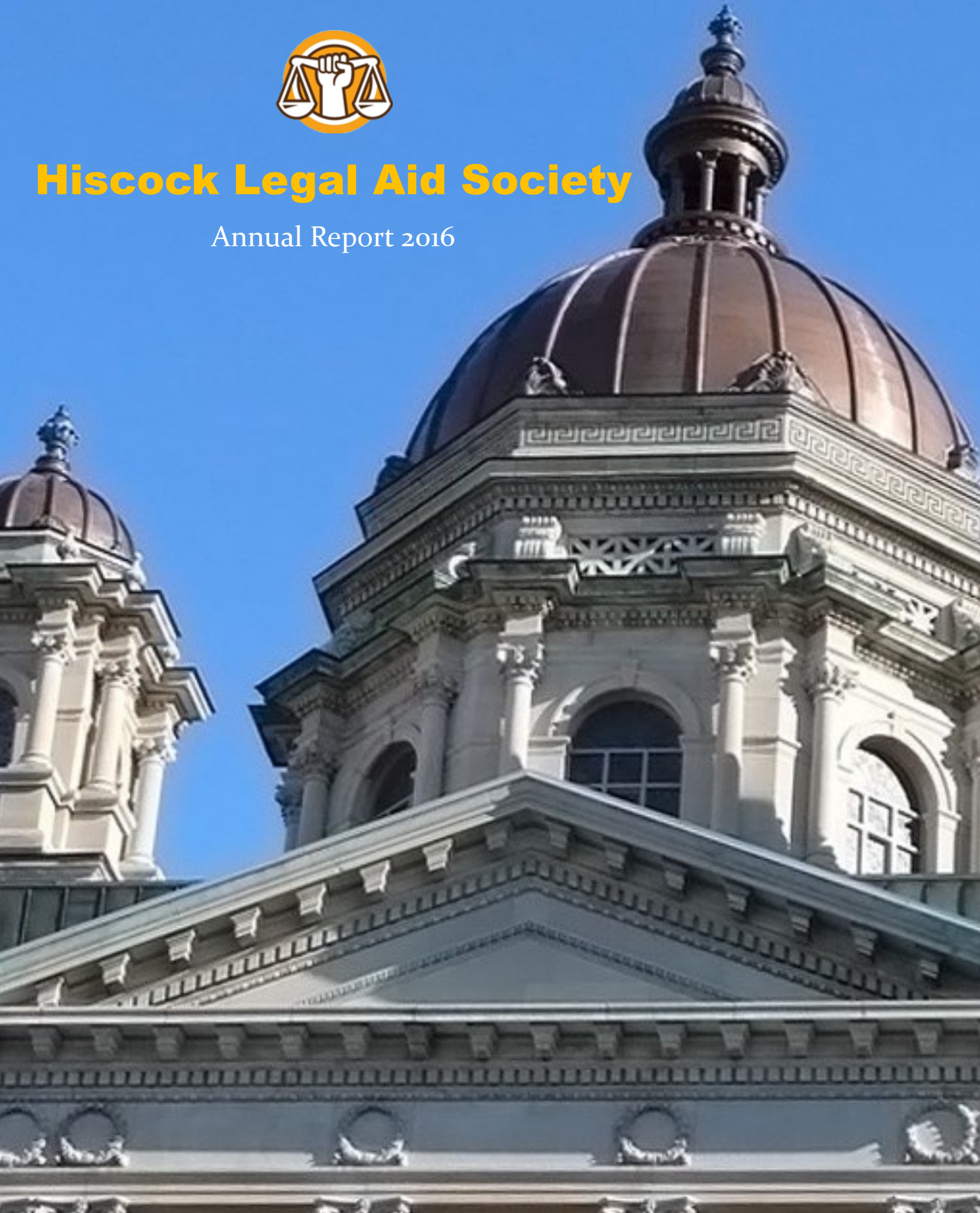




Hiscock Legal Aid Society

Annual Report 2016





HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY

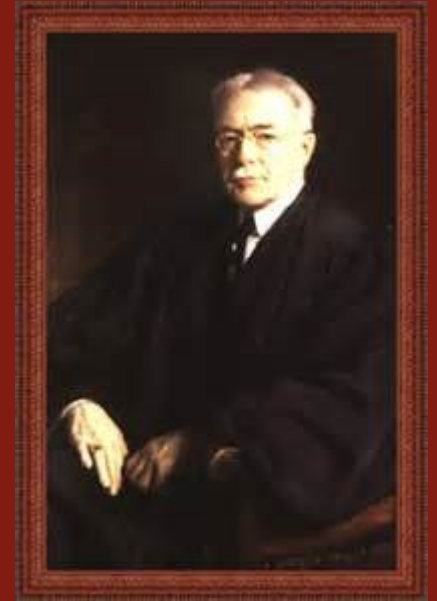
PROMOTING JUSTICE FOR ALL SINCE 1949

We Defend.
We Empower.
We Collaborate.
We Promote Justice for All.

Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society

History

The Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society was founded in 1949 to provide free legal assistance to low-income residents of Onondaga County. Funds were provided by the Syracuse Foundation, Inc. from a bequest for the Hon. Frank H. Hiscock, Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals from 1916 to 1926.



Vision

The Society works to ensure that no one in our community is denied justice because of a lack of means.

Mission

The Hiscock Legal Aid Society promotes the fundamental right of every person to equal justice under the law by providing high quality legal assistance to individuals and families in need in Onondaga County and the surrounding region.

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“I am reminded every day in our offices of the words of a Phil Ochs song I listened to a lot in college...

There but for fortune may go you or I.

The thousands of people we serve each year really are no different from you or me...just less fortunate. I am so proud of the work done every day by our skilled, dedicated (and overworked and underpaid) staff to help our clients...people facing homelessness, domestic violence, unemployment, the loss of their children or the loss of their liberty. I have learned that there are many different ways to change the world...at Hiscock Legal Aid Society we do it every day, one client at a time.”

Susan R. Horn



Susan R. Horn, *President & CEO* 2016 OCBA Distinguished Lawyer

During 2016 the Hiscock Legal Aid Society Board of Directors and Staff congratulated our very own President and CEO Susan Horn, for being selected by the Onondaga County Bar Association. This honor came to Susan for dedicating her 42-year legal career to ensuring access to justice for all. During these years, she represented thousands of people in need in the Central New York community.

The last of these 27 years were served as the President & CEO of the Hiscock Legal Aid Society. HLAS could not be more pleased for Susan. She has accomplished so much for our clients.

Under Susan’s leadership, the Hiscock Legal Aid Society was able to grow from an organization with an \$800,000 budget to one with \$5 million.

This growth included more programs and services for our clients in child welfare, child custody, child support enforcement, domestic violence, foreclosure and immigration cases; to name a few.

With many friends, peers and colleagues in attendance, Susan was honored and presented with the Distinguished Lawyer Award at the OCBA’s 141st Awards Dinner in October of 2016. There she delivered an inspirational speech calling for the provision of effective assistance of counsel for low-income clients and adequate support for those who defend their fundamental interests.



Suzanne O. Galbato
Chair, Board of Directors

“I am so proud to have served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society for the last three years, and serving such a great organization and those in need of legal assistance in the central New York community.

During this time – and really since joining the Board in 2010 – I have seen firsthand the consistent hard work and dedication of the attorneys and staff who keep our clients at the center of everything they do. Last year alone they handled nearly 5,000 cases.

This means they kept a family from losing their home, they helped someone get their deserved unemployment benefits, they helped a mother and her kids leave an abusive situation, they helped a family remain together, they helped a man secure legal residency status (green card) and they even helped a woman diagnosed with cancer get the resources and services she so desperately needed.

These are just a few of the many ways we promote justice for all. While 5,000 cases sound very impressive, there are still considerable challenges. In fact, less than 1 in 5 of the needs of low income people are met by existing legal aid resources – a sobering reminder about the need of our work in this community we call home.”

Suzanne O. Galbato



*"Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere."*

-Martin Luther King Jr.

The Search for a New President & CEO



In March of 2016, Susan Horn announced that she would retire on January 31, 2017. In accordance with the Board of Directors' Succession Plan, Board Chair Suzanne Galbato appointed a Search Committee to seek Ms. Horn's successor. Long-time Board member and former Board Chair Tony Malavenda was appointed to serve as Chair of the Search Committee. Committee members included many Board officers and members, former Board Chairs, various staff members, and a consultant who works specifically with legal aid, legal services and public defense organizations. In April of 2016, a nationwide search commenced to identify a candidate dedicated to providing civil legal services to the community and ensuring access to justice for all. A number of highly qualified candidates were identified.

As the result of a months-long process, the Board of Directors of the Hiscock Legal Aid Society announced in December of 2016 that it had selected one of Hiscock Legal Aid Society's very own to become HLAS's next President & CEO: Linda Gehron, Esq.

Ms. Gehron joined The Society in 2012 as a Senior Attorney after 30 years in private practice representing low-income clients in criminal, matrimonial and family court cases. Ms. Gehron received her J.D. with honors from the Syracuse University College of Law and is very active in the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Defenders Association and the Onondaga County Bar Association.

