



# LAW SERVICES NEWS

## WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER OF NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Victoria A. Osk, Esq.*



Nassau Suffolk Law Services has proudly provided free legal services to the community for over five decades. With the help of our supporters and staff, we have braved the public health crisis and continue to collaborate with our clients to find a new normal during these unprecedented times.

During this era of universal hardship, our clients' needs developed over time. For instance, during the pandemic, court access was minimized to curtail transmission of the virus. As a result, the policies in Nassau and Suffolk County courts shifted daily, which kept staff, clients, and advocates unsure how to proceed. Thankfully, with the help of the courts and other community stakeholders, Law Services' prioritization of aiding those in need prevailed through improvisation, informal advocacy, and administrative hearings. Law Services is proud of our deep commitment to ensuring all clients have their basic needs met throughout this period of uncertainty.

In continuing our mission to provide a holistic approach to civil legal services for our clients, we are excited to share great developments that are underway furthering our deep commitment to housing preservation. New York State is embarking on a new chapter to provide protections for those struggling to maintain safe, stable, and affordable housing outside of New York City. As the state continues to make historic investments in this area, Law Services staff is growing and working tirelessly to aid our neighbors in need. We have hired about fifteen more staff attorneys to assist with housing law matters, and we continue to hire more to keep up with the increasing demand. We plan to have Law Services staff members physically present in both Nassau and Suffolk County courts daily, assisting with housing matters.

In addition to developing our housing preservation practice, we also will be prioritizing aid for individuals with disabilities and individuals struggling with consumer debt in our community, including student and educational debt issues. It is through the help of our staff, advocates, and supportive community members that we can continue to make a difference by doing what is legally possible to create a just world.

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### Contributors:

Sharon Campo, Esq.  
*Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Projects*

Catherine Lucidi  
*Director of Community Relations*

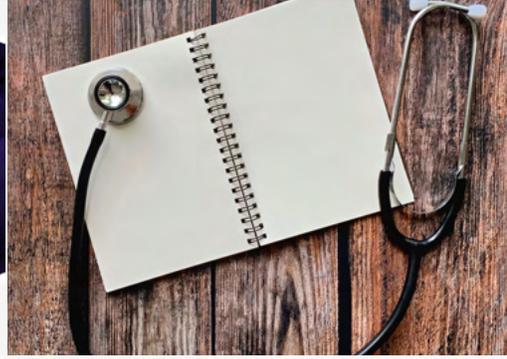
Hannah Fitzpatrick  
*Community Relations Paralegal*

Sydney Maiman  
*External Affairs Paralegal*

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NOW FOR OUR 2023 COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION!**

SEE PAGE 18





## ICAN UNIT SUCCESS STORIES

**Client Receives Additional Care Hours:** An elderly client required assistance with getting additional hours of home care. Her insurance plan had denied a requested increase from 12 hours of care per day to 24-hour around-the-clock care. The client's daughter reached out to the ICAN Unit in the early stages of the appeals process for assistance in challenging the denial.

The client, who is in her 80s, has diagnoses including dementia and incontinence. She is homebound and bedbound and requires assistance with frequent diaper changes during the day and night, as well as help with repositioning in her bed. The requested increase in home care hours would help the client avoid dangerous complications such as skin breakdown and infections. ICAN Staff Attorney Amanda Davis assisted the client's daughter with gathering and reviewing relevant medical documentation and answering questions she had at the various steps of the appeals process. With Attorney Davis' help, the daughter submitted an external appeal to an independent physician reviewer who determined that the insurance plan's denial of the requested overnight care was incorrect and found in favor of the client. This decision meant that the client received the medically necessary additional care hours which allowed her to remain safely in her home and community. Great work, Amanda!

**Elderly Man Receives Necessary 24-Hour Care:** An elderly man in his 90s was receiving 7 hours per day of home care hours but due to his medical condition and multiple needs, he needed 24-hour live-in care. After his insurance plan denied the request for additional hours, his daughter reached out on his behalf. This client has a serious cardiac diagnosis (aortic stenosis), limited range of motion due to rotator cuff failure, and episodes of confusion. He requires assistance with frequent toileting throughout the day and night, weight-bearing assistance in order to ambulate, and prompting to complete his activities of daily living. The additional hours would help the client avoid dangerous complications such as skin breakdown, infection or falls.

ICAN Staff Attorney Kimberly Bolk reviewed relevant medical documentation and drafted and submitted an external appeal on the client's behalf to an independent physician reviewer. The reviewer determined that the plan's denial of the requested 24-hour live-in care was improper and found in favor of the client. With 24-hour care, the client was able to remain as independent as possible while living safely in his own home. After receiving the favorable decision, his daughter told Kimberly, "I could not have done it without you!"

### Advocacy Tip!

If you are ever unhappy with your Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) caregiver and would like to hire a new one, contact your CDPAP representative and they can terminate the care-giver for you.



**Amanda Davis, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney  
ICAN Unit



**Kimberly Bolk, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney  
ICAN Unit

### More about ICAN...

The Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) is a program of the Community Service Society of New York, a non-profit organization in New York City, and is funded by the State of New York. Nassau Suffolk Law Services receives funding through the Community Service Society of New York to participate in ICAN. The ICAN unit assists consumers in both Nassau and Suffolk counties with: NYS Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC); Health and Recovery Plan (HARP) program; Long-Term Support Services (LTSS) in Mainstream Managed Care (MMC) programs; Transitioning into MLTC plan; FIDA-IDD Plans. ICAN provides: education to stakeholder groups; information and advice to participants, caregivers, and their advocates; navigational assistance; and advocacy when needed. Nassau and Suffolk residents can contact ICAN at 631-822-3290.



## SENIOR CITIZEN LAW PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

**SCLP Assists Elderly Nassau County Resident to Preserve his Social Security Retirement Benefits:** In a recent case, the SCLP assisted a Nassau County senior whose retirement benefit payments were incorrectly terminated by the Social Security Administration.

This senior entered the United States on May 2, 1980, as a Cuban refugee, and has legally remained in the United States ever since his arrival. He began receiving retirement benefits in early 2016. The Social Security Administration stopped his retirement benefits because it wrongly claimed that our client had not updated proof of his lawful presence in the United States after March 2018. Although our client asked the Social Security Administration to reconsider its termination, that agency denied our client's reconsideration request and our client was forced to file a written request for a Hearing by an Administrative Law Judge. SCLP Staff Attorney, Daniel Okrent, represented the senior at a February 2021 administrative hearing.

