

LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY

2016 Campaign for Justice

If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment:
Thou shalt not ration justice.

Judge Learned Hand



“You can’t do it yourself. There’s just no way. You have to contact somebody and get help.”

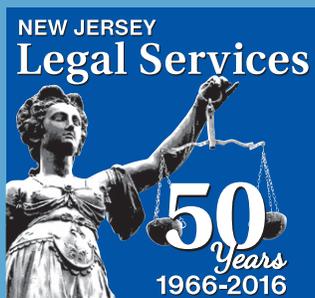
Carol, Legal Services client

Help us close the fairness gap

Make your donation today.

Your tax-deductible contribution will help us accept more cases and ensure fairness for people like Carol, Deboronne, Hector, Javier, Davis and Rudy.

Thank you.



www.lsnj.org

www.lsnjlaw.org

www.probononj.org



Annually, the Campaign for Justice raises funds for New Jersey's Legal Services system, which is comprised of the statewide program, Legal Services of New Jersey, and five regional programs, all 501(c)(3) corporations, with branch offices in all 21 counties.

Statewide Program

Legal Services of New Jersey

Regional Programs

Central Jersey Legal Services

Essex-Newark Legal Services

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Northeast New Jersey

Legal Services

South Jersey Legal Services



“I don’t see how you can have justice in a society unless everybody has access to something that is fair, something that is just.”

— The Honorable
Nicholas deB. Katzenbach,
Former Attorney General
of the United States

Unlike criminal cases, people in civil legal cases do not have a right to an attorney.

When one of the 2.74 million New Jersey residents living in poverty faces a complicated and life-altering legal problem such as eviction, foreclosure, domestic violence, lack of access to healthcare, hunger, and consumer fraud, they will likely face it alone—with no attorney, no advocate at their side.

It is estimated that this population will experience more than a million civil legal cases in the year ahead. When they do, they will turn to Legal Services for help. Legal Services is New Jersey’s network of six non-profit corporations, with offices in every county, that provide essential legal aid in civil matters to people who cannot afford the cost of legal representation. In the past 50 years, we took on more than 2.4 million cases; last year alone, over 47,000 cases.

We need your support to do more.

Your gift will help us close the gap in access to representation and help ensure that all citizens, including our most vulnerable, receive fair and just treatment under the law.



SHELTER

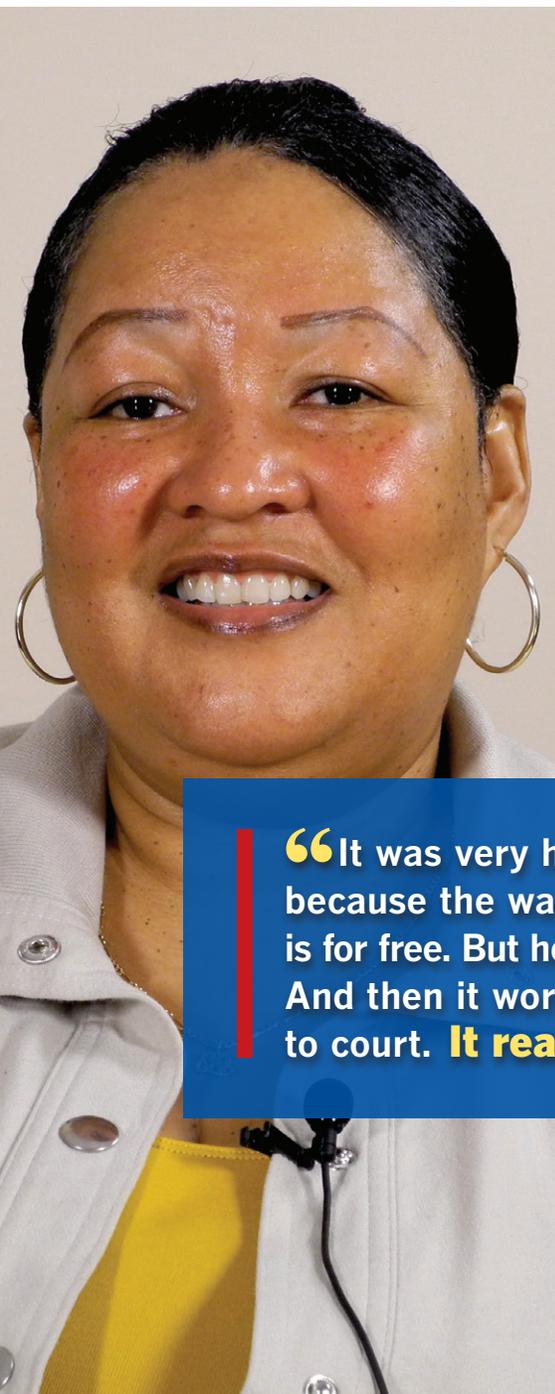
Carol is 77 years old and has lived in New Jersey her entire life. Her current residence is a modest one-bedroom house in a senior community—a house she purchased outright more than 12 years ago with the proceeds from selling her larger family home. After seeing an advertisement on television, Carol decided to take out a reverse mortgage to pay off some credit card debt. Since then, Carol has suffered a stroke and several falls that required hospitalization. Each time Carol was hospitalized, she missed tax payments, which first required her to go onto a rigid payment plan, but later resulted in the threat of foreclosure.

Carol's Legal Services advocate represented her in mediation proceedings and secured the funds from a nonprofit partner that Carol needed to save her home.



“You can’t go wrong with going with somebody with Legal Services . . . I can’t rave about them enough. I mean it’s just A-plus-plus-plus.”

