Connecticut Legal Services provides access to justice and protects critical civil legal rights of low-income individuals and families through representation, systemic advocacy, advice, collaboration, and education.

Connecticut Legal Services believes that Connecticut can become a state in which all people are heard, are treated fairly, can meet their basic needs, and have equal opportunities to thrive.

At Connecticut Legal Services, we believe in

**Justice**
We know all people are worthy of respect, compassion, fair treatment, and equal opportunity.

**Excellence**
We strive to deliver high-quality, effective services with integrity and to continually evaluate and improve our work.

**Empowerment**
We believe in the power of self-advocacy and strive to foster that skill in our clients and the communities we serve.

**Racial Equity**
We strive to achieve and maintain racially equitable practices internally and in our services and interactions.

**Commitment**
We understand that achieving our mission requires the unyielding commitment of our staff and board to our clients, to our work, and to one another.

---

**In memory of**

Roy F. Brown  
Gladys Davis  
Robert G. Fracasso, Sr.  
Judge Joseph Goldberg  
Laurence K. Hoffman, Esq.  
Dick McCarthy  
Ed McCarthy  
Sheldon A. Mossberg  
Judge Thomas J. O’Sullivan  
Judge Angelo Santaniello  
Barbara Gene Vernon  
Paul Wilkin  
Reverend Henry K. Yordon

---

**In-kind gifts and services**

Eric Alltholz  
Sam Baldwin  
Brian Calabrese  
Katie Driessen  
Robert Foxworth

---

**CLS helps mother and her children avoid homelessness**

Trina, a single mom with two children, sublets a single room in an apartment. The primary tenant left the apartment after Trina repeatedly complained that houseguests took her children’s food from the common refrigerator. Once Trina was on her own, she was responsible for the full rent, which she could not afford. The landlord started eviction proceedings against her, alleging serious nuisance.

Trina did not understand the nuisance accusation, particularly because she was busy with two young children and pregnant with her third. As Trina tried to resolve this, she experienced a serious breakdown in communication with the landlord over the security deposit, utilities, and unit repairs. The landlord also complained to the police, claiming an unidentified male he associated with Trina was harassing him. By the time Trina was referred to Connecticut Legal Services, she had a pending eviction case in court. She had already attended an unsuccessful remote mediation proceeding on her own and needed representation for a remote trial.

CLS agreed to represent Trina. Her attorney did not hear any grounds for a claim against her and filed a motion to dismiss. Less than 24 hours before the remote trial, the court assigned the case to mediation. At the remote mediation, the parties agreed that Trina would remain in the apartment through the end of the year. That gave her much-needed time to tend to her third child, who had been born prematurely during this time and was in the care of a NICU. It also gave Trina a chance to follow up on her applications for more-affordable housing.
Distribution of Cases

In 2020–2021, Connecticut Legal Services received approximately 15,119 requests for service. We responded by opening 1,913 new cases for legal representation and counseling. We also worked on 1,968 cases opened in previous years. CLS services in these 3,881 cases benefited approximately 9,035 household members, which included 3,829 children.

In addition to working on individual cases, CLS conducted 13 community legal education events in seven different towns attended by 162 people and provided two instances of advice to human services agencies and other professionals serving the poor.

Please note that COVID-19 affected our ability to conduct in-person outreach.

Distribution of 3,881 Cases Handled in Fiscal Year 2020–2021

In addition to working on individual cases, CLS conducted 13 community legal education events in seven different towns attended by 162 people and provided two instances of advice to human services agencies and other professionals serving the poor. Please note that COVID-19 affected our ability to conduct in-person outreach.

Service Area, Offices, and Staff

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, one satellite office, and one administrative office.

On June 30, 2021, the CLS staff consisted of
41.95 FTE lawyers
9.80 FTE legal assistants
10.00 FTE administrative staff
2.00 FTE paralegals
.55 FTE child welfare advocates.
2020–2021 Board of Directors and Advisory Council

**Officers**

Ann Taylor, Esq.—Chair  
Retired Senior Vice President and General Counsel: Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, Esq.—Vice Chair  
Associate Professor of Law: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Helen Harris, Esq.—Treasurer  
Partner: Day Pitney LLP
Tadhg Dooley, Esq.—Secretary  
Partner: Wiggin & Dana LLP

**Executive Committee**

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Ivy McKinney, Esq.—Retired Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Ethics Officer: Xerox Corporation
Richard Orr, Esq.—Retired General Counsel: University of Connecticut
Kevin Rasch, Esq.—Deputy General Counsel: Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare
Brad Saxton, Esq.—Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus: Quinnipiac University School of Law

