



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



*Justice
for All*





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Debby Freedman,
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Debby Freedman, circa 1997

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is our mission, our passion, and our privilege – That is what comes to mind when we think about our work at Community Legal Services (CLS). We know how truly fortunate we are to be able to change lives here in Philadelphia and impact policy on a national scale. We also realize that it is our responsibility to fight on behalf of our clients, which is why we have worked tirelessly for 50 years to level the playing field so that justice is accessible to even the poorest Philadelphians.

But we didn't do it alone.

Our supporters, including law firms, foundations, and individuals, are the reason we have been able to succeed. If you have ever made a gift to CLS, you have helped to stop an unlawful eviction, connect a struggling family with food stamps, ensure that someone with a criminal record has a fair chance at finding a job, keep utilities turned on in an elderly person's home, and fight a predatory mortgage scam.

CLS has also been made much stronger by our partnerships. Since our founding by the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1966, we have thrived because of critical partnerships with the private bar, legislators, law schools, our community, and with our public interest colleagues, including our sister organization, Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

Now in our 50th year, CLS is using cutting-edge legal strategies and innovative techniques to improve our clients' lives, while also remaining true to our mission of lifting people out of poverty and fighting for justice. As you will read on the pages of this annual report, it has been a great year for CLS and our clients.

Thank you for making this possible.

Debby Freedman
Executive Director

CLS's Leadership Council raised more than \$460,000 from nearly 120 law firms and businesses in support of CLS's Bar Campaign. Donors to the Bar Campaign were honored at CLS's 27th Annual Breakfast of Champions, generously hosted by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

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YOUTH JUSTICE PROJECT

At CLS, we understand the importance of meeting our clients where they are. For our young adult clients, that meant rethinking the way we reach out to youth and handle their cases. Our advocates noticed that CLS's young adult clients often had multiple legal problems and needed more guidance about their rights and how to access help.

CLS launched YJP in January in partnership with Philadelphia Legal Assistance in order to address the complex and intersecting issues youth face every day. YJP seeks to transform the way we provide legal services to vulnerable youth ages 16-24 who face significant challenges including high rates of unemployment and deep poverty, and involvement in the child welfare and juvenile/criminal justice systems. Our holistic model identifies the multiple legal problems young people may face, **giving youth a true opportunity to stabilize their lives** and move past the legal obstacles that keep them in poverty. YJP opens the doors to success by providing expungements that lead to employment and education opportunities; connecting youth with public benefits that keep them safe and healthy; and helping young parents provide the best care for their families.

*CLS attorney and Youth Justice Project co-founder
Claire Grandison testifying at a Philadelphia
City Council hearing on youth homelessness.*

But the first step is **making sure youth know that we're here to help.** Young people tend to be less likely to reach CLS through the traditional legal services model, whereby a client identifies as having a particular legal problem and comes through CLS's intake. Youth also face additional barriers, such as school, work, and family obligations, which make it difficult to travel to our offices during intake hours. So YJP goes to them. YJP partners with several community organizations and schools to hold **know-your-rights sessions** that include on-site intake. By having a presence in youth spaces, YJP reaches even those who do not realize they qualify for legal assistance.



YJP's outreach model and screening tool allow us to reach clients and identify all of their legal problems. But what about the way we handle their cases? YJP recognizes that youth, particularly youth who have experienced deep poverty and unimaginable hardship, sometimes **need a tailored approach from start to finish.** YJP focuses on building relationships with clients in order to earn trust, a process that is especially important for young people who have experienced trauma. Advocates also adjust the way they communicate with young clients, replacing phone calls and mail with texting and emailing. Every flyer we create, training session we present, and intake we conduct takes into account the specific needs of young people, who are still transitioning into adulthood.

CLS has changed the way we address the unique needs of vulnerable youth, and it is time for our systems to do the same. Just as CLS works to solve systemic problems that keep people in poverty, **YJP carries out advocacy to shape policies and programs that protect youth.** From making policy recommendations to working directly with our local and national leaders, YJP looks at the bigger picture in order to increase employment opportunities for youth, promote their health and well-being, and ensure family safety and stability. Vulnerable youth in Philadelphia are in danger of falling through the cracks as they transition to adulthood. YJP's coordinated, holistic approach gives youth hope for a successful future by paving the way out of poverty.

