



Legal Ease

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

September 2021



EMILY FAYE JEWETT

Emily has been lucky enough to practice law at the Legal Aid Society as a Staff Attorney since 2005. Emily attended Chadron State College in Nebraska for her Bachelor of Arts degree and Hamline University School of Law in Minnesota. She is a transplanted Midwesterner who has come to love the beautiful mountains of Virginia. Emily is married with three kids and loves to bake in her “spare” moments.

Are there certain areas of the law that are your specialty and/or you particularly enjoy? Why?

I'm a general practitioner but at LASRV I work the most in housing and unemployment. Originally, I went to law school because I wanted to work for the FBI but realized that I wasn't particularly suited to working in such dangerous conditions (read: I'm not a fan of weapons especially if they could be pointed at me). Then I interned at the Dakota Plains Legal Services during undergrad on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Since reservations are governed under their own tribal law, anyone could be an attorney on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by paying \$50 and swearing to uphold the tribal code. So, as an undergrad student, I got the opportunity to “practice law” as a tribal attorney. My time at Dakota Plans Legal Services led me to the realization that if I practiced law, it would only be with legal aid.

What do you like best about working at Legal Aid?

I enjoy this work because we're making a real and direct difference in peoples' lives. When we leave the courtroom, we have had an immediate impact on our clients' lives by allowing them to maintain their housing, gain protection from an abuser, or receive their unemployment, for example. I don't think most attorneys are lucky enough to get that on a day-to-day basis.

How has COVID-19 impacted your work and your clients?

There has been so much unemployment, and it has been such a challenge for our clients and for us attorneys as we try to help people navigate the system. If they're successful navigating their way through and get unemployment, they may not receive actual payment despite being told it has been sent to them. One of my clients was approved for unemployment seven months ago but hasn't received a check, and it's challenging getting in touch with a live person at the Virginia Employment Commission. All of this is very hard on our clients and as they struggle with the rising costs of utilities, groceries, and the general overall cost of living.

How did you discover Roanoke and decide to move here?

When I applied for a position at The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, I was still living in Minnesota. My interview was conducted over the phone, and much to my surprise I got the job! That's what brought me to Roanoke, plus my husband's family was here. I have been with The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley for 16 years and I can't imagine being anywhere else. Legal Aid is like family to me.

Don't you have a side business? Please tell us about it.

I do! I have a wedding cake business called [Barrister's Bakery](#). I named it that because I am a "barrister" (which is an attorney in England). I have always loved baking. Everything I made tasted good but didn't look so good, so I took cake decorating classes at AC Moore. From there, I started making any kind of celebration cakes, but I've narrowed it down to wedding cakes. I love being a "sweet" part of each couples wedding day and am so blessed that I am trusted with such an important "piece" (ha!) of their wedding.

What do you think would happen if there was no Legal Aid and you were not there to represent your clients?

So many low-income people and families wouldn't have anyone fight for them.

So many of our clients get advice from neighbors and friends but often times it is incorrect. With Legal Aid, our clients receive the correct legal advice, representation in the courts, and quality legal services on civil matters. At Legal Aid, I fight for my clients and serve as their advocate. If we weren't here for the community, well, it would be a terrible injustice.

Want to learn more about Emily's work at The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley? **Read on to learn how Emily provided legal advice and assistance to Mr. Floyd Lee Hall III below!**



**Just one
example of
Emily's Cake
Making &
Decorating
Talents!**



Barrister's Bakery



Jaunt for Justice 5K is Just Around the Corner!

Please join the Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association and The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley for the second annual [Jaunt for Justice 5K](#), on Saturday, October 2nd.

The community-wide event starts at 9:30 am at Fallon Park - Tinker Creek Greenway - 2116 Dale Avenue SE in Roanoke, VA. See the running route go [here](#). Race Packet Pickup will be Friday, October 1st, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at [Runabout Sports Roanoke](#).

