

Legal Aid Link

Volume 4, Issue 5

In this issue...

[MLAC News](#)

[Program Buzz](#)

[Media Roundup](#)

[Tech Tips](#)

[People Pages](#)

[Important Dates](#)

MLAC News

Equal Justice Coalition

State Budget Request

Once again we will be requesting level funding of \$9.5 million for MLAC's line item (0321-1600).

Legislative Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, at Davis, Malm & D'Agostine (One Boston Place).

Election News

We were extremely pleased that Governor Patrick was reelected, as he has been a strong supporter of civil legal aid (he even made a surprise appearance at Walk to the Hill 2010). However, there are 36 new legislators who now need to be introduced to civil legal aid. MLAC is in the process of sending out informational letters, and the EJC is sending congratulatory cards. MLAC will also hold a **New Legislator Briefing** at the Adams Courthouse on Tuesday, January 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Save the Date: Walk to the Hill 2011

Walk to the Hill will be held at the State House on Tuesday, February 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are kicking off planning with the firm captains at a meeting on December 8.

Check Us Out and Spread the Word!

Find us on Facebook 

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Constituent Services Briefing

Save the Date: The 2011 Legal Aid Constituent Services Briefing will be held at the State House on Tuesday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. More details will be provided in early 2011.

Client News

The Unbeatable Advocate

The next issue of the client board member newsletter, *The Unbeatable Advocate*, is scheduled for December 2010. Send your stories to David Pearson at dpearson@shawmuteducation.org.

NLADA Scholarships

Betty Agin from WMLS, **Shams Mirza** from GBLS and **David Pearson** from VLP are the three client board members who received scholarships from MLAC to attend the NLADA Annual Conference last week in Atlanta. Pearson says the group was appreciative of the opportunity to attend the conference, where they were able to learn more about the role clients play in the fight for equal access to justice at the national level. According to Pearson, the Massachusetts delegates were some of the "most engaged and most experienced" client board members in the country.

Diversity Coalition

Survey

Thanks to those of you who completed the Diversity Coalition survey in September! The results have been compiled and are being examined by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held their quarterly meeting on September 14 to discuss their short- and long-term goals for the year. The Committee is looking for new members. If you would like more information about joining this dedicated group, please email Joyce Allen-Beckford at jallen-beckford@mlac.org. The next meeting will be held December 14.

Attorneys of Color Retreat

About 25 members of the Attorneys of Color group gathered at their annual retreat on October 27. Brent Henry, VP and general counsel of Partners HealthCare and member of the Access to Justice Commission, served as guest speaker. Also, a discussion was held on the Retention Task Force.

Staff News

Farewell Beth Chandler, MLAC's Deputy Director

Beth's last day at MLAC was October 28. She recently began a position as VP of Operations at The Achievement Network. MLAC would like to thank Beth for her dedication to legal services and wish her the best of luck in her new role!

Message from Beth

It was a privilege to be a part of the legal services community for the past five years. The tremendous dedication shown by the MLAC staff and Board as well as our colleagues in legal services is both humbling and inspiring. I'm so proud of the many things that we accomplished together during this time such as: adoption of the Client Resolution by all programs, MLAC's 25th Anniversary Celebration, creation of the Centralized Technology System, development of streamlined application and reporting forms, and much, much more. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this community. I look forward to hearing about the accomplishments of MLAC and the legal services programs over the next five years.

Welcome Janne Hellgren

As a result of Beth's departure, Janne Hellgren will be working at MLAC two days a week. She will be assisting with the strategic planning process, as well as with the program application and review process and the Constituent Services Briefing. She can be reached at jhellgren@mlac.org.

Program Buzz

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center

CLSACC's **40th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser**, which was held on September 27, was a huge success! Upstairs on the Square was packed with 185 supporters, and \$45,000 was raised from ticket sales, sponsors, in-kind donations, and the silent auction.

