

LEGAL AID BUREAU

of Buffalo, Inc.



2018 IMPACT REPORT



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WHY DOES LEGAL AID MATTER?

DEMOCRACY REQUIRES JUSTICE. JUSTICE COSTS MONEY. You can have your home taken away, your children taken away, and can be a victim of abuse, but you have no constitutional right to a lawyer to protect you! Legal aid is necessary to help people enforce their rights or understand their responsibilities.

FIGHT POVERTY AND ADVANCE RACIAL JUSTICE. We focus on issues that deeply affect the lives and social mobility of people living in poverty by fighting to protect the essentials of life, such as **housing, the rights of workers, access to health care and education, protection from child abuse**, etc.

CREATE MORE EQUITABLE SYSTEMS. To advocate for reform, we focus on **the intersections between poverty, the child welfare system, family preservation, the foster care-to-prison-pipeline, the criminal justice system, the re-entry** of formerly incarcerated individuals into the community, and access to necessary services.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SUCCESS. Many challenges faced by low-income Western NYers are actually legal in nature and can be fought with an attorney. **Unaddressed, the challenges remain barriers to success, even when basic needs are met by other excellent service providers.**

WE IMPROVE LIVES



\$3,745,601 in total quantifiable benefits to clients



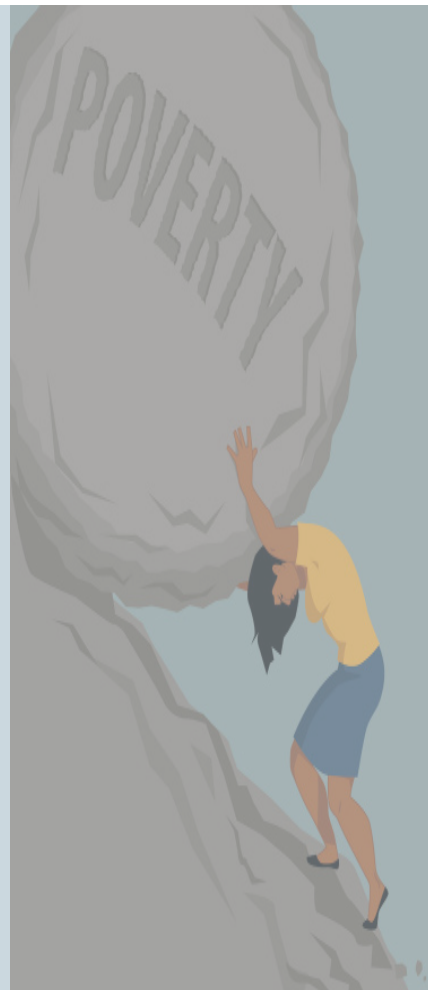
Over 1,500 cases in housing, employment and consumer matters to stabilize housing and prevent homelessness



\$837,699 in savings to taxpayers; \$5 in savings to NYS for every \$1 spent



50,000 court appearances on behalf of children to escape abuse and avoid homelessness; over 200 cases in education matters to keep kids in school





WHAT WE DO

The work we do at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo stems from one central principle: increasing access to justice for everyone regardless of income can dramatically change and empower our community.

HOW WE DO IT

Established since 1912, we provide access to justice and due process to the most vulnerable individuals, children and families in Western New York through quality legal representation and assistance.



We serve over **20,000** Western New Yorkers annually, including over **5,000** children.



We serve the counties of **Erie, Niagara, Allegany, Chautauqua, Orleans, Cattaraugus, Genesee, and Wyoming.**



We have about **100** staff comprised of attorneys, paralegals, social workers, and other staff. Our main office is in **downtown Buffalo**. We have satellite locations in **Niagara Falls and Chautauqua County.**



We provide full-scope **legal representation, advice/counsel, education workshops, and social work services.**



Generally, a family living at or below **200%** of the **federal poverty level** is eligible for our services.

\$5 in benefits & savings to NYS for every \$1 spent

The economic impact in New York in terms of benefits won, costs saved, and income and jobs for business was almost \$900 million — **nearly five dollars for every dollar spent to support legal services organizations.**



WE CHANGE LIVES IN WAYS BIG AND SMALL

We work together to address the legal challenges our clients face.

