A FUTURE FOR JUSTICE

Modern Legal Aid Era
Statewide Website Launch
Alternative Funding Explored
New Statewide Strategic Plan

- Six organizations merge into two separate 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations
- ALSP formed to coordinate statewide initiatives, trainings, and justice technologies
- AATJ is created by per curiam order of the Arkansas Supreme Court
- A combined $632,000 in annual funding was lost
The Center for Arkansas Legal Services and Legal Aid of Arkansas are the only two free civil legal aid organizations in the state that provide direct client services. There are several organizations that work daily to help support these and several other statewide justice projects. Many partners are part of this effort, but there is one shared vision: to champion equal access to justice for all regardless of economic or social circumstances. Contact information for our legal aid and partner organizations is listed below.

**Center for Arkansas Legal Services**  
Jean Carter, Executive Director  
1300 West 6th St., Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-376-3423 | www.arlegalservices.org

**Legal Aid of Arkansas**  
Lee Richardson, Executive Director  
714 S. Main St., Jonesboro, AR 72401  
870-972-9224 | www.arlegalservices.org

**Arkansas Access to Justice Commission**  
Amy Dunn Johnson, Executive Director  
1300 West 6th St., Rm 110, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
(501) 492-7172 | www.arkansasjustice.org

**Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation**  
Amy Dunn Johnson, Executive Director  
1300 West 6th St., Rm 113, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
(501) 492-7172 | www.arkansasjustice.org

**Arkansas Legal Services Partnership**  
Vince Morris, Director  
1300 West 6th St., Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-376-3423 | www.arlegalservices.org

**Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership**  
Vince Morris, Director  
1300 West 6th St., Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-376-3423 | www.arlegalservices.org

To champion equal access to justice for all regardless of economic or social circumstances
DEAR ARKANSAS LAWYER,

Over the past decade, we have witnessed worrisome trends in the ability of ordinary citizens to gain meaningful access to our civil justice system. These trends indicate a clear and growing gap between the wealthy and the poor or middle class when it comes to affordability and accessibility of legal representation in civil cases. The result is an enormous disparity between the general expectation that Americans have access to the courts to resolve their civil disputes and the actual reality—that access to justice in most civil matters is available only to the well-to-do. At the same time, emerging technologies, a growing “do-it-yourself” movement among the general public, and other forces are transforming the ways legal services are accessed and delivered.

We see some of these developments firsthand in Arkansas. Almost a third of the 60,000 family law and probate court cases filed each year are initiated by self-represented litigants, and more than 90% of those cases have an unrepresented party on the other side. The picture for financial and housing cases—debt collection, unlawful detainer, and foreclosure—is also striking. These cases are almost universally initiated by an attorney representing a creditor, but in nine of ten cases, no attorney appears for the individual defendant.

Economic barriers are not the only impediment for Arkansans with civil legal needs: a dwindling and aging population of attorneys in rural areas of the state means that where one lives will likely determine his or her ability to access critical legal services. A 2015 study indicates that the state’s 25 most rural counties average fewer than 0.44 practicing attorneys per 1,000 residents. Seven of these counties have no attorneys licensed this millennium, and one has no attorneys at all. That study revealed another surprising finding: of the state’s 6,855 resident, active attorneys only 2,982 are currently in private practice.

Our state is fortunate to have two nonprofit public interest law firms that provide free, high-quality legal representation for low-income Arkansas in all 75 counties of the state: the Center for Arkansas Legal Services and Legal Aid of Arkansas. In spite of their limited financial resources, CALS and LAA stretch the dollars they receive in innovative ways, allowing them to help more than 10,000 clients each year with a combined staff of only 64 attorneys and paralegals. In 2014, these two programs provided services at a cost that was $8 million less than the equivalent cost of such services in the private legal market, ultimately resulting in more than $27 million in economic activity in the state.

Arkansas attorneys, law firms, and corporate partners are lending their support to these efforts. Last year, 950 attorneys volunteered to take pro bono cases for legal aid clients. Together, they put in more than 7,400 hours of work on these cases. In addition, a total of 526 individuals, 19 law firms, and 14 corporate donors made financial or in-kind contributions to support the Campaign for Legal Aid. The names of contributors and pro bono attorneys who accepted referrals from legal aid are listed on the pages that follow.

The UALR William H. Bowen School of Law and University of Arkansas School of Law are proud to partner with the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation, the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership, and the Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership in a shared vision of access to justice for all. That vision requires that we look ahead to the future of how our profession can embrace these challenges through innovation, new models for educating tomorrow’s legal professionals, and the development of financially viable models for delivering legal services that meet the needs of all Arkansans. Your volunteer and financial support make this possible. Thank you for your helping us represent both a hope—and a future—for Arkansans who would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

Dean Stacy Leeds
University of Arkansas School of Law

Dean Michael Hunter Schwartz
University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law
2014 Justice Projects

Developing Justice – New Consumer Protection Clinic

In 2014, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law launched a new clinical program in the area of consumer protection. The Consumer Protection Clinic is overseen by Professor Amy Pritchard, a former Legal Aid of Arkansas staff attorney. Clinic students assist clients who are facing foreclosure, eviction, housing instability, fraud, unfair or deceptive trade practices, and problems with credit reports and credit access. Students also gain exposure to a broad range of substantive housing and consumer law, as well as well as access to justice and professional responsibility issues.

In its inaugural year, ten clinical students assisted low-income Arkansans in avoiding predatory debt collectors, preventing foreclosures and evictions, and improving rental housing conditions. Clinical students collaborated with attorneys from both legal aid programs on individual cases and on systemic projects to increase protections for Arkansas tenants and other consumers.

Accessing Justice – Onsite Court Help for Pro Se Litigants

In 2011, a study from the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission indicated that 91% of Pulaski County cases involving domestic relations, consumer, or probate matters had at least one unrepresented party. In response to that study’s findings, the Commission partnered with the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership and the Pulaski County Circuit Court to pilot a court-based self-help center called “CourtHelp,” which provides self-represented court patrons with legal information and other services to aid them in getting their cases heard on the merits.

