



2017-2018
ANNUAL
REPORT



Mid Penn
LEGAL SERVICES



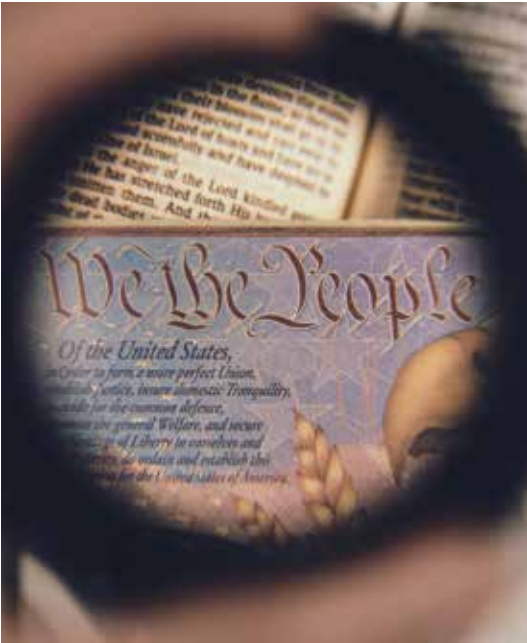
Our MISSION

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice and high quality civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.



Our VISION

As members of the communities we serve, we strive to help our clients to become independent and self-sufficient members of the community by strengthening families, stabilizing housing, securing and maintaining income, providing access to health care and education, protecting personal safety and protecting individual rights.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my privilege to serve as President of the Board of Directors of MidPenn Legal Services. It is a great honor to work with such a dedicated and skilled group of legal professionals. The need for legal services is unmet and costly. MidPenn has been at the forefront of developing new and innovative projects to expand the resources available to low-income individuals and families in crisis.

MidPenn handles life-changing civil legal matters, including protection from domestic violence, emergency child custody cases, access to healthcare, housing issues, elder law and financial losses. Legal aid has been a crucial support to community empowerment efforts by low-income residents for decades. MidPenn has been a champion in providing free legal services and access to justice in Central Pennsylvania for nearly fifty years.

I am thankful and appreciative of your continued support in the most recent fiscal year. With your continued generosity and commitment, we will ensure our most vulnerable neighbors will benefit from the legal system.



Thomas D. O'Shea, Esquire
President
Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Each day MidPenn Legal Services faces the tremendous challenge of working to achieve access to justice for some of the least among us. We work to assist people on the path to a better and more stable life. In doing so, we are striving to build healthy communities where people live in safe, stable homes, with adequate food, a sense of security, a good education that connects them with good jobs, and lives of dignity, decency and hope.

Legal problems do not come in neat, self-contained packages. They tend to arrive in unwanted bundles. Our collaborations with bar associations, volunteer attorneys, law schools, social service agencies, hospitals, faith-based organizations, and other service providers are critical to our success. Through these partnerships, MidPenn can multiply and magnify the impact of our work, unwinding and resolving those unwanted bundles.

In fiscal year 2017-2018, our staff and volunteer attorneys handled 11,070 cases that assisted 20,952 residents across our 18 county service area. Each case we handle is not just a number, but represents an individual or family who has come to us in need of critical legal assistance. The

work of our advocates and staff is often daunting and yet they persevere. However with all that we do, we know that we could not do as much without the support of our partners and donors who join us on this journey of ensuring access to justice for some of the most vulnerable among us. We thank you for your support and commitment to our mission of striving to provide access to justice for all.

Rhodia D. Thomas, Esq.
Executive Director



BY the NUMBERS Total number of cases handled for MidPenn

Fiscal Year 17-18 Overview	MidPenn Staff	Volunteer Attorneys	Total	%
Family	1,943	1,084	3,027	27%
Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence/Intimidation	2,197	49	2,246	20%
Housing	2,649	71	2,720	25%
Public Benefits	873	63	936	9%
Consumer	859	240	1,099	10%
Health	153	0	153	1%
Employment/Expungement	315	91	406	4%
Other	361	119	483	4%
TOTAL	9,353	1,717	11,070	100%

▷ **106,909** HOURS SPENT ON CASES

▷ **20,952** RESIDENTS IN OUR SERVICE AREA BENEFITED FROM MIDPENN'S ADVOCACY

▷ **\$4,476,455.26** IN SAVINGS AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO MIDPENN CLIENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES





Family

We represented a woman in both a protection from abuse and custody matter. Our client and her ex-husband have three children. Our client filed for a protective order following a custody exchange in which the children's father struck her and tried to strangle her. After this incident, the Father was charged with terroristic threats and strangulation. At the first PFA Hearing, Father requested a continuance in order to obtain counsel and to address the criminal charges. At the second PFA hearing, Father served Mother with a custody complaint and requested another continuance of the PFA hearing. We represented Mother at the Custody Conciliation Conference and based upon Father's pending criminal charges, he was granted no rights of custody. At the third PFA hearing, Mother was granted a final Protective Order. After the PFA, we continued our representation to the next step in the custody matter, which was the custody pre-trial conference. However, prior to the pre-trial conference, Father was charged with Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Aggravated Indecent Assault of a child less than 13 years of age, Indecent Assault of a child less than 13 years of age and Corruption of Minors. With our continued assistance, our client was awarded sole legal and physical custody of the parties' children in the Final Custody Order.



LITC

MidPenn's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) was established in 2015. The LITC helps low-income taxpayers who need assistance in resolving a tax dispute with the Internal Revenue Service. Our LITC attorney negotiates settlements, assists in audits and conducts educational programs that help taxpayers under the tax laws that directly impact their lives.

ELDER LAW

We represented a legally blind older adult. Our client learned from the individual who reads his mail and pays his bills that a \$3,500 withdrawal showed up on his bank statement. He went to his local bank branch and learned that a man had come into a branch in another county and claimed that our client was in the hospital in Philadelphia, and needed \$3,500 to come home. The bank gave this man the money. After learning this, our client closed both his savings and checking accounts. When closing his checking account, our client discovered that the woman who he had hired to help him clean had stolen several checks from his apartment. He filed a police report, and both individuals subsequently pled guilty to stealing our client's money. Between the two, they had stolen approximately \$14,000, leaving our client penniless. Our client then tried to get the bank to reimburse him the full amount of money that was stolen but he was only reimbursed \$200.00. Frustrated, our client spoke with his caseworker at one of the local shelters where he receives supportive services. The shelter caseworker referred the client to MidPenn, and we worked on his case with guidance from a volunteer attorney with the requisite level of expertise in banking law and regulations. Through our collaborative efforts, we were successful in getting the bank to return all of our client's money.



Housing

We represented a 38-year-old client with advanced multiple sclerosis. She, her daughter, and her grandson live in a Project-Based Section 8 unit. She came to MidPenn after the landlord alleged that our client's daughter was involved in criminal activity – in particular, a physical altercation – at the end of the street on which our client's unit is located. In support of his allegation, he said there was a “viral video” of the incident posted on Facebook that showed our client's daughter was involved in the altercation. When we viewed the video, it was clear that our client's daughter was not involved, but the landlord continued to maintain that she was involved. Given that the police had responded to the incident, we worked to get a copy of the police report. Although, the landlord's attorney subpoenaed the police requesting a copy of the report, his efforts met with no response to the request. Our attorney then worked with opposing counsel, the MDJ, and, a local Common Pleas judge to obtain the police report. Upon receipt and review of the police report, which proved that our client's daughter was not involved in the incident, the landlord agreed to withdraw the complaint, which allowed our client and her family to remain in their home.



