In Motion
A newsletter update from the LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED.
Making Legal Services Accessible to Low Income Persons with Physical Disabilities
WINTER/SPRING 2015 ISSUE

In This Issue:
News & Events................1
On The Horizon.............5
LCD News.....................5

About LCD:
The Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) provides free legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities and to the deaf and hard of hearing in the Philadelphia area.

We do this through our Medical-Legal Partnerships by placing attorneys in medical settings, Community Legal Outreach Clinics and general intake.

SAVE THE DATE
LCD’s Annual Benefit/Auction
11/19/15 6-9pm
PA Academy of Fine Arts
Steven Starr Catering
Cocktails
Music

NEWS & EVENTS

LCD’s Medical-Legal Partnership with Project Home – March 16th Grand Opening of Stephen Klein Wellness Center

LCD IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE our latest Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) located in north central Philadelphia at Project Home’s newly-built federally-qualified health center: the Steven Klein Wellness Center (SKWC). LCD started assisting clients in January 20, 2015 prior to this grand opening.

Training and educating the SKWC staff on our MLP model is underway and will be ongoing. Clients served are residents of this north Philadelphia neighborhood in addition to people experiencing chronic homelessness. SKWC’s primary medical providers are Jefferson Hospital family medicine practitioners, including three attending physicians and rotating residents. The center also provides brief intervention behavioral therapy, access to a food pantry, patient showers and discounted rates with an adjoining YMCA.

The production and design of this newsletter is generously donated by Duffy + Partners, who also underwrites the cost of an LCD staff attorney. Visit www.duffyfellowship.com to learn more.
LCD Panel Discussion at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) & the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA) Annual Assembly

ON FEBRUARY 27, 2015, staff attorney Tomas Bednar was a member of a panel discussion titled “Law & (getting things in) Order: How to Effectively Bring Lawyers into the Palliative Care Team” at the AAHPM and HPNA conference held at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The conference was attended by a wide range of providers from around the country including nurses, social workers and physicians. The purpose of this annual conference is to share any new developments in hospice and palliative care.

In addition to Tom, the other panel members were two cancer physicians and two lawyers representing a medical-legal partnership with the UNC law school, Legal Aid of North Carolina – Durham, and Duke University Hospital. Each member of the team spoke about their particular expertise with MLPs. Tom referred to his experience with LCD’s Hahnemann MLP as a starting point to discuss the “lessons learned” when launching an MLP. The panel was well received and sparked an engaged question and answer session. The team is already discussing the possibility of presenting again at next year’s assembly.

LCD and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children’s MLP - PhilaKids

PHILAKIDS’ MLP CONTINUES ONGOING TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF OUR MEDICAL PARTNERS

MLP attorney Theresa Brabson presented at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children’s noon advocacy lecture before the hospital’s residents, social workers and Drexel medical students. The topic covered was “Working With and Understanding the Medical-Legal Partnership Model and How to Advocate When Patients Present with Landlord-Tenant Problems.”

PLATFORM PRESENTATION AT THE 2015 PEDIATRIC ACADEMIC SOCIETIES ANNUAL MEETING

PhilaKids’ MLP was highlighted during a platform presentation at this year’s PAS Annual Meeting in San Diego from April 25-28. Pediatricians from across the country learned about how our MLP works collaboratively to address food insecurity with this patient population. The key component is training the medical staff to screen patients on this health-related issue and if the patient screens positive for food insecurity, then the on-site attorney provides direct legal services to address a public benefits problem.

Reed Smith Christmas Toy Drive for LCD Families

Each year Reed Smith employees hold an in-office silent auction to support LCD’s families during the holiday season. Reed Smith volunteers collect a wide selection of donated items to choose from and employees provide their financial support by purchasing tickets for the items they want. At the end of the day, a winning ticket is selected for each donated item. The proceeds of this auction enable Reed Smith to purchase holiday toys and gifts for the families served by LCD. Reed Smith has kept this gift-giving tradition going since 2002. LCD wants to thank the employees at Reed Smith for bringing holiday cheer to our families and we especially want to give a shout out to the committee members that made this possible.

