


LASP

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania



annual report
2020

quality legal
representation to
low-income and
vulnerable people



**9400
clients
served**



43% of LASPs
clients were
members of a
racial or ethnic
minority

thank
you

during the pandemic

WORKING TOWARD FREEDOM FROM WANT AND FEAR FOR LASP CLIENTS

Eighty years ago, on Jan. 6, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt gave one of the most memorable State of the Union addresses in U.S. history. He envisioned the world with four essential freedoms: freedom of speech and expression; freedom of every person to worship God in his or her own way; freedom from want; and freedom from fear. LASP's pursuit of the third and fourth freedoms defines our central mission.

There was much to fear in 1941—the growing rise of fascism; the horror of concentration camps; the prospect of world war, which the United States joined 11 months after FDR's address; the economic despair caused by the Great Depression; and the devastating effects of a disease caused by a virus: polio, spread through human contact. At its peak in the 1940s and 1950s, polio paralyzed or killed half a million people annually, worldwide. President Roosevelt himself suffered permanent paralysis due to the disease. In my own family, my mother's only sibling, her brother, succumbed to polio in 1945 at age 12. Because of the fear of the contagiousness of the disease, his open casket was set up in my grandparents' living room in Berks County, and friends and family conducted a viewing through the front windows of their home so they would have a barrier between themselves and my uncle.

During the COVID-19 public health crisis and beyond, the ultimate effectiveness of LASP's work can be measured by how it advances the freedoms from want and fear. LASP preserves housing, by helping tenants avoid eviction and connecting them to agencies that provide rental assistance. When a person loses a job or faces disability, LASP advocates help navigate pandemic-stressed systems. Clients who receive unemployment compensation or Supplemental Security Income have greater economic stability and can better afford necessities like food, utilities, and housing. By clearing minor criminal records from the past, LASP improves clients' opportunities for employment, housing, and education. By assisting clients to obtain orders that protect them from abuse and violence, LASP helps remove one of the most insidious sources of fear in our society.

In fiscal year 2019-20, LASP's advancement of the freedoms from want and fear included increased advocacy. Additional staff added capacity in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. LASP's advocacy is made possible by our funders and donors, including new funding sources in 2019-20.



Hon. Cheryl L. Austin (center), Court of Common Pleas judge in Montgomery County, accepted the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Woman of Distinction Award at the Philly Barristers' January 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial breakfast. Patrick Kurtas (at left), 2020 Montgomery Bar Association President; and Shawn Boehringer, LASP Executive Director, joined Austin at the event.



Hatboro Federal Savings' donation, as part of a state tax credit program, funded an attorney to reach distressed communities in Lower Bucks County.



An Independence Foundation Fellowship funded a full-time attorney to collaborate with the Montgomery County Public Defenders' Office to address civil legal needs of clients.



The new Community Engagement Unit enhanced LASP's outreach and community education, bolstered criminal record-clearing, increased our capacity to advocate for disability benefits, and improved access to LASP services, particularly for Spanish-speaking clients.



Generous funding through the Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC) increased LASP attorney staffing to handle legal problems for veterans who are homeless or facing homelessness. Funding through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust made it possible to serve ill and injured veterans.



At the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) reception, held during the Conference of County Bar Leaders in Hershey Feb. 27, 2020, Patrick Cicero (at left), PLAN Executive Director; Shawn Boehringer; and Sam Milkes, PLAN Executive Director Emeritus; pose near a DeLorean.

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.

Beginning in March 2020, as we entered a time of significant fear spurred by COVID-19, LASP's dedicated staff rose to action and shone brightly. Guided by state and federal COVID safety protocols, LASP closed offices to the public on March 17, but staff members continued their work with clients, including representation in court when scheduled. The Helpline remained open, becoming a resource when many phones were not being answered elsewhere. Meanwhile, LASP staff transitioned to mostly remote work and to virtual or outdoor outreach. They admirably continued service, on the front lines of justice, throughout the crisis, and LASP never stopped providing service. Our Helpline and online intake continued to be a lifeline for the communities LASP serves. By the end of fiscal year 2019-20, with the support of Payroll Protection and CARES Act funding, LASP was able to enhance services to those whose needs and fears were heightened by the impact of the pandemic. The challenge now is to maintain, and continue to grow, these vitally important services.