TENANTS facing wrongful eviction;

HOMEOWNERS facing foreclosure;

WOMEN who are victims of domestic and economic violence;

VETERANS and military families struggling in civilian life;

CONSUMERS bankrupted by predatory lenders;

CHILDREN who need a stable home or educational access;

ELDERLY whose economic security or health care is in jeopardy;

DISABLED PEOPLE denied opportunities;

IMMIGRANTS who work the lowest-wage jobs without benefits or contracts.

OUR SERVICES

CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

We provide a full range of **holistic services**:

- Housing
- Mortgage & Tax Foreclosures
- Family Justice
- Education Law
- Unemployment
- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Protection
- Reentry Services
- Veterans Services
- Immigration Law

CHILD PROTECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

We annually represent over 5,300 children ranging from newborns to age 21 in Erie County Family Court. We represent a majority of children in Erie County in the following areas:

- Abuse/Neglect matters
- Foster care
- Juvenile Delinquency Cases
- Persons in Need of Supervision

COMMUNITY DEFENSE

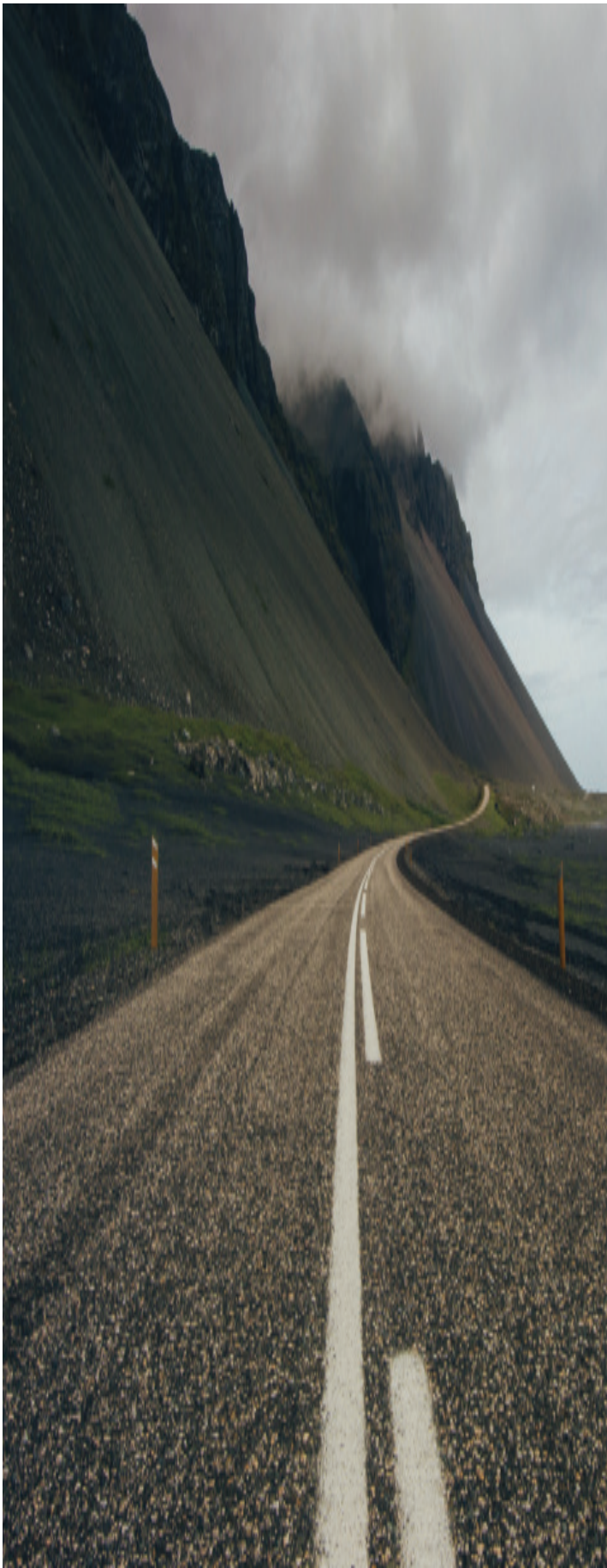
We provide **client-centered defense**, including representation in:

- Buffalo City Court
- Drug Treatment Court
- Mental Health Court
- Human Trafficking Court
- Opioid Intervention Court

We also provide **social work services** to help over 1,500 clients per year in their struggle to overcome addiction.

