

# Law Services News—



SUMMER, 2017

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## NSLS' Legal Teams Make a Difference...

**In Fight for Public Benefits:** Robin Sparks, Staff Attorney in our Welfare Unit recently received recognition for this Fair Hearing Decision of the Month. The case involved a disabled child in a public assistance household. The Department of Social Services (DSS) had discontinued the client's public assistance claiming that the household had more than \$2,000 in a bank account held jointly by the appellant's disabled son and the appellant, as the representative payee. At the hearing, Ms. Sparks argued that DSS should not consider the Representative Payee account, which is strictly for the benefit of the disabled son on SSI. Even if it were counted as a joint account, there is a rebuttable



presumption that only half the funds in the account belonged to the applicant/recipient. That presumption was successfully refuted. Sparks further elaborated that the client, who herself is intellectually challenged, was doing her best to maintain the accounts to pay the household bills. The hearing decision held that DSS had no legal basis to consider the Representative Payee account funds in determining the value of the mother's resources and the benefits were reinstated! This victory meant a lot to the struggling household.

**In Preserving Senior's subsidized housing:** The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) just completed a case that involved an elderly resident of a senior complex. The management sought to evict her for nonpayment of rent while she was convalescing in a nursing home, and also rescinded her rent subsidy. Her son was still living in the apartment during her absence and asked the VLP to defend the eviction. With the assistance of the Project and **Roberta Scoll**, Staff Attorney, they were able to save the senior citizen's subsidized housing, by convincing management of the extenuating circumstances. In addition, Ms. Scoll went further and persuaded the management to recertify the senior citizen's subsidy and remediate a mold problem before her return to the apartment. The senior was very grateful to be able to return home.



**Lowering Veterans Medicaid Spenddown:** The Veterans Rights Project was recently able to assist a veteran of World War II. **Joanna Rodriguez**, Paralegal of the Senior's Unit, recognized that a client's revised Medicaid budget incorrectly characterized his Veterans Administration Aid and Attendance benefits as a part of his household income and referred the client to the Veterans Rights Project. Staff Attorney, **Susanna Laruccia**, was able to make DSS aware that New York Social Services Law Section 360-4.6 (a)(2)(viii) clearly states that "aid and attendance benefits and housebound benefits

received from the Veterans' Administration" are disregards that apply to Medicaid recipients who are 65 years of age or older. The Agency revised the client's budget resulting in a restoration of the client's original spenddown thereby making the medical insurance program affordable. Congratulations to our dedicated legal staff!

## Do you know about credit union “Dragnet clauses”?

### A car lien can survive the pay off!

Thinking about getting a loan from a Credit Union? Be careful! **Regan Serlin, Esq.**, of the PLAN Unit in Hempstead has recently come across an interesting case that serves as a cautionary tale for others. Credit Unions are a popular choice for a variety of loans, due to their attractive interest rates. As a way to keep their rates low however, credit unions include cross-collateral provisions (a.k.a. “Dragnet clauses”) in the fine print of their financing statements. This means that any collateral offered in an initial loan will be used as collateral for any additional or future loans or credit cards taken out through the same credit union, often without the borrower’s knowledge. This is especially true when it comes to car loans. When a borrower takes out an initial car



loan through the credit union, that car will be used as collateral for that loan, a common practice for all automobile loans. Should the borrower take out any additional loans or credit cards through that credit union and then defaults on the terms, the credit union can repossess that automobile, even if it’s been paid off for years. It is common that a borrower would never even read the fine print in the additional loan, or would have forgotten the cross-collateral provision completely, being that it has been many years later and the loan which secured the collateral has been paid off. As long as the borrower continues to have an open loan or credit card with the credit union, the

credit union will continue to hold the lien and the consumer will never get free title to the car. So be forewarned. If you take out an automobile loan with a credit union, check the financing statement for a Dragnet Clause, particularly if you are planning to take out an additional loan with that lender.

## MEDICAID TRUST RULES NO LONGER REQUIRES SETTLOR TO BE A RELATIVE

The Social Services Law (SSL) now allows certified disabled individuals who are under age 65 to establish their own special needs trust (SNT) and qualify for the exceptions to Medicaid income and resource counting rules as outlined in Section 366 of the SSL and Department regulations at 18 NYCRR 360-4.5(b)(1)(5)(i)(a). Previously, such trusts were required to be established by a “settlor” who was a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or court of competent jurisdiction which made it more difficult.

