

Legal Aid Link

Volume 3, Issue 6

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Legal Aid Attorneys Win Women of Justice Awards

Legal aid attorneys were well represented in this year's [Women of Justice Awards](#). Given that the awards celebrate "women who have made great strides in the fields of law, justice and advocacy," it is no surprise that dedication and talent of these attorneys should be honored. Legal aid awardees were: **Ruth Bourquin** of MLRI, **Laurie Carafone** of CLSACC, **Lynn Girton** of VLP, **Iris Gomez** of MLRI, **Christina Paradiso** of LACCM, and **Pauline Quirion** of GBLS.

Two other awardees play important roles in the legal aid community: **Julia Huston**, board president of GBLS and chair of the Equal Justice Coalition; and **Jayne Tyrrell**, director of the Massachusetts IOLTA committee. Congratulations!

You can view all of the awardees and read their bios by [clicking here](#). You can read the MLRI press release by [clicking here](#).

MLAC News

Equal Justice Coalition

Preparations are in high gear for EJC's annual lobby day, **Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid**, which will be held on January 27, 2010, at the State House. The EJC held its annual **Captains Luncheon** in December at Choate Hall & Stewart. The luncheon honors the law firm captains who bring the most attorneys to Walk to the Hill, and it also provides an opportunity for sharing recruiting tips and strategies.

The "**Beacon of Justice**" **Legislative Recognition Reception** was held in November at [WilmerHale](#). The EJC thanked six legislators who demonstrated outstanding commitment to civil legal aid funding while deliberating the FY10 budget. (Pictured, from left to right: Representative Murphy, House Speaker DeLeo, and Representative Eugene O'Flaherty)

[Read more EJC news](#)



Diversity Coalition

The Four Generations Workshop has been conducted at 13 programs for a total of 143 participants. It continues to be well received, and the last one is scheduled for January 2010.

The presentation given by Verna Myers to the Attorneys of Color group, "Understanding the Four Levels of Multicultural Change and the Personal Behaviors that Support Diversity Leadership," was thought-provoking and provided a forum for important discussion on the topic of personal behavior.

The Diversity Coalition wishes you all a pleasant holiday season and would like to thank you all for the support you provided in 2009. We look forward to working with you in 2010.

[Read more Diversity Coalition news](#)

Five Client Board Members Received NLADA Scholarships

MLAC awarded five client board members scholarships to attend the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association (NLADA) Annual Conference in Denver, which took place at the end of November. The five board members were: Gloria Piner of WMLS; Donna Daley of NCLC; Salea Perry of GBLS; Treana Walker of MWLS; and Jackie Farrow of WMLS (and MLAC board liaison).

After attending the conference, Treana said, "As a client board member I left NLADA with the tools that equipped me for board and community leadership. I also took home with me some outstanding fundraising ideas."

Program Buzz

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

Center for Law and Education

In November CLE welcomed a 10-month pro bono deferred associate, **Yihong (Nancy) Ni**. CLE Co-Director **Kathleen Boundy** was invited by Representative Bobby Scott of Virginia to speak at a summit held at the Congress on legal and legislative strategies to eliminate the achievement gap.

CLE attorneys **Jenny Chou** and **Joanne Karger**, together with pro bono attorneys from Choate, Hall & Stewart, brought a successful challenge in Massachusetts district court against the Worcester Public Schools' "zero tolerance" weapons policy. The case involved a 14-year old honors student at a Worcester middle school with a spotless disciplinary record who confiscated a pocket knife from a classmate who was threatening his friend. The judge granted a preliminary injunction reinstating the student in school, expunging his record, and ordering Worcester to provide remedial tutoring services. Chou and Choate Partner John Baraniak co-authored an Op-Ed on zero-tolerance policies, which ran in the December 24 *Boston Globe*, "[Zero-tolerance can mean zero due process.](#)"

[Read more CLE news](#)

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center

CLSACC elected new board officers for 2010: **April English**, President; **Anne Marie Cook**, Vice President; **Mark Smith**, Treasurer; and **Azizah Yasin**, Clerk.

CLSACC also hosted a wine and cheese reception in October to celebrate pro bono month and thank their pro bono lawyers, who gave 5,000 in donated lawyer hours this year.

