Growing Need, Growing Partnerships

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DEAR FRIENDS,

The past year has been challenging for Legal Aid, with significant growth in the number of people needing our services and a significant decrease in the financial resources available to us. In the face of these challenges, Legal Aid staff has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving our clients with excellence. In my first year as Executive Director, these circumstances have led me to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Legal Aid’s varied partnerships, and the importance of recognizing them as we all work together to narrow the justice gap.

Our first and most vital partnership is with our clients. Their life experiences drive what we do. An unscrupulous landlord can affect hundreds of lives, and one person’s courageous decision to stand up can make a difference for many people. Each client represents an opportunity for us to help solve his or her particular legal problem, but even more, to identify patterns requiring systemic change. Working together, we can identify individual and collective solutions, protecting others in the community. Our client board members also contribute an important voice to our governance, helping us identify what the local needs really are.

Partnership with other service organizations and government agencies is crucial. Working together, rather than in isolation, we can each meet our clients’ needs more holistically. This partnership also enables us to optimize scarce resources, opening possibilities that we cannot reach alone.

Our partnership with the private sector has proven more important than ever. The countless volunteer hours they devote to our clients and cause truly are valuable beyond measure. Giving personally to help our clients and communities, many undertake networking on behalf of our clients to get them the assistance they need.

Private sector financial giving represents our most stable source of financial support. In the past two years, Legal Aid’s revenue from government and foundation sources has decreased by more than $1 million. Revenues generated by individuals, law firms and corporations, however, provided 10 percent of Legal Aid operating costs.

My new position has given me an opportunity to begin growing partnerships with a number of new friends in the funding world. These personal contacts—many of them initiated or aided by Legal Aid partners—have allowed me to bring our clients’ stories to those who may not know the impact of the justice gap on individuals, families and the community.

This year, I’ve enjoyed working with many Legal Aid partners to share information and resources, and to help make the connections that start with our clients and continue to other service providers, our private sector supporters, and those in a variety of decision-making roles. The more we work together, the better we can create a strong, vibrant community where all have access to justice when the need arises. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

Cathy Haukedahl, Executive Director
EXTENDING OUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The Housing Court Project

A N ELDERLY RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT LIVED on a fixed income in the same federally subsidized Minneapolis apartment for 19 years. He fought the Nazis in the Soviet infantry and lost a sister in the Holocaust. On Yom Kippur, the anniversary of his wife’s death, he lit candles for his deceased family. The candles fell, and a small fire resulted...

The many dimensions of partnership

The Housing Court Project is a multi-faceted, mutually beneficial partnership between the courts, Legal Aid, private attorneys and the Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN). Providing free office space for Legal Aid and VLN who recruit and support volunteer attorneys, the court clerks at the Housing Court are in turn freed from the overwhelming demand for help that usually happens with a pro se court. Hennepin County contracts with Legal Aid to staff the project.

Christy Szitta, formerly of VLN, says, “The Project is a great recruiting tool for VLN, especially to reach large firm attorneys. Not only does Legal Aid provide forms, manuals, and in-house trainings for the larger firms — they become mentors. If a volunteer attorney hits a difficult question, she can go down the hall and speak to the Legal Aid attorney who wrote the manual.”

...The fire was out before the fire department arrived and damage was minimal, but the landlord terminated the client’s lease and sued for more than $10,000...

Enabling effective connection with clients

“We wanted to provide solid opportunities for willing volunteers to connect with clients,” says Peter Goss, Faegre Baker Daniels team leader, VLN Board Chair, and one of the founding members of the project. “It was difficult for firm attorneys to take an occasional referral with little background and a quick deadline, so we asked Legal Aid if we could ‘ride along’ on their Housing Court Project. They agreed, and it’s been a terrific partnership.”

The effective outcomes that clients achieve through the Housing Court Project also benefit other local services. Tenants who use the Project are far less likely to need Emergency Financial Assistance and shelter assistance, relieving additional drains on those services.
Volunteer attorneys from Faegre Baker Daniels helped the client defeat the damages claims. The settlement included a positive letter of reference from the former landlord, which enabled the client to move to a new home.

