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Change can be a heavy burden for one person—or one organization—to bear alone. But when we band together, we’re stronger and can collectively bring about meaningful change for those without the resources to make it happen alone. Legal Aid Society is built on this collective strength—a foundation of selfless individuals uniting to pursue justice on behalf of the less fortunate in our communities.

It was Martin Luther King, Jr. who told us, “Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.” Without the work of our dedicated volunteers and staff members and their passion for equal justice for all, thousands of low-income families would go without food, safety, health care, income, and shelter each year.

In 2014, Legal Aid Society embarked on a journey to extend our collaborative volunteer efforts further into our 20,000 square mile service area in order to reach a greater number of citizens in need. In 2015, that journey expanded even further with several new partnerships and many committed volunteers, both experienced and new.

This annual report celebrates this expansion, fortified by our foundation, and honors the individuals who work selflessly to change the narrative from despair to hope for our clients. It is those clients, with their own strengths, who experience justice and fairness from the collective power unified to a common goal.

With continued thanks,

GARY D. HOUSEPIAN

Tennessee is well known for its unwavering spirit of volunteerism and service. Like our great state, this legacy is evident at Legal Aid Society.

With every legal clinic and every case, attorneys and others devote their time, their talents and their resources to help keep families in their homes, support survivors of abuse in court, and help elderly citizens navigate complex health care regulations. These volunteer attorneys ask for nothing in return. Their sights are set solely on justice and access to it.

Each time a person fights for the rights and dignity of another, humanity is restored. So to each volunteer, staff member, donor, and cheerleader: On behalf of Legal Aid Society’s Board of Directors, I offer my deepest gratitude. Through your service, you are fulfilling our mission. You are building a legacy. You are restoring hope.

Sincerely,

JOHN T. BLANKENSHIP

Message from the Executive Director
GARY D. HOUSEPIAN

Message from the President of the Board
JOHN T. BLANKENSHIP
Giving Freely. Advancing Justice.

“The first duty of society is justice.” – Alexander Hamilton

After a tragic childhood spent in poverty, and facing the woeful challenges of the civil legal system alone, Founding Father Alexander Hamilton went on to become one of the nation’s first known lawyers to provide systemic \textit{pro bono} legal advocacy for those who could not afford an attorney. With great compassion – and free of charge – he represented the society’s most vulnerable individuals, including escaped slaves, slum residents, and widows.

Alexander Hamilton upheld America’s earliest commitment to justice for all. And following in his footsteps, we carry on that mission at Legal Aid Society by offering free legal assistance to those who cannot afford it.

We have always relied on our local legal community to help us reach as many people as we can in our 20,000 square mile service area. Prior to 2014, the largest volunteer effort was administered through the Nashville Pro Bono Program, a joint venture with the Nashville Bar Association.

While the Nashville Pro Bono Program served the Nashville community well, the need for free legal services extends far beyond Nashville alone. Recognizing the need for more \textit{pro bono} work in our rural communities, 2014 marked a change as the Nashville Pro Bono Program was dissolved and the Volunteer Lawyers Program was created.

Through our \textbf{Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP)}, we are able to connect volunteer lawyers in Nashville and across our entire 48-county service area to clients throughout the region—answering the call for rural legal services and easing the burden for rural attorneys, who previously shouldered this work alone.

Today, volunteer attorneys individually and collectively help us:

- Staff legal clinics to \textbf{support immigrant and refugee populations}
- \textbf{Represent low-income individuals} on a \textit{pro bono} basis in court
- \textbf{Stand with survivors of domestic violence} in Orders of Protection hearings
- \textbf{Answer specific legal questions} for people at community legal clinics
- \textbf{Work alongside health care professionals} in medical-legal partnerships

The VLP serves as a symbol of our commitment to do whatever it takes to reach those who need us, and to fight for justice throughout our region.

In 2015, a total of \textbf{758} \textit{pro bono} attorneys donated \textbf{5,161} hours of service and handled \textbf{2,029} cases. Free legal services provided by \textit{pro bono} attorneys, paralegals and law clerks/students was worth \textbf{$1,922,431}. The program opened \textbf{1,626} new cases. The Volunteer Lawyers Program coordinated \textbf{76} clinics attended by \textbf{1,447} people.
Serving for One Purpose: The Work of 2015

The work of our staff and our volunteers is an ongoing testament to the capabilities of Legal Aid Society. In 2015, we provided more than $23.3 million in advice and representation to people who could not have afforded it otherwise.

