



**Legal Aid of Arkansas's
50th Anniversary Celebration**

October 12, 2017

**2017 Statewide Conference of
Legal Aid Providers**

October 11-13, 2017

**The Chancellor Hotel
Fayetteville, AR**

50th Anniversary Reception

Eureka Springs Ballroom

6:30 PM	Celebration begins! Open beer & wine bar for the first hour Heavy hors d'oeuvres
7:00 PM	Welcome Lori Chumbler , Chair, Legal Aid of Arkansas Board, Senior Associate General Counsel at Walmart Master of Ceremonies Rod Nagel , Chair, Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, Senior Vice President of Human Resources Operations at Tyson Foods Sponsors' Remarks Special Video Presentation Greetings from Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton , Alumna, Ozark Legal Services and Legal Services Corporation Board Distinguished Guests' Remarks Tony Hilliard , President, Arkansas Bar Association Hon. John Dan Kemp , Chief Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court Hon. Lavenski R. Smith , Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
7:30 PM	Live music from Hillbilly Casino! Complimentary beer from Apple Blossom Brewing and Fossil Cove Brewing while it lasts. Cash bar otherwise.





A Message from the Executive Director

Lee Richardson

"The most humble among us should be the peer of the most affluent when seeking justice."

I have used these words many times over my quarter century with Legal Aid. The words are my *raison d'être*, and that of the hundreds of humanitarians who have worked at Legal Aid of Arkansas since 1967. For them, recognition has been slight, compensation meager, but the rewards have been priceless.

Fifty years ago Jackson County Legal Services commenced operations. In a September 1967 *Arkansas Lawyer* article, establishing the bar's position on legal aid, Arkansas Bar President William S. Arnold called for universal involvement. "I respectfully urge every individual lawyer...to review his own convictions toward legal aid." A report of the Legal Aid Committee in the same issue urged local bar associations to study the matter and recommend such action as may be required to insure adequate legal assistance to all. The tone of both articles was to steer away from Federal funding and control.

Attitudes have changed. We now have almost universal support from the bench and bar. Over 850 attorneys agree to provide pro bono services to our clients. Public support and awareness is lacking, and as much as 80% of the legal need goes unmet, but there is reason for optimism.

Legal Aid has morphed from a reactive model, where cases were triaged with little regard for impact outside of the individual situation. We are now proactive, routinely tackling issues that bring positive change to entire communities and populations. We have developed Medical-Legal Partnerships, a powerful collaboration that leads to better health outcomes and lasting change in lives. Our measured economic impact has increased astronomically. We are working upstream, not saving babies as they float down the river, realizing that even heroic efforts will result in unacceptable losses, but stopping the ogre from tossing the babies in the water.

Our vision is to fight poverty, maintain dignity, and assure justice. The support we receive is incredible. Together, we will sally forth, meeting the need until the need is no more.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lee" being more prominent.



LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

*Congratulations to
Legal Aid of Arkansas
on your
50th Anniversary.*

Legal Aid of Arkansas is a pioneer and an innovator in the delivery of legal services to low-income people. Your national leadership in medical-legal partnerships and pro bono outreach is a model for legal aid programs across the United States.

Thank you for all you do to make America's solemn pledge of justice for all a reality for so many Arkansans.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Sandman".

Jim Sandman
President

Legal Services Corporation
Washington, DC



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"Dedicated to help improve the quality of life for the Marshallese Communities in Arkansas."

Jim and Suzi Dunn

Happy 50th Anniversary to Legal Aid of Arkansas
- fighting poverty, maintaining dignity, and
assuring justice.

Staff Training Agenda

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Staff Check-in
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Staff Welcome and Program Updates Jean Carter , Executive Director, Center for Arkansas Legal Services Lee Richardson , Executive Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	How to Document and Collect Attorneys' Fees (1 CLE) Cecille Doan , Staff Attorney, Center for Arkansas Legal Services Kevin De Liban , Staff Attorney, Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Disaster Legal Services (1 CLE) Lisa Gavin , Midwest Legal Disaster Coordination Project Manager, Iowa Legal Aid
3:45 PM - 4:45 PM	Human Trafficking (1 CLE) Annie Smith , Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas School of Law
4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Mutual of America 403(b) Consultations , with Deena Turner

