

Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
Celebrates 25 Years!



December 10, 2007

IOLTA  
Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts

**MLSC supports access to justice throughout Maryland, as illustrated in some of these client stories from our earliest grantees.**



### **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service**

“My husband and I tried to find a lawyer on our own but we couldn’t afford one. Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service found a lawyer who handled our bankruptcy. I didn’t know what to expect, but he treated us as if we had a million dollars.”

*Ms. Mary Lou Jones, Cecil County*

*MVLS placed 3,857 civil legal cases with volunteer attorneys throughout Maryland during FY 2007.*



### **House of Ruth**

“When I first called the House of Ruth I was at the end of my rope. I had been living with domestic violence and knew I needed to get out. Thanks to the House of Ruth, I am now divorced, I have custody of my children and own the home where we live.”

*Ms. Joanne Bennett, Baltimore City*

*During FY 2007, The House of Ruth opened cases on behalf of 3,413 victims of domestic violence.*



### **Maryland Disability Law Center**

“I am a woman with a disability and live in a nursing home. When my wheelchair broke I sat in the hallway with nothing to do but look at the walls all day, until a lawyer from the Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) came to help and I got my motorized wheelchair replaced. MDLC is also working to help me move into a home of my own with the support I need. I want to thank MDLC’s lawyers...people like them don’t come everyday.”

*Ms. Odessa Nelson, Baltimore City*

*Maryland Disability Law Center provided legal assistance to 2,527 individuals throughout Maryland with physical, mental and developmental disabilities during FY 2007.*



### **Legal Aid Bureau**

“When my landlord cancelled my lease out of the blue, I called the Legal Aid Bureau for help. Had I not gone to Legal Aid, I would have lost my apartment and not had a home for myself and my son. I really had nowhere else to go. They (LAB) saved my life.”

*Ms. Renai Foster, Baltimore County*

*LAB provided civil legal assistance to 41,245 low-income people throughout the state during FY 2007.*

# Maryland Legal Services Corporation Celebrates 25 Years!



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

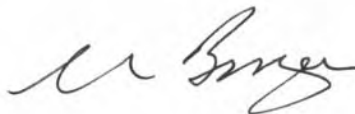
We are delighted to welcome you to Maryland Legal Services Corporation's (MLSC) celebration of twenty-five years of expanding access to justice for all in our state. This Souvenir Program highlights MLSC's history, milestones, client stories and memories of many of the people who have played a key role in our history. We hope you enjoy this commemorative publication.

We have had the good fortune to lead MLSC since 2003 as its new board chair and as a long-time staff member newly-appointed to serve as executive director. During this period, we are happy to report that we have witnessed the recovery of IOLTA revenue from declining interest rates, and benefited from enactment of increased filing fee surcharges to stabilize and ultimately increase grants for the provision of civil legal assistance to low-income Marylanders.

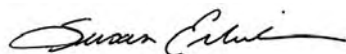
MLSC continues the excellent working relationships it has enjoyed over the past twenty-five years with members of Maryland's legal services community, as well as members of the bench, bar, General Assembly, Office of the Governor, financial institutions, law schools and many others as it continues to create innovations in legal services delivery and new initiatives to increase revenues. We look forward to working with the judiciary in the implementation of Maryland's new Access to Justice Commission, as well as implementing initiatives underway to assure fair rates of return on IOLTA deposits to help further narrow Maryland's "justice gap."

We hope you enjoy the evening and continue to support our mission to expand access to justice for low-income Marylanders.

Sincerely,



F. Vernon Booser  
Chair



Susan M. Erlichman  
Executive Director

# Maryland Legal Services Corporation Timeline 1982 - 2007

1982

The Maryland General Assembly established a voluntary Interest on Lawyer Trust Account (IOLTA) program and created the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) to administer the program.



1984

MLSC awarded \$307,500 in grants to House of Ruth, Legal Aid Bureau, Maryland Disability Law Center and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

1987

MLSC asked then Congressman Benjamin L. Cardin to chair an advisory council to study legal services needs in Maryland.

1989

The General Assembly enacted legislation converting IOLTA to a mandatory program, stemming from one of the recommendations of the Cardin "Action Plan."

MLSC awarded "Small Innovative Grants" to encourage nonprofit organizations to develop new approaches to expand civil legal services in the state.

1990

The "People's Pro Bono Campaign" with the Maryland State Bar Association, headed by President Herbert S. Garten, was followed by funding from MLSC to the newly-created Pro Bono Resource Center.



1985

MLSC held its first Awards Banquet and presented the Arthur W. Machen, Jr. Award to Mr. Machen.

The General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 annually from the State Abandoned Property Fund for the activities of MLSC, the only IOLTA program in the country with this source of funding.