[Read more CLSACC news](#)

Greater Boston Legal Services

GBLS staff have won several awards over the past few months. In October, the **GBLS Employment Law Unit** received from the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) a Collaborative Action for Safety Award for its work on the "Temp Worker Right to Know" campaign. **Monica Halas** was given a Northeastern School of Law Daynard Public Interest Fellowship. **Nadine Cohen** and **James "Mac" McCreight** received several honors at the Committee for Boston Public Housing Annual Meeting: the Edna Bynoe Public Housing Legacy Award; a Governor's Citation from Governor Patrick; a House Citation from Representative Fox; and Boston City Council Citations.

Decades of advocacy by GBLS attorneys paid off in November. Governor Patrick signed the "Expiring Use" bill, drafted by GBLS attorneys, that will preserve thousands of units of low-income housing into the future by allowing the state to purchase affordable housing before its subsidy expires.

[Read more GBLS news](#)

Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts

LACCM recently settled a lawsuit with the realty company weRENTcentralmass.com (formerly known as Guardian Select Realty and Guardian Select Real Estate). The suit alleged that the company engaged in unlawful housing practices by discriminating against renters with children.

LACCM welcomed three new volunteer attorneys: **Katie Perry**, Families and Children Unit; **Jeff Vigliotti**, Benefits and Housing Units; and **Alex Beck**, Housing Unit.

[Read more LACCM news](#)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

MAC is leading efforts to secure passage of a [bill](#) that will help ensure that supports and services are provided, as appropriate, to address the needs of the individual child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to avoid and respond to bullying. In support of the bill, MAC released a [report](#) highlighting the prevalence of bullying.

Kavita Padiyar, an associate attorney at the law firm of Ropes & Gray, has joined MAC as a Legal Fellow for a period of 12 months, focusing on legislative policy and the writing of the report on School Discipline.

In exciting fundraising news, Whole Foods stores helped MAC raise more than \$28,000 for children with autism. Residents throughout Massachusetts supported children with autism spectrum disorder by shopping at eight local Whole Foods Markets this fall.

[Read more MAC news](#)

Merrimack Valley - North Shore Legal Services

MVLS welcomes **Tim Clark**, a volunteer working on consumer protection law with a focus on mortgage foreclosures and modifications. A graduate of Harvard University and Brooklyn Law School, Tim has worked as an intern on corporate banking, hedge funds, and private equity origination.

[Read more MVLS news](#)

MetroWest Legal Services

Eric Darling of Carlisle (pictured, with **Betsy Soule**) collected a cool \$3,400 in the Smart Car raffle/cash drawing held at the MWLS "Evening of Wine and Art" in November. The Smart Car Raffle was launched in May at the MWLS annual golf



tournament, the goal being to raise funds and awareness for MWLS, particularly in those communities in which it is less well-known. With less than 350 tickets sold, the raffle was converted to a 50/50 cash drawing.

[Read more MWLS news](#)

South Coastal Counties Legal Services

The Community Economic Development Center gave Advocacy Director **Phil Kassel** their annual Earl Chase Award in September, which celebrates persons who contribute at the grassroots level.

Rich McMahon began his new role as executive director of SCCLS on November 1. He previously served as executive director for the New Center for Legal Advocacy.

[Read more SCCLS news](#)

Volunteer Lawyers Project

Sheila Hubbard will become the new executive director of VLP on February 1.

In the News

Below are links to some recent media coverage about Massachusetts legal aid programs.

LACCM: [Worcester rental company settles discrimination lawsuits with feds](#) (Worcester Telegram & Gazette)

MAC: [Bullies prey on autistic kids](#) (Boston Herald)

NLS: [Strength in numbers to fight foreclosure bind](#) (Boston Globe)

Tech Tips from MLAC Central Technology Services

Internet Explorer Tips & Tricks

To zoom in or out on a web page:

- Hold down your CTRL button on the keyboard and use the scroll wheel on your mouse. Scroll up to zoom in on the web page, and scroll down to zoom out.
- If you don't have a scroll wheel option on your mouse, you can use the "+" (zoom in) and "-" (zoom out) keys on your keyboard.

To open web page in full screen mode:

- Press F11 when you are working in Internet Explorer. The window will open to full screen mode. This will make all the toolbars disappear and can be useful to see more information on the screen.
- Press F11 again to return to your normal view.

Note: these tricks also work in Mozilla Firefox.

Important Dates

January 12, 2010 - MLAC Legal Aid Constituent Services Briefing

January 27, 2010 - Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid

[Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation](#)

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