■ **LEGAL SERVICES TOOK ON 1,647 FORECLOSURE DEFENSE CASES IN 2015** ■



Deboronne began working at the age of 11 and continued most of her life. Adjusting to a life on Social Security disability benefits was difficult, so when she heard about Social Security’s Ticket to Work Program, she decided to give it a try. Deboronne was unable to keep that job because of her disability, but the effort nearly cost Deboronne her home. Social Security overpaid her benefits during the trial work period, despite her accurate reporting of earnings. The Administration later wanted to rectify its mistake by reducing her monthly benefits—a reduction that would have left her unable to pay her mortgage.

Deboronne was referred to a Legal Services pro bono lawyer, who successfully argued for a waiver of the overpayment, given her innocence and limited income.

“It was very hard for me to trust because the way I’ve grown up, nothing is for free. But he kept reassuring me . . . And then it worked when we went to court. **It really worked.**”

■ **A STRONG NETWORK OF COMMITTED PRO BONO ATTORNEYS ENABLES LEGAL SERVICES TO REACH EVEN MORE CLIENTS IN NEED** ■



WORKERS' RIGHTS

Hector was hired to assemble boxes more than 20 years ago, but worked his way up to being a fork-lift operator quickly—a job he held for 14 years. “It was beautiful working in there, a beautiful time”—until a change in management, that is. Hector suddenly found himself targeted by a new manager who seemed intent on getting rid of him. The manager eventually made good on his threats, and Hector turned to the State for unemployment benefits but the manager fought his claim. Hector’s benefits were first approved and then terminated, and he found himself with no income at all and no job prospects in a worsening economy.

It took Hector and his Legal Services attorney five years, but in the end, he was awarded more than a year and a half of retroactive unemployment benefits.



“In the United States, not only in Jersey . . . we have Legal Aid Services
**You can call them, reach them,
ask them, and they’re going
to help you.**”

■ **LEGAL SERVICES OPENED
1,280 WORKERS' RIGHTS CASES IN 2015** ■

A SECOND CHANCE



Javier, a veteran, requested that his decade-old criminal record be expunged, but it was denied for missing information. Not until he obtained the help of Legal Services was he able to successfully clear his record and start his life over. His clean record enabled Javier to get a job doing outreach to homeless veterans.

People like Javier were the inspiration for our new, interactive web-based program to help people apply for expungement in private, from their home or local library. *Clearing Your Record Online* includes a manual, instructional videos, and fillable forms to ensure that paperwork is completed properly. It is just one example of Legal Services' innovative use of technology to reach more clients and provide assistance more effectively.

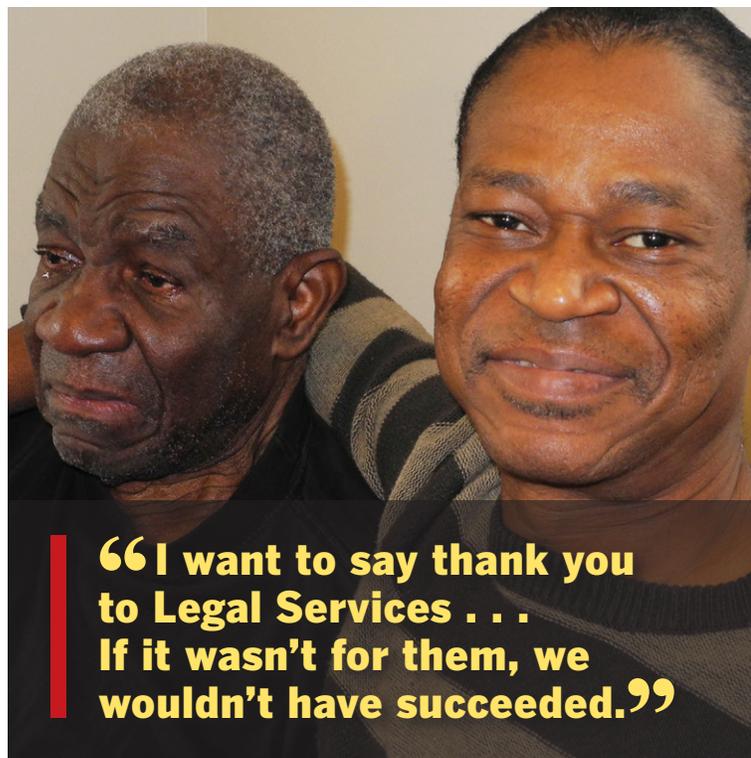
“I cried. I’m not ashamed to say I cried. It’s something I no longer have to worry about. Now I can go about my life. I feel normal again, a regular person.”

**■ 1,199,609
DIGITAL VIEWS
OF OUR WEBSITES,
PUBLICATIONS,
AND VIDEOS
IN 2015 ■**



Davis and Rudy, father and son, reached out to Legal Services after Davis fell and suffered a brain injury—causing problems with hearing, speech, memory, and balance. Rudy provided care, but couldn't do it alone. Legal Services helped Rudy navigate many bureaucratic hurdles in his Medicaid secondary coverage, to secure the in-home care he needed for his dad.

■ **LEGAL SERVICES
TOOK ON 1,143 HEALTH CARE
CASES IN 2015** ■



“I want to say thank you to Legal Services . . . If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have succeeded.”

Please support our work

Rudy's “thank you” rightly belongs to you! Without our generous supporters, we could not have been there for him. With your help, we can be there for more of your fellow New Jersey residents when they fall on hard times and need legal assistance.

“Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

— *The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.*