



PRESS RELEASE

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY HONORS SENATOR BILL LARKIN AT
RECEPTION CELEBRATING RENEWED FUNDING FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ULSTER COUNTY**

(Kingston, New York) Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) held a Reception on Monday, July 14th, to honor New York State Senator Bill Larkin, who spearheaded efforts to procure renewed state funding for LSHV's Domestic Violence Victims' Assistance Program in Ulster County. LSHV assists low income clients in civil legal matters throughout the Hudson Valley. LSHV's Kingston Office represents victims of domestic violence in Ulster County Family Court and Supreme Court on issues involving orders of protection, custody, visitation and matrimonial matters. The Program, established in 2006 through a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, will continue serving domestic violence victims thanks to a new \$75,000 grant recently approved by the New York State Legislature.

At the Reception, LSHV Executive Director Barbara Finkelstein, Esq., thanked Senator Larkin for his continuing support, noting that without such assistance, many of those most in need of help would go unrepresented in our court system. LSHV Board Member Andrew Finkelstein, Esq., Managing Partner of Finkelstein & Partners, headquartered in Newburgh, NY, presented Senator Larkin with a plaque commemorating his dedication to the cause of protecting victims of domestic violence from abuse. In his remarks, Mr. Finkelstein said that among the Senator's many accomplishments, including nearly thirty years of service in the New York State Legislature, and a distinguished military career, "Senator Larkin's greatest accomplishment remains his devotion to family, and he truly understands that safety and security of spouses and children are of utmost importance." Senator Larkin praised the work of the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, and thanked its Board of Directors for being active in seeking out funding.

Kathleen Silverii, Esq., the Managing Attorney for LSHV's Ulster and Dutchess County Operations, gave an overview of the Domestic Violence Victims Assistance Program, describing how LSHV works to protect victims from abusers, improve their financial security, and empower victims to leave abusive households and move forward with their lives.

The Reception, held at RUPCO's (Rural Ulster Preservation Company) conference space in Kingston, was attended by local notables including District Attorney Hollie Carnright; Judge James Gilpatric; Ulster County Department of Social Services Commissioner Roberto Rodriguez; Kathy Moretti, Family of Woodstock's Director of Domestic Violence Services; RUPCO Executive Director Kevin O'Connor and Assistant Executive Director Kathy Leahy;

Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack; and Director of Probation Robert Sudlow.

Since 1967, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, a non-profit organization, has been providing high-quality free legal representation to poor and low-income individuals and families in civil legal matters such as domestic violence and family law, housing, disabilities, benefits, and discrimination. With a staff of 80, including 43 full-time attorneys, LSHV serves nearly 12,000 clients annually in Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Westchester, and Rockland Counties in New York. LSHV has a growing presence in the upstate counties it serves with offices in Kingston, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie, in addition to offices in White Plains, Yonkers, and Mt. Vernon.