

Dear Friends,

It was a busy summer here at MidPenn. Our staff have been out in the community at various outreach events providing information about our services and answering questions to help people get the information they need to improve their lives. We've provided a brief overview of some of these activities in this edition of our newsletter.

We also conducted our latest assessment of the legal needs in the communities we serve. Our Board of Directors uses this information as a guide to establish the case acceptance policies. I wish to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our needs assessment survey. Your responses helped us plan for the future and identify the issues we need to focus on and the improvements we can make to the services we provide.

This fall, we celebrated our volunteer attorneys and legal supporters at our Access to Justice Awards on October 8 at the Wyndham Garden in York. Each year, this event gives us the chance to say thank you to those who give their time, talent, and energy so that our neighbors can have a fair chance in the legal system. Their dedication is a reminder that access to justice is a community effort, and we could not do this work without them. Congratulations to all of our honorees, and thank you to everyone who joined us for the evening.

As always, I want to thank you for your support of MidPenn Legal Services. Whether you volunteer, donate, refer a client, or share information about our work, you help make a real difference for people in our community. As we head into the end of the year, we are grateful to have you as partners in this work.

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

Champions of Justice

On October 8th, MidPenn Legal Services held its annual Access to Justice event in York County at the Wyndham Garden. It was an inspiring evening, and a true privilege to recognize these champions of justice:

Donald F. Smith, Jr. Pro Bono Award

William C. Gierasch, Jr., Esq. & Lawrence V. Young, Esq.

Friends of Legal Services Award
York County Bar Association / York County Bar Foundation

Community Justice Partner Award
Victoria A. Connor & Robert W. Pullo

Pro Bono Volunteers of the Year
Alina M. Dusharm, Esq., Elizabeth Haley Rohrbaugh, Esq. & Suzanne S. Smith, Esq.

Thank you to our honorees, and to everyone who joined us in support of equal access to justice. Your commitment makes a real difference for our neighbors in need.





L-R Stephanie Longenberger, Esq. (MidPenn Lancaster Managing Attorney) Bernadette Hohenadel, Esq. (LLF Board of Directors) and Dylan Smith, Esq. (MidPenn Lancaster)

Support For Low Income Lancaster Families

On October 20, 2026, the Lancaster Law Foundation and Lancaster Bar Association conducted a check presentation to the 2026 Community Grant recipients. MidPenn is grateful to be selected to be one of the grant recipients. This funding will be used to provide low income Lancaster Country residents with legal counsel and representation in custody cases.



MidPenn Attorney Kathryn M. Dales (center) Attorney Morgan M. Bonekovic (left) and Attorney Alyson T. Landis (right).



MidPenn Attorney Manager Schawnne K. Kilgus (left) and MPLS Staff Attorney Olivia N. Hess (right).

MidPenn Attorneys at the PBA Young Lawyers Division 2026 Conference

MidPenn Legal Services' Attorney Manager Schawnne K. Kilgus and MPLS Staff Attorney Olivia N. Hess presented Continual Legal Education (CLE) session titled “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Habitability: Pennsylvania Landlord/Tenant Law."

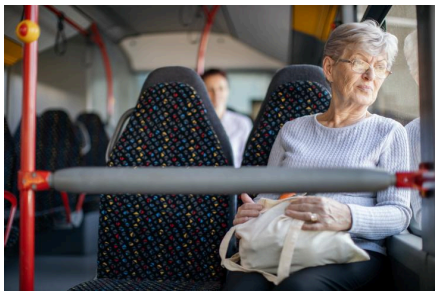
MidPenn Staff Kathryn M. Dales presented CLE “250 Years In: Divorce, Dogs and Digital Wealth” with PBA members Attorney Morgan M. Bonekovic and Attorney Alyson T. Landis.

Online Giving

ExtraGive: November 20, 2026
On November 20, MidPenn will take part in ExtraGive, Lancaster County's online day of giving. Thanks to a generous stretch pool, every dollar you give is boosted, so your gift goes further. All donations made to MidPenn during ExtraGive will support our legal advocacy in Lancaster County. Make your gift on November 20.

Giving Tuesday: December 1, 2026
Giving Tuesday is a global day of generosity, and it's a great time to support neighbors who need legal help. You can direct your gift to the area that matters most to you, such as expungement or domestic violence, or to your local MidPenn office. Give online or mail your donation to our administrative office:

MidPenn Legal Services
100 North Cameron Street, Suite 401 West
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Find My Ride

Pennsylvania has several programs that make transportation available to everyone.

Information can be found at PennDot's Find My Ride webpage.



LIHEAP Opens

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opens on November 2, 2026. If you, or someone you know is having difficulty paying heating bills, go to the LIHEAP website to find out if you qualify.



MLK Intern

MidPenn Managing Attorney Ryan Cummins accompanied Martin Luther King, Jr. Intern Dara Hadighi to the 2026 PA Legal Aid Network Intern Reception on July 23, 2026.

Dara interned at our State College office over the summer gaining



York Community Progress

MidPenn Attorney Yinet Perez Vega was at the York **Community Progress Council** Block Party Event yesterday evening.

experience in the practice of law and helping low-income clients.

For more information about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Intern Program visit the PA Legal Aid Network website.

We were excited to participate in this annual community event that brings neighbors together, builds partnerships, and celebrates the spirit of our community.



Scam Jam

MidPenn Attorney Bob Hamilton spoke at Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill's Scam Jam seminar on July 31, 2026 in Brogue, PA. The seminar focused on helping local citizens understand and avoid frauds and scams.



"I was helped by several people there and I wish I could remember all their names because they all went above and beyond to help me. I really felt they care and making me feel safe." Domestic Violence Client

"I'm very grateful for the people taking my case to help me get my life back that I lost over 40 years ago." Expungement Client

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



November 9, 2026 - Your Past Doesn't Define Your Future **Pardon Clinic**

November 9, 2026 - The Road Forward: Driver's License **Restoration Clinic**

November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day*

November 20, 2026 - **ExtraGive**

November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving*

December 1, 2026 - Giving Tuesday

December 3, 2026 - Driver's License Restoration Clinic

December 25, 2026 - Christmas Day*

January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day*

*MidPenn's offices are closed.

Stand With Us

Help bring justice to your community. Make your tax deductible contribution by visiting our website today. Thank you for helping us serve those who need it the most.

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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

MidPenn Legal Services | 100 North Cameron Street Suite 401 West | Harrisburg, PA 17101 US

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