**Directors**

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Sheila Hayre, Esq.—Visiting Associate Professor of Law: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Laura Jordan, Esq.—Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations: Stamford Health
Peter Knight, Esq.—Partner: Robinson & Cole LLP
Leslie Levin, Esq.—Professor of Law: UCONN School of Law
Patricia McIntosh, LMSW, MPH—Project Manager: Hartford Civilian Crisis Response Team: City of Hartford
Basam (Bas) E. Nabulsi, Esq.—Partner: McCarter & English, LLP
Jeffrey Plotkin, Esq.—Partner: Finn Dixon & Herling LLP
Michael Sullivan, Esq.—Retired Undersecretary: Office of Policy and Management
Thomas (Sully) C. Sullivan Jr.—Assurance Partner: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Adam M. Swanson, Esq.—Partner: McCarter & English, LLP

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Peter Kelly, Esq.—Partner: Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

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Gregory B. Butler, Esq.—Senior Vice President and General Counsel: Northeast Utilities
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Joel Freedman—Glastonbury, CT
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Jay Malcynsky, Esq.—Partner: Gaffney, Bennett & Associates, Inc.
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Leslie O’Brien—Legislative Program Director: Department of Consumer Protection
Mitchell Pearlman, Esq.—Government Information Consultant; Former Executive Director: Freedom of Information Commission
Howard Rifkin, Esq.—Corporation Counsel: City of Hartford
James T. Shearin, Esq.—Partner: Pullman & Comley LLC
Paul Slager, Esq.—Partner: Silver Golub & Teitell, LLP
Richard Slavin, Esq.—Partner: Cohen and Wolf, P.C.
Stanley Twardy Jr., Esq.—Partner: Day Pitney LLP

2020–2021 Chief Office Personnel

Deborah R. Witkin, Executive Director  
Anne Louise Blanchard, Deputy Director  
Keith Boyce, Financial Director  
Nilda R. Havrilla, Litigation and Advocacy Director  
Astrid Lebron, Director of Development  
Avery Lupia, Human Resources Manager  
Whit Freer, Information Technology Administrator

CLS helps father who loses his job  

David,* the father of a six-year-old boy, has a severe anxiety disorder. He was working full-time when his employer ordered him to work in close proximity to another employee who had tested positive for COVID-19. The situation triggered an anxiety attack, and David had to leave work. His employer fired him the next day. David applied for unemployment benefits but was denied and sought help from Connecticut Legal Services. David’s CLS attorney appealed the denial and represented him at the unemployment hearing. In addition to providing all the information necessary to show that David was eligible for unemployment benefits, David’s CLS attorney called David’s therapist, who testified that David’s anxiety disorder was the reason David left work and that there had been no intentional misconduct on David’s part. The appeals officer agreed and found David eligible for state unemployment benefits as well as supplemental COVID-19 unemployment benefits. David is now able to support himself and his son.

*Names and identifying information in CLS client stories were changed to protect client confidentiality.
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your commitment to Connecticut Legal Services and its mission to meet the legal needs of low-income people in crisis. As the virus that causes COVID-19 continued its unpredictable spread throughout 2021, CLS again responded to the emerging needs of clients struggling to obtain life’s basic necessities in the new reality of a worldwide health pandemic.

During the past year, CLS staff rose to meet the evolving challenges of mounting client concerns while navigating the pandemic for themselves and their families. In the face of personal obstacles—lost childcare, homebound students, and additional personal and health care responsibilities—CLS staffers found new ways to serve a rapidly growing number of clients. In addition, we built on last year’s successful advocacy for remote-access revisions to state rules and regulations, ensuring that people in need could access the court system and receive the benefits and protections to which they are entitled.

Our staff managed the political environment and differing responses to the availability of vaccines with respect and dignity. Through legal representation, counseling, and education, we worked to ensure that all our clients could access the social necessities that allow people to live safe, healthy lives, such as housing, food security, medical care, and freedom from abuse.

The needs of our clients are always so much greater than the resources we can provide. This year, the CLS board pledged to enhance our fund-raising capacity so that we may serve more of those in need. We appreciate your generosity now more than ever.