At the hearing, Attorney Okrent submitted evidence of: 1) the senior's status as a Cuban refugee; and 2) the decision of an Immigration Judge from March 2020 confirming that the client is a "qualified alien" within the meaning of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980. In addition, the client testified that the Social Security Administration's suspension of his retirement benefits was unjustified and due only to the inadvertent expiration of a work permit, which the claimant had timely renewed, but which the government delayed in processing. The claimant also testified that he had been legally and continuously present in the United States since May 1980, without ever leaving the United States at any time. The Administrative Hearing Officer determined in June 2022 that our client has been lawfully and continuously present in the United States since May 2, 1980. As such, the decision rendering the suspension of his retirement benefits was "simply improper and incorrect". Congratulations on a great victory, Dan!

**SCLP Helps Nassau County Senior to Avoid a Money Judgment in Eviction Action and to Establish Eligibility for Social Security Retirement Benefits:** A Nassau County senior contacted the SCLP with serious housing and financial problems. This senior had limited income, consisting of a small pension. She was also receiving a modest inheritance, which she was using to pay her monthly rent. However, once the inheritance had been exhausted, she could no longer afford to pay her rent. When her landlord brought an eviction case against her, her rental arrears totaled \$30,000.

SCLP Staff Attorney, John Ferro, represented her in Nassau County District Court and negotiated a very favorable settlement that: 1) provided her with 75 days to vacate her apartment; and 2) waived all of the unpaid rent. Additionally, Mr. Ferro assisted the senior in obtaining proof of citizenship. This documentation was sent to the Social Security Administration, allowing the successful processing of her application for Social Security Retirement benefits. As a result, her income was substantially increased and her quality of life was vastly improved. Wonderful work, John!

### New Brochures Available!

Scan the QR codes below to check out our new Senior Citizen Law Project Brochures!

English Brochure:



Spanish Brochure:



**Daniel Okrent, Esq.**

Staff Attorney  
Senior Citizen Law Project



**John Ferro, Esq.**

Staff Attorney  
Senior Citizen Law Project

### More about Senior Citizen Law Project...

The Senior Citizen Law Project provides legal representation, advice and referrals to Nassau County seniors in matters involving housing, health care and social security. The Project also assists with wills, power of attorney and health care proxy forms, pooled trusts, Medicaid planning, consumer debt and utility shut-offs. With specific funding from the Nassau County Office for the Aging, the Project assists Nassau County seniors age 60 and older who have a legal issue which meets our priority guidelines. In addition to the "Helpline" and legal representation, the Project collaborates with Senior Citizen social agencies, provides training, and participates in community information events that target seniors. Nassau County residents can call 516-292-8100.



## EDUCATION DISABILITY RIGHTS PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

**IEP Obtained for Child in Need:** The Education Disability Rights Project (EDRP) was contacted by the parent ("Parent") of a 13-year-old student ("Student") with a complicated medical history of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Tourette Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Developmental Coordination Disorder, Other Disturbance of Speech and Sensory Integration Disorder. The School District denied Student a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for two consecutive school years and Student had been at home, having received no educational services for almost two years, because the district did not have an appropriate program for him.

Parent unsuccessfully sought the assistance of an educational advocate to negotiate with the district, so she retained NSLS. Upon review of the file, EDRP Staff Attorney Tracey Discepolo discovered that Student had not attended a full year of school since Kindergarten. The school district disenrolled Student and his older sister from school, due to alleged non-residence in the school district. The school district also reported Parent to Child Protective Services (CPS) for Educational Neglect because the children were not enrolled in or attending school. CPS threatened to take custody of the children away from Parent. Attorney Discepolo filed a Due Process Complaint (DPC), thereby commencing an administrative proceeding against the district. The DPC demonstrated that Parent was serious about educating her son and enabled Parent to obtain an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal from family court on the CPS matter.

Attorney Discepolo ultimately negotiated a settlement with the school district and withdrew the DPC. Student received all new educational evaluations for a cost in excess of \$7,000 and a unique private special education school program for the next school year, at a cost in excess of \$133,000.

Attorney Discepolo helped Parent re-enroll both children in the school district. She also helped Student to obtain an updated Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which included an interim transition plan to ease Student back into the classroom after being out of school for so long. Through the efforts of the EDRP, not only was the loss of custody prevented, but this student with a disability now has access to an appropriate special education program and a chance at finally receiving an education that is tailored to meet his unique needs.

### EDRP is available for presentations!

For more information, Nassau residents can contact (516) 292-8100 and Suffolk residents can contact (631) 232-2400.

### New Fact Sheets Available!

Check out our website to download our new EDRP Fact Sheets: "*Beyond COVID-19 School Closures*"



Tracey Discepolo, Esq.

Staff Attorney  
Education and Disability Rights Project

### More about Education and Disability Rights Project...

The Education and Disability Rights Project (EDRP) represents students with disabilities between the ages of 5-21 in Special Education matters, including attendance at Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings, Resolution Sessions and Impartial Hearings. In addition, the EDRP assists students in issues pertaining to residency and homelessness and helps adults with developmental disabilities to secure eligibility and services through the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Nassau residents can contact (516) 292-8100 and Suffolk residents can contact (631) 232-2400.



## SUFFOLK CIVIL UNIT SUCCESS STORIES

In 2013, the client and his now-deceased wife entered into a Rent-to-Own contract with a mobile home park owner. After making 120 payments for the land and the rental, he had the option to buy the mobile home for \$16,000. Unfortunately, the client stopped paying his rent in July 2020 and did not rectify the “damages” claimed by the park owner. In the Spring of 2021, the client was facing a combined nonpayment and nuisance proceeding. Civil Unit Staff Attorney, Hannah Abrams, agreed to assist. At this point in time, the client indicated that he was packing and cleaning up, hoping thereby to resolve any claim for damages. He was advised to fill out and submit the Hardship Declaration to the court and the landlord.\* He did so and the court gave a new court date.

Because of the significant 2019 revamp in the manufactured home law, the park owner was required to refund all Rent-to-Own payments. Attorney Abrams answered the petition and filed a counterclaim for approximately \$52,000 (the amount paid by our client for the home rental). The park owner opposed the counterclaim by stating that the rent-to-own portion was significantly less than claimed because the rent in such a contract is comprised of 3 elements: lot rent, premises rent, and rent-to-own payments. Since the contract predates the change, there were only two elements in the monthly payments made – lot rent and home rental. Multiple attempts were made to settle. After numerous adjournments by the petitioner, Attorney Abrams prepared for trial. At the court’s encouragement and at the beginning of the trial, the parties came to a settlement. The client would move out, consent to a judgment of possession and warrant of eviction, the landlord would waive all rental arrears, and refund some of the rent-to-own payments to our client. Attorney Abrams asked for \$12,000 and the park owner offered \$4,000. The parties agreed to let the judge decide some number in between.

After receiving the decision, Attorney Abrams was shocked to discover that the court had rendered judgment for the landlord in the sum of \$8,660.58. Attorney Abrams filed a motion to renew and reargue the case, stating that the court misunderstood the agreement and further, made an error in law, not taking into account the rent-to-own portion of the arrears claimed by the landlord. Once again, Attorney Abrams prepared for trial.

