

Kansas Legal Services 40th Anniversary Celebration

July, 2017



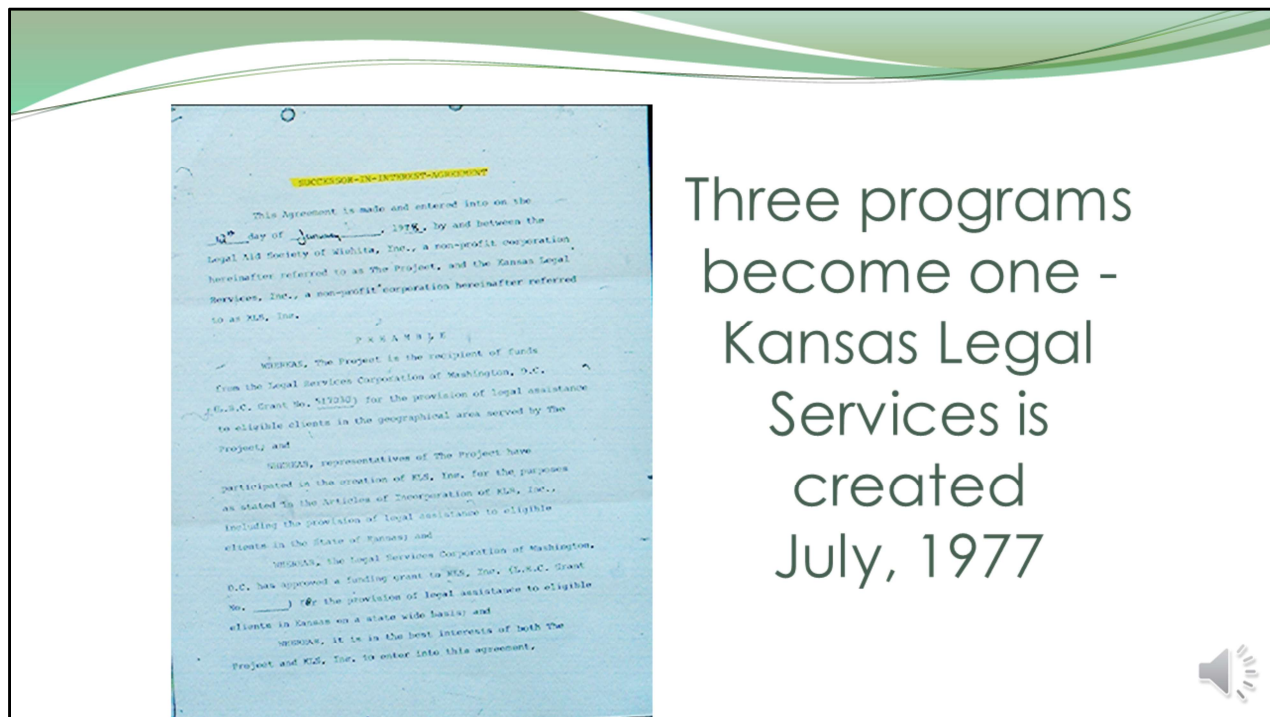
Mission from Sargent Shriver, initiator of Legal Services as part of the War on Poverty

“As a profession, we are defending the rule of law – not as a bastion of privilege – but as a revolutionary ideal – as fundamental as democracy itself – as timeless as the principle of justice – as current as the latest Supreme Court decision. That’s why the legal profession has provided one of the great new weapons in the War Against Poverty – justice – legal justice – social justice – moral justice – for all.”

