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EQUAL JUSTICE

News for our partners on the path to equal access

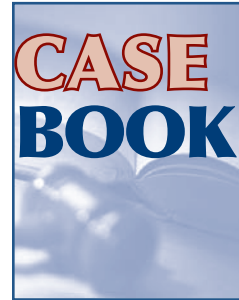
MATTERS



*I am both excited and proud to announce the release of NLSA's new video **Equal Access. Shared Benefit**. It is exciting to have a fresh and compelling way to explain that ensuring equal access for the most vulnerable members of our society provides lasting benefit to all members of society. Our pride is due to the broad coalition of support — both on camera and off — that made it possible to*

make that point in a meaningful way. We are deeply grateful to all those who so generously shared their time and resources. In this issue of Equal Justice Matters, you will learn more about some of those valued participants. To view the video, please visit www.nlsa.us or NLSA's channel on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40_IGPt4B3k. You also can download the video on on iTunes—just visit the online store and search for NLSA!

Bob Racunas, Executive Director



ELDER LAW IN A DOWN ECONOMY

*Many voices in our video speak to NLSA's broad scope of services and the essential human needs being met through the practice areas we feature in CASE BOOK articles. The true impact of our program is expressed most effectively, however, through the on-camera testimony of our clients. All of them speak about the life-changing consequences of access to legal assistance in a crisis. One, an elderly victim of fraud resulting in eviction, represents the hazards of being both poor and vulnerable (See **A Case in Point**, pg. 8) As described below, periods of economic downturn place low-income, older adults at even greater risk.*

Easy Targets

"I think elderly clients may be a little more vulnerable, a little more trusting as a group and people feel like they can target them and get away with it."

NLSA Attorney **Meghan Tighe** speaks from experience with hundreds of



Of Bench & Bar

Making the Case for EQUAL ACCESS

Each year, thousands of poor people in our area risk physical abuse or the wrongful loss of shelter, income, public benefits, custody of their children, or other essential human needs simply because they cannot pay for a lawyer. For want of legal assistance, lives are damaged, families are devastated, communities are destabilized and the overall cost to society soars. On the other hand, every instance in which NLSA is able to step in and restore equilibrium is a net gain for society. That cost-benefit equation is at the heart of our new video, which calls on each of us to ensure that the figures come out in society's favor.

We knew it would take many perspectives to tell that story effectively — staff and board members, colleagues in the private bar, the judiciary and, of course, our clients. The response to our request for on-camera participation in this project was overwhelming and heartening — resulting in enough footage for a feature film! Unfortunately, our finished video could not accommodate all of those wise words. That is why we have dedicated the space below to some additional comments by our bench and bar participants about the shared benefits of equal access.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued on page 3)

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WITH DEEP APPRECIATION,

NLSA recognizes outgoing board members **Laura Cohen, Esq.**, **Tom Thompson, Esq.**, and **The Honorable Jacqueline Shogan.**

Thank you for your inspired guidance and outstanding dedication to our program and the clients we serve.



Partnerships: Domestic Violence Consumer Education Project



Brenda, one of the clients featured in our video, came to NLSA only after depleting her life savings in legal fees in a vain effort to protect her children from unsupervised visits with an abusive father. Brenda was fortunate to have the financial wherewithal

— and the confidence — to leave her violent husband. In too many cases, however, economic barriers immobilize victims of domestic violence, or force them to return after several attempts to flee.

Our services always have included representation of domestic violence victims. As with Brenda however, the focus is typically upon safety, not economic self-sufficiency. Indeed, many victims are unaware of their legal rights and do not recognize that they also are struggling with issues of consumer law that can and should be addressed.

That is why NLSA launched the **Domestic Violence Consumer Education Project**, a partnership with domestic violence shelters providing outreach and education about consumer legal issues of particular relevance to victims of abusive partners. Our partners in this collaborative project include **The Women's Center and Shelter** in Pittsburgh, **Womenspace** in McKeesport, and the **Alle-Kiski Hope Center** in Tarentum. Plans are underway to expand the project to include **Crisis Center North**, a shelter that serves victims of domestic violence in western and northern communities of Allegheny County.

Our goal is to ensure that victims of domestic violence — and their counselors — obtain the legal information necessary to facilitate economic self-sufficiency, which is often the

key to leaving a dangerous environment. It also is important to help victims recognize the nature of economic abuse, which can take many forms, before, during, and even after attempts to flee an abusive relationship.