2015 by the Numbers:

- **12,974** requests for assistance
- **7,022** cases handled
- **131,676** hours worked by employees on cases and supporting activities
- **199,090** self-help legal brochures downloaded
- **259,543** visits to Legal Aid Society’s website
- **733** staff presentations
- **29,393** people attended Legal Aid Society presentations
- **64,607** brochures distributed
- **281** print media mentions
- Assisted **269** taxpayers through the Tennessee Taxpayer Project
- Gained **$2,440,717** worth of confirmed financial benefits for taxpayers through the Tennessee Taxpayer Project

Types of Legal Issues Addressed in 2015:

- **33%** family
- **18%** housing
- **14%** consumer
- **13%** income maintenance
- **9%** miscellaneous (education, juvenile, legal assistance to nonprofits, licenses, municipal needs, other miscellaneous)
- **7%** health
- **5%** employment
- **1%** individual rights
A Growing Field of Service: 2015 Community Activities

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” – Anne Frank

Legal Aid Society’s Murfreesboro office honored Lisa Baird, executive director of Cannon County S.A.V.E., with its inaugural Murfreesboro Community Award.

Legal Aid Society’s Volunteer Lawyers Program presented its Pro Bono Leadership Award jointly to Nashville law firms Neal & Harwell and Bone McAllester Norton PLLC.

Legal Aid Society launched a partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools’ Office of English Learners to support access to justice to the parents of school children and the immigrant community.

The Tullahoma office of Legal Aid Society gave its first Tullahoma Community Award to Mona Mason, executive director of Haven of Hope.

Legal Aid Society’s Tullahoma office recognized the attorneys of Rogers, Duncan & North with its Pro Bono Leadership Award.

Metro Nashville’s Office of Family Safety partnered with Legal Aid Society to provide free legal assistance to domestic violence survivors in Orders of Protection hearings. Nashville law firm Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis has provided pro bono assistance to this effort.

Legal Aid Society distributed more than 6,200 letters and printed flyers to inform people of TennCare’s re-eligibility process.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**JIM DORAN**

Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis
Nashville, Tenn.

Rallied his law firm to partner with Legal Aid Society’s new domestic violence civil-legal program—a partnership with Metro’s Office of Family Safety.

Recruited more than 30 attorneys to represent victims of domestic violence in Orders of Protection hearings.

“Clients are often anxious and intimidated to face their abuser in court alone. A volunteer attorney gives them strength, confidence and dignity during a difficult process. It’s been an incredible experience working with Legal Aid Society to offer attorneys this opportunity to make a personal, life-changing difference for someone else.”
“Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle, the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Legal Aid Society launched a re-entry advocacy program to help individuals with criminal records combat the legal barriers they face when re-entering society.

Legal Aid Society presented its first Oak Ridge Community Award to Anderson County Juvenile Judge Brian J. Hunt and the staff of the Anderson County Juvenile Court.

Volunteers from Hospital Corporation of America stuffed envelopes for Legal Aid Society’s 2015 Campaign for Equal Justice.

Legal Aid Society opened new office locations in downtown Clarksville and Columbia.

Legal Aid Society celebrated October Pro Bono Month with Volunteer for Justice Night with the Nashville Predators.

NALS…the association for legal professionals, Nashville Chapter raised $4,700 for Legal Aid Society during its third annual After Hours Silent Auction.

Gary Housepian (Legal Aid Society) and Sharon Wilcox (NALS) join former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and singer-songwriter Angela Martinez at the NALS silent auction

Legal Aid Society was part of the Ft. Campbell, Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Regional Combined Federal Campaigns.

Legal Aid Society’s Murfreesboro office led numerous classes for individuals who are incarcerated at the Rutherford County Correctional Work Center.

Legal Aid Society published a new legal self-help brochure on conservatorship.

Attorney Randy Kinnard donated profits from his book RESPECT: Through the Eyes of Children to Legal Aid Society.

Gary Housepian (Legal Aid Society) and Sharon Wilcox (NALS) join former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and singer-songwriter Angela Martinez at the NALS silent auction

Charles W. Bone accepts the Gallatin Community Award from Gary Housepian

Charles W. Bone, founder and chairman of Bone McAllester Norton PLLC, was awarded Legal Aid Society’s inaugural Gallatin Community Award.

Legal Aid Society received more than $2,500 during the 24-hour Big Payback, which was organized locally by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Anderson County Juvenile Judge Brian J. Hunt accepts the first Oak Ridge Community Award

HCA volunteers help Legal Aid Society during their Community Day of Caring
Dedicated Servants: 2015 Staff and Leadership Recognition

Community Advisory Council member Vic Alexander was named as one of the 2015 Power Leaders in Accounting by the Nashville Business Journal.

Bill Bush, a Cookeville staff attorney, was named liaison to the Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Services by the American Bar Association’s Labor and Employment Law Section. He also became the Editor-in-Chief for Bloomberg BNA’s 2015 supplement to its Family Medical Leave Act treatise.

Andrae Crismon, managing attorney of Legal Aid Society’s Murfreesboro office, was honored with the Rutherford and Cannon County Bar Association’s 2015 Volunteer Service Award. He also graduated from the Tennessee Bar Association’s Leadership Law program.

