COMMITTED to JUSTICE

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

















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 the financial means to pay.

Now more than ever.

Greater Boston Legal Services is committed to justice, is doing justice and making a difference now more than ever. Our expert attorneys and paralegals provide their clients with peace of mind, help ensure they have a roof over their heads and food on their tables, secure owed wages and lawful immigration status, and preserve safety, independence, and dignity. Last year we handled over 12,000 legal matters for more than 10,000 people who could not have otherwise afforded a lawyer when they needed one the most – when their civil rights were threatened or their basic needs were unmet.

Now more than ever, our help is critical for marginalized and cash-poor individuals and families in our community. As income inequality and racial injustice surge in our country, we must look to the rule of law to confront these deep-seated issues through policy change and systemic advocacy. And, as we find the social safety net for vulnerable populations increasingly under attack, we will be here – as we have been for 117 years – fighting to protect the needs of our clients and securing justice in our community.

Thank you for being an important part of the GBLS community this past year. As a result of your support, civil justice is not just an abstract ideal for our clients – it is a potentially life-changing outcome to the very real situations they face every day. With your help, we will work to ensure civil justice for all in our region because it is needed now, more than ever.



Jacquelynne J. Bowman

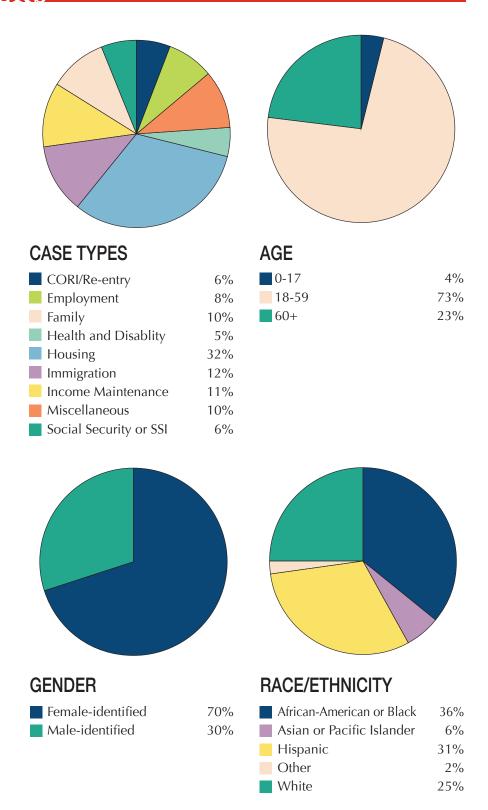
Executive Director



Melissa Bayer Tearney Board President

2016 BY THE NUMBERS

Every year, GBLS provides representation, advice, and other critical legal assistance to thousands of Massachusetts residents facing serious civil legal problems. In 2016, GBLS served more than 10,000 low-income people, with over 12,000 legal matters. When there is nowhere else to turn, low-income families and individuals, elders, people with disabilities, and other underserved groups look to GBLS for help securing their basic necessities.



SERVICE AREA



| Acton* | Chelsea | Malden | Scituate |
|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Arlington | Cohasset | Maynard* | Somerville |
| Bedford* | Concord* | Woburn | Stoneham |
| Belmont | Everett | Winchester | Stow* |
| Boston | Waltham | Medford | Wakefield |
| Boxborough* | Newton | Melrose | Waltham |
| Braintree | Harvard* | Milton | Watertown |
| Brookline | Hingham | Newton | Weymouth |
| Burlington* | Holbrook | North Reading* | Wilmington* |
| Cambridge | Hull | Norwell | Winchester |
| Canton | Lexington* | Reading* | Winthrop |
| Carlisle* | Lincoln* | Revere | Woburn |
| | | | |