Extending the reach to justice

The attorneys who helped this client first met him through their weekly volunteer shift at the Housing Court Project. They were trained and advised throughout the case by Legal Aid attorneys. Goss says “Legal Aid attorneys are able to extend their services by empowering our volunteers with information, expertise, and back-up when needed. The work is challenging and rewarding for us. We can make a difference in a life in one morning.”

Legal Aid Managing Attorney Larry McDonough, who wrote the Eviction Defense Manual used by the volunteer attorneys, says, “It’s frying-pan law. We might see ten clients in a morning. In fifteen minutes, you need to grasp the heart of the case, find the pertinent information in the paperwork, isolate the issues, and prepare clients to represent themselves. The payoff is huge — we can see the immediate impact of our work.”

Legal Aid and volunteer attorneys from many private firms and corporations can be found at the Hennepin County Housing Court weekdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Working in partnership with each other, the courts and their clients, they are ensuring access to justice for anyone with a housing problem in Hennepin County.

Getting Creative To Keep Minnesotans Home

Angela enrolled in St. Cloud’s Tri-Cap Renting 101 program to learn about her rights and responsibilities as a tenant. She knew the rental market was tough, and wanted to move, but she discovered an eviction on her record. Legal Aid supervising attorney Doug Clark answered her questions, and spent some extra time helping her to get the eviction expunged. Angela was able to move to a new home with a clean record, and the prior eviction filing will not be a future housing barrier for her.

Renting 101 includes six hours in the classroom, and an hour of financial counseling. Legal Aid attorneys partner with Renting 101 to teach about eviction laws, landlord obligations, and dealing with bad rental histories including evictions. Some landlords in the St. Cloud area have even agreed to give renters with negative marks on their rental history a second chance if they complete the Renting 101 program.

Legal Aid staff can answer questions for the class of 40 people in the time it would take to answer questions for three people in one-on-one meetings. Renting 101 instructor Heidi Blaske says, “Most of our participants are low income, and this is their only access to an attorney. The opportunity to learn about the eviction process and ask questions is invaluable.”
Restored PCA Services Bring Peace of Mind

Due to mobility issues and other health concerns, Anita requires daily assistance, which her daughter, Mardy, has been able to provide as her PCA. After a reassessment of need in early 2011, Anita was notified that she would lose her PCA services.

In the absence of PCA funding, Anita’s daughter would have needed to find additional employment, significantly decreasing the time Mardy would have had available to care for her mother. They reached out to Legal Aid’s Minnesota Disability Law Center (DLC), where Patricia Siebert, a 25 year veteran of the Minnesota DLC, was assigned their case.

“After talking with Anita and reviewing her information, it was pretty clear to me that she had a good case for restoring her PCA service hours, particularly with regard to her mobility issues,” Patricia noted. Patricia researched and brought forth information about Anita’s condition and needs. The result was a nearly full restoration of Anita’s PCA services.

Anita’s PCA services allow her to stay independent and in her home. “I’m grateful that my PCA services have been restored again, and it means a lot to me that I can be taken care of by someone I trust.”
In 2010, over 28,000 Minnesotans like John — people with disabilities and senior citizens who depend on PCA services to live in the community — had their service hours reassessed.

Two recent waves of changes in the law cut some of these services, and Legal Aid was flooded with calls, unable to keep up with the demand.

A desire to do more

Jim Long, who is in charge of Briggs and Morgan’s pro bono program, visualized a partnership that would enable “buckets” of various types of pro bono work to be performed by the firm. “I wanted our attorneys to receive substantive training,” he said, “and develop some synergy within the firm.” Long contacted Legal Aid, and in April 2010, Briggs, DLC, and Legal Aid’s Seniors Unit formed a partnership, in which nine lawyers at Briggs were then trained on the PCA Appeals process.

