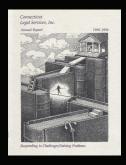
# CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

# 1977-2017











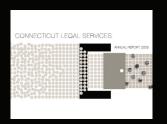




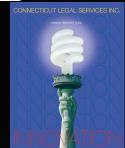


























40



YEARS OF SERVICE

# CLS TIME LINE 1977–2017 ■



The first legal aid agency in the United States is established to represent low-income German immigrants in civil rights cases. The agency later expands its services to all lowincome people in need.



#### 1967: Conaress Enacts LSCA

The Legal Services Corporation Act mandates the effective, efficient delivery of legal services to the poor. The regional office of the Legal Services Corporation leads an initiative to form a statewide law firm to represent the poor in Connecticut.



Congress passes the Economic Opportunity Act, the beginning of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. For the first time, Congress makes federal money available for the poor.

### 1977: The Incorporation of CLS

Fairfield County Legal Services, Legacy, the Legal Aid Board of New Britain, the Middlesex County Legal Assistance Association, the Tolland-Windham Legal Assistance Program, and Waterbury Legal Aid and Reference Services incorporate into Connecticut Legal Services, led by Roger Koontz.



In response to Reagan-era budget cuts, CLS closes several offices and reduces staff by 30 percent. CLS also redirects its focus to three fundamental areas of need: protection of clients' essential rights to income, shelter, and health.



The state legislature passes a bill to make IOLTA contributions mandatory. CLS revenues are projected to quadruple.

### CLS Helps Boy Running for His Life

Jorge\*, a minor, found his way to the United States after fleeing Honduras because his life was in danger. In Honduras, Jorge's cousin had shot their grandmother in the head while Jorge sat next to her. Jorge's cousin then turned the gun on him, shooting him in the arm and the leg. While Jorge was on the floor, his cousin pressed the gun to Jorge's forehead and pulled the trigger, but, miraculously, no bullet was ejected, although police confirmed that there were bullets in the gun and that the gun had not jammed. Jorge's grandfather, who was in his room sleeping at the time, woke up and intervened before Jorge's cousin could try again. The police arrived, and Jorge gave them a full statement about what had occurred. Jorge's cousin threatened to kill him, and Jorge was put on a gang hit list; gang members were told to kill Jorge on sight. This is significant because this agna is one of the fastest growing agnas in the world and has been deemed an international gang with members in multiple

countries, including Guatemala and El Salvador. That meant Jorge did not have the option of fleeing to these neighboring countries.

Jorge's cousin served less than two years in prison before escaping. She immediately started harassing and threatening Jorge. He was so scared that he stopped going out and stopped going to school. He then decided to escape to the United States. When he arrived, he was threatened with deportation and was referred to Connecticut Legal Services for assistance. CLS represented him in his removal proceedings and filed a defensive asylum application on his behalf. Because of our advocacy, Jorge was granted asylum, and the removal proceedings were terminated. He is now safe in the United States and no longer fears for his life.

\*Names and identifying information in CLS client stories were 2 changed to protect clients' confidentiality.

# Service Area, Offices, and Staff

Connecticut Legal Services is a private, not-for-profit law firm dedicated to improving the lives of low-income people by providing access to justice.

In the CLS service area—all of Connecticut except the Greater Hartford and New Haven areas—more than 200,000 people are financially eligible for services (2010 census).

CLS has six full-service offices, three satellite offices, and one administrative office.

On June 30, 2017, the CLS staff consisted of

42.87 FTE lawyers

2.00 FTE paralegals

11.72 FTE legal assistants

Other cases

.55 FTE child welfare advocates

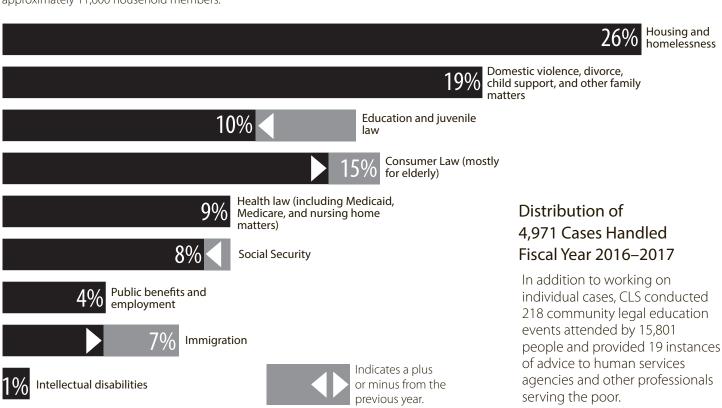
8.00 FTE administrative staff.