^{*}Served only by the Elder, Health and Disability Unit

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

| INCOME | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation | 5,202,617 | 5,020,988 |
| Law Firms and Attorneys | 3,839,795 | 3,682,532 |
| Cy Pres and Other Similar Awards | 549,706 | 209,026 |
| Foundations/Corporations | 1,488,456 | 1,154,221 |
| Government Grants | 2,013,446 | 1,955,029 |
| Individual Contributions | 999,734 | 1,016,241 |
| United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley | 358,769 | 382,601 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,209,097 | 1,029,011 |
| TOTAL INCOME BEFORE DONATED SERVICES | 15,661,620 | 14,449,649 |
| Volunteer Services | 7,263,298 | 6,788,664 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 22,924,918 | 21,238,313 |
| EXPENSES | 2016 | 2015 |
| Salary and Benefits Subtotal | 11,447,442 | 11,835,591 |
| Non-Personnel | | |
| Occupancy | 495,965 | 526,117 |
| Equipment and Supplies | 448,241 | 522,317 |
| Contract Services | 294,486 | 310,200 |
| Library and Litigation Expenses | 227,618 | 192,090 |
| Transfer to Capital | 109,200 | 45,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 657,242 | 620,442 |
| Non-Personnel Subtotal | 2,232,752 | 2,216,166 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES BEFORE DONATED SERVICES | 13,680,194 | 14,051,757 |
| Volunteer Services | 7,263,298 | 6,788,6644 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 20,943,492 | 20,840,421 |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 1,981,426 | 397,892 |
| CUMMULATIVE OPERATING NET ASSETS | 8,532,169 | 6,550,743 |

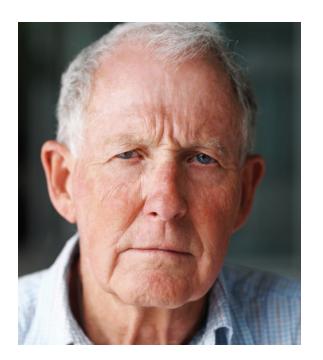
PRACTICE AREA: HOUSING

GBLS helps low-income tenants gain and preserve access to affordable housing; preserves affordable units at risk of being lost to privatization; secures shelter for homeless families and helps them obtain permanent, affordable housing; advocates for domestic violence victims to protect their housing options; assists tenant associations to understand housing policies and change unfair policies; works to prevent expiring use of affordable housing and advocates for inclusionary development; and helps tenants and former owners of foreclosed properties pursue affordable purchasing options. GBLS works with a wide range of affordable housing advocacy groups, and advocates for changes to agency rules and regulations, as well as legislative action and reform.

In 2016, GBLS achieved numerous housing victories for low-income residents, including:

- As a member of the Affordable Housing Organizing Committee (AHOC) of Somerville, GBLS succeeded in amending the Somerville inclusionary zoning to require that 20% of all new residential developments of 18 units and over be affordable and 17.5% of all residential developments of six units and over be affordable, and targeted inclusionary zoning resources to those most at risk of displacement;
- Through strategic litigation and collective bargaining negotiations, along with community client and partner City Life/Vida Urbana (CLVU), GBLS won several building-wide, multi-year leases at affordable rents with fixed annual increases capped at 5% or below;
- Succeeded in persuading a major property company to implement a pilot project that will make it easier for low-income tenants to avoid being evicted if they fall behind on their rent;
- Instituted a longer payment plan with major subsidized housing landlords in Boston so that low-income families can afford to pay back rent owed while not jeopardizing their housing with an unreasonable payment plan;
- The City of Boston began to implement a new policy as a result of advocacy by GBLS and community partners:
 - Increasing the number of affordable housing units developers are required to build offsite from 15% of total units in a development to 18% of total units in the two most costly areas in Boston to build housing; and
 - Increasing the amount developers are required to pay into an affordable housing development fund in lieu of creating onsite affordable units totaling 18% of total units, by raising per unit contributions in the two most costly areas in Boston to build.

HOUSING



PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES: MARTY'S STORY

Marty* is a life-long resident of a small town on the South Shore, with many personal and family ties in his community. After spending his career working in the local public schools, Marty had little money to retire on and worked as a personal care attendant to supplement his income when he left the school system. Marty's work was irregular, based on the needs of his patients, and he found himself struggling to stay current on all his bills. He applied for elder public housing in his town and had been waitlisted for over a year and a half when he finally got the call that he could move into a unit.

When Marty showed up to pick up the keys to his new apartment, he was told that he would have to pass a final eligibility screening and provide current pay stubs. In that particular month, Marty had been providing almost around-the-clock end-of-life care for a particular patient, working far more hours than usual and earning more income that month than typical, which his tax returns substantiated. Based on his pay stubs, though, the Housing Authority took Marty's keys back and denied him the apartment that he'd waited so long for.

