

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2016, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri **served** nearly **12,100 people** with direct case work.

More than **19,000 additional people** were also **helped** through outreach, education, publications and referrals.









## **OUR MISSION**

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri advances justice through legal representation, education and supportive services. We partner with the community to improve lives, promote fairness and create opportunities for those in need.

# **FROM OUR LEADERSHIP**

The year 2016 promised to be momentous from the beginning. It marked the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Legal Aid Society of the City and County of St. Louis, which later became Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

Over the years, as the needs of our communities have changed, we have responded. In 2016, in addition to our work helping to support low-income families struggling to escape domestic violence and gain access to decent and safe housing, we provided additional services for many others including:

- Families with children who need special education services;
- Immigrants and refugees who want to become citizens;
- People who need assistance finding health insurance coverage for themselves and their children;
- The chronically mentally ill seeking independence;
- The elderly and those with consumer law needs;
- Homeless and vulnerable youth and their families; and
- Entrepreneurs and neighborhood leaders who need help to start a new business or nonprofit organization.

In addition to legal representation and community education programs, we continue to address practices that harm some of our neighbors more than others. One of these issues is the unusually high rate of school expulsions and suspensions of children of color. Thanks to a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, in 2016 the *Education Justice Program* was established. This initiative is working to address practices resulting in Missouri having the nation's second highest rate of school expulsions, as well as other factors contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline.

In 2016, we made strides in reaching and serving more clients through increased use of technology. We also laid the foundation for increased pro bono participation going forward.

In November 2016, Judge Richard B. Teitelman passed away unexpectedly. Rick, as most of us know him, was a driving force at Legal Services where he served as Executive Director for 18 years until he joined the Missouri appellate bench in 1998. He was a nationally recognized champion for legal aid throughout his career. As we celebrated his life, we also re-dedicated ourselves to the principles of fairness and justice that Judge Teitelman championed.

We are pleased to recognize the many partners and supporters who have helped us thrive and grow during our 60th anniversary year. Now on to the next 60 years!

Many Thanks,



Daniel & blogie

Daniel K. Glazier Executive Director & General Counsel



Thomas S. Bleck

Thomas G. Glick President, Board of Directors

Celebrating 60 Years

Legal Of Services Missouri Action.Justice.Hope.

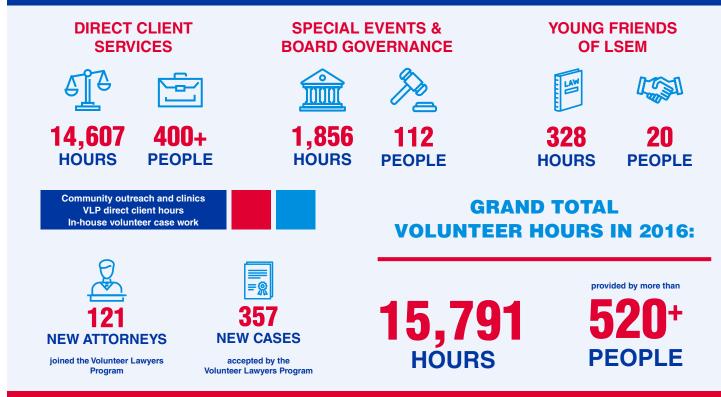
## **VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM**

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's volunteers are mostly attorneys providing pro bono services to represent clients, to work at community events, and to assist staff attorneys in preparing for cases. But other volunteers play an invaluable role in many different ways. They assist with fundraising efforts, serve on the Board of Directors and provide outreach into the broader community through service projects and community relations. In 2016, Legal Services joined with the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) to launch the Hon. Richard B. Teitelman Pro Bono Challenge. The Challenge formally launched in January 2017, with firms signing a pledge to actively encourage pro bono service and to strive to give an average of 10 hours of pro bono service per year, per attorney located in St. Louis. Through the end of June 2016 Pro Bono Challenge members had contributed more than 17,000 hours of pro bono volunteer work to our community.