## Expanding Civil Legal Assistance to Maryland's Poor

Benjamin L. Cardin\* and Robert J. Rhudy\*\*



In May 1987, the Maryland Legal Services Corporation created a thirty-member Advisory Council of bar and non-bar members. The council, including judges, law school faculty, and human services providers throughout Maryland, studied the needs of low-income persons, judges, lawyers, and human services providers throughout Maryland.

1992

MLSC funded the Advisory Council on Family Legal Needs of Low Income Persons, which produced a report, "Increasing Access to Justice for Maryland's Families," that led to the creation of the Family Court and many new laws to address domestic violence and improve the practice of family law.



1988

Cardin's Advisory Council published the "Action Plan for Legal Services to Maryland's Poor" – the blueprint for the future of legal services in Maryland, which proposed doubling total resources for legal services for Maryland's poor and made 41 recommendations.

1993

MLSC funding peaked for this decade at almost \$5 million for 32 grantees, including grants to support pro bono projects, public interest opportunities for clinical law students, and legal services to victims of domestic violence, homeless persons, persons with disabilities, nursing home residents, and many other low-income people in Maryland.

2000

MLSC partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts to implement a model Reduced-Fee Contested Child Custody Representation Project in three counties to engage private attorneys in representing litigants in these difficult cases as well as to test a staff attorney model through the Legal Aid Bureau.

1998

The Maryland General Assembly established modest filing fee surcharges on circuit and district court cases generating approximately \$2.3 million annually to help fund civil legal services to the poor.

The Open Society Institute – Baltimore provided a grant to MLSC to develop the Maryland Legal Assistance Network to improve statewide legal services through technology innovations.



2002

MLSC and the Maryland State Bar Association partnered to create the IOLTA Honor Roll to recognize banks paying favorable rates on IOLTA accounts, which were declining because of the economy.

The Court of Appeals required attorneys to report annually their compliance with Maryland's IOLTA program.

2003

The Maryland General Assembly made a one-time appropriation of \$300,000 in general revenue funds for MLSC, another response to falling interest rates on IOLTA accounts.

After 17 years of dedicated leadership, Robert J. Rhudy left MLSC as executive director. The stability and strength of the organization continued under the able direction of Susan M. Erlichman, who had been deputy director for 16 years.

2004

The Maryland General Assembly increased the filing fee surcharges, generating approximately \$6.8 million annually, and averting a crisis in Maryland civil legal services funding because of falling IOLTA interest rates.



2005

After many years of stagnant and declining grant levels, MLSC was able to restore funding with supplemental grants to existing grantees because of increased filing fee surcharge revenues.

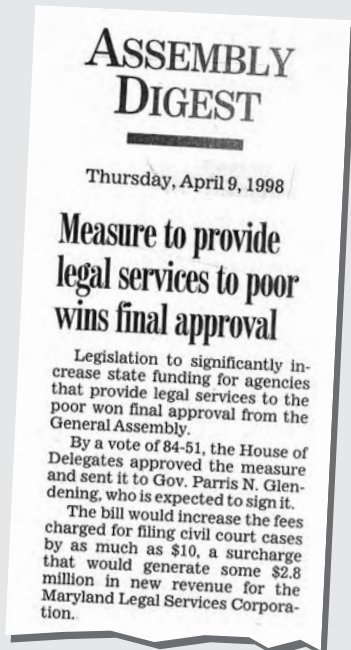
MLSC expanded the Reduced-Fee Contested Child Custody Representation Project to serve every jurisdiction in Maryland.

2007

MLSC awarded over \$13 million in grants to 38 organizations for fiscal year 2008.

MLSC and the Administrative Office of the Courts initiated the Judicare Family Law Pilot Project for FY 2008 to expand private bar representation in family law matters at reduced fees.

The IOLTA Comparability Rule, requiring attorneys to place IOLTA accounts in banks that pay interest rates comparable to other business accounts, was approved unanimously by the Judicial Rules Committee and set for a hearing before the Court of Appeals in December.



## *About MLSC*

The Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1982 to raise funds and make grants to nonprofit organizations for the provision of civil legal assistance to low-income persons in Maryland. MLSC is governed by a nine-person Board of Directors appointed by the Governor of Maryland and confirmed by the Maryland Senate. One of MLSC's principal funding sources is the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, also established by state legislation in 1982. Other major funding is from surcharges on court filing fees, first enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998 and increased in 2004.

## *About IOLTA*

Attorneys routinely receive client funds to be held in trust for future use. In the case of amounts that are small or to be held for a short time, attorneys must place these nominal and short-term funds into Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA). The income generated is used by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation for grants to programs which provide civil legal services to the poor.

# 25 MLSC



1985

*MLSC held its first Awards Banquet and presented the Arthur W. Machen, Jr. Award to Mr. Machen, shown with Board Chair Benjamin R. Ciochetti.*

## *Memories*

“As I look back over the history of this project after the passage of a quarter of a century, I am impressed by the enormous complexity of the problems we faced.... It could not have been done without good organization and the cooperation of many talented people.”

