

Lisa A. Frisch, Executive Director
2011 Board of Directors

Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq., President
Colleen Campoli, CPA, Vice President
Melissa M. Bezio, CPA, Treasurer
Cynthia Feathers, Esq., Secretary

Robin Christenson	Rebecca Kannan, Esq. CPA
Jennifer Corona, Esq.	Kathe Klare, Esq.
Heather Diddel, Esq.	David Levy, Esq.
Johanne M. Floser, CBA	Elizabeth A. Lott, Esq.
Katrina Fritz Intwala	Ronald Orlando, Esq.
Lisa Giruzzi	John Robinson
Meghan Johnston, MSW	Pershia M. Wilkins

Advisory Board

Susan Arbetter	Lydia Kulbida
John Balint, M.D.	James M. Marini
Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.	Patricia Martinelli, Esq.
Eleanor DeCoursey, Esq.	John K. Powers, Esq.
Jonathan D. Deily, Esq.	Stephen C. Prudente, Esq.
Jill Dunn, Esq.	Ralph Silipo
The Hon. John Dunne	Rosemary V. Rosen
Anne C. Furman	Freling Smith, Esq.
M. Sherry Gold	Eugene Spada, Esq.
Gail Hill Gordon, Esq.	Edward P. Swyer
Paul Harding, Esq.	Stephanie H. Wacholder
Michelle Haskin, Esq.	Richard H. Weiner, Esq.
Maryann Jablonowski	



... Your lifeline to legal help

Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, Inc.
1475 Western Avenue, STE 59 Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY 12203
(518) 435-1770 info@legalproject.org
www.legalproject.org

2011
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 2011, in addition to our five staff attorneys, over 200 *pro bono* attorneys we served a total of 3,462 clients, an increase of over 21% from last year.

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 2011, 1,251 victims of domestic violence were served.
- ◆ **Foreclosure Prevention Project** provides *pro bono* legal representation to homeowners who are facing foreclosure. In 2011, 24 consultations were provided and 11 homeowners received representation.
- ◆ **Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance (AHAA)** provides free and low cost legal representation to low income home purchasers. In 2011, 15 individuals and families were served.
- ◆ **Wills Project** provides legal representation to low income persons in need of end of life legal assistance. 8 individuals were helped through this program in 2011.
- ◆ **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 279 individuals in 2011.

- ◆ **The Pro Bono Appeals Project** is a collaboration of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Courts Appellate Jurisdiction, The Legal Project and the Rural Law Center of New York and provides *pro bono* legal representation to individuals in the state appellate courts. In 2011, 22 individuals were assisted through this program.

Legal Advice and Information:

- ◆ **The Legal Clinic Program** provided free, private, and confidential consultations with experienced attorneys at local community agencies to 543 people in 2011.
- ◆ **Foreclosure Prevention Legal Clinic** provided free legal advice and information to 81 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 2011, 69 individuals were assisted.
- ◆ **The Wills Clinic** provides assistance with the preparation and execution of wills, living wills, healthcare proxies, and power of attorney. In 2011, 45 individuals were assisted.
- ◆ **The Small Business Legal Network**, offering free legal consultations to low income, minority or women business owners, assisted 23 clients .
- ◆ **Legally Speaking Workshops** offer free, custom designed education programs to community groups and organizations about any legal topic. In 2011, 1091 individuals participated in legal workshops.

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.

Annual Financial Report 2011

Income:

Foundations & Corporations	16%
Government Grants	66%
Fundraising	18%

Expenses:

Personnel	77%
Program Direct Costs	10%
Administrative	11%