



LASP Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

Newsletter

July 31, 2023



Hazy days of Summer 2023: Canadian wildfire smoke impacts the region

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In Memoriam & Tribute: Harvey F. Strauss

A life in legal aid: Honoring Harvey Strauss

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Harvey Strauss, who dedicated his career to LASP & its predecessor, Montgomery County Legal Aid Service.

Harvey F. Strauss, longtime former co-Executive Director of Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) and its predecessor, Montgomery County Legal Aid Service (MCLAS), died July 10,

2023. He served as LASP Co-Executive Director from 2001-2013 and MCLAS Executive Director from 1978-2001.

“Harvey was instrumental in the difficult merger of four county programs in 2001,” said Shawn Boehringer, LASP’s current Executive Director. “Harvey was well-known in the local legal community and a staunch supporter of the program. He will be greatly missed.”

Harvey dedicated his legal career to serving the poor and vulnerable. After graduating from New York University and Boston University School of Law, he had brief stints at the Legal Aid Society of Oneida County in New York and the Legal Aid Society of Philadelphia. He joined Montgomery County Legal Aid Service (MCLAS) in 1976 as staff attorney and became director in 1978.



- [Harvey's obituary](#) (Philadelphia Inquirer, July 12, 2023)
- [LASP's tribute](#) on LASP News page, with photos and links to videos
- Photo collage courtesy of the Montgomery Bar Association.

LASP Tribute, with photos & videos

Request for proposals

RFPs due Aug. 14: LASP Needs Assessment

As part of its commitment to providing high-quality legal services, LASP is seeking a consultant to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in the counties LASP serves, and to determine how LASP can better address those needs.

The assessment will also identify any gaps in services and potential barriers to accessing legal aid. Furthermore, the assessment will be used to develop a strategic plan to guide LASP’s work in future years. Details on the Request for Proposals (RFPP + timeline/ due dates: click image above for 6-page PDF, or see lasp.org/news.



RFP on website

Annual Report

**Remembrance,
Resilience,
Responsiveness,**



Renewal: A pertinent framework

LASP's 2020-22 Annual Report is now published. The report covers July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022.

[Read the report.](#)

Also available on LASP's [website](#).

Addressing homelessness in Norristown & the 4 counties



Front row (from left): Community Justice Project (CJP) interns, both Penn State Dickinson Law students; and **Carolyn Johnson**, LASP Chief Counsel. **Back row:** **Marielle Macher**, CJP Executive Director; **Jaysan Jayaprakash**, LASP intern & Temple Law student; and **Charles Burrows**, LASP Staff Attorney.



At Riverfront Park, Norristown in June (from left): **Jaysan Jayaprakash**; **Shawn Boehringer**, LASP Executive Director; **Marielle Macher** with CJP interns.

Anti-camping ordinance & threat of sweeps face scrutiny in Norristown

NORRISTOWN - On Aug. 16, 2022, the Borough of Norristown, PA adopted [Ordinance 22-02](#) modifying park hours to sunrise-to-sunset, aligning with [Montgomery County Ordinance 16-2](#) banning overnight camping except in designated areas. By May 2023, Norristown and PECO Energy Co. officials began discussing plans to [sweep the estimated 160 persons sleeping outdoors in Norristown](#). Ordinance 22-02 prohibits being "on any Municipal park/parkland or Municipal recreation area or recreation facility except between sunrise and sunset," except in limited circumstances. Any individual who stays in parks or recreational areas outside of those hours "shall be guilty of a summary offense and upon conviction thereof shall be liable for a fine" of up to \$300 "or, in default thereof, to imprisonment for not more than five days."

In the wake of the adoption of Ordinance 22-02, the Norristown Police Dept. has conducted sweeps of homeless encampments in an effort to prevent unhoused residents from living in Norristown. Legal advocates from [Community Justice Project](#), Legal Aid of Southeastern PA, and the [National Homelessness Law Center](#) sent a letter on May 25, 2023 to the borough and to PECO Energy Co. condemning the homeless sweeps and harassment of homeless residents and reinforcing the legal obligation of the municipality with respect to the sweeps.

Compounding the problem was the permanent closure of the 50-bed Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center, the only year-round shelter in Montgomery County, on June 30, 2022. A solution proposed by the Norristown Council President was to [bus people living homeless in the borough to the Villanova University campus](#).

At the [Norristown Municipal Council meeting on June 5](#), area residents, nonprofits, and business owners addressed the homeless situation in Norristown during the public comment period.

On June 6, the borough issued a [press release](#) (not currently available on the borough's website) denying that it planned a city-wide sweep. Legal advocates continue to defend the rights of the unhoused and shift the focus to addressing the affordable housing crisis. In September 2021, **Hurricane Ida** destroyed multiple affordable housing options in Norristown, including a 90-unit low-income housing complex, exacerbating the affordable housing crisis in the Philadelphia suburbs.

LASP staff involved in the effort include **Carolyn Johnson**, Chief Counsel; **Charles Burrows**, Staff Attorney; **Kelly Young**, Staff Attorney; **Erica Briant**, Director of Community Engagement & Training; and **C. Shawn Boehringer**, Executive Director.