Thank you to ALL funders, donors, staff, pro bono volunteers and community partners for supporting LASP's work before and during this crisis. You help LASP make progress toward achieving freedoms from want and fear for our neighbors. As polio was eradicated with an effective vaccine, we look forward to a time soon when fear lessens, our public health crisis subsides, and the hard work to address systemic racism, division, and offer greater economic opportunity for those who need it most move us closer to freedoms from want and fear.

C. Shawn Boehringer, Esq., Executive Director
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

2019-2020



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on the cover

Eviction and unemployment crises emerged during the pandemic. In the 2019-20 Annual Report, learn how LASP staff continued to meet the legal needs of clients during COVID-19.

With a goal of increased housing stability, Montgomery County's Eviction Prevention & Intervention Coalition (EPIC) is a partnership with Your Way Home, LASP, Montgomery Bar Association, Montgomery County courts, Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities (PCRC), and more. Far right cover image shows an eviction hearing in February 2020.



Photos (from left): Mardi Busanus with Staff Attorney Rhonda Sherrod in September 2019; with Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, former longtime LASP Executive Director, in September 2019; and at the Bucks County Justice Center, Doylestown, in January 2020.

Mardi Busanus, LASP Doylestown volunteer for 20+ years, receives PLAN Excellence Award

Longtime LASP Doylestown volunteer Mardi Busanus was honored in March 2021 with a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Excellence Award. The ceremony was delayed a year and held virtually due to COVID-19. Mardi also was recognized for her 20th year of pro bono service to LASP in September 2019 in a surprise celebration at the Bucks County Bar Association. LASP staff, former Executive Director Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, and pro bono attorneys gathered in Mardi’s honor, under the guise of a pro bono meeting.

Across two decades, Mardi has donated thousands of hours to LASP – including 623 hours in 2018-19 alone. “On Wednesdays I go to PFA court to assist the attorneys and the court, and on Fridays I am in the office answering phones, assisting clients and handling other office duties,” she said. “It’s very satisfying. I’ve carved out my little niche.” COVID-19 disrupted her volunteer work, but in spring 2021, she returned to in-person volunteering thanks to the vaccine.

From time to time, she has helped during staff transitions in temporary paid roles, but always returned to volunteering.

Some of life’s bumps have reinforced her volunteer spirit and have given Mardi compassion for clients. In 2019, she and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 46th anniversary and 50th year since their blind date. Their son, Greg, also volunteered with LASP when he was in high school and college and created the longstanding mail merge system.

THANK YOU...

to LASP supporters!

As Mr. Rogers wrote, **“When I was a boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”**

LASP is a helper, and during COVID-19, people have looked to us for accurate information and legal representation. And we also

received help. During 2019-20, so many individuals, law firms, bar associations, government officials, foundations, staff and Board of Directors, United Ways, and others helped us continue to deliver services. It is because of all of you that LASP has been able to continue helping our neighbors resolve legal problems that threaten their homes, families, livelihoods, or safety. **Thank you!**

fresh starts

evictions

Preventing evictions and challenging pandemic price gouging

LASP represented Ms. W*, Ms. K*, and Ms. P*, all of whom were threatened with eviction from the residential hotel where they lived. Each paid \$1,300/month to live in what was essentially a room. Ms. W and Ms. K both shared this space with children. The women were unable to do their regular jobs (child care, cleaning, restaurant work) because of COVID-19. They began to fall behind on their rent, but were relieved when they received stimulus checks. However, the hotel manager informed Ms. W that the rent was increasing from \$1,300 to \$2,300 immediately. The women were informed that they would be evicted if they did not pay, even though an eviction moratorium was in place. The manager told them he would call the police who would put them out on the street. The women had nowhere to go, and Ms. W's daughter was sick.