A Young Parent Has a Bright Future Ahead



Twenty-one-year-old Monica attended a Youth Justice Project clinic at Youth Build, a school for young people aged 18-21 who are seeking to complete their high school degrees. Monica came in because she was worried that a retail theft arrest from years ago would prevent her from getting a job after her high school graduation. With two young children, Monica wanted to make sure she could easily make the transition from school to work while providing for her family. At the time, she had almost no money.

When her YJP advocates screened for multiple legal issues, Monica realized she needed assistance with several other legal problems. CLS helped Monica get on an affordable payment plan for her electric bill, and also helped her address a landlord issue that could have prevented her from getting stable housing in the future. Finally, YJP filed an expungement so that Monica could have every opportunity to pursue a career in her field. YJP advocates attached letters of support from the staff at Monica's school, as well as a certificate of her extensive coursework. With YJP's strong advocacy, Monica's record was expunged, and she has a bright future ahead.

A Domestic Violence Survivor Who Faced Homelessness Remains Safely in Her Home



After Ms. H's husband attacked her, she got a protection from abuse order evicting him from the house they owned together. She also obtained a spousal support order requiring him to continue paying on the mortgage, but when he stopped making payments, the bank began the foreclosure process. Ms. H tried to apply for a loan modification to stop the foreclosure, but the bank wouldn't even speak to her because her name was not on the promissory note, even though both names were on the mortgage. They would not accept an application from her husband either, unless he moved back to the property, despite the protection order evicting him.

Ms. H met with CLS attorney Peter Schneider, who argued that the lender was violating federal guidelines. Peter brought Ms. H's case to the judge in charge of the the Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program. The judge put the brakes on the foreclosure and convinced the bank to accept her application. After months of advocacy, the bank finally approved the loan modification. Now, a domestic violence survivor who might have faced homelessness remains safely in her own home.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

The idea of "home" resonates differently with everyone. Some think of the house or apartment that they've made their own. Some think of the community they've become part of. For many, home is a feeling of security and comfort. Unfortunately, many Philadelphians' homes, in every sense of the word, are threatened every day.

Community Legal Services' clients come to us in crisis. An eviction notice or a Sheriff's sale notice suddenly turns a family's life upside-down, while eminent domain proceedings can uproot an entire community. Sometimes, our clients **can't be sure they'll have a place to live the next day**. Whatever it is endangering clients' homes and communities, CLS is there.

This year, CLS's Housing Unit and Homeownership and Consumer Rights Unit continued serving thousands of clients fighting to keep their homes, while working on a larger scale to

preserve and strengthen communities. These efforts lead to safer, more stable lives for clients and their families. When CLS prevents illegal evictions, children can focus on school without having to worry about moving around or fearing homelessness. CLS also helps tenants escape domestic violence and sexual assault by securing emergency transfers to new units. When CLS prevents mortgage foreclosures, community members who have been in their neighborhoods for years can continue living comfortably in the place they call home.

A lot of CLS's existing work came together this year, working with residents of the Sharswood-Blumberg neighborhood. The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), in cooperation with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA), started eminent domain proceedings to take title to over 1,000 properties, including 100 that were owner-occupied, in the Sharswood-Blumberg community. CLS has been working with PHA, the Public Interest Law Center, and the

Sharswood-Blumberg Neighborhood Advisory Committee to **ensure that residents' rights are protected** during every step of this process. CLS is directly representing individual residents to ensure that they receive fair compensation for being forced to move from their homes and authored and distributed a client guide to address the many questions displaced community members had about their rights. CLS has also been holding community education events to advise and educate residents.

