Leann Duncan, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, Receives Governor's Volunteer Service Award

Leann Duncan served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at Prairie State Legal Services in Rockford in 2011 and 2012. She began a veteran’s project to help Prairie State better address the legal needs of low-income veterans. Leann’s efforts make unique resources for vets available, helping them avoid legal barriers to stable housing, access to healthcare, and receiving life-changing benefits. For her service to Prairie State Legal Services, Leann received the AmeriCorps Governor's Volunteer Service Award in April 2012.

Prairie State Legal Services Celebrates Law Day 2012

Michael O’Connor, Prairie State Legal Services’ Executive Director, celebrates Law Day with Illinois State Bar Association President John G. Locallo. Mr. Locallo was the keynote speaker for the 2012 Law Day celebration at the Rockford Art Museum.

Heart of Illinois United Way Recognizes Prairie State Legal Services with the 2012 Jim & Katie Owens Partner Award

Heart of Illinois United Way Board Chair, Bill Springer, presents the 2012 Jim and Katie Owens Partner Award to Denise Conklin, Managing Attorney of Prairie State Legal Services’ Peoria office.
Illinois Attorney General Awards Three-Year Grant to Address the Foreclosure Crisis in Illinois

In September, Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced a $4.5 million grant to Prairie State Legal Services. The funding stems from Madigan's role in securing a $25 billion national settlement with the nation's five largest bank mortgage servicers. The settlement addressed allegations of widespread "robo-signing" of foreclosure documents and other fraudulent practices bank servicers engaged in while servicing loans of struggling homeowners.

Prairie State is using the funding to hire additional staff members to create a new, comprehensive Legal Help for Homeowners Project to help distressed homeowners save their homes. The project provides legal help for borrowers and renters in foreclosure as well as other litigation resulting from foreclosure, such as bankruptcy, and tax and title issues.

Illinois Attorney General with Marqus Cole, Jeff Hamaker, Wendy Vaughn, Mary Campbell, Ellen Samuel, Mike O’Connor, Dallas Bartz, Mary Rosenberg, Rose Willette, Kelly Tripp, Sam DiGrino, and Cathy Ritts.
Prairie State Legal Services

2012 Annual Report

PSLS Develops New Performance Standards

In order to provide all Prairie State attorneys with clear guidance concerning our firm's expectations and aspirations for their performance, PSLS launched written standards that address the many skills and attributes that describe an effective legal services attorney. The “Performance Standards and Developmental Guidelines for Staff Attorneys” tells our attorneys what a good job looks like, and provides appropriate guidance to employee and supervisor, alike. The standards convey the value we place on high quality service to our clients. They ensure that we are all working toward consistent goals and values. The standards offer staff attorneys guidance for their professional development and are useful in identifying training needs. Finally, the standards are a tool for staff attorney self-evaluation, for supervisor evaluations, and for conversations between staff attorney and supervisor to address areas of professional growth and areas for improvement.

Technology Initiative Grant Helps PSLS Share Data with Partners

PSLS received a Technology Initiative Grant (TIG) from the Legal Services Corporation to create, along with its project partners (LAF, LOLLAF, and ILAO), an aggregated Statewide Data Collection System. Through the mapping and reporting elements of this system, the partners are able to better measure the effectiveness and impact of legal services in Illinois and to inform strategies for improving services across the State. The partners are working with PS Technologies (PSTI) to allow programs to geo-code client addresses, produce maps and reports based on geo-political boundaries, and aggregate data from multiple sources, including data from outside sources. PSLS provides overall management and oversight of the project.

PSLS Launches New Fair Housing Enforcement Project

PSLS received first-time funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to create a new Fair Housing Enforcement Project. With these funds, PSLS has strengthened and expanded its year-old fair housing enforcement program (which was limited to Lake County), and has created a new fair housing enforcement unit in our Rockford office. This new project provides legal representation for victims of housing discrimination in Winnebago, Boone, Lake, and McHenry Counties. For the first time, PSLS is able to conduct fair housing testing in-house, through the hiring and training of Testing and Outreach Coordinators, one stationed in Rockford and the other in Waukegan. Testing measures and documents differences in the quality, content, and quantity of information and service given to home-seekers (testers) by housing providers; the purpose of the test is to collect evidence of housing discrimination (or the absence thereof) by a housing provider against certain groups. In addition, the Coordinators publicize and promote the project, create awareness of our services, and conduct fair housing education.
Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Receives Expansion Funding

In 2012, the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic received a multi-year grant from the IRS which enabled the Clinic to hire a second staff attorney and expand services. The Clinic assists low-income clients with a wide variety of tax matters; including; but not limited to: releasing wage, benefit, and financial asset levies; negotiating installment agreements; preparing and filing requests for innocent spouse relief; and defending tax-related identity theft. In addition to representing clients, the Clinic also participates in outreach and education events for potential clients and volunteers alike. The Clinic began in February 2009 under the direction of Vijay Raghavan. In May 2011, Andrew VanSingel replaced Mr. Raghavan as the Director of the LITC. Initially, the clinic provided services to clients in five counties, and now serves clients in all of PSLS’s 36-county service area.

