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Robert C. Johns
Executive Director
robertj@ardfky.org

John M. Rosenberg
Director Emeritus

November 12, 2018

Dear Friend of AppalReD Legal Aid:

For the last 47 years, AppalReD Legal Aid has been a strong voice for the poor and vulnerable in eastern Kentucky. AppalReD Legal Aid is there when a victim of violence needs a protective order, when a family faces eviction, when a senior citizen is scammed, when a disabled person needs health coverage, and when a veteran faces the loss of benefits. We have enclosed our 2018 update with more information about AppalReD Legal Aid and the work we do.

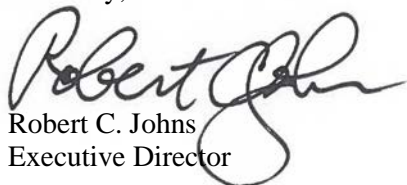
Your contribution helps AppalReD Legal Aid provide that voice. Please use the enclosed card and envelope to make your contribution today. If you would prefer to donate online or would like more information about our work, please visit our website at www.ardfky.org. Please give generously.

In the past year, AppalReD Legal Aid has handled almost 4,000 cases. One of those cases involved Margaret who had been married for about 25 years. Margaret's husband had been abusive and controlling for most of the marriage. He insisted on accompanying Margaret wherever she went. One day, the husband, while holding his gun, threatened to kill Margaret and himself. At that moment, Margaret decided she had to get away. When her husband went to sleep that night, Margaret fled and went to the local domestic violence shelter. We met with her at the shelter, and we assisted her in obtaining a protective order and a divorce. Margaret moved out of the shelter and into her own apartment. She is safe now, and she is thankful that she was able to escape that life of fear and isolation.

Your donation helps AppalReD Legal Aid provide this kind of life-changing legal assistance. A gift of \$75 will cover the first hour of work for a client like Margaret. Together we can make a difference! Thank you for your support!

On behalf of our board and staff, we wish you a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely,



Robert C. Johns
Executive Director

Enclosure-2018 Update

p.s. We are excited to announce that we will be holding our Rosenberg Dinner – A Benefit for AppalReD Legal Aid on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Lexington Center in Lexington, KY. Please save the date!



APPALACHIAN RESEARCH AND DEFENSE FUND OF KENTUCKY, INC.
"FUNDED BY THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY IOLTA FUNDS,
OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS"
WWW.KYJUSTICE.ORG

Delivering Equal Justice

What we do with your gift . . .

Urgent Needs and Basic Necessities of Life

- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Eviction/Foreclosure
- ◆ Public Benefits
- ◆ Consumer
- ◆ Family Law
- ◆ Health care
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Expungements

Individual Assistance

- ◆ Advice and Counsel
- ◆ Preparation of documents
- ◆ Representation in administrative and court hearings
- ◆ Private attorney representation, pro bono and reduced fee
- ◆ Pro se clinics

Special Projects

- ◆ Volunteer Lawyers for Appalachian KY (VLAK)
- ◆ Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
- ◆ Domestic Violence & Elder Abuse Conference
- ◆ Volunteer Lawyers for Veterans
- ◆ Appalachian Kentucky Crime Victim Assistance Project
- ◆ Appalachian Kentucky Justice Project
(Legal help for DV victims)
- ◆ Survivors' Smiles Project
(Help with dentures for DV victims)
- ◆ Appalachian HOPE
(Financial help for DV victims)

What our clients are saying . . .

"My experience with this team was outstanding! Thank you for all the help. Very professional and really cared about my case. Thank you!"

"I'm very thankful to AppalReD for everything they've done for me. God bless you all."

"I am so happy and thankful for all you and your staff have done. Words don't describe my gratitude. Thanks."

"May God bless you all for just being there for me and answering questions that I had. My lawyer was very nice and she was someone you could talk to about anything."

"No other comments are really needed! We could have never been treated with so much kindness and caring. Very professional! Thank you!"

Message from Executive Director Robert Johns:



I am approaching my 4th anniversary as director of AppalReD Legal Aid, and I am honored to work for this wonderful program. Our staff works tirelessly every day to make a difference in the lives of our clients.

We have hired Evan Smith as our new director of advocacy, and he will start in January 2019. Evan has been a Skadden Fellow and attorney with the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center. Prior to that, he clerked for Judge John Rogers on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is from Whitesburg, KY, and he lives in Floyd County. We are excited to have Evan join us.

