LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

WINTER/SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Victoria A. Osk, Esq.



Legal Services of Long Island continues to make major strides in providing free legal assistance to low-income families across Long Island. This work is especially meaningful this year as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. Over the past six decades, our organization has grown and transformed to become as accessible as possible to the communities we serve.

We meet people where they are: in libraries, courthouses, and throughout the community, and this progress would not be possible without the continued support of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations, legislators, and all those who continue to stand behind our mission.

We have also tremendously expanded our services, particularly within our Pro Bono Unit. This year, we hosted more clinics than ever before, assisting individuals with bankruptcy matters, Article 17-A guardianships, and advance directives. The program has evolved into a more hands-on model, allowing us to provide full legal representation when possible or directly assist clients with completing critical legal documents.

In addition, we have expanded our Community Legal Help Project in both counties. In Nassau County, we have been meeting with community members in libraries throughout the county and at the District Court. This important work would not be possible without the generous support of our partner law firms and the many dedicated individual volunteers who make it possible.

Our organization has also grown internally, with an expansion of staff, particularly within our Veterans' Rights Project. Thanks to the support of New York State and other partners, this growth has allowed us to reach more veterans and extend our services to even more communities in need.

As we reflect on 60 years of service, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported Legal Services of Long Island along the way. As we enter our 60th year and look toward the future, we remain committed to continued growth and to ensuring that access to justice is a reality for all. We hope you will join us on May 6th at our Commitment to Justice Reception to celebrate this special Diamond Jubilee anniversary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR 2026 60TH CELEBRATION, SEE PAGES 10-11.

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Director of Community Relations

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Community Relations Paralegal

Jessica Fleischer
External Affairs Paralegal



A Diamond Jubilee Anniversary:
60 Years of Legal Services of Long Island

This year, **Legal Services of Long Island proudly celebrates 60 years of service to Long Island communities.** Since our founding in 1966, our mission has remained constant: to ensure access to justice for those who need it most. What began as Nassau-Suffolk Law Services has grown into Legal Services of Long Island, reflecting both our expanded reach and our deepened commitment to serving individuals and families across the region.

For six decades, we have stood alongside veterans, seniors, victims of domestic violence, families facing housing insecurity, and countless others, providing critical legal assistance during some of life's most challenging moments. As the needs of our communities have evolved, so have our services—expanding in scope, strength, and impact to meet new challenges with compassion and expertise.

As we mark this milestone, we honor the dedicated staff, supporters, and clients who have shaped our history. At the same time, we look ahead with renewed purpose—celebrating the future while building on a powerful legacy of justice, advocacy, and service. **Sixty years strong, Legal Services of Long Island remains committed to making a meaningful difference for generations to come. See pages 10-11 for more information and to purchase a sponsorship package, tickets, and a virtual journal ad.**

Honoring 60 Years
OF JUSTICE

Celebrating 60 years of service, Legal Services of Long Island launches our 60 Recurring Donors for Our 60th Diamond Jubilee campaign, leading up to June 23, 2026.

A CUP OF COFFEE:
ABOUT $5 A MONTH

NETFLIX SUBSCRIPTION:
ABOUT $15 A MONTH

SUPPORTING EQUAL JUSTICE, STABILITY, AND HOPE:
PRICELESS

Become a recurring donor today. A small monthly gift creates a lasting impact for individuals and families who need it most.

Scan QR Code to Donate Today!

www.legalservicesli.org/donate/

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND
SIXTY YEARS. ONE MISSION: EQUAL JUSTICE

2026 Commitment to Justice Reception

60 Years. One Mission: Equal Justice

Special Gala Sponsorships for 60 Years



To celebrate our 60th anniversary, in addition to our usual sponsorship packages, we are also offering special sponsorship packages for this year's Gala. These unique packages allow supporters to be part of a milestone event, showcasing their business and commitment to justice while helping us continue providing critical legal services across Long Island. Join us in honoring six decades of impact and making this Gala an unforgettable celebration.

Signature Cocktails Sponsor (NEW) – $5,000
Includes two specialty cocktails, 6 tickets, a full-page virtual journal ad, and signage at Gala

Employee Appreciation Sponsor - $4,500
Allows for 10 LSLI employees to attend, 5 tickets, a full-page virtual journal ad, and signage at Gala (Unlimited availability)

Step and Repeat Sponsor (NEW) – $3,500
Includes 4 tickets, a full-page virtual journal ad, and signage at the Gala

Entertainment Sponsor (NEW) - $2,300
Cellist and Violinist - Includes 2 tickets, a full-page virtual journal ad, and signage with company name at Gala

To become a sponsor of our 2026 Commitment to Justice Reception, scan the QR code or see pages 10-11 to learn more.

Donations for Raffles Needed



Promote Your Business While Supporting Equal Justice for Long Islanders in Need

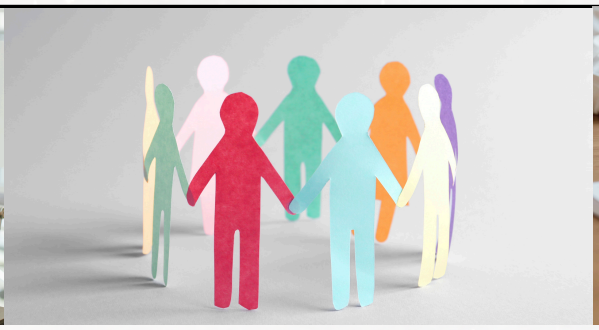
Do you own a business on Long Island that you'd like to promote? Consider donating a raffle basket with a gift card and/or items from your business.

Over the years, basket raffles have become such an exciting part of our Gala. Promote your business, support equal justice, and allow for one happy winner!

Can't make it to the Gala? Maybe you'd like to be a sponsor or purchase a virtual journal ad. See pages 10-11 for more information.

Contact **Cathy Lucidi**, Director of Community Relations at **631 232-2400 or clucidi@legalservicesli.org** for more info.

Celebrate 60 years! Scan to record a short message for our 60th Anniversary Tribute Video.


HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

A Past Mistake, Not a Permanent Barrier: Legal Services of Long Island Protects Client's Livelihood - Client S came to Legal Services of Long Island with a problem that has become all too common across Long Island. After being hired for a position and completing several weeks of diligent, capable work, Client S was suddenly let go. The employer explained that New York State regulations required a work clearance review before employment could continue. As a result, Client S was left effectively unemployed because of a non-violent offense from more than a decade ago — a past mistake that resurfaced at a critical moment.

Determined to protect their livelihood, Client S turned to Legal Services of Long Island for help. **Staff Attorney Bob Scanlon** quickly stepped in, contacted the regulating agency directly, and requested reconsideration. After submitting additional supporting evidence, the agency approved the clearance — and Client S was back on the job in less than 24 hours. **Great work, Bob!** Your dedication and swift advocacy truly made the difference.

