







Catholic Charities Legal Network

# TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN

Annual Report July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018



202.772.4300 924 G St. NW Washington, DC Catholiccharitiesdc.org/CCLN





#### Dear Friends,

This has been another year of firsts for the Catholic Charities Legal Network in its continuing efforts to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to the poorest of the poor in the Archdiocese of Washington. The Legal Network has expanded its outreach with the opening of the Susan Denison Mona Center, a new Catholic Charities facility in Temple Hills, Maryland. This expanded outreach has connected the Legal Network with not only new clients but also new and remarkable volunteers, such as Darryl Kelley, whose story is discussed within. It is only through volunteer attorneys such as Darryl that the Legal Network is able to provide help to those who need it most.

Moreover, in addition to the "bread and butter" needs that the Legal Network has historically served, including family law, landlord tenant, probate, bankruptcy/consumer debt, government entitlements and employment law, the Legal Network has expanded its service offerings in other critical areas, such as record expungement and securing personal identification. Not only is the Legal Network locating representation for individual clients in these areas, but it is also sponsoring training seminars to expand the pool of available volunteers. Indeed, over the past year, the Legal Network has been able to provide assistance to over 3,000 individuals.

Likewise, the Legal Network has made strides on the fundraising front. In addition to our Fall Golf Tournament, we added our first Spring Tennis Tournament at Congressional Country Club. It was a rousing success in its initial year. We are blessed to have so many volunteers and benefactors who make these events successful.

2018 ends my brief term as Chair of the Legal Network Advisory Council. I now pass the gavel to the capable hands of Jim Gillespie of Kirkland & Ellis, with whom I look forward to working. However, before doing so, I would like to dole out some thanks.

First, the Legal Network is able to do what it does because of the tireless efforts of our fearless leader, Jim Bishop, the Director of the Legal Network, along with his capable staff. Jim's care for, and empathy with, each and every one of the Legal Network's clients is palpable. Moreover, the highly capable Legal Network staff is the glue that holds it all together. I offer my endearing gratitude to each of them.

Second, we are blessed to have the full support of Catholic Charities and its President, Rev. Monsignor John J. Enzler. During my term as chair, I was comfortable knowing that when all else fails, we can call on Father John who always comes through for us.

Finally, none of this is possible without each one of you, our volunteers and benefactors, whose time, talents and treasure allows the Legal Network to thrive. The Legal Network looks forward to your continued, and greatly appreciated, support, which allows the Legal Network to continue its vital mission of providing legal help to those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely, John E. McCarthy Jr., Chairperson Catholic Charities Legal Network Advisory Council

John E.

McCarthy Jr.

Chair, Catholic Charities

Legal Network Advisory

Council



#### Dear Friends,

I believe the past year perfectly illustrates how Catholic Charities Legal Network remains committed to its proud tradition of providing the highest quality *pro bono* legal services, not only to those who are most vulnerable in the District of Columbia, but to those in the surrounding counties of Maryland as well. We expanded our expungement program and renewed efforts to help our area's homeless obtain identification cards needed to secure housing and meaningful jobs. Moreover, fall 2018 marked the first anniversary of the Susan Denison Mona Center's opening in Prince George's County. Since its inception, the Mona Center has been a valuable resource for residents of Southern Maryland. Largely due to the efforts of Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, our Thomas L. Shaffer Fellow from Notre Dame Law School, the Legal Network's intake site at the Center has already placed several cases with volunteer attorneys and assisted over 50 individuals.

My special thanks go to John E. McCarthy Jr., outgoing Chair of the Legal Network's Advisory Council, as well as to the supportive and hardworking Council's members. A profound sense of gratitude is also owed to the individual, law firm, corporate, government, non-profit and law school volunteers who unstintingly assist with telephone and inperson intake; litigate and resolve *pro bono* cases; research and update reports and training manuals; and educate the broader community about its legal rights in areas such as employment, family and probate law.

