PROTECTING RIGHTS, IMPROVING LIVES

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Celebrating the past, the present and the future
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DEAR FRIENDS,

2013 was an exciting and energizing year for Legal Aid because it marked our Centennial — 100 years of protecting the lives and enforcing the rights of Minnesotans in need. The year presented an opportunity to reflect on the past and to consider the vision for Legal Aid’s future. This annual report tries to capture that spirit of reflection.

In 1913, John Benson opened Legal Aid’s doors in Minneapolis as its sole attorney. From the very start, Benson and others partnered with clients who had the courage to speak up for their rights. He and the many passionate Legal Aid advocates to follow have worked with clients to obtain justice for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans who have had no one else to advocate for them. Mr. Benson could never have imagined the current stories we now share with you in this Annual Report. But then again, as someone who worked on the cutting edge of justice, maybe he would have.

At the beginning, Legal Aid itself was an innovation, and the spirit of innovation has remained a key component to Legal Aid’s success over the past century. Legal Aid staff continually adjusts to new laws, changes in Minnesota’s population, and shifts in funding sources. We work with pro bono attorneys, law firms, corporations, law schools and local agencies to develop new expertise as needed, and to create solutions to both new and persistent problems threatening our clients’ rights.

As you look through this year’s Annual Report you’ll see stories that have roots in the past, which grew into the present, and will undoubtedly expand into the future. Whether it’s housing or consumer law, people with disabilities or new immigrants, vulnerable youth or those trying to access health care, Legal Aid will continue to work with new laws and new circumstances to help people in need access the rights guaranteed to them by law.

Legal Aid will persist in providing a channel for the legal and broader community to combine efforts, to teach and learn together and most of all, to give clients the best possible legal representation.

I have a hope for the future; my hope is that with another 100 years of innovation and commitment, Legal Aid will not be needed. Every Minnesotan, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity or gender will have access to housing, safety, stability, education and employment. I look forward to the day when poverty no longer exists in our communities and real justice is available to all.

But if the community still needs Legal Aid 100 years from now, I’m confident we’ll be here. And I believe we’ll have had another century of success with protecting rights and changing lives. I say this because I know we’ll continue to have courageous clients willing to speak out for their rights, and there will still be lawyers and other advocates ready to join us in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Thank you for all you have done to help bring each story in this report to its positive outcome. Together, I hope we can continue to build on the vision of justice for all until the vision is a daily reality.

Cathy Haukedahl, Executive Director

our mission
To advocate for the legal rights of disadvantaged people to have safe, healthy and independent lives in strong communities.
Small claims make a big impact

CONCILIATION COURT WORK PAYS OFF

Today, most of the action in Conciliation Court involves lawyers and collection agencies representing credit card and medical creditors who file complaints against as many as 30 consumers a day. Most of these defendants don’t show up, and those who do show often don’t know what to do.

In the fall of 2013, Brian received a summons to appear at the Conciliation Court. He had maxed out his credit card, but the complaint said he was being sued for fees and interest totaling $2,800, which was well over the amount he borrowed. If he did not show up at court, the credit card company would get a judgment and most likely garnish his wages.

Brian scraped together as much cash as he could. He gathered his credit card statements, hoping he could settle the matter and not miss his entire work day.

When he arrived at court, he found Legal Aid lawyers offering help. Supervising attorney Jay Wilkinson sat down with him to look over his paperwork.

Because the total amount of debt was in dispute and the attorney representing the credit card company could not easily prove the validity of the fees claimed, there was room to negotiate. Jay and the creditor’s attorney discussed the matter in the hallway outside of the courtroom. The creditor agreed that if Brian paid $1,200 immediately, the matter would be settled.

Brian, Jay and the creditor’s attorney appeared before the Referee. The opposing attorney accepted Brian’s cash as a full payment of the disputed bill, and the matter was put to rest with a dismissal. The court appearance ended in time for Brian to make it to work as planned.
2013 Legal Aid staff attorney Jeremy Carvell starts a pilot clinic in Conciliation Court. Today Jeremy attends Conciliation Court several times a week and advises consumers of their rights and risks. If they have a defense, he may also represent them in court.

