



# Annual Report

2022



[www.communitylaw.org](http://www.communitylaw.org)

3355 Keswick Road. Suite 200  
Baltimore, MD 21211



# Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

Dear Supporters,

The Community Law Center (CLC) is thrilled to share our 2022 journey with clients and communities. This annual report documents and highlights a year of transition for our storied organization. In the face of adversity from a continuing global health crisis and internal leadership changes, *Community Law Center persevered*.

Our staff and leadership continued to strive for excellence, maintained decades-long client relationships, and listened to new voices. We welcomed Amy Yontef-McGrath, our pro bono program coordinator, who returns to CLC after many years away. She manages 600+ pro bono volunteers, expanding our capacity to serve. CLC was also grateful in 2022 for the leadership of John Nethercut - newly retired from his tenure as a successful legal nonprofit director- to lead the CLC team on an interim basis. John was able to provide stability, guidance, and support to our staff in crucial moments.

As staff celebrated our fearless, brilliant past director, Kristine Dunkerton, they also continued her essential work in equity and inclusion spaces. A new website was launched, to intentionally welcome clients, community members and supporters to CLC's revised mission, vision and values. Our values and our work were reflected in significant legislative and city-wide advocacy efforts on tax sale reform, vacant properties, and community driven land banking.

Community Law Center spent 2022 driven to serve, despite leadership transitions and external obstacles. We emerged stronger, focused, and intentionally centered on expanding our community advocacy work in the future. We hope you will connect, reengage, and walk alongside us in these ongoing efforts.

*In the spirit of justice,*



*Amy Petkovsek*

Amy Petkovsek, Executive Director

*Brian D. Meltzer*

Brian D. Meltzer, Board Chair



# With Appreciation

## Kristine Dunkerton, Esq.

During the fall of 2022, long-time executive director, Kristine Dunkerton, stepped down for health reasons. Community Law Center is forever grateful to Kristine's service to the organization and Baltimore community at-large.

In November 2022, Kristine Dunkerton was awarded the Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award from the Maryland Legal Services Corporation for her decades-long commitment to the legal services community. Excerpts from her speech are below.

Thank  
You!



“

In 1997, I began my love for Community Law Center with an internship while I was a law student. I started with real property research for cases in the Pro Bono Program. The clients I met solidified my belief that Baltimore's neighborhoods were worth fighting for and that I wanted to use my education to provide the legal expertise necessary to help move the dreams of passionate and committed community leaders forward.

As a young attorney, it became both my duty and my honor to use my education and training to provide whatever help I could to stand with, and partner with, those community leaders to find pathways toward justice.

We were also fighting for better control of liquor establishments that were found to be the epicenters of violence in many communities. Our cases were both grand and intimate but they were always driven by the clients.

***For 25 years, I could not imagine wanting to do anything else. It truly was a gift.***





# New Look

In launching our brand new website, we aimed to ensure our returning and existing clients and other community groups seeking legal services can get pointed in the right direction and receive assistance easily and efficiently.

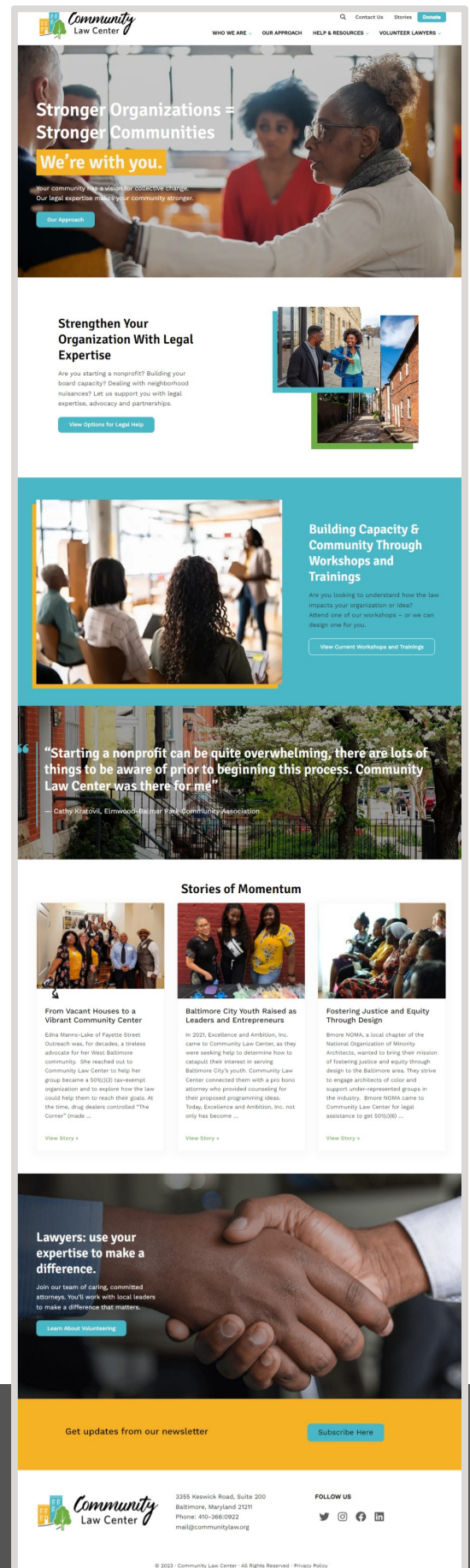
Our former website was difficult to navigate, and fell short in accomplishing its intended purposes. Over the course of 2022, we identified and centered the needs of our target audiences, and then built a website that grew up directly from our mission and goals. We also modernized the CLC logo to reflect our rebranding with input from staff and board.

