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LawNY Celebrates 50 Years of Advocacy, Equality, & Access to the Justice System



LawNY Celebrates 50 Years of Advocacy, Equality, & Access to the Justice System

The start of 2018 marks our 50th year serving the Monroe County community. In 1968, the Monroe County Bar Association (MCBA), in collaboration with Action for a Better Community, formed the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC). Once a storefront location, LawNY® now provides services in collaboration with other legal service providers at the Telesca Center for Justice. The once handful of staff members has grown to nearly 50 in our Rochester Office alone, serving over 4,000 clients per year.

This blog post is to commemorate 50 years of advocacy efforts as well as 50 years fighting for equality and access to the justice system for those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Check out some headlines the Rochester Office has made since 1968! Below you will also find a schedule of events for how we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary throughout the year.

A Look into the Past

Legal Assistance has a unique role in the county

res, with the hope that the County of

degree will reverse its recent decision to sections the MLAC from its 1977 budget. State MLAC was established in 1968 to turnish legal services to low-income people in civil matters only. It is the endy effice of the kind is Monroe County.

Unfortunately, it is sometimes confound with the Monroe County. Public Defender's Office provides legal services to low-income people in criminal matters and the Legal Aid Society. The Public Defender's Office provides legal services to people permanally in Family Law matters.

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**AUSTIN L. VIGDOR, president. Monroe County Bard Aid Society prevides legal services to people permanally in Family Law matters.

**Where's concern for the provided services and the cost of supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestrations are not constructive therein the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestrations are not constructive the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestrations are not constructive tensions and firestrations are not constructive tensions and firestrations are not constructive the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestrations are not constructive the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestrations are not constructive the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and firestration are not constructive the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where the supplying other social and protective services that are inevitably necessitated where the supplying other social and protective static that the supplying other social and protective static that the supplying other social and protective that the supplying

During the eight years of its existence, MCLAC has provided extensive legal ser-vices to over 13,000 low-income people in a

Letters

tionalize people at a cost of approximately \$20,000 per person per year and the cost of supplying other social and protective ser-vices that are inevitably necessitated where

vices that are inevitably necessitated where tensions and frustrations are not construc-tively resolved through legal channels. It is unfortunate and unjustified that the county instally singled out MCLAC by totally excluding it from the 1977 budget while only reducing other apencies by one-third of their 1956 county budgets. JUSTIN L. VIGDOR, president, Montrie County Ray Association

the common good?

few employes, and no salary increases. I particularly liked the s Why should federal government be National Commission on

FM IN RECEIPT of a letter from my congressional representative Barber Conable, dated Jan 16, and I quote his remarks relative to the pay increases in question:

"Tradee to the President, strongly opposing the initial proposals as excessive."

"Tradee the gressed executive congressions are supposed to the president of the proposal conference on the president of the proposal conference on the president of the proposal conference on the proposal confer

to vote on any pay increase and that such action should be effective after the next election, so that candidates may seek office with a full awareness of the emoluments to

In our county we've had to let go quite a could get wrise.

In our county we've had to let go quite a could get wrise.

In principles, and no salary increases.

I purticularly liked the suggestion of the

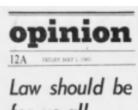
National Commission on Supplies and Shortages which urged more recycling and removal of depletion allowances. Both of these measures can reduce waste of our

resources. One of these must be an awageness that the U.S. population is growing and that this aggravates our problems with resource sopplies.

Our population is growing now and will continue even with our few brithrade as long as we have so much illegal and legal immigration. Zero population growth is essential for a responsible natural resources, policy and reason other reasons. policy and many other reasons

JOHN S. BLIEK, 120 Kirklees Rd.,

Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Sunday January 30, 1977, Justin Vigdor, President of the Monroe County Bar Association at the time, voices his support for LawNY® (then Monroe County Legal Assistance Center- MCLAC). He points out that during the 8 years in which MCLAC had been open, we had already managed to assist over 15,000 low income New Yorkers. Mr. Vigdor states that MCLAC provides access to the justice system for low-income people "without lawlessness and without violence that might otherwise spring from frustration, helplessness and futility felt by otherwise disenfranchised people."



Law should be for us all — even the poor

WE HAVE lies to govern the people and the peligide deserve proper representation:—a simple principle that seems to have no logical opposing agrance. But that's not the case in the United States in 1981 as the Reagan administration pripages to dismantle the Legal Services Corceptation.

Those who would take away this vital service to the poor might agree with the principle that people descree legal representation — it's just that they don't believe all the people have that

Today is Law Day throughout the nation, a day often judges and lawyers have bountiful bunches and make long speeches about how wonderful thight profession is. The phrase "we are a nation of lake, not men" will be said in solemn tones at edges one of those bunchesons.

An that spirit, the Layal Services Corporation was established in 1974 to make certain that "signal access to the system of justice in our ration" is provided for all people. In other words, the poor get the same right to legal representation as anyons.

The arguments against this right of the poor gre made in strident fashion by William Rusher ir a column that is to the fig right on this page and further to the right ideologically.

