Fannie Bigelow  First Board Chair
This year, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester celebrates a milestone 90 years of service to the community. Incorporated as a not-for-profit in 1921, the Legal Aid Society traces its origins to the women’s suffrage movement led, in part, by Rochester’s own Susan B. Anthony. We commemorate our 90th anniversary with a new award dedicated to the principles of justice and named after our first Board Chair, Fannie Bigelow. The Legal Aid Society grew out of the Women’s Educational and Industrial Union’s Legal Protection Committee which was established in 1893. Fannie Bigelow, a member of the WEIU oversight committee became the first Board Chair when the Legal Aid Society was incorporated. Its early mission was to assist women and girls who could not afford private legal counsel. From this modest beginning, the Committee grew to the multi-million dollar not-for-profit corporation that it is today.

During this time period, as recognition for the needs of the poor was growing, so too the face of philanthropy in the Rochester area was changing. In 1918, through the generosity of George Eastman, what was originally designated as the community’s war chest was converted to a peace time mission: the creation of the Community Chest. The Community Chest later became the United Way of Greater Rochester. The Legal Aid Society became a charter recipient of the annual Community Chest campaign and has received funding from the United Way of Greater Rochester for all of its incorporated 90 years.

As the first funder of the Legal Aid Society, we wish to recognize the United Way of Greater Rochester for their longstanding support of the ideals of “justice for all”. We have presented them with the Fannie Bigelow award, “Partnership in Providing Justice” and thank the people of United Way for their on-going support.

We also wish to acknowledge the newest funder of civil legal services, the Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York. The Chief Judge, in the past two years, has made permanent, stable and adequate funding of civil legal services a goal of the Judiciary in New York for the citizens of New York. As head of the judicial branch of government, the Chief Judge has advocated for the cause of justice to provide the protection of legal counsel for cases that have an impact on the “essentials of life” such as housing, family matters, access to health care and education, and subsistence income.

The Fannie Bigelow award, presented to the Hon. Jonathan Lippman as “Champion of Justice”, recognizes his successful efforts in obtaining funding for civil legal services to achieve the goal of “justice for all”.

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Civil Division

Family Law Unit

Domestic Violence Program provides legal services and counseling to victims of domestic violence in Monroe, Wayne and Orleans Counties. The focus of the DVP is to provide representation in Family Court to assist battered women to obtain and enforce orders of protection to prevent continued violence. DVP also provides legal representation in divorce, custody or visitation cases when domestic violence is the predominant issue. All DV Programs conduct community workshops and technical assistance to community social service providers on the issue of domestic violence.

The Legal Aid Society works closely with a local church, in conjunction with a local immigrant/refugee advocacy group, to assist Burmese immigrant and refugee families in the Rochester area. In addition to representing victims of domestic violence, we provide general information and advice to that population about the American legal system. Recently collaboration between the LAS attorney and these organizations resulted in the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of a very dangerous domestic violence repeat offender. In addition to the physical violence, the abuser perpetrated economic fraud on the victim. Our client disconnected her phone service so she could not receive phone calls from the abuser. Unbeknownst to her, the abuser reconnected the service after obtaining her passwords illegally. The LAS attorney was able to negotiate with the phone service provider to prevent the victim from having to pay several hundred dollars on the illegally re-connected service in addition to helping her obtain a permanent order of protection.

Child Support Program provides representation in Supreme Court matrimonial actions or Family Court child support actions to obtain and/or increase child support and to obtain medical insurance coverage and other child care expenses.