~ Address to Illinois State Bar Association
Chicago, IL, June 16, 1966

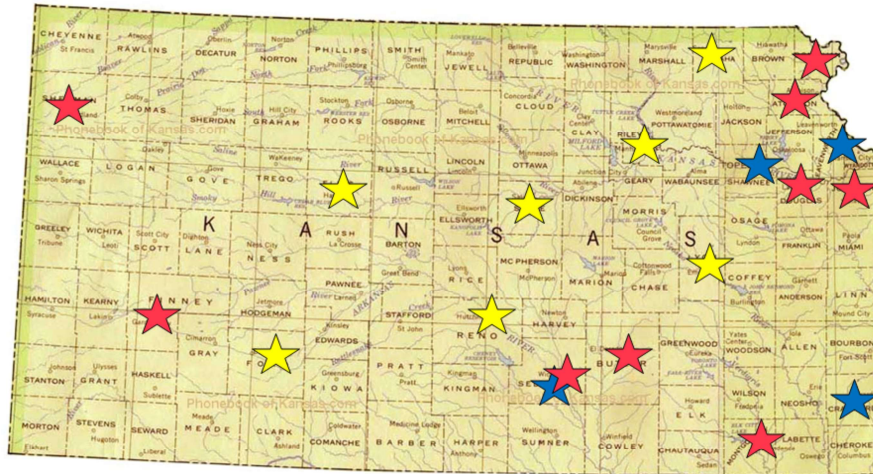


It is important to recognize the historical context within which Kansas Legal Services was formed as part of the National War on Poverty. The leader of that War, Sargent Shriver, saw a special role for lawyers in helping low income people break the bonds of poverty. He saw justice and access to justice for all people as a goal and it has become the mission of Kansas Legal Services to further that goal.



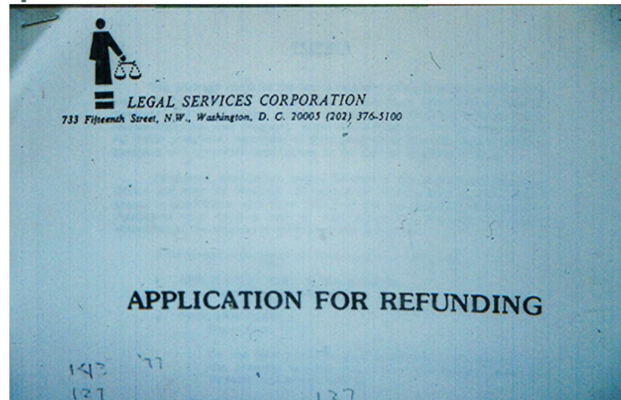
Existing programs in Wichita, Kansas City and Topeka came together under a successor in interest agreement to form Kansas Legal Services. This document, signed in July, 1977, set in motion the creation of Kansas Legal Services, which began operation in 1978. **Roger McCollister served as the Executive Director of the new organization.**

Office Locations



Statewide entities were unique in 1977, with Kansas becoming only the second state, after Rhode Island, to unite in this way. The combined program served 30 counties, opening an office in Pittsburg as the first expansion. This map shows all the locations where KLS has had an office at some point during its 40 years. Offices in red are not open at this time. Original locations are in blue. Current locations are blue or yellow.