For navigating our services, nonprofits and community groups are now much more easily directed on our website to a workshop, a brief legal advice appointment with an attorney, a legal checkup with a paralegal, or the application for full legal representation.

Additionally, our new website ensures that even those seeking legal services who are not organizations or otherwise do not qualify for our services can now receive some assistance through referrals to other organizations and resources.

“Even with these improvements, we are mindful barriers still exist for people seeking assistance. We aim to increase awareness of our offerings, and we continue to seek ways to minimize the challenges hindering those most in need of legal support.”

Denice Ko, Deputy Director & Staff Attorney





# Client Success



On behalf of Beside Still Waters, Inc., we thank the Community Law Center (CLC) for helping us startup a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization on DELMARVA Eastern Shore. We plan to serve, inspire, support, and educate poverty-stricken individuals, families, and communities. Beside Still Waters is simply blessed to have received such invaluable resources and guidance.

***Rosanne Wilson, President, Beside Still Waters***

Well-meaning community associations may find that running an organization entails situations beyond their function and capacity. The staff attorneys at Community Law Center offer quality assistance and support to community organizations. I would not hesitate for one moment to recommend their stellar services.

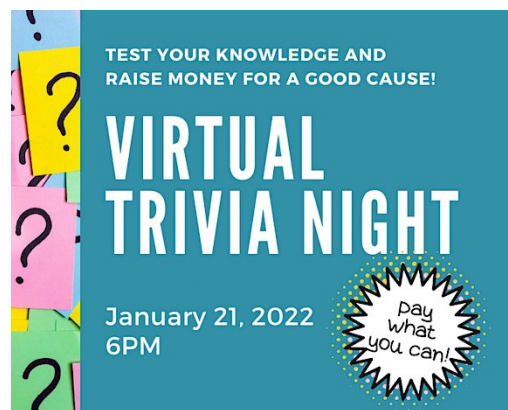
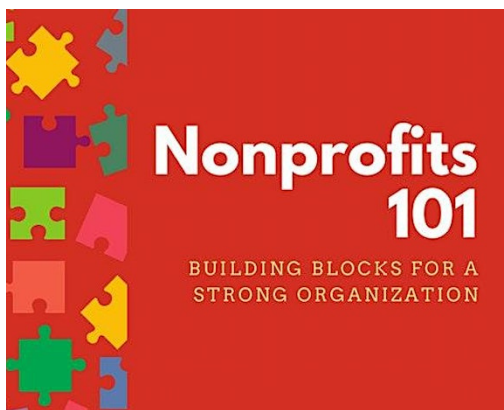
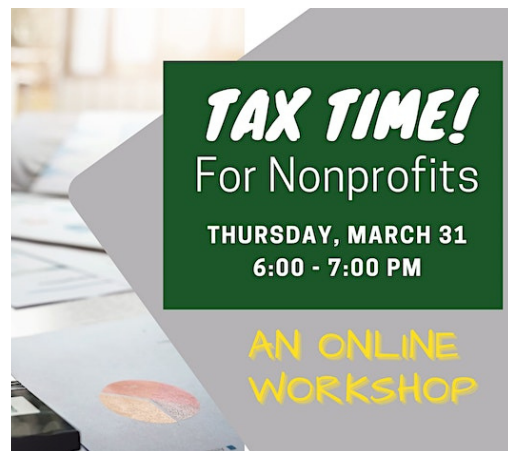
***Lauren Kelly Washington,  
President Emeritus  
Greenmount West Community Association***



# Events & Workshops

Offering educational workshops is an important piece of our mission to partner with our communities and client organizations. After these sessions, participants are better able to build solid foundations, grow their internal capacity, and more equipped in managing policies and other important decision-making processes. In 2022, we continued to host virtual trainings including our monthly “How to Start A Nonprofit Organization”. We also covered nonprofit management and required tax forms that nonprofits need to remain compliant.