## THE INAUGURAL MEMBERS OF THE PRO BONO CHALLENGE ARE:

Bown & Crouppen, P.C. Bryan Cave LLP Capes Sokol David B. Lacks, P.C. Dennis Buchheit, Attorney Dentons, US LLP Dowd Bennett LLP Fox Galvin, LLC Gray, Ritter, Graham, P.C. Herzog Crebs LLP Husch Blackwell LLP Jacob Law Firm, LLC Lathrop Gage, LLP Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak, & Stewart, P.C. Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, P.C. Polsinelli PC The Simon Law Firm, P.C. Stinson Leonard Street LLP Thompson Coburn LLP

## **2016 VLP STATISTICS AT A GLANCE**





## **CHRISTOPHER HAYES**

SENIOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AT EMERSON

Christopher "Chris" Hayes is Senior Associate General Counsel, Intellectual Property, for Emerson. Chris has been a key volunteer lawyer with the Community Economic Development (CED) Program for three years. He has provided counsel for 11 clients, totaling 152 hours, started two ongoing legal clinics for low-income entrepreneurs and community-based non-profits and has conducted numerous workshops on trademark law. Chris joined the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri Board of Directors in July 2017.

## HOW DOES YOUR VOLUNTEER WORK INTERFACE WITH OR COMPLEMENT YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORK?

My volunteer work has involved advising low-income individuals who are trying to start and grow small businesses. Part of my job at Emerson involves evaluating businesses that the company may acquire. This experience has helped me to advise pro bono clients about legal issues and risks. Vice versa, my volunteer experience has helped me professionally by providing a different perspective on legal issues facing small business owners. It also reflects Emerson's commitment to support community development and expand employment opportunities in North St. Louis County.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY CASES THAT YOU HAVE HANDLED AS A VOLUNTEER THAT HAD A PARTICULAR IMPACT ON YOU?

A few volunteer lawyers at Emerson recently teamed up to provide small business legal classes to formerly incarcerated people who were in the process of launching small businesses. These classes were being conducted by Justine PETERSEN, a local non-profit that frequently partners with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri to help low-income business startups. I found these individuals to be particularly inspiring because they were working to overcome the challenges facing them following incarceration and were determined to lift themselves up. It was rewarding for me to be able to lend a hand.

## WHAT DO YOU FIND SATISFYING OR INVIGORATING ABOUT VOLUNTEER WORK?

I find it rewarding to volunteer through Legal Services because it allows me to use some of my time and professional skills to help others, to bring jobs and prosperity to our community by starting and growing business. It is important for people to know that we as a legal profession are here to support them and the community.



Brittny with (Right) Paul Schoenig of Independence Center and (left) Pat Mobley of the LAAMI Program.

# BRITTNY ADAMS

LEGAL ADVOCAGETION ADOLIS WITH WILNTAL ILLINESS FROGRAM GLIL

April 28, 2012 is a date Brittny Adams remembers well. It is the date she first walked through the doors of Independence Center and, she says, "I started to turn my life around".

Brittny was referred to Independence Center by the Missouri Department of Mental Health. At the time she was living in a rooming house, with no support structure or resources, depressed and feeling isolated, helpless and alone. For her, the clubhouse model of Independence Center provided the structure and support she needed to regain her confidence and rebuild her life.

Paul Schoenig, Manager at Independence Center, explains, "We try to give a voice to members who are used to a community that makes them feel stigmatized by mental illness. We want to help empower them to take control of their own lives and determine their own futures."