Limited Means Program provides affordable civil legal representation to low and moderate income people. LMP clients are people who do not qualify for services from any other LAS program or other legal services agencies, and who cannot afford the fees charged by private attorneys. Most LMP cases are in the area of family and matrimonial law. Clients pay a flat fee retainer based on a sliding scale at the onset of their cases.
Assigned Counsel Program - Since 2007 when a new law provided for a limited right to counsel in certain aspects of matrimonial cases, LAS has been providing legal representation on an assigned counsel basis for low income members of the community. The 2007 amendment to the Judiciary Law created a right to assigned counsel in Supreme Court divorce cases where there is a right to assigned counsel in Family Court matters. For the most part that right is created in cases with custody, visitation and domestic violence issues. Unfortunately that right does not extend to the remaining issues that arise in a divorce matter such as child support or division property. LAS believes that low income divorce clients ought to have access to counsel in all issues and reached an agreement with the 7th Judicial District to provide that service.

General Law Unit

Immigration Legal Services Program provides legal representation and technical assistance in immigration-related matters to persons residing in a 14 county area of western New York. Through unique partnerships with Legal Aid offices in Albany and Syracuse, we now assist persons residing throughout upstate New York. While our assistance to those offices largely involves case supervision and mentoring, persons served by those offices who require representation before the Immigration Court and USCIS in Buffalo are directly referred to us. Representation includes cases involving asylum, permanent residence, meritorious appeals, extension of immigration status and work authorization. The program has two outreach clinics during the local growing season to provide legal representation and information and referral to migrant farm workers at Brockport and Alton.

The Immigration Program represented a 67 year old permanent resident who initially entered the U.S. as a refugee, because he fought with the U.S. in Laos against Communist North Vietnamese forces during the Vietnam War. He was detained at the federal detention facility in Batavia, and placed in removal proceedings, due to a felony conviction for possessing a hunting rifle. The weapons conviction made him an “aggravated felon,” a status under immigration law which forecloses many forms of relief from removal. We represented him in Immigration Court in Batavia, and also represented his U.S. citizen wife, who filed a relative petition for him. The Immigration Judge granted his application for permanent residence, based on his wife’s petition. He was released the day of the judge’s order, and able to attend his son’s wedding the next weekend and be present for the birth of his first grandchild.
**Department of Health Program** provides legal services to clients with HIV/AIDS. This program is a collaboration with the Empire Justice Center, Volunteer Legal Services Project and Monroe County Legal Assistance Center. The Empire Justice Center is the lead agency and is responsible to screen and refer client. LAS provides legal services in family law, housing and immigration.

### Housing Unit

**Home Ownership Initiative**, a collaborative with The Housing Council and the Empire Justice Center, provides representation for home purchases, home preservation matters and complex legal cases. HOI addresses illegal evictions, home purchases, foreclosure prevention and bankruptcy. Bankruptcy representation is available to residents in Monroe County. Foreclosure prevention services are available to the surrounding 7 county area. The primary goal of HOI is to create or maintain sustainable homeownership.

A former preacher and active member of the community, who suffered from several strokes, that left her with a number of ailments and mostly wheelchair-bound, came to LAS for help. She needed to file for bankruptcy so that she could live peacefully in her home, without incessant phone calls from creditors. In addition to caring for herself, she also cares for her mentally disabled son. She had accumulated an insurmountable amount of debt as a result of her medical condition. She came to our office with the assistance of a friend, and sometimes caregiver, from church. Because of the client’s difficulties, the attorney met with the client at her home to go over information with her and make sure all of the details of her case were correct. From the first meeting with the client to the filing of the bankruptcy, her eyesight had deteriorated so much so that the attorney had to read her bankruptcy petition and schedules aloud so that she could confirm the details. When our client and the attorney arrived at bankruptcy court for the first meeting of creditors, she was very nervous. Her hearing, however, took less than five minutes and the trustee closed her case upon its conclusion. Upon leaving the Federal Building, she was so happy everything had gone so smoothly. The bankruptcy assistance she received erased all her outstanding debt and allowed her to live with a positive income.

**Rental Stabilization Program**, provides alternative dispute resolution and mediation services to eligible landlords and tenants who reside in the City of Rochester. Resolution of these disputes allows tenants to maintain their apartments and decrease transience. LAS has added services for landlords in the form of trainings and pro se clinics. Providing service for landlords and tenants raises the quality of housing and further increases housing stability in city neighborhoods.

