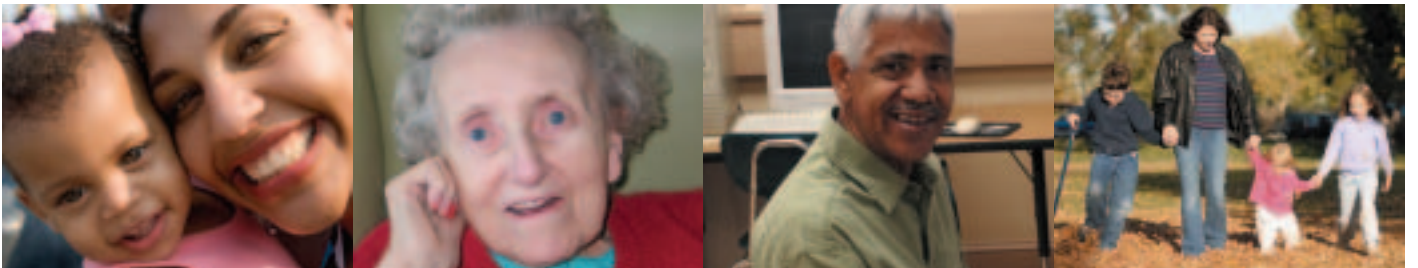


# Opening New Doors to Justice



## *The Campaign for Legal Aid of the Bluegrass*



If we are to keep democracy, there must be a commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice. – *Judge Learned Hand*



Dear Friend,

On the pages ahead you will read about the achievements and high quality legal services of Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. You will better understand the impact of our work to resolve the most important legal problems of 9,312 poor and vulnerable adults and children in 2006. We believe you will agree that by providing access to justice, we are alleviating human suffering.



We will share our plans for the future that include a new headquarters in Covington that will be better suited for our clients, volunteers, attorneys and support staff. It will allow us to increase accessibility, expand client intake and enlarge our capacity.

We hope as you read that you will give heartfelt consideration to the personal impact you can have upon the poor and vulnerable in our community with your support of Opening New Doors to Justice. You hold the key to a better future where justice is served. We invite you to open the door.

Sincerely,



*Richard A. Cullison* *James R. Kruer*

Richard A. Cullison  
*Executive Director*

James R. Kruer  
*President, Board of Directors*

# High Quality Legal Services for the Poor and Vulnerable



Legal Aid of the Bluegrass provides civil legal assistance designed to alleviate the most brutal problems low income people endure. These services are typically in the areas of government benefits, consumer, housing and family law. The service that our attorneys provide is a tool that helps people in emergency situations meet their need for food, shelter, medical care, and freedom from financial or physical abuse. The public service that LABG has provided and continues to provide in the face of crises is extraordinary.

We are a model for a successful, well-run legal services program. Staffed with intelligent, driven and dedicated professionals; we elicit private bar assistance where necessary, and prepare for and respond to immediate and future concerns. We tirelessly seek alternative funding sources and responsibly use those sources. We continue to provide outstanding legal representation and services, while operating in the black.

Legal Aid has proven to be a vital spoke in the wheel of justice in Northern Kentucky. There can be no doubt that access to our courts for countless underprivileged citizens in our area has been significantly enhanced by the presence of Legal Aid. Its staff of highly trained and always well-prepared attorneys helps assure that justice is available to all our citizens, regardless of economic circumstance.

*-Honorable  
Martin J. Sheehan,  
Kenton District Judge*



Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, Inc. now Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, was first established in our local communities forty years ago this year.

### **Mission**

To resolve the most important problems of low income and other vulnerable people by providing high quality legal assistance through direct representation, education, advice, advocacy and coordination with other community resources.

### **Vision**

A community where all are treated with dignity, respect and fairness and do not lack the basic necessities of life.

### **Established**

The Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, established in 1967, merged with Northeast Kentucky Legal Services in 1997 to serve 4 urban and 19 rural counties with offices in Covington, Morehead and Ashland. In 2002, this organization merged with Central Kentucky Legal Services in Lexington to become the Legal Aid of the Bluegrass serving 33 counties.

