



HEROES
for
JUSTICE
CELEBRATIONS

Peoria

September 28, 2017
The Waterhouse

Oak Brook

October 27, 2017
Hyatt Lodge

Welcome to Our 40th Anniversary Heroes for Justice Celebrations!

It is with sincere pleasure that I welcome you to our 40th Anniversary Heroes for Justice Celebrations! In a tumultuous year full of twists and turns, I have looked forward to these events as an oasis. Tonight is a chance for us to connect with Prairie State friends of past, present, and future, and an opportunity to recall where we have been and all that we have accomplished.

The following pages profile many individuals, our Heroes, who have demonstrated a deep commitment to our mission of securing equal access to justice. We celebrate their dedication and their generosity with their time and talents. Their efforts have been instrumental in making Prairie State what it is today—a vibrant program that creates positive change for the clients and communities we serve. While mere words cannot convey the depth of our gratitude, please take some time to read about the incredible devotion of these individuals, and join us in thanking them.

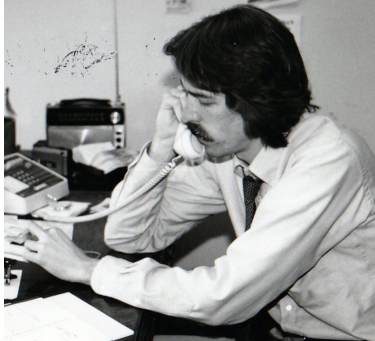
As we look ahead it is certain that we will face new challenges, but the legacy of our Heroes has created a solid foundation for Prairie State, and I am confident that we will achieve even greater accomplishments. However, one thing will remain the same: Prairie State Legal Services' success will depend heavily on people like you—champions of our cause!

Thank you for joining us tonight for this celebration and I hope you have a wonderful evening.

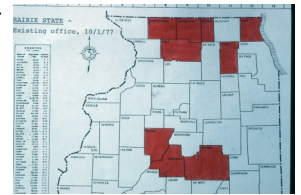
Michael O'Connor

Prairie State Legal Services: A Retrospective

By: Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services



Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) was created in 1977 by the merger of five bar association legal aid programs located in Kane, Lake, McLean, Peoria, and Winnebago Counties. This merger was motivated by the opportunity to apply for funding from the newly established, Legal Services Corporation ("LSC"). PSLS began operations with just five offices (Bloomington, Peoria, Rockford, St. Charles, and Waukegan), fifteen attorneys, three paralegals, and one or two support staff in each office. Within two years, PSLS opened offices in Kankakee, Ottawa, and Wheaton, allowing the program to serve clients not only in DuPage County but in a large number of rural counties which had not had legal aid programs. Soon a merger with the legal aid program in Rock Island added an office there, and later mergers with programs in Galesburg and Will County eventually expanded PSLS's footprint to our current 36-county service area.



In the early years, most of PSLS's funding came from LSC. However, almost immediately after it was established, LSC became the subject of much debate in Congress. While LSC has maintained a core of bipartisan support, funding has fluctuated significantly with a variety of restrictions and new regulations on use of those funds. With each funding reduction, however, PSLS was able to come back strongly. PSLS has proved to be nimble and creative in responding to the challenges, in order to continue its mission of providing equal access to justice and addressing legal problems which impact clients' basic needs.



The first major challenge came in 1981 when Congress cut the federal budget for LSC by nearly 25%; and in addition, Congress mandated that 10% of that money be used to encourage private bar involvement in legal aid. Under dynamic leadership from Joe Dailing, our founding



Executive Director, PSLS responded and became stronger. PSLS adapted to the reduction in funding by prioritizing cases to ensure that services had the greatest positive impact on clients. Our original two task forces, Housing and Public Benefits, met to share information, and to identify critical client needs and the best ways to meet them. We used technology to become more efficient – although the technology of the early 1980's would look

primitive to us now. We began very productive partnerships with local bar associations to establish *pro bono* projects or to expand existing projects, and volunteers became a crucial part of our service delivery. It helped to have younger attorneys, too, as they brought an idealistic energy to the organization. PSLS began an



aggressive effort to seek funding from United Ways, to decrease our dependence on federal funding, and the program became a national leader among legal aid programs in securing local support. We sought other funding as well, including Title III/Older Americans Act support and Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funding.

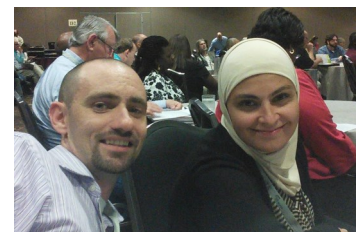
The next major challenge was the Contract with America in 1996; Congress again reduced funding for LSC, this time by 33%. Additional restrictions on the use of funding created another set of challenges, but PSLS answered resiliently and creatively. Despite reductions in staff, PSLS launched the



telephone counseling service to ensure access to services. This service provides legal advice to clients to enable them to address immediate issues, handle cases on their own, or learn of other resources which may be helpful. The counseling service also performs a triage and intake function, identifying cases which present the most urgent needs requiring additional services from the local offices. The reduction in LSC funding highlighted the need for additional diversification of support. The response: the Campaign for Legal Services, a peer to peer effort engaging members of the private bar. Our ambitious initial goal was to raise \$1,000,000 in the first three years, a goal which we nearly accomplished. Today, the Campaign continues to provide critical revenue to support services to clients.



Throughout the early years of the 21st century PSLS has increased efficiency and responded to emerging client needs and issues. Our current Executive Director, Mike O'Connor, has carried on Joe Dailing's forward-looking leadership. We are using technology to serve more clients more efficiently, for example by opening up online intake. We have applied for dedicated grants to support targeted projects. In response to the mortgage foreclosure crisis we sought grant funds to establish and support our Legal Help for Homeowners Project, to represent homeowners facing foreclosure. This project required staff to learn foreclosure law from the ground up and has prevented foreclosure and homelessness for scores of clients. Our Fair Housing Project represents clients in six counties and includes testing and enforcement. Our Low Income Tax Clinic represents clients who IRS controversies, including domestic violence victims seeking innocent spouse relief or resolution of Earned Income Tax Credit issues. Our new Ready to Work Project advocates for clients with barriers to employment, such as revoked drivers' licenses or arrest records. New Victims of Crime Act funds have enabled us to hire new attorneys to represent victims of domestic violence who need orders of protection and representation in a variety of related matters.



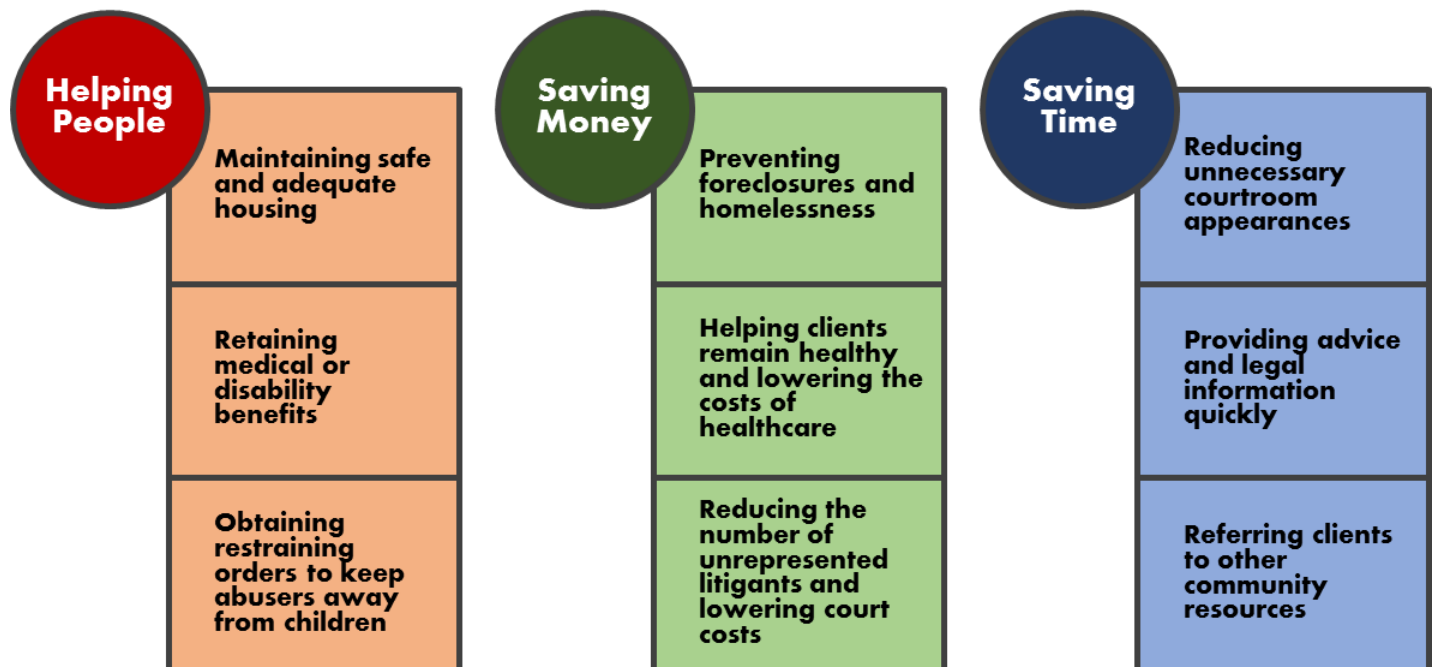
Today, PSLS is over 140 employees strong. Our work is supplemented by a virtual army of volunteers and is supported individuals across our 36 counties, and almost 80 funding sources. Our clients' needs have not diminished but with your help, we stand ready to continue to address those needs.