In the first year, Briggs attorneys handled 18 cases for Legal Aid. “It’s a real area of need,” says Long, who received a letter of commendation from Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Gildea for Briggs’ work on the PCA Pro Bono Project. “Our attorneys deal directly with a client, and the work is hands-on and needs-based. Because the hearings are usually over the phone with an administrative law judge, it’s not only for litigators. Close to half of Briggs’ volunteers are business lawyers, and this pro bono work gives them a chance to do something different and stretch a bit.”

Ongoing partnership for community

And the result for their client, John? The Project appealed the reduction, and John’s 10.5 hours of PCA services were restored, enabling him to remain at home.

Briggs associate Ellen Brinkman, who shares in-house responsibility for the Project says, “It’s a partnership in the truest sense. The DLC lawyers are so solid and experienced. They’re familiar with the case law, and they bring in expertise and materials that Briggs attorneys rely on. They teach the mechanics and more. They are continually available and open to discuss technical questions and broad issues, and provide ongoing consultations.”

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For her first PCA case, Brinkman represented a child who was unable to speak for herself. “It’s a tangible result,” says Brinkman, “Direct client contact is great, especially for associates at firms who don’t get much of that. After the case, I spoke with the child’s mother and was able to hear the difference my work made for that family, so they could continue to care for their daughter at home.”

Legal Aid Partners with Briggs and Morgan to Extend PCA Services
A child receives a red stamp on his hand because his lunch money balance was negative. A cafeteria worker discards a young girl’s lunch because she couldn’t pay for it. A student’s diploma is withheld until his lunch balance is paid. These stories may sound far-fetched, but sadly, they are true. As poverty grows, more children look to school for what can be their only meal of the day. And when this is denied due to financial issues, the child is the one who ultimately loses.

The challenge of disbelief
Legal Aid and Hunger Solutions have worked on legislation for school lunch programs for more than three years. “Our biggest obstacle was disbelief,” says Jessica Webster, Legal Aid staff attorney. “People just didn’t believe the problem existed.”

Legal Aid conceived a school lunch research project to gather information on the problem, and connected with Pam Wandzel, Pro Bono/Community Service Coordinator at Fredrikson & Byron, and Dianne Heins, Pro Bono Counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels. Jessica provided training for about 20 attorneys and paralegals from Fredrikson, Faegre, Leonard Street and Deinard, and Lindquist & Vennum. For more than six weeks the volunteers contacted school districts, asked policy questions, listened, and created an external website where all volunteers could document and share their findings.

“This was a great project for us,” says Pam. “Jessica gave us solid training for the calls, teaching us to encourage conversation and listen. We spoke with cooks, administrators, nutritionists – most were eager to talk about the problem. They are squeezed by budget concerns, and they don’t want children going hungry.”

Children in the middle
District policies often unwittingly place children in the middle of a financial transaction between parents and the school district – usually in the lunchroom. Among 182 school districts (about half the districts in the state, of varying sizes), attorneys found a wide range of policies.

Policies range from helpful (unlimited hot meals) to punitive (“turn away”), to informal or formal “deterrence”. This range of policies arises as districts attempt to balance students’ well-being with budget realities.

Partnering for legislative protection
“The best part of this project for us,” says Pam, “is that Jessica closed the loop. She came back to us and shared the proposed legislation. She informed us of the Minnesota Public Radio program based on our research, and told us that Senator Franken’s office has taken an interest and is recommending similar legislation at the federal level.” Colleen Moriarty, Executive Director of Hunger Solutions Minnesota, said, “Our
partnership with Legal Aid is at the very core of our ability to effect systemic change. Legal Aid offers connection, experience, a national network and a presence at the legislature.”

“The evidence collected by the volunteers has enabled us to address this issue with assurance,” says Colleen. “Solid research revealed widespread practices and called public attention to the problem. This year, we hope to get this legislation passed and help districts better serve hungry children in Minnesota.”

