



LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC.

Passionately Committed to Equal Justice Since 1966

Affordable Housing Advocacy Project: Advocates for the preservation and development of affordable housing for low and very low income people residing in Miami-Dade County.

AIDS Legal Advocacy Project: Assists low income individuals living with HIV/AIDS with legal problems including employment discrimination, unfair health care debt collection, bankruptcy to discharge medical debt, public benefits, permanency planning, and custody documents for legal dependents including guardianship, joint custody or adoption.

Children's Advocacy Project: Advocates for children with special needs so that they can achieve their full developmental potential and have the opportunity to experience a successful and productive adulthood. The Project helps these children receive educational services and accommodations necessary to make academic progress, as well as SSI disability benefits and Medicaid.

Children's Health Access Initiative: Represents the parents of Miami-Dade County's poorest and sickest children to help their children obtain medically necessary health care services so that they can live at home with their families, lead healthy and productive lives, and achieve their highest level of functioning.

Community Economic Development Project: Provides free legal assistance to nonprofit community development corporations seeking to develop affordable housing and revitalize distressed neighborhoods.

Community Legal Education Project: Teaches individuals about their legal rights and responsibilities, enabling them to avoid legal problems and understand how to resolve them when they occur.

Community Tax Clinic: Provides free tax advice and legal representation to resolve income tax controversies with the Internal Revenue Service including audits, appeals, tax litigation, and collection matters.

Consumer Project: Helps low wage workers and families build economic security by protecting them from exploitive transactions that are barriers to economic self-sufficiency. Project attorneys challenge unlawful debt collection practices and exploitive automobile sales and financing transactions.

Disability Law Project: Represents elderly and disabled adults who have been denied Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance benefits. Over 80% of denials are reversed, bringing much needed cash and Medicaid benefits to these individuals.

Homeless Legal Assistance Project: Helps homeless individuals receive Supplemental Security Income disability benefits, Medicaid, and food stamps, and keeps homeless children in their neighborhood schools so that their education is not disrupted.

Homeless Prevention Project: Provides telephone legal advice and self-help materials to assist tenants resolve private housing matters. The Project advises tenants on issues such as how to defend their eviction case, request return of their security deposit, and demand repairs of their rental property. The Project also provides court representation in selected cases.

Homeownership Project: Assists homeowners facing foreclosure with court representation, Chapter 13 bankruptcies, and alternatives to foreclosure including repayment plans, forbearance and loan modification. The Project also prevents the loss of homes due to tax, condo and homeowner association lien foreclosures, preventing their downward spiral into homelessness.

Legal Education Institute: Provides training for social service provider staff which helps them teach their clients how to avoid legal problems, identify situations where legal counsel is necessary, and know where to turn when legal help is needed.

Military Legal Advocacy Project: Helps low income veterans and their families retain stable housing and avoid becoming homeless by resolving civil legal problems that are a barrier to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The Project also represents veterans concerning the denial of Veterans Administration benefits, including representation in discharge upgrade cases.

Single Stop Project: Provides comprehensive legal services to students enrolled in Miami Dade College and their families with the ultimate goal of helping them obtain their college degree and start a career.

Small Claims Court Clinic: Offers free legal advice from pro bono attorneys on how to file or defend small claims court matters including worthless checks from employers, landlord/ tenant disputes involving money, and auto repair disputes.

Tenants' Rights Project: Provides representation to tenants facing eviction from rental housing. Priority is given to evictions involving tenants living in government subsidized housing.

Unemployment Compensation Project: Establishes eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits to help people avoid falling into poverty and homelessness while they seek new employment.

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

LAW STUDENT FELLOWSHIP DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Talented and committed law students are indispensable to helping Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. meet the growing demand by vulnerable clients for help solving critical legal problems unique to the low income community. Excellent opportunities exist in all LSGMI Projects for law student fellows to build substantive expertise, strengthen practical legal skills, develop professional contacts, and provide vitally needed legal services to those who could not otherwise afford them. Perhaps most importantly, a LSGMI law student fellowship fosters a life-long commitment to public interest legal advocacy and pro bono service.

Law student fellows provide important assistance to LSGMI attorneys including interviewing clients and witnesses, drafting legal documents, discovery and briefs, and conducting research and investigations. Law student fellows have frequent opportunities to attend strategy sessions, hearings, mediations, depositions, and community events. These contributions by law student fellows enable LSGMI staff attorneys to engage in complex and systemic advocacy.

The following Donor Opportunities are available to establish Law Student Fellowships at Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.:

Your gift of **\$5,000** funds a Law Student Fellowship in your name for one semester.

Your gift of **\$10,000** funds a Law Student Fellowship in your name for two semesters.

Your gift of **\$15,000** funds a Law Student Fellowship in your name for an entire calendar year. One year Fellows make significant contributions as they progressively develop the skills necessary to meet the legal needs of the low income community.

Please contact MCypen@LSGMI.org for more information on establishing a Law Student Fellowship at LSGMI.

"I appreciate all the help and wisdom everyone has given me while I have worked here. I have thoroughly enjoyed working here and helping everyone who comes here in need of help. I truly learned what it means to serve others and I learned I can make a huge difference in people's lives. I never thought about a career in public service before working at LSGMI, but now I think it is a major possibility for me."- David Kaye, 2012

"I wanted to thank each of you for providing me with this great opportunity. I have learned more than I ever expected. I truly enjoyed my time here, and I am so thankful that I was able to work for such a great organization and with such great people."- Jamie Fromson, 2012