Following repeated incidences of domestic violence at the hands of her former live-in boyfriend, our client fled her home and obtained an order of protection against him. At the time, the former couple had a one year lease for an apartment that...
would not expire for another seven months. We were told by the Landlord that even if she moved out and her ex-boyfriend found a new roommate, she would still be held liable for the remaining term of the lease. As an employee of a fast food restaurant, our client was unable to afford the rent for two apartments. On behalf of our client, The Legal Aid Society of Rochester filed a petition with Monroe County Family Court under Real Property Law §227-c, which provides victims of domestic violence the opportunity to terminate their lease in order to secure safer living conditions, without the burden of paying for two homes. Prior to the scheduled Court appearance, the Landlord finally agreed to sever our client from the Lease, absolving her of any liability regarding future rental payments. She is planning on living independently once she gets back on her feet. Having successfully released her from liability from the former apartment’s rent, our service prevented her from having an eviction on her record which affords her the ability to seek a higher quality apartment.

Tenant Advocacy Program provides representation to qualified tenants who face eviction in Rochester City Court. TAP also provides information and referral to applicants who do not qualify for direct services and to tenants who are not facing eviction. TAP conducts intake at the Hall of Justice before the beginning of the Rochester City Court, Landlord Tenant Part.

Client, a young, single mother living in a dilapidated apartment complex, sought assistance with an eviction issue and ongoing problems she was having with her landlord. After receiving representation to resolve her apartment issues at that time, she was counseled about purchasing a home. As we see with many tenants, her rent was more than what a mortgage payment would be for a reasonably priced home. She enrolled in financial self-sufficiency program and attended a first time homebuyer class taught by Legal Aid to obtain information on the best way to buy a house. She opened a First Home Club account, applied for grants, and saved as much money as she could. Though excited about buying a new home, she became overwhelmed with the process especially with all the coordination required by grant recipients. Legal Aid took the case and first helped her legally break the purchase and sale contract she made on her first offer and start the search process again. LAS then supported her completely through her next transaction. When she closed on her home in West Irondequoit in early 2011, she came to the closing table with over $20,000 in grant money in addition to $12,000 from savings.

Department of Housing and Community Renewal - DHCR provides foreclosure prevention to eligible clients.

When Client’s father passed away from cancer, he used the money remaining after the funeral expenses to keep up the mortgage payments on his father’s house. Having left his job to take care of his father, he also returned to work. Despite his efforts, his savings and his salary were insufficient to make the payments. Client turned to LAS to try to keep his house. First, LAS got the bank to allow Client to assume his dad’s FHA insured loan. After transferring ownership and executing the assumption, the attorney applied to get Client’s case through the bank’s loss mitigation review for an FHA-HAMP loan modification as opposed to a short forbearance plan, which required Client to pay all of his arrears at the end of the loan term. The bank denied the request. LAS contacted the Federal Housing Administration directly and succeeded in getting the bank’s loss mitigation representative to submit Client’s case for FHA-HAMP review. Client was successfully able to enter into a loan modification with a lower interest rate, lower monthly payments, lower principle, and a non-interest bearing balloon payment due at the end of the loan. Most importantly, he was able to keep his father’s house.
Juvenile Justice Division

**Attorney for the Child Program** provides legal representation to children who are involved in proceedings before the Monroe County Family Court. The child may be the Respondent in a Person In Need Of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquency matter. The child may also be the subject of a child abuse, neglect, custody, visitation or foster care petition. The Attorney for the Child is appointed only by an order of a Family Court Judge.