Without a subsidized elder apartment to move in to, and unable to keep up with his current market rent, Marty moved into a rooming house. Eventually he even had to leave the rooming house because he couldn't pay the rent. For a while, Marty slept in his car, but then lost his car, too. With nowhere else to turn, Marty began sleeping on the beach.

As he dealt with all of his housing and financial issues, Marty developed memory problems. He applied for emergency homeless priority housing with the Housing Authority, but his cognitive impairments left him struggling with the arduous application process that required him to document all of his living arrangements and landlords for the past five years. The Housing Authority rejected his application multiple times for noncompliance with the documentation requirements.

That's when GBLS stepped in. As winter set in and Marty moved into a temporary homeless shelter, he was referred to GBLS for help. Marty's free GBLS attorney set about to prove his dire need and eligibility for housing. Within the week, Marty's housing appeal was reviewed and approved. By the December holidays, Marty was able to move into the housing development he wanted, near the church where his parents are buried. Marty is now comfortably housed in his home community, and able to focus on his health and stability.

*Client's name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

PRACTICE AREA: EMPLOYMENT

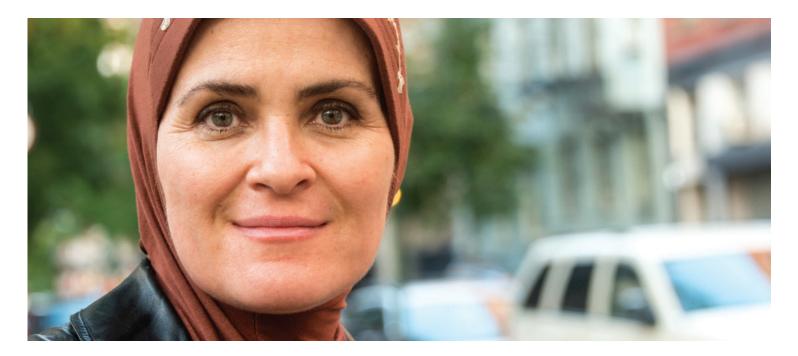


GBLS' advocacy on behalf of low-income workers includes cases involving: wrongful denial of unemployment benefits; violations of wage laws (such as nonpayment of overtime) resulting in wage theft; and tax controversies related to employment income or problems receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), through the Low-Income Taxpayer Assistance Project. GBLS also advocates for changes to laws, policies, and regulations that negatively affect low-wage workers, working closely with – and representing – many different community-based organizations, and partnering with a wide range of worker and immigrant rights advocacy organizations, government agencies, unions, members of the private bar, and law schools.

In 2016, through GBLS' persistent efforts, "An Act to Improve Vocational Training Opportunities for Unemployed Workers" was enacted in the Massachusett's Senate with additional language drafted by GBLS. It was also added by the Senate to the Economic Development bill with specific provisions suggested by GBLS. The Conference Committee accepted the provisions and the Governor signed the bill in August 2016, improving employment prospects for thousands of workers in the Commonwealth.

GBLS also successfully advocated for a bill amending parents' rights to unpaid, job-protected leave for the birth or adoption of a child. The bill requires employers to clearly inform employees in writing prior to their family leave that if they take leave beyond the eight weeks, this ends their right to return to work.

PRACTICE AREA: WELFARE LAW



GBLS represents poor individuals and families to help them access and retain financial assistance, Food Stamps (SNAP), child care, and related benefits. GBLS seeks to ensure that our clients receive adequate notice of decisions, timely decisions on requests for assistance, and timely receipt of benefits. Staff engages in direct referral of cases from Boston homeless family shelter providers and education and training providers. GBLS provides training on public benefits to partner organizations. GBLS also works to reduce systemic barriers to public benefits by advocating for changes in state laws and in state and federal policy and practice.

Through advocacy to the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Commissioner and Legal Division in 2016, GBLS convinced DTA to halt a new procedure under which cash benefits to families would automatically stop on a pre-programmed date if DTA's eligibility review process had not been completed. Additionally, a joint effort by GBLS and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute persuaded DTA to reverse the decision to add new restrictions on the TAFDC exemption for families where a parent is caring for a disabled child or certain other disabled relatives.

