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
Community Legal Services

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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at CLS’s 27 nearly 120 law firms and businesses in support of CLS’s hosted by the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

• Peter (“Tad”) H. LeVan, Jr.,
• Robert J. LaRocca,
• Seth F. Kreimer,
• Janet Ginzberg,
Youth justice

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 faced 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 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 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.

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

CLS’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 mail we send is designed to be accessible and easy to understand. When our clients do not come to us, we adjust the way we communicate with them from phone calls and mail to texting and email.

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When our young adult clients face additional barriers, such as school, work, and family obligations, which make it difficult to travel to our offices during intake hours. SSS: 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.

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 and promote their health and well-being. 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 mail we send is designed to be accessible and easy to understand. When our clients do not come to us, we adjust the way we communicate with them from phone calls and mail to texting and email.

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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. Those efforts lead to safer, more stable lives for clients and their families. When CLS prevents illegal evictions, children worry about moving around or fearing homelessness. CLS also helps tenants escape domestic violence and sexual assault by securing emergency transfers to safer housing. CLS prevents homeowners from facing foreclosure, and 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) and 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 the 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 addresses to 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 expert advocates tirelessly to make Philadelphia a vibrant city all residents can be proud to call home.

After Ms. H’s husband attacked her, she got a protection order evicting him. Now, a domestic violence survivor who might have been forced to accept her application. After months of advocacy, Peter brought Ms. H’s case to the judge in charge of the 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.
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. The EG helps our clients clear their criminal records and have a fresh start. A single arrest can be a life sentence, even if the arrest results in 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, so that individuals could clear their criminal records and have a fresh start. 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 this 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 increased enforcement of nursing home regulations, Marla’s 78-year-old son was threatened with illegal discharge to nursing home because of non-payment, but with her own health issues, she could not take care of him. 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.

• Using our legal expertise and knowledge of new policies, impact low-income people. CLS has studied the effect of data and technology on people in poverty, and is now working to educato 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.

CLS is looking towards the future, continuing to innovate, and harnessing data to strategically and persuasively advocate for our clients. We are also closely monitoring 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.

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 cognitive disabilities, came to CLS. Her 58-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 work, was incompetent, 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. CLS is looking towards the future, continuing to innovate, and harnessing data to strategically and persuasively advocate for our clients. We are also closely monitoring 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.

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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, it is important that the child have the opportunity to be placed quickly with family.

The children’s legal rights and interests are protected through the State Child Law Litigation Clinic (CLS) at the NYU School of Law. CLS has helped women and children who have survived domestic abuse obtain legal protection in their court cases. CLS has also helped women and children whose families have been disrupted by divorce or separation, including cases where a parent’s employment or income is at risk.

In April, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan 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 Barnett provided policy recommendations based on decades of representing people with criminal records.

A Chance for Children in Crisis to Thrive

PEOPLE WHO MADE JUSTICE POSSIBLE

This report prompted DHS to change its policy recommendations for expanding Philadelphia’s kinship care program. Our report prompted DHS to change its policy recommendations for expanding Philadelphia’s kinship care program.