Just before entering the courtroom, the Petitioner presented Attorney Abrams with his unfiled opposition. It confirmed her argument of the judge’s misunderstanding and included the original sealed judgment to be returned to the court.

As Attorney Abrams and the client were called for notice of appearance, the court requested a side discussion. The judge apologized, stating that the judgment was a clerical error and that her decision was in favor of the client for that sum of money: \$8660.58. The judge then made the order on the record. Great work, Hannah!

*\*During the eviction moratorium (ended 1/15/22), New York Courts developed a hardship declaration that tenants could complete and submit to their landlord if they were affected financially by the pandemic and at risk for eviction*

### Advocacy Tip!

Sometimes, landlords will try to make a tenant move by doing things that are illegal, such as: throw furniture and belongings in the street; remove the door; padlock the doors; change the locks; turn off the heat or electricity; turn off the water; keep your belongings; or threaten to use, or actually use violence. This is called an **illegal eviction**. If the landlord tries to illegally evict you, you must immediately call or go to the police. We urge tenants who suspect that their landlord will act illegally to keep with them at all times copies of rent receipts and a copy of their lease, the real estate agent’s agreement, or the landlord’s statement from the welfare department. Naturally, the tenant should also call Law Services if they live on Long Island and arrange for emergency housing and storage through the Department of Social Services. In the case of a utility shut-off by the landlord, the tenant can also call the Nassau or Suffolk County Department of Health or their local town building department and ask them to intervene.



**Hannah Abrams, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney  
Suffolk County Civil Unit

### More about the Suffolk Civil Unit...

The Suffolk Civil Unit provides legal assistance to low-income persons with housing issues, including eviction proceedings, Section 8 termination hearings, and appellate work with respect thereto. The unit also brings affirmative litigation with respect to violations of state or federal law on a limited basis. The Islandia office represents clients residing in the towns of Babylon, Smithtown, Brookhaven, Islip, and Huntington. The Riverhead office represents clients residing in Riverhead and all the East End towns. Suffolk Residents can call (631) 232-2400.



## SOCIAL SECURITY CASE SUCCESSES

**Disability Case Remanded for Further Proceedings:** Throughout Nassau Suffolk Law Services there are several units that handle Social Security Disability law cases for clients seeking to obtain both SSI and SSDI benefits. When necessary, a number of NSLS attorneys have taken those cases to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) through the filing of a civil lawsuit on behalf of a client.

While attorneys within our offices have taken part in federal litigation throughout the years, recently Allie Noonan, Staff Attorney in the Mental Health Law Project was facing a first-- one of the cases she filed in the EDNY on behalf of her client was ordered to oral argument. The client's case was originally denied at the hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and the Appeals Council (AC) declined to review the denial in early 2021. As such, NSLS brought filed a civil lawsuit in federal court. Civil lawsuits such as this are brought in federal court to appeal the denial before the ALJ.

With just days to prepare for oral argument surrounding the Thanksgiving holiday, Allie reached out to NSLS attorneys from the Disability Advocacy Project (DAP), Mental Health Law Project (MHL), and the HIV/AIDS Project for assistance. MHL Supervisor Paola Arango, DAP Supervisor Sarah Kupferberg, and Deputy Executive Director Rezwanul Islam provided further guidance and assistance. In addition, the support from DAP Statewide Advocates Ann Biddle, Emilia Sicilia, and Jenna Karr was quick as they agreed to step in and assist Allie with moot arguments virtually, even with the limited time to prepare due to the holiday.

Oral argument was eventually delayed, allowing Allie to further prepare virtually with mock argument panels comprised of NSLS attorneys from across all NSLS offices and statewide DAP support at least twice weekly prior to oral argument. Paola Arango from NSLS and Ann Biddle from DAP statewide support provided guidance in stylistically developing cohesive arguments into the conversational tone necessitated in oral argument.

When the day of oral argument arrived, ultimately all the preparations clicked into place and Allie was able to advocate for her client, highlighting the physical and mental health impairments her client dealt with and the challenges they faced obtaining treatment throughout the beginning of their disability application process due to homelessness and economic factors.

Following oral arguments, Judge Brian Cogan ordered the case remanded for further proceedings and development, directing the ALJ to refer the claimant for consultative examination and radiological studies of her physical health impairments. The court agreed there was more development of this claimant's case needed. As victors, NSLS was able to receive attorney's fees due to the Equal Access to Justice Act – which provides payments of legal fees and other expenses to parties who prevail in civil actions against the United States. Congratulations, Allie, and many thanks to all who assisted her!

### LSCA Training Alert!

Did you miss our "Basics of SSI/SSDI Cessation and Overpayment" Legal Support Center for Advocates' training held virtually in December 2022? Nassau Suffolk Law Services Supervising Attorney John Batanchiev presented an overview of what happens when the Social Security Administration determines that a client does not qualify for SSDI or SSI resulting in an overpayment to the government. Attorney Batanchiev discussed basic information about the SSDI and SSI programs, the income and resource limits for each program, what a cessation and overpayment issue is and the ways to resolve it for a client. You can access the training and more Social Security related resources on our website

[www.nslawservices.org/resources-self-help/social-security/](http://www.nslawservices.org/resources-self-help/social-security/)



**Alison Noonan, Esq.**

Staff Attorney  
Mental Health Law Project

Nassau Suffolk Law Services has many units that advocate for clients to receive disability benefits including: the Disability Advocacy Project, Veterans Law Project, and Mental Health Law Project. If you or a client are looking for assistance to receive disability, please call our offices to determine eligibility. Suffolk: (631) 232-2400 Nassau: (516) 292-8100



## THE COMMUNITY LEGAL HELP PROJECT IS BACK OPEN

To Settle or Not to Settle? The \$200,000 Question: CLHP received a call from a client asking for advice regarding child support and custody arrangements in the event that she filed for a divorce. The client had been considering divorce for some time and wanted to know how she might proceed. She sat down with one of CLHP's volunteer attorneys for a free consultation where she was informed of her rights and received much-appreciated advice. Two months later, this client called CLHP again. Using the information she learned at her last consultation, she went to her husband and declared that she wanted to separate. In response, her husband presented her with an offer: \$200,000 to be paid to her in installments in exchange for separating without going through a divorce. The client was unsure of what to do in response to his offer. She told CLHP that she was considering taking the offer, as this was a lot of money and it would save her the trouble of a divorce proceeding. Before she accepted the offer, the client wanted to meet with a CLHP attorney again to find out what she may be entitled to if she filed for divorce instead. CLHP booked her for another consultation as soon as possible with the same attorney she spoke with previously. The attorney was able to advise the client that signing the agreement might severely limit her rights, especially to collect on that promised \$200,000 figure should her husband file for bankruptcy. Ultimately, the client was advised to not settle and seek a divorce lawyer instead of signing any settlement. As she was able to meet with an attorney and talk about her case, the client was able to avoid hastily signing a tempting settlement offer that may have hindered her financial stability in the long run.