WE BELIEVE IN

Civil legal aid ensures equal access to justice for all—regardless of income. In civil cases, there is no guarantee of legal representation as there is in criminal cases, so those who are looking to get out of an abusive relationship, prevent foreclosure, retain custody of their children, prevent loss of health benefits, or address other non-criminal legal issues are left to seek legal representation with their own personal means.

Unfortunately, the cost of legal representation is too high for too many people. Prairie State Legal Services offers quality legal aid for free to ensure equal access to justice and fair treatment under the law, and to protect basic human needs and enforce or uphold rights.

Civil Legal Aid Helps Our Communities By...



JUSTICE FOR ALL.

In 2016, Prairie State Legal Services...



Thank you to the incredible, dedicated staff of Prairie State Legal Services!

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Kathy Boyle, Executive Secretary
Stacy Brandon, Secretary
Melanie Grossman, AmeriCorps VISTA
Emily Petri, Staff Attorney

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Cindy Andrews, Secretary
Tracey Mergener, Staff Attorney
Bart Wolek, Staff Attorney

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Suzanne Helwich, Pro Bono Coordinator
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Kim Loewen, Staff Attorney

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Beatrice Pedersen, Development Coordinator
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Dolores Wigman, Elder Rights Coordinator
Chelsey Wintersteen, Staff Attorney
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Rachel Wesley, Staff Attorney
Chris Weygand, Case Management System Manager

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Melanie Cannon, Staff Attorney
Denise Conklin, Managing Attorney
Aliesha Graves, Staff Attorney
Jesse Hodierne, Foreclosure Project Director
Jessica Hodierne, Office Manager/MLP Coordinator
Debbie Miller, Executive Secretary
Michele Miller, Staff Attorney
Yolanda Riley, Staff Attorney
Rashae Tate, Self-Help Navigator
Kate Whetstone, Pro Bono Coordinator
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AJ Young, Fair Housing Project Coordinator

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Cherie Myers, Secretary/Pro Bono Coordinator
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Kathleen Finn, Staff Attorney
Dalila Gerena, Paralegal
Monica Ghosh, Staff Attorney
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Laura Maglio, Staff Attorney
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Amber Moore, Staff Attorney
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Jamie Mosser, Staff Attorney
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Rachel Diamond, Staff Attorney
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Maria Espinosa, Receptionist
Catherine Herrmann, Telephone Counselor
Jackie Herrera Giron, Staff Attorney
Tiffany Harvey, Staff Attorney
Ji Soo Hwang, Staff Attorney

Waukegan Office (continued)

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Kathleen McNally, Telephone Counselor
Susan Perlman, Administrative Manager
Marcia Pierce, Telephone Counselor
Katie Pinter, Staff Attorney
Tim Rout, Staff Attorney
Charlene Swanson, Intake Specialist
Anna Viveros, Testing & Outreach Coordinator
Amy Weiss, Staff Attorney
Magdalena Wilk, Staff Attorney
Kionna Wright, Intake Specialist
Maya Ziv-El, Staff Attorney

Wheaton Office

DeShanna Byrdlong, HIV Outreach Paralegal
Jennifer Calvillo, Intake Specialist
Meg Cavanaugh, Secretary
Jeanette DeGrange, Staff Attorney
Santiago Del Real, Telephone Counselor
Melissa Fuechtmann, Telephone Counseling Supervisor
Yvette Golay, Staff Attorney
Jimena Hassler, Intake Specialist
Sheila Horan, Telephone Counselor
Denise Bezick Hume, Language Access Coordinator/Telephone Counselor
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Cindy Matre, Telephone Counselor
Kerry O'Brien, Staff Attorney
Molly Recar, Tax Law Project Director
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Alf Sanford, Telephone Counselor
Patty Smith, Intake Specialist
Elaine Sofferan, Telephone Counselor
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Lisa Thiede, Telephone Counselor
Marisa Wiesman, Managing Attorney
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In celebration of Prairie State Legal Services' 40th Anniversary, we honor the following Heroes for Justice:

Distinguished Heroes

Thomas L. Kilbride, *Illinois Supreme Court Justice*

Lisa Madigan, *Illinois Attorney General*

Heroes for Justice

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| R. Rennie Atterbury III (<i>Peoria</i>) | Maria Joan (<i>Aurora</i>) | Malou Roth (<i>Chicago</i>) |
| Sue Beard (<i>Wheaton</i>) | Kevin Kane (<i>Waukegan</i>) | Ruth Ann Schmitt (<i>Chicago</i>) |
| Jerry Brask (<i>Vancouver, WA</i>) | Matthew Kaplan (<i>Libertyville</i>) | Hon. Deborah Seyller (<i>Elgin</i>) |
| Hon. James L. Brusatte, Ret. (<i>Ottawa</i>) | Hon. James Knecht (<i>Normal</i>) | Larry Smith (<i>Waukegan</i>) |
| Hon. Michael Caldwell (<i>Woodstock</i>) | Secy. Ray LaHood (<i>Chicago</i>) | Alan Sternberg (<i>Bloomington</i>) |
| Burr Carter (<i>Rockford</i>) | Mark Marquardt (<i>Chicago</i>) | Dave Stone (<i>McHenry</i>) |
| John Cheek (<i>Peoria</i>) | Michael McElvain (<i>Bloomington</i>) | George Stuhr & Lea Drell (<i>Joliet</i>) |
| Leslie Corbett (<i>Chicago</i>) | Fred Moore (<i>Bloomington</i>) | Dean Sutton (<i>Rock Island</i>) |
| Joseph A. Dailing (<i>Rockford</i>) | Bob Muir (<i>Peoria</i>) | Dave Taylor (<i>Rockford</i>) |
| Marge Donaghue (<i>Kankakee</i>) | Kent Noble (<i>Peoria</i>) | Hon. Jane Waller, Ret. (<i>Waukegan</i>) |
| Herbert Franks (<i>Marengo</i>) | Tom O'Neal (<i>Peoria</i>) | C. David Ward (<i>McHenry</i>) |
| Hon. John Freese, Ret. (<i>Bloomington</i>) | John Porter (<i>Bloomington</i>) | Rory Weiler (<i>St. Charles</i>) |
| Douglas Gift (<i>Utica</i>) | John Pusey (<i>Peoria</i>) | |

Distinguished Hero for Justice

The Honorable Thomas L. Kilbride



is a Distinguished Hero for Justice, because . . .

Tom started as a staff attorney at our Rock Island office in 1981 representing clients in a range of poverty law matters, from housing law issues to child custody disputes. In the early 1980's he helped clients at a public housing complex in Rock Island defeat zoning approval for a waste treatment plant proposed to be located right next to the housing complex—avoiding a potential environmental catastrophe for the families living there. After representing hundreds of clients, in 1985, Tom became PSLS's first program-wide pro bono coordinator, expanding services to our clients through improved volunteer recruitment and participation. In 1987, Tom left PSLS to enter private practice. He continued with good works—serving as legal advisor for the Community Caring Conference, chairman of the Quad Cities Interfaith Sponsoring Committee, volunteer legal advisor to Quad City Harvest, Inc., and a member of the Rock Island Human Relations Commission.