1930 George B. Leonard joins the Board.

1930 The Legal Aid budget is about $8,500.

1931 The Legal Aid Department is formally incorporated as the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis.
A summer internship changes a life and launches a career

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO LASTING CHANGES

Jess Brennan didn’t plan to pursue litigation or a traditional legal career. She thought a non-practicing position would be the best fit for her. But the summer before her final year at Hamline School of Law, she saw a listing for a housing discrimination position on the Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) website. Fighting discrimination is a passion for Jess, and she thought she should at least give traditional legal work a try before making any definite career decisions. She decided to volunteer for the summer with Legal Aid’s Housing Discrimination Law Project (HDLP).

Jess was at Legal Aid for only a short time when she took a call from Mary, who was facing a nine-day deadline. Mary’s daughter Sarita served as her live-in aid. The housing management determined that Sarita was not really an aid but was illegally living with Mary. Management informed Mary that either Sarita needed to move out or they would both have to go. Without Sarita as her aid, Mary would have to hire a stranger to help her with daily living, and she simply couldn’t afford that.

Jess’s supervisor Lael Robertson was out that day, so Jess met with Mary and Sarita. With Lael coaching by phone, Jess went through the paperwork and determined that Mary had a solid legal case. Jess continued the investigation under Lael’s supervision and submitted a Reasonable Accommodation request the Friday before the move-out deadline. “It was a nerve-wracking weekend,” said Jess. “But it was so great to be the one to call Mary with the good news. That’s when I knew I needed to change my career plans.”

Over the decades, Legal Aid has cultivated its reputation as a prime placement for law student volunteers, clerks and fellows. “Supervisors and senior staff work hard to make good experiences for the clerks,” says Deputy Director Greg Marita. “It’s a conscious choice and a value of our program.”

“I’ve now made a complete 180,” says Jess. “My summer at Legal Aid had a huge impact on my career goals, my skill set, and my perspective on legal advocacy. I had tremendous autonomy right from the start, and Lael was an incredible mentor. It was so fulfilling to advocate for someone in a dire situation. The position helped my confidence and competence overall, and made me realize that this is what I want to do. I loved that job!”
Fighting for safety under their own roof

LEGAL AID EMPOWERS YOUNG MOTHER TO ESCAPE DANGEROUS LIVING SITUATION

Kesa was in a predicament. She recently moved into a Section 8 housing unit with a private owner, and the landlord asked her out on a date. She refused, explaining that she wanted to keep a clear landlord-tenant relationship. The landlord persisted, bringing her flowers and constantly asking about Kesa’s two-year-old daughter. “She needs a man around,” he said.

“You think you’re safe under your own roof,” commented Kesa. “But I was scared to stay in my own home. He bought us things, he looked at my mail, and he came in when we weren’t there. He kept asking about my daughter. When I heard that he’d been hanging around her daycare, I was afraid he’d snatch her off the playground.”

Kesa changed her daughter’s daycare and sought help. Legal Aid’s Housing Discrimination Law Project helped her through the process to terminate her lease early. Kesa immediately began a search for new housing, but had no success. She had a bad housing record from a few years earlier, which stemmed from missing some

1965 Third-year students at the University of Minnesota Law School begin receiving credit for work in the clinic.

1966 The federal Office of Economic Opportunity gives Legal Aid its first federal grant, in the amount of $42,030.

1967 Bernard Becker becomes litigation director for Legal Aid.

1970 Legal Aid initiates litigation to enforce implementation of the In Forma Pauperis process, which waives court filing fees and reduces costs for people with low incomes.

1982 The Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) is incorporated by law students concerned about their role within the community.

1982 The Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) is incorporated by law students concerned about their role within the community.

1990s MJF begins to coordinate volunteers and provide funding for summer clerkships at Legal Aid. Typically two or three MJF clerks per year work for Legal Aid.
rent payment while being in and out of the hospital for medical issues. Kesa caught up on her rent payments in between hospital visits and was unaware the landlord had filed multiple eviction notices. Those former evictions severely hindered her ability to secure safe housing for her and her daughter.

