

November 2013

# Legal Aid *matters*

## *our mission*

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York provides effective, free civil legal services and education to and advocacy for people with low income or other barriers to accessing the legal system. We secure basic needs, protect and preserve legal rights, provide equal access to justice and seek fairness and dignity for our clients.

Serving the low-income and needy residents of Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Schoharie, Warren and Washington Counties, and the St. Regis Reservation.

## *executive director*

Lillian M. Moy

## *inside:*

Celebrating 90 Years  
are you in the photos? . . . . 6-7

On the Move  
new Saratoga Springs office. . 12

Justice for All Kickoff  
2013 campaign starts . . . . . 9

Unemployment Benefits  
helping clients in bad times . . 4



## A Happy Ending

Lorrie Cleavland is very happy about a very unhappy event. The ordeal that began with an argument last August settled after 11 months of intense proceedings.

“My husband assaulted me and I had him arrested. I went to Family Court to get emergency custody for my 3 year-old daughter, and the court directed me toward the Legal Aid Society,” said Cleavland.

She called the Saratoga office right away and within a day, Joanna Davis called her.

“She was completely comforting to me,” Cleavland remembered, noting that just speaking with her was a huge relief. “When I met her, I felt so much better. She is so wonderful, by the way.”

The feeling is mutual. “Lorrie is a model client,” said Joanna Davis.

“She’s one of your dream clients who is really cooperative, listens to the advice given her, and asks questions.”

The case was really rough on many levels. Domestic violence is never easy, but Lorrie had her leg broken while her daughter was in her arms. As matters progressed, she faced attacks on her character, too. The respondent still claims she broke her leg kicking a door, and that she was drunk or abusing prescription drugs – despite medical records that clearly show none of this was true.

“Everybody told me this is going to be a really long hard run and I had no idea how long and hard it was going to be,” said Cleavland. “Without the help from LAS and Joanna and the whole team, I don’t know if I would have been able to do it. I don’t know if I would have just thrown in the towel, and said

*continues on page 9*

# A Home Of Our Own

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this column, we hope to have closed on our new home in Saratoga Springs at 40 New Street. It is very exciting to finally create a permanent home for the Legal Aid office in Saratoga Springs. We believe that this is the right location for us from which to continue to provide high quality effective services to the residents of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. As you can tell from this newsletter, the office is stable and well run, with Mary Withington, our long time Supervising Attorney, at the helm.

I was so proud that one of the clients who testified at this year's Third Department Hearing before Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman was Jason Keller, a client of our Saratoga Springs office. Thanks to Judiciary Civil Legal Services, Laura Dwyer was able to represent Jason Keller in an unemployment matter. Her success in representing Mr. Keller

created benefits and income for Mr. Keller and his three children.

This issue of *Legal Aid Matters* highlights much of the other good work done by our Saratoga Springs staff. Each year our Saratoga Springs office is one of the most productive in the program; in 2012, 1,453 cases benefitting 3,187 people were closed. The office also had 583 pending matters at the end of the year.

It was an honor to coordinate the hearing for the Third Department before the Chief Judge. Testimony from Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli highlighted the economic benefit and return on investment the state enjoys from funding civil legal services. Dean Penelope Andrews of the Albany Law School and Albany Law School alumna, Denise Gonick, President and CEO of MVP Health Care, Inc. also spoke to the importance of civil legal services. Mark Eagan, President & CEO of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce added his voice in favor of funding for civil legal services as well. Local legal aid providers highlighted relationships with veterans services providers, including the Albany Housing Coalition and the Veterans' Administration. Finally, clients of the Legal Aid Society, The Legal Project and the Empire Justice Center shared their stories at the hearing in September.

I am also grateful to our PAI Advisory Committee which continues to help guide our Private Attorney Involvement projects. With the help of Kristie Cinelli, Director of the PAI Program, LASNNY will wholeheartedly Celebrate Pro Bono. On October 18, "Recognizing Judges

FROM THE *executive director*

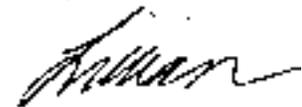


Who Support Pro Bono" will be held. LASNNY warmly congratulates all of the judges who will be honored in connection with their pro bono leadership: Honorable George

Ceresia, Honorable Christine Clark, Honorable Robert Littlefield, Honorable Geoge Lowe and Honorable Gary Stiglemeier.