"The Board of Directors and I are pleased to have Linda leading the organization," said Virginia A. Hoveman, Esq., Chair-Elect. "Linda's unwavering commitment to our mission and clients, and over three decades of experience practicing in various areas of the law in Central New York undoubtedly will allow her to build upon the strengths of the



Linda Gehron, Esq.
In-Coming President &CEO

organization so that we can continue to meet the growing needs and challenges of ensuring access to justice for all."



Virginia A. Hoveman, Esq.
In-Coming Board Chair

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Officers

Chair

Suzanne O. Galbato

Chair-Elect

Virginia A. Hoveman

Vice Chair

Mark Field

Secretary-Treasurer

Joseph A. Hardick

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Joanne P. Sawmiller

President & CEO

Susan R. Horn

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John G. Powers

Janice T. Rosbrook

Stephen Rosenholm

Barry M. Shulman

Paul F. Vellano

JoAnn C. Wallace

Earnestine Williams

Samuel C. Young

Honorary Lifetime Member

Bertha A. Adams

HISCOCK CASES OPENED 2016:

Family Court	1,942
Criminal and Family Court Appeals	103
Extradition Defense	65
Parole Revocation Defense	666
Civil Program	1,447
Foreclosure Prevention	152
Immigration	158
Cancer Legal Advocacy Services Project	22

HISCOCK CASES CLOSED 2016:

Family Court	1,843
Criminal and Family Court Appeals	102
Extradition Defense	57
Parole Revocation Defense	666
Civil Program	1,297
Foreclosure Prevention	137
Immigration	108
Cancer Legal Advocacy Services Project	27

FINANCIALS



2016 REVENUES

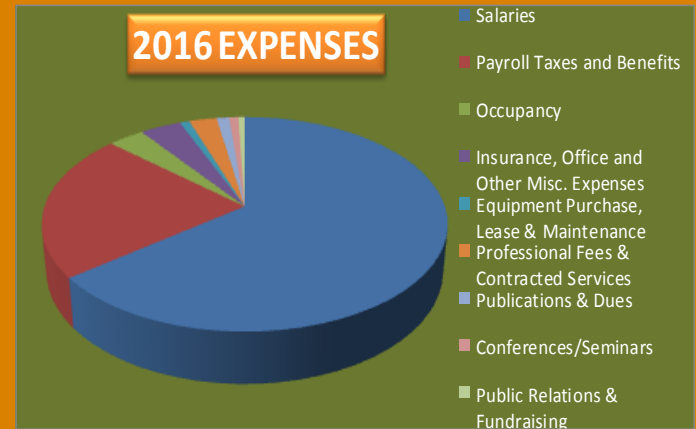
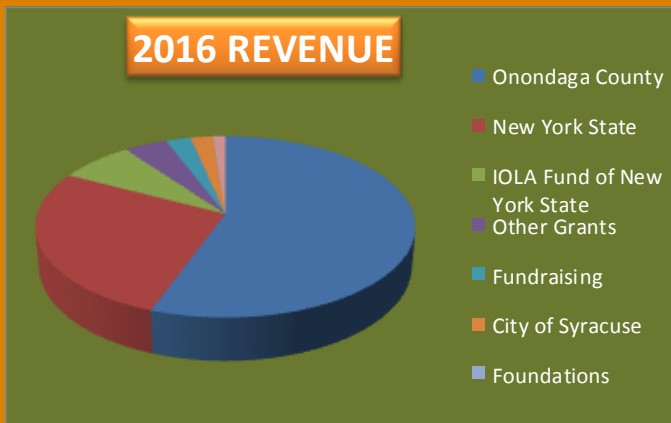
\$4,788,433

Onondaga County	2,660,773
New York State	1,296,972
IOLA Fund of New York State	349,815
Other Grants	201,113
Fundraising	117,288
City of Syracuse	106,593
Foundations	5,879
United Way of CNY	50,000

2016 EXPENSES

\$4,793,235

Salaries	3,088,021
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	1,066,216
Occupancy	161,729
Insurance, Office Supplies & Other Misc. Expenses	185,106
Equipment Purchase, Lease & Maintenance	42,409
Professional Fees & Contracted Services	123,639
Publications & Dues	56,025
Conferences / Seminars	41,810
Public Relations & Fundraising	28,280



CONTRIBUTORS

Champions of Justice

\$1,000 or more

Barclay Damon, LLP
Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
Laurence G. Bousquet
Richard J. Brickwedde
Margaret M. Cassady
Costello-Cooney-Fearon, PLLC
Kevin Duke
ENV Insurance Agency, LLC
Galbato Law Firm
Suzanne O. Galbato
Hancock & Estabrook, LLP
Brigitte Herzog
Susan R. Horn
Virginia A. Hoveman
Steven L. Jacobs
Susan L. King
Ellen A. LaBerge
Patricia A. Lynn-Ford
Anthony J. Malavenda & Martine Burat
Morgan Stanley - The Liberty Group
Margaret M. O'Connell
Satter Law Firm
Hon. Sandra L. Townes
Hon. Karen M. Uplinger
Welch Allyn