In 2000, he was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois and was selected as Chief Justice in October 2010. While on the Court, Tom has championed access to justice for all. Among his many achievements, in 2012 the Illinois Supreme Court adopted Rule 10-100, creating the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to "promote, facilitate and enhance equal access to justice with an emphasis on access to the Illinois civil courts and administrative agencies for all people, particularly the poor and vulnerable." Tom said at the time "the purpose of the Commission is to make access to justice a high priority for everyone in the legal system. This includes judges, clerks, attorneys, other court personnel and even our law schools." The Commission has ushered in uniform plain language forms easy to use for pro se litigants; court training and guidance for working with pro se litigants; an amendment to the Judicial Canon of Ethics permitting judges to make reasonable efforts to facilitate the ability of the increasing numbers of pro se litigants to be fairly heard; a statewide Language Access Policy and a model circuit court language access plan; simpler attorney licensing requirements for spouses and civil union partners of active military personnel serving in Illinois; and amended Supreme Court rules increasing the ability of law students and other volunteers to practice law on behalf of indigent clients. The Commission also has grown and supported the Illinois JusticeCorps program to assist self-represented litigants in nine courthouses across the State; developed a Court policy on legal information and advice; and hosted numerous listening conferences and trainings across the State.

Distinguished Hero for Justice

Biography:

Justice Thomas Kilbride received a B.A. degree magna cum laude from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota in 1978 and received his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1981. He engaged in the general practice of law for 20 years in Rock Island.

Justice Kilbride was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois in 2000 and retained for a subsequent ten-year term in 2010. Also in 2010, he was elected Chief Justice by his colleagues on the Supreme Court. His three-year term as Illinois' Chief Justice ended on October 26, 2013.

During Justice Kilbride's tenure as Chief, the Court approved several key initiatives. They include enhancing the use of technology in all Illinois courts by encouraging electronic filing and other digital means of conducting court business; establishing a pilot project allowing cameras in Illinois trial courtrooms; and creating the Commission on Access to Justice to make it easier for all parties, including the poor and those with limited English proficiency, to navigate the Illinois court system.



Distinguished Hero for Justice

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan



is a Distinguished Hero for Justice, because . . .

Her entire career demonstrates a deep commitment to the ideals of equal access to justice, and she has been a true leader in Illinois and nationwide. Attorney General Madigan has been a consistent and powerful voice calling for support of civil legal aid. Every year she has used the authority of her office to advocate for state funding to ensure that civil legal aid is available to the people of Illinois. In the face of inadequate state funding, she demonstrated a bold act of leadership by awarding settlement funding to the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF). In 2012, she awarded \$20 million in national foreclosure settlement funds to Illinois civil legal aid providers as well as an additional \$5 million to support foreclosure mediation pilots across the state. In 2015, during the state budget impasse, she awarded \$7.2 million in settlement funds to support IEJF's grant programs and operations. Without Attorney General Madigan's support, Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) would have been forced to close offices and slash services. Instead, with her support, we have helped families facing foreclosure, victims of domestic violence, and countless others in need.

Attorney General Madigan's leadership was recognized when, in 2012, the White House conducted a forum examining the critical role of civil legal assistance for the poor in fulfilling the promise of "justice for all" and in maintaining America's commitment to the rule of law, issues that are fundamental to our way of life. Attorney General Madigan was invited to participate in this forum, where she spoke powerfully about the responsibility of each state to support civil legal aid and urged her colleagues across the country to utilize the authority of their office. Many followed her lead, and we are proud to call her our own.

Attorney General Madigan has used the authority and power of her office to protect the citizens of Illinois, particularly the most vulnerable. Her office has aggressively fought financial fraud and unfair lending practices, and was a leader in fighting abuses by the mortgage industry. She has protected victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by pushing for stronger legal protections and increased funding for services. PSLS and the entire legal aid community and the clients it serves salute Attorney General Lisa Madigan's commitment to equal access to justice. She has made a profound impact on our work and has made a positive difference in the lives of millions.

Distinguished Hero for Justice

Biography:

Lisa Madigan was elected to a 4th term as Illinois Attorney General in November 2014. She is the senior most female Attorney General in the country and the longest serving Attorney General in Illinois history.

Recognized for her leadership and integrity, Lisa Madigan has brought a high level of activism to the Office of Attorney General. From her first days in office, she has demonstrated principled leadership, putting policy before politics and focusing her work as the state's top legal advocate on protecting the people and communities of Illinois. Under Madigan's direction, her office has collected over \$13 billion for the state.

Madigan's Consumer Protection Division has established a national reputation for aggressively safeguarding consumers from financial fraud and discriminatory lending in mortgage, student, and payday lending. She was also lead negotiator in the \$25 billion National Mortgage Settlement with the nation's largest banks.

The Attorney General's efforts to protect women, children and seniors have also garnered national attention. She has advocated for stronger laws to protect women and children from sexual violence, and she ushered a bill through the Illinois legislature that made the state the first in the country to mandate testing sexual assault evidence kits. The Attorney General also leads a statewide task force to investigate online child exploitation, and she has championed tougher sanctions against sexual predators.

Madigan created the first-ever Public Access Counselor and strengthened the state's sunshine laws, and in her continued efforts to crack down on public corruption and government misconduct, Madigan created a Public Integrity Unit to investigate fraud, waste and abuse.

Madigan has successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. She regularly testifies before Congress on mortgage and student lending, data breaches and data security, the national rape kit testing backlog, and consumer issues including, telephone bill cramming, unsafe children's products, and natural gas pricing. The U.S. State Department appointed her to serve on the U.S. delegation before the United Nations Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review to discuss state-level human rights issues.

Before her election as Attorney General, Madigan served in the Illinois Senate and worked as a litigator for a Chicago law firm. Prior to becoming an attorney, she worked as a teacher and community advocate, developing after-school programs to help kids stay away from drugs and gangs. Madigan also volunteered as a high school teacher in South Africa during apartheid.

Madigan earned her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. She and her husband, Pat Byrnes, have two daughters.

Heroes for Justice

Meet Our Heroes!

Finalizing our list of “40 Heroes for Justice” was no easy task, but we could not be prouder of the final product! Our heroes include an impressive group of former board members, former staff, donors, funders, judges, and politicians* whose support has significantly impacted the lives of PSLS clients. Providing a comprehensive description of each hero’s biographies and accomplishments proved impossible in less than 100 pages; therefore, the following pages provide only brief explanations from former and present PSLS staff, as well as PSLS Board members, of the sincere dedication and exemplary character of our Heroes for Justice. Thank you and ongratulations!

*Current PSLS staff and board members were excluded from consideration.

R. Rennie Atterbury III



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Rennie Atterbury’s support has left a lasting footprint on our history. Rennie was a member of PSLS’s Board of Directors from 1998-2004. He served as Board President from 2003-04. During this time, Before retiring, Rennie was General Counsel, Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Caterpillar, Inc. He was instrumental in getting Caterpillar’s legal department more involved in PSLS’s mission. Today, PSLS continues to have representation from Caterpillar on its Board of Directors and our local fundraising committees.

~Jenn Luczkowiak, PSLS Director of Development~

Sue Beard

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

As executive secretary in PSLS's DuPage County office from 1989 to 2009, Sue was a true partner in serving our clients, always following up with clients and ensuring our attorneys kept in good contact with them. She was kind and patient with all, no matter how difficult. In addition to her secretarial duties, Sue became very instrumental in the launch and operation of our telephone counseling system and client database. The phone technology was rocky at the start, and Sue was invaluable in identifying and fixing problems. She approached each challenge with enthusiasm and certainty that it could be resolved. Smart, compassionate, and a terrific team player, Sue is truly one of our heroes.