If you practice or live in Saratoga, Warren or Washington Counties, I hope you will join me and our Board Chair, E. Stewart Jones, at our "Mix It Up" event with the Saratoga County Bar Association: on November 12 at the Saratoga Golf and Polo Club. Contact Deanne Grimaldi at [dgrimaldi@lasnny.org](mailto:dgrimaldi@lasnny.org) to register.

I look forward to seeing you then, or perhaps at our upcoming Holiday Party in December. All the best,



## Client Programs:

- Children's Law Project
- Community Legal Education and Training
- Disability Advocacy Project
- Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project
- Foreclosure Prevention Project
- HIV/AIDS Legal Consortium
- Homelessness Intervention Project
- Legal Aid Society Homelessness Project
- Medical Legal Partnership for Children and Families
- Nutrition Outreach & Education
- Protection & Advocacy for the Developmentally Disabled
- Protection & Advocacy for the Mentally Ill
- Saratoga Springs Homelessness Prevention Program
- Senior Legal Services Program
- Upstate New York Immigration Law Project

## Volunteer & Donor Programs:

- Justice for All Campaign, Annual Appeal
- Law Day Celebration
- Legal Aid Endowment Fund
- Private Attorney Involvement Program (PAI)

## Legal Aid matters

### November 2013

A regular bulletin published by the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.

#### Offices:

55 Colvin Avenue, Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 462-6765, (800) 462-2922

1 Kimball St., Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 842-9466, (800) 821-8347

17 Hodskin St., Canton, NY 13617  
(315) 386-4586, (800) 822-8283

100 Court St., P.O. Box 989  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
(518) 563-4022, (800) 722-7380

112 Spring St., Suite 109  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(518) 587-5188, (800) 870-8343

# New Home in Saratoga Springs

*continued from page 12*

Statistically and realistically, this is only a fraction of the civil legal services need, and many people with legal problems cannot get representation.

## Increasing Services

Fortunately, the new building at 40 New Street in Saratoga Springs has room for extra staff, and funding has been created to address the ever growing civil legal services need—primarily through the efforts of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Honorable Jonathan Lippman. Honored at LASNNY’s 90th An-

**This means more people looking for child support, public assistance, unemployment insurance benefits, or help with consumer debt issues will receive enhanced legal services and not simply advice.**

niversary celebration earlier this year with the Arthur Harvey Award, Judge Lippman has worked fervently toward creating a “civil Gideon” where any individual facing problems with an essential need will have an attorney to provide legal assistance. “So much of our expansion of services and our ability to continue to function the way we do is in large measure due to him,” said Mary M. Withington, the Supervising Attorney of the Saratoga Springs office. “He made it his mission to provide civil legal services to people who are facing essential needs, which is a pretty broad category.”

This means more people looking for child support, public assistance, unemployment insurance benefits,

or help with consumer debt issues will receive enhanced legal services and not simply advice. “Housing work has been so grant specific that if you were living in the city of Saratoga Springs we would have been able to assist you with an eviction proceeding,” explains Withington. “But, if you were in the next town over, Ballston Spa, we didn’t have any funding for an attorney to go to court with you. All we could do was give you advice. So this expansion of civil legal funding dedicated to low income persons’ essential needs has been a tremendous boon.”

## Room to Breathe

That expansion of funding allows more legal staff in Saratoga Springs, requiring more office space. Presently, the staff has outgrown two floors at 112 Spring Street in Saratoga Springs. Staff have doubled up in one-person offices; interns squeeze in where they might fit. The building at 40 New Street has room for increased staffing and volunteers.

This is especially important as all applicants for admission to the New York State bar are required to perform 50 hours of pro bono services. Both the Saratoga Springs and Albany offices have a long history of working with Albany Law and other law school students, in meeting the civil legal service needs of clients and the educational needs of the students. LASNNY serves not only as a law firm, but a teaching institution



*It’s (almost) history. The current LASNNY office at 112 Spring Street is in a beautiful building, but the space is small and crowded.*

for law students, especially those interested in performing in the public sector.