Lenny Croce, a longtime Oak Ridge staff attorney who retired from Legal Aid Society in 2015, was honored with the B. Riney Green Award from the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services.

Cindy Durham, Director of Development, was elected Program Chair for the Breakfast Club of Nashville.

Columbia paralegal Pete Frierson was named a winner of the Nashville Business Journal’s inaugural Veterans Award.

Valerie Hansen, HR Administrator, received the 2015 “Beyond the Call Award” from CONTACT Care Line in Oak Ridge. She was also elected president of its Board of Directors.

STAFF EXPANSION

Guadalupe Betanzos joined the Nashville office as a victim advocate.

Kimberly deMent joined the Nashville office as an attorney in the Family Law section.

Bill Flores joined the Nashville office as the office manager and secretarial assistant.

Brittney Jerkins joined Legal Aid Society as the administrative assistant for the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Vidhi Sanghavi Joshi joined Legal Aid Society as a Skadden Fellow. She launched a re-entry program for persons formerly incarcerated and works out of the Nashville office.

Avis Littleton joined the Nashville office as a victim advocate.

Sonja McGregor joined the Gallatin office as a secretary/legal assistant.

Zac Oswald joined the Nashville office as an attorney in the consumer and housing section.

Paul Swiney joined Legal Aid Society as Director of Technology. He works out of the Nashville office.

Jarod Word joined Legal Aid Society as the project coordinator for the Volunteer Lawyers Program.
The National Legal and Defender Association named Legal Aid Society Executive Director Gary Housepian a “When Health Meets Justice Fellow.” He was one of 16 fellows selected from 13 states and the District of Columbia and is the first and only Tennessee leader to participate in the program.

The Tennessee Supreme Court appointed board member Susan Kay and DarKenya Waller, managing attorney for the Nashville office, to the new Indigent Representation Task Force.

Neil McBride, Of Counsel, former general counsel and former Oak Ridge managing attorney, received the United Way of Anderson County’s 2015 Starfish Award.

Cookeville staff attorney Rachel Moses was named president of the Tennessee Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. She was also named “Alumna of the Year” by Girls Inc.

Nashville staff attorneys Russ Overby and David Tarpley were honored with the Nashville Business Journal’s “Best of the Bar” award. Board member Charles Grant was also honored with the award.

Rae Anne Seay, a Tullahoma staff attorney, was elected president of the Tennessee Joint Task Force on Children’s Justice and Child Sexual Abuse.

Grant writer Nicole Sibilski was elected president of the Tennessee Area Chapter of the Grant Professionals Association.

DarKenya Waller, managing attorney for the Nashville office, was elected to the YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee Board of Directors and received the “Outstanding Advocate” award from the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Jarod Word, VLP project coordinator, was recognized by the Nashville International Center for Empowerment for his service to refugees and immigrants.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KEE MCCORMICK-BRYANT

Bone McAllester Norton
HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.

Handled a wide range of pro bono cases, from landlord/tenant issues to breaches of contract, since 2014.

Saved a medically-impaired client from financial ruin by avoiding an unreasonably high judgment in court.

“I cannot accept credit for my volunteer work individually. Helping others is the culture of Bone McAllester Norton, and we all share in the spirit of Legal Aid Society’s mission. That shared spirit motivated the firm to establish Legal Aid Society’s first urban-rural partnership, with lawyers from our Nashville and Hendersonville offices taking cases every month in the rural counties. I feel great pride to be a part of all that we are doing together.”
Supporting the Mission: The 2015 Campaign for Equal Justice

Thanks to the generosity of many, 2015 was a record-breaking year for the Campaign for Equal Justice. We exceeded last year's campaign by collecting $820,924 from 1,416 donors—the most collected in Legal Aid Society's history.

We appreciate the time and dedication of our 2015 campaign committee and its pursuit to advance Legal Aid Society's mission.

**2015 Campaign Chair:** Margaret L. Behm, Dodson, Parker, Behm & Capparella, P.C.

**Community Co-Chairs:** Stephen Thomas, Thomas & Company and Jeanne Thomas, Hospital Corporation of America

**Large Firm Co-Chairs:** Michael G. Abelow, Sherrard & Roe and Andrea P. Perry, Bone McAllester Norton

**Small Firm Co-Chairs:** Kristen B. Amonette, Lindsey+Amonette and Dudley M. West, White & Reasor

**Government Attorney Division Chair:** Laura S. Tidwell, Nashville Electric Service

**Judges Division Co-Chairs:** The Hon. Rachel L. Bell, General Sessions Court, Div. VIII and The Hon. Philip E. Smith, 20th Judicial Dist., Div. IV

**Corporate Attorney Division Co-Chairs:** J. Reginald Hill, LifePoint Hospitals and Margaret C. Mazzone, Sarah Cannon Research Institute

