

Advocacy, Justice & Hope

Winter 2026



MidPenn
LEGAL SERVICES

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2026, I am grateful to all of you whose efforts support the mission of MidPenn Legal Services. I know the challenges we will face in the coming months will not be insurmountable with the help of our friends, donors, human services colleagues, members of the bar and judiciary as well as our dedicated staff.

We have some exciting new initiatives coming out this year that will create new partnerships and expand access to legal services for many families in our service area. We are in the process of finalizing plans and I look forward to telling you about them in future editions of our newsletter.

I hope you had a joyful holiday season and I look forward to continuing our mission of Advocacy, Justice and Hope with all of you.

With sincere gratitude,
Rhodia D. Thomas, Esq.
Executive Director

The Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit

New money to help working Pennsylvanian families.

Claim the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) on your 2025 federal tax return and you are automatically eligible to claim the [Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit](#) on your PA state tax return.



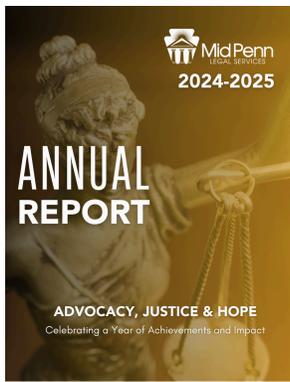
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
1-844-675-7829

Help For Working Families

On November 12, 2025, PA Governor Josh Shapiro signed the 2025-2026 budget. An important part of that budget is the [Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit](#).

The Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (“WPTC”) is a new state tax credit to help working families.

The amount received from the WPTC is 10% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) received. For example, if a taxpayer receives \$3,000 in federal



EITC, they will get \$300 from the WPTC.

By claiming the EITC on their 2025 federal income tax return, they are automatically eligible to claim the WPTC on their 2025 Pennsylvania income tax return.

[Check out our Annual Report](#)

Blair County Bar Supports Legal Aid

The Blair County Bar Association generously donated \$15,000 to support legal services in Blair County. The Bar Association is a long-time supporter of legal services and on behalf of the residents of Blair County we thank them for their commitment to equal access to justice.

In 2024-2025, we were able to handle 531 civil cases for [Blair County](#) individuals and families and over \$200,000 in economic benefits to our clients and the community were recovered.



MidPenn is the recipient of a cy pres award from a consumer class action involving automobile repossession practices (Jesse Shainlain, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated vs. Tri-County Federal Credit Union).

Special thanks to the law firm of Flitter-Milz for their support of MidPenn.

What is cy pres? Cy Pres is a doctrine that permits a court to award any unallocated, unclaimed, or undeliverable funds from a settlement or judgment to a non-profit organization.

Local Attorney Honored

Congratulations to Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Jeffrey Evans.

The award was presented at the October Franklin County Bar Luncheon in Chambersburg.

Attorney Evans' volunteer work ensures that survivors of domestic violence receive all the protection available under the law.



For more information about MidPenn Legal Services and the type of work we handle, visit www.midpenn.org.



Women in Law Help Families in Need

The York County Bar Association's Women in Law celebrated the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth and the 20th anniversary of 2005 release of the movie adaption of *Pride and Prejudice* at The Front Porch Tea Room.



The group also collected food and gift cards that will be given to MidPenn clients in need. Many thanks to this wonderfully generous group!

Thank You

Online giving campaigns provide much needed funding to our local offices. On November 21, MidPenn participated in Extra Give. This 24 hour giving companion is conducted each year by the Lancaster County Community Foundation. We are pleased to announce that we raised \$7,700 this year. This funding will be used for legal services in Lancaster County.

MidPenn also participated in the world wide online giving events Giving Tuesday on December 2. We were able to raise \$1,700 to help provide legal services throughout our service area.

Thank you to everyone who was able to give during these events. Your support means so much to us and the people we serve. If you were not able to give at that time, our annual giving campaign is underway. You can give [online](#) or by sending a check to our Harrisburg office - 100 North Cameron Street, Suite 401 West, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Remember you can designate your gift to your local office.

Outreach to Local Schools



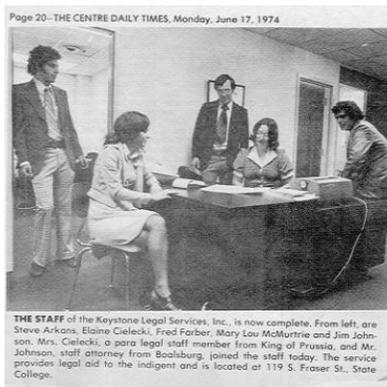
Congratulations to MidPenn attorney Angélica Matías (pictured with Bar President Dan Nevins, Esq.). At the Berks Bar Association Annual meeting on October 30, 2025, Angélica was received the 2025 Presidential Award of Merit.



