

Law Services News

This issue is also available online at www.nslawservices.org



OCTOBER, 2016

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FAIR HEARINGS LEAD TO IMPORTANT VICTORIES

Saving Shelter: In the Matter of Stephen P., two of our most experienced **Welfare Unit** advocates teamed up to represent a client who faced the threat of losing his emergency housing placement as a result of a Department of Social Services (DSS) work rule sanction.

Mr. P. was faced with a discontinuance of Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) because he previously lost a fair hearing regarding a sanction. He had appeared unrepresented to dispute a work rules violation, possibly caused by his limitations, and was placed on a 180-day sanction. DSS took the position that his eligibility for THA was dependent upon his eligibility for a cash public assistance grant. Since he was on a sanction and no longer eligible for public assistance, DSS claimed that he was therefore also ineligible for temporary housing. Mr. P requested a fair hearing on the notice, and the fair hearing decision affirmed the discontinuance of cash assistance but failed to address the discontinuance of THA. Months went by and DSS finally decided to implement the sanction. He was told to leave the shelter without further notice. This is when **Robin Sparks**, staff attorney, and **Nora Gonzalez**, paralegal, took on the appeal.

Another fair hearing was requested on the issue of the discontinuance of THA without proper notice. The legal team secured aid-continuing for Mr. P so he could remain in the shelter pending the outcome of this second hearing. At the hearing, Ms. Gonzalez argued successfully that the eligibility for cash assistance is not a prerequisite for the receipt of THA. Regardless of the basis for the termination of shelter assistance, the correct procedure is to have an assessment conducted by DSS to assure that the individual does not suffer from any physical or mental health issue that would warrant Adult Protective Services intervention. (*see p. 2). Since DSS failed to follow this protocol, the decision held for our client. Congratulations to our impressive welfare advocates!

Housing Access: A disabled client of the **ICAN Project**, who relies on a wheelchair and receives 24-hour split shift personal care services, needed our assistance in an insurance appeal. She had not left her residence for more than a year due to the absence of accessible exit ramps from her home. She lives with her sister who uses a walker herself and is unable to provide the medical care she requires. **Ashley Omubode**, staff attorney in our ICAN unit agreed to assist her with advocacy and to pursue an appeal if necessary.

Ms. H. had requested the installation of an exit ramp, but her Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Plan ultimately failed to approve an accessible and safe means of egress from her home. Although her doctor would come to the home to treat her, there were other medical services that could not be accessed in the home. Also, Ms. H. had become increasingly isolated socially and was clinically depressed as a result of her inability to leave the premises. The MLTC Plan attempted to make the home ADA compliant by proposing and installing ramps and lifts, but they turned out to be inadequate and impractical.

Eventually the MLTC Plan denied the redesigning of the ramps stating that it could make arrangements for medical transportation if she needed to leave the home. Ms. Omubode argued at the fair hearing that "medical necessity" means more than just getting to a doctor. The MLTC Plan on the other hand, argued that the client's needs were fully met by a 24-hour aide and home visits, though it acknowledged that there would be no provision for medical transportation for social activities or church attendance.



50th Anniversary details inside!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *We Honor our Pro Bono Attorneys*
- *Congratulations Honorees*
- *New Pro Bono Initiatives*
- *NSLS in the Community*
- *Staff Announcements*
- *NSLS Fall Training Schedule*
- *Message from the Executive Director*



United Way of Long Island

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **HOUSING ACCESS**

Omubo-Dede advocated for a definition of “medical necessity” which considers service and equipment necessary to prevent or correct conditions that “endanger life” or interfere with the “capacity for normal activity” or safe emergency egress. It was undisputedly proven that a single aide would not be able to carry the client to assist her in exiting the home without the construction of a replacement ramp.