**Williamson County Co-Chairs:** Joanie L. Abernathy and Virginia L. Story, both with Story, Abernathy, & Campbell

**Clarksville Co-Chairs:** Jill Bartee Ayers, Batson & Nolan, and Katie Bell Klinghard, The Kennedy Law Firm

**Columbia Chair:** Patrick M. Carter, Tisher, Wolaver, Free, Carter and Lynn

**Cookeville Chair:** Tessa N. Lawson, solo practitioner

**Gallatin Chair:** Walter H. Stubbs, The Stubbs Law Group

**Murfreesboro Chair:** Theodore W. Goodman, Murfree & Murfree

**Oak Ridge Chair:** James T. Normand, Joyce, Meredith, Flitcroft & Normand

**Tullahoma Chairs:** H. Thomas Parsons, Parsons & Nichols
“Andrea’s” brother “Robert” was living in her apartment with her four children. While Robert was there, he was with two other people who were arrested on the apartment complex’s property. Even though Robert was not arrested, Andrea’s landlord filed a three-day eviction notice, endangering shelter for the entire family.

Legal Aid Society took Andrea’s case. Prior to the hearing, Andrea’s attorney presented evidence to opposing counsel, including a Court of Appeals case argued by Legal Aid Society several years ago. Because of this evidence, the landlord agreed to dismiss the case and pay all court costs. Andrea and her family were able to remain in their home and thrive under Andrea’s strength as a single mother.
The following people have dedicated their time and talents to providing pro bono legal assistance to the clients of Legal Aid Society. We thank them for their contributions and dedication. Please accept our apologies for any omissions.

**Pro Bono Attorneys**

Michael G. Abelow
Diane M. Adams
Gareth S. Aden
Antonio Aguilar
Sarah H. Akin
Blind Aikrwa
Sawnie R. Aldredge
Patrick L. Alexander
Britton J. Allan
Jeffrey L. Allen
Ionela Ambrosio
Rachael Andersen-Watts
Audrey L. Anderson
Robert A. Anderson
Melanie M. Anderson
Kobina Ankumah
David M. Anthony
Carla Arevalo
Lydia M. Arroyo
Joshua D. Arters
Kristi Arth
Taylor Ashley
Taylor Askew
Olatayo O. Atanda
Ali A. Asian
Jill B. Ayers
Andrea Ayers
Paige M. Ayers
Bahar Ashdari
Laura Baker
Stephen C. Baker
Andrea C. Barach
Paige H. Barbeauld
Adam Barber
Nicholas Barry
Susan D. Bass
Mark A. Baugh
Brent Baxley
Margaret L. Behm
Mark M. Bell
Raquel L. Bellamy
Christopher M. Bellamy
William N. Benjamin Jr.
Daniel P. Bereza
Angela Bergman
Shana Berkeley
Lisa P. Binder
Charles Blackard III
Gary Blackburn
Lillian M. Blackshear
Connor M. Blair
Paula O. Blair
Karen Blake
Jermal Blanchard
Robert Blanchfield
Katie Blankenship
Michael B. Bligh
Colby F. Block
Sarah Blood
Benjamin H. Bodzy
Dale Bohannon
Cynthia J. Bohn
Charles R. Bone
David A. Bordenkircher
Timothy L. Bowden
Christopher A. Bowles
Samuel T. Bowman
Joy Boyd
Diana L. Bradford
James C. Bradshaw
Cecil D. Branstetter
Hunter Branstetter
Thallen Brasso
Craig H. Brent
Todd A. Bricker
Clifton D. Briley
John M. Brittingham
Warren D. Broelem
Jennifer L. Brooks
Cory A. Brown
Jamie L. Brown
Cynthia L. Brown
Melinda K. Brown
Jamie L. Brown
Kenneth M. Bryant
Kee Bryant-McCormick
Alexander B. Buchanan
Lizna Budhwan-Ghadasana
Jonathan Bunch
Joshua L. Burgener
William K. Burger
Olana J. Burgess
Derek K. Burks
Lewis G. Burnett
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John B. Burns
Jonathan R. Burns
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Brigid M. Carpenter
Michael E. Carr
Brett R. Carter
Susan C. Castle
Charles A. Caudill
Connie J. Chadwick
John L. Chambers
David A. Changas
Carlos M. Chavez-Brin
John T. Chenery
Jeremy H. Cherry
Nathanial K. Cherry
Mitchell E. Chessman
Demeka K. Church
Edward S. Clayton
Terry R. Clayton
Christopher D. Coats
Stephen A. Cobb
Ryan Cochran
Claire W. Cohen
Abby J. Colbert
Jonathan J. Cole
Todd G. Cole
JoAnn Coleman
Joshua A. Coles
Michael A. Colllflower
D. Haist Collins
Calwell G. Collins
Virginia J. Connell
Charles W. Cook III
Jennifer Cook
Marshall T. Cook
David L. Cooper
Dixie W. Cooper
Wallace W. Dietz
Peter T. Dirksen
Jacqueline B. Dixon
Dot Dobbins
J. Robinson Dodson III
Harold Donnelly
James M. Doran
David C. Downard
Mark J. Downton
Thomas J. Drake
Michael Dryfuss
Alexandra E. Dugan
Tarsila R. Crawford
Martella T. Crawford
Charles H. Crocker
Lymari Cromwell
Cynthia D. Crosier
Alexandra C. Cross
John S. Cross
Robert A. Cruz
Michael F. Crump
Joseph P. Crump
Shannon L. Crutchler
Matthew M. Curley
Lauren Z. Curry
Frederick M. Curtis
D. Clint Daniel
Paul S. Davidson
Thomas A. Davidson
Phillip L. Davidson
Cynthia Davis
Amas Davis
Stephen E. Davis
John W. Dawson
James A. DeLanis
Kimberly A. deMont
A. Scott Derrick
Linda K. Dickert
Wallace W. Dietz
Peter T. Dirksen
Jacqueline B. Dixon
Dot Dobbins
J. Robinson Dodson III
Harold Donnelly
James M. Doran
David C. Downard
Mark J. Downton
Thomas J. Drake
Michael Dryfuss
Alexandra E. Dugan
Kelly R. Duggan
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Blair P. Durham
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Michael L. Freeman
Russell E. Freeman
J. Davidson French
Patrick Frogge
John L. Fuller
Joseph W. Fuson
Mary T. Gallagher
Russell C. Gallagher
Frank M. Gallina
Gregory M. Galloway
Michael A. Gardner
John P. Garner
Timothy K. Garrett
Johnny C. Garrett
Mizai Garrett
R. Barry Georinan Jr.
Amanda Gentry
Christopher M. George
Anna E. Gernert
Joseph W. Gibbs
Jeffrey B. Gibson
John E. Gillmor
Mary Gillum
Courtney H. Gilmer
M. Bradley Gilmore
Courtney Ginn
John A. Goddard
Jefe Goldtrapp
Joe M. Goodman
Robert C. Goodrich
Thomas C. Gorham
Mary M. Gossett
Stephen W. Grace
Stanley E. Graham
Charles K. Grant