A LASP attorney informed the landlord of the eviction moratorium and indicated that LASP would oppose any attempt to evict them during the moratorium period. He also communicated with local police, who confirmed that they would not enforce an eviction without a court order. As courts were closed for eviction hearings, this nullified the threat made by the landlord. The attorney also contacted the Township Supervisor to inform him of the situation, and contacted the state Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, which had asked to be notified about any price gouging during the pandemic. The Attorney General's office followed up on the threatened rent increase with a call from one of their attorneys, which ended demands for the enormous rent increase. The attorney continued negotiations with the manager, who eventually agreed that he would not attempt a self-help or other eviction during the moratorium.

In addition to maintaining their housing at the hotel, LASP connected them with a variety of social services, including the rental assistance program in their county, to help them in finding more stable and more suitable housing.



Facing eviction, a single mom receives help with unemployment compensation denial & rental assistance application

Ms. D* is a single mother raising three children. She lost her job in early March 2020 because of COVID-19 and had no income to support herself and her family. She filed for unemployment compensation (UC) and was turned down. She had fallen behind on her rent

and, despite the moratorium on evictions, her landlord was threatening to evict her. She was referred to LASP by a community organization serving the Latinx community.

Spanish is Ms. D's primary language, so she was assisted by bilingual staff members. Her attorney informed Ms. D about a county rental assistance program and helped her fill out the application remotely. He also negotiated with the client's landlord and got the landlord to sign the necessary agreements. He ascertained that the UC application had been denied because Ms. D had filled it out incorrectly. He helped her to fill it out properly, and she was approved.

Ms. D is using her unemployment compensation benefits to purchase necessities for her family, including food and a crib for her youngest child.

*Names have been changed, but all stories are real.

LASP attorney files emergency appeal to save client's mobile home

Ms. C* is in her 60s and lives with a disability. When she called LASP for help, she had been evicted from her mobile home and was living in her car. She lost her job at the very beginning of COVID-19 and had fallen behind on the lot rent for her mobile home. She was evicted just days before the eviction moratorium was announced. Living in her car was extremely difficult for Ms. C as she did not have the capacity to wash regularly and take other COVID-related safety measures. Ms. C knew she would soon begin receiving Social Security payments and be able to pay the lot rent, but was not able to immediately pay what was owed.

Her LASP attorney filed an emergency appeal in the Court of Common Pleas, outlining the inequities of the issue. He also negotiated with Ms. C's landlords. Facing the possibility of a lawsuit, the landlords agreed that Ms. C could move back into her mobile home. They also agreed that Ms. C could pay off the back rent over a period of time, as long as she remained current on monthly rent.

Ms. C. is back in her home. Her Social Security benefits began and she is able to keep up with her payments.

mortgage & unemployment



Mortgage forbearance & Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs help a CPR teacher save her home

Ms. R* had a job she loved, teaching emergency response classes. She helped people learn CPR so they could save lives. Her income allowed her to support herself and her children. However, when the pandemic hit, all her classes were cancelled. As a result, she quickly fell behind in her mortgage. To protect her home for herself and her children, she contacted LASP.

A LASP Regional Housing Unit attorney told Ms. R about the mortgage forbearance program and advised her on an application. The attorney also determined that Ms. R was eligible for the new Pennsylvania Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program that covered contract workers and assisted Ms. R in filling out the application.

Ms. R obtained unemployment compensation benefits and was able to become current on her mortgage and avoid foreclosure. As Pennsylvania reopens, she anticipates that she will again be teaching classes.

new community engagement unit

addresses collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system

LASP's Community Engagement Unit, new in September 2019, brings legal education and legal services directly to low-income communities at clinics coordinated with local partners and legislative offices. The unit also trains the staff of local organizations about recent updates to the law and how LASP can help.