The Fair Hearing decision ruled in favor of Ms. H. and the MLTC Plan is directed to approve the request for a replacement ramp, evaluate the bids for construction, and provide notice of the new determinations to our client. This is a huge victory for accessibility and we are very happy for Ms. H. and congratulate Ms. Omubo-Dede on her success in the case!

DSS News You Should Know About...

- **Visual Impairments:** OTDA’s new directive [16 ADM-08](#) compels both the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the Department of Health to offer certain documents in alternative formats upon request from those with **vision impairments**. These documents include notices, applications, fair hearing decisions and written materials that are made available to the general public. The alternative formats to be provided are audio, electronic data, large font, and Braille.
- **Emails:** Pursuant to 15 LCM-01, DSS’ production of case records to clients and/or representatives in connection with fair hearings must include email communications.
- **Auto Exemption:** the permissible value of a car is now \$10,000 for Public Assistance eligibility and is to be increased to \$11K in 2017 and 12K in 2018. (Social Services Law 131-n (1)) Note: Nassau DSS has raised its auto exemption to \$12,000 effective immediately.
- **Homeless shelters:** 15 ADM-06T requires DSS to perform assessments and evaluate the need for services prior to denying or terminating shelter assistance. Confirm this is being done for the protection of clients, especially those with physical or mental health needs.



More on Fair Hearings: Poor Quality Recordings

Creating a “record” at a fair hearing is critical for a successful appeal. When the recording equipment is not working properly, the record is compromised. Our office has been in communication with the Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to discuss the recent issues with the quality of the audio recordings at hearings. The Director acknowledged the problem, but until a new system is installed he has issued a memo to Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) who are being advised to:

1. Make sure the door to the hearing room is closed to eliminate extraneous noise from the hallway and, of course, maintain confidentiality;
2. Place the recording device (the telephone) closer to the appellant and witnesses in order to pick up their voices better and
3. Advise appellants and witnesses to speak up.

Advocates who represent clients at fair hearings should also insist that these steps be taken and, if need be, remind the ALJ of the Director’s memo.

Remember, if you need to appeal the fair hearing decision, the recording of the hearing will have to be transcribed and it is the only record of what was said at the hearing. If you experience problems with ALJs not complying, or if you listen to inaudible hearing recordings, please let us know.



Affordable housing on Long Island is in short supply so Law Services dedicates considerable resources to preserving housing and preventing homelessness. And we've had much success...

EDRP's Appeal Preserves Housing Subsidy and Prompts a Policy Change

Our **Education and Disability Right Project (EDRP)** recently succeeded in maintaining their disabled client's housing subsidy and services. The favorable decision after fair hearing involved the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) implementation of an unwritten policy relating to its Home and Community Based Waiver program known as Consolidated Supports and Services (CSS). The waiver program, (now known as Self-Directed Services), allows individuals with developmental disabilities to self-direct services based on the personal preferences, choices and valued outcomes in their Individual Service Plan (ISP), up to the annual monetary limit of the individual's Personal Resource Allowance.

In this case, Law Services' attorney **Lynn Iacona** represented a 27-year old woman whose representative submitted a CSS plan to OPWDD requesting services which included both respite services and a housing subsidy. OPWDD never issued a written notice advising the client or her representative that a recipient could not receive the simultaneous provision of respite services and a housing subsidy. Despite the absence of a notice, her representative filed a fair hearing request, seeking to reverse OPWDD's de facto determination



Senior Citizen Project Saves Housing for Grandmother and Family

Attorney **Jane Reinhardt's** recent landlord tenant victory involved a low income senior citizen co-op shareholder who was at risk of losing her residence. The co-op

board alleged that the tenant was not permitted to move her daughter and four grandchildren into the apartment and that she was not a contemporaneous tenant as the board claimed was required in the lease. After a five day trial, the judge agreed that the tenant's family was permitted to occupy the premises and that the tenant had been occupying the apartment with sufficient frequency.

