



Dear Friends,

As we close out another year, I would like to thank you for your support of MidPenn Legal Services and our mission.

We have helped families stay in their homes, supported parents navigating custody matters, assisted seniors in protecting their rights and benefits, and opened doors for those seeking a fresh start through expungement. Each case represents not just a legal issue resolved, but a life stabilized, a family protected, and hope restored.

Thank you for believing in this mission. Thank you for standing with your neighbors. And thank you for making justice possible for those who need it most.

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



Pennsylvania Statewide Conference

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network statewide conference was held this September at the Hilton Harrisburg. Advocates, board members and members of the community interested in public interest law attended workshops in various areas of law that have an impact on our client community. Over 350 advocates from across Pennsylvania were in attendance.

We are proud that many of our staff were called upon as trainers for this conference. Ombudsman Judy Weimer (Lebanon), Attorneys Schawanne Kilgus (Altoona), Michele Kluk (Harrisburg), Alicia Merrill (Lebanon), Brandon Copeland (Chambersburg), and Managing Attorney Nick Matash (Harrisburg) were among the program instructors.



On September 25, 2025, we celebrated champions of equal justice. At MidPenn's annual Access to Justice event, we honored incredible advocates making a real difference in our community.

Congratulations to our award winners: Attorney Sheila O'Rourke (Donald F. Smith, Jr., Pro Bono Award), Blakinger Thomas Law Firm (Law Firm of the Year), Lancaster Bar Association & Lancaster Law Foundation (Friends of Legal Services Award) and Jim DeAngelo (Pursing Justice-Improving Lives Campaign Ambassador Award).

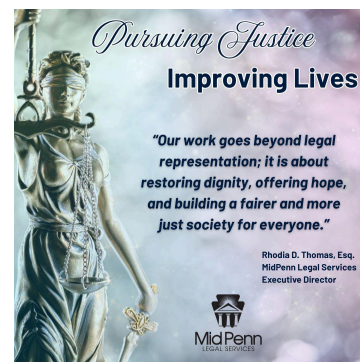
Thank you to our generous sponsors: Highmark, Forest Path Foundation, and Riverdale Manor.



Left to Right: James P. DeAngelo, Esq., Sheila V. O'Rourke, Esq., Jack Robinson, Esq. (Blakinger Thomas Law Firm), Lisa Driendl-Miller (Lancaster Bar Association/Lancaster Law Foundation) and Amanda M. Kowalski, Esq. (Lancaster Law Foundation)

Pursuing Justice - Improving Lives Campaign

On September 25, at our Access to Justice event, Campaign Ambassador Jim DeAngelo announced that our Pursuing Justice-Improving Lives campaign raised \$7,860.51. This money will help MidPenn advocate on behalf of individuals and families throughout our service area. Thank you to all our donors.



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- HAVE YOU BEEN DENIED SNAP BENEFITS?
- DID YOU RECEIVE A NOTICE ENDING OR REDUCING YOUR SNAP BENEFITS?

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?
CALL US: 1-800-326-9177

 MidPenn
LEGAL SERVICES

www.midpenn.org



MidPenn Receives Funding For Dauphin County Project

The PA Interest on Lawyer Trust Account Board (IOLTA) has awarded MidPenn Legal Services \$111,085 for a new initiative that will

MidPenn helps families and individuals with problems regarding their public assistance benefits. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is vital to the health and well-being of our communities.

If you know of someone who has been denied benefits or has received a notice terminating or reducing their benefits, please have them contact us as soon as possible.

Applicants applying for services can call [1-800-326-9177](tel:1-800-326-9177) or apply online at apply.midpenn.org.

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

provide more civil legal services to low-income residents in Dauphin County.

The **SHELTER** (Supporting Housing and Empowerment through Long-term Transformative Engagement and Resilience) project will focus on addressing the disparity in access to legal service in high poverty rural populations in Dauphin County. In addition to community outreach, the project attorney will focus on issues that impact a families or individuals ability to secure safe, affordable housing. Some of the casework will include addressing poor housing conditions, evictions, access to public housing and assisting individuals to gain better housing opportunities through the expungement/sealing of criminal records.



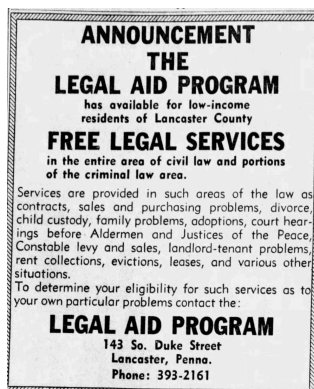
We Care About Children

Dauphin County Attorney Linda Randby, the 2025 Astonishing Advocate, presented MidPenn Legal Services with a check for \$33,027.67 which was the proceeds from this year's We Care About Children Campaign.

The presentation was held at the Dauphin County Bar Association's Fall Membership Meeting on September 23. MidPenn Family Law Attorney Lyndsay Conforto, Executive Director Rhodia D. Thomas and Managing Attorney Nick Matash were on hand for the presentation.

Since 2010, funds from the We Care About Children campaign have helped support a family law attorney in MidPenn's Harrisburg office. During this time, our attorney has completed 2,134 cases.





A Look Back

MidPenn Legal Services has a long proud history of advocating on behalf of our communities most vulnerable populations. In 1969, legal services first opened it's doors in Lancaster County, eventually we expanded to 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania. Building on the legacy of our predecessor organizations, we have inherited not just their missions, but their unwavering commitment to justice and the understanding that legal services transform lives.

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



October - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 13 - Indigenous People's Holiday*

October 16, 2025 - [MidPenn Board of Directors Meeting](#)

October 22, 2025 - **mySSA Account Sign-up**. Get help creating your mySSA account. Presented by MidPenn Legal Services and PSU Dickinson School of Law

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

PSU Dickinson School of Law, 150 S. College Street, Carlisle

Pre-register by October 15 by e-mailing Keegan Foyles at

kaf6111@psu.edu

October 31, 2025 - MidPenn All Staff Training*

November 11, 2025 - Thank you Veterans!*

November 21, 2025 - [Extra Give](#)

Join us for this extraordinary day of giving. MidPenn will be part of Lancaster County's 24 hour online giving campaign. Amplify your donor dollars with the stretch pool.

November 27 & 28 - Happy Thanksgiving!*

December 2, 2025 - [Giving Tuesday](#)

December 25, 2025 - Happy Holidays!*

January 1, 2026 - Happy New Year!*

*MidPenn's offices are closed.

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