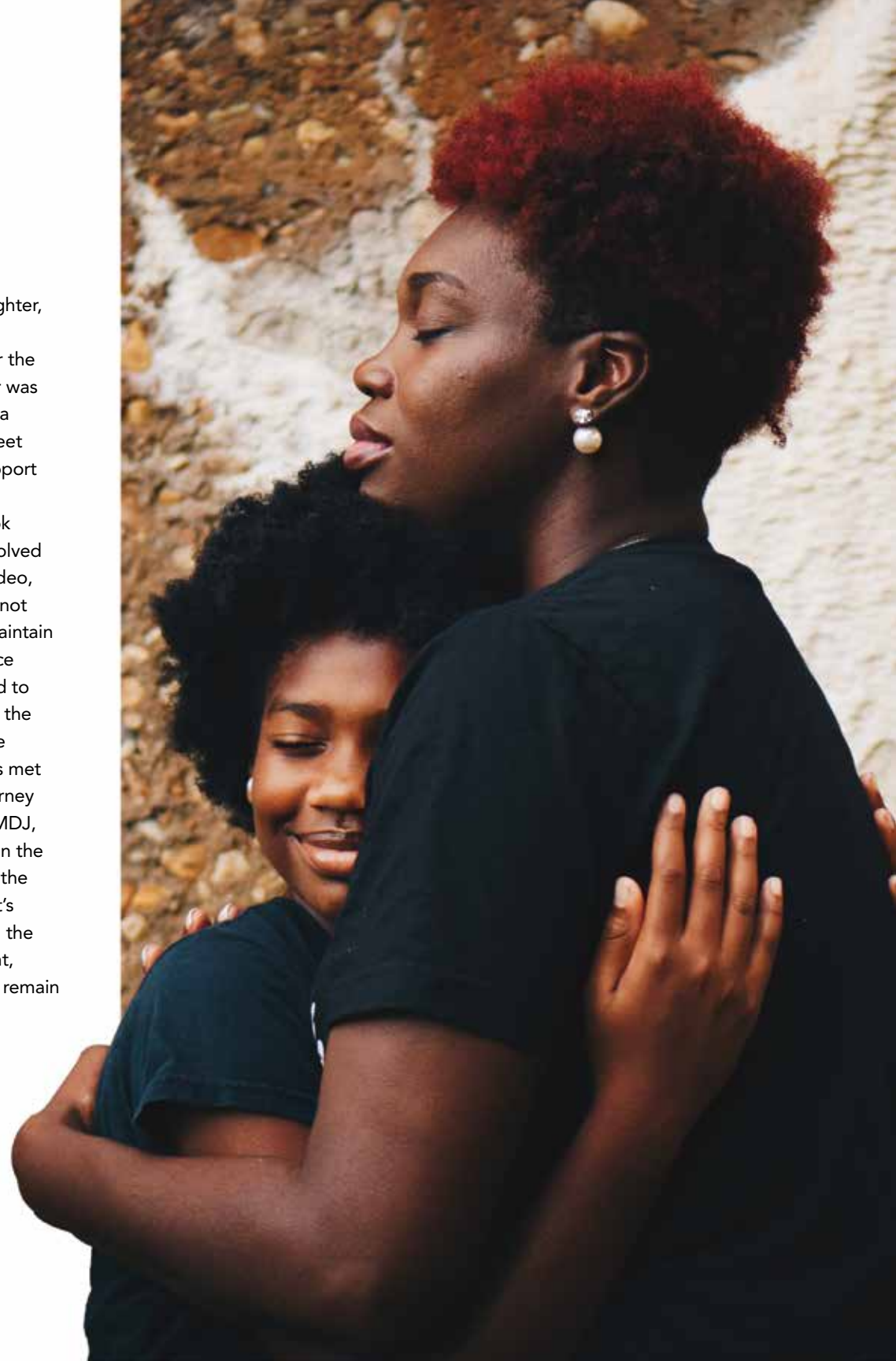
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

When you visit a medical facility, you do not expect to meet a lawyer. However, many elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals and families find themselves facing legal problems that adversely affect their health, problems that the health care system is not equipped to resolve.

Through the Medical Legal Partnership, MidPenn works together with healthcare professionals to achieve better health outcomes by adding legal services to the health care toolkit. The MidPenn Medical-Legal Partnership attorneys tackle problems that the health care team could not otherwise easily solve—intervening with landlords to ensure home repairs are made; restoring utility services; securing food stamps, health insurance coverage, and Social Security income for patients whose benefits have been denied or terminated. Those we serve are often medically frail, and living in geographic and social isolation. They are unable to come downtown to seek services, but the Medical-Legal Partnership allows us to bring services to them in their homes or at a medical facility.

“My effectiveness as a lawyer is enhanced when I can do it side by side with the providers, the care navigators, the case managers, the clinical counselor, the chaplains, the pharmacist, the customer support specialists, the program managers, and all of our numerous community partners – sharing expertise, collaborating to help patients tackle their challenges.”

—Katie Schultz, MidPenn Medical-Legal Partnership Attorney



OMBUDSMAN

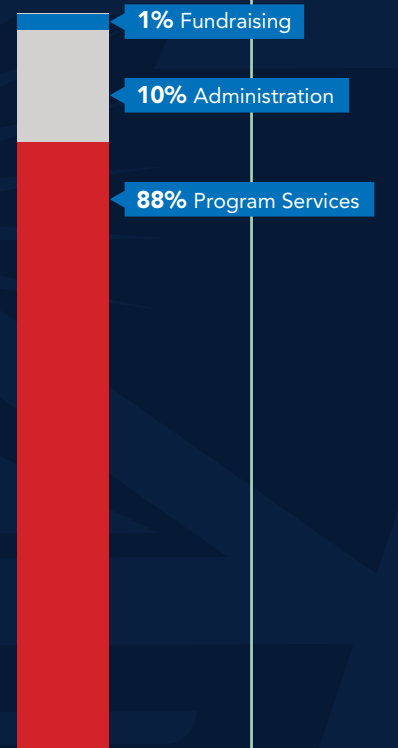
When a resident of a nursing home is not receiving the care they need, who will advocate for them?