The CourtHelp office is located in the Pulaski County Circuit Courthouse in Room 200, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. The office opened January 13, 2015, and has assisted more than 100 pro se litigants in its first three months of operation.

Road to Justice – A Route to Redemption

By spending their spring break with Legal Aid, eight law students helped more than 40 low-income Arkansans with their legal issues. For the 5th Annual Road to Justice, law students traveled with Legal Aid of Arkansas staff attorneys to Osceola, West Memphis, Wynne and Forrest City to provide legal help to clients on the spot, primarily with criminal record expungements.

Since its inception four years ago, the Road to Justice has succeeded in taking legal help on the road. Law students from the University of Arkansas School of Law and University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law, Legal Aid staff, and volunteer attorneys have helped Arkansans with estate, debt collection, guardianship, housing, and more. The Road to Justice was funded in part by donations from the Student Bar Association at the University of Arkansas School of Law.

View more of our justice projects at www.arlegalservices.org/justiceprojects.
LEGAL AID IN ARKANSAS 2014 – FUNDING

The two Arkansas legal aid programs provide critical legal services to thousands of Arkansans every year. As 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, they provide free legal services to low-income individuals residing in the state of Arkansas in civil (non-criminal) cases. With limited financial resources and annual client caseloads consistently hovering near the 15,000 mark, our legal aid programs must stretch their dollars in innovative ways. The primary funding sources for legal aid in Arkansas include: Legal Services Corporation (LSC), grants and contracts, the Public Legal Aid Fund, Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), donations from private bar attorneys and corporations, and donations from organizations and individuals. The following charts show the revenues and expenditures that are used to provide the services detailed on the previous page.

Revenue

4% of our funding came from donations by private bar attorneys and corporations.

9% of our funding came from the Arkansas IOLTA Program. Most of that amount represents distributions out of the $2 million National Mortgage Settlement fund designated for the provision of services to assist clients affected by the housing crisis.

11% of funding came from the Public Legal Aid Fund established by the Arkansas Legislature in 2005. This fund distributes a percentage of circuit court filing and case reopening fees to legal aid.

12% of funding came from grants and contracts, including anti-domestic abuse funding, IRS, United Way, Parent Counsel, Equal Justice Works, AmeriCorps, juvenile and aging funding.

64% of funding came from the federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC). LSC is a nonprofit entity established by Congress to fund free civil legal services.

Expenditures

17% Support staff who provide services to further the legal aid mission, including secretarial, business management, information technology, and executive leadership.

17% Operational costs for 14 offices, including rent, utilities, postage, telephone/technology, printing/copying, travel, and office equipment/maintenance.

66% Attorney and paralegal salaries and benefits comprise the single largest source of expense. These 64 individuals handle client cases in legal aid offices throughout the state.

Arkansas IOLTA Program Celebrates 30 Years

Created in 1985, the Arkansas IOLTA Program was established as a program permitting the collection of interest on lawyers’ trust accounts to use for purposes approved by the Supreme Court, including legal aid to the poor, student loans and scholarships, and improvement of the administration of justice. Since its inception, the IOLTA Program has made grants totaling more than $10.5 million. The program is administered by the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation, which also coordinates an annual statewide Campaign for Legal Aid.

In addition to making individual contributions, attorneys who participate in the Arkansas IOLTA program can support access to the justice system by banking with a preferred bank, which waives fees and pays competitive interest rates on IOLTA accounts. For a list of preferred and participating banks and our Guidebook for Attorneys and Financial Institutions, please visit the IOLTA Program website at www.arkansasjustice.org/iolta.
Arkansas's rural communities face a looming crisis when it comes to access to essential legal services: a dwindling and aging attorney population in the state's 25 most rural counties. A policy brief entitled Access to Justice in Rural Arkansas, released jointly by the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission and UC Davis in early 2015, indicates that these counties average fewer than 0.44 practicing attorneys per 1,000 residents. Seven of these counties have no attorneys licensed this millennium, and one has no attorneys at all. That study revealed another surprising finding: of the state's 6,895 resident, active, attorneys only 2,982 are currently in private practice. These numbers represent a troubling and growing rural justice gap that Legal Aid is struggling to fill.

The following tables and narratives show the number of cases, case types, and the value of the critical pro bono support provided by Arkansas attorneys.

**Client Numbers**
- 750,491 legal aid eligible Arkansans
- 27,372 eligible clients requested help
- 12,709 client cases (closed or pending)
- 16,775 Arkansans turned away due to resource limitations
- $6.5 Million attained for Arkansans as client recovery and avoidance
- 26,897 total Arkansans were helped (all household members)

**Primary Areas of Practice**
- 5,155 cases assisting families with domestic abuse, child protection, and other family law
- 1,337 consumer law cases (bankruptcy, debt collections, and other consumer law)
- 1,460 health & housing issues, including evictions, foreclosures, and Medicaid
- 770 juvenile cases for children who were neglected or abused (includes guardianships)
- 830 cases involving SSI, SSDI, or other income maintenance
- 1,287 cases involving employment, education, individual rights, and other civil legal matters

**Case Types**

“[Rural] counties average fewer than 0.44 practicing attorneys per 1,000 residents.”

“Seven of these counties have no attorneys licensed this millennium, and one has no attorneys at all.”

Learn more at [www.arkansasjustice.org/rural-access-policy-brief](http://www.arkansasjustice.org/rural-access-policy-brief).