Thursday, October 12, 2017

7:30 AM - 8:15 AM	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Special Needs Trust (1.5 CLE) Collier Moore , Partner, Reece Moore Pendergraft, LLP
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Partners in Equal Justice (1.5 CLE) Jordan Rogers (Moderator) , Program Coordinator, Arkansas Access to Justice Magaly Licolli , Executive Director, Northwest Arkansas Workers Justice Center Niki Lindsey , Managing Attorney, Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. Debbie Poulin , Legal Director, Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc. Laura Kellams , Northwest Arkansas Director, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Christina Pollard , Visiting Professor, Immigration Clinic Director, University of Arkansas School of Law
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Buffet Lunch for Program Staff

Pro Bono Appreciation CLE Agenda

Thursday, October 12, 2017

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Information Table

Have questions? Need an extra CLE form?
Come by the Information Table!

Sessions are in the **Eureka Springs Room** or the **Bella Vista Room**.

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Breakout A

Predatory Collection of Student Loan Debt (1 CLE)

William Crowder, Partner, Crowder McGaha, LLP

Breakout B

Domestic Violence Impact on Employment (1 CLE)

Cynthia Nance, Director of Pro Bono and Community Engagement, University of Arkansas School of Law

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Breakout A

Statutory Non-Judicial Foreclosure (1 CLE)

Keith Morrison, Partner, Wilson and Associates

Breakout B

Ethics in Social Media (1 Ethics CLE)

Sarah Sparkman, Springdale City Attorney's Office

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Breakout A

Updates from the Attorney General Consumer

Protection Division (1 CLE)

Chuck Harder, Deputy Attorney General

Breakout B

Adoption and Guardianship (1 CLE)

Keith Morrison, Partner, Wilson and Associates

6:30 PM

50th Anniversary Celebration

Join us in the Eureka Springs Ballroom to celebrate 50 years of Legal Aid of Arkansas!
See inside cover for details about distinguished guests and live music.

FYI! This program is preapproved to offer each person a maximum of 12 CLE hours, including 2 ethics hours.

Pro Bono Appreciation CLE Agenda

Friday, October 13, 2017

8:00 AM - 8:45 PM	Continental Breakfast Buffet
8:45 AM - 9:45 AM	Legislative Update (1 CLE) Amy Johnson (Moderator) , Executive Director, Arkansas Access to Justice Bob Ballinger (R) , State Representative, District 97 Greg Leding (D) , State Representative, District 86
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Trauma Informative Care (1 CLE) Annie Smith , Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas School of Law Dr. Alex Dopp , Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas College of Arts and Sciences
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Fair Housing (1 CLE) Jason Auer , Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc. Quincy Ross , Center for Arkansas Legal Services
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Breaking Poverty Barriers to Equal Justice (1 Ethics CLE) Andrea Walker , Deputy Director, Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.
	Conference adjourned! Please return completed CLE forms to the information table.

Let's stay connected!

arlegalaid.org

#ARLegalAid50



Questions About Legal Aid of Arkansas?

Lee Richardson, Executive Director

(870) 972-9224 ext. 6305

lrichardson@arlegalaid.org

Will you donate to Legal Aid?

arlegalaid.org/how-to-help/donate.html



Fayetteville, AR

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years



1965

The Office of Economic Opportunity launches a Legal Services program, creating the first source of Federal funding for free legal aid. The Legal Aid Bureau of Pulaski County is established in Little Rock as the first legal aid program in Arkansas.



1967

Jackson County Legal Services starts operation in Newport with staff attorney Dan Orr and his wife Nancy as secretary. The program gets its original funding through Crowley's Ridge Development Council. It is incorporated in 1970 as a separate entity.



1974

The Legal Services Corporation comes into effect and is one of the last bills signed by President Richard Nixon prior to his resignation. A legal aid clinic is started at the University of Arkansas School of law with Hillary Rodham Clinton as the director. The program will later become Ozark Legal Services and serve 14 counties with offices in Fayetteville, Harrison and Mountain View.



History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years

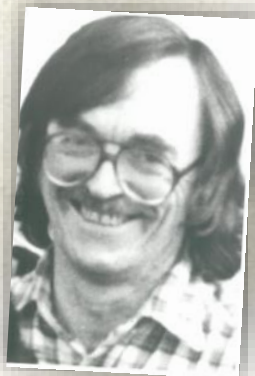
1977

Jackson County Legal Services changes its name to Legal Services of Northeast Arkansas and expands to nine counties by 1980, opening a second office in Jonesboro. Hillary Rodham Clinton is appointed to the Legal Services Corporation board and become the chairperson in 1978, serving in that capacity until 1981.