The policy change was issued on May 22, 2017 under GIS 17 MA-08 : *“Effective immediately, in the case of a certified disabled Medicaid applicant/recipient, districts must not consider as available income or resources the corpus or income of a trust established by such disabled individual when he or she was under 65 years of age, provided the trust otherwise complies with the “exception trust” provisions set forth in Administrative Directive 96 ADM-8, “OBRA ’93 Provisions on Transfers and Trusts.”*

## PLAN Project Services Salvaged after Funding Cut

Every year over 17,000 cases of malignant cancer occur on Long Island. Receiving a cancer diagnosis affects every aspect of life for both the individual and their family.



To help mitigate some of the stressors associated with cancer, Nassau Suffolk Law Services created the **Permanency Legal Assistance Project (PLAN)**. PLAN provides legal help to individuals and families that have been affected by any type of cancer. The unit handles a wide variety of legal issues including, but not limited to, permanency planning, public benefits, health coverage, advance directives, and some housing concerns.

We were recently notified that the two major funding sources for our PLAN Cancer Project, the Komen Foundation and the NYS Dept. of Health, have discontinued funding for many of its cancer projects and NSLS has been affected as well. We are committed to continuing this important project in order to serve those clients who are seriously affected by the many legal issues that arise for cancer patients and their families. The Project’s continued existence will be made possible by redirecting existing general funding. Although the PLAN Project will continue to provide services, the funding necessitates that an income limit of 200% FPL will be applied in screening new applicants for services.

If you think that we can help your clients, please have them call us at (631) 232-2400 or 516 292-8100.

## Suffolk Pro Bono Project Expanding Self Help Assistance

The new **SSI/SSD Application Project** is currently accepting clients who require assistance in completing their initial application. Trained pro bono attorneys will sit with a client (often someone with intellectual or mental health challenges) to complete the application which includes a thorough approach to securing medical records. Please note that the Pro Bono Project attorney will NOT represent at a hearing, but if an applicant is later denied benefits, they can apply for representation through [one of NSLS' funded projects](#). Please refer low income Suffolk clients who need assistance with their initial application to 631 232-2400 x 3315 for screening.



The Pro Bono Project continues its assistance in **17A Guardianships** working with low income Suffolk clients to provide information, education, and hands-on assistance in completing petitions for those with a serious intellectual or developmental disability. **The pro bono attorneys will not be representing clients**, but will help to develop the 17A petition. In the case of a parent with limitations or someone who is not capable of filing the petition, even with the attorney's guidance, the Pro Bono Project will make every effort to assign them a "full service" pro bono attorney on a limited basis. Please refer the Suffolk caller to 631 232-2400 x 3315 for screening. Nassau residents who need an attorney for a 17A guardianship can call the Volunteer Lawyers Project 516 292-8299.

In matters of child support, NSLS continues to provide free legal advice by phone for child support litigants, both custodial and non custodial parents in Suffolk. The attorney volunteers in our **Self Help Child Support Project** are often able to follow up phone guidance with consultations. **The attorneys do not provide direct representation to litigants.** To access the service, call 631 822-3279.

### Help is available to Child support litigants in Central Islip Court-house

The Suffolk County Courts in Central Islip have two computer terminals containing the NYS Do-It-Yourself court forms drafting program set up immediately to the right of the General Clerk's Office. In the morning hours, a liaison is present to help people work with the computer program. The court papers are printed and filed immediately. Litigants are given the Affidavit of Service form and written service instructions.

Also, unrepresented litigants can go straight to the Probation Dept. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (also in Riverhead) to get help completing any Family Court petition if they're not comfortable using the DIY terminals. It's best to arrive close to 8:30, when they open. Nearly all staff in this unit speak Spanish, and Language Line is used for clients speaking other languages. Clients living out of state with matters concerning a Suffolk County Family Court order can contact the Probation Unit for assistance.



