Letter from the Director

Friends, let me start by saying thank you. Catholic Charities Legal Network could not be the organization that it is without you—our volunteers and donors. With your assistance, we are able to provide essential pro bono legal services to low income residents of Washington, D.C. and its suburbs in Maryland. In fact, we have expanded our reach; the recently-opened Susan Denison Mona Center will enable the Legal Network to serve more individuals in Prince George’s County. I am excited to announce that the Legal Network raised over $100,000 at our 14th annual Golf and Tennis Tournament in October. The event was a huge success, and I would like to extend a special thanks to Crowell & Moring and Kirkland Ellis for their sponsorship of the event—thank you! The financial assistance that we receive from all of our generous donors will enable us to continue our mission of providing high quality pro bono services to those in need. While we are grateful for your support, we are always in need of volunteers. We are seeking attorneys to help with our weekly intake, both at our downtown location and at the new Mona Center in Prince George’s County. A special thanks to Sharon Taylor-Smith, part-time staff attorney, who retired from Catholic Charities on September 29, 2017. Sharon will be missed for her excellent legal skills and longtime experience with our program. Again, thank you. Your support and assistance is vital to our ability to provide legal assistance to low income residents in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Sincerely,

James D. Bishop, Esq.,
Director
Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington
Volunteer Attorneys Sought

We are looking for attorneys licensed in DC or Maryland to assist with representing clients in civil law cases in the areas of:

- Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy
- Wills/Probate
- Employment
- Family
- Public Entitlements
- Tenant concerns with Landlords

In addition, the Legal Network seeks attorneys who are willing to conduct law-related education seminars on any of the above legal areas at senior citizen groups, parishes, or other local community groups. The Network is also looking for bilingual attorneys who would be willing to do in-person intake interviews and represent Spanish-speaking clients.

Interested volunteers can contact:
Jim Bishop at 202-772-1201,
James.Bishop@CC-DC.org
-or-
Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin,
301-615-0949
Ashlyn.Anderson-Keelin@CC-DC.org

Legal Network News

Pictured, left to right: Steven M. Schneebaum, Esq., former Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Archdiocesan Legal Network (now known as Catholic Charities Legal Network) and Vincent “Cap” Mona, Chairman of Mona Electric Group Inc.”.

On October 3, 2017, Catholic Charities celebrated the Grand Opening of the Catholic Charities – Susan Denison Mona Center. Among other things, the Mona Center will provide pro bono civil legal services to low-income and indigent individuals in Southern Maryland.

Legal Network October Accomplishments

- Blanca Lopez, staff paralegal at the Legal Network, took part in a Spanish radio broadcast on Oct. 24 and spoke about the services offered by the Legal Network and the Immigration Legal Services.

- Jim Bishop, Director of the Legal Network, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the John Carroll Society and attended his first directors meeting on Oct. 25.

- The Legal Network opened a satellite office at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Prince George’s County on Oct. 9. Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, staff attorney at the Legal Network, works at this office three days a week—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

- Law school volunteers from Georgetown Law Center began assisting with intake interviews during the second week of October.

- On Oct. 2, the Legal Network held its 14th Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Virginia. The event raised $106,000 for the Legal Network. The staff of the Legal Network is very grateful for all those who partipated and who helped make the event such a great success.
14th Annual Legal Network Golf and Tennis Tournament

Pictured above: Jim Bishop, far right, poses with four golfers from Foley & Lardner, LLP at the Legal Network’s 14th Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament in October.

Pictured above: Participants at the tournament relax after a day of golfing. The event raised over $100,000 for the Legal Network.

Q&A with Legal Network Volunteer Attorney Joseph Zaleski

Joseph is an associate at Sidley Austin in Washington, D.C. He is a recent graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and recently passed the California Bar. Previously, Joseph lived and worked in D.C. for several years. He was born and raised in south Florida, where his family still lives. Joseph, wanting to see a new part of the country (and some snow), ventured north to attend Boston College for his undergraduate education. At Boston College, he studied political science and philosophy. Joseph and his wife, Michelle, now happily live in D.C.

