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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019 | 2020



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## 2019 | 2020

### Chairperson's Letter



Dear Friends,

The Catholic Charities Legal Network had another very productive year in meeting our mission to provide pro bono legal services to indigent and poor residents in the Archdiocese of Washington. Our success came through a combination of new initiatives, with new volunteers and Legal Network staff, as well as a continuation of our historical core work of case screening and placement.

One of the exciting developments over this past fiscal year has been the growth of our presence in the Prince George's County legal community. With our base at the Catholic Charities Susan Denison Mona Center in Temple Hills, Maryland, the Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr., Retired Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, is making a great difference for low-income individuals and families in Prince George's County. Leo, working closely with our stalwart staff attorney Dan Collopy, led our efforts to generate 244 docketed cases and recruit 125 attorney volunteers. A grateful shout out to Advisory Council member Tim Maloney and his firm,

Joseph Greenwald & Laake, PA, for hosting a reception in November 2019 to welcome Judge Green and challenge attorneys to volunteer their time to work on a pro bono case through the Legal Network.

Another initiative implemented by Legal Network volunteers in this fiscal year has been to assist veterans by becoming the Washington, DC, coordination center for VetLex. VetLex is a nationwide program connecting veterans with pro bono representation for matters such as Veterans Benefits Administration appeals and upgrades to the status of discharges from service, in addition to other non-veteran-related legal matters. A special thanks to Advisory Council member Miguel Eaton and his colleagues at Jones Day who have spearheaded this VetLex initiative.

This expansion of activities has not diminished the Legal Network's traditional focus of meeting the legal services needs of our community in matters involving bankruptcy and consumer debt, employment law, family law, landlord-tenant issues, government entitlements, and will drafting/estate matters. All told, our volunteers

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enabled the Legal Network to provide assistance to nearly 3,300 individuals this past year.

Leading all of the Legal Network's efforts with organizational skill and manifest empathy for our clients is Jim Bishop, Director of the Legal Network – soon entering his 27th year serving the constituencies of the program. Jim is supported by the hardworking and effective Legal Network staff, which performs so well on many fronts. From facilitating the intake of potential clients to organizing our fundraising efforts, coordinating volunteer attorney recruitment and training to organizing receptions, the Legal Network staff juggles many responsibilities without dropping a ball. And backstopping all Legal Network activities is Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and its President, Msgr. John J. Enzler, who is ever a font of ideas and resources.

The work of the Legal Network's staff and

volunteer attorneys has been all-the-more impressive in meeting the community's legal needs as the COVID-19 pandemic descended on us. Staff and volunteers stepped up telephonic intake when in-person client visits were no longer possible. Working from home offices to make sure clients were not forgotten and court deadlines continued to be met, notwithstanding competing demands of family and personal lives, was remarkable.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank all our volunteers and benefactors – the lifeblood of the Legal Network. Without your time, talents, and treasure, the Legal Network simply would not function. We sincerely appreciate your vital support of the Legal Network's mission to serve the legal needs of our community's disadvantaged individuals and families.

Sincerely,  
James P. Gillespie, P.C.  
Chair, Catholic Charities Legal Network  
Advisory Council



On May 17, 2019, James D. Bishop, Esq. was bestowed the Equal Justice Award at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Commencement Ceremony. Mr. Bishop spoke to the graduating class about the role his late uncle, Gardner L. Bishop, played in the case of *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497 (1954), which was one of the accompanying cases to *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954). The commencement date coincided with the 65th anniversary date of the landmark United States Supreme Court decision.

