AppalReD Legal Aid

Providing free legal services to the low-income and vulnerable in eastern and south central Kentucky

www.ardfky.org

Our Team

Administrative Staff

Robert Johns

“AppalReD Legal Aid stands with the poor, the powerless, and the forgotten. I am so proud of our staff who works hard every day to improve the lives of our clients.”

Robert Johns
Robert Johns is the Executive Director at AppalReD Legal Aid, and he works in the Prestonsburg office. He can be reached at robertj@ardfky.org or (606) 889-1984. Prior to joining AppalReD Legal Aid in 2015, Robert worked as a staff attorney and managing attorney for 20 years with Southeastern Ohio Legal Services in Steubenville, Ohio. He began his legal career as an AmeriCorps Attorney with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality in Findlay, Ohio. He is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and the University of Notre Dame. Robert serves on the board of directors of the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc., and Mountain Plus Services, Inc.

Evan Smith
Evan Smith is the Advocacy Director at AppalReD Legal Aid, and he works in the Prestonsburg office. Evan can be reached at evans@ardfky.org or 606-889-1958. Evan is involved in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. He has particular expertise in appellate advocacy, federal black lung benefits law, and other areas of administrative law. Evan joined AppalReD Legal Aid from Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center where he was a Skadden Fellow. Evan clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit for the Honorable John M. Rogers. Evan is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and received a Master’s in Public Administration from the Fels Institute of Government. Along with his work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Evan actively participates on the boards of Kentucky Lawyers for the
Arts, the Floyd County Community Foundation, and Headwaters. Follow him on twitter @evanky.

Barbourville Staff

Melissa Tidwell

“Working for AppalReD lets me participate in bringing the judicial system closer to its ideal of equal justice under the law.”

Melissa Tidwell

Melissa Tidwell is the Directing Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Barbourville office. She can be reached at melissat@ardfky.org or 606-546-5115 ext. 4105. Melissa has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She spent the first eight years of her time at AppalReD representing survivors of domestic violence and now focuses on consumer, bankruptcy, and public benefits cases. Melissa joined AppalReD after graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Kirsten Clancy
Kirsten Clancy is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Barbourville office. Kirsten can be reached at kirstenc@ardfky.org or 606-546-5115 ext. 4102. Kirsten has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She is a HUD certified housing counselor. Kirsten is a graduate of UNC School of Law.

Ellen Johnson
Ellen Johnson is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Barbourville office. Ellen can be reached at ellenj@ardfky.org or 606-546-5115 ext. 4108. Ellen has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in family and domestic violence law. She joined AppalReD Legal Aid after graduating law school. Ellen is a graduate of Morehead State University and Appalachian School of Law. She has previous experience interning at Legal Aid of the Bluegrass while pursuing her law degree.

Jennifer Perkins
Jennifer Perkins is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Barbourville office. Jennifer can be reached at jenniferp@ardfky.org or 606-546-5115 ext. 4107. Jennifer has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in family law. Jennifer joined AppalReD Legal Aid after a decade of working as a Public Defender. Jennifer graduated with Honors from The Appalachian School of Law, where she was the Senior Articles Editor on the ASL Law Review Board.

“Growing up in far Eastern Appalachia, I saw and experienced firsthand how the voices of the poorest of Appalachia were rarely heard. I love AppalReD because we help the people of the region find their voices and speak out.”

Jennifer Perkins
Central Intake Unit Staff

Katie Mullins

“As an attorney, I can positively impact the lives of our clients. Working for AppalReD allows me to do what I love while giving back to my community.”

Katie Mullins
AppalReD Legal after three years in private practice handling primarily bankruptcy and domestic cases. Katie is a graduate of the Appalachian School of Law.

Hazard Staff

Charnel M. Burton

“I joined AppalReD because I loved the work that they do and admired the people I knew who worked here. I wanted to be a part of that.”

Charnel M. Burton

Charnel M. Burton is the Directing Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Hazard office. Charnel can be reached at charnelb@ardfky.org or 606-439-2315 ext. 6004. Charnel has represented clients in all types of
cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in family, eviction, and administrative law. Charnel joined AppalReD Legal Aid after 7 years in private practice. Charnel is graduate of University of Kentucky College of Law.

Michelle Henson

“As a survivor of domestic violence myself, the work I do with other survivors is a privilege. I am honored to provide services to survivors in their time of need. As an Eastern Kentucky native, I am well aware of the challenges these survivors face and it is my goal to provide quality legal services that make their transition to safety as easy as possible.”

