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... Your lifeline to legal help

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2010
Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, Inc. (The Legal Project) believes that all people, regardless of income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services. This belief reflects a deep commitment to fairness and equal justice under the law.

Based upon these beliefs, the mission of The Legal Project is to make the law more accessible to those in need, to increase the legal community's involvement in *pro bono* work, and to serve as a resource on legal issues and *pro bono* work. Further, we feel a special responsibility to women and others who may have difficulty obtaining legal services.

Projects and Services

The Legal Project addresses the need for non-criminal legal assistance by providing innovative, cost effective services that are collaborative in nature and that focus on unmet needs in the community. In 2010, in addition to our five staff attorneys, over 200 *pro bono* attorneys served a total of 2,853 clients, an increase of over 28% from 2009.

Legal Representation:

- ◆ **The Domestic Violence Legal Connection** provides *pro bono* and reduced fee civil legal representation and free legal consultations both onsite and at domestic violence shelters. In 2010, 1,209 victims of domestic violence were served.
- ◆ **Military Families Project** provides specialized civil legal services to domestic violence victims who are associated with the military or are veterans. In 2010, 28 consultations were provided and 9 victims received representation.
- ◆ **Foreclosure Prevention Project** provides *pro bono* legal representation to homeowners who are facing foreclosure. In 2010, 23 consultations were provided and 35 homeowners received representation.
- ◆ **Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance (AHAA)** provides free and low cost legal representation to low income home purchasers. 52 individuals and families were served in 2010.
- ◆ **Wills Project** provides free assistance to low income persons suffering from HIV/AIDS and others in need of end of life legal assistance. 22 individuals were helped through this program in 2010.

- ◆ **Bankruptcy and Credit Program** provides free legal consultations and free and low cost legal representation to individuals and families struggling with debt. This program served 166 individuals in 2010.

Legal Advice and Information:

- ◆ **The Legal Clinic Program** provided free, private, and confidential consultations with experienced attorneys at local community agencies to 462 people in 2010.
- ◆ **Foreclosure Prevention Legal Clinic** provided free legal advice and information to 129 homeowners who are trying to avoid foreclosure
- ◆ **Uncontested Divorce Clinics** provide assistance with the preparation and filing of the necessary documents to low income individuals who are representing themselves in divorce matters. In 2010, 45 individuals were assisted through these clinics.
- ◆ **The Small Business Legal Network**, offering free legal consultations to low income, minority or women business owners, assisted 18 clients .
- ◆ **Legally Speaking Workshops** offer free, custom designed education programs to community groups and organizations about any legal topic. In 2010, 655 individuals participated in legal workshops. Thousands more were provided information through programs about The Legal Project on Schenectady Today Public Access Channel and WCNY Capital Pressroom.

Services to Professionals:

- ◆ **Attorney Training** of local attorneys, in exchange for *pro bono* work, increases the availability of legal assistance with domestic violence, affordable housing, wills and bankruptcy matters.
- ◆ **Military Families Project** provides technical assistance and training to attorneys and advocates, assisting them in working with victims connected with the military. 259 people received training in 2010.

Annual Financial Report 2010

Income:

Foundations & Corporations	11%
Government Grants	68%
Fundraising	21%

Expenses:

Personnel	72%
Program Direct Costs	17%
Administrative	9%
Fundraising	2%