



A U.S. Veteran Restarts Her Life After Resolving a Debt.

Legal Aid helps client resolve consumer law issue



Linda Green

Linda Green was a college graduate, published author and poet, and had risen to the ranks of captain in the U.S. Army when her life changed forever. The birth of her child left her disabled. She was forced to leave the military, and she struggled for years with depression.

Like most college graduates, Green also had student loan debt which was deferred due to her disability status. However, just weeks before a life-changing surgery (following more than a half-dozen surgeries since her military discharge) Green was informed that her disability benefits, her sole source of income, would be garnished by 20% for student loan repayments. Besides major surgery to reconstruct her abdominal wall and notice of garnishment by the department of education, Green was in the midst of a battle with Veteran Services regarding her disability status. Unsure of how she was going to financially survive if her disability was garnished, Green came to Legal Aid for help.

"The Legal Aid attorney was really excited to help with my situation...it took a lot of pressure off me," said Green. Over the next month, Ms. Green's disability checks were no longer garnished. No more money was withdrawn from her disability accounts. And, a few weeks later, she received a letter from the U.S. Department of Education informing her that her student loan debt was discharged.

"I would have never considered reaching out to Legal Aid if they didn't have the clinic for U.S. Veterans. I thought I was just going to have to sit back and pray I don't get taken advantage of," said Green. "Working with Legal Aid made this process so much easier; I don't think I would have been able to do this by myself. The Legal Aid attorneys validated my own assessment of my situation. They were so prepared and willing to help that it made all the difference in actually making this happen." Green is now student loan debt-free and has one less worry on her road to recovery. Legal Aid empowers clients like Ms. Green to continue to advocate for positive results in their own lives.



“Working with Legal Aid made this process so much easier ...”

"Overwhelmed was an understatement," said Green. However, she knew this issue could not wait. Two weeks after the surgery, while still recuperating, Green came to a Legal Aid clinic hosted in partnership with the Veterans Administration's Community Resource and Referral Center on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland.

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PLANNED GIVING AT LEGAL AID

What Do You Want Your Legacy to Be?

Legal Aid Launches *1905 Society* to Recognize Planned Gifts

Donor Alida Struze highlights her passion for Legal Aid



Alida Struze, inaugural member, Legal Aid's 1905 Society

Legal Aid is excited to announce the launch of the *1905 Society*, a planned giving recognition group. Membership is available to anyone who makes known a planned gift to Legal Aid. Such support has a lasting impact for those in need in Northeast Ohio. By making a testamentary planned gift to Legal Aid, your legacy will be a contribution to providing equal access to justice for all.

Alida Struze, a charter member of the *1905 Society*, believes wholeheartedly in preserving the future of Legal Aid and has included Legal Aid in her will knowing that this gift will help continue the mission of Legal Aid. Ms. Struze retired from Legal Aid in 2009 at age 88 after working at the organization for 42 years. Trained as a social worker, she counseled clients at Legal Aid for 10 years before transitioning into managing the lawyer referral program, matching private attorneys willing to take pro bono cases with Legal Aid clients.

Her relationship with hundreds of pro bono attorneys helped thousands of low-income clients access the justice system. "She is a longtime advocate for the legal profession, praising attorneys at every opportunity. Although she is retired, she still calls many of these attorneys "her family."

Ms. Struze says, "At a time when Legal Aid needs money to help the ever-growing need for its services, it needs to know that it can depend on future gifts as well as current ones. It is one thing to talk about gratitude – my way of showing it was to leave as much as I could in my will."

What do you want your legacy to be? Consider a planned gift to Legal Aid as Ms. Struze has done — a gift in any amount will help Legal Aid continue its mission to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for people who are low income and vulnerable by providing high-quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

To join the *1905 Society*, contact Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq., Legal Aid's Director of Development and Communications, at 216-861-5217, or melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org.

MAKE A DECISION TODAY

Create a better tomorrow by including The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in your estate plan.

Let Legal Aid know of your intentions and become a charter member of *The 1905 Society*.

TO JOIN, PLEASE CONTACT:

Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq.,
Legal Aid's Director of Development and Communications
216-861-5217
melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org
www.lasclev.org/plannedgiving

ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL IN THE PLANNED GIVING COMMUNITY?

Join Legal Aid's new Planned Giving Advisory Committee, focused on planned giving and other allied professionals. Sign-up at www.lasclev.org/plannedgiving.

Special thanks to the inaugural members of Legal Aid's Planned Giving Advisory Committee! The group met in April for an update about Legal Aid and planned giving efforts. The group will work as ambassadors for Legal Aid in the planned giving community, helping people to understand the significant impact Legal Aid has on Northeast Ohio. The Advisory Committee will gather periodically for meetings and continuing legal education programs.

LEGAL AID'S PLANNED GIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS OF JULY 2013

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Erica Williams

JAM FOR JUSTICE

A HUGE SUCCESS!