CLHP Spoke With a Client Facing Eviction in a Dispute Over Rental Arrears. The client had been told by his landlord that he needed to move out less than a week from the time he called CLHP. Initially, the client agreed to move, as he had alternate housing arrangements set up for himself. However, those arrangements had recently fallen through, and the client had no place to go should he move out. The client was convinced that he had to move out no matter what since he orally agreed to do so just a couple of months prior. CLHP asked him some further questions, and it was revealed that the landlord had not even started an eviction proceeding. Time was of the essence. After conducting research and consulting with Nassau Suffolk Law Services (NSLS) Civil Unit Staff Attorneys, CLHP concluded that this client was not obligated to move out until a court proceeding issued a warrant of eviction. CLHP called the client to let him know the good news and gave him appropriate referrals, including to the NSLS Civil Unit. The client was extremely grateful to know that he had had more time before he was forced to move and said that he will most likely be able to find himself another place to live in just a few months.

### VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED

to assist the CLHP especially in the areas of **family, matrimonial and immigration.**

PLEASE CONTACT [SCAMPO@NSLS.LEGAL](mailto:SCAMPO@NSLS.LEGAL) TO LEARN MORE



*Pictured: Bethann Wolfe (Touro Law Student Volunteer), Petronila Harrington (CLHP Paralegal), Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq. (CLHP Attorney Coordinator)*

### More about Community Legal Help Project...

The Community Legal Help Project (CLHP) provides free limited legal assistance on a variety of topics at public libraries in Suffolk County. Attorneys participating in the program provide legal information and advice and may be able to help with basic court forms, but they cannot represent you. The Community Legal Help Project can also provide referrals for more complete assistance, legal information over the phone, or help you access self-help resources. Call 631-822-3272 to speak with us or to schedule an appointment to meet us at the library.



## DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM?



**CALL (631) 822-3272 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR TO  
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT  
WITH AN ATTORNEY.**

### Services provided by:

Empire Justice Center  
Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County  
Nassau Suffolk Law Services  
Suffolk County Bar Association  
Touro Law Center

### WE OFFER FREE LIMITED LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO SUFFOLK COUNTY RESIDENTS\* ON TOPICS INCLUDING:

- CHILD SUPPORT
- CUSTODY
- DIVORCE
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- SCHOOL DISCIPLINE
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- FORECLOSURE
- BANKRUPTCY
- CONSUMER
- DEBT COLLECTION
- HOUSING
- IMMIGRATION
- PUBLIC BENEFITS
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- CRIMINAL RECORDS
- AND MORE

**\*SUFFOLK COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**

### Middle Country Public Library at Centereach

101 Eastwood Blvd,  
Centereach, NY 11720

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursdays of the month 3-6pm  
Appointments preferred;  
walk-ins welcome

### Brentwood Public Library

34 Second Ave,  
Brentwood, NY 11717

Tuesdays 2-5pm  
Appointments preferred;  
walk-ins welcome



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

*we need you*

**Volunteer Attorneys Needed** to assist with access to justice by:

providing full representation or pro se assistance  
for Nassau and Suffolk low-income residents.

**The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)**

in *Nassau County* has a greatest demand for pro bono assistance in the areas of Chapter 7 bankruptcy, divorce, Article 17a Guardianships, healthcare proxies, landlord/tenant (attorney-of-the-day), name changes, Power of Attorney, and wills.

**The Pro Bono Project**

in *Suffolk County* needs volunteer attorneys in the areas of divorce including cases involving domestic violence, 17a Guardianships (Pro Se), and name change petitions.

\*Training is provided\*

**The Community Legal Help Project**

in *Suffolk County* (Centereach and Brentwood) need volunteer attorneys to assist in the areas of family, matrimonial and immigration.

**CONTACT SHARON CAMPO AT SCAMPO@NSLS.LEGAL OR  
(631) 232-2400 EXT. 3368 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## WE HEAR FROM OUR CLIENTS YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

“In a fast-moving and complex society such as our own, it can be difficult for an individual with a disability to make sense of its myriad of financial and commercial processes. It is gratifying to know that there are firms like NSLS that recognize this and go the extra mile in protecting the interests of vulnerable persons. On a personal level, I greatly appreciated your approach to my client’s situation and that you were able to work so well with him, both professionally and empathetically. It’s not always that both qualities go together, but you were able to keep the tone of our meetings on a consistently positive note. Even with the presence of acknowledged difficulties, we remained optimistic about a favorable outcome. I like to think that The Corporate Source and NSLS are aligned in their philosophy and their day-to-day engagement in the community. There is a dedication towards fostering the independence of individuals with disabilities, along with the conditions for an enriched and satisfying life. You have demonstrated that NSLS is an excellent resource for those individuals, particularly when life has its unexpected challenges.”

*Jeremy Burwell (Manager of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, The Corporate Source) in a letter to Consumer Debt Unit Staff Attorney Helen Wrobel*

“It is because of you and your organization that I am able to have peace with the thought of my wishes and legal transactions done well. Keep up the great work. I sincerely want to say thank you for all your efforts and the completion of a job well done...”

*Former client of the Senior Citizen Law Project*

“Amanda is a very special person. She was very patient with me and never seemed bothered by my attention to detail. She walked me through the process and always promptly answered my calls or emails. Everything she did on my behalf was done with professionalism. That instilled a sense of calm and hope that all my efforts would have a positive result.”

*Former client of Amanda Davis, Esq. (ICAN Unit)*

“I just wanted to tell you I appreciate this email very much. It is so handy to have a list of important deadlines. There are so many programs to know as an advocate and you made it so much easier. I get information from so many people about all the programs available but none as good as this.”

