Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service

2017 Annual Report
Most of you know that MVLS has been the leading pro bono program in Maryland since 1981 and that our volunteer lawyers have served many thousands of low-income Marylanders over the past 36 years. But these numbers don’t tell the stories of the hard working people our volunteers have helped to regain stability in their lives, like the Baltimore mother who was able to avoid tax sale and keep her home, or the elderly Frederick couple who were able to overcome a terrible financial set back. Our volunteers also have helped hundreds of people remove barriers to employment through criminal record expungement. A young man in Salisbury finally found employment after a volunteer was able to have a minor charge expunged from his record.

In this annual report, you will learn more about the work of our volunteers and several new programs that are expanding our reach across Maryland to address the pressing civil legal needs of low-income Marylanders. For example, community partners host legal clinics and screenings, like our cyber clinic in Salisbury, to bring legal services to our clients where they live and work. We are particularly grateful to our dedicated panel of volunteer lawyers and loyal supporters who make these programs possible.

In FY17, 665 MVLS volunteer lawyers helped 5,013 Marylanders receive life-changing legal services. The success of our innovative programs, however, depends on the year-round commitment of volunteers and supporters like you. As you read this annual report, reflect on your contributions to MVLS over the past year, whether as a volunteer or supporter, and the positive impact your commitment to pro bono has had on the lives of thousands of low-income Marylanders. We appreciate your generous support and are confident that we can count on you to answer our call in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Bonnie A. Sullivan
Executive Director

Mary T. Keating
President
MVLS PROGRAMS

CORE PRO BONO PROGRAM
The mission of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is to provide quality civil legal assistance to Marylanders with limited income at low or no cost. Our core pro bono program matches one person in need of civil legal assistance with one volunteer lawyer for full representation. MVLS is the largest pro bono legal services provider in the state both in terms of volunteers, with more than 2,061 lawyers on our panel, and more than 85,000 clients served since our founding in 1981. Our core pro bono program expands the capacity of Maryland’s overburdened legal services delivery system which can serve only 20% of low-income clients in need of civil legal services.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD PROJECT (APGRB)
MVLS staff attorneys represent more than 550 Baltimore City and County indigent adults under public guardianship at semi-annual review hearings as well as disabled adults in guardianship hearings.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
This project matches community-based nonprofits with volunteer lawyers who provide free legal advice and representation.

CONSUMER PROTECTION CLINIC
This clinic offers free legal advice to consumers who are facing debt collection cases in Baltimore City District Court. Volunteers provide brief advice on matters including credit card cases, auto loans, landlord/tenant matters and more.

BANKRUPTCY PROGRAMS
In addition to providing full representation in hundreds of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy cases, MVLS sponsors several programs to help with bankruptcy including:
- Debtor Assistance Project (DAP) - provides unrepresented debtors a free half-hour consultation with an experienced bankruptcy attorney
- Self-Help Bankruptcy Classes - teaches unrepresented clients how to file for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy and reviews prepared petitions
- Bankruptcy Bypass Program - assists clients who are being harassed by creditors, but are not necessarily good candidates for bankruptcy

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROJECT
MVLS relies on trained foreclosure volunteer lawyers and our foreclosure prevention staff to provide full representation to distressed homeowners in Maryland. MVLS also runs a brief advice clinic for homeowners who are facing foreclosure or tax sale.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROJECT (HTPP)
The HTPP helps survivors of trafficking get the legal services they need to address the collateral consequences of their criminal justice involvement. MVLS leverages our staff and volunteer capabilities to take full advantage of all that the law can do for survivors of sex trafficking, including expungement, shielding, and vacatur. HTPP is a partnership of MVLS and the University of Baltimore’s Human Trafficking Prevention Project Clinic.

JUDICARE PROJECT
Volunteer lawyers provide full representation to clients who otherwise would be unable to afford representation in high conflict family law cases.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC (LITC)
This project provides pro bono legal assistance to low-income Marylanders with IRS tax and state tax disputes including denial of the Earned Income Tax Credit, child tax credit and setting up payment plans.