For example, abusers may deliberately hinder efforts by their partners to educate themselves about finances. They may bar access to information about existing financial resources, leaving their partners to choose between poverty or remaining in an abusive relationship. Abusive partners may sabotage the victim's attempts to seek employment or education outside the home by harassing them at work, withholding transportation or childcare or beating them severely. They often closely monitor their use of web sites. Abusive partners also have been known to harass victims by damaging their credit and draining bank accounts by gaining access to social security numbers.

All of this and more is covered in a multi-media presentation developed for the project by NLSA Managing Attorney **Cathy Martin**, whose expertise in consumer law — including consumer issues faced by domestic violence victims — is extensive. Entitled **Money, Money, Money**, the presentation focuses on the core economic factors of domestic violence, such as forms of economic abuse, mortgage matters, and debt. This presentation, and other educational materials developed through the project, will provide the model for its expansion to Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties, and ultimately to the legal services community statewide.

The Domestic Violence Consumer Education Project is supported by a generous grant from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

older adults that she and Attorney Bill Areheart assist through our Elder Law program. Both lawyers are dedicated exclusively to the practice of Elder Law — an area that presents unique challenges in both good and bad economic times.

One of the most difficult challenges is determining whether very elderly adults brought in by family members understand why they are there. Both Meghan and Bill take special care to address the client and explain the circumstances. “I send the family members out of the room,” says Meghan, “and make a big point to explain to the clients that I am a lawyer and I’m here to help them, not to force them to do something, like give a Power of Attorney. If I’m not sure my client has mental capacity to understand what assigning Power of Attorney is, I can’t do it. At that point the family will have to pursue a guardianship action.”

Bill Areheart also has said “no” on occasion “when a client is clearly not oriented. They may know they need someone else to manage their affairs but they’re not in a position to name that person. People need to be 110% sure that their agent will look out for their interests instead of their own.”

Assessing capacity of her clients weighs even more heavily on Meghan lately, as she is seeing some increase in alleged theft of assets by family members, which is a form of Elder Abuse. “I’m in Orphan’s Court now with a client who says her former Power of Attorney stole \$20,000. I filed a demand that he provide an accounting of the funds.”

The squeeze on seniors

It is not clear whether a recent rise in those kinds of allegations is related to economic pressures on the family members. What is demonstrably linked to the downturn, however, is a surge of foreclosure and eviction actions against

older adults who can no longer make ends meet. There are several ways in which the crumbling economy may have changed their circumstances.

Some older clients may have depended on pensions or investments that have eroded in value and diminished the amount they can draw down each month. Others may have been supplementing Social Security income with part time jobs, now lost to the downturn. Their children may have become unemployed, ending or reducing any subsidies that were helping their parents get by. In many cases, elderly adults faced with rising property taxes or urgent home repairs, have taken a second mortgage on homes they have lived in for decades, only to be caught up in the mortgage meltdown that ignited this crisis in the first place. While borrowers of any age share responsibility for accepting loans they cannot afford to repay, older adults in failing health or with reduced mental capacity are particularly susceptible to sales pitches for reckless — or even predatory — loans that sound like quick solutions.

Similarly — and especially in times like these — the elderly often become victims of scam artists promising rapid returns in exchange for relatively small outlays of cash. “They just seem to be more naive and gullible than the younger population,” says Bill. “Like these offers that come in the mail for reduced rates or free items. They take it as the gospel truth.” Older adults also are more likely to need legal assistance after paying

(Continued on page 8)

Support Equal Justice Under Law

4

ways you can donate

23rd Annual Equal Justice Campaign

Select #534
on your
United Way
Contributor Choice form.
**The Allegheny County
United Way Campaign**
is going on now!

Contribute securely online

using your credit card.

Go to
www.nlsa.us
and click
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Send a check

payable to
Equal Justice Campaign
to
NLSA
928 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Pledge to donate

Contact Christine Kirby,
our campaign coordinator:
412.586.6137 or
kirbyc@nlsa.us

Our Valued Colleagues

The services you provide at no charge are priceless to clients whom NLSA could not assist at all without your help.

As always, we ask you — our private bar colleagues — to help bridge the widening gap between demand and supply by handling even one NLSA case on a pro bono basis. In this issue of *Equal Justice Matters*, however, we also offer the words of **Jaime S. Tuite, Esq.**, an associate with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, whose eloquence in speaking to her peers in our video both overcomes objections and testifies to the rewards of pro bono service.