Cleared to Build a New Future: Legal Services of Long Island Helps Client Secure Insurance License - Client M came to LSLI looking for help with several Re-Entry issues. **Human Rights Project Staff Attorney Bob Scanlon** assisted Client M with the appeal of a decision by the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) to deny the client an insurance broker's license. LSLI was able to help the client with the process of gathering evidence of good character and rehabilitation, drafting personal statements and letters, and corresponding with DFS.

The licensing appeal was successful, and Client M is now gainfully employed as an insurance broker. This has led to a significant improvement in the client's livelihood and quality of life. **Congratulations, Bob, on a job well done!**

LSLI's Human Rights Project regularly helps clients in situations like these! Have you or someone you know received a letter from a regulating or licensing agency of New York State that says you have something on your background check that prevents you from working? We can help you determine if these bars to employment are mandatory or waivable.

Bob Scanlon
Staff Attorney
Human Rights Project

Advocacy Tip!

According to the **NYS Division of Human Rights,** if you experience workplace discrimination or harassment, you should first follow your employer's internal complaint process. Taking this step can strengthen your case if you later file a complaint with the Division, while skipping it may have a negative impact.

It's also important to keep detailed written records of any incidents and complaints you make. Verbal reports can be difficult to prove, so document what happened as soon as possible and store your records safely at home. Strong documentation can help protect your rights.

Scan to Learn More

The Human Rights Project provides legal assistance to low-income Nassau and Suffolk County residents through two distinct practice areas. The Re-entry practice area helps individuals overcome barriers created by a criminal record by assisting with certificates of relief from civil disabilities and certificates of good conduct, employment and housing discrimination, and denials of professional licenses. The Project also supports individuals released from prison within the last year with housing matters, including evictions, public benefits, and consumer debt issues. The second practice area serves low-income members of the LGBTQ+ community who are impacted by their transgender, non-conforming, or non-binary status, providing assistance with name changes, housing and employment discrimination, and public benefit denials. Nassau residents can call (516) 292-8100. Suffolk residents can call (631) 232-2400.





VETERANS RIGHTS PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES

Housing Security for Heroes Through Legal Services of Long Island's Advocacy - LSLI's Veterans Rights Project was instrumental in assisting two elderly veterans to avoid an eviction, move out of their private rental properties to subsidized housing, and help them maintain their quality of life.

The first veteran lived alone in a private rental apartment for thirty years, but his health began to worsen, and he was no longer able to maintain paying his rent on his Social Security retirement income. In 2025, his landlord brought a holdover action to remove him from his apartment. Several years ago, the veteran applied for Section 8 housing with a local housing authority, and it was discovered that when a voucher became available, the veteran was not contacted. The local housing authority was willing to correct the error and offer him the next available apartment in the housing authority. With this information, **Staff Attorney Susanna Laruccia** negotiated a stipulation to resolve the eviction proceeding, allowing the veteran time to move out of the apartment and move into subsidized housing that he could afford.

From Uncertainty to Stability: Legal Services of Long Island Helps Veterans Move into Subsidized Housing - A second veteran served in the Army during the late 1960s. He lived alone in his private rental apartment for over 25 years, but his landlord wanted to make renovations to the property and requested that he temporarily vacate the apartment. In addition, the veteran was struggling financially to maintain his expenses based on his limited retirement income. **Staff Attorney Susanna Laruccia** of the Veterans Rights Project tried to work out a way to allow the veteran to stay in his apartment or temporarily relocate while the renovations occurred, but was unsuccessful in having the parties reach an agreement. Ultimately, **Dolores Sclafani, Paralegal for the Veterans Rights Project,** was instrumental in helping the veteran apply for senior subsidized housing early enough in the process of the summary eviction proceeding that it gave him options when he needed to move out. **Attorney Laruccia** was able to negotiate a stipulation to allow the veteran to move out at the same time as a new senior subsidized housing apartment was becoming available. The veteran successfully moved into the subsidized housing apartment with the financial assistance of the landlord paying for his move.

Both veterans are now in affordable subsidized housing, which will allow them to maintain a more stable quality of life. **Congratulations, Susanna and Dolores, on a job well done!**



Susanna Laruccia
Staff Attorney
Veterans Rights Project



Dolores Sclafani
Paralegal
Veterans Rights Project

Advice for Veterans!

Everyone's story and service are unique. If you have a question about benefits or eligibility reach out to a Veterans Service Officer.
They are trained to guide you through the process, answer your questions, and help ensure you receive the benefits you may be entitled to.
You will be glad you did!

Veterans Service Officer Locations

The Veterans Rights Project provides legal assistance to low-income United States military veterans. Legal services include assistance with various issues, including veterans' benefits and appeals, discharge upgrades, public benefits, landlord-tenant matters, consumer debt issues, select social security appeals, and family law matters. The family law matter assistance provided focuses on child support and excludes divorces, custody, and visitation. The Veterans Rights Project staff participate in community outreach such as tabling at VA Stand Downs and Job Assistance Fairs, and at Veterans' legal advice clinics. Nassau residents can call (516) 292-8100. Suffolk residents can call (631) 232-2400.







FORECLOSURE PREVENTION UNIT SUCCESS STORIES

A Timely Opportunity Saves Three Homes from Foreclosure - When three homeowners fell behind on their mortgages with no realistic path to reinstatement, modification, or repayment, and bankruptcy was not a viable option, the only apparent solution was to sell their homes. **LSLI Staff Attorney Carolyn Lander** of the Foreclosure Prevention Unit represented each of the clients as they faced the loss of their homes and searched for any alternative that could help them avoid foreclosure. Around that time, **Attorney Lander** learned that Sustainable Neighborhoods, a New York City–based nonprofit, had briefly reopened its Equitable Retention Mortgage Assistance Program, which offers 0% interest loans to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities to help reinstate mortgages.

Although the program was initially limited to New York City residents, **Attorney Lander** immediately contacted Sustainable Neighborhoods to advocate for her Nassau County clients. She soon learned the program would be expanding to Nassau residents for a short window. Acting quickly, **Attorney Lander** ensured her clients were prepared and first in line to apply before the program closed just weeks later. All three were approved, their mortgage arrears were paid, and three families were able to remain in their homes, turning what seemed like an inevitable foreclosure into renewed housing stability. **Congratulations, Carolyn,** on your outstanding work and dedication!

Quick Action Helps Veteran Avoid Foreclosure - A U.S. Veteran on Long Island was facing imminent foreclosure after a missed settlement conference led to a default judgment against him. The Veteran had been working with another agency, but due to an error by the foreclosing plaintiff, he never received notice of the conference and could not appear in court. With the case released from the settlement conference part, the previous agency could no longer assist and referred him to LSLI.

Staff Attorney Carolyn Lander reviewed the paperwork and discovered that the plaintiff had listed an incorrect address when requesting the court to schedule the settlement conference, meaning the Veteran was never notified of the settlement conference. With this crucial information, **Attorney Lander** secured the plaintiff's consent to vacate the default judgment. She then guided the Veteran through a mortgage modification, ultimately saving his home and helping him regain financial stability. **Great job, Carolyn!**



Carolyn Lander
Staff Attorney
Foreclosure Prevention Unit

Advocacy Tip!