*Advocate who receives Legal Lessons Advocacy Tips through our monthly emails.*



## STAY IN TOUCH WITH LAW SERVICES



Visit our website:  
[www.nslawservices.org](http://www.nslawservices.org)

Sign up for our online mailing list for more resources including our Law Services' Newsletter and monthly Legal Lessons:  
<https://tinyurl.com/NSLSLegalLessons>



Follow us on social media:



*"Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World Since 1966."*

## **2023 COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION**

*Spring Into Action For Justice*

## **DONATIONS FOR RAFFLES NEEDED**

*Promote your  
business*



*Support  
Long Islanders  
in need*

**Do you own a business on Long Island that you'd like to promote?**

**Why not consider donating a raffle basket with a gift card and/or items from your business. Over the years, basket raffles have become such an exciting part of our Gala. Also, please consider purchasing a virtual journal ad. See page 23 for more information. Promote your business, support equal justice under the law and allow for one happy winner!!!**

**IT'S ALL GOOD**

**Contact Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations at  
631 232-2400 or [clucidi@nsls.legal](mailto:clucidi@nsls.legal) for more info.**

# LAW SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY



**Comsewogue Community Resource Fair on March 23rd, 2022**

*NLSL Staff member Eric von Czerniewicz attended the Comsewogue Community Resource Fair in early 2022, providing resources to community members on behalf of the Community Legal Help Project.*



**Back to School Stay in School Rally hosted by the Islip Town Branch NAACP on August 20, 2022**

*NLSL Staff members seated left to right Nancy Green, Marissa Luchs Kindler, Esq., Gisselle Vera Guillen; standing Legislator Samuel Gonzalez and Sheila Johnson. Our staff was proud to attend the Islip Town Branch NAACP's Back to School event. Hundreds of students and families were in attendance and provided with resources, including backpacks and school supplies, to set them up for success in the new school year.*



**Smart Growth Awards hosted by Vision Long Island, held on June 10th, 2022**

*NLSL Staff proudly attended the Smart Growth Awards, hosted by Vision Long Island. Pictured staff: Rezwanul Islam, Esq. (Deputy Executive Director), Sheila Johnson (Director of Government Affairs), Sharon Campo, Esq. (Supervising Attorney for Volunteers and Community Projects), and Cathy Lucidi (Director of Community Relations).*



**Senator John E. Brooks' Golden Gathering Senior Resource Fair in Amityville, Suffolk County on October 3rd, 2022**

*NLSL Staff members Farzana Urme (Disability and Health-Related Units), Erika Verrill, Esq. (Adult Care Facilities), Jacob Buckheit (Veterans Project), Kimberly Bolk, Esq. (ICAN) representing NLSL at Senator John E. Brooks' Golden Gathering Resource Fair alongside John E. Brooks.*



**Senior Fair at North Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington on July 25th, 2022**

*Seniors Unit Staff Attorneys Dan Okrent, Esq. and John Ferro, Esq. with Town of North Hempstead Supervisor, Jennifer DeSena.*



**Golden Gathering Senior Resource Fair in Freeport, Nassau County on October 6th, 2022**

*NLSL Staff members Paula Velasquez (Consumer Debt Unit), Erika Verrill, Esq. (Adult Care Facilities), Kim Bolk, Esq. (ICAN), and John Ferro, Esq. (Seniors).*

# LAW SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY



## New York State Bar Association's Legal Services Partnership Conference on October 19-20, 2022

Nassau Suffolk Law Services staff members attended the New York State Bar Association's Partnership Conference at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, New York with numerous Legal Services providers from around the state.



Pictured: **Jennifer Caracci** (Landlord/Tenant Unit), **Hannah Fitzpatrick** (Legal Support Center for Advocates), **Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq.** (Community Legal Help Project), **Sharon Campo, Esq.** (Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Projects), **Cathy Lucidi** (Director of Community Relations), **John Batanchiev, Esq.** (Supervising Attorney)



Pictured: **Sharon Campo, Esq.** (Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Relations)

## PSEG Energy Forum on October 21, 2022

NSLS would like to thank PSEG for inviting us to present at their Energy Forum held on October 21, 2022. **Sharon Campo, Esq.**, Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Projects, presented on Legal Advocacy pertaining to utility shut-offs.



## Suffolk County Bar Association Veterans Clinic on November 3rd, 2022

Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Veterans Rights Project, Suffolk Pro Bono Project, and the Legal Support Center for Advocates staff attended the Suffolk County Bar Association Veterans Clinic alongside many wonderful non-profits, law firms, and private practice attorneys assisting veterans. Thank you to all of our veterans for your service! Pictured: NSLS Staff **Jacob Buckheit**, **Elijah Vaillancourt**, **Carolyn McQuade, Esq.**, **Sharon Campo, Esq.**, and **Cathy Lucidi**.



## Long Island Business News Leadership in Law Awards, held on November 17, 2022

Nassau Suffolk Law Services is proud to have attended the Long Island Business News Leadership in Law event. Honorees included Staff Attorneys **Roberta Scoll, Esq.** honored in the Of Counsel category, **Amanda Davis, Esq.** honored in the Counsel/Special Counsel category. Congratulations!



## Suffolk County Women's Bar Association meeting on November 16th, 2022

Supervising Attorney **Sharon Campo, Esq.** gave a presentation about the services NSLS provides to Long Island and the opportunities for attorneys wishing to volunteer.

Attorney Campo was joined by Suffolk County Pro Bono Project coordinator, **Carolyn McQuade, Esq.**, and Community Legal Help Project Coordinator, **Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq.**



## 2022 Long Island Smart Growth Summit at Crest Hollow Country Club on December 2nd, 2022

Nassau Suffolk Law Services **Sharon Campo, Esq.** (Supervising Attorney of Volunteers and Community Projects) and **Cathy Lucidi** (Director of Community Relations) joined hundreds of Long Island business and non-profit leaders and elected officials at the 2022 Vision Long Island Smart Growth Summit.

## LAW SERVICES IS HONORING OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

### *Scott Schneider, Esq.*

We are proud to congratulate volunteer attorney Scott Schneider on being awarded the Thomas Maligno Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award by the Nassau County Bar Association. On May 2nd, 2022, Mr. Schneider was graciously honored for his selfless efforts in assisting those in need. Congratulations!

Additionally, it is with great pleasure that Nassau Suffolk Law Services honors Scott R. Schneider for his long-standing dedication to the Volunteer Lawyers Project. Assisting clients in the areas of bankruptcy and foreclosure defense, Mr. Schneider's efforts are truly commendable. Mr. Schneider has demonstrated not only exhaustive knowledge, but incredible patience, treating our clients, including those with mental and physical disabilities, with the dignity and respect that they deserve. He is an extremely rare and invaluable asset to our program.



In addition to providing pro bono legal services, Mr. Schneider is a proud husband, father, and an active member in his community. He coached soccer for 16 seasons, was an Assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America, served as the Vice President, along with his wife, for the Parents Club at Chaminade High School, and is currently the treasurer for the Hicksville Gregory Museum. Mr. Schneider's consistent efforts to support his community and his clients are highly admirable, and we are pleased to honor him in our newsletter.

### *Jeff Adolph, Esq.*

We are proud to honor Jeff Adolph, a longtime volunteer of the Suffolk County Pro Bono Project, for his great efforts to aid community members in need. This year, Jeff was recognized for his work as an AEP attorney in the 2022 Pro Bono Celebration, organized by the New York State Unified Court System's Office for Justice Initiative, the New Initiatives, the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), and the New York County Lawyers Association. Jeff Adolph has been volunteering in Suffolk County with NSLS since 2016. Since then, he has tirelessly worked with hundreds of low-income callers relating to child support.