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## 2019 | 2020

### Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

I completed my twenty-sixth year as Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, as our program completed over thirty years of service to the public. I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2020, the Legal Network assisted 3,278 individuals by providing direct legal representation and presenting legal education seminars in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

This year was not without challenges. Since March 16, 2020, Catholic Charities Legal Network has been conducting all its client services on a remote basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and work from home mandates in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The Legal Network's services are still very much in demand, since many of our clients have experienced problems with their jobs, child custody and other family disputes, landlord-tenant concerns, and growing consumer debt issues. There is a silver lining in this cloud, however, since many of our clients are still able to communicate with our staff by telephone and email. The remote telephone service has also been helpful to several of our clients who still need legal help while either they or immediate family

members are recovering from COVID-19. The Legal Network's staff has conducted virtual presentations on wills and advanced medical directives to both Catholic Charities staff as well as to patients, clients, and consumers throughout the agency. In fact, six such presentations were conducted by the staff during May and June 2020. After the presentations, some requested wills and related legal documents, which the Legal Network's staff have helped them obtain in an expeditious fashion. Many thanks to Esther D. Coleman, staff attorney, who has led the charge in assisting our clients with wills and advanced directive documents since the quarantine began.

With all the challenges of late, the Legal Network still has many causes for celebration. First, we continue to be grateful for our selfless volunteers who give so freely of their time and use their legal skills to assist their neighbors in need. Thank you to those volunteers for conducting telephone and in-person intake weekly and monthly. Special thanks also to our government, solo, mid-size, and large law firm attorneys who accepted pro bono cases from the Legal Network, directly impacting lives for the better. This past year, the Legal Network



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was blessed to have an attorney devote an extraordinary amount of time to the program and its clients. Deacon Darryl A. Kelley is a deacon at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs, Maryland, and he was assigned, through the deaconate program, to the Legal Network by the Archdiocese of Washington. He assists at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Prince George's County while managing a general law practice in Camp Springs. Deacon Kelley has accepted many pro bono cases from the Legal Network.

I am especially appreciative of the Legal Network's staff for their commitment to serving the poor and underserved in our community. Thank you to staff attorneys Esther D. Coleman, Daniel F. Collopy, Hon. Leo E. Green, Jr., and supervising attorney, Kelly E. Thompson. I also want to thank the Legal Network's bilingual paralegal, Blanca Lopez.

Of particular importance to this program is the Legal Network Advisory Council.

I am particularly grateful to all Council members and the Advisory Chairman, James P. Gillespie, for their support and encouragement.

Lastly, I am thankful for the financial support the Legal Network has received from its many donors and partners.

Though we have more work to do, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last year, and I invite you to peruse this report to learn more about our successes.

Sincerely,  
James D. Bishop, Esq., Director  
Catholic Charities Legal Network



*Jim Bishop is greeted by Archbishop Wilton Gregory  
at the conclusion of the 2019 Red Mass*

*This photo was donated to the Catholic Charities Legal Network by Chris Newkumet of NewkPhoto.*

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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK'S MISSION

To provide access  
to the highest  
quality pro bono  
civil legal services  
to the poorest of  
the poor within  
the Archdiocese of  
Washington without  
regard to their  
religious affiliation.

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2019 | 2020

## Catholic Charities Legal Network's Impact

The support of volunteer attorneys from law firms, the government, and solo practices allows the Legal Network to fulfill its mission of offering free legal assistance to the poor. These volunteers provide pro bono legal representation and conduct in-person intake with clients. Volunteer attorneys also monitor the Legal Network's telephone intake line and schedule clients for in-person intake, providing referrals when appropriate. Additionally, they present civil law seminars for low-income groups, and they mentor attorneys who handle pro bono cases.

The Legal Network assists families and individuals who earn at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For an individual seeking the Legal Network's services in 2020, the income limit is \$31,900, and for a family of four, the limit is \$65,500. 3,278 low-income individuals were served in Maryland and Washington, DC during the fiscal year.