Four rock bands fronted by area attorneys and judges rocked the House of Blues on July 11 to benefit Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Supporters raised \$40,000 for Legal Aid's work to ensure health, safety, shelter and economic security for the most vulnerable in our community. We welcomed 750 guests with great music from Dylan to The Clash, performed by our featured artists:

The John Hanley Band
Rule 11 and the Sanctions
Faith & Whiskey
Just Us



(Left to Right) Andrew Fiorella, Esq. (Ulmer Berne) rocks with Rule 11 and the Sanctions. Rick Wesorick, Esq. (Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino LLP) and Steve Zashin (Zashin & Rich) of Faith & Whiskey. Judge Jim Miraldi (Lorain County Common Pleas Court) demonstrates guitar talent with Just Us.



(Left to Right) A few of the 750 guests at the event pose for a photo. Luke Lindberg, Esq. (Warren & Young) performs as the lead singer in The John Hanley Band. Judge Mike Donnelly (Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court) performs with Faith & Whiskey in the grand finale.

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Announcing the 2013 Partners in Justice - Legal Aid's Ambassadors

Partners in Justice are community leaders who serve as Legal Aid ambassadors to their organizations. Managing partners appoint delegates in February of each year. The 2013 Partners in Justice kick-off was held in March, and the ambassadors work from April – December promoting Legal Aid and the good work the organization does in Northeast Ohio. Ambassadors for 2013 include people from 30 organizations:

Baker Hostetler, LLP

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 Aaron O'Brien

Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff

Tamar Gontovnik
 Jacob Oetama-Paul
 Adam Saurwein

Brouse McDowell

Keven Drummond Eiber
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Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs

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Buckley King, LPA

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 Tracey Turnbull

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 Natalia Steele
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Walter & Haverfield LLP

John Heer

Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co. LPA

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 Jennifer Monty Rieker

Weston Hurd LLP

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Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista

Matt Nakon
 Amy DeLuca

LEGAL AID: PRACTICE UPDATES

Legal Aid's Impact on the Community, Through the Lens of Client Stories



LEGAL AID'S MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP ENSURES STABILITY FOR FAMILY

Legal Aid partners with MetroHealth Medical Center through the Community Advocacy Program (CAP), providing on-site legal services to low-income individuals seeking medical treatment. The Legal Aid and MetroHealth partnership, now in its tenth year, ensures healthy communities are developed beyond the medical examining room. Susan Warner was referred to Legal Aid through CAP after failing to obtain disability benefits for her 5-year-old daughter, Ashley. Ashley was very successful academically in her kindergarten class, but then had a debilitating seizure that caused significant development delays. She repeated kindergarten twice and attends school with a nurse because of her medical condition. With Legal Aid's assistance, Ms. Warner received a back payment of disability benefits and regular monthly SSI benefits. Ashley's epilepsy is controlled through medication and the additional government benefits will allow for additional assistance for continued success including regular counseling and speech therapy.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE WITH A BETTER EDUCATION

Maintaining and preserving access to education is important to Legal Aid's practice. Education empowers individuals with the hope of breaking the vicious cycles of poverty. Children with special needs face additional barriers to education as they must show their needs require special accommodations for the best education possible.

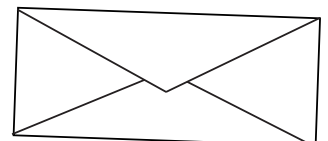
Kim Parker, a frustrated mother to an adopted 5-year-old boy, came to Legal Aid when her son's school refused to address his disability, despite psychiatric opinions that he needed special services. The school refused to acknowledge his needs and expelled him for "behavioral problems." Legal Aid attorneys worked diligently to get Parker's son back in school with the services he needed. Parker's son now attends a Positive Education Program school and mother and son are both happy with their new circumstances.

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Your financial support will help Legal Aid help nearly 25,000 people in 2013.

Use the enclosed envelope

to make your gift today.



PHOTOS *from the* VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM



1. Bill Barnett, Esq. (State Industrial Products Corporation) 2. Cindy Binns, Esq. (GrafTech International Ltd.) 3. Joe Rodgers, Esq. (Eaton Corporation) 4. Thomas Dominic, Esq. (Jones Day) 5. KeyBank and Thompson Hine attorneys volunteer at a Legal Aid clinic during KeyBank's "Neighbors Make a Difference Day" 6. Charlene Lee, Esq. (Lubrizol) 7. Mark Bennett, Esq. (U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio) 8. Betsy Rader, Esq. (Cleveland Clinic) and Ricky Gurbst, Esq. (Squire Sanders) 9. Sean Malone, Esq. (Kohrman Jackson & Krantz)

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Legal Aid's 2013 Annual Report to the Community

Featuring special guest United States Senator Rob Portman

Video Welcome by United States Senator Sherrod Brown

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Reservations?

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www.lasclev.org/2013event

CALL:
216-861-5217

EMAIL:
events@lasclev.org

*This is a fundraiser
for Legal Aid. All proceeds
help Legal Aid ensure
shelter, safety, and
economic security for
the most vulnerable in
Northeast Ohio.*

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
24 Public Square – Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Reception Opens – 11:15 a.m.
Lunch and Program – 11:45 a.m.

**Sponsorships and individual tickets
are now available!**

Visit www.lasclev.org/2013event
for more details.



OUR MISSION

To secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low-income and vulnerable by providing high-quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

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Phone (toll free): **888-817-3777**

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