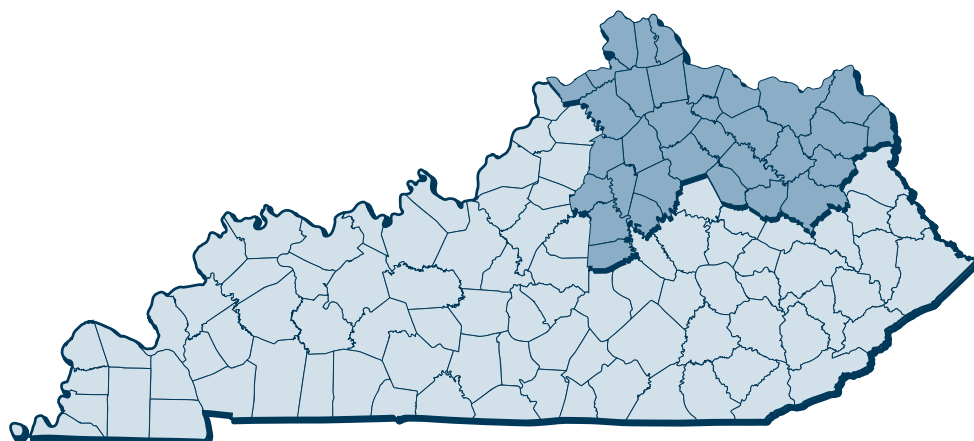
### **Office Locations**

Our main office in Covington houses 9 attorneys serving clients in 3 rural and 5 urban counties. That office is also the nerve center for the entire organization where the administrative and financial business is conducted and client intake for most regional services occurs. Three regional offices in Lexington, Morehead and Ashland house more direct service staff serving the remaining counties. We have 27 staff and managing attorneys who apply more than 305 combined years of experience.



Legal Aid's assistance opened a window of hope to a sound peace of mind.

*-Client, Women's Crisis Center*



## Client Demographics (2006)

- ▶ **33** counties in eastern, northern and central Kentucky
- ▶ **4,009** cases closed serving **5,102** adults and **4,210** children in 2006  
(36% served from our Covington office)
- ▶ **138,242** people living at or below 100% poverty in our service area  
(2000 U.S. Census)
- ▶ **75%** of our clients are at 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.  
Some clients have circumstances that place them up to 200% of poverty.
- ▶ **25%** of our work occurs in counties where less than 25,000 people live
- ▶ **28%** of our clients are working poor
- ▶ **54%** of the families who seek our services and meet our geographic, income and priority guidelines cannot be served because of LABG's resource limitations

In 2006, our staff and volunteers closed 4,009 cases serving 9,312 adults and children; individually counseled over 2,200 other elderly people about public benefits and nearly 150 on homeownership issues; advocated for at least 1,800 frail and elderly nursing home residents and reached over 10,000 others with public awareness activities.



## Priorities

We recently completed a comprehensive community legal needs assessment to assure that we continue to serve those with the most brutal unmet needs while remaining true to our mission. The findings indicate that securing and maintaining basic human needs, such as access to subsistence income, food, shelter, physical security, health care, and family integrity, continue to take precedence. The newest among these needs is helping the under employed and unemployed remove barriers to employment.

Women's Crisis Center provides court advocates who assist clients through the court process, but are not attorneys. Without Legal Aid most of our clients would go to court without legal representation, which would be horrendous for them. Legal Aid is an integral part of leading women to a better place in their lives with legal protections and a safe future.