“I would just like to say thank you to the whole staff. Everyone was very thoughtful & helpful. I don’t know what I would have done without this wonderful program & group of people.” —Murfreesboro client
JOHN MAHER
The Kennedy Law Firm
Clarksville, Tenn.

Averages two pro bono bankruptcy cases per month.

Advocates for clients hounded by predatory lenders and scammed by con artists.

“I’m the recipient of a lot of hugs and joyful tears. A lot of my pro bono clients are older and disabled individuals who are struggling to make it day-to-day, and their creditors are relentless. They call everyday with threats of issuing warrants and garnishments. After walking them through the relief available in a ‘fresh start’ bankruptcy, so many of my clients say, ‘You’ve just lifted a weight off of my shoulders.’”
“I think y’all did awesome on my case. You also helped me on so many other levels. You helped give me a new lease on life. Thank you so much for what you did for me. You helped more than you know.” —Columbia client
The list below is for the 2015 Campaign for Equal Justice. Those giving for specific purposes and through United Way campaigns are listed separately in sections that follow. Thank you to each of those listed for their generosity. Please accept our apologies for any omissions.

**Leadership Cabinet**
- Adams and Reese LLP
- Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Admas and Reese LLP
- Burr & Forman LLP
- Butler Snow LLP
- Corley, Henard, Lyle, Levy & Langford PLC
- Corley, Henard, Lyle, Levy, & Lyle, PLLC
- Gideon, Cooper & Frost Brown Todd LLC
- Farrar|Wright, PLLC
- Dobson Parker Behm & Dobbins, Venick, Kuhn & Dickinson Wright PLLC
- Corley, Henard, Lyle, Levy & Lyle, PLLC
- Gabbert & Manner, P.C.
- Harwell Howard Hyne
- Hale and Hale, PLC
- Holtson & Nolan PLC
- Holton & Mayberry, P.C.
- Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge Leader, Bulso & Nolan PLC
- Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge
- Holton & Mayberry, P.C.
- Gabbert & Manner, P.C.
- Harwell Howard Hyne
- Hale and Hale, PLC
- Hagan Law Group, PLLC
- Gullett Sanford Robinson & Gideon, Cooper & Frost Brown Todd LLC
- Farrar, PLLC
- formerly part of Hagan & Farrar, PLLC
- Frost Brown Todd LLC
- Garfinkle & Mclemore, PLLC
- Gideon, Cooper & Essary PLC
- Mitch Grissim and Associates
- Norman Gillis & Associates, Inc.
- Gullett Sanford Robinson & Martin, PLLC
- Hagan Law Group, PLLC
- formerly part of Hagan & Farrar, PLLC
- Hale and Hale, PLC
- Harwell Howard Hyne Gabbett & Mannor, P.C.
- Holton & Mayberry, P.C.
- Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge Leader, Bulso & Nolan PLC