### New Child Support Debit Cards being issued by OTDA

New York State has contracted with Bank of America (BOA), to be the new child support debit card services provider. If you have clients who receive their child support payments through the debit card, they should have recently received their new cards. Several important things to know:

Child support was disbursed through the old EPPICard through June 14, 2017. Disbursements on the new BOA card began on June 15, 2017.

Holders of the EPPICard will be able to continue to withdraw funds from the card after June 15, 2017, but fees could be imposed on that card. Most importantly, individuals who retain balances **SHOULD NOT THROW AWAY THEIR OLD CARD UNTIL THE BALANCE IS ZERO**, EVEN IF THEY ARE USING THEIR NEW CARD FOR SUPPORT PAID AFTER June 15! There are fewer fees with the BOA card, and many fees have been reduced.

As always, persons receiving support can opt for direct deposit.



## VETERANS RIGHTS PROJECT ASSISTS WITH HOUSING PRESERVATION

Kudos to **Susanna Laruccia**

who successfully negotiated a settlement for her client. In a recent case, a veteran and reservist was being evicted from the apartment where he, his fiancé and child were living. A few months remained until he would be deployed, and he was eligible for full time military pay and a housing stipend. Susanna Laruccia was able to negotiate with the landlord's attorney by citing federal laws that protect active military personnel and assuring the landlord that the veteran was willing and able to make ongoing payments as well as payments towards the rental arrears to avoid the eviction. The negotiation was successful and the veteran was able to go overseas knowing that his family would continue to have secure housing.



**Catherine Mendolia**, helped a veteran maintain his housing and avoid eviction and homelessness by working with Services for the Underserved (SUS) to pay the client's rent arrears. Upon a stipulation of settlement entered into with the Landlord's attorney, the veteran had one month to pay four months of rent arrears or be evicted. She worked with SUS and came to the agreement that should the veteran reduce his expenses and show that he is able to make ongoing rent payments, SUS would agree to pay the veteran's rent arrears. She helped the veteran begin the process of reducing monthly expenses by advising him to drop unnecessary health insurance, obtain public assistance from DSS, and reduce his car payment. The veteran had a large car payment for a vehicle he was financing and was unable to make monthly payments. After negotiating with the dealership, the dealership agreed to buy back the vehicle and not hold the veteran liable for the debt owed or future payments. He also received help in finding a more affordable vehicle. As a result of the attorney's assistance in reducing the veteran's monthly expenses, SUS promised to pay the client's rent arrears going back four months, as well as the following month's rent. Great work, Catherine!

## Law Services Sponsors Training for Legal Staff

NSLS sponsored a training on May 10-12 2017 which brought 24 members of our legal team together to work on trial skills. We enlisted the technical assistance of NITA, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and held the program at the Hilton Garden Inn. The staff participants demonstrated their commitment to this educational opportunity, investing significant time and energy to the intensive 3-day program. It offered group instruction and exercises which refined and developed their witness examination skills.



## SSI Applications Can Now be Done Online



Online applications have been available to Social Security Disability (SSD) applicants for some time. [The Social Security Administration has recently extended SSI online applications](#) to limited categories of applicants who are also applying for SSD, unmarried, and between ages 18-65.

More at:

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/>

## Suffolk Pro Bono Attorneys Honored for their Work



NSLS' Pro Bono Project and the Suffolk County Pro Bono Foundation proudly recognized the many pro bono attorneys who volunteer in Suffolk providing thousands of hours in service to low income and disabled clients. On June 22, 2017, with over 100 guests in attendance at the Suffolk County Bar Association (SCBA), the group paid tribute to the outstanding spirit of

volunteerism which is alive and well in Suffolk County.



*The Hon. A. Gail Prudenti*

**The Hon. A. Gail Prudenti**, Dean of Hofstra Law School, had inspiring words for the honorees, as did **Patricia Meisenheimer**, President of the SCBA and **Judge Derrick Robinson**, Managing Director of the Suffolk Pro Bono Foundation. **Ellen Krakow**, Suffolk Pro Bono Coordinator, expressed her sincere appreciation to the honorees who consistently and generously donate their time and legal skills to their neighbors in need.