GBLS also documented DTA's violation of rights by imposing "disqualification" penalties against Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients who were never informed of the rules in their language, thus depriving cash and SNAP benefits to otherwise eligible families. Following GBLS advocacy with other organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, DTA agreed to stop the practice of disqualifying LEP clients and issued new directives to all staff involved in these procedures.

PRACTICE AREA: IMMIGRATION



GBLS provides legal representation to and advocates on behalf of low-income immigrants. We prioritize cases of individuals and families seeking permanent refuge and safe haven, individuals subjected to domestic violence and sexual assault, and unaccompanied children. GBLS represents clients in cases before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Department of Justice, and federal courts. GBLS responds to crises affecting the rights of immigrants as they arise, and advocates for law reform and systemic changes to secure and expand the right to asylum, withholding of removal, and relief under the United Nations Convention Against Torture. Staff coordinates GBLS' immigration work with local, national, and international immigrant rights, civil rights, and human rights networks.

In 2016, GBLS won a case at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), after helping to prepare an amicus curiae brief, resulting in youth aged 18-21 now being able to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ), giving foreign transition age youth in the United States who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected an avenue toward safety and stability. Also, following GBLS' participation in the preparation of another amicus curiae brief before the SJC, a favorable decision was rendered: establishing that the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court does have jurisdiction to protect immigrant children and youth in the U.S. without their families who are seeking SIJ status.

IMMIGRATION



PURSUING A BETTER FUTURE: FERNANDO'S STORY

Fernando* was only 16 years old when he came to GBLS for help. Originally from Guatemala, Fernando fled his home country without his parents, worried for his safety in a region beset by violent gangs, poverty, and kidnappings, as well as neglect within the home. He intended to follow in his older sister's footsteps – she had fled to the United States a few years earlier and received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, settling into the suburbs of Boston. Fernando planned to live with his sister, and hoped to be able to go to school in the U.S., learn English, and ensure a more secure future for himself. However, after an arduous journey north through Mexico, Fernando was detained at the U.S.-Mexico border. Fortunately, due to his age, Fernando was paroled out of detention into his sister's custody.

GBLS took Fernando's case and represented him in his removal proceedings to help him obtain a Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) order and proper guardianship. GBLS also helped Fernando get a psychological assessment, which determined he suffered from PTSD from all he'd experienced, and connected him to other needed services. As a result of GBLS' advocacy, the Family Court judge ultimately appointed Fernando's sister as his guardian and Fernando also received a special order from the judge, rendering him eligible to file for SIJ status. Much to his and his family's relief, Fernando became a lawful permanent resident in 2016, and now has a promising future ahead of him in the United States.

*Client's name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

PRACTICE AREA: CONSUMER RIGHTS



GBLS helps low-income homeowners stay in their homes, challenges unlawful foreclosure practices, assists consumers who are being sued on credit card debts that the creditors cannot prove they owe, prevents clients who have exempt income from entering debt settlement agreements they cannot afford, helps consumers who were scammed to get their money and property back, challenges unfair and deceptive business practices, and works for legislation and rules that will strengthen consumer protections.

In fall 2016, GBLS began a twice to three times weekly Debt Collection Attorney-for-the-Day program. Staff represents consumers in debt collection cases in small claims courts in Roxbury and Chelsea, and handles bankruptcy/debtor relief cases. Staff also conducts community outreach related to challenging unfair debt collection practices, disputing creditor report errors, and filing for bankruptcy; and as a part of a "Surviving Debt" workshop, trains consumers how to spot and correct credit report errors and what to do if sued by a debt collector.

PRACTICE AREA: FAMILY LAW

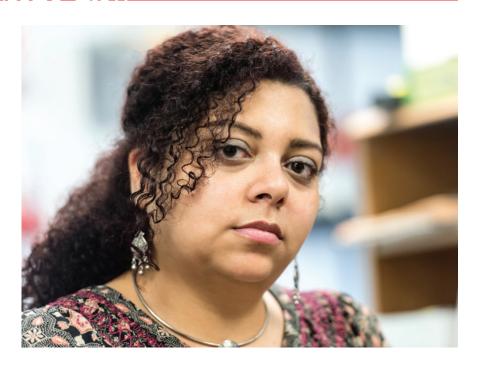
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE: MARIA'S STORY

Maria* needed a divorce from her abusive husband in order to protect her children, as well as herself. Maria's husband had sexually abused her daughter from a previous marriage and avoided criminal charges when a judge determined it was not in the girl's best interest to testify against him. Fearful for her daughter's well-being, as well as the safety of their shared children, Maria came to GBLS for help.

