



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2006
Page 1/2

CONTACT: Melanie Shakarian, Esq.
Director of Development
216-861-5217 (direct dial)
melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org

Legal Aid announces new attorney hires

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce eight new attorney hires in 2006. The positions were created through additional philanthropic funding and some previous staff attrition. This is the largest group of new hires for Legal Aid in more than 10 years.

The attorneys will be placed in each of Legal Aid's four offices:

Cleveland Office:

Tomar Brown is the previously announced Equal Justice Works Fellow. Ms. Brown will graduate from the **Case Western Reserve University's School of Law** in May. Ms. Brown will focus on education advocacy for juveniles in the delinquency system. Her position is fully-funded by the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, the nation's largest postgraduate legal fellowship program. This is the first time a CWRU law student has been awarded such a fellowship.

Lucas F. Caldwell-McMillan will be a staff attorney within Legal Aid's Community Advocacy Program – a medical-legal collaborative with MetroHealth Medical Center. He will graduate from the **University of Michigan Law School** in May. Mr. Caldwell-McMillan is currently involved in a Michigan pediatric advocacy clinic and has past experience in a child advocacy law clinic.

Daniel A. Schlanger will be a staff attorney in Legal Aid's Cleveland Office. He is a 2004 *cum laude* graduate of **Harvard Law School**, where he received the Dean's Award for Community Service, and *magna cum laude* graduate of Carleton College. Mr. Schlanger was a law clerk for the Honorable R. Lanier Anderson, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. He was founder of the Harvard Law School Student Working Group on Human rights in Latin America.

Howard G. Strain was selected as the Jones Day Pro Bono Fellow. Previously an attorney with Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP, Mr. Strain joins Legal Aid with more than 10 years of litigation experience. As the Jones Day Fellow, Mr. Strain will coordinate Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program. He is an honors graduate from **The Ohio State University College of Law**.

continued

www.lasclev.org

Main Office

1223 West Sixth St · Fl 4
Cleveland, OH 44113

Phone: 216.687.1900
Fax: 216.575.6209

Ashtabula County

121 East Walnut Street
Jefferson, OH 44047

Phone: 866.873.9665
Fax: 440.576.3021

Lake & Geauga

8 North State St · Ste 300
Painesville, OH 44077

Phone: 888.808.2800
Fax: 440.352.0015

Lorain County

538 West Broad St · Ste 300
Elyria, OH 44035

Phone: 800.444.7348
Fax: 440.323.8526



April 4, 2006

Legal Aid announces new attorney hires

Page 2/2

Natasha M. Wilson will be a staff attorney in the Cleveland office. She will graduate from the **University of Wisconsin School of Law** in May. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Centenary College of Louisiana, through which she studied Victorian History and Literature at Oxford University's St. John's College. Ms. Wilson is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana where she helped develop a literacy program for low-income children.

Elyria Office:

Angela A. Wu will be a staff attorney in Legal Aid's Elyria Office, which serves Lorain County. She will graduate from **Harvard Law School** in May. She is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard College, where she studied religion and government. Ms. Wu was a Fulbright Scholar in Hungary. She was also a law student advocate at the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center at Harvard Law School.

Jefferson Office:

Stephen J. Antwine will be a staff attorney in Legal Aid's Jefferson Office, which serves Ashtabula County. He will graduate from the **University of Cincinnati's College of Law** in May. He is a *cum laude* graduate of American University's School of International Service, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kazakhstan. During law school he worked in an organization which provided legal information to Spanish-speaking immigrants.

Painesville Office:

Abigail C. Staudt will be a staff attorney in Legal Aid's Painesville Office, which serves both Lake and Geauga Counties. She will graduate from the **Chicago-Kent College of Law** in May. Ms. Staudt has previous experience with legal aid clinics, worked with the homeless in Seattle Washington, and was a Peace Corps volunteer in both Ethiopia and Madagascar.

Of the eight new attorneys at Legal Aid, four speak Spanish and two are African-American. "These eight individuals are phenomenal additions to our staff," said Colleen Cotter, executive director. "They are a diverse group with a common dedication to serving the poor in Northeast Ohio. We are proud to welcome them to our Legal Aid team."

A select group of the new attorneys will participate in a special national pilot program for law school loan repayment assistance, sponsored by the Legal Services Corporation (www.lsc.gov). The purpose of this program is to help recruit more high-quality attorneys to work in a public interest setting. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland was one of only 15 legal aid programs nationally selected to participate.

Since 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has provided high-quality free legal assistance to low income clients in Northeast Ohio. For more information about the services available to the 250,000 low-income individuals in Northeast Ohio, please visit www.lasclev.org.

###