The unit's initial focus was on the collateral consequences of involvement with the criminal justice system. Headed by Supervising Attorney Erica Briant, the Community Engagement Unit (CEU) helps residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties clear old criminal records. Pennsylvania's record-clearing laws have changed significantly in recent years. One of the unit's first efforts was reaching out to people LASP had previously been unable to help and informing them of new opportunities to clear their records.

Previous charges and convictions often keep people in poverty, and people with records are at a greater disadvantage as they face the economic and housing insecurity exacerbated by COVID-19. "Studies show that people with years-old convictions are unlikely to be arrested again, but their previous convictions can make it much more challenging to get a job and find stable housing for their families," Briant said. "In fact, I've had clients who had trouble getting into senior housing because of decades-old convictions for non-violent offenses, and recently I helped someone get a 1965 conviction expunged."

The Philadelphia Foundation, through the William J. McCahan 3rd Fund in memory of Thomas C. McCahan and Florence M. McCahan, was an early funder of the Community Engagement Unit. "We very much appreciate The Philadelphia Foundation's support," Executive Director Shawn Boehringer said. "The new unit will give hundreds of low-income suburban residents a second chance by helping them exercise their right to expunge or seal certain criminal records. Without this stigma, they will have much improved access to employment, job training and housing."

The CEU partners with trusted community organizations and leaders to host record-clearing clinics. During the pandemic, clinics went virtual with great success, using Zoom breakout rooms for individual meetings with attorneys. Virtual clinics reached clients who could not attend an in-person clinic due to work or child care obligations or other barriers. Those eligible for LASP services can get help with the entire record-clearing process, including completing and filing paperwork and representation if a hearing is required.

Law student and paralegal interns play a key role in the unit's ability to handle more cases. The CEU offers internships during spring and fall semesters, summer, and spring break. In early

continued on page 7

at a glance

(2019-20)



11,136 adults and
8,871 children
helped in
2019-2020

10.6M

The economic
impact on
clients over 12
months was
\$10.6 million



22% of clients
were 60+



74% of clients
were **women**



43% of clients were
members of a **racial or
ethnic minority**

how to obtain services

FREE LEGAL HELP

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA provides free civil legal services for low-income and vulnerable 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)

To apply online:
lasp.org/apply

Veterans Advocacy Helpline

(all 4 counties)

610.283.0884

Delaware County

Protection from Abuse Helpline

855.879.3100

Mon-Fri, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Callers can leave a message outside of these hours.

Montgomery County

Protection from Abuse Helpline

855.980.6924

Mon-Fri, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

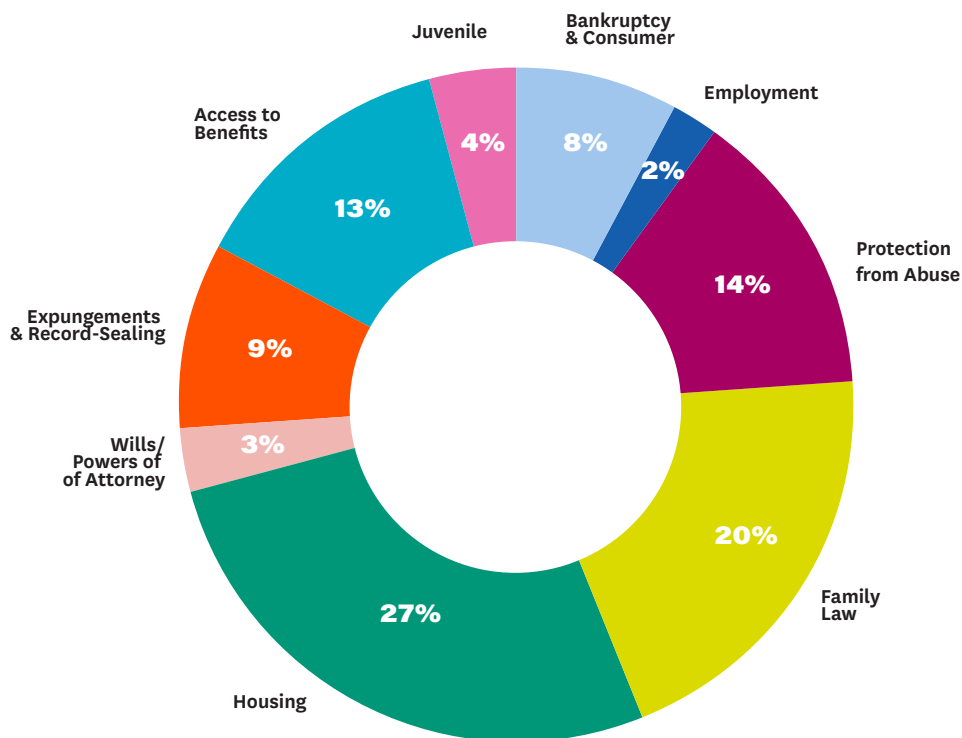
Callers can leave a message outside of these hours.