Legal Aid staff attorney James Clark helped Kesa gather the documents she needed to support her case and helped her set a court date. Kesa couldn’t pay the filing fee, so he helped her file for In Forma Pauperis to get the fee reduced to an amount she could afford. As they worked through the process, James helped her expunge three evictions from her record. But when she applied for housing, she found another eviction with her name incorrectly spelled. James was willing to help Kesa again, but he needed to complete some outstanding case work before doing so.

“I knew I had to go at it myself,” says Kesa. “I couldn’t wait any longer to move. We were spending most nights at my parents’ house.” Thanks to all she’d learned from James, Kesa completed the needed paperwork, went to court and cleared her housing record.

“I can see why there should be a public record of evictions,” says Kesa. “Some people aren’t doing the right thing. But every eviction isn’t like that, and people need information on how to clear their record. It’s so easy to run into a roadblock because you don’t have the right information. It’s easy to get discouraged and think it’s a lost cause.”

When Kesa was at housing court doing her own paperwork, she heard another woman having trouble. “The receptionist told her that someone else had to mail the legal papers and sign the affidavit. But the woman didn’t know anyone else – she had just moved here and didn’t have any support. The receptionist just said “sorry,” and the woman left.”

Kesa followed the woman to the elevator. She mailed the papers for her, and they went together to sign an affidavit. Kesa also gave the woman her phone number and Legal Aid’s phone number. The woman called Kesa two months later to let her know that her request was granted and her housing problem had been solved.

“Information is so important,” says Kesa. “People need to know there’s help available, and there’s a way to work through these things. Words can’t explain how great it felt for me to get that help when I needed it.” Kesa and her daughter are now living in a new home where Kesa has what she wanted all along – safety under their own roof.
Paving path for independence

A YOUNG MAN’S TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT AND A LIFE OF INDEPENDENCE

My son has a photographic memory,” said Laurie. “He knows all he needs to know about world history and he has good math skills on paper, but so what? He doesn’t understand how those numbers relate to anything in the real world.”

Laurie’s son Joshua was autistic and about to enter his last year of high school with very limited life skills. Jan Ostrom, a board-certified behavior analyst worked with Joshua for years. She commented, “At the age of 19, Josh needed to be looking at transitional support. He had sufficient academic skills, but he was missing the boat on utilizing those skills in a functional manner.”

“Every time I asked the school about the transition program, they gave a different reason why Josh couldn’t participate.” Laurie tried unsuccessfully for more than a year to convince the school district to provide transition services. “The qualifications kept changing. In talking with other parents, I learned that it’s hard to get help for kids with toileting issues or high medical needs, but that’s not Josh. He needed supervision, but he also needed to be with other kids like him.”

When Jan saw that Laurie was getting nowhere with the school district, she referred the Larsons to Legal Aid’s Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC). Cindy Jarvi, legal advocate at MDLC, worked with Laurie to identify appropriate programming for Josh. She reminded school personnel that it was their responsibility to provide Josh with the educational support he needed. When she found a nearby school district with a full transition program, Josh’s school district agreed to fund the placement. Josh started attending the new program in the summer of 2013.
Innovation that saves lives

ST. CLOUD LEGAL AID TEAM BRINGS MUCH NEEDED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

In 1999 Legal Aid’s St. Cloud Legal Aid office continued to innovate with the launch of the Healthcare Outreach Project assisting low-income Minnesotans in enrolling in public health care plans. Since then the project has grown and is now called Project Care. Project Care receives funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield foundation and has been expanded to serve clients in 14 counties.

George hadn’t been to a doctor in a long time. As a logger, he was self-employed and didn’t carry health insurance. But one day he went to the Lakewood Health System in Staples, over 70 miles north of St. Cloud, and received a diagnosis of bladder cancer.

George began the much needed treatments but soon found himself deep in debt from his cancer treatments and eager to apply for coverage under the Affordable Care Act. He drove more than 40 miles to meet with paralegal Marcia Pohl, who helped him with a paper MNSure application because the on-line application process was still not working well.

Legal Aid’s St. Cloud office has a long history of developing innovative programs to meet emerging needs in a shifting legal and demographic landscape. The Lakewood Health System works in partnership with Legal Aid’s Project Care, and they referred George for help to obtain health insurance.