**PRO BONO SUPPORT**
- 572 private attorneys handled a total of 867 pro bono cases, and another 102 attorneys volunteered for pro bono events
- $1,418,920 in pro bono services (in-kind value) was provided by Arkansas attorneys
- $288,294 in private donations (VOCALS, LAA, and the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation)
PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

Tabitha Lee
Arkansas Legal Services Partnership Vanguard Award
Tabitha Lee has been awarded the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership "Vanguard Award" for 2014. This award, in its inaugural year, is given by the Partnership to an attorney in the state who best exemplifies not only a commitment to pro bono service, but an innovative and courageous spirit in bringing Arkansas closer to achieving equal access to justice for all. During 2014, Ms. Lee worked tirelessly to help low-income Arkansans with their legal problems as both an advocate for them and a partner and leader in every clinic and outreach event the partnership orchestrated. Ms. Lee's pioneering and generous spirit both embodies and inspired the Vanguard Award.

Tabitha Lee of Dermott, Arkansas, is a graduate of Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, & Arts, University of Arkansas (B.S. ’09), UALR William H. Bowen School of Law (J.D. ’13), and the Clinton School of Public Service (MPS ’14). She serves as law clerk to the Honorable Leon Johnson in Pulaski County First Division Circuit Court as well as a community organizer in eastern Arkansas. She believes that every person is entitled to live with dignity.

Wade Williams
Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly Service Award
Legal Aid of Arkansas honors Wade Williams of Eureka Springs as the 2014 Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly Service Award. The Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly program is a division of Legal Aid of Arkansas that serves clients over the age of sixty. The award recognizes outstanding volunteerism and service to elderly residents. Williams donated over 51 pro bono hours primarily to the elderly because “he wanted to the opportunity to help others.”

Williams has been practicing law since 1990. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Arkansas and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

When asked what motivates him to volunteer his time with Legal Aid clients, Williams answered, “I have been blessed in my life and feel it is important to give back. Since I can’t always repay those who bless me, I try to pass it on to others.” Wade is married to Elizabeth Williams and they have 5 children between them: Lucinda Williams, Leslie Williams, Matthew Cole, Jackson Cole, and Henry Cole. Williams enjoys traveling and history. His firm, Thurman & Flanagan, is located in Eureka Springs.

Jim O’Hern
River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project Attorney of the Year
Jim O’Hern is the recipient of the 2014 “Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award” presented by the River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project. During 2014, as an attorney in private practice in Fort Smith, O’Hern devoted 118 hours of pro bono representation to low income clients in Sebastian County and Crawford County. Attorney O’Hern received his B.A. from the College of Charleston in 1975 and received his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1980.

Since 1991, Attorney O’Hern has been an active participant in the River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project. The River Valley Volunteer Project is co-sponsored by the Center for Arkansas Legal Services and the Sebastian and Crawford County Bar Associations. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, O’Hern is also involved in focusing on the legal needs of low-income Arkansans.

O’Hern closed five cases in 2014. One of the cases involved an eighty-three year old client who wanted to obtain legal title to property located in Van Buren. The property had been owned by the client’s grandparents, who died leaving five children. The five children died leaving sixteen children. O’Hern spent eighty-one hours on this case. Three of the closed cases involved parents seeking guardianships of disabled adult children and one step-parent adoption.
PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

Sandra Y. Harris
Jefferson County VOCALS Attorney of the Year
VOCALS of Jefferson County celebrates Sandra Y. Harris as their 2014 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year. Harris joined VOCALS in 1993, a year after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, and has been a vital and outstanding pro bono advocate since. Harris has received multiple awards from VOCALS of Jefferson County throughout her tenure, most recently being awarded pro bono attorney of the year in 2010.

Sandra Harris graciously said of the award, “It is a special honor for me to receive the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award. As a native of Jefferson County and Pine Bluff, it means a great deal to me to be able to provide representation to citizens who, otherwise, may have no access to legal service. Again, I am very humbled to have this award bestowed upon me, and I would also like to thank the Center for Arkansas Legal Service for the important work they do.”

Edie Ervin
Medical-Legal Partnership Outstanding Attorney
Edie Ervin is recognized for her outstanding volunteerism for the Medical-Legal Partnership with Mid-Delta Health Systems, Inc., and Legal Aid of Arkansas. Ervin donated over hours 56 of pro bono service to medical-legal partnership clients during 2014. Her donation has a conservative value of $11,200 to the community. Ervin graduated from Hendrix College in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She then attended the UALR Bowen School of Law, graduating first in her law school class. She started her legal career as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas the Honorable G. Thomas Eisele. Later, she join Williams & Anderson as an associate, becoming a partner. In 2000, she returned to the Eastern District to clerk for the Honorable James M. Moody and then again for Judge Eisele. Ervin is now Of Counsel with Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP.

Ervin is an adjunct professor for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at the UALR Bowen School of Law. She has served on the Camp Aldersgate, Inc., Board of Directors for 5 years. When asked what motivates her to volunteer her time with the medical-legal partnership, Ervin said, “It is a great way to help increase access to the legal system for those who might otherwise be denied access. In the process, I usually receive as much or more than I give. Working with Legal Aid clients is humbling and rewarding.”

Randel Miller
Equal Access to Justice Panel Outstanding Service Award
Randel Miller is being recognized with the Overall Outstanding Service Award for work done in 2014. The award, given each year by Legal Aid of Arkansas, a nonprofit corporation providing free legal services, recognizes an attorney who best personifies the ideals of volunteerism and professionalism in the 31 counties Legal Aid serves. Per Heidi Jamison, Pro Bono Coordinator, “Mr. Miller has been a wonderful volunteer for over ten years goes above and beyond when needed for his clients. This past year, he went multiple times to court for a client in Poinsett County who didn’t show until the 4th time due to transportation problems and the client finally got her divorce.”