CJP staff include **Marielle Macher**, Executive Director; **Daniel Vitek**, Staff Attorney; and **Jackie Perlow**, Staff Attorney.

NHLC staff include **Eric Tars**, Legal Director, and **Will Knight**, Decriminalization Director

LASP outlines ongoing work on behalf of unhoused residents

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA is committed to providing free civil legal service to people experiencing poverty, including homelessness, and ensuring their constitutional rights are protected. In 2022, LASP began working with multiple community partners to increase access to justice for people experiencing homelessness.

Pottstown

LASP's Pottstown Managing Attorney Lisa Whalen has held a monthly outreach at Christ Episcopal Church in the Borough since January 2022. On June 21, The Salvation Army of Greater Pottstown hosted LASP and the Montgomery County Street Outreach Medical Team. LASP provided free legal services for individuals with low incomes and those who are experiencing homelessness. Montgomery County Street Medicine provided free medical care.



Norristown

In Norristown, LASP's effort began in October 2022 at Riverfront Park, working in collaboration with Professor Stephanie Sena, Anti-Poverty Fellow at Villanova University's Charles Widger

School of Law. In December 2022, LASP and the PA Utility Law Project (PULP) held an outreach at the Norristown Hospitality Center.

Upper Darby

Expanding the effort to Delaware County, LASP Chester City Managing Attorney Michelle R. Terry held an outreach at Breaking Bread Shelter in Upper Darby in February, and an additional outreach was held there this summer.

Still ahead: Bucks & Chester counties

LASP looks to work with existing partners and to build or expand community partnerships to continue this work into Bucks and Chester counties.

PHOTO ABOVE:

At The Salvation Army of Greater Pottstown on June 21 (from left): **Jennifer Pierce**, Pro Bono Director; **Erica Briant**, Director of Community Engagement & Training; **Carolyn Johnson**, Chief Counsel; **Wendy Egolf**, Director of Housing Programs for The Salvation Army of Greater Pottstown; **Charles Burrows** (seated), Staff Attorney; **Kathryn M. Palladino**, Staff Attorney; **Carin Holmes**, LASP intern & Penn State Dickinson Law student; and **Erika Felpel**, Pro Bono & Helpline Paralegal.

2023 Legal Aid Golf Classic

Thank you to the Montgomery Bar Foundation, MBA, sponsors, golfers & supporters

LAFAYETTE HILL - Thank you to the **Montgomery Bar Foundation** and the **Montgomery Bar Association** for hosting and organizing the 2023 Legal Aid Golf Classic June 26, and THANK YOU, too, to all sponsors, golfers, diners & supporters!

Despite a stormy forecast, the weather miraculously "held" at Green Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill. It was a great day on the course, followed by a fantastic dinner!

- **90+ photos** on LASP's Flickr page: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAKm8c>
- **"Links" to LASP + MBA Flickr albums** + MBA's video are also at lasp.org/golf.



90+ photos ~ LASP Flickr album

LASP Staff Honors

Maryjane B. Kelley Award presented to Rachel Houseman; Rising Star Awards to Kathryn Palladino & Katrina Ihrer

SWARTHMORE – Kathryn M. Palladino and Katrina “Kaytee” Ihrer were honored with LASP Rising Star Awards at LASP’s Staff Retreat on June 28, 2023 at the Inn at Swarthmore. The Maryjane B. Kelley Award was presented to Rachel Houseman, Chester County Managing Attorney.

Kathryn started at LASP in August 2019 as a Staff Attorney based in the Norristown Office and in June 2023 moved to the Pottstown Office. She is LASP's Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator. A former LASP volunteer, she also co-chairs the Montgomery Bar Association's Pro Bono, Access to Justice, and Community Service Committee.

Katrina is a Staff Attorney based in the Doylestown Office. She joined LASP in November 2021. She practices dependency law, representing parents who have involvement with the Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency.



Carolyn Johnson, Chief Counsel, presents the Maryjane B. Kelley Award to Rachel Houseman, Chester County Managing Attorney.



From left: **Carolyn Johnson**; **Kathryn M. Palladino**, Staff Attorney; and **Shawn Boehringer**, Executive Director.



Katrina "Kaytee" Ihrer, Staff Attorney, at the Bucks County Justice Center in Doylestown.

Article: [Maryjane Kelley Award & Rising Star Awards](#)

Patricia L. Brooks Awards to Carol Wilbur & Christopher Rogers

SWARTHMORE - **Carol Wilbur** and **Christopher Rogers** were honored with Patricia "Pat" L. Brooks Awards at LASP's Staff Retreat on June 28 at the Inn at Swarthmore. Prior to the retreat, all staff were invited to nominate colleagues for recognition. Executive Director Shawn Boehringer and Chief Counsel Carolyn Johnson presented the awards, which were last given in 2020.

Since joining LASP in January 2004, Carol has served as office assistant and is currently Doylestown Office Manager and legal assistant. Chris is a proud Air Force combat Veteran. He joined LASP in September 2017 as Technology Technician.



From left: Carolyn Johnson; Shawn Boehringer; and **Carol Wilbur**, Doylestown Office Manager.