This partnership has resulted in an anti-discrimination bill for school lunch which proposes the following:

**No Child Turned Away**
No school that receives state lunch subsidies may turn away a low-income child who lacks funds for school lunch.

**No Child Stigmatized**
No school may physically segregate, discriminate or stigmatize a child eligible for free or reduced lunch.

**No Collection Agencies for School Lunch Debts**
No school may use a collection agency to collect unpaid school lunch debts from a low-income household.
YESHA, A SINGLE PARENT, came to court to learn about getting a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO). Her ex-boyfriend had been threatening her and her child, even following her when she went out. Tyesha had never been to court before, and she was scared and overwhelmed. The Fourth Judicial District Self Help Center (SHC) set her up on a computer, and Tyesha produced her own documents to get the order. Staff reviewed her work and printed her documents, and Tyesha took them before a judge for review that day. She found the program user-friendly, and the whole experience empowering.
Safe Avenues Alliance Brings Shelter and Resources to At-Risk Families

Kassidy arrived at Safe Avenues Shelter House in Willmar with her two children, seeking shelter from domestic violence. She was scared and overwhelmed with everything she needed to do to keep herself and her children safe. She encountered great difficulty in getting help from one source, and going to another office and retelling her story seemed impossible. Legal Aid resources provided the assistance and advocacy Kassidy needed to make her impossible situation manageable.

Assurance and advocacy
Kassidy was assured that a Legal Aid attorney would be at the Safe Avenues Shelter House that week, and that she could get free advice and help with her divorce.

Legal Aid quickly filed for divorce on Kassidy’s behalf. She asked for custody of her two children, and permission to take them out of the country to visit family without their father’s consent. The judge granted the request.

Connection to a caring partnership
Legal Aid and Safe Avenues in Willmar have a long-standing partnership, with a Legal Aid attorney visiting the Safe Avenues Shelter House once a week. The attorney meets with advocates and residents to learn about situations, give advice, and open cases.

Connie Schmoll, Executive Director of Safe Avenues says, “Legal Aid is an amazing resource for our clients. Our advocates tell them about Legal Aid, assure them that the legal services are truly free of charge, and introduce them to the attorney. Our clients might take months, if ever, to get to Legal Aid on their own — these things are far less risky when someone you already trust introduces you to the next person who can help.”

Challenges leading to innovation
A few years ago, budget cuts led to a reduction in SHC staff. In response, the SHC partnered with Legal Aid’s State Support Center to develop the interactive program that Tyesha used. Computer software enables staff to create an interviewer on the screen who walks the client through the HRO process. At the end of the interview, the program automatically created the documents Tyesha needed.

In the first nine months of 2011, clients like Tyesha generated 1,973 sets of documents for Harassment Restraining Orders.

Susan Ledray, Senior Manager of Pro Se Services and Family Court, Minnesota Fourth Judicial District, says, “Built-in instructions improve accuracy and completeness. Volunteers require less training and oversight, and some clients don’t need any help at all.” Susan has more confidence in the consistency of information provided to clients, and SHC attorneys are able to help many more people in a day.

Additional tools available and in development
Another tool developed through the State Support Center/SHC partnership is the divorce document assembly program. The program was developed with Southern Minnesota Legal Services, and is used by virtually all pro se divorce clients in the Fourth Judicial District.

According to a SHC staff attorney, “Clients come down from the Initial Case Management Conference after reaching agreement, and use public terminals to log in. They complete a Stipulated Judgment and Decree, and bring them back to the judge, who signs that afternoon. Clients get closure quickly, and the process before the judge is much more efficient.”

The programs provide real benefits to clients and courts alike. Judges find the computer-generated forms much easier to read, saving time for the court. Law clerks find fewer omissions and errors, and spend less time requesting additional information or completely revised pleadings. The programs educate the clients, who have more information as a result. Given the success of the program, the State Support Center is now developing interviews for use at the SHC for two other common and critical legal forms – the Order for Protection and Parenting Time Assistance.