Miller is a graduate of Marmaduke High School, Arkansas State University and the UALR Bowen School of Law. When asked why he chose the legal profession, Miller responded “I wanted to make a career of things that I felt mattered, that made a difference in people’s lives. My career has never been about making money as much as it has been about making a difference. I enjoy helping other people, particularly those that cannot afford the services they truly need. It makes me feel good to give someone a level playing field.” Miller is married to Michelle Miller. He has 4 children: Rachel Miller, Paige Nuckles, Dariane Nuckles and Rylee Miller. He enjoys martial arts and coaching his son in baseball, basketball and football. His firm is The Miller Law Firm, 1009 S. Main Street in Jonesboro, Arkansas.
Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year

Kevin Odum
Pulaski County VOCALS Attorney of the Year
Kevin Odum has been a vital part of the VOCALS program for many years. He has contributed over 160 hours since joining VOCALS in 1998. In 2010, he began accepting referral cases. Over the past three years, Kevin has accepted over 35 cases. He has never refused a case and has been successful in winning most cases accepted. On several occasions, he has referred clients to CALS, and then accepted the client back as pro bono case.

Kevin Odum practices primarily in personal injury and social security law. He is a 1993 graduate of the Bowen School of Law. He is a member of the Pulaski County Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Association, and Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association. The VOCALS Attorney of the Year award is given each year to an attorney who has made a significant commitment to pro bono representation of low-income clients with civil cases in Pulaski County.

Justice Partners – Board Members

- Rose Adams
- Richard "Toby" Atkinson
- Jo Barnes
- Melody Peacock Barnett
- Jeffery L. Blassingame
- Rep. Mary Lile Broadway
- Kevin Burns
- Jean Carter
- Lori Chumbler
- Beverly Claunch
- Tamra Cochran
- Jilley Conner
- Nate Coulter
- Niki Cung
- J. Cotten Cunningham
- Marva Davis
- Richard C. Downing
- Missy Duke
- Angela Duran
- Austin Easley
- Causley Edwards
- Felecia Epps
- Judge Suzie Evans
- Zina Frazier
- James D. Gingerich
- Prof. Chuck Goldner
- Judge Robin Green
- Judge Robin Harper
- Pamela Haun
- Mary Henry
- D. Scott Hickam
- Dr. Alice Hines
- Virginia Holt
- Janan Honeysuckle
- William O. James
- Helen Jenkins
- David W. Kamps
- Jane Kim
- Gina Knight
- Ron Lanoue
- Samantha Leflar
- Nikki Lovell
- Mark Mayfield
- Judge Robert McCallum
- David J. McDonough
- James McLarty
- James McMenis
- Chalk Mitchell
- John Monroe
- Mary Alice Morris
- Rodney Nagel
- Rev. Victor Nixon
- Jim O’Hern
- Prof. Kelly Browe Olson
- Willie E. Perkins, Jr.
- Kelly Proctor Pierce
- Sarah Pine
- Val P. Price
- Stevie Prunty
- Lee Richardson
- Hosiana Robinson
- R.N. Sanders
- Neil Sealy
- Kerri Michael Sernel
- Frank B. Sewall
- Vanessa O. Sharp
- Laura Shue
- Steven Shults
- Prof. Annie Smith
- Shayne Smith
- James D. Sprott
- Detria Stackhouse
- Prof. Tim Tarvin
- Sen. Robert Thompson
- Glenn Vasser
- Rep. John Vines
- Bill Waddell
- Guy Wade
- Andrea Walker
- Curtis Walker
- Danyelle Walker
- Demetre Walker
- Kandy Webb
- Ron Wilson
- Rebecca H. Winburn
- Amanda Wofford
- Randall G. Wright
- Justice Robin Wynne

▲ Arkansas Access to Justice Commission
◆ Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation Board of Directors
● Center for Arkansas Legal Services Board of Directors
■ Legal Aid of Arkansas Board of Directors
▼ Volunteer Organization for the Center of Arkansas Legal Services Board of Directors
"I Didn't Know What to Do, Where to Turn..."

"I Remember Feeling So Helpless"
Making an Impact
A single father and his two children sit down to dinner on a week night. He has recently been laid off—he hasn’t found other work yet. Still, he sets the table, turns off the TV, and they bow their heads in prayer before their meager meal when there is suddenly a knock on the door. A police officer waits, arrest warrant in hand. Dad is late on the rent this month.

The threat of jail time, fines, and a criminal record is real for families who fall behind on their rent. Arkansas is the only state in America where failure to pay rent is a crime. For some Arkansans, however, the threat of being thrown in a modern day debtor’s prison is gone.

In 2014, a single woman, impoverished, had rented from her landlord for over ten years. She couldn’t afford much, and she didn’t get much. Conditions in her apartment were so deteriorated that, finally, she fell through the floor. After her landlord refused to make repairs, she contacted code enforcement. The landlord responded by bringing charges under Arkansas’ criminal eviction law (“Failure to Vacate”), alleging the woman owed $20,000 in back rent. The Center for Arkansas Legal Services became involved and represented the woman in Little Rock District Court. After the client was found guilty in district court, the Center appealed to Pulaski County Circuit Court challenging the constitutionality of the Failure to Vacate Statute.

Judge Herbert Wright found the statute to be unconstitutional and dismissed the charges.

Based on the Judge’s ruling, the Pulaski County Prosecutor’s Office is no longer issuing warrants for failure to vacate. The change in the law has impacted thousands of renters in Pulaski County, and cascaded into similar rulings in the 1st and 2nd Judicial Circuits. These victories were achieved through the concerted efforts of a statewide housing taskforce. Stacy Fletcher and Dustin Duke, both from Center, defended the client in the case. Legal Aid of Arkansas attorney, Jason Auer, was co-counsel. VOCALS attorney, Shanice Johnson, was co-counsel at the district court level. Brandon Buskey of the ACLU provided invaluable guidance and research.

Struggle and Hope
A single mother trapped in an abusive relationship acted in her daughter’s best interest and consented to a permanent guardianship order. Miraculously, after a year of counseling and parenting classes, the mother broke free from her cycle of abuse. Eager to reunite her family and pass on the strength she found, the mother filed a petition to remove the guardianship. Unfortunately, because guardianships by consent are not recognized under Arkansas’s guardianship statutes, the standard for removal is burdensome, which—as applied—resulted in the Court’s entry of a directed verdict against the mother. However, due to VOCALS attorney Abtin Mehdizadegan’s thoroughness and countless hours preparing the case and preserving the appellate record, the Center for Arkansas Legal Services had a strong case for appeal.