– *Kimberely J. Adams, Esq., Executive Director, Women's Crisis Center*

### ► Strengthening Families and Children

*Sometime in their lives, one in four women will experience domestic violence. In 40% of the homes where domestic violence occurs, children under age 12 live and child abuse occurs more frequently. The legal help that we provide paves the way for physical safety and self-sufficiency. Every day, experienced Legal Aid of the Bluegrass attorneys, paralegals, and support staff provide vital legal help to families ripped apart by domestic violence or abuse.*

- Carrying her possessions on her back at appointment time, homeless Anna wanted help getting to see her 8-year-old son. For 30 years, husband John had abused her and their four children, and had already been convicted of abusing two of them. The last time John had abused Anna, he filed for protection, alleging that Anna was the perpetrator. John got a protective order and was awarded their home. An adult child was given custody of Anna's youngest son, and the judge had forbidden Anna to have contact with him. LABG helped Anna get a divorce, sole custody of her son, a child support order and housing.
- On average, our attorneys invest 27 hours in stabilizing child custody situations when the case is litigated. In 2006, the most intensive case required 202 hours before closing with a court decision.
- For 2006, Legal Aid educated 587 victims about their right to civil protective orders. 385 of them got court orders for protection, visitation restriction, keeping the home, and child support. 587 children's lives were stabilized.

## ► Preventing Homelessness

*Mortgage foreclosure rates are at an all time high, and the court dockets are stuffed full of foreclosure suits. Our staff is adept at responding to families who are homeless or at the brink because of a housing crisis. Our work includes helping families transition to other housing or stay in their homes through eviction defense and defending those victimized by predatory mortgage lending tactics. Predatory mortgage lending is a combination of harsh loan terms and pressure tactics that puts vulnerable borrowers at risk of overpaying and losing their homes.*

- Linda, a fifty-year old disabled woman, lived alone in the home she had inherited. When she responded to a deceptive mailing from an out-of-state mortgage broker, the broker made false promises about potential mortgage terms. He falsified Linda's income information and helped her get a 100% mortgage. He refinanced her 1% government-backed unsecured loan into his much higher variable rate loan. For his services, he took an excessive, illegitimate broker fee. Of course Linda could not make the payments, and the lender filed a foreclosure suit. Linda sought help from Brighton Center and its staff referred her case to us. An attorney expert in predatory lending responded to the suit and joined the mortgage broker to the case. Linda's mortgage was completely released, and she did not have to pay any costs.
- In collaboration with Catholic Social Services and the Brighton Center, an attorney expert in predatory lending taught 141 Northern Kentucky people about predatory lending and consumer scams.
- During 2006, LABG's mortgage foreclosure defense helped 32 adults and 16 children stay in their homes. Of that number, 17 people lived in the Covington service area.
- 153 adults and 175 children remained in their homes or moved on their own terms because of our public and private rental housing eviction defense.
- Lisa and her children lived in affordable housing—a brand new publicly subsidized Section 8 housing complex. However, the owner of the building was evicting the family because there were "too many people living in the apartment and too many guests." We negotiated with the owner's attorney to stay any eviction hearing for a 90 day probationary period while the owner assessed the situation. At the end of the probationary period, the owner decided it was no longer necessary to evict Lisa and her family. The forcible detainer complaint against her was dismissed.

We can only help so far up the line because we don't have the same expertise as the Legal Aid attorneys. They do anything they can to help people. At the same time, the client is in the driver's seat. The clients are learning skills about how to address problems in the future. Legal Aid doesn't enable people to be victims.

*– Patty Pickett  
Housing Specialist,  
Brighton Center*



Many of our clients are low-income and have limited support, but they long to be independent as long as possible. Home is where their heart is and where they want to be. We can accomplish this with Legal Aid's help.

*– Barbara Gunn,  
President/CEO, Social  
Services Coordinator,  
Senior Services of  
Northern Kentucky*

## ► Fostering Independence

*Families and the elderly living in poverty live with the risk of losing something – be it their homes, jobs, health, or independence. A report by the Urban Institute found that if families with children had full access to government programs designed to lift them out of poverty, then poverty would decline by more than 20 percent. Accessing public benefits programs is particularly important for the elderly poor since without that help, many must choose between eating and buying their medicine. We foster poor people's independence by helping them access the public benefits for which they are eligible and educating them about protecting the family income.*