Defenders of Justice

\$500 or more

Blitman & King, LLP
Bousquet Holstein, PLLC
John H. Callahan
Eric Mower & Associates
Jae Evangelisti & Margaret Chestnut
Jonathan B. Fellows
Benjamin J. & Marsha Ferrara
Ferrara Fiorenza Larrison Barrett & Reitz, PC
Linda Gehron
Joseph A. Hardick
Robert J. Jenkins
Deborah L. Kanter
Edward W. Klein & Linda J. Trapkin
William F. Lynn
James E. Mackin
Onondaga County Bar Foundation
Gary L. Orenstein, In Memory of Albert Orenstein
Carl Pesko
Virginia C. Robbins
Joanne P. Sawmiller
Thomas F. Shannon
Andrew Swatkovsky
JoAnn C. Wallace

Frederick R. Woods

Guardians of Justice

\$250 or more

Aileen M. Balitz
Ronald C. Berger
Bristol-Myers Squibb Matching Gift Program
Carolyn D. and Edward Brown
David M. Carnie
Thomas M. Carnrike
John A. Cirando
Michael J. Compagni
Anita Cottrell
Hon. Therese Wiley Dancks
Sam A. Elbadawi
Karen G. Felter
Mark Field
Thomas M. Freyer
Cindy A. Granger
Greene & Reid, LLP
Susan K. Griffith
Baird and Sarah Hansen
Margaret M. Harding
Haylor, Freyer & Coon
Kevin E. Hulslander
Infinit Technology Solutions
Eric G. Johnson
Sheldon Kruth
James D. Lantier
Martin A. Lynn
John D. Marshall
Frederick S. Marty
Kim C. Michalak
Edward J. Moses
Timothy P. Murphy
Theodore H. & Mary Pat Northrup
Nancy L. Pontius
J. Richard Pooler, Jr.
John G. Powers
Robert E. Purcell
Michael P. Ringwood
Janice T. Rosbrook, In Honor of Susan R. Horn
Phillip Rubenstein
Anne B. Ruffer
Dene A. Sarason
Robert S. Sarason & Jane Burkhead
Brian M. Schultz
Theodore W. Stenuf
Gregory R. Thornton
F. Paul Vellano, Jr.
Steven W. Williams
Samuel C. Young
Michael J. Younis

Advocates of Justice

\$100 or more

Dennis R. Baldwin
Piotr Banasiak
Nadine C. Bell
Leslie Bender
Robert J. Benson
William L. Bergan
Kevin M. Bernstein
Randi K. Bregman
Margery G. Burstein
Robert P. Cahalan
Richard Caruso
Hon. Margaret Ann Chase
John P. Clinton
Sally Curran
Michael P. Daly
Karen J. Docter
Dominique Elizabeth
Linda R. Ervin
William Ferraldo
Susan Finkelstein and Robert Fullenbaum
Philip I. Frankel
Martin L. Fried
Alan J. Goldberg
Susan A. Gorton
Harris & Beach, LLP
Theresa M. Harris
Mary Louise Hartenstein
Ashley D. Hayes
Maurie G. Heins
David M. Higgins
James E. Hughes
Barry R. Kogut
Elizabeth Kolodney
Nels G. and Deborah Magnuson
Larry P. Malfitano
Michael Mastriano
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Ann M. McGrath
Jillian L. McGuire
Suzanne M. Messer
David S. Michel and Peggy Liuzzi
Julian B. and Jennifer Modesti
John L. Murad, Jr.
Margaret Murphy
Taylor H. Obold
Kim D. O'Neil
Louis Orbach and Anastasia L. Urtz
Jane R. Orofino
Matthew L. Parry
Alan J. Pierce
Dana Pierce
Alfred W. Popkess



Philip Rothschild
Shulman, Grundner, Etoll & Danaher, PC
John P. and Cecilia Sindoni
James A. Traver and Marquerite A. Conan
Clifford G. Tsan
Lisa B. Vavonese
Gio Vitale
Earnestine Williams
Richard A. Wittenburg
John J. Ziegler