HOW TO HELP

Volunteer:
Legal issues, events, or admin support.  
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/volunteers »

Donate:
Support us with a tax-deductible contribution.  
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/support-us »
Cozen Volunteers On-Site at Associated Services for the Blind

FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, LCD continues to assist Associated Services for the Blind (ASB) consumers. Thanks to our partnership with Cozen O’Connor law firm their associates staffed our April 16th on-site legal clinic providing ASB clients with executed planning documents. LCD wants to send a special shout out to Peter Rossi, Cozen partner and leader of this outstanding pro bono effort! Thank you to Evan Caplan, Sandra Hill, Jennifer McHugh and Eric Scherling for your commitment to pro bono representation. You make a real difference for our ASB clients.

Bowling and Happy Hour fundraiser for LCD

ON DECEMBER 10, 2014 the Goodfellows Network, a network of young professionals in the Philadelphia area, held a fundraiser and happy hour at North Bowl Lanes to benefit LCD. The GF Network raised more than $800 to benefit the legal services LCD provides in the disability community. We want to thank the following people for their support:

Jim Murphy
Patriot Financial Manager, LP

Matthew Faranda-Diedrich
Dilworth-Paxson LLP

Peter Rossi
Cozen O’Connor

Bowen Knarr
Stephen James Associates

Steve Stefanski
Cresa Philadelphia

Bo Birtwell
Wells Fargo Insurance Services

Alex Opiela
Royal Bank

Chuck Peterson
Peterson Insurance Services

Luke Foley
The Graham Company

Justin O’Malley
JP Morgan

Dan Zajac
Simone-Zajac Wealth

Sherwood Robbins
South Eastern Economic Development Company of PA

Team LCD runs Broad Street!

NEARLY 50 RUNNERS, including staff, board members and sponsors participated in the 2015 Broad Street Run as part of Team LCD. Together, runners raised close to $15,000 to support LCD’s mission. Thank you to all of our supporters.

We look forward to running again next year!

One Man One Dog Walk 2015

PETER ROSSI, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, and his dog, Charles, did it again! Easter Morning they hit the trail on Forbidden Drive for the third annual “One Man One Dog” 6 mile sponsored walk, raising $6,000 to support LCD’s programs.

Thank you Peter and Charles for all that you do for LCD!!

HOW TO HELP

Volunteer:
Legal issues, events, or admin support.
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/volunteers »

Donate:
Support us with a tax-deductible contribution.
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/support-us »
LCD Presents at National Medical-Legal Partnership Summit

**STAFF ATTORNEYS** Tomas Bednar and Elizabeth Oquendo spoke at the National Medical-Legal Partnership Summit held April 8-10 in McLean, Virginia. Tom, who directs our Hahnemann University Hospital MLP, presented “Assessment of Legal Needs of Cancer Patients along Economic and Geographic Factors,” a geographic analysis of the legal needs of 94 patients treated at Hahnemann’s MLP. Patients were divided by zip codes and income levels based on the national average. The analysis showed that the legal needs of the overall population did not distribute evenly among the income-based sub-groups. Elizabeth, who directs the PhilaKids MLP at Saint Christopher’s Hospital, presented “Using a Medical-Legal Partnership to Address Food Insecurity in an Urban Pediatric Population,” on the innovative and effective food insecurity work PhilaKids MLP successfully implements on behalf of North Philadelphia families. The work involves training medical staff to screen for food insecurity within the family and, if needed, having the on-site MLP attorney address the issue.

**Blank Rome volunteers at Inglis House**

**THANKS TO OUR LEGAL PARTNER,** Blank Rome for staffing our May 20th Inglis House planning documents clinic. These Blank Rome volunteers provided an important on-site service for clients with severe disabilities who otherwise would have great difficulty traveling to an attorney’s office. These Inglis House residents obtained legal services that delivered piece of mind. LCD appreciates and values Blank Rome’s leadership in the effort to increase pro bono services in the Philadelphia area.