~Sarah Megan, PSLS Director of Litigation~



Jerry Brask



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Jerry Brask was a legal aid pioneer, a forceful advocate, one of our original housing law experts and top-notch litigators, and a mentor to many young attorneys. In PSLS's early years, Jerry helped bring acceptance of and respect for the concept of legal services to the poor to Kane County. Jerry started as a staff attorney in the Kane County office, became Managing Attorney of the DuPage County office, and served as Deputy Director of Litigation, before moving to Oregon. Jerry believed in the "right" way to practice law—to analyze and understand every aspect of your case from all angles, be

responsive to clients, research to the hilt, and always communicate clearly and concisely. Whether he was consulting on a case with another staff attorney, or leading the charge himself, he never settled for anything less. ~Dave Wolowitz, PSLS Associate Director~

Heroes for Justice

The Honorable James L. Brusatte, Ret.

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

On the bench, Judge Brusatte was a source of wisdom, humor, and justice. Upon retirement, he decided to devote his knowledge, experience, and sense of humor to 3 nonprofit organizations—including PSLS! Under his leadership, the pro bono program in the PSLS Ottawa office has benefitted tremendously. His tireless recruitment of new attorneys has strengthened the program and facilitated providing excellent legal services for clients who were without the resources necessary to hire an attorney.

If you know his background, his work at PSLS is really a continuation of his avocation to providing justice for all. His past work as a pro-bono attorney and his work as a public defender each exemplify his inner sense of fairness and service. He is very deserving of this honor and is a bright shining star in a profession that often appears tarnished. ~Jean Fletcher, PSLS Staff Attorney, Ottawa~



The Honorable Michael Caldwell



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Judge Caldwell breathed new life into our local pro-bono program. In McHenry County, the program is sponsored by the local bar, but administered by our PSLS office, making consistent communication and cooperation between PSLS and the Bar essential. Judge Caldwell kindly stepped up to serve as chairperson of the Legal Aid committee, and we held our meetings in his chambers. Over time, we have developed a small but dedicated team that has initiated better ways to place cases with volunteers, and works together on the annual Legal Aid Award luncheon and pro-bono week events.

Without the active and willing support of Judge Caldwell, this would not have happened. Thanks to Judge Caldwell from PSLS and from every client we have helped through the Legal Aid program over the past 10 years - our program has done well with his active and visible support. ~Dori Michaels, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, McHenry~

Burr Carter

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Burr was Controller for PSLS from 1985 until 2007. Although serving as our financial guru through funding ups and downs and narrow escapes of the 1980's-2000's was challenging enough for one person, Burr wore many other hats, including serving as our IT specialist. He shepherded us through many technology changes, including IBM Selectrics, our first computers, our first databases, and our first networked phone system for our telephone counseling service. Burr's calm, diligent way allayed many anxieties about all these changes. His efforts greatly improved our services to our clients and he is truly one of our heroes.

~Sarah Megan, PSLS Director of Litigation~



John Cheek



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

John was employed by Caterpillar as Senior Corporate Counsel in the Legal Services Division, and he led by example in encouraging his CAT colleagues to participate in pro bono work and provide financial support to PSLS. John Cheek served on the PSLS Board from 2010-17, including two years as Vice President. During this time, we undertook a major strategic planning process and John's involvement was exemplary; he was generous with his time and talent and provided a wise and thoughtful voice during many hours of meetings. In all this, John demonstrated a passion for our mission and dedication to the long-term strength and success of PSLS. And, beyond all this, John is an extremely talented musician;

his jazz combo entertained at many PSLS events. ~Mike O'Connor, PSLS Executive Director~

Leslie Corbett

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Leslie Corbett has provided leadership and support for Illinois legal aid programs for years, including a lead role in funding a report on the social and economic benefits of legal aid in Illinois. She then assisted PSLS in a special project funded by LSC to merge unidentified client data from into a central database administered by Illinois Legal Aid Online and attach various census data for analysis. Leslie's advocacy for legal aid to the Illinois State Legislature has been critical in accessing state funds for civil legal services. We are so thankful for all of her expertise and advocacy that has helped PSLS in its development.

~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~



Joseph A. Dailing

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Joe Dailing set the tone of client-centered service which has defined Prairie State's approach and been at the heart of it's philosophy throughout the program's four decades. Joe envisioned and launched many of the structures and institutions that are central to PSLS today. Our task forces, the telephone counseling service, funding diversification, the Campaign for Legal Services: we take these things for granted now, but they were original and almost revolutionary in their time. They earn Joe the label of visionary. ~Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~



Joe was the founding executive director of PSLS and provided great leadership within PSLS and within the larger legal aid community. He lead the organization through some of the most difficult times.

Joseph A. Dailing (continued)

In 1981, PSLS was dependent on federal funding, when the Reagan Administration pushed for the elimination of this funding. Joe responded by creating large planning groups within PSLS to develop plans if funding was cut by 50% or 30%. Staff submitted position papers and committees met under his leadership. A one-third cut was enacted and while very difficult, the organization retained positive morale and went about its work to help low-income people in need.

Joe led PSLS in expanding grant funding, using available technology to be more efficient, and continuing PSLS's commitment to service. This process was repeated again in 1996 when PSLS funding suffered another one-third cut. Joe prodded and pushed for us to adopt new strategies, such as our telephone counseling service, which helped us maintain access to legal help with fewer resources. We thank Joe for his 29 years of leadership at PSLS and for giving us a great foundation to build upon. Joe is an amazingly kind, thoughtful, and compassionate friend and it is our honor to know him.

~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~

Marge Donaghue

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Marge served on the PSLS Board from 1999 until 2006, including a term as Vice President. At each stage in her life Marge has been engaged in improving her community, and she has volunteered in a wide range of activities. Through these experiences Marge is well familiar with the problems facing the low-income community. Marge was a dedicated and engaged board member, generous with her time. In meetings, Marge was a strong advocate for the needs of our clients, always with a calm voice of experience and wisdom.

~Mike O'Connor, PSLS Executive Director~



Herb Franks



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Herb Franks has a long history of charitable giving. Not only has he generously supported PSLS throughout the years, he is on the Board of Trustees of two religious colleges and also served as a board member of the Illinois Bar Foundation. He spent a number of years as Treasurer and then President of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, where he oversaw large contributions to PSLS. A “roast” was held in his honor in 2014, which involved many elected officials in the State of Illinois, and raised a large sum, all benefitting PSLS. In addition to PSLS, Herb insists on giving law firm partnership

funds to various charities. ~Steve Greeley, PSLS Attorney Board Member~

The Honorable John Freese, Retired

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Retired Judge John Freese helped establish the local fundraising committee, or Campaign for Legal Services Committee, in the PSLS Bloomington office. Through his hard work and guidance, the campaign has successfully grown each year over the past 8 years. I have worked with him on the campaign since 2011, and have been inspired by his passion for equal justice. I have learned a lot from him including how to effectively lead and how to get things done. ~Adrian Barr, PSLS Managing Attorney, Bloomington~



Doug Gift



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Doug's commitment to PSLS and low income clients has played out in many ways. He served as a Board Member from our area, and was instrumental in his firm's creation of a pro bono award in the Ottawa area. He also helped to establish a fund to help pay for litigation costs that were not waived and that clients could not afford in pro bono cases for clients in our area. Even since his retirement, Doug remains involved with our local fundraising committee, working tirelessly to fundraise by making calls and sending notes asking colleagues to contribute. At our meetings, he always brainstorms new and creative ideas. Doug is a friend to all of us who work at PSLS in

Ottawa, and we value his camaraderie as much as his expertise. He always has a good word, and always inquires as to how things are going. ~Jean Fletcher, PSLS Staff Attorney, Ottawa~

Maria Joan

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Maria served so long as a client board member that the Board created an emeritus member position, so we could continue to benefit from her valuable input despite her term's end. Maria is a dedicated advocate in DuPage County. Maria has been active in all Board discussions impacting low income persons. She has never been intimidated by the fact that she was surrounded by attorneys in these meetings and always has respectfully spoken her mind. Maria's advocacy on behalf of low income persons goes beyond her role with PSLS. She has taken active roles in a number of statewide planning groups and helps to ensure the voice of those in need are heard.