1978

East Arkansas Legal Services is founded in West Memphis, serving eight counties with eventual offices in Blytheville, Forrest City and Helena. There is now a legal aid program covering every county in Arkansas.



1981-89

Several significant voting rights cases challenging malapportioned districts and wards are filed and won in Eastern Arkansas by Legal Aid.



History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years

1984



Horton v. Marshall Public Schools eliminated the requirement that kids have a guardian or parent within the school district to attend school in that district.



1991

Ozark Legal Services wins the prestigious Harrison Tweed Award from the American Bar Association for the provision of pro bono services in rural areas. This award is shared by the local bar associations in the service area.



1992

Angela R. v. Clinton, a class action against the Arkansas Department of Human Services, reformed the child protective services and foster care system in Arkansas and leads to an increase in child welfare funding.



History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years

1996

Legal Services Corporation suffers 1/3 budget reduction and new restrictions are imposed on grantees, including prohibition against class actions and requesting attorney fees.



2000

Davis v. Office of Child Support Enforcement. Arkansas courts can no longer order child support payments based on income from Federal SSI Disability benefits.



2002

Legal Services of Northeast Arkansas, Ozark Legal Services, and East Arkansas Legal Services merge to form Legal Aid of Arkansas, serving 31 counties, with offices in Fayetteville, Harrison, Mountain View, Newport, Jonesboro, West Memphis, and Helena.



History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years

2003



The Arkansas Access to Justice Commission is established. With the help of the Commission and State Senator Paul Miller, Legal Aid receives state funding for the first time, in the form of filing fee add-ons, in 2005 and again in 2009.



2007

Low Income Taxpayer Clinic starts operations. The clinic has served approximately 10,000 clients with an economic impact of over \$10,000,000 in the community since that time.



2009

Legal Aid establishes its first Medical-Legal Partnership with Mid-Delta Health Systems in Clarendon. A second MLP comes online with the Walmart Legal Department as a partner at Arkansas Children's Hospital in June of 2011.



History of Legal Aid of Arkansas

Landmark Events & Cases Over 50 Years

2015

The Arkansas criminal eviction statute was found unconstitutional in three judicial districts in cases prosecuted by Legal Aid and the Center for Arkansas Legal Services.



2016

State v. Pitts. Legal Aid successfully ended the practice of arrest, detention, and fining the mentally ill under the guise of the Arkansas Drunk, Insane and Disorderly statute. *Jacobs v. Gillespie* found that the Arkansas Department of Human Services did not provide adequate notice about changes in the ways hours of care are determined in the ARChoices program.



2017

Legal Aid of Arkansas currently has offices in Jonesboro, Springdale, Newport, West Memphis, Helena, and at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. With a current staff of 45 and an additional 843 volunteer attorneys, Legal Aid has served more than 120,000 clients over the past 50 years.



Lee Richardson and Mary Jackson

In honor of my father,
Rayburn G. Richardson,
a pioneer in non-profit
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We congratulate Legal Aid of Arkansas on their 50th Anniversary and proudly support their efforts to champion equal access to justice for all!

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BENTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



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Legal Aid of Arkansas
on 50 Years of championing
equal access to justice.***



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The voice of the Arkansas lawyer



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Lori Chumbler

Congratulations Legal Aid of Arkansas
for 50 years of providing high quality counsel
and legal assistance to Arkansans in need.

Congratulations to Legal Aid of Arkansas on its first 50 years!



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DisabilityRights ARKANSAS

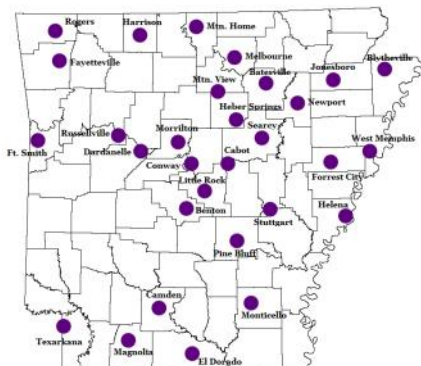
DRA's mission is to vigorously advocate for and enforce the legal rights of people with disabilities in Arkansas.

