

# COMMUNITY LAW CENTER 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Law Center is a unique and essential resource in community-based revitalization efforts. Our attorneys help people work together to accomplish their goals. Our work helps organizations build the social and economic strength of neighborhoods and nonprofits that lack the financial resources to pay for private legal representation.



Lawyers for Neighborhoods & Nonprofits

[WWW.COMMUNITYLAW.ORG](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLAW.ORG)

# DEAR FRIENDS

2013 was another record year for Community Law Center! Thank you very much for the support you have offered us, whether through financial gifts or donations of professional time and service. Your support has helped us continue Community Law Center's important mission.

In 2013, Community Law Center saw a continued increase in volunteers and volunteer hours. Community Law Center's staff and pro bono attorneys have worked tirelessly to provide the legal support Maryland's nonprofit and community associations need to make their organizations stronger and neighborhoods more vibrant.

Community Law Center has become an institution critical to community-based revitalization efforts. Community Law Center works with hundreds of groups each year. Some of these organizations are just getting started, while others have been operating for decades. Many have no staff, accomplishing amazing work with very small budgets and extraordinary volunteers. Despite their incredible diversity in size, geography, mission, and budget, all of Community Law Center's clients have at least one thing in common — they care deeply and passionately about their communities.

On behalf of our board, staff, and clients, we thank you for the role you have played over the past year, whether as a client, a funder, a pro bono attorney or a friend.

Sincerely,



Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.  
*Executive Director*



Paul Rishar  
*Chairperson, Board of Directors*

## DONATED LEGAL SERVICES IN 2013

3,209 HOURS



OVER 4X  
THE HOURS DONATED  
4 YEARS AGO

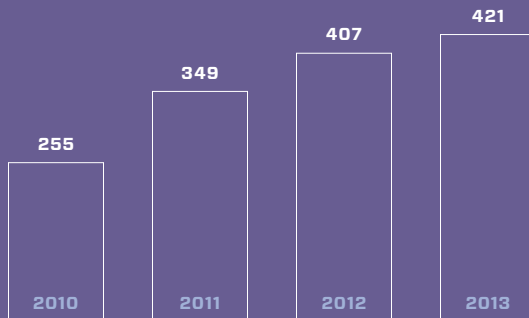


\$639,000.00



Through Community Law Center's pro bono program, the value of donated hours has doubled from \$305,961 in 2010 to \$639,000 in 2013. Since 2010, the number of volunteer attorney hours at Community Law Center has more than quadrupled. In that same four years, over \$2.2 million dollars of legal services have been donated through Community Law Center.

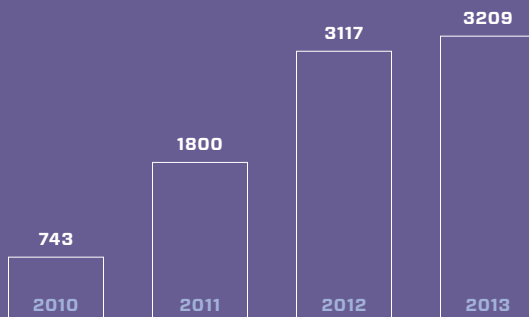
## NUMBER OF PRO BONO ATTORNEYS



PRO BONO ATTORNEYS BY YEAR

The number of pro bono attorneys at Community Law Center has increased each year since 2010.

## NUMBER OF BILLABLE HOURS

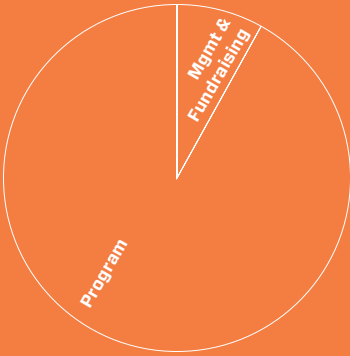


VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY HOURS BY YEAR

In 2013, the amount of billable hours volunteered by attorneys was equal to over 8 hours a days, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At Community Law Center, 92 cents of every dollar goes directly to Programs.



## 2013 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Revenues, gains and other support

#### Public support received directly:

Contributions	\$ 502,664
Contributed professional fees	638,999
	<hr/>
	1,141,643

Special events	11,680
Grants from governmental agencies	81,323

#### Other revenue:

Fees	21,504
Miscellaneous	1,023
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	22,527

**Total revenues, gains and other support** **\$ 1,257,173**

### Expenses

#### Program services:

Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits	\$ 1,127,048
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#### Supporting services:

Management and General	76,631
Fund raising	22,294
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Total supporting services 98,925

Total expenses 1,225,973

**Change in net assets** **31,200**

**Net assets — beginning of year** **375,909**

**Net assets — end of year** **\$ 407,109**

# DONORS

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Roya Golpira	Jeremy Roundtree	The Brewer's Art
Elizabeth Grove	David Ryan	The Chesapeake
Heidi Grundmann	Sheila K. Sachs	The Pantry Fine Catering
Harris, Jones & Malone, LLC	Sandtown Village Cooperative	The Walters Art Museum
Daniel Harvey		The Wine Source
		WAMM Festival
		Woodhall Vineyards & Wine Cellars

# PROGRAMS

Community Law Center's mission grows out of the conviction that providing legal tools for organized groups will strengthen the nonprofit sector and make neighborhoods more vibrant while improving everyone's quality of life and access to justice. Community Law Center's staff and volunteer attorneys create and utilize innovative legal solutions that continually prove to be effective for the betterment of Maryland's communities.