From left: Carolyn Johnson; **Christopher Rogers**, Technology Technician; and Shawn Boehringer.

Article: Pat Brooks Awards

Service pins

SWARTHMORE - Pins honoring staff members with 5-45+ years of service were presented at LASP's staff retreat June 28 at the Inn at Swarthmore.



5-9 years of service

From left: **Shawn Boehringer**, **Erica Briant**, **Rita Dawson**, **Brian Doyle**, **Marion Hoffman Fraley**, **Christopher Rogers**, (in back row), **Sandra Ortiz**, **Jennifer Pierce**, **Elise Wilson-Coles**, **Tesla Thomas** and **Donna Winterbottom**. Pictured in photos below: **Tamalya Kaywood** and **Robert Kim**.



10-14 years of service

Kristan Burgess and **Ann Tydeman-Solomon**.



10-14 years of service

Michael E. Kelley.



15-19 years of service

Venezla Moses, **Thomas Kerstan** and **Pandora Murphy**. Pictured in photo below: **Rhonda Sherrod**.



20-24 years of service

Carolyn Hettell (at left) and Deborah Steeves. Pictured below: Barbara Kaner.



30-34 years of service

Carolyn Johnson. Not pictured: Ernestine Hightower



40-45 years of service

Donald B. Cheetham 3rd and Jean Gauger



5-9 years of service

Jennifer Pierce and Robert Kim



5-9 years of service

Tamalya Kaywood



15-19 years of service

Rhonda Sherrod



20-24 years of service

Barbara Kaner



25-29 years of service

Nanci Hoover. Not pictured: Rachel Houseman.



45+ years of service!

Karen Tyler

60+ Staff Retreat photos: Flickr album

LASP Pro Bono Program updates & opportunities



LASP Pro Bono

Spotlight

Eviction prevention: Bucks County pro bono attorneys have a role in new community partnership launched in July 2023

LOWER MAKEFIELD - A new Bucks County partnership aims to prevent evictions and help tenants. Evictions can have devastating short- and long-term impacts on renters, including homelessness and negative health outcomes, and can severely limit future housing opportunities.



The program launched July 27 in Lower Makefield Township. The

Bucks County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee, Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP), and the Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) are collaborating on the effort, with support from the **Bucks County Department of Housing and Community Development**. The project is occurring in Magisterial District Court 07-1-11 in Judge Corryn Kronnagel's courtroom, located in Morrisville.

Pro bono attorneys are invited to volunteer for the project! A CLE held May 8 at the BCBA provided background on landlord-tenant law and the roles of each partner. **Ron Smolow**, Esq. and BCBA Pro Bono Committee co-chair **Shari Williams**, Esq. moderated the panel, with presenters including **Kari Howatt**, Housing & Site Supervisor for BCOC; **Tesla Thomas**, LASP Staff Attorney; **Robert Kim**, LASP Staff Attorney; and Judge Kronnagel.

Bucks County's program is modeled partly on the Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition (EPIC) in Montgomery County, which started in 2017 in one courtroom and is currently in eight courtrooms, including three in Norristown, two in Pottstown, and one each in Lansdale, Jenkintown and East Norriton.

The new Bucks County program will provide mediation ahead of the eviction hearing, with the Bucks County Opportunity Council coordinating the mediation. If an agreement between landlord and tenant cannot be reached, the program will provide free legal representation to individuals who do not have an attorney and who volunteer to participate. LASP and pro bono attorneys will provide representation.

Smolow noted the importance of the work. "This is an extraordinary community effort. As a longtime member of the BCBA, I think this is an important expansion of the Bar's Pro Bono activities," he said. "Our Committee is very grateful to our volunteer lawyers and BCBA's

leadership, the energy and hard work of LASP & BCOC, and the support of the Bucks County Department of Housing and Community Development.”

To learn more or sign up to volunteer, contact Jennifer Pierce, LASP Pro Bono Director, at jpierce@lasp.org, or Megan Reinprecht, LASP Community Engagement Unit Staff Attorney and Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator, at mreinprecht@lasp.org.

Photo above

Presenters at the May 8, 2023 CLE at the Bucks County Bar Association in Doylestown (from left): Kari Howatt, Tesla Thomas, Robert Kim, Shari Williams, Judge Corryn Kronnagel, and Ron Smolow.

Full article: [Bucks eviction prevention partnership](#)



Senior Wills Clinic in Brookhaven

BROOKHAVEN - At a Senior Wills Clinic April 27 at Brookhaven Municipal Center in Delaware County, 10 clients were assisted with preparing 21 estate planning documents. Volunteer attorneys who assisted clients in drafting the documents were **Dana Breslin**, **Kate Daly**, **Marie Feindt**, **Richard Lutz** and **Richard Packel**.

Pictured (From left: **Shawn Boehringer**, Executive Director; **Richard A.J. Prebil**, Veterans Advocacy Project Supervising Attorney; **Jennifer Pierce**, Pro Bono Director; **Erika Felpel**, Pro Bono & Helpline Paralegal; **Melina Dixon**, Staff Attorney, **Rita Dawson**, Paralegal & Assistant Delaware County Pro Bono Coordinator; and **Anthony Cassetta**, LASP Veterans Advocacy Project intern and Villanova Law student.



