

# Legal Aid Link

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## News in this issue...

[MLAC](#)  
[Diversity Coalition](#)  
[People](#)  
[Program News & Advocacy Updates](#)  
[Event Recap](#)  
[Save the Dates](#)  
[Tech Tip](#)  
[People Pages](#)



## MLAC

### A New National "Communications Hub" for Civil Legal Aid

National civil legal aid leaders plan to create a central resource for boosting the public's awareness and understanding of the vital role of civil legal aid in assuring fairness in the justice system. Announced in July at MIE's National Fundraising Conference in Chicago, the communications hub is intended to be a "peddler-in-chief" to the media and will begin work this fall. The hub will retain the services of an established communications firm. Martha Bergman, currently President and CEO of the Mississippi Center for Justice, will become the hub's founding director. The Public Welfare Foundation and the Kresge Foundation will provide initial seed funding for the hub, which will be housed and legally administered by the New Venture Fund in Washington, D.C. MLAC will closely watch the development of the communications hub and will explore ways that legal aid programs in Massachusetts can benefit from it.

### BBA Summer Jobs Student Completes Work at MLAC

For the second summer in a row, MLAC hosted a high school student taking part in the BBA Summer Jobs Program, a collaborative effort of the BBA, Boston Private Industry Council and the City of Boston to offer an introduction to the legal profession to a diverse population of Boston high school students. Audrey Ngankam was this summer's MLAC student, helping with administrative tasks and learning about civil legal aid in Massachusetts. She plans to begin her first year at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth this fall.



## Diversity Coalition & Retention Task Force

### MLAC to Host Diversity Conference Featuring Keynote Speaker Tim Wise

Tim Wise, an author and anti-racism activist, will speak as part of a conference organized to examine structural and institutional biases that impede legal services' mission. The conference, sponsored by MLAC, the Massachusetts Diversity Coalition and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, will take place September 27 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. All legal services employees in Massachusetts are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, visit [www.mlac.org](http://www.mlac.org).



## People

Four legal aid attorneys will receive 2013 Top Women of Law Awards from *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*: **Monica Halas** of Greater Boston Legal Services, **Linda Landry** of Disability Law Center, **Barbara Mitchell** of Community Legal Services and Counseling Center and **Veronica Serrato** of the Volunteer Lawyers Project. The awards will be presented at a reception on October 31. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Program News & Advocacy Updates

### Neighborhood Legal Services Prepares New Office in Lawrence

On September 3, NLS will be moving its Lawrence office to the Union Crossing development, located at 50 Island Street, Suite 203, Lawrence, MA. The new Union Crossing location is a beautiful 19th century mill that was used as a foundry until about 1916 and then as a textile mill. The property includes 360,000 square feet of newly renovated residential, commercial and retail space, as well as community facilities and green space. The new location is near I-495 and the Lawrence train station, is handicap accessible and offers ample free parking for staff and clients.



## Event Recap

### AmeriCorps Program Celebrates Year of Service

The Massachusetts Legal Assistance for Self-Sufficiency Program (MLASSP), a state-wide AmeriCorps program that places college and law school graduates at 13 legal service agencies throughout Massachusetts, celebrated its 8th End of the Year Celebration at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse on July 19. MLASSP, which boasts over 200 program alumni, proudly graduated 25 members from the 2012-2013 service term. MLASSP members and supervisors heard from Susan Nagl, Executive



Director of South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc., as well as from Lonnie Powers, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation. Program alumni also came to speak about how their MLASSP participation can help them as they pursue their future careers.

### CLSACC Celebrates Volunteers and Honors Community Members

Community Legal Services and Counseling Center honored Shawn MacMaster, director of community partnerships for the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, with the Dr. Brenner Award for his commitment to advancing the safety and well-being of domestic violence survivors and their

children through innovative legal and community programs. April English, outgoing president of the CLSACC Board of Directors, was also honored at the May 1 reception for her many years of leadership of the agency.

## Save the Dates

**Disability Law Center** will hold its annual Award Ceremony and Silent Auction on September 12 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. Among the awardees are Mayor of Boston Thomas Menino and the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network.

**Volunteer Lawyers Project** will host an annual reception to honor volunteers at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston on October 1. American Bar Association President Elect William Hubbard will speak at the event.

Join **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** at their Annual Celebration on October 17. [Click here for more information](#)

Do you know a young person who has advocated for change that improves the lives of children and youth? **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** is now seeking applicants for the Youth Advocate of the Year Award. Nominations must be received by September 13. [Click here \[PDF\] for more.](#)

## Tech Tip

### Tips for Improving your iPhone's Battery Life

- Disable notifications from apps you don't use regularly. *To do this, tap Settings > Notifications then tap the slider next to any app's name to disable its notifications.*
- Turn off Location Services. *To do this, tap Settings > Privacy > Location Services and tap the sliders next to an app's name.*
- Check for email manually. *To do this, tap Settings > Mail, Contacts, Calendars > Fetch New Data. Set "Push" to off and select "Fetch" to manually.*
- Turn on Auto-Brightness. *To do this, tap Settings > Brightness & Wallpaper and change the Auto-Brightness switch to on.*
- Close unused apps that are running in the background. *To do this, press the iPhone's Home button twice. Any running apps will appear across the bottom of the screen. Keep your finger on one of the apps until it shakes. Then tap the red minus button to close.*  
-- Patricia Shaughnessy, Support & Training Specialist

## "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). You can also look up staff individually by last name using the search function on MassLegalServices.org.

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