The Eric C. Conn crisis continues. In early 2018, we found out that 2,000 more former clients of Eric C. Conn would be facing new ALJ hearings to review their Social Security Disability and SSI benefits because of Conn's fraud scheme. The Social Security Administration (SSA) previously put 1,500 of Conn's former clients through this review process in 2015 and 2016. Litigation challenging SSA's actions remains pending. Once again, AppalReD Legal Aid has stepped up to help those affected. So far, our attorneys have accepted over 200 of the new cases for representation. We still have many cases pending in court from the first round. Volunteer attorneys from around the country have once again answered our call for help. We have referred over 200 of the new cases to those volunteers who are handling the cases pro bono. I am very proud of our efforts to help these vulnerable folks.

On behalf of our board and staff, we wish you a wonderful holiday season! Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE

Rosenberg Dinner— A Benefit for AppalReD Legal Aid

Saturday, April 27, 2019
Lexington Center, Lexington, KY

Keynote: Dean David A. Brennen
U of KY College of Law

Music by: Westbrook Trio

Special Guest: Fine Art Photographer Dean Hill

Message from Director Emeritus John Rosenberg:



The funding crunch continues for AppalReD. Today, AppalReD staff attempt to serve the poverty population in its 37-county area with only 6 offices and 22 lawyers. In 1980 we had 11 offices and 48 lawyers. Obviously this means that some clients cannot be served. That is exactly what the Justice Gap survey conducted by the Legal Services Corporation confirmed.

Only about 20% of the need is met. So, your contributions mean a lot in terms of providing additional resources.

One of the year's high points was the effort to maintain the state funding for legal services programs in Kentucky. In his initial budget request to the legislature, Governor Bevin had proposed eliminating funding to some 30 agencies and non-profit groups in the state, including legal service programs. The amount of funding was approximately \$750,000; and while not among the largest sources of funding, these funds were significant support for several program attorneys. Fortunately, Justice Michelle Keller, the newly appointed Chair of the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission, saw the importance of keeping this funding, and with her staff and the program directors, began a major effort to educate legislators on the importance of retaining these funds in the budget. The effort reached its climax at a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee when Justice Keller and one of the program directors, Josh Crabtree presented "our case" to the committee. To offer support, all the other Supreme Court Justices came to this hearing, as well. The committee voted to retain the funding, and the recommendation made it into the final budget. In recognition of this great support by the commission and the supreme court, all the programs had "pro bono lunches" in which they highlighted their appreciation for the support by the justices and in which special recognition was given to private attorneys who had provided particularly outstanding pro bono services to program clients. AppalReD held two such lunches, one in Somerset, and one in Prestonsburg; and it is hoped that these appreciation lunches will become annual events. The efforts of the pro bono attorneys cannot be overstated, because their clients would not have representation without them. They truly deserve as much recognition as we can give them.

Please contribute as much to AppalReD as you can. Your contributions make a difference!

What impact has AppalReD made in 2018?

3,828 cases closed

10,411 adults and
children helped

\$539,152 recovered

\$1,131,201 avoided

- 63 people given a fresh start with a bankruptcy
- 51 people's income and assets protected through successfully defending collection lawsuits
- 44 expungements obtained which increased job and housing opportunities
- 46 Qualified Income Trusts drafted ensuring Medicaid eligibility
- 127 families stabilized with custody orders
- 326 divorces granted protecting parental and property rights
- 352 victims of domestic and dating violence obtained protective orders
- 61 evictions avoided
- 21 homes saved from foreclosure
- 165 disabled people whose benefits were preserved
- 93 clients served in pro se clinics

Success Story



Unemployment - Larry was a coal miner, and he worked for a company that had a long history of safety violations. The company refused to correct them, basically saying it would cost them too much. Employees were encouraged to keep their mouths shut. Larry witnessed a co-worker get paralyzed due to an accident resulting from a safety code violation. He and his fellow workers were immediately sent back underground to work after the accident. Larry decided to quit because of the dangerous conditions, and he applied for unemployment benefits. He was denied because the agency found that he did not have good cause for the voluntary quit. Larry hit a wall at every turn. When he appealed, not only was he denied a continuance to obtain legal counsel, the hearing officer also refused to let him introduce evidence of the 50+ pages of safety code violations issued to his employer in less than a few years. Basically, his employer was given the benefit of the doubt at every turn, and Larry was prevented from bringing up relevant evidence. The hearing officer found against Larry. We appealed his case, and the commission remanded his case for another hearing because Larry had been denied the opportunity to obtain counsel. At the new hearing, we were able to submit all of the safety violation evidence against the employer and present Larry's testimony about the dangerous working conditions. The hearing officer found that Larry had good cause to quit, and he was awarded unemployment benefits.