Brittny thrived at Independence Center but there was one thing still weighing her down; she was still married to a man who was not a positive influence in her life. "I knew I had so much ahead of me and a much better future. This just felt like a weight tying me to my past, and I couldn't afford a lawyer," she said. Brittny was one of the first clients of the Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness (LAAMI) Program that works with Independence Center to identify clients whose transition to a healthier future is hindered by legal barriers. LAAMI Program Director, Pat Mobley, helped Brittny obtain a divorce and set up Advance Directives and Power of Attorney for her. "It's just one way we are able to give clients control of their own destiny," he said. "Brittny was a great example of how the LAAMI Program helps people move on with their lives, relieving them of a legal burden which can, in turn, be hugely beneficial to their state of mind and overall mental health."

Today, Brittny is happy and healthy and a much-loved member of the community. She regularly works the front desk at Independence Center, welcoming members and guests and answering phones. She is also a member of their Board of Directors, is engaged to be married, and is just five classes shy of her Bachelor's degree in Psychology. She loves her work at Independence Center and says, "I always try to make others feel as welcome as I did. I always make the time to listen to others and let them know LAAMI can help them with their problems. Pat helped me get my life back, and I know for a fact that without Independence Center and LAAMI, I would not be where I am today, and I am very thankful for that."

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

In order to help our clients achieve lasting stability and success, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri partners with more than 200 local community-based agencies, foundations and organizations each year. These partners provide additional services to address the diverse needs of our clients that may impact their legal issues.

One example is our relationship with Independence Center, which was the recipient of the 2016 "For The Common Good" Richard B. Teitelman Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the partnership with the Legal Advocacy for Adults with Mental Illness (LAAMI) Program. Both Independence Center and the LAAMI Program are grantees of the St. Louis Mental Health Board which is intended to foster collaboration between agencies.

The Independence Center is a community-based program which assists adults with severe and persistent mental

illness to live and work independently and with dignity. By providing service, social and employment opportunities to members, in addition to housing and banking help, Independence Center helps members re-integrate successfully into the community.

The LAAMI program extends the scope of this work, by providing legal representation and advocacy to help resolve legal issues that may be holding clients back from recovery. Through regular legal clinics and office hours at Independence Center, clients can receive direct legal assistance when they need it the most. A Legal Services social worker also provides additional support and referrals, as needed.

By working together, Independence Center and the LAAMI program help clients regain dignity and provide a strong foundation for personal growth and success.



Husch Blackwell volunteers with LAAMI Program Director, Pat Mobley (second left), at a 2016 LAAMI legal clinic at Independence Center.

# **100 NEEDIEST CASES**

2016 was the first year that Legal Services of Eastern Missouri participated in the "100 Neediest Cases" campaign through the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and United Way of Greater St. Louis. Thirty families who are clients of Legal Services were included in the 2016 Campaign, including one family's story which was featured in the print edition.





**24** FAMILIES ADOPTED



**\$7,817.38** IN CASH DONATIONS received for participating families



AT LEAST **DOUBLE** THAT AMOUNT was donated as in-kind goods, including clothing, toys, gift cards and household goods.



The Young Friends of LSEM Board Members adopted one of the families.

# YOUNG FRIENDS OF LSEM

## IN 2016:



PROVIDED MORE THAN **230 HOURS** OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE through projects, special events and hosting networking events.



**47 PARTICIPANTS** attended the successful first YOUNG FRIENDS CLE SEMINAR at Polsinelli.



**RAISED \$3,245** THROUGH MEMBERSHIP, EVENTS AND SOLICITATIONS.



THE YOUNG FRIENDS BOARD **ADOPTED** A FAMILY AS PART OF THE "100 NEEDIEST CASES" CAMPAIGN, providing gifts for a single mother and her five children.

## YOUNG FRIENDS OF LSEM

Board Members 2016

President: Jacqueline F. Redmond Vice President: Hon. Jason M. Sengheiser Secretary: Michael R. Cherba

> Andrew Bleyer Lee Camp Chelsea Draper Katie Fechte Lauren Gamel Will Gust Laura Halfmann-Morris Tim O'Connell Netta Rotstein Cristina Spicer Callie Tucker Ryan Turnage



## **DE'SHAUN & DENISE\***

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP CLIENTS

Some of our most successful work comes through collaborations with community partners. Our Medical-Legal Partnership Program works closely with other funded agencies, including Affinia Healthcare, to identify legal issues which are having a negative impact on the health of clients. De'Shaun and Denise's story illustrates the importance of partnerships like this.