I would also like to acknowledge the Legal Network's staff for its extraordinary dedication to assisting this program's individuals and families who knock on our doors for help: Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, Thomas L. Shaffer Notre Dame Fellow and staff attorney; Blanca Lopez, bilingual paralegal; Emily Maloney, staff attorney; Sharon Taylor-Smith, recently retired staff attorney; and Kelly Thompson, staff attorney.

Finally, and not least, thank YOU, my friends, for supporting the Legal Network. Your longstanding generosity has kept this vital program working on behalf of the poor and underrepresented going on 29 years! Bless you.

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

James D.

Bishop

Director, Catholic

Charities Legal Network



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.



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.

# Who We Serve.



The Legal Network assists individuals and families who earn at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



For an individual seeking the Legal Network's services in 2018, the income limit is \$24,280, and for a family of four, the limit is \$50,200.



3,077

low-income individuals served in Maryland & Washington, DC

"For 25 years, I have had the honor—and real privilege—of serving as the director of Catholic Charities Legal Network. In addition to leading CCLN's efforts to help the poorest of the poor, I work closely with, and get to know, many of the people who have come to us desperate for help. Although we are not always able to find representation for them, we always do our best to let them know that they are valued and that there are people who care about them and the difficult challenges that they face."

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



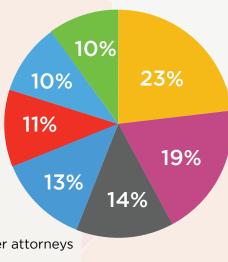
#### What We Do

The Legal Network addresses:

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

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



#### Case Types

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

including expungment/record sealing, obtaining government ID, education, and tax matters



#### Where We Help

Washington, DC Montgomery County Prince George's County Calvert County Charles County St. Mary's County



### ANNUAL REPORT

## Did you know?

Catholic Charities Legal Network hosted attorney trainings on two highly-relevant topics this program year.

#### **Topics included:**

- Sealing criminal records in the District of Columbia.
- Obtaining government identification documents with limited or no documentation.

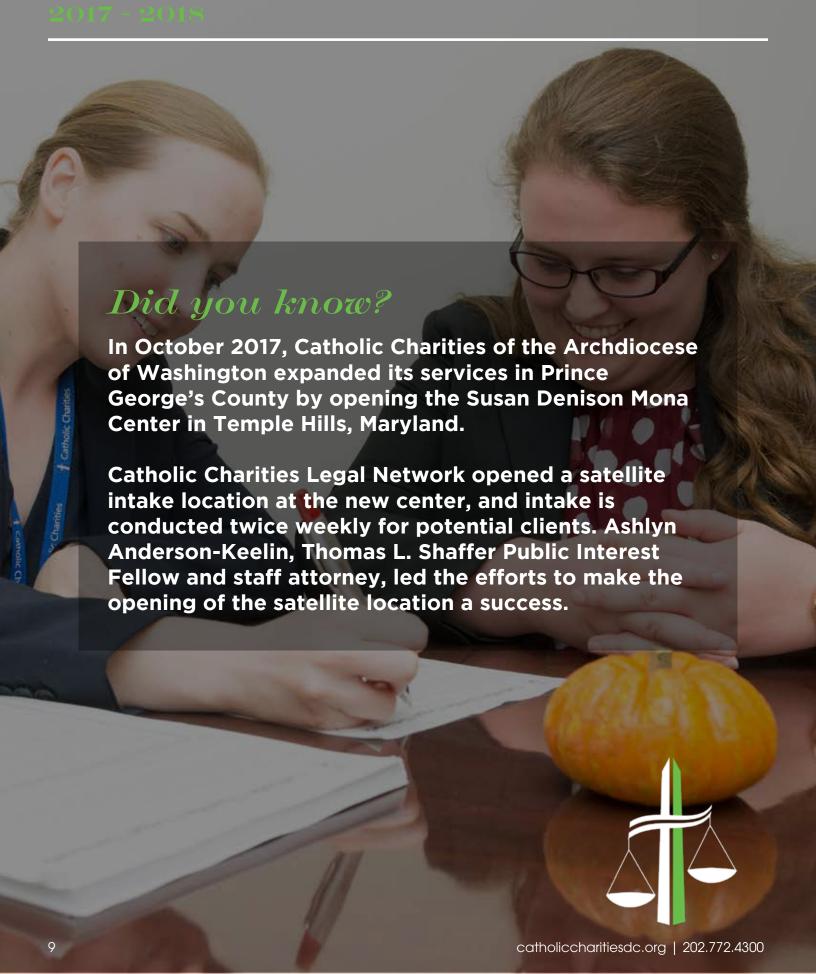
Many thanks to attorneys Brian Stolarz of LeClairRyan and Charles Burnham of Burnham & Gorokhov, PLLC for conducting the criminal record sealing trainings.

