The mission of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is to provide free, high quality counsel in civil matters for individuals and families who cannot afford to pay an attorney where basic human needs are at stake.

P.03  It’s About People

It only takes one major illness... one job loss... one tragedy for many of us to find ourselves in a desperate situation and in need of a helping hand.

P.06  2016 “Equal Access to Justice” Dinner

The event was a huge success, raising essential funds and much-needed attention for the organization.
A Message from our CEO

First and foremost, thank you for whatever role you play in support of our mission to provide free, comprehensive civil legal services to those that cannot afford it.

Family by family, person by person, we are passionately pursuing justice – one mother, one veteran, one grandparent, one child at a time. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) is dedicated to making a difference, as the only provider of free, comprehensive civil legal services in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley to low-income, vulnerable and needy people facing legal problems impacting the basic necessities of life.

The need is astounding. In the seven counties of the lower and mid-Hudson Valley, there are more than 545,000 residents living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline (FPIG) and therefore eligible for our services – which in 2016, is only $48,600 for a family of four. Right here in Westchester, more than 225,000 people live at or below 200% of the FPIG. More startling is the fact that 1 in 4 Westchester children live at or below 200% of the FPIG level. That is why, in 2015, the cases we handled impacted more than 32,000 people including more than 12,000 children – a 28.3% increase from 2014.

Though Justice For All is a promise given to all Americans, it often eludes those who can’t afford an attorney. You see, unfortunately, there is no right to counsel in civil matters in this great nation of ours. As a result, low income individuals continue to flock to LSHV for help when faced with civil legal matters affecting the essentials of life that no one can live without. In more than 70% of civil cases today, people who can’t afford legal representation end up going to court alone – and many lose everything.

Many people believe, as I do, that there should be a right to counsel in civil cases, especially when basic human needs are at stake. The American Bar Association has adopted a formal resolution endorsing the establishment of such a right to counsel in cases such as housing, food, child custody, or protection from domestic violence. While this is encouraging, for the foreseeable future, your support for legal services organizations like LSHV is indispensable if we are to champion the ideal of Equal Access To Justice For All regardless of ability to pay.

Over the years you have been at our side, while we help to improve the lives of our low-income neighbors by resolving a full range of legal problems, including housing and mortgage foreclosure matters, domestic violence, family law, employment, and consumer law and others so vulnerable households don’t lose homes, health care, food and subsistence income. Given the increasing need for our services, we’ve risen to the challenge by increasing staff in the geographic areas of greatest need like Peekskill, Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, while expanding the scope of our work to include more specialty areas of law and projects. These include: serving victims of domestic violence in Orange County; a LGBTQ Advocacy Project focusing on issues impacting LGBTQ low-income residents of Westchester; a Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project in Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess and Ulster counties; and a Solutions to End Homelessness Project to represent clients in eviction prevention cases in Westchester, Dutchess and Ulster counties.

As the demand for civil legal services continues to increase, we remain resolute in our resolve to be an advocate for the tens of thousands of our neighbors in need. We hope you’ll continue to support our mission and follow our efforts on Facebook, subscribe to our bi-weekly eNews, or read about them in our newsletter and on our website. Because, it’s only together that we can ensure Equal Access To Justice For All regardless of ability to pay.

Sincerely,

Barbara Finkelstein, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer
**LSHV Events**

**LSHV Honored NYS Senator John Bonacic and NYS Senator William Larkin at October 2015 Reception**

On October 1, 2015, at a reception in the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, LSHV thanked NYS Senator John Bonacic and NYS Senator William Larkin for their ongoing support of, and advocacy on behalf of, our Veterans & Military Families Advocacy Project (VMFAP). Over 100 guests – including directors of Orange County veterans' services and community-based organizations with which we collaborate, elected officials, and members of the general public – joined us in acknowledging the Senators’ invaluable assistance in helping to raise awareness of the critical needs of our veterans and their families here in the Hudson Valley, as well as the importance and success of LSHV’s work with them. We are proud and grateful to have received an additional $200,000 in program support from the Veterans Administration Department, which we used to hire three additional VMFAP staff attorneys.

