

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

2014 Annual Report



Our Mission

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) is a private, non-profit law firm dedicated to equal justice for all. We provide civil legal services to members of our community who have low incomes, who have disabilities or who are age 60 and over. Our services assist clients in becoming self sufficient and meeting basic needs with dignity.

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Message from the President

CLASI continued its mission to provide legal services to Delaware's most vulnerable residents and started exciting new initiatives to expand its service capacity in 2014.

Thanks to the generosity of Corporation Service Company (CSC), the three agencies that benefit from the Combined Campaign for Justice (CCJ), CLASI, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Inc. and Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc., produced a video about the importance of the CCJ. The video includes interviews with each agency's executive director and clients discussing the importance of legal aid in their lives. The video is posted on the campaign website at www.delawareccj.org. It will be used for law firm and other company presentations to inspire both lawyers and non-lawyers to contribute to the campaign.

In 2013, with funding from the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH), CLASI completed a pilot project demonstrating the effectiveness of Medical Legal Partnerships (MLP) in the Healthy Women Healthy Babies program. MLP is a service model in which medical providers are trained to recognize the legal issues their patients face that adversely affect the patient's health. A legal services provider works closely with the medical provider to address those legal concerns and improve the patient's health and stability. In this project, pregnant women at participating health providers were surveyed regarding several stress and mental health indicators before receiving services. CLASI provided advice and representation on a variety of legal issues to these patients, and they were surveyed again after the services had been completed. The results of the surveys demonstrated that the provision of legal services, along with traditional pre-natal services, significantly lowered the patients' stress levels and improved their physical and mental health.

Encouraged by these results, DPH awarded CLASI a two-year grant to expand services in the Healthy Women Healthy Babies program and to the Nurse Family Partnership program. The grant, which started in early 2015, enables CLASI to expand the number of people it serves and provides a new point of entry for potential clients to access legal services and improve their health and wellbeing.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of CLASI's outstanding staff. I am grateful for their commitment to providing the best possible legal services to Delawareans who otherwise would not have access to representation.

Judith Scarborough
President

Community Legal Aid Society Programs

POVERTY LAW PROGRAM

CLASI's Poverty Law Program provides services to help clients meet their basic needs, including safe, decent, affordable housing, maintaining a steady income, obtaining or retaining access to healthcare and obtaining safety from abuse.

DISABILITIES LAW PROGRAM (DLP)

The eight projects within DLP serve clients with both developmental and adult onset disabilities. Children and youth are typically helped with special education, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid benefits. For adults, DLP often provides assistance with housing discrimination, physical and program accessibility barriers, assistive technology, voting and disability-related public benefits. In addition to individual client services, DLP analyzes and prompts conforming comments by councils on almost all State bills, regulations, and policies with significant impact on persons with disabilities. In 2013, DLP commented on or drafted legislation that affected education, housing, health and financial benefits, abuse and neglect, government programs, accessibility and public accommodations, employment, and transportation.

ELDER LAW PROGRAM (ELP)

ELP provides civil legal assistance to Delaware residents who are 60 years of age and older. The elderly can be especially vulnerable to physical, emotional and financial abuse from both family and strangers. They have been targets of unscrupulous contractors, telephone scams and door-to-door salespeople. CLASI attorneys and paralegals help the elderly with consumer problems, landlord/tenant issues and benefits problems. The staff also assists seniors in obtaining and modifying Advance Health Care Directives and Powers of Attorney.

FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM

The Fair Housing Program enforces federal and state Fair Housing laws. The program conducts testing in the rental, sales, mortgage, homeowners insurance and accessibility areas and files enforcement actions on behalf of victims of housing discrimination. In 2013, the program continued its partnership with the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service. The partners tested reasonable accommodations for service animals in Delaware. CLASI will use the data from the project to file complaints against violators of the Fair Housing Act.

