What equal justice looks like.



The Legal Aider

Issue I | March 2019

Welcome to the first edition of Legal Aid Society's monthly newsletter. Here we will share highlights from our programs, introduce you to our stellar staff, update you on events and volunteer opportunities, and hopefully inspire you!

Tickets on Sale Now for the Brush, Bottle, and Barrel of the Bluegrass

The Brush, Bottle and Barrel of the Bluegrass is Legal Aid Society's signature event supporting our mission to pursue justice for people in poverty. Each year, the legal community comes together to celebrate civil legal aid, and enjoy great food and one-of-a-kind spirits!

This year Martha Hasselbacher is the recipient of The Brown-Forman Spirit of Justice Award. Martha is an equal justice champion, having devoted her career to the service of others as an attorney and the Founder of <u>Doctors and Lawyers for Kids</u>. Help us celebrate Martha's outstanding achievements at the Brush, Bottle and Barrel of the Bluegrass.

<u>Click here to learn more about our event.</u>



Buy Tickets. \$100 Each.

When: April 26th at 6 PM Where: Atria Senior Living

300 E. Market St.

On the first Saturday in March, 100 volunteer attorneys helped 400 low-income individuals create a fresh start through the Reily Reentry Program. Legal Aid Society attorneys partnered with the Louisville Urban League and members of the private bar to help individuals with criminal records obtain expungements.

Learn more about the Reily Reentry Program.



Legal Aid staff pictured left to right: Neva-Marie Polley Scott, Jane Connell Young, Nick Maraman, Ben Taylor, and John Young.

Equal Justice in Action: <u>A Gulf War Veteran</u> on the Rise!



"Someone finally listened to me."

Mr. Woodson served on active duty in the First Gulf War in the 24th Infantry Division. Mr. Woodson returned from the war only to find his mother dying. He took her death hard and went AWOL. He came to his senses before being dropped from the rolls and turned himself in at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was discharged from the Army with an Other Than Honorable Discharge (OTH) and returned to civilian life a war veteran. For the next 35 years he was employed at a meat rendering plant in Kentucky. In 2013 he began to suffer from as many as six to ten seizures a day. He was placed on temporary disability and never allowed to return to work. He lost his family, his income, and only working odd jobs, he almost lost his home. The Social Security Administration denied him disability benefits even with doctors' notes and hospital records. That's when he turned to Legal Aid Society.

When Mr. Woodson first spoke with our veterans program paralegal, Laura Hogue. Laura, being well versed in all things veterans, realized that Mr. Woodson's symptoms aligned with Gulf War Syndrome, which causes epilepsy due to exposure to petroleum fires. Not only was Legal Aid successfully able to appeal the Social Security's Administration's previous decision, we continue to work with Mr. Woodson to ensure his long-term success and health.

Just last week, Mr. Woodson stopped by Legal Aid Society just to say thank you to his attorney, Roy Berwick, and paralegal, Laura Hogue.

Thank you to our generous program sponsors: Kentucky Bar Foundation, Texas Roadhouse, Equal Justice Works, V. V. Cooke Foundation, and The Wood and Marie Hannah Foundation.

On behalf of our staff, board, and the thousands of clients we serve each year, thank you for your support.