Facing Foreclosure?
Free Help Is Available.

Suffolk County homeowners can get free help with foreclosure issues, including filing a pro se answer, attending settlement conferences, and receiving legal advice. Services are offered at the Help for Homeowners Clinic at Suffolk County Supreme Court. Walk-ins are welcome (arrive early) or call 631-232-2400 ext. 3317 to make an appointment.

Scan the QR code for full details. Flyer available in English and Spanish.

The Foreclosure Prevention Project provides free legal services to homeowners seeking to prevent foreclosure of their homes. Services include legal representation at court settlement conferences, drafting pleadings and motions, assistance with loan modifications and other loss mitigation options, and advice and counsel throughout the foreclosure process. As part of the HOPP network, a statewide coalition that includes HUD-certified housing counseling agencies, the Project collaborates with and refers clients to HOPP-funded nonprofit agencies when additional support is needed. Services are available to Long Island residents who live in homes facing foreclosure and meet low- to moderate-income guidelines set annually by HUD. Nassau residents can call (516) 292-8100. Suffolk residents west of 112 can call (631) 232-2400, and east of 112 can call (631) 369-1112.







CONSUMER DEBT UNIT SUCCESS STORIES

LSLI Secures Justice for Client in Home Health Aide Dispute - Ms. I contacted Legal Services of Long Island after a private home health aide company sued her and her elderly mother. Ms. I had moved her 86-year-old mother—who was blind and hard of hearing—from South Carolina to Long Island to provide better support. The company agreed to continue services and bill Medicare, but after Ms. I complained about aides arriving late or missing visits, the company began billing them and accused them of stealing checks. Without the state-mandated 2-week notice, services were discontinued, and the company sued Ms. I, who did not personally guarantee her mother's debt, and her mother, whose only income was Social Security, which is protected from garnishment by judgment creditors.

Consumer Debt Attorney Maria DeGennaro reviewed Ms. I's records, amended her answer, and successfully moved to dismiss due to lack of jurisdiction (as she has not been served with court papers) and failure to state a claim (as she did not have a contract with the company). Given the company's repeated baseless claims, **DeGennaro** consulted attorney Ahmad Keshavarz and filed a Fair Debt Collection Practices Act lawsuit. After a full day of arbitration, the case settled for $60,000, payable within 30 days to Ms. I. Ms. I expressed relief that the funds will help cover new medical challenges. **Congratulations to Maria DeGennaro, Ahmad Keshavarz, and the team for securing justice.**



Pictured above: Ms. Velasquez and her family

A Fresh Start After a Difficult Debt Battle - After becoming disabled, Diana Velasquez struggled to manage basic expenses while still paying student loans from a for-profit school later exposed for fraud; when she could no longer afford the payments and was sued by a third-party debt buyer, she feared lasting damage to her credit and stability. The stress of knowing she had invested time and money into a program that provided no value made the situation even heavier, leaving her overwhelmed as she tried to cope with both medical challenges and financial uncertainty.

Remembering the help she once received from Legal Services of Long Island (LSLI) with medical insurance and a Special Needs Trust, she turned to the organization again. **Attorney Vivian Storm** reached out right away, assisting her in filing an Amended Answer and explaining each step clearly. **Attorney Maria DeGennaro** then took over, serving the debt buyer with Discovery and preparing a detailed hardship letter outlining Ms. Velasquez's disability, exempt income, and rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Following continued correspondence from LSLI, the debt buyer agreed to discontinue the lawsuit with prejudice, thereby precluding any future collection or refiling. This outcome provided the closure Ms. Velasquez desperately needed after years of stress linked to a degree that held no value and loans that should never have been pursued.

Ms. Velasquez shared that the resolution lifted "a world off of [her] shoulders," allowing her to focus fully on her health without the fear of ongoing debt collection. She expressed deep gratitude for the clarity, kindness, and effectiveness shown by **Supervising Attorney Vivian Storm** and **Attorney Maria DeGennaro,** calling the support "amazing" and essential for those without the resources to secure legal representation. **Congratulations to Attorneys Storm and DeGennaro on a truly outstanding job well done.**



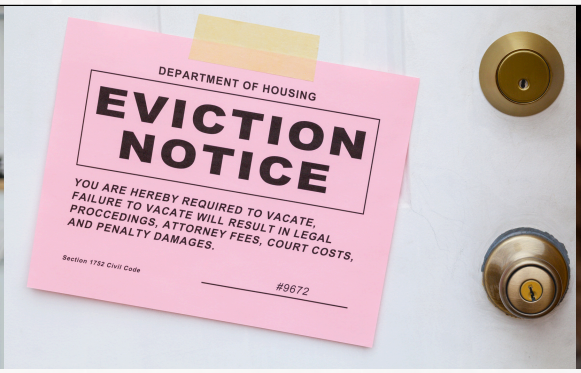
Maria DeGennaro
Staff Attorney
Consumer Debt Unit

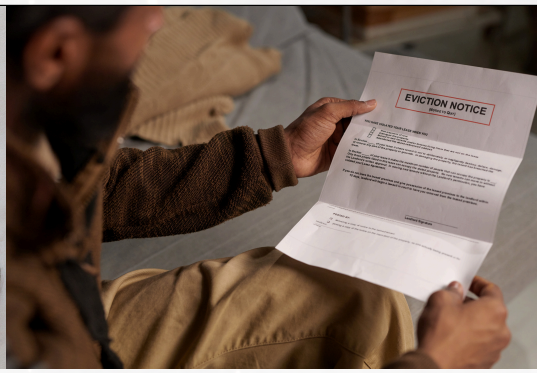
Important Parent Plus Loan Deadline on July 1, 2026! Scan QR code to learn more!

Vivian Storm
Supervising Attorney
EDCAP Unit

The Consumer Debt Legal Assistance Project provides legal assistance to persons who are experiencing consumer debt problems, especially in matters of medical and credit card debt. Services may include litigation defense and representation, phone advice, and/or referral for further services, including bankruptcy, where appropriate. Nassau residents can call (516) 292-8100. Suffolk residents West of 112 can call (631) 232-2400, and East of 112 can call (631) 369-1112.







SUFFOLK CIVIL UNIT SUCCESS STORIES

Protecting Stability Through Strong Advocacy - Legal Services of Long Island Staff Attorney **Jenny Park, Esq.,** helped a longtime Suffolk resident remain safely in their family home after an improper eviction attempt. The client had lived in the family home for many years when someone acting under a Power of Attorney for the owners filed an eviction proceeding trying to remove them, even though no rent had ever been asked for or paid, and the client was not a tenant under New York State Law. **Attorney Park** carefully reviewed the filings and quickly identified major problems with the case. She saw that the person bringing the eviction was not a landlord as defined by New York Law and did not have the legal standing to start a summary eviction proceeding, despite framing it as a landlord-tenant matter.