George had been making large monthly payments, but with requirements for ongoing biopsies and care, he saw no possibility of ever getting out of debt. He is now fully insured with Medical Assistance and has arranged a more affordable payment plan with Lakewood for his past debt.

Joshua had a hard time with change,” says Laurie. “He’d worked with the staff at the old school for years and he was comfortable there. He was nervous and scared before the change, but he’s been tickled with the new program.”

The new program has made a huge difference in Joshua’s life. He looks forward to school and work, and his difficult behaviors have decreased. “I’m a fighter for my son,” says Laurie. “But sometimes that’s not enough. The Disability Law Center is a fantastic program. It’s important for people to know their options and to have a strong advocate.”

Joshua’s new classes include daily living skills, and he is getting a variety of work experience. In a true transition program, students like Joshua learn how to function in a work environment. They learn to punch a clock, interact with peers and supervisors in an employment setting, and they begin to understand how their tasks relate to real-world experience.

Sometimes Joshua works at the library, sorting books and checking them in. Other days, he spends time in a workroom with his peers. The students earn wages for piece work such as collating pamphlets and brochures, or assembling packaging for corporations. These are important first steps toward the goal of competitive employment in an integrated community setting.

“Joshua is beginning to understand how things connect,” says Laurie. “He doesn’t get an actual paycheck, but the money he earns goes into a fund that he can use for school activities. When the school offered a trip to go swimming at the YWCA, he said I’d better do more work this week so I earn enough to go.”

Joshua will finish school in the spring and is applying to attend a day training and habilitation program that serves adults with developmental disabilities. A good transitional education has set Josh on a path to broaden his opportunities for independence, meaningful employment and self-determination.

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Legal Aid staff was booked over a month in advance to help Minnesotans obtain health insurance before the March 31 open enrollment deadline. They worked throughout the 14 counties included in Project Care to bring the application process to clients in their own communities.

The outcome for George changed from dismal and overwhelming to hopeful. He commented, “I will be able to continue the prescribed follow-up exams to determine a cancer-free resolution. Marcia was just great. It was like being helped by someone from my own family.”

In response to advocacy by MDLC and others Minnesota formally adopts an Employment First policy in its Olmstead Plan; a commitment to ensure that people with disabilities have choices for competitive employment in the most integrated setting.

Stearns County Domestic Violence Court begins; this ground-breaking project receives recognition from multiple state and national organizations.

Governor Dayton appoints attorney Ralonda Mason to the Health Reform Minnesota Task Force to advise the governor and legislature on healthcare reform issues.

Legal Aid’s Minnesota Disability Law Center files Masterman v. Goodno, challenging the state’s plan for massive cuts to the Medicaid waiver program serving people with developmental disabilities. As a result, the state restored over $50 million to the waiver program and provided protection against future cuts.

In 2011 Governor Dayton appoints attorney Ralonda Mason to the Health Reform Minnesota Task Force to advise the governor and legislature on healthcare reform issues.

2011
Yamili and her four-year-old daughter heard about Legal Aid when they arrived at Safe Avenues, a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Willmar. Yamili reported her violent partner to the police after years of abuse and he was deported, but Yamili was an undocumented immigrant herself. The shelter connected Yamili with Legal Aid staff attorney Kristen Shepherd. Kristen helped Yamili get two signed certifications from police based on separate incidents of abuse, making her eligible to apply for a U-Visa. The U-Visa would allow Yamili to live and work legally in the United States.
In the midst of the U-Visa application process, the shelter received a call from the police. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was seeking to deport Yamili based on a pre-existing Order of Removal. “Kristen has been with me every step, right from the start,” says Yamili. “She’s an excellent attorney.” When Kristen called the ICE officer, he scheduled an interview for the next day. Kristen completed Yamili’s U-Visa application and used FedEx to mail it on their way to the interview.

With a copy of the U-Visa application and proof of submission in hand, Kristen represented Yamili at the interview and filled the officer in on the complications of Yamili’s background, including years of abuse. “I know I should have been scared at that interview,” says Yamili. “But I trusted that Kristen was doing everything she could to stop the deportation, and I felt safe.”