Housing and nomelessness

### Distribution of Cases

In 2016–2017, Connecticut Legal Services received approximately 15,813 requests for service. We responded by opening 2,932 new cases for legal representation and counseling. We also worked on 2,039 cases opened in previous years. CLS's work in these 4,971 cases benefited approximately 11,600 household members.



### 1990: CLS Expands for the First Time in Ten Years

After a decade of slow growth, CLS expands its services to low-income people and adds 14 attorneys, one paralegal, and six secretaries to the CLS ranks. CLS also partners with other legal services programs to launch the AIDS Legal Network of Connecticut.

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Leslie O'Brien—Director of Constituent Services: Senate Democrats

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Mitchell Pearlman, Esq.—Government
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**Executive Director** 

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Finance Director

Anne Louise Blanchard

Litigation and Advocacy Director

Astrid Lebron

Director of Development

Whit Freer

## CLS Helps Neglected Kids Begin New Lives

The Connecticut Legal Services child protection team represented three chronically neglected children living in a violent home. The mother had a prior conviction for leaving the children unattended in a car with the keys in the ignition while she was in a store. She also let one child leave another store without paying for items. The father had arrests for domestic violence assaults. Neither parent was able to appropriately care for the children.

Two children were school-aged, but their parents had not registered them for school. When they finally were enrolled, the teachers noticed that their clothes were dirty and did not fit. They fell asleep in school because they were up at night preparing formula for their baby brother, changing his diapers, and doing housework. There was little food in the house. An eye doctor could not complete the children's eye exams because the children could not read numbers or letters. The school nurse had to teach them how to brush their teeth because they did not know how and had no toothbrushes or toothpaste at home.

The children were removed from the home, placed with foster parents, and referred to CLS for help. CLS advocated for and obtained evaluations and the appointment of an educational surrogate for all three children, one of whom was identified as needing special



education. We successfully advocated with DCF to get the children therapy to help them overcome what they had lived through. Happily, the children were adopted by an aunt and uncle, reside safely in another state, and are appropriately cared for and loved.

### 1992: Legal Services Agencies Found LARCC

CLS and other legal services agencies in Connecticut jointly found—and fund—the Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut, Inc. to manage staff training, client education materials, and the legislative representation of clients.

## Letter from Executive Director and Board Chair

Dear Friends.

This year, Connecticut Legal Services celebrates 40 years of changing and improving lives by helping people access justice. That's 40 years of helping individuals and families achieve stability amid crisis and 40 years of using the legal system to help

- Victims of domestic violence find safety
- Children achieve appropriate education plans rather than enter the criminal justice system
- Families find and hold onto warm, safe housing
- People of all ages access life-sustaining and life-saving health care
- Elderly people regain the dignity and sense of security they lost as victims of illegal debt harassment
- Immigrants understand and enforce their rights
- People with intellectual disabilities live their lives with appropriate safeguards
- Countless low-income people fight injustice.

Many of our staff members have been with CLS since its infancy. They selflessly saw CLS through harsh economic times, taking salary reductions to avoid layoffs when funding was especially low. The men and women of CLS put in countless hours advocating for their clients and for policies that affect their clients. They log another number of countless hours on various internal committees, always striving to help CLS be the best advocate for justice possible. Our volunteers and board give generously of their time and services.

We are optimistic going forward, even in these particularly hard times for our clients. With your support, we will continue to be a force for justice and continue to be a place low-income people can turn to when they have nowhere else to go.

Thank you for supporting CLS and the work we do.

Sincerely,







Kevin J. Rasch Board Chair

#### 1992: Lawyers Raise Funds for CLS

CLS kicks off its first Campaign for Justice to raise funds from private attorneys to help fund CLS attorney salaries.

