



Dear Friends,

Spring feels particularly meaningful to us at MidPenn. It is a season of fresh starts, which is what we work for every day. Much of our advocacy involves giving people who have been overwhelmed by hardship a second chance. In this edition of our newsletter, we have highlighted two of the programs that I am most proud of: driver's license restoration and expungements.

Much of our service area is rural with little to no public transportation. Losing your driver's license can mean losing your job and your independence. Our work restoring driver's licenses helps community members reclaim their autonomy and their livelihoods. A criminal record can close doors to education, housing and jobs that can bring stability to a person's life. We can open those doors with our work in expungement and give people the fresh start they deserve.

None of this happens without you. Your support, whether through your time, your resources, or simply believing in the possibility of second chances, is woven into every success story we get to be part of.

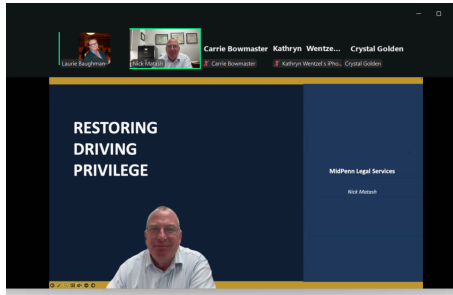
As we look ahead, I am filled with hope. Your support and our team of dedicated advocates will give more families the opportunity to make their lives better. I invite you to share the information in this newsletter to your friends, families and colleagues, spreading the word is one of the most powerful ways you can help.

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

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## Mentoring at Penn State Dickinson

On January 28, 2026, MidPenn Attorneys Jessica DeLong and Yinet Pérez Vega attended the 7th Annual Diversity Mentorship Networking Night at Penn State Dickinson Law in Carlisle, PA. Also attending were LL.M. students Muhammad Usman Akram Toor and Alieca James. Triston C. O'Savio, Esq., was a guest speaker.



### Helping Our Neighbors Stay on the Road

For many rural Pennsylvanians, a driver's license isn't just a convenience — it's a lifeline. Losing one can mean losing a job, missing a doctor's appointment, or struggling to put food on the table. These are real challenges faced by real families in our communities, and MidPenn is here to help.

Recently, MidPenn Chief Counsel Nick Matash led a webinar training MidPenn advocates on how to help clients restore their driving privileges. By growing the number of advocates equipped to handle this issue, we're making sure more families can get the support they need to move forward.

**THE ROAD FORWARD**  
Driver's License Restoration Clinic

What do you need to do to get your driver's license restored?  
Attend this free clinic to get answers.  
No registration necessary.

Northern Dauphin Human Services Center  
295 State Drive  
Elizabethville, PA 17023

May 11, 2026  
August 10, 2026  
November 9, 2026  
11:00 a.m. to Noon

MidPenn will be conducting Driver's License Restoration Clinics this year at the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center, 295 State Drive, Elizabethville, PA.

The clinics are free and you do not need to register to attend.

The clinics will be held on May 11, August 10 and November 9 from 11:00 a.m. to noon.



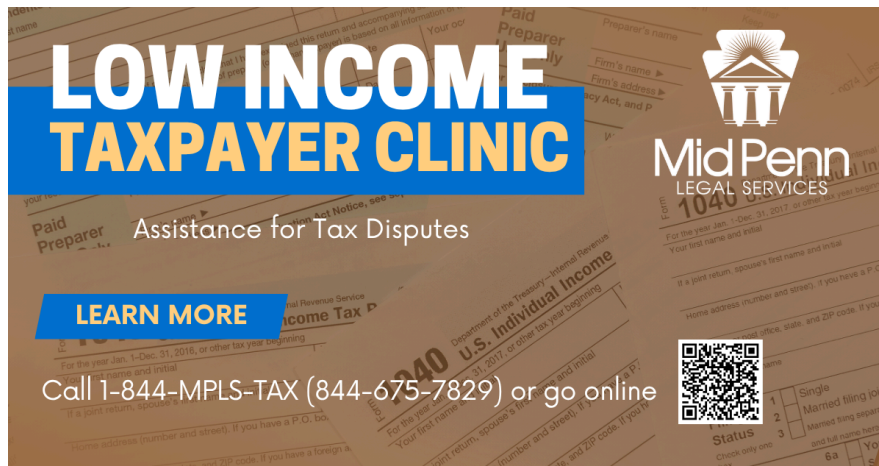
### Outreach

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

On Saturday, February 21st, MidPenn Paralegal Erica Gutshall was at the Women's Resource Fair on at Central Penn College in Enola, PA. The event was sponsored by Representative Nate Davidson. March 27th found Erica at the 60+ Health and Wellness Expo hosted by Perry County Area

Agency on Aging in Newport. She distributed information and answered questions about the services we provide and how individuals can apply for legal help.

For more information about MidPenn Legal Services and the type of work we handle, visit [www.midpenn.org](http://www.midpenn.org).



**LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC**

Assistance for Tax Disputes

**LEARN MORE**

Call 1-844-MPLS-TAX (844-675-7829) or go online

MidPenn LEGAL SERVICES

QR code

The graphic features a background of tax forms, including a 'U.S. Individual Income Tax Return' (Form 1040) and a 'Paid Preparer' form. The MidPenn Legal Services logo is prominently displayed on the right side.



