

LASP Legal Aid
of Southeastern PA



working for justice standing together



annual report | 2016-17

Dear Friends of Legal Aid,

We at LASP believe that ensuring that low-income and vulnerable people have access to justice is a mission we can all get behind.

Equal justice is one of the principles upon which our country was founded. It is also the principle upon which LASP was created, one which continues to drive our work today.

From Quakertown to Oxford to Marcus Hook, LASP provides legal services in four diverse counties—urban, suburban and rural areas alike—covering 2,059 square miles. In 2016-17, we handled 8,293 cases, which produced benefits for 17,746 residents across the four counties. Our regional Helpline staff handled 13,071 calls and won a 2017 Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN). In 2018 we plan to institute an online intake system, thereby further extending LASP’s ability to reach and serve clients.

At Legal Aid, our staff stands together, working for justice every day. This may mean obtaining a protection from abuse order for a mother and child, preserving housing for an elderly couple, or obtaining Medicaid benefits or food stamps for a family in need.

We stand together with our donors and pro bono volunteers to extend our reach and service to clients across this region. Thanks to their contributions, LASP’s clients benefited in areas of safe housing, public benefits, domestic abuse, landlord-tenant, elder law, mortgage foreclosure, home ownership, bankruptcy, child dependency, unemployment compensation, Social Security (SSI), family law, and consumer issues, among others.

We also stand together with the courts, bar associations, and human services organizations



in our area, partnering to ensure that the government agencies and courts in the four counties provide access to all protections and remedies available under the law.

In an example of what is possible through collaboration, this past year Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding strengthened our assistance to victims of domestic violence in three counties. In all three counties, partnering with different organizations in our area has expanded services to those who need them most.

We thank all of LASP’s supporters and partners for making this broad-based regional effort possible.

Because need for our services continues to exceed our funding, we ask for your continued support. When it comes down to justice for all, let us all continue to stand together.

Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, Esq.
Executive Director

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania



rural . urban . suburban

OUR MISSION

The mission of LASP is to provide quality legal representation to low-income and vulnerable people from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, to empower them to solve problems without legal representation through legal education and increased access to the courts, and to change community practices and systems that aggravate poverty.

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Free Legal Help

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA provides free civil legal services for low-income residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

For free help, call the toll-free Helpline to speak with an attorney or paralegal:

LASP Helpline

(Centralized helpline for general legal issues in Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties)

877-429-5994

Mon-Fri, 9 am - 1 pm (Se habla español)

www.lasp.org

Delaware County

Protection from Abuse Helpline

855-879-3100

Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Callers can leave a message outside of these hours.

Montgomery County

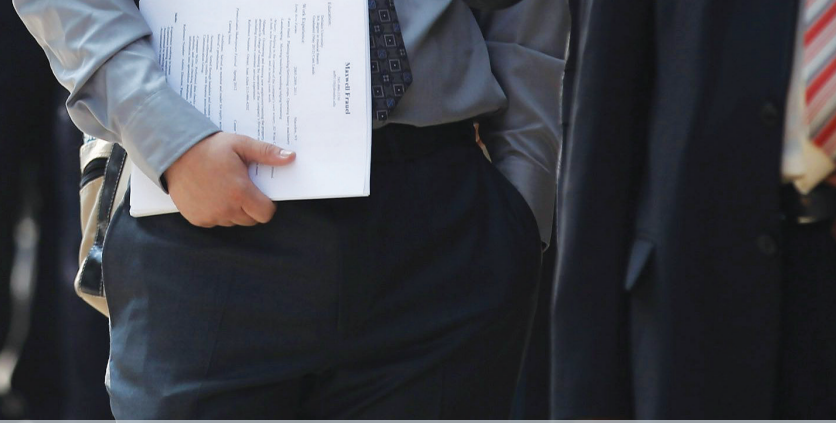
Protection from Abuse Helpline

855-980-6924

Mon-Fri, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Callers can leave a message outside of these hours.

The Protection from Abuse Helplines provide legal advice and assistance in filing for a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order.



Removing Barriers to Employment

Removing barriers to employment was a focus for LASP outreach in 2016-17. People with a criminal record have difficulty finding work, even if their offenses were very minor and/or took place a long time ago.

EXPUNGEMENTS

Expunging (clearing) a record can make a huge difference in people's lives by making it possible for them to get jobs that previously were closed to them. To expand LASP's capacity to help people clear their records, our attorneys taught CLEs to pro bono attorneys, who then assisted clients at community expungement clinics. LASP partnered with county bar associations and state legislators, who co-sponsored some of the community clinics.

RECORD SEALING

LASP attorneys presented CLEs on Pennsylvania's record sealing law, which went into effect Nov. 14, 2016. This law lets people seal some criminal records if they have completed sentencing requirements and have no arrests or convictions for 10 or more years. Involving pro bono attorneys increased LASP's capacity to help people benefit from the new law.