That appeal is still pending. One family remains broken. But, thanks to the incredible dedication of a mother, a pro bono attorney, and the Center’s staff, hundreds of families across the state of Arkansas have renewed hope that they may one day be reunited.

VOCALS Pro Bono Attorney: Abtin Mehdizadegan, Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus, P.C.
Representing Hope – Client Stories

Serving Families
A dedicated grandmother reached out to the Center for Arkansas Legal Services for help getting a guardianship over her grandchildren. She raised her two grandchildren for most of their lives because their parents were struggling with drugs. Although the client had cared for the children for years, the client had a hard time obtaining medical care for one of the children because she was not an official guardian. With the help of dedicated VOCALS attorney George R. Wise, Jr., the client was finally able to get a guardianship over both of her grandchildren.

VOCALS Pro Bono Attorney: George R. Wise, Jr., Brad Hendricks Law Firm

Giving Arkansans a Second Chance
Many Arkansans have criminal records that seriously limit their professional opportunities, but with a little legal help, they can often seal these records and move on with their lives. In October 2014, a dedicated group of lawyers, other legal professionals, and law students gathered in North Little Rock to assist 118 Arkansans with sealing their criminal records. One client was able to obtain a job with the state government after a pro bono attorney helped the client seal his criminal record at the event. Another client sealed a criminal charge from an incident in which an abusive ex-partner coerced her into shoplifting. Several members of the W. Harold Flowers Law Society were instrumental in the events success.

W. Harold Flowers Law Society: Cory Childs, President

Protecting Tenants
A single mother of two small children turned to Legal Aid of Arkansas for help after her property manager refused to recertify her qualification for project based Section 8 voucher even though she qualified. The property manager demanded an additional $500.00 per month, and, when the client could not pay the new rent, changed her locks and kept her possessions. Staff Attorney Jason Auer immediately commenced litigation and a TRO was issued allowing client back into her home. As a result of a negotiated settlement client was awarded $1,000.00 for being removed from her home and three other clients were recertified by the project manager as well.

Legal Aid of Arkansas: Jason Auer, Staff Attorney

Keeping Them Honest
A single woman was only able to work part-time because she is the caregiver for her dying father. She ran into debt problems and was sued by a debt collection company. The woman, not understanding the legal papers, never filed an answer. The debt collection company obtained a default judgment and a writ of garnishment was issued against her bank account. She turned to the Center for Arkansas Legal Services for help. After investigating the case, Center attorney Cecille Doan discovered that the debt collection company had violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. Cecille worked with a VOCALS attorney to bring a Fair Debt Collection Practices Act claim on behalf of the client in federal. The debt collection company settled. All of the client’s debts were forgiven and she received and additional $2,000 in statutory damages.

Center for Arkansas Legal Services: Cecille Doan, Staff Attorney

More client stories are available on the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership website at www.arlegalservices.org/clientstories.
CORPORATE, FIRM AND FOUNDATION DONORS

Champions of Justice ($50,000+)

Walmart Stores, Inc.

Benefactors of Justice ($20,000-$49,999)

Friday, Eldredge & Clark

Defenders of Justice ($10,000-$19,999)

Walmart Legal Department
Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP

Supporters of Justice ($5,000-$9,999)

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation
Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc.
Hilburn, Calhoon, Harper, Pruniski & Calhoun
Kutak Rock LLP
Tyson Foods, Inc.

Circle of Justice (Gifts up to $4,999)

Acxiom Corporation
Anderson, Murphy and Hopkins LLP
Arkansas Bar Association
Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield
Bartels Law Firm
Blake, Donelson & Associates Law Firm
Care Foundation, Inc.
Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Franden, Woodard, Farris, Quillin & Goodnight
Gary Holt & Associates
Hiland Dairy

James, House, & Downing, PA
Laser Law Firm
Law Offices of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz
Lax, Vaughan, Fortson, Jones & Rowe, PA
Mayton, Newkirk & Jones
Second Presbyterian Church
Snap Fitness of Central Arkansas
Stanley & Woodard, PLC
Trammell Piazza Law Firm, PLLC
University of Arkansas Student Bar Association
Wells Law Firm, PLLC

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Champions of Justice ($5,000+)

Bill * & Patty Waddell
Oscar and Patricia Fendler Endowment for the Advancement of Ethics and Professionalism ‡

Benefactors of Justice ($2,500-$4,999)

Henry & Justice Annabelle Imber Tuck

* Donated & Volunteered
‡ In Kind Donor
Defenders of Justice ($1,000-$2,499)

Nate Coulter *
Angela Duran and Lill Lewis
Judge Alice Lightle

Rodney Nagel
Kathryn W. Roberts
Frank B. Sewall

Robert S. Shafer

Supporters of Justice ($400-$999)

Jordan Abbott
Steven W. Abed
H. William Allen
Justin Allen
Robyn P. Allmendinger
Philip S. Anderson
Elizabeth Ann Andreoli
Richard Angel
Jess Askew III
Michelle Ator
Chad M. Avery
Kyla Aycock
Donald L. Bacon
Amber Wilson Bagley
James C. Baker, Jr.
Lauren Ballard
Michael Barnes
W. Christopher Barrier
Sherry P. Bartley
Sara Hendricks Batchelder
Samuel R. Baxter
Robert B. Beach, Jr.
Lindsey Bell
Paul B. Benham III
Kimberly Bennett *
Eric Berger
M. Stephen Bingham
William E. Bishop
C. B. Blackard
Abraham W. Bogoslovsky
Will Bond
Barbara Bonds
Timothy Boone
Sylvia Borchert
Glen E. Borkowski
Ryan A. Bowman
Larry Brady
Mark Breeding
Howard Brill
Erin Brogdon
Amy Brown
Ashlea Brown
Brian A. Brown
Debra Brown
J. Lee Brown *
Justice Robert L. Brown
Robin Brown
Thomas G. Buchanan, III
Dan D. Buford
C. Douglas Buford, Jr.
Kevin R. Burns
William Jackson Butt II
Elizabeth Caldwell
Ken Calhoun
John Calhoun, Jr.
Frederick Campbell *
Jason Campbell
Robert Cearley, Jr.