CLS looks to the future with a renewed commitment to making life a little safer for the vulnerable, a little healthier for families, and a little more promising for the children of Connecticut.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Witkin
Executive Director, CLS

Ann G. Taylor
Chair, CLS Board of Directors
## Financial Support 2020–2021

### Government-Based Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Senior Resources, Eastern CT Area</td>
<td>$35,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Southwestern CT Area</td>
<td>$57,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Western CT Area</td>
<td>$35,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Middletown</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant Program–Waterbury</td>
<td>$9,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant Program–Fairfield</td>
<td>$3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park City Communities</td>
<td>$34,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division–Family Matters Training Program</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services</td>
<td>$90,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Housing</td>
<td>$271,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Social Services</td>
<td>$683,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Judicial Branch</td>
<td>$26,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Office of the Chief Public Defender</td>
<td>$33,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services</td>
<td>$2,124,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ashford</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Coventry</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ellington</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Groton</td>
<td>$7,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Mansfield</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Government-Based Grants $3,437,845**

### Private Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Eastern CT</td>
<td>$223,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Eastern CT–Women's &amp; Girls Fund</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Fairfield County</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Court Fees Grants-in-Aid)</td>
<td>$5,303,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account)</td>
<td>$1,207,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid)</td>
<td>$666,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants</td>
<td>$12,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Loomis Palmer Foundation</td>
<td>$6,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Reach</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s Community Foundation</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meriden Foundation</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tudor Foundation</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vera Institute of Justice, Inc.</td>
<td>$39,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Central and Northeastern Connecticut</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Greater Waterbury</td>
<td>$16,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Meriden and Wallingford</td>
<td>$10,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Northwest Connecticut</td>
<td>$1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Southeastern Connecticut</td>
<td>$26,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, West Central Connecticut</td>
<td>$3,538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Private Grants $7,890,891**

### Donations and Other Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campaign for Justice</td>
<td>$279,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Goods and Services</td>
<td>$131,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on Extinguishment of PPP Loan</td>
<td>$1,674,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,678</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$92,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way Donor Designations</td>
<td>$8,048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$25,219</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Donations and Other Income $2,212,289**

**Total CLS Income $13,541,025**
### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2021</th>
<th>June 30, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents—— Operating Funds</td>
<td>$4,568,759</td>
<td>$3,661,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Escrow—Client Funds</td>
<td>4,125</td>
<td>3,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Investments</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,199,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables—Grants and Contracts Receivable</td>
<td>657,830</td>
<td>676,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promises to Give</td>
<td>1,765,729</td>
<td>1,671,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>21,814</td>
<td>19,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>80,300</td>
<td>101,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$7,098,557</td>
<td>$7,334,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Equipment, and Software</td>
<td>$1,386,175</td>
<td>$1,728,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold Improvements</td>
<td>$311,118</td>
<td>$311,118</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets Before Depreciation</strong></td>
<td>1,697,293</td>
<td>$2,039,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(975,709)</td>
<td>(1,245,565)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>$721,584</td>
<td>$794,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Deposits</td>
<td>54,565</td>
<td>4,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td>54,565</td>
<td>54,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$7,874,706</td>
<td>$8,183,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2021</th>
<th>June 30, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Pension Liability</td>
<td>$3,336,073</td>
<td>$5,845,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>413,959</td>
<td>326,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans Payable—PPP Loan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,674,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>240,558</td>
<td>254,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>61,705</td>
<td>110,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Annual Leave</td>
<td>536,538</td>
<td>548,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Trust Deposits</td>
<td>4,125</td>
<td>3,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$4,592,958</td>
<td>$8,762,762</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attributable to operations</td>
<td>$(784,481)</td>
<td>$(1,320,528)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributable to pension liability</td>
<td>2,544,259</td>
<td>(867,619)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</strong></td>
<td>1,759,778</td>
<td>(2,188,147)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</strong></td>
<td>1,521,970</td>
<td>1,608,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,281,748</td>
<td>$(579,468)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CLS helps disabled man take care of his family

John, who was raising three children with the help of his young adult child, applied for SSI disability benefits because of his chronic low back pain. CLS counsel represented him at an administrative law judge (ALJ) hearing, and he was denied benefits. CLS represented him before the Appeals Council, where his case was denied again. We then appealed the case to the District Court. The Court sent the case back to the ALJ for another hearing because of errors in the earlier decision. John was assigned a different ALJ at his second hearing; however, the new ALJ denied John’s disability benefits again. CLS believed in John’s case and his eligibility for benefits and petitioned the Appeals Council and then the District Court. For a second time, the court sent the case back to the ALJ because of an erroneous analysis of the facts in the disability claim. The second ALJ heard the case again and reversed his prior decision. He awarded John five years of retroactive benefits and ongoing SSI cash benefits as well as the medical benefits he needs to adequately address his chronic pain. The ongoing SSI cash benefits make caring for his children possible for John.
Campaign for Justice Contributors

**Champions:**

$50,000

The Tow Foundation

**Trailblazers:**

$10,000–$24,999

Katherine C. Butler
Day Pitney LLP and its partners

Finn Dixon & Herling LLP

R. Hahn Foundation

Robinson & Cole LLP

Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Allen Siegel

**Leaders:**

$5,000–$9,999

Thomas D. Goldberg

David S. Golub and Kathryn Emmett

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Marianne B. Kilby

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The Ruth Krauss Foundation, Inc.

