

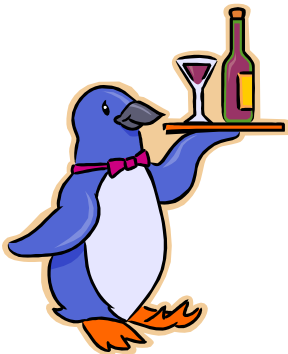
SAVE THE DATE

*Rappahannock
Legal Services, Inc.*

*Fortieth
Anniversary
Gala*

May 4th, 2013

*Fredericksburg Expo
Center*



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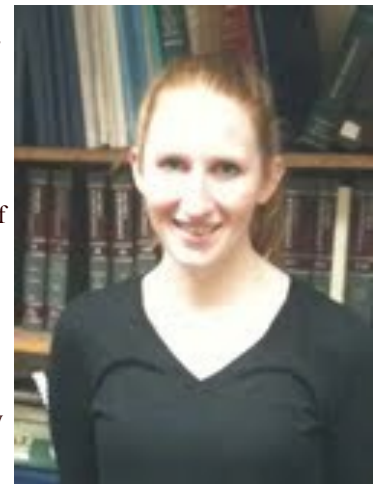
THE RISE OF JUSTICE

The Amazing Raise

Rappahannock Legal Services participated in a 36-hour online fundraising event called The Amazing Raise on September 19th and 20th. GiveRichmond, administered by The Community Foundation serving Richmond and Central Virginia, facilitated the competition. Incentive prizes ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 were donated by The Community Foundation. RLS received \$1,875 in donations, and an additional \$1,000 in prize money for being one of the first 20 charities to earn 25 donations on the second morning, bringing the total amount of money raised to \$2,875. Thanks to all our donors!

Meet Our Staff

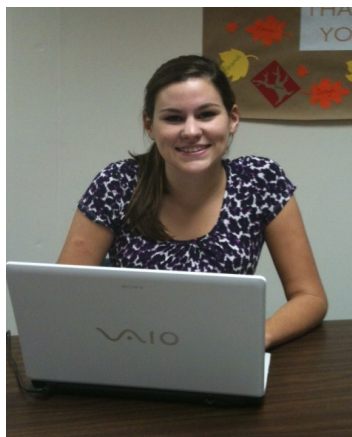
Alyssa Buckingham is the Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator at Rappahannock Legal Services. She works closely with all of our dedicated interns and volunteers ensuring that work tasks and volunteers are perfectly matched. In her capacity as Outreach Coordinator, Alyssa's focus is geared toward creating greater awareness of RLS. That work manifests itself in a variety of ways including representing RLS at community events and creating an advisory board of clients in order to better understand their needs so that we can tailor our services accordingly.



Alyssa is a native of Fredericksburg. She studied history at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee returning to the area upon her graduation to become an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. She was eager for an opportunity to serve the Fredericksburg community.

In addition to her work here at RLS, Alyssa likes the social aspect and sense of belonging evident in our office. She enjoys gathering with colleagues for events such as the recent Chili Cook-Off and the Ice Cream Socials. At RLS, Alyssa has forged close friendships while simultaneously helping to improve the lives of those in need. Alyssa has been with RLS for seven months.

Intern Spotlight



Anna Boning is currently a junior at the University of Mary Washington; she began her internship at RLS this fall. Having previously worked at a private law firm in her hometown of Manassas, VA, Anna also wanted to learn about the non-profit side of law. So far, the experience has been an illuminating one for Anna who reports deriving

great satisfaction from helping clients who are coping with a variety of legal struggles.

Anna intends to pursue a future in law; to that end, she plans to apply to law schools next year. Many thanks to Anna for her diligence and hard work.

One Client's Harrowing Tale

P. came to United States from Russia during her senior year of college with a J Visa in order to fulfill her internship requirement for her hotel management degree. During the internship, P. met, and became friends with, a group of people, including one man who eventually asked her for a date. On their first date, this man raped P., and, as a result, she became pregnant. At first, her rapist demanded that P. get an abortion but she refused to do so citing religious reasons. Instead, she decided the best course of action was to return home to raise the child among supportive family members. On hearing that news, the child's father (P.'s rapist) begged P. not to leave stating that he wanted to marry her and build a family. So, P. moved in with this man at his mother's residence after her short term lease expired. But the marriage never followed; he kept pushing the date back. Eventually, P.'s visa would expire.