– Arthur W. Machen, Jr., Chair of the MSBA Special Committee on Lawyer Trust Accounts from 1979 – 1984

# IOLTA

# Chairs & Board Members of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation

Herbert J. Belgrad\*

F. Vernon Boozer\*

Douglas M. Bregman

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin\*

Benjamin R. Civiletti\*

Michaele Cohen

Bedelia Commodore

M. Michael Cramer

Timmerman Tepel Daugherty

David W. Densford

Christopher J. Fritz

Eleanor Futrell

Herbert S. Garten\*

Wanda E. Gill

Richard Grumbacher

Steven A. Hamilton

Margaret T. Hays

Michele P. Hotten

Donna L. Jacobs

Reginald L. Jenkins

Bernard L. Jennings

Brady B. Johnson

Nathaniel E. Jones, Jr.

David P. Kennedy

Hon. Robert B. Kershaw

Connie J. Koenig

Everett Lallis, Jr.

Allison Velez Lane

Cheryl D. Lynch

William Alden McDaniel, Jr.

Michael A. Millemann

Sally Millemann

Javier Miyares

Joyce Knox Moorehead

Alvin Murphy

Malinda B. Orlin

Nancy A. Sachitano

H. Russell Smouse

Joseph F. Snee, Jr.

Douglas S. Snyder

Virginia Johnson Soden

Paul F. Strain

Jose A. Toro

Hon. Pamela J. White

\* *Chairs*

## Memories

As chairman of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in 1982, I saw first hand the effort of our Maryland Bar leadership working for passage of the IOLTA proposal. We can be very proud of the legal community support. Happy Anniversary, MLSC.

– J. Joseph Curran, Jr., former chair of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and former Attorney General of Maryland



1985

Board Members L-R Michael Cramer, Cheryl Lynch, Arthur Murphy (exec. dir.) Eleanor Futrell, Brady Johnson, Michael Millemann, Timmerman Daugherty, Benjamin Civiletti (chair)

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



**MARTIN O'MALLEY**  
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE  
100 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925  
(410) 974-3901  
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336  
TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

***A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY***

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

Since 1983, the Maryland Legal Services Corporation has provided impeccable service for our neighbors in times of trouble. MLSC has become a cornerstone for many by providing vital grants and connections to essential services to preserve our quality of life.

Working together, we can continue to succeed in addressing some of our biggest challenges in this State. The success of this great organization can be attributed to the many law firms and lawyers willing to participate in the programs, sacrificing much for the greater good of our community.

On behalf of our One Maryland, I would like to commend the work of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation as well as the many law firms and lawyers who remind us everyday that one person can make a difference and that each of us must try.

Please accept my best wishes for another 25 years of exceptional service.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

November 9, 2007

Ms. Susan M. Erlichman  
Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
15 Charles Plaza, Suite 102  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3994

Dear Ms. Erlichman & Friends:

Greetings to the members and guests of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee. This milestone event will clearly illustrate the wide range of services to the community which you have so ably provided for these past twenty-five years.

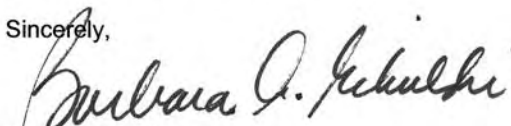
The protection of civil liberties and the assurance of access to legal redress is one of the foundations of our American society. The commitment of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation guarantees that lower income people are treated with the dignity of being fully and fairly represented before the law.

Since your creation in 1982 by the Maryland General Assembly, you have successfully raised funds to provide competitive grants to independent, local legal service providers. From your initial days, MLSC has made grants totaling over \$100M to help provide services in more than 1.4M legal matters for Maryland's families. In FY2007 alone, 34 local programs were the recipients of \$10.9M in competitive grants.

You know that I am on your side. I know of your concern about funding for the programs to reach those most in need and to have enough lawyers to work on these cases. I will continue to do everything I can to fight for funding for legal services. The courthouse doors must remain open for all.

Without legal services, there would be no legal help for thousands of Marylanders. "Equality Justice for All" remains a reality because of you.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



December 10, 2007

Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
15 Charles Plaza, Suite 102  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Friends:

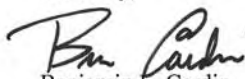
I want to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. This evening is a time to celebrate the impressive progress MLSC has made during the past quarter century. I want to congratulate everyone involved with the MLSC for their dedication and commitment to providing legal aid to those in need.

As a former Chairman of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, I am proud of MLSC's accomplishments. MLSC grants have exceeded more than \$100 million in helping provide civil legal assistance in more than 1.4 million legal matters. MLSC also helped establish the Clinical Law requirement at the University of Maryland School of Law, requiring students to provide legal services to individuals who lack access to lawyers.