“I think the location will serve both the staff and the community really well,” said Ronald J. Kim, Esq., who serves on the LASNNY board. “When you have an office setting in Saratoga, one of the challenges is parking. This has parking so that’s good for people who need to access services.” He notes, another benefit of the larger office to both clients and staff is that it fosters confidentiality.

## Community Collaboration

The work of Legal Aid is part of a vibrant non-profit community. The new office, in the old Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) building, is indicative of the links between the human service agencies in the area.

The EOC relocated to Ballston Spa. Julie Hoxsie, retired director of the  
*continues on page 8*

**Donate through the  
SEFA Campaign.  
Our SEFA number:  
50-00198**

# Easy Ways to Help in Difficult Times

With little improvement to the economy, LASNNY continues to see an increased demand for assistance with claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB). So far this year LASNNY was able to assist 284 clients in this area. Of those 284, 83 were helped by a volunteer lawyer through the PAI program. The number assisted by LASNNY is only a dent in the ongoing need.

Without benefits, people cannot pay rent, buy food or obtain needed medical treatment and medicine. With assistance and legal knowledge, it increases a person's chance of obtaining this needed benefit.

**"All of you, from the very start, were helpful in ways I never imagined. Thanks to you all, I got my NYS unemployment benefits! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you..."**

—LASNNY UIB client

Unemployment law is a discrete area of law. If you are a lawyer and want to volunteer you can get up to speed quickly.

LASNNY offers various volunteer opportunities in this area. Whether

you want to provide advice to clients at one-on-one appointments or offer representation at hearings, we have a fit for you. The cases are not complicated or time consuming. And, we have the resources to support you.

Janet Axelrod, Esq. is a prime example. She came to LASNNY after retiring as an associate general counsel at New York State United Teachers in August 2011. She had no knowledge of unemployment law.

"I sat in on a couple of consultations with one of the other attorneys who had been giving advice in this area," she said. Ms. Axelrod also educated herself on the process, and eventually took a course on unemployment insurance law. And, per Janet volunteering can be fun, in her words the consults are, "interesting and interactive". She finds the act of helping people rewarding.

Joe Dougherty, a Principal at Hinman Straub, started at the firm handling government relations and regulatory matters. He found his pro bono work with LASNNY as

"invaluable" and he continues his commitment to pro bono today.

"I wanted to give back but in giving back it really helped develop both my professionalism as well as my

**"This entire process was handled courteously and professionally from start to finish. These students will no doubt be a welcome addition to the legal field."**

—LASNNY UIB client

skills," said Dougherty.

Having actual time in front of an administrative law judge, the opportunity to cross examine witnesses, and the chance to write responses and briefs was so useful that he and his firm, use pro bono work with LASNNY as a training tool by assigning both a Principal, to oversee, and an Associate, to handle, these types of matters.

Albany Law School has a clinic to increase the available assistance in this area. Each semester, students work with clients under the supervision of Prof. Benjie Louis.

"We're educating future lawyers to become holistic, reflective and

*continues on page 11*

## PROFILE: PAI volunteers

*Professor Benjie Louis, Joe Dougherty, Morgan Ruthman and Janet Axelrod.*



# Thanks to the following attorneys who took cases:

## March through September 2013

### Albany County:

Albany Law School  
Unemployment  
Project (16)  
Janet Axelrod – UIB  
Advice Program (63)  
Stephen Bailey  
Jeffrey Baker  
Jerrold Bartman (9)  
Lawrence Becker  
Melissa C. Bennett  
Joel Blau  
Kurt Bratten (4)  
Linda Clark  
Richard Cirincione  
Guy Criscione, Jr. (7)  
Byrgen Finkelman (5)  
James Gross (3)  
Brian Hodgdon (2)  
John Hoke  
Jerry Jennings  
Robert Knightley  
Richard Kohn  
Martha Luboch  
Matthew Mann  
Brittany McMahan  
Ira Mendelson  
Karen Mirsky