Peer to Peer

“Volunteering when you’re a new lawyer is the best time to do it. At this point, you need the training. You need the experience. And here’s the opportunity for you to get to go to court... to have client contact and to apply this knowledge that is fresh in your head. ...It doesn’t get any easier. You just call NLSA and say I want to volunteer and there’s all these different projects that they can plug you into regardless of what areas of law you practice...you immediately get hooked into a system with mentors who are ready to help you. They’ll go down and hold your hand for your first time in court for a Protection from Abuse order. It’s a way for you to develop a network with other attorneys in the community. The time is now because there’s always going to be another challenge that you’re going to be facing. The longer that you’re practicing, the more is going to be required of you. So it makes sense to make the commitment up front to do what you can ...it’s just going to become a part of who you are.”



Jaime S. Tuite
Associate, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
NLSA Board Member

Thanks for the SEMINARS
and the SUPPORT!

Over **1200** more
clients helped

Last year, volunteer attorneys participating through NLSA’s pro bono program assisted over 1200 victims of domestic violence — a remarkable and deeply appreciated contribution. PFA Continuing Legal Education Seminars have proven to be wonderful tools for recruiting and training our valued volunteers. However they can only take place through the generosity of the hosting law firms. On behalf of more than 1200 grateful clients, NLSA thanks all of the following:

Walter A. Bunt, Jr. and K & L Gates LLP
Hosted PFA CLE, Friday, February 27, 2009

Lisa A. Pampena and Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC
Hosted PFA CLE, Friday, June 12, 2009

Jill M. Albrecht and Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, PC
To host PFA CLE, Friday, October 23, 2009

*In these stressful times, the number of PFA cases continues to rise and we need your help more than ever. If you wish to volunteer, please contact **Mary Ann Troper-Malley** at 412.586.6134 or email troperma@nlsa.us.*

The Pennsylvania Code

Rule 6.1. Voluntary Pro Bono Public Service

“A lawyer should render public interest legal service.

A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.”

Ron Fischer

New NLSA Pro Bono Coordinator



This July, NLSA welcomed Ron Fischer as our pro bono coordinator. A 1973 graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law, Ron has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to pro bono service. For many years, and until his retirement earlier this year from the law department of United States Steel (USS), Ron served as that company's pro bono coordinator and personally handled cases referred by NLSA. He co-managed the

Anti-Predatory Lending Clinic, an outreach by legal professionals from the USS law department and the law firm of Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti to victims of unscrupulous lending practices for which NLSA provides training and support. Ron also served for several years on the Administrative Board of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership. In 2004, Ron justly received the Jane F. Hepting award in recognition of his extensive pro bono efforts.

“My goals are to expand the representation of NLSA clients throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania by recruiting additional members of the bar,” says Ron, “and to ensure, to the extent possible, that members of the bar who undertake pro bono representation have satisfying experiences.”

No one is better qualified to ensure that outcome. Welcome, Ron and thank you for your continuing commitment to equal access.

Wish List

NLSA relies extensively on the generous donations of caring individuals, law firms, corporations and community groups. From time to time, we also have a need for specific items to assist us in delivery of high-quality legal services. To donate or underwrite the costs associated with purchasing any of the following items, please contact **Christine Kirby at 412.586.6137** or email: **kirbyc@nlsa.us**.

For Case and Evidence Handling

- **Combination TV/DVD Player** —
Approximate cost: \$200-\$400
- **Forensic Accounting Services**

For Older and Wiser® Community Outreach

- **LCD Projector** — *Approximate cost: \$999*
- **Laptop** — *Approximate cost: \$1,000*
- **Portable Projection Screen** —
Approximate cost: \$1,289

Legal Materials and Manuals

- **HUD Housing Programs Tenants' Rights, 3rd ed.** — *Approximate cost: \$350*
- **RHCDS (FmHA) Housing Programs: Tenants' and Purchasers' Rights, 2nd ed.** —
Approximate cost: \$110
- **Imwinkelried's Evidentiary Foundations** —
Approximate cost: \$65
- **Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV** — *Approximate cost: \$45*
- **Ohlbaum on Evidence; Specific to PA rules of evidence, 2008-2009** — *Approximate cost: \$110*

Of Bench and Bar Making the Case for

Enhanced opportunity, experience and perspective



“U. S. Steel participates in an anti-predatory lending clinic with another law firm and NLSA and it has been a great resource for us. As attorneys, we recognize that it is our duty to help others from time to time on a pro bono basis and this affords us a good opportunity to do that. How do we close the gap between the promise of open courts and the reality of where we are today with our poor? We need groups like NLSA, We need active attorneys who are willing to do pro bono work. We probably need some government assistance to make this all work. But I think together it is possible.”