The ICE granted Yamili a Stay of Removal and placed her on an Order of Supervision, which allowed Yamili to apply to work legally in the United States and not fear deportation while her U-Visa application pends. This gave her time for her U-Visa application to be processed, which can take well over a year. In addition to her daughter, Yamili also has a 13-year-old son who currently lives in Honduras. If the U-Visa is approved she can petition for her son to come live with her as well. “Legal Aid has helped me tremendously. It’s been a great change for me and for my children.”

Beginning our second century of service

As Legal Aid enters its second century of service, we continue to help families and individuals with low incomes and disabilities enforce their legal rights to safety, housing, health care, food and basic economic resources.

At the same time, we continually adapt our work to respond to a changing landscape. The foreclosure crisis, changes in health care laws and new immigrants in our communities have brought about shifts in our clients’ needs and in the law. With innovations in service delivery such as the domestic violence court in Stearns County and LawHelp Minnesota’s on-line public legal resources, we have developed ways to extend Legal Aid’s reach to help people find their pathway out of poverty.

Many of the particulars change, but Legal Aid’s goal and challenge to protect the rights and improve the lives of the vulnerable people in our community remain the same. This has been our challenge for 100 years, and it will continue as our mission until all have access to justice, regardless of personal economic resources.
Financials

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES | 2013

REVENUE

United Ways $589,819
Federal 3,001,640
State 4,087,006
Foundations 716,963
Local Government 536,964
Fund for Legal Aid 1,100,000
IOLTA 742,793
State Support & LSAP 360,308
Fellowships/Clerks 183,464
Attorney Fees 342,316
Miscellaneous 156,802
TOTAL $11,818,075

EXPENDITURES

Poverty Law 59.4%
Disability Law 18.8%
Administration 9.7%
Fundraising 2.9%
State Support 5.1%
LSAP 4.1%
TOTAL $11,808,366

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS | 12.31.13

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS
Cash and Cash Equivalents $2,556,304
Receivables:
  Grants and Contracts 2,332,852
  Pledges and Other 154,494
Prepaid Expenses 72,056
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 4,976,036

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, at cost 1,202,468
Less Accumulated Depreciation (507,995)
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (NET) 694,473

OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS
Funds Held by Others 2,059,404
Client Escrow Funds 3,638
TOTAL OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS 2,063,042
TOTAL ASSETS 7,874,221

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES
Accounts Payable $436,679
Client Trust Deposits 3,638
Accrued Expenses 341,392
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 781,709

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted Net Assets 4,865,835
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 479,021
Permanently Restricted Net Assets 1,747,656
TOTAL NET ASSETS 7,092,512
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 7,874,221
2013 Giving Report

You are our community of donors — individuals, law firms, corporations and foundations. Thank you for your generous giving to Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid which comes either through your gift to The Fund for Legal Aid or directly to one of Legal Aid’s offices or programs. Your support to our Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Willmar offices and to the Minnesota Disability Law Center is greatly appreciated. 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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Equal Justice Works
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Minneapolis Foundation
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Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager, P.A.
Cooper S. and Barbara Z. Ashley
Kathleen Blatz and Wheelock Whitney
Patricia Bloodgood and Christopher Cleveland
Stephen Bubul
Jennie and Richard A. Carlson
10,056 cases closed in 2013

90% of households served by MMLA had income at or below 125% of the poverty level

88% of households served by MMLA had income at or below 125% of the poverty level

97% of households served by MMLA had income at or below 200% of the poverty level

There is ONE legal services attorney for every 4,453 eligible clients in Minnesota.

1 in 3 legal cases are related to housing each year

ADVOCATE ($1,000–$2,499)

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Thomas J. Abood
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Dan Herber and Carrie Seib

“LUNCH WITH A GENERAL COUNSEL” SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to the General Counsel participants in the silent auction at Legal Aid’s Centennial Law Day Testimonial Dinner:

Jim Chosy, U.S. Bancorp
Cameron Findlay, Medtronic, Inc.
Rick Palmore, General Mills, Inc.
Marianne D. Short, UnitedHealth Group
Laura Witte, Cargill, Incorporated

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Marianne D. Short, UnitedHealth Group
Laura Witte, Cargill, Incorporated
When Legal Aid opened its doors in 1913, John C. Benson was the only full-time attorney. After a year at Legal Aid, he founded Faegre & Benson (now Faegre Baker Daniels).