Neighbors of a 16 year old client sought custody of AFC client because of the neglect and emotional abuse of his parents. AFC filed an affidavit in support of the petition, which had been brought pro se and needed legal assistance to meet the legal standard of extraordinary circumstances. AFC spoke with the client's psychiatrist and therapist, and engaged the therapist to create a supporting document to underlie the client's position that matters in his home had become untenable and he needed to get out of the household for his own continued good mental health. Staff worked with the principal of the school to secure the client's medications when Mom and Dad refused to send them to the neighbors, and when Mom and Dad refused to file necessary paperwork to continue the client into his summer session of school (his IEP recommends summer sessions.) AFC had to gather sufficient evidence to submit to the Court to justify the client staying with the neighbors, where he had "run", and show he was not simply a "run away." AFC used professional medical personnel, school officials, and extensive interviews of all, including the client, to formulate in a brief period of time sufficient arguments to have the court allow him to stay in the neighbor's home, and ultimately have the Court advise mom and dad that it certainly appears that extraordinary circumstances did exist, and perhaps they should settle this case. Mom and Dad had private counsel, as did the neighbors. The case was settled with the client staying with the neighbors.

**Youth Advocacy Program** serves youth with disabilities and non-disabled youth (ages birth to age 21) and their families in Monroe, Livingston, and Genesee/Orleans Counties. Advocacy services are provided to resolve school and youth-related issues including Committees on Special Education (CSE), school suspensions, reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504, eligibility for school enrollment, enrollment for homeless students and access to appropriate school or community services. The Livingston County Program is based in Geneseo and the Geneseo/Orleans Program is in Batavia.

The Youth Advocacy Program (YAP) was contacted by a parent who requested assistance in obtaining special education services for her son ("S"). S had a significant history of behavioral problems and had begun to disengage from school. While being on a regimen of prescribed psychotropic drugs, he had been subjected to numerous school suspensions, expulsions, and mental hygiene arrests. His mother believed these issues rendered her son educationally disabled and eligible for specialized services, but had not been able to secure an appropriate educational program on her own. YAP worked to secure appropriate services for him at school, including advocating that the school terminate its ill conceived and discriminatory practice of disciplining him without regard to his mental illness. Representation was provided at a Committee on Special Needs Education.
Education (CSE) meeting. Despite the introduction of extensive documentation of S’s eligibility and most obvious need for specialized programming, the CSE ruled he did not qualify for services. The District maintained that by recognizing him as a student with disability, it would statistically lessen his likelihood of graduating; disregarding his obvious needs. At this juncture, the advocate assisted the family to exercise their due process rights to challenge the CSE’s decision; including requesting formal mediation and facilitating the mediation process. Through mediation, an accord was reached, recognizing that S’s mental health issues were so disabling that only a highly specialized out of district therapeutic program would be appropriate for his needs. S is now attending and making progress in the recommended therapeutic program which provides both academic and mental health services. In addition, when his emotional issues trigger behavioral problems, S receives appropriate mental health interventions as opposed to punitive disciplinary actions.

Volunteers

...provide both legal and non-legal assistance to the Legal Aid Society staff. The volunteers devote their time to assist LAS in the accomplishment of its mission. Volunteer hours aid by, in some cases, providing legal representation and, in general, giving support to LAS attorneys. This allows LAS to represent some clients who otherwise would have been turned away due to lack of staff resources.

I spent my summer volunteering at the Legal Aid Society of Rochester in the Immigration program. My internship was a great experience! I learned so much about Immigration law that I never would have learned in a classroom setting. The dedication of the people working here is truly inspiring. I had always planned to pursue a legal career in a non-profit organization or public interest field and this experience definitely confirmed for me that this is the career path I would like to follow.

-Elizabeth
On September 23, 2011, the Legal Aid Society was joined by friends, colleagues, board and staff to celebrate our 90th anniversary. The event was held at the Riverside Convention Center and was an opportunity to celebrate the Legal Aid Society’s milestone, and honor those who have supported us in our mission.