The Senior Citizen Project chose to represent this elderly client in order to preserve housing. Proprietary leases for co-ops often involve many restrictions. Co-op owners buy shares but have to adhere to pages and pages of building rules. A shareholder can be evicted for violating a rule, and then can lose the investment in the co-op because the building will auction the shares and accept a purchase price that only covers the building's expenses. The perils of a co-op eviction results in the loss of the shareholder's investment as well as the housing, so the outcome in this case would have been devastating.

Congratulations Jane Reinhardt on a job well done!

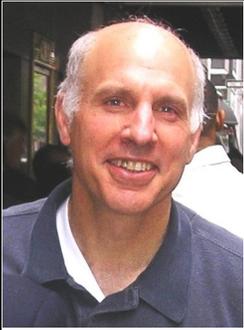
(Continued on page 8)

Foreclosure Averted

In a residential foreclosure matter, attorney **Debra Petrillo** of the NSLS Foreclosure Project, won a favorable decision which determined that the plaintiff mortgagee had failed to negotiate in good faith during the mandatory settlement conference. The order required the parties to return to the settlement conference part and tolled interest and legal fees from March 2014! Congratulations on this very significant victory.

*The case was featured as a Decision of Interest in the New York Law Journal on 7/27/16., p 21 In the case of **11 Wooleys Lane Corporation v. Joann Smith.***

WE HONOR OUR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE MONTH



The Suffolk Pro Bono Project honored **Thomas Persichilli** who has been doing pro bono work through the Project for over twenty years, with most of the work consisting of Chapter 7 bankruptcies.

In just the past ten years, Persichilli has accepted nearly 60 referrals, making him one of the largest contributors to the Project! When asked

if this substantial amount of pro bono work interferes with the rest of his solo practice, he responded, “No. Not at all. I really don’t find it to be a drag on my practice.” Moreover, he thinks his pro bono work enhances his practice by exposing him to factual scenarios and legal issues that he would not otherwise come across. But what really motivates Tom Perischilli to do pro bono work is the satisfaction that comes from helping those in need. “It feels good to step in and represent people who do not have legal counsel. We’re really helping people.” Maria Dosso, Nassau Suffolk Law Services’ Director of Communications and Volunteer Services, observed, “He’s one of those attorneys who’s been there for us year after year. He never declines a referral, making it easier for us meet our goal to provide access to justice to those less fortunate.”



The Suffolk Pro Bono Project recently honored the **Bankruptcy and Ad-**

vanced Bankruptcy Clinics at Touro Law Center and their Clinical Director, **Leif Rubinstein**. With Professor Rubinstein at the helm, Touro’s bankruptcy clinics have been working hand-in-hand with the Pro Bono Project for over seven years, helping hundreds of low income clients overwhelmed with debt, obtain legal assistance. The students participate in the final phases of the Project’s screening by interviewing prospective clients at the Nassau Suffolk Law Services office and are each assigned clients. They handle virtually all aspects of the case, with direct supervision from Professor Rubinstein. The clinics, in turn, provide a vital benefit to the Project by accepting a substantial portion of its pro bono referrals. Professor Rubinstein believes the Project and his clinics provide a crucial service when helping eligible clients obtain debt

(Continued on page 8)



The Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Volunteer Lawyer Project (VLP) recently honored **John Stellakis**. Since 2014, Mr. Stellakis has volunteered for the VLP Landlord/Tenant Attorney of the Day Project, providing tenants with representation which they could not otherwise afford. He has devoted over 50 hours in the past

year assisting tenants with their disputes, helping many facing eviction to remain in their residences, and thus to avoid being rendered homeless.

Mr. Stellakis is able to assist tenants who are not conversant with the laws that protect them and who cannot navigate our confusing legal system. Having legal representation in landlord tenant court can make all the difference in preserving stable housing.