**Pro Bono Week**

National Pro Bono Week is a global celebration, held every year in October, which shines a spotlight on the legal profession’s commitment to the pro bono ethic and the work of attorneys who give their time and expertise on behalf of those individuals and families most in need of justice. In 2015, LSHV organized two events that recognized some of its most outstanding volunteers.

On October 27, 2015, Robert Nahoum, Esq. was honored at the LSHV Rockland County office for his role in presenting a training and participating in the consumer debt clinic.

On October 29, 2015, members of the LSHV Board, staff and various community partners gathered to celebrate Westchester pro bono initiatives and volunteers at its White Plains headquarters. The law firm of Wilson Elser was honored for its partnership in LSHV’s Uncontested Divorce Project. MasterCard was recognized for its role in LSHV’s Consumer Debt Clinic. And Abby Rosmarin, Esq., LMHC and Mediation Counsel at McCarthy Fingar, was recognized for her mediation work.

We are so grateful to our partners and honored to celebrate them!
Susan Fox, CEO of White Plains Hospital recently summed up the interconnectedness when asked to explain why she was being honored at LSHV's 2016 Equal Access to Justice Dinner. “It’s about people.” She further explained that, “Often, the patients we care for at White Plains Hospital have significant needs that are not isolated to healthcare. Many struggle with financial difficulties, housing issues... domestic violence. Facing these additional stressors can often negatively impact their already compromised health.”

That’s why, at the most vulnerable times in their lives, people shouldn’t have to worry about being treated fairly by the courts. That’s where Legal Services of the Hudson Valley makes a difference.

Tom’s case (name changed to protect his anonymity) is a perfect example of how interconnected we all are, and how when someone is in need of a helping hand, oftentimes, they need several helping hands. Tom is a senior citizen who still works, but he does not have health insurance. He has lived in his apartment for more than 25 years and is regular patient of White Plains Hospital's Family Health Center because he is a diabetic and has congestive heart failure. Recently, his chronic health issues led to some serious complications and he was admitted to the Hospital. Undoubtedly adding to his health crisis was the stress caused by his landlord trying to evict him from his rent controlled apartment.

During one of his visits, he told the White Plains Hospital staff about possibly being evicted, and they immediately called LSHV. Our attorneys worked closely with the Hospital's staff to get the right documentation to prove that Tom was facing significant and acute health issues, and the Hospital's staff even testified in court on Tom’s behalf.

Thanks to this collaboration, Tom was able to stay in his apartment. With that stress out of the way, the Hospital's staff were able to get his congestive heart failure under control and his blood sugar levels back to an acceptable range.

Tom’s story is a perfect example why all of us work together... because, in the end, it’s all about the people.
2015

By The Numbers

approximately

545,512

Hudson Valley residents eligible for our assistance

14,213

cases handled

32,601

individuals impacted in all households served

including

3,066

seniors

12,391

children

11,484

clients served, including

7,868

women

1,503

domestic violence survivors

4,527

persons with disabilities

130

staff members including

including

83 attorneys

and

19 paralegals

in 8 offices across the Hudson Valley
2016 “Equal Access to Justice” Dinner Was a Huge Success!!

On Wednesday, April 6th, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) held its premiere fundraising event – the 2016 “Equal Access to Justice” Dinner – at The Ritz-Carlton, Westchester, in White Plains, NY. The event was a huge success, raising essential funds and much-needed attention for the organization, which is the only provider of comprehensive civil legal services to those that cannot afford it in the seven counties of the lower and mid-Hudson Valley.

Almost three hundred guests showed their support for the organization and its three honorees -- Tony West, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of PepsiCo; Sidner Rosdeitcher, Of Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison LLP; and Susan Fox, President & CEO of White Plains Hospital.