Eviction prevention: EPIC CLE

NORRISTOWN - **Michelle R. Dempsey** (at left), LASP Staff Attorney, presented a CLE May 31 at the Montgomery Bar Association. The CLE trained volunteer attorneys on the basics of appearing in landlord-tenant court and how to volunteer for the **Eviction Prevention & Intervention Coalition (EPIC)**.

EPIC helps to stabilize vulnerable families and individuals in Montgomery County who are facing eviction by providing them with free legal and social services support on the day of their eviction hearing.

Moderators were **Timothy M. Knowles** and **Kathryn M. Palladino**, LASP Staff Attorney & Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator. They co-chair the MBA's Pro Bono, Access to Justice & Community Service Committee.

To learn more or volunteer for EPIC, contact Michelle at mdempsky@lasp.org.

BUCKS COUNTY pro bono opportunities

New eviction program launches in Lower Makefield Township

On July 27, a new eviction prevention program started in one courtroom in Lower Makefield Township. Volunteers are invited!

Scroll up for the article in the Pro Bono Spotlight, or visit our [website article](#). To learn more or sign up, contact Jennifer Pierce at jpierce@lasp.org or Megan Reinprecht at mreinprecht@lasp.org.

Pro bono attorneys needed for PFA hearings Wednesdays (in-person)

DOYLESTOWN - Bucks County attorneys! PRO BONO opportunities are available every Wednesday. Provide representation for plaintiffs at Protection from Abuse (PFA) hearings.

Volunteers are especially needed for:

- **Wednesday, Aug.16 & 30**

LIMITED SCOPE opportunity, with no expectation of continued representation beyond the day of volunteer service.

Hearings are at the Bucks County Justice Center, 100 N. Main St., Doylestown, PA 18901.

To volunteer to represent **plaintiffs**, please contact Durene McCarty, LASP Bristol Office Manager and Assistant Pro Bono Coordinator, at dmccarty@lasp.org or 215-398-6757.

- **If you have never volunteered before**, contact LASP for training and mentorship!
- **You can receive CLE credit** for pro bono service!

The Bucks County Courts' unique program provides representation to both plaintiffs and defendants if they do not already have representation. Contact the Bucks County Bar Association & Foundation to volunteer for defendants.



DELAWARE COUNTY: Pro bono attorneys needed for custody cases

Volunteer attorneys have the opportunity to represent clients in a limited scope, pursuant to the [PA Rules of Professional Conduct](#) and [Delaware County's limited entry of appearance rule](#). Delaware County's Rule 1012 permits attorneys to withdraw by praecipe after representation at the number of custody conferences agreed to in advance.

To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Thomas Kerstan, LASP Staff Attorney and Delaware County Pro Bono Coordinator, at tkerstan@lasp.org or 484-206-7808. Or register at lasp.org/volunteer-signup.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY pro bono opportunities

Eviction prevention

NORRISTOWN - YOU can be part of the award-winning Eviction Prevention & Intervention Coalition (EPIC) program, which helps to stabilize vulnerable families and individuals in Montgomery County who are facing eviction by providing them with free legal and social services support on the day of their eviction hearing.

Volunteer attorneys appear in court to help those facing eviction. **It is anticipated that the need for volunteers will skyrocket in coming months.**

You can specify your courtroom location/day of service, etc. The program is currently in eight courtrooms: three in Norristown, two in Pottstown, and one each in East Norriton, Jenkintown and Lansdale.

To learn more or volunteer for EPIC, please contact Michelle Dempsky, LASP Staff Attorney & lead attorney with EPIC, at mdempsky@lasp.org.

Divorce cases | Custody cases | Lansdale outreach

More details are at lasp.org/pro-bono. Please contact Kathryn M. Palladino, LASP Staff Attorney and Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator, at 484-209-0892, or kpalladino@lasp.org, or register at lasp.org/volunteer-signup.



Pro bono attorneys are needed for Montgomery County

Divorce cases
Represent clients in simple, no fault, no asset divorces. The divorces are either by consent or one-year separation. The divorces do **not** involve equitable distribution, custody, support, or fault grounds. Typically, a pro bono volunteer will not need to appear at a court proceeding in these cases.

Custody cases
Represent clients in custody cases at Custody Conciliation Conferences. Volunteer attorneys have the opportunity to represent clients in a limited scope at the Conciliation only. All Conciliations are held via Zoom. There is no commitment for the volunteer attorney beyond the Conciliation.

Lansdale outreach at Manna on Main Street
Staff the outreach at the North Penn Commons in Lansdale in partnership with Manna on Main Street on the **4th Thursday** of the month from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact Kathryn M. Palladino at kpalladino@lasp.org

Eviction prevention
The Eviction Prevention & Intervention Coalition (EPIC) provides free legal & social services on the day of an individual's eviction hearing. **Appear in court to help those facing eviction.** Choose from **8 courtrooms**: 3 in Norristown, 2 in Pottstown, & 1 each in East Norriton, Jenkintown & Lansdale.