Michelle Henson

Michelle Henson is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Hazard office. Michelle can be reached at michelleh@ardfky.org or
Michelle has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in divorce, custody, and domestic violence law. Michelle joined AppalReD Legal Aid after returning home to Eastern Kentucky following law school and working with private firms in the area representing clients in Family Law matters. Michelle is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law. Along with her work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Michelle actively works with community organizations that assist domestic violence victims.

Low Income Tax Clinic Staff

Scott M. Davies
Scott M. Davies is the Director of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at AppalReD Legal Aid. He can be reached at scottd@ardfky.org. Scott represents clients before the United States Tax Court, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Kentucky Department of Revenue. Scott joined AppalReD Legal Aid in 2013 after working as a hearing officer at the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Scott holds a J.D. and LL.M. from Western Michigan University.

Richmond Staff
Stephanie Flanary

“AppalReD is more than a group of attorneys practicing law; it is a law firm of committed individuals helping people and changing lives. I am proud to work for such an agency!”

Stephanie Flanary
Leigh Ann Moore is a Senior Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Richmond office. Leigh Ann can be reached at leighannm@ardfky.org or 859-624-1394, ext. 3014. Leigh Ann has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in domestic violence, juvenile, and family law, including divorce and custody cases. Leigh Ann joined AppalReD Legal Aid after her graduation from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2011. Follow her on twitter @LegalLeighAnn.

“I am proud to work at AppalReD where I can help Kentuckians find their voice and obtain equal access to justice.”

Leigh Ann Moore
Caleb Pittman is a VOCA Attorney in AppalReD Legal Aid’s Richmond office. He can be reached at 859-624-1394 ext. 3015 or calebp@ardfky.org. Caleb has represented clients who are victims of crimes in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. He has particular expertise in family law. Caleb joined AppalReD Legal Aid after working as a public defender for the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy. Caleb is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he was the editor in chief for the Law Review. Outside of his work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Caleb is a member of the Berea Makerspace (a community workshop where members share knowledge and tools to promote creative projects) and a devoted

“I love working at AppalReD because I get to help people who otherwise wouldn’t have access to an attorney, and I get to work alongside a team of friendly, experienced attorneys and support staff who are all dedicated to that same mission.”

Caleb Pittman
caretaker of two mixed-breed dogs.

Margaret Sites

“A lot of people don’t have anybody fighting for them, and they’re beat down from the stress and struggle of living in poverty. I’m here at AppalReD to be that person for our clients. I strive to provide holistic, trauma-informed representation that empowers the individual and the community.”

Margaret Sites

Margaret Sites is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Richmond office. Margaret can be reached at margarets@ardfky.org or 859-624-1394 ext. 3009. Margaret has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in housing and consumer law. Margaret joined AppalReD Legal Aid after graduating from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, where she clerked at the Legal Aid Society in Louisville.

Pikeville Staff

Lana Gresham
Lana Gresham is the Directing Attorney in AppalReD Legal Aid’s Pikeville office and also works from the Prestonsburg location. Ms. Gresham can be reached at lanag@ardfky or 606.886.3876, ext. 1635. Ms. Gresham has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in family law. Ms. Gresham joined AppalReD directly after law school. She is a graduate of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

Kristie M. Goff
Kristie M. Goff is a Senior Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Pikeville and Prestonsburg locations. Kristie can be reached at kristieg@ardfky.org; (606) 886-3876, Ext. 1604; or (606) 437-3446. Kristie M. Goff has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in consumer law, public benefits and housing cases, and is a HUD certified housing counselor. Kristie M. Goff joined AppalReD Legal Aid after six years of private legal practice. Kristie M. Goff is a graduate of Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

“Working at AppalReD gives me the opportunity to give back to my community.”
Kristie M. Goff
Kelly Ward-Wallen is the Directing Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Prestonsburg office. Kelly can be reached at kellyw@ardfky.org or by phone at 606-886-3876 ext. 1632. Kelly has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in consumer law and housing cases and is a HUD certified housing counselor. Kelly joined AppalReD Legal after spending 5 years in private practice. Kelly is a graduate of Appalachian School of Law.
Kathryn Burke

“I believe that Appalred serves a vital service to the people of Appalachia by providing quality service to those who cannot afford legal representation and who, without Appalred, would be denied Justice.”

Kathryn Burke

Kathryn Burke is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Prestonsburg office. Kathryn can be reached at kathyrnb@ardfky.org; (606) 886-3876, Ext. 1617. Kathryn has primarily represented clients in family law cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has particular expertise in family law, domestic violence and child custody law. Kathryn joined AppalReD Legal in December, 2016 after having been in private practice of law in Pikeville for almost forty years and serving as the first Family Court Judge in Pike County. Kathryn is a graduate of the University of Louisville’s Brandies School of Law, being a third
generation graduate of that school. Along with her work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Kathryn has actively participated as a member of the Board of Directors of AppalReD, Jenny Wiley Theater, and Judi’s Place for Kids.

