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*We extend our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Yvette R. Long, who passed away on August 22, 2015. Yvette was a Community Legal Services and Philadelphia Legal Assistance Board member for many years and also led the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization. Yvette, a staunch advocate for low-income Pennsylvanians, devoted her life to making basic needs accessible for vulnerable people and ensuring they had a strong voice in policy conversations about issues affecting them. We are grateful for Yvette's many years of passionate dedication to our clients and our mission. She will be missed.*

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Dear Friends,

As I step into my new role as Community Legal Services' (CLS) Executive Director, it gives me great pleasure to present our annual report to you. As you will read in the pages of this report, it has been a remarkable year for CLS. Our advocates have been persistent, passionate, and successful in their work; I am proud to serve as the leader of such a vital, effective organization.



In June, Cathy Carr, CLS's Executive Director for 20 years, stepped down from her position. Although she is no longer at CLS, we are looking forward to working with her in new capacities to further the cause of justice for all. Cathy was an exemplary Executive Director and is highly respected in Philadelphia and across the country. CLS is a national model for anti-poverty work in part because of Cathy's inspiring leadership.

One of Cathy's finest achievements at CLS was ensuring our advocacy work could remain strong, despite laws enacted twenty years ago which placed restrictions on federal legal services funding. After federal funding was restricted, in order to continue some of the work that is most important to our clients, CLS declined the funding and was forced to rely on other forms of support. Cathy led us through that crisis, and it is because of her leadership, and the financial support from so many of you, that we survived the storm and continue to succeed to this day.

I am excited to show you some of the recent ways that we have fought poverty and helped our clients obtain justice. I hope you will take the time to read about our advocacy victories and the clients we serve, and take a look at the names of all of the people who supported CLS last year. Our supporters mean the world to us and our clients.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2016, I am looking forward to communicating with you even more about our successes. I am confident that our work will continue to be strong, transformative, and empowering for our clients. Thank you to our donors for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Freedman, Esq.  
*Executive Director*



Cathy Carr worked tirelessly at Community Legal Services for more than three decades, including 20 years as our inspiring Executive Director, fighting poverty and advancing the cause of justice for all.

Thank you, Cathy, for your invaluable leadership and service to our clients, staff, and community.



## Awards & Honors | 2014-2015

### Recognition for outstanding achievement

#### AWARDS PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES AND STAFF

**Cathy Carr**  
Sandra Day O'Connor Award  
*Presented by the Philadelphia Bar Association*

**David Francis**  
CFO of the Year Award - Nominated  
*Presented by the Philadelphia Business Journal*

**Debby Freedman**  
2015 Excellence Award  
*Presented by Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network*

**George Gould**  
Advocate Achievements  
*Honored by Philadelphia City Council*

**George Gould**  
Bar Foundation Award  
*Presented by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation*

**Kathy Gomez**  
Reunification Hero – Nominated  
*Presented by the American Bar Association*

**North Philadelphia Law Center**  
LEED Gold Certification  
*Presented by the U.S. Green Building Council*

#### COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD



**Tom Duffy, Esq.,** *Duffy + Partners, Founder, Duffy Fellowship*

#### COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS



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Bar Campaign Donors

CLS’s Leadership Council raised more than \$340,000 from nearly 130 law firms, businesses, and individuals in support of CLS’s Bar Campaign. Donors to the Bar Campaign were honored at CLS’s 26th Annual Breakfast of Champions, generously hosted by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