APPELLATE PRACTICE

We provide appellate and post-conviction services to clients who also have the benefit of representation on **post-custody re-entry issues**.



PROVIDING CARE ACROSS WESTERN NEW YORK

We provide legal help primarily in Erie and Niagara Counties. We also provide help in the surrounding counties in the 8th judicial district.



Why access to legal aid is so challenging

There is only 1 attorney for every 5,000 people living in poverty in New York State.

86% of the civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans in the past year received inadequate or no legal help.

Five Western New York neighborhoods -- four in Buffalo and one in Niagara Falls -- are saddled with poverty rates higher than 40 percent.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo launched the Education Advocacy Project in early 2016 in response to the need for specialized advocacy for the educational needs of court-involved foster care children, juvenile justice youth, and other at-risk youth.

The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo launched the Education Advocacy Project in early 2016 in response to the need for specialized advocacy for the educational needs of court-involved foster care children, juvenile justice youth, and other at-risk youth. **Children in foster care and juvenile justice youth comprise two of the most educationally disadvantaged student groups enrolled in our schools.** The Education Advocacy Project fights for the educational rights of our clients served by the Attorneys for Children Unit which provides legal representation in Family Court proceedings to the majority of children in Erie County who are abused, neglected, in foster care, or involved in the juvenile justice system – over 5,000 children annually.

The Educational Advocacy Project is focused on the following: (1) providing legal representation to children in school matters to address disproportionate use of school discipline among foster care children; (2) ensuring school stability and attendance; (3) providing legal help for parents in school matters to secure appropriate early intervention services; and (4) providing community education to parents regarding early intervention.

Virtually all the children we serve are disproportionately affected by high rates of poverty, disabilities, emotional and physical trauma, homelessness, and school discipline. More than half are also children of color. **Educational success can be a positive counterweight to their experiences of abuse, neglect, and separation.**

Strong legal advocacy is essential to overcoming the many barriers to success that these children encounter. Many children in foster care change schools frequently. Students in foster care are disproportionately suspended or expelled and placed in restrictive school programs. These problems are compounded by the lack of any legally authorized education decision maker. **Our outcomes have shown increased attendance and improved well-being for children.**

TOWER AND OISHEI FOUNDATIONS GRANT AWARD TO LEGAL AID BUREAU FOR MAJOR TECHNOLOGY OVERHAUL PROJECT



The John R. Oishei Foundation has generously awarded a \$142,000 grant to Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo to enhance its enterprise technology environment. Part of the funds will match a \$86,950 grant awarded by the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation to upgrade to a centralized, cloud-based Case Management System; to install a digital Document Management System; and to install WiFi. The award from Oishei Foundation will also allow us to acquire mobile tablets for use in the field and obtain additional Adobe Acrobat licenses for e-signatures and e-filing. The project began this summer and is expected to be completed within two years.

This funding will allow Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo to enhance service delivery in matters involving the essentials of life: housing, family justice, child protection from abuse and neglect, access to health care and education, financial independence, and access to due process and equal protection of the law.

“We are enormously grateful to the John R. Oishei Foundation for its extraordinarily generous award. Expanding access to legal assistance for low-income individuals in our community requires innovative use of technology. The overhaul of our enterprise technology is long overdue – it’s been over 15 years since Legal Aid Bureau

of Buffalo embarked on an infrastructural upgrade of this scale. Support from the Oishei Foundation and the Tower Foundation have provided us a remarkable opportunity to explore new ways to help build our programs’ capacities,” said David Schopp, Executive Director of Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo.

With the awards from both the Oishei and the Tower Foundations, the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo is set to embark on a major infrastructural overhaul that will

increase internal efficiency; increase holistic representation for clients with both criminal and civil matters; increase attorney collaboration and community impact; and better connect more individuals and children with essential legal and support services.