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

cases handled

(2019-20)

In 2019-20, LASP handled 9,400 cases benefiting 20,007 clients and their families.



Cy Pres Donation

LASP benefited from a cy pres donation in **Weekes v. CHHS Hospital Co., LLC**. **We very much appreciate this support.**

new community engagement unit

continued from page 6

March 2020, law students from the University of Pennsylvania met in-person for spring break in Norristown. Just a week later, under new COVID-19 restrictions, Drexel University law students served as pioneers when their spring break efforts shifted from on-site to virtual. Briant and LASP intern Sarah Fishel trained students via Zoom.

CEU attorneys participated in 93 different events from September 2019 through June 2020 and worked with 15 state legislators to bring information and services to their constituents. In 2020-21, the unit has expanded its focus to serve other vulnerable populations. It now includes two expert attorneys who assist veterans and an attorney with significant experience in disability appeals.

Note: Because of the complexity of the laws on record sealing, expungements, and pardons, individuals are encouraged to seek help to determine "next steps" for clearing a record.

The work of the Community Engagement Unit is in addition to many LASP attorneys' outreach efforts and is part of an ongoing effort to build strong community partnerships in all four counties.

statement of financial position: july 1, 2019 to june 30, 2020*

REVENUE

Government Funding	\$5,063,510
Foundations & Corporations	\$234,701
Individual Donors & Annual Giving	\$93,582
Bar Associations & Bar Foundations	\$158,660
United Ways	\$29,313
Paycheck Protection Program	\$309,200
Other Funding Sources	\$12,337

Total Funding** **\$5,901,303**

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$4,055,682
Employee Benefits	\$1,112,093
Consultants & Contract Services	\$211,652
Travel	\$19,842
Space Costs	\$291,993
Consumable Supplies	\$49,651
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$34,357
Other Expenses	\$289,311
Depreciation & Amortization	\$11,604

Total Expenses** **\$6,076,185**

* **Figures based on audited financial statement for FY2020**

** Accounting standards have changed for funds that are restricted by the contributor. LASP received funding for the amount reflected in the "Change in Net Assets," but, for accounting purposes, cannot include the funds as revenue until legal services have been provided. (ASU 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers," Topic 606.) These carry-over balances are now recorded as a liability under "refundable advances," because LASP would have to return the funding if conditions of the grant are not met. As a result of these changed standards, the way in which LASP represents/records net assets in this report differs from previous Statements of Financial Position.

Change in Net Assets: -\$174,882**

In-Kind Resources: \$383,495

In-kind contributed services: \$337,895

- Approximately 2,107 hours of pro bono legal services were provided by attorneys.
- Approximately 281 hours of pro bono services were provided by paralegals.
- Pro bono time was calculated at an average rate of \$150 per hour and \$75 per hour, respectively, in 2019-20. Additional contributed support includes donated accounting services.

