

# LEGAL AID WORKS®

LEGAL AID WORKS® (formerly *Rappahannock Legal Services*) Newsletter

*We envision a just world without barriers to justice.*

## Justice in Action

For our client, “Ginny,” the legal help she received from our staff attorney was easy to quantify. **\$1,561 a month compared to \$0 had she not been represented.** After working for several years as a part-time attendant at a Laundromat, Ginny, 57, noticed that she was no longer being put on the work schedule. She had not received any explanation as to why she had been taken off of the schedule, and when she pressed her employer for an answer, her employer said nothing. Ginny applied for unemployment benefits, but her employer protested and the case went to court. Ginny won at the first level in court, but her employer appealed, claiming that Ginny had not performed her job correctly and therefore should not receive unemployment benefits. With the expert guidance of one of Legal Aid Work’s staff attorney during the appeal hearing, Ginny convinced the administrative judge that she was, in fact, entitled to her unemployment benefits and won her case.

### Are you working but your hours have been reduced?

You may be eligible for partial benefits. A partially unemployed person is one who was employed by a regular employer and had earnings that were less than his weekly benefit amount and who worked less than his normal customary full-time hours because of lack of work. To be eligible, you must not miss work to report on your claim, and you must work all hours offered to you.

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

## WHY DID WE CHANGE OUR NAME?

To better describe the positive way our advocacy changes lives! As we strive for more name recognition and awareness of our mission in the community, we need a name that clearly describes our mission. The term “**legal aid**” is widely used throughout the legal community and in laypersons’ terms to imply that the help we give is free to indigent persons. “**Legal Aid**” also describes our “brand” of equal justice, fairness, and helping the “little guy” get a level playing field.

### Get Involved. Give Back.

A gift today may benefit you, or a loved one, tomorrow.

*“My representative was very nice, listened and took the time to get all the info and was very professional. I am so glad there is a place to go for people who do not have the means to pay for legal services.” -  
-Client helped by LAW*

[www.LegalAidWorks.org](http://www.LegalAidWorks.org)



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





## Profiles in Service

**SHANNON CLARK**, *Staff Attorney*

Our VOCA staff attorney in Tappahannock grew up in Montross on the Northern Neck and attended Regent University School of Law. Shannon is interested in practicing family law and was an eager participant in the civil practice clinic during law school. She joined our Northern Neck office on January 9th and has already traversed the many miles that connect the seven counties in that vast service region.

**JESSIKA MORRIS**, *Staff Attorney*

We welcomed Jessika Morris as our first VOCA staff attorney on December 27th in our Culpeper office. Hailing from Orange, Jessika obtained her JD from American University in the District of Columbia, where she became passionate about representing domestic violence victims through a law school clinic. She has already settled in and visited the Circuit Courts in every one of the five counties in her service region.

**BRIANA VANAUDENHOVE**, *Director of Development*

Our new development director, Briana VanAudenhove, grew up on the Northern Neck in White Stone, VA. She has experience in nonprofit development and events, first as Director of Alumnae Relations for St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock and most recently as the Events and Development Coordinator for Junior Achievement of Central Virginia. She is passionate about the value of legal aid and committed to ensuring the success of LAW's fundraising efforts.

**EILEEN WATERS**, *Staff Attorney*

A native of suburban Richmond, Eileen Waters is our VOCA staff attorney in the Fredericksburg office. A graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law, Eileen sought out public interest clerkships throughout law school and is interested in women's issues. She attended the volunteer training at Empowerhouse to familiarize herself with the services they provide, and has already endeared herself to their staff with her down-to-earth, approachable demeanor.

## Legal Term "Motion Craving Oyer"

In Virginia, if a lawsuit is about a contract, and the contract is not attached to the complaint, you can file a "motion craving oyer." A motion craving oyer, simply put, is a demand that the Plaintiff file a copy of the alleged contract with the court (and send you a copy). Virginia is known (well-known even) for infamous terminology and pre-Civil War cases that are still cited as ruling precedent.

## 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.

**BRIAN W. FANNIN**,  
*Fannin Law, LLC*

Serving clients in Virginia, New Jersey and the District of Columbia in all matters, Fannin is committed to justice. Fannin helped clients at a will-a-thon sponsored by LAW.

**EDITH M. MIN**,  
*Edith M. Min, PLLC*

A local Fredericksburg lawyer, Min provides legal services for divorce, child custody/visitation, spousal/child support, protective orders and many other family law issues. Edith has taken on several cases for LAW pro-bono over the years and we are very grateful for her dedication.

## Board of Directors

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**Paul Simpson, Douglas T. Gately, Nageotte, Nageotte, & Nageotte,  
Fredericksburg Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorney's Association,  
Catherine Miller Saller, PC, & Sue Bridl.**

With hundreds in the audience each year, **Jazz4Justice** draws members of Fredericksburg's business community to enjoy an evening filled with Jazz music and friends. Proceeds from this event provide scholarships to University of Mary Washington students pursuing a degree in music and resources to LAW to ensure equal access to justice for the underserved in our community.

**Interested in partnering with LAW or want to learn more?**

Contact Director of Development, Briana VanAudenhove  
bvanaudenhove@LegalAidWorks.org

**JAZZ4JUSTICE™ SAVE THE DATE: November 4, 2017**

**UMW– Dodd Auditorium**

# LEGAL AID WORKS®

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Serving 17 counties from offices in Fredericksburg, Tappahannock and Culpeper, our attorneys welcome the chance to mentor law students and undergrads interested in legal careers.

### Community Event Dates:

- Give Local Piedmont, **May 2, 2017**
- Jazz4Justice, **November 4, 2017**

### Community Supporter:

Jeannie Dahnk, Attorney  
Glover and Dahnk



"Legal Aid Works (LAW) works on behalf of all citizens in this community; Every \$1 we give to LAW, to pay the lawyers and staff that work there, \$4 back is brought back into this community. So, without LAW, it costs our community more money.

***As a lawyer, I never want to see an unrepresented person on the other side.*** That doesn't mean the case is a slam-dunk for me. That means the case will be a mess. It's going to cost more money to resolve and it's going to take longer to resolve. What LAW does is to ensure fairness in the system for everybody and to make sure that the right information and evidence come forward in a timely manner."

- 1230 WFVA interview with Ted Schubel, February 2, 2017

***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](http://www.LegalAidWorks.org/donate)

### Fredericksburg Office

500 Lafayette Boulevard  
Suite 100  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 371-1105  
(540) 371-1114 (fax)  
[LAWFred@legalaidwork.org](mailto:LAWFred@legalaidwork.org)

### Tappahannock Office

PO Box 1662,  
311 Virginia Street  
Tappahannock, VA 22560  
(804) 443-9393  
(804) 443-9394 (fax)  
[LAWTapp@legalaidworks.org](mailto:LAWTapp@legalaidworks.org)

### Culpeper Office

146 North Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701  
(540) 825-3131  
(540) 825-3802 (fax)  
[LAWCulp@legalaidworks.org](mailto:LAWCulp@legalaidworks.org)



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