



INDIANAPOLIS LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Advocating with Passion and Purpose

November 2019



Indy Legal Aid is thankful for our generous donors and sponsors who have been supporting our mission to serve the under-served in our community since 1941.

We hope you will consider making a donation to Indy Legal Aid before the end of the year. **GIVING TUESDAY** on December 3 is a wonderful time to show your support.

You can send us a check to 615 North Alabama Street, #122, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or online at <https://www.indylas.org/support-legal-aid>.



CICF

CENTRAL INDIANA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
THE INDIANAPOLIS FOUNDATION
HAMILTON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Indy Legal Aid Receives Community Crime Prevention Grant

Indy Legal Aid recently received a \$40,000 grant from The Indianapolis Foundation, a CICF affiliate, "to reduce initial or chronic interaction with the criminal and juvenile justice systems and to increase the safety of Indianapolis residents and their neighborhoods by reducing risk factors or increasing protective factors."

Indy Legal Aid's Comprehensive Legal Assistance to Prevent Criminal Activity (CLAPCA) program will provide comprehensive legal assistance to young men living in Marion County who are between the ages of 18-24 and are at risk for initial interaction with the criminal justice system or recidivism back into the system.

Our program will focus on five key areas:

1. Helping to restore driving privileges;
2. Housing issues for those at risk at being evicted and in danger of becoming homeless;
3. Abating or modifying child support;
4. Family law issues, such as establishing paternity, and petitioning for custody and parenting time; and
5. Guardianship, both adult and minor.

Our multi-prong approach addresses the legal issues these clients face that place them at risk and prevent them from moving towards economic and social stability.

Indy Legal Aid Volunteer Attorney Honored With Pro Bono Award



Madonna McGrath, volunteer attorney with Indy Legal Aid since 2013, is the 2019 recipient of the Indiana Bar Foundations Pro Bono Publico Award, "which recognizes the contributions made toward ensuring that legal services are available to persons who otherwise could not afford them in an effort to promote a more effective delivery of legal services to the public."

Madonna's distinguished career began with managing environmental programs in Washington, D.C. and Chicago for 20 years with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. When Madonna married and moved to Indianapolis, she enrolled in the IU School of Law, graduating with honors. That year she began her practice of environmental law with Ice Miller, followed by seven years as the Environmental Counsel for a Fortune 500 corporation in Ohio. Upon her return to Indy in 1999, she joined Faegre Baker Daniels where she retired in 2011.

Madonna's volunteer time with Indy Legal Aid finds her spending two to three days per week interviewing, advising, and representing clients in Court with family law issues and many other types of cases. Madonna is in the office so often we consider her a part of the Legal Aid staff.

Asked why she started volunteering for Indy Legal Aid, Madonna said she wanted to use her skills to help the less fortunate. As *John Floreancig, Indy Legal Aid's CEO and General Counsel* expressed, "Madonna is an important member of the Indy Legal Aid team for her insight, compassion, and commitment to our mission."

November Client Success Story

Madonna's client "Kelli", a young woman in her late twenties, had fallen on hard times due to alcohol abuse that affected her both physically and mentally.



Kelli's mother had her placed in rehab for nearly two years. During this time, Kelli made a remarkable recovery. She decided it was time to leave the facility but soon learned that her mother had obtained guardianship. This meant Kelli had no rights - even her social security was being sent to her mother.

With a friend's help, Kelli left rehab and decided she needed the guardianship terminated. Kelli contacted Indy Legal Aid and met with Madonna who advised and represented Kelli in court.

After Kelli's guardianship termination, her friend who helped her leave rehab, sent Madonna a letter saying *"Only with your invaluable legal expertise and assistance is Kelli now free to live her own life. Thank you for helping her find justice. There should be more attorneys like you."*

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!



We have several ways for you to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable Hoosiers in Central Indiana. Approximately \$.87 of every dollar donated to Indianapolis Legal Aid Society is directly used to provide programs and services. For more information, click [here](#).

615 N Alabama St, Suite 122

Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 635 - 9538

www.INDYLAS.org

info@indylas.org

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."



FOLLOW US