Attorney Park prepared a clear and effective motion explaining these issues, showing that the filing was improper and that the eviction could not legally continue. After reviewing her arguments, the Court dismissed the case, allowing the client to remain in their home without disruption. Thanks to **Attorney Park's** quick action, strong advocacy, and commitment to protecting vulnerable residents, what began as a stressful and confusing situation ended in stability and relief for the client. **Congratulations Jenny!**



Jenny Park, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Civil Unit

Advocacy Tip!

With limited exceptions, a family member may not evict another family member in a summary proceeding (expedited legal process typically used in evictions); this is the case because where the occupancy of the subject premises arises out of the familial relationship a summary proceeding may not be maintained. If you have a client in these circumstances, please have the client call the main phone line to be screened for services or advocates can call the Legal Support Center for Advocates for further questions.

SAVE THE DATE: HOUSING FORUM FOR ADVOCATES

NASSAU COUNTY: JUNE 5TH ,2026
SUFFOLK COUNTY: JUNE 12TH, 2026

Proposed Topics:

- Landlord/tenant issues
- Fair housing topics
- Foreclosure

Scan the QR code to sign up for LSLI emails and receive updates about this forum!

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

RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLIENTS







Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

(VITA) is available in Nassau and Suffolk counties for individuals with low-to-moderate incomes (generally under $60,000-$84,000), disabilities, or limited English proficiency. Services include free federal and state electronic filing, often with bilingual support. Key providers include the United Way of Long Island and Health & Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI).

How to Access VITA on Long Island:

- **Locate a Site:** Use the IRS VITA site locator tool to find the nearest location in Nassau or Suffolk.
- **Appointment Requirement:** Many sites require appointments.
- **Virtual Option:** HWCLI offers a virtual VITA program where documents are scanned, uploaded, and processed securely.

Services Provided:

- IRS-certified volunteers prepare basic tax returns and ensure taxpayers receive applicable credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- What to Bring to a VITA Site
- To have taxes prepared, bring the following:
- Proof of identification (photo ID).
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse, and dependents.
- Birth dates for you, spouse, and dependents.
- Wage and earning statements (W-2, W-2G, 1099-R) from all employers.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099).
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit.
- Total paid for daycare provider and their tax ID number.
- For more information and to locate specific sites, check the IRS website- irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/.

Important Update: New SNAP Work Rules – March 1, 2026

Legal Services of Long Island wants the community to know about new SNAP (food stamp) work rules starting March 1, 2026.

Who Is Affected?

These rules apply to **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD).** You may be affected if you:

- Are 18–64 years old
- Do not live with a child under 14
- Are not pregnant
- Do not have a condition that prevents you from working

What Is Changing?

- ABAWD individuals who do not meet an exemption can only receive SNAP for 3 months in a 3-year period unless they meet work requirements.

How to Keep Your Benefits

You must do **one of the following:**

- Work and earn at least $217.50 per week
- Participate in approved work or training programs (80 hours per month)
- Attend college and meet SNAP student rules
- Complete approved community service or work experience

Possible Exemptions

You may qualify for an exemption if you have a physical or mental health condition. A medical provider must complete a Medical Statement form.

Important

- Watch for mail from local Department of Social Services about work requirements or appointments.
- Missing requirements may cause SNAP benefits to stop after 3 months.

If you believe your benefits were wrongfully denied or terminated, please contact LSLI's Public Benefits Unit.

The Legal Support Center for Advocates (LSCA) has a unique role at LSLI as a legal backup center for advocates from social service agencies, religious organizations, health care facilities, and other community-based agencies. LSCA's Helpline provides phone support to community advocates so they may effectively assist their clients in welfare, housing, access to health care, disability issues, and other legal matters. This partnership with the community is especially valuable as it enables us to serve exponentially more clients than would be possible with our limited resources for direct legal services. When appropriate, LSCA facilitates internal referrals to one of LSLI's many programs. Advocates can reach us at (631) 232-2400.

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

SIXTY YEARS. ONE MISSION: EQUAL JUSTICE

2026 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION

Sixty Years. One Mission: Equal Justice

Barbara J. Mehrman
Commitment to Justice Honoree



Cheryl L. Fratello, Esq.
LSLI Advisory Council Member
Owner & Founding Attorney
Fratello Law, P.C.

Community Partner in Justice Honoree



Scott M. Karson, Esq.
LSLI Board Vice-Chair
LambZankel, LLP

Victor J. Ambrose
Champion of Justice Award



Will be presented to his family

Wednesday, May 6th, 6-10pm at the Piermont
494 Fire Island Ave, Babylon, NY 11702

Black Tie Optional

This year's gala celebrates 60 years of equal justice for Long Islanders — and we invite you to be a sponsor.

Your support provides free legal services to those in need, helping people keep their homes, income, and benefits, and ensuring safety and dignity for all.

By sponsoring, you're empowering lives and strengthening our community.

Join us in marking 60 years of impact and building a future where justice is a right for everyone on Long Island.

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SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

❑**Six Decades, One Mission Sponsorship * - $15,000**
A full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, and event signage, and 20 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Legacy of 60 Sponsorship * - $10,000**
A full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, and event signage, and 12 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Pathway to the Next 60 Sponsorship* - $7,500**
A full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website and social media, and event signage and, 10 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Justice in Every Decade Sponsorship - $5,000**
A full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website and social media, event signage and 8 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Employee Appreciation Sponsorship - $4,500**
A full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website and social media, event signage and 5 tickets to the Gala, also allows for 10 LSLI staff to attend.

***Top 3 sponsorship commitments are due by February 20, 2026, for proper invitation recognition. Commitments received after this date will be accepted until April 23, 2026, for inclusion in the gala program and signage.**

NOTICE: Because Legal Services of Long Island . (LSLI) is funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC.) LSLI 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 LSLIC.

2026 SPRING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION

❑ **Diamond Standard Sponsorship - $3,000**
A half-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website and social media, included on event signage and 4 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Beacon for the Future Sponsorship- $2,000**
A quarter-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website , social media , included on event signage and 3 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **A Promise Honored Sponsorship- $1,000**
A large business card virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, included on event signage, and 3 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Pillars of Dignity Nonprofit Sponsorship- $1,000**
With this nonprofit donation, you'll receive a full-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, included on event signage and 4 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Defenders of Hope Nonprofit Sponsorship- $500**
With this nonprofit donation, you'll receive a half-page virtual journal ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, included on event signage and 2 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Light of Liberty Sponsorship - $500**
An actual-size virtual business card ad, your logo on the LSLI website, social media, included on event signage and 2 tickets to the Gala.

❑ **Justice Radiance Sponsorship- $300**
A friend listing in our virtual journal, your name on LSLI social media, included on event signage and 1 ticket to the Gala.