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Saving One, Helping 3,000

Ms. Shah nearly lost access to the medical treatments that keep her alive. She immigrated to the United States from India in 2012 and is a lawful permanent resident, but is not yet eligible for Medicaid because of the five-year bar for immigrant eligibility. Ms. Shah has several serious health conditions: she is a heart transplant recipient and also suffers from chronic kidney disease, osteoporosis, and anemia. To get the care and life-sustaining medication she needs, Ms. Shah relies on General Assistance Medical Assistance (GA MA). For many recent immigrants like Ms. Shah, GA MA is the only comprehensive health care option. In December 2014, Ms. Shah was notified that the GA MA program was being eliminated on January 1 and that she would no longer receive benefits. Even a few days without access to health care would have had potentially fatal consequences because her medicines keep her body from rejecting her new heart. CLS attorney Maripat Pileggi successfully appealed the termination and ensured that Ms. Shah's treatments would not be interrupted during the appeal process. At the same time, several CLS attorneys, led by Maripat, were advocating at the systemic level to prevent the complete elimination of the GA MA program. Ms. Shah might not have survived without this program, and her story inspired CLS' advocates to fight for its continuation. Because of CLS' strong advocacy, the decision to cut GA MA was ultimately reversed just a few weeks later. As a result, 3,000 low-income immigrants' benefits, including Ms. Shah's, were restored.

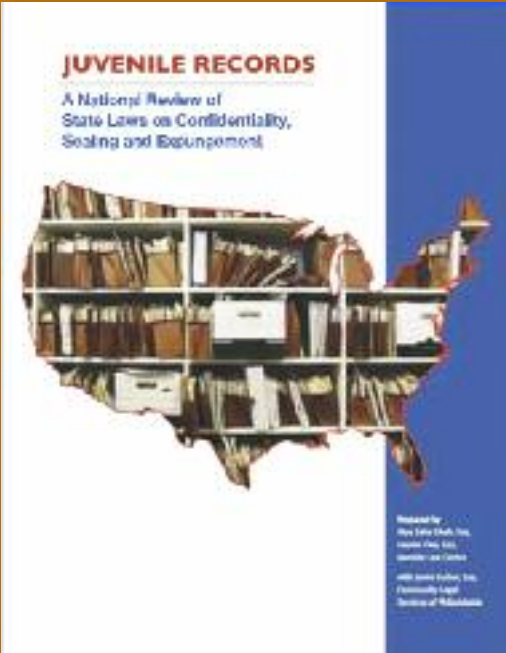
# Publication Highlights



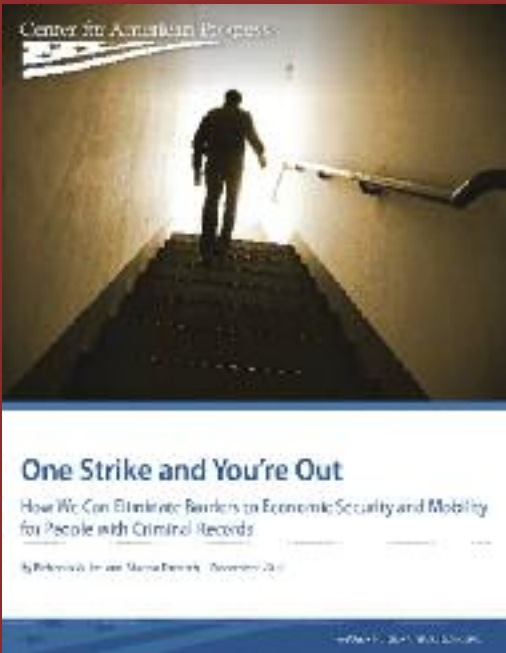
Thu Tran and Robert Ballenger released a report called "Out in the Cold," on how policy failure is causing epidemic levels of utility service termination in Pennsylvania. People without utility service are facing illness and even death from hypothermia, carbon monoxide poisoning, or fires caused by efforts to warm their homes through other means. The report looks at solutions to the problem and urges the adoption of sensible affordability standards for low-income families.



Sam Brooks released a report titled "Careless: How the Pennsylvania Department of Health has Risked the Lives of Elderly and Disabled Nursing Home Residents," which details how, from 2012 to 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) failed to properly enforce federal and state nursing home regulations. The report led to ongoing conversations with the department on how to protect nursing home residents.



Jamie Gullen partnered with the Juvenile Law Center to release "Juvenile Records: A National Review of State Laws on Confidentiality, Sealing and Expungement," which debunked the myth that juvenile records are protected from public view, showing how these records harm CLS clients and others who are trying to obtain employment and educational opportunities.