- In 2006 through our centralized intake, we educated 501 adults who had 161 children, about government benefits such as food stamps, KTAP, unemployment insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.
- In outreach events, we individually counseled 2,235 elderly/disabled persons about Medicare Prescription D and other benefits issues. Of these individuals, 401 received individual counseling from the Covington office.
- A financially strapped elderly couple first approached us for help with mortgage servicing abuses. We found that the couple had not been getting a benefit that would bring desperately needed income even though they were eligible. The local Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) had failed to provide QI-1 benefits to both the husband and wife. QI-1 benefits are designed to help low-income Medicare beneficiaries who are not eligible for Medicaid pay the cost of Medicare. Though both clients qualify, DCBS had never provided QI-1 to the husband, and then discontinued its assistance to the wife. Obtaining QI-1 benefits for both gives this elderly poor couple an additional \$187 a month for living expenses.
- We helped protect family income through counseling 512 families about such things as check cashing services, rent to own companies, and used automobile sales. When necessary, we helped families get a fresh start through representing them in bankruptcies to restore utility service and protect income.



## ▶ Helping the Most Vulnerable

*In our communities, some vulnerable people suffer great degradation yet have no voice and few avenues of relief. Two of those groups are frail, elderly nursing home residents and undocumented immigrant victims of violence. We reach out to these community members who often find themselves in the most brutal situations.*



- ▶ Marie, an elderly woman with mental disabilities, lives in a nursing home. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services notified Marie that her Medicaid coverage, which pays for her care, would stop. The notice said that Marie would be discharged because she no longer met the level of care guidelines that set out how sick Marie must be before Medicaid will pay. Marie had lived in her nursing facility for more than four years and was particularly at risk for transfer trauma because of her mental disabilities. We represented Marie at a hearing and showed that she was eligible for Medicaid because her Cabinet's notice was premised on the level of care regulations that the U.S. District Court had expressly held to be unlawful in a 2004 class action decision.
- ▶ Qualified Income Trusts (QIT's) are complicated legal trust documents that nursing home residents with income over three times the SSI limit must execute in order to become or remain eligible for the Medicaid that pays for their nursing home care. In 2006, we drafted 35 QIT's so people could become eligible for or stay in their nursing home facility.
- ▶ A woman who could not speak English arrived in the United States to be a mail order bride of a medical doctor. He never married her. Rather he had her travel with him as he provided service in various rural hospitals. He kept her chained in motels as a sex slave. We got the woman an order of protection, a T-Visa, and work papers so she could provide for herself.
- ▶ 25 staff members are trained to help non-English speaking clients through use of language line. Four are fluent or proficient in Spanish, 2 in French and 1 in American Sign Language.

Some of the biggest concerns for families considering a nursing home are financial and legal. At a certain point, residents could even be disqualified for Medicaid if the required legal documents are not completed, such as the Qualifying Income Trust, for those residents who have a significant monthly income. The majority of our families don't have the means to hire an attorney, to have the Qualifying Income Trust set up, so Legal Aid takes care of this free of charge. They are always willing to step to the plate with this issue and many more in my experience.

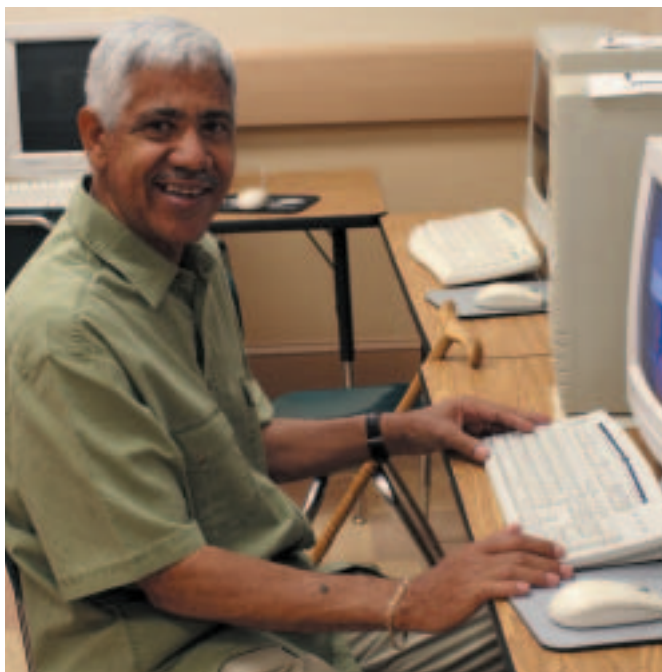
*- Lyn Leary, Administrator, Harborside Healthcare*

More than seven out of every ten poor children in 2004 had at least one employed parent. Working hard and playing by the rules is not enough to lift families out of poverty.