~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~



Kevin Kane



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

He is painfully uncomfortable with being called a hero. My friend, partner emeritus, and role model, Kevin Kane has always done what is right, fair, just and honest because it *is right, fair, just, and honest*. He doesn't seek recognition, thanks, or accolades. On top of that, he could have rested on his "access to justice" laurels after leaving PSLs—but he didn't. Kevin continues to make contributions through writing, teaching, training, mentoring, and taking pro bono cases. He encourages and assists others in doing the same. He's more of a Jimmy Stewart or Gary Cooper kind of hero than a Batman or Spiderman, but he doesn't need the cape. Rather, he is cloaked in integrity, empathy and kind-heartedness. Don't we want that in all of our heroes, even if they can't sling webs or travel faster than a speeding bullet? ~Deb Goldberg, PSLs Attorney Board Member~

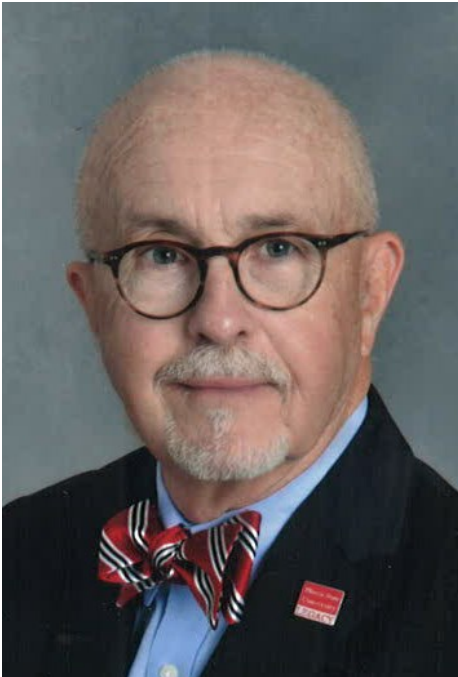
Matthew Kaplan

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Matt Kaplan has always been a great resource—happily sharing his expertise in family law by providing helpful information and sample pleadings. I first met Matt as opposing counsel in one of my first family law cases. He always seems to be in the courtroom to answer a quick question and make me feel comfortable on the first floor in Waukegan. He's been very supportive of the work I do at PSLs and deserves to be recognized as a hero for justice. Matt successfully argued before the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 in *Best v. Best*, where the court held that if the court finds abuse, the court shall issue an order of protection. We have been citing this case in our closing arguments for years. ~Amy Weiss, PSLs Staff Attorney, Waukegan~



The Honorable James Knecht



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Justice Knecht has spent his illustrious career improving the community. He uses his many gifts, including his powerful oratory skills, to inspire people, to help others, and to work harder to improve our communities. Justice Knecht supports social services to achieve their vision, to improve the lives of the vulnerable members of our community. When called upon, he does what he can for social service agencies. One of his goals is that everyone—no matter their income level, race or background—receives fair treatment. His work benefits the community at large—when life is fairer for everyone, the community benefits because there are less social problems as a result of poverty.

~Adrian Barr, PSLS Managing Attorney, Bloomington~

U.S. Secretary Ray LaHood

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Ray LaHood served in the US House of Representatives from 1995-2009, and was widely respected and admired by his colleagues and constituents regardless of party affiliation. Senator John McCain said of him: "He has always fought for the best interests of our nation—recognizing that bipartisan compromises often provide the best solutions to the problems facing our country." During his time in Congress there were several efforts to defund LSC; Congressman LaHood stood by LSC and took every opportunity to educate and persuade his colleagues of the importance of equal access to justice and LSC.

~Mike O'Connor, PSLS Executive Director~



Mark Marquardt



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

As Executive Director of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois (LTF), Mark has helped Illinois legal aid programs tackle new issues and access resources to improve services. Under his leadership, LTF created the Ready to Work program, enabling PSLS to target new services at helping people overcome legal barriers to employment. When taking on a new type of legal service, LTF provides funding, time, and technical supports to improve chances for success. Before becoming the Executive Director of LTF, Mark provided leadership in various aspects of legal aid work including coordinating statewide planning around pro bono work, access to justice planning in Illinois, and use of technology. PSLS has worked with Mark for over 25 years and we appreciate his ideas, flexibility, and dedication to

access to justice. ~Gail Walsh, Director of Program Development~

Michael McElvain

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Mike McElvain's pro bono service is exceptional. Mike has held many positions promoting and providing equal access to justice. In McLean County, if PSLS has a conflict with a potential client, that person is referred directly to Mike as the McLean County Bar Association's Conflict Committee Chair. In this role, Mike has handled most of the cases himself but refers cases to the private bar, if possible. Mike also served as the chair of the 11th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, helping to increase pro bono services throughout our circuit. Mike was a recipient of the ISBA John McAndrews Award which was well deserved. In times of need, PSLS has turned to Mike for help rallying the private bar to increase its pro bono efforts. It has been a pleasure working with Mike growing pro bono participation year after year in McLean County. ~Adrian Barr, PSLS Managing Attorney, Bloomington~



Fred Moore



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

He has been supporting our mission and clients for 40 years! Admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1970, Fred was an original signatory of PSLS's Articles of Incorporation on May 31, 1977. Throughout our history he has given his time and talent to further our mission, and his support of the PSLS Bloomington office continues today. In 2016, Fred assisted with our Legal Aid Fair and accepted two pro bono cases. PSLS is lucky to have had such strong leadership in its formative years.

~Jenn Luczkowiak, PSLS Director of Development~

Bob Muir

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Bob began volunteering at PSLS the same summer that I did. Through our office, Bob passionately served the lost and disadvantaged for over a decade, often taking clients under his wing to mentor them. Bob's Christian values guide him, and our clients were blessed to be in his care.

~Denise Conklin, PSLS Managing Attorney, Peoria~

Bob has been a dedicated PSLS volunteer for the Peoria office since 1999. He has helped on over 150 cases and has donated a staggering 2,293 hours. He became a 'go-to' volunteer for years never shying away from complicated family cases.

~Kate Whetstone, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, Peoria~



Kent Noble



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Kent Noble was instrumental in the birth and early development of PSLS. He served as President of the Greater Peoria Legal Aid Society and the Central Illinois Legal Aid Society, predecessors to PSLS. Kent was one of the signatories on PSLS's Articles of Incorporation, and served as President of PSLS's Board of Directors in its inaugural year. Kent's civic mindedness was not limited to supporting legal aid. He also served as the president of the 600-member Peoria County Bar Association and the 300 member-Downtown Rotary Club of Peoria, where he led a number of volunteer efforts. Kent retired from practice in 2016 to take a well-deserved rest.

Thank you Kent!

~Linda Rothnagel, Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~

Tom O'Neal

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

In 1995, PSLS's efforts to raise funds through private donations had resulted in only \$11,000 annually. PSLS faced major cuts in federal funding. Then Board member, Tom O'Neal, attended a national training about raising funds from the legal community and returned with a lofty goal. He stood up at a board meeting and said we should raise one million dollars over three years. We thought that was impossible, but Tom motivated the board and staff, and as a result our Campaign for Legal Services raised that amount and continues to raise over \$400,000 each year. Tom's energy and commitment has inspired many staff and board members and he has continued to be a leader in his community.

~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~



John R. "Jack" Porter, Jr.



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Jack Porter's passion for social justice has defined his life and career for over five decades. Jack has long immersed himself in local struggles to end unfair housing practices, to fight racism, to give legal representation to the poor, and to stop predatory actions that threaten people, neighborhoods, and the environment. We are fortunate that he worked at PSLS as a Staff Attorney and then as Managing Attorney of the Bloomington Office.

~Adrian Barr, PSLS Managing Attorney, Bloomington~

Becoming a lawyer was just another strategy for Jack's advocacy work and we are so fortunate that he chose that path. Jack exemplifies the spirit we want in all staff--a

commitment to advocate for justice. ~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~

John Pusey

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

John Pusey is a dedicated volunteer for the PSLS's Peoria office. In private practice, he took over 30 pro bono cases amounting to over 495 hours of work. He recently retired, but has remained committed to ensuring equal access to justice by continuing to take cases. He is eager to help in family law cases, and doesn't shy away from some of the messier cases. He always has a great attitude and is a true pleasure to work with. PSLS is lucky to have him!

~Kate Whetstone, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, Peoria~

"I can help." I have known John for about 10 years, and have heard him say this simple sentence many times in response to a request from PSLS. John's heart for the poor and underprivileged shows in his work.

