

LEGAL AID WORKS®

LEGAL AID WORKS® (formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Newsletter

We envision a just world without barriers to justice.

Justice In Action

A Case for Our New Medical Legal Partnership in Fredericksburg, Virginia

Want to know why a Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) will create more health and more justice? Here is a great client story from Iowa that explains the power of a MLP.

For 35 years, Maxine Riche guided nursing home patients through their daily routines of getting up, getting dressed, eating and bathing. It was tough work, but she kept going even as her own health deteriorated.

Maxine broke multiple bones on the job and developed osteoporosis, arthritis, high blood pressure, carpal tunnel syndrome, a sore back and neck pain. Being a Nurse's Aide was the only job she knew, but after coming down with a serious illness and breaking her hand, Maxine was forced to stop working entirely. With no new income, Maxine couldn't afford to keep paying her home insurance. Six months after Maxine's insurance expired, a fire destroyed her home. For two years, she slept in shelters, friends' homes or her car.

Maxine applied for Social Security Disability pay, but after a year of waiting, her application and a subsequent appeal were both denied. With no home and no way to work, her doctor at the Council Bluffs Community Health Center, referred her to the medical-legal partnership attorney at Iowa Legal Aid. The Social Security Administration (SSA) said Maxine was healthy enough to do "light work" jobs, but her doctor felt Maxine was in no shape to exert the 20 pounds of force that categorizes "light work." In a letter to the SSA, her doctor documented Maxine's medical issues. When the Iowa Legal Aid team submitted the doctor's letter, the attorney included a request that the SSA make a decision based on Maxine's medical records.

The agency quickly approved Maxine's application, and she began receiving more than \$800 a month in disability benefits. To cover the months when her application had been pending, the SSA paid her a back benefit of \$18,000. Once Maxine was approved for Social Security Disability income, she became eligible for Medicaid. The work of Iowa Legal Aid brought more than \$7,000 in Medicaid payments to the Council Bluffs Community Health Center and the Jennie Edmundson Hospital for previously uncompensated care.

Maxine recently moved into a new home.

"A recent study found that 95 percent of the hospital's highest-need, highest-cost patients had two to three unmet civil legal needs, and that addressing those needs not only reduced hospital admissions, but reduced health care costs by 45 percent."

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

Legal Aid Works

VIRGINIA DELEGATE
BOB THOMAS



Community Collaboration

Legal Aid Works' attorneys and staff had the privilege of meeting with Delegate Bob Thomas on

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 to discuss the civil legal needs of the communities we serve.

With only nine attorneys to serve 17 counties here in Virginia, it's important that we are aware of and utilize all of the community resources available to our clients.

Our new “**TRIBE**” of Summer Law Clerks



Cy Hudson: I am a rising 2L at William & Mary Law School, and I attended Frostburg State University for undergraduate where I majored in accounting. I chose LAW because I had volunteered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program while at Frostburg to prepare income tax returns for low income members of that community. I really enjoyed the experience and the ability to use what I knew to help those who could not otherwise do what they needed to. I believe LAW has a very similar mission and performed a similar service for the same population and I look forward to helping people this summer to obtain the legal help that they need, but would not otherwise be able to attain.

Jacquelyn Miner: I am a rising 3L at William & Mary Law School. I am originally from rural western North Carolina and graduated from Mars Hill University. Before law school, I worked in the health care field and was exposed to many of the crises rural populations face when attempting to access health care or are looking for legal help. I joined the Legal Aid Works team in Tappahannock to help underserved rural populations gain access to public benefits, resources, and justice.



Brooke Roman: I am a rising third-year law student at the College of William and Mary. I attended the College of Charleston in South Carolina where I received a degree in History and Arts Management. I went to law school with the goal of using my degree to help people, specifically underserved populations. Working for LAW this summer is a perfect way to move towards that goal.



Medical Legal Partnership Foundation Being Laid!

The **Lloyd Moss Free Clinic** and **Legal Aid Works** have partnered to help coordinate the consideration of health-harming legal needs into the fabric of medical treatment and allow LAW to handle some of the most critically needed legal services for our clients in the area of Social Security Disability appeals and Medicaid/Medicare denials.

This partnership was brought to fruition by Legal Aid Works’ Executive Director, Ann H. Kloeckner, Esq. and Lloyd Moss Free Clinic’s Executive Director, Karen Dulaney. The duo applied jointly for a \$20,000 Visionary grant from the Community Foundation of The Rappahannock River Region– and got it! Both Kloeckner and Dulaney strongly believe that when indigent patients have access to justice, they have better and more effective health outcomes.

Upon receiving the grant, a social worker, Lisa Federline, was hired to conduct research and prepare both organizations to fund and coordinate this Medical Legal Partnership. Federline is well into the research phase and has recently conducted surveys to screen all Free Clinic patients and eligible patients for health harming legal needs. Our next step is to seek funding for a full-time attorney who will be embedded at the Free Clinic.

We are thankful for this partnership and can’t wait to see all the good work that will unfold as a result.



“Thankful for sweet partners like you,” Lloyd Moss Free Clinic’s Social Worker, Lisa Federline bringing a jar of cookies to Legal Aid Works’ Executive Director, Ann H. Kloeckner, Esq.

Legal Term

Unlawful Detainer

Most people understand what the term “eviction” means. In Virginia, we use a different legal term to describe the process by which a landlord can lawfully remove a tenant from the property. The landlord can serve the tenant with an “Unlawful Detainer” action, which means that the tenant has violated the terms of the lease agreement and therefore has “unlawfully detained” a presence in the dwelling. This causes some confusion for tenants who may not understand that an unlawful detainer hearing might result in eviction.

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.

Robert J. Barlow, Esq.

Law Offices of Robert J. Barlow, P.L.C.

Bob understands the stress and anxiety that comes with unresolved legal issues and uses his experience and expertise to assist our clients seeking protection and bankruptcy relief.

Our Fredericksburg Pro Bono Coordinator, Carolyn Ross, and the entire staff here at LAW is grateful for Bobs’s continued support!

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Out of 160 nonprofits, Legal Aid Works was one of the first FIVE to get 50 unique donations on May 1, 2018 during Give Local Piedmont!



Being one of the first five organizations to get 50 unique donations during the Give Local Piedmont campaign won us a prize of an additional \$1,000 from the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation. This is the second year in a row we have won this prize and we could not have done it without your incredible support.

In addition to winning a prize during Give Local Piedmont this year, because of your support we:

- Increased the dollars raised by 47% from 2017.
- Increased the number of donors by 50% from 2017.

Funding from Give Local Piedmont allows our attorneys in the Piedmont region to continue giving our clients a fair chance in the civil justice system and access to legal help, especially when it's necessary to protect their livelihood, their health and their family.

Thank you for investing in Legal Aid Works.
Thank you for investing in equal access to justice.

Give Local Piedmont is a 24-hour online giving event for the region served by our Culpeper office. We are grateful to the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation for sponsoring this event.



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.

Event Dates:

- **Jazz4Justice, November 3, 2018**

Jazz and Legal Aid band together for an evening you don't want to miss!



To learn more:

Visit: www.legalaidworks.org

Ways to Give:

Donate: Make a gift or pledge today! Every gift helps a low-income Virginian gain access to justice they would otherwise be denied.

Gift-In-Kind Our current wish list includes office equipment, office supplies and a coffee maker!

Volunteer: Pro-bono work, filing, interpreting/translations, research, fundraising, community outreach, and other important tasks.



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 973 cases**, helping 2,397 people in 2017

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

DONATE TODAY

www.LegalAidWorks.org/donate

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