



PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Delivery of Legal Services Committee

PROMOTING JUSTICE, REDUCING POVERTY, IMPROVING COMMUNITIES

100,000
CLIENTS REPRESENTED
IN
MORE THAN **49,000**
CASES IN 2015

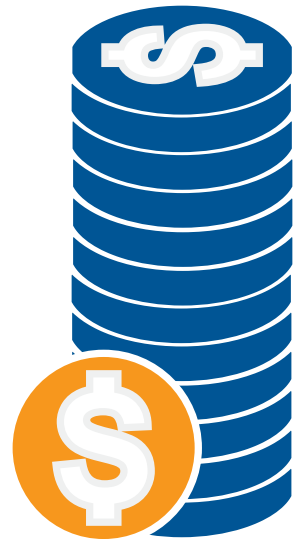
Who We Are and What We Do

Each year, Philadelphia’s legal aid programs help thousands of people who struggle with critical problems in such areas as housing, employment, access to benefits and family stability. Legal aid agencies also attack community-wide problems such as homelessness, inadequate access to health care and barriers faced by people returning from incarceration. Philadelphia has more than 30 legal aid programs, which collaborate through the Delivery of Legal Services Committee (DLSC) of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Our Impact

Besides addressing individual needs, legal aid strengthens our economy and our city.

Research shows that every dollar invested in legal aid in Pennsylvania yields, on average, an \$11 benefit. There are a number of reasons for this. When legal aid helps people retain employment or obtain needed benefits, the result is increased economic activity and greater self-sufficiency. Similar returns occur when a family avoids homelessness, a child receives essential medical care or a parent escapes domestic violence. Larger, more systemic efforts can produce an even bigger return: for example, by partnering with courts and housing agencies to create the award-winning Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, legal aid has helped thousands of Philadelphians keep their homes.



Legal Aid Saves Money for Pennsylvania



- ✓ *\$23 million in domestic violence costs in 2011 by helping 6,658 families obtain a protection from abuse order*
- ✓ *\$25 million in emergency shelter costs in 2011 by helping 4,147 low-income households avoid eviction or foreclosure*

The Bottom Line

Legal aid provides an important return on investment for taxpayers, businesses and communities. A strong legal aid system saves money, helps individuals with critical human needs, restores communities and boosts the economy. Indeed, legal aid is one of the most effective tools we have for fighting poverty and inequality.

DLSC Nonprofit Members Include:

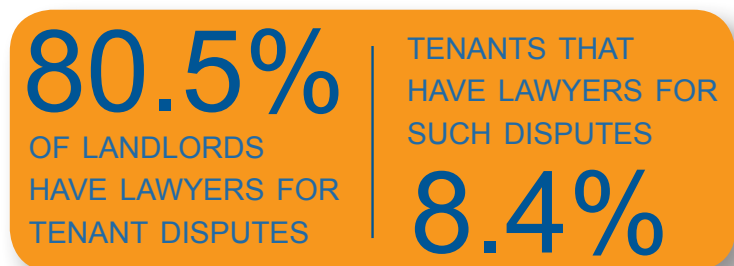
ACLU-PA
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia
Community Legal Services
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project
Disabilities Rights Pennsylvania
Education Law Center
Face to Face Legal Center
Friends of Farmworkers
Good Shepherd Mediation Program
HIAS Pennsylvania
Homeless Advocacy Project
Juvenile Law Center
Legal Clinic for the Disabled
Mazzoni Center Legal Services
Military Assistance Project
Nationalities Service Center
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Innocence Project
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts
Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity
Philadelphia Legal Assistance
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Philadelphia VIP
Public Interest Law Center
Regional Housing Legal Services
SeniorLAW Center
Support Center for Child Advocates
Women Against Abuse
Women's Law Project
Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project

For more information, visit
philadelphiabar.org/page/PIDirectory



Help Us Meet a Growing Need

Legal aid providers can meet only about 20% of the civil legal services needs of low-income Philadelphians – and that number is shrinking due to funding cuts. As a result, veterans go without benefits, children are denied health care, families are unfairly evicted, jobs are wrongfully terminated – and more. In response, state and local government expenditures must increase to combat homelessness, domestic violence and other problems that could have been prevented if legal aid had been available. Increased funding and support for legal aid can help eliminate these problems and help build a more prosperous and equitable city.



Thank you to Deanna Crusco, Pepper Hamilton LLP, and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for helping to create this document.