### 1995: LSC Restrictions Lead to Creation of New Service Delivery

Congress attaches new, crippling restrictions to Legal Services Corporation funds. Threatened with the loss of major funding, legal services agencies redefine their priorities and create Statewide Legal Services to receive LSC funds and conduct centralized intake and referrals. The CLS workforce drops to a low of 38 advocates as many staffers move to SLS.

5

# Financial Supporters and Other Income Sources for 2016–2017

#### Covernment Pased Grants

Government Based Grants		
Agency on Aging, Senior Resources (Eastern Connecticut)	\$	44,587
Agency on Aging, Southwestern Connecticut Area		47,477
Agency on Aging, Western Connecticut Area		54,431
City of Middletown		10,000
Community Development Block Grant Program—City of Waterbury		10,075
Community Development Block Grant Program—Town of Fairfield		4,006
Park City Communities		54,156
State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division—Family Matters Training Program		6,000
State of Connecticut Department of Aging		85,806
State of Connecticut Department of Social Services		715,560
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch		26,191
State of Connecticut Long Term Care Ombudsman Program		10,385
State of Connecticut Office of Protection & Advocacy		125,950
State of Connecticut Office of the Chief		30,000
Public Defender		
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services		1,554,833
		1,554,833 1,000
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services		
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford		1,000
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry		1,000 925
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington		1,000 925 2,200
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton	\$	1,000 925 2,200 8,157
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield	\$	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield Total Government Based Grants	<b>\$</b>	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield Total Government Based Grants  Private Grants Community Foundation of Eastern	•	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500 <b>2,798,239</b>
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield Total Government Based Grants  Private Grants Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut - Immigration Project Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund—	•	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500 <b>2,798,239</b>
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield Total Government Based Grants  Private Grants Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut - Immigration Project Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund— New London Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund—	•	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500 <b>2,798,239</b> 30,000 2,500
State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services Town of Ashford Town of Coventry Town of Ellington Town of Groton Town of Mansfield Total Government Based Grants  Private Grants  Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut - Immigration Project Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund–New London Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund–New London Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut—Woman & Girls Fund–Windham Connecticut Bar Foundation (Interest on	•	1,000 925 2,200 8,157 6,500 <b>2,798,239</b> 30,000 2,500

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Inc. (LawyerCorps Connecticut Fellowship)	69,563
Jeffery P. Ossen Family Foundation	100,000
St. John's Community Foundation	5,250
Vera Institute of Justice, Inc.	7,650
The Kitchings Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County	10,000
The Tow Foundation, Inc	50,000
The Workplace	20,000
The Xerox Foundation	15,000
United Way, Central and Northeastern Connecticut	42,000
United Way, Greater Waterbury	16,600

37,500

26,909

104,373

400

14,000

1,123

21,500

6,250

28,595

3,600

3,800

9,414,454

Connecticut Health Foundation

Financial Distress Research Project

**Equity Solutions** 

Fund - Central Region

Health Equity Solutions

United Way, Greenwich

United Way, Southington

United Way, Meriden and Wallingford

United Way, Northwest Connecticut

United Way, Southeastern Connecticut

United Way, West Central Connecticut

**Total Private Grants** 

Connecticut Health Foundation-Health

Frontier Employees Community Services

#### **Donations and Other Income**

Total CLS Income	Ś	13.000.692
<b>Total Donations and Other Income</b>	\$	787,999
Other Income		630
United Way Donor Designations		18,290
Donated Goods and Services		302,821
Campaign for Justice		271,189
Attorney Fees	\$	195,069

#### 1997: CLS Celebrates Platinum Anniversary

CLS celebrates 20 years, determined to rebuild its staff, expand services, and fill coverage gaps caused by the IOLTA downturn and LSC funding cuts.