LASP staff and pro bono attorneys' work to address barriers to employment benefited 1,688 clients and family members in 2016-17.

2016-17 At a Glance

When abuse is only part of the problem: Tapping community resources for a LASP client

Ms. T* and her three children became homeless when they fled from her abusive partner. She came to LASP for help with a protection order. "That was only the tip of the iceberg," recalls the LASP pro bono attorney who helped her. He collaborated with a local emergency shelter and domestic abuse agency to help Ms. T get temporary shelter, address her child custody problems and begin to rebuild her life.

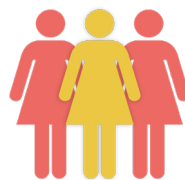
*Client name has been changed, but story is real.



9,426 adults
and **8,320**
children helped
in 2016-2017



24% of clients
were **60**
and older



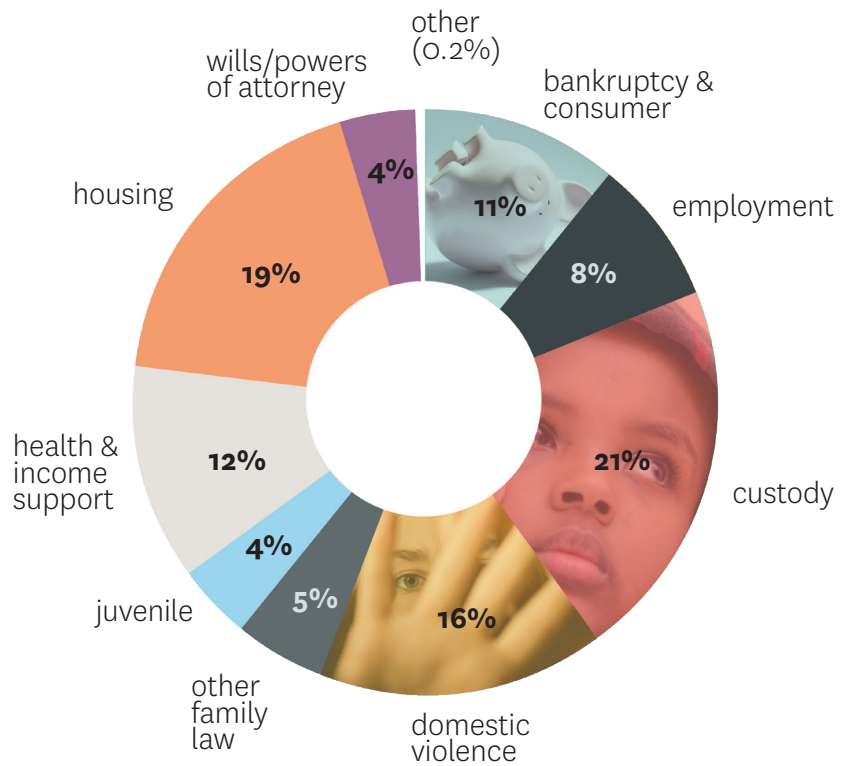
75% of clients
were **women**



42% of clients
were **members**
of a **racial or**
ethnic minority

FY 2016-17

LASP handled
8,293 cases
benefiting
17,746
clients and
their families.



Expanding legal services for domestic violence victims

Legal representation benefits victims of domestic violence. According to one study, 83% of **represented** victims get a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order, as compared to 32% of **unrepresented** victims.

Thanks to new funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), LASP is able to represent more victims. Funds allowed LASP to:

- Hire a full-time PFA attorney and full-time PFA paralegal in **Montgomery County** and a full-time PFA attorney in **Delaware County**.
- Create two new PFA helplines in **Delaware** and **Montgomery counties**, making it easier for victims to get legal help with a PFA.
- Hire an additional full-time PFA attorney in **Bucks County**, through a sub-grant from A Woman's Place.

LASP's initial results:

- PFA orders were entered protecting 2,512 adults and children from domestic abuse in 2016-17.

- In Montgomery County in 2017, LASP's third-quarter domestic violence caseload **tripled** from third-quarter cases in 2016.
- In Delaware County, LASP's domestic violence cases more than **doubled** from 2016 to 2017.
- In Bucks County, the number of PFAs obtained **increased by 50 percent** from 2016 to 2017.

LASP is collaborating with other agencies in ways that expand, rather than duplicate, services to victims. **Collaborating agencies in Montgomery County** include the Women's Center of Montgomery County and Laurel House. Collaborators in **Delaware County** include the Domestic Abuse Project, the Senior Law Center and the Medical Law Partnership/Healthy Start. Collaborators in **Bucks County** include A Woman's Place and Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA). LASP is also partnering with the Montgomery Bar Association, the Delaware County Bar Association and the Bucks County Bar Association to recruit, train and mentor volunteer attorneys who will handle PFA cases.