De'Shaun was a nine year old boy in third grade, diagnosed with ADHD, who had difficulty keeping up with his classwork and was frequently disruptive in school. He was referred for medical help while facing an outof-school suspension for fighting with a classmate. "He kept running out of the classroom and getting upset by everything," says Denise, his grandmother. "I just didn't know how to help him."

When De'Shaun met with Dr. Mary Goggins, an Affinia Child Development psychologist, she recognized that his behavioral issues and his problems in school were interconnected, and referred him to Legal Services' Medical-Legal Partnership program.

De'Shaun and his family met with Amanda Schneider, Program Director and attorney with the Medical-Legal Partnership program. It was determined that his grandmother, Denise, needed to become his legal guardian. The first step was for Amanda to help Denise obtain a relative caregiver affidavit, which allowed her to control her grandson's educational and healthcare decisions. With this in place, they could then approach De'Shaun's school to help create an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to best serve his needs.

As a result of Legal Services' work, De'Shaun received more appropriate special education services in his IEP, including Occupational Therapy services. He was also awarded one-to-one tutoring to make up for his missed school work and attended full-time summer school to help bring him up to grade level..

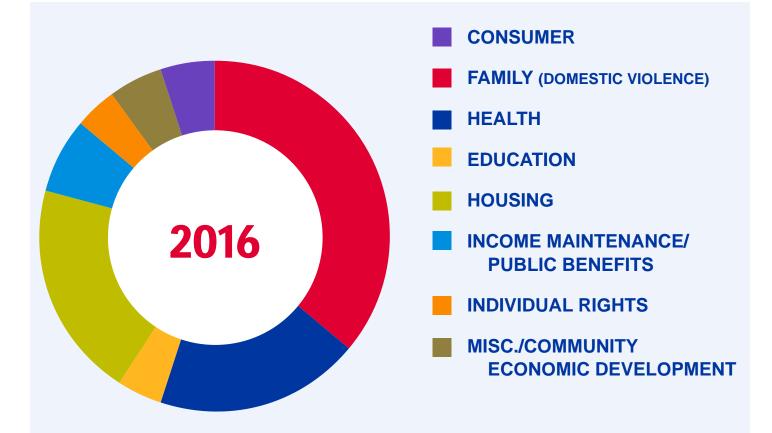
"By the end of third grade, he had made tremendous improvements and he was catching up on work and getting back on track," says Denise. "The school was no longer calling every day, and he seemed happier."

Now in fourth grade, De'Shaun continues to struggle with school work, but Denise says, "I took notes at every step of the process with Amanda. She was a good role model and I learned a lot from her. It's never going to be easy, but I know now what I need to do to get the services and medications De'Shaun needs."

Ultimately, through the partnership of the Medical-Legal Partnership Program and Affinia Healthcare, De'Shaun's medical and educational needs were both properly addressed to provide the stability he needs to succeed.

> \*Names and identities have been changed to protect client confidentiality.

## **TYPES OF CASES**



THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROVIDED ONE-ON-ONE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO



50 COLLABORATING COMMUNITY PARTNERS 76

NEW LOW-INCOME ENTREPRENEURS AND COMMUNITY BASED NON-PROFITS



60 OFF-SITE LEGAL CLINICS AT COMMUNITY PARTNER AGENCIES

## **SUCCESS FOR CLIENTS IN 2016**

PEOPLE SERVED, OUTREACH, AND CASE TYPES



## **OUR LEGAL PROGRAMS**

For sixty years, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri has provided a wide array of civil legal services, across 21 counties of urban and rural eastern Missouri, to address the needs of those without the means to pay for an attorney. We recognize that people's legal problems often cross more than one area of law. Therefore, staff works hand-in-hand to address clients' needs with a comprehensive approach that includes legal help and support service, to help them on the path to success.