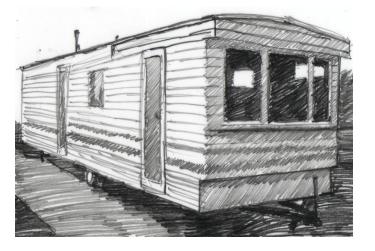
# Statements of Financial Position—June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2016

ASSETS	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016
Current Assets			Liabilities		
Cash and Cash Equivalents— Operating Funds	\$2,124,200	\$2,185,562	Accrued Pension Liability	\$4,711,537	\$5,964,996
Cash in Escrow—Client Funds	1,051	2,912	Accounts Payable	323,696	80,963
Certificates of Deposit	749,743	249,995	Accrued Expenses Refundable Advances	99,198 376,485	41,493 60,717
Receivables			Accrued Annual Leave	452,733	451,997
Grants and Contracts Receivable	500,172	53,485	Client Trust Deposits	1,051	2,912
Promises to Give	1,488,625	1,207,849	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$5,964,700	\$6,603,078
Other Receivables	27,833	44,759	Net Assets		
Prepaid Expenses	90,139	65,721	Unrestricted		
Total Current Assets	\$4,981,763	\$3,810,283	Undesignated—attributable to operations	607,042	780,972
Fixed Assets			Undesignated—attributable to pension liability	-2,616,277	-4,311,065
Property and Equipment	\$810,607	506,858	Designated		
Building/Leasehold Improvements	1,149,380	818,520	Insurance Escrow	0	0
Total Fixed Assets Before	\$1,959,987	\$1,325,378	Fixed Assets	853,010	266,772
Depreciation			<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	-\$1,156,225	-\$3,263,321
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-1,106,977	-1,058,607	Net Assets		
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	\$853,010	\$266,772	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,099,920	758,680
Other Assets			<b>Total Net Assets</b>	-\$56,305	-\$2,504,641
Security Deposits	\$73,622	\$21,382	<b>Total Liabilities And</b>	\$5,908,395	\$4,098,437
Total Other Assets	\$73,622	\$21,382	Net Assets		
Total Assets	\$5,908,395	\$4,098,437			

#### CLS Helps Mother Save Her Home

Mary, the mother of twin teenage boys, recently went through a very difficult divorce. One of the few assets she received was the mobile home in which she had lived with her family for more than 15 years. Mary owns her mobile home but pays a monthly rental fee to a mobile home park. After her divorce, she found paying her basic expenses difficult. Mary worked part-time while she applied for Social Security disability, but her income was so limited that she fell behind in her rent payments. She contacted Connecticut Legal Services during the final stages of her eviction case for nonpayment of rent. She had already signed an agreement in court with the mobile home park to make arrearage payments and had complied with the payment schedule. However, a few months after the agreement was signed, the mobile home park returned to court, asking that Mary be evicted for having an unauthorized occupant living in her mobile home, which would have been a breach of her rental contract. If the mobile home park proved that Mary had an unauthorized occupant living with her, she could have been evicted within days of her court hearing, and her mobile home could have been seized to cover the arrearage in full.

CLS quickly responded to Mary's request for assistance. We filed an objection to the mobile home park's request to evict Mary and helped her file a motion asking the judge to allow her to exercise her right to sell her mobile home if she were evicted so she could recover



the equity she had in her home. Using the objection and motion as leverage, CLS was able to negotiate with the mobile home park's attorney to restructure Mary's stipulated agreement so she could continue making arrearage payments and stay in her mobile home indefinitely. In May 2017, Mary made her final arrearage payment under the court agreement. She is now able to live in her mobile home without the constant threat of losing her housing and the equity in her home.

# **Connecticut Legal Services** Campaign for Justice Donor List

#### **Partners**

\$10,000 and up

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Day Pitney LLP and its partners Steven D. Eppler-Epstein Finn Dixon & Herling Thomas D. Goldberg

Claire L. Helsing Foundation The Ruth Krauss Foundation, Inc.

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\$5,000-\$9,999

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#### **Pacesetters**

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Robert Saperstein Paul Slager and Jennifer Sachs

Mark and Cindy Slane Mr. and Mrs. James Smith

Solnit Fund Alan R. Spier

William Stapleton LaDonna Steiner

Sara L. Bernstein and Joseph M. Shortall

### 2006: IOLTA Rules Bring Increase in Funding

Superior Court judges, at the *urging of the Connecticut* Bar Foundation, implement new fairness rules for IOLTA funding, which produces a substantial increase in revenue.