UNDER \$100

Mary J. Antonacci
Craig M. Atlas
Michael J. Balanoff
Ronnie F. Bell
Cameron T. Bernard
Patrick Blood
John Boyd
Thomas Capozzi
Dennis Claus
Carolyn I. Coit
Jennifer Coman
Michael A. Connor
Georgia G. Crinnin
Shirley A. Cruickshank
Madeline Derbyshire
Amy G. Doan
Nancy Durkin
Judy O. Fay
Jane B. Feld
Karin Franklin King
Eugene Gerace
Sandra K. Gingold, In Memory of Lawrence H. Gingold
Barbara J. Glath
Winifred E. Greenberg
Ed Griffin-Nolan
Patrick J. Hillery
Ashley Jones
Wendy H. Jones
Marjorie T. Julian
Helen A. Kelley, In Honor of Susan R. Horn
Conor J. Kirchner
David H. Knapp
Mary B. Krahe
Diane E. Kupperman
Danielle LaRose
James A. Leiter
Suzanne Loveland
Andy Mager
Judith C. Malkin
Sidney L. Manes
Peggy A. Marshall

Joseph R. Mathews
Donald M. Mawhinney, Jr.
Ajdin Mesic
Todd Michalak
Mary B. Miller
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Emily NaPier
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Miriam V. O'Connor
Dorianne B. Parker
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Sarah J. Reckess
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Neal W. Sprong
John E. Suydam
Charlotte A. Tefft
Jason Torreano
Kim C. Turo
Carole R. Valesky
Marc and Marcy Waldauer
Nancy S. Weiss
Emily J. Winiecki
Amy Zamkoff

Special Gifts made to HLAS

Bousquet Holstein, Grossman St.
Amour, Armory Capital Management
and Edward Green & Associates

Mary Breed
(In Honor of Michael J. Younis)

First Niagara

Frank & Frances Revoir Foundation

The Gifford Foundation

Robert Jackson
(In Honor of Evan B. Hannay)

Robert W. & Sue A. Kayne
(In Celebration of Carl Pesko)

Shelly and Karen Kruth
(In Honor of Hon. Anthony F. Aloï)

Arthur and Arlene Liberman
(In Honor of Hon. Anthony F. Aloï)

Ray Smeader

Syracuse Corinthian Club, Inc
(In Honor of Hon. Hugh Humphreys)



*“Remember that no one succeeds
alone. Never walk alone in your future
paths.”*

-Sonia Sotomayor

PROGRAMS



PAROLE



Lawrence Young, Esq

The Parole Revocation Program continued to provide strong representation to our clients, protecting the civil liberties and rights of individuals facing the revocation of their parole

supervision in Onondaga County. Litigating over 600 cases during 2016, the PRP regularly achieved favorable dispositions for their clients.

Serving as post-conviction sentencing experts for the community, the PRP staff attorneys routinely assisted clients and local attorneys to understand the highly specialized and complex sentencing laws.

removed from her care despite our best efforts at an imminent risk hearing. It was alleged the baby was physically injured, and it was possible that either the father or mother was responsible, so charges were filed against both parents. The trial lasted for several months, and after our attorneys cross examined the emergency room doctor and questioning the child's primary physician on the stand, the Court decided that our client was not responsible for her daughter's injuries. Her daughter was immediately returned to her care. In another case, our immigrant client who had been severely mistreated by her children's father faced the loss of custody of her children because of his false testimony against her. The father had the resources to make the legal process very challenging. Our client faced him in court. After a multi-day trial and the testimony of numerous witnesses, the Court awarded her sole physical and legal custody of the children.



FAMILY COURT

The Family Court Program closed nearly 2,000 cases in 2016, assisting clients to defend their fundamental rights and secure the essential services they needed to keep their families together. During this time they resolved hundreds of domestic violence cases; obtained rehabilitative services to bring about the reunification of hundreds of families; and secured their parental rights to custody and visitation of many hundreds more. In one case, our client's four-month old baby was



Nancy Farrell, Esq.



CIVIL

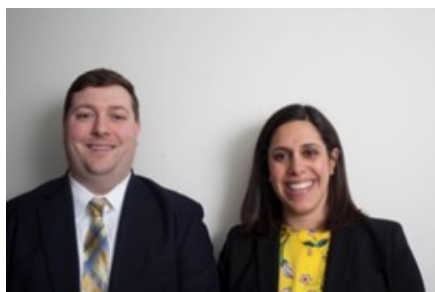
During 2016, the Civil Program attorneys and support staff resolved nearly 1,300 cases, representing clients with a wide array of general civil legal needs. The team accomplished this with great skill, care and compassion for our clients.

Our Cancer Legal Advocacy and Services Project: assisted a client who was in hospice care and did not have a will. He was unmarried, had no children, and both his parents were living. Because he had a strained relationship with his father, our client wanted his house and all of his personal belongings to go to his



mother. We drafted a will naming his mother as executor and sole beneficiary of his estate. We also prepared a Power of Attorney naming his mother as his agent. After executing these documents, he was relieved and felt “like a great weight had been lifted off his shoulders.”