Our Trivia Night was a light-hearted fundraiser amongst supporters, staff, and board members. We raised hundreds of dollars guessing Baltimore facts and trivia.



# 2022 Financials

## Revenues, gains and other support:

### Public support:

Contributions	\$316,910
Contributed professional fees	\$317,133
	<hr/>
	\$634,043

Grants from governmental agencies \$187,933

### Other revenue:

Fees	\$ 15,793
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,088
	<hr/>
	\$ 17,881

**Total revenues, gains and other support \$839,857**

## Expenses:

### Program services –

Legal assistance to communities & nonprofits \$750,452

### Supporting services:

Management and General	\$173,803
Fund raising	\$ 50,397
	<hr/>
Total supporting services	\$224,200

**Total expenses \$944,652**

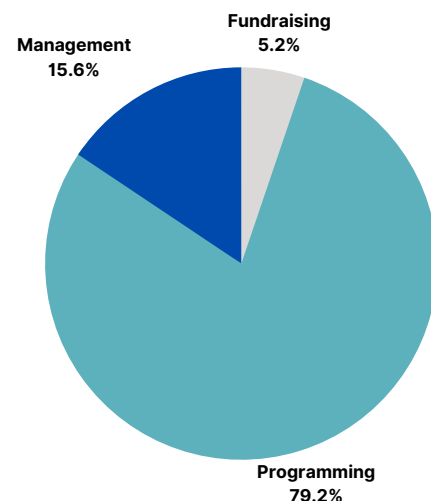
Change in net assets before extinguishment of debt (\$104,795)

Extinguishment of debt -

Change in net assets (\$104,795)

Net assets – start of year \$266,888

Net assets – end of year \$162,093





# 2022 Donors

Aegon Transamerica Foundation  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
American Charities  
America's Charities  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Apter, Marc L.  
Avins, Miriam  
Bezdek, Barbara  
Birenbaum, Robert  
Bittle, Beth Anne  
Blumenberg, Anne L.  
Bogdan, A.  
Boitnott, John & Carolyn  
Bowie, Janice V.  
Butcher's Hill Assoc., Inc.  
Butler, James  
Byron, Shirley R.  
Carney, Gayle  
Carter, Jordan  
CDBG  
Clayton Baker Trust  
Coldspring Community Assoc., Inc.  
Cole, Jemaleddin  
Coles, Sandra  
Darlington Apple Festival  
Davis, Amy  
Deckard, D.  
Deitzler, Brad  
Dickens, Lynn  
Diskin, Mark  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
Dooley, Brook  
Dunkerton, Kristine J., & Lankford, Elsa  
Dzierwinski, P.  
Edgewood Neighborhood Improvement Assoc.  
Ekwowoh, Nse  
Eurich, Juliet A.  
Evesham Park Neighborhood Association  
Feigin, Judy & David  
Fishelman, Emmanuel A.  
Font, Lucy  
Friends of White Oak Inc.  
Fund For Change  
Furstenberg, Francois  
Fusion Partnerships, Inc.  
Gilman, Michelle  
Gilmore, Dorcas R.  
Goldseker Foundation  
Gomez, Marisela  
Gonter, Matthew  
Groomes, Wendy  
Harold & Ruth Garber Family Foundation

Harris, Karen  
Harris, Lynn  
Harvey, Andrea  
Heinlein, Emily  
Heyman, Anne & Harvey  
Huttar, Elizabeth  
Intersection of Change, Inc.  
J. Noah Skill Academy  
Johnson, Robert  
Jolles, Beth  
K.L. Hoffman & Company, PC  
Kandel, David  
Karanja, Mary  
Keenen, Reena  
Kelly, Jim  
Kenney, Gwendolyn  
Kirshner, Ingrid L.  
Kramon & Graham, P.A.  
Kreiger, Zanvyl & Isabelle  
Kyle, John  
Lankford, Eileen F.  
Leal, Dolores  
Leidy, John J. Foundation  
Leone, Robin  
Loch Raven Improvement  
Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Inc.  
Louthan, Nancy  
Lyon-Collis, Lauren M.  
Madsen, Amy  
Magruder, William W.  
Maria Filardi  
Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
McNeely, Joseph  
McNeil, Jr., Franklin & Paul Fowler, MD  
Medfield Community Association  
Meltzer, Brian  
Merriam, Gail  
Miller, Tamara  
Minges, Francis & David  
Monti, Lindsay  
Morrison, Daniel  
Moulton, Pearl  
Nathans, Eli A. or Caroline F.  
Nathans, Jeremy  
Nathans, Joanne G.  
Nethercut, John  
Network for Good  
Obaza, Alexander  
Obaza, Edward  
Oliver Beach Improvement Association

