

CREATING CHANGE TOGETHER

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA



Annual Report 2014- 2015



Inside this Annual Report are stories of what is accomplished — and how lives are changed — when we work together for justice.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 -15

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

Serving Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties Since 2001

www.lasp.org

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 cause or aggravate poverty.

Nancy R. Paul

President

Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, Esq.

Executive Director
215-275-5400 ext. 117

Central Administration

625 Swede Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-275-5400

Dear Friends of Legal Aid,

It has been said that “teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.” For Legal Aid of Southeastern PA, this adage holds true. LASP is proud to work with a strong network of partners who share the same vision of creating change together.



Last year, nearly 17,000 clients and their families in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties benefited from LASP’s services. Through our Helpline, outreach, and direct representation by staff and pro bono attorneys, we helped keep people in their homes, recovered benefits for veterans, accessed medical assistance for seniors, fought for custody, and protected victims of domestic abuse. In other words, LASP got things done. But we didn’t do it alone. Much of our work was accomplished through collaborations that have helped us expand our legal services to more low-income clients.

By working with the county Bar Associations, volunteer attorneys, fellow non-profit organizations and educational institutions, LASP leverages resources so we can create more opportunities to reach more people and change more lives.

We thank you for continuing to be an ally in the important work of justice for all.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth W. Fritsch, Esq.
Executive Director

Ensuring Fairness

When Mr. and Mrs. C’s medical expenses rose sharply, they had less income for basic necessities of life, like food. The benefits they received from the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were not enough to ensure a nourishing diet for the two senior citizens. They came to LASP for help. Their LASP attorney appealed the SNAP grant decision and demonstrated that the County Assistance Office (CAO) failed to deduct certain medical expenses from their income. They were in fact eligible for a larger benefit. The CAO recalculated their grant, more than doubling it, enabling Mr. and Mrs. C to meet their nutrition needs.

Sometimes it's just one missed paycheck, one child care payment, or one unexpected trip to the hospital that turns financial stability into financial crisis.

In Chester County, LASP is part of a team that provides one-stop help for people teetering on the edge of financial ruin. LASP works with the PA CareerLink® and the United Way Financial Stability Center to provide supportive and educational services to help people chart a way toward stability and independence. LASP's services include on-site legal guidance and workshops.

"We've had high traffic at the Financial Stability Center right from the start," says Christine Zaccarelli, Esq., LASP Pro Bono Director. "It's been great to have everyone under one roof. It's a holistic approach to helping clients get their lives back on track."

"The people who make out the best when we're collaborating and partnering are the customers," says Terry Kenworthy, Vice President, Community Investment, United Way of Chester County. "The customers get what they need, and I think that's critically important. None of us can do this alone."



Terry Kenworthy, VP Community Investment, United Way of Chester County (left), and Christine Zaccarelli, Esq. LASP Pro Bono Director, work together to bring financial and legal services to Chester County residents.

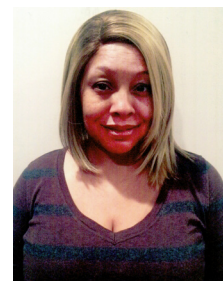
"We provide better service to those that we serve when we are working together."
-- Terry Kenworthy, Vice President, Community Investment, United Way of Chester County

Ten years ago Lisa Marie Williams was charged with a minor criminal offense. For a decade, the impact of her criminal record lingered. As a new grandmother who had hopes of returning to school and finding a good job, Ms. Williams resolved that "it was time for me to get that off my record."

In April 2015, a determined Ms. Williams came to Darby, PA for an expungement clinic organized by LASP, the office of State Senator Anthony Williams (no relation), and the Widener University Delaware Law School. A clean slate is what Lisa Marie Williams wanted, but the process would have been difficult without the expungement clinic and the legal guidance she found there.

"The clinic wouldn't have happened if we didn't work together with LASP. This is a very valuable partnership."
- El Shafiq Asad Ali,
Director of Constituent Services
State Representative Joanna McClinton

Through the cooperation, dedication, and skill of LASP and its partners, expungement petitions were started that day for Ms. Williams and 53 other clients.



With her record cleared, Lisa Marie Williams can embark on the next chapter — returning to school and finding a good job.

"My LASP attorney Erica Briant was heaven sent. She helped me every step of the way," Ms. Williams says. "LASP gave me a sense of hope when I felt like I didn't have a sense of hope."

Getting her record cleared "was the best news of all," Ms. Williams says. Her daughter is now helping her craft a resume. "I would love to go back to school and work, too. That's the plan."