Disability Law Center

DLC is hosting a free conference for parents and youth on **special education transition services** for children with disabilities, ages 14-22. It will be held Saturday, December 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Springfield Technical Community College. The conference is co-sponsored by DLC, CLCM, MJP, and WMLS, as well as the Federation for Children with Special Needs. For more details and registration, please visit <http://www.dlc-ma.org>.

Greater Boston Legal Services

Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow PC gave GBLS \$25,000 in honor of its 25th anniversary to fund law student internships.

On October 28, GBLS, LARC, and volunteer law students from Suffolk University hosted a **CORI clinic** at GBLS. The purpose of the clinic was to help clients who are struggling to overcome barriers to housing, employment, and other benefits due to their criminal records. Students were trained prior to the event and armed with information, forms, and supervision by LARC/GBLS. The students helped more than 70 clients prepare forms requesting their CORI reports, Affidavits of Indigency, petitions to seal, and affidavits in support of their petitions.

Consumer Rights Unit Managing Attorney **Nadine Cohen** and Housing Law Unit Senior Attorney **Barbara Zimbel** will be honored with Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's Women in the Law awards on December 3.

Attorney **Tom Smith**, a Skadden Fellow in GBLS' Employment Law Unit, was honored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) as a Legal Champion.

Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts

LACCM recently celebrated the anniversaries of a number of employees: Office Manager **Paula Hind** (25 years), Secretary **Linda Boss** (20 years), Paralegal **Lydia Jusino** (20 years), Senior Attorney **Young Soo Jo** (10 years), Secretary **Liza Harris** (10 years), and Deputy Director **Faye Rachlin** (10 years).

Congratulations to LACCM Senior Attorney **Young Soo Jo** and his wife Jenny on the arrival of their son, Evan Alan, who was born on October 14.

LACCM Staff Attorney **Lyonel Jean-Pierre** married Betsy Loren on September 7 in New York. Congratulations, Lyonel and Betsy!

LACCM bids a fond farewell to Staff Attorney **Anna Phillips**, who will be leaving in January to take the position of Managing Attorney at the Worcester office of the Massachusetts Justice Project.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

On November 18, a crowd of about 250 came out to support MAC at its annual fundraiser, **Through the Eyes of a Child**, which was held at the Back Bay Events Center. Awards were given to the Boston Student Advisory Council (Eyes of a Child Award), Dr. Anne Larkin (Heart of a Parent Award), Dr. Renald Raphael (Caring of Community Award), and Rep. Barbara L'Italien (Laws of the Land).

MAC recently launched its redesigned web site: <http://www.massadvocates.org/>.

Massachusetts Justice Project

Approximately 75 supporters attended the **2nd Annual Worcester Equal Justice Reception in Celebration of Pro Bono** on October 19 at the Worcester County Law Library. It was sponsored by MJP, LACCM and the Worcester County Bar Association. Bar Association President Eugene P. O'Donnell served as Master of Ceremonies and awards were presented to individual volunteer Worcester attorneys for their pro bono contributions.

Approximately 100 supporters attended the **2nd Annual Celebration of Pro Bono Reception** on October 26 at the US District Courthouse in Springfield. It was sponsored by MJP and WMLS, as well as the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire County Bar Associations. District Court Judge Michael A. Ponsor served as Master of Ceremonies and awards were presented to individual attorneys from each county who have made significant pro bono contributions over the past year.

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

The executive director position is now posted on MLRI's Web site: <http://www.mlri.org/>. As a reminder, the farewell party for **Allan Rodgers** will be held on Thursday, February 17, at the Omni Parker House. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Merrimack Valley-North Shore Legal Services

MVLS welcomes **Glenna Goldis** as a family law staff attorney. Glenna is a graduate of NYU Law School and the University of North Carolina. A former reporter for the *New York Observer*, Glenna has been doing domestic violence pro bono work for the past several months for Rhode Island Legal Services.

With the end of LSC's restriction on attorney's fees, MVLS has begun claiming attorney's fees in selected cases and recently collected an award of attorney's fees in a case litigated by staff attorney **Dave Brown** in the Northeast Housing Court.