Rebecca Mudie  
Michael O'Brien  
Michael J. O'Connor  
(11)  
Lynne Papazian  
Alex Powhida  
Victoria Ramundo  
- Pro Se Divorce  
Program (3)  
Cheryl Randall  
Earl Redding  
Robert Rosborough (6)  
Morgan Ruthman (5)  
Mark Sonders  
Douglas Shartrand (2)  
Margaret Surowka  
Rossi  
Kenneth G. Varley  
Lawrence Zimmerman  
Vitaly Volpov (6)  
G. Kimball Williams  
**Clinton County:**  
Heidi Dennis  
William Favreau  
Cheryl Maxwell (8)  
Meredith Neverett  
Jack Piller

### Columbia County:

Jonathan Cohen  
Lisa Mills – Columbia  
Greene Counties Pro  
Se Divorce Program  
(13)  
Kevin Thiemann

### Greene County:

Veronica Kosich  
**Montgomery:**  
Lisa Lorman  
Bethany Schumann-  
McGhee –  
Montgomery Fulton  
Schoharie Pro Se  
Divorce Program (12)  
Benjamin Terry -  
Montgomery Fulton  
Schoharie Pro Se  
Divorce Program (2)

### Rensselaer County:

Tony Arcodia and  
Marc Ehrlich (6)  
William Robert  
Johnson, III. (2)  
Thomas V. Kenney, Jr.  
(2)  
Jill Nagy

### St. Lawrence:

Natasha Hill (2)  
Andy Moses – St.  
Lawrence County Pro  
Se Divorce Program  
(7)  
Cathleen O'Hara (3)  
Marc Schneider (2)

### Saratoga County:

David Devall  
James Doern &  
Stephen Rodriguez  
Robert Katzman  
Ronald Kim  
Joel Peller - Clinton  
Essex Franklin Pro Se  
Divorce Program (5)  
Marty Pozefsky  
Stephen Rodriguez  
James P. Trainor (2)

### Schenectady

### County:

SCBA -Schenectady  
County Pro Se  
Divorce Program  
(34, Richard Antokol,  
Dave Burke &  
Barbara King)

Barbara Guzman  
Opal Hinds  
Stephen Rockmacher/  
Lora Como  
Edward Salvo, Jr.  
Greg Schaaf (2)  
Laura Silva  
Christiaan Van  
Niekerk (6)

### Schoharie County

Lee Hartjen

### Warren County:

Beverley Forrest  
Alan Rhodes  
Michael J. Toomey  
Jessica Vinson

## Trainings:

### Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Family Court

Friday, December 13, 2013

#### Albany Guardian Society

14 Corporate Woods Blvd, Suite 102, Albany, NY

**Sponsored by:** The Domestic Violence Legal Training Coalition, Empire Justice Center; The Legal Project (Capital District Women's Bar Association); Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; Albany Law School Domestic Violence Clinic, Dynamics of Domestic Violence; Alicia Borns, Outreach Services Director, Equinox

#### 6.5 Hours of Transitional CLE Credit

Info: Kristie M. Cinelli at (518) 689-6322 or e-mail [kcinelli@lasnny.org](mailto:kcinelli@lasnny.org).

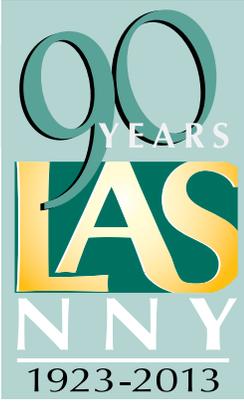
## Albany & Rensselaer County Assigned Counsel Program

### (Judicial Assignment)

Gloria Arroyo Copland  
(4)  
Michael Assaf  
Stanton Ackerman  
Robert L. Adams (2)  
Chad Balzer (4)  
Diana Bangert-Drowns  
Lisa E. Brown  
Glen Brownell  
Tamara Cappellano  
Jennifer Corcoran  
Andrea DiDomenico  
Heather Dukes  
Kathryn Dell  
Paul Devane  
Mark Fluery

Deborah  
Fox-Compano  
Michael Friedman  
Martin S. Finn  
Shawn Flaherty (3)  
Joyce Galante  
David L. Gruenberg  
Nicole Helmer  
Albert Kolakowski  
Jo M. Katz  
Randall Kehoe  
Andrea L. Kelsey  
Barbara King (2)  
Gerry Leary  
Carolyn Lemmon (2)  
Jean M. Mahserjian (2)  
David Marinucci  
Susan Millstein