The John R. Oishei Foundation enhances the economic vitality and the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grantmaking, leadership and network building. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation. For more information about the Oishei Foundation, visit www.oishei.org.

The Tower Foundation is a family foundation that supports and collaborates with nonprofit organizations and community partners in Western New York that share the mission of helping children, adolescents, and young people affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health issues, and substance use disorders. Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower formed the Foundation in 1990, helping realize their vision to better the lives of young people, after having successful careers and raising their family in Western New York. To learn more about the Tower Foundation, visit thetowerfoundation.org.

JUDITH GERBER, NEW CHIEF ATTORNEY OF CHILDREN'S UNIT



"Our job is fundamentally to be the voice of the children who are the subject of court proceedings. Our mission is to ensure that we develop relationships with our clients, that we see them with high frequency, that we can help the children find their voice understand their circumstances."

- Judith Gerber

We are pleased to welcome Judith Gerber as the new Chief Attorney of its Attorneys for Children Unit. Ms. Gerber will be responsible for the leadership, growth, and oversight of the Attorneys for Children Unit which annually represents over 5,300 children ranging from newborns to age 21 in Erie County Family Court. The Unit, comprised of lawyers, social workers and child advocates, serves the vast majority of children in Erie County in child welfare and juvenile justice matters.

Judith served in our Attorneys for Children Unit for nine years before starting our Educational Advocacy Project in 2017, where she provides legal representation to court-involved and at-risk children in school disciplinary matters.

A graduate of Princeton University and the University at Buffalo School of Law, Ms. Gerber is a well-known figure in children's advocacy. She has been on the front-lines of educational advocacy both locally and statewide for the last 30 years. She is a member of the New York State Judicial Commission on Justice for Children and participates in a range of local collaborative initiatives to address the needs of court-involved children. Ms. Gerber previously served on the faculty of the University at Buffalo Law School and is a frequent lecturer and trainer.

LEGAL AID HELP DESKS



At a time when the legal community is gravely concerned about access to justice for all, a viable solution may be found in legal aid help desks. Since 2014, the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo and the 8th Judicial District have partnered to staff the Court Help Desk in Erie County to provide procedural information for pro se litigants at the Supreme Court Law Library located at 77 W. Eagle Street. The Erie County Court Help Desk is open Monday through Fridays from 10am to 4pm.

Pro se litigants – litigants acting without legal representation – can obtain legal information and referrals at the help desk on a first-come, first-served basis from Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo staff attorneys and Erie County Court Help Desk staff. The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo expanded the Erie County help desk model to Niagara, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Chautauqua, Genessee, Orleans, and Wyoming counties to help pro-se litigants with a variety of legal matters. Services at the help desks are free to low and middle-income residents.

Ever since the Supreme Court handed down its landmark 1963 decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* establishing the right to counsel in criminal cases, it has never interpreted the United States Constitution to require that the government provide a lawyer in purely civil cases. In New York State, every dollar spent on civil legal aid creates \$10 in benefits for the recipients of the assistance, their communities, and the state combined.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN



“Julie” and “Lisa” were assigned to Legal Aid for representation as children in a Family Court neglect proceeding. Their mother had significant substance abuse issues, and was charged with engaging in acts of prostitution while Julie and Lisa were in the home.

Consequently, the girls were placed in their father’s home which, unfortunately, did not improve their situation. The girls often had no food or toiletries, and their father immersed himself in illicit drugs and alcohol on a daily basis. Julie and Lisa missed several medical appointments because of their father’s addictions, and did not perform to their fullest potential in school.

Through our advocacy, Julie and Lisa are now very happy with the current living conditions in their new placement. They no longer have to worry about meeting basic necessities in life. They are grateful to get all the fruits and vegetables they desire, and they no longer have to hide toiletries for future use. They are now in counseling and have been able to attend all medical appointments. One of the girls even received straight As this past semester. Julie and Lisa are now empowered, more than ever, to pursue their goals to be successful singers/songwriters.