Mr. Stellakis believes providing pro bono legal services allows young lawyers to gain valuable experience in interacting with clients, attending a court conference, presenting a case before the judge, and handling a case from intake to disposition. He feels that even though an attorney will not receive financial compensation, the reward of helping another person in their time of need is tremendous. “While providing [pro bono] assistance may involve some personal sacrifice, the benefits to the attorney as well as the client are great... if attorneys can spare their time to help others in need, then they certainly should.” Roberta D. Scoll, Staff Attorney and Coordinator for the Attorney of the Day Project states: “Every last Wednesday of each month, John faithfully arrives in room 277 in District Court in Hempstead. Always with a smile and an eagerness to help those less fortunate, John settles their cases in the best way possible for the clients. Stellakis plays an integral role in the success of the program.”

The VLP is truly proud to honor John Stellakis as Pro Bono Attorney of the Month for his tremendous work ethic and dedication to aiding clients with their landlord-tenant disputes.

Pro Bono Attorneys are always in great demand. Attorneys in Nassau County who are interested in volunteering can call the Volunteer Lawyers Project at 516 292-8299.



SPONSORSHIP FORM

**NASSAU SUFFOLK LAW SERVICES 50TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE RECEPTION
"CELEBRATING OUR PAST, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE"
OCTOBER 26, 2016—LARKFIELD, EAST NORTHPORT
TICKET PRICE \$125**

Dear Friend

Established in 1966, Law Services provides free civil legal representation and advocacy for low income and disabled residents of Long Island. During 2015, over 14,000 individuals benefited from our direct legal representation—preserving Social Security and public benefits for seniors, veterans, low income families, and individuals; preventing foreclosure, and providing legal assistance for people with cancer and HIV/AIDS. Please join us at our 50th Anniversary Commitment to Justice Reception "Celebrating Our Past, Inspiring our Future" featuring a scrumptious dinner buffet, open bar, live music and silent auction. With your support, we will continue to provide free, quality civil legal representation to Long Island's neediest residents.

Tickets are \$125

<u>Diamond Sponsor</u>	\$7,500
<i>Includes 10 tickets with full page virtual ad and prominently featured acknowledgement on invitation, website and social media.</i>	
<u>Gold Sponsor</u>	\$4,000
<i>Includes 8 tickets with full page virtual ad and prominently featured acknowledgement on invitation, website and social media.</i>	
<u>Silver Sponsor</u>	\$1,750
<i>Includes 4 tickets and half page virtual ad and prominently featured on website and social media.</i>	
<u>Ruby Sponsor</u>	\$1,200
<i>Includes 3 tickets with quarter page virtual ad and prominently featured on website and social media.</i>	
<u>Emerald Sponsor</u>	\$ 550
<i>Includes 2 tickets with business card virtual ad and prominently featured on website and social media.</i>	
<u>Sapphire Sponsor</u>	\$ 350
<i>Includes 1 ticket and friend list virtual ad and featured on website and social media.</i>	

To sponsor please complete the reverse page of this flyer. Tickets are \$125/pp.

For questions regarding sponsorship and/or tickets, please contact
Sheila A. Johnson, J.D. at 631 232-2400 ext. 3322 or sjohnson@nsls.legal

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

NOTICE: Because Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. (NSLSC) is funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC,) NSLSC may not expend any funds - including funds from other sources - for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq. or by Public Law 104-134. For a copy of these laws or for any other information or clarifications, please contact NSLSC.



Nassau Suffolk Law Services Sponsorship Agreement

As a sponsor you, your company or organization will be positively identified with the Law Services' commitment to access to justice and quality legal services in civil matters in a manner which respects the individual dignity of low-income Long Islanders, and help ensure the future of the full protection and benefits of the law.