We were joined by several dignitaries who honored the Legal Aid Society, our rich history and important mission of equal justice for all. Joining us were NYS Assembly members Joseph Morelle and Harry Bronson who provided the Legal Aid Society with a citation commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Legal Aid Society and declaring that “when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments … are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by the citizens of this great Empire State. County Executive Maggie Brooks also attended and provided a proclamation that acknowledged the work we do every day to further the needs of the disadvantaged in our community. The City of Rochester represented by Mayor Thomas Richards and City Council Vice President Elaine Spaull proclaimed September 23, 2011 to be Legal Aid Society Day, in honor of the work we do and our “long-standing commitment to upholding the values of the legal system…”
We also used this opportunity to honor two of our greatest supporters with the first Fannie Bigelow Award. Fannie Bigelow, as our first Board Chair and one of the founding mothers of the Legal Aid Society, knew first hand that there was a need to afford the poor and vulnerable with equal access to justice. It only seemed fitting to name this award after her as we honored two partners in our endeavor; our first funder, the United Way of Greater Rochester and our newest funder NYS Court of Appeals Chief Judge Jonathan Lippmann.

Peter Carpino, President and CEO of the United Way accepted the Fannie Bigelow Partner in Justice Award on behalf of that organization. The Legal Aid Society, which was first funded by the Community Chest that later became the United Way of Greater Rochester, is one of the charter members of that organization. Their continued support and funding allows us to continue our good work to help provide the poor and working poor with the access to justice they need to ensure their essentials of life are met. We thank all the members of the United Way for their unfailing support of our mission.
The highlight of the evening was the Fannie Bigelow Champion of Justice Award which was presented to Chief Judge of the NYS Court of Appeals Jonathan Lippmann for his unfailing commitment to funding for civil legal services. Judge Lippmann wasn’t able to attend, but he asked Seventh Judicial District Administrative Justice Craig Doran to accept the award on his behalf. Justice Doran introduced a video taped message from Judge Lippmann.

Judge Lippmann’s speech was an inspiration to everyone. He recognized the importance of legal services and legal service funding, and the great work and personal sacrifice of the staff of the Legal Aid Society who every day make equal justice a reality for so many members of our community.

The following are excerpts of Judge Lippmann’s acceptance speech for the Fannie Bigelow Champion of Justice Award:

This award is significant... because of Rochester’s history’s as a national pioneer of offering legal services in the country. Rochester Legal Aid was one of the first Legal Aid Society’s to shine a light on the true meaning of equal justice for all... This only has meaning when there are lawyers who are willing to give of their time and skills to represent the poorest among us. For the 90 years since your incorporation and during the years of growth before that you have been focused on serving the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. Then and now you have worked to protect the rights of women and children, you have fought against unscrupulous merchants...
and landlords and employers, you have fought to preserve housing for the poor and disadvantaged and you have served the needs of immigrants to this country. The only difference a century later is that those needs press us like never before. With the poor and working poor coming into our courthouses in greater and greater numbers. Some come not by choice, some come to enforce their rights against those who wronged them. Either way having a lawyer by their side is essential to getting what we’re all entitled to, our day in court. I believe that no issue is more fundamental to the mission of the court than ensuring equal access to justice for every single new Yorker.

...The need for resources for civil legal services is greater than ever. That is why this is all the more meaningful. That is why funding for civil legal services...justice, equal justice must be as great a priority in our state and society as schools, hospitals, housing and all the essential things of life that everyone is entitled to.

...You all believe that more than anybody and more importantly put the belief into action...what you do on a daily basis is so critical to fundamental mission of our courts, our profession and the foundation of a just society you are the real champions of justice.

We thank the Chief Judge not only for his inspiring words, but also for his support of civil legal services, and his mission to create a permanent funding stream for the work that we do.

We thank all those who attended the event and those who honored us. And we heartily thank our sponsors without whom this event would not have been a success. They are:

**Justice Level**
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP

**Equality Level**
Genesee Valley Trust
Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP
M & T Bank
Nixon Peabody LLP
Thaney & Associates CPA, P.C.
Thomson Reuters
USA Payroll

**Friends Level**
Clouddocx
Daily Record
UNICON

With special thanks to Fabulous Flowers & NVus Designs
Court Advocacy Program, with Alternatives for Battered Women, provides court accompaniment, legal representation and emotional support to victims of domestic violence who are seeking orders of protection in Monroe County Family Court.