The Legal Network partnered with Jones Day to conduct an ID card training specifically for government attorneys, which was met with great enthusiasm and turned into positive outcomes for our clients.

Many thanks to attorneys Fernand A. Lavallee and Robin Overby at Jones Day for conducting the training, and to Laura Klein, *Pro Bono* Program Manager at the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Legal Network also continues to partner with the District of Columbia Bar *Pro Bono* Center to co-sponsor civil law attorney trainings.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**





# Thank You For Serving!

588 New cases opened

3,682
hours donated by
Legal Network volunteers

#### Attorneys Representing Clients

Elliott Andalman Kathleen Asdorian Joseph O. Barloon Mitchell Batt Stuart A. Berman Barbara Betsock Carol Blumenthal Robert Bonsib Charles Burnham Todd R. Coles Sherlev Cruz Michael F. Curtin Yongo Ding Robert B. Fitzpatrick Megan Greene Maria O. Jones Darryl Kelley Thomas J. Kelly John F. Kennedy Paul Kurth Anthony J. LaPlaca Fernand A. Lavallee William E. Lawler III Relinda Louisy

Joseph A. Lynott III Timothy F. Maloney J. Patrick May Michael McGonnigal Nancy Leigh Miller Gerard Mitchell Kasey Murray Drew Newman Robert Newman Robin Overby Caroline S. Pinkston William Pomerance Carla Pruitt Steven M. Schneebaum Leslev Semones\* Nury Siekkinen Mary Lou Soller Brian Stolarz Ann Sultan Kathleen Wach Meritta White Lauren Williams \*legal assistant



#### Why I Volunteer

"I volunteer at the Catholic Charities Legal Network because it gives me the chance to help real people with real issues. People come there in their hour of greatest need, and it is truly rewarding to work with the wonderful CCLN staff to try to get them the help they need."



#### Attorneys and Law Firms Conducting In-Person Intake

Hon. Salvatore Arrigo Richard P. Bonsignore Todd R. Coles Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP **Eckert Seamans** David Florenzo Foley & Lardner LLP Michael J. Francese Patricia A. Franco Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP Hewlett Packard Enterprise Robert T. Joseph Keller & Heckman LLP Patrick J. Kennedy Kirkland & Ellis LLP Nancy Lindsay O'Melveny & Myers LLP Paul V. Rogers Picard Kentz & Rowe LLP Winston & Strawn LLP Hon. Michael E. Zielinski

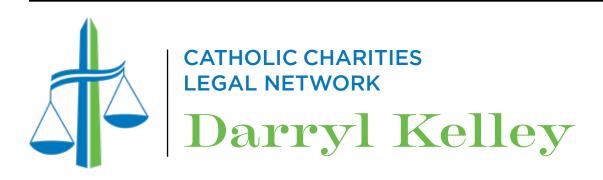
#### Law Firms Conducting Telephone Intake

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Dentons US LLP
DLA Piper
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Miller & Chevalier Chartered
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Squire Patton Boggs US LLP
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Wiley Rein LLP

#### Young Lawyers Commitee

Catholic Charities Legal Network created a new Young Lawyers Committee. This dynamic group hosted two happy hours to benefit the program over the last program year, and they are planning more ways to support the Legal Network's clients and volunteers in the coming year.

