

LEGAL AID WORKS®

LEGAL AID WORKS® (formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Newsletter

We envision a just world without barriers to justice.

Justice in Action

Tiffany met Joe online. Joe initially took care of Tiffany; he provided for her and Tiffany was in love. Not long after meeting, Tiffany and Joe got married and bought a dog. Shortly after getting married, however, a new side of Joe emerged. He was abusive to both Tiffany and their dog. After abusing her, Joe would take Tiffany's phone away from her so she couldn't call the police and he would also damage her vehicle so she couldn't leave.

After a particularly horrific evening where Joe strangled Tiffany, she finally got away long enough to call the police. Joe was arrested. From his jail cell, Joe called Tiffany several times, threatening both her and their dog's life thereby violating the temporary protective order. Tiffany wanted to protect both herself and her dog. Hurting a pet has become recognized as a marker in domestic violence cases which indicates a likelihood for future severe violence. An attorney from Legal Aid Works stepped in to represent Tiffany in her case. Our attorney convinced the judge to issue a temporary protective order to grant possession of the dog to the wife. In the final order, Joe plead guilty to violating the emergency protective order. Our attorney filed a domestic violence divorce complaint and because of our attorney, Tiffany received legal representation for a divorce, a protective order, and custody of the dog and residence. Before our attorney came to Tiffany's side, her case had been postponed several times while the threats to both her life and her dog's life continued. Many domestic violence victims are reluctant to leave an abusive situation out of concern that the pet will be harmed if the victim leaves. Legal Aid Works' attorney helped release Tiffany from the clutches of her abuser.



Legal Aid Works is dedicated to providing high-quality legal advocacy to protect and advance legal rights for low-income individuals, families and communities.

“25% of employed, working Virginians are living in poverty”



According to a recent study by the United Way called the ALICE Report-Virginia (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), 25% of EMPLOYED, working Virginians are living in poverty.

Too many times people are forced to have their rights trampled on and their economic livelihoods put at risk simply because they cannot afford legal advice and help. Legal Aid Works provides access to legal help for people who cannot afford it otherwise, especially when it's necessary to protect their livelihood, their health or their family.

We champion fairness by advocating for those with the least access to the civil justice system.

In 2014, Virginia amended its Protective Order laws to grant petitioners possession of any “companion animal,” so long as the petitioner is considered the owner. This authority extends to all protective orders, including preliminary and emergency protective orders. For the purposes of this new law, a companion animal is generally any family pet, to include dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits which are not for consumption, reptiles and birds. Farm animals, game species or animals which are being held for research are not considered companion animals for these purposes. A petitioner will be considered an owner of an animal so long as the petitioner has a property right in the animal, keeps or houses the animal, has the animal in their care or has acted as a custodian of the animal.

PROFILES IN SERVICE.

Welcome our newest staff members!



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1. Jasmine Moore, Staff Attorney

Jasmine Moore is the new staff attorney in the Fredericksburg Office, practicing Family Law and Immigration Law. In her role, she assists clients with their petitions for protective orders, child custody, visitation and support, as well as aids clients seeking legal status. Jasmine is a 2012 graduate of Fayetteville State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a 2016 graduate of Charlotte School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor. Jasmine is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and enjoys spending her spare time with family and friends. She is excited to be working with Legal Aid Works and continuing its efforts in providing equal access to justice.

2. Monica Rivara, Paralegal

Monica started working with Legal Aid Works® in June 2017. Prior to joining LAW, she interned as a volunteer paralegal in 2015 in our Tappahannock office. That same year, she graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in Sociology. She is currently living in Richmond, VA and attending the University of Richmond for her post-baccalaureate certificate in paralegal studies. Monica is very excited to be working with LAW again to help individuals in need access public benefits.

3. Patricia Castro, Bilingual Paralegal

Originally from Andalusia, Spain, Patricia moved to Fredericksburg in 2014. Patricia has extensive customer service experience with a background in both manufacturing and the restaurant industry. Patricia is very excited about the opportunity to help this community.