Contact Michelle R. Dempsky at mdempsky@lasp.org

lasp.org/pro-bono

LASP Pro Bono Program

Pro Bono Net's new, free FEMA appeals national trainings for lawyers & advocates working with disaster survivors

Note: One of the "lessons learned" from Hurricane Ida is that understanding the FEMA application requirements and appeals process would be helpful to all attorneys and advocates in case a future federal disaster declaration occurs. (The FEMA deadline for appeals related to Hurricane Ida in PA was March 10, 2023.)



Filing an Appeal with FEMA

Supported by [bfff](http://bfff.org)

June - September 2023

Pro Bono Net is presenting new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) national trainings for lawyers and advocates. The webinars are not only for those currently working with survivors of climate-driven disasters, but also for advocates who may potentially support disaster survivors in the future. They were designed in partnership with **Legal Aid of Sonoma County** and the **Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative**, with support by the Bigglesworth Family Foundation.

Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. ET – “**A Disability Rights Advocate’s Guide to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Disaster Assistance Appeals Process**,” will include specific information that attorneys and advocates should know about when working on a FEMA appeal with a disaster survivor who has a disability. Register [here](#).

Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. ET – “**A Beginner’s Guide to Appealing the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Disaster Assistance Decision** (Spanish interpretation provided),” for community librarians, disaster case managers, staff and attorneys at legal aid organizations and pro bono programs, attorneys interested in doing pro bono work after a disaster, and advocates from long-term recovery groups nationwide. Register [here](#).

Recordings and training materials will be posted on the [Advocates for Disaster Justice](#) website in the Advocate Network section. Access require a member log-in, but membership is free. Learn more [here](#).

Read more about the trainings at Pro Bono Net: <https://bit.ly/fema-appeals-trainings-2023>

Free disaster legal aid trainings

At the Bar Associations

Local bar association calendars

Stay tuned for CLEs in your area of practice or pro bono service!

[BUCKS Co. Bar Assoc.](#)
Calendar

[CHESTER Co. Bar Assoc.](#)
Calendar

[DELAWARE Co. Bar Assoc.](#)
Calendar

[MONTGOMERY Bar Assoc.](#)
Calendar

LASP in the news



[Norristown, PECO planning to sweep homeless encampment](#)
by Kenny Cooper & Emily Rizzo | **WHYY** | May 25, 2023 | bit.ly/WHYY-5-25-2023

[Fearing a ‘sweep,’ people living homeless in Norristown wait to be cast out of encampments](#)

by Alfred Lubrano | **Philadelphia Inquirer** | Sunday, May 28, 2023 | Page 1

<https://bit.ly/Inquirer-5-28-2023>

[Norristown official wants to bus people living homeless to Villanova University](#)

by Alfred Lubrano | **Philadelphia Inquirer** | June 2, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/Inquirer-6-2-2023>

[New Matter Magazine](#) from **Chester County Bar Association**

Second Quarter 2023 | <https://bit.ly/newmatter-2Q-2023>

- **Reintroducing the Child Access Center** (pages 6-8) by Sara Planthaber, Staff Attorney
- **Emeritus Attorney Status: How retired attorneys can continue to provide pro bono service** (page 9) by Sara Planthaber & Jennifer Pierce, Pro Bono Director

[Untold Valor podcast: LASP’s Veterans Advocacy Project](#)

With Richard Prebil | Produced by Voice and Vision, Inc | July 27, 2023 | bit.ly/Untold-Valor-podcast-7-2023

Other news

[In wake of fatal flooding, experts say dangerous microbursts are more frequent](https://bit.ly/microbursts-7-2023)

by James McGinnis | [Doylestown Intelligencer](https://www.doylestownintelligencer.com) & [phillyburbs.com](https://www.phillyburbs.com) | Sunday, July 30, 2023 | <https://bit.ly/microbursts-7-2023>

LIHWAP: Get help with water bills

Applications open July 10 for 1 month (or less) to help keep water turned on! **APPLY ASAP!**

For one month this summer, the [Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program](#) (LIHWAP) is re-opening! The [PA Dept. of Human Services](#) announced the LIHWAP reopening on July 6.

- Applications OPENED July 10
- Applications will **CLOSE Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, OR EARLIER** if money runs out.

How LIHWAP may be able to help

- Grants up to \$2,500 for water and \$2,500 for wastewater/sewer for eligible customers.
- Grants do NOT have to be paid back.

You can receive **one crisis grant for your drinking water service** and **one crisis grant for your wastewater service**, up to \$2,500 each. Crisis situations include:

- Past-due water bills.
- Termination of utility service.
- Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

How to apply for LIHWAP

- Online at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- In person at a local County Assistance Office. Click for [locations by county](#).
- Paper: Download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to your local county assistance office.
- Phone: Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center: 877-395-8930



Website article: [Eligibility + links](#)

PAHAF: You must reapply for new portal

PAHAF applicants must re-register in the new Neighborly portal!

If you applied for for the [Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund](#) (PAHAF), You must re-register in the new Neighborly portal.