In-kind donated office space for LASP operations: \$45,600

institutional, government & business donors

Law Associations, Bar Foundations & Law-related Organizations

Bucks County Bar Association
Bucks County Bar Foundation
Chester County Bar Association
Chester County Bar Foundation
Chester County Paralegal Association
Delaware County Bar Association
Delaware County Bar Foundation
Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference
Montgomery Bar Association
Montgomery Bar Foundation

Government Grants & Contracts

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Bucks County Children & Youth Social Services Agency
Bucks County Department of Housing & Community Development
Chester County Board of Commissioners
Chester County Department of Aging Services
Chester County Department of Community Development
Delaware County Office of Housing & Community Development

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

Charitable Foundations & Trusts

Bucks County Foundation
Chester County Fund for Women & Girls
Genuardi Family Foundation
HealthSpark Foundation
Independence Foundation
Merck Company Foundation
Montgomery County Foundation
National Philanthropic Trust
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia Foundation
The Satterthwaite Family Fund

TD Charitable Foundation
VNA Foundation of Greater North Penn

Collaborative Grants

Bucks County PCCD/VOCA – Collaboration with A Woman's Place
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Grant – Collaboration with Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC)
Victims Services Grant – Collaboration with NOVA, Bucks County

Business & Community Supporters

Bottomline Technologies
First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
Hatboro Federal Savings
Innovative Timing Systems
Kimberly-Clark
QVC Partners in Giving
Siemens Caring Hands Giving Campaign
United Way of Bucks County
United Way of Chester County
WSFS
Your Part-Time Controller

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. To offer feedback or to report an error, please contact Director of Development Ann Tydeman-Solomon at asolomon@lasp.org. Donations made after July 1, 2020 will be acknowledged in the next annual report.

gifts in memory & gifts in honor

Beatriz D. Caycedo **in honor of Rachel Houseman**
Katharine Marshall **in honor of C. Shawn Boehringer**

Marta Motel **in honor of Andrew P. Motel**
Carolyn M. Zack **in honor of Kim D. Morton**



thank you for standing for justice in 2019-20!

Champion for Justice

\$5,000 & above

Paul & Elizabeth Troy

Advocate for Justice

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Catherine H. Voit

Defender of Justice

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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At the October 2019 Bucks County Pro Bono Week reception: Carol Shelly (at left), Tom Donnelly, Hon. James McMaster, and Judith Algeo, 2018-20 President of the LASP Board of Directors.



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Expungement Clinic, on Jan. 20, 2020, helped 29 people begin the record-clearing process. State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams and Rep. Joanna McClinton hosted the event in Darby, Delaware County. Pictured: Marissa Schwartz (at left), student volunteer from University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; Erica Briant, Supervising Attorney, LASP Community Engagement Unit; Rep. McClinton; Shawn Boehringer, LASP Executive Director; Cortez Patton, Chief Counsel for Sen. Williams; and Rudy Taylor III, Darby Borough Council member.



Chester County Paralegal Association leaders present a \$5,850 check to LASP. Pictured (from left): Pat Klim, Luciann Givonetti, Donna D'Ortone, Amy McCall, Barbara Butler, Deborah Steeves, Rachel Houseman, Donald P. Bristol, and Robyn Rykard. (Nov. 14, 2019)

Encore! Thank you to Chester County Paralegal Association

Thank you to the Chester County Paralegal Association (CCPA)! The Encore! Fundraiser, held Oct. 3, 2019, raised \$5,850 for LASP. Held at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester, the evening featured food, fellowship and the talented Chester County legal community, including musicians, a magician, storytellers, and humorists who shared their talents - including, in one case, a brief iteration of Beethoven's legal problems, preceding a Beethoven piano rendition.

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At a volunteer training in Willowdale Feb. 15, 2020, Brian Doyle (center), LASP Staff Attorney and Chester County Pro Bono Coordinator, explains the paperwork needed for mobile home owners to appeal their tax assessments. Darshana Shyamsunder (at right), Director of Community Impact Initiatives for United Way of Chester County, was among other presenters. The 2020 project went virtual in March 2020 due to the pandemic.



