

A photograph of three people standing outdoors, wearing face masks and name tags. The person on the left is wearing a dark jacket, a blue cap, and a white face mask. The person in the middle is wearing a light-colored trench coat, a dark beret, and a blue face mask. The person on the right is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, a red beanie, and a blue face mask. They are all smiling and appear to be at a community event. The background shows trees with autumn foliage and a brick building.

COMMUNITY LAW CENTER

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

3355 Keswick Road, Suite 200
Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2650

410-366-0922
communitylaw.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our board and staff, we are happy to share some of our 2020 journey with you.

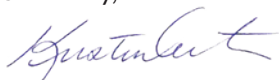
We are proud to be the legal partner for Maryland's small nonprofit organizations working to improve our communities. Community Law Center's clients are primarily neighborhood-based and resident-led organizations that are at the forefront of fighting for improved health, safety, and the well-being of their neighbors and neighborhoods through a wide variety of programs and initiatives.

As the pandemic changed our lives in 2020, it also changed our work. We quickly saw a transformation in the priorities of neighborhood-based and other small nonprofits. Public health regulations and precautions shifted their goals away from external programs and projects to internal capacity building and improving board governance policies. Community Law Center was pleased to be able to adapt to this new focus and offer virtual workshops, brief legal advice, legal representation, and other information in printed and video formats in service to our clients.

Community Law Center also made renewing and improving our governance policies a priority. In 2020 we updated our mission statement, crystallized our values, and renewed our vision. We are committed to being intentional about using a race equity lens to examine our daily work and our decision-making. We strive to hold ourselves accountable and to be held accountable by our partners for honoring our values, achieving our mission, and pursuing our vision.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to finding new ways we can work together with you for our community.

Sincerely,



Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.
Executive Director



Brian Meltzer, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Community Law Center is a nonprofit law firm that partners with neighborhood-led organizations and small nonprofits in Maryland, with a **focus on Baltimore neighborhoods that have been historically disinvested.**



2021 Officers elected by the Board of Directors in December 2020

We provide accessible legal expertise with empathy, transparency, and accountability. We are an anti-racist organization actively engaged in anti-oppressive social justice work.

In 2020, we updated our mission, vision and values to better reflect our work and our direction.

Community Law Center envisions strong communities and nonprofits thriving in a compassionate, collaborative, and equitable society.

The values we hold are: Equity, Effectiveness, Communication, Collaboration & Learning. We strive to hold ourselves accountable to living up to our values while meeting our mission in pursuit of our vision.

OFFICERS

Brian D. Meltzer, Esq., Chair
Robert M. Johnson, Jr., Esq. Vice-Chair
Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary
Alex Obaza, Treasurer
Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., President (Non-voting) & Executive Director

DIRECTORS

Marc Apter, APR
Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH
Emmanuel "Manny" Fishelman, Esq.
Bill King, Esq.
Joanne Nathans, Esq.
M. Andrea Olsen-Leyden, Esq.
Justin Redd, Esq.
Inez Robb
David W. Ryan
Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW
Emily Steiner, Esq.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS & NONPROFITS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BRIEF LEGAL ADVICE

When an urgent legal question arises for an organization, having quick access to an attorney is valuable for making critical decisions on how to move forward. In 2020, Community Law Center expanded its capacity to offer brief legal advice appointments to be on a rolling basis. Brief advice topics cover a wide range, from specific questions regarding tax compliance, fiscal sponsorship, or liability, to general questions on starting up. These calls have been an important way for us to connect with potential clients as well as former and current clients.



Denise Ko, Esq., Staff Attorney

"When Better Waverly Mutual Aid wanted to keep homes out of tax sale, we were concerned that red tape would make this impossible. CLC responded with a speedy consultation that showed us how we could move forward. One result was that we helped keep 19 houses from tax sale city-wide – not just in our own neighborhood. You really put the legs under us. Thank you!" – Miriam Avins, Better Waverly Mutual Aid

NEW VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted many aspects of our work, including our ability to present in-person workshops. In response, Community Law Center offered live virtual workshops and recorded webinars designed provide information requested by the community and useful for neighborhood leaders.



