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Newsletter

February 2018

In This Issue

[LSC proposed for defunding in 2019](#)

[Donate to LASP via AmazonSmile](#)

[Chester: A step toward breaking cycle of poverty, starting with birth certificate clinic](#)

[Bucks: April CLE on domestic violence & PFAs](#)

[Delaware Co.: LASP attorney volunteers at mock trial](#)

[Montgomery: EPIC presented to Montco commissioners](#)

2019 Federal Budget Proposal

Legal Services Corp., a major contributor to LASP and other U.S. civil legal aid organizations, is defunded in proposed 2019 Trump budget

Like last year, Legal Services Corp. is proposed for defunding in President Donald Trump's 2019 budget. Noting that support for civil legal aid enjoys bipartisan Congressional support, LSC leaders remain confident that Congress will step in to continue funding.

"LSC is the nation's largest single funder of civil legal aid, distributing more than 94% of its funding to more than 800 offices nationwide," LSC's Feb. 12 press release noted. "These organizations serve low-

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for Equal Justice

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

income individuals, children, families, seniors, and veterans in every congressional district."

LSC funding makes up about 35 percent of LASP's budget. Federal money that is endangered based on the White House budget is more like 41 percent of LASP's budget, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and some other funding streams.

The American Bar Association's ABA Journal discusses its response to last year's proposed funding threat: http://bit.ly/ABA_LSCfunding.

For more information, see LSC's press release on the 2019 budget proposal: http://bit.ly/LSC_Bipartisan.

AmazonSmile offers opportunity to donate to LASP

Through AmazonSmile's program in support of nonprofits, it's as simple as clicking this link to support LASP whenever you make a purchase at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1901014>.

AmazonSmile is a way to support LASP at no additional cost to you. When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, you'll find the same prices, selection and shopping experience as at amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to LASP.



To contribute directly to LASP, please click <http://bit.ly/LegalAidHelps> or the heart button below.



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Highlights from the Counties

Chester County

Free birth certificate clinic seeks to break cycle of joblessness and other issues caused by lack of photo ID

Without a birth certificate, a person can't get photo identification. Without ID, a person can't request their birth certificate. Without ID, they have problems getting a job, loans/credit, housing, opening a bank account, and more. An attorney can break the cycle by requesting a birth certificate on behalf of a client.

A birth certificate clinic, sponsored in part by LASP, was held Jan. 19 at the United Way Financial Stability Center in Exton. Clients who have been unsuccessful in obtaining their birth certificates met with seven volunteer attorneys, who requested their birth certificates for them. No fees or ID were required. The volunteers, including several attorneys from a regional corporation which prefers to remain anonymous, met one-on-one with about 20 clients. "We'll be able to help with requesting 15 birth certificates," LASP staff attorney Brian Doyle said.

Bucks County

LASP & Bucks Bar to present April 6 CLE addressing PFAs & domestic violence

LASP and the Bucks County Bar Association are helping to present a CLE on Protection from Abuse orders and domestic violence on **Friday, April 6**. Rachel Pinsker, senior attorney for Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), will speak at the event, scheduled for 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Bucks County Bar Association, 135 E. State St., Doylestown. Pro bono attorneys may attend for free if they volunteer as plaintiff attorney for a PFA case.

For more information, please contact Michelle Froehlich at (215) 348-9413 x110 or MichelleF@bucksbar.org.

Delaware County

LASP attorney serves as juror for 2018 mock trials

Staff attorney Christina Drzal volunteered for the Delaware County arm of the 2018 statewide mock trial competition. This year she served as juror for an afternoon. The 2018 competition featured the case "Silva Morel v. Tiger Trail Technologies, Inc." The case is either the story of doing what is right and standing up to corporate greed or an examination of how a good job can go wrong if not taken seriously! The trial is joined and the jury must decide the case.

Montgomery County

Montco commissioners receive update on EPIC

The work of Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition (EPIC) was featured after the State of the County update Feb. 15 in Norristown. EPIC is a partnership between LASP, Your Way Home Montgomery County, Montgomery Bar Association, the county Department of Housing and Community Development, and more. To read the

article from the Monday, Feb. 19, 2018 Lansdale Reporter, Norristown Times-Herald, Pottstown Mercury, and other Digital First Media Philly publications, please click <http://bit.ly/2CBX4Rp>.

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