Bruce E. Lammel, Esq.
General Attorney — Corporate
United States Steel Corporation



“When I was first contacted by NLSA... they made it clear that one of the areas in which they have a great deal of interest is an area in which I have a great deal of interest, which is custody, because there are children involved and children don't have lawyers... You can have as complicated and ugly a custody case involving people driving BMWs as you can with people who have one truck between them.”

Marion Laffey-Ferry, Esq.
Attorney-at-Law



“If you are looking at pro bono work from a practical, self-interest point of view, you get a lot of experience. Even today, if I do a custody conciliation or PFA hearing, I learn something new every time I have a different client... It's also incredibly useful to look at it from the other side. Some of us have been on the defense side of the table a lot. And you really need to understand what's going on for people who would be the plaintiffs or the people who are suffering.”

Mary K. Austin, Esq.
Associate Counsel, UPMC
President, Board of Directors, NLSA

A healthier society



“All courts shall be open; an injury done to his person or reputation by violation of the laws of the land shall be redressed without sale of the land.”
“Just think what happens if people don't have access... Think about the families that don't have shelter and have to think of other ways to make sure that their children are all right and are going to school and those kind of things. We don't think about that cost. We just think 'OK they just lost their house or they're out of shelter.' But because of that there are other ramifications. Just think what happens if people say 'I have to stay in this abusive situation. There's nothing I can do about it. My children have to stay in this abusive situation.' An elderly person has to stay in an abusive situation. Think of the cost to society because these people are staying in there. Costs that are medical and psychological and economic. We don't think about the ramifications of not having access to courts.”

The Honorable Cynthia A. Baldwin
Retired Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Partner, Duane Morris LLP
Former Staff Attorney, NLSA

ar - EQUAL ACCESS

A promise delivered



“We are all connected...when one is hurting we’re all hurting in a sense. The cost to society by not helping the least fortunate right now, when they’re suffering even more is like a snowball effect. There’s even more suffering from losing their homes... or their incomes or from being abused and it ends up impacting the entire community. And when situations aren’t resolved early on, the effects are much worse.”

Jaime S. Tuite, Esq.
Associate, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney LLP
NLSA Board Member



“Every dollar that goes into NLSA really leverages out in multiple ways to create the sort of legal system that all of us, as lawyers want to see. The organization can’t afford to assign a lawyer to every potential client who would qualify for representation. So what we have to do is take those dollars and not only fund direct representation, but also create things like legal clinics that enable people to represent themselves...or programs for volunteer lawyers, to train the volunteers and put them into positions where they can do the representation instead of a fulltime NLSA lawyer...I don’t know that we will ever completely close the gap between the promise and reality of equal access. I do know that the only organizations that...can move in that direction are organizations like NLSA.”

W. Thomas McGough, Jr., Esq.
Partner, Reed Smith LLP
Equal Justice Campaign Committee



“We pontificate. We advocate through the constitution and through our laws an equality that we are endeavoring to actually achieve. But there’s a greater cost, I think, when you have a segment of the population -- the most needy segment -- who loses faith in the justice system of America. This is an awfully important branch of government. It is the balancing branch of government. It is apolitical. Its mission, of course, is to do justice. And if you have a significant percentage of the population not believing that justice will be rendered in their individual cases, you lose the support of the entire government. So I think, not only morally, but practically there is an important consequence of being unable or not achieving a 100% goal of equal access to the courts.”

The late **Ralph J. Cappy**
Retired Chief Justice,
Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Former NLSA Board Member

NLSA is especially grateful to **Michael and Louise Malakoff** who helped make our video possible through a generous contribution from the **Malakoff Family Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation**.

contractors in advance for services they subsequently fail to complete or perform at all.

A rising need

For all of these reasons, says Meghan, “there is a big and increasing need for services to elderly clients. There are more and more people waiting. We are always getting calls for people needing to get in and the schedules are full. It may be the economy or the large aging population in Allegheny County or a combination of both.”