LSHV’s CEO, Barbara Finkelstein spoke about the important role the organization plays in advocating for our neighbors in need. “Many of our clients are the same neighbors being served by other non-profit organizations in Westchester. While many of these individuals need a roof over their heads, access to healthcare, or a feeling of safety in their own homes, oftentimes, what they need most is an attorney to fight for their right to fair treatment by the courts... they need justice!”

Rosdeitcher, one of the evening’s Honorees, echoed that sentiment in his remarks, saying...

“There is no nobler function a lawyer can perform than providing access to justice for people who cannot afford to pay for counsel that they need to help them in their most desperate circumstances.”

The guests in attendance also heard stories from two LSHV clients – a domestic violence survivor and a disabled veteran -- who told their experiences with the organization and how LSHV attorneys “helped them get their lives back.” Their stories, unfortunately, were not unique, as LSHV handled more than 14,000 cases last year impacting the lives of more than 32,000 people.

The Dinner committee was led by Co-chairs, Courtney R. Rockett, Esq., Partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and Tom Lalla, Retired General Counsel at Pernod Ricard USA. While hundreds of individuals and businesses made generous contributions in support of the “Equal Access to Justice” Dinner, the event was sponsored in part by Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; PepsiCo; Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; and White Plains Hospital.

2017 will mark LSHV’s 50th anniversary of making a difference in the community we all share. Plans are already underway to make next year’s “Equal Access to Justice” Dinner another huge success. If you’re interested in being a part of the event, as a committee member or sponsor, please contact Tom Gabriel, Chief Development Officer at 914-949-1305 ext 160.
Thanks to the wonderful support we received from all of our sponsors, guests and 35 community leaders who served on our Honorary Event Committee, our 2nd Annual Dutchess Partners in Justice Reception, which honored Rob Dyson, President of the Dyson Foundation, as our “Champion of Justice,” was a huge success!

The program, a “friend-raiser” and fundraiser to support LSHV’s work in Dutchess County, was held at Alumnae House: The Inn at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, on Thursday, October 8th. Over 100 guests were present as we recognized Mr. Dyson for his, and the foundation’s, ongoing support of our Child Advocacy Unit, as well as his business achievement and philanthropy throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley and beyond.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley’s CEO, Barbara Finkelstein explained why this awareness-raising event deserves support, saying “Since 1967, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has been assuring fairness in the justice system – regardless of income – to hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. The work we do each day provides free civil legal services to those who can’t afford an attorney. Our dedicated staff takes on urgent legal cases in numerous practice areas including child advocacy, protection from domestic violence, elder abuse, housing emergencies, predatory lending, access to nutrition assistance and benefits, advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ individuals, and support of veterans and military families. Last year, we handled more than 14,000 cases, impacting tens of thousands of household members. With enough funding to meet demand, we could serve thousands more and close the ‘Justice Gap’ here in our community.”

Photos:
1. Cocktail hour at Vassar’s Alumnae House
2. LSHV Board Member David Posner
3. LSHV Board Member Paul Adler
4. Honoree Robert Dyson
5. Nicholas Shannon and Audra Gerty of The Chamber Foundation, Inc., and Andrea Reynolds of the Dyson Foundation
6. LSHV CEO Barbara Finkelstein, Honoree Robert Dyson, and LSHV Board Member Paul Adler

The program was sponsored by

Health Quest, McCabe & Mack LLP, Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Key Bank, Marist College, TrustCo Bank and Vassar College.

Additional support was provided by Central Hudson, IBM, Iseman, Cunningham, Riester & Hyde LLP, Lewis and Greer PC, Teahan & Constantino, LLP, Van de Water & Van de Water LLP, Tuckner, Sipser, Weinstock & Sipser, LLP, DRA Imaging, Kirchhoff Properties LLC, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Adams Fairacre Farms and Ready to Run Designs.
New Programs & Grants

**LSHV Joins NYS Independent Consumers Advocacy Network**

In response to a growing community need, in 2015, LSHV launched its Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN). As a member of a statewide Ombudsman service for individuals with Medicaid who need long-term services – e.g. home attendant, adult day care or nursing home – our program provides information and advice to friends, family members, or anyone else who is helping a person with his or her medical decisions. LSHV runs this program in five counties – Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster.