PROJECT HOUSEHOLD
Project Household is a coalition of legal service nonprofits in Baltimore City. The coalition members are MVLS, Maryland Legal Aid, Senior Legal Services, and Pro Bono Resource Center. The goal of Project Household is to keep older Baltimoreans in their homes by providing comprehensive legal assistance.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE CLINIC
The clinic provides free advice and other services to Washington County residents who have a family law matter.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
MVLS partners with five workforce development sites (Civic Works, Caroline Center, Helping Up Mission, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, and Job Opportunities Task Force) to provide comprehensive legal services to workforce trainees. MVLS conducts legal screenings that offer one-on-one consultations with an attorney to identify any legal issues the trainee may have. The program is intended to reduce legal barriers, and aid in long-term, sustainable employment upon graduation from the training sites.
In 2016, human trafficking reports rose by 35.7% from the previous year in the United States (National Human Trafficking Hotline). In Maryland alone, hundreds of human trafficking survivors are in need of civil legal services. Though trafficking survivors have been forced or coerced into this system, many are branded as criminals or prostitutes by law enforcement, judges, and the public. Casey, a survivor of human trafficking and MVLS client, described how her trafficker entrapped her: “He takes my cell phone, says I can’t have any communication with my family. He starts giving me all these rules. I was scared. There’s nothing I can do but go along.”

As survivors of human trafficking try to get their lives back on track, they are often haunted by stigma and criminal convictions. Eliminating their criminal records can be the difference between gaining employment and being re-exploited by traffickers. Survivors with criminal convictions are often denied housing, public benefits and even education opportunities. These convictions also allow employers to immediately disqualify job applicants.

In FY17, MVLS formed a partnership with the University of Baltimore School of Law to expand the capabilities of the pre-existing Human Trafficking Prevention Project (HTPP) clinic. HTPP helps trafficking survivors address the collateral consequences of their criminal justice involvement through post-conviction petitions to clear survivors’ records. Through this partnership, we hope to improve Maryland’s human trafficking laws, build strong community partnerships, and help survivors across the state. MVLS volunteer attorneys provide civil legal aid through shielding, vacatur, and expungement of criminal records.

In addition, MVLS hopes to help survivors reclaim their lives and provide a stepping stone for survivors to feel more empowered and in control of their future.
HE TAKES MY CELL PHONE, SAYS I CAN’T HAVE ANY COMMUNICATION WITH MY FAMILY. HE STARTS GIVING ME ALL THESE RULES. I WAS SCARED. THERE’S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT GO ALONG.”

– Casey* 24
MVLS, Human Trafficking Prevention Project Client

“...The reason coercion is such an effective method of recruitment is because traffickers pick up on exactly what their victims’ need, and use that to exploit them. If they need housing, traffickers provide housing. If they need a boyfriend, they can be a boyfriend. If they need a job, they will offer a job. The coercion is targeted to that person.”

– Jessica Emerson, Director, Human Trafficking Prevention Project at University of Baltimore School of Law

Human trafficking reports rose by 35.7% in 2016

*Pseudonym used to protect identity.
MVLS believes that technology can leverage the power of pro bono by connecting volunteers in the Greater Baltimore Area, where most of our volunteer lawyers practice, to rural, underserved or remote areas of the state. MVLS has been on the forefront of leveraging technology and partnerships in order to provide legal services in more remote Maryland counties.

Last fall, the Wicomico Public Library experienced an increased number of Eastern Shore residents at the library’s Job Center who were unable to gain employment due to public criminal records barring their path to work. In order to help job-seekers expunge their criminal records, MVLS partnered with the Wicomico Library to create the Cyber Civil Clinic Program.

Because more volunteer attorneys work in Central Maryland, MVLS developed online bi-monthly clinics for community members to visit the library in Salisbury and use video conferencing services to speak with MVLS volunteer attorneys who are stationed at the MVLS office. While expungement is typically the main focus of these clinics, clients can also receive brief advice from attorneys on other civil legal issues.

