

Legal Ease

The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



EMILY FAYE JEWETT,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

When David Beidler retired in 2023 and Mona Raza took over the reins as Executive Director, another staff member changed positions as well. A Deputy Director position was created and filled by long-time Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley staff attorney Emily Faye Jewett.

Emily has taken on some exciting duties including handling social media and marketing in her new role. Emily has been with LASRV for over eighteen years and is thrilled to be able to work with Mona to continue making a difference in the lives of our impoverished neighbors.

LEGAL ELITE

Many congratulations to Mona Raza and David Beidler on being named Pro Bono/Legal Services Legal Elite by Virginia Business magazine!

Access to justice should be available for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

To see if you qualify for free civil legal services, please call Blue Ridge Legal Services to apply at (540) 344-2080.

www.lasrv.org



ANNUAL CASE REPORT

2023



**3,831 PEOPLE
HELPED**



**1,075 HOUSING &
EVICTION CASES**



**202 DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE CASES**



**219 EMPLOYMENT
CASES**



**251 CONSUMER
CASES**



TEA FOR JUSTICE



We are already gearing up for our third annual Tea for Justice and we'd love to see you there! It might feel like we just had our second Tea for Justice, as it was in November. A decision was made to move the Tea from November up to the lovely month of May so we can have fresh florals and perfect "tea" weather.

This first year of the timing change means that we are lucky enough to get to attend the Tea twice in six months! We are looking for sponsors of the Tea, as well as donated items for the silent auction. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Reardon at debbie@queenbeemktg.com. Tickets will be available for purchase soon. Stay tuned for more details!

LEGAL AID IMPACTS LIVES

A client was facing eviction for nonpayment of rent when she contacted Legal Aid for assistance. Our client was the caregiver for her roommate but was having difficulty getting his portion of the rent paid by the roommate's payee. As a result of the problems with the payee, our client and her roommate fell behind on rent. While she was awaiting correction of the payee situation, the landlord filed three evictions in a row. The landlord failed to give proper notice on all three cases resulting in dismissal of each case in succession. Thanks to Legal Aid's representation, our client was not evicted for nonpayment and was given time to get the payee situation corrected.



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

GUIDESTAR

We recently earned a Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency with GuideStar! Check out our nonprofit profile to keep up to date with our impact. Transparency is critical in fundraising and we want to make sure you always have the information you need to support our work with trust and confidence.

LARGE LOCAL DONATIONS

Once again, we have been incredibly humbled to receive large donations from supporters of LASRV's mission and services. For the past many years, Gentry Locke has donated \$5,000 to LASRV, as well as hosted our entire staff for a delicious holiday meal (see "Out and About with Legal Aid"). Additionally, and for many years as well, Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black has very generously donated \$10,000 to support LASRV. Finally, we received a \$10,000 donation from a private family foundation.

Every single donation helps move the needle for our clients by supporting our services, but we would be remiss if we did not point out these incredibly thoughtful and supportive donors. Thank you!



BY THE NUMBERS

According to the Roanoke City Police Department, rates of domestic violence related crimes have increased roughly 40% in Roanoke City over the past year.



Out and About with Legal Aid

HOLIDAY PARTY

The staff at LASRV truly enjoy each other's company, both at work and in our free time. That was obvious at our holiday party, graciously hosted at LASRV attorney Elizabeth Barbour's home.

GENTRY LOCKE LUNCHEON

Every year, the law office of Gentry Locke generously hosts the staff of LASRV and Blue Ridge Legal Services for a catered holiday lunch, conversation about office updates, and lively discussions. There is always a question that everyone has to answer, and this year's question was "What is your favorite once-a-year thing?" We had too much fun to take a photo!

POINT IN TIME COUNT EMPOWERMENT FAIR

Each year in January, there is a nationwide count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals. Volunteers count homeless residents at local shelters as well as physically seeking out unsheltered residents in places where they frequent. This gives a good picture of how many people are homeless at that "point in time." The Roanoke Continuum of Care has taken the PIT Count to another level by offering an Empowerment Fair on the same day as the PIT Count for homeless residents to find out more about resources available to them. LASRV attended this year's Empowerment Fair to provide pamphlets and additional information about our services.