Becky Witt, Esq., Staff Attorney

New workshops included:

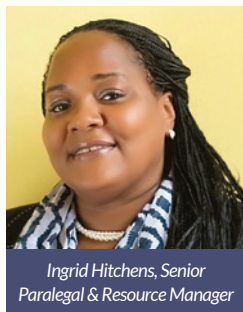
- How to Run an Amazing Community Association Meeting
- Real Talk about Fiscal Sponsorship
- Bookkeeping Basics for Nonprofit Organizations
- Employment Law Basics for Small Nonprofits in Maryland

"Community Law Center is an invaluable resource for neighborhood associations! It's so reassuring to know that if we have a legal issue CLC has our back for an affordable price. And the workshops are so well done and useful. I have taken How to Be Legit & How to Run an Amazing Community Association Meeting and both were wonderful. Please support CLC! Strong neighborhoods make a strong city."
– Leslie Kopchinski, Moravia-Walther Improvement Association

LEGAL SERVICES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS & NONPROFITS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

LEGAL CHECK-UP FOR NEIGHBORHOOD-LED ORGANIZATIONS IN BALTIMORE

As a way to conduct outreach to both new and long time community leaders, we offered free “legal check ups” to provide a broad overview of the legal health of an organization. We worked with groups to identify issues such as good standing and tax-exempt status, bylaws, meeting minutes, conflict of interest policies, and much more. While some groups were satisfied with the check up and sent down the path towards greater compliance, others were ready to seek further legal assistance. We were very pleased to be able to connect with so many groups in such a short time.



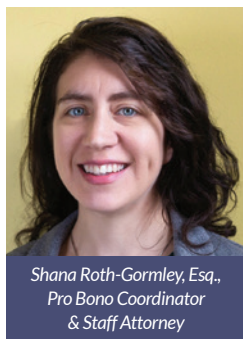
Ingrid Hitchens, Senior
Paralegal & Resource Manager

“Working with Community Law Center was an invaluable and great experience. We began with Board Capacity Building training, which set us on a course to enhance our capacity and recruit new Directors and expand our Board expertise.”

– Atiba Nkrumah, Historic Marble Hill Community Association, Inc.

QUICK TIPS

In the early months of quarantine, we sought new ways to quickly and widely present information to answer the most commonly asked questions we received from nonprofit leaders. One way we sought to provide this information was by developing a series of 5-10 minute Quick Tips videos for free on our website and on YouTube. The short videos covered subjects including coronavirus relief measures for nonprofits, making organizational decisions remotely, nonprofit tax filings, donation receipts and tax deductions, red flags for 501(c)(3)s, conflicts of interest, tax exemption, and building a strong nonprofit Board of Directors.



Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq.,
Pro Bono Coordinator
& Staff Attorney

“Looking back, if I knew what I know today, I wished I stayed connected with Community Law Center every step of the way when I was leading the neighborhood association. Community Law Center was a huge help and support system to us. Now, I recommend that any organization reach out to Community Law Center, pick their brain, don’t give up, stay connected with them in every way you possibly can.”

– Sandra Coles, Founder and Former Board Member of Greater Greenmount Community Association

2020 FINANCIALS

Revenues, gains and other support:

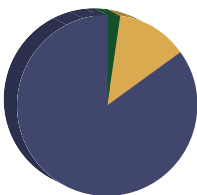
Public support:

Contributions	\$294,409
Contributed professional fees	\$221,826
	<hr/>
	\$516,235
Grants from governmental agencies	\$213,154
Other revenue:	
Fees	\$19,209
Miscellaneous	\$2,052
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	\$21,261
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$750,650

Expenses:

Program services –

Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits	\$661,449
Supporting services:	
Management and General	\$117,005
Fundraising	\$12,864
	<hr/>
Total supporting services	\$129,869
Total expenses	\$791,318
Change in net assets	(\$40,668)
Net assets – start of year	\$200,844
Net assets – end of year	\$160,176



83 cents of every \$1 goes to programs

83¢
Programs

15¢
Management

2¢
Fundraising

2020 DONORS

Algren, Margaret
Amazon Smile Foundation
American Charities
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Apter, Marc L.
Arnold-Garza, Sara
Baltimore City Department
of Housing & Community
Development
Baltimore Community
Foundation
Barnard, Suzanne &
Armistead Webster
Barry, Daniel
Benevity
Berry, Youshea A.
Boitnott, John & Carolyn
Bowie, Janice V.
Butcher's Hill Assoc., Inc.
Byron, Shirley R.
Cantone, Dale E.
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor
Chalker, Phillip
Clayton Baker Trust
Cole, Jemaleddin
Cutler, Audrey
David L. Cahn Charitable Fund
Diskin, Mark
Djerassi, Alexander
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Dooley, Brook
Dunkerton, Kristine &
Elsa Lankford
Eurich, Juliet &
Louis Thalheimer
Feigin, Judy & David
Filardi Law, LLC
Fishelman, Emmanuel A.
Frost, William
Fund For Change
Furstenberg, Francois
Garagiola, Robert
Garver, Peter and Julie
Gascoigne, Tina
Gilman, Michelle
Goldseker Foundation
Gomez, Neydyn