Barney Fund, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Bautista Drywall LLC Aaron S. Bayer

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Center for Medicare Advocacy Mary A. Conklin

Consumer Law Group, LLC

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\$200-\$499

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Association of Corporate Counsel Westchester/Southern Connecticut Chapter

Association of Legal Administrators, Nutmeg Chapter

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Shilpa Banerjee Livia Barndollar, Esq.

Hon. Timothy and Deborah Bates

Lawrence Baxter Belson Family Fund

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Stephen Verbil

Stanley A. Twardy Jr.

Rachel R. Zarghami

up to \$199

D. R. Zito

Alicia Alvarez Anonymous (9) Hon. Barry Armata

### 2008: CLS Faces New Funding Crisis

Financial crisis ravages the American economy, and CLS's largest funding source, IOLTA, plummets in value. Staff responds to CLS budget cuts by *implementing staff-wide* furlough days in lieu of layoffs.

Sonia W. Asare Tracy Baden Jon and Alice Bauer Donald L. Becker Terry Berthelot Sangita and Alok Bhargava Garima Bhatt and Mr. Patrick Irish Jill and James Bicks **Emily Goodman Binick** Jack Boesen and Janne Hellgren Elizabeth Bonazelli Linda I. Bourque Keith Bovce William F. Breg William E. Breslau



### **CLS Helps Homeless Man Find Shelter**

Joe was homeless and lived in the woods, where he was at the mercy of nighttime critters. He had a respiratory condition so severe that he periodically had to be hospitalized because of shortness of breath. Joe was referred to Connecticut Legal Services because he needed help securing disability benefits so he could find appropriate housing. Joe's attorney completed and filed the necessary paperwork, which resulted in a scheduled hearing. At the hearing, his CLS attorney was able to convince the administrative law judge that Joe was eligible for and entitled to benefits. He now receives \$735 per month, which has allowed him to secure appropriate housing. Joe no longer has to sleep in the woods and can continue to manage his health.

Neil Brockwehl and Connie Frontis Janet Brooks and Alan Siniscalchi Kevin Brophy Douglas R. Brown

Jennifer Brown Suzanne Calkins

Mark Carta Carolyn G. Christensen Connecticut Bar Association's Family

Law Section Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Greater Waterbury and

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Bruce E. Dillingham Ashwin and Arti Doshi Zubin Doshi and Ms. Devorah Lynch

Mark W. Dost Mary Eaves

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Kathleen Flaherty and James Valentino

The Flood Law Firm, LLC Gary D. and Veronica S. M. Foster

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Robert M. Godzeno Sonia Gonzalez

Katherine Grace Ellin Grenger Madeleine Grossman

Joy Haenlein Virginia Hamilton

## UAW, Region 9A Deborah Witkin and Israel Ortiz

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Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

The Wu Family Elizabeth C. Yen Nels and Susan Ylitalo Marc L. Zaken, Ogletree Deakins

**Sustainers** 

#### 2005: State Funding Provides Critically Needed Revenue

Governor M. Jodi Rell adds a new funding line in the state budget to support Connecticut's legal aid programs. CLS adds four attorneys and increases its service capacity by more than 400 cases per year.

Christopher C. Burdett Cacace, Tusch & Santagata Casper & de Toledo LLC

Deirdre Daly and Alfred Pavlis

Elaine G. Drummond, Esq.

Marlene Brodsky David P. and Lisa W. Tuttle

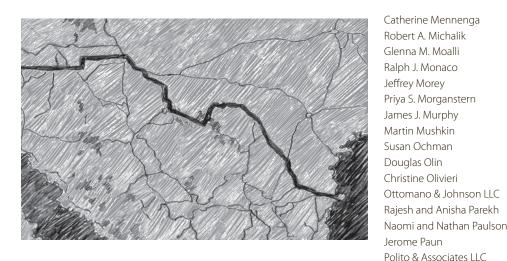
Law Offices of Cohen & Pyetranker,

\$500-\$999

Melanie B. Abbott Anonymous (3)

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# Campaign for Justice continued



### **CLS Helps Undocumented Worker Gain** Legal Status

Carlos is an undocumented worker who came to Connecticut Legal Services because his employer systematically underpaid him. After repeatedly demanding payment of his unpaid wages, Carlos threatened to file a complaint with the Department of Labor. The employer responded by calling him names, telling him that he had no rights in the United States, threatening that he would get Carlos deported if Carlos filed a complaint, and threatening to call the police. The employer also destroyed evidence relating to Carlos's wage claim in anticipation that it would be used if Carlos sought legal help.