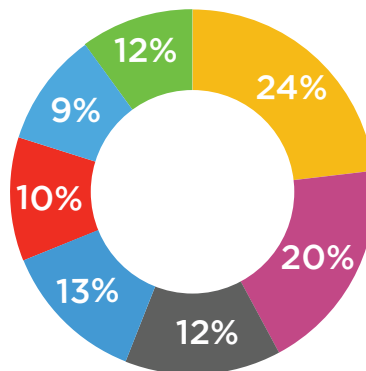


Volunteer attorney Carla Pruitt assists a client with a legal matter at the downtown DC location of Catholic Charities Legal Network

### What We Do

The Legal Network addresses:

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Government Entitlements
- Landlord and Tenant Law
- Wills and Probate Law



- Family
- Wills and Probate
- Bankruptcy and Consumer Debt
- Landlord, Tenant and Other Housing
- Other
- Government Entitlements
- Employment

*\*other cases include expungement/record sealing, obtaining government ID, education and tax matters*

The services we provide:

- Case placement with volunteer attorneys
- Information and referral
- In-person client intake
- Seminars on civil law topics for low-income audiences
- Legal training seminars and mentorship for volunteer attorneys
- Direct representation in a limited number of DC and Maryland cases

### Where We Help

Washington, DC  
Montgomery County

Prince George's County  
Calvert County

Charles County  
St. Mary's County

Before COVID-19 necessitated remote work, Legal Network staff and volunteers met with clients for legal consultations at the Hickey Center in downtown DC, the Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County, the Montgomery County Family Center in Montgomery County, and So Others May Eat (SOME) and the Fr. McKenna Center, both in the District of Columbia.

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## 2019 | 2020

### Volunteers

#### **Law firms conducting telephone intake:**

BakerHostetler  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
DLA Piper  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Miller & Chevalier Chartered  
O'Melveny & Myers LLP  
Reed Smith LLP  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
Wiley Rein LLP

#### **Law firms and individuals conducting in-person intake:**

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Robert T. Joseph  
Keller and Heckman LLP  
Patrick J. Kennedy  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Andrew Larsen  
Nancy Lindsay  
Andrew J. Morris  
O'Melveny & Myers LLP  
Picard Kentz & Rowe LLP  
Paul V. Rogers  
Sharon Taylor-Smith  
White & Case LLP  
Winston & Strawn LLP  
Hon. Michael E. Zielinski

#### **Attorneys representing clients:**

Elliott Andalman  
Kathleen Asdorian  
Barbara Betsock  
Carol Blumenthal  
Louisa Brooks  
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Carla Pruitt  
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Brian Stolarz  
Joseph Trevino  
Edward Varrone  
Martha Vazquez  
Meritta S. White

*Self-reported efforts by volunteer attorneys and legal professionals  
totaled over \$3 million and nearly 5,000 hours.*



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## 2019 | 2020

### Volunteer Spotlight



When someone calls the Catholic Charities Legal Network intake line, they are screened for case type, case jurisdiction, and income. If someone seems to qualify, they are then scheduled for a second-stage intake appointment with a staff or volunteer attorney for a more thorough analysis of their legal matter. Traditionally, these second-stage intake appointments occurred in person at one of the Legal Network's offices. However, once stay at home orders were put into place because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, volunteer attorneys like Theresa Hyatte stepped up to conduct these intakes remotely.

Theresa sees intake as encompassing two main goals: 1) to learn about the client's situation so the Legal Network can find the right attorney volunteer to help them; and 2) to just listen. "When people call for help, they are often facing a crisis, and they are feeling vulnerable and overwhelmed," Theresa said. "An important part of my work in intake is to make the client feel like they are being heard and that what is happening in their life is important and matters to us."

Theresa has not been conducting these remote appointments alone. This summer, she has been assisted by her son, Hank. Hank has been helping his mother by taking notes during the calls, navigating technological challenges, and entering clients' information

into the case management system. By having her son assist with these remote intakes, Theresa says that she is better able to focus on being present to the clients and just listening to them, without being preoccupied with the challenges that go along with working remotely.

Working together has also given the two a chance to see a different side of each other. "It has given me a chance to see my son as an equal and to see him in a different role," Theresa said. "I've enjoyed working with him because we are serving our community in a way that is allowing us to live out our Catholic values together."

