



**Legal Services of
Eastern Missouri, Inc.
2009
Annual Report**



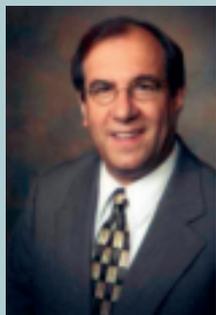
OUR MISSION



Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, Inc. (LSEM) is an independent, non-profit organization that provides high-quality civil legal assistance and equal access to justice for low-income people in Eastern Missouri.

LSEM is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) corporation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Daniel K. Glazier



Reuben A. Shelton

Living in poverty presents many difficult challenges. In 2009, these challenges were even more evident as the economic crisis gripping the country hit those already in financial peril with extreme force.

At Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) in 2009, we addressed many of these challenges our clients face through our development of programs that directly impacted clients facing severe economic distress. Because foreclosures have affected so many in our service area, we established the Foreclosure Defense Project which has significantly expanded our foreclosure prevention work. We confronted consumer debt issues, a growing problem during the economic crisis, especially for the elderly. We created a Senior Debt Collection Project which is part of our Consumer Unit. We have been very effective in this project, thwarting unfair debt collection practices.

In 2009, we also fully launched the St. Louis Children's Health Advocacy Project (CHAP) which is a medical-legal partnership with Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center, St. Louis Children's Hospital, Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Center, and the Saint Louis University School of Law Clinic. Our CHAP legal staff on site at these pediatric health centers is an important part of the patients' treatment teams, using the law to ensure better health care outcomes through representation in a variety of legal issues affecting these patients, such as, special education, public benefits, guardianships, housing and other civil issues.

While developing these new projects in 2009, we continued to provide representation to our clients in so many other critical areas. Through legal representation we helped domestic violence victims and their families gain safety and security; special needs children acquire an appropriate education; families at risk of homelessness stay housed; legal immigrants gain appropriate status, and persons in need access vital health care.

In 2009, we helped over 30,000 persons through direct client services, outreach activities, community education, and through our publications. Our clients experienced successful outcomes in over 95% of the cases we handled.

We were honored to be one of the recipients in 2009 of a "What's Right With The Region" award presented by FOCUS St. Louis. We are similarly honored and thankful to have the support of so many of you as we continually tackle the challenges our clients face each and every day. Our goal is to help our clients survive and ultimately thrive. You are critical partners in our challenge to help our clients accomplish this. Thank you for sharing this most worthy challenge with us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel K. Glazier in black ink.

Daniel K. Glazier
Executive Director & General Counsel

Handwritten signature of Reuben A. Shelton in black ink.

Reuben A. Shelton
President, Board of Directors



OUR HISTORY

First organized response to the civil legal needs of indigent residents of St. Louis occurred in 1935 when the City of St. Louis and The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis established a volunteer legal aid bureau.

The Legal Aid Society for the City and County of St. Louis was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 1956.

The U.S. Congress passed the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) Act in 1965; the act provided funding for local legal services organizations.

Legal Services Corporation (LSC) was created in 1974 to take over the function of providing funding to local legal services programs.

Funding received from LSC in mid-seventies for expansion to five additional counties. In 1977 our name was changed to Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

In 1993, we merged with the Legal Services of Northeast Missouri program in Hannibal, Missouri. This merger expanded our service area to another fourteen counties.

LSEM opened an office in Union, Missouri, in 2001 in order to provide additional services to residents in Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties.

In 2006, LSEM celebrated 50 years of service since its incorporation in 1956.

MR. L'S STORY



Mr. L lived in a one-bedroom public housing apartment and he wanted to add his daughter to his lease. The Housing Authority would not let him add the daughter to the lease unless he obtained custody. The mother had abandoned the daughter, and Mr. L was willing and able to obtain custody. Mr. L came to LSEM for help.

Our Housing Unit advocate contacted the Housing Authority and requested they give our client time to obtain custody, and requested that his daughter be permitted to stay with him pending the court action. It was agreed that the daughter could stay with her father and he would not be terminated from the program for having an unauthorized occupant in his apartment.

The LSEM Family Unit then assisted our client with gaining custody of his daughter. The court documents awarding custody to our client were provided to the Housing Authority, and Mr. L was put on a waiting list for a two-bedroom unit. We were able to keep our client's housing in this case and assisted him in keeping his family together.

