



### **OUR MISSION**

Greater Boston Legal Services' (GBLS') mission is to provide free civil legal aid to help individuals and families achieve justice and meet their basic needs, such as food, security, safety, and adequate shelter. GBLS helps vulnerable individuals and families retain affordable housing, gain protection from domestic violence. obtain subsistence income for food and necessities, access health care, seek immigration relief, and recover earned wages. **GBLS** accomplishes these goals through both individual representation and impact advocacy, working closely with a wide network of community partners. GBLS' philosophy is that justice should be for all people, not just those with financial means.

### **LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS**

this report on Greater Boston Legal
Service's 2019 accomplishments
comes to you, we are already living
in a markedly different era. The past
several months have brought forth so many unexpected
new challenges for our clients and our communities
that 2019 seems oddly quaint in retrospect. But Greater
Boston Legal Services did wonderful things last year.
Our advocates helped thousands of people achieve safety,
freedom, stability, and security, through seemingly small
actions like brief representation in a Lawyer for the Day
clinic, to more broadly impactful work like legislative and
policy advocacy.

Now, as we find ourselves in the midst of new challenges and renewed struggles, I am buoyed in many ways by these reflections on our 2019 accomplishments – the clients we helped, the partnerships we formed and fed, the resources we leveraged, our supporters who were with us every step of the way – and how they are allowing us to do our best work in 2020.

I hope that as you read through our reflections on 2019, that you will feel similarly hopeful. GBLS has been here for a long time – 120 years to be exact. We have weathered pandemics, recessions, and political shifts. Through it all, our advocates have been here for our clients, fighting for people's rights and dignity, working to change unjust systems and lift marginalized voices. We did great things in 2019, and we continue our fight for justice for all.

Juguelym Jamen

Jacquelynne J. Bowman Executive Director

### 2019 by the Numbers

**GBLS CASES** CLIENTS SERVED 10,802 RACE/ETHNICITY 35% Latinx 31% Black 17% White 12% Asian/Pacific Islander **CLIENTS ASSISTED** 1% Multiracial 1% Native American **GBLS CASES** 3% Other 28% Housing 16% Immigration GENDER 10% Employment 9% Consumer 9% Family 8% Income maintenance • 7% CORI and Re-Entry 4% Health & Disability 4% Social Security/SSI AGE 2% Miscellaneous **CITIES AND** 2% Education **TOWNS SERVED** 18-59 yrs • <1% Juvenile • <1% Individual Rights ' In addition to serving clients of all ages in Boston plus 31 cities and towns, we have an expanded service area of 15 cities and towns



### GBLS' Impact in 2019

2019 heralded numerous victories in GBLS' systemic and legislative advocacy work. GBLS' attorneys and advocates are poverty law experts whose depth of knowledge make them powerful agents for change. In 2019, GBLS' impact advocacy included:

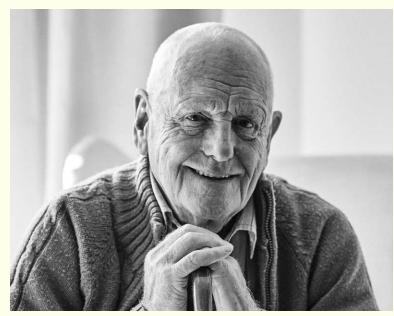
💰 GBLS and the Massachusetts 🚺 Law Reform Institute lead the Campaign to Lift the Cap on Kids, a statewide effort by a coalition of 125 organizations that succeeded in repealing the welfare family cap. Enacted in 1995, the family cap rule denied cash benefits to approximately 8,700 children conceived after their families received benefits. The Lift the Cap on Kids campaign persuaded the legislature to include repeal of the cap in the FY19 budget but the governor vetoed it. The legislature repealed the cap in a nearly unanimous vote in March 2019 and went on to override another veto by the governor. There is no longer a family cap in Massachusetts, protecting the wellbeing of children statewide.