Jerry Snider, long-time Legal Aid donor and Fund board member, ran into John Benson at the library early in his career at Faegre, “John was in his 90s at the time, and he was doing some legal research for a client. We had some good talks. He believed that high-quality legal services were necessary for every kind of client, from the most successful business to the most disadvantaged individual.”

Over the past forty-plus years Jerry has demonstrated a commitment to Benson’s vision, working with Legal Aid in a variety of ways throughout his career at Faegre. “Very early on, former Federal District Court Judge Earl Larson talked with me about the importance of attorneys performing pro bono services,” he says. “I took that to heart and never forgot it. I strongly believe that a disadvantaged person with serious legal problems needs to be well represented, and a good lawyer can provide life-changing representation.”

Jerry believes that large firms like Faegre have a responsibility to the legal community. “I think the public’s cynical opinion of lawyers is somewhat self-inflicted by the idea and sometimes behavior of the legal profession as a strictly commercial enterprise. Serving clients with dignity and honor reminds us of the purpose of the legal profession,” he says. “Pro bono work gets younger attorneys into court, representing real people. It helps them develop their skills. Beyond that, it’s a way to give back.”

Today, Jerry continues his commitment as a member of The Fund for Legal Aid’s Emeritus Board, Leaders in Giving and Centennial Circle.

“I strongly believe that a disadvantaged person with serious legal problems needs to be well represented, and a good lawyer can provide life-changing representation.”
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<tr>
<th>CASES CLOSED</th>
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<td><strong>Female</strong> 60.6%</td>
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<td><strong>Male</strong> 33.5%</td>
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<td><strong>Unknown</strong> 5.9%</td>
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Congratulations to these firms — 100% of their associates donated to the 2013 One Hour of Sharing Campaign.

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Congratulations to Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. — their associates collectively gave the largest gift.

Thank you to all of these associates for their generous gifts.
Recognizing excellence and passion

Over the past century, Legal Aid staff have worked tirelessly to give vulnerable Minnesotans a voice in the justice system. They’ve had a significant impact through major litigation, policy advocacy, and fierce representation of one client at a time. This year’s community recognitions show the respect garnered by Legal Aid staff from their colleagues, clients and friends.

Arc’s Public Policy Recognition Event
Each year the Arc Minnesota Public Policy Recognition Event honors an individual for lifetime achievement in advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities. MMLA’s Minnesota Disability Law Center attorney Anne Henry was the 2013 honoree.

Anne has been a tireless advocate for people with disabilities at the State Capitol. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of state human service policy and programs, and she has helped create major improvements in laws, regulations and programs that affect people with disabilities.

Pillar of Justice Award
In 2013 the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition recognized Ron Elwood of the Legal Services Advocacy Project and Anne Henry of Legal Aid’s Minnesota Disability Law Center for their strong leadership at the legislature over many years, advocating for statewide systems change for people with low income and/or disabilities. Pillar of Justice Awards are given on rare occasions for substantial long-term achievement and unwavering dedication to justice by legal aid lawyers.

University of St. Thomas School of Law Alumna Achievement Award
The University of St. Thomas Law School posthumously honored Legal Aid staff attorney Diana Hamilton in recognition and praise of her achievements, which exemplified the ideals of the school’s mission: characteristics of leadership, professionalism, hard work, commitment to excellence and respect for others. Diana was a tireless advocate, working in the Family Law Clinic during law school and championing the rights of children as an attorney at Legal Aid’s Youth Law Project. Diana played an instrumental role in the passage of the Family Reunification Act (2013).

2012 Bernard P. Becker Award
Eva Kritizeck, Legal Assistant at MMLA’s St. Cloud office, received the 2012 Legal Services Staff Award.

The 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.

Eva’s supervisor Ann Cofell says, “I’ve seen Eva in the midst of six tired and weary people, speaking Spanish. As she speaks, their heads lift and they stand taller. Always it is clear that even if the office can’t help the person, the way Eva has treated them has helped to restore their sense of dignity. Whenever I get a chance to see this, I find myself recommitted to serving each client with respect and kindness.”