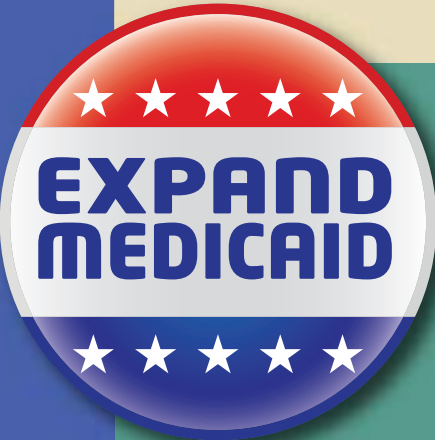
Sharon Dietrich, along with former CLS Staff Attorney Rebecca Vallas, published a report on the devastating consequences of criminal records. The report, "One Strike and You're Out: How We Can Eliminate Barriers to Economic Security and Mobility for People with Criminal Records," was published through Center for American Progress and focused on economic mobility and the barriers that come from having a criminal record.

## CLEARINGHOUSE COMMUNITY

Three Community Legal Services attorneys published papers for the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law's Clearinghouse Community. Sharon Dietrich focused on background checkers reporting cases that have been expunged. Rachel Garland, along with Regional Housing Legal Services, reported on domestic violence and housing advocacy. Michael Hollander wrote about collecting wage theft judgments.



Rasheedah Phillips published an article entitled "Addressing Barriers to Housing for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault" in the Spring 2015 Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review. The article explores the collateral consequences of domestic violence and sexual assault in the housing context, and reviews applicable housing laws and housing policies aimed at protecting the rights of domestic violence survivors.



Kristen Dama released an issue brief, "Covering Low Income Uninsured Pennsylvanians: The Path to and from Healthy Pennsylvania," with the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, the Pennsylvania Health Access Network, the Pennsylvania Health Law Project, and Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, as part of the Close the Gap Campaign. The brief was released in response to the Healthy Pennsylvania proposal and showed that traditional Medicaid expansion, without benefits cuts, was the best path for Pennsylvania.



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*Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Zebley decision. From left: Jonathan Stein, Richard Weishaupt, Cherri Gregg, Thomas Sutton, and Cathy Carr.*

## ZEBLEY AT 25

**I**N 1990, CLS lawyers won a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that allowed hundreds of thousands of low-income, disabled children to become eligible for benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA).

In *Sullivan v. Zebley*, the Supreme Court struck down the rules and regulations that the SSA had used to deny benefits to disabled children under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. As a result of this decision, many poor children with serious impairments were given a fair and realistic opportunity to establish their eligibility for this important program, including half a million children who had been unfairly denied, despite having cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, or other conditions that affected how they functioned.

CLS lawyers Jonathan Stein, Richard Weishaupt, and Thomas Sutton, who is now at Leventhal Sutton and Gornstein, successfully litigated and argued this case.

Now, 25 years later, CLS still provides expert legal representation to children in SSI cases and advocates for improvements in the SSI program, ensuring that children with disabilities obtain the vital support they need.

This year, CLS celebrated the 25th anniversary of *Sullivan v. Zebley*. The celebration was generously hosted by Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP and featured a panel

discussion with Jonathan Stein, Richard Weishaupt, Thomas Sutton, and KYW's Cherri Gregg.

CLS attorneys Richard Weishaupt and Jonathan Stein have also recently published an article for the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law that looks back on the case and also forward to future impact advocacy. The article shares Zebley recollections from advocates and experts across the country.