Once the visa expired and the baby was born, the child's father revealed that he was actually married to another woman. From that point onward, he became abusive and would hit, choke, and kick P. on an almost daily basis. At one point, he came after P. with a baseball bat and hit her with it. On multiple occasions, he forced her to have sexual intercourse against her will. Although this man's mother resided with them, she did nothing to assist P. Withholding food was another feature of his manipulation. P. was rarely fed despite the fact that her tormentor took P. to apply for SNAP assistance. As it turned out, he used the SNAP credits for himself and his mother, but neglected both his child and P. Consequently, P. lost two teeth from a calcium deficiency which was exacerbated by the fact that she was breastfeeding her child. On the occasion of her initial visit to RLS, Julianna Bae, P.'s advocate, described her physical condition as "emaciated."

It was next to impossible for P. to remove herself from this horrific situation for a number of reasons, and she endured two years of this treatment. The site of her imprisonment was a house located in an isolated neighborhood devoid of any public transportation and the nearest grocery store was miles away. Moreover, this man did not allow P. to leave the house and he ensured that she was watched at all times, going so far as to cut up her clothes and shoes as an extra measure of insurance, and use of the phone was out of the question. Finally, P. gained access to the phone while her rapist's mother was preoccupied, and she made contact with the domestic violence victim's advocacy group in her area. They secretly devised an escape plan for P. and placed her in a safe home.

Once P. got to a safe location, she ultimately connected with Rappahannock Legal Services at which point she was given appropriate legal advice and representation regarding protection from her abuser and custody of the child. RLS obtained a full two-year protective order for P. and sole legal and physical custody of her child with visitation to the father as agreed by both parties. As Ms. Bae states, "P. was awarded the broadest possible custody arrangement that the court allows." Despite the fact that her abuser used a number of tactics intended to obfuscate the facts and circumvent the law, Ms. Bae skillfully advocated for P. and helped her along the path of recovery. P. moves forward with a clear understanding of what her legal rights are while she struggles to reclaim her sense of security and fully processes the inhumanity of her former existence.

Note: The hotel where P. was working toward her internship is a suspected site of human trafficking.

Why Give to RLS?

"I feel it's an ethical requirement."

*W. Ross Locklear,
Esq.*

To answer that question, let's hear what a valued donor, W. Ross Locklear, Esq., has to say on the subject. Mr. Locklear is a family law attorney whose practice is located in Stafford, and his donations to RLS go back as far as the recordkeeping does. When asked recently what motivates his giving to RLS, Mr. Locklear responded as follows: "Well, I feel it's an ethical requirement. Whether that constitutes money or time for pro bono services, I believe that attorneys have an obligation in this area. I also just feel strongly that it's the right thing to do."

The ethical obligation to which Mr. Locklear refers is Rule 6.1 of the Virginia State Bar Professional Guidelines. While there are several pathways one might take to live up to the spirit of the rule, it basically states that all attorneys are expected to support, whether directly or indirectly, with contributions of either time or money those whose rights are at stake and who have no financial means to compensate a private attorney.

RLS wishes to thank all those in the legal community who have supported RLS over the years in an attempt to follow that rule. Your contributions have helped so many in need. In particular, thank you, Mr. Locklear, for your steadfast support of RLS with both monetary contributions and moral support. Bravo!

We Want to Hear From You!

We encourage our readers to share new ideas with us. Is there something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Is there someone you think should be featured? Email us at rlsfred@rapplegal.com and share your thoughts.

The Fredericksburg, Culpeper and Tappahannock RLS offices invite you to tour the facilities. Meet the staff, attorneys and volunteers who work together to ensure equal access to justice in the community. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have when you come in. Call or email our office today!

Volunteering

Our volunteers get the job done! In September alone, they donated 228 hours to serve our clients by conducting research, translating documents, updating brochures, etc. Our current cadre of volunteers include local university students, a law student from William and Mary School of Law, and professionals from various disciplines, such as education, law, and geomagnetic surveillance.

Rappahannock Legal Services always accepts new volunteer applications (find the **application form** on our website). At this time, we are looking for individuals and/or groups to assist with planning and presenting our 40th Anniversary Gala on May 4, 2013. If you are interested in helping with this or other efforts, please apply by sending your résumé, three references, and a writing sample to our Volunteer Coordinator, Alyssa Buckingham. Her email address is abuckingham@rapplegal.com.

Visit our website, www.rapplegal.com, to read **stories** from some of our volunteers about their experiences at RLS.

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