**Donors**

**Leadership Cabinet**

$5,000-$9,999 Silver Gavel
- Lindsey & Amonette, PLLC
- Manier & Herod, P.C.
- McKenzie Laird, PLLC
- Miller & Martin PLLC
- Phillip Miller & Associates
- Nashville Electric Service
- Law Office of Rachel Odom, LLC
- Pepper & Brothers, PLC
- Peck & Co., PC
- Prochaska Quinn & Ferraro PC.
- W. Casey Reed
- Rothschild & Aukusob, PLLC
- Salas Law Group, PLLC
- Sherrard & Roe, PLC
- Sipes & Harbison, PLLC
- The Swafford Law Firm, PLLC
- Taylor, Pigge, Marchetti & Blair, PLLC
- Terry & Gory
- Trauger & Tuke
- Tune, Entrek in & White, P.C.
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- Walker Lansen Dorch & Davis LP
- Weatherly McNally & Dixon PLC
- White & ReaNor, PLC
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$10,000 and up Gold Gavel
- Jeanne & Steve Thomas

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- Karen Neal & John Berggren
- Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
- Leslie Newman
- Nissan North America, Inc.
- Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Eskind
- Mary Arline Evans
- Norm Feaster
- Patsy Powers
- Richard G. Cowart
- Dixie W. Cooper
- Bob & Mary Battle
- T & T Family Foundation
- Brett & Jaclyn Tarkington
- Bob & Mary Battle
- Thompson
- Byron Trauger
- Charles A. Traughber
- Mr. & Mrs. Bynum E. Tudor III
- Robert D. Tuke
- Leigh S. Walton
- Jim & Shelley Weatherly
- Ashley & Susan Wiltshire
- Nicholas A. Zeppos & Lydia A. Howarth

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- Anonymous
- 3rd & Church Healthcare
- Mr. & Mrs. Lawson C. Allen
- Mary Lauren and Lawson
- Allen Family Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Melinda & Jeff Balser
- Baptist Healing Trust (match gift)
- James W. Berry Jr.
- Jean & Jeff Bradford
- Dewey & Julie Branstetter
- Joseph J. Brenner Jr.
- Joe B. Brown
- Burrow & Cravens, P.C.
- Bill Bush
- Jean L. Bysesse
- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew W. Byrd
- Sumter Camp & Sherry
- Knott
- Tanya & Curtis Capeling
- David H. Carr
- Mark & Pamela Carver
- George H. Cate III
- Denty Cheatham & Rose Palermo
- Hor. Cornelia A. Clark
- Stewart & Louise Clifton
- Bob Cooper
- Dixie W. Cooper
- Richard G. Cowart
- Waverly D. Crenshaw Jr.
- Hon. J. “Steve” Daniel
- Andrew Daughety & Jennifer Reinganum
- Linda K. Dickert
- Charles W. Dunn
- Sherie Lea Edwards
- Michael Engle
- Annette S. Eskind
- David R. Esquivel
- Susan W. Foxman
- Mary Taylor Gallagher
- Robert C. Goodrich Jr.
- Rinée Green
- Juliet Griffin & Al Cocke
- Anna M. Grizzle
- Steven E. Groom
- Tom Grooms & Linda Ashford
- Ronald G. Harris
- The HCA Foundation
- John S. Hicks
- J. Reginald Hill
- Sam D. Hodges III
- Barbara & Jay Holmes

**$2,500-$4,999 Guardians of Justice**
- Bone Family Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Kitty Calhoun & David Ettinger
- Community Health Systems Foundation (match gifts)
- Michael & Janet Dagley
- The Jane & Richard Eskind & Family Foundation
- Dorothy C. Friss, Dorothy (Dottie) Cate Frist
- Foundation Advised Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- The Dorothy Cate & Thomas F. Frist Foundation
- Drew & Carolyn Goddard
- NALS...the association of Legal Professionals, Nashville chapter
- Anne & Charles Roos
- Melissa & Philip Russ
- Joan Shaye

**$5,000-$9,999 Silver Gavel**
- Nancy King Crawford
- Richard L. Rosenberg
- W. Casey Reed
- Byassee PLLC
- Formerly part of Hagan & Farrar, PLLC
- The Dorothy Cate & Thomas F. Frist Foundation
- Drew & Carolyn Goddard
- NALS...the association of Legal Professionals, Nashville chapter
- Anne & Charles Roos
- Melissa & Philip Russ
- Joan Shaye