Roy Nestler (2)  
Timothy Nugent  
Kevin O'Brien  
Mark Portin  
Stephen Prudente  
Nicole Redmond  
Eric Schillinger  
Jo Ann Shartrand (2)  
Carol Stiglmeier  
David M. Siegel  
Justine Spada (2)  
David Swyer  
Margaret C. Tabak (2)  
Maria Tebano  
Bruce Wagner  
Thomas A. Welsh (2)  
Joanne M. White (2)



**Legal Aid Society**  
of Northeastern  
New York, Inc.



*Above left: Lillian Moy presenting Chief Judge Lippman with the Arthur J. Harvey Award*

*Above: Kim Williams, Kristie Cinelli and Cheryl Dedes*

*Left: Albany Law School Table*

*Far left: Michael Whiteman, Tim Morrison*



*Above left: Rhoda and Don Boyajian, and Sanjeeve DeSozza*

*Above: Head table: Alex Burzstein, Hon. Paul Tonko, Chief Judge Lippman, Pat Bucklin, Jill Shukin, Kimberly Sanger Jones, E. Stewart Jones, Jr.*



*Left: Hon. Paul Tonko at the podium addressing the crowd. Deputy Director Wendy Wahlberg and colleagues from the Albany office at the table in the right foreground.*

# Celebrating 90 years of service to the community.

Thursday, May 2, 2013, Glen Sanders Mansion.

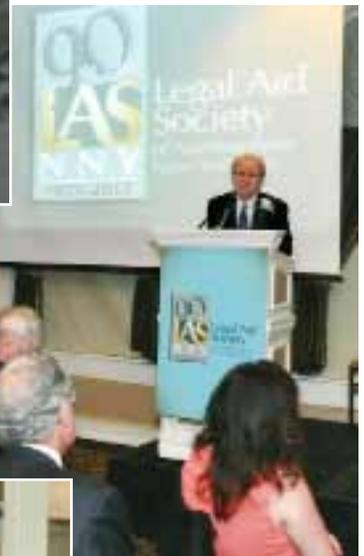
*Left: Harvey Family Table*

*Below: Lillian Moy and award recipient Mary Withington*



*Below left: Hon. Victoria A. Graffe, Hon. Robert S. Smith, Pat Bucklin, Judge Eugene F. Piggott.*

*Below right: Chief Judge Lippman at the podium*



*Far left: LASNNY Saratoga staff and family.*

*Left: Tim and Carmelina Morrison, Sam and Henda Strasser*

*Below left: Hiscock & Barclay table.*

*Below: McNamee, Lochner Titus and Williams table.*



## New Office in Saratoga Springs

*continued from page 3*

EOC, was instrumental in initiating the purchase of 40 New Street by Legal Aid. “We’ve collaborated in many ways,” said Hoxsie. “We have a food stamp facilitator that comes to our office from Legal Aid on a regular basis. We’ve been able to secure services through Legal Aid for many of our customers. I think it’s a one of a kind, very essential service and I’m happy to see them come in a location that I think will be easy for people to access.”

The collaborative nature of Legal Aid’s work is also apparent in its



*Saratoga Springs staff are looking forward to their new offices*

long-standing relationship with Catholic Charities. “From our earliest days in the tri-county communities, we have shared the same mission of serving the poor and the vulnerable and often served the same clients,” said Sister Charla Commins, Executive Director of Catholic Charities in Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. “Agencies work together on various grants, task forces and community organizations to better serve the elderly, the homeless and victims of domestic violence and their children. Mary Withington and I worked closely in the 1980s and 90s with people living with HIV/AIDS through the HIV/AIDS Coalition of the Saratoga Region. No agency alone could have accomplished what occurred in those difficult years.”

“Saratoga County is a wonderful place to live and work,” Sister Charla continued, “but it is increasingly difficult for Catholic Charities and LAS to convince people that we have low income people who need assistance. The prolific upscale development occurring throughout the county tends to hide that reality.”

Long term cooperation has created a level of comfort between LASNNY and other providers that makes navigating difficult situations easier for shared clients.

The Mechanicville Area Community Center works closely with the LASNNY Saratoga office. “We have a lawyer who comes out here once a month and works with DV clients,” said Merritt-Jorgensen, Violence Advocacy Program Director with the center. “We’re not lawyers here so we rely on their expertise,” she said. “We can refer clients right to them and make the transition smooth.”