Leon N. Lapine Charitable Residuary Trust

McCarter & English, LLP

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**Pacesetters:**

$1,000–$4,999

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Ivy and Frederick McKinney

Basam (Bas) and Kim Nabulsi

Richard F. Orr

Jeffrey and Nancy Plotkin

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Siegel & Kaufman P.C.

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Jonathan Winikur

Deborah Witkin and Israel Ortiz

Elizabeth C. Yen

Nels and Susan Ylitalo

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$500–$999

Richard and Sandy Adelstein

Livia Barndollar

Benjamin Bilus

Susan Brown

Julia Brown

Dennis G. Ciccarillo

Leslyn O. Clark

Cohen & Buckman

Conlon, McGlynn & McCann LLC

Edward Cosden

Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

Nicole Gathy

Christina and Patrick Hanna

Barry C. Hawkins

Hope Fund

Francoise and Richard Jaffe

Christopher J. Jarboe

Law Office of Eileen Caplan Seaman

Jay B. Levin, Government Relations Consulting

Michael P. Lynch and Mary T. Berthelot

Devjani H. Mishra, Esq.

O’Brien Stuart Eppinger & Collier, LLC

Jonathan Orleans and Linda Liefland

Thomas J. O’Sullivan

Mitchell and Susan Pearlman

Mark D. Phillips, Esq.

Thomas M. Rickart

Robert Saperstein

Melvin Scott

James T. Shearin

Frank J. Silvestri

Adam Swanson and Stephanie Nickse

Nathaniel S. Yordon, CPA

**Patrons:**

$200–$499

Melanie B. Abbott

Timothy and Deborah Bates

Jon and Alice Bauer

R. Scott Beach

Eryn Bingle

John and Michelle L. Boccalatte

Ray and Sandy Bourret

Lynne A. Burgess

Christopher M. Burke

Michael P. Byrne

Suzanne E. Caron

Christina E. Clayton

Loris L. Cohen

Richard P. Colbert

Garry H. Colbert

Sonja M. Devitt

Maureen Dewan

Tadgh Dooley

Marianne Barbino Dubuque

CLS helps violence survivor find safety

After being brutally stabbed multiple times by her boyfriend and spending several days in the hospital, Denise returned to her apartment to find a letter from the property management company threatening her with eviction. Denise’s domestic violence advocate immediately contacted Connecticut Legal Services for assistance. The threat to Denise’s public housing was circumvented, and her housing lawyer used a federal law that requires property owners to relocate victims of domestic violence to another, undisclosed unit. Denise’s lawyer also worked with the management company to adjust her rent because of lost income due to the assault. Denise is now safe from her abuser.
CLS helps a young child succeed in school

Maggie lives with her mother and brother. Her mother is a domestic violence survivor who struggles with Maggie's school behavior. Maggie was identified as needing special education in kindergarten because of global developmental delays and attention issues, and she was sent to a magnet school. Despite intensive intervention, Maggie did not progress academically. Her Connecticut Legal Services attorney advocated for a neuropsychological evaluation, which resulted in very specific recommendations that the school district could not provide. A neighboring school district, however, had a structured literacy team, and the teachers were certified to help children with Maggie's challenges. CLS explained to Maggie's mom the advantages of more-intensive specialized instruction with a very experienced special education teacher. Maggie's mom agreed, and CLS advocated for Maggie to receive those services from the neighboring school district. She now has 45 minutes per day of specialized instruction and an hour and 15 minutes a day of intensive academic support. She also receives one-on-one support throughout the day, occupational therapy services, and counseling services. Maggie's mother is very satisfied with those services and the communication system set up with the district. Most important, Maggie is now doing well and is happy.
CLS persists to help woman get the benefits she needs