Gonter, Matthew
Gray, Anne B.
Gunning, Sarah
Guthorn, B.
Harold & Ruth Garber
Family Foundation
Harrison, Jane
Heyman, Anne & Harvey
Howe, Jeannie
Hughes, Alexandra M.
Jacobs, Robin
John J. Leidy Foundation
Johnson, Robert
Johnson-Betts, Zita
Johnston, David
Kalaria, Kristen
Kelly-Washington, Lauren
King, Bill
King, William
Kramon & Graham, P.A.
Kronmiller, Wendy A.
Kukay, Nancy
Lankford, Eileen F.
Lewis, Jean
Lockhart Vaughan
Foundation, Inc.
Lyon-Collis, Lauren M.
Magruder, William W.
Manger, Suzanne
Maryland Bar Foundation, Inc.
Maryland Legal Services
Corporation
McCrary, Lindsay
McNeil, Jr., Franklin &
Paul Fowler, MD
Meltzer, Brian
Mendoza, Yelitza
Mills III, Robert
Mitchell, Marilyn & Douglas
Morales, Marciee
Moulton, Pearl
Nathans, Jeremy
Nathans, Joanne G.
Nicolle, Lori A.
Norman, Gary
Nover, Jeffrey

Obaza, Alexander
Obaza, Edward
Ogburn, Lee
Olsen-Leyden, M. Andrea
Pardue, Keith & Avins, Miriam
Pay Pal Giving Fund
Payton, Cecil
Pfeifer, Kelly & Craig
Piscopo, Kristen
PNC Foundation
Pollack, Kenneth
Price, Zachary
Pugh, Belinda
Redd, Justin
Redd, Stephen & Kyoko
Rieger, J. Paul
Robb, Inez
Rodini, L.
Romano, Stephane
Rosen, Elizabeth
Rountree, Jeremy
Ruffin, Martha
Ryan, David
Shaia, Wendy
Shaukat, Imran
Slade, Maricruz
Smail, Paul
State of Maryland Department
of Housing and Community
Development
Steiner, Emily
Stokes, Carl F.
Strupp, Robert Joseph
Swann, Maxine
T. Rowe Price-Charitable
Giving Program
United Way of Central Maryland
Urban, Laura
Ward, Ernestine
Wilmer, Niles Barton
Wilson, Shari T.
Wood, Robin
Yannopoulos, Demetrios
Zanvyl & Isabelle Kreiger
Fund, Inc.
Zimmerman, Peter

2020 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq.,
Executive Director

Pat Dzierwinski, Accountant

Ingrid Hitchens-Hall,
Senior Paralegal & Resource Manager

Fatima Jones, Office Manager

Denice Ko, Esq., Staff Attorney

Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq.,
Pro Bono Coordinator

Rebecca Lundberg Witt, Esq.,
Staff Attorney

Laura Rodini, Communications &
Development Associate

INTERNS AND NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

Francoise Wilson

Jessa Lauer

Julie Kil

Matt Gonter

Pam Falkner

Patrick Jenkins

Samantha Shyam

Shailendra Singh

Shalita O'Neale

2020 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Community Law Center's Pro Bono Program matches volunteer attorneys with neighborhood-based and small nonprofits throughout Maryland. The following attorneys represented clients in 2020.

Aaron Withrow

Ashley Rodriguez

Brian Chappell

Bridgett A.
Simmons

Chika Ojiaku

Christopher
Geissler

Cyreka Jacobs

Edward (Phil)
Hanlon

Emily Portanova

Gary Brooks

Gayle Denman

George Ritchie

Jaime Lee

James L. Saeli

Jennifer Insley-
Pruitt

Jesse S. Lambert

Kathleen Hyer

Kristopher Madore

Lauren Lake

Leyla Roshanian

Mark Franco

Mary Claire Blythe

Michael A. Lehmann

Michael L. Sherman

Michele Gilman

Nicole Musgrave-
Burdette

Noah A. Shier

Patricia Artimovich

Patrick Turley

Philip Hinkle

Rita Patel

Rob Johnson

Sandra Gohn

Sarah Adkisson

Seema Kakade

Shayna A. Gilmore

Spencer C. Joffrion

Stephen Cohen

Susan Baker

Teresa Carnell

Thomas Zutic

Thomas Pilkerton III

Trevor Coe

Dorcas Gilmore

Veryl Pow

William McComas

Yitian Jin

**From January 1 –
December 31, 2020
volunteer attorneys
donated 1,607.48
hours valued at
\$221,826.**

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Email: mail@communitylaw.org

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