Maggie Fronk, executive director of the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County, said, “We have had a 30-year relationship working with LAS for the benefit of individuals in our community. We are thrilled that they

are moving into this new facility with expanded services because they provide an essential function in helping people with a broad range of legal issues. We’ve come to know and depend upon Legal Aid, which operates with the highest standards of professionalism.”

LASNNY staff often work with the Saratoga District Attorney’s office. District Attorney Jim Murphy said, “I’ve known Mary and all her colleagues at Legal Aid for many years. I’m proud to work with them in our local domestic violence coalitions. They are an integral part of our community in Saratoga County and I’m happy they have found a permanent home at 40 New Street.”

Support for the new building and how it will help the agency serve its clients and the community is strong. Building strong support for the Capital Campaign is the next step.

“Any investment in the Legal Aid Society is a wonderful investment because it means real people with real needs are getting assistance,” said Withington. “If we have to pay less on our mortgage, that gives us more money to provide legal services. I hope that people will get on board and get on the bus to justice.”

### *Funding:*

The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York is funded by grants from the Legal Services Corporation, the Interest on Lawyer Account Fund of the State of New York, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Department of Justice, New York State Legislature, New York State Office of the Attorney General, NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, Albany County Department for Aging, Fulton County Office for Aging, St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging, Washington County Office for the Aging, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Office for the Aging, City of Saratoga Springs, New York State Bar Foundation, United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Albany Law School, Hunger Solutions New York, NYS Unified Court System Judiciary Civil Legal Services, Warren County, Albany County Department of Social Services, Schenectady Community Action Program, Joseph’s House, City of Schenectady, City of Albany, City of Troy, New York State Attorney General Homeowner Protection Program, law firms, corporations and individuals through the Justice for All Campaign. LASNNY is a fair housing/equal housing opportunity provider of legal services.



## 2013 Campaign Kickoff

Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the Fort Orange Club

Thank you to all the firms and individuals who take a leadership role in supporting the Legal Aid Society.



To join the 2013 Campaign, contact Deanne Grimaldi at 689-6336 or [dgrimaldi@lasnny.org](mailto:dgrimaldi@lasnny.org), or donate at [www.lasnny.org](http://www.lasnny.org) or use the enclosed envelope

### Lorrie Cleavland

*continued from page 1*

forget it, I can't do this."

The support was critical both emotionally and financially. Without LASNNY, she could not have afforded a lawyer, but the services she received extended beyond practical necessities.

"She was always trying to make me feel better," Cleavland said of Davis. "Joanna was incredible in court. You walk into court with an abuser, and you try to hold your head up high and it's really hard not to not feel intimidated."

Davis, however, assured her that it was okay to be upset *and* hold her head up high. "You're better than this," is one of the things Davis said. And, "just think about the outcome."

Keeping her eyes on the prize paid off. Cleavland now has a 5-year stay away Order of Protection, sole legal and sole physical custody, and

supervised visitation for Dad. Other problems led to adding on therapeutic visitation to supervised visits, and the father is required to take anger management and parenting courses.

Domestic Violence law is Joanna Davis' passion. While attending Albany Law, Davis participated in the Domestic Violence clinic and that's really where she found her niche. She discovered she liked matrimonial and family law during law school, and the clinic narrowed that interest. Her attraction to this area was so clear that she knew if she went into private practice, she'd have to do a lot of pro bono work to address her calling. She was hired at LASNNY in 2005, before she officially passed the bar.

"We need to do good with our degrees," said Davis. Following that sense of duty has paid off with great job satisfaction.

"The camaraderie between the domestic violence service providers,

and the other staff attorneys in the organizations that do domestic violence work is wonderful," said Davis.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and that community is more poised than usual to give a voice to men and women who experience domestic violence.

"All the power and control is taken away from our clients," said Davis. "It's our job to give that power and control back, so that they get to decide how they want to live their lives."

Lorrie Cleavland tells everyone she can about how Legal Aid eased the stress of her situation. This opportunity to tell her story for the newsletter is another chance to thank Joanna Davis and the agency.