You don't have to apply again, but your application won't be processed until you re-register.

The program is administered by the [Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency](#) (PHFA). In its [July 10 Developments newsletter](#), PHFA estimates that it will take **30 minutes or less** to re-register.

In July, PHFA traveled to multiple counties across the state to provide in-person help with re-registration, including one event in LASP's service area: at Coatesville City Hall on July 27. LASP Regional Housing Unit Staff Attorneys Christina Cozzetto and Shaina Bethala attended to help with any homeownership issues.

YOU CAN STILL RE-REGISTER! Learn more: <https://pahaf.org/reregister>.

- Re-registration guide (5-page PDF) for the new Neighborly portal for PAHAF: <https://bit.ly/Neighborly-PAHAF-2023>
- PAHAF Call Center for help with PAHAF re-registration: **888-987-2423**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- When you re-register, **update** any information that changed since you first applied for PAHAF.

Website article: PAHAF



Help for homeowners impacted by COVID-19

Did you apply for help from the Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF)?

You must **re-register** in the new Neighborly system.

pahaf.org/reregister | 888-987-2423

Info + links: lasp.org/news

Rental Assistance updates

Montgomery County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will reopen Aug. 7

Beginning Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, the **Montgomery County Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (ERAP) will accept new applicants and allow for recertifications every three months, up to 18 months of assistance.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania awarded Montgomery County an additional \$4 million in ERA2 funding.

Due to the declared end of the pandemic on May 11, 2023, Montgomery County now requires new applicants to complete a [Self-Attestation of Hardship](#). This states that the household faced a hardship during the pandemic period ending May 11, 2023.

Move-in assistance available

Effective June 19, 2023, Montgomery County's ERAP is helping to assist community members who need move-in assistance. Move-in assistance includes first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposit.

This assistance will be available to eligible new applicants only.

- <https://yourwayhome.org/eruc>

Delco ERA (Delaware County's Emergency Rental Assistance) REOPENED on Monday, July 10, but for short time only!

Delaware County's Emergency Rental Assistance (Delco ERA) program received new, limited state funding.

Delco ERA will be reopened for A SHORT TIME! It will close when the new state funds run out! **Apply ASAP!**

Tenants can receive 18 months of rental assistance total, including any assistance they have previously received.

Learn more & apply: delco-era.com.

July 10, 2023 Update:
DELCO ERA REOPENS FOR SHORT TIME

RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE
Delaware County's Emergency Rental Assistance (Delco ERA) REOPENED July 10, 2023.

- **Apply ASAP!** Delco ERA received new, limited state funding & will close when the money is spent!
- Tenants can receive **18 months of rental assistance total**, including any assistance they have previously received.

Learn more & apply: delco-era.com.

Details + links for Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties:
 bit.ly/rent-utility-help

Website: Rental assistance updates in 4 counties

LASP resources on our website

Changes to Medicaid, Medical Assistance and CHIP: You **MUST** renew every year!

LASP Brochure (English & Spanish)

Property Tax/Rent Rebate: Deadline extended to Dec. 31

Events
lasp.org/events

FREE legal outreach:
Know your rights!
Learn from a LASP advocate about your legal issue.

In-person: Legal Clinic in Exton - Aug. 9



- **Wednesday, Aug. 9** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- at **PA CareerLink of Chester County, 479 Thomas Jones Way, Suite 500, Exton, PA 19380**
- **Flyer** (1-page PDF), or click image at right

EXTON - A free legal clinic will be held monthly at PA CareerLink of Chester County. The clinics will be the second Wednesday of the month from July-December 2023: Wednesday, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13, 2023.

To schedule a 30-minute appointment with a LASP attorney, contact Edwina at 610-429-9400, ext. 4115 or ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org.

The clinics are a partnership between LASP, United Way of Chester County's Financial Stability Center, and PA CareerLink of Chester County.

In person, in Exton!

Financial Stability Center
FREE LEGAL CLINICS


2nd Wednesdays
July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8,
and Dec. 13, 2023
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

PA CareerLink Office
479 Thomas Jones Way | Suite 500
Exton, PA 19380

➤ Schedule a 30-minute appointment with a Legal Aid of Southeastern PA attorney. Contact Edwina at 610-429-9400, ext. 4115 or ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org.

Some of the case types LASP handles:

- Bankruptcy, consumer law & debt relief
- Child custody & dependency
- Domestic violence / Protection from Abuse
- Elder law
- Employment law
- Eviction, record-sealing & pardons
- Family law
- Housing
 - Landlord-Tenant (eviction, habitability, public & subsidized housing, rent-to-own)
 - Mortgage foreclosure, property tax sales, reverse mortgages, tangled title
- Chester County Mobile Home Tax Reassessments
- Hurricane Ida / disaster legal aid
- Public Benefits (Unemployment Compensation, SSI, SSDI, TANF (cash assistance), SNAP (food stamps), Medical Assistance (Medicaid) & more)
- Utility problems
- Veterans benefits & discharge upgrades

877-429-5994 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., or lasp.org/apply


Hybrid: Veterans Clinic with Coatesville VA & virtual - Aug. 9

- **Wednesdays, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13, 2023 from 9:30-11 a.m.**
- [Two-page flyer](#) (or click image at right)
- **Please call 610-383-0289 to schedule**, or visit **1400 Blackhorse Hill Road, Building 57, Room 232, Coatesville, PA, 19320**. Walk-ins are also welcome.
- **Zoom login: bit.ly/va-veterans-clinics-2023**
(Meeting ID: 824 6750 9878 | Passcode: 832781)

COATESVILLE - LASP's monthly legal clinics with the Coatesville VA will be the **second Wednesday of each month** in 2023. A referral by social worker, clinician or case manager is suggested but not necessary. The clinics are part of the medical center's **Veterans Justice Outreach Program**, which connects Veterans with VA health care services.