To watch the video from the event or to find a link to the article, visit [www.clsphila.org/Zebley25](http://www.clsphila.org/Zebley25)

*Richard Weishaupt & Jonathan Stein, upon hearing the Zebley decision in 1990.*



## Critical Support at Home

Joseph, 19, suffered a traumatic brain injury from a car accident that changed him from being healthy and independent to needing around-the-clock-care. His mother, Ellen, left her job and began caring for him, with the help of home health nurses and aides. The home care hours Joseph was receiving were critical to his safety and well-being and allowed Ellen, a single mother, to look after her 10-year-old daughter as well. Ellen was shocked and worried when she received a notice that the home health aide hours covered by their Medical Assistance plan would be cut dramatically. CLS attorney Brenda Marrero tackled Joseph's case. Brenda consulted with Joseph's doctor to establish and document his level of care needs, and also visited Joseph and Ellen at home to gain a better understanding of Joseph's condition and the challenges it imposed on the family. After carefully building Joseph's case, Brenda presented at the hearing and won. Joseph continues to receive the in-home support and services he needs to stay safe and healthy, and Ellen is able to care for her whole family.



This year, CLS joined national class action litigation to protect homeowners. As a result of this advocacy, HUD announced that it will create a path for surviving spouses remain in their homes, even if the spouses are not listed on the mortgages. Among the estimated 12,000 surviving spouses nationwide who may now be eligible to remain in their homes, at least seven are current CLS clients. This issue was recently featured in a front-page article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

## Preventing Homelessness



A report released by CLS to bring awareness to problems in Pennsylvania nursing homes prompted the PA Department of Health to create the Pennsylvania Nursing Home Quality Improvement Task Force and the PA Auditor General to investigate nursing home complaint procedures, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of nursing home residents.

We successfully championed energy affordability initiatives so low-income people can have access to hot water, electricity, and home heat. These initiatives include a redesigned PECO customer assistance program (CAP) to promote energy affordability for thousands of low-income consumers, and the preservation of medical certification rights so that customers who need utility service for health reasons can avoid loss of necessary service.



After years of advocacy by CLS and our partners, the SNAP asset test was eliminated in PA. Now, our clients and thousands of other families do not have to choose between food and other basic necessities.



CLS was involved in the passage of a bill in Philadelphia that prevents landlords from obtaining a license or renewing a rental license if there are City code violations on the property for more than 30 days, protecting tenants from poor housing conditions.

# CLS's Advocacy Plays a Key Role in Making Change



CLS's Language Access Project advocated for a Philadelphia Home Rule Charter amendment requiring City agencies to implement language access plans, with the goal of improving access to basic services intended to help and protect low-income Philadelphians who do not speak English.

We worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry so the agency could obtain \$745,000 in payments for 1,300 direct care workers who had been laid off and did not receive their final paychecks.



We obtained four settlements of class actions brought by background screeners under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, addressing issues such as reporting criminal cases brought against someone else, reporting of expunged cases, reporting of arrests more than seven years old, and inappropriately labeling retail workers as thieves. The leading retail theft database was shut down as a result of our litigation.



CLS persuaded the City of Philadelphia and the First Judicial District to cease collection of more than \$1 billion of old, possibly erroneous bail judgment debt. Almost all of this debt was owed by those who are poor and unable to pay, and it prevented them from obtaining expungements and pardons; the decision not to pursue debt collection will allow them a second chance at a productive life.

## Eliminating Unfair Debt

## Securing Medicaid Expansion

A combination of high-impact litigation led by CLS and systemic advocacy with statewide partners led to the prevention of devastating health benefits cuts for 1.1 million adult Medicaid recipients in PA and to Medicaid being fully expanded in our state, helping an estimated 600,000 people become eligible for affordable health insurance.



