

# COMMUNITY LAW CENTER

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

“

It's really hard to sort through all the information online about taxes and annual filings for small nonprofits. **I now feel confident that I know what I need to do** to keep the organization I'm involved with in compliance with the State of MD and the IRS.

”

“

Community Law Center has been very instrumental in helping my organization receive its 501(c)3 as well as offering workshops to maintain good standing.

”

“

Community Law Center was my last hope in obtaining assistance in starting a non-profit organization. The non-profit training was well worth the fee especially for beginners like myself.

”

“

For non-profits-to-be this presentation was excellent. We have been looking for assistance for over a year to get our non-profit process started. **This was just what we needed.**

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

2021 Community Law Center marked 35 years since opening its first office in 1986. This report highlights some of our work. We hope to work with you in the coming year!

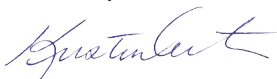
In 2021 we formally adopted a purpose-driven board leadership framework. This framework highlights that our duty of loyalty is to our mission and to YOU, our community. It continuously challenges us to weigh our decision-making against our purpose as an organization. We strive to hold ourselves accountable and to be held accountable by our partners for living up to our values, achieving our mission, and working toward our vision.

We also committed to deepening our Pro Bono Program to enhance our relationships with our over 500 volunteer attorneys across the state. We are excited to develop even more capacity to better serve Maryland's neighborhood-based organizations and small nonprofits.

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.

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

# 2021 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.



*Community Law Center's 2021 Officers of the Board of Directors*

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.

## OFFICERS

Kristine Dunkerton Esq.,  
President & Executive Director  
Brian D. Meltzer, Esq., Chair  
Wendy Shaia-Devereaux, EdD, MSW,  
Vice Chair  
Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary  
Justin Redd, Esq., Treasurer

## DIRECTORS

Marc Apter, APR  
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Alex Obaza, M.  
Andrea Olsen-Leyden, Esq.  
Inez Robb  
David W. Ryan  
Emily Steiner, Esq.

# OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Community Law Center's staff and Board of Directors have been working to better understand our role in furthering the goals of the neighborhood-led organizations and small nonprofits in Maryland. Since January 2019, we have been evaluating our work with a race equity lens. We determined that it was time to redefine our mission, vision, and values. These are not statements to be put on a shelf. We know that we must continuously revisit and intentionally hold ourselves accountable to them. While the Board has formally adopted these statements at our December 2020 annual meeting, we know we have a lot of work to do to live up to them. We hope you will join us!

## MISSION

Community Law Center's mission is to be the legal partner to neighborhoods and nonprofits in pursuit of more just and vibrant communities.

## VISION

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

## VALUES

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

**1. EQUITY.** We understand that anti-racist work must be intentional. It is a process of continuous evolution and growth. We strive to be aware of our individual and collective privilege. We are committed to examining our role and the role of our clients in perpetuating structural racism. We prioritize our services in communities that have experienced intentional disinvestment and planned inequity, with the goal of furthering the equitable redistribution of power and wealth. Throughout our representation we consider how well the client group, or its Board, represents and reflects the community and takes the potential impact of their action on historically oppressed populations into account. We believe sustainable change must be driven by directly impacted people who have a shared vision and decision-making process and that those who have privilege and power have an obligation to support those efforts.

# OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES CON'T

**2. EFFECTIVENESS.** Social change is often achieved incrementally. We support groups in identifying their legal needs, understanding their legal options, and achieving their goals to make a sustainable difference. We are flexible and open to new ideas. We move at the speed of our clients. We use a variety of tools including capacity building, policy advocacy, research, education, and litigation.

**3. COMMUNICATION.** We recognize that laws and the legal system can be opaque and inaccessible. We are open, consistent, comprehensive, and transparent with our advice. We share our legal expertise to expand our clients' knowledge base and their ability to actualize their power. We explain all options available within the law, and we work to change the law if necessary to further justice. We seek reciprocal communication in our client relationships to ensure that everyone's roles are understood, and goals are thoughtfully addressed.

**4. COLLABORATION.** Community Law Center recognizes that legal representation and advocacy must be in collaboration with directly impacted groups. Our work is a reciprocal relationship in which staff and volunteer lawyers learn from the expertise and experience of our clients. We share our knowledge with community organizations to support collective action. We use our relationships to create access and collaboration among our clients, elected officials, government agencies, institutions, and others.

**5. LEARNING.** We seek reciprocity in our relationships to learn and grow as effective advocates. We lead by example through transparency in our operations, by admitting our mistakes, and sharing what we learn. We are committed to a mutually beneficial relationship with the legal profession to provide pro bono legal services and to use the law to further social and economic justice. We seek to learn from, amplify, and make space for, client voices and power. We do this through partnerships and collaborations that inform the legal system, elected officials, government agencies, and private institutions about the goals of our clients and communities.