Sponsor Information

Name of Company, Institution or Individual		Contact Person
Email Address	Phone	Fax
Billing Address (include city, state and zip code):		
Name as you wish it to appear in printed materials:		

Sponsor Contribution

Amount	Card Type (Visa ,MasterCard, AMEX Only)	Card Number	CVV No.	Expiration Date
I authorize Nassau Suffolk Law Services to charge my credit card for the amount above				
Authorized Signature		Date		
Total Contribution \$	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Diamond (\$7,500)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gold (\$4,000)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Employee Appreciation (\$2,500)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Silver (\$1,750)</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ruby (\$1,200)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Emerald (\$550)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sapphire (\$350)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other _____</i>

Sponsor Signature

I/We agree to sponsor Nassau Suffolk Law Services' Commitment to Justice 50th Anniversary Reception on October 26, 2016.

Signature	Date
Print Name	Title

Sponsorship Pledge due by October 16, 2016

- Full Payment Enclosed
 Payment to follow by _____

Tickets: \$125
Please reserve ___ x \$125 tickets for me.
Amount Enclosed _____.

Thank you for your generous support!
Please make checks payable to Nassau Suffolk Law Services
Mail to: Nassau Suffolk Law Services Helen Keller Way, 5th Floor
Hempstead, NY 11550
Attn: Maureen Marmero

Please return this completed form promptly to assure acknowledgment will be made on program for the event. For more sponsorship and/or ticket information, please contact Sheila A. Johnson, J.D. at 631 232-2400 ext. 3322 at SJohnson@nsls.local

Congratulate our honorees with a virtual journal ad. Virtual journal ads will be running on screens through the night at our 50 Anniversary Commitment to Justice Reception. Please visit our website at nslawservices.org for more information.



Congratulations

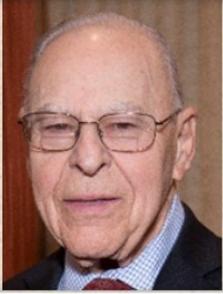
Nassau Suffolk Law Services salutes the 2016 Commitment to Justice Honorees:



Douglas J. Good, Esq., Ruskin, Moscou, Faltischek, P.C.



James Denson, Paralegal, Nassau Suffolk Law Services



Rudi DeWinter, Esq. Volunteer Lawyers Project, NSLS



Jane Reinhardt, Esq., Nassau Suffolk Law Services



**Susan West, Consumer Advocate, PSEG Long Island
*Barbara J. Mehrman Commitment to Justice Award***

(Continued from page 3) ***EDRP Appeal***

that our client was not entitled to the provision of both services simultaneously. The EDRP staff stepped in to pursue the appeal.

OPWDD maintained that there was an unwritten policy prohibiting the simultaneous provision of these services. Citing *Calenzo v. Shah*, (a case recently litigated by this office), NSLS argued that an agency's policy must be clear and specific, and that following an unwritten guideline because no written policy had yet been created, lacks a rational basis and is arbitrary and capricious. The hearing officer agreed that OPWDD's determination was not supported by any statutory or regulatory authority, and decided that the denial of our client's request for simultaneous respite services and a housing subsidy was incorrect. OPWDD's determination was reversed, and it was directed to reimburse our client for a housing subsidy for the applicable 13 month time period. Most significantly, the subject policy has ultimately been codified by the administrative agency, to the favor of benefit recipients.

New Pro Bono Initiatives:

Work is underway at Nassau Suffolk Law Services for two new pro bono programs it hopes to launch sometime this fall. The first, the **17A Guardianship Pro Bono Project**, is designed to help low-income parents (and custodial relatives) in Suffolk and Nassau Counties apply for guardianship of their developmentally disabled children ages 18+ in Surrogate's Court. The second program, the **SSI/SSD Application and Overpayment Project**, will provide legal assistance to individuals in Suffolk and Nassau County applying for SSI or SSD, as well as those receiving SSI/SSD who are charged with overpayments. **We are currently trying to assess the level of need for both programs. Therefore, if you regularly work with clients who would need either of these two types of legal assistance, please contact Ellen Krakow, Suffolk Pro Bono Project Coordinator, at (631) 232-2400, ext. 3323. Also, please contact Ellen if you are an attorney who would like to be trained by our experts on how to provide this pro bono assistance.**