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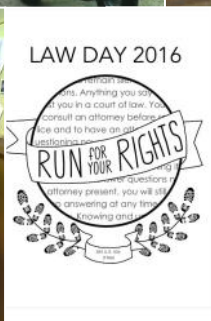


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**W. Ray Nickle***Owner - Nickle Law Firm***Outstanding Volunteer for Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly**

In 2016, Mr. Nickle volunteered 81.7 hours, and he has volunteered over 315 hours as a volunteer attorney. After being introduced to Legal Aid of Arkansas by fellow attorneys, he became a volunteer due to his belief that "lawyers have a duty to give back to the community." His firm, Nickle Law Firm, is located in Jonesboro. He enjoys golf, hunting, sports, and being outside.

**Steven B. Davis***Owner - Davis Law Firm***Outstanding Volunteer for Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly**

Mr. Davis volunteered 20.6 hours last year and has donated approximately 307 hours through his career. He credits his upbringing as his reason to volunteer and succinctly notes, "Awards are nice, but the best rewards come from the clients." Davis Law Firm is located in Harrison. Mr. Davis enjoys camping and hiking and is an avid motorcyclist. He is the only State Supreme Court Justice to win a national motorcycle road race.

**John M. Blair***Attorney at Law - Law Office of John M. Blair***Outstanding Volunteer for the Equal Access to Justice Panel**

Mr. Blair has donated 267.5 hours as a volunteer for Legal Aid of Arkansas, with 2 hours occurring in the last year. "There is truly a need to help those who cannot afford legal services," he said. "I would recommend to other attorneys that they provide pro bono assistance through [Legal Aid of Arkansas]." Mr. Blair has been practicing law in Rogers since 1982 and enjoys spending time with his family, his church, and Boy Scouts of America.

**William A. Waddell Jr.***Partner, Commercial Litigation - Friday, Eldredge & Clark***Outstanding Volunteer for Medical-Legal Partnerships**

Mr. Waddell has donated 263.3 hours as a pro bono volunteer, with 105 hours being served in 2016. "My hope is that this recognition will bring positive attention to access to justice issues generally," Waddell said of the award, "and to the Medical-Legal Partnership in particular." Mr. Waddell is a partner at Little Rock's Friday, Eldredge & Clark LLP and heads the firm's Commercial Litigation and Regulation Practice Group. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, reading, and church mission work.

Versalee Wyatt Altruism Awards

2017

The Versalee Wyatt Altruism Award is given to a Legal Aid of Arkansas staff member who has committed his or her life to the fair administration of justice for all people, demonstrated an exemplary commitment to equal justice, contributed in a significant way to the enhancement of the human dignity and quality of life of those persons unable to afford legal representation, and whose life and professional accomplishments serve as an inspiration to the entire legal profession.



Beth Shoupe

Domestic Violence Paralegal - *Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.*

Versalee Wyatt Altruism Award

Ms. Shoupe joined Legal Services of Northeast Arkansas straight out of high school and was one of the first employees in the Jonesboro office. She has been with Legal Aid, first as a secretary, and since 2001 as a paralegal, for 33 years, taking a four year break in the late 1990's.

2016



Kathy Grady

Economic Justice Paralegal - *Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc.*

Versalee Wyatt Altruism Award

Ms. Grady joined Legal Services of Northeast Arkansas Newport office as a paralegal in 1980. For the past 37 years, she has represented thousands of clients in public benefits cases and has been responsible for millions of dollars in benefits received.

2015



W. Marshall Prettyman Jr.

Of Counsel - *Mostyn Prettyman, PLLC*

Versalee Wyatt Altruism Award

Mr. Prettyman was litigation director at Legal Aid for 22 years, joining the staff in 1995 after spending the early part of his career working in public interest law in New Jersey. He quickly became the foremost authority on Landlord-Tenant law in the state, and continues to volunteer for Legal Aid and provide service to low-income Arkansans at a help desk in the Benton County Courthouse.

2014



Margaret Reger

Versalee Wyatt Altruism Award

Ms. Reger joined Ozark Legal Services in the late fall of 1977, spending the next 39 years of her career serving low-income Arkansans in the rural Ozarks. A lifelong advocate for equal access to justice, she worked with Legal Aid in Oklahoma prior to settling in Boone County. She retired from Legal Aid in 2016.



ARKANSAS ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
REPRESENTING HOPE

David and Gayle Dawn Bowman

Congratulations Legal Aid of Arkansas on 50 years of fighting poverty and maintaining dignity for Arkansans.



Niki Cung and Paul Thompson Jr.

Congratulations Legal Aid of Arkansas on 50 years of assuring justice for all Arkansans.



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