Our matrimonial staff attorneys obtained a divorce for an elderly gentleman whose very emotionally abusive wife was trying to keep all of the marital assets. He was granted a distributive award in consideration of his share of the marital estate, and the wife was to keep the residence and the mortgage. Our client’s wife was supposed to cash out a retirement account to pay



Gregory Dewan, Esq. and Leah Witmer, Esq.

our client, but she spent the money instead. We filed a post-judgment Order to Show Cause for contempt and obtained a judgment for the full amount. At the

contempt hearing, the Judge ordered the marital residence sold to satisfy his award and required our client’s spouse to handle all the legwork. We filed the judgment and took a judgment lien against the property.



The HLAS Appeals Program continued with its zealous defense of our clients’ due process rights to a fair trial. This year the Appeals Program closed one hundred

and two cases and filed briefs in the Court of Appeals, Appellate Division Fourth Department and County Court. Four resulted in full reversal and dismissal and sixteen with some type of relief granted to the client, usually in the form of certain charges being dismissed or the sentences reduced. Appeals Program successes included suppression of evidence and dismissal of charges where police dragged the passenger defendant out of the car without sufficient justification, as there was no showing that he was armed or dangerous, and his questioning of police and initial refusal to exit did not give rise to reasonable suspicion (*People v Anthony Ford*); reversal of a conviction where our client moved to withdraw his guilty plea after the trial court coerced him by threatening the maximum if he were convicted of a lesser charge (*People v Spencer Williams*); finding trial counsel ineffective for failing to move for suppression and remitting the matter for a hearing with new counsel (*People v Robert Carter*); and deeming a photo identification by an undercover police officer not confirmatory where the arrest was over a year later, resulting in a remand for a Wade hearing (*People v Reeves*).



Philip Rothchild, Esq.



Piotr Banasiak, Esq.

Senior Attorney Piotr Banasiak continued to produce our Criminal and Family Court *Appeals Blog*, published on the HLAS website following each

release of 4th Department decisions.



CLIENT STORY



Meet Amie

Amie came to Hiscock Legal Aid after her children were removed from her care due to problems related to alcohol addiction. Coming to the Syracuse area from the west coast she knew no one in the area and she had no support system. Amie was in desperate need of assistance and found it in Attorney Nancy Farrell and Client Advocate Jean Shirley. “They were there for me every step of the way.” With their help she no longer felt alone.

In her efforts to reunite her family, Amie participated in many programs including individual and family counseling, parenting classes, drug treatment and family meetings, as well as meetings with her attorney and case worker at the Department of Children and Family Services. Several of her service providers drove long distances to attend the family meetings in order to support her efforts. She said those meetings were wonderful. They “kept everyone on the same page” and there were no surprises when she went to court.

Amie embraced all the help that she received explained Advocate Shirley. She worked so hard, spending hours riding the bus into the city several times a week for visits, court

appearances, counseling sessions, and appointments.

“The love between Amie and her children was always apparent,” said Advocate Shirley. “(She) always took advantage of suggestions, advice – very eager to move forward in her life and expedite the return of her children.”

After all the hard work and effort Amie put into her recovery she was able to get her children back after almost 2 years apart. Amie is currently training to be a co/manager at her job in the food industry and she is working on a book that tells the story of the struggles she went through. She wants to be an inspiration and let people know they need to keep fighting even when it feels like they’re losing.

She now has a great relationship with all of her children. Her 14 year old son is even contributing his story to the book to share his experiences. She has also repaired her relationship with her mother and brother.

Advocate Shirley said that “she is one of the hardest working clients that I have experienced.”

CLIENT STORY

Meet David

David was born and raised in Syracuse, New York.

He came to Hiscock Legal Aid Society when he was going through a really difficult time in his life. He had been injured and had suffered a severe concussion that made it difficult for him to concentrate. He was living off of disability and workers compensation.

Due to his injuries he was also unable to drive. This was a very humbling experience for him as he was in his 40's and unable to be as independent as he once was.

During this time he was going through a bitter separation from his wife and he wanted a divorce. He was lost, he didn't know where to start, knowing he couldn't afford to pay an attorney. This was when he called HLAS and his case was assigned to MaryElizabeth Currulla.

"MaryElizabeth was very understanding, warm-hearted and explained how the process of getting a divorce would work."

As well as helping David get a divorce, MaryElizabeth also helped him create a will. This was a great relief for David as he wanted to have his affairs in order as his grandparents had

when they passed. He didn't want to leave a burden for his loved ones. She also helped him set up a healthcare proxy.