## **ACCESS TO HEALTH COVERAGE**

Includes "Connecting Kids to Coverage" and "Marketplace Assistance Plan" initiatives to help uninsured children, families and adults enroll in health insurance programs.

## **ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH**

Helping pregnant women and families with children with Medicaid managed care.

## **CHILDREN'S LEGAL ALLIANCE**

Providing support and advocacy for children with special needs, and transient/homeless children, to ensure their educational needs are met.

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Legal assistance and education for low-income entrepreneurs and community nonprofits, to help create and grow their business and organizations.

## **CONSUMER LAW**

Representing clients with creditor/debtor problems, including victims of deceptive and fraudulent sales practices and predatory lending.

### **ELDER LAW**

Assisting clients 60 or older with a variety of civil legal services including guardianships, simple wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives.

### **EDUCATION JUSTICE PROGRAM**

Educates families and community partners about students' rights to education through Know-Your-Rights Workshops and systemic advocacy.

## **FAMILY COURT**

Advocates for the reunification of families with cases in the St. Louis County Family Court.

## **HOUSING LAW**

Helping clients avoid homelessness by addressing landlord/tenant, subsidized housing, foreclosure and other residency issues and rights.

### **IMMIGRATION LAW**

Assisting eligible immigrants with residency and citizenship matters and serving the victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

## LASTING SOLUTIONS FAMILY LAW

Helping victims of domestic violence and their families achieve safety and stability.

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Helping persons with serious mental illness in a variety of legal matters to remove the barriers to independence.

## **MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP**

Working with public healthcare clinics to identify and address legal issues affecting the health of patients.

### **PUBLIC BENEFITS**

Helping disabled and disadvantaged clients with application and appeal for public benefit programs including Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps and Social Security.

### **RURAL OUTREACH**

Offices in Hannibal and Union provide a range of civil legal issues for clients in their communities and surrounding counties.

### **VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM**

Providing pro bono opportunities for attorneys.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY ADVOCACY

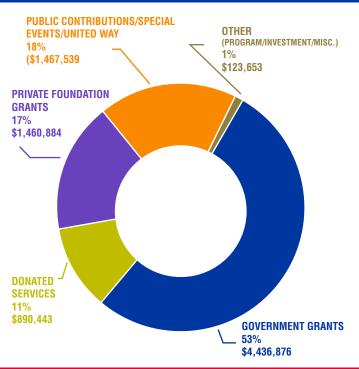
Serving homeless and vulnerable youth and families in St. Louis County.

# **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016**

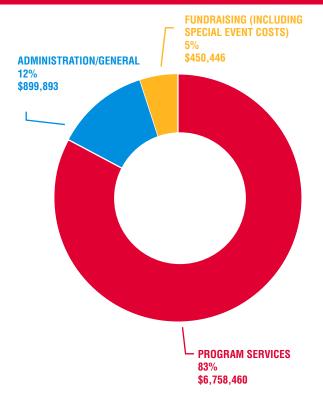
## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

REVENUE		
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$4,436,876	
PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS/ SPECIAL EVENTS/UNITED WAY	\$1,467,539	
PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$1,460, 884	
DONATED SERVICES	\$890,443	
OTHER	\$123,653	
TOTAL	\$ 8,379,395	

## **REVENUE: TOTAL = \$8,379,395**



## **EXPENSES: TOTAL = \$8,108,799**



EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$6,758,460	
ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL	\$899,893	
FUNDRAISING (INC. SPECIAL EVENTS)	\$450,446	
TOTAL	\$8,108,799	

## **BALANCE SHEET INFORMATION**

Total Net Assets	2015	2016
	\$10,829,012	\$11,099,608

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is proud to be a Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grantee, and we comply with all LSC conditions and prohibitions in acceptance of all funds. \*Audit available at: www.lsem.org under About LSEM/ Financial & Tax Information