~Denise Conklin, PSLS Managing Attorney, Peoria~



Malou Roth



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Malou has been an invaluable resource to PSLS and many other legal aid organizations in Illinois. As a human resources professional, she has provided countless pro bono hours of training and advice to PSLS management in areas related to human resources, such as interviewing, staff evaluations, and having difficult conversations.

~Jenn Luczkowiak, PSLS Director of Development~

There is no one more skilled than Malou at cutting to the chase. She has an incredible ability to state what should have been obvious about what seemed like a complicated situation, unraveling the competing factors, simplifying the situation and making the solution crystal clear—all in a matter of seconds. She is clear and straight forward but still kind—an incredible balancing act. ~Linda Rothnagel, Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~

Ruth Ann Schmidt

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Ruth Ann devoted her career to public interest work. As Executive Director of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois (LTF) from its founding in 1983 until her retirement in 2015, Ruth Ann sought an independent assessment of the need for civil legal aid in Illinois. This assessment not only documented the large unmet need, but also identified strategies to improve the efficiency of civil legal aid using technology. This moved PSLS from operating with a single massive word processor on secretaries' desks to computers on every case handler's desk, which also led to cascading technological improvements that helped PSLS evolve. Finally, PSLS has been able to maintain its services throughout its large rural service area thanks to targeted financial support by LTF. ~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~



The Honorable Deborah Seyller



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

As Kane County Circuit Clerk, Deborah Seyller improved access to justice for all. After noting the difficult process to obtain an order of protection, Ms. Seyller worked with partners, including PSLs, to streamline the process using technology. Now, people seeking orders of protection may complete forms on tablets at the courthouse that are electronically filed and sent to a judge for consideration. If granted, the emergency order is sent to the sheriff for service on the abuser, often allowing the sheriff to serve the respondent before the petitioner has returned from court. This streamlined procedure greatly enhances safety for victims, who may encounter the greatest danger when attempting to leave an abusive situation. For all her efforts, Ms. Seyller is truly a hero for justice!

~Sarah Megan, PSLs Director of Litigation~

Larry Smith

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Larry's professional mission was to serve his fellow man, keeping a nameplate on his desk that read, "Larry Smith — Human Being." Before PSLs, he was a social worker and counselor with public welfare agencies and the Illinois Department of Corrections. He joined PSLs's Waukegan office in 1987 after graduating from law school. Here, he worked for fellow human beings facing urgent legal problems affecting their safety, housing, and access to medical care. As a staff attorney, he worked to serve vulnerable people aged 60 or over, and supervised the Lake County Volunteer Lawyers Program. In 2008, he became the Managing Attorney of the Waukegan office and held that role until he retired in 2014. In retirement, he continues to represent clients pro bono.

~Susan Perlman, PSLs Pro Bono Coordinator, Waukegan~



Alan Sternberg



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Al is a champion for fairness and equal justice. He consistently handled pro bono cases while working in State Farm's legal department and he continues to do so after his retirement. He has also been an active member of Bloomington's local fundraising committee, or the Campaign for Legal Services Committee. Thanks to Al's leadership and hard work, the Campaign has grown every year. In addition to those efforts Al served on PSLS's Board of Directors for many years. We are extremely fortunate that we can rely on Al's experience and wisdom to guide us through good times and bad. One of my favorite aspects of working at Prairie State is that I am able to work with and be inspired by Al and people like him to promote equal justice for all.

~Adrian Barr, PSLS Managing Attorney, Bloomington~

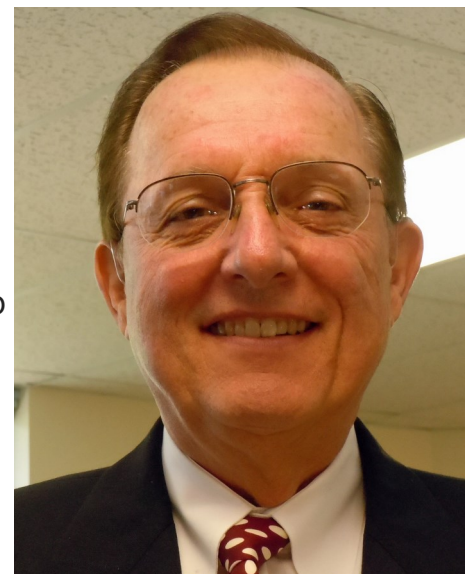
David Stone

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

David was an in-house volunteer for five busy years. His first "office" was the supply closet in our Woodstock office. He was there every Tuesday for walk-in hours, advised many clients on a wide range of legal issues, and handled some difficult family law cases. He was a truly dedicated volunteer and we loved having him as part of our team. ~Dori Michaels, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, McHenry~

One of the things that I admire most about David Stone is that despite his substantial experience and extensive trial practice, he is humble. He was not afraid to comment that our work is complex or to remark on the specialized knowledge of the staff.

~Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~



George Stuhr and Lea Drell



are Heroes for Justice, because . . .

George and Lea have devoted their careers to helping the underserved and needy population. George began his legal career in 1984 and Lea in 1985 and both have since continuously volunteered for PSLS. Lea served on the Board of Directors of Will County Legal Assistance (before merging with PSLS) from 1991-2009. Both won Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteer Awards in 1990 and 2000. Collectively, they

have been practicing law for almost 65 years and they have both been active volunteers for the PSLS Pro Bono Project for all of these years. Since 1999, 142 people have been helped by George and Lea through the Pro Bono Project. I can barely say hello before one asks "what can I do?," or "how can I help?" ~Suzanne Helwich, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, Joliet~

Dean Sutton

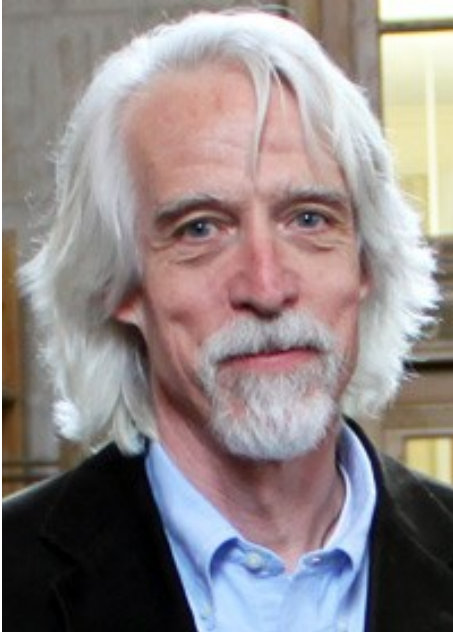
is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Dean Sutton started with PSLS as the first Managing Attorney of the Rock Island office. After entering private practice his strong commitment to civil legal aid continued. He was a member of the PSLS Board of Directors and was at the forefront of the first fundraising campaign. Dean has been a pro bono volunteer since 1983. Dean won the Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award in 1991 and the Thomas L. Kilbride Award in 2012. After retirement in 2013, he became an in-house volunteer in the Rock Island office representing clients in over 376 cases. He continues to be a resource to our staff and a zealous advocate for the low-income and senior members of our community.

~Gretchen Farwell, PSLS Managing Attorney, Rock Island~



Dave Taylor



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

I met Dave in 1982. His patience and legal skill were well-recognized in the organization, leading to his position as Deputy Director of Litigation where he helped many attorneys improve their legal skills and provide excellent services for our clients. Upon joining the faculty of Northern Illinois University College of Law (NIUCOL), Dave continued to work with PSLS. In 1997, he helped PSLS establish a project to serve domestic violence victims. The project included a PSLS staff attorney hired in collaboration with NIUCOL who taught a domestic violence course and supervised law students working at our courthouse project in Kane County. ~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~

The Honorable Jane Waller, Retired

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Her patience with litigants and attorneys alike and her respect for every person who came in front of her impressed me every time I was in her courtroom. As a judge she was helpful on many occasions as we built Prairie State into an effective voice for clients. ~Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~

While serving as Lake County's first female judge, the Honorable Jane Waller was known for treating pro se litigants and attorneys with genuine kindness. After her retirement from the bench, she has been instrumental in helping Prairie State Legal Services raise funds from Lake County law firms and from Lake County corporations. ~Susan Perlman, PSLS Administrative Manager, Waukegan~



C. David Ward



is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Dave is an exceptional volunteer. He accepts cases for many of our Prairie State offices, but in McHenry he truly is a shining star. He meets with clients in our office once a month. In 2016, Dave handled nearly half of the pro bono cases we referred. He is a joyful presence, and we look forward to his visits. If he isn't dancing when he comes in (which he often is), he dances on his way out, and he always has a couple of interesting stories to tell or a time-honored joke to share. He is one-of-a-kind, and we cannot thank him enough for all he has done for so many of our clients in need.

