



Summer 2026



Dear Friends,

I hope you've been enjoying a restful summer. June 30th marked the close of our fiscal year, and it's a good moment to share some updates on our work.

Earlier this summer, we welcomed visitors from the Legal Services Corporation in Washington, D.C., who came to review our programs and confirm our compliance with the rules and regulations governing our federal funding. The visit went smoothly, and we're grateful for the opportunity to continue serving our clients with this vital support.

In May, we also launched an effort to better understand the legal needs of the communities we serve. We sent surveys to stakeholders, client-eligible individuals, and staff across our 18-county service area. That data is now being compiled into a comprehensive needs assessment, which will help us identify gaps and priorities in the communities we serve. Once complete, the assessment will go before our board of directors and help shape our work in the years ahead.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. It's because of donors, volunteers, and community partners like you that we're able to carry out this work and remain accountable stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We look forward to sharing the results of our needs assessment in the coming months, and to another year of serving our communities together.

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

Interesting News

July 17, 2026 - [What Protections PA Renters Have Beyond Local Laws](#) - Spotlight PA
July 19, 2026 - [Protections for PA Renters](#) - The Standard-Journal, Reading, PA



Help is On The Line

Legal Advice for residents of Mifflin and Juniata Counties

1-800-326-9177

apply.midpenn.org



We are pleased to announce that MidPenn Legal Services has been awarded a grant from the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata County to support our Help is on the Line Project. The United Way's support of our project ensures that low-income individuals living in Mifflin and Juniata counties have access to free legal advice when they have problems or questions concerning eviction, security deposits, habitability, debt collection and other housing and consumer law issues.

Thank you United Way for support equal access to justice.

Help is on the Line: Holding Creditor's Accountable

John was working to rebuild his finances when he was sued by a credit card company for \$2,771. The company was the successor to another credit card company that John had once had an account with. However, he hadn't used a credit card in over two years, having enrolled in a debt management plan. One creditor, however, had declined to participate in that plan, and John suspected this was the source of the suit.

Through MidPenn's Help is on the Line program, an attorney advised John to appear at the hearing and require the credit card company to prove, through account statements or similar documentation, that it had standing to collect and that the amount was accurate. If the company couldn't meet that burden, John should ask the court to rule in his favor.

At the hearing, the company failed to produce sufficient evidence. The court entered judgment for John, clearing the \$2,771 claim and letting him continue his path to financial recovery.



Voices From Our Community

At the close of every case, we ask our clients to tell us how we did — what worked, and what could be better. Every now and then, a client adds a few words of their own. We're pleased to share some of those comments with you here.

"I am so grateful for this service. Thank you for treating me with quiet and gentles respect and consideration. Your attitude reminded me that I am valuable and that my safety matters. You helped me to feel human again. Please continue to do what you do." Attorney: Doug Hearn

"I really appreciate Amy Good for her support. She helped me feel comfortable and made sure I fully understood my situation. Without her guidance, I don't think I would have been able to handle it on my own." Attorney: Amy Good



Outreach

MidPenn staff have been out and about attending various outreach events in the community.

MidPenn Attorney Yinet Pérez Vega took part in the May 21st Entrepreneur Exchange sponsored by Fulton Bank in York. The event brought together local business owners who took the opportunity to learn about York County nonprofits, network and exchange ideas.

On June 8th, MidPenn Attorneys Matt Rich and Marsha Chwastiak joined representatives from the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project to conduct presentations about

Tenant's Rights at Schuylkill County HIVE in Marlin. The HIVE is a collaboration of social service agencies and community leaders.

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

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MidPenn
LEGAL SERVICES

Pursuing Justice
Improving Lives

GIVING TUESDAY

EXTRA GIVE

THANK YOU!

FOR SUPPORTING EQUAL JUSTICE

Thank you to everyone who participates in our online giving campaigns. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised \$18,447.59 in fiscal year 2025–2026. These unrestricted funds go directly to the counties designated by the campaign and donors, providing more legal services to low-income households and survivors of domestic violence.



STORE FRONT LAWYERS—Mary Barkus, secretary at the newly-opened Central Pennsylvania Legal Services office, 118 N. Eighth St., checks the day's schedule with John E. Feather Jr., one of the two staff lawyers. Gregory Paulson, attorney-in-charge of the free legal service for the poor involved in civil law problems, looks on at left. (Daily News Photo)

A Look Back

In the summer of 1978, MidPenn Legal Services (formerly Central Pennsylvania Services) opened our office in Lebanon, Pennsylvania giving access to free civil legal services to low-income families in Lebanon County.

The staff at the Eighth Street location included Attorneys John Feather and Gregory Paulson supported by Mary Barkus, secretary.



Coming Events



MidPenn
LEGAL SERVICES

August 10, 2026 - Your Past Doesn't Define Your Future [Pardon Clinic](#)

August 10, 2026 - The Road Forward: Driver's License [Restoration Clinic](#)

August 15, 2026 - [Back-To-School Extravaganza](#) - Harrisburg Area Farm Show Complex

September 7, 2026 - Labor Day*

October 8, 2026 - **Access to Justice** - Save the date and join us to celebrate members of the legal profession in York County who have made significant contributions toward achieving equal justice for all members of the community.

October 12, 2026 - Indigenous Peoples' Day*

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 25, 2026 - Christmas 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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