

## LEGAL AID BUREAU OF BUFFALO

Established in 1912 and serving more than 20,000 individuals annually, the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo is the largest and oldest provider of indigent legal services in Western New York. Our agency provides legal help in both civil and criminal law.

We provide a range of holistic services to help individuals suffering from addiction, individuals with mental illness, victims of human trafficking, domestic violence victims, abused and neglected children, children facing challenges in obtaining equal access to education, tenants, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, victims of workplace abuse, immigrants and refugees, persons with disabilities, homeowners facing foreclosures, and other vulnerable Western New Yorkers. Our staff, volunteers, funders, and donors have been making a difference for over 100 years.

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide access to justice and due process to the most vulnerable individuals, children, and families through quality legal representation and assistance.

### HOW TO HELP

Make a secure, tax-deductible online donation at [legalaidthbuffalo.org/donate](http://legalaidthbuffalo.org/donate).

#### Our services are made possible by:

- State of New York
- NYS IOLA Fund
- NYS AG Home Owner Protection Plan
- Erie County
- NYS Judiciary Civil Legal Services Fund
- NY Bar Foundation
- The John R. Oishei Foundation
- The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation
- City of Buffalo
- Law firms, corporations, foundations, and individual donors



**290 Main Street, Suite 350,  
Buffalo, NY 14202**

**Service is available  
Monday to Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**716-853-9555  
[legalaidthbuffalo.org](http://legalaidthbuffalo.org)**



Equal Access to Justice for  
Everyone We Serve

Proud to Serve Western  
New York Since 1912



**HOLISTIC  
CLIENT-CENTERED  
APPEALS AND  
POST-CONVICTION  
SERVICES**



We provide legal help to financially eligible,  
low-income Western New Yorkers.

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## EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER

The Legal Aid Bureau is, with the exception of cases where there is a conflict of interest, the exclusive provider in Erie, Genesee, Cattaraugus, and Orleans Counties of criminal appellate services for indigent defendants seeking review of their convictions.

Those convicted in County Court and (or) New York Supreme Court in the counties we cover are eligible, upon approval, for representation by our Appeals and Post-Conviction Unit before the Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department, in Rochester.

The court issues orders of assignment upon its satisfaction that the client is indeed a “poor person,” who cannot afford a private attorney.

Each year we receive over 150 such orders. In Genesee County, our Unit represents appellant’s convicted in local courts (i.e., City, Town and Village courts), as well as in superior court.

## POST-CONVICTION APPEALS

Convictions may have resulted either from a verdict following trial, jury or non-jury, or from a plea of guilty. We also represent appellants who have been adjudicated under the Sex Offender Registration Act, as well as those who have lost state habeas corpus petitions.

Most often, Appeals and Post-Conviction Unit clients are incarcerated during the process, though there are exceptions.

Client input is solicited by letter and either a personal visit or confidential phone call.

Transcripts are reviewed, issues are researched and a brief is written and filed under careful supervision.

After thorough preparation, oral argument is conducted before a five-judge panel.

When a decision is rendered, an application to have further discretionary review is usually filed with our state’s highest court, the New York State Court of Appeals, in Albany. If there are significant constitutional issues not appearing in the trial record, we will investigate whether to file a post-conviction motion in order to further the client’s interests; and in the appropriate case, such a motion may be filed.

## RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Our Appeals/Post-Conviction Unit provides high-level appellate and post-conviction services. Our clients also have the benefit of being represented by our Civil Legal Services Unit attorneys on post-custody re-entry issues that formerly incarcerated individuals encounter in putting their lives back together. We can help our clients with matters pertaining to housing, education, employment, Certificates of Relief, Certificates of Good Conduct, and, in some cases, sealing records.

## FIND OUT MORE

You can contact the Chief Appeals Attorney, Tim Murphy, at 716-853-9555 ext. 679 or via snail mail at 290 Main Street, Suite 350, Buffalo, NY 14202.



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