Because the Elder Law program is funded by the Area Agency on Aging — and to make it easier on adults with limited transportation options — most client intake is done through community senior centers. Meghan and Bill each visit 12 senior centers a month to interview clients and open new cases. In Allegheny County, NLSA Managing Attorney Cathy Martin and Attorney Ed Stevenson also pitch in, working through one senior center apiece to take on Elder Law clients in addition to their normal caseloads. Additionally, NLSA Managing Attorney Joe Olimpki handles many Elder Law cases in Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties.

Although there are no income or asset criteria for adults over age 60 to receive NLSA services, the vast majority of clients who register through senior centers are in the low-income bracket. More and more, however, Elder Law clients include the “new poor” who are finding it so difficult to pay bills that they are turning to NLSA rather than allocating shrinking resources to legal fees.

In managing intake, our Elder Law attorneys give top priority to cases that directly affect the health and safety of clients — issues such as imminent loss of shelter through foreclosure or eviction, or termination or denial of life-sustaining public benefits. In the present economy, our attorneys also handle a growing number of Consumer Law cases for older clients,

such as complaints against contractors and credit card defense.

A typical Elder Law scenario in any economy, according to Bill Areheart, involves older women who run up tens of thousands in credit card debt after being widowed by husbands who had handled all the finances. “The wife has no experience managing money and often there is less money to manage if the husband’s Social Security benefit continues, but his pension goes away. She is really at sea, so she maxes out the credit cards and opens more cards and starts using one to pay the other.”

While the Elder Law Program has not seen a recent increase in cases of elder abuse and neglect, Meghan does not rule out that a rise may be occurring in this economic climate. “We are seeing very few, however, it’s possible that these are being picked up by Adult Protective Services.”

A silver lining?

The good news, if any, is that Meghan senses a more conciliatory tone among lenders in our area as economic hardships continue. “When I speak to individual loan officers, they seem more sympathetic. It’s a little easier to work something out because it’s a good business decision. A lot of these mortgage companies realize that it’s going to cost money to foreclose and they’re probably not going to get the value of the house back in a sale. So they’re willing to work with people to get any kind of payments.”

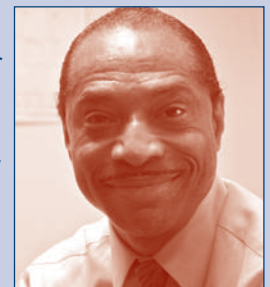
Unfortunately, flexibility is not the case across the board. “I have a couple of clients now who are being fined for violation of building codes,” says Meghan. “They had to move out of their house because they can’t afford to make repairs. The code enforcement officer was not sympathetic, even though my clients are in their seventies. He told me ‘I get that story every day.’” Sadly, so does NLSA — and other stories like them.

To volunteer your services to help meet this growing need, please see Pro Bono Corner on pages 4-5.

A CASE IN POINT



Well into her nineties, Mamie gave her grandson Power of Attorney and authorized him to receive her Social Security checks and pay her bills. The grandson failed to pay the rent and convinced Mamie that the landlord was lying when he alerted her to the problem. After several months without payment, the landlord sued Mamie, changed the locks on her apartment and attempted to evict her — warning that she would never again find “a place to live on this earth.”



Attorney Ed Stevenson

When the constable came to sell her furniture, Mamie contacted NLSA Attorney Ed Stevenson. “He was marvelous,” said Mamie. “I’ll tell anybody how he stepped in and helped me out of this crisis.” Since Mamie’s grandson had left her destitute, NLSA was able to stop the sale of her possessions and file bankruptcy on her behalf, which qualified Mamie for subsidized housing. Mamie now lives in a cozy one-bedroom apartment with all of her furnishings intact.

Older & Wiser® Update

Meghan Tighe is among several attorneys — both on staff and in the private bar — who volunteer to present free **Older & Wiser®** seminars on issues of importance to older adults and their families. The **Older & Wiser** program, now in its sixth year, is a partnership among NLSA, volunteer attorneys and legislators in NLSA's four-county service area who sponsor seminars in their districts. Current seminar topics include:

- Protection through Powers of Attorney and Living Wills
- Dealing Effectively with a Health Care Facility
- Navigating Medicaid
- Learning about Last Wills and Living Trusts
- Understanding Retirement Benefits
- Predatory Lending and Older Adults

NLSA provides all content and speaker support for volunteer presenters and a variety of materials for sponsoring legislators to publicize seminars in their communities.