The programs developed by the State Support Center/SHC partnership are available statewide. The online programs can be accessed at LawHelpMN.org and MNCourts.gov/SelfHelp.
### REVENUE & EXPENDITURES > 2011

#### REVENUE

- Government Grants and Contracts: $7,246,601
- United Ways: $1,919,531
- Foundations: $424,207
- Fund For the Legal Aid Society: $1,100,000
- Lawyers Trust Account Board: $786,895
- Miscellaneous Revenue: $64,658
- Court Awarded Attorney Fees: $170,063
- Interest/Endowment Earnings: $57,224
- Other Legal Services Programs (State Support & LSAP): $399,247
- Fellowships and Clerks: $155,420

**TOTAL**: $11,323,846

#### EXPENDITURES

- Poverty Law Services: $6,936,230
- Disability Law Services: $1,957,613
- Administration: $925,732
- Fundraising: $414,829
- State Support Services: $473,593
- Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP): $474,428

**TOTAL**: $11,182,425

Prior Reserve: $2,509,418
Year End Reserve: $2,650,839

### ASSETS

**CURRENT ASSETS**
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $3,908,268
- Receivables:
  - Grants and Contracts: $1,392,972
  - Pledges and Other: $76,411
- Prepaid Expenses: $137,234

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS**: $5,514,885

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost**: $1,244,268
Less Accumulated Depreciation: $381,096
**TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (NET)**: $863,172

**OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS**
- Funds Held by Community Foundation: $1,621,115
- Client Escrow Funds: $1,663

**TOTAL OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS**: $1,622,778

**TOTAL ASSETS**: $8,000,835

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Accounts Payable: $320,633
- Client Trust Deposits: $1,663
- Accrued Expenses: $343,099

**TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES**: $665,395

**NET ASSETS**
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $4,825,884
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: $1,117,667
- Permanently Restricted Net Assets: $1,391,889

**TOTAL NET ASSETS**: $7,335,440
**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**: $8,000,835
Increasing Need

Poverty in Minnesota has grown significantly in the past decade. This increase in the poverty rate has come at a time when the Minnesota population as a whole is growing. In 2000 there were just fewer than 4.8 million people in Minnesota with approximately 380,000 people living in poverty. In 2010, the population of Minnesota had grown to 5.3 million with almost 615,000 living in poverty. The poverty rate in Minnesota increased from 7.9 percent in 2000 to 11.6 percent in 2010.

To be eligible for Legal Aid services a household’s income must be below 125% of poverty. At 125% of poverty a family of four can have income no greater than $28,813. In 2010, there were more than 805,000 Minnesotans with income at or below 125% of poverty. In the area served by Legal Aid, from 2000 to 2010, the number of people poverty has increased by 48 percent.

2011 Giving Report

You are our community of donors — individuals, law firms, corporations and foundations. Thank you for your generous giving to Legal Aid through: The Fund for the Legal Aid Society, the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, St. Cloud Area Legal Services, Western Minnesota Legal Services, and the Minnesota Disability Law Center. On behalf of our staff and clients, thank you.

Legal Aid makes every effort to properly acknowledge each of our donors. If we have misspelled or inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know. We will correct it in future publications.

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THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JERRY LANE FELLOWSHIP.

The Fellowship was established this year to honor the contributions and career of Jerry Lane, MMLA’s Executive Director from 1981–February 2011. The Jerry Lane Fellowship recognizes Legal Aid’s critical need for mentoring a new generation of lawyers who embark on a legal career to advocate for low-income individuals and families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Fellows are attorneys who have been out of law school for less than two years, or who have just completed a judicial clerkship. The first Jerry Lane Fellow, Lindsey Hanson, began working in MMLA’s Willmar Office in September 2011.

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LF

Helping people with housing issues represents more than 1 in 4 legal aid cases each year.
ASSOCIATES CAMPAIGN

A Partnership For Quality-Of-Life

Krisann Kleibacker Lee first heard of the Associates’ Campaign through her friend Joel Bergstrom. Krisann felt lucky to land a solid job out of law school with a good salary, and is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the community. She immediately saw the beauty of the Associates’ Campaign.