Attorney of the Morning Program, with Volunteer Legal Services Project, provides representation to tenants who face eviction in Rochester City Court.

Home Ownership Initiative Program, with the Rochester Housing Council and Empire Justice Center, provides services that promote home ownership to residents of the City of Rochester.

Immigration Legal Services, with the Hiscock Legal Aid Society and the Legal Aid Society of Northeast New York, provides immigration legal services to the entire Buffalo Region of the USCIS except Erie County.

Department of Health Program, program provides legal services to clients with HIV/AIDS. This program is a collaborative with the Empire Justice Center, Volunteer Legal Services Project and Monroe County Legal Assistance Center. Empire Justice Center is the lead agency and is responsible to screen and refer client. LAS provides services in family law, housing and immigration.

Law Students in Action Project is a collaborative with LawNY Program where LSAP provides qualified law students to volunteer at LAS during the summer.

Minority Clerkship Program is a collaborative with the Monroe County Bar Association that provides, on a rotating basis, a minority law student to work full time at the Legal Aid Society and other legal service agencies during the summer.
The Legal Aid Society provided legal services and technical support to a total of 9441 individuals and training to 795 individuals in the community through:

**The Family Law Unit...**

...provided representation for all areas of family law, which included but were not limited to prevention of domestic violence, elder abuse, divorce, custody, equitable distribution, and child support in Monroe, Orleans, and Wayne Counties. Specifically, representation was provided to 2098 clients in domestic violence prevention and related family law matters.

**The Housing Unit...**

...provided brief services and direct legal representation to 1664 clients in the areas of eviction prevention, foreclosure prevention, mediation services and representation to first time homebuyers. Specifically, direct legal services were provided to tenants facing immediate eviction in Rochester City Court, mediation to landlords and tenants throughout the City of Rochester, representation in home closings, foreclosure prevention, bankruptcies and evictions appeals throughout Monroe County.

**The Immigration Program...**

...provided direct legal service to 974 clients in matters ranging from asylum to permanent residency at the U.S. Immigration Court and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Buffalo, New York. Services were provided in collaboration with Hiscock Legal Aid in Syracuse and Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY in Albany and covered 47 counties in NYS.

**The Children’s Unit...**

...provided direct legal and advocacy services to 780 youth and parents in education and other youth related legal issues in Monroe, Livingston, Genesee, and Orleans Counties.

**The Attorney for the Child Program...**

...provided legal representation to 3925 youth in Monroe County Family Court through the Attorney for the Child Program (AFC). The AFC, formerly known as The Law Guardian Program, is wholly funded by the NYS office of Court Administration.

**Volunteers...**

...A total of 17 people: 1 volunteer, 8 law students, 7 college undergraduates and 1 social worker intern provided 3754 hours of direct support to LAS in the Family Law Unit, the Housing Unit, the Immigration Program and the Attorney for the Child Program.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010-2011

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2011-2012

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Maria M. Herrero-Jaarsma
John Horvath
Michael R. Parrinello
Dr. Heidi Smith
Samuel Tilton
Robert T. Turner

Thank you to all the individuals who gave their valuable assistance in 2009-2010 and to those who will give their valuable assistance in 2010-2011 by serving on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society.
### Revenue

1. NYS Grants (OCA, OCFS, DCJS, OVS, DOH, DHC) $2,039,567.00  
2. Interest on Lawyer’s Accounts 771,544.00  
3. United Way (Greater Rochester, Livingston Counties) 348,583.00  
4. Youth Bureau (Monroe, Livingston, Orleans & Genesee Counties) 96,466.00  
5. NYS Bar Association 7,000.00  
6. Monroe County Bar Foundation 5,000.00  
7. User Fees 140,556.00  
8. Monroe County 36,513.00  
9. Monroe County Probation - Domestic Violence Consortium - VAWA 164,948.00  
10. Livingston County DSS - TANF 42,937.00  
11. City of Rochester 286,115.00  
12. Alternatives for Battered Women 10,494.00  
13. Fund Raising - Campaign for Justice 47,880.00  
14. Interest Income 960.00  
15. Miscellaneous/Other Income 42,605.00  