❑ **Nonprofit and Government Ticket Rate- $200**

***Top 3 sponsorship commitments are due by February 20, 2026, for proper invitation recognition. Commitments received after this date will be accepted until April 23, 2026, for inclusion in the gala program and signage.**

Send payment to:
Legal Services of Long Island:
1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50, Islandia, NY 11749
Attn: Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations

Email artwork to:
jfleischer@legalservicesli.org
by April 23, 2026
As a high-res PDF or JPG with congratulatory message
All ads will appear on screen virtually at the reception and on social media

You may also purchase tickets, sponsorship packages and virtual journal aids online online

VIRTUAL JOURNAL ADS (deadline: April 23, 2026)*Please Ensure all Ads are PowerPointCompatible

❑ Journal Ad	Rates	Size (w x h)
❑ Full Page	$800	10 *7.5
❑ Half Page	$500	5 * 7.5
❑ Quarter Page	$300	5 * 3.5
❑ Business Card	$200	Actual Size
❑ Friend List	$100	Listed

DINNER TICKETS

❑ I am purchasing dinner tickets.

Dinner Tickets are $250 per person.

Total Tickets: _____

Total Amount : _____

DINNER TICKETS FULL TABLES

❑ I am purchasing 10 dinner tickets for a reserved table. $2,300

❑ I am purchasing 12 dinner tickets for a reserved table $2,500

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_____

Make a donation or purchase sponsorships, journal ads, tickets, and more at www.legalservicesli.org. You can also support us by donating a raffle basket. For details, contact Cathy Lucidi at 631-232-2400 ext. 3324.

Thank you for your support!

*AMEX can only be processed by completion of form or over the phone

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND
PROFILES IN COMMITMENT

LSLI employees demonstrate a deep commitment to our community, driven by a passion for equal justice and public service. We hope you enjoy this feature in our newsletter as much as we enjoy sharing it.



Samantha Veronica Barros graduated from Liberty University School of Law in Virginia in May of 2021. She was the first one in her family to graduate from law school. In her 3rd year of law school, she began to work at Virginia Legal Aid Society where she assisted impoverished clients in matters pertaining to guardianships, unemployment benefits and evictions. She also advised clients during the COVID pandemic by explaining the ever-changing temporary rules set forth in the eviction moratorium.

In September 2021, Samantha was admitted to the North Carolina Bar. Her very high Uniform Bar Examination score paved the way for her to transfer and be admitted in any jurisdiction, including New York.

In October 2021, she began to work for Legal Services of Long Island in the Civil Unit as a Law Graduate. She was admitted to the New York State Bar in November 2022 and continues her work now as a Staff Attorney in the same unit. Samantha is in court representing tenants at least 2 days a week, handling anywhere from 10 to 20 evictions for individuals and families, thereby helping them maintain their housing. She finds it very rewarding to assist the Hispanic community by helping them understand the eviction process. It has been her goal as an attorney to help those in need and advocate for children who may otherwise become homeless without her help. Samantha's supervisor says, "Samantha is an exceptional attorney with a great soul."

Her desire to serve her community extends beyond the workplace. Samantha serves as a teacher 3 days a week in her church's children's ministry. On Sundays, she teaches pre-k children, and on Fridays, she teaches third to fifth-grade girls. She also assists on Wednesday nights at her church with the Explorer Kids, focusing on pre-teen social and morale development activities, as well as Bible teaching. Samantha says, " I have two callings God has shown me: serving children and being an attorney. Both are equally important."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTOR J. AMBROSE







We deeply mourn the recent passing of **Victor J. Ambrose, Esq.** and remember the life and legacy he leaves behind, an extraordinary attorney and cherished member of the Legal Services of Long Island family. For more than 40 years, Victor served the people of Long Island with compassion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to justice. To honor his legacy, we have created a special award, the **Victor J. Ambrose Champion of Justice Award**, and we are honored to present this award to his family at this year's Commitment to Justice Reception.

Victor began his career at LSLI in 1973 in the Civil Unit of our Hempstead office, later working with the Domestic Violence Project in Suffolk before returning to the Civil Unit as Supervising Attorney. He was in court nearly every day, advocating for underserved tenants and ensuring their voices were heard.

Even after retiring in 2017, Victor continued his service as a volunteer attorney with our Pro Bono Project, demonstrating the same dedication and care he showed throughout his career.

We are forever grateful for Victor's more than 40 years of service, leadership, and compassion. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched, the colleagues he mentored, and the mission he so passionately upheld. Victor's dedication and unwavering sense of justice set a lasting example for all of us. He will always remain a guiding light at Legal Services of Long Island, inspiring us to continue fighting for those who need it most. His spirit, generosity, and tireless advocacy will never be forgotten.

The Suffolk Pro Bono Project
Champions of Civil Justice Reception

On October 9, 2025, **Legal Services of Long Island** and the **Suffolk County Bar Association** hosted the *Champions of Civil Justice Reception* at the Suffolk County Bar Association. The event honored outstanding pro bono attorneys and paralegals of 2025 and brought together honorees, local legislators, and Suffolk County judges to celebrate their commitment to access to civil justice. **Congratulations to the honorees!**



Karen Bent Fackler, a volunteer with the Suffolk Pro Bono Project, and Kiersten Bartolotta, Staff Attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator.



Richard Artura, Esq., alongside Outstanding Paralegal Award winner Tina Coles.



Andrew A. Crecca is the District Administrative Judge of Suffolk County, overseeing all court operations for the Tenth Judicial District, Suffolk County.

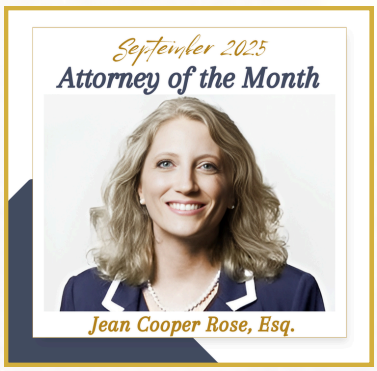


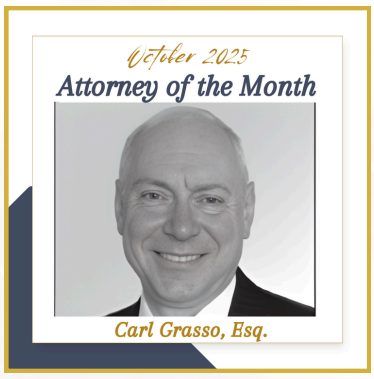
The team at Nixon Peabody LLP who received an award for Exceptional Pro Bono Service- Large Firm.