Prairie State VISTAs and Andrew VanSingel, Director of the Low-Income Tax Clinic, presented a free Tax Information Outreach Event on March 4 at the College of DuPage.
2012 Board of Directors

President, Wendy Hinton Vaughn
Appointed by Winnebago County Bar Association

Vice-President, Christine Blankenship
Appointed by Swedish American Health System

Secretary, Matthew J. Mueller
Appointed by Grundy County Bar Association

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Appointed by Center of Hope

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Barbara Santana
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Appointed by Kankakee County Bar Association

Alan L. Sternberg
Appointed by McLean County Bar Association

Linnea E. Thompson
Appointed by Rock Island County Bar Association

Jane D. Waller
Appointed by Lake County Bar Association

Maria Glisson
Emeritus
**Financial Statement 2012**

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Services Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Ways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawyers Trust Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Projects/Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Older Americans Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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**Total** $8,633,853

### Expenditures

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<tr>
<td>Supplies and Postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone/Internet</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Library</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Training</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $8,262,174
Each year, dozens of partner organizations commit their resources in order to help us provide legal services for populations and communities throughout our service area. In 2012, the following partners helped ensure access to justice for tens of thousands of clients in northern and central Illinois:

Aurora Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services
The Alfred Bersted Foundation
Bloomington Township
Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, Inc.
Bureau County United Way
Catholic Charities
Central Illinois Agency on Aging
Chicago Department of Public Health
City of Aurora Neighborhood Redevelopment Division
City of DeKalb
City of Peoria Neighborhood Development Division
City of North Chicago
City of Rockford Department of Human Services
City of Waukegan
Katherine Clifton Trust
County of McHenry Tax Levy
Doris and Victor Day Foundation, Inc.
DeKalb County Community Services Department
DuPage County Community Development Commission
DuPage County Division of Human Services
The DuPage Community Foundation
Dwight Community Chest
East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Equal Justice America
Fairbury United Way
Fox Valley United Way
Galesburg Community Foundation
Arthur & Gesena Griffin Trust
Grundy County United Fund
Heart of Illinois United Way
Herbolzheimer Foundation
Illinois Attorney General’s Office
Illinois Bar Foundation
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation
Internal Revenue Service
Joliet Township
Kendall County Tax Levy
Kishwaukee United Way
Lake County Department of Planning and Development
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
Legal Services Corporation
Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Northwest Illinois HIV Care Connect
Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Rauch Family Foundation 1, Inc.
The Retirement Research Foundation
Rock Island 708 Mental Health Board
St. Charles Township
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
United Way of Boone County
United Way of Central Kane County
United Way of DuPage County
United Way of Eastern LaSalle County
United Way of Illinois Valley
United Way of Kankakee County
United Way of Knox County
United Way of Lake County
United Way of Lee County
United Way of McDonough County
United Way of McHenry County
United Way of McLean County
United Way of Northwest Illinois
United Way of Northwest Suburban
United Way of Ogle County
United Way of Pekin
United Way of Pontiac
United Way of Rock River Valley
United Way of the Quad Cities Area
United Way of Will County
University of Illinois
U.S. Department of Justice
Warren County United Way
Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Will County Treasurer
We thank our individual and corporate supporters who gave so generously in time and money to Prairie State Legal Services in 2012.

$10,000 or more
Abbott Fund
Caterpillar Foundation
McLean County Bar Association
S. Edward Marder Family Foundation in honor of the Chris and Linda Marder Family
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
VanDerGinst Law, P.C.
Will County Bar Association

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Winnebago County Bar Foundation -- Legal Follies 2012

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Suzanne and William Lindsay
Rockford Bank & Trust
Larry and Jane Smith
Vonachen, Lawless, Trager & Slevin

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Anonymous in memory of Laurie Cohen

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Clancy Law
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Alexandra Goddard in memory of Charlotte A. Martin
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Meador Investigations
Sarah Megan in memory of Sam Rothnagel
Calvin and Bonnie Meltesen
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Larry G. Wharrie
Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home
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Rose and Craig Willette
Harold, David, and Evan Winer
Hon. Kathryn E. Zenoff

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Eliot Abarbanel
Adler Law Firm
Alexander and Rinda Allison
William Allison
Alvine & Alvine
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Anonymous via United Way of DuPage Area
Anonymous via United Way of Rock River Valley
Anonymous in honor of the hard-working PSLS attorneys and staff
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Paul S. Godlewski in honor of my wife, Marguerite Godlewski
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