

Legal Aid Link

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FY10 Budget Campaign

From the [Equal Justice Coalition](#):

Advocacy from all sectors of the Massachusetts legal community has been strong and steady as the [budget process](#) on Beacon Hill enters its final, critical stage.

The budget for FY10 (which begins July 1, 2009) is now in the hands of Governor Patrick, and it includes \$9.5 million for the MLAC line item. Unfortunately, this is not the level funding we have been pushing for all year, but rather, it represents a compromise between the level funding recommended by the House (\$11 million) and the \$8 million which was recommended by the Senate.

Governor Patrick has indicated that he is prepared to reduce the funding level to \$8 million. We're working hard to make sure he maintains the Conference Committee's funding of \$9.5 million. Stay tuned!

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"Voices of Legal Aid" Video!

Watch the new "[Voices of Legal Aid](#)" video on YouTube! The video was produced by MLAC to showcase its importance in Massachusetts. Thanks to everyone who helped out!



Diversity Coalition News

[Upcoming Diversity Coalition Workshops](#)

The Diversity Coalition will be offering workshops titled "Generational Differences in the Workplace" from July 9th thru September 15th at legal aid program offices. The goal of the workshops is to raise awareness about

the participants' own norms and values around ageism, adultism, and the different generations.

Client News

[Client Celebration Dinner](#)

On April 25th, Client Council members from around the state gathered in Cambridge to celebrate client participation and contributions to equal justice. Several client board members were honored at the event for exceptional service to their board over the past year. **Myrnairis Cepeda** from GBLS, **Jackie Farrow** from WMLS, and **Len Spinner** from NCLA all received award plaques, presented by David Pearson. **Gloria Piner** received a lifetime achievement award in recognition of her many years of invaluable service. Gloria has been involved in legal services for 34 years and continues to work with WMLS.

Farewell to Jessie and Tony of MLRI!

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute has announced the imminent retirements of long-time staff members **Ernest "Tony" Winsor** and **Jessie Hill**. Both Jessie and Tony will retire with 40 years of service at MLRI!

Jessie was MLRI's co-office manager and has been responsible for assigning, and supervising, the work of MLRI's administrative assistants. According to MLRI Executive Director Allan Rodgers, "Jessie has consistently been a pleasant and unflappable presence at MLRI."

Regarding Tony's service, Allan says, "Over the years, Tony combined the thoroughness and attention to detail of a great lawyer with the energy, enthusiasm and passion of a committed social justice activist." During his tenure at MLRI, Tony specialized in court and administrative law reform, public records and privacy protection, consumer law, disability rights law, and reforms to the state's Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system.

[Read more about Tony and Jessie here.](#)

The Buzz

[Community Legal Services and Counseling Center \(CLSACC\)](#)

In early June, [CLSACC](#) welcomed new Office Manager **Daniel Guerrero** and our Dwyer & Collora Fellow **Laurie Carafone**, who will concentrate on immigration law cases. CLSACC's immigration attorney **Lisa Laurel Weinberg** was honored by Safe Homes in Worcester with its International Award of Courage for her work with GLBTQ immigrant and refugee youth.

[Disability Law Center \(DLC\)](#)

[DLC](#) has been participating in the Boston Marathon fundraising program for the last eight years, and this year DLC received five invitational numbers for the 2009 Boston Marathon. Team DLC runners were asked to raise \$2,500 each for the Disability Law Center, so they worked extremely hard during a tough winter and a tough economic time to train for the marathon and to raise the required funds.

This year DLC's Office Manager, **Maureen Henrikson**, ran the marathon for DLC. In addition, Christine Collopy, Rose McCarthy, Sonya Mann and Charlotte Sturrock all ran for Team DLC. The five members of Team DLC raised a total of \$12,740! All five runners finished the marathon and had a great time doing it. According to Maureen, "It was an amazing and horrible experience all at the same time."

[Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts \(LACCM\)](#)

On May 28, [LACCM](#) and the Volunteer Lawyers Service of the Massachusetts Justice Project held their annual Equal Justice Reception. The Reception honored those private attorneys who volunteered their time to take pro bono cases for LACCM and VLS over the last year. This year, the following attorneys received special recognition: **David M. Nickless**, Volunteer Lawyer Service Bankruptcy Award; **Richard S. Paris**, Volunteer Lawyer Service Bankruptcy Award; **William Howe Oldach**, Volunteer Lawyer Service Family Law Award; **Carolyn M. Mitchell**, Lawyer for the Day Outstanding Volunteer; **Clara Silvia Leb**, Uncontested Divorce Project Outstanding Volunteer; and **Robert A. Kovacs**, Honorable Harry Zarrow Homeless Advocacy Project

Outstanding Volunteer.

LACCM is also fortunate to have eight new summer interns: **Stephanie Bennett** and **Celeste Moran** from Boston University School of Law; **Kristin Cleary**, **Alexa Siegel**, and **Dylan Hayre** from Boston College Law School; **Elizabeth Sweeney** from the Western New England College School of Law; **Kareine Durand** from Howard University School of Law; and **Dominique Ruegg** from College of the Holy Cross.