Donald Chaney
Victoria Charlesworth
Michael Childers
Lori A. Chumbley *
James C. Clark
Charles B. Clett, Jr.
Charles Coleman
Robert S. Coleman, Jr.
Barry E. Coplin
Allison J. Cornwell
Frankanie Couter
Chasey Cox
Kevin A. Crass
Michael Alfred Crockett
J. Bruce Cross
Courtney C. Crouch III
Sarah Cullen
J. Cotten Cunningham
Kirk Dean Darbe
William Webster Darling *
Kate Davidson
J. Mark Davis
Debbie Denton
Natalie Dickson
Allen C. Dobson
J. Charles Dougherty
Lee Douglass
Kirk Dean Darbe
William Webster Darling *

Donna S. Galchus
Karey W. Gardner
Price J. Gardner
James M. Gary
Allan Gates
W. Dent Gitchel
Allison R. Gladden
Richard Glasgow
Melissa Beard Glover
Dean Chuck & Susan Goldner
Scott Goldsholl
Greg Gough
Connie L. Grace
David A. Grace
David M. Graf
Jeffrey M. Graham
Richie Graham
Kathlyn Graves
H. Watt Gregory III
Joseph W. Gregory
Randy L. Grice
William M. Griffin III
Audriana Grisham
Judge Rita W. Gruber
Judge Wayne A. Gruber
Mark K. Halter
Lauren Hamilton
Frank S. Hamlin
Julia M. Hancock
A. Vaughan Hankins
Stuart W. Hankins
G. Robert Hardin
Betty J. Hardy
Ernest H. Harper, Jr.
John Harriman
Fred H. Harrison
Mike E. Hartje, Jr.
Richard F. Hatfield
James E. Hathaway, III
Daniel L. Heard
Christopher J. Heller
Clifford J. Henry
Donald H. Henry
Judy S. Henry
Robert W. Henry
Rosanna Henry
Daniel L. Herrington *
Stephen A. Hester
Sam Hilkburn
Scott Hilkburn
Cyril Hollingsworth
Don Hollingsworth
William Gary Holt
Janan Kemp Honeydew*
Justice Clifton Hoefman
Joel F. Hoover
Mariam T. Hopkins
Johnathan Horton
D. Michael Huckabay, Jr.
Catherine L. Hughes
Joseph B. Hurst, Jr.
Alexandra A. Ifrah
Scott Andrew Irby
William Stuart Jackson
John M. Jewell
Seth Jewell
Amy & David Johnson
Bonnie Johnson *
Laura D. Johnson *
Lynda M. Johnson
Stephen N. Joiner *
David Jones
Gregory T. Jones
Jamie Huffman Jones
Jerry C. Jones
W. Wilson Jones
Michelle M. Kaemmerling
Philip E. Kaplan
Martin A. Kasten
William B. Keiser
Benjamin Kent
Judson C. Kidd
Jane A. Kim
Andrew King *
David Knight
Kathryn Knisley
Kristopher B. Knox
John Kooistra III
Peter G. Kump
Traci LaCerra
Stephen Lancaster
Laure Landreaux
Michael F. Lax
Josh Leicht
Harry A. Light *
John G. Lile
Angela Danielle Litaker
Nall
David A. Littleton
Nicoleta Nicole Lovell
Patty W. Lueken *
J. Phillip Malcom
Gabriel D. Mallard
David J. Manley
Leslie Mann
Susan Fox Martin
William A. Martin
Gary D. Marts
Terry L. Mathews
Patrick W. McAlpine
J. Cal McCastlain
James M. McNaney, Jr.
Becky McHughes
Joseph P. McKay
Mary McLaurin
James Bruce McMath
Marian McMullan
John McNeely
Keith Martin McPherson
Kelly McQueen *
David F. Menz
Kara Mikles
Mike Millar
Lance R. Miller
Marie-Bernarde Miller
Ark Monroe III
Edward O. Moody
Kristi Moody
Jeffrey H. Moore
Michael S. Moore
Paul Morris
Kirby* & Rosalind* Mouser
D. Michael Moyers
Lee J. Muldrow
Randy P. Murphy
Elizabeth R. Murray
Charles R. Nestrud
Richard Newland
Joseph G. Nichols
James E. Nickels
A. Wyckoff Nisbet, Jr.
W. Robert Nixon, Jr.
Wally Nixon
N. Mac Norton *
Kevin Odom *
Edward Thomas Oglesby
M. Darren O'Quinn
Joshua Osborne
P. Delanna Padilla *
Michael O. Parker
Jarrod S. Parrish
Ashley Peoples
Fred M. Perkins
Antwan Phillips
Ashleigh Phillips
Melody H. Piazza
Jennifer R. Pierce
Brian Pipkin *
David M. Powell
Troy A. Price
Scott D. Provencher
Lyn P. Pruitt
John E. Prunski III
Kathryn Pryor
Bill Rahn
Tucker Raney *
Carrol E. Ray
Randy Rice *
Lee Richardson
Chet Roberts
Georgia Robinette
Richard A. Roderick