SERVICES / PRIORITIES / PROJECTS

Family: The **Lasting Solutions Program** handles domestic abuse cases, including orders of protection, dissolution of marriage, modifications, paternity establishments, and child custody cases. Holistic services are provided to strengthen and support victims of abuse and their children as they seek to permanently end the violence in their lives.

Housing: Cases involve landlord-tenant matters including lease terminations, eviction and rent suits, security deposit and habitability issues, federally subsidized housing rights such as Section 8 and public housing, homeownership issues such as mortgage and foreclosure matters, predatory lending, and condemnations.

Consumer: Cases include predatory lending practices, deceptive or fraudulent practices regarding the sale of automobiles or other consumer goods and services, breach of contract, breach of warranty, wrongful repossession, illegal collection tactics, and credit card defense.

Health/Welfare/Income Maintenance: The **Health & Welfare Unit** has two projects that address low-income health care issues and problems related to state-administered public assistance programs. Some of the issues addressed by the **Public Benefits Project** include Blind Pension/Supplemental Aid to the Blind, Childcare, Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The **Advocates for Family Health Project** helps clients resolve problems or issues with Missouri's MO HealthNet programs, the state Medicaid programs for children, families and pregnant women.

Other income maintenance areas LSEM may handle include Social Security Disability Income, Supplemental Security Income, and Unemployment Compensation benefits.

Education: The **Children's Legal Alliance** provides legal and social support for disabled children who need assistance with educational issues. Cases include assistance with suspensions, expulsions, and appropriate educational placement.

LSEM sets priorities regarding the kinds of cases the program can handle with available resources.

Immigration: The **Immigration Law Project** takes cases involving relative, refugee, and fiancée visa petitions, adjustment to permanent residence, battered immigrant spouse self-petitions, cases under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2002, representation in removal cases, waiver applications, naturalization, and employment authorization.

Elderly: Cases include many of the matters mentioned above as well as nursing home problems, wills, powers of attorney and health care directives.

St. Louis County Family Court Project: Cases involve parents and others who are parties in the child welfare system and whose custody and parental rights are at stake. It is the goal of this project to keep families together with proper support and services.

Children's Health Advocacy Project is a medical-legal partnership to assist children and their families with a variety of legal issues.

The Foreclosure Defense Project handles bankruptcies for clients who are at risk of losing their homes through foreclosure.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) is a joint undertaking of LSEM and the organized bar. Volunteers help with cases, serve as consultants, participate in outreach programs, make community education presentations, and co-counsel with other volunteers and staff attorneys.

Rural Outreach was expanded in 2001 when LSEM opened an outreach office in **Union, MO**. That office assists clients in several outlying counties with the same variety of issues mentioned above.

The Hannibal Office assists clients in 14 counties in northeast Missouri, and delivers the range of services mentioned above. The Hannibal Office makes outreach visits to various parts of its service area.

2009 EVENTS:

19th Annual Justice For All Ball

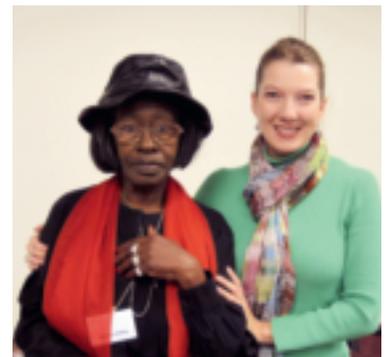


600 people attended the 19th annual Justice For All Ball on February 28, 2009 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. LSEM grossed \$168,541 from ticket sales, souvenir book advertisements, donations, and auction sales. This event is made possible through the efforts of many staff and volunteers who plan and work out all the details for the evening. The ball is a wonderful social event for a great cause. We appreciate the support of everyone who contributes to its success.



Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event

A donor and volunteer appreciation event was held December 3, 2009 at the LSEM office. The event was held to express our thanks to those in the community who support our efforts.



2009 “For the Common Good” Awards Program

Individuals and law firms were honored at LSEM’s “For the Common Good” awards event June 4, 2009 at the St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark. Awards presented at the event were:

R. Walston Chubb Award:

Michael P. Gunn

Equal Justice Award:

Husch Blackwell Sanders LLP

Ashley Award:

Thompson Coburn LLP

Richard B. Teitelman Distinguished Service Award:

Koreen L. Gummere

Larry D. Thomason, Jr.