Another important element of our efforts in the Sharswood-Blumberg area is making sure this community is welcoming for those who want to return when the redevelopment project is complete. We have been successful in securing tenant rights and protections to make sure residents previously living in PHA public housing have an opportunity to return to the neighborhood once it is redeveloped, and with the same level of rights and protections they had before being displaced. People of color are disproportionately burdened by housing costs and income inequality, and CLS works to **reduce displacement from gentrification, and help overcome patterns of segregation** and racial isolation in the preservation and development of affordable housing. CLS also tackles these issues through our property tax work. As the City amplified its property tax collection efforts in recent years, CLS saw a sharp increase of families at risk of foreclosure – and at risk of having to leave their lifelong communities because they were becoming unaffordable. CLS adapts to address our clients' needs, so in response, CLS welcomed two fellows this year

who are focusing on property taxes. CLS's **"tax team"** represents clients who are facing foreclosure, helping them save their homes by getting into affordable payment plans. Many of these clients have been longtime community members, and CLS creates a path for these homeowners to stay in the communities they hold dear. Whether it's securing a loan modification for a client in mortgage foreclosure, or keeping an unscrupulous landlord from evicting a family, CLS's expert advocates work tirelessly to make Philadelphia a vibrant city all residents can be proud to call home.



CLS Housing Unit attorneys
Thu Tran and Rasheedah Phillips

We were incredibly honored to be on the cover of the Philadelphia Bar Association's quarterly magazine in celebration of our 50th anniversary. CLS shares a special relationship with the Philadelphia Bar Association, which, led by attorney William Klaus of Pepper Hamilton LLP, founded us in 1966. Klaus participated in a Bar Association study on the needs of the poor and was exposed to Philadelphia neighborhoods in need, which shaped his vision for providing excellent legal representation to those who needed it the most, but could afford it the least. We have maintained a close relationship with the Bar Association ever since.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE



2016 marks Community Legal Services' (CLS) 50th anniversary. We are excited to celebrate 50 years of excellence in legal aid, and 50 years of strengthening our community. It's been an exciting year for CLS, with so many of our friends and partners helping us to celebrate this milestone.



On November 3rd, we celebrated our 50th anniversary with many friends, including some who have been with CLS since the very beginning. It was a wonderful chance to reconnect with alumni and longtime supporters, share stories of CLS's successes, and have a great time together.

CLS was honored by Philadelphia City Council in April with a resolution in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We have been fortunate to be able to work with City Council on many projects over the past 50 years, and we deeply appreciate their leadership on behalf of low-income Philadelphians. The resolution was presented by Councilwoman María Quiñones-Sánchez, Councilman Bill Greenlee, and Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, and many CLS staff members were on hand for the beautiful presentation.



Our community members are important to us and we couldn't imagine celebrating our 50th anniversary without them. In June, we held a block party outside of our North Philadelphia Law Center to let our friends and neighbors know how much they mean to us. We had a wonderful time and were proud to celebrate in our North Philadelphia neighborhood, where we have had an office for more than 40 years.



DATA & TECHNOLOGY

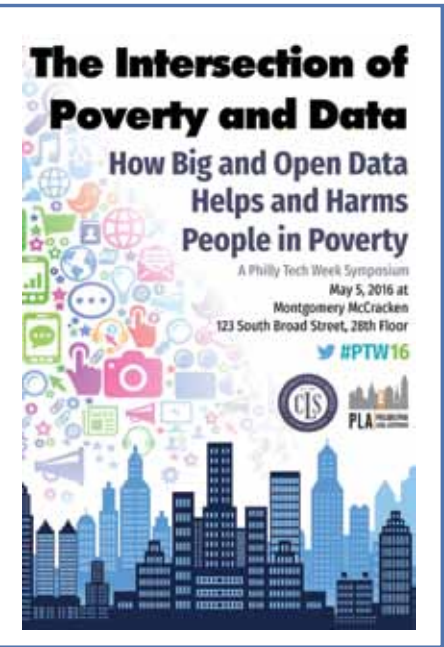
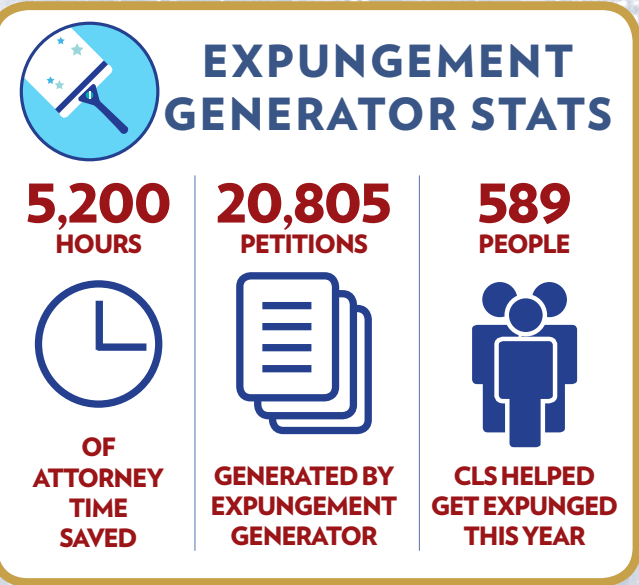
CLS's unique model allows us to look for trends that stem from individual legal representation to inform our systemic advocacy. In recent years, CLS has increased its use of data and technology to help more people and to enhance the impact of our legal work. The use of data to support our arguments makes our advocacy more effective, and **it allows us to understand the scope of the problems** we aim to solve. Technology makes our work more efficient, allowing us to serve more clients, even when resources are limited.