To aid in this effort, MVLS received a generous award from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

At MVLS, we strongly believe in creating access to civil legal services where it was previously non-existent or limited. William Buschur, a MVLS volunteer attorney, explained that, “The client and attorney can see one another and interact directly as if in person, down to seeing facial expressions. It makes for a lifelike interaction, transcending what previous technologies like the telephone are capable of.” For low-income clients in remote areas, like Wicomico County, having immediate access to a pro bono attorney is incredibly empowering.
Estate and financial planning is not just for the wealthy. Through our foreclosure work, we realized that it is a means of keeping families and homes intact. MVLS staff and volunteers have spent FY17 educating clients on options that will help them keep multi-generational homes that have been in their families for decades.

A 2017 Caring.com survey reported that 6 out of 10 adults do not have a written will. Due to a widespread lack of advanced planning in Maryland, the deeds of many homes are still in the names of our clients’ deceased relatives. Inaccurate deeds make these homes especially susceptible to tax sale and subsequent foreclosure because the family in question cannot access programs like the Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit, low-income or senior water credits, and home repair programs. These programs require the current homeowner’s name on the deed.

Advanced planning can untangle deeds that date back generations, and MVLS recognizes that complications and financial stressors can make the complicated deed transfer process insurmountable without an attorney’s help. MVLS Deputy Director Susan Francis stated, “If relatives take the time to write wills, households could save hundreds of dollars in tax credits. Estate planning can preserve the wealth of those families who worked hard to earn it.”

MVLS is dedicated to helping low-income homeowners navigate advanced planning and empower them with estate planning information and legal representation. We are partnering with community groups and religious organizations to broaden the advanced planning conversation, and positively impact communities in distressed Baltimore neighborhoods.
290 NEW VOLUNTEERS joined MVLS panel

MVLS has the substantial impact it does because of our volunteer attorneys. In FY17, 665 volunteer attorneys donated 15,506 hours, valued at nearly $4.1 million. Below are the attorneys who helped us open the legal door to thousands of Marylanders by providing legal representation or attending a clinic between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Volunteers are listed by county of their primary residence. Volunteers who closed more than one case or volunteered at multiple clinics have the total number of clients they assisted in parenthesis.

ALLEGANY
Kristen M. Bender (4) Marcia R. Conrad Sean Patrick Gallagher (3)

ANNE ARUNDEL

Baltimore
Celebrate Pro Bono 2016 Award Recipients

Baltimore City
Jay Allan Abarbanel
Jeffrey Abarbanel [2]
Giovanni V. Alberotanza
Sadia Ali [15]
Stanley Alpert
Robert D. Ambinder [2]
Terrence J. Arts
Nedra Ayers [2]
Aimee M. Bader
Robert A. Scott
Brooke Schumm [4]
Allen Schuldenfrei [2]
Amy Schrack Sheinin
G. Adam Ruther [12]
William Rudow
Josephia E. Rouse [2]
Durriyyah M. Rose
Rebecca A. Romig
Elizabeth Rojugbokan [3]
Emily C. Rogers [10]
E. Hutchinson
Robbins [3]
Emily C. Rogers [10]
Elizabeth Rojugbokan [3]
Rebecca A. Romig
Durriyyah M. Rose
Josephia E. Rouse [2]
William Rudow
G. Adam Ruther [12]
Joy Sakamoto-Wengel [5]
Douglas A. Sampson [3]
Sheldon S. Satisky [3]
Amy Schrack Sheinin
Allen Schudlenfreud [2]
Brooke Schrum [4]
Robert A. Scott
Joseph M. Selba [3]
Elizabeth Moody
Shaner [11]