F. Wm. McCalpin Pro Bono Award:

Vincent D. Reese

Eric C. Hensic

John R. Essner Young Lawyer of the Year Award:

Daniel T. Batten

Misty A. Watson

Gerald R. Ortvals Outstanding Law Firm Award:

Bryan Cave LLP

Edna M. Taylor Client Service Award:

Vennie E. Sharp

Community Service Award:

Karen Wallensak



LSEM & STAFF PRESENTED WITH AWARDS IN 2009



LSEM was selected by FOCUS St. Louis to receive a "What's Right with the Region!" award in the category of Improving Racial Equality and Social Justice. FOCUS St. Louis has presented these awards annually for the last 12 years to honor individuals and organizations that do an outstanding job of making the St. Louis area a better place to live.



Dan Claggett, managing attorney of LSEM's Consumer Unit and assistant director of advocacy for litigation, was named "Best Lawyer if the Bank Wants Your House" in a *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* readers' poll.



Jason Dodson, managing attorney of LSEM's Lasting Solutions Program, was selected as an "Up & Coming Lawyer" by Missouri Lawyers Media. This is recognition for lawyers under 40 who are making a positive difference in the quality of justice while exemplifying the highest ideals of the legal profession.



Ann Lever, former director of litigation for LSEM, received the prestigious Reginald Heber Smith (Reggie) Award at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association annual conference. The award recognizes the dedicated services and outstanding achievements of a civil or indigent defense attorney.



Gayle Williams, LSEM associate director of administration, was honored by the Mound City Bar Association with its Legal Service Award for her commitment to community, public service, and improving the quality of justice.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY



The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) celebrated its 35th anniversary on July 25, 2009. LSC provides federal funds to 137 independent, nonprofit organizations that deliver civil legal aid for the poor. LSC was established by Congress in 1974 to provide grants to the programs. LSC funding is vital to LSEM and represents about 30% of our annual budget.

In fiscal year 2009, Congress appropriated \$390 million to LSC. More than 95% of that funding was distributed as grants to the legal aid programs.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT VISITS LSEM



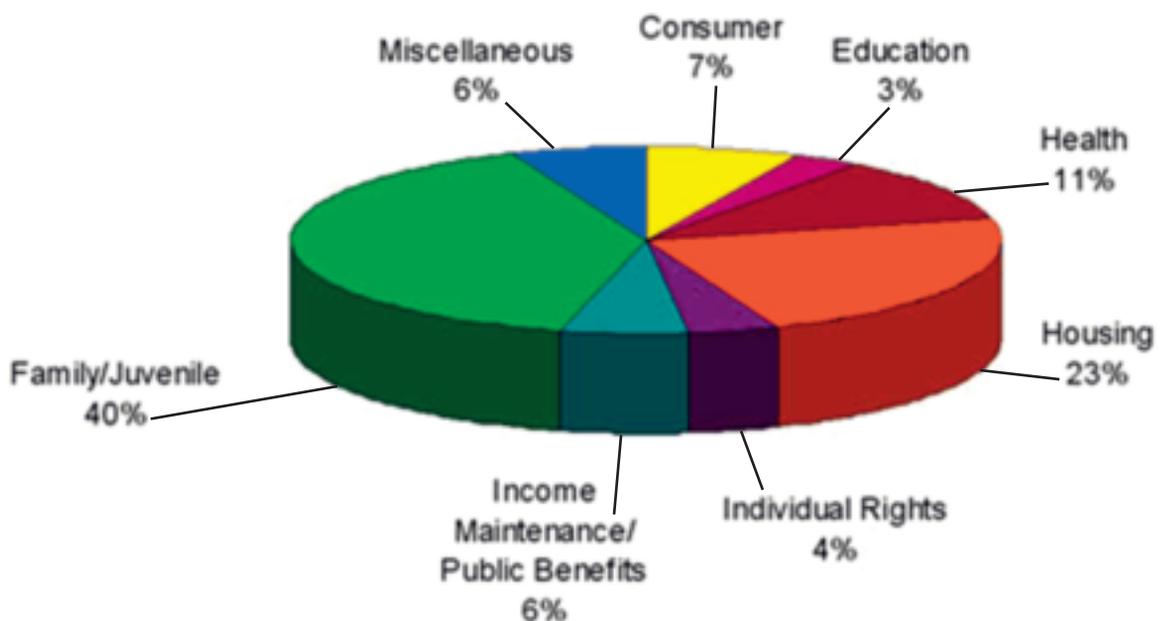
H. Thomas (Tommy) Wells, Jr., 2008-2009 president of the American Bar Association (ABA) visited LSEM April 27, 2009 while in St. Louis to speak at The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) Law Day Luncheon & Installation of Officers. Wells met with LSEM staff members and talked with a client who was assisted by LSEM when her automobile was repossessed after she made her final payment.