In recent years, MLSC has not received the funding and resources it deserves, hampering its ability to fulfill its mandate. We cannot tolerate a gap in our system of justice based on income. Equal justice under the law is needed to maintain the rule of law. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am committed to providing the MLSC and legal services corporations across our nation with the resources they need to provide legal assistance to low-income Americans.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



**ROBERT M. BELL**  
CHIEF JUDGE  
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
634 COURTHOUSE EAST  
111 N. CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202  
(410) 333-6396  
(410) 347-3908 (FAX)  
robert.bell@courts.state.md.us

Dear Maryland Legal Services Corporation,

On behalf of the Maryland Judiciary, I congratulate you on a most prestigious milestone – 25 years of support for legal services for Maryland's most disadvantaged citizens.

We know that many people within our communities, cities, and towns, and indeed throughout this country, do not have sufficient access to our system of justice. You don't have to look very far to find those whose access to justice is limited or non-existent, and whose confidence in the system is, therefore and unfortunately, not particularly strong. Significantly, our government, and in particular, our judicial system, has as its only power the public's trust and confidence. Those of us in the Judiciary recognize that negative perceptions of justice can, and often does, negatively impact our system. The mission of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) is, and has been throughout its existence, to break down the barriers to access and provide "equal justice under the law" to those otherwise unable to afford legal counsel.

It is for this reason that we honor the work of MLSC on its 25th Anniversary. Since 1982, MLSC has recognized that too many Americans have been denied access to justice, at a heavy cost to us all. When access is denied, conflicts involving children, shelter, employment, property, commerce, communities and safety are not resolved. Perceived wrongs are not settled. Resentments grow. Social interaction declines. Stress and violence increase. Civil society suffers. To address these effects, MLSC has accepted the challenge and utilizing, inter alia, the funding from the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), has demonstrated that we can provide representation to litigants in need. In 25 years of service, MLSC and its partners have made it possible to provide grants of more than \$100 million to help provide civil legal assistance to low-income Maryland residents in more than 1.4 million legal matters. Revenue generated in 2006 enabled MLSC to award more than \$10.9 million in grants for the provision of legal aid to Maryland's poor.

It is no exaggeration to say that the work you do is essential to a fair and equitable system of justice. Congratulations again and continued success as you embark on another 25 years of service.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Robert M. Bell in black ink.  
Robert M. Bell

# MLSC Board Members, Staff & 25th Anniversary Committee & Honorary Committee

## Board of Directors

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F. Vernon Boozer, Esq., Chairman  
Bedelia M. Commodore  
Bernard L. Jennings  
Nathaniel E. Jones, Jr., Esq.  
Hon. Robert B. Kershaw  
Nancy A. Sachitano, Esq.  
Douglas S. Snyder, Ph.D.  
Hon. Pamela J. White

## Staff

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Susan M. Erlichman, Esq., Executive Director  
Harriet Robinson, Deputy Director  
Sue Lentz, Finance Manager  
Rebecca Parker, IOLTA Manager  
Eleanor Goldstein, Special Projects

## Fall Symposium Kicks Off Anniversary Celebration

“The Maryland Legal Services Corporation 25th Anniversary: Recognizing Twenty-Five Years of Accomplishments and Setting an Agenda for the Future” was presented by the University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class on October 11, 2007. Historical highlights of legal services and MLSC milestones were followed by panel presentations on current and future issues of access to justice for all Marylanders. The proceedings will be published in the journal and posted on the University of Maryland School of Law web site.

## 25th Anniversary Committee

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Hon. Pamela J. White, Chair  
Eleanor Goldstein  
Bernard L. Jennings  
Michael Millemann, Esq.  
Robert J. Rhudy, Esq.  
Harriet Robinson

## Honorary Committee

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Herbert S. Garten, Esq., Chair  
Herbert J. Belgrad, Esq.  
F. Vernon Boozer, Esq.  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Benjamin R. Civiletti, Esq.



*Harriet Robinson, MLSC, Christine Norris, University of Maryland, and Bob Rhudy helped plan the MLSC 25th Anniversary Symposium.*

# Maryland Legal Services Corporation Celebrates 25 Years!

**December 10, 2007 · Tremont Grand, Baltimore**

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**5:30 – Cocktail Reception – Roman Strada Room**

**6:30 – Dinner and Awards Presentations – Corinthian Room**

**Guest Host – Marc Steiner, WYPR 88.1 FM**

**Proclamation – Elizabeth Harris, Acting Legal Counsel to the Governor**

**Remarks – Alison L. Asti, President, Maryland State Bar Association,  
and Senator Benjamin L. Cardin**

**Welcome – F. Vernon Boozer**

**Video history of MLSC – Susan M. Erlichman**

**Greetings – Chief Judge Robert M. Bell**

**Presentation of Awards – F. Vernon Boozer and Chief Judge Robert M. Bell**

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## **Robert M. Bell Medal for Access to Justice**

presented to HON. J. JOSEPH CURRAN, JR.