* Donated & Volunteered
James Maurice Rogers  
Thomas N. Rose  
Brian M. Rosenthal  
Roger D. Rowe  
Bianca Rucker  
Bradley Runyon  
J. Shepard Russell III  
Thomas S. Russell  
Jerry C. Sallings  
James M. Saxton  
Jay Sayes  
David Schoen  
John Selig  
Robert Shults  
Steven T. Shults  
Harold H. Simpson  
James M. Simpson  
Brian C. Smith  
Brian N. Smith  
David Alan Smith  
Ellen Owens Smith  
James E. Smith  
Laura Smith  
Richard A. Smith  
Robert D. Smith III  
Robert T. Smith  
Shayne Smith  
Stan D. Smith  
Diana Snyder  
C. Timothy Spainhour  
H. F. Spinks  
John William Spivey  
James D. Sprott  
Logan Scott Stafford  
Thomas B. Staley  
Kevin J. Staten  
Paula J. Storeygard  
Richard Shane Strabala  
Matt Suerfern  
Joseph E. Sweere  
Jay T. Taylor  
Marcella J. Taylor  
Jeffrey H. Thomas  
Tami C. Threet  
Bruce B. Tidwell  
James W. Tilley  
John R. Tisdale  
Amy Tracy  
Scott Trotter  
Kimberly Wood Tucker  
Scott H. Tucker  
W. Carson Tucker  
Clyde T. Turner  
Michael P. Vanderford  
Thomas C. Vaughan, Jr.  
Scott T. Vaughn  
Caley Yoo  
Guy A. Wade  
Andrea D. Walker  
Danyelle Jones Walker  
Eric Walker  
Mark D. Wankum  
Richard N. Watts  
Jimmie Webster  
John Wells  
K. Coleman Westbrook, Jr.  
Bud Whetstone  
Gordon M. Wilbourn  
A. Gene Williams  
David L. Williams  
W. Jackson Williams  
David D. Wilson  
Kyle R. Wilson  
Patrick Wilson  
Rebecca H. Winburn  
Teresa M. Wineland  
Carolyn Witherspoon  
Melissa Wood  
Carol Worley  
Dean L. Worley  
John R. Yates  
Jane M. Yocom  
H. Wayne Young, Jr.  
Kimberly Dickerson Young  
Mary Carole Young  
Patrick Young  
Regina A. Young  

**Circle of Justice (Gifts up to $399)**

Rose Adams  
Adjoa A. Aiyetoro  
Phillip Allen  
Toby Atkinson  
Marcia Barnes  
Joycelyn Bell  
Judge Kathleen Bell  
Drew Blankenship  
Shery Crum Boyles  
Ellen B. Brantley  
Christopher D. Brockett  
Thomas E. Brown  
Jessie W. Burchfield  
Sheronda Burton  
Jean Carter  
Johnathan Carter  
Eli Chapparro  
Callis L. Childs  
Kenneth Chitwood  
Steve Copley  
John D. Coulter  
Lynnette Coulter  
Cory Crawford  
Lora Crawley  
Tim Cullen  
Niki Cung  
Lela Davison  
Judge Beth Deere  
Kevin DeLiban  
Jacob Lee Dickinson  
Cecille Doan  
Brenda K. Dokes  
Dustin Duke  
Jim & Suzie Dunn  
Janet Dyer  
Jack East III  
Margaret Egan  
Judge Deanna "Suzie" Evans  
Carol D. Farrar  
Kathryn C. Fitzhugh  
S. Kate Fletcher  
Stacy Fletcher  
Teresa Franklin  
Zina Frazier  
Judge Robert "Bobby" Fussell  
R. Alec Gaines  
Colene Gaston  
Donna Gay  
James D. Gingerich  
Kathy Grady  
Peggy S. Graves  
Bonnye Griffin  
Charles E. Halbert, Jr.  
Rev. Steve Hancock  
Sandra Y. Harris  
Charles L. Harwell  
Pamela Haun  
Gloria Hernandez  
Heather Hersh  
Alice Hines  
Denise Reid Hoggard  
Virginia Hollinshed  
Judge Leon Holmes  
Matthew R. House  
Julie Howe  
D’Ilorah Lynn Hughes  
Martha Hunt  
Karen Hutchins  
Van Izar  
Alan & Heidi Jamison  
Clint & Ellen Johnson  
David Kamps  
David F. Kern  
William R. Kincaid  
Elizabeth King  
Dana M. Landrum  
Roland Lanoue  
Tabitha B. Lee  
Victoria Leigh  
Stark Ligon  
Michael W. Loggains  
Emon Mahony  
Teresa Marks  
Kim Marshall  
Jo Ann Maxey  
Mark Mayfield  
Judge Mary Spencer McGowan  
Giana Messer  
Carlos Miller  
Marie Miller  
Vince Morris  
Dean Cynthia Nance  
Victor Nixon  
Debby Thetford Nye  
Michael O’Malley  
Jonathan “Chad” Owens  
Judge Don E. Parker  
Patrick Parson  
Lynn Pence  
Judge Mackie Pierce  
Mila Potteiger  
Yevonne Presley  
W. Marshall Prettyman  
Susan M. Purtle  
Jeffrey W. Puryear  
Donna Ramsey  
Deborah Reagan  
Faye Reed  
Margaret Reger  
Richard F. Richards  
David R. Rogers  
Odis Rose  
James A. Ross  
Quincey Ross  
Dean James L. "Skip" Rutherford  
Salvatore Salamone  
Susan Schneider & Christopher Kelley  
Dean Michael Hunter Schwartz  
Ben Seay  
Kerry Michael Sernel  
Michael Shinn  
Beth Shooup  
Laura Shue  
Joshua M. Silverstein  
Clayton Smith  
Judge H. Vann Smith  
Judge Kim M. Smith  
Lloyd Smith  
Veletta Smith  
Elizabeth Speck-Kern  
Matthew Stauffer  
June Stewart & Bob McCollum  
Gregg Stillwell  
Jennifer Stone  
Anna Strong  
Judge John F. Stroud, Jr.  
Darryl Taylor  
Caren L. Thompson  
Glenn Vasser  
Vernon Walker  
Daniel A. Webb  
Judge Morgan "Chip" Welch  
John C. Williams  
Philip M. Wilson  
Tom Wilson  
Bernard Winkel  
Tom Womack  
Judge Susan Webber Wright  
H. David Young  
Dennis Zolper  