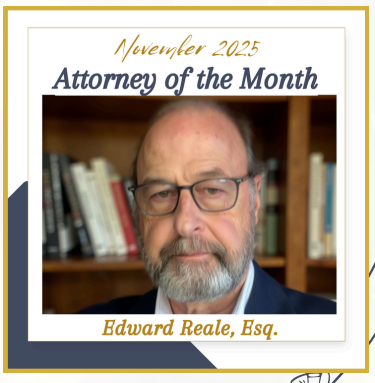


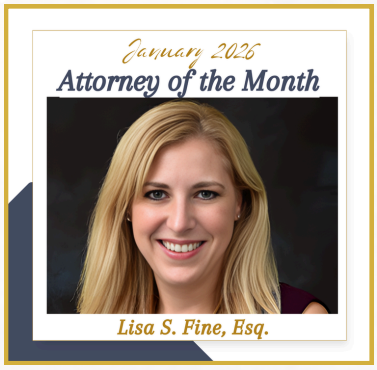
From left to right:
Jean Cooper Rose, Esq.
Christine Staiano, Esq.
Mary H. Brosnan, Esq.
Bailey Thomas, Esq.
Carl Grasso, Esq.
Ashley R. Mistretta
Michal E. Cantor, Esq.

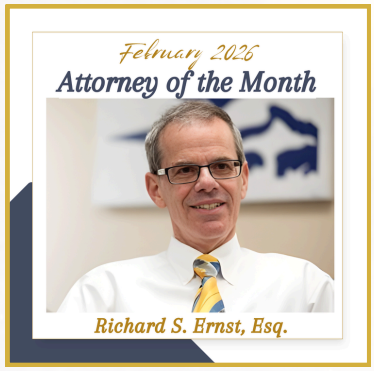
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE MONTH

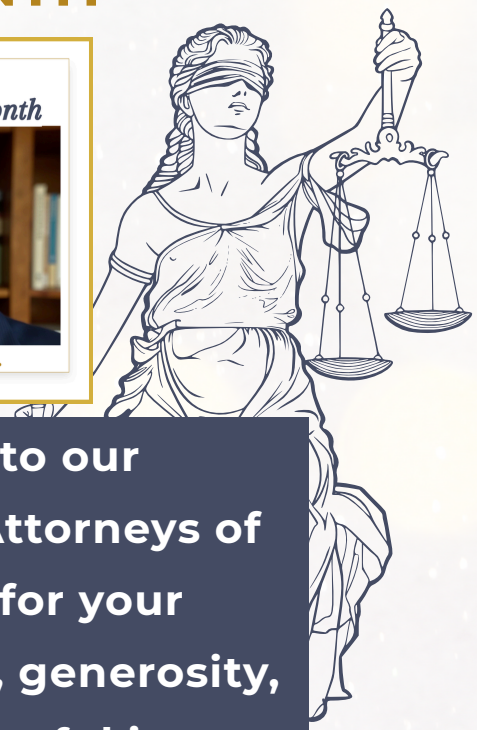












Thank you to our Pro Bono Attorneys of the Month for your dedication, generosity, and meaningful impact.

VOLUNTEERS MAKING JUSTICE HAPPEN

"Working on this case was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had. Having the ability to assist individuals in our community who are in need is a privilege I do not take for granted, and I am grateful to my firm for their support in my endeavor to give back to the community. Upon meeting the clients' son, and seeing the severity of his disabilities, it really emphasized the importance of the work we do to make sure the clients' son (and other individuals like him) are protected by the people who care for them most. In this case, it has been incredibly fulfilling to know that our work provided so much meaning to their family despite all that they have endured." - Helen L. Tuckman, Esq.

Experience, Mentorship, and Justice in Action

Helen L. Tuckman. Esq. is a new volunteer attorney with the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). Recently, Helen completed her first pro bono case through VLP. Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, the firm Helen works for, is dedicated to justice and the well-being of the community. They have demonstrated this by helping a wide range of clients and nonprofit organizations through pro bono and community involvement. The firm has a significant history with VLP. Joseph Trotti, Esq. and Bernard McGovern, Esq., Partners of the firm, have volunteered their time and expertise by providing full representation on pro bono matters for clients of VLP throughout the years. In 2023, Joseph was honored for the pro bono work he provided by representing clients of VLP in matrimonial actions, and he accepted the Pro Bono Top Provider Award for Medium Law Firms on behalf of Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP.

Last year, **Reisa Brafman, Pro Bono Coordinator & Staff Attorney for VLP** shared VLP's outreach flyer with Roy Schwartz, Chief Marketing Officer, who generously shared the flyer with the associates at the firm. Thereafter, Helen reached out to Reisa to find out more about the opportunity and ultimately volunteered. Based on Helen's interest in Article 17-A Guardianships and the needs of the clients, this case was referred to her. The VLP team provided Helen with the necessary documents for review and Helen eagerly consulted with the clients, accepted the referral and provided full representation of the clients pro bono. Helen had the support, mentorship and guidance of James Burdi, Esq., a Partner at the firm, and significant assistance from Maria Nercessian, Paralegal. VLP is so appreciative of the culture that Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP has fostered regarding pro bono and cannot thank Helen, James, Maria and team enough for all they have done for the clients on this case.



Pictured: Helen L. Tuckman, Esq., Volunteer Lawyers Project Attorney, LSLI



Guiding a Family Through Guardianship

The clients sought legal assistance to be appointed Guardians of the Person of their 22-year-old son, who has lived with intellectual and developmental disabilities since infancy. In New York, this requires an Article 17-A Guardianship proceeding in Surrogate's Court. Working closely with the family, the volunteer attorney and her firm guided them through the process to ensure it was as smooth and seamless as possible. The Court ultimately appointed the parents as guardians, allowing them to continue providing the care and support their son has relied on throughout his life.

Words From the Family

"Helen is a very nice person and as a lawyer, I feel she handled my case professionally, as if she was a very experienced attorney. I never worried about what was going to happen and I believed I was in good hands throughout. Everything went well according to our wishes. The case was successful, and Helen did a great job. Due to the condition of my son, my wife and I were worried because he cannot make any decisions, even small ones. We also had to make some important decisions regarding his medical care and needed a guardianship to do so. Me and my wife are thankful to VLP, especially to **Helen L. Tuckman, Esq., Reisa Brafman, VLP Pro Bono Coordinator and Staff Attorney, Eva Elibert, VLP Paralegal and Stephanie Gerland, Former VLP Paralegal.** We are so appreciative and grateful to all of you."

-Client on behalf of him and his wife

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND
IN THE COMMUNITY



August 7th, 2025
Victoria Osk's Birthday Surprise!

The LSLI staff came together to celebrate our Executive Director, **Victoria Osk's,** upcoming birthday in a memorable way — with a surprise goat-gram! It was a fun and joyful way to show our appreciation and make her day extra special.

August 12th, 2025
National Night Out



LSLI Staff Attorney Ellen Hoil, Paralegal Diana Roldan, & Sheriff Dr. Errol D. Toulon, Jr. with his staff at National Night Out. With 70+ vendors & thousands attending, it was a fantastic celebration of community & law enforcement connections.



September 13th, 2025
Huntington Unity Fun Day Parade and Fair

LSLI Staff Attorneys Heather Davis and Charlie Rogers at the Huntington Unity Fun Day Parade and Fair. Thank you to all of those who attended the event and made it so much fun!

