

Community Legal Aid

A non-profit law firm serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in central northeast Ohio



www.communitylegalaid.org

Legal Aid honors local attorneys at Law Week events

Volunteers recognized for pro bono service

This week, Community Legal Aid, in collaboration with local bar associations, will honor local attorneys for their pro bono service. Legal Aid staff members will present these attorneys with Volunteer of the Year awards, recognizing their service through the Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP).

The following attorneys will be recognized:

Medina County Volunteer of the Year: Richard Gemperline

Richard has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since 2012, volunteering for real estate planning initiatives. He provides assistance to many clients seeking to have wills and advanced directives completed.

Richard has been in practice for over 30 years, focusing on general civil law, education law, and business law. He received his law degree from Cleveland State University-Marshall College of Law and is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association.

Richard's award is presented by Legal Aid's Erin Spencer.

Portage County Volunteer of the Year: Timothy Thomas

Tim has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since the late 90's, becoming very active in 2015 volunteering for real estate planning initiatives. He has served as a leader

for the Portage County Domestic Relations Clinic, working in collaboration with Legal Aid and the University of Akron, providing pro bono divorce assistance to those in Portage County.

Tim has been in practice for since 1977, focusing on estate planning, domestic relations, real estate, and bankruptcy. He received his law degree from the University of Toledo College Of Law and is a member of the Ohio State and Portage County Bar Associations.

Tim's award is presented by Legal Aid's Jennifer van Dulmen.

Stark County Volunteer of the Year: Erich Jason Maier

Erich has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid for over 10 years. He has volunteered for the Fee Reduced Divorce Program, helping families reach quick resolutions in their time of need. He also has volunteered regularly for Council and Advice Clinics, as well as Peace of Mind Bankruptcy By-Pass Clinics.

Erich's practice focuses on civil litigation, family law, bankruptcy, and criminal and traffic defense. He received his law degree from the University of Toledo Law School and is a member of the Ohio State and Stark County Bar Associations, as well as the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Erich's award is presented by Legal Aid's John Petit.

Summit County Volunteer of the Year: Jane Davis

Jane has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since 2009, becoming active again in 2015 after serving as a local judge. She has volunteered for the new bankruptcy program, Law Week phone advice events, and the yearly Day of Service event held each October. She also has been a regular volunteer for the Pro Bono HelpLine, providing consumer or family counsel and advice to one to two clients over the phone consistently each week.

Jane received her law degree from the University of Akron, graduating magna cum laude. She is admitted to the Ohio Bar and the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio.

Jane's award is presented by Legal Aid's Susan Fitch.

Trumbull County Volunteer of the Year: Timothy George

Timothy has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since 2015. He has volunteered for Legal Aid in handling cases for clients and advising on divorces and wills.

Timothy has been in practice for 30 years, focusing primarily on family law, including divorce, dissolution, custody, paternity, support, and visitation. He received his law degree from the University of Akron and is a member of the Ohio State and Trumbull County Bar Associations, as well as the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

Timothy's award presented by Legal Aid's Elsa Gottfried.

The following attorneys are also being recognized:

Columbiana County Volunteer of the Year: Shawna L'Italien

Shawna has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since 2012. She has volunteered for the Mahoning County Counsel and Advice Clinic that her firm, Harrington, Hoppe, and Mitchell, assist with. She also has volunteered for Legal Aid's Law Week phone advice events, advising clients on everything issues such as estate planning, housing, and custody.

Shawna received her law degree from The Ohio State University Mortiz College of Law, where she was Order of the Coif. Her practice focuses on business organization, commercial transactions, real estate, succession planning, and estate planning. She is a member of the Ohio State, Columbiana, and Mahoning Bar Associations.

Shawna received her award on April 10th, presented by Legal Aid's Jeff Lilly.

Wayne County Volunteer of the Year: Suzanne Marie Waldron

Suzanne has been a volunteer with Community Legal Aid since 2009. She has volunteered by providing assistance to clients in cases including simple estate planning and transfer of property.

Suzanne has been in practice for over 25 years, focusing on wills and estates, bankruptcy/debtor relief, social security appeals, and administrative law. She received her

law degree from the University of Akron School of Law and is a member of the Wayne County Bar Association.

Suzanne will receive her award in January 2018.

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