
2018 | 2019
Annual Report

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK



2018 | 2019 Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

I have just completed my twenty-fifth year as Director of the Catholic Charities Legal Network as the program itself celebrates 30 years of service to the public. I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2019, the Legal Network assisted approximately 3,100 individuals through its various projects, including direct legal representation and presenting legal education seminars in DC and Maryland.

Starting with our volunteers, I would like to highlight our volunteer attorneys for conducting telephone and in-person intake weekly and monthly. Special thanks to our government, solo, mid-size and large law firm attorneys who have accepted pro bono cases from the Legal Network. A special debt of gratitude is owed to the District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Center's staff for partnering with us to ensure cases are placed with volunteer attorneys and law firms.

The Legal Network is grateful to the following law schools for assisting us with some of our most challenging cases: American University Washington College of Law; Catholic University of America - Columbus School of Law; Georgetown University Law Center (with special thanks

to Professor Frances DeLaurentis and her students for compiling manuals on various substantive areas of the law for our staff and volunteers); The George Washington University Law School; Howard University School of Law, and The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. The following educational institutions are also to be thanked for sending student interns to the Legal Network: Ave Maria School of Law; Trinity Washington University; Arizona State University and Elizabeth Seton High School.

I am especially appreciative to the Legal Network's staff or their commitment to serving the poor and unserved in our community. Thank you to current staff attorneys Esther D. Coleman, Daniel F. Collopy, Hon. Leo E. Green, Jr., and Kelly E. Thompson; former staff attorneys Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin and Emily J.C. Maloney; and our current bilingual paralegal Blanca Z. Lopez.

Of particular importance to this program is the Legal Network Advisory Council. I am grateful to all Council members and our current Chairman, James P. Gillespie, for their support and encouragement. I also want to thank the following former Council members whose terms have expired: Elizabeth B. Meers, Ex Officio member; Kristine J. Dunne; Michael J. Goecke; Robert E. Grant; Fernand A. Lavalley; William E. Lawler III; and William E. Rice.

Lastly, I am thankful for the financial support the Legal Network has received from its many donors and partners.

I am proud of our work over the last year, and I invite you to peruse this report to learn more about our successes. I also look forward to sharing with each of you what is to be a challenging and productive upcoming year.

Sincerely,
James D. Bishop, Esq., Director
Catholic Charities Legal Network

On May 17, 2019, James D. Bishop, Esq. was bestowed the Equal Justice Award at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Commencement Ceremony. Mr. Bishop spoke to the graduating class about the role his late uncle, Gardner L. Bishop, played in the case of *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497 (1954), which was one of the accompanying cases to *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954). The commencement date coincided with the 65th anniversary date of the landmark United States Supreme Court decision.



2018 | 2019 Chairperson's Letter



Dear Friends,

The Catholic Charities Legal Network had a very productive year in meeting our mission to provide pro bono legal services to indigent and poor residents in the Archdiocese of Washington. Our success came through a combination of new initiatives with new volunteers and Legal Network staff, as well as a continuation of our historical core work of case screening and placement.

One of the exciting developments over this past fiscal year has been the growth of our presence in the Prince George's County legal community. Building on the momentum from last year's launch of Catholic Charities' Susan Denison Mona Center in Temple Hills, Maryland, the Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr., Retired Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, will begin working with the Legal Network in the new fiscal year. Leo's presence and expertise will significantly improve the Legal Network's ability to identify and place cases with experienced Prince George's County counsel. Dan Collopy, staff attorney, joined the Legal

Network in December 2018 with a focus on increasing access to intake through satellite intake locations in DC and representing pro bono clients, and Esther D. Coleman, staff attorney, joined the Legal Network in May 2019, bringing with her the experience of nonprofit work and civil pro bono case work.

Another initiative to be undertaken by Legal Network volunteers in the coming year is to assist veterans by becoming the Washington, DC, coordination center for VetLex. VetLex is a nationwide program for connecting veterans with pro bono representation for matters such as Veterans Administration benefit appeals and obtention of upgrades to the status of discharges from service, in addition to other non-veteran-related legal matters. A third activity the Legal Network will be undertaking is to identify and develop programs to support children in low-income families in areas such as obtaining government benefits (including appealing a denial of government benefits) or challenging and remediating substandard housing conditions.

This expansion of activities has not diminished the Legal Network's traditional focus of meeting the legal services needs of our community in matters involving bankruptcy and consumer debt, employment law, family law, and landlord-tenant issues. All told, our volunteers enabled the Legal Network to provide assistance to nearly 3,100 individuals this past year.

Leading all of the Legal Network's efforts with organizational skill and manifest empathy for our clients is Jim Bishop, Director of the Legal Network - now in his 26th year serving the constituencies of the Legal Network. Jim is supported by the hardworking and effective Legal Network staff, which performs so well on many fronts. From facilitating the intake of potential clients to organizing our fundraising efforts,

coordinating volunteer attorney recruiting and training to organizing receptions, the Legal Network staff juggles many responsibilities without dropping a ball. And backstopping all Legal Network activities is Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and its President, Msgr. John J. Enzler, who is ever a font of ideas and resources.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank all our volunteers and benefactors –

the lifeblood of the Legal Network. Without your time, talents, and treasure, the Legal Network simply would not function. We sincerely appreciate your vital support of the Legal Network’s mission to serve the legal needs of our community’s disadvantaged individuals and families.