“When a consumer of a long-term care facility is not receiving the care they need, who will advocate for them? Who will speak for them? Ombudsmen give the residents a strong voice. MidPenn has two Ombudsmen – one in Lebanon and one in Schuylkill County. They empower the residents to speak up for their rights, make referrals with legal issues, mediate problems, and ensure that the residents’ quality of life is maintained – all with consumer consent. The work is varied. Sometimes it is encouraging the consumers to speak with the nursing home staff about care or food preferences, helping a disabled resident obtain a wheelchair, or ensuring end-of-life issues are met with dignity. The Ombudsman works with the residents to get answers, solve their problems, and protect them.”



2017-2018 FINANCIALS

Revenues and Other Support	2018	2017
Contracts and grants	\$ 8,650,665	\$ 7,353,775
Contributions:		
In-kind	\$ 1,131,206	\$ 1,233,921
Other	\$ 77,528	\$ 249,457
Interest Income	\$ 115,290	\$ 90,470
Net realized & unrealized gain on investments	\$ 73,120	\$ 7,951
Other	\$ 3,758	\$ 2,192
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$ 9,905,327	\$ 8,937,766
Expenses		
Program Services	\$ 7,978,236	\$ 7,269,018
Management and general	\$ 973,698	\$ 1,337,011
Fundraising	\$ 29,517	\$ 23,222
Total Expenses	\$ 8,981,451	\$ 8,629,251



SAVE *the* DATE!

In 2019, MidPenn Legal Services will celebrate 50 years of Advocacy, Justice and Hope!

50th

Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the Hershey Lodge.

MAJOR FUNDERS

Adams County Bar Association
Be Well Berks – Reading Hospital
Big Spring Community Chest
Blair County Bar Association
Berks County Bar Association
Centre County United Way
Centre Foundation
Centre County Housing & Land Trust
Centre County Office of Aging
City of Harrisburg
Conestoga View Nursing Home
Cumberland County Bar Association
Dauphin County Bar Association
Dauphin County Bar Foundation
Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties
Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference
Franklin County Bar Foundation
Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
Internal Revenue Service
Lancaster County Office of Aging
Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness
Lancaster County Community Foundation
Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging
Lebanon County Bar Association

Lancaster County Bar Foundation
Legal Services Corporation
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Account Board
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network
Perry County Area Agency on Aging
Schuylkill County Commissioners
Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services
Southwestern PA Legal Services
State College Community Land Trust
United Way of Bedford County
United Way of Berks County
United Way of Blair County
United Way of the Capital Region
United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland
United Way of Franklin County
United Way of Mifflin-Juniata
United Way of Lancaster County
United Way of Lebanon County
United Way of York County
York County Area Agency on Aging
York County Bar Association
York County Bar Foundation
York County Commissioner

Donor OPPORTUNITIES

We are grateful for the support of our donors, whose generosity and commitment have helped us provide free legal services, transform lives and strengthen communities across Central Pennsylvania.

You can support MidPenn's work a number of different ways and many of our donors participate in multiple programs. Below is a listing of opportunities and donor groups for your consideration. All of these opportunities are available on our website. Gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

For more details, visit our website, www.midpenn.org, or contact Eliz Nestorov at (717) 234-0492x2215.

CASH GIFTS

Donors may make cash gifts throughout the year. These are received in person, by mail and online. Gifts may be designated for a specific donor preference use, or unrestricted to be used where need is greatest.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor our upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2019! We have sponsorship opportunities at multiple levels to fit all donor needs.

WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAMS

If your company takes part in the United Way program, you can designate MidPenn to receive a tax-deductible gift through your company's automatic payroll deduction.

PLANNED GIFT

Consider leaving MidPenn a bequest in your will to ensure we can continue our life changing work for many generations. Life insurance policies can be a great way to give! MidPenn can be the principal beneficiary of an insurance policy.

GIVE IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Give your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you include the honoree's name and address, we will send them a card notifying them of your thoughtful gift.



MIDPENN LEGAL SERVICES OFFICES

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171 Lakemont Park
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Chambersburg

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Shenandoah Office

225 North Main Street
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