**$500-$999 Sustaining Members**
- Anonymous
- 3rd & Church Healthcare
- Mr. & Mrs. Lawson C. Allen
- Mary Lauren and Lawson
- Allen Family Fund of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Melinda & Jeff Balser
- Baptist Healing Trust (match gift)
- James W. Berry Jr.
- Jean & Jeff Bradford
- Dewey & Julie Branstetter
- Joseph J. Brenner Jr.
- Joe B. Brown
- Burrow & Cravens, P.C.
- Bill Bush
- Jean L. Bysesse
- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew W. Byrd
- Sumter Camp & Sherry
- Knott
- Tanya & Curtis Capeling
- David H. Carr
- Mark & Pamela Carver
- George H. Cate III
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- Stewart & Louise Clifton
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- Tom Grooms & Linda Ashford
- Ronald G. Harris
- The HCA Foundation
- John S. Hicks
- J. Reginald Hill
- Sam D. Hodges III
- Barbara & Jay Holmes
“Mr. [Bill] Bush, attorney, has been a very outstanding asset every time I have called upon him for assistance. He is extremely professional and very courteous. I feel very blessed that I have had the opportunity to get acquainted with him. Thank you more than I can put into words.” —Cookeville client
“Rae Anne [Seay] was great. She helped me get my life back on track. WOW!!!” —Tullahoma client

Volunteer Spotlight

Stanley Rogers, Christina Duncan, Ed North, Willis McKee

Rogers, Duncan & North
Manchester, Tenn.

Assisted a person with mental disabilities who was emotionally, physically and financially abused by a family member.

Spent more than three years successfully fighting for justice on client’s behalf.

“I think pro bono service is part of our oaths as attorneys. We committed ourselves to providing judicial services to the public. Being involved in this case, in particular, where our client was clearly mistreated, it allowed us to use our knowledge and skills to give back to this individual and the community.” —J. Stanley Rogers
“Olivia” was violently abused by her husband—she was punched and tackled to the ground, fracturing her arm. Legal Aid Society helped her secure a one-year Order of Protection (OP), and during the process, learned the consequences of her abuse ran deep.

Olivia’s injuries prevented her from working. Legal Aid Society helped her receive immediate financial relief through an OP modification. Olivia also applied for Victims’ Compensation to help with medical bills and lost wages. She was initially denied because of an incorrect statement made by her employer, so a Legal Aid Society attorney appealed the case and secured financial assistance.

Even further, Olivia’s attorney helped her pursue battery and damages claims in her divorce complaint, secure health care insurance and request Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations with her employer.

After each victory, Olivia was reminded she is a strong, self-reliant woman, and she regained peace-of-mind, safety, stability and independence in her life.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KERRY KNOX
Castelli & Knox
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Has taken on domestic civil cases pro bono for 10 years.

Helped a survivor of domestic violence avoid eviction and keep her home.

“The legal system can be difficult and expensive. Without Legal Aid Society and its network of volunteer attorneys, there is a whole population of people the legal system would not help, or these individuals wouldn’t be able to access the legal system at all.”

“Considerate, timely, concise yet clearly explained. I was well heard with my concerns at the time of initial appointment and throughout the entire process. Additional Help was grate for obtaining to proper paper work for victims comp. I am extremly appreciative.” —Gallatin client
“Megan’s” health was declining, and she wanted to return to her native country to introduce her child to extended family. But her son’s father had not signed the passport request, and the government would not acknowledge Megan’s full and sole custody of her son.

A volunteer attorney at a free legal clinic attempted to locate the father to resolve the issue. When the father could not be found, the attorney drafted a letter, along with a Statement of Special Family Circumstances, that asserted that Megan was the sole custodian of the child because she was never married to his father.

As a result of the volunteer attorney’s efforts, Megan’s son received a passport. She later thanked the volunteer attorney saying, “Even though you didn’t have to do it, you did it anyway, and it was much appreciated.” With this assistance, and despite declining health, Megan’s efforts for her child to feel the strength of “family” was realized.
“I am very pleased with the attorneys that worked on my behalf and the staff to help get my home back. Especially Claire Abely. I could not have done it without her and Legal Aide Society helping to provide the representation that I needed. Thank you. Thank you!” —Nashville client
“I’ve been through a lot w/my divorce, abusive husband…. I’m a truly thankful for the assistance w/this, it has taken a major financial weight off my life. Thank-you!” —Oak Ridge client
“Mr. [Kevin] Fowler did an amazing job. He kept me informed through the process. He was able to explain everything so I understood, answered all my questions and was able to grant me everything I asked for plus more. I am very thankful to be able to have his service.”