GBLS' Medicare Advocacy Project (MAP) helped draft and advocated for the passage of H.1199/S.699, An Act regarding Medicare Savings Programs Eligibility that had been long promoted by the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. The bill expanded the financial eligibility criteria for the Programs thereby increasing the number of low- and middle-income elders who are eligible for health care savings, and was signed into law in September 2019.

GBLS helped draft legislation to extend unemployment benefits while unemployed workers participate in job training, and then engaged in intense advocacy with the Department of Unemployment Assistance to improve the proposed changes to their regulations. GBLS' efforts resulted in many significant improvements to the regulations, published in September 2019.

GBLS successfully advocated for a one-year extension of the City of Boston's condo conversion legislation that includes protections for tenants, e.g., the owner may evict tenant only for "just cause."

**GBLS** and members of our nursing home advocacy coalition raised issues with nursing home safety with the Attorney General's Office, such as residents being harmed and even dying as a result of poor care. This advocacy led the AG to take action and in March 2019, the AG announced major settlements with seven nursing homes for violating residents' rights. The settlements include the cited facilities having to undergo compliance monitoring for three years and face additional fines if they fail to comply with the settlement requirements, barring some of the nursing home owners from operating in Massachusetts. GBLS helped craft language to replace Somerville's existing wage theft law. The ordinance gave city agencies the power the deny abusive employers building permits, licenses and contracts



and also calls for an advisory committee that would include representatives of a number of city-based advocacy organizations. The Somerville City Council passed the ordinance on December 12, 2019, and it went into effect on June 1, 2020.

**GBLS** worked on systemic reforms focused on the needs of aging residents in group homes funded by the Department of Mental Health and Department of Developmental Services. GBLS sought to ensure that these seniors with significant psychiatric and intellectual disabilities can safely "age in place" and avoid preventable nursing home admissions. Advocacy efforts with the Elder Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary and her designees resulted in state agency reforms. GBLS conducted a multifaceted campaign to ensure
that low-income families have
access to child care through
the Massachusetts Department
of Early Education and
Care (EEC). Among other
improvements resulting
from GBLS' work, EEC initiated a
process to bring their fees in line
with federal guidelines to make
them more affordable for lowincome families.

GBLS' School to Prison
Pipeline Intervention Project
teamed up with the Boston Bar
Association in a first-of-its-kind
public outreach program, with
the goal of raising community
awareness about students'
rights relating to school
discipline. Supported by the
Boston Bar Foundation's Burnes
Innovation in Service Fund, the
program consisted of 20182019 Public Interest Leadership

Program class participants giving presentations to community groups, students, parents, and members of the public on students' new due process rights, following GBLS' 2018 class action settlement agreement with Boston Public Schools.

GBLS and coalitions that protect workers advocated for passage of a GBLS-drafted bill to protect the right to unemployment insurance for vulnerable workers who work volatile, fluctuating work hours. The Senate passed the bill unanimously in the 2018 session, it was refiled in 2019, and the bill is now pending in the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means.

 ★ The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Unemployment Insurance (UI) Online program poses significant barriers to low-wage workers, especially those without English fluency or who lack computer access or proficiency. DUA agreed on the need to overhaul the online system. In 2019, GBLS drafted, testified in support of, and secured an amendment to bond bill H.4708, An Act financing the general governmental infrastructure of the Commonwealth, to create an Advisory Council that includes a diverse constituency to oversee the UI Online overhaul. GBLS continues to work, along with Associated Industries of Massachusetts, to advance the bill to the Governor's desk.

### **Direct Services**

n 2019, GBLS provided urgentlyneeded civil legal assistance
to thousands of families and
individuals. Through over 10,000
cases handled for clients last year,
GBLS' attorneys and paralegals used
their poverty law expertise, decades
of experience, and ingenuity to right
wrongs and prevent injustices in
our community and throughout the
Commonwealth.