Questions? Contact VA staff members Diana Zinnie (Chester County) at 484-744-3442, Rhonda Sanford (Montgomery County) at 484-667-1988, or Lily Thomas (Delaware County) at 610-496-5007.



Are you a Veteran? A referral by social worker, clinician or case manager is suggested but not necessary.

Do you need legal advice?

Every Month on the Second Wednesday at 9:30 AM – 11 AM
Building 57, Room 232

Please call to schedule 610-383-0289
(Walk-ins are also welcome)

Please have any and all documents pertaining to your legal situation.

2023 Dates: 9:30 AM (Eastern Time)
Jan. 11 - Feb. 8 - Mar. 8 - Apr. 12 - May 10 - June 14
July 12 - Aug. 9 - Sept. 13 - Oct. 11 - Nov. 8 - Dec. 13

Attend one of these sessions learn about any and all of the following topics:

- Expungement
- Pardons
- Social Security
- Unemployment compensation
- Public benefits
- Housing
- Bankruptcy
- Veterans Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- Custody and visitation
- No asset divorce
- Protection from abuse
- Elder law
- Appeals
- Employment problems

Veterans can also call the Legal Aid Veterans Helpline at 610-283-0884 at anytime - if you do not get an answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Legal Aid does NOT handle criminal cases. They handle civil matters like: bankruptcy, wills, Military Service Discharge Upgrades, social security questions and child support type questions.

Any questions should be directed to Diana Zinnie (Chester County) at 484-744-3442, Rhonda Sanford (Montgomery County) 484-667-1988 or Lily Thomas (Delaware County) 610-496-5007. Sessions are presented by Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania and are open to Veterans. This offering is part of the medical center's Veterans Justice Outreach Program which connects justice-involved Veterans with VA health care services.

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Justice Outreach Program

In-person: Potassium Iodide (KI) Dispensing Event & Community Resource Fair in Phoenixville - Aug. 17

- **Thursday, Aug. 17, from 12:30-6:30 p.m.**
- at **Kimberton Fire Company**, Covered Bridge Room, 2276 Kimberton Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460
- Flyer: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

PHOENIXVILLE - The Chester County Health Dept. presents is hosting the Potassium Iodide (KI) Dispensing Event & Community Resource Fair. Everyone living or working within a **10-mile radius of the Limerick Generating Station or Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station** should have KI tablets in their emergency kit in case of a radiological emergency.

In Chester County, these areas include:: Charlestown Township, East Coventry Township, East Nantmeal Township, East Pikeland Township, East Vincent Township, North Coventry Township, Phoenixville Borough, Schuylkill Township, South Coventry Township, Spring City Borough, Upper Uwchlan Township, Uwchlan Township, Warwick Township, West Nottingham Township, West Pikeland Township, and West Vincent Township.

Stop by LASP's table at this event. Learn how LASP may be able to help you with legal problems caused by Hurricane Ida and many other civil legal problems.

Questions? Visit chesco.org/KI,

In-person: Senior Fair in Elkins Park - Aug. 24

- **Thursday, Aug. 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
- at **Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Rd, Elkins Park**



CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
POTASSIUM IODIDE (KI) DISPENSING EVENT & COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Date: August 17, 2023
Time: 12:30 to 6:30 PM
Location: Kimberton Fire Company
The Covered Bridge Room
2276 Kimberton Rd
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Everyone living or working within a 10-mile radius of the Limerick Generating Station or Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station should have KI tablets in their emergency kit in case of a radiological emergency.

In Chester County, these areas include:

- Charlestown Township
- East Coventry Township
- East Nantmeal Township
- East Pikeland Township
- East Vincent Township
- North Coventry Township
- Phoenixville Borough
- Schuylkill Township
- South Coventry Township
- Spring City Borough
- Upper Uwchlan Township
- Uwchlan Township
- Warwick Township
- West Nottingham Township
- West Pikeland Township
- West Vincent Township

Questions? Visit chesco.org/KI

- Click [here](#) to register | [Flyer](#) (1-page PNG)

ELKINS PARK - Seniors at Rep. Napoleon Nelson's annual Senior Fair can get help in obtaining Veterans' Photo ID Discount Card, which entitles Montgomery County-based vets to receive discounts at nearly 500 establishments countywide. To receive a card, you must bring a valid photo ID, such as a driver's license or passport with proof of residency, and a copy of your discharge papers (DD Form 214).

Stop by LASP's table at this event!