Here are just a few ways that CLS is using data and technology to better serve our clients:

- CLS attorney Mike Hollander developed the **Expungement Generator (EG)** in 2001 to **automate the process of generating expungement petitions**, so that individuals could clear their criminal records and have a fresh start. A single arrest can be a life sentence, even if the arrest never led to conviction. Decades after being arrested, a criminal record can still make it extraordinarily difficult to find a job and safe, affordable housing. The EG performs complex legal analysis on criminal docket sheets downloaded from the Pennsylvania court's public criminal record website to determine if and what type of expungement is possible. It then produces ready-to-file expungement petitions and allows the user to track the progress of all of a client's expungements. Because the EG

is so efficient, it has allowed organizations that use it to increase their expungement capacity exponentially, helping thousands of people clear their records.

- CLS frequently represents nursing home residents in matters relating to the preservation and protection of their rights. Over the past several years, CLS has witnessed a **significant decrease in the enforcement of nursing home regulations** and in resident protections by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). Last year, CLS, led by attorney Sam Brooks, analyzed DOH data to see if inspection and enforcement data matched up with our anecdotal experiences, and found shocking evidence to prove that enforcement had decreased. We released a report of our analysis, and brought the report to the attention of policymakers, stakeholders, and the media, in order to make positive change for nursing home residents. Our analysis has led to



to educate policymakers, advocates, and other members of our community. This year, CLS and Philadelphia Legal Assistance **hosted a symposium during Philly Tech Week** on the ways in which big and open data can both hurt and help low-income people. The symposium was an exciting chance to educate our local tech and civics community, and has spurred opportunities to work collaboratively with that community to envision better outcomes for our client population.

- We are also looking at the issue of **predictive analytics**, as more government agencies and other entities are using algorithms to make decisions that impact our clients' lives. To that end, CLS will be working on monitoring these efforts, communicating our clients' needs, implementing legal strategies to prevent harm from occurring, and advocating administratively to protect our clients' rights.

CLS is looking towards the future, **continuing to innovate**, and harnessing data to strategically and persuasively advocate for our clients. We are also responding to changes in technology as a way to prevent injustice and to further our anti-poverty work. As data and technology grow increasingly important in our society, CLS is using its 50 years of experience to ensure a brighter future for the people we serve.

DOH making some important improvements, but there is still work to be done. CLS will continue to gain knowledge from representing clients and pair that knowledge with data analysis to ensure that residents are being protected and to advocate for safer nursing homes.

- Using our legal expertise and knowledge of how policies impact low-income people, CLS has studied the **effect of data and technology on people in poverty**, and is now working

The Nursing Home Was Threatening to Discharge Marla's Son Illegally




A few months after the release of CLS's report on nursing home enforcement, Marla, a 78-year-old woman with significant mobility issues, came to CLS. Her 60-year-old son had suffered a stroke and was now in a nursing home. The nursing home was threatening to discharge Marla's son to her home because of non-payment, but with her own health issues, she could not take care of him. Her son could not walk, was incontinent, had significant problems speaking, and had lost function on one side of his body. This was an unsafe and illegal involuntary discharge because the son was not given his required 30-day notice before discharge, and because Marla could not take care of him.