The employer, CLS argued, had obstructed justice and tampered with a witness in addition to committing wage theft. If Carlos assisted the prosecution, those qualifying crimes—obstruction of justice and witness tampering—could make him eligible for U visa certification. Carlos did work with the authorities, and CLS filed for a U visa on his behalf, which was granted. Carlos was also given authorization to work, which greatly lessens his risk of wage theft and victimization at the hands of an unscrupulous employer.

Nilda R. Havrilla Judge Seymour L. Hendel John W. Hetherington Michael Hyde Herbert G. Isaacson Kimberly A. Jacobsen Emile Jacques The Law Offices of Januszewski, McQuillan & DeNigris, LLP Ronald D. Japha Heidi A. Jaskiewicz Kalik & Associations, Inc. Joel Kaye Raymond J. Kelly Maureen Kennedy Kern & Kern-Attorneys-at-Law Michelle Keuler Daniel Klau Nanette Knight Michael Kokoszka, Esg.

Charlotte G. Koskoff

Dr. and Mrs. Kosto

Wilmot L. Harris Jr.

Stuart Kovar Anita and Rakesh Kumar Rafaat Kureshi Diane E. Larson Elizabeth Lee Michael Levinson Jane S. Levy The Tamra and Scott Lichtman Giving in Trust Sheri F. London Nicholas Lundgren

Adam and Sarah Lyke Myklyn Mahoney Jesus Malave James H. Maloney Laurel Mangan, Esq. Hon. Robert A. Martin and Hon. Susan B. Handv

Ivonna Maziuk

David and Lauren Matte Hedwig Matwijszyn Gina M. Medico

# 2009: Fund-Raising Efforts Pay

Leaders, staff, clients, and supporters successfully lobby the legislature to raise court filing fees to benefit legal services for the poor.

Lawrence Reed

Susan E. Raimondo

The Raytar Family

Agata Raszczyk-Lawska

Andrea Barton Reeves

Heroilda Rios Silvia Roccciolo and Michael Ryan Bill Rock Ellen Rosenthal John W. Rossitter Sara Rubin George Scharpf Howard B. Schiller Jerry and Janet Schwartz Alice M. Sexton David L. Sfara J. Michael Sherb Corinne G. Silvert Tejinder and Neelam Singh Michal and James Smart

### **CLS Helps Elderly Woman Access Necessary** Living Support

Rosa, 86, lived in a nursing home, where she was assaulted by another resident. She was depressed and rapidly losing weight. She contacted Connecticut Legal Services seeking assistance in returning to the community. She had been a state worker for more than 20 years and had a huge loving family that could support her. Rosa's CLS attorney was able to access the Money Follows the Person program, which required that she create a pooled trust so that she would be income eligible for these necessary services. CLS created the trust for Rosa and persuaded the Department of Social Services to expedite the request because of her age. Rosa is now in her own home, living with the support she needs.

CJ and Kathy Smith Law Office of Courtney P. Spencer, Roseann A. Staplins Merrilyn Starkweather Charles D. Stauffacher Stedronsky & Meter, LLC Alan E. Steele Stephen J. Teti Catherine M. Thompson Jonathan B. Tropp Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle Lawrence J. Tytla Mary von Dorster Peter and Nancy von Euler William Ward Amy Span Wergeles Martin D. Wheeler and Deborah A. A. Thomas White Kathleen White Shelley White Michael Widland Michael Witkin Austin K. Wolf Attorney James Wu Dick and Ann Wyles Margaret Zabawar Cecily Kerr Ziegler Virginia and Jeremy Zwelling