In an interview on April 28 on KMOX Radio, Wells said: “You’re actually very fortunate in this area. You’ve got Legal Services of Eastern Missouri for people who can’t afford a lawyer and really need one for civil matters like a foreclosure or a car that’s been repossessed wrongfully They’ve got a really wonderful office that I visited yesterday.”

Wells is a partner and founding member of Maynard, Cooper & Gale PC in Birmingham, Alabama. He has been active in the Alabama State Bar, the Birmingham Bar Association and the ABA. He served in the ABA House of Delegates and was chair from 2002-2004. He was previously chair of the ABA Section of Litigation, and served as co-chair of the ABA Special Committee on Disaster Response.

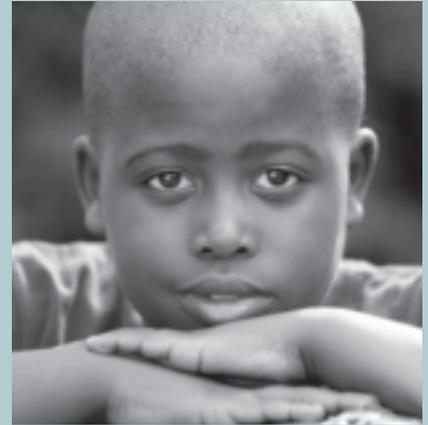
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES CLOSED IN 2009:

LSEM provided 16,449 people with services during 2009 through direct client case work (including the clients and their family members). Another 8,919 people were referred to other agencies and service providers. We reached an additional 15,277 people through outreach, community education activities and publications.



ANNUAL BAR CAMPAIGN

The Board of Directors of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri made the decision in June 2009 to launch an Annual Bar Campaign to address the need for additional financial resources. The need for civil legal assistance for low-income clients has grown, but our financial resources are shrinking due to current economic conditions. LSEM is able to serve only 25 % of the individuals in need of our services.



We must find effective ways to bridge this justice gap. Our goal is to raise \$600,000 each year for the next three years to provide equal access to justice for low-income individuals throughout the 21-county service area. \$600,000 per year would cover about ½ of our projected gap in funding over the next three years. We are very proud to have Senator John C. Danforth and Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr. as co-chairs of our campaign steering committee of twenty-three outstanding attorneys.



The Annual Bar Campaign will be conducted each year to help fund the operating expenses of the organization.