Maria's GBLS attorney represented her in her divorce and family law proceedings over the course of a protracted legal fight against a violent man who had the means to pay for his own attorney. The abuser sought joint custody and visits with his two biological children, but Maria knew she had to protect her kids. She feared what might happen if her ex had overnight visits or legal custody of the children.

To keep the kids safe, GBLS got a Guardian Ad Litem appointed by the Court, who recommended therapy and a gradual reintroduction between the biological children and their father after he had been prohibited from contact while the criminal matter was pending. At trial, GBLS was successful in negotiating an agreement: Maria retained legal and physical custody, and the father has visits but no overnights. To help keep Maria and the kids financially stable, GBLS argued for and won a fair child support agreement and other financial concessions that allowed Maria and the kids to stay in the family home. Thanks to GBLS' help, Maria and all three of her children are now rebuilding their lives together, free from abuse and getting the help they need in order to move forward.

*Client's name has been changed to protect confidentiality.



GBLS provides legal assistance to low-income survivors of domestic violence (DV) to ensure that their rights and their safety are protected, and to help them and their children achieve an economically-sustainable life free from abuse. GBLS provides individual representation in divorce and paternity actions and to obtain child support, custody, visitation, and restraining orders; legal counseling to victims who seek to relocate due to family violence and legal technical assistance to the agencies that provide services to these victims; and advice on legal issues related to the relocation of DV victims and victims and witnesses of crime. Staff provides on-site advocacy at two probate and family courts to assist victims with abuse prevention orders and emergency matters, and provides assistance to DV victims through GBLS' innovative community outreach projects. GBLS also addresses broader legal and public policy issues that perpetuate domestic violence and obstruct the road towards physical and emotional well-being and economic independence for survivors.

PRACTICE AREA: HEALTH & DISABILITY



GBLS provides legal assistance to low-income individuals of all ages with disabilities and other health challenges to promote access to and retention of quality affordable, accessible healthcare and coverage, disability benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) income. GBLS also represents vulnerable clients in nursing home eviction cases. Community partnerships are a mainstay of our health and disability work, enabling us to expand our systemic advocacy efforts that include ensuring access to health care for all age groups, ensuring the rights of isolated nursing home residents, improving access to hospital and transportation services for people with disabilities, and guardianship reform.

Among other victories this past year, in late 2016, GBLS worked with co-counsel Lainey Feingold, a leading California disability rights lawyer who is one of the founders of the Structured Negotiations (SN) movement, and clients Bay State Council of the Blind (BSCB) and Jae Beal to reach an agreement with Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI) concerning care and services for patients and visitors with visual impairments. BSCB and MEEI launched a comprehensive initiative to ensure that persons with visual impairments have full and equal opportunity to the best possible care. The five-year initiative includes: providing improved patient and visitor forms, documents, publications, and materials in alternative formats; developing and implementing annual training for staff on disability awareness; developing and implementing policies on communications, auxiliary aids and services, service animals, patient data, and use of personal adaptive equipment; and adopting a website accessibility policy.

GBLS SPECIAL PROIECTS



OUTREACH WITHIN THE ASIAN COMMUNITY

Greater Boston Legal Services' Asian Outreach Project (AOP) provides guidance, referral services, and free legal assistance to nearly 1,000 low-income members of the greater Boston Asian community each year. AOP uses a community lawyering model to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services to Asian clients with multiple barriers to accessing justice. The areas of law that the AOP prioritizes (housing and eviction, family law, wage and hour, unemployment insurance, immigration, and public benefit cases) have current and historical significance in movement building within the Asian American community and in partnership with other communities of color. By partnering with community-based groups, GBLS supports and strengthens the impact of community organizing through direct legal services, advocacy and legislative campaigns, and impact litigation. We also seek to train the next generation of Asian American social justice advocates by involving interns and volunteers in our case work and systemic advocacy.