## **PRO BONO REPRESENTATION = ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Community Law Center's staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys provide direct legal services to a wide array of nonprofit and community organizations. Without Community Law Center, these organizations would not have access to free attorney time, and thus, would not have access to the legal system and the legal advice they need to grow, protect themselves, and move projects forward.

2013 was another a record year for Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program. Our total number of pro bono hours increased again during this period. In calendar year 2012, pro bono hours were at a record high of 3,117 hours only to be topped in 2013 with 3,209 hours! We also added to our panel of volunteer attorneys, up to 414 attorneys in 2013 from 2012's 407.

## BETTER PROCEDURES = BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS

In addition to providing legal representation directly to nonprofits, we also advocate for better policies, procedures, laws, and forums for our clients. In 2013, Community Law Center became engaged in efforts to reform the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

Community Law Center staff attorneys have represented community-based organizations before the Liquor Board for decades. These cases generally involve nuisance and criminal activity occurring, or stemming from, a liquor establishment. Often frustrated by the lack of transparency, accountability, and rule of law, Community Law Center generally found a very uneven playing field when representing communities' interests before the Board. In March 2013, the Maryland Office of Legislative Audits released a Performance Audit Report of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City to confirm the tremendous need for reform that Community Law Center had been seeking for many years. Despite the significant media attention and publicity the Audit received, the Liquor Board was not making an obvious effort to remedy the problems highlighted by the auditors.

Community Law Center decided that it was time to pursue a very public Liquor Board reform effort during the summer of 2013. To do this, we decided to start a blog, *Booze News: Distilled in Room 215*, to inform the general public what happens at the weekly hearings. We point out if any issues arose at the hearings are issues targeted by the audit. We also cite to the relevant law. Our blog won "Best of Baltimore 2013" awards from *Baltimore Magazine* and the *Baltimore City Paper* for its coverage of the Liquor Board. The blog was also nominated for the "Baltimore Innovators Award" for 2013. In addition to our blog, the *Baltimore Brew*, writes an article about the most recent Booze News post and features it on the front page of the *Brew*, in a permanent section titled, "Booze News: in partnership with Community Law Center."

## KNOWLEDGE = POWER

In 2013, Community Law Center offered presentations, workshops, and trainings to community leaders and volunteer attorneys every month. Topics included: *How to Maintain a Nonprofit Organization in Maryland*; *Property Law for Urban Gardener*; *Nonprofit Law*; *How to Protest a Liquor License*; *Representing Community Organizations at the Liquor Board*; *Corporate Pro Bono for Small Nonprofits*; and many others. Community Law Center also developed a new manual, *A Community Association's Guide to the Development Process in Baltimore City*, which informs community residents about the opportunities they have to impact the decisions made about development in their neighborhoods.

# WHO WE ARE

## Staff

Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq.,  
*Executive Director*

Patricia Dzierwinski,  
*Accountant*

Ingrid Hitchens-Hall,  
*Senior Paralegal &  
Resource Manager*

Susan M. Hughes, Esq.,  
*Staff Attorney*

Fatima Jones,  
*Office Manager*

Robin L. Jacobs, Esq.,  
*Staff Attorney*

Kelly E. Pfeifer, Esq.,  
*Supervising Attorney*

Christina L. Schoppert  
Devereaux, Esq.,  
*Staff Attorney*

Becky L. Witt, Esq.,  
*Staff Attorney*

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Michael A. Pretl, Esq.

Joyce Smith

## Interns & Community Volunteers

Cathy Brock

Fernando Guerra

Charlene Hall

Danika Hall

Danielle Howarth

Hannah Jiam

Shana Roth-Gormley

Kimmi Pham

Erica Tan

## Volunteer Attorneys

Jonathan Ackerman

George Aitken

Chijioke Akamigbo

Stanley Alpert

Hirsch Ament

Andrea Andrews

Susan Baker

Kimberly Beard

Greg Bedward

Barbara Bezdek

LyTia Blackmon

Naana Boampong

Raquel Bracho

James Bragdon

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David Silvers

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Andrew Stern

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John Sunder

Kimberly Tarver

Danielle Taylor

Adriana Tibbitts

Alison Velez Lane

Nicholas Villani

Janee Claressa Weaver

Alana Williams

Justin Williams

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Roger Winston

Wayne Xu

Emily Zhao

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