Key to Expansion – Federal Funding



1980 – 17 offices

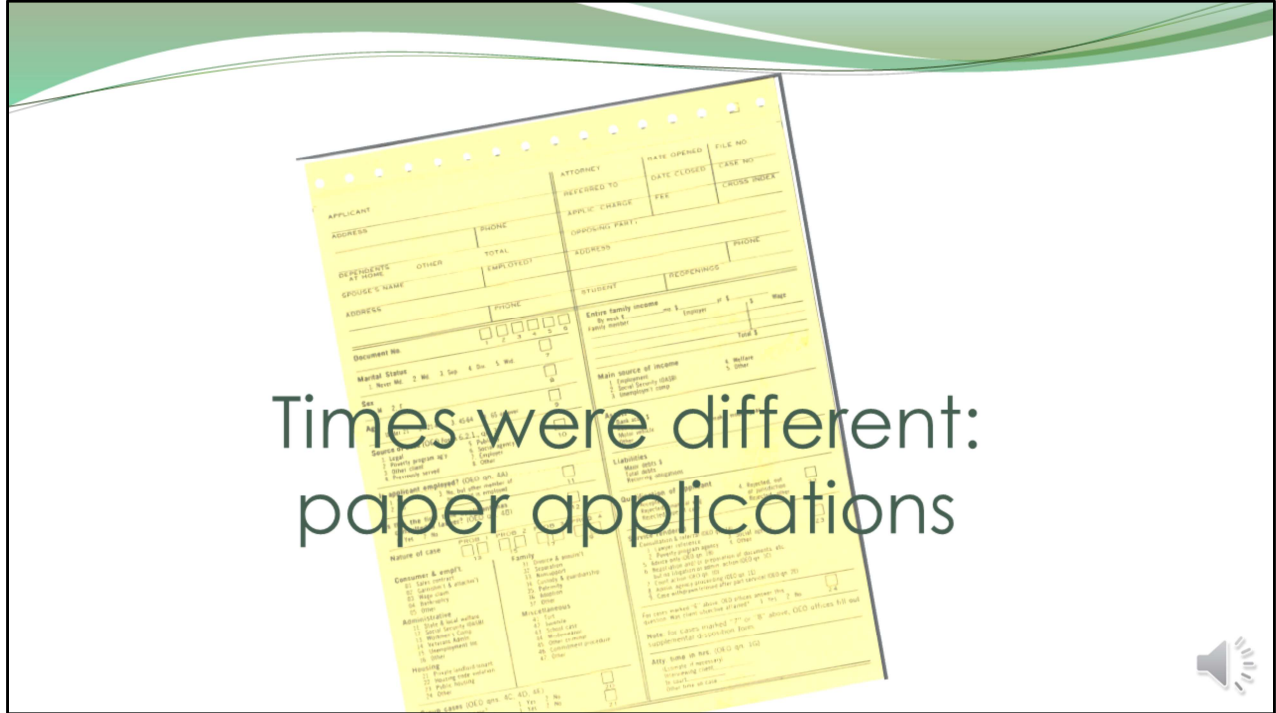
41 attorneys

12,000 closed cases

\$2.3 Million in Federal funds



By 1980, KLS was serving 104 counties from 17 offices with 95 staff (41 attorneys) and closing 12,000 cases a year. Among the reasons for this growth was expanded funding from LSC - totaling \$2.3 Million



Times were different then, without computers -- systems included paper applications and a true conflict "card" system.

Senior Citizens Law Project - 1980



About this time, the Senior Citizen's Law Project began -- unique because of the different process for determining eligibility. Staff in each office was assigned to specialize in legal needs of persons over 60 -- including Medicaid for Long Term Care, Medicare and Social Security. This project continues.

Elder Law Hotline pro bono award 2009



Overflow from this project led to the Elder Law Hotline, currently participating are nearly 50 volunteer lawyers. This program was honored by the LSC in 2009. Volunteers Robin Maxon, Mike Culver, LSC President Helaine Barnett and Kansas Chief Justice Robert Davis.

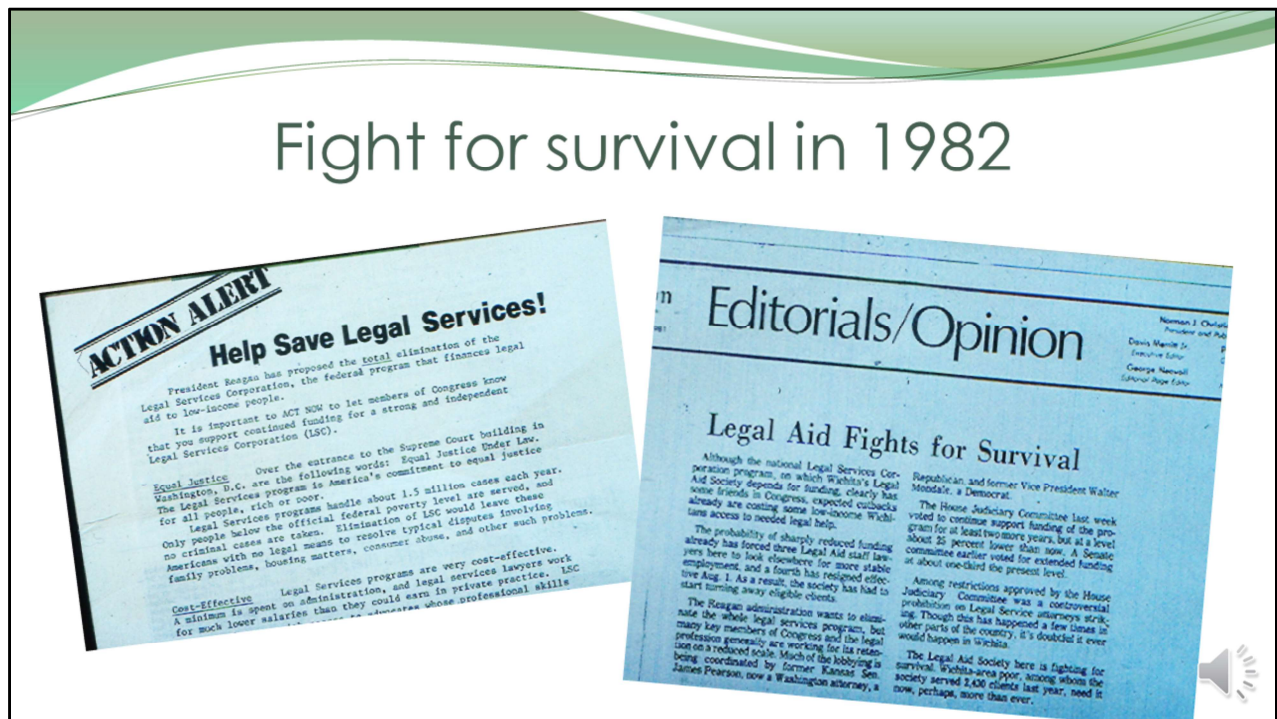
3 favorable decisions from appeals in a single day – July 17, 1981