*-Marian Edelman  
Wright*

## ► Removing Barriers to Employment

*Poor working families struggle with a steadily growing gap between what they earn and their families' basic needs. Recognizing this as a problem during the last priority setting process, we will begin in 2007 to screen applicants for barriers to employment that can be removed through the legal system. We anticipate that, among other things, services will center on helping people get criminal records expunged, helping domestic violence victims with employment issues, and helping families keep stable housing and get access to public benefits. We will refer those applicants who need jobs training and work readiness programs to our partners, such as the Brighton Center and the Lifelong Learning Center.*



If we are together  
nothing is impossible.  
If we are divided all  
will fail.

*- Winston Churchill*



## Partners and Allies

In order to increase the quantity and quality of our services, we work steadily with key partners, collaborating organizations and community volunteers to fully leverage state, regional and community resources.

### **46 community based social service agencies such as:**

Catholic Social Services	Brighton Center
Women's Crisis Center	Centro de Armistead
Children's Law Center	

### **Students serve as interns and volunteers from area schools like:**

University of Kentucky	Thomas More College
University of Cincinnati	Salmon P. Chase College of Law
Morehead State University	University of Cincinnati College of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law	

### **Funding, pro bono attorneys, outreach and attorney referral services are provided through collaboration with four bar associations:**

Northern Kentucky Bar	Boyd County Bar
Greenup/Lewis County Bar	Fayette County Bar

Approximately 100 community volunteers help resolve the most important problems of frail elderly people by lending their expertise in counseling about public benefits. Many visit nursing homes to ensure quality of care and protection of individual rights.

We are in our 15th year of volunteering with Legal Aid to help senior citizens. We started with Medicare, but things keep growing and changing. So every time a new complicated issue arises we have to figure out a way to help the seniors. Some just can't do the homework on their own.

*– Ray and Josey  
Kremer, Volunteers*

## Volunteer Lawyers

When Legal Aid was in its infancy in the late 70's, it was a novel program for this area, and many members of the Bar had concerns. After a few years, the concerns of those lawyers ended, and they appreciated that Legal Aid was a well-run program that protected the legal rights of the poorest in our community. When Legal Aid, 30 years ago, began a volunteer lawyer program to complement its effort, I enrolled, and I am still enrolled, and proud to assist Legal Aid in providing legal assistance to those in need.

— *Stephen D. Wolnitzek, Esq.*  
*Wolnitzek & Rowekamp*

Pro Bono programs offer private attorneys volunteer opportunities by engaging them in the delivery of legal services to the poor. We were the first Legal Services Corporation-funded legal aid program in the country to partner with a local bar association for the purpose of developing a pro bono publico (for the public good) program. In 1978, the Boone, Kenton and Campbell Bar Association and its interested membership joined us to further justice in our community. Together, we organized our efforts so that private attorneys could volunteer to help low-income people who really needed legal help, but could not afford to pay for it. The fledgling project soon grew into a dynamic, separate entity that today is called the Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, Inc. (NKVL) and that we jointly sponsor with the Northern Kentucky Bar Association.

The relationship is close, and the partnership fruitful. Under the leadership of an energetic, committed board of directors, the NKVL serves over 200 low-income people annually. The NKVL headquarters is located in our building, and the program director works hand in hand with us matching our clients with volunteer lawyers.