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## Stability After a Crisis

Sandra and her husband Robert faced a seemingly impossible situation when they were both laid off from their jobs and fell behind on their mortgage payments. They quickly found new jobs, but because of the missed payments, their home went into foreclosure. They were misled by foreclosure rescue scammers and others who told them their only option was to file for bankruptcy. CLS attorney Rachel Labush and paralegal Michelle Brix analyzed Sandra and Robert's case and realized that they could qualify for a loan modification. After months of extensive negotiation, the CLS team worked out an affordable trial payment plan for Sandra and Robert so that they could stay in their home. They were set to transition to a permanent loan modification when misfortune struck again; Sandra and Robert were both hospitalized with severe flu and weren't able to submit the final paperwork by the deadline. CLS worked with the bank to explain the emergency and extend the deadline. Three years after their house initially went into foreclosure, Sandra and Robert were approved for the permanent loan modification. In a message of thanks after receiving the good news, Sandra wrote, "I have cried, danced and called my family. We are so grateful ... for all your help and support through this crazy, difficult time in our lives." Because of their CLS advocates, Sandra and Robert were able to regain stability during a time of crisis, and they are no longer in danger of losing their home.



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## A Chance to Thrive

During high school, Desiree was being harassed by a male student and got two disorderly conduct citations for a verbal altercation she had with him. She did not realize at the time that the citations would hold her back from finding a job for years. Frustrated and determined to find work, Desiree came to CLS after being turned down by a potential employer who labeled her as a violent offender. She and her two-year-old son were struggling to survive and had experienced homelessness. CLS attorney Jamie Gullen represented Desiree, bringing a discrimination claim against the employer, which was eventually settled. During this time, CLS was also advocating for a much-needed policy change so that juvenile summary citations like those on Desiree's record would no longer be accessible by the public, including employers. Because of this advocacy, Desiree was able to secure a well-paying job, and she and her son are now in stable housing.

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## CLS LAUNCHES SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

LAST year, Community Legal Services launched a medical-legal partnership (MLP) with Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) and Clarifi at PHMC's Rising Sun Health Center. This MLP is the first in the nation to offer integrated legal and financial services at a federally qualified health center. This holistic care model works not only to address the health issues of vulnerable individuals, but also to help them understand and receive support regarding other issues that influence their health. Almost half of the MLP's clients do not speak English, and many of the clients lack health insurance because of their immigration status. CLS, led by Independence Foundation Fellow Lydia Gottesfeld, provides on-site legal services, including help obtaining food stamps, health insurance, housing, and utility assistance, so patients who have received medical treatment can continue to lead healthy lives. Just a few of the clients successfully represented by Lydia at the MLP include:

- AT, whose immigration status restricted his ability to get health insurance, but desperately needed eye surgery, without which he would have lost sight in his eye. Only through close partnership between his Nurse Practitioner and Lydia was AT able to get coverage for the surgery.
- MC, an immigrant who was terminated from Medicaid because the welfare department no longer deemed his severe seizure disorder as a condition that required immediate medical treatment. Through a joint effort between the client's health care providers, case manager, and Lydia, he won this tough case and now has access to critical seizure medication to control his disorder.
- TN, who is limited English proficient and needed help affording health insurance and food. Lydia helped him get health insurance and food stamps that he had been fighting for on his own for over six months.



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# Advocating for a Clean Slate and a Fair Chance for Employment

WITH about one in three Americans having some type of criminal record, criminal justice reform is vital to ending poverty. More than two-thirds of the 1,400 people who came to CLS for employment help in 2014 were seeking assistance with problems stemming from a criminal record. CLS has been advocating at all levels so that juvenile records, decades-old criminal records, summary offenses, criminal debt, and arrests without convictions do not hold people back from finding employment, obtaining housing, and accessing public benefits. **From meeting with the Domestic Policy Council of the White House to working with local leaders on justice reform initiatives, CLS has had a successful year advocating on behalf of people with criminal records.** Highlights from this past year include:

**With the Center for American Progress, launching a “Clean Slate” campaign, aimed at giving many thousands of people with criminal records a second chance.** Through community education, expert testimony, and work with national media, CLS has advocated for Pennsylvania to enact a model law that we have designed that would automatically seal non-violent misdemeanors after 10 years, allowing record clearance in much greater volume than the current system of filing individual expungement petitions. Our proposal is garnering bipartisan support. Providing a second chance to people with old criminal records is essential to increasing economic security for low-income individuals and communities and will reduce both unemployment and recidivism rates. This work was featured on PBS NewsHour and in other national media sources.