Pro Bono Publico Award
MMLA staff attorney Anne Quincy is a recipient of the Hennepin County Bar Association’s 2013 Pro Bono Publico award, which recognizes excellence in service by an individual in the public/government or judicial sector. Anne has been a staff attorney at Legal Aid since 1994. Most of her clients are homeless or suffer from serious mental or physical problems. In addition to providing representation for her clients at disability

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hearing, Anne has helped many clients secure safe shelter, obtain appropriate identification documents, and receive health care benefits. “Anne Quincy is an exceptional lawyer who combines wisdom, compassion, and legal expertise with fierce advocacy on behalf of the very poor and vulnerable,” said Greg Marita, deputy director. “She is a model for our staff as well as the broader legal community.”

**NCRC Community Reinvestment Award**

Dave Snyder, Coordinator of the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition at the Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) received national recognition this year from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition’s award. The award recognizes an individual who through their work over the past year has best exemplified the ideals and values of the community reinvestment movement and economic justice.

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10,056 cases closed in 2013

That’s 838 cases per month

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Patricia M. Siebert
In 1980, the Minneapolis Legal Aid Board approved creation of a separately incorporated funding arm called The Fund for Legal Aid. The Fund’s annual Law Day Testimonial Dinner celebrated its 32nd anniversary in 2013. The annual dinner occurs each spring and draws nearly 1,000 guests to celebrate Legal Aid’s work. The Fund’s One Hour of Sharing Campaign, established in 1985, encourages all lawyers in Hennepin County to contribute the value of one billable hour per attorney and each law firm to contribute the same for each of their attorneys. The Fund has raised more than $17,778,000 for Legal Aid since its inception.

In celebration of Legal Aid’s Centennial, more than 1,000 lawyers, law firms and corporations participated in The Fund’s One Hour of Sharing Campaign and Law Day Testimonial Dinner, and The Fund raised a record $1,287,000. The Fund is Legal Aid’s largest source of private unrestricted funding and provided 9.3% of Legal Aid’s revenue in 2013.

Thank you to The Fund’s 2013 Chair, Richard M. Hagstrom, Board of Directors and Emeritus Board.

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BY THE NUMBERS | CASES CLOSED | OFFICES

DLC 9.9%
Minneapolis 49.8%
Willmar 10.6%
St. Cloud 29.7%

John and Kristine Kaplan
Jack and Karen Kedrowski
Anthony M. Lobash
Lommen, Abdo, Cole, King & Stageberg, P.A.
Steven and Barbara Ludwig
Hon. Richard C. Luis
Larry and Karen Lundblad
Susan K. Mahle
Mary Louise Mathison
Susan Tish McMorris
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Vanyo and Ann Moody
William W. Moore
Heidi M. Myers
Scott and Barbara Nelson
Carol A. Newman
Gail Olson and Stephen Hopkins
Barry A. O’Neil
Stephan J. Ostrander
John and Maxine Otis
Kathleen Flynn Peterson
Robert and Darlene Roberts
Science Applications International Corp.
Kathleen Sefton
John and Linda Smaby
Marjorie Spliethoff and Mark Engasser
Thomas Stuart
Louise A. Sundin
Margaret R. Theisen
Jeanne H. Unger
Judges and Magistrate Judges of the U.S. District Court
Walbran & Furness Chartered
Cheryl Flickinger Watt
Thomas and Diana Weiss
Herbert F. Welch
Paul F. Werler
Brian and Tracy Westhoff
Bradley G. Wicklund
Kurt and Ann Wiessner
Robert and Nancy Withers
In Memory of Ken Kohnstamm
Tricia L. Matzek
In Memory of Jim Krieger
Kathy Moccio
In Memory of Richard Laird
Abigail Loesch
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Anonymous
Joe and Genie Dixon
Dorsey Friends of Bricker Lavik Fund
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In Memory of Hon. Donald P. Lay
Elizabeth and Thomas Boyd
In Memory of Paul Marino
Hon. Linda Gallant
In Memory of Maurice Mason
Ann Cofell
In Memory of Nicholas Edward Midden
Alison and Patrick Midden
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David Snieg
In Memory of Baba Odukale
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