September 18th, 2025
NYS Department of Labor Job Fair



LSLI HR Manager **Stephanie Buckheit** and Civil Unit Secretary **Wanda Taveras** attended the New York State Department of Labor's Job Fair on September 18, 2025, at Nassau Coliseum. Thank you to the NYS Department of Labor for the invitation.



October 10th, 2025
LSLI attended the annual PSEG Energy Forum for Advocates

Erika S. Verill, Esq. (Supervising Attorney) presented on Legal Advocacy. Thank you, PSEG, for holding this special and informative forum and always including LSLI as a participant.

October 20th, 2025
NYS DOCCS Queens Long Island Job Fair



LSLI Staff Attorney **Bob Scanlon** and Paralegal **Shervon Miller** sincerely thank everyone who attended the job fair. Your thoughtful questions and interest in our work helped make the event a great success.



October 21st, 2025
Legal Resource Fair

LSLI hosted its annual Legal Resource Fair at the Riverhead Free Library, with Know Your Rights presentations by Staff Attorneys Kimberly Curran and Danielle Leake, Supervising Attorney Courtney Spellman, and CARECEN, with Spanish interpretation by Jesus Padilla.



November 7th, 2025
Free Legal Clinic for Veterans at the SCBA

Pictured: Staff Attorney Carolyn McQuade, Director of Community Relations Cathy Lucidi, Supervising Attorney Sharon Campo and Law Graduate Janna Poretsky. Thank you to the Suffolk County Bar Association for an amazing event!

November 15th, 2025
National Consumer Law Center and National Association of Consumer Attorney's Consumer Debt Litigation Conference



Our **Consumer Debt Legal Assistance and Foreclosure Prevention attorneys** attended the NCLC Conference in Washington, DC to strengthen protections for Long Islanders facing financial hardship.



November 18th, 2025
HIA-LI Government Relations Committee Meet & Greet

Supervising Attorney **Sharon Campo** and Director of Community Relations **Cathy Lucidi** represented Legal Services of Long Island at the HIA-LI Government Relations Committee Meet & Greet featuring New York State Senator Monica R. Martinez and moderator Anthony Manetta. We appreciate the opportunity to engage with local leaders and continue strengthening our advocacy for Long Island communities.

November 18th, 2025
Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) Managing Holiday-Related Stress



LSLI Human Resource Manager **Stephanie Buckheit** pictured with Dr. Beth Eckhardt of LAP & Annabel Bazante, Esq., of Annabel Bazante Law, PLLC. The session, led by Dr. Eckhardt, focused on managing holiday stress, emotional fatigue, & time constraints faced by legal professionals.



November 23rd, 2025
Community Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by Temple Beth El in Huntington

LSLI staff were proud to participate in the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by Temple Beth El in Huntington on November 23, 2025. Thanks to our team's generosity, LSLI donated 70 toys to bring joy to low-income and disabled families this holiday season. We're grateful for the opportunity to support our community during this special time of year.

TEE OFF FOR JUSTICE

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

SIXTY YEARS. ONE MISSION: EQUAL JUSTICE

Swinging Into Our 60th Anniversary: Topgolf Event Recap



We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us at **TopGolf for our Tee-Off for Justice event**—the first celebration kicking off our 60th anniversary: 60 Years, One Mission: Equal Justice. The event was a tremendous success, filled with friendly competition, great conversation, and plenty of laughter. We extend our sincere thanks to TopGolf for hosting such a wonderful experience, to **Laurie Bloom** for generously donating the trophies that made the day even more special, and a huge thank you to all of our generous **sponsors** whose support made this event possible:

Brandow Law
The Law Offices of John Campo
Donna DeVita
Fratello Law, P.C.
Goldsmith & Tortura
Just-Tech
Douglas J. Good, Esq.
Jerry Kooevog
Peter Levy, Esq.
Gloria Lomeli, Esq.
PHP
Rappaport, Glass, Levine & Zullo, LLP
Rivkin Radler, LLP
Suffolk County Bar Association Pro Bono Foundation

Thanks to your enthusiasm and support, we raised critical funds that will help us continue providing equal access to justice for those who need it most. We are thankful to all who took part in this memorable celebration and helped us launch our 60th anniversary year in such a meaningful way. **Here's to 60 years of impact—and to the future we are building together.**

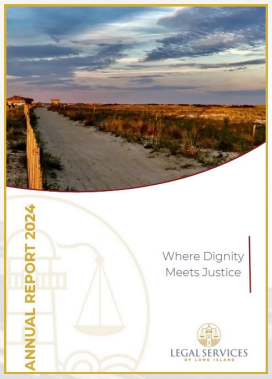
LEGAL SERVICES LI HIGHLIGHTS

Happy Milestone Employment Anniversary

Milestones celebrated in August 2025 - January 2026. LSLI would like to congratulate and thank the following staff for their years of dedicated service:



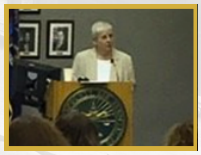
Nora Gonzalez
Paralegal



Scan the QR code to access our 2024 Annual Report

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

Allison Anwalimhobor
Charles Barriere, Esq.
Emily Cisneros
Myrrah Dubey, Esq.
Anupriya Gautam
Marc Gull
Leslie Hill
Constantine Markotsis, Esq.
Michelle Moreno
Nicole Moss, Esq.
Ifeoma Okorie
Andrea Sasala, Esq.
Daniel Smith, Esq.
Ingrid Villagran, Esq.
Jameel Zadran, Esq.





— HAPPY — Retirement

Andrea Sasala, Esq.

Congratulations to Andrea Sasala, Esq., on her retirement! Andrea was a Staff Attorney in our Disability Advocacy Project, where she represented clients in disability appeals. After 28 years of outstanding service at Legal Services of Long Island, we thank her for her dedication and impact. Wishing her all the best in this well-deserved next chapter.