CLASI 2014 Client Statistics

Cases:

- 2,491 Cases handled
- 2,375 Individuals Served
- 5,815 People helped
- 2,502 Children helped

Cases Handled by Program:

- Poverty 1,217
- DLP 568
- ELP 519
- Fair Housing 186

Race:

- Black 31%
- White 42%
- Hispanic 23%
- Other 4%

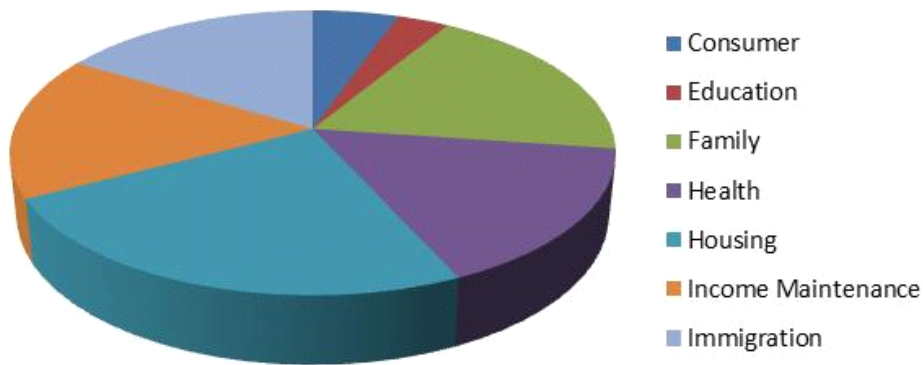
Age:

- 0-18 26%
- 19-34 12%
- 35-59 34%
- 60+ 28%

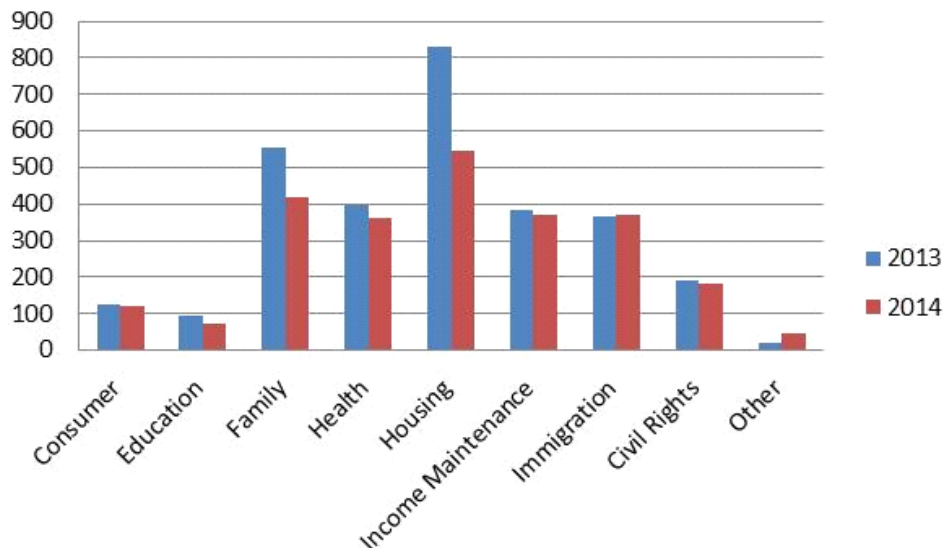
Gender:

- Female 69%
- Male 31%

2014 Cases by Selected Problem Type



Problem Types 2013 and 2014



2014 Financial Profile

INCOME	
PUBLIC	
Federal Government	2,061,154
State and Local Government	500,178
PRIVATE	
Foundations and Corporations	363,757
United Way	69,200
Combined Campaign for Justice and United Way Donor Designations	657,148
Interest Income	586
Court-Awarded Attorneys' Fees	11,137
Other Revenue	40,625
TOTAL INCOME	3,703,785
EXPENDITURES	
Program	3,171,065
Support and Management	650,380
Fundraising	56,367
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,877,812

2014 Sources of Income

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Department of Education

Protection and Advocacy Related to Assistive Technology
Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Families and Children
National Institute of Mental Health
Voting Protection and Advocacy
Traumatic Brain Injury Protection and Advocacy

Department of Housing and Urban Development

New Castle County Community Development Block Grant
Fair Housing Initiatives Program

Department of Justice

Victims of Crime Act through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council
Office of Violence Against Women (Violence Against Women Act)

Title III Older Americans Act through

Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Administration on Aging Model Approaches to Legal Services through

Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Social Security Administration

STATE and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Criminal Justice Council

Domestic Violence Fund

Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

State of Delaware Grant-In-Aid

State of Delaware - Administrative Office of the Courts - Elder Law Program

State of Delaware Legal Services for the Indigent through the Delaware Bar Foundation

PRIVATE

Delaware Bar Foundation – Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA)

Combined Campaign for Justice

Discover Bank

Skadden Foundation

United Way of Delaware, Inc.



Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

New Castle County

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100 W. 10th Street, Suite 801
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Kent County

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Sussex County

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Our web address is www.declasi.org.

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