EMPOWERING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Sarah is a 25 year old lesbian woman from Uganda. She hid her sexuality for the majority of her life as homosexuality is illegal in Uganda and is punishable by death. In late 2017, Sarah was forced to become the third wife of a man from her village after her aunt accepted large amounts of money and goods from the man’s family. When Sarah told her aunt and village elders that she could not marry a man because she was a lesbian, they threatened to burn her alive and beat her until she finally agreed to sign a customary marriage certificate. Shortly thereafter, Sarah’s family arranged for her to be raped in order to formally sanctify the marriage. Sarah fled the area and escaped to a friend’s home in the capital a few hours away.

Sarah’s family quickly reported her to the police, who then issued a warrant for Sarah’s arrest for “accusations of immoral behaviors and practicing homosexuality.” Sarah was forced to leave Uganda and came to the United States seeking asylum. Sarah and her attorney worked diligently to develop Sarah’s claims and provide all possible evidence. Sarah was interviewed by an Immigration Officer at the USCIS Buffalo Field Office in October, 2018. Less than a month later, Sarah learned that she was granted asylum. Sarah is now focusing on building a bright future for herself in the United States. With the help of her attorney, she has applied for her work permit and has started looking for jobs.

SECURING FAMILY STABILITY



Marlene came to our office seeking a divorce. She and her child had been living in New York State for over two years. Other offices would not take her case as her husband kept moving and lived somewhere in Ohio. Our office was able to get her spouse served with the divorce papers. After he was served, Marlene received notice of a pending divorce action in Ohio. Her spouse was seeking custody of the child he had made no effort to see in two years, child support, and division of marital property. As part of our New York State divorce action, we were able to obtain a divorce for Marlene as well as maintain custody of her child. The Court also continued the child support Order granted against the spouse in Erie County. As a result, the client was able to provide the New York State Divorce decree to the court in Ohio and have that case dismissed.

If Legal Aid had not intervened for Marlene, her child support could have ended at the child's 18th birthday under an Ohio Order, instead of her 21st birthday. Further, the Ohio Court could have ordered that this child be given to her father in Ohio who she had not seen in over two years. Marlene would not have been able to obtain a divorce in New York State without our assistance.

PROTECTING RESIDENTS OF BUFFALO AGAINST LANDLORDS BEHAVING BADLY



Terry came to our housing intake because he received a notice to vacate the apartment. Terry entered into a lease in November 2017 and receives a rent subsidy through Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. During Terry's tenancy, a new owner took over ownership of the apartment building he was living in and started to renovate it. In July, Terry received a notice to end the tenancy and to be out of the apartment by August 31st even though he was still protected under the lease. In the interim, Terry attempted to find a new apartment but was confronted with landlords not wanting to take a rent subsidy and/or rental amounts requested were too high.

Prior to August 31st, Terry came home to his apartment only to find that the lock was changed and was unable to get inside. In addition to being illegally locked out, information was provided that all of the utilities were shut off already because of the renovations which started in that unit and thus, making his apartment uninhabitable. Terry was homeless. Due to the landlord's constructive eviction, a Legal Aid attorney brought forth an Order to Show Cause in front of the Hon. Patrick M. Carney for an illegal lockout. After making a court appearance, Terry was able to receive damages for the harm that he endured.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND PROVIDING HELP DURING JOB LOSS



Job loss is consistently considered one of the most stressful events one can face in life. For Michael, that was certainly the case. Michael came to Legal Aid after he was dismissed from his job. He had been employed at a local factory in a management, non-union position, and he was the only person of color to hold a management position in the company. After his dismissal from work, he applied for Unemployment Insurance Benefits to which he was entitled under NYS law, but his employer refused payment of the benefits alleging Michael had been dismissed for “misconduct,” and the Department of Labor’s initial determination sided with the employer. Michael needed to appeal the decision as he had a family to provide for, including four young children, and he had been without income for several months while he was searching for a new job. The lack of benefits was affecting his family and their ability to meet their basic needs. Conversations with Michael revealed years of unfair treatment by his employer and fellow employees, including hearing many racial slurs used by other managers during working hours. Legal Aid provided representation to Michael at his administrative hearing, arguing that Michael had not engaged in misconduct and had therefore been dismissed without cause. The Judge agreed and Michael was awarded the benefits he was entitled to under the law, including a large back award which allowed Michael to continue to provide for his family and to more easily look for new employment opportunities.