"I'm looking forward to paying it forward, because this is the least I can do," she said.

Note: Brenna Sharp helped on this case, serving for Neglect Proceedings in Family Court.

# Rosanne Cash

Help for the Homeless Benefit Concert  
Thursday, December 19, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Troy Savings Bank  
Music Hall



Tickets: \$39 • \$35 • \$28

(518) 273-0038 • [www.troymusicall.org](http://www.troymusicall.org)

Please credit LASNNY when calling the box office

## GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous (3)                      | Tim and Carmelina Morrison                |
| James B. Ayers                     | Lillian M. Moy                            |
| Jeffrey and Martha Baker           | Miriam M. Netter                          |
| Richard J. Bartlett                | Thomas J. O'Connor                        |
| Charlotte S. Buchanan              | Leslie Thiele and Ken Larsen              |
| David and Kathleen Burke           | The Ruthman Family                        |
| Paul M. Callahan                   | Arthur and Ronnie Siegel                  |
| Peter and Mary Coffey              | Keith C. St. John                         |
| John R. Dunne                      | Henda and Samuel Strasser                 |
| Deanne Grimaldi                    | F. Michael Tucker                         |
| Richard C. Heffern                 | Wendy L. Wahlberg                         |
| E. Stewart and Kimberly Jones, Jr. | G. Kimball Williams & Margaret. J. Gillis |
| Thomas V. Kenney Jr.               | Mary Withington                           |
| Amelia M. Klein                    |   |
| Skip and Merri P. Meislahn         |   |

The Saratoga County Bar Association, the Young Lawyers Committee and the Saratoga Office of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York invite you to..

# Mix

# It

# Up

## for Justice

### Tuesday, November 12, 2013

### 6-8 pm

At the

## Saratoga Golf and Polo Club

301 Church Street, Saratoga Springs

\$35 Price includes appetizers and open bar

BBQ and Pasta Stations

Please RSVP by November 7th to Deanne Grimaldi:

[dgrimaldi@lasnny.org](mailto:dgrimaldi@lasnny.org), call 518-689-6336 or

purchase tickets online at [www.lasnny.org](http://www.lasnny.org)

### Host Committee

(list in formation)

John J. Carusone, Jr., Esq.

Stephen M. Dorsey, President,  
Saratoga Bar Association

E. Stewart Jones, Jr., Esq.  
LASNNY Board President

Matthew J. Jones, Esq.

Stuart D. Kaufman Co-Chair,  
YLC of the Saratoga Bar Association

Ronald J. Kim, Esq.

James A. Murphy, III

Saratoga County District Attorney

Tim O'Hara, Esq.

President and CEO, AYCO

Marne L. Onderdonk, Esq.

Eric A. Tepper, Esq.

James T. Towne Jr., Esq.

Mary Withington, Esq.

## UIB PAI Program

*continued from page 4*

ethical attorneys once they graduate and pass the bar,” said Prof. Louis, who runs the program. “We are also helping the community with providing legal services.”

This exposure benefits the students in practical and meaningful ways, introducing the concept of access to justice and the need to volunteer as lawyers.

**“I just wanted to say thank you for your help. If I wasn’t able to get unemployment, I don’t know what me and my family would do — so our thanks to all who helped us out.”**

*—LASNNY UIB client*

Lynn A. Papazian, Esq. is a solo practitioner and handles UIB cases pro bono at LASNNY. As she began her career, she shadowed an attorney experienced in unemployment law.

“It’s nice that I can actually do something for somebody else,” said Papazian. “I’m very lucky in that if I needed legal work done I have a very helpful and supportive family, and I know enough attorneys to get the help I’d need but not everyone is as fortunate and volunteering a few hours to help someone is a positive way to be reminded of what you do have.”

Morgan Ruthman grew up knowing the importance of pro bono as his father served on LASNNY’s board from 1979- 1984. He lives by the motto that, “Access to justice need not be an abstract concept. Though it is sometimes undervalued, helping people successfully navigate the legal system can have a meaningful impact on their lives.”

“Access to justice need not be an abstract concept. Though it is

sometimes undervalued, helping people successfully navigate the legal system can have a meaningful impact on their lives,” said Morgan Ruthman, who is continuing a family tradition of serving at LASNNY, as his father served on the board.