## FOR THE COMMON GOOD AWARDS RECEPTION

The For The Common Good Awards Reception was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2016 at the Moto Museum in Midtown St. Louis. Sixteen volunteers and community partners were recognized for their outstanding commitment to our clients and the local community. Those recognized included: Richard Constance; MO State Rep. Robert Cornejo; Deaconess Foundation; Missouri Senator Bob Dixon; Lt. Juan Mario Francis Gomez; Christopher Hayes; Independence Center; Mo State Rep. Joe Don McGaugh; Heidi B. Miller, MD; Ponder-Bates Law Firm LLC; John G. Simon; Stinson Leonard Street LLP; St. Louis Public Radio's "We Live Here" with Tim Lloyd & Kameel Stanley; Callie J. Tucker; Verneice Walley and Philip J. York.

## **JUSTICE FOR ALL BALL**

To mark our 60th anniversary - our Diamond Anniversary - the 2016 Justice For All Ball followed the theme of Diamonds are Forever, and featured James Bond style décor throughout. With 724 guests in attendance, more than \$124,000 net was raised at the event to directly support our mission and service. Honorary Chairs for the Ball were John & Margie Simon.



Left to right: Stephanie Dorssom, Priscilla Murray, Gail Weller, Paula Finlay

### **SPONSORS:**

Platinum Gavel (\$7,000) Bryan Cave LLP

### Gold Gavel (\$5,400)

Association of Corporate Counsel – St. Louis Husch Blackwell LLP Lathrop Gage, LLP Missouri Lawyers Weekly The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Co.

> Silver Gavel (\$4,000) Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C.

### Bronze Gavel (\$3,400)

Armstrong Teasdale Carmody MacDonald Cosgrove Law Firm, LLC Monsanto Newman, Bronson & Wallis Polsinelli PC Schlichter, Bogard & Denton Shands, Elbert. Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP Spencer Fane LLP The Simon Law Firm, P.C. Thompson Coburn LLP



John & Margie Simon with Dan Glazier



Tishaura Jones, Rep. Cora Faith Walker, Jon & Melissa Baris

**Pre-Party Sponsor (\$6,000)** Midwest Litigation Services

Photo Booth Sponsor Grayward Entertainment

## COMMITTEE

Event Co-Chairs Stephanie Dorssom & Priscilla Murray

Ads & Sponsorship Co-Chairs Susan McCourt Baltz & Alexandra Schenk

> Auction Co-Chairs Paula Finlay & Gail Weller

#### Committee

Johnny Aguirre Gail Appleson Jadii Castillo Judy Gorin Will Gust Monica Hans Lisa A. Herder Jessica Martin Eileen McCann Barnet M. McKee Julie Poplstein Maury Poscover Kelly Richert Kathleen Sanchez Jennifer Schwendemann Mavis Thompson Verneice Walley Deborah C. Weaver



## **OUR DONORS**

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri depends upon gifts, grants and contributions for 95 percent of its income. Thank you to the following donors for supporting our work in pursuing justice and strengthening lives

Donations, received in 2016 for general giving and special events. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions and thank you to the many other donors not listed here who also support our work.

### **CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS** AND OTHER ENTITIES

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Missouri Department of Public Safety Missouri Department of Social Services Missouri Foundation For Health Missouri Lawyer Trust Account Foundation MO HealthNet Monsanto Fund MonsantoTogether Montgomery Area United Way National Education & Legal Defense Service for the Blind Nationwide Paladin Energy Strategies LLC Parkside Financial Bank & Trust Pecha Family Foundation PNC Foundation Robert Wood Johnson Foundation RubinBrown LLP St. Louis Area Agency on Aging St. Louis Development Corporation St. Louis Economic Development Partnership St. Louis County Children's Services Fund St. Louis Mental Health Board St. Louis Magazine Stifel Foundation STLRB Family Foundation The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis The Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Co. The Daniel & Henry Company The Retina Group Limited PC The Missouri Bar