*Patricia Meisenheimer*



*Ellen Krakow*



*Judge Derrick Robinson*

**NSLS Training Team: Jane Reinhardt**, Senior Staff Attorney and **Andrea Sasala**, DAP Staff Attorney recently teamed up to provide CLE training for our staff and private attorneys on the topic of "SSI/SSD: How to

create a winning application." With special emphasis on addressing the special challenges presented by clients with behavioral health conditions and cognitive impairments, the trainers spoke to an attentive group at the Suffolk County Bar Association on June 16, 2017 with the purpose of preparing pro bono attorneys to assist clients, pro se, with their applications. Thanks also to **Mike Wigutow**, Senior Staff Attorney, who participated in the role play as a special needs client. Several NSLS staff attended, taking advantage of

this valuable and practical CLE. This is part of a new Pro Bono Project endeavor which is just getting off the ground. We are very grateful to Jane and Andrea for taking time from their busy schedule to prepare the curriculum and present to the attorneys in order to kick off this new pro bono effort. To read more about the SSI/SSD Application pro bono initiative, see p. 3.



## WE HONOR OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE MONTH



The Suffolk Pro Bono Project is pleased to honor **Eve Nowak** as its Pro Bono Attorney of the Month. Ms. Nowak is a loyal volunteer, regularly devoting time to the Project (over 250 hours during the past 12 months alone), responding to many of the hundreds of calls lighting up the Project's switchboard each week.

Without volunteers of her caliber and dependability, the Project would be unable to keep up with all the applications and inquiries regarding our pro bono services.

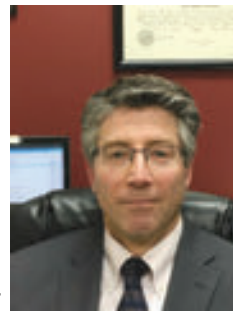
The Project's calls usually involve requests for free representation in divorce and bankruptcy matters, although other requests for pro bono services include assistance with will and estates, and guardianship. Ms. Nowak patiently evaluates the callers and assesses their problems. Her generous assistance provides a critical component to insuring that the overwhelming numbers of callers receive prompt attention and guidance. In addition to providing full pro bono representation to divorce litigants and bankruptcy clients, Ms. Nowak has been involved with the Self Help Child Support Project since its inception in 2015. Given the dearth of free services in the vital area of child support, we rely exclusively on volunteers to answer calls, guide the litigants, and refer them to other resources. She provides phone screening and advice, advocacy, and personal consultation to many grateful child support litigants.

Reflecting on her work, Ms. Nowak says, "I've been very lucky to have a good life. I wanted to get involved again after raising my children to give back and do something good. Public service is in my blood. I love it!" Working with the most vulnerable requires a great deal of patience, especially when clients are in the throes of divorce or financial ruin. Ms. Nowak believes, "The public doesn't always understand what legal services agencies have to deal with and how much good they do. The people seeking assistance have great hardships and sometimes they just need to be heard." Her pro bono spirit apparently runs in the family. She has even recruited her daughter, who herself will be starting law school this fall, to donate time to the Pro Bono Project during her college breaks!

For her exceptional contribution to the pro bono mission and as a true partner in access to justice, it is our privilege to honor Ms. Nowak as the Pro Bono Attorney of the Month.

Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) and the Nassau County Bar Association honored **Scott R. Schneider**, an attorney who repeatedly steps forward to assist some of our most distressed clients to obtain a fresh start in bankruptcy. He has consistently provided VLP clients with Chapter 7 bankruptcy assistance since 1994.

Over the past decade, Schneider has helped over 120 indigent Nassau County residents discharge their debts. In 2016, he donated over 83 hours of his time to help relieve the oppressive financial burden on these clients. What sets Schneider apart from many other attorneys is not only the time he donates, but his willingness to help clients who have nowhere else to go and no one else to turn. Occasionally, a VLP client has an emotional or physical disability which requires a great deal of extra effort and patience. Schneider readily accepts their referral. Recently, an elderly client with early onset dementia came to the VLP under tremendous stress after being badgered by creditors. While she was competent to make decisions, her papers were disorganized and she required increased emotional support. Schneider did not hesitate to represent this challenging client, scheduling a few extra minutes for her initial consultation.



"These individuals are among the most vulnerable in our society," states Schneider. "Debt collectors' constant harassment tactics cause a huge psychological burden on them. They are precisely the ones who need my assistance the most to achieve peace of mind."