David was also very concerned about his college-aged daughter; he wanted to make sure that she was taken care of. Despite everything that he was going through he was very concerned about her needs. "I really admired that about him," said MaryElizabeth Currulla. "At his lowest time, he was thinking about her and what would happen to her. Although he could have petitioned the court to reduce his child support payments due to his limited income, he didn't want to because he knew that his daughter relied on his payments for college. And, he made provisions in his will to ensure that she was taken care of."

Eventually David was able to find employment. "Today, I feel at peace. I feel like I'm getting my life back. I'm happier than I've been in a long time. I'm earning my own money - and I'm blazing my own path."

"I have a great deal of gratitude for the kindness and professionalism that Hiscock Legal Aid Society afforded me at a time when I really needed help."





From left -Nancy Hayes, Gabriel NaPier, Michele Dyess, Darrin Lawson, Kari Cotter



From left -Philip Rothschild, Derek Harnsberger, Evan Hannay, Piotr Banasiak, Sara Goldfarb, Kristen McDermott, Susan Horn, Lawrence Young, John Gilsenan

HLAS STAFF

“Justice For All” isn’t just a mantra we use. It’s who we are. It permeates every facet of our organization and informs the decisions we make, the paths we pursue and the staff who tirelessly work to promote justice for some of CNY’s most resilient yet marginalized residents.

When clients come to our office for the first time, they’re often in a vulnerable position. For this reason, we work to ensure they are greeted by professional, compassionate staff who are trained in directing the client to the appropriate channel.

Attorneys at Legal Aid are smart, vociferous advocates for their clients and are assisted by law assistants and program coordinators who ensure paperwork is in order, and that clients and attorneys are on the same page.



From left -Lawrence Young, Jaime Skiff, Lukeshia Sullivan, Matellah Donzo, Leah Witmer, Susan Horn, Colleen Murphy, Kari Cotter, Nikia Trice

HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY

“The social impact of the Society’s wide-ranging services is truly impressive.”

- Phil Parkes



Joephy Fung, Saadiya Sheekh-Nuur, Geoff Parkes, Phil Parkes, Steven Burgay

VOLUNTEERS

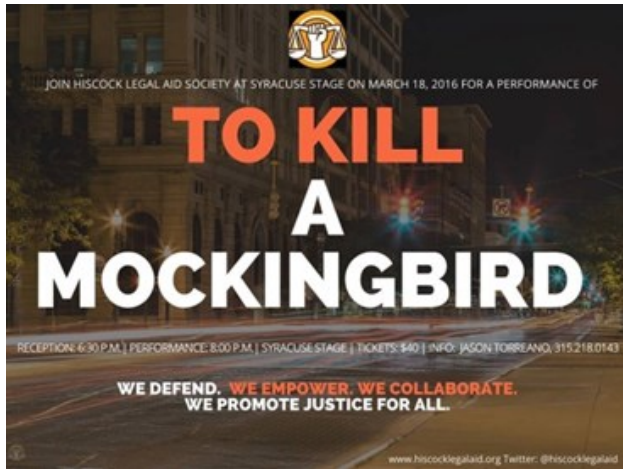
Volunteers are an invaluable resource at the Hiscock Legal Aid Society. Coming from local high schools, colleges and the general population, they are all eager to make a difference for those in their communities.

There are a wide variety of tasks volunteers can experience during their time at HLAS. They may assist our program coordinators and law assistants with various client-related projects, assist in filing of court documents and/or assist in our file management system. Helping to maintain our filing system may not sound very important but our agency handles over 4,000 cases a year, which makes it a monumental task.

Phil Parkes (pictured 2nd from right above) came to HLAS during the summer of 2016 . Upon his arrival the agency was embarking on a paperless management system. His zealously for this project led to an office-wide scanning convention where he recruited others to help him in his mission.

The reward the volunteers take away from their experience at HLAS is unmeasurable.

EVENTS



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Hiscock Legal Aid Society partnered with Syracuse Stage to host a social evening at the March 18, 2016 performance of the Harper Lee classic “To Kill A Mockingbird.”

Several dozen guests enjoyed a pre-dinner social with generous hors d’oeuvres courtesy of Tony’s restaurant along with a private bar.

The event was meant to bring people together for a fun evening while watching the American story of courage and justice, and exploring how we can, in our own way, continue to promote justice for all in our respective communities.

A portion of each ticket sale from the social evening went to support the programs of the Hiscock Legal Aid Society.



JUMPING FOR JUSTICE

Hiscock Legal Aid Society hosted its second Jumping For Justice event on May 9, 2016 at Sky Zone in Syracuse.

The event brought people from around the CNY community together for a fun evening of team building, supporting justice for all, and squaring off on the trampoline.