He has shared his invaluable expertise as a long-time Family Court Attorney with the Department of Social Services of Suffolk County. He speaks with non-English speaking clients using Language Line and is a staunch advocate for callers who are both custodial parents and non-custodial parents. For custodial parents, he will discuss the process of obtaining and enforcing ongoing child support orders and arrears. But he will also assist non-custodial parents who need to reduce their financial obligations because of disabilities or indigency. Jeff will listen to every client and learn the facts of their case. Then he will patiently and thoroughly discuss how those facts will intersect with the child support process. Jeff is a delightful person with whom to work and over these years, he has been an outstanding resource for so many of our clients.

### *Client Testimony*

I would like to thank you for having the opportunity to have learned about the Pro Bono Project. At the time I found out about the project, I was going through a very difficult time in my life, with finding out about my cancer, and had no idea how to obtain an attorney because I could not afford one. I was very lucky and blessed that I found this program just when I was going through a divorce. The attorney, Jeannie Henry, that was assigned to me was very knowledgeable of divorce proceedings and made the stress and anxiety go away. She handled everything that needed to be done and it did not take long at all. This program is essential to our county and low-poverty people will benefit from it. Life is already stressful and upside down. If we could continue to have programs like this to help us get through life we would be able to enjoy our families with less stress.

- Suffolk Pro Bono Project Client



STEPHEN HELLMAN, ESQ.



LOU STERNBERG, ESQ.

**We would like to thank all of our volunteer attorneys for their tireless work for our clients. We work to recognize our pro bono attorneys in many ways including on our website, social media, and by submitting articles to the county bar association publications. In 2022, the Suffolk County Brief published stories on both Stephen Hellman, Esq. and Lou Sternberg, Esq.**

*More information about the rewards of being a pro bono attorney can be found at [www.nslawservices.org/volunteer/](http://www.nslawservices.org/volunteer/)*



## LAW SERVICES PROFILE IN COMMITMENT

*NSLS employees show their commitment to Law Services by "Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World" everyday. For many NSLS employees, it doesn't stop there. Many staff members continue to show their commitment to help others in their personal life as well. We hope you enjoy this new feature in our newsletter as much as we enjoy sharing it.*



### *Roberta Scoll, Esq.*

Roberta D. Scoll joined Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. as a staff Attorney and has served as coordinator of the Landlord/Tenant Attorney of the Day sector of the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) for the past 15 years. The project represents low income clients about to be evicted from their housing. With onset of Covid in March 2020, and the eviction moratorium which ended in January 2022, the case load now exceeds 200 active files. VLP enlists the aid of volunteer attorneys to represent the clients, as well as student interns, Pro Bono Scholars, recent graduates of law school and newly admitted attorneys under the auspices of the Volunteer Lawyers Attorney of the Day project.

Since graduation from law school, Ms. Scoll has practiced matrimonial, personal injury, trademark and copyright law. For many years she had commuted to Washington, DC as a legal consultant to the film industry's trade association and in December 2003, Ms. Scoll was instrumental during the development and start-up of Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation in Washington, DC. She was the Executive Attaché for the organization's, first President, Jack Valenti (Former President, Motion Picture Association of America Inc.), in addition to her duties as office manager.

She received her Juris Doctorate in 1996, from City University of New York School of Law, with a keen focus and interest in public service and public interest law. In 1997 Ms. Scoll was admitted to practice in New York State, the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and in 2002 she was admitted to the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Federal Claims, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

For the past three years, Ms. Scoll was Chairperson of the Nassau County Bar Association's District Court Committee, and a member of the New York State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Theodore Roosevelt Inn of Court. In her current position at the Law Services, Ms. Scoll works with attorneys from both sides of the table and frequently enlists landlords' attorneys to also represent tenants.

Ms. Scoll had also been an active fund raiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and for several years was a top fund raiser for their Climb to the Top fundraising event. The event called for climbing 66 stories in Rockefeller Center, which she had accomplished doing with respectable timing. Ms. Scoll is a former member of the Long Island Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company -Yiddish Group, and currently a member of the Merrick Chorale. Additionally, she is on the Shiva Minyan Committee at the Merrick Jewish Centre.

# **NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES 2022 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION**

## *"Paving The Way For A Better Tomorrow"*

On May 11, 2022, after a pandemic forced a two-year hiatus, this year's Commitment to Justice Reception was held on a gorgeous spring night at the beautiful Larkfield in Northport. A great time was had by all starting with an outdoor cocktail hour, a delicious dinner, great spirits, happy raffle winners, and live music all while toasting the year's amazing honorees.

Our supporters also helped us to celebrate our 55th anniversary which occurred in 2021. This year's theme had a real special meaning as NSLS never closed it's doors during the pandemic and we kept "Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World" by helping Long Island residents get through two of the most challenging years of their lives.

We are extremely grateful to all of our supporters who continued to be by NSLS' side during such a challenging time, while they too were experiencing the setbacks during the COVID Pandemic. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the special support from Lazer, Apetheker, Rosella and Yedid, P.C., Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., Esquire Bank, USI Insurance Services, Sack, Kimmel and Bavaro and Satty, Levine, Ciacco as well as all of our generous sponsors and donors. All funds raised assisted us in providing the critical legal programs that NSLS provides free of charge, to low income and disabled individuals in the Long Island community. The fundraiser is organized by dedicated volunteers, NSLS Advisory Council and Cathy Lucidi, NSLS Director of Community Relations who led the NSLS staff of volunteers.



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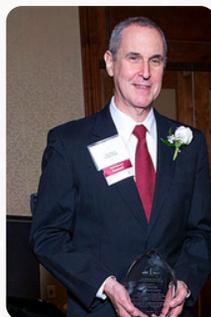


**NSLS STAFF**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO NSLS COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE HONOREES:**



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"Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World Since 1966."



LAW SERVICES THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND ONGOING SUPPORT.  
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LARKFIELD, EAST NORTHPORT - Venue



# Nassau Suffolk Law Services Winter 2023 Newsletter



*"Doing What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World Since 1966."*



# LAW SERVICES

## HAPPY MILESTONE EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY

Milestones celebrated in 2021 and 2022. Law Services would like to congratulate and thank the following staff for their years of dedicated service:

### NSLS WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES IN 2022

- Debra Andujar Deputy Director of Finance; Administration (Islandia)
- Justin Bandise Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Fanny Brooks Receptionist; Administration
- Taylor Brown Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Hempstead)
- Jacob Buckheit Paralegal; Veterans Project (Islandia)
- Teresa Butler, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Riverhead)
- Brian Callahan Law Graduate; Disability and Health Related Units (Riverhead)
- Silvia Cellucci-Sepe Assistant Bookkeeper; Administration (Islandia)
- Raisa Chaudry, Esq. Staff Attorney; Disability and Health Related Units (Islandia)
- Heather Davis, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Maria DeGennaro, Esq. Staff Attorney; Consumer Debt Project (Islandia)
- Aeisha Deleon Assistant Bookkeeper; Administration (Islandia)
- Jason Ducena Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Hempstead)
- Eva Elibert Paralegal; Volunteer Lawyers Project (Hempstead)
- Hannah Fitzpatrick Community Relations Paralegal; Legal Support Center for Advocates (Islandia)
- Kerry Giovanniello Law Graduate; Disability and Health Related Units (Hempstead)
- Zachary Griesel Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Hempstead)
- Erica Goodrich Paralegal; Senior Citizen Unit (Hempstead)
- Petronila Harrington Paralegal; Community Legal Help Project (Islandia)
- Rashika Hettiarachchi, Esq. Staff Attorney and Coordinator; Community Legal Help Project (Islandia)
- Leslie Hill Paralegal; Volunteer Lawyers Project (Hempstead)
- Megan Levy Paralegal; Disability and Health Related Units (Hempstead)
- Jonah Levitan Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Sydney Maiman External Relations Paralegal; Administration (Islandia)
- Ankit Mehta, Esq. Staff Attorney; Foreclosure Prevention Unit (Hempstead)
- Mahnoor Mirza Law Graduate; Disability and Health Related Units (Islandia)
- Chelsea Molina Receptionist; Administration (Hempstead)
- Jerrson Morochio Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Jennifer Pacheco Villalobos Paralegal; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Charlene Rogers, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- D.J. Rosenbaum, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Christopher Santoro, Esq. Staff Attorney; Foreclosure Prevention Unit (Riverhead)
- Courtney Spellman, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Riverhead)
- Farzana Urme Law Graduate; Disability and Health Related Units (Islandia)
- Elijah Vaillancourt Law Graduate; Veterans Project (Islandia)
- Eric vonCzerniewicz Law Student Assistant; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Jameel Zadran, Esq. Staff Attorney; Civil Unit (Islandia)
- Anthony Zuchero Law Graduate; Civil Unit (Hempstead)

 Victoria Osk, Esq. Executive Director	 Michael Wigutow, Esq. Supervising Attorney	 Luz Cartagena-Collado Paralegal	 Roberta Scoll, Esq. Staff Attorney
 Sarah Kupferberg, Esq. Supervising Attorney	 Rezwanul Islam, Esq. Deputy Director	 Diane McClernon, Esq. Staff Attorney	 Patricia Dinis Compliance Specialist
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 Rose Caputo, Esq. Staff Attorney	 Meredith Nadler, Esq. Staff Attorney	 Jonathan Schwartz, Esq. Staff Attorney	 Petrushka Khiamal, Esq. Supervising Attorney

## — HAPPY — Retirement

 **Maureen Marmero**, Executive Assistant, recently retired from Nassau Suffolk Law Services after 33 years of dedicated service. We wish Maureen a very happy retirement.

We also wish **Susan Biller, Esq.** a very happy retirement. Susan was the Volunteer Lawyer's Project Coordinator for nearly 10 years. We thank for her dedicated service.



We would like to wish the following former employees good luck with their future endeavors:

- William Stuber, Esq.
- Michele Fischetti, Esq.
- Carly Sommers, Esq.
- Catherine Mendolia, Esq.



**Congratulations,  
Daniel Okrent, Esq.!**



We are proud to announce our very own NSLS Staff Attorney, Dan Okrent of the Senior Citizen Law Project, has been selected to be the new co-chair of the Nassau County Department of Social Services Advisory Council. Prior to this new position, Dan has been a member of the Adult Services Committee for many years and has served as co-chair of that committee, on and off, since around 2009. As well as being a member of the Executive Committee for over a decade, Dan also has served as Secretary and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. Congratulations, Dan!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

- Larry Tuthill, Esq.**  
Supervising Attorney  
Domestic Violence Project
- Sarah Kupferberg, Esq.**  
Supervising Attorney  
Nassau Disability & Health Related Units
- Petrushka Khiamal, Esq.**  
Supervising Attorney  
Suffolk Civil Unit



Are you looking to give back to the community while also getting paid? We would love to have you apply for our currently open attorney and paralegal positions. To find out more, go to [nslawservices.org](http://nslawservices.org)

## LAW SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome new Advisory Council members!

Brendan M. Ahern, Esq.  
Cynthia L. Doerler, MPA  
Bernadette Kasnicki, Esq.  
Shannon Quinn  
Lidia Szczepanowski, Esq.

The annual Advisory Council thank you luncheon was held at Maria's Mexican & Latin Restaurant in Nesconset on June 17, 2022. Pictured below left to right: **Donna DeVita** -Vice Chair, **Rezwanul Islam, Esq.**- Deputy Executive Director, **Victoria Osk, Esq.** - Executive Director, **Gina Pirozzi** -Chair-Emeritus, **Bradley Seigel, Esq.** - Chair, **Cathy Lucidi** - Director of Community Relations



**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**



Law Services would like to thank Advisory Council Chair **Bradley Siegel, Esq.** and Advisory Council Member **Lidia Szczepanowski, Esq.** and the New York Boutique Lawyers Networking Group for inviting NSLS as their special guest to their Holiday Soiree held at the Dirty Taco & Tequila in Woodbury. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to NSLS. Thanks again Bradley, Lidia and the New York Lawyers Boutique Networking Group for your generosity in hosting this event.

Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations gave a brief introduction about Law Services' mission and description of the legal services we provide. A time was had by all and new friends and connections were made. Having a special event, where you'd like to introduce your friends/colleagues to Long Island's largest provider of free civil legal services, Law Services, please reach out to Cathy Lucidi for more information. She loves talking about Law Services and loves parties too!!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS :

**Chair:**

**Bradley Siegel, Esq.**



Bradley Siegel moved into the position of Chair of the Advisory Council at Nassau Suffolk Law Services. Siegel is the founder of the Siegel Law Firm, P.C., with offices in Garden City and Manhattan.

**Vice-Chair:**

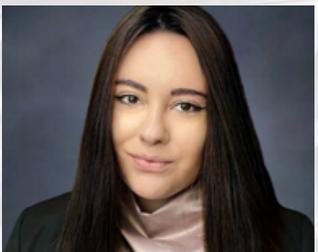
**Donna DeVita**



Donna DeVita moved into the position of Vice Chair of the Advisory Council at Nassau Suffolk Law Services. She is the founder and owner of ESQUIRE Brand Management in Hauppauge, NY, and the Director of Marketing at Lewis Johns Avallone Aviles, LLP, in Islandia, NY.

**Secretary:**

**Shannon Quinn**



Shannon Quinn moved into the position of Secretary of the Advisory Council at Nassau Suffolk Law Services' advisory council. She is a marketing manager at Hansen & Rosasco, LLP in Hauppauge, NY.