NKVL is a tremendous asset to our organization and to our community's poor. It allows us to focus on other clients and services when our attorneys are stretched too thin or when a client's needs fall outside the scope of our services. Pro bono attorneys provide the same legal services to their clients who cannot pay as for those that can. They file the same motions and actions as well as spend the same amount of time, if not more because of crisis situations.

▶ During 2006, 113 NKVL lawyers took cases for 274 people who had problems with custody of their children, domestic violence, divorce, home ownership, unfair sales practices, and Medicaid or who needed wills or advanced directives.

▶ Linda had colon surgery and was on leave from her employer. She was denied her company disability benefits and called us for help. We asked NKVL for a private attorney's assistance, and Linda was referred to attorney Elizabeth Zink Pearson for an evaluation. Ms. Pearson investigated the matter and contacted the employer. That paid off. Ms. Pearson was able to reverse the denial, and Linda collected the disability owed to her.



▶ We partner with three other bar associations to provide similar services. In Ashland, the Boyd and Greenup/Lewis Bar Associations pledge their support to an Attorney Access Project. In Lexington, the Fayette County Bar Association (FCBA) partners with us to operate the Law Care program.

▶ Unbeknownst to Adam when he contacted Law Care, he was living in a home that had already been foreclosed upon. The mortgage company had Adam's current address yet had failed to send him the notice they were legally obligated to provide. The Master Commissioner was about to sell Adam's property out from under him when we got an attorney to help. Attorney Mark Moseley secured a stay on the sale of the home and worked out an agreement with the creditor to dismiss the foreclosure. Adam remains in his home and is keeping up with his house payments.

Since 1988, I have been taking pro bono referrals for domestic relations because I believe everyone should be represented in court especially in a domestic case when the future of children is at stake. Going without representation would be like operating on yourself without a medical degree. So the pro bono work allows me to help people who really need my help. For as much as I put into it, I receive so much more in return. It is truly rewarding.

*– Laurie Dowell, Esq., President, Board of Directors, Northern Kentucky Lawyers, Inc.*

## Recognized Excellence and Dedication

LABG received national recognition from the American Bar Association when we won the prestigious 2005 Hodson Award for Public Service. Each year one government or public sector law firm receives the award for providing outstanding public service.



## Funding

In the 1970s, our funding was almost totally dependent on the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), an agency established by Congress in 1974 to assure that at least some civil legal aid funding is available to low income people throughout the United States. LSC's budget has not increased in the last 25 years. Today LSC provides about 1/3 of our funding. With an annual budget in 2007 of \$3,749,368, we benefit from the enthusiastic support of more than 40 separate funding sources from grants, contributions and state sources. This funding makes it possible for us to provide free services to families and individuals whose physical and economic well-being is at risk.

Government Revenue	\$ 2,836,853
Non-Government Revenue	
Bar Associations	\$ 104,000
United Ways	\$ 296,137
Contributions	\$ 25,000
Other	\$ 487,378
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,749,368</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,583,432</b>





We are obviously overcrowded. The new building lends itself to growth and increased efficiencies with more space for operations, records, recruiting and training. Certainly, it will strengthen our organization. This is a move in the right direction.

- Lynnette Guzzino, Director,  
Northern Kentucky Volunteer  
Lawyers, Inc.



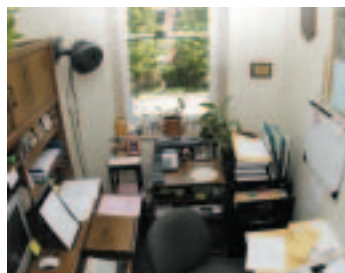


# Opening New Doors to Justice

Evidence is growing that our assistance has lasting impact. When we counsel victims of domestic violence, at least 90 percent remain violence-free for at least six months following our assistance. When our attorneys stop evictions, 50 percent of the families we represent still live at the same address six months later. When we help families get utilities restored, nearly 100 percent continue to have service six months later. Our one-time assistance in a crisis makes a permanent, positive difference for many of the families and individuals we serve. Still, there is more that we can do and many doors to justice that can be opened - beginning with our main office in Covington.