DEFENDING AGAINST WRONGFUL FORECLOSURES



In 2018, Legal Aid met the Robinsons, a family facing a mortgage foreclosure on a mortgage loan that had been extinguished many years previous, at their first court appearance. The Robinsons were in shock that they were facing foreclosure as they were current on their mortgage and had been since they had taken out the loan in 2009. The company suing the Robinsons had bought an old mortgage that had belonged to the Robinsons many years ago in a bundle the year previous, and the company was now attempting to foreclose on the Robinsons' home and sell it for a profit, despite the mortgage having been extinguished as a matter of law almost a decade ago. During the first court appearance, Legal Aid informed the company that they have no legal right to pursue a foreclosure against the Robinsons and the foreclosure they had filed against the family was frivolous. The company refused to discontinue the foreclosure and continued to push forward with the foreclosure, making a motion to the Court to dismiss the Robinsons claims that the foreclosure was not legal, and asking to be granted the right to sell the Robinsons' home for their own profit. Legal Aid made a motion opposing the company and provided numerous defenses and counter-claims to the Court. Ultimately the Court agreed with the Robinsons and the foreclosure was dismissed in full, with Court making it clear that the company had no legal right to bring a foreclosure against the Robinsons.

STANDING UP FOR OUR RE-ENTERING CITIZENS



The effects of incarceration last long after an accused is released back to his or her community. Beyond the immediate concerns of housing, finding work, and reconnecting with family and community members are significant financial hurdles.

Roger is a client who is currently incarcerated and is serving a seven year sentence. He made several attempts to file a child support modification petition in the Erie County Family Court, each time his petition was rejected. Roger is incarcerated in Pennsylvania, his child's mother and child live in a southern State and the Order is from Erie County, NY. Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo attorneys filed the appropriate petition for Roger and appeared in Court to argue for a reduction in his child support obligations. Our attorneys successfully argued for a modification which resulted in Roger being ordered to pay \$25.00 per month while incarcerated and a cap was put on any back pay that might add up.

Without Legal Aid Roger's petition would have been continuously rejected and he would come home owing thousands of dollars in child support and a suspended license because of the debt. Now he will come home owing less and likely not have a suspended license allowing him more access to potential employers.

FIGHTING FOR EDUCATIONAL ACCESS



Although only 9 years old, Jonathon, had already suffered from physical abuse, been removed from his parent's care, and suffered untold trauma. He already had a number of mental health diagnoses, many of which were related to his traumas. As he struggled to find a way to deal with the changes and trauma he suffered, Jonathon, would have episodes where he lost control and would act out. His school, uncertain how to deal with these episodes, suspended him and then suspended him again and again. Concerned about the interruptions to his education and further trauma of the suspensions, his counselor and case worker contacted us to assist. We spent hours speaking with his counselor, reviewing his educational records and planning strategy.

We met with him and his counselor and represented him in both his suspension hearing and manifestation determination review hearing. As a result, the district found that his behavior was a manifestation of his disability, his suspension was lifted, and the school was directed that he was entitled to an immediate return to attendance. In addition, it was recommended that a new education plan be put into place to prevent these problems from recurring.

Our representation not only resulted in Jonathon being able to return to school, but we were able to open communication between his school and care team to start working on a plan that is more suitable for the young boy, the school, and the community. Our representation will continue as we assist him in securing the best educational plan available to meet his needs.

DEFENDING AGAINST UNLAWFUL SEARCHES AND SEIZURES



“Jacob” was charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana after a parole officer search. Due to his status as a paroled state prisoner, he could not accept any plea without being sentenced to 18 months in State Prison. Under the current law, even he went to trial and won, he still could have been found to have possessed the alleged contraband and sent back to State Prison. This would have derailed significant progress he had made to put his life back on track since leaving and was obviously despondent about the prospects. After investigating the issues, Jacob’s attorney learned of a prior dispute with a non-supervising parole officer which seemed to indicate that Jacob was specifically targeted as a means of retribution for the dispute.

