spreads far and wide ”

Rochester Business Journal, January 30, 2004



Statistics

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER, NY PROVIDED LEGAL SERVICES TO A TOTAL OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

9482

The Family Law Unit provided representation in all areas of family law, including prevention of domestic violence and elder abuse, divorce, custody, equitable distribution, and child support in Monroe, Orleans, Genesee and Wayne Counties. Representation was provided to 3151 clients in domestic violence prevention and related family law matters.

The Housing Unit provided brief services and direct legal representation to 1484 clients in the areas of eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention, mediation services and representation to first time homebuyers. Direct legal services were provided to tenants facing immediate eviction in Rochester City Court, mediation to landlords and tenants throughout the City of Rochester, representation in home closings, foreclosure prevention, bankruptcies and evictions appeals throughout Monroe County.

The Immigration Program provided direct legal services to 347 clients in matters ranging from asylum to permanent residency at the U.S. Immigration Court and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Buffalo, New York.

The Children's Unit provided direct legal and advocacy services to 357 youth and parents in education and other youth related legal issues in Monroe and Livingston, Counties.

The Attorney for the Child Program provided legal representation to 4105 children in Monroe County Family Court.

Volunteers: A total of 44 people: 21 pro bono/volunteer attorneys, 8 law students, 11 college undergraduates and 3 social worker interns provided 4450 hours of direct support to the Legal Aid Society staff in the Family Law Unit, the Housing Unit, the Immigration Program and the Attorney for the Child Program.



Board of *Directors*

2013 - 2014 2014 - 2015

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June Castellano, Vice Chair
Thomas M. Farace, Treasurer
Kathryn L. Smith, Secretary
Alan S. Harris, President & CEO

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Michael R. Parrinello
Dr. Heidi Smith
Samuel O. Tilton
Robert T. Turner

Thank you to all the individuals who gave their valuable assistance in 2013--2014 and to those who will give their valuable assistance in 2014-2015 by serving on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society.



Financial Statement

Revenue

1	NYS Government Grants (OCA, OCFS, DCJS)	\$2,744,468.00
2	New York State Interest on Lawyer's Accounts	\$575,000.00
3	United Way of Greater Rochester, Monroe and Livingston Counties	\$309,052.00
4	Youth Bureaus - Monroe and Livingston Counties	\$40,355.00
5	Foundations	\$25,000.00
6	Case Fees	\$159,795.00
7	Monroe County, City of Rochester	\$178,131.00
8	US Dept of Justice - VAWA GTEA	\$89,995.00
9	US Dept of Justice - VAWA LAV	\$208,790.00
0	Fundraising & Special Events	\$62,134.00
11	Miscellaneous/Interest/Other Income	\$80,019.00
	TOTAL OPERATION REVENUE	\$4,472,739.00

Expenses

1	Salary	\$3,141,644.00
2	Payroll taxes and Benefits	\$638,378.00
3	Contractual Expenses	\$33,950.00
4	Collaborative Partners	\$213,454.00
5	Supplies and Postage	\$89,818.00
6	Occupancy	\$215,969.00
7	Travel, training and dues	\$105,412.00
8	Equipment purchases	\$5,049.00
9	Insurance, Recruitment, other miscellaneous expenses	\$28,164.00
10	Specific Assistance on behalf of client	\$14,229.00
11	Depreciation	\$8,500.00
	TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	\$4,494,567.00

These figures are preliminary and subject to audit.
Financial records are audited by **THANEY & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, P.C.**



Management Team

Alan S. Harris, President & CEO
Carla Palumbo, Chief Operating Officer
Linda Kammer, CFO & Director of Personnel
William Davis, Chief Financial Officer
Kathia Casion, Director, Civil Division
Stephen Weisbeck, Director, Juvenile Justice Division

CIVIL DIVISION

Walter Ruehle, Attorney, Program Director, Immigration Program
Zachary Pike, Attorney, Program Director, Housing Unit
Brenda Campbell, Attorney, Director of Special Projects
Katherine Beasley, Supervising Attorney
Angela Szewczyk, Supervising Attorney
Daniel Burke, Senior Attorney
Cynthia Nolan, Senior Litigation Attorney
Vivian Aquilina, Staff Attorney
Denise Buscemi, Staff Attorney
Lauren Deutsch, Staff Attorney
Matthew Motiwala, Staff Attorney
Mark Muoio, Staff Attorney
Lauren Pienkowski, Staff Attorney
Yolanda Rios, Staff Attorney
Tara Thomas, Staff Attorney
Jamee Bennett, Legal Assistant
Joan Bernhard, Legal Assistant
Ariel Cruz, Program Coordinator
Eva Eberhard, Legal Assistant
Angela Jackson, Intake Coordinator
Allison List, Legal Assistant
Mary Miller, Legal Assistant
Yolanda Montalvo, Accredited Representative
Tami Politza, Legal Assistant
Nancy Whiting, Legal Assistant
Cathy Little, Executive Assistant to the Domestic Violence Consortium

Administration

David Erb, Systems Administrator
Patricia Harris, Assistant Director, Finance & Personnel
Kathleen James, Director of Operations
Nicole Ellsworth, Staff Accountant
Sara Oberman, Grants Coordinator
Marianne Naylor, Administrative Assistant
Yolanda Irizarry, Receptionist
Barbara Fachini, Receptionist
Leslie Torres, Receptionist

JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

Attorney For The Child

Deral Givens, Supervising Attorney
Tanya Conley, Supervising Attorney, Appeals and Training
Pamela Bayer, Attorney
Tamara Casey, Attorney
Tonia Ettinger, Attorney
Jennifer Hillburger, Attorney
Gerard LaRusso, Attorney
Kathleen Perrault, Attorney
Kristen Porpora, Attorney
Katie Woodruff, Attorney
Sandra Quarrie, Supervising Social Worker
Elizabeth Escobar, Social Worker
Patrice Grey, Social Worker
Jacqueline Klube, Social Worker
Lindsey Jackson, Social Worker
Eric Huppert, Investigator/Advocate
Michelle Rivera, Supervising Secretary
Prudence Banker, Secretary
Yolanda Irizarry, Clerk
Judith Borzilleri, Clerk

Youth Advocacy Program

Stewart Atkin, Advocate

“ Alan Harris committed to providing access to legal services ”

The Daily Record, September 11, 2003

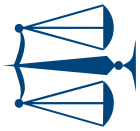
MISSION VISION

Mission - The Legal Aid Society of Rochester is a not-for-profit organization that provides direct civil legal services, including lay advocacy and related human services, to adults and children. We ensure that those who seek justice have an opportunity to receive a fair and full hearing. We obtain legal solutions that have a beneficial impact on our clients and the community.

Vision - The Legal Aid Society of Rochester believes in the guarantees of due process and equal protection as promised in our State and Federal constitutions.

To ensure that these rights have real meaning, we will strive to provide a highly qualified and zealous advocate to anyone who cannot otherwise obtain representation in civil legal matters.

We will create an environment in our community that values access to legal counsel, so every person is treated with dignity, equality, and fairness.



*The Legal Aid Society
of Rochester*

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TELESCA CENTER FOR JUSTICE