~Dori Michaels, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, McHenry~

Rory Weiler

is a Hero for Justice, because . . .

Rory believes he is part of a "privileged profession, and part of his obligation is to give back to the community that has given him the financial security with which he has been blessed." He has been asking for the "ugliest cases" to handle pro bono for at least 20 years. He has represented 40 clients and spent countless hours fighting for our clients rights. Rory won the McAndrews Award for his pro bono efforts. Rory has mentored new attorneys and served on the Fox Valley fund-raising committee. Prairie State Legal Services has been very blessed to have Rory Weiler as one of its pro bono attorneys and we are deeply appreciative of all the time and energy he has expended on behalf of the indigent of Kane County.

~Marcy Heston, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, St. Charles~



Remembering Former Heroes

In addition to the Heroes featured on the preceding and honored as part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, PSLS has had many heroes along the way that have played a large role in shaping PSLS today, but whom are no longer here to celebrate with. Here, we remember a few of those heroes.



The Honorable Roger Benson (1932-2017)

Judge Roger Benson was an invaluable resource to PSLS. He handled hundreds of pro bono cases through our uncontested divorce clinic. He was a patient, compassionate and tireless advocate for our clients. He received PSLS's Volunteer Attorney of the Year award in 2003 and 2011. He was a retired associate circuit court judge and was also a private practice attorney. He was a member of the Kankakee County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Judges Association, American Judges Association, and the Delta Theta Pi Law Fraternity. He was

also a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, serving as Senior Counsellor- Class of 2008 (50 years of legal service). Roger was a recipient of Judge Duane O'Connor Leadership Award in December of 2008. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Illinois Bar Association John C. McAndrew's Pro Bono Service Award. ~Nancy Hinton, PSLS Pro Bono Coordinator, Kankakee~



Joyce Bingham (1939-2014)

Joyce Bingham worked in the Rockford office of Prairie State as a paralegal for more than twenty years. Before coming to Prairie State she worked as a paralegal with the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago. Joyce was short, spoke with a slight British accent and had an almost spontaneous smile when she met anyone. Joyce dealt with a lot of senior clients and other clients with public benefit problems. Her clients loved her. I remember the mother of one elderly client wrote back after several interviews, praising Joyce. She said that Joyce had made the difficulty and unpleasantness of dealing with end-of-life issues much easier and more comprehensible for her

mother. The writer said that Joyce's whole approach and demeanor had put her mother's mind at rest. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~



Remembering Former Heroes (continued)



Laurie Cohen (d. 1995)

From 1977 to 1995, Laurie Cohen was a critical employee at PSLS. She was hired as a Title III attorney in Peoria and soon thereafter, she became the Training Coordinator for PSLS. She organized the first PSLS picnic and continued to organize it for many years. She organized training events and always made sure that things ran smoothly and everyone was involved. When funding for the Legal Services Corporation was reduced and PSLS had to restructure, Laurie moved to Rockford and took over the job of grant writing, at which she excelled. She also supervised the Senior

Citizens' Legal Services Task Force, oversaw the development of PSLS' community education materials, developed and wrote the Annual Report up until her death, wrote a quarterly newsletter for the public and also helped write a very funny newsletter for the staff. She was a woman of many talents who was warm and giving. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~



Lane Evans (1951-2014)

Lane Evans actually never worked for Prairie State. I hired him as a Summer Intern, probably in 1976, when I was director of Western Illinois Legal Assistance Foundation (WILAF). Lane was attending law school at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He grew up in Rock Island, we both attended Alleman High School although years apart. He was hired to rewrite a Legal Aid Manual which we had developed in Rock Island to provide correct and current legal information mostly to social workers. Before going to law school, Lane had served in the Marine Corps. Even then he had a strong interest in politics.

Lane went into private practice just about the time that WILAF was being merged into PSLS. Lane entered politics soon thereafter as the Democratic candidate for Congress. Lane won the election. He continued to serve as a U.S. Congressman until he resigned due to his Parkinson's disease. During his time in Congress, Lane was a quiet and consistent supporter of the Legal Services Corporation and PSLS. Whenever I met him in his years in Congress, he was the same as he had always been, warm and approachable. Whenever I requested his assistance, he responded. During the Campaign for Legal Services kick-offs in Rock Island, he came several times and spoke strongly in support of PSLS. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~

In Memoriam

Remembering Former Heroes (continued)



Arlene Falotico (d. 2004)

Arlene Falotico volunteered in the PSLS Waukegan office. Arlene volunteered as a paralegal and had her own caseload. Over the years she volunteered countless hours and represented many clients. She always told me that she enjoyed the work and loved advocating for clients. Although a volunteer, Arlene participated on taskforces, came to training events, and the annual retreat as any other staff member. She was respected and liked by her colleagues, but Arlene was no pushover and she was a zealous advocate for her clients. She had a keen sense of right and wrong and that sense of justice was clearly a motivating factor in her life and in her work. Because she was bright and worked hard, she usually succeeded in making the world a little bit more just, at least for her clients. And as she was dying, she asked her husband to tell their friends not to send flowers but to donate money to PSLS to continue to make the world a little more just. When I think of her today, I am reminded not only of her

commitment but of her smile which could light up a room. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~

Harold "Hal" Goldman (d. 2005)

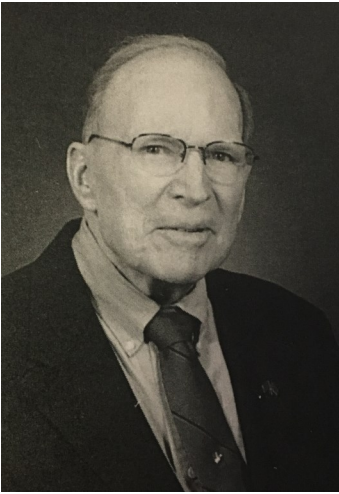
Hal Goldman was a self-made legal aid lawyer. Hal was a WWII vet, an intrepid world traveler, a committed father and husband, and a philanthropist. When he retired from a long career as a CPA, he decided to dust off his law degree and put it to work. He contacted me and urged me to take him on at a time when we were short-staffed and felt we couldn't supervise a new volunteer. Our clients were richly rewarded. Hal taught himself housing law and became the bane of many landlords and their attorneys.

I cannot remember Hal without mentioning his wife Ruth. Ruth was a pioneer among women attorneys in Chicago. She and their children made an extraordinary gift to Prairie State in Hal's memory. Although she was driven as an attorney, Ruth was the soft counterpart to Hal's endearing irascibility." ~Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~

Hamilton Hale (1906-1994)

I met Hamilton Hale first on the telephone in 1978. PSLS was less than a year old. The plan was to open an office in McHenry County and Hamilton had heard about the proposed expansion. He wanted to help facilitate a meeting between the McHenry County Legal Aid group and PSLS. For a number of years, the McHenry County Bar Association had run a mandatory pro bono program in the county that was incorporated as a nonprofit with its own board. The Legal Aid Committee was opposed to PSLS opening a McHenry office and Hamilton was instrumental in arranging a meeting between me and the Legal Aid Committee. Hamilton told me that he wanted to meet with me before the meeting to give me some background on what to expect. While the committee did not become instant supporters of PSLS, Hamilton's behind the scenes work ensured a certain level of trust and allowed the opening of the office to go forward. He was a critical but unseen Hero for Justice. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~

Remembering Former Heroes (continued)



Tom Hamlin (1932-2015)