Mary T. Keating [6]
Susan Kirwan [9]
Marc Kivitz
Ari J. Kodeck [3]
Kumudha Nandine
Kumarachandran
Phuc H. Le
Jaimie A. Lee [2]
Robin D. Leone
Devorah M. Lewin [2]
Alida D. Lewis
Jean Lewis [5]
James R. Logan
Jennifer S. Lubinski [10]
Nicole M. Lugo Clark [2]
Larry J. Macklin
Christopher John
Madain [5]
Karen R. Malinois
Marc A. Marinaccio [14]
Kyrakos Marudhas [4]
Jeenen M. Maxwell
Meghan McCulloch
Andrzej O. McDonald [3]
Robert A. McFarland
Anthony Meagher
Janine L. Meckler
Caitlin E. Miller
William Monaghan [3]
Alexandra K.
Montano [4]
Ronisha A. Moore [3]
William Moore
Christopher N.
Moran [11]
Alexander C.
Motiosioulos
Bryan M. Mull [9]
David S. Musgrave
Richard L. Nilsson
Fiona W. Ong
Cathleen Oplet
David A. Prater
Christia Pritts [2]
Christopher R. RA[7]
Kendra Randall-
Jolivet [3]
Mario A. Richards [2]
E. Hutchinson
Robbins [3]
Laurie M. Wasserman
Thomas J.S. Waxter
Doris N. Weil [19]
James Wiggins [4]
Steven Wilder [2]
Guana E. Williams [2]
Justin A. Williams [12]
Alicia L. Wilson
Kate E. Wolfson [5]
LaRue G. Lennon [10]

HARFORD

2,061 VOlUnTEERS on panel

HOWARD
Sheryl Sneek  Kim E. Sorensen (7)  A. Jean Steigleman (8)  Joycelyn R. Stinson (5)  Katherine F. Thomas  Walter D. Ty (9)

MONTGOMERY

QUEEN ANNE’S
Holland Catherine Brownley  Matthew Penick (6)

PRINCE GEORGE’S

QUEEN ANNE’S
Holland Catherine Brownley  Matthew Penick (6)

15,606 VOLUnTEER HOURS

MONTGOMERY

QUEEN ANNE’S
Holland Catherine Brownley  Matthew Penick (6)

15,606 VOLUnTEER HOURS

SOMERSET
Kristy M. Hickman (7)  Jennifer M. Turnbull

ST. MARY’S

WASHINGTON
Ayodeji Badaki (5)  Joseph Chukla (7)  James D. Johnson  Brian A. Kane  Jason Morton (5)

WICOMICO
Christina M. Alfonsi (9)  C. Bruce Anderson (3)  Dianne K. Beauchamp (4)  Robert A. Benson (6)  Steven D. Cox (3)  Jordan Gilmore  Stephen M. Hearne  Harold S. Link (2)  Cynthia MacDonald (4)  Reena J. Patel (5)  Don Richardson (6)  Franzella Starkey (22)  Barbara Trader (6)

WORCESTER
Sharon Donahue (2)  Matthew McElroy (12)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OUTSIDE MARYLAND

MENTORS
DONORS

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify us of the error at 443-451-4065.

FOUNDATIONS, LAW FIRMS, & CORPORATIONS

$15,000+
France-Merrick Foundation
Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
The Fund for Change, Inc.
The Zanvyl & Isabelle Krieger Fund
Venable Foundation, Inc.

$10,000-14,999
American College of Bankruptcy
DLA Piper US LLP
LaVerna Hahn Charitable Trust
Law Offices of Peter T. Nicholl
Miles & Stockbridge, P.C.
Saul Ewing LLP
Law Offices of Peter T. Nicholl

$5,000-9,999
Anonymous
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, Inc.
Dorney-Koppel Family Foundation
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP

$2,500-4,999
Astrachan, Gunst & Thomas, P.C.
Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of MD

$1,000-2,499
AMA/Art Miller
Court Reporting & Videoconferencing Association of Corporate Counsel Baltimore Chapter

UP TO $999
Accident Prevention & Investigation, Inc.
Bates & Garcia, LLC
Bekman, Marder & Adkins
Brown Advisory
Coon & Cole, LLC
Halle Family Foundation
Jenkins Block & Associates, P.C.
Mallon & McCool, LLC
Maryland Psychiatric Partners, LLC
MECU
Mutual of America
Robert R. & Dorothy D. Bair Fund of the BCF
S.H. Block Tax Service
Schlach & Thompson, Chartered
T. Rowe Price Associates

