



INDIANAPOLIS LEGAL AID SOCIETY

*Advocating with Passion and Purpose*

**October 2019**



***4th ANNUAL IGNITE THE NIGHT***  
**Roast of**  
**JUDGE JOHN TINDER**  
**a Huge Success!**



If you did not attend the Roast of Judge John Tinder, you missed a lively and entertaining evening with nearly 400 people in attendance at The Crane Bay Event Center - - and all for a tremendous cause.

We would like to thank our sponsors, roasters, donors, guests, and of course, our preeminent roastee, Judge John Tinder, for helping us raise approximately \$125,000 (net) for much needed operating funds which will allow us to provide legal assistance for the most vulnerable Central Indiana residents.

Hope to see you next year!

(Photos by Jay Cougan [www.facebook.com/jay.cougan1](http://www.facebook.com/jay.cougan1))



## Meet Alec, Our Front Office Manager

We would like to introduce you to Alec Steinmetz, our Front Office Manager. Alec started at Legal Aid on April 1 of this year. Alec not only checks people in and schedules appointments to meet with our attorneys, he has streamlined these processes to be more efficient. Alec is a wonderful ambassador for Legal Aid as he is the first person people see when they arrive at our office. We are proud to say that Alec has received numerous compliments from clients because of his soft-spoken and patient demeanor.



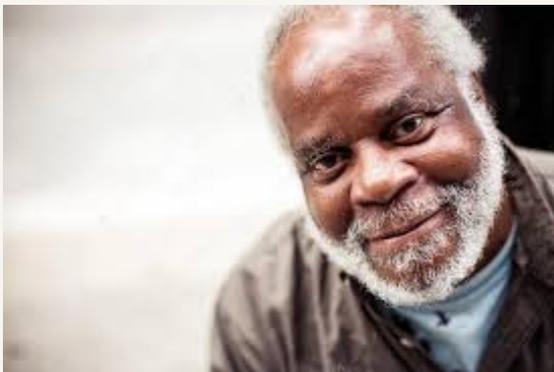
Not only does Alec manage the front office, he has assisted with numerous projects designing ads, programs, and signage for events such as the 4th Annual Ignite the Night

Roast.

Alec graduated in 2016 from Indiana University Bloomington in the IU School of Journalism and was very involved with IU's radio station, WIUX, as an on-air personality, along with writing radio dramas. He was also on the board of directors at WIUX when they won a global award for best large college radio station in 2016. In addition, he was a writing tutor for IU's tutorial services for two years.

In talking about the clients Alec sees every day, he says that the clients who come to Legal Aid worried about their children are the ones who stick with him the most and are the most powerful. One such client is a 22 year-old man who recently came to Legal Aid trying to gain guardianship of his three younger brothers. Luckily, for Alec and the rest of the staff at Legal Aid, we see many success stories.

## October Success Story



"William" came to Legal Aid as a 63 year old man with a sizable child support arrearage. For a number of years, William paid support without being credited because he was self-employed. Other years he suffered temporary unemployment due to job loss and/or disability. As a result, his driver's license was suspended, and there were liens on his car. William's sole income by the time he was older

was his Navy pension, but the arrearages left him without a livable income. William is typical of many older gentlemen who are attempting to put their lives in order and can't seem to get out from under these hefty arrearages.

William's children are now in their twenties with children of their own. Their mother, "Sharon", agreed that William should be forgiven these burdensome arrearages but had no idea how to help him. Before meeting with Legal Aid, William had tried on his own to work with the prosecutor's office but to no avail. That is when he contacted Emily Browning at Legal Aid. She filed a Verified Petition to Emancipate Children and Terminate Support, which ultimately accomplished the goal of obtaining a hearing to discuss this issue with the deputy prosecutor.

On the day of their court appearance, William was a nervous wreck. Emily met with the deputy prosecutor privately and explained the situation that both parties agreed that the arrearages had essentially been paid over the years, and the parties would like to bring the balance to 0. She drew up a document reflecting this, and Emily presented it to the parties. According to Emily, William began to sob. He had carried the burden and guilt of this debt for so many years, and this conclusion was a tremendous weight off his shoulders. Sharon embraced Emily and William together because she recognized the impact of the gift she had given in the process. It was a great day at Legal Aid!

## Volunteer Opportunities

# VOLUNTEER



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](#).

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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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