To become a volunteer presenter or to find out about sponsoring a seminar in your district, please contact Managing Attorney Joe Olimpi at 412-586-3900 or 724-371-3900 or email olimpij@nlsa.us

CLIENT INVOLVEMENT: A Priceless Perspective



Client involvement is essential to the delivery of quality legal services to the communities we serve. To ensure that perspective, 13 client representatives sit on NLSA's 39-member Board of Directors.

Our client board members also facilitate meetings of the Central Clients' Council and the Beaver County Clients' Council. In turn, these organizations provide outreach to and input from the larger client community, which helps NLSA to identify broader problems, validate needs and effectively allocate resources.

The Central Clients' Council and the Beaver County Clients' Council are part of the Southwestern Client Consortium.

Central Clients' Council Officers

Sylvia Basich, President
Nancy Jones, President-Elect
Rochelle Jackson, Vice-President
Judy McElroy, Secretary
Phyllis Bose, Assistant Secretary
Ron Wilson, Treasurer
Jessie Edison, Assistant Treasurer

Beaver County Clients' Council Officers

Sylvia Basich, President
Elder Ron Cuspard, Acting Vice-President
Brenda Lowe, Secretary-Treasurer
Elder Mary Cuspard, Chaplain

If you are interested in becoming a client board member of NLSA, please call (412) 255-6700.

NLSA Extends Helpline Hours

NLSA's Advice and Referral Helpline now answers in the evening! To accommodate callers who are unable to telephone during business hours, we have opened the lines on two evenings each week. New Helpline hours are:

Monday and Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

NLSA HELPLINE: 1-866-761-NLSA (6572)



NLSA is now on Facebook!

As another way to extend our reach to partners, supporters and clients, Neighborhood Legal Services Association is now on Facebook! Become a "fan" and stay current with attorneys and staff, pro bono opportunities, offers of employment, community events, equal access activities and more! Just type Neighborhood Legal Services Association in the search bar to locate and join our fan base.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

On the Move for Equal Justice

In a rapid-fire schedule of events from May through July participants sprinted, boogied and bogeyed to show their support for equal justice under law. **Your support can go even further this fall on Pittsburgh's Day of Giving. Read on!**

MAY: Pittsburgh Marathon Runners for Equal Justice

Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir ran an Equal Justice Campaign that not only supported NLSA, but made for even more spirited involvement by the firm in a premier Pittsburgh event. BCCZ attorneys pledged anywhere from 25 cents to \$5.00 per mile for the aggregate distance run by its lawyers and/or their spouses in the Pittsburgh Marathon and Half-Marathon. At the end of the day, the BCCZ team ran up a combined total of 74 miles and \$3,000 for NLSA's Equal Justice Campaign! **REMINDER:** If your law firm is ready to run for equal justice, don't wait for the next Marathon. Pittsburgh's Great Race is coming up on September 27th!

JUNE: PSO, Chaka Khan and Community Partners

On June 25 Grammy winner **Chaka Kahn and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** gave it up for Funk Soul and equal justice as part of PSO's Community Partners Program. Fifty Pittsburgh area nonprofit organizations, including NLSA, benefited from ticket sales to an evening of great music delivered by top talent.

JULY: ACBA Golf Tournament and Golf Scotland Raffle

The **Allegheny County Bar Association** doubled support of equal justice with proceeds of both its 17th annual golf tournament and a Golf Scotland raffle going to Neighborhood Legal Services Association, with the latter also benefiting the ACBF Pro Bono Center. Robert Noethiger is the raffle winner heading for the huge double greens of St. Andrews next spring for the golf outing of a lifetime.

If you or your business would like to sponsor the 2010 ACBA Golf Tournament, please contact Christine Kirby at NLSA via email at kirbyc@nlsa.us or by phone at 412.586.6137.

OCTOBER: Pittsburgh Day of Giving

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 is the best day of the year to support equal justice! From 10 A.M. through 2:00 P.M., The Pittsburgh Foundation will match your donation of \$50 or more at 50 cents to the dollar, up to \$2,500 per individual! To make your gift go farther, just log on to pittsburghgives.org on October 28th and select NLSA from an online directory of nonprofits. That will take you to our profile and a secure way to donate. Or take yourself over to the PPG Wintergarden downtown to contribute in person at The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving Event!



LEGAL SERVICES FUNDING IN LIMBO

If State Senate Bill 850 becomes law, more than \$3 million allocated for legal services for the poor in the state's 2009 budget will be eliminated. That leaves 7,500 low-income Pennsylvanians — including 1,000 in our service area — without access to justice in a civil legal crisis. These in addition to the 50% of those requesting legal help that NLSA now turns away due to insufficient resources.