Vicky moved from Puerto Rico with her young daughter to access better medical treatment for musculoskeletal injuries. While pursuing medical treatment and rehabilitation services, Vicky applied for SSI disability benefits. She was twice denied and requested a hearing before an administrative law judge. Prior to the hearing, she appealed to Connecticut Legal Services for help. Vicky’s CLS attorney obtained and submitted updated treatment records and medical opinions from her treatment sources. Despite severe impairments that included osteoarthritis in both knees, degenerative disc disease, morbid obesity (exacerbating knee pain), asthma, and depression, Vicky was again denied benefits. Her CLS attorney, believing that the decision was incorrect, appealed. Vicky’s case was scheduled for a hearing; however, in the time it took for that to happen, Vicky had continued with medical and rehabilitative services that allowed her to return to work in a job requiring much less exertion than her prior position. Although this meant that Vicky was not able to receive benefits going forward, she was eligible for benefits covering the time she had been unable to work, known as a “closed period of time.” Vicky’s CLS attorney pursued these benefits, and the court awarded retroactive SSI benefits Vicky desperately needed to meet basic expenses, including housing. She had been facing homelessness, and a CLS attorney helped with her housing issues. Because CLS intervened, Vicky is able to meet basic needs for her daughter and herself.
Connecticut Legal Services provides access to justice and protects critical civil legal rights of low-income individuals and families through representation, systemic advocacy, advice, collaboration, and education.

Connecticut Legal Services believes that Connecticut can become a state in which all people are heard, are treated fairly, can meet their basic needs, and have equal opportunities to thrive.

At Connecticut Legal Services, we believe in

**Justice**
We know all people are worthy of respect, compassion, fair treatment, and equal opportunity.

**Excellence**
We strive to deliver high-quality, effective services with integrity and to continually evaluate and improve our work.

**Empowerment**
We believe in the power of self-advocacy and strive to foster that skill in our clients and the communities we serve.

**Racial Equity**
We strive to achieve and maintain racially equitable practices internally and in our services and interactions.

**Commitment**
We understand that achieving our mission requires the unyielding commitment of our staff and board to our clients, to our work, and to one another.

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**In memory of**
Roy F. Brown
Gladys Davis
Robert G. Fracasso, Sr.
Judge Joseph Goldberg
Laurence K. Hoffman, Esq.
Dick McCarthy
Ed McCarthy
Sheldon A. Mossberg
Judge Thomas J. O’Sullivan
Judge Angelo Santaniello
Barbara Gene Vernon
Paul Wilkin
Reverend Henry K. Yordon

In-kind gifts and services
Eric Altholz
Sam Baldwin
Brian Calabrese
Katie Driessen
Robert Foxworth

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CLS helps mother and her children avoid homelessness

Trina, a single mom with two children, sublets a single room in an apartment. The primary tenant left the apartment after Trina repeatedly complained that houseguests took her children’s food from the common refrigerator. Once Trina was on her own, she was responsible for the full rent, which she could not afford. The landlord started eviction proceedings against her, alleging serious nuisance.

Trina did not understand the nuisance accusation, particularly because she was busy with two young children and pregnant with her third. As Trina tried to resolve this, she experienced a serious breakdown in communication with the landlord over the security deposit, utilities, and unit repairs. The landlord also complained to the police, claiming an unidentified male he associated with Trina was harassing him. By the time Trina was referred to Connecticut Legal Services, she had a pending eviction case in court. She had already attended an unsuccessful remote mediation proceeding on her own and needed representation for a remote trial.

CLS agreed to represent Trina. Her attorney did not hear any grounds for a claim against her and filed a motion to dismiss. Less than 24 hours before the remote trial, the court assigned the case to mediation. At the remote mediation, the parties agreed that Trina would remain in the apartment through the end of the year. That gave her much-needed time to tend to her third child, who had been born prematurely during this time and was in the care of a NICU. It also gave Trina a chance to follow up on her applications for more-affordable housing.
Law Offices

1000 Lafayette Boulevard
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-336-3851; 1-800-809-4434
(serving the Greater Bridgeport area)
bridgeport@ctlegal.org

16 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
860-225-8678; 1-800-233-7619
(serving the New Britain and Meriden areas as well as Middlesex County)
newbritain@ctlegal.org

125 Eugene O’Neill Drive
New London, CT 06320
860-444-0323; 1-800-413-7798
(serving New London County)
nwlonon@ctlegal.org

1177 Summer Street
Stamford, CT 06905
203-349-0216; 1-800-541-8909
(serving the Greater Stamford and Norwalk areas)
stamford@ctlegal.org

85 Central Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06702
203-756-8074; 1-800-413-7797
(serving the Waterbury and Danbury areas as well as Litchfield County)
waterbury@ctlegal.org

1125 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06226
860-456-1761; 1-800-413-7796
(serving Tolland and Windham Counties)
willimantic@ctlegal.org

Satellite Office:
5 Colony Street, Meriden, CT 06450
860-344-0447
povertylaw@ctlegal.org