As a University of Minnesota law student and former clerk for the U.S. District Court in Minnesota, she had friends and connections at all of the major local firms. “The brilliance is in using an existing social structure,” she says, “I have no problem asking my friends to support something I believe in.” Now in-house counsel at Cargill, Inc., Krisann is again looking for ways to tap into social relationships that already exist to support The Fund.

A co-chair of the Associates’ Campaign while at Faegre Baker Daniels from 2007–2010, Krisann was a key player in the Campaign for years. As Lead Co-Chair in 2010, she was also a member of The Fund for the Legal Aid Society Board of Directors. “Inclusion on the board helped me to see how the Associates’ Campaign was a valued and crucial part of the overall effort,” she said.

Krisann concluded, “I see it as a responsibility and an ethical obligation to volunteer as a pro bono attorney, or financially support legal services, or both. It’s a special thing to live in a community that does this, and all donors can take pride in contributing. A strong, solid legal services network improves the quality of life for us all.”

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Mohamed Saleman Ali

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Legal Aid Annual Report 2011 | 17
BY THE NUMBERS

CASES CLOSED > GENDER

Female 59.0%
Male 35.2%
Unknown 5.8%

Sahra Muhumed Ali
Dan Allen
Larina Alton
Angela and Rick Amado
Raimundo Amaya
Allan and Ginna Portman Amis
Dorothy Anderson
Eric Anderson and Janalee Aurelia
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Kurt M. Anderson
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Ralph and Vivian Barker
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Dwight Barrick
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Allan Baumgarten
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Patrick and Joni Bennett
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John M. Benzian
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Larrin Bergman
Sidney M. Bernardes
Tom Berndt
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Harriet Bildsten
Jennell Bilek
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By the Numbers:

**Cases Closed**

- **Gender Distribution**
  - Female: 59.0%
  - Male: 35.2%
  - Unknown: 5.8%

- **Cases Closed by Law Firm**
  - Bernick, Lifson, Greenstein, Gren & Liszt, P.A.
  - Bertelson Law Offices, P.A.
  - John F. Beukema
  - Harriet Bildsten
  - Jennell Bilek
  - Binder Law Offices, P.A.
  - Tom Bird and Catherine Shreves
  - Catherine Bitzan
  - Anne Bjerken
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  - Paul E. Bohnsack II
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**Cases Closed**

- **Gender Distribution**
  - Female: 59.0%
  - Male: 35.2%
  - Unknown: 5.8%
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10,560 cases closed in 2011

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91% of households served by MMLA had income at or below 125% of the poverty level

9,560 cases closed in 2011

23 languages of clients served

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<td>Laura Hammargren</td>
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<td>Lindsey Hemly</td>
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<td>Gene H. Hennig</td>
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<td>Anne Henry</td>
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<td>Cynthia C. Hernandez</td>
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Scott Krueger  
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Geoffrey Marshall  
Cari Martell  
Ryan W. Marth  
Araceli Martinez Moreno  
Jose Simeon Martinez  
Jane Maschka  
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Vincent J. and Kathleen A. Moccio  
Issa K. Moe  
Scott Moen  
Maryama Mohamed  
Hassan Mohamud  
Michael Molepske
Number of languages of clients served: 23

Cases closed in 2011: 10,560

91% of households served by MMLA had income at or below 125% of the poverty level.

There is ONE practicing attorney for every 446 Minnesotans.

There is ONE legal services attorney for every 4,453 eligible clients in Minnesota.
 BY THE NUMBERS  CASES CLOSED > AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Cases</th>
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<td>&lt;5</td>
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<td>5–18</td>
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<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daniel S. Rethmeier
Jennifer A. Reusse
Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrell
Karla Reyerson
Mariah L. Reynolds
Paula and Walter Richey
Damien Riehl
Melissa Riethof
Eduardo Rios
Ruth Rivard
Denis O. Rivera
Glenda Efigenia Rivera
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Legal Aid Annual Report 2011 | 25
Partners with Passion

Working toward justice for all is not just a mission statement — hundreds in our legal community partner to meet the growing need for justice every day. A number of Legal Aid offices and staff members were recognized for the quality of their work in 2011. These awards are a testament to their experience, skill and dedication.