UNFORTUNATELY, it looks like those kind of arguments that seem to say the poor aren't really people will prevail. The Legal Services Offsportation will be abolished or drustically out back.

Off Soci.

The Morroe County, the Legal Assistance Corpitation last year handled 1,955 cuess. Contrary is the popular opinion, 54.8 percent of the cuess were for whites. Blacks had 263 percent of the dates, Hippanics 16.6 percent and native Ameriolis Indians the new Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Friday, May 1, 1981 in response to proposed legislation to drastically reduce funding to the Legal Services Corporation, a main funding source of LawNY® (at the time, Monroe County Legal Assistance Center).



Published by the Democrat and Chronicle Monday, May 1, 1989. LeAnna Hart Gipson, then Executive Director of Monroe County Legal Assistance Center, voices the need for stronger support for legal services on Law Day of 1989.



Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on April 30, 2004. The article describes how LawNY® tests for discrimination in housing providers. Since launching in 1998, the Fair Housing Enforcement Project (FHEP) at LawNY® has championed the fight against housing discrimination in Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties. FHEP investigates complaints of housing discrimination, and where discrimination is found, enforces the Fair Housing Act. Through outreach, investigation, advocacy and litigation, FHEP obtains meaningful outcomes and policy changes for victims of discrimination.

Lou Prieto stands as fierce ally for low-income people seeking justice





Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Sunday, October 6, 2006. Bryan D. Hetherington, at the time Empire Justice Center's Chief Counsel, highlights Lou Prieto's relentless advocacy efforts throughout the years. Mr. Prieto came to Rochester in 1991 to head LawNY®'s Housing Unit. He served as the Rochester Office's Managing Attorney until 2015. In the article, Mr. Prieto discusses how important his Cuban heritage is to him and how it affected his life growing up in

Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Sunday, July 8, 2007. Jason Hoge, Staff Attorney at LawNY[®], describes LawNY[®]'s collaboration with the grassroots organization Judicial Process Commission to create the Re-Entry Project. LawNY*'s Re-Entry unit has been practicing since 2006, helping to remove barriers to employment and housing that those with a criminal record often face when seeking to reintegrate into society after incarceration.

Re-entry Project smoothes road home



Giving people a second chance to join



Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Monday, January 24, 2005. Laurie Lambrix, currently LawNY®'s Regional Deputy Director of Litigation, is honored for winning the New York State Bar Association's 2005 Haywood Burns Award in recognition of her advocacy work with LawNY* since 1990. The award was named in honor of Haywoord Burns, a civil rights lawyer who worked with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and activist Angela Davis before dying in a car accident in 1996. Ms. Lambrix has been with LawNY® for 28 years, spending most of her time representing victims of housing discrimination for LawNY*'s Fair Housing Project.



Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on Monday, December 28, 2009. The article describes U.S. District Judge Telesca's dedication to serving low-income individuals in Monroe County throughout his career.



Published by the Democrat and Chronicle on November 29, 2009. The article highlights Monroe County as the first county in the nation to integrate all legal services provides as well as the local bar association under one roof in order to allow accessibility as well as stronger partnerships between providers.



Celebrate our 50th Anniversary with us!

Follow our Facebook Page for dates and more details as they become available.

Month	Event	Description of Activities
March 2018	AmeriCorps Alumni 'Where Are They Now' Lunch	AmeriCorps Alumni of the LawNY Rochester office are invited to have lunch with our current AmeriCorps members.
April 2018	Fair Housing	A CLE on the Fair Housing Act will be offered by attorneys in our Fair Housing Project.
May 2018	Truth in Lending Act 50th Anniversary Workshop	LawNY® staff from our Regional Consumer Project will be holding a workshop offering information on a variety of consumer rights.
June 2018	Re-Entry Providers of Monroe County Meet and Greet	An open house at LawNY® for all re-entry providers in Monroe County. Light refreshments will provided.
July 2018	NOEP Outreach	Our Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP) coordinators will be out in the community at outreach events offering information about LawNY®'s services and history.

September
2018

LawNY®'s 50th Anniversary Dinner!

Celebrate with us over dinner at the Strathallan's rooftop bar and restaurant on September 27, 2018! Learn more about our work within the community for the past half century and help us thank our community partners for their unwavering support throughout the years.

September 2018

Connect 2018

Our Eviction Prevention Unit will be attending Project Homeless Rochester's annual Project Homeless Connect to offer assistance to homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness.

October

2018

Elder Law Fair 2018

Our Seniors Legal Services project will be attending Rochester's annual Elder Law Fair to offer assistance in estate planning, elder abuse, and more.

November 2018

Veterans Outreach Center Stand Down Event

Our Legal Services for Veterans Project members will be attending the VOC's annual Stand Down event to offer legal assistance to veterans.

December 2018

Navigator Open House

Our Health Insurance Enrollment Specialists will be holding an open house where attendees can receive refreshments while enrolling in health insurance if needed.

Last updated on February 01, 2018.

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LawNY® in the News

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August 19, 2025

General Information for Filing an Article 7-D Petition

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