## **Arthur W. Machen, Jr. Award**

presented to CONNIE KRATOVIL LAVELLE

## **Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award**

presented to LAUREN YOUNG

## **William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award**

presented to MAUREEN LARENAS

## **Herbert S. Garten Public Citizen Award**

presented to THE DAILY RECORD

## **Award of Special Recognition**

presented to JOHN H. MICHENER

## **Award for Outstanding Service**

presented to former MLSC Board Member

**DOUGLAS M. BREGMAN**

# About the Awards & 2007 Award Winners

**The Robert M. Bell Medal for Access to Justice** is presented to **Hon. J. Joseph Curran, Jr.**, former Attorney General for Maryland and now counsel to the Maryland Injured Workers Fund, for his extraordinary commitment to furthering access to justice for the poor throughout his distinguished career. MLSC created this award in 2004 and presented it to Chief Judge Bell, after which the award was named in his honor to be given only when warranted.

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**The Arthur W. Machen, Jr. Award** is presented to **Connie Kratovil Lavelle**, who has been a legal services attorney, private practitioner and now deputy director of the Department of Family Administration of the Administrative Office of the Courts, for her extraordinary public service by providing legal representation to the poor and improving the delivery of legal services in Maryland.

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**The Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award** is presented to **Lauren Young**, director of litigation of the Maryland Disability Law Center, for her outstanding work as a public interest lawyer providing civil legal services to the poor and the developmentally disabled.

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**The William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award** is presented to **Maureen Larenas**, manager of the Tacoma Park Silver Spring (TESS) Community Service Center, for her outstanding advocacy in Maryland on behalf of low-income persons.

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**The Herbert S. Garten Public Citizen Award** is given to **The Daily Record**, which has provided Maryland's business and legal news since 1888, for demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to increase access to justice for the poor in Maryland.

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**MLSC also presents an Award of Special Recognition** to **John H. Michener**, former director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and director of the Department of Human Resources Legal Services and Judicare Programs.

## Memories

Unlike efforts in other states to create state level legal service organizations, there was tremendous support here for enactment of the MLSC by the bar and by the key leaders of the executive, judicial and legislative branches of Maryland's government. It was a real team effort recognizing the need of legal services for Maryland's poor citizens.

– Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney,  
Chief Judge, Circuit Court for  
Howard County, former Deputy  
Attorney General, member of  
Cardin Advisory Council

One of my memories is of the essential role that Ben Civiletti played. Every new government needs a George Washington, and Ben, who had been a United States Attorney General and was (and is) a distinguished private lawyer, gave the MLSC immediate credibility with the bar and banks and gave the Board great leadership and impeccable judgment.

– Michael Millemann, Professor,  
University of Maryland,  
member of first MLSC board

# Memories

I had the great opportunity to lobby and develop strategy for the passage of the MLSC and IOLTA Bills. In my opinion, the bills were the most important legislation passed and enacted during the 1982 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

– Lynn Weinberg, Attorney, Freishtat, Mullen & Dubnow, LLC, lobbyist for IOLTA /MLSC bills in 1982

It was then, and even more now, an incredibly energizing and inspiring time. It was the first time such a broad coalition of advocates put their individual goals aside to work exclusively and tirelessly to gain legal rights for a variety of disadvantaged constituents. In the end we were all gratified knowing this legislation, and this corporation would make a positive difference in the lives of many Marylanders for years to come.

– Sally Millemann, former Deputy Director of Maryland Disability Law Center and former MLSC board member

In 1982, the idea of IOLTA created controversy and excitement nationwide. The best people in the legal field “sold” the profession and the financial institutions on the idea. Maryland was a leader among the other states, providing expertise and hands-on assistance. MLSC continued that leadership by expanding legal services in 1988. I am proud to have been a member of the staff during those early years.

– Jane M. Martin, former MLSC staff

Because IOLTA was voluntary when it began, I remember meeting with the CEO’s of all of the banks to convince them that it was good business to participate in IOLTA and to urge them to provide a fair rate of return.

– Benjamin R. Civiletti, Venable LLP, first chair of MLSC Board

I worked as a consultant to MLSC from 1983 to 1984. Art Murphy, the first executive director, hired me to help implement IOLTA. My job was to meet with attorneys all over the state to convince them to participate in the IOLTA program. After completing the campaign in Maryland, I took it to other states.

– Marc Steiner, radio host, WYPR 88.1 FM, former consultant to MLSC



1982

IOLTA bill signing.