CURRENT STAFF

Daniel K. Glazier,
Executive Director & General Counsel

Gayle C. Williams,
Associate Director of Administration

Jeanne Philips-Roth,
Associate Director for Client Services

Susan E. Hauser,
Director of Finance

Joel D. Ferber,
Director of Advocacy

Elizabeth G. Roper,
Director of Human Resources

Judy C. Miniace
Director of Development

Jon Althausen

Susan Alverson

Mary Anthony

Kareema Aziz

Melissa Bancroft

MaryAnne Banks

LaTasha Barnes

Lana Boyd

Augustine Brown

Kathleen Brummond

Edna Byrd

Lucas Caldwell-McMillan

Rhonda Campbell

Yvonne Campbell

Jackie Chun

Daniel Claggett

Sandra Cox

T. Peter Danielsons

Melanie Daily DeRousse

Mary DeVries

Jason Dodson

Lawrence Doreson

Kathleen DuBois

Rebecca Feldmann

James Frost

Steve Glenn

Juliana Greenfield

James Guest

Paul Hargadon

Patricia Harris

Jennifer Heggemann

Tiajuana Henderson

Pinky Hunter

Sharon Hurt

Brenda Kuelker

Colleen Landefeld

Jacki Langum

Deborah Long

Bernadette Lovett

Arnett McGill

Terry Moore

JoAnne Morrow

Ruth Mullins

Kim Murray

June O'Brien

Angie O'Gorman

JoAnne Phillips

Stan Platke

John Porter

Cheryl Rafert

Casey Regular

Kate Reid

Terry Riecken

Laura Robbins

DeAna Rowden

Diane Schamber

Amanda Schneider

Carl Seltzer

Karen Shelley

Traci Smith

Susan Spann

Betty Springfield

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Dan Underwood

Marisa Waldman

Joyce Walker

Karen Warren

Tonya Watson

Holly Yoakum

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Barbara Whiting

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

REVENUES

Contributions	453,535
United Way	649,525
Legal Services Corp.	2,448,153
Basic Civil Legal Services Fund	1,382,827
Department of Justice	223,150
Missouri Bar Dues	188,154
Missouri HealthNet	250,000
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development	82,677
Arbitration and Mediation	116,646
Missouri Lawyers Trust Fund	574,826
Other Misc. Grants	652,591
Fundraising - Special Events	171,378
Other Program, Interest and Misc. Income	112,037
Total Income Before Donated Services	7,305,499
Donated Services	1,088,711

Total Income	8,394,210
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EXPENSES

Program Services	6,355,349
Supporting Services:	
Management & General Costs	705,793
Fundraising - Special Events	72,578
Fundraising - Development	338,574
Depreciation	160,457
Total Expenses	7,632,751

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	761,459
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Net Assets - Beginning of Year	9,345,089
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Net Assets - End of Year	10,106,548
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2009 & DECEMBER 31, 2008

ASSETS	2009	2008
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$237,891	\$726,212
Client Trust Accounts	3,847	1,186
Investments	1,235,478	2,260,970
Grants Receivable	2,994,392	2,376,852
Unconditional promises to give	690,783	642,852
Prepaid Expenses	107,815	88,677
Miscellaneous receivable	26,433	32,151
Total Current Assets	5,296,639	6,128,900

Investments	2,370,047	685,252
Grants Receivable - Long-Term	281,747	401,909
Unconditional promises to give - Long-Term	74,734	955

Property, Furniture & Equipment

Land	350,000	350,000
Building	1,950,408	1,960,760
(less accumulated depreciation of \$910,215 in 2009 & \$838,153 in 2008)		
Furniture and equipment	215,546	204,379
(less accumulated depreciation of \$381,795 in 2009 & \$352,300 in 2008)		
Law library	46,320	46,320

Total Property, Furniture & Equipment	2,562,274	2,561,459
Assets Restricted for Permanent Endowment	39,287	37,369
Total Assets	\$10,624,728	\$9,815,844

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$70,836	\$103,848
Accrued expenses	306,023	267,742
Current portion of capital lease obligations	35,070	26,281
Client trust deposits	3,847	1,186
Total Current Liabilities	415,776	399,057

Capital Lease Obligations, Less Current Portion	102,404	71,698
Total Liabilities	518,180	470,755

Net Assets

Unrestricted	6,193,695	5,802,466
Temporarily restricted	3,866,062	3,496,239
Permanently restricted	46,791	46,384
Total Net Assets	10,106,548	9,345,089
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$10,624,728	\$9,815,844

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 Mr. C. Donald Ainsworth
 Ms. Gina Aliano
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 American Institute of Architects-St. Louis
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 Burkemper Law Firm, L.L.C.
 Mr. Clement E. Burns
 Burns, Vandover & Godfrey
 Mr. James C. Busch

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 The Campbell Law Firm, LLC
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 Carter Family Law Group, LLC
 Mr. John J. Casey
 Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
 The Center of Clayton
 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
 Cerutti

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 City of Clayton Parks & Recreation
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 Evangelical Children's Home
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 Ms. Marlene H. Franklin
 Franklin County Area United Way

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 Ms. Frankie M. Freeman
 Dr. Charles Freeman M.D.
 Friedman, Weitzman & Friedman, PC

--G--

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 The Great Cover Up
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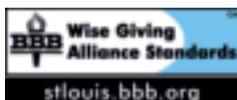
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MS. P'S STORY



Ms. P was estranged from her son and extended family members, and she wanted help with updating her Will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Healthcare Directive. LSEM drafted the original documents for Ms. P so we were familiar with her family history.

After meeting with Ms. P, we felt that a new document available to Missouri residents, the Right of Sepulcher, could be of great assistance to Ms. P. The Right of Sepulcher allows an individual to designate a person to handle their funeral and burial arrangements, which prevents estranged family members from defeating the individual's wishes. When we explained to Ms. P about Right of Sepulcher, she was thrilled to hear that she could benefit from the protections it provided. She felt it was a perfect fit for her, and was grateful that LSEM had put so much thought into her particular situation. Ms. P gained great peace of mind knowing that her wishes would be honored.



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