MetroWest Legal Services

MWLS is pleased to welcome two new staff members to its KidsCare Program: **Bruno Massote** and **Jessica Pinales** will both be running the Program as Case Managers & Paralegals.

Congratulations to Attorney **Al Phillips** who was one of three recipients recognized by the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services for his outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services. Justice Francis X. Spina presented the award at the 9th Annual Adams Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony held at the John Adams Courthouse in October.

The MWLS **Fall for Justice Online Auction** generated close to \$10,000. Bidding wars ensued over Bruins tickets and the Sam Adams Year of Beer, among other enticing items. Thanks for participating! Every one of your bids helped boost our bottom line.

National Consumer Law Center

NCLC just concluded its annual **National Consumer Rights Litigation Conference**, which took place last week in Boston. More than **1,000 attorneys** participated, including 107 attorneys from Massachusetts, 399 legal services attorneys from around the country, and more than 60 Assistant Attorneys General from 42 States, including Massachusetts.

In addition to dozens of workshops, presenters included the newest Federal Reserve Governor, Sarah Bloom Raskin, whose speech generated significant national coverage; Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who gave a rousing speech articulating the needs of our clients as well as can be done; and Tom Perez, the new and passionate head of the Civil Rights Division of the US

Department of Justice.

The conference was preceded by an all-day funders meeting focusing on "The Disparate Impact of the Mortgage and Foreclosure Crisis on Communities of Color," organized by the Open Society Institute, the Annie B. Casey Foundation, the Hyams Foundation, and NCLC.

New Center for Legal Advocacy

NCLA now has **new offices** in both Plymouth and New Bedford. Plymouth is now housed in the old Ocean Spray Headquarters, 225 Water Street; and New Bedford is moving back to 21 South Sixth Street (the 1820 house owned by SCCLS). Come and visit!

South Coastal Counties Legal Services

SCCLS and NCLA held their **first fundraising event** in September at a board member's home in South Dartmouth. More than 100 new and old supporters attended, raising approximately \$4,000!

Media Roundup

Super Lawyers: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, Class is Now in Session

11/1/2010 - This article profiles Julia Huston, former chair of the Equal Justice Coalition and president of GBLS. Huston is partner in Foley Hoag LLP's Intellectual Property Department and chair of the firm's Trademark, Copyright and Unfair Competition practice.

[>>read more](#)

Boston Globe: Legal Twist Forces Foreclosure Redos

11/12/2010 - GBLS client Zepheniah Taylor was able to buy back his home following foreclosure due to a problem with the property title. The article quotes GBLS attorneys Zoe Cronin and Nadine Cohen.

[>> read more](#)

Bay State Banner: In the News, Kim Janey

11/4/2010 - Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) recently announced the appointment of Kim Janey as senior program director of the Boston School Reform Project.

[>> read more](#)

Tech Tips

Keyboard Shortcuts in Outlook

Switch to Mail - CTRL + 1

Switch to Calendar - CTRL + 2

Switch to Contacts - CTRL + 3

Switch to Tasks - CTRL + 4

Switch to Notes - CTRL + 5

Switch to Folder List - CTRL + 6

Switch to Shortcuts - CTRL + 7

Switch to Journal - CTRL + 8

Nuance PDF Forms

If you need to create a fillable PDF Form to save & print or email to a client: Using Nuance PDF Pro, on the **Menu Toolbar** click on Forms and choose FormTyper, or from the **Form Toolbar** click on the Form Typer option. The end result will be a newly created form which one can easily fill in & save.

"People Pages"

[CLICK HERE](#) to print "People Pages," an alphabetical directory of Massachusetts Legal Services staff members and their contact information (NOTE: You must log in to MassLegalServices.org in order to access the list).

This online version replaces the hard copy list previously printed and distributed by MLAC biannually. You can also look up staff individually by last name using the search function on MassLegalServices.org.

Important Dates

December 16, 2010 - MLAC Board Meeting, 3 - 5 pm, 7 Winthrop Sq, 4th Floor, Boston

MLAC Offices will be closed due to furlough the week of December 27.

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