In FY 2014 -15 LASP Handled 7,894 cases *benefiting* 16,752 clients and their families

75%

of our clients were women

42%

of our clients were members
of racial or ethnic minority groups

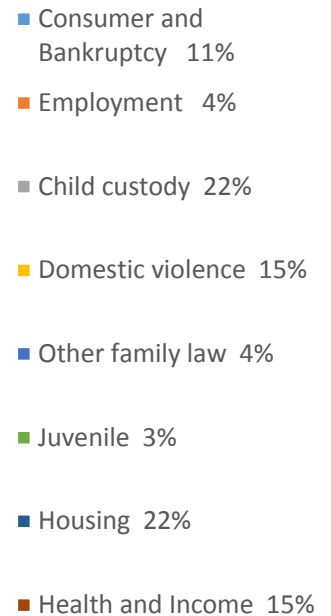
7,782 children were helped

23%

of our clients had no regular income

18%

of our clients were 60 and older



State of Financial Position: July 2014 to June 2015*

REVENUE

Government Funding	\$3,226,092
Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA)	\$136,778
Foundations & Corporations	\$450,363
Annual Donor Appeals	\$143,052
Bar Associations & Foundations	\$125,085
United Ways	\$60,442
Other Funding Sources	\$150,007

Total Funding \$4,291,819

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$2,700,177
Employee Benefits	\$737,515
Consultants & Contract Services	\$43,038
Travel	\$18,605
Space Costs	\$244,903
Consumables	\$31,355
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$74,692
Other Expenses	\$184,042

Total Expenses \$4,034,327

Change in Net Assets: \$257,492

Fully 75% of this change reflects multi-year commitments for funding in future years.

In-Kind Resources: \$866,940

- Donated Attorney Services (4,272.5 hours @ \$150/hour): \$640,875
- Other Donated Services (3007.75 hours @ \$60/hour): \$180,465
- Donated Office Space: \$45,600

* Figures based on audited financial statement for FY2015.

2014 -15 Institutional, Government and Business Supporters

Government Grants and Contracts

Americorps/Equal Justice Works
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency
Bucks County Commissioners
Bucks County Dept. of Community and Business Development
Chester County Dept. of Aging Services
Chester County Dept. of Community Development
Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development
Delaware County Office of Services to the Aging
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
Montgomery County Office of Aging and Adult Services
Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth
Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Development
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA)
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN)

Charitable Foundations & Trusts

1675 Foundation
Bucks County Foundation
E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Fund
The Claneil Foundation
Cozen O'Connor Foundation
Dolfinger McMahon Foundation
First Hospital Foundation
The Genuardi Family Foundation
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
Independence Foundation
The George B. Lindsay Foundation
Merck Company Foundation
Montgomery County Foundation
North Penn Community Health Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund
TD Bank Foundation
Quaker Chemical Foundation

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Collaborative Grants

Bucks Co. STOP Grant
(Collaboration with NOVA and A Woman's Place)
Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation
(Partnership with VNA Community Services)

Business, Corporate, Service Groups, Congregations and Others

Bottomline Technologies
Chester County Paralegal Association
Citadel Federal Credit Union
Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference
First Federal of Bucks County
First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
Just Legal, Inc.
Les Trois Petits Cochons
QVC Partners in Giving
Siemens Caring Hands Giving Campaign
Susquehanna Bank
Thomas Reuters West Corporation
United Way of Bucks County
United Way of Chester County
United Way of Southern Chester County
Univest
USI Affinity
WSFS

Bar Associations, Foundations and Bar-related organizations

Bucks County Bar Association
Charitable Foundation of the Bucks County Bar Association
Chester County Bar Association
Chester County Bar Foundation
Delaware County Bar Association
Delaware County Bar Association – Family Law Section
Delaware County Bar Foundation
Doris J. Freed American Inn of Court
Montgomery Bar Association
Montgomery Bar Foundation

For a full listing of donors and volunteers: lasp.org/annual-report

You'll find the individual donors, volunteer attorneys and law firms who have helped those who call or come through our doors.

To support LASP and help neighbors in need: lasp.org/how-you-can-help

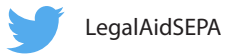
Join the Legal Aid supporters who make a difference in their community. Go online to learn about donating your time, or to make a financial contribution.

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

ANNUAL REPORT

Creating Change Together

Connect with LASP



Stepping in to Protect the Elderly

A Montgomery County senior, Ms. B, had worked in food service most of her career, successfully working up to a project management position. The organization's new general manager told the 65 year-old woman that she must now accept a non-management position which would result in a drastic wage reduction, or be put on a waiting list for a new assignment. Ms. B chose to be placed on the waiting list. The employer never gave her a new assignment, however, effectively firing her.

LASP stepped in and represented Ms. B at the contested Unemployment Compensation hearing where she was found eligible for unemployment, allowing her to receive benefits while looking for a new job.

With this income, Ms. B is able to continue to pay her mortgage and stay in her home.

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:

LASP Helpline
1-877-429-5994

Mon-Fri, 9 am-1pm
TOLL-FREE

Se habla español.
www.lasp.org