Jo Ann Harvey

“AppalRed’s work is central to righting wrongs and rectifying injustice.”

Jo Ann Harvey

Jo Ann Harvey is a Legal Assistance to Victims Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Prestonsburg office. Jo Ann can be reached at 606-886-3876, ext.1612 or joannh@ardfky.org. Jo Ann has represented domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in a variety of cases. She has particular expertise in family law and domestic violence matters. Jo
Ann joined AppalReD from the Floyd County Attorney’s Child Support office, though she previously worked at AppalReD when first out of law school. Jo Ann is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law. Along with her work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Jo Ann actively participates with Communities Against Drug Addiction (CADA) and Friends of Jenny Wiley.

Somerset Staff

Amber Shewmake

“There’s no greater reward than truly helping people—helping them get their lives back, helping them obtain permanency, and helping to fight for equal justice for the poor in rural Appalachia.”

Amber Shewmake

Amber Shewmake is the Directing Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Somerset office.
Amber can be reached at amberd@ardfky.org or (606) 679-7313, ext. 7206. Amber has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. She has a particular interest in public benefit cases and helping to provide safety and stability for all clients. Amber joined AppalReD Legal Aid after law school but has prior experience assisting on a variety of cases including tax, wills & estates and criminal defense. Amber received her undergraduate degrees from The University of Kentucky and obtained her Juris Doctorate from Charlotte School of Law.

Jimmy Fahringer

“AppalReD fights for the rights of people in need and helps them to deal with some of their most difficult legal problems.”

Jimmy Fahringer

Jimmy Fahringer is a Staff Attorney in AppalReD Legal Aid’s Somerset office.
He can be reached at (606) 679-7313 ext. 7208, or jamesf@ardfky.org. Jimmy represents clients in all types of cases that AppalReD handles. He has substantial experience in housing law, including representing tenants and homeowners in evictions and foreclosures. He is a HUD certified Housing Counselor, meaning that he can help clients make plans for major housing related decisions. Prior to his career in law, Jimmy worked as a lobster packer for five years. He joined AppalReD Legal in 2018 after graduating from the University of Michigan School of Law.

Michelle Fisher

“AppalReD was founded by someone who got out of the trenches, only to come to the United States, settle in Appalachia, and dive right back in for the least of these. Walking with survivors on their journey out of the pit, surrounded by colleagues who care as deeply as I do, is an honor and a privilege second to none.”

Michelle Fisher
Michelle Fisher is a Legal Assistance to Victims Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Somerset office. Michelle can be reached at michellef@ardfky.org or 606-679-7313 ext. 7209. Michelle has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. They have particular expertise in domestic violence and family law. Michelle joined AppalReD Legal Aid after clerking at the Independent Police Monitor in New Orleans. Michelle is a graduate of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Along with their work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Michelle actively participates in Pulaski County Operation UNITE Coalition, and PFLAG.

Seneca Land
“Many of our clients would be forced to represent themselves or reject the judicial process entirely, if not for the many services we provide. That alone makes me strive to give them nothing less than my absolute best every day.”

Seneka Land

Seneka Land is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid’s Somerset office. Seneka can be reached at senekal@ardfky.org or 606-679-7313 ext. 7208. Seneka has represented clients in all types of cases that AppalReD Legal Aid handles. He has particular expertise in family law, protective orders, and estate planning. Seneka joined AppalReD Legal Aid after spending time as a solo practitioner. He is a graduate of Western Michigan Law School. Along with his work at AppalReD Legal Aid, Seneka actively participates in programs focused on children’s literacy and feeding the homeless.
Caroline Nelson is a Staff Attorney at AppalReD Legal Aid's Somerset office. Caroline can be reached at 606-679-7313, ext. 7217 or carolinen@ardfky.org. Caroline has particular expertise in family law and protective order cases. Caroline joined AppalReD Legal Aid after law school. During law school, she gained experience assisting on a variety of cases including custody, divorce, and domestic violence related cases. She also has extensive experience working with non-English speaking clients. Caroline received her undergraduate degree from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

“As a very proud Appalachian, it means the world to me that I can use my skills to give back to the people and the place that has given me so much.”

Caroline Nelson
Mary Going is the Pro Bono Director of AppalReD Legal Aid. Mary can be reached at 606-886-3876, ext. 1315 or maryg@ardfky.org. Mary previously represented clients in AppalReD’s Hazard and Prestonsburg offices, primarily in the area of family law. She is a graduate of Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, and while in law school worked for Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. Prior to her career in law, Mary worked as a registered nurse for twenty-five years, primarily with homeless persons experiencing addiction and mental illness.