**Total Operating Revenue** $4,041,168.00

### Expenses

1. Salary $2,839,955.00  
2. Payroll taxes and Benefits 522,974.00  
3. Contractual Expenses 40,521.00  
4. Collaborative Partners 166,527.00  
5. Supplies and Postage 73,059.00  
6. Occupancy 189,852.00  
7. Travel, training and dues 80,098.00  
8. Equipment Purchases 3,537.00  
9. Insurance, Recruitment, other miscellaneous expenses 20,368.00  
10. Specific Assistance on behalf of client 7,952.00  
11. Depreciation 19,350.00  

**Total Functional Expenses** $3,964,190.00

*These figures are preliminary and subject to audit. Financial records are audited by THANLEY & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, P.C.*
Management Team

Alan S. Harris, President & CEO
Linda Kammer, Chief Financial Officer
Carla Palumbo, Director, Civil Division
Stephen Weisbeck, Director, Juvenile Justice Division

Civil Division

Kathia Casion, Assistant Director, Civil Division
Walter Ruehle, Program Director, Immigration Program
Brenda Campbell, Supervising Attorney
Christine Fabar-Moseley, Supervising Attorney
Zachary Pike, Supervising Attorney
Daniel Burke, Senior Attorney
Cynthia Carroll, Senior Litigation Attorney
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Tami Politza, Legal Assistant
Nancy Whiting, Legal Assistant
Christine DiNottia, DVC Coordinator
Alison List, Volunteer

Juvenile Justice Division

Deral Givens, Supervising Attorney for the Child
Tanya Conley, Supervising Attorney for the Child, Appeals and Training
Brian Strait, Senior Attorney for the Child
Pamela Bayer, Attorney for the Child
Tonia Ettinger, Attorney for the Child
Gary LaRusso, Attorney for the Child
Kathleen Perrault, Attorney for the Child
Kristen Porpora, Attorney for the Child
Katie Woodruff, Attorney for the Child
Sandra Quarrie, Supervising Social Worker
Elizabeth Escobar, Social Worker
Patrice Grey, Social Worker
Jacqueline Klube, Social Worker
Lori McClain, Social Worker
Michelle Rivera, Supervising Secretary
Prudence Banker, Secretary
Yolanda Irizarry, Clerk/receptionist
Judith Borzilleri, Clerk
Patti Moss, Program Director, Youth Advocacy Program
Stewart Atkin, Advocate
Laura Calla, Advocate
Eric Huppert, Advocate

Administration

David Erb, Systems Administrator
Patricia Harris, Assistant Director, Finance & Personnel
Kathleen James, Director of Operations
Marianne Naylor, Administrative Assistant
Christian Correa, Receptionist

STAFF
Mission

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester is a not-for-profit organization that provides direct civil legal services, including lay advocacy and related human services, to adults and children. We ensure that those who seek justice have an opportunity to receive a fair and full hearing. We obtain legal solutions that have a beneficial impact on our clients and the community.

Vision

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester believes in the guarantees of due process and equal protection as promised in our State and Federal constitutions.

To ensure that these rights have real meaning, we will strive to provide a highly qualified and zealous advocate to anyone who cannot otherwise obtain representation in civil legal matters.

We will create an environment in our community that values access to legal counsel, so every person is treated with dignity, equality, and fairness.

Funded in part by the County of Monroe, the City of Rochester, The Interest on Lawyer Account Fund and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services through the Rochester/Monroe County, Livingston County, Genesee/Orleans County Youth Bureaus.
90 Years of Service to the Community