This experience has allowed Hank, who enjoys service and helping people in need, to explore his interests in law more fully. "I'm getting to see how things work, the situations involved, and the processes you go through in helping people in need," Hank said. His work with his mother on intake for Catholic Charities Legal Network has given Hank the opportunity to tie in his Catholic faith with his interest in law.

As mother and son, Theresa and Hank have been helping people navigate the legal landscape amidst worries and concerns about COVID-19. From custody disputes involving parents concerned about the virus being transmitted from one home to the other, to people who have been directly impacted by COVID-19 through the loss of jobs, health, and even their homes, every client they have encountered together has faced their own unique challenges regarding the pandemic.

"Normally what people do in life is walk on a tightrope," Theresa said. "COVID took that tight rope, which might have been five feet off the ground, and raised it up to about thirty feet. It is important that we as Catholics help secure the social safety net for people walking that tightrope. Every person counts."

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## 2019 | 2020 CCLN Staff



**James D. Bishop, Esq., Director, Catholic Charities Legal Network**

Jim has directed the Legal Network for over 26 years. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in DC and a native Washingtonian. Jim has been a family mediator in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's MultiDoor Dispute Resolution Division for over 30 years. He serves on the Board of Governors of The John Carroll Society, the Civic Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence, and the District of Columbia Bar Foundation's Scoutt Prize Committee. Among Jim's honors include the Equal Justice Award from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Suzanne V. Richards Award, the Jerrold

Scoutt Prize from the DC Bar Foundation, The John Carroll Society Medal, The Archdiocese of Washington's 75th Anniversary Cardinal's Award, and Catholic Charities' Griffin Award. Jim is a magna cum laude graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a graduate of Howard University School of Law. Jim holds a certificate from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business for completing the Nonprofit Business Excellence Program for Catholic Leaders. Jim is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 224. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania Bars.



**Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, Esq., Temporarily Assigned Attorney**

Deacon Kelley is a resident of Prince George's County and has a law practice in Camp Springs, Maryland. Deacon Kelley began

accepting pro bono matters from Catholic Charities Legal Network (CCLN) in 2018. His cases for CCLN involve family, estate, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy matters. He currently serves as deacon at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Camp Springs, Maryland. He also serves as a Public Policy Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington's Public Policy Team. He is a former Maryland State Delegate for the 26th Legislative District and previously served as Legislative Assistant for Education and Labor to former United States Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. He continues to serve on local committees in the county, supports global peace initiatives, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Forestville Pregnancy Center in Marlow Heights, Maryland. Deacon Kelley served as an Inspector/Deputy United

States Marshal for many years in federal law enforcement. Deacon Kelley completed the Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University, and graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Virginia with a Bachelors of Arts in History. Deacon Kelley is licensed to practice law in both Maryland and the District of Columbia.



**Esther D. Coleman, Esq., Staff Attorney**

Esther D. Coleman, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, joined the Legal Network in May 2019. Esther brings with her many years of experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Esther is community-focused in the work that she does, having started a women's advocacy group, Standing in the Gap, which focuses on providing resources to underserved women and girls in the Northeast Florida region. Among her pro bono accomplishments, Esther provided estate planning support to home-bound seniors through Legal Counsel for the

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Elderly and Catholic Charities Legal Network, as well as people in hospice care through Capital Caring. She graduated with a political science degree from Florida A&M University before matriculating at the Georgetown University Law Center. Esther is licensed in the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland.



**Daniel Collopy, Esq.,  
Staff Attorney**

After volunteering for Catholic Charities Legal Network for more than 20 years while litigating contempt cases for the National Labor Relations Board and helping build the

Federal Government's Pro Bono Program, Dan joined CCLN to serve more clients in need, not only in Washington, D.C. but in surrounding Maryland counties. Dan and Leo Green, Jr. work closely together at the Susan D. Mona Center, and Dan travels to different sites in DC and Montgomery County conducting client intake, too. Dan is a graduate of Georgetown University with a B.A. in American Studies, and he earned a law degree from the University of Colorado Law School, where he served as Staff Editor on the Colorado Law Review. Dan is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and Colorado.