GBLS' direct services to clients range from issues of economic justice, including protecting the rights of low-wage workers, employment discrimination, subsistence benefits, CORI sealing and expungement, the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, unfair debt collection and predatory lending practices, and preventing financial abuse; to household stability through the preservation of affordable housing, keeping families in their homes, obtaining emergency shelter for families, and protecting tenants' rights; from preserving safety through domestic violence-related family law, elder abuse prevention, and giving survivors of persecution and violence, including unaccompanied children, a viable avenue to legal immigration status and citizenship; to ensuring that our neighbors who are most vulnerable to exploitation and injustice – including elders, people with disabilities, and families with children - have access to needed health care, food and financial resources, transit, education, and employment opportunities.

Through GBLS' direct service work, our advocates educate and empower our clients.

Through GBLS' direct service work, our advocates educate and empower our clients, teaching people about the rights and responsibilities afforded to them by law and ensuring that they have the resources they need to meet their basic needs. By serving thousands of clients each year, GBLS helps mothers care for their children, keeps elders in safe and stable housing, and enables people to go to work and provide for their families. And our direct service work allows us to create broader change laying the foundation for impact work that allows us help even more people in our community and beyond.

# **Protecting Families**

advocates provide urgently needed legal help to thousands of families and individuals each year. Our clients deserve to be able to care for themselves and their children - and GBLS helps make that possible.

### JUDY

against the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). EEC had denied continued child care when Judy became unable to work due to disability. Despite two physical conditions that cause pain and mobility limitations, Judy had long worked full time, thanks to child care benefits. However, after returning to work after a maternity leave for her third child, she became debilitated by postpartum depression and anxiety. Despite Judy's doctor's detailed opinion about her condition and its impact on the children, EEC terminated child care benefits, baselessly concluding Judy was not eligible under the disabled parent category. Due to GBLS' representation, EEC reinstated child

### **CARMEN**

armen" is from Honduras and does not speak English. She could not understand why Social Security Administration was refusing her six-year-old daughter "Maria" Supplemental Security Income (SSI), since Maria was clearly disabled. Maria was born with a condition called cloacal malformation, and had extreme difficulties with several personal care activities, including toileting. Despite having to use a catheter and requiring a nurse onhand at school to support her many needs, this child was twice denied SSI benefits. Carmen sought help

from GBLS' Children's Disability

care benefits for Judy's older children and she was able to focus on her

infant and improving her health.

Project.
A bilingual GBLS attorney was able to engage deeply with this young client and her mother, gathering robust evidentiary support to present a compelling case — ultimately resulting in a victory for the family.
Due to GBLS' advocacy, the denial of Maria's SSI benefits was overturned, and Maria and her family were able to get the support they needed.

**NOTE**: All names have been changed to protect client privacy.

# 2019 Financial Statements

	2019	2018
Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation	6,864,048	6,005,480
Law Firms and Attorneys	3,571,516	3,356,832
Cy Pres Awards	154,121	185,995
Foundations/Corporations	1,827,640	1,710,623
Government Grants	2,602,735	2,412,376
Individual Contributions	1,505,683	1,036,038
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley	109,218	198,977
Miscellaneous	1,066,712	1,412,193
Total income before donated services	17,701,673	16,318,514
Volunteer Services	5,202,510	5,403,941
TOTALINCOME	22,904,183	21,722,455

	2019	2018
Salary and Benefits Subtotal	13,272,267	12,424,767
Non-Personnel:		
Occupancy	466,270	468,908
Equipment and Supplies	455,996	518,228
Contract Services	741,084	657,987
Library and Litigation Expenses	313,016	205,809
Transfer to Capital	342,474	866,152
Miscellaneous	380,083	346,512
Non-Personnel Subtotal	2,698,923	3,063,596
Total expenses before donated services	15,971,190	15,488,363
Volunteer services	5,202,510	5,403,941
Total expenses	21,173,700	20,892,304
Change in net assets	1,730,483	830,151
CUMULATIVE OPERATING NET ASSETS	5,536,460	7,805,977

# **Legal Community Support**

he Greater Boston legal community demonstrates a special commitment to GBLS and ensuring equal access to civil justice for all. Every year, generous individual attorneys, law firms, and corporate legal departments demonstrate the extent to which they respect and value the legal assistance that GBLS provides to impoverished members of our community by investing in our work. Their support is provided in a variety of ways—including the annual Law Firm Drive, Associates Fund Drive, Corporate Fund Drive, In-House Counsel Drive, legal fellowships, and more. We are grateful for their support.