CLS attorney Sam Brooks took action to keep Marla's son safe. He immediately contacted the nursing home, and when they attempted to move forward with the discharge, Sam contacted the Department of Health (DOH). Unfortunately, the DOH hotline representative did not take the correct steps to remedy the problem. Ultimately, Sam was able to work with the nursing home so they would avoid discharging Marla's son. Because CLS does powerful policy advocacy in addition to representing clients, Sam did not stop there. He brought this case to the attention of DOH's leadership and other policymakers to push for critical improvements to DOH systems, like the hotline. Sam is using data, legal expertise, and our clients' stories to advocate for improvements to DOH operations so that people like Marla's son can get the care they need.

A Chance for Children in Crisis to Thrive


When a family is in crisis and a child must be removed from their home, it is important that the child have the opportunity to be placed with a family member, who can offer comfort and stability, rather than in a foster home. Because children have a better chance of thriving when they are living with family, instead of in foster care, and because there have been many bureaucratic barriers in Philadelphia to placing children with relatives, CLS published a report last fall that offered recommendations for expanding Philadelphia’s kinship care program. Our report prompted DHS to change its policy and ensure that more children are placed quickly with family, preventing unnecessary trauma and promoting long-term success.



Philadelphia Should Expand its Kinship Care Program to Better Support Vulnerable Children and Families

About this Report
Community Legal Services’ (CLS) Family Advocacy Unit represents individual parents involved with the Department of Human Services who are seeking to keep their children at home or to have them returned safely home from foster care. We also advocate on the national, state and local level for improvements in child welfare practices, services to families, and the dependency court system. When a child is removed from his or her home, CLS advocates that the child be placed with family members, to ensure stability, comfort, and safety for the child, while the parent addresses whatever issue has put the family in crisis. This report provides recommendations for improving and expanding Philadelphia’s kinship care program, in order to serve the best interests of Philadelphia’s vulnerable children.

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CLS Clients Create Change

In April, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro kicked off National Reentry Week with a listening session with several CLS clients who informed the cabinet members about the challenges they have faced because of their criminal records. CLS clients also spoke about their role in helping to create change, including efforts to reform key laws and policies, and CLS Litigation Director Sharon Dietrich provided policy recommendations based on decades of representing people with criminal records.

Eliminating Lifetime Employment Bans

In December 2015, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, by a 7-0 vote, overturned lifetime criminal record bans that unfairly shut out thousands of people from jobs in nursing homes and home health care, as well as deprived elderly, sick and disabled people of excellent caregivers. CLS put together the litigation team that brought this case. Because we won this case, many more people in Pennsylvania will now be able to work in the growing field of long-term health care and in other fields where lifetime bans exist.

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Fair Chance Hiring

This year, Philadelphia City Council passed a bill which amends the city’s Ban the Box ordinance to turn it into a broader bill ensuring fair hiring for people with criminal records.

CLS helped to design and implement Philadelphia’s Ban the Box ordinance, and drafted the amendments to the bill, in order to help more people become employed. The amended bill requires a conditional offer of employment prior to a records check, improves enforcement, and allows employers to consider convictions for only seven years.

Stability for Youth Leaving Foster Care

Based on CLS's advocacy with partner organizations Juvenile Law Center and Homeless Advocacy Project, the Social Security Administration (SSA) agreed to allow youth transitioning out of foster care to apply for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits six months prior to discharge to avoid delays in getting vital payments. Previously, youth leaving the foster care system could apply for benefits just 90 days in advance, which was rarely enough time to get benefits in place. This new time frame will significantly increase the likelihood that youth who are transitioning out of foster care will have stable benefits. A large number of homeless youth have aged out of the foster care system, so this income is vital to preventing homelessness.

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First in the Nation Water Affordability Program

After seeing hundreds of desperate clients with no running water in their homes, CLS worked with Philadelphia City Council to establish a first in the nation program for affordable water bills for low-income Philadelphia families. We are in the process of implementing this program, so the City of Philadelphia can serve as a model for other cities nationwide, which are struggling to find the balance between the costs of operating utility systems and recognizing the fundamental right to affordable, life-essential water service.