Schneider feels that all attorneys should contribute in a tangible way to their community. He recommends taking on at least one pro bono matter in order to gain an appreciation of how critically clients need help, and to experience firsthand how rewarding it can be to provide that assistance. "Scott Schneider is a tremendous asset to our team of pro bono bankruptcy attorneys," states Susan Biller, Pro Bono Coordinator for Nassau Suffolk Law Services Volunteer Lawyers Project. "I know that we can always rely on him to assist our most challenging clients, and to do so with patience and respect. We are very grateful for his career-long support."





**Maria Scheuring-Elbert** was recently honored as Pro Bono Attorney of the Month for having devoted so much of her time to the Project with an exceptional commitment to serving her community.

Working on behalf of the less fortunate is nothing new to Ms. Scheuring-Elbert. In fact, it was a central part of her upbringing as the child of two Catholic missionaries. In many ways, she had an extraordinary childhood. As a young child, Ms. Scheuring and her siblings lived in areas of Mexico and Texas, where her parents' missionary work allowed her to experience firsthand working with the poor, including the children in orphanages in Mexico City, and the people living in cardboard shacks among miles of garbage dumps in Juarez, Mexico. Later, her family moved to the Bronx, where her parents founded LAMP Catholic Ministries, which provides faith-based services to the poor in the five boroughs of New York City, and includes the running of a mobile soup kitchen, the LAMP Café. She was able to combine this concern for the poor with her emerging interest in the law when, at the early age of 18, she worked at Bronx Legal Services assisting staff attorneys in Housing Court.

Soon after opening her practice on Long Island in 2013, having no prior matrimonial experience, she contacted the Pro Bono Project to offer her help and learn the basics of divorce. She attended the 2014 Matrimonial Boot Camp at the Suffolk County Bar Association and immediately thereafter accepted her first pro bono divorce client. Since then, she has never hesitated to accept new referrals and has now represented several of the Project's clients. As to why she continues to accept these divorce client referrals, she explains, "While working with the indigent most of my life, and especially in the Bronx DA's office, I was really impacted by how stuck in their circumstances so many of the domestic violence victims felt. I knew I wanted to eventually do legal work that empowered people who felt trapped by their circumstances. The Project's divorce referrals give me the opportunity to do just that."

We are very grateful for Ms. Scheuring-Elbert's inspiring dedication to pro bono service.

The Suffolk Pro Bono Project is pleased to honor **Edward A. Flood** as its Pro Bono Attorney of the Month. For the past three years, Mr. Flood has vigorously represented victims of domestic violence in divorce proceedings. It is his skillful advocacy and generosity that has earned him this distinction.



Ed Flood first connected with the Project to offer his services in 2014, after learning about the work of the Project at a Suffolk Academy matrimonial CLE program. He was particularly interested in representing survivors of domestic violence in divorce matters. The Project put him right to work. Since then, he has zealously advocated for three matrimonial clients, all domestic violence survivors. His cases were emotionally challenging. The clients had been deeply impacted by the long-standing physical and emotional abuse and were still dealing with financial exploitation by their abusers. In some of these cases, their children were suffering from the trauma of seeing their mothers physically abused.

As the father of three young children, Mr. Flood cared greatly about the outcome of these pro bono cases and felt a great deal of responsibility for the role he played in his clients' lives. "As a parent, these cases really hit home," he explains. "The clients' circumstances made me want to help in all ways possible." Mr. Flood describes the transformation he saw in his pro bono clients. "At the start of the case, you can see the effects of battered spouse syndrome. The clients often made excuses for the abusive spouse's behavior and you could see how dependent they still were on their spouses. But in time, I saw my clients break this cycle of dependency and start to stand up for themselves. It's a really rewarding thing to witness."

It is with extreme pleasure that we honor Mr. Flood as the Pro Bono Attorney of the Month.