*"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*

# 2021 FINANCIALS

## Revenues, gains and other support:

### Public support

• Contributions	\$338,644
• Contributed professional fees	\$254,685

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\$593,329

### Grants from governmental agencies

\$194,392

### Other revenue

• Fees	\$14,637
• Miscellaneous	\$1,691

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\$16,328

### Total revenues, gains and other support

**\$804,049**

## Expenses:

### Program services

• Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits	\$713,523
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### Supporting services

• Management and General	\$123,971
• Fundraising	\$21,465

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Total supporting services \$145,436

### Total expenses

**\$858,959**

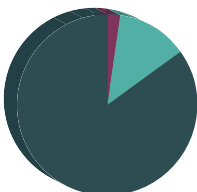
Change in net assets (\$54,910)

Extinguishment of debt \$161,622

Change in net assets \$106,712

Net assets – start of year \$160,176

Net assets – end of year \$266,888



**76 cents of every \$1 went to programs**

**76¢**  
Programs

**20¢**  
Management

**4¢**  
Fundraising

# 2021 DONORS

## GRANTS/FOUNDATIONS

Annie Casey  
Argon Transamerica  
Foundation  
Baltimore Civic Fund  
CDBG  
Clayton Baker  
France Merrick Foundation  
Fund for Change  
Goldseker Foundation  
Kreiger Foundation  
Leidy Grant  
Lockhart Vaughn  
Maryland Legal Services  
Corporation  
PNC Charitable Trust  
PNC Foundation  
The Venable Foundation

## Attorney Reporting

Lindsay Monti

## BOARD MEMBER DONATIONS

Apter, Marc L.  
Bowie, Janice V.  
Fishelman, Emmanuel A.  
Johnson, Robert  
King, William  
McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul  
Fowler, MD  
Meltzer, Brian  
Nathans, Joanne G.  
Obaza, Alexander  
Redd, Justin  
Robb, Inez  
Ryan, David  
Shaia, Wendy  
Steiner, Emily

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Algren, Margaret  
American Charities  
Avins, Mariam  
Barry, Carolyn  
Benevity Fund Donations

Boitnott, John & Carolyn  
Brewer, Margaret B.  
Byron, Shirley R.  
Carey, Anthony & Eleanor  
Cole, Jemaleddin  
Colvin, Deborah  
Dickens, Lydia  
Dickens, Lynn  
Diskin, Mark  
Dooley, Brook  
Dunkerton, Kristine &  
Lankford, Elsa  
Dzierwinski, Patricia  
Eurich, Juliet A and  
Thalheimer, Louis B.  
Feigin, Judy & David  
Filardi, Maria & Vincent  
Furstenberg, Francois  
Garver, Peter and Julia  
Gazan, Heather  
Gonter, Matthew  
Goodell, Jr., Charles &  
Katherine  
Haber, Mary Kathleen  
Harrison, Jane  
Harvey, Andrea  
Heyman, Anne & Harvey  
Hughes, Alexandra M.  
Huttar, Elizabeth  
Jacobs, Robin  
Johnson, Jennifer  
Just Give-Great Nonprofits  
Kearney, J.  
Keenan, Mary  
Kershner, Ingrid  
King, Richard D.  
Knox, Stephen H and Bernice  
C.  
Kyle, John  
Lankford, Eileen F.  
Leone, Robin  
Leyden, Matthew D.  
Manger, Suzanne  
Maurer, Samuel  
McLeod, Cheryl  
Minges, Francis & David

Mitchell, Douglas & Marilyn  
Monroe, Paul and Sara  
Moulton, Pearl  
Mugar, Antoinette  
Nathans, Jeremy  
Network for Good  
Newman, Robert  
Nicole, Lori A.  
Obaza, Edward  
Pardue, Keith and Mariam  
Avins  
Pfeifer, Kelly & Craig  
Pollack, Kenneth  
Price, Zachary  
Pridgeon, Merritt and Phil  
Closius  
Redd, Stephen & Kyoko  
Reiger, J. Paul  
Robinson, Harriet M.  
Rodini, Laura  
Rountree, Jeremy  
Sloane, Mac  
Smith Cooper, Mary  
Thaler, Romani  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Turley, Patrick  
United Way of Central  
Maryland  
Urban, David  
Venzen, Esau  
Ward, Ernestine  
Zimmerman, Peter

## CORPORATE DONATIONS

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Butcher's Hill Association, Inc.  
Pay Pal Giving Fund  
T.Rowe Price-Charitable  
Giving Program

## LAW FIRM DONATIONS

DLA Piper LLP  
Kramon & Graham, P.A.  
Maryland State Bar  
Association

# 2021 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

Laura Rodini, Communications &  
Development Associate

Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq.,  
Staff Attorney

Monique Sanders,  
Pro Bono Coordinator

Rebecca Lundberg Witt, Esq.,  
Staff Attorney

## VOLUNTEERS

Shailendra Singh

Wendy E. Shaia

Becky Davis

Susan Hullinger

Robyn Scates

Merry Campbell

# 2021 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 2021.

Stanley Alpert

Matthew  
Barsamian

Jennifer M. Blunt

Mary Claire Blythe

Gary Brooks

Darek Bushnaq

Teresa Carnell

Brian Chappell

Stephen Cohen

Gayle Denman

Christopher  
Geissler

Shayna Gilmore

Sandra Gohn

Edward (Phil)  
Hanlon

Philip Hinkle

Kathleen Hyer

Jennifer Insley-  
Pruitt

Cyreka Jacobs

Yitian Jin

Spencer C. Joffrion

Robert Johnson

Seema Kakade

William (Bill) King

Jesse S. Lambert

Michael A.  
Lehmann

Kristopher Madore

Brian Meltzer

Rita Patel

Justin Redd

Ashley Rodriguez

James (Jaime) L.  
Saali

Evan Shea

Michael L.  
Sherman

Noah A. Shier

Bridgett A.  
Simmons

Tracy Steedman

Patrick Turley

Aaron Withrow

Alexander Zajac

Thomas Zutic

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From January 1 -  
December 31, 2021  
volunteer attorneys  
donated **1,004**  
hours, valued at  
**\$254,505.14**

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Baltimore, Maryland 21211-2650

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Learn more at [communitylaw.org](http://communitylaw.org)  
or visit us on social media.

