



INDIANAPOLIS LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Advocating with Passion and Purpose

NOVEMBER 2021

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Indy Legal Aid Paralegal Recognized by *Indiana Lawyer* Leadership in Law

It's a great day at Indy Legal Aid as our tenacious and resourceful paralegal, Sarah Harvey, was recognized as a ***Legal Support Star*** by Indiana Lawyer Leadership in Law on November 9, 2021, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom honoring members of the legal profession that included distinguished barristers and up and coming lawyers.



Sarah just celebrated her five-year anniversary at Indy Legal Aid. Her legal career began as a court reporter for the Marion County Superior Courts, Juvenile Division. What drew Sarah to work with a nonprofit legal services organization was after a friend referred her to Indy Legal Aid. “I really did not know what to expect when I started, but after seeing the difference we made in one or two clients’ lives – I was hooked! I could not imagine working outside of nonprofit legal assistance,” commented Sarah.

Sarah not only assists thousands of clients each year, along with training newly hired legal support staff, student interns, and volunteers, she is the first to volunteer to attend workshops and community events where she can share with others the work that is done at Indy Legal Aid.

“She truly is indispensable. Sarah is an outstanding role model for the paralegal profession,” commented Jonathan Stewart, Indy Legal Aid senior attorney, “Her dedication to her job, her passion for access to justice, her incredible work ethic, and her kindness to staff and clients make her irreplaceable in our office.”

In 2017 Sarah became aware that a friend's 16-year-old sister, Nancy (not her real name) needed a guardian. Nancy's parents had returned to their native country and Nancy was

living with her brother who worked many hours in his construction job and did not have family support. Nancy did not enjoy school and it looked like she would not be able to graduate. Sarah immediately stepped in to help and petitioned the Court for Guardianship. As soon as Sarah was granted Guardianship, she worked with Nancy on developing an educational plan that would get Nancy excited about going to school and help her get on track to graduate. With Sarah's guidance, Nancy changed schools. Sarah then worked with Nancy's academic counselors to plan a curriculum that would enable Nancy to graduate on time. Nancy did graduate in 2019 and is now an administrator for a construction company. Sarah's Guardianship of Nancy made a pivotal difference in Nancy's life. In Nancy's words, "Selfless, kind, responsible, compassionate, and courageous are just a few examples that makeup Sarah. I now thank God I had such a wonderful person in my life during what felt to be the toughest time and to teach me and lead me to become the woman I am today. I deeply wholeheartedly thank Sarah for allowing me to change my future and for always pushing me to my full potential". At the time Sarah stepped up to assume personal responsibility for the care and success of this 16-year-old child, Sarah was herself only 23 years old. Sarah not only works in a job that allows her to follow her passion of helping the underserved and advocating for access to justice, but she also lives these values every day.



"Every day, Sarah's smile, energy, and positive attitude make an impact in our office. We know as attorneys that Sarah makes our jobs easier," said Indy Legal Aid attorney, Laurie Goggins. "However, the reason we as an office unanimously wanted to nominate her for this award is that Sarah inspires not only us to be better lawyers but to be better people."

Congratulations Sarah!

Photos: Sarah with her mother, Shelly Harvey; Sarah with Indy Legal Aid staff members Richeleine Fraide, Reema Mahmood, and Jonathan Stewart.



Impressive Lineup of Speakers and Topics at December 2nd CLE

Since sending the CLE eblast two weeks ago, we have added more speakers and topics to the lineup. To date, there are 22 speaker – 10 of which are judges. Here's the list, but a few more to come before December 2.

The "Shadow Docket" in Indiana
 Summary Judgment Shenanigans
 Media Today: Distrust, Polarization & Anger
 Civility in Ethics
 How to Make the Best of a Bad Situation
 Litigating a Red Flag Case
 Motions Practice in the Court of Appeals
 Navigating Federal Civil Practice Challenges

Hon. Frank Sullivan, Jr.
 Hon. Jane Magnus-Stinson
 Jeffrey Smulyan
 James Bell
 Adrienne Meiring
 Guy Relford
 Hon. Cale Bradford
 John Maley

Dealing with Different Judges	Hon. Michael Brennan
Words Matter – Statutory Construction	Hon. Martha Blood Wentworth
ROI of Pro Bono Services	Jimmie McMillian
Reversible Error	Hon. Edward Najam, Jr.
Trial Strategies from the Plaintiff’s Perspective	Lee Christie & Anthony Patterson
What Not To Do, Say, and Wear in Court	Hon. Robert Altice, Jr. & Hon. Melissa May
NCAA or Sports Law topic	Scott Bearby
Lessons from 50+ Years of Criminal Law	James Voyles, Jr.
The Art of Communication	Gary Varvel
How to Avoid a Bad Situation	Hon. Steven David
TBD	Hon. Derek Molter
TBD	David Herzog

For more information regarding the event and how to register in-person or virtual, visit [HERE](#).

NOVEMBER SUCCESS STORY

Indy Legal Aid provides direct assistance to participants in the Re-Entry Court and Drug Treatment Court programs of the Marion County Problem Solving Courts. In September, a Re-Entry Court team referred a participant to Indy Legal Aid.



The client, “Megan” needed assistance reinstating her Driver’s License, along with addressing a past due child support order. Megan was recently released from incarceration and was unable to afford making payments for the current and past due child support amounts. Additionally, Megan’s child had been in foster care for years and was in the process of being adopted.

Indy Legal Aid attorney, Andrea Sneden, contacted the Child Support Division of the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office. Andrea explained that the child had not been in the care of either parent for years and was in the process of being adopted. Andrea provided the Prosecutor’s Office with documentation and additional information from Megan. The Prosecutor’s Office agreed to terminate the current child support obligation and issued Megan a credit from that date that the child was placed in foster care, which reduced her arrears balance.

Andrea reviewed Megan’s driver record and provided her with additional information regarding BMV insurance requirements, such as insurance and the Driver Safety Program. Andrea then contacted the Prosecutor in Traffic Court regarding active suspensions on Megan’s driver record from Failure to Pay cases. The Prosecutor agreed to waive the balance owed and dismiss the outstanding cases, which saved Megan from having to pay \$490 in outstanding fines. Andrea then filed a motion with the court to waive the reinstatement fee of \$1,400.

Andrea’s efforts resulted in Megan having the ability to start fresh, not being hampered by expensive fines and fees. Now she is able to move on more positively with her life.

GivingTuesday – The World’s Biggest Day of Generosity

– Tuesday, November 30



GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. It was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown

into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Please consider giving to Indy Legal Aid's Holiday Campaign that helps change the lives thousands of underserved Hoosiers each year. You can donate online [HERE](#) or by sending a check to:

Holiday Campaign
Indianapolis Legal Aid Society
600 N. Alabama St., Ste 122
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Volunteer Opportunities



Indy Legal Aid has a number of volunteer opportunities for attorneys, students, and the general public. For attorneys, we have pro bono cases, internships for students, and our spring and fall events, along with light office work.

For more information, click [here](#).

No time to volunteer? Donate now!

Thank You!

We have several ways for you to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable Hoosiers in Central Indiana. Approximately \$.90 of every dollar donated to Indianapolis Legal Aid Society is directly used to

provide programs and services. For more information, click [here](#).

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Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society is dedicated to ensuring that qualified low-income persons living in the Central Indiana community have access to quality legal assistance for civil disputes."



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