(Continued from page 4) ***Suffolk Pro Bono Attorneys of the Month***

relief, noting that the clients, because of lack of resources, "truly have nowhere else to go." He adds, "By extinguishing their debt, we set a person's mind at ease so they can start addressing the other pressing issues in their lives." Maria Dosso, Director of Communications and Volunteer Services at Nassau Suffolk Law Services applauds Touro Clinic's outstanding contribution and added, "We are very fortunate to have such a strong working relationship with Professor Rubinstein whose professionalism and generous spirit serve as a model to his students."



Joy E. Jorgensen was honored for her continuing commitment to our matrimonial and family law clients. In addition to representing spouses in divorce matters, Joy Jorgensen has served on the Attorneys for the Child panel for 18 years. She has been a forceful and highly successful advocate for the Pro Bono Project's matrimonial clients, whom she has represented since the early 1990's. In the past 5 years, Ms. Jorgensen has contributed over 200 hours to her Pro Bono Project work. She explained, "I come from a family of civic-minded people. So doing pro bono comes naturally to me." She adds, "Being a matrimonial attorney has its own value, because you aid people to move on with their lives. When you're able to do that for a pro bono client, who otherwise wouldn't have an attorney, that value is doubled."

The Suffolk Pro Bono Project is most grateful to those honored for their long-standing generosity and the skilled advocacy they have provided to every referred client. Attorneys in Suffolk who are interested in volunteering can call the Pro Bono Project at 631 232-2400 x 3323.



LAW SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY



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 September 21, 2016 **Ellen Krakow**, Pro Bono Coordinator, gave a presentation to Suffolk County CPS and APS caseworkers, supervisors and administrators regarding the many areas in which NSLS offers legal assistance to clients.

In September, 2016, NSLS staff attended the **2016 Partnership Conference** sponsored by the NY State Bar Association. They joined civil legal services colleagues from around the state in this premier public interest law educational and networking conference. The theme this year was "Justice Rising" and over 500 legal services staff were in attendance!



On Friday, May 20, 2016, **Blair Hill**, of the Veteran's Rights Project attended the Veterans Stand Down held at the Northport VA Medical Center. The event is held every year so that veterans and families can get information, assistance and referrals on matters pertaining to housing, employment, health care, benefits, etc.



On September 27, 2016 **Susanna Laruccia** and **Blair Hill** attended the Veterans Job and Information Fair held at The Amityville Community Resource Center.

On September 30, 2016 both Susanna and Blair attended the Veterans Stand Down held at the Northport VA Medical Center. This event focused on assistance for homeless veterans and veterans who are at risk of homelessness.

On September 20, 2016 **Marcia Vogel**, Disability Advocate in the Education and Disability Rights Project, led a training for Life's WORC offices regarding the Committee on Special Education process and school responsibilities. She also distributed NSLS brochures.



On September 10, 2016 **Eric Richardson**, Staff Attorney in the PLAN Project, staffed a table at The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure held at Central Park.

The PLAN Project is supported by Komen funding and provides advocacy for cancer patients and their families living in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



On August 17, 2016 staff of the **David Project** attended a LIGALY/LGBT Network meeting to provide an overview of the legal services Law Services provides to its clients, with emphasis on the David Project. The David Project provides free legal assistance exclusively to individuals and their families living with HIV/AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

NSLS Getaway Day 2016

Law Services had it's annual Getaway Day on July 15, 2016 at Sunken Meadow. A day at the beach and park with colleagues—always a great time!



METS OUTING

On July 26, 2016, Law Services staff went on a "field trip" to a Mets game and were joined by Board and Advisory Council members, family and friends. The weather was perfect and so were the seats!!