*The Suffolk Pro Bono Project and Nassau's Volunteer Lawyers Project work toward the goal of providing free legal assistance to Long Island residents who are dealing with severe economic hardship. If you are an attorney who would like to volunteer, please contact Ellen Krakow, Esq. 631 232-2400 or Susan Biller, Esq. at 516 292-8299*



**NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES**  
**FALL COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2017**  
**LARKFIELD, EAST NORTHPORT**  
**TICKET PRICE \$125**



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OUR WEBSITE [WWW.NSLAWSERVICES.ORG](http://WWW.NSLAWSERVICES.ORG)**

*Dear Friend*

*Established in 1966, Law Services provides free civil legal representation and advocacy for low income and disabled residents of Long Island. During 2016, over 14,000 individuals benefitted from our direct legal representation. We work to secure Social Security and public benefits; advocate for seniors, veterans, and low income families; prevent foreclosure and defend evictions; and provide legal assistance for domestic violence victims and people with cancer, mental illness, and HIV/AIDs. Please join us at our Fall Commitment to Justice Reception featuring a scrumptious dinner buffet, open bar, live music , raffles and silent auction . With your support, we will continue to provide free, quality civil legal representation to Long Island's neediest residents.*

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*For questions regarding sponsorship and/or tickets, please contact*

*Sheila A. Johnson, J.D. at 631 232-2400 ext. 3322 or [sjohnson@nsls.legal](mailto:sjohnson@nsls.legal)*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**







Law Services continues its strong ties within the community in an effort to collaborate with various agencies and ensure that low income Long Islanders receive the services they so desperately need. If you happen to see any of our Law Services' staff at a community event, please stop by to introduce yourself and say hello. We'd love to meet you, and as always we thank you for your support!

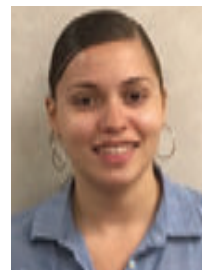
On March 29, 2017, **Dan Okrent**, Staff Attorney of our Nassau Senior Citizens Project gave a training at Long Island University on legal issues affecting seniors.



On Saturday June 3, 2017, **Eva Nieves**, LMSW attend Central Islip's Hope Day held on Clayton Street in Central Islip.



The Hope Day movement began in 2012 in an effort to have community residents come together for a fun-filled free block party. Attendees were given free groceries, lunch, community and health services, job services and prayer. Hope Day is about celebrating communities and bringing people together in hope.



Eva felt grateful to participate in such an inspiring event that gave the community an opportunity to come together and enjoy all of the wonderful services Central Islip has to offer.

**Sheila Johnson**, Director of Development and Government Affairs attended Legislator Spencer's Annual Community Health and Resource Fair held on May 11, 2017. Sheila connected with participants at the Fair and distributed NSLS information brochures.



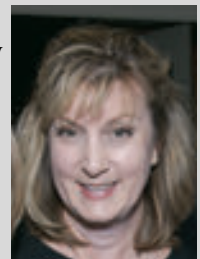
On May 19, 2017, **Catherine Mendolia** and **Susanna Laruccia**, both staff attorneys in our Veterans Rights Project, attended The Veterans Stand Down held at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Northport.

"Stand down" is a term used in combat when tired troops are taken from the front lines to relative safety and fed, clothed and showered. The term was adopted by the VA to represent one of its most successful programs to help homeless veterans. At the event Catherine and Susanna spoke to many veterans about the services provided through this specialized unit of Nassau Suffolk Law Services and offered their assistance.



On June 8, 2017, **Lynn Iacona**, Senior Staff Attorney of the [ICAN](#), [EDRP](#) and [PLAN](#) units attended Long Island Center for Independent Living's Community Resource Fair.

Lynn handed out brochures and discussed special education and guardianship issues with many of the attendees who stopped by the Law Services table.



**Community Training:** On May 25, 2017, the NSLS legal team provided training at the Association For Mental Health and Wellness for Children's Case Managers on topics including Medicaid, SSI for Children, and Special Education law.

Our staff is available for on site trainings for your agency. For more information on topics, scheduling and fees, please contact Cathy Lucidi in the Legal Support Center for Advocates at 631 232-2400 Ext. 3324



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(631) 369-1112

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## Free Online Legal Assistance

**Free Legal Answers** is a virtual legal advice clinic sponsored by the American Bar Association in cooperation with state bar associations, including the NYS Bar. Qualifying users post their civil legal question at [www.ny.freelegalanswers.org/](http://www.ny.freelegalanswers.org/). Users will then be emailed when their question receives a response. Attorney volunteers, who must be authorized to provide pro bono assistance in their state, log in to the website, select questions to answer, and provide legal information and advice. Volunteer attorneys will not answer criminal law questions.