### Long Island Business News Leadership in Law Awards, held on November 17, 2022

Nassau Suffolk Law Services is proud to have attended the Long Island Business News Leadership in Law event. Honorees included Advisory Council members **Bernadette Kasnicki, Esq.** honored in the Counsel/Special Counsel category, and **A. Thomas Levin, Esq.** honored by receiving the Lifetime Achievement award. Congratulations!

**A. Thomas Levin, Esq.**  
Recipient of the Leadership in Law Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to NSLS Advisory Council Member **A. Thomas Levin, Esq.** of Meyer, Suozzi, English and Klein, on being honored by the LIBN Leadership in Law Awards in the Lifetime Achievement Category. Tom has been a dedicated

and outstanding NSLS advisory council member for over twenty years, and has previously served as the council's chair. We are very proud of Tom and all his amazing accomplishments, and we are honored to have him serve on our council. Congratulations, Tom, on this well-deserved honor.



**Congratulations,  
Cynthia Doerler, MPA!**

Congratulations to NSLS Advisory Council member **Cynthia Doerler, Executive Director, Academy of Law**, for being honored by Long Island's Business News and recently named one of LIBN's Long Island's 50 most influential women.



## 2023 COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION

# Spring Into Action For Justice

BARBARA J. MEHRMAN  
COMMITMENT TO  
JUSTICE HONOREE



**Jeffrey M. Kimmel, Esq.**  
NSLS Advisory Council Member  
Managing Partner, CEO  
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023, 6-10 PM

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### SUPPORT LAW SERVICES AND OUR MISSION

Civil legal services are essential to making sure our neighbors in need have access to justice in cases affecting their basic needs — shelter, food, education, and health care. For over 55 years, our organization has helped many indigent and disabled Long Islanders navigate their toughest legal and financial challenges. This would not be possible if it weren't for the support from people like you. Spring into Action for Justice with us by purchasing a sponsorship package, virtual journal ad, and/or tickets to our gala, so with your help, we can continue to "Do What's Legally Possible to Create a Just World." Your donation will support the critical civil legal services for Long Islanders in need. Please visit our website at [www.nslawservices.org](http://www.nslawservices.org) for more information about the services we provide. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of Long Island's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you,

Victoria Osk, Esq., NSLS Executive Director

"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED, CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS." - MARGARET MEAD

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

#### JUSTICE FOR ALL LONG ISLANDERS SUPPORTER\* - \$15,000

With this donation, a digital version of your logo, three full-page ads, and a banner will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You may also submit a 30 second video about why you support NSLS. You will also receive 20 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

#### REBUILDING LONG ISLAND TOGETHER SUPPORTER\* - \$10,000

With this donation, a digital version of your logo, two full-page ads, and a banner will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You may also submit a 30 second video about why you support NSLS. You will also receive 15 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

#### PATH TO JUSTICE SUPPORTER\* - \$7,500

With this donation, a full-page ad will be displayed on our website, all NSLS social media outlets and NSLS Commitment to Justice webpage, as well as a digital display at the reception. You may also submit a 30 second video about why you support NSLS. You will also receive 10 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

\*Sponsorship commitment for top 3 levels due by March 7, 2023 to ensure proper acknowledgement on the invitation.

NOTICE: Because Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. (NSLSC) is funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), NSLSC may not expend any funds - including funds from other sources - for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq. or by Public Law 104-134. For a copy of these laws or for any other information or clarifications, please contact NSLSC.

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**SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

(CONTINUED...)

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR LONG ISLANDERS SUPPORTER - \$5,000**

With this donation, a half page ad will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 8 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

**EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION SUPPORTER - \$3,500 - 20 EMPLOYEES**

With this donation, a half page ad will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 6 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023. Additionally, this donation will allow 20 NSLS employees to attend our event. 3 Sponsorships available for this special package.

**SPRING FEVER FOR JUSTICE SUPPORTER - \$2,000**

With this donation, a quarter page ad will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 4 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

**BUDDING FLOWERS FOR JUSTICE - \$1,000**

With this donation, a large business card ad will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as on a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 3 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

**SPRING FLING FOR JUSTICE - \$500**

With this donation, an actual size business card ad will be displayed on our Commitment to Justice webpage and all NSLS social media outlets, as well as a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 2 tickets to our gala on May 10, 2023.

**FRIENDS OF JUSTICE - \$300**

With this donation, your name will be listed in our virtual journal, and you will be acknowledged on all NSLS social media outlets, as well as through a digital display at the reception. You will also receive 1 ticket to our gala on May 10, 2023.

**\*SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FOR TOP 3 LEVELS DUE BY MARCH 7, 2023 TO ENSURE PROPER ACKNOWLEDGMENT ON INVITATION**

Please complete and mail with payment to Nassau Suffolk Law Services, 1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50, Islandia, NY 11749  
Attn: Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations

By Email: Send artwork and form with credit card payment to fundraising@nsls.legal. Email artwork as high-res PDF or JPEG or send copy with congratulatory message. All ads due by **May 1, 2023**. All advertisements and videos will be on NSLS website, all NSLS social media outlets, and digitally displayed at the reception.

**JOURNAL ADS (DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2023)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Ad	Rates	Size (w x h)
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page	\$750	10 * 7.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$500	5 * 7.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page	\$300	5 * 3.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	\$200	Actual Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend List	\$100	Listed

**DINNER TICKETS**

I am purchasing dinner tickets.

Dinner Tickets are \$200 per person.

Total Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount : \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL DONATIONS**

Sorry, I am unable to attend, please accept this donation in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_ on my behalf.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Firm/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/business name to appear on all virtual

materials \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  CHECK ENCLOSED  AMEX\*  MASTERCARD  VISA

DISCOVER

Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

For your convenience, you can also make a donation or purchase a sponsorship package, journal ad, tickets and more at [www.nslslegal.org](http://www.nslslegal.org)

For more information, please contact Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations, at 631-232-2400 ext.3324

Thank you for your support!

\*Can only be processed by completion of form or over the phone.

Nassau Suffolk Law Services  
1757 Veterans Memorial Hwy #50,  
Islandia, New York 11749

NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES

*Save the Date*

2023 COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION

**SPRING INTO ACTION FOR JUSTICE**

AT VILLA LOMBARDI'S (877 MAIN ST, HOLBROOK, NY 11741)

Barbara J. Mehrman Commitment to Justice Honoree



Jeffrey M. Kimmel, Esq.  
NSLS Advisory Council Member  
Managing Partner, CEO  
Salenger, Sack, Kimmel & Bavaro, LLP



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M A Y

6:00PM-10:00PM  
VILLA LOMBARDI'S

Sponsorship opportunities available now!  
For more information, please visit our website at [www.nslawservices.org](http://www.nslawservices.org)  
or contact Cathy Lucidi at (631) 232-2400 Ext. 3324 and/or [clucidi@nsls.legal](mailto:clucidi@nsls.legal)