## Facility Challenges

After a series of mergers with other Kentucky legal services programs, Northern Kentucky Legal Aid became Legal Aid of the Bluegrass in 2002. The majority of our administrative functions were streamlined and moved to our Covington location at 302 Greenup Street. It became our call center site where we receive and prioritize initial client phone inquiries from the 33 counties we



serve. While the call center increases efficiency and enhances quality client service, it consumes significant space in an already crowded building and underscores the need to deal with the location's limitations and challenges. As a result during last year's planning meetings, strategic planners from our board and staff determined that a top priority for our organization was expanding and improving the Covington office location.



Our 150-year-old Covington building presents numerous challenges that we cannot solve by renovation. The building is too small for our growing operations, and what space we have is often not very useable. Three stories high with only

steep, treacherous stairs connecting the floors, much of the building is unreachable to the public. While a portable ramp makes the entrance and first floor handicapped accessible, the rest is off limits to anyone with a physical disability. Sloping ceilings and slanting floors on the upper levels present a head-bumping, toe-stumping hazard while minimizing useable work space. That means our client conference areas are small and hard to access, and the size and numbers of offices are woefully inadequate. In fact, if we had the space, we could attract more law students to provide invaluable assistance to our attorneys and enhance service to clients. Simply put, the inadequacy of our space means we turn away willing volunteers, thus diminishing the services available to low-income individuals and families in times of their great need.

It is critical for NKVL to be in the same location as LABG because we are serving the same client base. We help by picking up the clients LABG can't serve because demand is so high.

*- James Dressman III,  
Esq.,  
Board of Directors,  
Northern Kentucky  
Volunteer Lawyers, Inc.*



# New Opportunities

## Location

How to resolve the space problem raised discussions and in-depth study at our board level. Our leaders considered various alternatives. We looked at tearing down our existing building and rebuilding on the same site; but that was deemed too costly. We looked at renting; but we would lose the economic advantages of owning. After reviewing all options, our leaders settled on selling the current building and buying one more suitable for our needs as the most prudent course of action.

We explored numerous available properties in Covington and found a building at 640 Scott Street that offers the amount and kind of space we need. The 9,600-square-foot building currently serves as the Children's Law Center and is already configured as a law office—a decided advantage since it needs little renovation. Another advantage is the revenue stream from rental space on the first floor. About 1600 square feet is currently rented under a long term lease. The remaining space still holds about one-third more useable work area than our current location.

Clients who can't afford private counsel are entitled to the same dignity as clients who can. The new facility won't be luxurious, but definitely more dignified, accessible and spacious. Also, the new facility will allow the attorneys and staff to work in a professional environment without the distractions and limitations of the current building.

*-Michael J. O'Hara, Esq., Board of Directors, Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, Inc.*



## Benefits

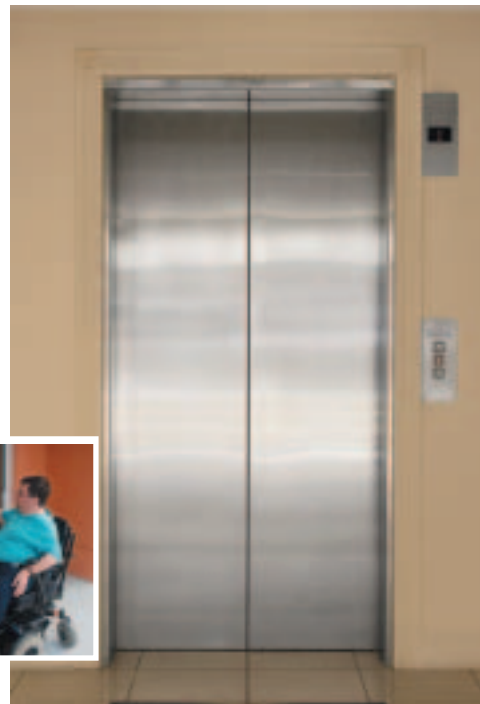
The four-story structure is sound and the location is ideal—near the court house, on the bus line, and at a prominent intersection for high visibility. This newer, larger building will offer a welcoming atmosphere for clients experiencing life's difficulties. The structure already contains adequate space for client and attorney conferences. Adding new interior walls will create several more offices at little cost, which will handle existing staff and give us some room to grow. A city parking lot abuts the property. There, staff and client parking spaces are available through a lease with the City of Covington.