GBLS SPECIAL PROJECTS

GBLS offers targeted services in a number of special projects in addition to our substantive practice areas. These projects help to ensure access to justice for people who face specific barriers, providing outreach and legal assistance to populations with specialized legal needs. Some of GBLS' special projects include:

- Battered Immigrant Women Project, which recruits and trains private attorneys to provide representation for battered immigrant women to assist them in attaining immigration status independent of their abuser;
- Beyond Chinatown: Inclusive Community Redevelopment Across Greater Boston Project - helping to strengthen neighborhoods and support development that allows current residents to stay in their homes;
- Cambridge Abuse Prevention Project;
- Chelsea Community Equity Project with the Chelsea Collaborative, to create and implement a community redevelopment project in the City of Chelsea to address several of the causes of displacement of long-term residents (a pilot project to be later expanded to Boston);
- Children's Disability Project;
- Stabilizing Communities Project with City Life/Vida Urbana, Coalition for Occupied Homes in Foreclosure, and Harvard Legal Aid Bureau to avoid foreclosures, keep homeowners in their homes, represent homeowners in eviction actions post-foreclosure and in purchasing their homes after foreclosure, and halting speculation in communities hit hard by foreclosure;
- CORI and Re-Entry Project;
- Disability Benefits Project;
- Elder Abuse Prevention Project;
- On-site outreach services with Rosie's Place at the Boston Housing Authority's Franklin Field housing development;
- Immigrants Know Your Rights Project;
- Latinas Know Your Rights Project with REACH Beyond Domestic Violence;
- LGBT Elder Legal Rights Project;
- Medicare Advocacy Project;
- On-site outreach and services to domestic violence survivors at both Middlesex County and Suffolk County Probate and Family
- School to Prison Pipeline Intervention Project;
- Senior Citizens' Law Project;
- Subsidy Loss Prevention Project;
- Unaccompanied Minors Project; and
- Victim Relocation Counseling Project.

LEGAL COMMUNITY DONORS

THANK YOU,

LEGAL COMMUNITY DONORS!

The Greater Boston legal community demonstrates a special commitment to GBLS and ensuring access to civil justice regardless of income. Every year, individual attorneys, law firms, and corporate legal departments show the extent to which they respect and value the legal assistance that GBLS provides to impoverished residents in our community. Their support is provided in a variety of ways - including the annual Lawyers Fund Drive, Associates Fund Drive, In-House Counsel Drive, legal fellowships, and more. We are grateful for their support.

LAWYERS FUND DRIVE

LEADERSHIP LEAGUE

(\$800 or more per Boston attorney)
Choate, Hall & Stewart
Collora LLP
Englander & Chicoine
Goodwin Procter LLP
Hemenway & Barnes LLP
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Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

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Goulston & Storrs
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Thornton Law Firm

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(up to \$199 per Boston attorney)

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McDermott, Will & Emery

McLane, Middleton Professional Association

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.

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Morrison Mahoney LLP

Morse, Barnes-Brown & Pendleton

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

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Swartz & Swartz

Tarlow Breed Hart & Rodgers, P.C.

Taylor, Ganson & Perrin, LLP

Todd & Weld LLP

Verrill Dana LLP

White & Williams

Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.

LAW FIRM FELLOWSHIPS

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

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP

Foley Hoag

Goodwin Procter

McDermott Will & Emery

Mintz Levin

Ropes & Gray

WilmerHale

2016 CY PRES AND OTHER SIMILAR AWARDS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following law firms who facilitated the award of class action lawsuit residuals to GBLS.

Arrowhead LLP

Consumer Litigation Associates, P.C.

Fogelman & Fogelman LLC

Kelly & Crandall PLC

Korth Law Office

Leonard Law Office PC

Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P.C.

National Consumer Law Center

Pastor Law Office

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

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 2016, and to their many individual attorneys who dedicated their time and energy to ensuring civil justice for all.

Brown Rudnick LLP DLA Piper LLP Duane Morris LLP EMD Serono, Inc. Foley Hoag LLP Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy LLP Goodwin Procter LLP Goulston & Storrs PC Jones Day Liberty Mutual Insurance LPL Financial Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow PC Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP Proskauer Rose LLP Ropes & Gray LLP Santander Bank Seyfarth Shaw LLP Sullivan & Worcester LLP Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks PC

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



"I can never thank you enough for all your help and support! No money, alone, nowhere to turn. And you beautiful people were there to give the absolutely powerless legal help, comfort, and support."