Nearly a dozen teams competed in aerial dodgeball with the HLAS Appeals Team coming in 2nd place to Grossman St. Amour CPAs, PLLC.

For those who wanted to support the event but have bad memories of dodgeball from high school gym class, there was also an opportunity to register for the free jump.

Participants enjoyed pizza following the event. Nearly \$3,000 was raised.



JUSTICE WALK/RUN

Hiscock Legal Aid Society was proud to again collaborate with the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County on the Second Annual Justice Walk/Run.

The event was held September 7, 2016 at Onondaga Lake Park. Seventy people participated and more than \$5,000 was raised to support the immigration program.

“In defending and promoting justice for all, we also collaborate,” said Linda Gehron, Family Court Supervising Attorney. “This walk/run with OnVLP supporting the CNY Immigration Program is one of many collaborations that allow us to leverage resources and expertise and do our work efficiently and effectively.”



VOICES

Hiscock Legal Aid Society held its sixth annual VOICES event on October 6. The event is a collaboration between the Everson Museum of Art and The Society and brings people together for a fun evening of socializing and learning more about these two organizations. This event allows the HLAS staff to meet and greet community leaders who support our agency.

This year, VOICES honored Tony Malavenda, a longtime board member of Hiscock Legal Aid Society. More than \$16,000 was raised.



EVENTS cont.



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Hiscock Legal Aid Society held its 3rd annual Justice For All event on December 6, 2016 at Drumlins in Syracuse. More than \$89,000 was raised in cash and multiple-year gifts.

The free, one-hour breakfast event offers guests an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the mission and vision of The Society through compelling stories and videos from clients, board members and staff.

“Providing people with an opportunity to gain additional insight into what we do each day is the most fundamental component of Justice For All,” said Linda Gehron, Family Court Supervising Attorney. “Our hope is that guests leave this breakfast with information on the valuable work staff carry out each day, and inspiration about the tenacity of some of our community’s most marginalized residents.”

The 2017 Justice For All event is scheduled for December 6, 2017.



UNITED WAY DAY

Our "United Way Day" generated a great deal of fun and fundraising enthusiasm to support our joint efforts with the UW. Thanks to our Chief Operating Officer Joanne Sawmiller, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump came to HLAS to have a debate before the election. Donald and Hillary also wanted to ensure the staff knew how important it is to donate to the United Way.

More than \$20,000.00 was raised for the United Way.



"Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both."

-Eleanor Roosevelt



CLE PRESENTATIONS



Nancy Farrell, Esq.

HLAS Staff Attorney Nancy Farrell and Supervising Attorney Linda Gehron presented “Motions and Applications We Should Be Making” at the All Families Matter Parent Defense Conference sponsored by the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services in Albany, New York. These motions are now being used by parent defense attorneys statewide. They also presented “Making or Breaking the Case For Restricting Parenting Time” in Rochester, New York for the Parent Representation CLE sponsored by the New York State Defenders Association. Linda Gehron also participated in a OnVLP panel discussion for domestic violence training through the Onondaga County Bar Association and wrote 4th Department Family Court Case Notes for the Bar Reporter.



Linda Gehron, Esq.

HLAS Staff Attorney Amanda McHenry presented Res Ipsa Loquitor in Article 10 Cases with Emma Alpert, Esq. of the Brooklyn Defenders Services for the All Families Matter Parent Defense Conference, providing case law, medical definitions and various strategies and defense when representing clients faced with abuse and neglect findings based upon this theory.



Amanda McHenry, Esq.

Just prior to the effective date of important changes to New York’s foreclosure law, Leah Witmer and Joe Murray conducted a continuing legal education course for the Onondaga County Bar Association. They covered those provisions aimed at reducing the number of “zombie houses” across the state and those providing consumers with more rights in foreclosure settlement conferences. They also explained recent judicial decisions barring foreclosure actions due to the statute of limitations. Leah and Joe repeated this course for the Central New York Bankruptcy Bar Association, with the timely addition of recent protections provided to those with reverse mortgages.



Joseph Murray, Esq.



Leah Witmer, Esq.

COLLABORATIONS



We are grateful for the many collaborations we have throughout the region. These have allowed us to provide holistic support for clients with various interconnected legal needs. These collaborations include, but are not limited to: The Onondaga Volunteer Lawyers Project; Home Head Quarters (Foreclosure Prevention Project); Legal Services of Central New York (Cancer Legal Advocacy and Services Project); Vera House (International Victims Project); the Center for Community Alternatives; the Legal Aid Society of Rochester; Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York and Albany (Upstate New York Immigration Law Project); and the Office of New Americans.



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WE PROMOTE JUSTICE FOR ALL**