After researching the issue, Jacob’s attorney decided the only option was to run a suppression hearing on the basis that parole had no reasonable basis to search. At the hearing, testimony came out as anticipated. Multiple parole officers outright admitted that they searched Jacob without any suspicion of criminal activity or parole violations. Unfortunately, despite this testimony, the judge ruled against suppression. Not willing to give up, Jacob’s counsel reviewed the cited cases in the Judge’s decision, noticed inconsistencies with the current facts and filed an immediate motion to re-argue. After re-argument, the Judge concluded she had misinterpreted the law and suppressed the ill-gotten evidence. This led to a dismissal of the charges a few days later and with Jacob being freed. His attorney saw him minutes after the decision and the look on his face as he explained what happened was something that he will carry with him forever. Jacob remains out of custody and with his family today.

OVERTURNING WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS



We represented a former city court client on a post-conviction motion. He had pleaded guilty over a decade ago to possessing a weapon in an incident in Buffalo involving a police officer being shot at. Our client was a teenager at the time and he ran from the scene along with a number of other young men. The shooter apparently had apparently discarded the gun and it was retrieved later. Our client, when arrested, told the police that one the co-defendants was the actual shooter. In order to work out a favorable plea deal, our client resolved this case by pleading guilty to a lesser charge along with pleading guilty on another matter simultaneously. The client was then sent to prison.

About eleven years later, our client was charged in federal court on a new case. As part of the federal government's preparation for a detention hearing, it obtained documents from our client's case, wherein our client had purportedly shot at a police officer. The documents turned over to the new defense attorney included a DNA report regarding the gun that both exonerated our client and pointed at his co-defendant as the shooter. This document had never been turned over to the defense. The new defense attorney contacted us. Our office filed a post-conviction motion in Supreme Court and had the judgment of conviction vacated as a violation of the defendant's constitutional rights. The indictment was officially dismissed in early 2019.

TRANSGENDER LEGAL SERVICES



A teenager, Joseph, and his parents were successful in obtaining a legal name and gender marker change for the teen, with the help of The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. Joseph was born as a female, however identified as a male for more of his life. This case was especially significant because it was extremely important to Joseph to have his name and gender marker changed, before he started his senior year of high school, and before he began applying for colleges.

Joseph was able to obtain the legal name and gender marker change in a short period of time, and he was able to change his legal name and gender marker on all of his vital documents, such as his birth certificate. Joseph met his goal, as he was successfully identified by his preferred name and male gender once he returned to school, and now that he is applying for college. The positive impact on Joseph was monumental, as he can now live his life both openly and legally as his true and authentic self.

Civil Legal Services

Cases Handled	3,288
Classification of Cases	
Subsistence Income/Financial Security	419
Education & Health	270
Family	1,115
Housing	1,143
Immigration	173
Misc. (Wills, Employee Rights, Discrimination, etc.)	168
Dispositions	
Investigated and Referred	255
Advice and Counsel	438
Matrimonial Litigation	256
Eviction Litigation	78
Tax Foreclosure Litigation	89
Ordinance Violation Litigation	252
Unemployment/Bankruptcy/Support Litigation	78
Mortgage Foreclosure Litigation	148
Administrative Proceedings	23
Education Law	152
Immigration	17
Terminated by Client	292
Telephone Hotline	1,868
Services for New Americans	
Cases Handled	324