#### *In Memory of*

Esther Abel Roy F. Brown Attorney Peter L. Costas My brother, Curt, who always struggled and still had a good sense of humor Diana Norton Giles

Alan Handler Frank T. Judge III Hon. Mark R. Kravitz Dick McCarthy Ed McCarthy Pitney LLP Hon. Thomas J. O'Sullivan Bert Gunn Hon. Angelo Santaniello Attorney Laura B. Seder

David Stowe Esther and Payton Thomas

Renee Wexler Paul Witkin

Rev. Henry K. Yordon Jacob D. Zeldes

#### In Honor or Appreciation of

Keith Boyce Kevin Brophy

Bridgeport office of Connecticut

Legal Services

Alfred Chiplin Jr.

Cohen and Wolf's clients

Connecticut Legal Services, 40th Anniversary

Connecticut Legal Services, Elder Law Unit

Connecticut Legal Services, staff

Alex Copp and Prerna Rao Steven Eppler-Epstein

Marvin Farbman

Harold Geragosian, 90th Birthday Hon. Joseph Goldberg

Justice Joette Katz

Jane McMillan

Elisabeth Miranowski, 40th Birthday

Allen Palmer, service as chair of the Connecticut Bar Association Family Law Section

Jill Plancher

Sharon Pope

Quinnipiac University School of Law, clinic faculty and staff

Esther Rada

The earlier work of Claudine Siegel The marriage of Sarah Steinfeld Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky,

Deborah Witkin

#### In-Kind Gifts and Services

Patrick Birney: Robinson & Cole, LLP Lorenzo Bobe

Maria de Castro Foden: De Castro Foden

April Condon: Robinson & Cole, LLP Daniel Free: Finn Dixon & Herling LLP Kenneth Ginder: Verrill Dana LLP William D. Goddard: Day

Eric Henzy: Zeisler & Zeisler, P.C. John Houlihan: RisCassi & Davis P.C. Paul Iannacone: RisCassi & Davis P.C. Barbara Katz: Barbara Katz Law Office Meghann LaFountain: LaFountain Immigration Law, LLC

Christopher Lockman: Verrill Dana LLP Charles Maglieri: Law Offices of Charles A. Maglieri

Thomas Marrion: Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

David Shaiken: Shipman, Shaiken & Schwefel, LLC

Hon. Robert Nastri

Group

Erin O'Neil-Baker: Hartford Legal

Vanessa Richards: US Attorney's

Office, District of Connecticut



#### **CLS Helps Mother Overcome Effects** of Violence

Joanna is a single mother of three young children. She was savagely assaulted, suffered serious injuries, and developed an anxiety disorder and depression. As a result, she missed a mandatory meeting with the Department of Social Services, which responded by slapping Joanna with a lifetime sanction against collecting cash benefits. Still suffering from the effects of her assault, she failed to appeal the sanction on her own and lost the cash benefits she and her children depended on to survive.

Joanna was referred to Connecticut Legal Services for assistance in another legal matter, and during our legal assessment, we discovered the problem with her benefits. CLS sought the reinstatement of Joanna's benefits, arguing that she had not been afforded due process before her cash benefits were terminated, and asked for a fair hearing on Joanna's behalf. At the hearing, DSS refused to lift the sanction. CLS prepared to appeal this decision to the Superior Court and notified DSS. Before CLS could file the appeal, however, DSS reversed Joanna's lifetime sanction, agreed to restore all her retroactive cash assistance, and deemed her eligible to continue collecting benefits.

#### 2017: CLS Celebrates 40th Anniversary

CLS hires ten new staff attorneys and one new legal assistant, the first significant staff expansion in ten years. It also creates a financial-distress project for small claims work, the first project of its kind nationally.

> Cindy R. Slane Suzanne Sutton: Cohen and Wolf, P.C. Thomas Ullman: Connecticut Public Defender Services

Richard F. Vitarelli: Jackson Lewis P.C. Giovanna Weller: Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP Elizabeth Wright: Robinson & Cole,

Misti Munster: Verrill Dana LLP

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# 40 Years of Improving Lives by Accessing Justice

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