# IOLTA

## Robert M. Bell Medal for Access to Justice

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Hon. Robert M. Bell

## Arthur W. Machen, Jr. Award

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E. Clinton Bamberger, Jr.  
Herbert J. Belgrad  
Lawrence L. Bell  
C. Christopher Brown  
Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin  
Hon. William O. Carr  
Benjamin R. Civiletti  
J. Joseph Curran, Jr.  
Susan C. Elgin  
Equal Justice Council  
Herbert S. Garten  
Arthur W. Machen, Jr.  
Donald P. McPherson, III  
J. Michael McWilliams  
Michael A. Millemann  
Stephen J. Nolan  
Warren S. Oliveri, Jr.  
Robert J. Rhudy  
Stephen H. Sachs  
Hon. John P. Sarbanes  
Lawrence A. Shulman  
Nevett Steele, Jr.  
Gerald R. Walsh  
Rachel A. Wohl

# Memories

As Chairman of the Board in 1987, I enlisted the services of Ben Cardin to chair the Advisory Council which developed the “Action Plan for Legal Services to Maryland’s Poor” – the blueprint for the future of legal services in Maryland. Perhaps my greatest contribution to the MLSC was persuading then Congressman Cardin to succeed me as Chairman of the Board.

– Herbert J. Belgrad, Partner, Tydings & Rosenberg LLP, Past MLSC Board Chair

My favorite memory is the engaging and challenging conversations at meetings of the Cardin Advisory Council of leaders of the bar, the bench and the legal academy committed to providing the protection of the law for the poor and the marginalized in our society. MLSC should occasionally challenge the leaders of our profession to show their most noble character.

– Clinton Bamberger, Professor Emeritus of Law at University of Maryland, member of Cardin Advisory Council, former director of the federal Legal Services Corporation

# Memories

In a meeting with Governor Schaefer, he agreed to provide new state funds to expand clinical programs in our law schools if lawyers did more. That led to the legislature passing mandatory IOLTA and the Bar Association establishing a campaign to increase lawyer participation in pro bono programs.

– Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, Past MLSC Board Chair

## Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award

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Barbara Babb	Susan P. Leviton
Luther Blackiston	Hannah E.M. Lieberman
Anne Blumenberg	Rhonda Lipkin
Stuart R. Cohen	Jane C. Murphy
Lawrence B. Coshnear	Steven Ney
Gregory L. Countess	Joan O’Sullivan
Winifred R. DePalma	Elizabeth Renuart
Charles H. Dorsey, Jr.	J. Peter Sabonis
John C. Eidleman	Karen J. Sargeant
Anne B. Gallagher	Wendy W. Schiller
Rev. Mark F. Horak	Kathleen F. Shemer
Dorothy J. Lennig	Judith A. Wolfer

## Memories

Perhaps the grants awarded by MLSC during my tenure on the board of which I am most proud include those to CASA de Maryland and the Catholic Charities Immigration Law Program, to help defend the rights of day laborers, persons seeking asylum or facing severe immigration problems, mostly Hispanic and many undocumented; and the HIV Legal Clinic at the University of Maryland Law School, to assist persons living with HIV with their many legal problems.

– Javier Miyares, Vice President,  
University of Maryland University  
College, former MLSC board member

### Herbert S. Garten Public Citizen Award

Allegany County Bar Association  
First National Bank of Maryland  
Maryland State Bar Association  
Office of the Governor & the Maryland General Assembly  
Wachovia Bank  
Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP

The 1988 Cardin Advisory Council report proposed doubling total resources for legal services for Maryland's poor and made 41 recommendations including the adoption of mandatory pro bono for Maryland attorneys. The MSBA opposed this recommendation and instead spearheaded the highly successful "People's Pro Bono Campaign" and the formation of what is now the Pro Bono Resource Center, Inc.

– Herbert S. Garten, Fedder & Garten;  
Past MLSC Board Chair

### William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award

Paula Carolyn Bell  
Levern Blackmon  
Winifred C. Borden  
Frank Broccolina  
Patricia A. Campbell  
Mary Joel Davis  
Judith A. Feldt  
Frank Fischer  
Patricia Halle  
Patricia A. Hanges  
C. Sue Hecht  
Rev. Isaac Jenkins  
Mary Anne Jones  
George B. Laurent  
Beverly Mondin-VanderHaar  
Joanne Nathans  
Joyce M. Price  
Cynthia J. Riley  
Barbara L. Ruland  
Katherine T. Sanzone  
Jeff Neal Singer  
Bebe Verdery  
Grace Webb  
Albert "Buzz" Winchester, III

This action plan laid out a vision and road map to greatly expand legal services to Maryland's poor. Parts of it have been implemented, parts have not. The cumulative impact, however, has been a major positive impact on providing legal services.