**Blanca Z. Lopez,  
Bilingual Paralegal**

Blanca has been with the Legal Network for more than 15 years and has helped extend outreach into the Latino community. She is originally from Bolivia and graduated

from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.



**Hon. Leo E.  
Green, Jr., Esq.,  
Staff Attorney**

Upon retirement from the bench as the Civil Coordinating Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County from 2010 to 2017, Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr.,

joined Catholic Charities Legal Network at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Prince George's County, MD. Judge Green joined the Circuit Court in 2008 after having served on the District Court for nearly 7 years. Before the bench, Judge Green practiced law for 16 years. He is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College and the University of Baltimore Law School. Judge Green is licensed to practice in Maryland.



**Kelly E. Thompson,  
Esq., Supervising  
Attorney**

Kelly began working with the Legal Network in 2012 as a Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow from Notre Dame Law School and has remained a staff

attorney with the Legal Network. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, cum laude, a Master of Nonprofit Administration, magna cum laude, and a law degree from the University of Notre Dame. She is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.



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2019 | 2020  
Advisory Council



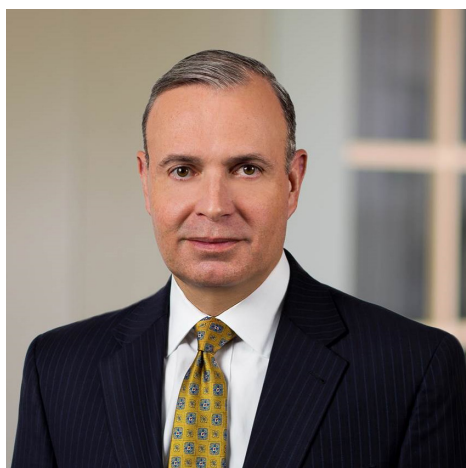
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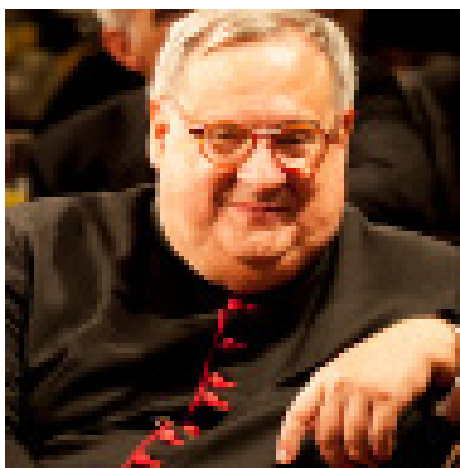
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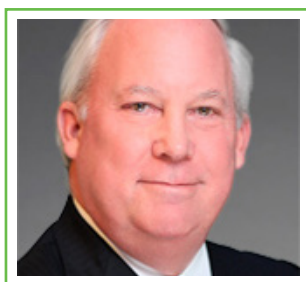
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## 2019 | 2020 Advisory Council



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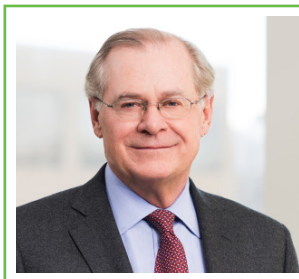
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## 2019 | 2020

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## 2019 | 2020 Year End Review



"It's a turbulent time where people are facing particularly acute circumstances, so we're just trying to do what we can to extend a hand and continue the critical support Catholic Charities provides the community."  
– Sanjay Mullick, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP and

bilingual volunteer intake attorney

Thank you to Brian W. Stolarz and Alfred Dewayne Brown for hosting and speaking at the Netflix Watch Party and subsequent Q&A on The Innocence Files, Episode 8, The Prosecution: Hidden Alibi. Alfred