- GBLS Client

A SHARED EFFORT TO SAVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BOSTON

Through a high-energy campaign spanning from May through October of 2016, Greater Boston Legal Services worked with a coalition of pro bono attorneys from firms Goulston & Storrs, Jones Day, and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, community organizing group City Life/Vida Urbana, and a group of active, motivated tenants to fight for – and win – the preservation of 59 units of permanently affordable housing in Boston.

Many of the tenants living in the homes located at 91-101 Waldeck Street in Dorchester and 25-35 Orlando Street in Mattapan have disabilities, are elderly, or are veterans, and most are people of color and Section 8 voucher holders. They were faced with eviction and homelessness after their notorious landlord, Uwa Lawrence, went bankrupt and the properties were put up for sale. The tenants took a unified stand against becoming displaced from their communities.

In a concerted effort that included Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development, the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), the pro bono and nonprofit team achieved a precedent-setting win in October, securing a Federal bankruptcy judge ruling that allowed Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, a non-profit developer of affordable housing, to purchase the properties from the previous owner. Through this landmark effort that is the first of its kind in the country, attorneys from Goulston & Storrs, Jones Day, Pillsbury, and GBLS used the bankruptcy process to save 59 families from eviction and establish all 59 units as long-term affordable housing for people truly in need.

One of the grateful tenants stated, "I am so overwhelmed by the support and work...given to the tenants of Waldeck Street of which I am one...I thank you...for lifting dark clouds and bringing peace and solace to myself and all the tenants at Waldeck Street."

"I'm deeply moved by the work GBLS staff does, at considerable personal sacrifice, to help people who are truly in need. There are so many people in our Commonwealth who don't enjoy the very basic conditions necessary to thrive, including safety and security, which I and so many others are privileged to take for granted.

GBLS helps address this fundamental injustice by providing legal services that are essential and life changing.

This is why GBLS is one of my top giving priorities."

-Elizabeth I. Lintz, Associates Fund Drive donor and Goulston & Storrs Associate



Pictured are the 2016 GBLS Associates Fund Drive captains from law firms across the Boston area, along with Congressman Joe Kennedy III. The 2016 Associates Fund Drive raised more than \$460,000 from over 1,000 associates to provide civil legal aid to survivors of domestic violence.

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Thank you also to the more than 80 other community-based groups and social service organizations with whom GBLS partners, too numerous to list here. GBLS' collaborative working relationship with these partners is critical to early identification of emerging issues faced by Boston area's low-income communities, to reach out to some of the needlest clients in the community, and to jointly develop effective approaches to successfully address specific problems.

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We are also very grateful to the many pro bono attorneys, too numerous to list here, who handled GBLS cases at their firms.

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Valenda Applegarth, Family Law Unit Senior Attorney, was awarded the 2016 Gail Burns-Smith Excellence in Victim Services Award by the National Crime Victim Law Institute.



Jacquelynne Bowman,
GBLS Executive Director, was
awarded the 2016 Public Interest
Award by Massachusetts Black
Women Attorneys.



Monica Halas, Employment Law Unit Lead Attorney, was awarded the **2016 Solidarity** Award by Justice at Work. She was also honored by the Region 9A UAW for **unifying** labor leaders around issues that affect low-wage workers, through her legislative work including employment reform, paid sick days, temporary workers' right to know, and the domestic workers bill of rights, and for her years of leadership as a member of UAW Local 2320 and as a Vice President of the Mass AFL-CIO.







Nancy Kelly, Immigration Unit Acting Managing Attorney, Melanie Malherbe, Welfare Law Unit Managing Attorney, and Anne Trinque, GBLS Board member and General Counsel, Fiduciary Trust Company, were selected as 2016 Top Women of Law honorees by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.



Patricia Levesh, Family Law Unit Managing Attorney, was awarded the 2016 Nery Arrano Pro Bono Award by the Women's Bar Association (WBA), for her long-standing commitment to assisting low-income survivors of domestic violence through the WBA's Family Law Project.

GBLS was honored with a Salt of the Earth Award by Community Labor United. This award recognizes the work of current and past GBLS attorneys Lili Ibara, Audrey Richardson, and Rachel Smit in the Asian Outreach/Employment Law Unit on behalf of low-wage workers who are cheated out of minimum wage, overtime, and other earnings.



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