



Women's Law Center *of Maryland*

DIRECT SERVICES

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY

LITIGATION

JUDICIAL SELECTIONS

LEGISLATIVE ACTION



JUSTICE
FAIRNESS
EQUALITY

*Protecting legal rights and
working for systemic change*

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

July 2013 - June 2014

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
305 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201
Towson, Maryland 21204
(410) 321-8761
www.wlcmd.org

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Trafficking Victims Post-Conviction Advocacy Project

Jessica Emerson, *Equal Justice Works Fellow*



Women's Law Center *of Maryland*

As a leading advocate for justice and fairness for women, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. advocates for the protection and expansion of women's legal rights by providing legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change. Founded in 1971 as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit membership organization, the Women's Law Center works to protect the safety, stability and rights of a vulnerable population of predominately low-income women and their families. Legal representation and education projects equip women with resources to address critical issues involving domestic violence law, domestic violence immigration law, family law, employment law and human trafficking. Using experience gained from work with clients as well as through research and policy analysis, the Women's Law Center compiles first-hand knowledge and facts to inform its advocacy initiatives and other projects that advance equal rights for all Marylanders.

For more information, visit our website at www.wlcmd.org,

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @wlcmd.



Our Vision is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women.

The Mission of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is to serve as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women by advocating for the protection and expansion of women's legal rights through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve system change.

DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES

Providing access to justice to women and children in need

The Women's Law Center's family law projects offer individuals free legal representation that is critical to achieving a successful outcome in court. Attorneys help clients gain safety, maintain custody of their children and establish independence from an abusive partner, regardless of their ability to pay. The Women's Law Center continually experiences great demand for its legal services, particularly domestic violence representation projects. All family law projects are administered through the Women's Law Center's Bruce A. Kaufman Center for Family Law.

PROTECTION ORDER ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION PROJECT (POARP)

- ***640 victims of domestic violence received legal services***

POARP provides free attorneys to victims of domestic violence seeking protective orders in the circuit courts in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Carroll County as well as the District Courts for Baltimore County and Carroll County. POARP offices are conveniently located at the courthouses where petitions for protective orders are filed. This project is funded through the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in MD and United Way of Central Maryland.

JUDICARE PROJECT

- ***55 low income litigants received representation in family law matters***
- ***1,469 hours of legal services provided at a reduced rate***

Through this program, the Women's Law Center screens cases and places clients with experienced attorneys who provide their services for free to clients. The attorneys involved in this project agree to be paid a significantly reduced fee by the Women's Law Center to represent clients and to continue their services for the duration of the case, even if the payment cap is exceeded. When possible, additional cases that qualify for the project are placed with pro bono attorneys to stretch the funds allocated to the project in order to serve more vulnerable families. This project is funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

LIMITED SCOPE PROJECT

- ***31 individuals received services in family law cases***

The Limited Scope Representation Project provides services in family law cases using an innovative limited scope representation model to increase access to resources.

MULTI-ETHNIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT (MEDOVI)

- ***90 foreign-born domestic violence victims received representation regarding immigration issues***
- ***46 clients had at least one immigration status application approved***

MEDOVI is a state-wide program that caters to the special, and often complicated, needs of foreign-born victims of domestic violence. To better serve this community, MEDOVI employs a Spanish-speaking Legal Advocate to expand services and outreach in the Hispanic community. Free interpreter services are available for those who do not speak English or Spanish. Support for this program is provided by Victims of Crime Act funds and Violence Against Women Act funds administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in Maryland, United Way of Central Maryland, the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS POST-CONVICTION ADVOCACY PROJECT (TVPCAP)

- ***21 survivors of human trafficking received legal services***

TVPCAP provides legal representation to survivors of sex trafficking who have been convicted of prostitution offenses in Maryland. In 2011, the Maryland legislature passed a law allowing survivors of sex trafficking to "vacate" their prostitution convictions. The vacate order overrules or makes void the criminal conviction. It acknowledges that the conviction was not justified because the person convicted of prostitution was forced or coerced into the behavior. The Women's Law Center works with survivors to help vacate these convictions, thereby ensuring that they will no longer be prevented from moving forward with their lives because of convictions stemming from acts they were forced to commit.