**Filing a class action lawsuit, in partnership with Francis & Mailman PC, challenging a background screener’s reporting of expunged cases.** CLS had represented our client in an expungement of two non-convictions. Yet the screener, which focuses on the rental housing market, reported these cases in background checks that it issued long after our client’s record was expunged. These reports

led to our client being rejected from senior housing facilities – a grave concern, given that she faces homelessness. This case and the broader problem of screeners reporting expunged cases was profiled in the Wall Street Journal.

**Forcing the shut down of LexisNexis’ retail theft database, which prevented many innocent workers from finding employment.** CLS worked with Langer Grogan & Diver PC, Francis & Mailman PC, and Consumer Litigation Associates PC, to file class action litigation against LexisNexis, which owned the Esteem database. The database caused problems for workers because employees of retail stores who had been accused of stealing were often coerced into signing statements in order to keep their jobs, whether or not they had actually stolen anything. These employees were then tracked in the database, which other retail stores used to screen applicants for hire. By shutting down the database, CLS was able to give workers a fair chance at employment. This case was featured in the New York Times.

**Filing a lawsuit to end unconstitutional lifetime bans on employing health care workers with criminal records.** CLS worked with Tad LeVan of the LeVan Law Group, Professor Seth Kreimer of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Robert LaRocca of Kohn, Swift & Graf, P.C., to file a lawsuit in Harrisburg challenging a state statute that unfairly shuts out scores of people from employment in the long-term health care field and deprives elderly, sick, and disabled people of caregivers. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit include individuals who have old, disqualifying convictions, but possess the personal and professional qualifications that would enable them to be dedicated and competent caregivers. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared the statute unconstitutional in 2003 in litigation brought by CLS, but the General Assembly has not amended it, forcing CLS to seek to enjoin application of the law. This case was profiled on NPR’s All Things Considered.

Transformative Solutions



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Gifts Received July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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## A Family's Bright Future

When Jacqueline took her two-year-old son Mason to the doctor because of a lump on his back, their lives were turned upside-down. The doctor told Jacqueline the lump was a single rib fracture in the healing stages. Jacqueline was distraught and scared, but she would stop at nothing to get her son back. Family Advocacy Unit attorney Beth Larin represented Jacqueline in court, and after ten long days in foster care, Mason was reunited with his mother. Jacqueline was elated to have her son back, but she was also dealing with some other legal issues. She had inherited a house from her late aunt, but her relatives were trying to prevent her from living there. Jacqueline's CLS attorney Beth, with support from CLS's Homeownership and Consumer Rights Unit, successfully represented her to enforce the terms of her aunt's will, and she and Mason now have a safe home to call their own. Jacqueline is in a training program for a job in housekeeping, and she and Mason have a fresh start and a bright future.



OUR LEGAL UNITS

AGING AND DISABILITIES UNIT

Aging and Disabilities Unit specializes in representing seniors and people with disabilities in a wide range of public benefits and consumer matters, including challenges to denials of Medicaid, Medicare, or disability benefits, decisions by managed care organizations to deny care, and violations of residents’ rights and quality-of-care requirements in nursing homes and personal care homes.

EMPLOYMENT UNIT

Employment Unit represents clients with employment-related problems, including tackling barriers to employment, seeking unpaid wages, and preserving jobs. The unit advocates at the national and state levels on low-income workers’ rights issues such as preventing disqualifications of workers with criminal records.

ENERGY UNIT

Energy Unit works to keep the utilities on for families by protecting the rights of low-income utility customers on service and payment issues, representing group clients on utility rate change cases, and serving as the Public Advocate in representing all Philadelphia Gas Works residential customers.

FAMILY ADVOCACY UNIT

Family Advocacy Unit (FAU) represents individual parents involved with the Department of Human Services (DHS) who are seeking to keep their children at home or to have them returned from foster care to a safe home. The FAU provides assistance and trainings to community groups, organizations, and lawyers. The FAU also advocates on the national, state, and local levels for improvements in child welfare practices, services to families, and the dependency court system.