OTHER GRANTS

Internal Revenue Service
Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development
Maryland Department of Human Resources
Maryland Legal Aid
Maryland Legal Services Corporation
Washington County Circuit Court
INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$5,000+

Cecil & Sheryl Flamer
Lawrence J. Keen, III
Mary Jo Putney

$2,500-4,999

George J. Bachrach
Kerry D. Staton

$1,500-2,499

Cathy Brennan
Thomas J. Cullen, Jr.
Charles S. Hirsch
Felicia M. Hult

Michelle Lipkowitz, Hon. Daniel Friedman, Jason St. John & Laure Ruth attend 2017 “March Madness” Themed Benefit at M&T Bank Stadium

$1,000-1,499

Anonymous
Danny Bell
Robert S. Brennen
Stephan Y. Brennan
James D. Cardea
Lawrence D. Coppel
James W. Dawson, Jr. & Suzanne L. Robert
Robert L. & Ann Marie Doory
Jonathan M. Genn
Joseph K.
Githuku, Esq.
Steve Immelt
Paula M. Junghans
Thomas J. Kenney, Jr.

Jane Frankel Sims
Peter A. Susser
Sanford Teplitzky
Michael D. Wilmoth
Roger Winston
Steven Zeisel

$750-999

Anonymous
Michael S. Clevenger
Lorrianne Rice
Tracy L. Steedman

$500-749

Anonymous (3)
Anthony P. Ashton
Denise C. Barrett
Trudy Bartel & Jon Laria
W. Bradley Bauhof
Michael J. Baxter
Neil J. Bloom
Victoria Bor
Winnie & Neil Borden
Patricia Bosse
Linda J. Botek
James C. Brennan

Sandra T. Brushart
Anthony I. Butler
Hon. & Mrs. J. Norris Byrnes
Patrick K. Cameron
Wayne Clark
Ken Davies
James H. DeGraffenreidt & Mychelle Farm
David C. Dembert
Hon. & Mrs. E. Stephen Derby
M. Gregg Diamond
James R. Dolan
Janet Fedder
Savonne Ferguson
John J. Gessner
Donna M. Glover
Sandra P. Gohn
Sally B. Gold & Elliot Zulver
Jonathan E. Goldberg
Charles P. Goodell
Lawrence S. Greenwald
John & Beverly Griffith
Marva D. Harting
Martin S. Himeles, Jr.
S. Craig Holden
James S. Jacobs
James A. Johnson
Mary T. Keating
Peter E. Keith
Cynthia Hitt Kent
Dr. Ricardo C. Kimbers
Joseph C. Kovars
Joseph H. Langhirt
Christine A. Lay
Thomas E. Lynch
David M. Lynn
Darren Margolis
Kevin McAnaney & Catherine McCabe
Sherrilyn McClain
Donald P. McPherson, III
Kathleen & Timothy Meredith
Alan J. Mogol
Lori A. Nicolle

Hon. Theresa A. Nolan
Paul S. Novak
Lee H. Ogburn
James C. Oliver
Christopher & Elizabeth Rahl
J. Paul Rieger, Jr.
Leslie & Thomas Ries
Lucy Robins
George Roche
Jerome C. Schaefer
Neil J. Schechter
Jonathan Schochor
Ann M. Sheridan & James E. Dickerman
Norman L. Smith
Susan L. Spence
Donna H. Staton
Paul Sugar
Bonnie and Steven Sullivan
Aileen & Dwight Taylor
Steuart H. Thomsen
Stephen J. Toomey
Raymond G. Truitt & Mary K. Tilghman
Richard & Manuele Wasserman
J.W. Thompson Webb
Steven J. Weiselt