Chester County Mobile Home Tax Reassessment Project: **510 successful appeals in 2019 & 2020**

Mobile home owners pay property taxes just like owners of traditional real estate. However, unlike brick-and-mortar homes, even well-maintained mobile homes rarely appreciate in value.

As mobile homes age, the only way for owners to lower their property taxes is to appeal their tax assessments. Simply keeping up with depreciation requires an appeal every few years. Many owners do not know they can appeal or cannot do so without help. As a result, every year these homeowners are charged hundreds of dollars more than their fair share in property taxes.

In 2019 and again in 2020, LASP and United Way of Chester County (UWCC) teamed up with Honey Brook Food Pantry and volunteers from the legal community to help low-income mobile home owners appeal their property tax assessments. UWCC funded the filing fees on behalf of the homeowners, and LASP provided free legal representation.

In February 2020, volunteer trainings were held in Willowdale to bring the project to southern Chester County. Just a month later, COVID-19 safety protocols sent the project virtual. Despite the pandemic, the 2020 project increased the number of successful appeals to 333. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of volunteers from our legal community, the project so far has helped 510 mobile homeowners save an average of \$922 per year, every year.

There are more than 3,000 mobile homes in Chester County. The 2021 project is under way. For more information or the application form, see bit.ly/ChescoMobileHome and lasp.org/news, or contact **Brian Doyle**, Staff Attorney and Chester County Pro Bono Coordinator, at **484.416.4259 x5210** or bdoyle@lasp.org.

2019 & 2020 results

510 successful appeals total:

- 177 successful appeals in 2019.
- 333 successful appeals in 2020, during COVID-19.



Average annual savings of **\$922** per household on property taxes.

\$4.8M

Collective savings of **\$4.8 million over 10 years**.

70%

All mobile homes included in the project were **overassessed by an average of 70%**.



LASP remains on the front lines of justice, delivering civil legal aid throughout COVID-19.

On March 17, 2020, following safety guidelines from federal, state, and local officials, LASP closed offices, but our dedicated staff continued to bring access to justice through remote service as we adapted to changing guidelines.

We've held virtual legal clinics, attended outdoor community outreach events, represented clients in court and at virtual hearings, met clients in parking lots to sign court documents atop car hoods, and delivered "drive-thru" legal services curbside.

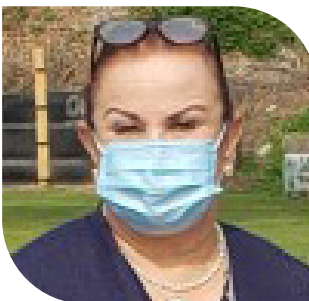
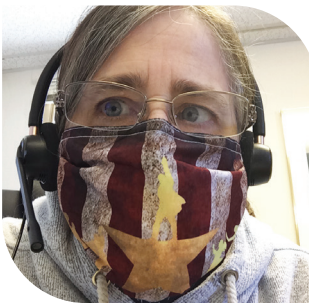
Our Helpline has kept the lines of communication open and continues to pivot, implementing a new phone system which allows more calls to be answered at one time.

LASP staff, Board members, volunteers, community partners, funders and donors are all a part of bringing access to justice during COVID-19. Thank you for your service and commitment to our low-income, vulnerable residents in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

We hope to see you in person soon!



Mask on page 13 by Isabella





Bucks: (from left) Robert Repko, 2018-19 BCBA President; David K. Trevaskis; Jennifer Pierce, LASP Doylestown Managing Attorney; Diane Mellott; Hon. James M. McMaster; Hon. Wallace H. Bateman, Jr., President Judge; and Hon. Robert O. Baldi. (Oct. 23, 2019) **Delco:** (from left) Anil Punjwani, Small Business Relationship Manager, Santander Bank; Thomas Kerstan, LASP Staff Attorney and Delaware County Pro Bono Coordinator; Pylicia Seymour, Small Business Relationship Manager, Santander; Larry DeMarco; Ana Carr, Paralegal, Santander; and Leona Torres, Paralegal, Santander. (Oct. 23, 2019) **Montgomery:** Shawn Boehringer (at left); Michael Rainone; Kesha James, LASP Deputy Director for Advocacy; and Nancy Paul, MBA Executive Director. (Oct. 16, 2019) **Chester Co:** (from left) Samuel Cortes, 2020 CCBA President; Kristin Molavoque; Brian Doyle, LASP Staff Attorney & Chester County Pro Bono Coordinator; and Rachel Houseman, LASP Chester County Managing Attorney. Photo courtesy of CCBA. Jan. 24, 2020