HOMEOWNERSHIP AND CONSUMER RIGHTS UNIT

Homeownership and Consumer Rights Unit represents homeowners in disputes, residential mortgage foreclosures, fraudulent consumer practices, and issues with banking or check-cashing agencies. The unit uses advocacy and litigation to address the predatory lending crisis, abusive mortgage practices, and other banking issues affecting low-income families.

HOUSING UNIT

Housing Unit represents private, public, and subsidized housing tenants in matters involving eviction, illegal lockouts, and substandard housing. The unit also uses systems advocacy and litigation to address issues ranging from lead paint elimination, to federal housing policy changes, to tenant eviction laws.

LANGUAGE ACCESS PROJECT

Language Access Project works to ensure CLS services are available to Philadelphia communities with limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand English. The unit addresses legal issues specific to this population and collaborates with other units to represent individuals and families in challenging language barriers to benefits, services, and access to justice.

PUBLIC BENEFITS UNIT

Public Benefits Unit represents clients seeking or facing termination of public benefits such as cash assistance, SSI disability, food stamps, or health insurance. The unit provides education and outreach services and advocates for improvements to the programs that provide these benefits at the federal, state, and local levels.

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Statement of Activities

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

	Total	Capital Campaign	General Operations
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT			
Contracts & Grants .....	\$ 7,258,433		7,258,433
Contributions .....	\$ 2,660,576	70,220	2,590,356
Attorney Fees .....	\$ 333,188		333,188
Interest Income .....	\$ 59,330	58,662	668
Other Income .....	\$ 4,400		4,400
Subtotal Revenue .....	\$10,315,927	128,882	10,187,045
EXPENSES			
Program Services .....	\$ 9,098,943	62,954	9,035,989
Management and General .....	\$ 1,337,069		1,337,069
Fundraising .....	\$ 388,751		388,751
Total Expenses .....	\$10,824,763	62,954	10,761,809
Change in Assets .....	\$ -508,836	65,928	-574,764
NET ASSETS			
Beginning of Year, Restated .....	\$10,207,502	5,464,795	4,742,707
End of Year .....	\$ 9,698,666	5,530,723	4,167,943





## COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF PHILADELPHIA

### CENTER CITY OFFICE

1424 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505  
Telephone: 215-981-3700

### NORTH PHILADELPHIA LAW CENTER

1410 West Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136  
Telephone: 215-227-2400

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Community Legal Services has the remarkable combination of excellent service to thousands of Philadelphians every year, plus top-notch leadership in many fields that regularly produces significant statewide and national policy and systemic gains on issues facing people in poverty. It's a great model for all aspects of equal justice, executed to perfection by a wonderful organization.

*John Bouman, President, Shriver Center*

Community Legal Services is the single most important organization to prevent homelessness.

*Sister Mary Scullion, Executive Director, Project HOME*

Community Legal Services is one of the very best programs in the US. It is an amazing place, with top-notch and creative advocacy.

*Willard P. Ogburn, Executive Director, National Consumer Law Center*

Community Legal Services is a gem. It is a model for legal aid throughout the country as well as a phenomenal resource in Philadelphia. The work of its outstanding lawyers runs the gamut from excellent representation of individual clients to path-breaking structural litigation and policy advocacy that often emerge from case-by-case experience. So I say it again: CLS is a most precious gem.

*Peter Edelman, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Georgetown University*

I have worked with the lawyers at Community Legal Services for over 10 years. Discussions have covered a wide range from lead paint prevention activities to healthcare equity to workforce investment and everything in between. Regardless of the topic, CLS has represented the interests of people who often do not have a voice in the complicated world of local and state government. While, in many cases, they use the tool of a lawsuit, they are very willing to work with bureaucrats to find solutions to problems. They keep their "eyes on the prize," finding ways to make real the plight of our citizens who need help. It has been a pleasure to work with them on every front.

*Estelle Richman, Former PA Secretary of Public Welfare*

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