* Donated & Volunteered
Memorials and Honoraria

In honor of Jay Barth & Chuck Cliett
John & Laura Coulter

In memory of Hardy W. “Casey” Croxton
Colene Gaston

In memory of Amy Dunn Johnson
Jim & Suzie Dunn

In memory of Amy Dunn Johnson
Clint & Ellen Johnson

In memory of Justice Jess Dickinson and Mrs. Janet Dickinson
Jacob Lee Dickinson

In memory of Carl E. Fielder
Pamela Haun

In memory of Judge Steele Hays
Callis L. Childs

In honor of Amy Dunn Johnson
Jim & Suzie Dunn

Pro Bono Volunteers

Wayne Ackerman
Eric Backstrom
Kimberly Bennett *
Laurie M. Boyd
Bunny Bullock
* Donated & Volunteered

Storm Adams
Philip Bagby
Paul Bennett
Mosemarie Boyd
Carrie Bungardner
Tina Adcock-Thomas
Andrew Bailey
King Benson
Len Bradley
Fuller Bumpers
William C. Adkisson
Rita F. Bailey
Jay Bequette
Jeff Branch
Haley Burks
Matthew Adlong
Russell Bailey
Anna Betts
Tabatha Branch
Sherry Burnett
Jim F. Akins
Kenneth Baim
Seth Bickett
Eric Bray
Matthew Burr
Charles Gregory Alagood
James Baine
Lee A. Biggs
William Clay Brazil
Kyle Burton
Latoya Alexander
Barry Baker
Keith I. Billingsley
David Bridgforth
Julia L. Busfield
Phillip Allen *
John Keeling Baker
James Bingaman
John Bridgforth
George Butler
R. Dawn Allen
Wayne Ball
David Biondolillo
William C. Bridgforth
Thomas W. Byarlay
Ryan Allen
Randolph Baltz
Allen W. Bird II
William McMahan Bridgforth
F. Wilson Bynum, Jr.
Susan Allen
Marc Baretz
Katherine E. Blackmon
Brad Broadaway
Arkie Byrd
William P. Allison
Marcia Barnes *
Shannon Blatt
Danny W. Broadrick
Russell J. Byrne
Joe Barrett
Thomas L. Barron
John Blair
Joseph D. Calhoun, III
Billy Allred
Barbara Barton
Shannon Blatt
Eric Brock
Brian Campbell
William Greg Almand
John Bartlett
Daniel Boland
Craig Campbell
Kynda Almefty
Trav Baxter
Stanley V. Bond
Donald K. Campbell
Cheryl Anderson
Trav Baxter
Michael Booker
Frederick Campbell *
J.R. Andrews
Savanna Baxter
Frank Booth
Phillip W. Campbell
Jim Andrews
James P. Beachboard
Misty Wilson Borkowski
Sheila F. Campbell
June Anteski
Margaret R. Beam
Jessalynn Born
Jerry Cangelosi
D. Franklin Arey
R.T. Beard
Amy Bouroughs
David P. Cann
Blair Arnold
Mike Bearden
Ted Botner
David R. Cannon
James A. Arnold
Mike Bearden
Victoria Hargis Bruton
Casey Bryant
Joel Cape
Kay Kelley Arnold
John R. Beasley
Casey Bryant
Leta Caplinger
Angela Artherton
Daniel Beck
A. Paul Bowen
George Carder
Chad Atwell
Heather Bell
Wade Bowen
Jim Carfagno Jr.
LaTonya Austin
Steve Bell
Seth Bowman
Jodi Carney
Laura Avery
Joycelyn Bell *
Edward Boyce
Brent Baber
Jewel Bennett
Dianne Boyd
Kenneth E. Buckner
Kathryn W. Roberts
Our pro bono attorneys volunteered nearly **7,500 hours** of work on legal aid cases in 2014. The estimated value of these services was **$1,418,920**.

*Donated & Volunteered*
Arkansas Access to Justice

Donation Form

Name ____________________________

(As you want it to appear in next year’s publication.)

☐ I/We would like to remain anonymous

Company/Firm __________________________

Address _________________________________

City _______________ State _____ Zip ________

Phone _______ Email __________________________

☐ I would like to receive email updates

Comments:________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Please designate my gift in the amount of $__________ for

☐ Arkansas Access to Justice
☐ Legal Aid of Arkansas
☐ VOCALS (Volunteer Organization of the Center for Arkansas Legal Services)

In addition to my enclosed gift, I would like to pledge $_______________ to be paid every

☐ Month  ☐ Quarter  ☐ Year

Make this donation ☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of

________________________________________________________

Please include full address of the individual or family whom we should notify of your contribution. All memorial and honorary gifts are acknowledged. The amount of the gift will remain confidential.

Name __________________________

Address ______________________________

City _______________ State _____ Zip ________

Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation
1300 West 6th Street, Room 110
Little Rock, AR 72201

To learn more about Arkansas Access to Justice, visit arkansasjustice.org

Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership

Pro Bono Volunteer Form

Name __________________________

Bar Number __________________________

Law Firm ______________________________

Address _______________________________

City _______________ State _____ Zip ________

Phone _______ Email __________________________

Notes:________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

I would like to register as a pro bono volunteer for

☐ VOCALS (Volunteer Organization of the Center for Arkansas Legal Services)
☐ EAJP (Equal Access to Justice Panel)
☐ AVLE (Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly)
☐ VAP (River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project)

Practice Areas – Case Types: ______________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Practice Areas – Counties: ______________________________

For more information about how you can help bridge the justice gap in Arkansas, please visit our website at: www.arlegalservices.org/probono

Please return form to:
Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership
1300 West 6th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201