Sincerely,
James P. Gillespie, P.C.
Chair, Catholic Charities Legal Network
Advisory Council



Jim Bishop, Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, poses with Kirra Jarrett, Chief Executive Officer of the DC Bar Foundation. The Legal Network is grateful for the continuing financial and program support provided by the DC Bar Foundation.

Catholic Charities Legal
Network's Mission

To provide access to
the highest quality
pro bono civil legal
services to the
poorest of the poor
within the Archdiocese
of Washington **without**
regard to their
religious affiliation.

Catholic Charities Legal Network's Impact

The support of volunteer attorneys from law firms, the government, and solo practices allows the Legal Network to fulfill its mission of offering free legal assistance to the poor. These volunteers provide pro bono legal representation and conduct in-person intake with clients. Volunteer attorneys also monitor the Legal Network's telephone intake line and schedule clients for in-person intake, providing referrals when appropriate. Additionally, they present civil law seminars for low-income groups, and they mentor attorneys who handle pro bono cases.

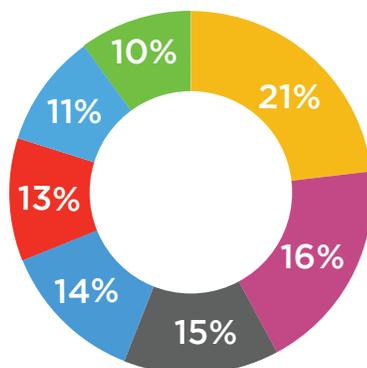
The Legal Network assists families and individuals who earn at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For an individual seeking the Legal Network's services in 2019, the income limit is \$24,980, and for a family of four, the limit is \$51,500. 3,065 low-income individuals were served in Maryland and Washington, DC.



What We Do

The Legal Network addresses:

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Government Entitlements
- Landlord and Tenant Law
- Wills and Probate Law



- Family
- Wills and Probate
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Debt
- Landlord, Tenant and Other Housing
- Other
- Government Entitlements
- Employment

**other cases include expungement/record sealing, obtaining government ID, education and tax matters*

The services we provide:

- Case placement with volunteer attorneys
- Information and referral
- In-person client intake
- Seminars on civil law topics for low-income audiences
- Legal training seminars and mentorship for volunteer attorneys

Where We Help

Washington, DC
Montgomery County

Prince George's County
Calvert County

Charles County
St. Mary's County

2018 | 2019
Volunteers



"I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE WITHOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK. I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT THIS PLACE IS HERE."

-DEBRA LINDSEY, CCLN CLIENT-

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DLA Piper
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
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2018 | 2019 CCLN Staff



James D. Bishop Esq., Director, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Jim has directed the Legal Network for over 25 years. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in DC and a native Washingtonian. Jim has been a family mediator in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's MultiDoor Dispute Resolution Division for over 30 years. He serves on the Board of Governors of The John Carroll Society, the Civic Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence, and the District of Columbia Bar Foundation's Scoutt Prize Committee. Among Jim's honors include the Equal Justice Award from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, the Bar Association

of the District of Columbia's Suzanne V. Richards Award, the Jerrold Scoutt Prize from the DC Bar Foundation, The John Carroll Society Medal, The Archdiocese of Washington's 75th Anniversary Cardinal's Award, and Catholic Charities' Griffin Award. Jim is a magna cum laude graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a graduate of Howard University School of Law. Jim holds a certificate from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business for completing the Nonprofit Business Excellence Program for Catholic Leaders. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania Bars.



Ashlyn M. Anderson-Keelin, Esq., Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow

Ashlyn joined Catholic Charities Legal Network as its second Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow in October

2016, and she finished her time at the Legal Network when her fellowship ended in October 2018. Ashlyn is a 2016 graduate of Notre Dame Law School. While in law school, Ashlyn was a summer intern with Catholic Charities Legal Network. Ashlyn earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Political Science, summa cum laude, from Georgetown College in Kentucky. She is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.



Esther D. Coleman, Esq., Staff Attorney

Esther D. Coleman, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, joined the Legal Network in May 2019. Esther brings with her many years of experience in the public, private

and nonprofit sectors. Esther is community-focused in the work that she does, having started a women's advocacy group, Standing in the Gap, which focuses on providing resources to underserved women and girls in the Northeast Florida region. Among her pro bono accomplishments, Esther provided estate planning support to home-bound seniors through Legal Counsel for the Elderly and Catholic Charities Legal Network, as well as people in hospice care through Capital Caring. She graduated with a political science degree from Florida A&M University before matriculating at the Georgetown University Law Center. Esther is licensed in the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland.