$250-499

Anonymous (11)
Burton Amernick
Stephanie J. Austin & Robin S. Fernald
Tanya Axenson
Cynthia L. Spell & Andrew Baida
Leonard Bebchick
John W. Beckley
Cynthia A. Berman
Richard D. Berndt
Courtney A. Blair
William C. Casano
Edward S. Cohn
Vincent Colatristiano
Sean L. Coleman
Frank D. Coleman
Kevin P. & Paula J. Connelly

MVLS staff attorneys & paralegals helped:

1,168 CLIENTS

Thomas E. Dunigan
Joseph J. Dyer
Saul A. Ehrenpreis
Hon. Judith Clabourne Ensor
Korin E. Felix
Marilyn Hope Fisher & Allen F. Loucks
Elizabeth M. Fley
Herman E. Funk, Jr. & Jill R. Robinson
Gerard J. Gaeng & Niamh McQuillan
Herbert S. Garten
David D. Gilliss
Barbara S. Gilliss & Edward J. Gilliss
Avrum S. Goldberg
Rob Goldman Legal Solutions
Louis H. Goldstein
Frederick G. Green
Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr.
Robert Grossbart
Raymond A. Hein

CASES CLOSED BY REGION

- Central MD: 72%
- Western MD: 16%
- Southern MD: 9%
- Eastern Shore MD: 3%
MVLS Staff at “March Madness” Themed Benefit
IN KIND
About Faces Day Spa
Anthony Ashton
Baker Donelson
BB&T Wealth
Brown Goldstein & Levy
Center Cut Doughnuts
The Charmery
Lawrence D. Coppel
Gordon Goldstein
George Kohutak
Mako Swartz Furs
Maryland Jockey Club
National Aquarium
PANDORA
Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar
Christopher R. Rahal
E. Hutchinson Robbins
Sagamore Development
Gerard St. Ours
Smyth Jewelers

SUSTAINER CIRCLE
A special thank you to our monthly donors. Each month we count on the support of these donors to further our mission. Signing up to be a part of the Sustainers Circle is easy on our website or contacting Kimberly Weiner, kweiner@mvlslaw.org.

Michael C. Blum
Susan Francis & Sandy Daniels
Lorriane Rice
Leanne M. Schrecengost

William Steinwedel
Bonnie A. Sullivan
Delma Wickham-Smith

While we appreciate the generous support of all of our donors, this listing recognizes donors who have donated $100 or more to MVLS in FY17.

MVLS STAFF
Stephanie Austin
Nasim Chatha*
Alexandra Cordes
Laurie Culkin
Janet Fedder
Susan Francis
Monica Fulwood
Makeisha Gibson
Amy Hennen
Erin Holloway
Peter Lally**
Carolyn Malinowski
Vera Miles
Lakisha Overton
Daria Pugh

* Joined board/staff in FY18
** Joined board/staff in FY17

MVLS STAFF
Stephanie Austin
Nasim Chatha*
Alexandra Cordes
Laurie Culkin
Janet Fedder
Susan Francis
Monica Fulwood
Makeisha Gibson
Amy Hennen
Erin Holloway
Peter Lally**
Carolyn Malinowski
Vera Miles
Lakisha Overton
Daria Pugh

* Left board/staff in FY19
2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

- MLSC Grants $801,421
- Federal & State Grants $685,732
- Special Event Income $108,566
- Contributions & Foundations $424,246
- Investment Income $56,236
- Miscellaneous $12,127
- Value of Volunteer Hours Donated*

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION

- Program* $6,235,932
- Fundraising $221,299
- Management & General $265,381

*Includes Value of Volunteer Hours - Contributed Legal Fees $4.1 million

TOTAL NET ASSETS $2,627,609

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS $1,497,433

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS $1,130,176

PROFILE OF CASES

- 31% Family
- 21% Expungement
- 21% Consumer
- 8% Housing
- 2% Tax
- 14% Estates & Deeds
- 3% Other

MLSC GRANTS
Federal & State Grants
Special Event Income
Contributions & Foundations
Investment Income
Miscellaneous
Value of Volunteer Hours Donated*

INVESTMENT INCOME $56,236
MISCELLANEOUS $12,127