– James L. Thompson,  
Past MSBA President

### Special Recognition Awards

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# Memories

The School of Law created the Cardin program in 1988 to show successive generations of law students the value of bringing justice to people in poverty. It soon became a requirement, and today all our full-time students must mix theory with practice by providing free legal services to vulnerable populations.

– Karen Rothenberg, Dean, University of Maryland School of Law

One of MLSC's most important accomplishments during the last 25 years has been the funding of legal services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Beginning with the House of Ruth Maryland legal clinic in Baltimore City, this funding has been expanded throughout the state and has contributed significantly to the increased safety of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors all over Maryland.

– Michaele Cohen, Executive Director, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, former MLSC Board member

In response to a recommendation of the 1988 Action Plan for Legal Services, MLSC established an Advisory Council on Family Legal Needs of Low Income Persons. The Council recommended changes in the court structure to increase access to the justice system for low-income Marylanders in family law matters. Maryland family law has never been the same and our citizens are better for it.

– Jane C. Murphy, Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law and former project director, MLSC Advisory Council for Family Legal Needs of Low Income Persons

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 Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy  
 University of Maryland / HIV Project  
 Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program  
 Women's Law Center  
 YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

## Memories

Maryland Legal Services Corporation's leadership in supporting summer public interest grants for law students to engage in public interest legal work has made a real difference in the fight for equal access to justice and cultivating a dedication to serve the community in future leaders in the legal profession.

– Teresa Schmiedeler, University of Maryland Pro Bono and Public Services Initiatives, Advisor to Maryland Public Interest Law Project

In 2001-2002, when I was president of the Maryland State Bar Association, I helped create the MSBA's successful partnership with MLSC to identify Honor Roll banks meeting higher IOLTA interest rates. This was a key initiative to help reverse the loss in revenue from IOLTA because of falling interest rates.

– Hon. Pamela J. White, Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Baltimore City, MLSC Board of Directors, Past MSBA President

The partnership between the Judiciary and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation is truly unique among the states. This decade-long collaboration has accomplished much to enhance access to justice for those among us with the greatest legal need, including the Maryland Legal Assistance Network, filing fee surcharge legislation and the new pilot Judicare Family Law Project. I can say without reservation that the Judiciary's association with MLSC has been the most rewarding aspect of my career in public service and I look forward to greater opportunities to advance access to justice.

– Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts



Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

November 1, 2007

The Maryland Bar Center  
520 West Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-1781

Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
15 Charles Plaza, Suite 102  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Dear MLSC:

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The Maryland State Bar Association extends hearty congratulations to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and its network of non-profit legal services organizations on 25 exemplary years of service to Maryland's low-income population. As a champion of the state's poor, you have expanded their access to justice, improved delivery of the civil legal services they so desperately need and fought hard to maintain and increase federal and state funding for these civil legal services. On this hallmark anniversary, MSBA pays tribute to and applauds MLSC for its persistent strength, relentless dedication and outstanding accomplishments in 25 years.

Since 1982, MSBA has consistently supported MLSC in its quest to deliver civil legal services to the state's neediest population. MSBA has backed legislation and court rules to enhance revenue for IOLTA, partnered with you to create our "Honor Roll" and generally supported your on-going quest to increase funding for civil legal services for the poor. Most recently, MSBA endorsed the IOLTA Comparability Rule to support increased revenue for legal services in the state.

MSBA is pleased to have been a part of the successful partnership you forged early on with Maryland's Bar and Bench, legal community, legislators, government officials and state financial institutions. Under your leadership, and with the efforts of your dedicated board and staff, this coalition has worked hard to increase civil legal services funding in Maryland. MSBA applauds your leadership and success.

Maryland's indigent citizens, and the entire state, are fortunate to have had such an effective civil legal services delivery system for the last 25 years. MSBA is proud to have been part of MLSC's partnership, and offers accolades and warmest congratulations to you on your continued success in the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

Alison Asti  
President

Ben Cardin personally was a great inspiration for the MLSC. As our Senator today he will offer much more to aid the underprivileged in our state. His Council's Action Plan raised interest of many within the State and aided in channeling young attorneys to consider early in their career work for the underprivileged.

– Everett Lallis, former MLSC Board Member

## Memories



## AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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November 5, 2007

Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
15 Charles Plaza, Suite 102  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the American Bar Association Commission on Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), I congratulate the Maryland Legal Services Corporation on the celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since its inception, the Maryland Legal Services Corporation has been in the very forefront of developing innovative strategies for increasing IOLTA revenues and assisting grantees in providing high quality legal services to low income residents and other vulnerable populations in Maryland. You, your Board, staff and grantees, all should be very proud of the more than \$100 million in grants you have distributed to legal services providers in your state since MLSC opened its doors in 1982.