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As of June 30, 2016

	TOTAL	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	OPERATING
Revenue & Other Support:			
Contracts & Grants	7,692,975		7,692,975
Contributions	2,757,695	250,026	2,507,669
Attorney Fees	254,734		254,734
Interest Income	60,711	59,060	1,651
Other Income	9,410		9,410
Subtotal Revenue	10,775,525	309,086	10,466,439
Expenses:			
Program Services	9,322,431	63,020	9,259,411
Management and General	1,020,626		1,020,626
Fundraising	448,318		448,318
Total Expenses	10,791,375	63,020	10,728,355
Change in Assets	-15,850	246,066	-261,916
Net Assets			
Beginning of Year, restated	9,698,666	5,530,723	4,167,943
End of Year	9,682,816	5,776,789	3,906,027

HIGHLIGHTS OF CLS'S HISTORY

1966

Court of Common Pleas Judge Raymond Pace Alexander grants CLS's charter over objection. At this time, the organization places attorneys in various existing anti-poverty program offices throughout Philadelphia.

1969

CLS wins *Shapiro v. Thompson*, as the court declares welfare residency laws unconstitutional because they denied an individual the right to travel.

1971

CLS files a racial discrimination class action against Local 542 of the Operating Engineers, ultimately opening the trade that operates heavy construction equipment to hundreds of minority workers.

CLS helps Congress adopt nation's first Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Act.

1973

CLS, in City Wide Coalition Against Childhood Lead Poisoning v.

HUD, is successful in obtaining preliminary injunction requiring HUD to remediate lead based paint in accordance with the City Health Department regulations before they sell residential properties in Philadelphia. The case is eventually settled in accordance with the injunction.

1974

At the outset of the SSI program, CLS successfully protected 5,000 Pennsylvanians from losing benefits based on flawed procedures during the transition from the prior state disability program to the new federal SSI program, in the case of *Buckles v. Weinberger*.

CLS, in the federal court case of *Brown v. PHA*, is able to create a grievance procedure for public housing tenants.

1975

CLS is able to successfully conclude Washington Square East litigation which results in the building of low income units in this urban renewal area.

1976

CLS represents appellees in the case of *Resident Advisory Board v. Mayor Rizzo*, where a federal court finds racial discrimination by the City of Philadelphia, RDA, PHA, and HUD and orders Whitman Park public housing to be built in the southern tip of Philadelphia.

1978

CLS helps draft the PA Protection from Abuse Act, a national model for state domestic violence legislation.

Led in part by CLS, *Bolden v. PA State Police* is one of the first ever race discrimination suits against a state police department. After a long, bitterly fought trial, the case results in an integration of the force by African Americans.

1981

At CLS's prompting, a federal court reinstates Medical Assistance benefits to elderly and disabled Social Security beneficiaries in the *Shadis v. Beal* ruling, distributing over \$1 million in damages.

1983

CLS, as counsel to Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP), is instrumental in the establishment of state mortgage foreclosure assistance programs (HEMAP) after a court stayed sheriff's sales on all Philadelphia mortgage foreclosures for more than a year.

1985

CLS represents the plaintiffs in the federal court case *Mayhew v. Cohen* which holds that reducing welfare benefits in order to collect overpayments is unconstitutional without adequate notice and a hearing.

1986

A federal court requires the state to properly issue expedited food stamps to poor persons—as represented by CLS—in exigent situations as a result of *Harley v. Lyng*.

CLS brings the case *Fifty Residents of Park Residence Nursing Home v. DPW* before the Commonwealth Court to argue that nursing home

residents must be given notice prior to changes in their level of care.

1987

A mass tax sale by the City was stopped in part by CLS, leading to thousands of low-income homeowners receiving individual payment agreements, saving their homes.

CLS wins *O'Dell v. O'Bannon*; District Court orders Philadelphia Department of Human Services to provide a range of services for families whose children have been placed in foster care.

Working with the Tenants Action Group, CLS is instrumental in getting an anti-lockout ordinance passed into law. The law created remedies for tenants who had been illegally locked out and made an illegal lockout a criminal summary offense.