### Pérez Vega Wins Award

Congratulations to MidPenn Legal Services' Attorney Yinet Pérez Vega, who received the 2026 Women's Law Caucus Recent Graduate Award at the Annual Hon. Sylvia H. Rambo Award Ceremony and Reception on March 24, 2026 in Carlisle PA.



The WLC Recent Graduate Award recognizes a graduate of Penn State Dickinson Law who represents exceptional dedication "to the school while a law student or exceptional dedication to the graduate's current job, a pioneer in the graduate's respective field, or someone who has done an extraordinary study, event, or program while a law student, and who promotes the encouragement of women in the legal field."



## Law Day

*When we [Americans] talk about the rule of law, we assume that we're talking about a law that promotes freedom, that promotes justice, that promotes equality.*

**U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy**

★Law Day≡ 2026

# Rule of Law and the American Dream



On Friday, May 1st we celebrate Law Day. Law Day was established in 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower as a day to honor the rule of law, the legal system and the way it contributes to our way of life. This year's theme, established by the American Bar Association, is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream."

Local bar associations plan educational activities for schools and the community as part of the day. Find out more about Law Day along with various resources and scheduled activities by visiting the [American Bar Association's website](#).



Access to justice is more important than ever and this June we are asking you to help strengthen the civil legal safety net in your community. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. on June 23rd to 8:00 p.m. on June 25th, MidPenn will be conducting our 6th annual ***Pursuing Justice - Improving Lives*** online giving campaign.


Every dollar you donate makes a difference in your community. By using our donation page, you can designate your tax deductible donation to your local MidPenn office or a specific area of civil law that you are passionate about, such as domestic violence or expungement.

Expand your impact! We are pleased that we are able to offer you the option to make monthly contributions.



## New Beginnings

John was 75-years old when he came to MidPenn after experiencing significant employment barriers due to his decades-old criminal record. Given his age and the absence of any legal issues for over a decade, our attorney gave him the opportunity to clear his record. Not only was his criminal record cleared, but his ability to secure employment was restored.

 100 North Cameron Street  
Suite 401 West  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
1-800-326-9177

**YOUR PAST DOESN'T  
DEFINE YOUR FUTURE.**

**Expungements and Pardons Clinic**



**Do you have questions about  
expungements or pardons?**

**Get answers by attending this free clinic.  
No registration necessary.**

**Northern Dauphin Human Services Center  
295 State Drive  
Elizabethville, PA 17023**

**May 11, 2026  
August 10, 2026  
November 9, 2026**

**10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Everyone deserves a second chance. At MidPenn we believe that your past doesn't define your future. Last year our advocates handled 429 cases involving expungement or pardons and partnered with local organizations to conduct clinics advising people about the process. This work is an important part of our advocacy.

If you or someone you know are interested in expungement call MidPenn at 1-800-326-9177 to find out if we can help. Resource materials are also available on our [website](#) and at [PALawhelp.org](http://PALawhelp.org).

**Latest in legal services**



**COMPUTER CONTRIBUTORS:** The attorneys and staff of Central Pennsylvania Legal Services have a new way to communicate. On Friday, CPLS unveiled a 22 workstation, 200 megabyte Eppon local area network installed at the 10 S. Prince St. location in mid-May.

"The system will allow us to see additional clients with no additional support staff," said CPLS staffer Phyllis Stacks.

CPLS provides legal assistance to low-income people for civil matters, including protection from abuse orders and matters where a person's basic safety and necessities are compromised, said Stacks in a prepared statement.

The \$35,000 system links 22 users to a centralized hard disc storage unit, allowing data to be shared and accessed from any of the terminals, and to share expensive peripherals, such as printers.

At a Friday afternoon ceremony, five representatives of the firms whose contributions made the project a reality were honored. They were, from left: Don Hostetter, The Lancaster County Foundation; Jerry Spangler, state Department of Community Affairs; Jane Raneom, executive director of CPLS; Barbara Zercher, Meridian Bank Foundation; and Paul Yuzzy, AVK Computers Inc. of Lebanon.

## A Look Back

There are few of us left at MidPenn who remember the days before floppy disks, email, DOS, and the World Wide Web. There is no doubt that electronics have revolutionized the way we operate, significantly enhancing accessibility for our clients, increasing productivity, and enabling us to offer services we never dreamed possible. Webinars, Zoom meetings, online intake, and integrated phone systems were not even a remote thought when visionaries from local law firms, businesses, and foundations donated our first computer system back in 1992. Thanks to them we were able to step into a new era that has benefited our clients and staff.



## Coming Events



**MidPenn**  
LEGAL SERVICES

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

**April 23, 2026 - [Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About PFAs, But Were Afraid To Ask](#)** - a free, in-person CLE presented by MidPenn Legal Services and sponsored by the Cumberland County Bar Association

**May 1 - Law Day**

**May 6 and 7, 2026 - [Centre Gives](#)**

**May 11, 2026 - [The Road Forward: Driver's License Restoration Clinic](#)** - Elizabethville, PA

**May 11, 2026 - [Your Past Doesn't Define Your Future: Expungement and Pardons Clinic](#)** - Elizabethville, PA

**May 25 - Memorial Day\***

**June 23 - 25, 2026 - Pursuing Justice - Improving Lives Campaign**

**June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth\***

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

\*MidPenn's offices are closed.

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.

**Justice For All**

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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.

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Career Opportunities



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

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