—Clarksville client

United Way Designations

$1,000-$2,499
CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE
Robert E. Boston
Sherie Lea Edwards
Brooks & Lora Fox
Bob & Mary Battle Thompson

$500-$999
FRIENDS OF JUSTICE
Anonymous
Vic Alexander
Lee S. Kraft
Linda O’Neal
Richard M. Riebling
Brian K. Tate
Matthew A. Wiltshire

$1-$149
PACESETTERS
Anonymous
William G. Calhoun
Margaret O. Darby
Cindy Durham
Sarah Ann Hiestand
Kelsie E. Jones
Nancy Klausen-Mash
Kevin Landino
Mark Lauderdale
John Mark Markham
Ryan S. McCutcheon

Crystal Mosier
Lisa Perlen
Rachel A. Seifert
Steven R. Stout
United Way of the Midlands
DarKenya Waller
Charlette Watson

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN
Matthew Brown
Brittany Gardner
Thomas A. Grooms
Kelley Henry
Joe M. Kirkpatrick
Kendra J. Mansur
Harold B. McDonough, Jr.
Smoky Mountain Combined Federal Campaign
Tennessee Regional Combined Federal Campaign

In-kind donations
Attorney at Law Magazine
Beans Creek Winery
Marshall Boates
the Bradford Group
Chick-fil-A Tullahoma
Coca-Cola Bottling Works of Tullahoma
D. Michael Craig and Catherine Melis
Demo’s
Dodson, Parker, Behm & Capparella
Cindy Durham
Manchester Liquors
PrintNet
Premier Parking
Publix Murfreesboro
Quinnoz
Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association
SiteMason
Sonic Tullahoma
TechSoup
Jeanne and Steve Thomas
United Way of Rutherford & Cannon Counties
Wal-Mart Manchester
Dorie Williams

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

SAL VARSALONA
Forrester & Varsalona
Clinton, Tenn.

Expanded Legal Aid Society’s free legal clinic model to other bar associations.

Helped a disabled couple lower their monthly child support for grown children from $455 per month to $5 per month, citing the couple’s physical and financial hardships.

“I don’t think we’ll ever feel like we’re doing enough—there are so many people out there who need access to legal help. But what we do makes a difference. It’s the gratitude and appreciation of clients that makes me come back clinic after clinic and continue to help.”
Grants and Contracts

Baptist Healing Trust
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
  Lillian G & Dave Bogatzky Fund
  Martha Jean Dorris Helping Hand Fund
  Elizabeth Jonas Jacobs Advised Fund
  William Thomas McHugh Fund to benefit
  Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and
  the Cumberlands
Joe C. Davis Foundation
Greater Nashville Regional Council
  The HCA Foundation
  Legal Aid of East Tennessee
  Legal Services Corporation
  Legal Services Corporation Technology
  Initiative Grant
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
The Memorial Foundation

Metropolitan Government of Nashville/
  Davidson County
Montgomery County Government
Nashville Bar Foundation
Operation Stand Down Tennessee
Phillips Foundation
Skadden Fellowship Foundation
South Central Tennessee Area Agency on
  Aging and Disability
Supreme Court of Tennessee, Administrative
  Office of the Courts
Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services
Tennessee Bar Foundation
TN Dept. of State – Office of Criminal
  Justice Programs
TN Housing Development Agency
Cal Turner Family Foundation

US Dept. of Justice
US Dept of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service
  United Way of Anderson County
United Way of Bedford County
United Way of Franklin County
United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region
United Way of Maury County
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties
United Way of Sumner County
United Way of Williamson County
United Way of Wilson County
Volunteer Tennessee
West End Home Foundation
West Tennessee Legal Services
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others.” — Mahatma Gandhi
Statements of Financial Position  
December 31, 2015 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$522,761</td>
<td>$652,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>4,769,638</td>
<td>4,423,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>31,896</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal, state and local grants receivable</td>
<td>108,412</td>
<td>159,281</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>505,580</td>
<td>506,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>33,359</td>
<td>25,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>435,788</td>
<td>307,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client escrow funds</td>
<td>21,609</td>
<td>29,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,398,285</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,136,522</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$22,440</td>
<td>$69,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses and other</td>
<td>520,142</td>
<td>434,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client escrow deposits</td>
<td>21,609</td>
<td>29,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>564,191</strong></td>
<td><strong>533,655</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>3,147,096</td>
<td>3,240,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated for property and equipment</td>
<td>435,788</td>
<td>307,508</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,582,884</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,547,799</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>2,251,210</td>
<td>2,055,068</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,834,094</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,602,867</strong></td>
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</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,398,285</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,136,522</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial statements of Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 were audited by KraftCPAs, PPC. The audit was completed on April 26, 2016 and in the opinion of the auditors, these financial statements represent fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands. Copies of the complete sets of financial statements, including all footnotes, may be obtained from the Nashville office of Legal Aid Society.
Community Advisory Council

Henry W. Foster, M.D., Chair
Cara Alexander
Vic L. Alexander
Kenny Blackburn
Iris Buhl
Barbara Chazen
Donna Eskind
C. Thomas Harrington
Mahalia Howard
Arthur J. Rebrovick, Jr.
Joan Shayne
Mary Ruth Shell (deceased)
Joni Werthan
Joseph Woodson