

LEGAL AID WORKS®

LEGAL AID WORKS® (formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Newsletter

We envision a just world without barriers to justice.

Justice in Action

Cold Hands, Warm Hearts

Tenants living in substandard housing are sometimes afraid to complain, knowing that they don't have other affordable housing options. When tenants live in poorly insulated homes with inadequate heat sources, cold weather can become a huge financial burden and a health risk.

During what meteorologists called the “Bomb Cyclone,” Margaret, a 70 year-old disabled woman living in a modest rental house for the past 25 years, was freezing.

The home's furnace died during a particularly cold December night, so she called the landlord, who showed up the next day with a pair of space heaters for Margaret. While sufficient for heating a small “space” temporarily, these devices are not an adequate long-term heat source for an entire home, and, if used as someone's main source of heat for any amount of time, can result in an enormous electric bill, which was Margaret's responsibility to pay.



For two weeks, Margaret tried to stay warm in her drafty house using space heaters and left several messages for her landlord asking when her furnace would be repaired, but was told it was too cold outside for a repair company to visit her home. The outdated wiring in her rental house frequently blew the fuse because the space heater overloaded the system, so Margaret often woke-up to a cold home with no lights. With her resources dwindling, Margaret reached out to her local councilman, fearing the landlord's backlash. *continued on page 3*

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



2017 Board Retreat

Legal Aid Works' Board of Directors met at *Verdun Adventure Bound* in late October, 2017 for their annual retreat.

The theme of this retreat was:

Dream. Plan. Execute & Measure.

The Board discussed their vision for the future of Legal Aid Works, how to achieve that vision and how to measure the success of their plan. Our board is a most cherished resource for Legal Aid Works and we are beyond grateful for their continued investment of time, talent and treasure.

Interested in learning more? <http://www.legalaidworks.org/board>

PROFILES IN SERVICE.

Welcome our two newest attorneys!



1



2

1. Delaiah R. Cobler, Esq., Staff Attorney

Delaiah Cobler joined Legal Aid Works as the Culpeper VOCA staff attorney in November of 2017. A native Virginian, she received her undergraduate degree from Hampton University and her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Delaiah is a U.S. military veteran, who remains committed to serving her country in her new capacity as a legal aid attorney, striving to provide quality legal services to an underserved population.

2. Alexander J. Reidell, Esq., Staff Attorney

Alexander Reidell joined Legal Aid Works as the ACES (Advocates for Credit, Employment, and Shelter) staff attorney in the Fredericksburg Office in November of 2017. He provides legal advice and representation throughout the 17 counties we serve along the Rappahannock River in housing and consumer debt matters, with a focus on foreclosures. He received degrees in Political Science and Economics from Arizona State University in 2012, and received his Juris Doctor from William and Mary Law School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Alexander is excited to join the Legal Aid Works team and the state-wide ACES project, and hopes to leave a lasting positive impact in the lives of his clients and in our community.

Legal Term

Nunc pro Tunc

Literally meaning “now for then,” it is the term lawyers use when they need to correct a typo in a court order or point out an error or omission in a legal document.

For example, if the court order mistakenly states that it takes effect on the 43rd of April, an attorney can file a “Motion *Nunc Pro Tunc*” which asks the court to insert the correction (“now for then”) so that the correct date of the 23rd of April is inserted into a corrected draft. There’s nothing better than rhyming Latin legal terms!



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.

Mary M. Barna

Since 2012, Mary has generously taken on several Pro Bono cases each year for our Legal Aid Works office in Tappahannock, VA.

Our Tappahannock Pro Bono Coordinator, Kim McCartney, and the entire staff here at LAW is grateful for Mary’s continued support!

Board of Directors

Jeannie P. Dahnk, Esq.
Board Chair
Glover & Dahnk

Judith Budd
Community Activist

Stacie C. Bordick, Esq.
Hirschler Fleisher

Sara Branner
Marketing Specialist & Event Planner

Lynn S. V. Pardee, Esq.
Attorney

David M. Williams, Jr., Esq.
Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen

Collen Jordan
The Haven

David R. Danieli Esq.
Rinehart, Butler, Hodge, Moss & Bryant

Robin Lam
PB Mares

Candice L. Hall, Esq.
Candice L. Hall, PLLC.

Hall B. Cheshire
University of Mary Washington

Joel W. Young, Esq.
Reinhart | Harper | Davis, PLC

Sara S. Josey, Esq.
Kurylo, Gold & Josey, PLC

Shelia J. Weimer, Esq.
Spotsylvania County Attorney's Office

JAZZ4JUSTICE™

Thank you for your support!

This year, thanks to the support of this community, Jazz4Justice™ increased both event revenue and event attendance!

Investing in Jazz4Justice™ demonstrates commitment to making jazz and justice more accessible for all. Proceeds from this event provide scholarships for UMW students majoring in music, and funding for Legal Aid Works®, a nonprofit law firm providing free, high-quality civil legal services for low-income citizens in 16 counties and the City of Fredericksburg. Because of Jazz4Justice™, domestic violence victims will be protected, homeless people will be helped, and vulnerable people in poverty will have their rights upheld.



	2017	2016	2015	2014
Attendance	450	300	500	300
Sponsorship Revenue	\$17,760	\$15,958	\$14,305	\$9,602
Ticket Revenue	\$2,480	\$2,803	\$3,545	\$2,400

Cold Hands, Warm Hearts *continued from page 1*

Early on Sunday morning, January 7th, with temperatures well below freezing, the local official emailed Legal Aid Works' executive director with an urgent request to call Margaret, who was relieved to get our call.

Legal Aid Works is the only resource in this community which can offer expert legal advice to indigent tenants like Margaret. We were able to respond immediately with sound legal advice which gave Margaret critical information about her rights. She stayed in a hotel that evening (paid for by the outraged councilman), and our staff contacted her the next day for more legal guidance. We are pleased that our local government officials are aware of our services and felt comfortable emailing us with this tenant's problem on a weekend. We're still working with Margaret to get a resolution that keeps her warm. Although Margaret hesitated to "rock the boat" by calling her local councilman and possibly sparking a reprisal by the landlord, she now knows her rights, the landlord's obligations, and the laws which prohibit retaliatory evictions.



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:

- Give Local Piedmont, May 1, 2018
- Jazz4Justice, November 3, 2018

Interested in attending or sponsoring this event?
Email Briana at BHairfield@legalaidworks.org

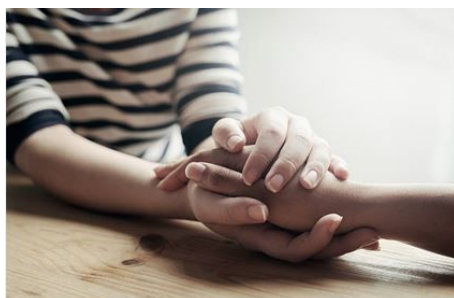


Ways to Give:

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

Fredericksburg Office

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

Tappahannock Office

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

Culpeper Office

1200 Sunset Lane, Suite 2122
Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 825-3131
(540)825-3802 (fax)
LAWCulp@legalaidworks.org



www.LegalAidWorks.org

