

Community Law Center

2019 Annual Report

“

timely

efficient

dependable

professional

insightful

**An excellent resource
for the community**

supportive

accessible

valuable

concrete support

resourceful

**The folks at CLC
care about
the people they serve**

helpful

patient

attentive

informative

personable

”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Board, staff, and clients, we thank you for supporting our work to serve the legal needs of neighborhoods and nonprofits in Maryland!

We are proud to be the legal partner for organizations working to improve our communities. Community Law Center's clients are primarily neighborhood-based and resident-led organizations that are at the forefront of fighting for improved health, safety, and the wellbeing of their neighbors and neighborhoods through a wide variety of programs and initiatives. Community Law Center seeks long term, productive partnerships with clients that further the missions of both the client and Community Law Center. In 2019, our staff and volunteer attorneys contributed legal services valued at over \$417,000!

Our work to collaborate and share information that builds upon the capacity of the small nonprofit sector continues through our workshops and educational programs. A total of 442 community leaders attended our workshops and brief advice legal clinics in 2019. Groups with a wide variety of missions learned when to use the law to address nuisance properties; how to maintain their corporate and tax-exempt status; how properly manage their organizations; and strategies to effectively have their voices heard.

We look forward to doing more together in the coming year!

With tremendous gratitude,



Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.
Executive Director



Janice V. Bowie, PhD, MPH
Chair, Board of Directors

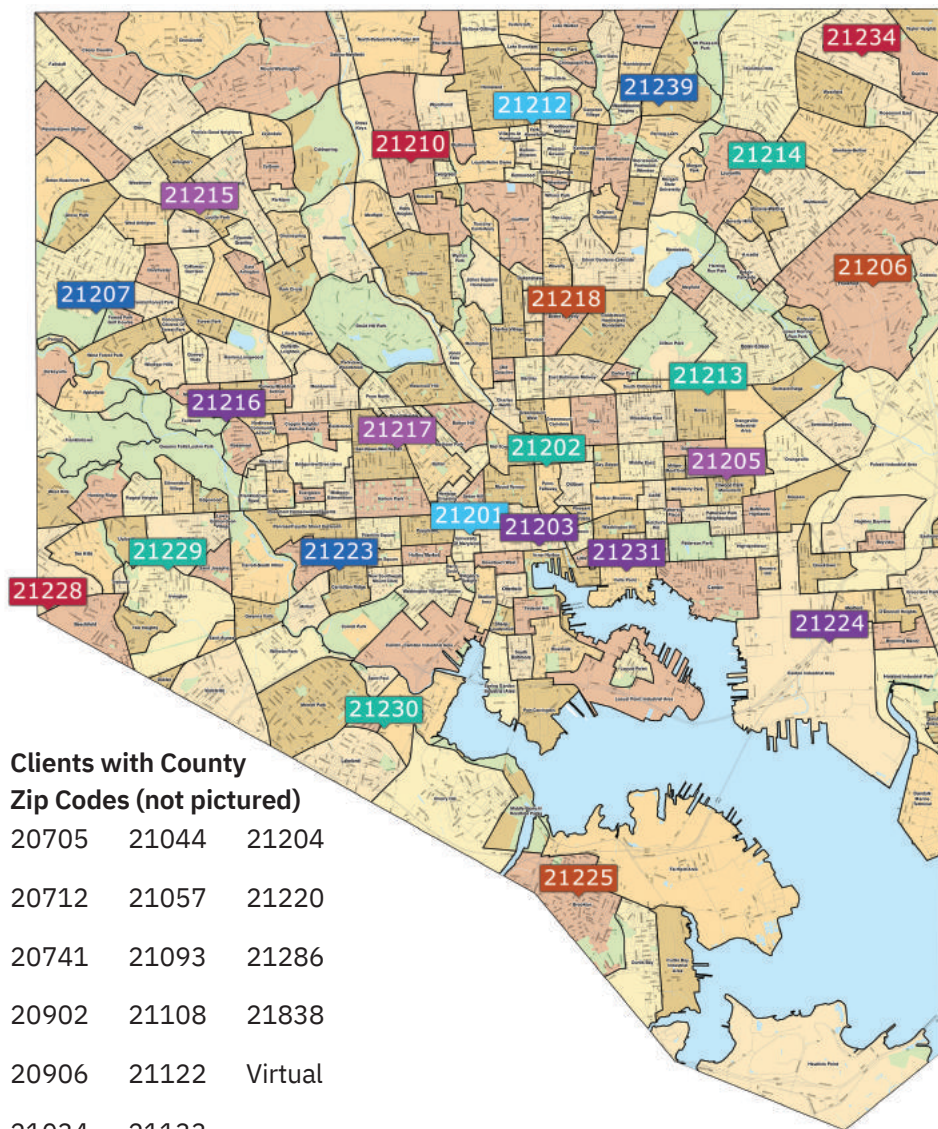
Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm, Inc. has been transforming what were previously vacant lots along Park Heights Avenue into a thriving “agrihood” – a vibrant community of farmers, neighbors, community leaders, and other collaborators – producing many thousands of pounds of food each year, and working toward food security for their whole region. Central to their mission is engaging the children and youth of Park Heights and beyond to be trained not just in farming and nutrition but also as young leaders who will be inspired and equipped to lift up their communities.