### **LAW FIRM DRIVE**

### **LEADERSHIP LEAGUE**

(\$850 or more per Boston attorney)

Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP

Goodwin Procter LLP

Goulston & Storrs PC

Hemenway & Barnes LLP

McNeill Baur PLLC

Ropes & Gray LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates

Sugarman & Sugarman, PC

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

### **PACESETTER LEAGUE**

(\$700 - \$849 per Boston attorney)

Foley Hoag LLP

Nixon Peabody LLP

Sullivan & Worcester LLP

#### **REGINALD HEBER SMITH LEAGUE**

(\$550 - \$699 per Boston attorney)

Fish & Richardson

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

### PRESIDENT'S LEAGUE

(\$400 - \$549 per Boston attorney)

Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, PC

Klein Hornig LLP

Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Robinson+Cole LLP

### **SUPPORTER LEAGUE**

(\$250 - \$399 per Boston attorney)

Breakstone, White & Gluck, PC

Brown Rudnick LLP

DLA Piper LLP (US)

Hogan Lovells

Landay Leblang Stern

Locke Lord LLP

Potomac Law Group, PLLC

Proskauer Rose LLP

Swartz & Swartz, PC

### **FRIENDS LEAGUE**

(up to \$249 per Boston attorney)

Adler, Cohen, Harvey, Wakeman & Guekguezian, LLP

Adler Pollock & Sheehan PC

Arent Fox LLP

Barton Gilman LLP

Bernkopf Goodman LLP

Beveridge & Diamond PC

Burns & Levinson LLP

Casner & Edwards, LLP

Cetrulo LLP

Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP

Dain, Torpy, Le Ray, Wiest & Garner, PC

Davids & Cohen

Dechert LLP

Foley & Lardner LLP

Gilmore, Rees & Carlson PC

Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds,

Healy, Fiske, Richmond & Matthew,

Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP

Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP

Krokidas & Bluestein LLP

Laredo & Smith LLP

Lathrop Gage LLP

Lawson & Weitzen, LLP

Lee & Rivers LLP

McDermott, Will & Emery

Melick & Porter LLP

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC

Morse, Barnes-Brown & Pendleton, PC

Murphy & Riley, PC

Murtha Cullina LLP

Nolan Sheehan Patten LLP

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Pepper Hamilton LLP

Petrucelly, Norris & Minsch, PC

Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster Ruberto, Israel & Weiner, PC

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Shaevel, Krems, O'Connor &

Jackowitz, LLP Sidley Austin LLP

Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP

Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen,

Tarlow, Breed, Hart & Rodgers, PC

Thornton Law Firm LLP

### **LAW FIRM FELLOWSHIPS**

The following firms provided funding to support the salaries of GBLS attorneys.

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

King and Spalding LLP

Goodwin Procter LLP

Ropes & Gray LLP

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

### **CY PRES AWARDS**

We wish to acknowledge the following law firms who facilitated the award of class action lawsuit residuals received by GBLS in 2019.

Bailey & Glasser, LLP

Davis & Davis, LLP

Fair Work, PC

Lichten & Liss-Riordan, PC

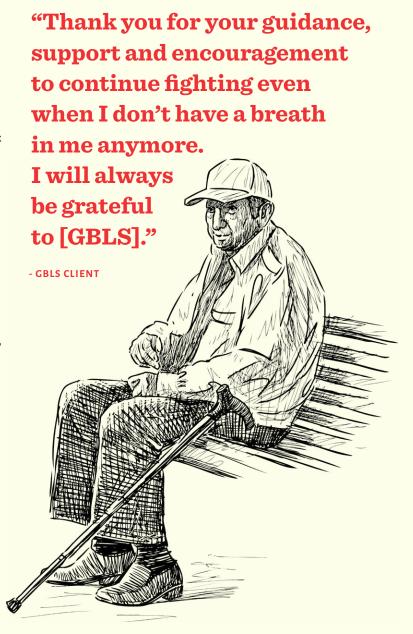
Law Office of Nicholas F. Ortiz, PC



# **Corporate Fund Drive**

In 2019, Boston-area corporations gave nearly \$250,000 to support access to justice for GBLS clients. Thank you to the participating companies for their generosity.