United Way in Hannibal United Way of Greater St. Louis United Way of Mark Twain Area United Way of Montgomery County U. S. Department of Health & Human Services U. S. Department of Homeland Security U. S. Department of Justice US District Court - Eastern District of Missouri Vanguard Charitable Fund Walmart Corporate Giving

## **LAW FIRMS**

### \$50,000 +

Bryan Cave LLP Dowd Bennett LLP Husch Blackwell LLP Thompson Coburn LLP

## \$15,000 - \$49,999

O'Brien Law Firm, P.C. The Simon Law Firm, P.C.

\$5,000 - \$14,999 Armstrong, Teasdale LLP Goldenberg Heller Antognoli & Rowland, P.C. Groves Powers, LLC Lathrop & Gage, LLP Newman Bronson & Wallis Polsinelli Schlichter, Bogard & Denton Shands Elbert, Gianoulakis & Giljum, LLP

Stange Law Firm, LLC Stone, Leyton & Gershman

### \$2.000 - \$4.999

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Williams Venker & Sanders LLC

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#### \$5,000+

Mr. David M. Harris & Ms. Michele Lowe

### \$2,000 - \$4,999

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## \$1,000 - \$1,999

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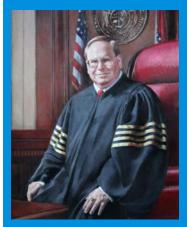
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Judge Richard B. 'Rick' Teitelman joined Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in 1975. He became Executive Director in 1980, and served for 18 years before being appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals in 1998, then the Supreme Court of Missouri in 2002, serving as Chief Justice 2011-13.

Judge Teitelman was a tireless advocate for the underserved and a lifelong ambassador of the cause of equal access to justice for all. He will be missed, but the passion for civil justice he instilled in so many others will live on.

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As we enter our 61st year of service in 2017, our brand and logo have been updated to express our vision, mission and promise to the community and to be more current.

- The red, white and blue color palette reflects the liberty and justice promise of our country.
- The torch and flame is the most recognized symbol of liberty and denotes justice and fair play. Just as the torch-bearing Statue of Liberty invites the meek and powerless, so we help those who may be unable to help themselves.
- The tagline ACTION. JUSTICE. HOPE. is our promise: We act for others; We are a voice for justice; and our actions provide hope.



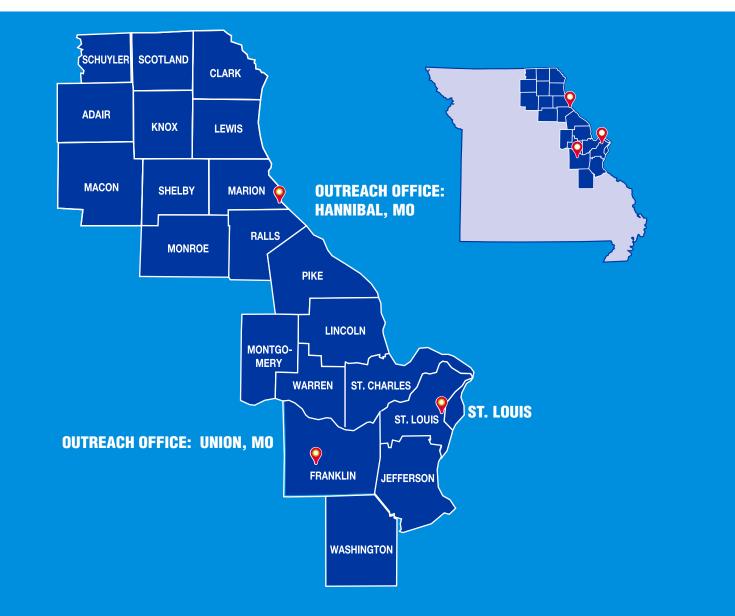






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