ANNUAL REPORT   I  2014

rebalancing justice

NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT | 2014
1964-2014
Celebrating 50 Years of New Haven Legal Assistance

On April 7, 1964, LAA was incorporated to “secure justice for and to protect the rights of those residents of New Haven County unable to engage legal counsel.” As one of the first legal aid programs in the country, New Haven Legal Assistance’s work attracted national media attention – Newsweek, Time and the New York Times. It also attracted a visit from Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, who said that LAA would “take its place as another of the great historic contributions of this city to the progress of the nation. I hope that we will see in city after city… programs such as this which will be equal justice and dignity to all.”

New Haven Legal Assistance remembered and celebrated the last half-century with some special events, including a Gala and the Connecticut Bar Foundation’s symposium, Justice For All: The History and Future of Legal Aid in Connecticut. At the Gala, Hillary Clinton, former NHLAA intern, and Jim Sandman, President of the Legal Services Corporation, sent congratulatory messages that were shared with those in attendance.

Thank you to all of our founders, supporters and partners. Here’s to the next 50 years.

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The following were honored at the 50th Anniversary Gala:

The Ambassador Award
PRESENTED TO ATTORNEY ANGELICA ANAYA ALLEN

The Champion Award
PRESENTED TO THE HON. MAYOR TONI HARP

The Elm City Award
PRESENTED TO ATTORNEY MARY-CHRISTY FISHER

The Firm Stand for Justice Award
PRESENTED TO WIGGIN AND DANA

The Founder Award
PRESENTED TO ATTORNEY FRANK DINEEN

The Partner Award
PRESENTED TO BH CARE/THE UMBRELLA, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION, THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER NEW HAVEN, THE JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION AT YALE LAW SCHOOL, JUNTA FOR PROGRESSIVE ACTION AND TEAM, INC

The Sustainer Award
PRESENTED TO WILLIAM GRAUSTEIN
Carrie’s husband was violent toward her, and after a particularly bad incident he was arrested. A protective order issued and he had to move out of the house. Carrie’s husband went to court and tried to evict Carrie and the children from the house. Although they had lived in the home together, and Carrie had helped pay the mortgage and the bills, the title was in the husband’s name only. LAA stopped the eviction, kept Carrie and her children in the home, and helped Carrie obtain child support.

Robin applied for a Section 8 voucher that she needed to be able to afford a decent apartment – her paycheck did not go far enough. A local housing authority denied her application for Section 8 based on a 15-year-old criminal conviction – even though she had finished her sentence many years prior, has been working and caring for her children, and never had any other convictions before or since. The housing authority’s policies included a lifetime ban from Section 8 for any person with a felony conviction. LAA represented Robin at an administrative appeal hearing, and informed the housing authority that its policy was contrary to federal law. The client received her Section 8 voucher and the housing authority revised its policy.
Firm Stand for Justice
We gratefully acknowledge the caring and generous support of the legal community. The following gifts from member law firms were received during the period November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014.

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The Connecticut Bar Foundation
The Connecticut Health Foundation
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Katherine Mathies Foundation
State-Of-Connecticut Court Support Services Division
State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch
State of Connecticut Department of Social Services
State of Connecticut Office of the Chief Public Defender
Tow Foundation
U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women
Valley United Way

• Based on 2013 audit by Marcum LLP and 2014 audit by Blum, Shapiro & Company, PC.

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We gratefully acknowledge the caring and generous support of our friends in the community. The following gifts were received during the period November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014.

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How our funding is spent
• 85% CLIENT SERVICES
• 12% ADMINISTRATION
• 2% FUND RAISING

INCOME 2013 % 2013 AUDITED 2014 % 2014 AUDITED
IOLTA/Legislative Appropriation 16.3% 645,847 15.8% 645,779
Court Filing Fees 46.9% 1,860,114 43.8% 1,795,328
Community Foundation of Gr. New Haven 1.4% 55,056 1.3% 53,335
United Ways 0.6% 23,458 0.2% 9,442
Contribution - Cash/In-kind 8.8% 348,981 7.1% 289,501
Federal/State Grants 17.7% 702,521 18.4% 755,472
Other Grants 2.1% 82,605 1.7% 68,309
Other Income 6.2% 247,465 11.7% 479,311
TOTALS 100.0% 3,966,046 100% 4,096,477

EXPENSES
Salaries-Cash/In-kind 61.5% 2,382,441 60.0% 2,488,737
Benefits 20.9% 810,915 22.4% 927,942
Contracts & Consulting 5.7% 221,599 5.2% 214,794
Office Expenses 2.8% 109,916 2.8% 116,694
Occupancy 4.4% 172,292 4.2% 173,835
Training, Travel, Membership, Professional Fees 1.4% 55,828 1.4% 58,563
Research & Litigation 1.4% 53,713 1.3% 53,332
Insurance 0.6% 22,159 0.5% 22,210
Fund Raising Expenses 0.4% 16,742 1.7% 70,513
Other Expenses 0.2% 9,133 0.3% 10,412
Depreciation 0.5% 20,152 0.2% 10,019
TOTALS 100.0% 3,874,890 100% 4,147,051

In Their Own Words:
“Reception treated me lovely. My lawyer worked with me on my case and the interview of gathering the facts. I had been very upset and nervous. But after the first time I met with her she made a few phone calls and I left with a relaxed and secure feeling. I remember leaving and saying to myself, wow.”

Clients
"In their own words:"
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"Keep doing what you guys are doing. You really have our best interests at heart."

NHLAA's first Executive Director, Fred Danforth, appears in this photograph featured in Newsweek magazine.

Connecticut Bar Foundation Symposium: Justice For All The History and Future of Legal Aid in Connecticut, Quinnipiac University School of Law, October 17, 2014