

Legal Aid Link

Volume 4, Issue 3

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Level Funding for Legal Aid!

Good news! Today, Governor Patrick signed the FY11 state budget into law with level funding of [\\$9.5 million for MLAC](#).

From the beginning of our legislative funding campaign in the fall, we have hammered the message about the unprecedented IOLTA decline and the devastation that has been wrought on Massachusetts civil legal aid programs. And the message seems to have been heard. With your help, we convinced the Governor, the House, the Senate, the Conference Committee and the Governor (for a second time) that any reduction in the state appropriation would compound the funding crisis that you have been facing all year. Thank you for being an integral part of our campaign - we couldn't do it without you!



There is one last step you can take: call the Governor to thank him for including level funding for MLAC in the FY11 budget. You can reach his office at (888) 870-7770 or (617) 725-4000.

Well done everyone!

MLAC News

Client News

Client board members **Ann Leavenworth** (WMLS), **Myrnairis Cepeda** (GBLS) and **David Pearson** (VLP) are serving as representatives on the MLAC Planning Committee. MLAC staff and board members and program directors constitute the rest of the committee.

Diversity Coalition

The Diversity Coalition and its Steering Committee recently completed a strategic planning process. The process generated five short-term and three long-term goals that call for: revisiting the Diversity Coalition mission statement; collecting feedback from legal aid staff; training; expanding the Steering Committee; and working on recruitment and retention. The goals are still being refined, but they point to an exciting and productive future for the Diversity Coalition. For more information, you can contact [Joyce Allen-Beckford](#).

Equal Justice Coalition

The Equal Justice Coalition is pleased to announce **Sandy Moskowitz** as its new chair. Sandy is an attorney at Davis Malm & D'Agostine and was previously co-chair of the Private Bar Advisory

Committee (PBAC). Sandy will lead the EJC to maintain the private bar's efforts on behalf of legal aid funding next year in what will likely be another challenging budget campaign.

Outgoing EJC Chair **Julia Huston** leaves after two years of successfully rallying the private bar to support civil legal aid. Julia's energy and leadership were a large part of the success in maintaining level-funding for MLAC's line item during two difficult budget campaigns, and she will be missed.

The EJC is also pleased to announce two new co-chairs for PBAC: **Juan Concepcion** of Nixon Peabody and **Tony Doniger** of Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen. The new co-chairs will work to come up with new ideas for expanding the private bar's involvement in the legal aid funding campaign.

The other outgoing co-chair, **David Ferrera** of Nutter McClennen & Fish, will continue to involve himself in the legal aid community through his service on the Legal Advocacy and Resource Center board.

Program Buzz

You can view complete news for each program by [clicking here](#) or clicking on the "read more" links.

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center

CLSACC held its Volunteer Appreciation Party on April 21, which featured Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice **Margaret Marshall**. CLSACC honored volunteer attorney **Herbert Epstein** with the Dr. Joseph H. Brenner Award at the event.

Immigration attorney **Deidre Giblin** was honored by the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project at their annual gala on June 9, and CLSACC received the Ubuntu Award from the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights.

CLSACC's 40th Anniversary Event will be on September 27 at UpStairs on the Square in Harvard Square. Please contact **Shelly McPhail** for information about opportunities for sponsorship, tickets or general event information.

[Read more CLSACC news](#)

Disability Law Center

DLC has recently expanded its social media presence. It now has a [YouTube channel](#) featuring disability-related videos. DLC has also started posting its bi-monthly television show on Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN) as [podcasts on iTunes](#).

DLC is co-sponsoring and helping plan an Americans with Disabilities Act 20th Anniversary Celebration. The event will be on Monday, July 26, from noon to 3 pm on Boston Common. You can visit the [DLC website](#) for more information.

[Read more DLC news](#)

Greater Boston Legal Services

Sherley Cruz was selected to serve a second term on the Massachusetts Bar Association's Labor and Employment Section Council and was also re-elected secretary of the Massachusetts

and Employment Section Council and was also re-elected secretary of the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys. **Pauline Quirion** was honored at the annual meeting of Middlesex District Attorney Gerald Leone for her work as a mentor, trainer, and supporter of the District Attorney's 209A Pro Bono panel. GBLS' **Employment Law Unit** received a Collaborative Action for Safety Award for its work on the Temp Worker Right to Know campaign from the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH).