Olsen-Leyden, Andrea  
Papa, Nicole  
Pay Pal Giving Fund  
Payton, Jane  
Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm  
PLI-Practising Law Institute  
PNC Bank  
Pollack, Kenneth  
Pressley, John  
Price, Zachary  
Prier, Keondra  
Redd, Justin  
Reichart, Clayton  
Released and Set Free  
Reues, Alan  
Rhudy, Robert  
Rieger, J. Paul  
Robb, Inez  
Robinson, Harriet M.  
Rodini, L.  
Rosenberg, LeighAnn  
Sacks, Jonathan  
Sakamoto-Wengel, Joy  
Sarbanes, Michael A.  
Scott, Sally  
Shaia, Wendy  
Shoppert, Christina  
Silverman, Nancy & Nathans, Benjamin  
Smith, Kirin G.  
Steiner, Emily  
Swinburne, Mathew  
Taylor, Patricia  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Thompson, Erin  
Travelers  
Turley, Patrick  
United Way of Central Maryland  
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Urban, David T. & Laura S.  
Venable Foundation, Inc.  
Viqueira, Rachel  
Walker, Charlemayne  
Waltherson Improvement Association  
Ward, Ernestine  
Webber, Renee  
Wilson, Rosanne S.  
Wilson, Sheridonna  
Womble, Bond, Dickinson  
Zanvyl & Isabelle Kreiger Fund, Inc.  
Zimmerman, Peter  
Zipin Amster & Greenberg, LLC

# 2022 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 2022. **From January 1-December 31, 2022 volunteer attorneys donated 818.27 hours, valued at \$317,133.80.**

Reginald (Reggie) Smallwood III  
James (Jim) Doub  
Kim Gilreath  
Aileen Collender (paralegal)  
Evan Shea  
William (Bill) King  
Darek Bushnaq  
Kathleen Hyer  
Philip Hinkle  
Gary Brooks  
Morgan Willard  
Patrick Turley  
Christian Pritchett  
Christopher Geissler  
Stephen Cohen  
Matthew Barsamian  
Michael Sherman  
Sandra (Sandy) Gohn  
Megan Sunderland  
Ellen Pruitt  
Mary Claire Blythe  
Anthony Meagher  
Howard Schwartz  
Laurie Furshman  
Thomas (Tom) Totten  
Ericka Downie

Mary Diemer  
Andrea Olsen-Leyden  
Matthew Sturtz  
Brian Meltzer  
Justin Redd  
Robert Johnson  
Chika Ojiaku  
Stanley Alpert  
Khamal Patterson  
Bridget Simmons  
Teresa Carnell  
Stephen Demos  
Kristopher Madore  
Andrea LeWinter  
Cyreka Jacobs  
Alexander (Alex) Zajac  
David Weaver  
Ernestas Pravilionis  
UB School of Law  
UMD Francis King Carey School of Law



*We are very fortunate to work with such high-quality pro bono attorneys who not only bring great skills to our clients/program but passion as well."*

*Amy Yontef-McGrath, Pro Bono Coordinator*

# 2022 Staff & Volunteers

## STAFF

Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., Executive Director (through September)

John Nethercut, Esq., Interim Executive Director

Pat Dzierwinski, Accountant

Ingrid Hitchens-Hall, Senior Paralegal & Resource Manager

Fatima Jones, Office Manager

Denice Ko, Esq., Deputy Director & Staff Attorney

Laura Rodini, Communications & Development Associate

Shana Roth-Gormley, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney

Monique Sanders, Pro Bono Coordinator (through August)

Amy Yontef-McGrath, Pro Bono Coordinator

## INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

Nse Ekpewoh

Lisa Polyak

---

# 2022 Board of Directors

## OFFICERS

Brian D. Meltzer, Esq., Chair

Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW, Vice Chair

Franklin N. McNeil, Jr., Secretary

Justin Redd, Treasurer

Kristine J. Dunkerton, Esq., President & Executive Director (through September 2022)

John Nethercut, Esq., President & Interim Executive Director (September-December 2022)

## DIRECTORS

Alex Obaza

Marc Apter, APR

Janice Bowie, PhD, MPH

Emmanuel "Manny" Fishelman, Esq.

Joanne Nathans, Esq.

M. Andrea Olsen-Leyden, Esq.

Rob Johnson

Inez Robb

Sandra Coles

Emily Steiner, Esq.

Joanne Nathans (resigned August 2022)

Anthony Vitti (joined December 2022)