The in-person race will begin at 9:30 a.m. Check-in will open at 8:30 a.m. The Medal Ceremony will begin at 10:45 a.m. A Virtual option is also available.

After the race, stay and enjoy food from [The Lazy Bulldog Food Truck!](#)

The proceeds from *Jaunt for Justice 5K* will benefit [The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley](#).

Not able to attend but want to support The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, its programs and activities for low-income individuals seeking access to justice?

[You can make a gift to show your support here.](#)

A BIG THANK YOU to our [sponsors and partners](#) and a special thank you to the [Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association](#) for creating and heading up the annual event.



The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley Helps Disabled Veteran in Roanoke

"The Hall family has served in every war since the French & Indian Wars," said Floyd Lee Hall III. "I was responsible for decoding, recording, and sending the messages back out." Floyd was stationed in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) on the Korean peninsula that separates [North Korea](#) from [South Korea](#), the DMZ in Hawaii, and also served in the Central American War in the 1970s.

As a disabled veteran, Floyd was shocked by the treatment he was receiving from his landlord. Without cause or warning, his landlord said he had to move somewhere else because she was dying and needed to live there. "My bungalow was only two rooms, which really suited me as a single man; not too much to clean!" His landlord's bungalow, to accommodate her and her six children, was huge in comparison with many bedrooms. "I knew she wasn't being truthful. I'm disabled, keep to myself, kept my bungalow very neat, and paid my rent on time. How could someone take advantage of a veteran?"

Then his landlord started sending him very disturbing and hateful emails. "I didn't understand why this was happening to me, so I reached out to The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley." Floyd was assigned to attorney Emily Faye Jewett. He had heard about Legal Aid but had never used their services.

"I thought they were just lawyers honing their craft and not experienced. I was so wrong!"

Emily carefully listened to Floyd's story and heard about the treatment he was receiving from his landlord. Then he shared the emails. "Emily was incensed and couldn't believe what they were saying to me."

After Emily composed and sent a letter to his landlord, the emails stopped, and Floyd no longer heard from his landlord. Floyd was so impressed with the professionalism and friendliness of Ms. Jewett and The Legal Aid Society staff. He felt Emily was going above and beyond to help him; even with challenges, he was facing in other areas of his life.

"Emily is the "bees-knees," and I would do anything for The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley," said Floyd. "I'd stand outside their office with a sign telling people to go there if they wanted me to!"

Floyd did end up moving and today, he has a new landlord who treats him with

dignity and respect. But Floyd will always have a special place in his heart for Emily and the help he received from The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley.

Rent Relief Program Workshop



The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley Attorneys Receive Training on Virginia Rent Relief Program

It's all hands on deck at The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley as we serve hundreds of tenants and landlords in need of rent relief. Austin Bouffard, our paralegal, and housing navigator trained five of our attorneys in the Rent Relief program and application process just last week. With up to 100 cases a week, The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley is working harder for low-income

people and families like never before.

Do you know someone in need of rent relief? Please have them contact us at 540-344-2080 or online at lasrv.org Help is here and The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley can you get rent relief so you can remain in your home.



Do you want to support our work so The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley can continue helping veterans like Floyd Lee Hall? Please make your gift, *of whatever size works for you*, to our [Annual Fund](#).

Or become a sustaining member with your monthly gift. **Your monthly gift of \$5, \$10, or even \$20, helps us so we can provide low-income individuals with legal advice or services throughout the Roanoke Valley.**

Thank you!



For more than 50 years, Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley has been providing free civil legal assistance to low-income residents throughout the Roanoke Valley. We are the only legal services organization serving the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas of the Blue Ridge providing a full range of civil legal services include issues involving housing, protection from abuse, custody, divorce for victims of domestic violence, employment and unemployment, consumer problems like debt collection defenses and actions against predatory lenders.

If you or someone you know who can't afford a lawyer and is in need of legal assistance please visit our website. lasrv.org



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