The Montgomery County DA's office will also be present to conduct drug takebacks, a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing prescription drugs.



In-person, IN SPANISH: Tenant Rights Forum in Kennett Square - Sept. 7

- **Thursday, Sept. 7** from 4-6 p.m.
- at **Kennett Friends Meeting**, 125 Sickle St., Kennett Square, PA 19348
- Questions? Contact Maribel Garcia: 610-368-6509.
- Flyer (1-page PNG): [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

[NOTE: The presentation and resources provided will be **in Spanish**.]

KENNETT SQUARE - The Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania, Legal Aid of Southeastern PA, and other local resource representatives will present important information about your rights as a tenant.

This will be a space for you to ask whatever questions you have about your current living situation.

Coffee and light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.

LASP events calendar

Retirement Congratulations

Donald B. Cheetham 3rd retires June 30 after 43+ years in legal aid

POTTSTOWN - Congratulations to Donald B. Cheetham 3rd on his retirement June 30, 2023, after 43+ years in legal aid! Don started at Delaware County Legal Assistance Association (DCLAA) in 1978 and at Montgomery County Legal Aid Service (MCLAS) in 1981. These two programs were part of the merger that created LASP. He has been based in Pottstown since 1981. (MCLAS, DCLAA, Bucks County Legal Aid Society, and Legal Aid of Chester County merged in 2001 to form Legal Aid of Southeastern PA.)

At LASP's Staff Retreat on June 28 at the Inn at Swarthmore, Executive Director Shawn Boehringer awarded Don with a Lifetime Achievement Award, noting, "It's fitting that today's

festivities take place on the campus of Swarthmore College, as Don attended this venerable institution graduating with high honors over 50 years ago in the class of 1973."

Don majored in political science and was a member of the Swarthmore College folk dance group. He also served as a reference assistant in the Swarthmore College Library. After graduation, Don headed to Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska to work as a VISTA volunteer to address the school dropout rate. His next position was as a youth program coordinator and day camp director for the Southwest Washington YMCA in Longview, Washington.

Don returned to Pennsylvania and enrolled in Villanova University's Law School. He did clinical placements with Delaware County Legal Assistance Association in both his second and third years and spent the summer of 1977 at DCLAA.

After gaining admission to the Pennsylvania bar, Don started as a staff attorney with DCLAA and developed an expertise in housing law. Budget cuts in 1980 led to dramatic cuts in federal funding of legal services programs. With little to no other funding from the state, local governments or private sources for legal aid programs, and with low seniority, Don was laid off.

Just three months later, he was hired by former MCLAS Executive Director and former LASP co-Executive Director Harvey Strauss in January 1981 to work for MCLAS in Pottstown, which has been his professional home ever since.

"Don is the quintessential Legal Aid lifer," Shawn noted. "He has practiced in virtually all of legal aid's priority areas from representing parents in dependency cases to preventing evictions of tenants to representing debtors in bankruptcy. ... On behalf of the LASP family, we wish you the very best in your retirement and many healthy, happy, and productive years in the future. Thank you."



Website news article

Welcome, new staff!

Daniel Tryens, Veterans Advocacy Project Paralegal



CHESTER City - **Daniel Tryens** joined LASP in June as Veterans Advocacy Project Paralegal. He is based in the Chester City office. LASP's Veterans Advocacy Project serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties plus 16 more counties in PA. As a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Daniel served as a Cavalry Scout (19D) where he provided education and training to enlisted soldiers. He was responsible for preparing mission equipment for deployment, securing vehicles prior to transport, and verifying inventory computations.

Most recently, Daniel served as a Paralegal/Legal Assistant at Pressman & Doyle Law Office, LLC. where he researched and compiled data for foreclosure cases, assisted attorneys with trial preparation, and drafted legal documents. Prior to his paralegal career, Daniel worked as an Employment Training Specialist at the Delaware County

Intermediate Unit (DCIU), where he developed and implemented strategies to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, collaborated with students and clients to address job-related difficulties and more. Daniel holds a B.A. in History with a Genocide and Holocaust Studies minor from West Chester University, where he graduated magna cum laude. He also earned an Associate of Arts in History from Delaware County Community College and a Paralegal Certificate at Boston University. Daniel received the Army Achievement Medal and was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society. He volunteers at Providence Animal Shelter in Media. Daniel can be reached at 610-467-3831 or dtryens@lasp.org.

Job openings

Current openings

- **Accounting/HR Administrator** ~ Norristown
- **Community Engagement Unit Staff Attorney** ~ Norristown
- **VOCA Staff Attorney** ~ Bristol
- **Paralegals** ~ Norristown, **LASP Helpline** in Norristown, and **West Chester**
- **Regional Disaster Relief Case Manager** ~ Norristown
- **Executive Administrative Assistant** ~ Norristown

Job descriptions & how to apply: lasp.org/careers.



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Questions or feedback? Contact Marion Hoffman Fraley, Communications Director & Editor, at mfraley@lasp.org.



Legal Aid of Southeastern PA
610-275-5400 | lasp.org

Ways to give: lasp.org/ways-to-give

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