

Legal Aid Link

A Newsletter for Massachusetts Civil Legal Services Programs

In This Issue

New Communications Tools

[MLAC Board Meeting & WMLS Open House](#)

[The Buzz](#)

[Diversity Coalition Workshops Begin](#)

[IT Update](#)

[MLAC's New Staffers](#)

[Professional Development Opportunities](#)

Quick Links

[MLAC Home](#)
[Newsletter Archive](#)
[Related Topics](#)
[More On Us](#)

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

New Brand and Website

Welcome to the *Legal Aid Link*, an e-newsletter developed for our civil legal aid programs. We have developed an exciting set of communications tools to help connect our legal services community together and to tell our story in compelling ways. We are debuting our new MLAC brand, which you can see up top, and have revamped our website as well. Please visit us at <http://www.mlac.org>



Do you have news for the legal services community and the public? We'd love to help you share your important activities through our newsletters and website. If you have research or other in-depth information, we'll be glad to post that on our website, as well. Please send your updates to Carol Yelverton: cylverton@mlac.org

MLAC BOARD MEETING & WMLS OPEN HOUSE

Mark Your Calendars for Sept. 27th

Our next board meeting will be at the law offices of Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinias ([map](#)) from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. This will provide us all with an opportunity to stop by the **Western Massachusetts Legal Services (WMLS) Open House** to wish Program Director Tina Elzeneiny and her staff all the best in their new offices. The open house will be held from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at One Monarch Place in Springfield ([map](#)).

THE BUZZ

News From The Programs

With thanks for 22 incredible years, we wish **Leslee Klein** all the best as she retires from the Executive Director role at Community Legal Services & Counseling Center (CLSACC).

We also welcome new Executive Director **Barbara Mitchell**, who has most recently run the Family Law Unit at GBLS.

Help Children with Autism: Shop at Whole

Foods on October 16th. Massachusetts Advocates for Children has partnered with 13 Whole Foods Markets for this fundraising opportunity. Shop at Whole Foods and 5 percent of your bill will go to MAC's Autism Special Education Legal Support Center. The following Whole Foods locations are participating:



Bedford
Bellingham
Cambridge (Fresh Pond)
Cambridge (Prospect Street)
Cambridge (River Street)
Framingham
Hingham
Newton
Newtonville
Swampscott
Wayland
Wellesley
Woburn

The **Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts (LACCM)** has launched a program website at <http://www.laccm.org> and invites colleagues across the state to visit the site. LACCM continues to operate its Live Justice website at <http://www.livejustice.org>, which allows consumers to access information about housing law and to begin e-mail correspondence with a LACCM advocate about landlord-tenant issues.

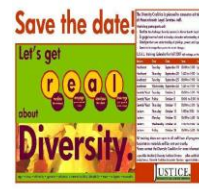
Senior family law attorney **Stephanie Goldenhersh** has left LACCM to take a position supervising law students at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. While the program was sorry to see her go, they have sent her off with wishes for great success in her new endeavors.

We welcome **Stephany Melton**, the new development manager at Massachusetts Advocates for Children. Stephany previously worked at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Massachusetts.

DIVERSITY COALITION WORKSHOPS

Workshops Continue Through Fall

The Diversity Coalition's "Let's Get R.E.A.L. About Diversity" workshops began this week as a new diversity training program for legal aid program staff. The first workshop took place in Lynn on Tuesday and the second took place in Lowell on Thursday.



Here is a list of places, dates and times for the upcoming workshops:

Taunton, Tuesday September 25th (10AM - 3PM)
Taunton, Wednesday September 26th (1PM - 5PM)
Worcester, Tuesday October 2nd (10AM - 3PM)
Holyoke, Friday October 5th (10AM - 3PM)
Springfield, Thursday October 11th (10AM-3PM)
Framingham, Thursday October 18th (1PM - 5PM)
Boston, Monday October 22nd (10AM - 3PM)
Boston, Wednesday October 24th (1PM - 5PM)
Boston, Friday October 26th (10AM - 3PM)

IT UPDATE

New IT System Streamlines Legal Aid Process

A number of programs have made the switch to the new LegalFiles system, which will allow them to spend more time with clients and less time on paperwork. LegalFiles is currently operational at the following programs:

Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)
New Center for Legal Advocacy (NCLA)
Massachusetts Justice Project (MJP)
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts (CLCM)
South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS)

LegalFiles is now being rolled out at **Western Massachusetts Legal Services (WMLS)**.

MLAC'S NEW STAFFERS

New Employees

We are delighted to welcome three new staff members:

Heather Catherwood is our new Program Assistant, working with Executive Director Lonnie Powers and Equal Justice Coalition Director Pattye Comfort.

Thanos Matthai joins MLAC as our Communications Assistant. He and Communications Director Carol Yelverton will provide internal and external communications support and resources for MLAC and our programs.

Amanda Sullivan is joins us as our Network/Applications Support Specialist. She will be working with Case Management System Administrator Karyn Telfer on the LegalFiles roll out across the state.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Communications/Development

Looking to tell the civil legal aid story in interesting ways *and* raise more money for your program? Take advantage of a series of dynamic communications & fundraising meetings and workshops that can help you polish your skills. All activities will be held at our MLAC offices: 11 Beacon Street, Suite 820, Boston, Massachusetts

Workshop: Building Your Strategic Communications Plan

Friday September 28, 2007 (1PM - 4PM)

Communications Committee Meeting

Wednesday October 10, 2007 (1PM - 3PM)

Workshop: Message Development

Friday October 26, 2007 (1PM - 4PM)

Workshop: Media Training

Friday November 30, 2007 (1PM - 4PM)

Development Director/Communicator Meeting

Friday December 7, 2007 (2PM - 4PM)

Workshop: Making Your Website Work For You

Friday February 8, 2008 (2PM - 4PM)

Development Director/Communicator Meeting

Friday March 7, 2008 (2PM - 4PM)

Development Director/Communicator Meeting

Friday June 6, 2008 (2PM - 4PM)