EDUCATION

Empowering women with access to reliable information about their rights

Access to reliable information is a powerful factor in attaining equality for women. The Women's Law Center educates women through a diverse selection of publications and one-on-one attorney consultations through three legal information hotlines. These resources equip callers with accurate information to enable them to make effective decisions and more successfully use the law to defend their rights. All family law projects are administered through the Women's Law Center's Bruce A. Kaufman Center for Family Law.

HOTLINES

FAMILY LAW HOTLINE

6,612 individuals received information and advice about family law issues

LEGAL FORMS HOTLINE

1,544 callers received assistance completing family law forms

EMPLOYMENT LAW HOTLINE

339 callers received information and advice about employment law issues

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

1,522 individuals received information and referral services

PUBLICATIONS

Hard copies of our publications were distributed by the Women's Law Center and its partners while countless additional copies were downloaded from our website.



IMPACT

- 100% of POARP and MEDOVI clients were pleased with the services
- 91% of POARP clients felt safer since receiving services
- 71% of POARP clients reported not being threatened or hurt after receiving services
- 70% of POARP and MEDOVI clients would not have had a lawyer without the programs



"Since I found the Women's Law Center, I'm doing so much better. I'm in school, I feel secure, I feel like I belong here. I have my rights."

Katy

RESEARCH, POLICY ANALYSIS, LEGAL REFORM & ADVOCACY

Working for systemic change

The Women's Law Center actively monitors the state's legal and legislative landscape to promote equality. Research and policy analysis findings are disseminated to educate advocates, policy-makers and litigants. This work, as well as experience gained from clients and participation in coalition efforts, determines the course of action for our legal reform projects. Amicus briefs are filed to help appellate courts understand the impact of key cases on the legal rights of women. Judicial selections interviews are conducted to ensure an impartial judicial system. Our work, multiplied by the grassroots support of our members and friends in the community, makes a true impact on issues that affect women in Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

*90 bills monitored; positions taken on 65 bills
Testimony given before legislative committees on 28 bills
17 legislative alerts sent pertaining to 35 bills*

JUDICIAL SELECTIONS

69 judicial selections interviews conducted and/or recommendations submitted regarding judicial vacancies to promote a legal system free of gender bias

PARTNERSHIPS

17 memberships in coalitions or committees offering active input regarding policy issues affecting women

ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Launched Trafficking Victims Post-Conviction Advocacy Project to provide legal services to human trafficking survivors seeking to have prostitution convictions vacated.
- Created new organizational brochure and cards promoting our services and providing general information to be distributed to referring organizations.
- Launched new website, providing a more user-friendly accessibility for those in need.

“Forty years ago when the Women’s Law Center was founded, there were no laws about domestic violence. The Women’s Law Center has helped to fill in that legal landscape.”

Leigh Goodmark, Past President

EVENTS

From our beginnings as a grassroots organization, members have been the core of the Women's Law Center. Our members challenge us and enable us to evolve with the changing times to make the most difference in the lives of Maryland's women and children. In turn, the Women's Law Center continually works to provide opportunities to keep members informed, involved and engaged. This year, the Women's Law Center offered members and supporters fun and thought-provoking ways to connect with the organization's mission and network with others who are committed to women's legal rights.

WINE & CHOCOLATE

APRIL 12, 2014

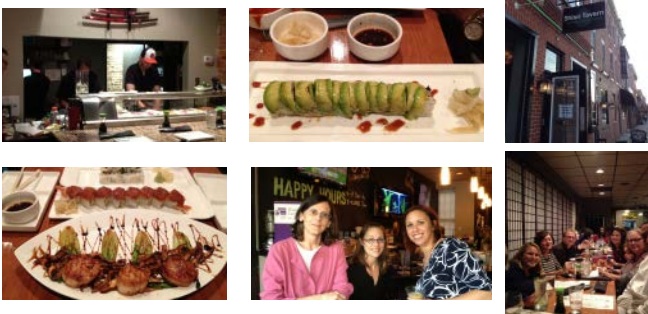
The 8th Annual Wine & Chocolate proved to be another delicious event. Guests enjoyed fabulous chocolate treats donated by Baltimore's best local businesses which were paired with fine wines.



photos: Chris Stevens

RESTAURANT NIGHT SHISO TAVERN

Friends and supporters of the Women's Law Center gathered at Shiso Tavern in Canton to enjoy delicious food while supporting a good cause. Special Thanks to the staff of Shiso Tavern for making this evening fabulous.



