



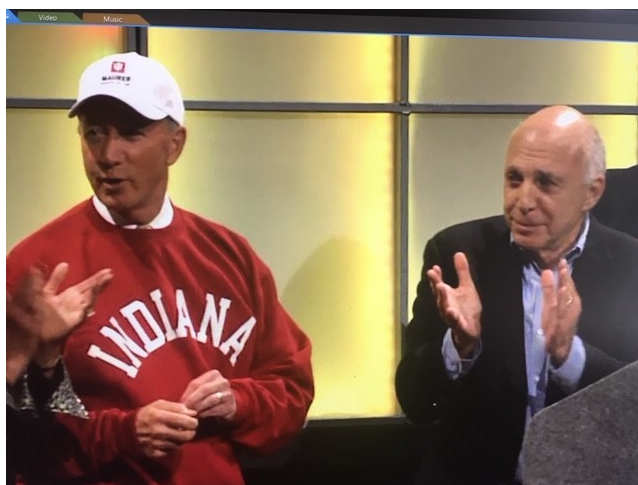
INDIANAPOLIS LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Advocating with Passion and Purpose

JULY 2021

DONATE

Roasters Selected for the Roast of *MICKEY MAURER*



This year's Roasters include:

- Patricia Miller
- Greg Morris
- Dean Austen Parrish
- Rabbi Dennis Sasso
- Jeff Smulyan
- John Thompson

Event is Thursday, September 23 at The Crane Bay Event Center from 5:00-9:00. Tickets are \$300 and includes an open bar, an exceptional dinner, plenty of parking, and much comic relief!

For more information about the event and **how to buy tickets or sponsor**, click [HERE!](#)

Funds raised at the Roast will boost vitally needed operating funds for Indy Legal Aid. These funds help us increase the number of under-served individuals and families that we serve in Central Indiana.

Photo above: Mickey Maurer roasting Mitch Daniels at the 2019 Ignite the Night Roast.

*All CDC and local health department guidance will be followed in order
to ensure a safe and enjoyable evening for all.*



July Success Story

“James” and his wife, “Abby”, were dealing with a desperate situation regarding their niece, “Kali”, who had been living with them since she was 13 - now 16 years old. They were not able to obtain health insurance coverage for Kali or to take her to a doctor or dentist without a court order of guardianship.

This would not have been a problem had Kali’s mother been willing and able to work with James and Abby to obtain these necessities. Unfortunately, Kali’s mother (“Mary”), was in the grips of substance abuse addiction. Kali’s father was deceased.

Before Kali began living with James and Abby, she was living with her mother in sub-standard housing with no running water or electricity in the back yard of one of her mother’s boyfriends’ house. Kali lived in such stress and fear that even at the age of 13 she was deathly afraid of the dark, and she slept with a knife under her pillow. James knew that in addition to obtaining health care for Kali, he needed to protect her from the prospect of returning to this chaotic and dangerous environment.

James contacted the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society and spoke with Jonathan Stewart about a guardianship for Kali. Jonathan hoped the case would be uncontested but that was not to be. Mary would not sign a consent to the guardianship even though Kali continued to reside with James and Abby 100% of the time.

Because Mary would not consent to the guardianship the court had to put the case on the contested docket, which caused the case to drag out longer than it otherwise would have. The court appointed a Guardian ad Litem to speak with all parties involved and additional individuals who knew of Kali’s experience with her mother. The higher level of scrutiny afforded to the case meant a great deal more attorney work.

In the end, Kali’s mother did not show up for the final court hearing, so the guardianship was granted by default. Even so, James would never have been able to get to that finish line if not for the existence of the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society. Dependent on Social Security Disability since congenital heart disease forced him to stop working, James would not have been able to afford the retainer to start a guardianship case, let alone the \$5000 to \$6000 necessary to complete a contested guardianship. The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society completed the case for James without any attorney fees.

This year Kali attended her prom and wore a beautiful dress that James and Abby bought for her. She works at McDonald’s and keeps all the money she makes to help in her goal of buying a car.

Observations From the Second Chance Workshop

Last month marked the return of the in-person Second Chance

Workshops after more than a year of virtual events during the pandemic. In June, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office held two workshops that served nearly 200 people with driver's license reinstatement and expungement services. Indy Legal Aid attorneys were there to help with driver's license reinstatement. The point of these workshops is preventing Hoosiers from not being criminalized for an inability to pay traffic tickets and the excessive fees imposed by the BMV that follow.



Two Indy Legal Aid attorneys who provided free legal assistance at the June workshop were Deetta Steinmetz and Jennifer Hammond. Both Deetta and Jennifer expressed that this workshop was very different than last year because the participants seemed to be very excited to meet with an attorney in person and ask questions. They both also said that you could see the tangible relief on the participants' faces after their reinstatement process was discussed. This relief comes from hope; from going from not having a license to having a license which can then open many doors such as steady employment. This hope is made possible with the help of the Prosecutor's Office and Indy Legal Aid.

Deetta commented that the workshop was uplifting in large part because the Prosecutor's Office is so positive in wanting lives to turn around by removing barriers, particularly the cycle of fees imposed.

Jennifer explained that the workshop clarifies and clears the path for the participant to understand all of the steps needed in order to have their fees waived. Without an attorney, it can seem nearly impossible to work through the system.

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office has plans to host both remote and in-person workshops throughout the year and into 2022. Indy Legal Aid attorneys will be on hand to assist for all of them, just as they have been since the inception of the program.

Check out a short video of the June workshop [HERE](#).

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

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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