LSLI WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES IN (AUGUST 2025-JANUARY 2026)

Constantine Andriotis Paralegal Staff Attorney; *Civil Unit (Hempstead)*
Jaspriya Badhan Paralegal; *ICAN Unit (Islandia)*
Claire Campuzano Staff Attorney; *Civil Unit (Islandia)*
Aylin Castillo Law Graduate; *Public Benefits Unit (Hempstead)*
Alexis Faucette Paralegal; *Volunteer Lawyers Project (Hempstead)*
Benjamin Fisher Law Graduate; *Civil Unit (Hempstead)*
James Gentile Staff Attorney; *Veterans Rights Project (Islandia)*
Richard Green Law Graduate; *Consumer Debt Law Project (Hempstead)*
Alyson Heiferman Paralegal; *Pro Bono Unit (Islandia)*
Lindsey Hernandez Law Graduate; *Disability and Health Related Units (Islandia)*
Eshrat Jahan Law Graduate; *Domestic Violence Unit (Hempstead)*
Arlene Lopez Staff Attorney; *Domestic Violence Unit (Hempstead)*
Jennifer Maldonado Staff Attorney; *EDCAP Unit (Islandia)*
Carl Poole Law Graduate; *Civil Unit (Hempstead)*
Silvia Portillo Aguilar Paralegal; *Disability and Health Related Units (Hempstead)*
Lanz Romero Law Graduate; *Civil Unit (Hempstead)*
Viviana Ruiz Staff Attorney; *Senior Citizen Law Project (Hempstead)*
Manny Santana Paralegal; *Community Legal Help Project* (Islandia)
Kaseen Smith Law Graduate; *Civil Unit (Hempstead)*
Sarah Smith Law Graduate; *Education and Disability Rights Project (Islandia)*
Isabel Tolentino Receptionist; *Senior Citizen Law Project (Hempstead)*
Natalie VanWickler Law Graduate; *Disability and Health Related Units (Islandia)*
Justin Williams Paralegal; *Volunteer Lawyers Project (Hempstead)*





Navigating AI Responsibly: Training Recap

As part of our new AI policy, we hosted the Flash AI Training on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Farmingdale State College to ensure staff can use AI tools responsibly while protecting our clients.

Led by Just-Tech, the in-person training covered key AI concepts, practical applications, and ethical considerations for legal services. Interactive breakout sessions encouraged hands-on learning, collaboration, and discussions of real-world scenarios, helping participants gain confidence in applying AI effectively and ethically.

Thank you to Just-Tech and all staff who joined for making the seminar informative and engaging.

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS



Long-time Advisory Council Member **Gina Pirozzi** was recently recognized by Long Island Business News and was included in their "In the Lead: Best Women-Owned Businesses of 2025" feature. Gina is the founder of G. Pirozzi Consulting, a boutique agency, which she launched in 1992. Gina provides marketing and business development counsel to leading New York and Long Island law firms. Congratulations, Gina, on this very special acknowledgement.



A. Thomas Levin, Esq., a valued member of the Legal Services of Long Island Advisory Council, has had an exemplary career in the legal profession. As a Past President of the New York State Bar Association, he was honored as one of the distinguished honorees at NYSBA's 150th Anniversary Gala in January. He was re-elected as Counsel to the Historical Society of the New York Courts, where he also serves as a Trustee Emeritus, and to the Executive Committees of the NYSBA's Local and State Government Law, 50+, and International Sections. In recognition of his outstanding legal work, he has been designated a Super Lawyer for the 14th consecutive year.



Congratulations to LSLI Advisory Council Chair, **Lidia Szczepanowski, Esq.,** on recently receiving the Elite Titleholder of the Year Award at the Beauty It's Everywhere 10th Annual Awards Gala. This well-deserved honor recognizes her dedication, leadership, and the inspiring impact she continues to make.

Reflecting on the moment, Lidia shared:

"My pageant journey has been filled with growth, friendship, confidence, and memories I will cherish forever. I'm so grateful for every experience, every lesson, and every stage that helped shape this incredible chapter of my life."

Project Holiday Happiness

A huge thank you to the law firm of Rivkin Radler!



Thanks to **Rivkin Radler's** generosity, 20 of our clients and their families had their Christmas wishes fulfilled this season. The firm went above and beyond—personally reading every "Dear Santa" letter, fulfilling children's specific wish lists, shopping for each family, and including additional gift cards and treats for parents. Their thoughtful gifts brought immense joy to families who might otherwise have gone without. We are deeply grateful to Legal Services of **Long Island Advisory Council Member Laurie Bloom**, Rivkin Radler's Director of Marketing & Communications, and the entire Project Holiday Happiness Team for helping make the holidays brighter and more magical for so many.





RIVKIN RADLER LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Interested in becoming a Legal Services of Long Island Advisory Council Member?
LSLI's Advisory Council is made up of volunteers who support our mission.
For more information, please contact Cathy Lucidi, Director of Community Relations, (631) 232-2400.

WHERE JUSTICE MEETS COMMUNITY
BECAUSE EVERY STORY COUNTS



Thank you for the wonderful news that [debt collection law firm] have closed my account due to my permanent hardship and they will take the appropriate steps to dismiss the lawsuit.
I want to sincerely thank you and the Legal [Services] team for all your help and support in getting this matter resolved for me. I am forever grateful to you[,] especially for the time and care you've shown me. Thank you so much again. Enjoy the rest of your day and have a great weekend.

- Former client of Helen Wrobel, Esq. (Consumer Debt Unit)



We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for taking on our difficult case and for putting us at ease. We truly appreciate everything you are doing for us.

- Former client of Whitney Punzone, Esq. (Disability And Health-Related Units)



[ ] I just want to let you know that I did get the job at [place of employment]. I want to thank you so much for all you have done to help me on this journey of mine. I went from nobody wanting to hire me to now working 2 jobs. Thank you for all your help.

- Former client of Ellen Hoil, Esq. (Human Rights Project)



Christopher, just a quick note of thanks for all your help and encouragement. I honestly thought there was no chance that the bank would agree to a modification. But with your guidance and persistence, you made it happen. I made the first trial payment today.
I understand anything can happen from here, but that doesn't change our gratitude for your effort and kindness to get us to this point. Legal Services of Long Island has been a real blessing, so thank you!

- Former client of Christopher Santoro, Esq. (Foreclosure Prevention Unit)



DJ, I I cannot begin to show my gratitude to you for all of the help you have given me. You fought hard and advocated for me as well as pushed me to never give up. I got exactly what I wanted and I couldn't be happier here. Thank you one million times plus infinity!

- Former client of D.J. Thode, Esq. (Civil Unit)

Enjoyed these stories? Scan the QR code to leave LSLI a Google review.
https://tinyurl.com/LSLIGoogleReviews

STAY IN TOUCH WITH LSLI

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1 Helen Keller Way, 5th Floor
Hempstead, NY 11550
Phone: (516) 292-8100

Islandia Office
1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50
Islandia, NY 11749
Phone: (631) 232-2400

Riverhead Office
400 West Main Street, Suite 200
Riverhead, NY 11901
Phone: (631) 369-1112

Visit our website:
www.legalservicesli.org

Follow us on social media:
@legalsvcsli
@legalservicesli

Join our mailing list for the LSLI Newsletter and monthly Legal Lessons.
https://tinyurl.com/LSLILegalLessons

LEGAL SERVICES OF LONG ISLAND

Legal Services of Long Island
1757 Veterans Memorial Hwy #50
Islandia, New York 11749



Save the Date

Legal Services of Long Island is commemorating 60 years of providing free civil legal assistance to our neighbors in need.

Join us on May 6, 2026, for our Annual Gala, a premier event in our year-long celebration. Sixty Years. One Mission: Equal Justice Early sponsorship opportunities available. For more information, please see pages 10-11 of this newsletter or contact Cathy Lucidi for more information at (631) 232-2400.

Follow the QR Code to become a sponsor of our 2026 Gala!