[Massachusetts Advocates for Children \(MAC\)](#)

[MAC](#) and DLA Piper have launched the Education Rights Project, which will be the firm's "signature" pro bono project in Massachusetts. The project is organized into four components made up of teams from DLA Piper and MAC: (1) advocacy to support children with autism spectrum disorder; (2) advocacy for students in the Boston Public School system; (3) advocacy around statewide special education issues; and (4) a synergy team involving national healthcare, insurance and financial corporate partners. The project will be featured in the July 15 edition of *Education Week*.

[Massachusetts Law Reform Institute \(MLRI\)](#)

Cindy Mann, a health law attorney for [MLRI](#) from 1988 through 1994, has been appointed to serve as the Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, which is part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. During her tenure at MLRI, Mann represented the consumer advocacy group Health Care for All on health care reform matters, and advocated for many progressive reforms, including simplifying the MassHealth application and creating a uniform access point for all children's health benefits.

[Merrimack Valley - North Shore Legal Services \(MVNS\)](#)

Alexander "Sandy" Pratt, [MVNS](#)'s superb education and housing attorney, retired after eight distinguished years of service with MVNS. Legal services was a second career for Sandy, who spent 30 years as litigation partner in a large Boston law firm before MVNS. He had a particular bent for mentoring less experienced attorneys and teaching them the art of trial practice. He and his wife plan to split their time between the Cape and California, enjoying their grandchildren.

[MetroWest Legal Services \(MWLS\)](#)

Get Smart! Take a chance to win an ultra-low emission (68.9 mpg highway, 46.3 mpg city) [2009 Smart fortwo Passion Coupe](#) in the MetroWest Legal Services Smart Car Raffle. Raffle tickets are \$100 each and a maximum of 750 tickets will be sold. The drawing will take place on November 12, 2009, at the MWLS Evening of Wine Tasting and Art. You can learn more or purchase tickets online at www.mwlegal.org. Tell your friends!

MWLS welcomes volunteer attorney **Diana Wainrib**, former chief counsel at Reebok International, to its Housing Unit where she will be working on loan modifications. Other new faces include several new interns to the Housing and PBI Units: **James Kalec**, a second year law student at Suffolk University Law School; **Frances Emilfarb**, a second year law student at Franklin Pierce Law Center, concentrating on bankruptcy cases; and **Pamela Charpie**, a junior at Connecticut College, working on immigration law cases.

Harriet Holzman Onello was recently appointed to the MWLS Board of Directors. Onello, who maintains a private practice in Lexington, has over 20 years of experience in the general practice of law, and is committed to providing advice and advocacy to clients facing immediate personal crises, such as divorce or long-term care planning.

Congratulations to **Meghan Davoren**, a 2-year AmeriCorps Volunteer with MWLS, who was accepted to American University Law School in Washington, DC.

[National Consumer Law Center \(NCLC\)](#)

[NCLC](#) is sad to say that **Elizabeth Renuart** is leaving the Center and Boston after many years as one of the very best consumer law advocates in the country. It is some solace that she is leaving to be a law professor and will continue to be outspoken and influential on matters of consumer law policy.

The Center is also pleased to announce that **Andrew Pizor** has joined our Washington staff. His experience includes lawyering with legal services in Delaware, in private practice, and most recently with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center. He brings outstanding expertise in predatory mortgage lending and

foreclosures.

Rarely has the staff at the Center been so highly involved in so many high profile policy and litigation matters. One recent highlight followed late night and weekend calls from Congressional staff to the Center about the language and substance of pending credit card legislation. Following passage, NCLC's vital role was acknowledged when **Lauren Saunders** was invited to the White House for the signing of the historic Credit CARD Act.

MLAC News

Staff Updates

Pat Swansey was recently elected to the [Associated Grant Makers](#) (AGM) board for a three-year term. Congratulations Pat!

Anthony Morse's last day at MLAC will be June 30. He served as Program Assistant to the Client Council for the past year and a half, working to promote client empowerment and involvement in legal services. In the past year, he's helped pass a client board resolution at MLAC and organized a client discussion on rural poverty out in Hatfield, Massachusetts. We all wish him the best of luck!

Important Dates

June 25 - MLAC Board Meeting (7 Winthrop Square, Boston)

July 23 - MLAC Board Meeting (7 Winthrop Square, Boston)

Staff Directory Reminder

Need to look up contact information for legal services staff and programs? Check out the online directory at the updated www.masslegalservices.org, which contains the most up-to-date contact information for Massachusetts Legal Services staff. You first need to log-in to the site (located on the upper right of the page), and then the searchable Staff Directory will be located on the left. Alternatively, once you are logged-in, you can click on "[Directory](#)" at the top of the page to see a list of programs and their staff lists.

[Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation](#)

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