<p>230 Kan. 57 (Kan. 1981) 631 P.2d 632</p> <p>In the Interest of Julie COOPER, A Juvenile Under Age Eighteen. No. 51276</p> <p>Supreme Court of Kansas July 17, 1981</p> <p>Right of Parents to appointed counsel in Child in Need of Care cases</p>	<p>230 Kan. 49 (Kan. 1981) 630 P.2d 1102</p> <p>In the Interest of Duyahn WALKER. Gina WILSON and Iris Walker, Appellants, v. STATE of Kansas, Appellee. No. 51201</p> <p>Supreme Court of Kansas July 17, 1981</p> <p>Parent must be served under the statute in order for the Court to act to terminate parental rights.</p>	<p>230 Kan. 146 (Kan. 1981) 630 P.2d 1121</p> <p>Catherine S. SHEPPARD, Appellant, v. Steven H. SHEPPARD, Appellee. No. 52582</p> <p>Supreme Court of Kansas July 17, 1981</p> <p>Custody case between parent and grandparents, challenging new language In KSA 60-1610(b)(2)</p>
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The most important case here is the Cooper case that required the appointment of counsel to parents in CINC cases. Many states still don't grant that right to their citizens

Fight for survival in 1982

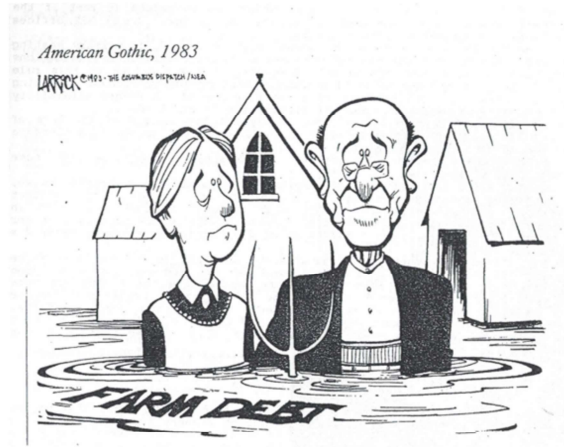


A major threat to the existence of this program came in 1982, when the first Reagan budget proposed the elimination of the Legal Services Corporation. Despite support from the American Bar Association and reminders of the importance of equal justice for all persons, this fight was eventually resolved with a substantial cut in funding. KLS laid off 1/3 of its staff and closed 8 of 17 offices.

Survival, but smaller



Farmers join “priorities” in 1984



The remaining KLS program began to revive and adapt to changes in the political environment. The KAMS program provided assistance to family farms. This program began with the support of the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Sam Brownback. This program, in a modified form, continues today.