For additional career opportunities at Legal Aid Works contact us at

LAWFred@legalaidworks.org

Pro Bono Honor Roll

Legal Aid Works® relies on a cadre of compassionate attorneys who volunteer their time to assist clients LAW would otherwise have to turn away.

Gary D. Godman
Law Office of Gary D. Godman

Gary was an attorney here at Legal Aid Works who decided to branch out and start his own firm. Since leaving LAW in 2016, Gary has generously taken on six Pro Bono cases. Our Pro Bono Coordinator, Carolyn Ross, and the entire staff here at LAW is grateful for Gary's continued support!

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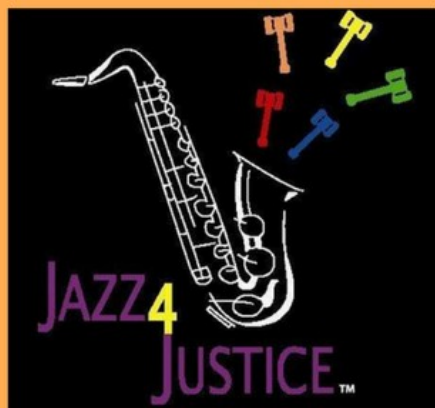
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*Spotsylvania County Attorney's
Office*



November 4, 2017

UMW- DODD AUDITORIUM

TICKETS AVAILABLE

ADULTS- \$10

STUDENTS & SENIORS-\$5



When **Jazz** and **Justice** meet to bring you an exhilarating evening of music spotlighting talented student musicians playing alongside professionals and music department faculty, your toes will be tapping to the music!

The UMW Jazz Ensemble, under the leadership of Doug Gately, will present a sizzling, diverse program of jazz standards, original tunes and blazing solos to benefit two great causes: scholarships for needy music students and support for Legal Aid Works®, which offers free services to low income clients facing civil legal problems.

Get Your Tickets Now

Join us on November 4, 2017

At 7:30pm in the UMW-Dodd Auditorium

Tickets available online at www.legalaidworks.org

We promise you'll be inspired



"Legal Aid Works attorneys are very understanding and respectful. The legal advice and representation I received was both prompt and helpful. I absolutely loved my lawyer!"

– Client, Legal Aid Works

I am a first-year student in the UMW Jazz Ensemble. The scholarship I received from Jazz4Justice™ gave me a feeling of relief; this scholarship has provided me with funds that made college feel more accessible. Practicing and playing with this ensemble has given me the opportunity to have access to professionals, and perform at various gigs across UMW's campus and around the local Virginia area. Most importantly, I am truly fortunate to play with a group like this, and play music that I love.

Shawn Mitchell

Bari Sax, UMW Jazz Ensemble

LEGAL AID WORKS®

IN THE COMMUNITY

Our Mission: We champion fairness by advocating for those with the least access to the civil justice system. *Our Vision:* We envision a just world without barriers to justice.

Community Event Dates:

- **Jazz4Justice, November 4, 2017**
Interested in attending or sponsoring this event?
Email Bri at bvanaudenhove@legalaidworks.org



Help us put justice to work!

Ways to Give:

- **Donate**
 - ◇ **Make a gift or pledge today! Go to www.LegalAidWorks.org/donate or contact Bri in the Development Office at (540)371.1105.x122.**
- **Gift-in-Kind**
 - ◇ **Our current wish list includes: office equipment and office supplies.**
- **Volunteer**
 - ◇ **Pro-bono attorneys, filing, Spanish interpreting/translations, research, fundraising, community outreach, and other important tasks**

Happy Fall Y'all!

Because justice really should be for all.



"...WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

Yet there is no right to counsel in civil disputes in the U.S., unlike the promise of a lawyer for people in criminal cases.

Did you know in Virginia there is:

- **1 Private Attorney** for every 364 individuals
- **1 Legal Aid Attorney** for every 7,000 low-income individuals.

Did you know Legal Aid Works has:

- **9 Attorneys** to cover 17 counties with 51 courts
- To turn away 2 out of 3 low-income applicants due to low staffing
- **CLOSED 892 cases**, helping 2,025 people in 2016

Applicants who are turned away have no where else to turn for free legal support.

www.LegalAidWorks.org/donate

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