Daniel Archuleta, Esq., Troutman Sanders LLP Courtney C. Byrd, Esq., O'Melveny & Myers LLP Jason M. Crawford, Esq., Crowell & Moring LLP Alexander M. Gormley, Esq., Slevin & Hart P.C. Lisa K. Manfreda, Esq., Wise Family Law Division of Altman & Associates Molly McGuinness Saxon, Esq., Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP Carolyn M. Sweeney, Esq., Department of Justice





If Darryl A. Kelley had a brand, it could be labelled "Good Works Incorporated." In fact, his passion for serving God and His Kingdom is one of "Like Father, Like Son." As the Catholic Charities volunteer attorney describes it:

"My father, Russell V. Kelley, Sr., instilled in his eight children the importance of doing the right thing – treating others fairly, helping those in need, and telling the truth. He owned a cleaning store in Norfolk right after World War II, and all his kids used to help dad in the business when younger. My father was very service-oriented and I, being the youngest sibling, would especially enjoy helping him with community issues." Kelley Sr. was a true community leader, Darryl recalls, serving as a deacon in his Baptist church (mom was a deaconess), PTA board member, president of the local civic league, and treasurer of a citizen participation council.

Not surprising, then, Darryl says he has "always gravitated to helping people," and is currently in the formation process for the diaconate in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Service is not only in Darryl's DNA; the attorney for more than two decades walks the talk. He is a one-time Maryland State Delegate for the 26th legislative district. And, this past summer, Darryl agreed to take on a half-dozen cases from the Legal Network's new Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County while managing a general law practice with his wife, Evelyn, also an attorney, in Camp Springs, Maryland. "When I started my practice after graduating from the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, I wanted to be able to help those in the community with their everyday practical legal issues. Unfortunately,

many have complicated family or financial issues that end up in court, and people need assistance in navigating the court system. This is particularly true for the elderly and when people speak different languages."

One illustrative example of Darryl using his legal skills to be a practical problem-solver as well as God-centered peacemaker involved a Brazilian family's break up that had begun more than two years ago. An unworkable temporary separation agreement had been accepted by Darryl's Portuguese-speaking client without understanding its implications. Upon taking the case as a Legal Network referral, Darryl quickly identified the need for a translator. Working with his better-informed client and opposing counsel, Darryl was able to present to the court on the day of trial an agreement that all could live with; in so doing, he helped avoid a protracted custody battle that could only hurt the couple's child.

Following his father's legacy, Darryl has also tried to be an example to his three children in "getting them out into the community." The prospects of history repeating itself are promising. His eldest daughter recently graduated from American University's Washington College of Law and passed the New York bar exam, while another daughter is in her first year at Notre Dame Law School. Additionally, Darryl's son is a Towson University grad and is doing a year of service with AmeriCorps as a teaching assistant in the D.C. public school system, with an eye on attending law school as well.

Darryl says he's more excited than ever about his future *pro bono* work for Catholic Charities: "I am truly blessed to have found the Legal Network and be able to have so many opportunities to exercise my ministry of service while using my legal skills to help those in need."