FEMINIST DISCUSSION: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

The Women's Law Center joined the University of Baltimore School of Law's Center for Applied Feminism to co-host an informative and interactive workshop to discuss the reproductive justice movement. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in an enthusiastic dialogue considering the relationship between feminism and health across multiple dimensions.



photos: Jim Burger

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY NOVEMBER 6, 2013

Each year, the Women's Law Center honors community leaders who have made significant contributions to protect and expand the legal rights of women. This year's award recipients not only dedicate themselves every day to this mission, but have made history doing so.

Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award
Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera

Rosalyn B. Bell Award
**Marylanders for Marriage
Equality**

Access to Justice Award
Dorothy Lennig



CHIEF JUDGE MARY ELLEN BARBERA

The Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera was appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland in July, making her the first woman to lead Maryland's court system. Chief Judge Barbera's impressive background demonstrates a consistent and passionate commitment to fair, accessible justice for all. Chief Judge Barbera began her career as a Baltimore City school teacher, attending the University of Maryland School of Law in the evenings. After graduating, she continued her public service with a position in the Office of the Attorney General and a subsequent job with the Office of Governor Parris N. Glendening. She was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals in 2002 and elevated to the Court of Appeals in 2008. Her historical appointment as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is an inspiring achievement.

DOROTHY LENNIG

Dorothy J. Lennig is celebrating her 25th anniversary of employment at the House of Ruth. Ms. Lennig's dedication to the issue of intimate partner violence has had a significant impact on the domestic violence landscape. During the past 25 years, there is not a single major legislative or policy effort that has not benefitted from Ms. Lennig's leadership. The impact of her advocacy is exponential, with countless victims experiencing a more effective and coordinated response from the legal system and the community. Ms. Lennig's advocacy on behalf of victims began as an attorney at the House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic in 1988. She became the Director of the Clinic in 1994. Through the Legal Clinic, thousands of victims have received professional legal services that have helped them stay safe, restored their dignity and even saved their lives.

MARYLANDERS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Maryland made history by passing same-sex marriage and Marylanders for Marriage Equality was the driving force that made this significant milestone a reality. Marylanders for Marriage Equality is a coalition with a mission to focus and coordinate all marriage-equality efforts in Maryland. The organization worked to secure the passage of the Civil Marriage Protection Act during the 2012 legislative session and to defend the law on the ballot on November 6, 2012. The coalition was comprised of 224 organizations and was overseen by an effective Board that included legislators and representatives from the Human Rights Campaign, SEIU, ACLU-Maryland, Equality Maryland and Governor O'Malley's office. The groundbreaking and historical success of the initiative would not have been possible without the leadership of Marylanders for Marriage Equality.

ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS CEREMONY
NOVEMBER 6, 2013



FINANCIALS

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

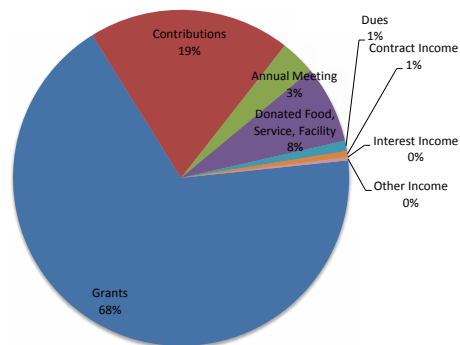
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. Statement of Activities and
Change in Net Assets for the Year Ended on June 30, 2014

Income

Grants	\$674,767
Contributions	\$193,279
Annual Meeting	\$33,950
Contract Income	\$5,775
Donated Services & Facilities	\$74,198
Membership Dues	\$9,935
Interest Income	\$469
Other Income	\$2,637
TOTAL	\$995,010