MLSC is a wonderful example of how IOLTA programs can work cooperatively with members of the legal services community, the bar, the bench, law firms, individual private attorneys, law schools and financial institutions in pursuing the goal of "equal justice under law" and justice for all. The success of MLSC over the past many years hasn't just happened, though. It is the result of tireless efforts of a dedicated and talented Board and the exceptional ability and vision of its staff, particularly its Executive Directors, who have led and shaped the exemplary work of the Maryland IOLTA efforts. You all are to be commended for your exceptional work.

I and the Commission wish you every success in your ongoing efforts and congratulate you again on all you have achieved and all that you will continue to do in the future for those in need.

Respectfully,

Jonathan D. Asher



I answered an ad in the Sun and was hired in July of 1982 as a part time accountant. Little did I know at that time that it would take me on a journey of 25 years—which brought into focus for me the need for legal services for the poor. I have been privileged from the beginning to work with those dedicated to the cause. There has always been a bond between the MLSC staff, which has remained steadfast and has changed relatively little through all these years.

– Ellie Goldstein, MLSC staff

## Memories



Legal Services Corporation  
America's Partner for Equal Justice

November 5, 2007

Susan Erlichman  
Executive Director  
Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
15 Charles Plaza, Suite 102  
Baltimore, MD 21201

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Dear Susan:

As the Maryland Legal Services Corporation celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Legal Services Corporation to join with the national and statewide legal community in offering you sincerest congratulations. LSC also extends thanks and congratulations to the Board and staff of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation for its outstanding commitment to its mission and to the community at large.

Your organization has made an indelible contribution to the lives of thousands of indigent Marylanders. You have provided funding for a variety of important programs in Maryland that continue to address the critical needs of the least fortunate of our population. From issues related to homelessness, domestic violence, health, education and family crises matters to those related to HIV and AIDS and disability advocacy, Maryland Legal Services Corporation has been a leader in ensuring that funding is provided to address the critical challenges faced by our client community on a daily basis.

As you stand on the threshold of the next 25 years, we know you will continue to create new and innovative ways to ensure that the most vulnerable among us has equal access to justice and that eligible clients receive quality legal representation, despite their economic circumstances. We are confident that the Maryland Legal Services Corporation will remain committed to these tenets, and that the next 25 years will be even greater than the first.

Sincerely,

Helaine M. Barnett  
President

3333 K Street, NW 3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20007-3522  
Phone 202.295.1500 Fax 202.337.6797  
www.lsc.gov

I have been honored to work with the MLSC board and staff in cooperation with a committed group of outstanding legal aid leaders, judges, private attorneys, law professors, legislators, public officials, and others to develop our state's legal aid and access to justice programs. I do not believe there is another state in our country where so many have worked together with such dedication and success to promote equal justice for all.

– Robert J. Rhudy, former MLSC executive director providing staff leadership for Cardin Advisory Council and other milestones over 17 years

## Memories



### Harford County Bar Foundation

“Having a good lawyer helped me realize I was a lot stronger than I thought. Because of the attorney I was placed with by the Harford County Pro Bono Program, I was able to face an abusive situation, get custody and begin a new life with my children.”

*Ms. Brenda Smith, Harford County*

*The Harford County Bar Foundation assisted 625 low-income clients needing legal assistance during FY 2007.*



### Heartly House

“My husband beat me throughout the marriage. Finally he shattered my jaw, and kept my baby from me for five months. When I heard there was an attorney at Heartly House, I asked for help. Five days later, I got my baby back. Now, thanks to Heartly House, I’m divorced and have legal custody of my daughter.”

*Ms. Rachel Gray, Frederick County*

*Heartly House represented 518 low-income Frederick County clients needing protection from domestic abuse and other family law matters during the FY 2007 period.*

**MLSC supports access to justice throughout Maryland, as illustrated in some of these client stories from our grantees around the state.**



### Montgomery County Bar Foundation

“My husband was hospitalized with Alzheimer’s disease. We lost our home and I was drowning in bills. The (Montgomery County Bar) Pro Bono Program was a life saver for me. The lawyer helped me understand my financial dilemma and proceed on the best course for me.

*Ms. Bertha Patterson, Montgomery County*

*The Montgomery County Bar Foundation’s pro bono program provided assistance to 1,482 clients through the services of volunteer attorneys during the FY 2007.*



### Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy

“I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy for the help they have given me with my bankruptcy and divorce from an abusive marriage. Now I have a chance to restart my life.”

*Ms. Bonnie Ross, Charles County*

*The Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy provided legal assistance to 703 clients in Southern Maryland during the FY 2007 period, primarily serving clients needing help with family and domestic legal matters.*

**“There is a need to provide equal access to the system of justice for individuals who seek redress of grievances. There is a need to continue and expand legal assistance to those who would otherwise be unable to afford adequate legal counsel.” – Preamble, Maryland Legal Services Corporation Act, 1982**



## **Maryland Legal Services Corporation**

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