The timing could not be worse. Funding for legal services programs across Pennsylvania already has been cut. NLSA has lost over \$815,000 in IOLTA (Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) funding as interest rates plunged over the past two years. Private donors — including foundations — warn of cutbacks next year as a result of their own major losses. All the more reason for Pennsylvania to protect the rights of the poor by maintaining funding already allocated for legal services.

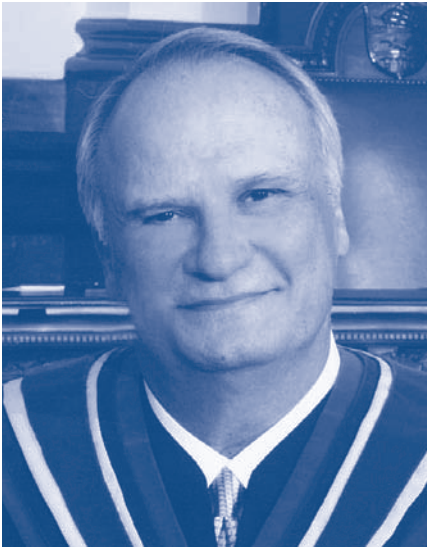
At press time, state funding for civil legal aid was still unresolved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The single largest funder of civil legal aid for the poor turned 35 on July 25, 2009. Established by Congress and President Richard Nixon in 1974, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) distributes federal funds to NLSA and 136 other independent nonprofit organizations nationwide. On behalf of the thousands of low-income families LSC enables NLSA to assist each year, we wish you continued longevity in the service of equal access to justice under law.

IN MEMORIAM



Ralph J. Cappy
Former Chief Justice,
Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Former NLSA Board Member
August 25, 1943 — May 1, 2009

This year, the battle for equal access lost an articulate voice and a great champion. The sudden passing of former Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy leaves a void in the justice community and an ache in the hearts of all who knew this warm, compassionate and fair-minded man. Chief Justice Cappy, a former NLSA board member, devoted the greater part of his life to public service and judicial reform. Early last spring, he graciously consented to an interview to help develop the narrative for the NLSA video. Judge Cappy shared many important thoughts during that conversation, but none more revealing of his character than these:

"Lawyers are trained to take care of people, to make sure the law is used the way it's supposed to be used. To make sure the powerful don't necessarily win out over the less powerful. Or that the government doesn't take away certain individual freedoms that we're all guaranteed. So I think there's a special obligation when you're a trained lawyer to try to ensure that people who can't afford your services are provided with good, competent service."

His lifelong commitment to those ideals will stand as a model for all who share his profession and his passion for equal justice under law.

Commemorative Giving

Please consider a gift to NLSA in memory of a loved one, in honor of an achievement or in celebration of a special occasion.

NLSA will acknowledge your commemorative gift with a tribute card sent on your behalf to the family or honoree.

To donate, please use the enclosed envelope or visit us online at www.nlsa.us. For more information, please contact Christine Kirby at (412) 586-6137.



Edward "Ted" Brooks
Attorney
Former President, NLSA Board of
Directors
February 20, 1944 — July 4, 2009

NLSA mourns the untimely loss of Ted Brooks, a cherished member of our extended family. Ted served local school boards and the low-income community with equal commitment and infinite grace. An accomplished real estate and education attorney and lifelong advocate for equal justice, Ted was universally admired as a skillful, honorable lawyer with a gift for resolving conflict and an innate respect for people from all walks of life. He joined NLSA following his 1969 graduation from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and continued to support and serve our program throughout his distinguished career in the private sector. We will miss his wise guidance, caring manner and gentle humor that eased tension for clients and colleagues alike.

Donate Now On Line



Equal Justice Campaign
www.nlsa.us

Contact us

Phone: **412.255.6700**

Toll-Free: **1.866.761.6572**

Email: nlsa_news@nlsa.us

Website: www.nlsa.us

Neighborhood Legal Services Association is funded in part by Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association is a charitable organization registered in Pennsylvania. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Federal regulations applying to NLSA require that we notify all donors that no funds can be expended by NLSA for any activity prohibited under P.L.104-134 or otherwise prohibited by 45 C.F.R. Sec. 1600 et. seq.



Neighborhood Legal Services Association

928 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

United Way Campaign

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