**Minnesota Lawyer’s Up & Coming Attorney**

Each year, *Minnesota Lawyer* honors a group of individuals new to the profession as “Up & Coming Attorneys.” They are nominated by members of the Minnesota legal community for distinguishing themselves early in their career. **Colleen Daly,** who shifted to law after ten years as a social worker, was among the “Up and Coming” of 2011. She has worked as a consumer attorney in Legal Aid's Minneapolis office since 2007, with a focus on protecting homeowners facing foreclosures.

**Dawn Carlson Award**

St. Cloud attorney **Sarah Hennesy** received the 2011 Dawn Carlson Family Advocate Award for her work with the Stearns County Domestic Violence Court.

The award recognizes an advocate who provides services to low-income individuals with domestic violence, custody, divorce or other family law problems, and has had a positive, significant effect on families. Sarah’s work has fostered trust and cooperation between the Domestic Violence Court and victims of domestic violence, creating a wider array of options for these families in crisis.

**The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University Red Mass Fidelis Apparitor Award**

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University presented the 2011 Fidelis Apparitor award to **Jerry Lane,** recently retired Executive Director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance. The award is presented at Minnesota’s annual Red Mass to an individual who has been a good and faithful servant of the law. Jerry received the award as recognition of his unrelenting efforts and significant accomplishments in seeking equal justice for the poor.

**2011 Hennepin County Bar Association Award**

**Rick J. Macpherson III** received the 2011 Hennepin County Bar Association’s Public/Judicial Sector Pro Bono Excellence Award. Thanks to his advocacy, deaf people have improved access to medical care in our state. Rick has trained hundreds of attorneys and mediators on disability discrimination law, and trained new state court judges on communication access in the courts. His work has not only impacted the lives of individuals, but has also helped to reshape access to justice for people with disabilities in Minnesota.

**2011 Bernard P. Becker Award**

**Barb O’Connell,** Executive Assistant at Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance (MMLA), received the 2011 Legal Services Staff Award. The Bernard Becker Awards are presented annually by the Minnesota State Bar Association for work that exemplifies the dedication and commitment to helping low-income individuals that marked the career of the late Bernard Becker, a renowned legal aid attorney, law professor and magistrate judge. Barb has worked for Legal...
or transactional services and public service. The honorees come from diverse practice groups including criminal law, litigation, intellectual property and in-house legal service. Galen lead Legal Aid’s team that successfully challenged the Minnesota executive branch’s attempt to balance the state budget in 2009 by unilaterally cutting medical benefits to low income Minnesotans.

### Rosalie Wahl Justice for Children Award

The Children’s Law Center of Minnesota presented the 2011 Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award to Irene Opsahl for her work with Legal Aid’s Youth Law Project. Irene has advocated for abused, neglected and homeless youth for over 25 years. Under her, the Youth Law Project has become a statewide leader in cross-training of youth-serving organizations. She has led efforts to address school delinquency and racial disparity issues, and has been active in addressing juvenile legal system reform.

### Minnesota Lawyer 2010 Attorney of the Year

Minnesota Lawyer selected Legal Aid attorney and Litigation Director Galen Robinson as an Attorney of the Year for 2010, presenting the honor in 2011. The honorees are chosen based on leadership in the profession, involvement in major cases or other newsworthy events, and excellence in corporate

### Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) Outstanding Service Award

Minnesota Disability Law Center Supervising Attorney Bud Rosenfield was honored with MJF’s 2011 Outstanding Service Award for Direct Legal Service. The award is a recognition by peers in the legal community of outstanding work in the public interest. Bud has provided service and leadership through passionate, effective advocacy for individuals with disabilities for over fourteen years. He has been involved in broad systems change, both through his own litigation and in a supervisory role with others. He is a leader in the disability policy arena on local, state and national levels.

