Legal Aid Society Helps Single Mother with Disability Benefits

Latisha, a single mother of a daughter, came to our office for help with filing an appeal for SSI Disability. She was dealing with several physical and mental impairments. Despite these issues, she had been unsuccessful in previous attempts for disability. After working on her case for nearly two years, being denied at Disability Determination Services initially and at re-consideration, we appealed to the Office of Disability and Adjudication Review. For her hearing in May, we had to pick her up from Woodbury, take her to Franklin and then back to Woodbury after the hearing was completed due to her lack of transportation.

In June Latisha was issued a “fully, favorable decision”. She will be awarded disability back to her original application date of March 2014. This will entitle her to receive over $730 a month prospectively and approximately $15,000 in back benefits. Her lump sum will be divided into 3 payments. Latisha now has stable income to assist in raising her daughter.

George Anderson Named Community Campaign Chair

George Anderson, co-founder of Anderson Benson Insurance & Risk Management, will serve as the 2016 community campaign chair for its
Campaign for Equal Justice fundraising campaign. The community campaign, a division of the overall Campaign for Equal Justice, raises money from non-legal donors in Middle Tennessee.

George co-founded Anderson Benson in 2012. He began his career with the former Polk & Sullivan in Nashville in 1986. During his tenure with Polk & Sullivan and its successor organizations, Synaxis Group and First Horizon Insurance, Anderson served in a variety of executive positions and served as President of First Horizon Insurance from 2004 to 2009. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Insurors of Tennessee, Assurex International and The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers.

George serves on the Frist Center for the Visual Arts Development Council, Metropolitan Nashville Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners, and Nashville Convention & Visitors Center Corporate Council. He is a member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation Stewardship Committee and previously served on the Conservancy Board as Chair. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Wharton Executive Leadership Development Program.

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**Legal Aid Society Partners with Metro Nashville on Domestic Violence**

We are grateful to have been approved to receive $186,500 from the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County for the 2016-17 fiscal year. This funding will once again fund services to survivors of domestic violence, including legal representation, attendance at Order of Protection hearings, and community education.

In 2015-16 we provided free legal help to 279 unduplicated Davidson County domestic violence victims to address their victimization, attended 136 court dockets where Order of Protection (OP) petitions and related motions are heard, and published more than 1,150 educational materials/“self-help guides” that were distributed to domestic violence victims.

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**Tullahoma Office Moves to a New Location**

After 35 years in the same location, our Tullahoma office has moved from 123 NW Atlantic St. to 281 Industrial Blvd. All phone numbers to the office have remained unchanged.

Located just minutes from downtown Tullahoma, the Arnold Airforce Base and Interstate 24, the new 4,400-square-foot office location is convenient for both clients and staff.

Six Legal Aid Society employees currently work at the new space, providing free legal assistance to low-income individuals in Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Grundy, Lincoln, Moore and Warren counties.

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**New Flyer Warns People of Fake IRS Scams**

We have produced a new flyer which warns people about the current scams of people emailing or calling and claiming to be from the IRS in order to steal your money. A copy of the English version is shown below and can also be found on our website [here](#), along with a Spanish version.
Staff Updates

**Allison Cooley**, managing attorney for our Gallatin office, has been chosen as a member of the 2016-17 Leadership Forum program for the Nashville Bar Foundation. The leadership program’s goals are to encourage diversity in the practice of law and aid in building relationships among attorneys with diverse backgrounds and practices.

**Andrae Crismon**, managing attorney for our Murfreesboro office, was selected to “30 in their 30s” by the Center for Non-Profit Management. There will be a Prelude to Excellence Dinner recognizing these and other honorees on September 15.

**Kathy Hardiman** has been hired as a secretary in its Columbia office. Kathy has been working on a part-time basis for Legal Aid Society since October, providing transcription services for attorneys. She joined Legal Aid Society from The Surgical Center where she was a financial counselor. Hardiman previously worked for St. Thomas Medical Group and Ford Motor Credit Co.
**Will You Help Bridge Our Funding Gap?**

As of August 27, we have raised $627,944 for the 2016 Campaign for Equal Justice. This leaves less than $200,000 to reach our goal of $827,000. Gifts to the campaign benefitting Legal Aid Society provide unrestricted support for our civil legal advocacy, representation and community education.

To make YOUR tax-deductible donation to Legal Aid Society, you can go online to www.las.org or send a check payable to Legal Aid Society to 300 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37201. If you would like to make a pledge to be paid later this year or have questions, please contact Cindy Durham, director of development, at 615-780-7125 or cdurham@las.org.

**Upcoming Clinics**

We are pleased to host many clinics across Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau. These clinics are staffed by both Legal Aid Society and pro bono attorneys. If you would like to volunteer at one of the clinics, please contact Jarod Word at jword@las.org (or 615-780-7131) or call your local Legal Aid Society office.

You can see the list of upcoming clinics, hosted by Legal Aid Society and offered by partners, here.

**Shop With Amazon or Kroger? Support Legal Aid Society!**

Looking for an easy way to support our work? When you shop at Amazon or Kroger, a portion of your purchases can go to support Legal Aid Society. To participate, sign up for Amazon Smile or Kroger Rewards (NPO # 98149), select Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands as your charity of choice and start shopping. A percentage of your eligible purchases will be donated to the organization at no extra cost to you!

**Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands**

1-800-238-1443  |  300 Deaderick Street  |  Nashville, TN 37201

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands advocates for fairness and justice under the law. The non-profit law firm offers free civil legal representation and educational programs to help people in its region receive justice, protect their well-being and support opportunities to overcome poverty. We serve 48 Tennessee counties from offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Oak Ridge and Tullahoma. We are funded by Legal Services Corporation, the Tennessee Bar Foundation, United Way in 16 counties, the State of Tennessee, foundations and donors. For more information about our services or how to donate and to download information about common legal issues, visit us online at www.las.org.