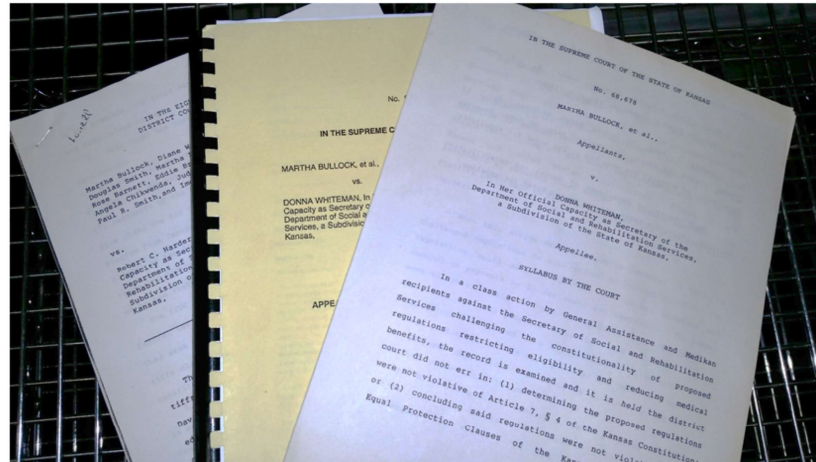
Hutchinson area joined in 1988



IN 1988, KLS became truly statewide, when the Legal Aid office in Hutchinson decided to merge with KLS. Previously, totally United Way and other local funding maintained this one-county office, working on a model similar to that of the three programs that joined together a decade earlier.

Bullock v Whiteman

"General Assistance" case



During the years, thousands of clients and some groups of clients were able to see life-changing benefits from litigation accomplished by KLS staff. Among these is the representation of participants in the General Assistance program. Litigation in 1989 challenged the elimination of this program (providing \$100 a month and medical benefits to the poorest Kansans) on State Constitution grounds. Litigation kept the program going through a bad financial period for the state and it continued another 20 years, before another financial downswing brought the elimination of this program.

1992 – Computers arrive for KLS staff



In 1992, growth and diversity in funding lead to the addition of 23 new staff in one year. We also began investing in computer technology for all staff and a firm-wide case management system. That year, KLS served 23,000 clients, 40% with family law problems, 15% with disability applications and 10% with housing problems.

Those familiar with KLS will know that it is not the DELL computers that were used then,. KLS was a MAC shop for many years.

In 1982, as the Managing Attorney in Wichita, David Gray's judgement was questioned when he brought the first computers to the clerical staff for document preparation. By 10 years later, computers were an essential part of office functioning.

Kansas Legal Services Central Intake

1-800-723-6953

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



In the mid - 1990s, KLS took steps toward the goal of a centralized access point for KLS applicants. This was accomplished with a single application number. Intake staff handle applications Monday - Friday 8 - 5. This also allows us to handle some advice cases from a central point. In 2015, we added computer based applications. Michele Hawley Davis has served as the only director of the KLS Central Intake Unit, handling thousands of callers a year, qualifying them for eligibility for a variety of programs and distributing them to offices and programs across the state.

Midland Mediation



Some preliminary work in mediation as a method of resolving legal disputes occurred in 1986. By 1996, we were pleased to include a separate, statewide division, Midland Mediation Services, with Randy Hershey as Mediation Director. Providing mediation in employment disputes with the Kansas Human Rights Commission and family law cases, this program serves **500 people involved in disputes every year.**

State Funding in 1997 Access to Justice Fund



In 1997, the State of Kansas invested in Access to Justice for the first time. The Access to Justice fund, created by the Kansas Legislature with court filing fees, has been awarded by the Court to Kanas Legal Services each year since then. It has provided services to 120,000 people since it was created.

KLS at 20th Anniversary 1997

- Offices: 15
- Staff: 165
- Budget Total: \$ 7,997,817 LSC \$2,156,918
- Cases closed: 35,825



Among the factors in this picture of the larger staff and large number of cases: claims for disability benefits for those in the General Assistance program and a program seeking medical benefits for hospitalized persons.

Employment Training Programs

- **Job Success** was created in 1999
- **Custom Computer Training (CCT)** was created in 2001
- **Topeka Moving Ahead Program (TMAP)** was created in 2003



Lea Vincent (right, standing), director of the Employment Training Program, presented a graduate of the last TMAP class with his certificate when the program ended in 2014.



For over 10 years, KLS expanded services provided to include Employment Training. These skills, along with legal services, are roads out of poverty for low income persons. Begun as a job readiness program for persons referred by DCF, the program grew to include the Topeka - Moving Ahead Program. (TMAP). This program partnered with the Topeka Rescue Mission and was funded by HUD. For 11 years, from 2003 - 2014, this program engaged homeless participants in skill training, internships and case management to break the cycle of poverty that they were experiencing. This program transitioned to the Topeka Rescue Mission when federal funding ended. We are pleased to have played a part in this program that is now replicated in homeless shelters in the midwest.