On September 24, 2016 **Michael Wigutow**, Senior Staff Attorney, attended the Mortgage Foreclosure Fair held at the Cradle of Aviation. Mike did a presentation on the judicial foreclosure process and answered questions from homeowners.

Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc.

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N.Y. 11550
(516) 292-8100

1757 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Suite 50,
Islandia, N.Y. 11749
(631) 232-2400

400 W. Main St., Riverhead, N.Y. 11901
(631) 369-1112

*“Doing What’s
Legally Possible
to Create a Just
World”*

Make sure to give us your email address by going to www.nslawservices.org and look for the “Sign up for our newsletter field”. Tell your friends and colleagues!



We're on the Web
www.nslawservices.org

Staff News

Welcome to **Susanna Laruccia**, staff attorney, who has joined our Veterans Legal Assistance Project. With this expansion we can better provide this valuable service to veterans in both counties.

Goodbye to Social Worker, **Kim Ritchie**, who is leaving Law Services. We thank her for her years of service and wish her all the best in her new home.

Congratulations to **Cathy Lucidi**, paralegal in the Legal Support Center for Advocates for being honored with the Unsung Hero Award by [Long Island Business News](#). This is a well deserved honor for all her years of dedication to our clients!

Long Island Business News is also honoring **Nassau Suffolk Law Services** as the [Non Profit of the Year](#) in the Leadership in Law Awards Program. NSLS is being recognized for its leadership, both in the legal profession and in the community, and for its positive impact on Long Island. We are truly grateful!

Thank you to client board member **Susan McParland-Liesen** for her emotional testimony before a panel of judges and NYSBA board in sup-



port of legal services funding on Long Island. She appeared in the Albany Court of Appeals courtroom accompanied by her former NSLS attorney, **Melissa Zeidler** (currently with Urban Justice Center) and told her compelling story.

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<https://www.facebook.com/NassauSuffolkLawServices>





LAW SERVICES FALL TRAINING SCHEDULE



Trainings 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@nsls.legal. Fee is \$35 per training. Please make check payable to Nassau Suffolk Law Services and mail your payment in advance to confirm pre-registration.

Winter Survival Skills: Tuesday December 6, 2016

Help your clients through winter emergencies. This seminar will cover: How to deal with Housing emergencies including illegal evictions, emergency housing applications, DSS emergency applications, lack of heat emergencies, HEAP, utility shutoffs, Food emergencies, furnace replacement, lack of phone service, imminent foreclosure etc. (Note that this is NOT an emergency management/response seminar) 9:30-12:30 Islandia office.



ICAN PROJECT—FREE TRAININGS AT YOUR SITE!—Law Services ICAN (Independent Consumer Advocacy Network) project staff assists with navigating long term managed care plans to cover services such as homecare or nursing home care and will provide information about health insurance options, help with FIDA options, and advocacy in managed care plan disputes. **Free presentations** are available at your site in Nassau and Suffolk to educate consumer groups about Long Term Care and FIDA. Please call 631 822-3290 to schedule this free presentation.

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





Message From the Executive Director

On October 26, 2016 Nassau Suffolk Law Services is proud to celebrate a significant milestone: 50 years of service to low income and disabled

Long Islanders who have sought our advocacy in gaining access to justice. The gala event is being held at the newly renovated Larkfield in East Northport and will feature a memorable dining experience, music, a silent auction, and other fun highlights.



This year we are honoring several people who have demonstrated their commitment to Law Services throughout the years and have enabled us to more effectively serve our community. The Commitment to Justice Award is being presented to: **Douglas Good**, our Board Chair, **James Denson**, NSLS paralegal, **Rudi DeWinter**, pro bono attorney, **Jane Reinhardt**, NSLS Senior Staff Attorney and **Susan West**, PSEG Long Island Consumer Advocate, who is receiving an award in memory of our loyal friend and supporter, Barbara J. Mehrman. These most worthy individuals are the embodiment of what is best about Law Services and we are privileged to commend them. (see page 7)