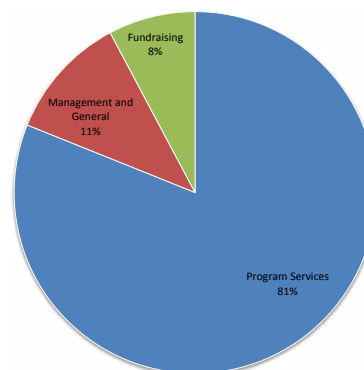
FY 2014 Income



Expenses

Program Services	\$886,385
Management & General	\$121,850
Fundraising	\$84,943
TOTAL	\$955,467

FY 2014 Expenses



Change in Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	(\$98,168)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,053,635
Net Assets at End of Year	\$1,093,178

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$846,158
Grants Receivable	\$277,293
Contributions Receivable	\$0
Prepaid Expenses	\$8,389
Total Current Assets	\$1,131,840

Property and Equipment	\$5,619
Security Deposit	\$1,157
Website Development	\$3,421

TOTAL ASSETS \$1,142,037

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$0
Accrued Payroll Expenses	\$43,182
Refundable Advance	\$143,388
Total Current Liabilities	\$186,570

Net Assets

Unrestricted, Undesignated	\$747,965
Unrestricted, Board Designated	\$28,023
Temporarily Restricted	\$179,479
Total Net Assets	\$955,467

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$1,142,037

WOMEN'S LAW CENTER SUPPORTERS

We recognize and thank the following donors who supported the Women's Law Center in FY 14 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2104) through membership, contributions, in-kind donations, workplace giving, grants, and event sponsorships.

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Angelos, Peter
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Stoler, Lisa
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Weinstein, Halee
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Wilson, Alicia
Witri, Sarah
Wohl, Rachel
Wolcott, Roberta

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Administrative Office of the Courts
Equal Justice Works
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
VOCA
VAWA

Marjorie Cook Foundation
Maryland Legal Services Corporation
United Way of Central Maryland

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John J. Leidy Foundation
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Marjorie Cook Foundation
Safeway Foundation

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Young Victorian Theatre Company

In-Kind Contributions

Brockett Horne
Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Circuit Court for Baltimore County
Circuit Court for Carroll County

We regret any omissions or inaccuracies that may appear in the list above and welcome hearing from you regarding any corrections.

VOLUNTEERS

The Women's Law Center is grateful for the generous commitment of time from our volunteers. Their dedication and support is crucial in ensuring our ability to help as many people as possible.

FAMILY LAW HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

Ruben Ballesteros	Dorothy Haynes
Donna Beard	Fred Kobb
Richard Chambers	

EMPLOYMENT LAW HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS

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Ashley Bosche	Julie Janofsky	Joyce Smithey
Curtis Cooper	Danny Katz	Jennifer Stair
Andrew Dansicker	Mary Keating	Lynette Whitfield
Gwen D'Souza	Andreas Lundsted	
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SUPPORT OUR WORK

The Justice Fund provides us with critical funds needed to invest in the future of the organization. Gifts to the Justice Fund will help the Women's Law Center provide important services to women and stand at the forefront of legal and public policy initiatives in the state.

Your investment in the Justice Fund will help build and sustain an equitable society for the next generation of women and their families.

To contribute, fill out the form below and mail it to:

*The Women's Law Center
305 West Chesapeake Avenue
Suite 201*

Towson, MD 21204

Yes, I want to join the Women's Law Center!

- Enclosed are my membership dues of \$50.
- Enclosed are my student membership dues of \$15.

In addition to my dues, I'd like to make a gift to the Justice Fund to join the:

- Legacy Circle \$5,000
- Visionary Society \$2,500
- Benefactor Circle \$1,000
- Advocacy Circle \$500
- Liberty Club \$250
- Equity Club \$100
- Other \$ _____

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would like to receive emailed WLC updates and newsletters.

My employer will match my gift.

Check made payable to The Women's Law Center is enclosed.

Please charge my Visa Mastercard
Credit Card # _____ Sec. code _____

Signature _____



"This year we helped over 6000 people on the hotline alone, and with more resources, we can help even twice that many."

Jill Eisner, Hotline Attorney

I would like to spread my gift throughout the year (Benefactor Circle members and higher):

Total Amount: \$ _____

Bill me monthly: \$ _____

Bill me quarterly: \$ _____



Women's
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of Maryland

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