With Community Law Center, PPHUF trained the young members of its board on the duties and roles of Directors and Officers, and on nonprofit requirements. We also helped the organization obtain 501(c)(3) tax exemption, draft new bylaws and adopt a Conflicts of Interest Policy, in addition to discussing legal considerations of various options as the organization, and our partnership with them, grows in the future!



2019 CLIENT MAP



2019 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

The Pro Bono Program matches our panel of **601** volunteer attorneys with community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to provide the legal assistance they need to achieve their missions. The following attorneys represented clients in 2019.

Aaron Withrow	James Saeli	Rob Johnson
Albert DeCesaris, Jr.	James Catano	Robyn Scates
April Ishak	Jennifer Blunt	Sandra (Sandy) Gohn
Ardalun Kamali	Jennifer Insley-Pruitt	Seema Kakade
Ashley Rodriguez	Jerry Schaefer	Shaun Carrick
Brian Chappell	Kathleen Hyer	Shayna A. Gilmore
Bridgett Simmons	Kristopher Madore	Shirley Bigley
Chika Ojiaku	Lauren Lake	LaMotte
Christopher Geissler	Mark Franco	Spencer Joffrion
Christopher Madaio	Mary Claire Blythe	Stanley Alpert
Cyreka Jacobs	Maura Ward	Stephen Cohen
Dan Harvey	Michael Lehmann	Susan Baker
Dan Skowronski	Michael Sherman	Teresa Carnell
Danielle Mehall	Michael Mannes	Thomas Whiteford
Dave Panzer	Michael Sheehan	Thor Alden
Diane DiBlasio	Michael Sherman	Tom Zutic
Edward Hanlon	Michele Gilman	Toyja Kelley
Emily Portanova	Nicole Musgrave-Burdette	Trevor Coe
Eric Hawkins	Noah Shier	Veryl Pow
Fu-Mei Jiang	Patricia Artimovich	Yitian Jin
Gary Brooks	Patrick Turley	
Gayle Denman	Philip Hinkle	
George Ritchie	Richard Topaz	
Harry Shapiro	Rita Patel	
Jaime Lee		

From January 1 – December 31, 2019 volunteer attorneys donated 1,576 hours valued at \$407,967.



PRO BONO HIGHLIGHT

KRISTOPHER MADORE

“The pro bono work I do with Community Law Center has connected me with nonprofits doing wonderful things for their communities. Knowing that I had a part in helping to advance their missions has added deep fulfillment to my lawyering.”

2019 FINANCIALS

Revenues, gains and other support:

Public support:

Contributions	\$314,774
Contributed professional fees	\$407,967

\$772,741

Special events less direct costs	\$13,573
Grants from governmental agencies	\$179,864

Other revenue:

Fees	\$25,142
Miscellaneous	\$2,057

\$27,199

Total revenues, gains and other support

\$943,377

Expenses:

Program services –

Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits	\$844,483
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Supporting services:

Management and General	\$127,522
Fundraising	\$19,347

Total supporting services	\$146,869
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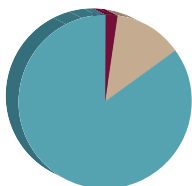
Total expenses

\$991,352

Change in net assets	(\$47,975)
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Net assets – start of year	\$248,819
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Net assets – end of year	\$200,844
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85 cents of every \$1 goes to programs