### MN School of Business Award

MMLA’s St. Cloud Office, St. Cloud Area Legal Services (SCALS) received an award from the Minnesota School of Business St. Cloud Campus for outstanding support of student development and activity within the community. SCALS has taken interns from the Minnesota School of Business Waite Park Campus almost every quarter since 2008, and SCALS staff members speak with individual students about questions they have regarding the legal field. The legal program chair on campus regularly refers students with questions about career choice to SCALS. The legal student group also awarded SCALS a donation from their 2011 fundraiser.

Aid since 1976. She is a litigation secretary and supervisor, and she is heavily involved with the organizational aspects of Legal Aid’s fundraising.

### Advocate Excellence Award from the ImprisonedShow.com

The Imprisoned Show, a webcast hosted by and for former victims of human trafficking and sexual violence, gives a monthly award dedicated to honor the advocates who help victims of human trafficking across the world. Kirsten Olson, the October 2011 recipient of the award, was nominated by a former client who entered the United States as a visitor of her citizen husband. The husband refused to file paperwork to legitimize the client or their child, and abused them for over a year before the client fled to a local domestic violence shelter. Kirsten helped the woman and her child obtain lawful permanent resident status, and then citizenship. The client, a former emergency room nurse, is now a citizen working in her chosen field.

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Katie Storms
Jason Stover
Carolyn Strnad
Shanna Strowbridge
Shawn D. Stuckey
Ana Maria Studer
Christopher Sullivan
Jack Sullivan
Peter Surdo
Professor Scott G. Swanson
Brooke Swenson
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Christina M. Szitta
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Kesha Tanabe
Zhengnian Tang
Marshall H. Tanick
Taylor Tarvestad-Sztainer
Elizabeth J. Temple
Tennesen Law PLC
Aaron Thomas
Courtney Thompson
Peter Thompson
Timothy L. Thompson
Thomsen & Nybeck, P.A.
Timothy R. Thornton
Steven J. Tierney
Peter J. Timmons
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David Torgelson
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Juan M. Torres
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There is ONE legal services attorney for every 4,453 eligible clients in Minnesota.

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Anita Boucher
Jeff Bangsberg
Kate Day
Lee Ann J. Erickson
Ronna Linroth

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John W. Hoopes, Jr.

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Anonymous

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Sara H. Jones
Karen and Paul Schanfield

In Honor of Nana and Grandpa Hall
Anonymous

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Gregory Nault

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Kate Nilan

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Cassandra Robinson

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Renee and Fred Pritzker

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Donald Beacom

In Honor of Jerry Rotman
L.J., Jill and Carly Rotman

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Lauren Winter

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Margaret Shaw

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Anonymous

In Honor of Stephen Simon and Leia Christoffer
Anonymous

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In Honor of Larry Leventhal
Karen and Paul Schanfield

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Cassandra Robinson

In Honor of Sandra Moore
Cassandra Robinson

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The Fund for the Legal Aid Society, 30 years of Partnership in Fundraising

The Fund began 30 years ago as a way for lawyers in the private sector to raise funds for Legal Aid. It held the first Annual Law Day Dinner in 1982 which raised about $40,000 for Legal Aid. In addition to the Law Day Dinner, The Fund runs an annual One Hour of Sharing campaign. In 1983, The Fund gave its first grant to Legal Aid, $150,000. Since then The Fund has been a stable and growing part of Legal Aid’s funding base. Today, Legal Aid receives $1.1 million per year from The Fund.

The work and dedication of The Fund Board members (past and present) to the critical mission of Legal Aid enables us to serve hundreds of individual and families each year who would otherwise go unserved.

We thank the current and past board members of The Fund for their support and dedication to Legal Aid.

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Minneapolis, MN 55401-1780
Telephone: (612) 332-1441

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Board of Trade Building
Duluth, MN 55802
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