Dewayne Brown's story is unthinkable, but it happens with more frequency than we might realize. We must continue to stand up for and support access to legal services for those who cannot afford an attorney. Without Brian's "yes" to file and defend Mr. Brown's writ of habeas corpus, an innocent life would have been needlessly taken. In our Legal Network, pro bono attorneys help clients with civil legal cases that mean the difference between housing or homelessness, a job or joblessness, and chaos or stability in a child's life. For more on the event: [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/faith-led-legal-network-volunteer-to-remarkable-moment-of-serving-another](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/faith-led-legal-network-volunteer-to-remarkable-moment-of-serving-another)

### To Judge Green from a client he assisted:

"Once more, thank you immensely for standing by us to settle the concerns between us and [redacted]. You are more than a Dad to us. You spent your precious time and resources for zero rewards. It strikes our hearts seriously that in this century people like you who show love for the oppressed still exist."

Lawyers from Prince George's County gathered on November 13, 2019, for a reception welcoming Leo E. Green, Jr. as a new staff attorney for Catholic Charities Legal Network. Leo recently joined Catholic Charities Legal Network after retiring from his position as a judge on the Prince George's County Circuit Court. During his remarks, Leo called his new role at Catholic Charities Legal Network's Susan Denison Mona Center, fulfilling and encouraged lawyers to contribute to the Legal Network by taking a pro bono case.



The reception was hosted by Timothy F. Maloney, Legal Network Advisory Council member, and his colleagues at Joseph Greenwald & Laake, PA. "Humble and generous service, and love," Maloney said. "That's what Leo's decision (to retire and join Catholic Charities) is all about...His model of service is going to spread throughout the community, and you can already hear it. Every day, I hear of another good work that Leo has done in our community." Thank you to those who attended, and especially to Tim Maloney and the law firm of Joseph Greenwald & Laake, PA for hosting this event!



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On Oct. 6, 2019, the John Carroll Society celebrated the annual Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., to seek God's blessing and guidance on those involved in the administration of justice. The John Carroll Society presented its 2019 Pro Bono Legal Service Awards to attorneys Andrew Larsen, Carolyn D. Ruyak, and Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, and to the law firms of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Sidley Austin LLP. The honorees are all volunteers with Catholic Charities Legal Network. Presenting the awards were Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory; the John Carroll Society's chaplain, Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi; and the group's president, Jeffrey Paravano. Guests were welcomed by Andrew Cook, Chairperson of the 2019 Red Mass Committee. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Carolyn D. Ruyak; Archbishop Wilton Gregory; Deacon Darryl A. Kelley; Bridget O'Connor representing Kirkland & Ellis LLP; and Jeffrey Paravano. In the back row from left to right are Andrew Larsen; Andrew Cook; Lucas Croslow representing Sidley & Austin LLP; Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi; and James P. Gillespie representing Kirkland & Ellis LLP.



This group photo was donated to the Catholic Charities Legal Network by Chris Newkumet of NewkPhoto.



Caption: Leo (foreground) and Dan (background) help out at a meal distribution at the Mona Center.

Leo Green, Jr. and Dan Collopy, Legal Network staff attorneys, met with a young mother of two who is fighting cancer and deportation in order to execute a standby guardianship agreement to make sure that her children will be protected by

her sister if she dies or is deported. Dan said, "It was great spending some time with her young sons-but it was tough seeing the tears in her eyes as she signed the documents."