Ellen Wallace, along with GBLS attorney and deferred Goodwin Procter associate **Radhika Bhattacharya** and other staff and students, coordinated a very successful State House event on April 1 in support of paid sick days legislation. The event was attended by Victoria Reggie Kennedy, Lilly Ledbetter, Governor Patrick and Angela Menino (Mayor Menino's wife).

[Read more GBLS and see pictures](#)

Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts

Harry Ferguson is retiring in June after nine years at LACCM. Harry devoted himself to LACCM's medical-legal partnership with UMass Medical School, and was a friend and mentor to his colleagues.

Executive director **Jonathan Mannina** was elected to the Executive Committee of the Worcester County Bar Association.

[Read more LACCM news](#)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

MAC's anti-bullying bill - H.3804: An Act Addressing Bullying of Children with Autism - was incorporated into the highly-publicized anti-bullying bill (S. 2404) signed by Governor Patrick on May 3. The report MAC released last fall, [Targeted, Taunted, Tormented: the Bullying of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#), along with the heartfelt testimony of parents and others at the legislative hearing, was instrumental in gaining the support of legislators for the autism anti-bullying bill.

[Read more MAC news](#)

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

After a remarkable and distinguished 41-year career serving as the executive director of MLRI, **Allan Rodgers** has announced he will retire effective December 31. Since 1969, Rodgers has been the heart and soul of MLRI, establishing it as one of the premier legal services advocacy and support centers in the country.

[Read more MLRI news](#)

MetroWest Legal Services

MWLS said farewell to family law attorney **Jody Budz**, who will be attending the Massachusetts School of Psychology in the fall to pursue a master's degree and doctorate in forensic psychology. **Margaret MacDougal**, formerly of Merrimack Valley - North Shore Legal Services, joined MWLS in mid-June as a staff attorney in the family law unit.

Longtime Disability Benefits Project (DBP) paralegal **Annemarie Taylor** ended her 23-year tenure with MWLS. The staff at MWLS wish her well. KidsCare Connection Case Manager **Amanda Lopez** will transition to the DBP paralegal position on July 5.

[Read more MWLS news](#)

[Read more NCLC news](#)

National Consumer Law Center

In *Jerman v. Carlisle et al.*, the United States Supreme Court's recent decision interpreting the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the court ruled that a debt collector does not have a bona fide error defense for mistakes of law. The favorable ruling was supported by an *amicus* brief from NCLC, and NCLC's Fair Debt Collection manual was cited twice in the opinion by Justice Sotomayor and once in the concurrence of Justice Breyer.

NCLC welcomes five summer fellows: **Pia Winston** (Mikels Fellowship from William & Mary Law School, to honor Richard Mikels), **Rachel Rothman** (Eble Summer Fellowship), **Shamis Beckley**, **Amanda Howell** and **Ana Lucia Hurtado**. NCLC has been sponsoring a series of brown bag seminars for the fellows and summer interns in the offices of other Boston area legal services programs and in the Attorney General's office.

The 19th annual **Consumer Rights Litigation Conference** will be in Boston this year, November 11-14, at the Park Plaza Hotel. Later this summer, look for the conference brochure and more information at [NCLC's redesigned website](#).

There will also be a **Massachusetts Mortgage Defense Introductory Training** in conjunction with the Consumer Rights Litigation Conference on Thursday, November 11, from 8:30 am to 4:45 pm. This intensive course is *free to Massachusetts legal services advocates* and to pro bono attorneys who preregister and agree to take on a pro bono mortgage case within six months after the conference.

[Read more NCLC news](#)

South Coastal Counties Legal Services

SCCLS attorney **Ronald Traylor**, who completed his two-year MLAC Racial Justice Fellowship (in a joint collaboration with the Center for Law and Education) in December, presented his report to the MLAC Board on the efforts of the fellowship, including substantial "community lawyering" that resulted in significantly improved school practices in a number of circumstances.

[Read more SCCLS news](#)

Tech Tips

From MLAC Central Technology Services

Where's my desktop?

To quickly minimize all active windows and get to your Desktop, press the Windows logo key on your keyboard and either the letter M (to minimize the current window) or the Letter D (to reach Desktop).

Lock your PC in a hurry

If you're heading to lunch or a meeting and you need to quickly lock your PC, press the Windows logo key on your keyboard and the letter L.

The Windows logo key is located on the bottom row of your keyboard and may be to the left or right of the spacebar key.

Important Dates

July 22, 2010 - MLAC Board Meeting, 3 - 5 pm at 7 Winthrop Sq., 2nd Floor, Boston

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