

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 legallaidbuffalo.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 400,
Buffalo, NY 14202

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

716-853-9555
legallaidbuffalo.org



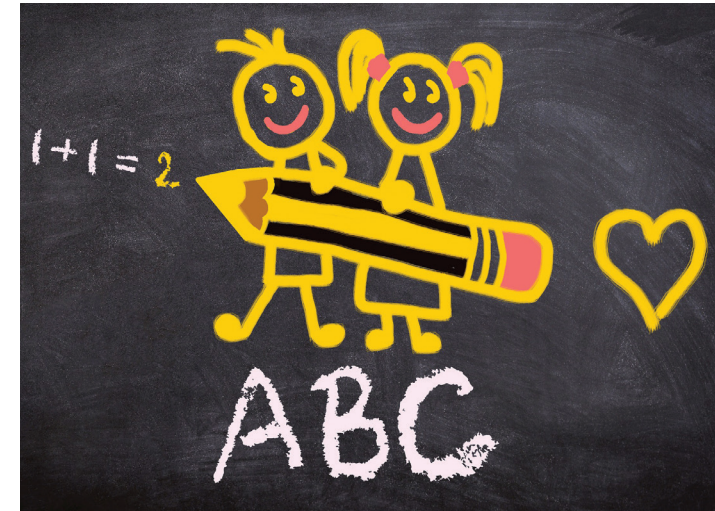
Equal Access to Justice for
Everyone We Serve

Proud to Serve Western
New York Since 1912



EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

School Suspensions
Special Education Services



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

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EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION IS A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE

We believe every child deserves equal access to educational opportunities. Racial and socio-economic disparities exist at every stage in the child welfare, education, and mental health systems. Of the almost ten thousand children and juvenile justice youth we serve, more than half are children of color living below the poverty line with a mental health issue.

Children in foster care are more likely than other children to exhibit high levels of behavioral and emotional problems. Youth who “age out” of foster care (instead of returning home or being adopted) often face challenges with emotional well-being, substance addiction, and the law.

With early intervention and holistic help, we can support this vulnerable population to access educational opportunities and achieve academic success.

DIRECT SERVICES

We provide help for the following:

- ❑ School disciplinary matters
- ❑ Violations of education law
- ❑ Advocacy for children with special education needs
- ❑ Promotion of restorative justice measures
- ❑ Promotion of systemic reforms in general and special education
- ❑ Facilitate access to holistic support services



SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Suspensions mean lost schooling and increased dropout rates. A disproportionate number of suspended students are Black, Latino, LGBTQ, Refugee or with other humanitarian immigration status, English language learners, and/or students with disabilities.

A related concern is the high number of suspensions in our public schools and the increasingly obvious link between failure at school and youthful criminal activity. Early intervention is needed to prevent the hopelessness and alienation that lead many to consider crime a reasonable option.

CHILD PROTECTION & JUVENILE JUSTICE

We provide legal help to the majority of children in Erie County who are abused, neglected, in foster care, or involved in the juvenile justice system. We are dedicated to improving the lives of the children whose circumstances have brought their families into Family Court.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

We assist students in Erie and Niagara Counties in need of special education representation or suspension defense. Students and parents in Western New York have limited access to legal services for special education.

There are many stages of obtaining appropriate services that parents currently must navigate on their own. This leaves parents and children without recourse to challenge violations of education laws.

Although there are several service providers that provide information and support for parents, they cannot provide legal advice and representation when needed.

Providing competent and timely legal information and advocacy is critical to achieve appropriate education for students with special needs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

If you are interested in partnering with us to provide community trainings for parents/service providers, as well as to provide support services for our children clients, please contact us at 716-853-9555 ext. 450.



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