Analog Devices, Inc. Arbella Insurance Foundation Biogen **Boston Globe** Citrix Systems, Inc. Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. EMD Serono, Inc. Fenway Sports Group/Boston Red Sox Fidelity Investments/FMR LLC Fiduciary Trust Company Floyd Advisory Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc. KL Discovery Liberty Mutual Insurance LPL Financial Holdings Inc. MilliporeSigma Primark Corp. Safety Insurance Company, Inc. Santander Holdings USA, Inc. State Street Bank and Trust Company TripAdvisor



### **In-House Counsel Drive**

### Attorneys from the following corporate legal departments participated in the 2019 In-House Counsel Drive.

Anonymous • The Belgrade Group • BrightSphere • Brown Brothers Harriman • Eaton Vance Fidelity Investments/FMR LLC • Fiduciary Trust Company • GMO • Harvard • Management Company, Inc. Liberty Mutual Insurance • MFS Investment Management • State Street Bank and Trust Company • Vertex

### **IN-HOUSE COUNSEL DRIVE DONORS**

**Employer matches** included in giving level where applicable.

### \$2,500+

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Philip Zachos

\*In-House Counsel Drive Steering Committee Members and Captains

# **Pro Bono Partnerships**

### **PRO BONO PARTNERS**

We are grateful to the following law firms and in-house legal departments who provided pro bono services to GBLS and our clients in 2019, and to their many individual attorneys who dedicated their time and energy to ensuring civil justice for all.

Anderson & Kreiger LLP **Brown Rudnick LLP** Citizens Bank Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP **DLA Piper** Duane Morris LLP Fidelity Investments Floyd Advisory Foley Hoag LLP Goodwin Procter LLP Goulston & Storrs PC Hemenway & Barnes LLP Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP Jones Day Laredo & Smith Liberty Mutual Group Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Nixon Peabody LLP Nutter McLennen & Fish LLP Pepper Hamilton LLP People's United Bank Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP Proskauer Rose LLP Ropes & Gray LLP Santander Bank Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP Sullivan & Worcester LLP **Thomson Reuters** Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks PC

### **SPOTLIGHT STORY**

hen Chanice\* first came to GBLS, she was living in a shelter with her 4-year-old and 1-month-old sons.
Only a few months before, she had been working full-time with help from a childcare subsidy from the Department of Early Education and Childcare (EEC). Families must meet a series of stringent requirements to qualify for a subsidy, and many who qualify spend months or even years on a waiting list for a subsidized spot at a licensed daycare.

The Boston area has among the highest housing and childcare costs in the nation and, even with the subsidy, Chanice struggled to pay rent and keep up with her required contribution to childcare. To make ends meet, Chanice took a second job, which triggered an increase to her required childcare contribution. Chanice could not afford to pay more, and she was forced to give up her subsidy. Determined to make the situation work, Chanice turned to a patchwork arrangement of family and friends to care for her son.

A few months later, Chanice got sick and was unable to work. Though she was out of work for just a short time, the burden of high rent and childcare had made it impossible for Chanice to save for an emergency. Without a regular paycheck, she found it more and more difficult to make ends meet until, finally, Chanice lost her apartment and was forced to move into a homeless shelter with her sons.