The Harrisburg School District's McKinney Vento Program partnered with Central PA Better Together and service providers like MidPenn to host the District's first annual Student Services Symposium for school counselors, social workers and family engagement specialists.

The award was in recognition for her work coordinating an after-school enrichment program with Wilson School District high school students. During the program, students interested in the legal profession learned foundational principles of the U.S. legal system as well as the requirements for admission to law school.

MidPenn Harrisburg Attorneys Mallory Turner, Gawen Grunloh and Matt Rich (l-r) attended the event on October 28, 2025. Throughout the day, they engaged with attendees concerning the legal resources available to the community and how legal services impacts the lives of families in the community.



Page 20—THE CENTRE DAILY TIMES, Monday, June 17, 1974
THE STAFF of the Keystone Legal Services, Inc., is now complete. From left, are Steve Arkins, Elaine Cielecki, Fred Farber, Mary Lou McMurtree and Jim Johnson. Mrs. Cielecki, a para legal staff member from King of Prussia, and Mr. Johnson, staff attorney from Boalsburg, joined the staff today. The service provides legal aid to the indigent and is located at 119 S. Fraser St., State College.

A Look Back

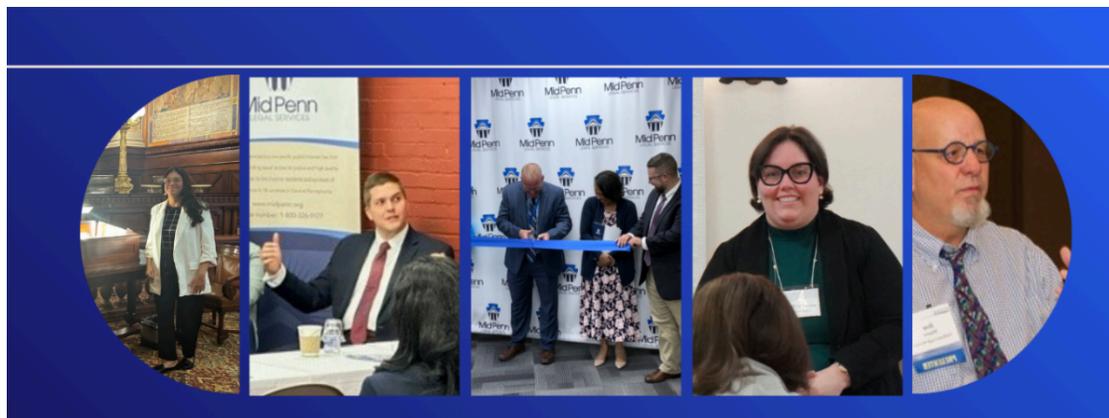
The Legal Services Corporation (LSC), was created by Congress in 1974. It was established to ensure equal access to justice. LSC distributes federal funding to legal services programs like MidPenn.

With that funding, Keystone Legal Services (one of MidPenn's predecessors) was able to open an office in State College, PA.

You can help bring justice to your community. We are asking for your help because many of the problems faced by your friends and neighbors can only be solved with the help of civil legal aid.

When you make your tax deductible contribution you can designate it to your local MidPenn office or a specific area of law. Visit our [website](#) to make your donation. Thank you for helping us serve those who need it the most.

Justice For All



Coming
Events



MidPenn
LEGAL SERVICES

February 14, 2026 - Valentine's Day

February 16, 2026 - Presidents' Day*

March 17, 2026 - Saint Patrick's Day

April 16, 2026 - [MidPenn Legal Services' Board of Directors Meeting](#)

May 2026 - Centre Gives

May 25 - Memorial Day*

June 2026 - Pursuing Justice - Improving Lives Campaign

June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth*

*MidPenn's offices are closed.

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MidPenn Legal Services is a private, nonprofit law firm providing free civil legal services to residents in these Pennsylvania counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Schuylkill and York. Contributions to MidPenn are tax-deductible as allowed by law. MidPenn Legal Services is a tax-exempt corporation under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The official registration and financial information of MidPenn Legal Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. MidPenn may not expend funds for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq. or by Public Law 104-134. Public Law 104-134 §504(d) requires that notice of these restrictions be given to all funders of programs funded by the Legal Services Corporation.

Career Opportunities



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