With mostly minimal changes, the four story structure will sufficiently house our staff, the Director of the Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, Inc. and our volunteers for years to come. NKVL will be headquartered in our new building, which will boost our collaborative opportunities to serve clients and attract additional attorney volunteers. The building has enough room to enable significant increases in the numbers of law students and community volunteers we can use. These volunteers provide vital research to attorneys in all our offices, interview clients and help resolve their problems, and conduct outreach about important topics, thus increasing our capacity to serve our communities.

An expanded intake center will increase our capacity to assist more clients. Planned for the first floor, renovations for the intake center include building interior walls, moving a restroom and installing soundproof, efficiently situated call stations. A state of the art call center will enable our intake workers to take calls “live” and reduce our emphasis upon a “call-back” system, which is often frustrating for our clients. Intake from each regional office will be consolidated in this nerve center. As a result, staff in our regional offices will spend more time handling clients' cases and less time on screening and eligibility activities. We will be able to provide helpful advice over the telephone to a larger number of clients, and help others with mailing informational bulletins even when we are unable to accept their case. Over time we will serve 25% more clients because of this new more sophisticated approach to our intake process.

Only one major change to the building is required. Installing an elevator is a necessity to make the building handicapped accessible for clients and staff. The elevator will ensure an efficient, safe traffic flow throughout the four-story building.

The benefits include the ability to provide helpful advice and counsel over the telephone to as many as 25% more clients than we can presently serve.





## Costs for New Headquarters

Children’s Law Center will sell the building to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass for \$500,000. An additional \$450,000 will be needed to install an elevator, upgrade the HVAC system, install telephones and computers, add some interior walls, make cosmetic improvements, and purchase necessary furnishings.

The following is a breakdown of projected costs for completion of the project:

Building Purchase	\$500,000
Elevator Installation	\$120,000
Furnishings, Carpet, Paint	\$115,000
Communications and Technology	\$70,000
HVAC Upgrade	\$35,000
Call Center sound proof booths and office	\$30,000
Office construction (2nd and 3rd floors)	\$50,000
Volunteer Center (4th floor renovations)	\$15,000
Miscellaneous and moving expenses	\$20,000
<b>Total Capital Needs</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>
<b>Building Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$1,110,000</b>
Potential Proceeds from Sale of Greenup Street Building	(\$350,000)
<b>Campaign Goal</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>

I joined Legal Aid as a law clerk, then volunteer law student and now a staff attorney because I believe we provide the greatest tool to reduce poverty. It is essential that we expose students to this since they are the pro bono attorneys of the future. These student volunteers fill the critical need for divorce and will clinics that have doubled since we started involving law students.

*– Eileen Zell, Esq.,  
Staff Attorney,  
Legal Aid of  
the Bluegrass.*



## The Key to Opening New Doors

Poverty and no access to justice continue to be the root causes of the civil legal problems facing the poor. We can dramatically impact both by providing high quality legal services to low income people who will benefit greatly because of that service. To accomplish this efficiently, we need the most appropriate facility in which to work. A new building is absolutely essential, and the 604 Scott Street building is ideal.

The Opening New Doors to Justice Campaign will be dependent primarily upon the generosity of the Northern Kentucky legal community and others who are committed to justice for all people. Together we can open doors of hope to a better life for thousands of poor people who have a right to justice. Please join us in opening these doors.



The nature of our profession is that we assist people through their legal problems. I believe we became lawyers because we want to help people. By giving time or money to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass you fulfill that same desire and any little bit you can do is a big help. You will be doing what you signed-up for when you became a lawyer.

*Howard L. Tankersley,  
Esq., President, Northern  
Kentucky Bar  
Association (2005),  
Vice President,  
Legal Aid*



## Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

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