ANNUAL DONORS

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Employment Bans

bans exist. long-term health care and in to work in the growing field of
Pennsylvania will now be able case, many more people in
caregivers. CLS put together disabled people of excellent
deprived elderly, sick and home health care, as well as
out thousands of people from overturned lifetime criminal
In December 2015, the
Judith and Palmer Hartl
Ms. Kim Harrington
W. Martin Harrell, Esq.
Dr. Luanne E. Thorndyke
Mr. Lewis Rosman
Ms. Karen R. Guss and
Joe & Alison Gushue
Jamie Gullen, Esq.
Stuart B. Kurtz, Esq.
Deborah R. Gross, Esq. and
Gerry and Gretchen Greenberg
Ms. Marita Green
Claire Grandison
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Graham
Dr. Diane L. Gallagher
Jacob Eden
Lydia Gottesfeld and
John C. Burroughs
Katherine J. Gomez, Esq.
Mr. Matthew Jablin
Ms. Joanne Isaac
Mary P. Hugues, Esq.
Mr. Mark A. Hughes
Ms. Medha Narvekar and
Ms. Mary Horstmann
Ron Hollander & Maureen Martel
Kathleen and Andrew Hohenadel
Jennifer L. Hoagland, Esq.
Margaret Henn, Esq.
Robert C. Heim, Esq. and
Honorable Arthur L. Haywood, III
Mrs. Florence C. Hayes
Ms. Pat Keating
Edmund L. Harvey, Jr., Esq.
Roberta Jacobs-Meadway, Esq., &
Kathryn Kolbert & Joann Hyle
Mr. Hari Palaiyanur
Paul J. Kennedy, Esq.
Mr. Edward Kahalley, Sr.
Jason R. Jones, Esq.
Ernest Jones and Rae Scott-Jones
Carlton L. Johnson, Esq.
Benjamin and Shiri Jerner
John Jamieson, Jr., Esq. and
Ms. Sara Jacobson
Marlene E. Kline, Esq.
Eli H. Klein, Esq.
Alan F. Klein, Esq.
Barry D. Kleban, Esq.
Doris H. Kessler
Regina Olchowski and Ed Potter
Joseph L. Messa, Esq.
Mark R. Mendenhall, Esq.
Patty A. McGlone
Mr. Jesse M. Lee
Jason A. Leckerman and
Sandra S. Lee
Robert J. Mongeluzzi, Esq.
Ms. Jennifer A. O’Leary, Esq. and
Arthur E. Newbold, IV, Esq.
Jack and Barbara Nagel
Ms. Linda Aveni Murray
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Sandra S. Lee
Robert J. Mongeluzzi, Esq.
Enough time to get benefits advance, which was rarely previously. Youth leaving the foster care system, so this income is vital to preventing homelessness. We are in the process of implementing this program, so the City Council to establish a First in the Nation Water Affordability Program. After having hundreds of desperate clients with no running water in their homes, CSL worked with Philadelphia Water Service. Recognizing the balance between the costs of affordable water bills for low-income Philadelphia families. We are in the process of implementing this program, so this City Council to establish a First in the Nation Water Affordability Program.
LEGAL MANAGEMENT

Deborah L. Freedman, Esq. Executive Director
Katherine J. Gomaz, Esq. Deputy Director of Legal Practice
Brenda L. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Director of Operations
David Fried, Esq. Finance Director
Lisa Verges Development Director
Sharon Garlich, Esq. Litigation Director and Managing Attorney, Employment Unit
Kathleen Cramer, Esq. Managing Attorney, Family Advocacy Unit
Michael W. Frechtest, Esq. Managing Attorney, Homelessness/Justice Consumer Rights Unit
George G. Gould, Esq. Managing Attorney, Energy Unit
Amy Hicks, Esq. Managing Attorney, Health Philadelphia Legal Aid Center and Public Benefits Unit
Rasheedah Phillips, Esq. Managing Attorney, Housing Unit

FINANCIALS

As of June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue &amp; Other Support:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracts &amp; Grants 7,692,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions 2,757,955 250,026 2,507,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney Fees 254,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income 60,711 59,050 1,651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income 9,410 9,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Revenue 10,775,525 309,086 10,466,439</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services 9,322,431 63,020 9,259,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General 1,020,626 1,020,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising 448,318 448,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses 10,791,375 63,020 10,728,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Assets -15,850 246,066 -261,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Beginning of Year, restated 9,698,666 5,530,723 4,167,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Year 9,682,816 5,775,789 3,906,027</td>
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<th>CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</th>
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Highlights of CLS's History

1967

• Court of Common Pleas Judge Raymond Alexander recommends GLS as public defender for Browning v. Commonwealth, with 42 defendants going on to win their cases.

1968

• GLS founding board meets to discuss and plan the next steps for the organization.

1969

• New Delaware law requires that attorneys must be licensed to represent clients in court, focusing efforts on the State Supreme Court which ultimately requires attorneys to be licensed.

1971

• In the Court of Common Pleas Judge Raymond Alexander recommends GLS as public defender for Browning v. Commonwealth, with 42 defendants going on to win their cases.

1974

• GLS files 25 civil rights complaints over the course of a year.

1975

• Court of Common Pleas Judge Raymond Alexander recommends GLS as public defender for Browning v. Commonwealth, with 42 defendants going on to win their cases.

1986

• GLS files 11 civil rights complaints over the course of a year.

1987

• GLS files 11 civil rights complaints over the course of a year.

1990

• GLS files 11 civil rights complaints over the course of a year.

1991

• GLS files 11 civil rights complaints over the course of a year.

2005

• Advanced through efforts by GLS and our partners, the federal government and the State of New York finally reverse their policies and honor the legal claims of thousands of low-income families, making the state of New York the first state in the nation to adopt a policy that addresses the issue of domestic violence.

2009

• A combination of major agreements negotiated by GLS and its allies provides legal aid organizations and clients with unprecedented access to affordable health care.