



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 12, 2006

Contact:

Ann R. Hyatt
Director of Development and
External Relations
914-949-1305, ext. 143
ahyatt@lshv.org

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Launches Health Advocacy Project to Assist Cancer Patients, Funded by New York State's Department of Health

Barbara Finkelstein, Esq., Executive Director of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), announced today the initiation of the Health Advocacy Project (HAP), a new program that addresses the legal problems faced by cancer patients. HAP is funded by an \$83,333 grant from the Department of Health of the State of New York, which has enabled LSHV to create a unit to provide free civil legal services, as well as social services to low-income individuals with cancer and their families in the Hudson Valley. Ms. Finkelstein said, "We are pleased to announce that, through this grant, we have hired a staff attorney and begun collaboration with the Cancer Support Team, a non-profit home care program based in Mamaroneck, which provides social and support services to clients. The Health Advocacy Project is a unique partnership, combining legal services and social services to cancer patients, and we anticipate it will be very beneficial to the clients who need the services."

Some of the essential services HAP provides to cancer patients include legal assistance with government benefits, permanency planning, guardianship, child support and custody, debt relief and bankruptcy, housing, employment, access to health care services, settlement of insurance disputes, preparation of living wills, health care proxies. In addition, a myriad of social and support services are available, including care management, educational services counseling, and bereavement services.

Robert Hermann, President of the LSHV Board of Directors, said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this group that so badly needs all the help it can get in going through tough, bewildering and sometimes overwhelming circumstances."

For almost 40 years, the attorneys at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley have been assisting people of low-income with high quality, free, civil legal services. LSHV, headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., provides legal services in the areas of domestic violence, children's advocacy, elder law, housing, disabled rights, and benefits. LSHV is a \$6-million dollar agency with 63 staff people, including 30 attorneys. LSHV has been able to help through government funding, and private donations from foundations, corporations, law firms, and individual attorneys. LSHV also has an active *Pro Bono* program, where 300 attorneys volunteer their time to work on cases.