85¢

Programs

13¢

Management

2¢

Fundraising

2019 DONORS

Algren, Margaret	Fairfax, Cydonii	& Lisa	Norman, Gary	The Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion
Amazon Smile Foundation	Fayette Street Outreach	Kershner, Ingrid	North Harford Road Community Association.	The Marion & Henry J. Knott Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation	Organization, Inc.	Kimmel, Peter		
Antezana & Antezana, LLC	Feigin, Judy & David	King, Bill	Nwachu, Jay	The Obaza Family Charitable Trust
Apter, Marc	Filardi Law, LLC	King, Rick	Obaza, Edward	Transamerica Foundation
Barry, Daniel	Fischer, Kay	Ko, Denise	Ottinger, Larry & Cinthia Schuman	United Way of Central Maryland
Bennett, Darden	Fishelman, Emmanuel A.	Kramon & Graham, P.A.	Pay Pal Giving Fund	Urban, Laura
Berry, Youshea A.	Fund For Change	Lake Walker Community Association	Perkins, Louis	Valeri, Henry & Barbara
Blom, Brenda & John	Furstenberg, Francois	Lankford, Eileen F.	Pfeifer, Kelly & Craig	Vatankhahi, Mohtaram
Boitnott, John & Carolyn	Garver, Peter & Julie	Law Office of Gabriel J Christian	PNC Foundation	Venable, LLP
Bone, William & Lee	Goldseker Foundation	Levandusky, Whitney & Michael	Pollack, Kenneth	Vilardo, Marisa & Steven C Gondol
Bowie, Janice V.	Gonter, Matthew	Leviton, J.	Redd, Justin	Warren, Mary
Boyson, Jack	Greater Greenmount Community Association	Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Inc.	Redd, Stephen & Kyoko	Warren, Tatiana
Brewer, Margaret B.	Hamel, W. Warren	Manger, Suzanne	Rieger, J. Paul	Williams, John
Bryant-Baker, Janice	Harold & Ruth Garber Family Foundation	Maryland Legal Services Corporation	Robb, Inez	Wissow, Lawrence
Burnham, Jennifer	Harried, T.	Maslen, Catherine	Robinson, Harriet M.	Womble, Bond, Dickinson
Byron, Shirley R.	Harvey, Andrea	Maurer, Samuel	Rodini, Benjamin	Wood, Sherrod
Candido, Kaeli	Heyman, Anne & Harvey	McLeod, Cheryl	Rodini, Laura	Yasin, Nkenge
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor	Hillen Road Improvement Association	McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul Fowler, MD	Roxanne Prettyman	Zanvyl & Isabelle Kreiger Fund, Inc.
Clayton Baker Trust	Hirschhorn Foundation, Inc.	Meltzer, Brian	Sakamoto-Wengel, Joy R.	Zimmerman, Peter
Cole, Jemaleddin	Hughes, Alexandra M.	Mielke, Jennifer	Sampathkumar, Mahalakshmi	
Collier, Peter & Stacy	John J. Leidy Foundation	Mielke, Kerry & Christine	Schladen, Jon	
Community Development Block Grant	Johns Hopkins University	Mizeur, Heather	Scott, Sally	
Compensation GPS	Johnson, Robert M.	Moble, Darryn	Shaia, Wendy	
Daughters of Hope Ministry	Johnson-Betts, Zita	Monti, Lindsay	Smith, Carin	
DiGiacomo, Vincent	Kaiser Permanente	Moulton, Pearl	Smith, James	
DLA Piper LLP (US)	Kelly, Jr., James	Nathans, Jeremy	Spikes, Isazetta	
Dooley, Brook		Nathans, Joanne G.	Stein, Alan	
Dunkerton, Kristine & Elsa Lankford		Network for Good	Steiner, Emily	
Eveland, Janet		Nicolle, Lori A.	T.Rowe Price	
		Nixon, Belinda	Thalheimer, Louis & Eurich, Juliet	
			The Deborah Roter & Eric Waller Gift Fund	

2019 STAFF AND BOARD

STAFF

Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., Executive Director
Pat Dzierwinski, Accountant
Ingrid Hitchens-Hall, Senior Paralegal & Resource Manager
Fatima Jones, Office Manager
Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq., Pro Bono Coordinator
Denice Ko, Esq., Staff Attorney
Rebecca Lundberg Witt, Esq., Staff Attorney
Laura Rodini, Communications & Development Associate

INTERNS AND NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Bridget Carolan
Hannah Claggett
Julia Douglas
Kate Tallent
Matt Gonter
Pamela Falkner
Randy Gorman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary

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Emmanuel "Manny" Fishelman, Esq.
Bill King, Esq.
Brian Meltzer, Esq.
Bruce C. Mitchell
Joanne Nathans, Esq.
Justin A. Redd, Esq.
Inez Robb
David Ryan, CPA, CCP, JD
Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW
Emily Steiner, Esq.

REMEMBERING MIKE PRETL



Community Law Center lost Mike Pretl in 2019. Mike was a vital part of the Community Law Center family for the past 30 years. He started as our second volunteer attorney, and maintained a steady load of pro bono cases until 2017.

Mike was a pioneer in helping to develop common law nuisance actions as a tool for communities to use in addressing quality of life concerns. He also recognized that Baltimore's communities were inundated with illegal billboards in the 1980's. He represented the persons who removed an illegal billboard, which led to the removal of approximately 3,000 billboards in the City under court order.

Mike was a staunch supporter of pro bono service by attorneys. In 2010, he said, *"Many of us enter the profession with idealistic goals, but get caught up with making a living for our families. It is the unique wisdom of Community Law Center to empower attorneys to do both simultaneously, by providing a vehicle for us to assist community organizations that do much of the 'heavy lifting' in dealing with local issues."*

Mike joined Community Law Center's Board of Directors in 1988, serving as the first attorney to Chair the Board and remained on the Honorary Board until 2018.



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Learn more at communitylaw.org
or visit us on social media.