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

## Caroline Pinkston



After more than a decade building her formidable engineering, patent, and transactional law credentials, Caroline Pinkston has also found herself invested in a panoply of commitments to helping others in need. Sure, during bankers' hours, Caroline may find

herself advising senior business executives over IP transactional issues. But, the Hewlett Packard Enterprises firebrand has earnestly leveraged her acquired business skills to create a talent development program at the firm. She's also implemented a Girl Scout education program there. That alone might be enough good works during many a lifetime. However, Caroline also maintains a prodigious *pro bono* schedule that involves over 100 hours per year of her time taking on referred cases for the poor or underrepresented, including with Catholic Charities Legal Network. She explains:

"Under our Constitution, only persons facing a year or more in prison are guaranteed access to a lawyer. For persons living in poverty, this may mean facing perilous legal issues, such as disputed child custody rights or how to defend against an eviction proceeding, with neither access to a lawyer nor the means to hire one. When opposing parties have legal representation, the result can be an unfair or harsh and an imbalanced verdict. Volunteering to represent clients in matters where access is not otherwise guaranteed helps right that imbalanced outcome and makes me feel like I'm helping put more 'Justice' in our system of justice."

In one recent matter referred by the Legal Network, Caroline helped an elderly and unemployed client navigate through bureaucratic red tape involving the pending tax sale of his family's home and eviction proceedings brought by the corporate purchaser. "The client owned the home outright and really had made a heart-breaking mistake" in missing an annual real property tax payment, Caroline recalled. "Doing some research, we were able to show our client qualified for DC's Home Savers Loan Program to pay for that tax bill, provided he had a job ... and find a job he finally did." The rest was history as the court and corporate buyer agreed to a settlement that put the client back in his home. All this once "overwhelmed man" had wanted was to "be assured he'd still have a roof over his head in his old age ... and his super-appreciative" response when he realized it was going to happen for him ... "is something I'll always remember," Caroline concluded.

There's also the probate case she took on while pregnant. The CCLN client had just lost her husband to natural causes when her son mysteriously died while serving time in a Kentucky prison. "All this poor woman wanted," Caroline said, "was to get her son's belongings." That mission was accomplished just a couple weeks after Caroline gave birth to a son. So, how does a working mom with a young child in tow do it all? "You just make it a part of your life. You find the time. My heart is in *pro bono* and I want to be able to tell my son when he grows up how I really made a difference in this world as a lawyer."

Caroline firmly believes that *pro bono* work is more than worth it and advises her colleagues to look at it this way: "Service to others also has a more personal benefit to those who volunteer. Many lawyers have a job that feeds their bank accounts. Taking on *pro bono* representation through the Catholic Charities Legal Network, and working to create an equal legal balance, is a job that feeds the soul."





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

Jim has directed the Legal Network for 25 years. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in DC and a native Washingtonian. Jim has participated as a family mediator in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's Multi-Door 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 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 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. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania Bars.



Ashlyn M. Anderson-Keelin, Esq., Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow

Ashlyn joined Catholic Charities Legal Network as its second Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellow in 2016. Ashlyn is a May 2016 graduate of Notre Dame Law School. While in law school, Ashlyn was a summer intern with Catholic Charities Legal Network. Ashlyn earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Political Science, summa cum laude, from Georgetown College in Kentucky. She is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.



Blanca Z. Lopez, Bilingual Paralegal

Blanca has been with the Legal Network for 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.





Emily J.C. Maloney, Esq., Staff Attorney

Emily joined the Legal Network in May 2017 as a staff attorney. She comes to the Network after previously practicing special education law in DC, predominantly on behalf of low-income clients. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Emily spent nearly 10 years abroad before she attended law school, living in Belgium, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. She has an M.A. in Theological Studies from the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Scotland, and a J.D. from the Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a member of the District of Columbia and North Carolina Bars.





Sharon Taylor-Smith, Esq., Staff Attorney

Sharon has been with the Legal Network for 15 years. She received a bachelor's and master's degree (both cum laude) from Virginia State University. She is a graduate of George Mason University Law School and a member of the District of Columbia Bar.



Kelly E. Thompson, Esq., Staff 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.