1989

CLS wins *Smith v. Commercial Banking Corporation*, a Third Circuit decision that firmly established the right for low-income debtors to sue their mortgage companies when their consumer rights were violated.

CLS successfully challenges a series of SEPTA fare hikes, saving millions of dollars for low-income riders.

1990s

CLS takes the lead against a scourge of fraudulent trade schools and obtains millions of dollars in student loan cancellations.

1990

CLS lawyers win a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Sullivan v. Zebley*, which allows hundreds of thousands of low-income children with disabilities to become eligible for Social Security benefits.

1991

Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly, after national review of legal services programs, concludes that CLS is the most successful legal services provider in the nation.

1993

CLS wins *Rosetti v. Shalala*; the Third Circuit decision leads to Social Security Administration's adoption of new standards for assessing disability caused by HIV and AIDS.

1994

CLS represents low income Medicare beneficiaries across Pennsylvania in *Action Alliance v. Snider*, where the federal court approves a settlement with sweeping revision to the administration of the Medicare Buy-In Program, leading to 12,000 new beneficiaries and \$6.2 million in refunds. A second CLS class action, *Garcia v. Sebelius*, brings further improvements to the Medicare Buy-In Program 15 years later.

1999

CLS engages the State in broad negotiations over implementation of the welfare reform work requirements, helping to prevent massive cash assistance cutoffs, preserve access to education, and enforce employment rights.

2000

CLS challenges the merger between PECO Unicom Corporation, leading to a settlement agreement which not only improves PECO's low-income customer assistance programs but also focuses on the poorest of the poor.

CLS files 11 civil rights complaints against Pennsylvania's Department

of Public Welfare, alleging discrimination against people with limited English proficiency.

2003

In reaction to advocacy led by CLS and the Women's Law Project, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell signs Act 44 to lift a lifetime ban which had prevented women survivors of physical and sexual abuse, who were in recovery from addictions, from getting benefits for which they were otherwise eligible.

2005

CLS advocacy helps avoid cuts to AdultBasic, the low-cost program for uninsured individuals and families whose income was just high enough to disqualify them for no-cost health insurance, and instead win an allocation of \$17 million.

2008

As a result of advocacy by CLS and the Pennsylvania Health Law Project, the Office of Long Term Living (OLTLL) releases an Aging Program Directive (APD) directing that individuals with intermediate level care needs qualify for Home and Community Based services, preventing loss of services for those individuals.

In the case *Kaplan v. Chertoff*, CLS successfully negotiates a partial solution for challenging the denial of SSI for refugees, asylees and other humanitarian immigrants who are unable to naturalize within the allotted seven years due to delay in processing applications for citizenship. Settlement allowed expediting of such cases to prevent loss of benefits.

2009

After years of CLS advocacy, Pennsylvania mortgage regulations change to require brokers and lenders to have documentation proving that a borrower has the ability to pay any offered mortgage loans.

CLS advocacy results in \$7 million over four years in utility assistance for low-income clients, with an additional \$27.6 million in energy efficiency and conservation assistance.

2010

After more than a decade of work by CLS, the Women's Law Project and the Community Justice Project, Pennsylvania's Department

of Public Welfare adopts regulations protecting survivors of domestic violence who need help from the welfare system.

CLS's advocacy leads to a ban on the shackling of pregnant incarcerated women in Pennsylvania's county jails and correctional facilities.

2011

CLS, working with TURN, is instrumental in the passage of an ordinance to protect the rights of tenants who are victims of domestic violence, so that their lease cannot be terminated, while also giving the victim the ability to terminate a lease early or request that their abuser be evicted.

2012

In conjunction with Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, CLS successfully negotiates an opportunity to get Medicaid reinstated for 100,000 people who lost Medical Assistance when paperwork was lost or incorrectly processed by the Department of Public Welfare.

2013

Advocacy by CLS and other legal services programs leads Philadelphia to create the Owner Occupied Payment Agreement program for delinquent property taxes.

2015

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.

A combination of high-impact litigation led by CLS and systemic advocacy with statewide partners led to the prevention of devastating health benefit 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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