Luckily, at the shelter Chanice met a GBLS attorney who helped her obtain a new childcare subsidy and eventually move out of the shelter. Chanice also became the lead plaintiff in a 2019 GBLS lawsuit challenging EEC's fee scale and practice of sanctioning families who miss payments, who can lose a voucher by missing as little as two weeks. GBLS also filed a lawsuit challenging the impossibly high standard the agency has set for parents with disabilities to qualify for subsidies. More recently, GBLS and WilmerHale have been working together to address the challenges faced by clients who appeal subsidy denials — an issue of vital importance that GBLS did not have the capacity to take on alone.

Chanice recently moved into permanent housing, and she is enrolled in community college. Her sons have subsidized spots in a childcare center. The EEC's rules made Chanice feel like her inability to pay the fees was a personal failing and that there was no way to get ahead, but she now realizes the complicated, rigid system makes it incredibly difficult for low-income families to access childcare and meet other basic needs. She hopes that by sharing her story, she can help change that system for all families. GBLS is grateful for WilmerHale's commitment to ensuring access to subsidized quality childcare in a fairer, more transparent process for Massachusetts families like Chanice's.



### **Associates Fund Drive**

### **PARTICIPATING FIRMS**

GBLS is grateful to the following law firms, which supported their associates in raising over \$500,000 to support free legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence. Thank you!

Anderson & Kreiger LLP\*

Barrett & Singal\*

Brown Rudnick LLP

Burns & Levinson LLP\*

Casner & Edwards, LLP\*

Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP\*

Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP\*

Cooley LLP\*

Davis, Malm & D'Agostine,

Day Pitney LLP\*

DLA Piper LLP (US)\*

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner,

Fish & Richardson\*

Foley & Lardner LLP\*

Foley Hoag LLP\*

Goodwin Procter LLP\*

Goulston & Storrs PC

Greenberg Traurig, LLP\*

Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, PC\*

Hemenway & Barnes LLP\*

Hogan Lovells

Holland & Knight LLP

### mam

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Lando & Anastasi, LLP\*

Locke Lord LLP\*

Jones Day

McCarter & English, LLP\*

McDermott, Will & Emery\*

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Nixon Peabody LLP

Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP\*

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Proskauer Rose LLP

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

Robinson+Cole LLP\*

Ropes & Gray LLP

Sherin and Lodgen LLP\*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates\*

Sullivan & Worcester LLP\*

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP\*

Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, PC\*

### **INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

Thank you to the law firm associates, partners, counsel, and staff who donated to the Associates Drive in support of survivors of domestic violence. Your generosity changes lives!

### \$5,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
Julia Hesse
Chelsea Loughran
Melissa Tearney

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

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<sup>\*</sup> Firm matched its associates' fundraising

### The 2019 Associates Fund Drive raised more than \$500,000 from over 1,500 donors to provide civil legal aid to survivors of domestic violence

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

We are saddened to note the loss of three special members of our GBLS community in 2019.

### W. LINCOLN "LINC" BOYDEN

Linc was a former member of the GBLS Corporation. Linc served as s a volunteer attorney with CASLS after retiring from a long legal career at Ropes & Gray.

### **HOWARD MEDWED**

Howard was a long-time member of the GBLS Board of Directors and of the GBLS Corporation. A partner at Burns & Levinson, Howard was a dedicated advocate for GBLS in the legal community and a mentor for new Board members.



### **JOHN "JACK" WARD**

Jack was a cherished friend and colleague to staff, clients, Board members, and volunteers at GBLS. Jack retired as GBLS'

Director of Finance and Development in 2015 after 31 years with the organization. An ordained Roman Catholic priest, Jack's passion in life was always to be there to help those in need. He began working for GBLS in 1984 at the urging of his friend and then-Executive Director, Peter Anderson. At GBLS, Jack's role grew along with the organization, and his hard work contributed greatly to the organization's success over the years. With his characteristic can-do attitude and strategic thinking, he became a well-respected figure in the civil legal aid field nationally, mentoring and training hundreds of other nonprofit fundraisers and administrators.