**LSHV Creates Unit to Address Unique Needs of the LGBTQ Community**

In 2015, LSHV opened an LGBTQ Unit which serves low-income Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals in Westchester County.

In speaking about this unit, LSHV’s CEO, Barbara Finkelstein, said “We are extremely excited to offer this new program to provide needed legal services to the LGBTQ community. While civil rights for the LGBTQ community have expanded in recent years, there is still important work to be done. LSHV is dedicated to representing the LGBTQ community and ensuring that its basic necessities of life are being met, and to advocating for clients who have been discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.”

**STEHP Unit Enhances Legal Services’ Housing Program**

The Steps to End Homelessness Program (STEHP) – currently serving five of our offices in three counties: Westchester, Dutchess and Ulster – is LSHV’s newest housing initiative. The program provides comprehensive legal assistance through a combination of advocacy, advice & counsel, representation, intensive case management and referral, as well as cash benefits (e.g., for up to three months’ rental arrears, security deposit, moving expenses) to clients who are at risk of becoming homeless. A key goal of this program is to empower individuals in crisis who, with help and guidance, have the ability to become more independent to move into stable housing, often while working to develop financial literacy and job skills.

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**Save the Dates!**

**2016 Dutchess Partners In Justice Reception**

Thursday, September 22, 2016 5:30-7:30pm  
Locust Grove, 2683 South Road  
Poughkeepsie, New York

**Honoring:**

2016 Champion of Justice: Timmian Massie, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Public Affairs and Government Relations at Health Quest

2016 Advocate for Justice: Iseman Cunningham Riester & Hyde LLP

Sponsorship, tickets, and advertising opportunities are available by calling Loretta Spence, Assistant Development Director, at (845) 471-0058, x. 423 or e-mailing LSpence@lshv.org

Visit lshv.org for more details

**2016 National Pro Bono Week**

October 23-29, 2016  
Stay tuned for information
Financials

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley & Affiliate
Revenue & Expense
Year ending December 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Services Corp</td>
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<tr>
<td>City &amp; County Funding</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Grants</td>
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<td>OCA</td>
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<td>Other Federal Funding</td>
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<td>Private Funding</td>
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<td>Donated Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Other Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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*This includes a planned release of temporarily restricted net assets

This statement covers both Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and its affiliate, Hudson Valley Justice Center.

For a copy of our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 please visit our website or contact us at 914-949-1305 ext 175.
Thank You to
Our 2015 Supporters!

The list below includes supporters making private contributions in 2015. Names have been listed alphabetically in categories by cumulative giving for the year. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and integrity of this list, but there may be inadvertent errors. We apologize for any mistakes in recognition.

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The Dyson Foundation

$99,999 to $25,000
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
Linda Ellis
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$4,999 to $2,500
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• Follow us on LinkedIn and like us on Facebook
• Contact Chief Development Officer Tom Gabriel with questions at (914) 949-1305 x160 or tgabriel@lshv.org.

Donate

• Online at lshv.org
• Mail 90 Maple Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601
• Phone (914) 949-1305 x160

Volunteer

• Join a committee – help us fundraise and connect to the community! Contact Chief Development Officer Tom Gabriel with questions at (914) 949-1305 x160 or tgabriel@lshv.org.
• Pro Bono Attorney Program
  • The volunteer attorney program creates opportunities for attorneys to:
    – Provide legal assistance in civil matters to needy residents of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties;
    – Stay active, develop new skills and gain courtroom experience, if they are currently seeking employment in the field of law or want to take on new challenges in a not-for-profit law firm environment;
    – Mentor staff attorneys;
    – Provide training to LSHV staff and other pro bono attorneys;
    – Conduct clinics for pro se clients;
    – Earn CLE credits for doing pro bono work.
  • Attorneys who want to share their expertise and passion for justice are encouraged to contact: Sherri Rozansky, Esq., Pro Bono Coordinator, at 914-949-1305 x176 or srozansky@lshv.org.