[LawHelp](http://www.Lawhelpny.org) is another online resource that provides free legal information online for New Yorkers who cannot afford an attorney. It also includes a live chat feature.

[www.Lawhelpny.org](http://www.Lawhelpny.org)

## We welcome our new staff:

**John Batanchiev - Staff Attorney, Housing Unit-Hempstead**

**Sara Kupferberg - Staff Attorney, PLAN Project-Suffolk**

**Sandra Trujillo - Receptionist, Hempstead**

**Chanelle Slater - Assistant Bookkeeper, Islandia**

**We say goodbye to Nancy Liou who was our Assistant Controller for over 20 years. We wish her all the best in her retirement.**



## Welcome to our New Advisory Council Members

**Bradley R. Siegel, Esq**

**Gina Pirozzi**

**Jacob S. Ivry**

**Gale D. Berg, Esq**

## Welcome to our Newest Board Member:

**Robin Abramowitz, Esq.**

## LAW SERVICES FALL TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training will be held at our Islandia office: 1757 Veterans Hwy, Suite 50, Islandia. To pre-register, please call the Training Line at 631 232-2400 x 3357, fax 631 232-2489 or email Cathy Lucidi at [clucidi@wnylc.com](mailto:clucidi@wnylc.com). Fee is \$35 per training. Please make check payable to Nassau Suffolk Law Services and mail your payment in advance to confirm pre-registration.

**Landlord/Tenant Law** - Community advocates are often the first line of defense for our clients who face eviction or tensions with their landlords. As important partners in preserving housing, learning more about this area of law will make you a more effective advocate. Our experienced team of housing attorneys will address basic landlord/tenant procedure (holdovers and non-payments) including defenses to evictions, illegal evictions, Section 8 defenses, and what can be accomplished with orders to show cause. Other issues will include warranty of habitability claims, post foreclosure evictions, and mobile home eviction. **Friday September 15, 2017 9:30-12:30** Islandia Office.

**Domestic Violence-** Unfortunately situations of domestic violence touch many of our cases. Experienced counselors and domestic violence advocates are available in our community to assist clients affected by domestic violence and NSLS' attorneys work in close cooperation with these agencies. Learn where to refer your clients for this essential support and how the law can be a tool to protecting victims. What is essential to bringing an effective petition and how can you educate your clients about the process? What should an advocate be looking for? How far does the law go to protect victims? **Frank Gulas, Esq.** and **Larry Tuthill, Esq.** of our Domestic Violence Project, have devoted years to the practice of defending domestic violence victims and will present on this topic. Wednesday **September 27, 2017 1:30-3:30 P.M.** Islandia office

### Training Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Training(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if payment will be sent at a later date or on the date of the Training

☐

Please return with applicable fee to: Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, 1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50, Islandia, N.Y. 11749  
Attn: Cathy Lucidi. This form may also be faxed to Cathy at (631) 232-2489



**Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.**

1757 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ste 50

Islandia, NY 11749

*Message From the Executive Director*



On May 18, 2017 the NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice made an exciting announcement that it had chosen Suffolk County as the focus of the next step of its continuing Strategic Plan to "close the justice gap." Nassau Suffolk Law Services has been invited to work on the "Justice for All" project in furtherance of this ambitious goal.. We are very excited to be part of the process and expect to play an active role. Task forces have begun meeting, involving many community "stakeholders" in the process of evaluating Suffolk County's legal needs and assessing the extent of current resources. It is not commonly understood that low income litigants do not have the same right to free legal representation in civil matters as they do in criminal matters. As a result, there are many unmet needs involving the essentials of life such as access to medical care, preserving housing, or income maintenance. NSLS works to meet these needs to the extent that our staffing permits in addition to creating innovative pro bono programs, self help services, etc. Nonetheless, the need exceeds what existing services can provide. We will keep you apprised of the workings of the Justice for All efforts and hope that we can count you in as engaged participants as we look to close the justice gap in Suffolk County.