Jack and his husband, Joe, remained integral figures of the GBLS family even after Jack's retirement from the organization. Always committed to serving others, Jack remained involved with GBLS throughout his retirement, serving as a Corporation member and providing advice and counsel to his former colleagues. He will always be remembered fondly for his generosity of spirit, insightful leadership, and genial sense of humor.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Thank you to the many additional community-based groups and social service organizations with whom GBLS partners, which are too numerous to list here. We appreciate your hard work on behalf of our mutual clients. The collaborative work we do with partners to remedy critical community needs makes a significant impact in the lives of many. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find effective solutions and approaches to addressing emerging issues in the



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The following individuals, in addition to many law students, volunteered substantial commitments of time in 2019 to GBLS and its clients. Their contributions are valued at over \$5,200,000 in in-kind services to GBLS in 2019. We are also very grateful to the many pro bono attorneys, too numerous to list here, who handled GBLS cases at their firms, participated in legal clinics, or provided research or other legal support.

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GBLS' Corporation is comprised of members of the community – including lawyers, clients, and interested citizens – who are elected to five-year terms. These individuals serve GBLS by electing the Board of Directors and Officers of the Corporation and by conducting any required business.

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### **Awards and Honors**

LUZ ARÉVALO, Senior Attorney and director of GBLS' Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, received the 2019 Massachusetts Bar Association Access to Justice Legal Services Award. "My clients are among the most remarkable people that I've met," Luz said. "They have seen the worst that other human beings can do to people, and yet they're grateful to be here and to get help."

ANDREA CARRILLO, Family Law Unit Attorney, was selected for the Boston Bar Association's 2019-2020 Public Interest Leadership Program (PILP) class. "PILP promotes civic engagement and public service by advancing the leadership role of lawyers [with less than 10 years of practice] in service to their community, their profession, and the Commonwealth."

VENTURA DENNIS, CORI and Re-entry Project Attorney, received the 2019 Boston University School of Law Public Interest Project (PIP) Alumni Award. PIP's mission is to "foster BU Law students' commitment to non-profit, government, and pro bono work and to promote community service."

JANETTE EKANEM, Asian Outreach/ Employment Law Unit Fellow Attorney, was honored with an Excellence in the Law Award, Up & Coming Lawyers category, by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. Janette completed a two-year Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation Racial Justice Fellowship at GBLS.

**BETHANY LI**, Asian Outreach Project Senior Attorney, and GBLS Board member Peggy Ho, LPL Financial Executive Vice President, were honored by Get Konnected! as two of Boston's 50 Most Influential Attorneys of Color in Greater Boston. Get Konnected! is an inclusive business network in Boston.

**NANCY LORENZ**, Elder, Health, and Disability Unit Senior Attorney, received a Boston Center for Independent Living Marie Feltin Award, which honors people and organizations who make a difference for people with disabilities. The awards event "honors individuals and institutions who exemplify the pioneering spirit of the late Dr. Marie Feltin, a tireless advocate for disabled and chronically ill patients".

NAOMI MEYER, Welfare Unit Senior Attorney; Naomi Mann, clinical instructor in Boston University's civil litigation program and former GBLS attorney; and Board member Peggy Ho were honored as 2019 Top Women of Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

**MAC MCCREIGHT**, Housing Unit Lead Attorney, was honored by the Boston Housing Authority's Resident Empowerment Coalition (REC). Mac was given an award for his decades of strong legal advocacy on behalf of and dedicated commitment to the REC.

GBLS' HOUSING UNIT, City Life/Vida Urbana, Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, and WilmerHale Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School received the Boston Bar Association (BBA) John G. Brooks Legal Services Award. The organizations collaborate to fight displacement, and were honored for using a "creative, combined strategy of community organizing and legal defense to advocate with and for tenants and homeowners across the city."

the Asian American Resource Workshop were honored with a Beacon Award for Diversity & Inclusion, Empowerment Award by the BBA. The co-recipients were recognized for their work on behalf of Vietnamese and Cambodian immigrants facing deportation. Annually, the Empowerment Award is given to "a powerful advocate that works to create systemic change in the wider community by amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups and advancing civil rights, access to justice, and/or diversity and inclusion."

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