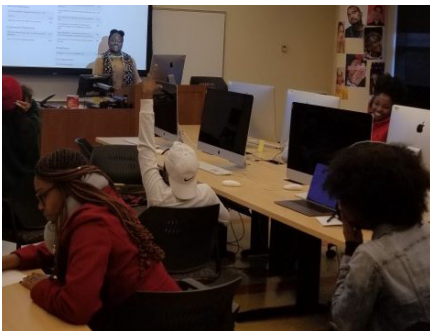
On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the Legal Network hosted a community education seminar for anyone interested in learning more about how to seal or expunge a criminal record in the District of Columbia and Maryland. After the presentation, attorneys Brian Stolarz and Stephen Simchak were available to answer questions and assist clients with starting the record sealing or expungement process. Thank you to these two great attorneys for their time!

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## 2019 | 2020 Year End Review



Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the 16th Annual Catholic Charities Legal Network Golf Tournament on Monday, September 30, 2019, at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Virginia. This is the Legal Network's main fundraising event each year. Beyond engaging in friendly golf competition and enjoying food and drink, the Legal Network raised nearly \$100,000 for Catholic Charities Legal Network. The success of the golf tournament was due to the leadership of Joseph Krauss of Hogan Lovells US LLP, Chairperson of the Golf Tournament Committee and a member of Legal Network Advisory Council, along with Advisory Council members Daniel Archuleta of Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP, Maria Jones of Miller & Chevalier Chartered, and John E. McCarthy Jr. of Crowell & Moring LLP.



On November 12, 2019, Esther D. Coleman, Staff Attorney, spoke to students in the "Self-Promotion and Branding for Artists" class at Bowie

State University. Coleman discussed with the students how they may protect their intellectual property through copyrights and trademarks. Prof. Risikat Okedeyi and her students had many thought-provoking questions and appreciated the information that was shared.

Catholic Charities Legal Network enjoys strong relationships with the area's law schools, which accept pro bono matters at their clinics and send exceptional student interns. In addition, Georgetown University Law Center Professor Frances DeLaurentis's students have created presentations on various substantive areas of the law during her first-year legal research and writing course. Many thanks to the American University Washington College of Law; the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law; the Georgetown University Law Center; the George Washington University Law School; the Howard University School of Law; and the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.

### **Law School Interns:**

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law - Justin Wedgewood  
The Georgetown University Law Center - Christina Higgins and Ryan Kesselring  
The University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law - Kourtne Trice and Jameese Hawkins

### **Undergraduate Interns:**

Arizona State University - Leilani Fitzpatrick  
Trinity Washington University - Tania Morales  
University at Albany, SUNY - Ramon Centeno

### **High Schools Interns:**

Elizabeth Seton High School - Sydnee Washington  
Saint John's College High School - Hank Hyatte

On October 16, Sharon Taylor-Smith, Volunteer Attorney, spoke to students at the University of the District of Columbia about guardianships, and the interaction of nutrition and the law.



The Catholic Charities Legal Network FY 2019-2020 Annual Report is dedicated to the Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.

At age 34 in the year 1969, Judge Burnett was appointed the first African American United States Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He served six years of an eight year term before being persuaded to become the Assistant General Counsel of the former United States Civil Service system,

where he became the principal author of the Civil Service Act of 1978 and advisor to the President of the United States. Judge Burnett returned to the United States District Court in 1980, where he served until appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1987. While on the bench in the Superior Court, he served as Judge and Senior Judge until 2004.

After retirement, Judge Burnett continues to be involved in several local and national organizations. On August 13, 2020, he shared an oral history of his amazing life experiences from childhood in Virginia, to practicing lawyer, to a respected judge of many years. Thanks to the Archdiocese of Washington, in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, a documentary film of his life experiences was made in order to be shared with students, aspiring lawyers, parishioners and others through both of our organizations. (Video link: <https://youtu.be/35hbud7slGo> )

Judge Burnett and his wife are parishioners of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington, DC. We thank Judge Burnett for his invaluable support of Catholic Charities, its Legal Network, and the Archdiocese of Washington.





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On behalf of the Catholic Charities Legal Network, thank you for your continued support of our work serving the most vulnerable.



Special thank you for the generous support of the DC Bar Foundation, which enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to our clients. Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.

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