**Daniel Collopy,
Staff Attorney**

After volunteering for Catholic Charities Legal Network for more than 20 years while litigating contempt cases for the National Labor Relations Board and

helping build the Federal Government's Pro Bono Program, Dan joined CCLN to serve more clients in need, not only in Washington, D.C. but in surrounding Maryland counties. Dan and Leo Green, Jr. work closely together at the Susan D. Mona Center, and Dan travels to different sites in DC and Montgomery County conducting client intake, too. Dan is a graduate of Georgetown University with a B.A. in American Studies, and he earned a law degree from the University of Colorado Law School, where he served as Staff Editor on the Colorado Law Review. Dan is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and Colorado.



**Blanca Z. Lopez,
Bilingual Paralegal**

Blanca has been with the Legal Network for 15 years and has helped extend outreach into the Latino community. She is originally from Bolivia and graduated

from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.



**Emily J.C. Maloney,
Esq., Staff Attorney**

Emily joined the Legal Network in May 2017 as a staff attorney. She came to the Network after previously practicing special education law in DC, predominantly

on behalf of low-income clients. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Emily spent nearly 10 years abroad before she attended law school, living in Belgium, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. She has an M.A. in Theological Studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and a J.D. from the Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a member of the District of Columbia and North Carolina Bars.



**Hon. Leo E. Green, Jr.,
Staff Attorney**

Upon retirement from the bench as the Civil Coordinating Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 2010 to 2017, Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr.,

joined Catholic Charities Legal Network at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Prince George's County, MD. Judge Green joined the Circuit Court in 2008 after having served on the District Court for nearly 7 years. Before the bench, Judge Green practiced law for 16 years. He is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College and the University of Baltimore Law School. Judge Green is licensed to practice in Maryland.



**Kelly E. Thompson,
Esq., Staff Attorney**

Kelly began working with the Legal Network in 2012 as a Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow from Notre Dame Law School and has remained a staff

attorney with the Legal Network. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, cum laude, a Master of Nonprofit Administration, magna cum laude, and a law degree from the University of Notre Dame. She is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.

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THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE AND THAT THEY HAVE POSITIVE
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-FORMER CCLN CLIENT-

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2018 | 2019 Year End Review

Tuesday, October 23, Blanca Lopez spoke on Radio America with DC Superior Court Magistrate Judge Jorge Vila.

By the end of the fiscal year, the Legal Network saw approximately 60 more clients for in-person intake than last fiscal year.



The Legal Network hosted a fellow from the law firm of Sidley Austin LLP; Robert M. Smith spent September and October 2018 assisting the Legal Network full-time as a loaned associate. The Legal Network also hosted a summer intern in 2019, Leilani Fitzpatrick.



On Thursday, April 4, the Legal Network held its annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at the law firm of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. Special thanks to Susan M. Hoffman, Pro Bono Partner at Crowell & Moring LLP and President of the District of Columbia Bar, for being our featured speaker. This year's awardees include Nancy Lindsay, Esq., John McCarthy Jr., Esq., and the law firm of White & Case LLP. For those who weren't able to attend, know of our gratitude for your time and expertise, which enables the Legal Network to assist the poorest of the poor. Thank you to Advisory Council member Thomas J. Kelly and Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP for hosting the event.

The Legal Network began conducting intake at the Father McKenna Center in the District and the Catholic Charities Montgomery County Family Center.



The Legal Network's second annual tennis night fundraiser was held on Friday, April 12, 2019, at Congressional Country Club. Though rain kept us from playing tennis, we had a blast playing pickleball indoors, and think we may keep up the tradition next year! With plenty of food, drink, and a silent auction, the evening was a great success. Thank you to our sponsors: Billings Capital Management, CBRE and Pepco Holdings. Many thanks to our outstanding committee: Kristen Billings, Christopher Carroccio, Courtney Carroccio, Caitlin Duff, Bridget O'Connor and Beth Wasp.



The Legal Network 15th annual golf tournament was held on Monday, October 1, 2018, at Belle Haven Country Club.



Father Charles Kitima, Secretary of the Tanzanian Bishops Conference and lawyer, visited Catholic Charities Legal Network with Elizabeth B. Meers, Partner at Hogan Lovells US LLP and former Advisory Council Chair, to discuss best practices on establishing a legal services program like Catholic Charities Legal Network in his native country of Tanzania.



The John Carroll Society held its annual Red Mass and brunch on Sunday, September 30, 2018. Honorees included outstanding Legal Network volunteers Ari Q. Fitzgerald of Hogan Lovells US LLP; Gerard E. Mitchell of Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP; the law firm of Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP); and the law firm of Jones Day.



**On behalf of the
Catholic Charities
Legal Network,
thank you for your
continued support of
our work serving the
most vulnerable.**

DC BAR FOUNDATION

WE INVEST IN JUSTICE

DCBF

Special thank you for the generous support of the DC Bar Foundation, which enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to our clients. Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES
LEGAL NETWORK
DONATION
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ORGANIZATION NAME

ADDRESS

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CITY/ STATE/ ZIP

PHONE NUMBER

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\$

CHECK CREDIT CARD

DONATION AMOUNT

CARD NUMBER



CARDHOLDER NAME

EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE

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Legal Network
C/O Jim Bishop

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