Statement of Financial Position: July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017*

REVENUE

Government Funding	\$3,502,363
Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA)	\$205,076
Foundations & Corporations	\$83,812
Annual Donor Appeals	\$176,978
Bar Associations & Foundations	\$114,025
United Ways	\$43,253
Other Funding Sources	\$184,208
Total Funding**	\$4,309,715

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$3,047,056
Employee Benefits	\$804,832
Consultants & Contract Services	\$85,456
Travel	\$24,046
Space Costs	\$291,394
Consumables	\$48,120
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$130,307
Other Expenses	\$139,717
Total Expenses**	\$4,570,928

* Figures based on audited financial statement for FY2017.

Change in Net Assets: (\$261,213)

** The change in net assets is due to recognizing expenses for multi-year grants received in prior fiscal years.

In-Kind Resources: \$819,343

- Donated Attorney Services (3,616 hours @ \$150/hour): \$542,355
- Other Donated Services (2,718 hours @ \$60/hour): \$163,088
- Donated Office Space: \$45,600
- Donated Software: \$68,300

Institutional, Government & Business Donors

Bar Associations, Foundations & Bar-related Organizations

Bucks County Bar Association
Charitable Foundation of the Bucks County Bar Association
Chester County Bar Association
Chester County Bar Foundation
Chester County Paralegal Association
Delaware County Bar Association
Delaware County Bar Foundation
The E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Fund of the Delaware County Bar Association
Doris J. Freed American Inn of Court
Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference
Montgomery Bar Association
Montgomery Bar Foundation

Government Grants & Contracts

AmeriCorps/Equal Justice Works
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Bucks County Children & Youth Social Services Agency
Bucks County Commissioners
Bucks County Dept. of Community & Business Development
Chester County Dept. of Aging Services
Chester County Dept. of Community Development
Delaware County Office of Housing & Community Development

Delaware County Office of Services to the Aging
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
Montgomery County Office of Aging & Adult Services
Montgomery County Office of Children & Youth
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing & Community Development
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA)
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN)

Charitable Foundations & Trusts

Chester County Fund for Women & Girls
The Claneil Foundation
Cozen O'Conner Foundation
First Hospital Foundation
The Genuardi Family Foundation
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
Independence Foundation
The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
Merck Company Foundation
Montgomery County Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
Sanchez Dooner Charitable Fund
Walter M. Strine & Alice Wascho Strine Foundation
TD Bank Foundation

Collaborative Grants

Bucks County STOP Grant (Collaboration with NOVA & A Woman's Place)
Bucks County PCCD/VOCA Grant (Collaboration with A Woman's Place)
Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation (Partnership with VNA Community Services)

Business, Corporate, Service Groups, Congregations & Others

Terri Smith Allstate Agency
Aria Condominium Association
Bottomline Technologies
BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Innovative Timing Systems
Lutheran Community at Telford
Penn Community Bank
QVC Partners in Giving
Regency at Providence/Regency Hills Community
Santander Bank
Siemens Caring Hands Giving Program
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United Way of Southern Chester County
Univest Corporation
Women's Club of Perkasio
WSFS

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report for the fiscal year from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. To offer feedback or to report an error, please contact Director of Development **Ann Tydeman-Solomon** at asolomon@lasp.org or 610-275-5400 x123.

Thank you for Standing for Justice!

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To see a complete list of generous donors and pro bono volunteers, visit <http://lasp.org/news/publications>. You can help keep LASP's services strong by making a donation at <http://lasp.org>. For information about donating your time, contact Deputy Director **Kesha James, Esq.** at 610-275-5400 x131 or kjames@lasp.org.

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania is very grateful for all contributions supporting our work.

Cy Pres Donations

LASP benefited from cy pres donations thanks to **Cary L. Flitter of Flitter Milz, PC** and the **Schaub v. Iron Hill Qualified Settlement Fund**. We very much appreciate this support.



Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

625 Swede Street
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for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



HELPLINE STAFF



Front row (from left): Nanci Hoover, Centralized Helpline Managing Attorney; Pandora Murphy, paralegal; Robin Babillis, paralegal; Ellie Glasco, paralegal (retired). **Back row**: Venezla Moses, paralegal; Pamela Manning, support staff; Carolyn Hettell, paralegal; Kristan Burgess, Helpline attorney. **Not pictured**: Randy Hove, Helpline attorney; Delores Wilson Bailey, paralegal (retired).

Helpline staff win 2017 state Excellence Award

LASP's Helpline staff received a 2017 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Excellence Award. Based in Norristown, Helpline staff were responsible for about 50% of new client intake. Altogether, they handled 13,071 calls in 2016-17 from people in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties who were seeking legal aid.

The Excellence Award honors individuals, groups and

businesses which, PLAN states, "have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to expand access to justice for those who have nowhere else to turn for help when facing a critical legal problem. Each winner has been carefully selected by criteria assessing increased access to civil legal aid, excellence in advocacy, leadership, and/or innovation in service delivery."