What made you interested in volunteering with the Legal Network?
My firm offers to all incoming associates the opportunity to spend time as a pro bono fellow before starting full-time in the office. When I received the list of organizations from our pro bono partner, I saw Catholic Charities as one of the options and knew immediately that I wanted to spend my fellowship there. (continued on next page)
Q&A with Legal Network Volunteer Attorney Joseph Zaleski

Catholic Charities spoke to me for two reasons. The first is that the reputation of Catholic Charities in Washington, D.C. precedes it. I knew from living in the D.C. area for several years that Catholic Charities Legal Network is a pillar of the legal network in this city that helps so many of our neighbors on a daily basis. I wanted to lend my hands to this work. The second reason is that Catholic Charities gives me the opportunity to integrate my faith life and professional life in a very concrete way. Law school is very focused on questions of ethics, policy, and justice. Catholic Charities, in its service to the marginalized and often invisible in our community, pulls those questions of justice and access out of the classroom and grounds them in service to others.

What motivates you in your volunteer work and in the assistance that you help Catholic Charities provide to low income clients?
One thing I think about every day at Catholic Charities is how the work this organization does is so locally-focused. That is incredibly powerful to me. Law school so often focuses students on big global questions or normative values. These are important discussions and they demand examination. However, sometimes I found myself getting lost in the abstract. Catholic Charities has re-grounded me with its focus on people who need help here in DC, southern Maryland, and Northern Virginia. These are people who live in my neighborhood and they desperately need legal help. If I can give even a small amount of confidence to them by referring their matter to a lawyer, or work to provide them with access to equal justice, then I am reenergized. It is also a blessing that this pro bono fellowship is happening at the very beginning of my legal career. I know that it has oriented me toward a path of pro bono service and public interest focus in my practice.

Would you recommend that other attorneys volunteer with the Legal Network—and, if so, why?
I absolutely recommend that local attorneys volunteer with the Legal Network. Catholic Charities has a wonderful group of full-time attorneys who work tirelessly to assist our neighbors most in need. But, they rely on the assistance of volunteer attorneys to complete their mission. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet with people who many times are experiencing a crisis and stand as a first line of help for them. It's gratifying work, and I know the volunteer attorneys with whom I've worked have appreciated the opportunity. Many of them have been returning to volunteer with the organization for years. That speaks to the experience that they have working with Catholic Charities.
New Faces at the Legal Network

Katey Ebaugh joined the Legal Network as a volunteer this September. She comes to the Legal Network from her hometown of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is currently in her senior year at Bluffton University, where she is earning her undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts and Sociology, with minors in Peace and Conflict Studies, Photography, and Psychology. During 2013-2014, Katey lived in Indonesia as a missionary and English teacher, which was an experience that made her passionate to help those in need, serve immigrants, and advocate for peace and justice. At Catholic Charities, Katey has helped with various tasks in the offices of the Legal Network and Immigration Legal Services. Two of her favorite tasks so far have included photographing the Golf and Tennis Tournament and serving meals on Wednesdays to those without permanent residency. She feels blessed for the opportunities she has had to work with Catholic Charities, and she hopes to remain an advocate for the organization when she returns to her school in December. She is currently doing a Washington, D.C. Community Scholars (WCSC) program through Eastern Mennonite University and Bluffton.

CCLN Honors and Recognition

On September 28, 2017, eight new young associates from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP spent the day providing valuable assistance to both the Legal Network and Immigration Legal Services.

*Pictured: (front) Keith Neely, Shaun Hughes, (back) James D. Bishop Esq., Jaclyn Roeing, Laura Puro, and James Feroli, Pro Bono Coordinator and Government Liaison, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services*

On October 1, 2017, Legal Network volunteer, Richard Bonsignore, was honored by the John Carroll Society at the Red Mass Brunch for his invaluable work providing pro bono services to the Legal Network. Additional honorees include, David J. Ralston, Jr. (Individual), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP and Affiliates (Law Firm), and Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP (Law Firm)

*Pictured, left to right: Teresa Lore, Richard Bonsignore, and James D. Bishop*
CCLN Honors and Recognition

Pictured above from left to right: Emily J.C. Maloney, Legal Network Staff Attorney; Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, Legal Network Staff Attorney; and James D. Bishop, Director of the Legal Network, at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the D.C. Bar admittance ceremony for Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, who is now a member of both the District of Columbia and Maryland Bars.

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