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

# Fellows & Interns



#### Joseph Zaleski, Fellow

Joseph Zaleski was our Sidley Fellow and is currently an associate at Sidley Austin in Washington, D.C., after graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law. A fall 2017

prodigious volunteer for the Legal Network, Joseph was born and raised in South Florida, where his family still lives. Wanting to see a new part of the country (and some snow), he ventured north to attend Boston College, where he studied Political Science and Philosophy. Joseph is now happily living in the nation's capital with his wife Michelle and is a member of the California Bar.



#### Katey Ebaugh, Intern

Katey Ebaugh joined the Legal Network as a fall 2017 intern. She came to the Legal Network from her hometown of Lancaster, Pa., while a senior at Bluffton University, where she

earned a liberal arts degree in Sociology, with minors in Peace and Conflict Studies, Photography and Psychology. During 2013-14, Katey lived in Indonesia as a missionary and English teacher, which made her passionate to help those in need.



#### Paul Brunkhorst, Intern

Paul Brunkhorst began work as a summer legal intern with the Network in June 2017. Originally from Minneapolis, Paul attended college at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where

he graduated with a B.A. in English in 2016. Paul had a brief career as a swimmer on Saint Louis' swim team before giving up his athletic pursuits to join the university's student newspaper, where he worked as a staff writer and, ultimately, editor-in-chief. Prior to starting law school, Paul worked as a client relations intern at Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Minneapolis. He is a rising 3L at the Georgetown University Law Center.



#### Chris Snowden, Intern

Chris Snowden started as a summer legal intern with the Network in May 2017. A Jacksonville, Florida native, Chris spent his first two years of college at Daytona State College and

Florida State College before entering the St. John Vianney College Seminary in Florida, where he earned a B.A. in philosophy in 2014 before ultimately discerning out of the priesthood. Prior to joining the Legal Network for the summer, Chris worked as a legal assistant at a family law firm in Jacksonville. He is currently a rising 3L at the Catholic University Columbus School of Law. Last summer, Chris got married, and he and his wife recently became the parents to a beautiful daughter.



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Thank you to all for your support, without which none of this would be possible.

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Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi is the chaplain of the John Carroll Society and a founder of Catholic Charities Legal Network. The Endowment was established in Monsignor Vaghi's name to fund the Directorship of the Legal Network in perpetuity.

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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

# Events



Red Mass. On Sunday, October 1, the John Carroll Society held its annual Red Mass and brunch to usher in the Supreme Court's annual term. Legal Network volunteers were honored at the brunch, including David T. Ralston, Jr. (Individual), Richard Bonsignore (Individual), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP and Affiliates (Law Firm), and Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP (Law Firm).



Volunteer Recognition Reception. On Thursday, April 12, the Legal Network hosted its annual volunteer recognition reception to thank our many volunteers for their great efforts to assist those who seek our services. Specifically, we recognized the law firm of Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered with the Cardinal Hickey Award. We also recognized Courtney W. Carroccio, Esq., Caroline S. Pinkston, Esq., and John D. Renneisen, Esq., with the Milan C. Miskovsky Award. Many thanks to Kristine Dunne-Maher for chairing the reception committee, as well as to Hogan Lovells US LLP for generously donating the beautiful rooftop space to host the event!



**Golf Tournament**. On Monday, October 2, the Legal Network held the 14th annual golf tournament. The weather was beautiful, and participants enjoyed good food and a friendly round of golf at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Virginia.



Inaugural Tennis Night. On Friday, April 27, the Legal Network held the inaugural Round Robin Tennis Night at Congressional Country Club. Nearly 100 participants played doubles tennis while enjoying food, drink and a silent auction. The event was such a success that the Legal Network plans to host the second annual Round Robin Tennis Night in Spring 2019. Watch your email for the date!



**Georgetown University Law Center Student Reception.** On April 24, the Legal Network's Advisory Council met with Professor Frances DeLaurentis's first year Legal Research and Writing students to thank them for completing resource binders for the Legal Network.





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