



INDIANA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

THE ADVOCATE

Ensuring Individuals Equal Access to Justice

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Serving the state of Indiana by providing free legal services to the low-income & elderly

Our Mission

The mission of Indiana Legal Services, Inc. is to use our resources to provide poor people with a wide variety of aggressive, quality legal services which will effectively help them to gain equal access to

ILS Helping Riley Hospital Patients

ILS is working with Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in a Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), providing free legal help to eligible families that have a child receiving medical care at the hospital. With the help of the hospital staff, the ILS staff provides direct legal counsel on matters ranging from receiving public benefits for which they are eligible, custody, guardianships, powers of attorney, special education and housing. The focus is to ensure that the family's financial integrity is not impaired by other civil legal issues as they care for their child's medical condition.

ILS also organizes training sessions for Riley Hospital's social work staff on these issues to help them better understand and to recognize families who may have these problems.

*the courts;
empower them to
control their
lives; and impact
on the major
causes and effects
of poverty.*

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To highlight the importance of the MLP, there was the case of “Jenny,” a toddler who was born with congenital birth defects. Jenny’s parents legally immigrated to the United States shortly before she was born here, and her parents needed to determine her right to disability benefits. After the parents were referred to the MLP, the ILS attorney contacted the Social Security Administration to determine the required steps needed to be taken to receive benefits. Jenny’s family then went to the SSA office (with instructions from the attorney) and the problem was immediately resolved.

Recognition Given to ILS Attorneys

The Indiana Lawyer, at a reception in May 2013, recognized a number of attorneys associated with Indiana Legal Services, Inc. (ILS) as Leaders in the Law. The publication honored the following lawyers for their professional commitments, social and civic involvement, and volunteer efforts as part of Leadership in the Law 2013.

Adam C. Mueller, a staff attorney in the ILS Indianapolis branch office, was recognized as an up and coming lawyer for his work in developing Medical-Legal Partnerships with Wishard Hospital and St. Francis Hospital. These MLPs provide legal help to health care patients in the Marion County area on civil legal matters that impact their well-being and their self-sufficiency both during and after they receive medical treatment.

The Honorable Calvin D. Hawkins, Judge in Lake County Superior Court, Civil Division 2 and 1st Vice President of the ILS Board of Directors, was honored as a distinguished barrister. The judge was selected for his involvement with “It’s Cool to Stay in School,” a program he created to encourage high school students in northwest Indiana to complete their formal high school education.

Ronald E. Elberger, a partner with Bose, McKinney & Evans LLP and a former employee of the Legal Services Organization of Indianapolis (a predecessor to ILS), was recognized as a distinguished barrister for active

engagement in the Indianapolis community, particularly for his philanthropy to the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Oni N. Harton, an associate with the Litigation Appellate and Investment Groups at Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, and a former intern at the ILS Senior Law Project in Indianapolis during her studies at the IU McKinney School of Law, was recognized as an up and coming attorney for her appellate advocacy work and the Indianapolis Bar Association's Pro Bono Hospice Program and Low Asset Will Program.

Congratulations to these legal professionals, as well as all 2013 Leaders in the Law.

Read More:

<http://www.theindianalawyer.com/leadership-in-law-2013>

Support to Veterans Project

The ILS Military Assistance Project (MAP), which provides free civil legal aid to military members, veterans, and their dependents, was awarded an Impact Grant of \$35,000 by the Indianapolis Bar Foundation. Marion County is the home to more than 60,000 veterans according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

MAP, staffed by attorneys who are retired veterans, will assist veterans with VA health care issues, service-connected disability compensation, VA income-based pensions, widow/widower benefits, military discharge issues, and provide legal advice and counsel on family and consumer law matters.

With the aid of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation Impact Grant, ILS plans to expand its veterans' outreach activities to the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center and to other locations serving our local veterans population. It will also enable the ILS staff to provide training on VA-related matters and to develop a special veterans' assistance handbook to enlist pro bono and modest means attorneys to volunteer their services in an effort to satisfy the legal needs of veterans. The grant will be used to develop a

listserv to foster greater collaboration between pro bono and modest means attorneys. The listserv will provide a forum for the attorneys to network, share information, and raise questions about case strategies.

“I am delighted that the Indianapolis Bar Foundation recognized the importance of removing the many legal challenges facing our local veterans, many of whom made great personal sacrifices to serve our country,” said Ms. Polli Pollem, the MAP staff attorney. “This project, with assistance from private attorneys, seeks to enable veterans and their families to become more productive members of our community.”

“With the framework developed and the experience gained from this particular project, our goal is to make it replicable in other areas of Indiana,” added Pollem.

Attorneys interested in learning more about the ILS Military Assistance Project and how they might get involved are encouraged to contact Polli Pollem at (317) 631-9410 ext 2295 or at polli.pollem@ilsin.net



Kelley J. Johnson, of Cohen & Malad LLP and President of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation, presenting the 2013 Indianapolis Bar Foundation Impact Fund Award to Polli Pollem, the MAP staff attorney, and Norman Metzger the Executive Director of Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

Read More: <http://www.theindianalawyer.com>

Sandra Leek Memorial Fund

To honor her memory and commitment to ensuring that all persons receive fair treatment under the law, the ILS Board of Directors established the Sandra Leek Memorial Fund. Sandra passed away last October 12.

Sandra, a native of Gary, Indiana, practiced law with the Legal Services Organization of Indiana in Indianapolis for

many years. During her tenure, she served as the Director of the State Support Center and Managing Attorney of the ILS Indianapolis branch office. For more than 11 years, she served on the ILS Board of Directors and was the Board 1st Vice President and President-Elect at the time of her death. Sandra was appointed by three Indiana Governors to serve as the Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. She served as the Chairperson of the Indiana Unemployment Insurance Review Board and as the President of the Marion County Bar Association.

The Sandra Leek Memorial Fund will be used to support an ILS Access to Justice Conference which will be named in memory. The conference will provide special poverty law training in different areas, including those related to labor and employment, disability law compliance, fair housing, and diversity and civil rights issues.

Contributions to the Sandra Leek Memorial Fund can be directed to ILS via our website, indianalegalservices.org, or by mail to ILS, 151 North Delaware Street Suite 1850, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