Celebrate pro bono!

bucks

Diane Mellott (center) received a Pro Bono Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association Oct. 23, 2019. She provides pro bono representation in Protection from Abuse (PFA) cases for LASP clients and helps in the Bucks County Bar Association (BCBA)'s PFA Defense program. David K. Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator, presented her award at the BCBA Pro Bono Week celebration. (Oct. 23, 2019)

montgomery

The Montgomery Bar Association held a Pro Bono Thank You reception in October 2019. Shawn Boehringer (at left); Michael Rainone; Kesha James, LASP Deputy Director for Advocacy; and Nancy Paul, MBA Executive Director. (Oct. 16, 2019)

delco

Volunteers helped 72 people apply for birth certificates at a Chester city clinic. Without a birth certificate, people often cannot apply for a driver's license, obtain medical assistance or other benefits, enroll in school, and more. Catholic Social Services of Delaware County hosted the clinic; Santander Bank and the Delaware County Bar Association sponsored the birth certificate fees. (Oct. 23, 2019)

chesco

Kristin Molavoque (second from left) has volunteered with the LASP Pro Bono Program, helping mobile home owners and Spanish-speaking clients. She received the Chester County Bar Association's Hon. Juan R. Sanchez Pro Bono Award. (Jan. 24, 2020)

2019-20 pro bono volunteers: thank you for your gift of time!

LASP thanks board members, attorneys, paralegals, students and other volunteers for donating thousands of hours of pro bono service from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. Whether helping at intake or a clinic or presenting at a CLE, before or during COVID-19, your efforts EXPANDED ACCESS TO JUSTICE for low-income, vulnerable residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties!

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Judith A. Algeo
Dean P. Arthur
Timothy Barton
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community support

Hatboro Federal Savings donates \$100,000 to support LASP's work in low-income Bucks neighborhoods

A huge thank you to Hatboro Federal Savings for partnering with LASP through the Neighborhood Assistance (NAP) Tax Credit Program!

Announced Nov. 15, 2019, the partnership provided LASP with \$100,000 to increase legal services in the economically struggling areas of Bristol Township, Bristol Borough, Levittown, and nearby communities. About 35% of Bucks County's low-income people live in this area, and about 51,000 are eligible for LASP services. The donation from Hatboro Federal Savings Bank funded an additional attorney and strengthened LASP's capacity to deliver services in Lower Bucks County. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) administers the NAP program, which encourages businesses to invest in projects that improve distressed areas.



Hatboro Federal Savings leaders present a \$100,000 check to LASP in early March 2020, pre-pandemic shutdown. From left: John Douglass, Hatboro Federal Savings Vice President/Chief Operating Officer; Joshua Goldblum, LASP Managing Attorney, Bristol Office; Jennifer Pierce, LASP Managing Attorney, Doylestown Office; Shawn Boehringer, LASP Executive Director; and Linda Roehner, Hatboro Federal Savings President/Chief Executive Officer.

"Hatboro Federal Savings has a strong and active commitment to the local Bucks and Montgomery communities," said Linda Roehner, President and CEO of Hatboro Federal Savings. "We are so excited to contribute through the Neighborhood Assistance Project to Legal Aid of Southeastern PA."

In thanking Hatboro Federal Savings for the contribution, Judith A. Algeo, Esq., 2018-20 President of LASP's Board of Directors, noted, "The partnership with LASP for the Neighborhood Assistance Program is an incredible enhancement of services for our LASP clients."