**LCD Presents at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children’s Research Day**

**ON MAY 29, 2015,** Theresa Brabson and Elizabeth Oquendo participated in St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children’s annual Research Day. This event brings together all original research being done at the hospital and showcases it for faculty and staff to learn from. The MLP was invited to present its poster on the original Food Insecurity work being done at the Center for the Urban Child.

**HOW TO HELP**

**Volunteer:**
Legal issues, events, or admin support.

**Donate:**
Support us with a tax-deductible contribution.
LCD Selected for Azeva 2015 Summer of Maps Program

A ZEVA SPECIALIZES IN CIVIC-MINDED GIS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS. Each year Azeva offers summer stipends to student GIS analysts to perform geospatial data analysis for non-profit organizations. LCD is excited to be selected from among other organizations nationally. LCD aims to create visualizations of the correlations between health status, income status, legal needs and geography of low-income individuals in the Philadelphia region. By combining the substantial quantity of de-identified client data from its five innovative Medical-Legal Partnerships with publicly-available data sets on income, employment, household status and other demographic measures, LCD seeks to offer a unique perspective on the role that socio-economic factors have on the well-being of low-income individuals. Given the interdisciplinary nature of LCD’s work, the analysis will draw upon and help inform elements of public health, legal advocacy, public policy as well as geographic information systems.

LCD NEWS

Realm Jewelry Fundraising Event

LCD WANTS TO THANK LCD Board member Kate Woods and Realm Jewelry for hosting a fundraising event on April 6, 2015 at the Realm Design Studio. The evening allowed invited guests to enjoy a glass of excellent wine, hors d’oeuvres and an opportunity to purchase a piece of Realm’s beautiful jewelry, with a portion of the proceeds going to support LCD’s programs. Co-designers Ann King Lagos and Toni Renee Leslie, the visionaries for this Philadelphia-based fine jewelry company, can be visited at explorereal.com.

Our People

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE two new faces joining LCD. BEN FELDMAN has come on board as a staff attorney. Ben graduated from Tulane Law School in 2011. Before enrolling in law school, Ben was a New York City teaching fellow and attained a master’s degree in special education. For the past three years, Ben was in private practice as a commercial litigator. On weekends Ben may be found attending a concert, enjoying a bike ride out to Valley Forge or walking his French Bulldog, Winston, on the Schuylkill banks.

KEVIN BOYLE, a rising 3L at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, has joined LCD as a summer intern. Kevin received a Master’s Degree in Health Science from John Hopkins University and studies law to learn more how law and health intersect. When he isn’t studying to become a lawyer or working at LCD, Kevin enjoys spending time outdoors and exploring Philadelphia’s eateries, especially ones involved in the craft beer revolution.

LCD STAFF ATTORNEYS BRANDON KUYKENDALL, EILEEN CARROLL, BEN BECK-COON, are moving onto new opportunities. Brandon has worked at LCD for nine years, Eileen for eight and Ben for six. Brandon is heading to Seattle with his wife, Eileen moved to Cleveland to be closer to family and Ben has changed his career path to become the new center director at Abbotsford Falls Family Practice and Counseling (FPCN). FPCN has three nurse-managed health centers and Ben manages the non-medical side of this Germantown site. LCD thanks them for all their good work and wishes them the best.

JOHN R. JOHNSON completed his Conwell Fellowship through Temple University’s Beasley School of Law which started at the beginning of March and end June 5th. As a new attorney he received hands-on legal experience during his time with LCD. John has a strong commitment to continue his professional career in the public interest arena. LCD thanks him for his hard work and wishes him success in his future endeavors.

HOW TO HELP

Volunteer:
Legal issues, events, or admin support.
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/volunteers »

Donate:
Support us with a tax-deductible contribution.
www.lcdphila.org/index.php/support-us »