Tom Hamlin came to Prairie State after a distinguished 35 year career with the Marine Corps. He retired as a Colonel—not exactly the prior experience one would expect for a paralegal with PSLS but his experience in the military helped him become an excellent advocate for our clients. He often reminded us that he was "just a paralegal," and that became a favorite phrase we brought out every time he won a case for a client—a common occurrence. As a supervisor, having someone who adhered to lines of authority so intently was sometimes surprising. What I recall most about Tom, however, was that he treated every client and every other person with whom we interacted with respect. Perhaps it was his experience as a Marine or because of dealing with people from all backgrounds; whatever the genesis this characteristic made Tom a role model

for all of us. ~Linda Rothnagel, PSLS Director of Advocacy Training & Volunteer Services~

Sandy Heim (d. 2017)

Sandy worked at Prairie State for over 25 years, the first few years as a secretary and then the rest as a paralegal. She was very shy until you got to know her and she felt uncomfortable in crowds. As an advocate for her clients, she seldom took "no" for an answer. When she couldn't find the winning argument for her client, she would just continue to research and research until she found something. Sandy was a meticulous researcher. For almost 20 years, her office was just a few doors from my own. I saw her clients come and go. Sandy always treated them with respect and they responded in kind. Sandy and her husband, Floyd loved to travel off the beaten path to interesting areas. She loved nature and all things Native American. Inevitably after a trip, some new Native American artifact or decoration would appear on her credenza. While Sandy didn't have a long retirement,

she had an active one. Just a few months before her death, she and Floyd had completed a 7,000 mile vacation trip. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~



In Memoriam

Remembering Former Heroes (continued)

George Herbolsheimer (1911-1992)



Mr. Herbolsheimer practiced law for 57 years in LaSalle County until his passing in 1992. He was the founder of the law firm of Herbolsheimer, Lennon, Henson, Duncan & Reagan (now known as Herbolsheimer, Duncan, Eiten and Hintz, P.C.) and as the firm founder he encouraged pro bono work by those in his firm and he took cases himself as well. I recall that Mr. Herbolsheimer would write beautiful letters about each case he handled pro bono and how he appreciated being of service to the client in need. When he passed away, his family contacted Prairie State and made a substantial donation in his name that was used to support our pro bono program. Mr. Herbolsheimer believed in public service and served in many roles in the community. At PSLs, we felt honored that he participated in our pro bono program and we were humbled that his family chose PSLs for a donation in his memory. ~Gail Walsh, PSLs Director of Program Development~

Bob Jenetten (1945-2016)

Bob Jenetten was simply the nicest person that you would ever want to meet. His quiet demeanor masked a very real and deep commitment to civil rights and access to justice. In his personal and professional lives, he lived his principles. He was always considerate and thoughtful. In a contentious board discussion, he was that essential participant who listened to all sides and tried to find common ground and an appropriate solution.

Bob was active as a board member and as a member of the local fundraising committee, or Campaign for Legal Services Committee, in Peoria. He solicited donations not only from his own firm and attorneys, but also from other Peoria firms and attorneys. When Bob took on an assignment, it was always well done and on time. Active in the Peoria County Bar Association, he chaired the Diversity Committee for several years, quietly and effectively trying to attract diverse attorneys to practice in Peoria.

From my perspective, Bob was an exemplary board member, always well prepared with thoughtful questions and willing to take on whatever tasks needed to be accomplished. He also had a quiet sense of humor that sometimes caught me off guard. When he died, PSLs and Peoria lost a quiet but determined advocate for equal justice. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLs Executive Director~



Remembering Former Heroes (continued)



Thomas Johnson (1942-2016)

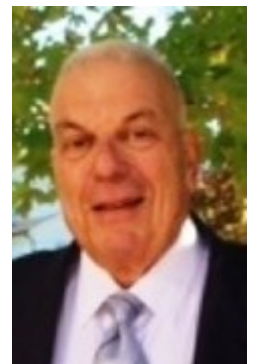
While Tom Johnson was only on the PSLS board for one three-year term, he was often behind the scenes advocating for legal services with local, state and national bar associations. He was a self-described "bar junkie" and he was very, very well respected. In 1981, during the proposed elimination of the Legal Services Corporation, PSLS had a goal of seeking a supportive resolution to continue funding for legal services from each county bar association in our service area. In Winnebago County, Tom agreed to go with us to the bar association to argue our cause, if necessary, and lend his prestige to the effort.

As it turned out, he didn't need to argue our case at all. As he said afterwards, "I learned a long time ago that when the jury is going your way, it's best to keep quiet." But he had been ready to advocate and his mere presence helped to make sure that the vote in support of the resolution was unanimous.

At other times when legal services or PSLS needed a good word said in its favor, Tom was willing to be supportive. As a behind-the-scenes actor, Tom frequently did not get the credit which he had earned but I knew what he had done. I also knew that if I needed something for PSLS, I could ask him. He loved the practice of law, he loved working with lawyers. He deeply cared about legal services and because of who he was and his bar involvements on the state and national levels, he had the ability to have a positive impact on support and funding for legal services. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~

Bob Krockey (1940-2014)

Before his passing, Bob Krockey was a senior partner in the law firm of Krockey, Cernugel, Cowgill and Clark. He was known as a highly-skilled lawyer who "did a lot of pro bono work so the law was accessible to everyone." He served many years as president of the Will County Legal Assistance Program (now the PSLS Joliet Office), and under his leadership, PSLS and WCLAP formed an effective and productive partnership.



Thomas McKay, Jr. (d. 2002)

Tom volunteered for 10 years in our Fox Valley office. He was a corporate attorney, but he never forgot his beginnings and how when he was a child, his family struggled to have food on the table. Upon retirement, he contacted PSLS to start volunteering, launching a second career representing our clients. In his first case he met his client down at the Mercy Hospital emergency room; she had been shot in the leg by the father of her child who showed up out of nowhere demanding visitation with the child. Tom leapt into action, representing our client in getting an order of protection. During his last few years with us, he specialized in helping elderly clients who had been financially exploited by people they trusted. We loved to hear him argue motions and present oral arguments in court with his logical, persuasive manner. Judges were taken with him. All our staff were the beneficiaries of good advice from him. ~Sarah Megan, PSLS Director of Litigation~

In Memoriam

Remembering Former Heroes (continued)

Verlene Mullen (1922-2011)

Verlene Mullen served as a client board member from Kankakee for many years. She was soft-spoken and polite but she had an iron will and a deep and abiding passion for fair play. In addition to being on the Prairie State board, Verlene worked with several advocacy groups in Kankakee. Verlene did not talk just to be heard. She only talked when she had something to say and she was not intimidated by anyone. I remember when I asked the board for a two month leave of absence to go work in the Republic of Georgia, she expressed her support simply and directly. She looked at me and said, "Whenever you go away and work with other programs or take on other projects, you always bring back new ideas and information for Prairie State that benefits us all." She was clear. She was to the point and she spoke from her heart. That was the essence of Verlene Mullen. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~

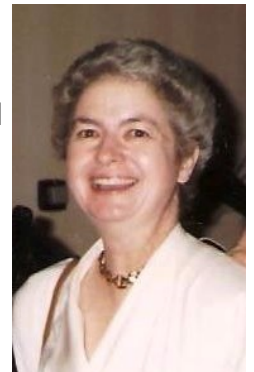


Justice Howard Ryan

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Howard Ryan was a wonderful supporter of legal aid and helped us recognize the pro bono efforts of community attorneys who assisted our Ottawa office. Justice Ryan was from LaSalle County and presented our pro bono awards each year in the mid- to late-1980's and helped host events for pro bono attorneys. As the pro bono coordinator in Ottawa, it was so helpful to have the support of Justice Ryan and we so appreciated his encouragement and recognition of the volunteer attorneys in our community. ~Gail Walsh, PSLS Director of Program Development~

Loretta Ryan

Loretta Ryan was a member of a religious order, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary. I hired Loretta as a paralegal. Loretta was a strong advocate for her clients. When she took on a case, she developed it thoroughly. If there was a rule or a regulation to support her client's position, she would find it. For me personally, Loretta was a connection to my former clients and other people working in social services. She kept me informed. Loretta was well known among the poor people in Rock Island's West End because she had worked there so many years. There is an old Irish blessing that ends, "And when you come to die, may the weeping of the poor be the only sorrow you'll leave behind." While this could be said about most legal aid lawyers, paralegals, and staff, to me it seems especially appropriate for Loretta Ryan, an Irish nun who worked among the poor for many years. ~Joe Dailing, Founding PSLS Executive Director~





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