Ruthman, a 2010 Albany Law graduate, currently works as in-house counsel to a real estate development firm. With no knowledge of unemployment law, he’s gained it from a number of different sources, including his wife, who is a labor and employment lawyer.

Another resource he’s drawn upon is Earl T. Redding, with Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP. Redding is familiar with labor and employment law and an invaluable mentor.

In his day-to-day work, he represents management, and seeing the employee side of the story has given him insight on the whole picture of such cases.

When a fellow attorney asked if

### Legal Aid Society Board of Directors

John Caffry, Esq.	Cathy Lawrence
Jondavid DeLong, Esq.	Thomas J. O’Connor, Esq.
Sanjeev DeSoyza, Esq.	Nicholas Pignone, Esq.
Wendy Frost	Charles Robinson
Stephen Johnston, Esq.	Patricia L.R. Rodriguez, Esq.
E. Stewart Jones, Esq.	Andrew Schrader, Esq.
Edward Kaplan, Esq.	Paula Slater-Hurd
Karen Kenison	Shaton Vance
Ronald Kim, Esq.	

volunteering would take much time, Redding told him it doesn’t take any more time than the time you want to put into it.

“We have the ability to find time because there’s always time, there’s always time,” Redding said. “We find time to help that individual navigate what can be a very difficult for a lay person to handle.”

Redding noted that Kristie Cinelli and others at the office make the process simple, handling all the paperwork so that people can offer their services in the most efficient way possible.

If you are interested in volunteering in this area, please contact Kristie Cinelli at [kcinelli@lasnny.org](mailto:kcinelli@lasnny.org) or 518-689-6322.

*Albany County Bar Association and The Legal Aid Society are hosting:*

## 19th Annual Holiday Party

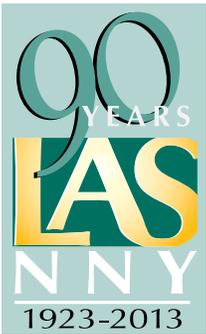
**December 19, 2013; 6:00–8:00 p.m.**

**The Hampton Inn, Downtown Albany**

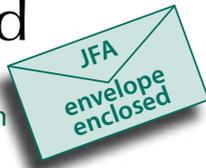
*Catered by Yono’s — Santa will be stopping by!*

The celebration of special occasions, such as major holidays and birthdays are often very difficult for children in residential care. Each child deserves special attention and the number of children continues to rise. Therefore, Proceeds of our Party will benefit St. Catherine’s Center for Children.

Admission will be \$30 plus an unwrapped Gift for the children of St. Catherine’s. Children under 12 are free. Please be sure that your Gifts are new and unwrapped. Please visit the website, [www.albanycountybar.com](http://www.albanycountybar.com), to register.



**Legal Aid Society**  
of Northeastern  
New York, Inc.  
55 Colvin Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALBANY, NY  
PERMIT #370

**Mix It Up**  
SEE PAGE 10  
6-8 pm for Justice  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2013**  
Saratoga Golf and Polo Club

**Dated Material—Please Expedite**  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*19th Annual Holiday Party*  
SEE PAGE 11

printed on recycled paper



## New Home on New Street in Saratoga Springs

A Capital Campaign to fund the permanent home of LASNNY in Saratoga Springs is about to begin. The office has a long history in the county, and has always rented space. Purchasing a building consolidates operations and will allow Legal Aid to make the most of staff and volunteer efforts.

### Saratoga Statistics

The justice gap can be less visible in a relatively well-off community like Saratoga, since signs of prosperity can mask the need for civil legal services. Even the markers of poverty can be misleading. The Census, for the period of 2007-2011, put 6.5% of people

in the county below the poverty level, compared to 14.5% across the state.

However, drive in downtown Saratoga Springs, and an ever-growing homeless population are visible in the parking garages, public spaces and facilities open through the night. Saratoga County hit a record high in January 2012 when 799 people applied for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Nutrition outreach is one of the many legal service areas addressed by LASNNY. With additional services to assist clients with extended representation in housing issues, domestic relations matters and public entitlement problems and with advice in a wide range of civil legal matters, the staff closed over 1,500 cases in 2012.

*continues on page 3*