Criminal Defense and Appeals and Post-Conviction Unit

NEW DEFENDANTS	11795	SCI PLEA TO HIGHER CHARGE	2	Community Service	
Felony.....	1,374	TRIALS	78	Felony	3
Felony (Drug).....	325	Felony.....	6	Misdemeanor	26
Felony (DV)	519	Misdemeanor.....	67	Violation	1
Misdemeanor.....	8223	Violation.....	5	Fine	
Violation	982	FINDING AFTER TRIAL		Felony	89
Infractions	179	Guilty As Charged.....	12	Misdemeanor.....	892
Appeals*	193	Guilty To Lesser.....	47	Violation	21
PLEAS AS CHARGED	388	Dismissed After Trial		Infraction.....	41
Felony.....	42	(Includes "Not Guilty").....	19	Unconditional Discharge	
Misdemeanor.....	188	SENTENCES		Felony	6
Violation	88	Jail		Misdemeanor	152
Infractions	70	Felony	196	Violation	8
PLEAS TO LESSER		Misdemeanor	574	Infraction.....	11
Felonies	647	Violation	32	CLOSED CASES (Other)	
to lesser Felony	39	Probation		ACD.....	591
to Misdemeanor.....	308	Felony	64	Private Counsel	641
to Violation	282	Misdemeanor	34	Assigned Counsel.....	479
to Infraction.....	18	Violation	40	Dismissed on Motion	2750
Misdemeanors	2,702	Infraction.....	22	Speedy Trial.....	1,379
to lesser Misdemeanor ...	393	Conditional Discharge		Relieved.....	1
to Violation	1238	Felony.....	311	No Bill	6
to Infraction.....	1,071	Misdemeanor	1,234	Admit to VOP	55
Violations	26	Violation	40	Other.....	306
to Infraction.....	26	Infraction.....	22	APPEALS*	
		Prison		Appeals Cases Closed	177
		Felony.....	28	Appeals Pending	323
		Misdemeanor	1	Briefs Filed.....	206
		Prison – Willard Program.....	5	Other Submissions	73
		Shock.....	0	Application for Leave to	
				Appeal to the Court of	
				Appeals.....	50

* Includes assignments from Erie, Cattaraugus, Genesee, Niagara and Orleans counties.

Attorneys for Children Unit

Total Number of Cases Handled

JDs.....	367
PINS.....	138
Custody.....	1614
Child Welfare.....	1362
Adoption.....	124
Guardianship.....	13
Paternity.....	53
Family Offense.....	112
Voluntary Placement.....	8
Surrender and Termination of Parental Rights.....	465
Designated Felonies.....	2
Divorce, Visitation and Child Support.....	247
Total Cases.....	4505
Court Appearances.....	47,132



PAM NEUBECK RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS OF SERVICE FROM CHILDREN'S UNIT



Congratulations to Pam Neubeck, Chief Attorney for our Attorneys for Children Unit, on her retirement from the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo after 18 years of hard work, dedicated service and passionate advocacy on behalf of children in Erie County. Thank you, Pam, for making a difference in the lives of so many children when they needed someone to go to bat for them. Congratulations on a great and meaningful career! From the entire family at Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, we will miss you and we wish you much joy and relaxation in your retirement! [Pictured: Pam Neubeck, Russel Fox]

REMEMBERING FRANK MESIAH



It is with deep gratitude that we remember Frank Mesiah, former President of the NAACP Buffalo Branch and former member of the Board of Directors for Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo. Mr. Mesiah passed away earlier this year in April. He was a visionary leader in our community. We are grateful to Mr. Mesiah for furthering our mission of providing access to justice and due process to the most vulnerable individuals, children, and families.

REMEMBERING RENEE PARKS



We mourn the loss of Renee Parks who was part of the Legal Aid Bureau family for over a decade. Renee left us far too soon. She was a paralegal in our Criminal Defense Unit and will be sorely missed.

2018.... A LOOK BACK IN PHOTOS!



LEGAL AID BUREAU OF BUFFALO STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
David C. Schopp

Deputy Exec. Dir.
Paul Curtin

Chief Administrator
Michele M. Finn

Dir. of Development & Comms.
Seeta Persaud

Controller
Rebecca L. Thayer

Assistant Controller
Michele A. Poulos

CPA
Tania Kish

Human Resource Manager
Amy Jeanty-Blum

Office Manager
Judith A. Benson

*Data, Technology & Training
Manager*
Glenn Baum

*Chief Attorney, Criminal
Defense Unit*
Kevin M. Stadelmaier

*Managing Attorneys, Criminal
Defense Unit*
Danielle H. Maichle
Claudia Schultz

*Support Staff Supervisor,
Criminal Defense Unit*
Valerie Watson

*Chief Attorney, Appeals and
Post-Conviction Unit*
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