2006 – Change in Leadership



Roger McCollister



Marilyn Harp



2006 saw the first change in leadership for the nearly 30 year old organization, when Roger McCollister left and Marilyn Harp was hired as only the 2nd Executive Director in KLS history

30th Anniversary - 2007



In 2007, when KLS celebrated its 30th Anniversary, we operated from 14 offices and 2 mediation offices across the state. Total staff numbers stood at 157 and 29,375 clients were served. It was a pleasant reunion of the founders and current staff who gathered for a 30th Anniversary proclamation signing. Unfortunately, Brian Moline missed the signing of the 30th Anniversary Proclamation because he was scheduled to present a speech at the same time

Medical Legal Partnerships - 2008

- Southwest Blvd. Family Medical Clinic – KU (now a KU Law teaching clinic within KU Medical Center)
- Sunflower Foundation funded partnerships between KLS and Community Health Centers in Pittsburg, Wamego, Junction City, Dodge City and Garden City



- Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City

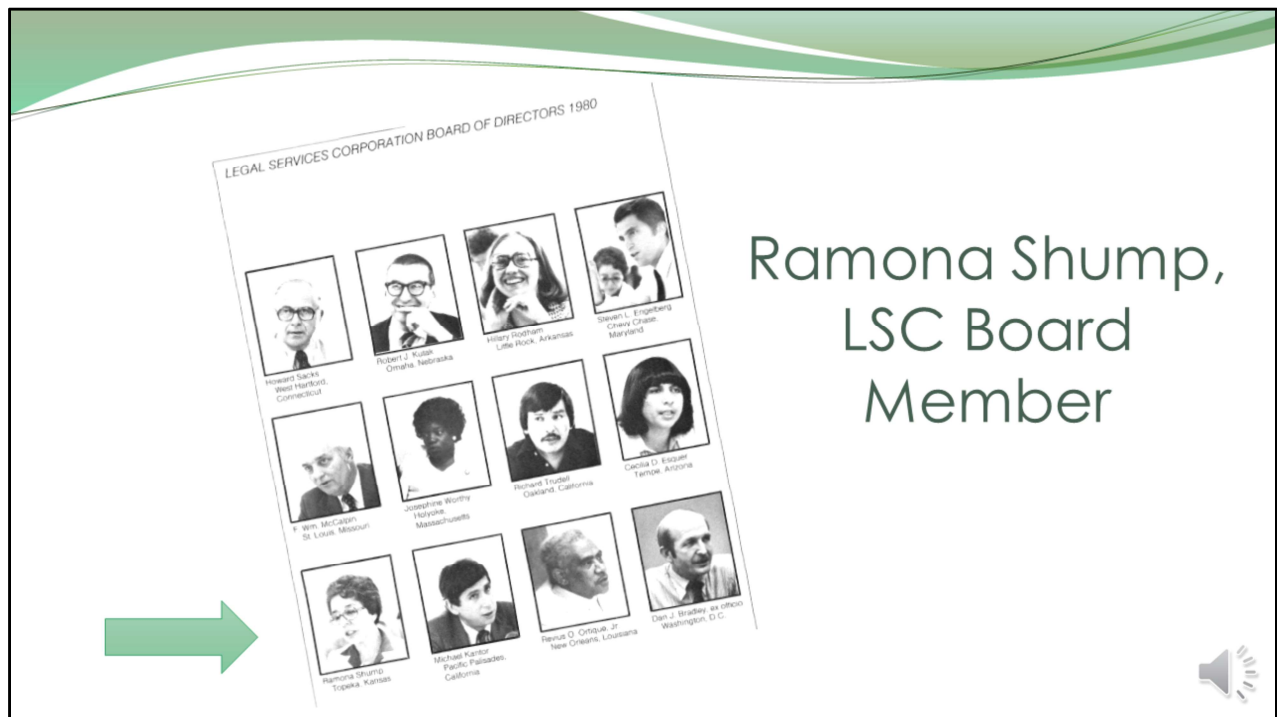


Since 2008, KLS has been pleased to partner with a number of health care providers. This partnership is a recognition that often there are legal solutions to problems that keep patients from recovering from illnesses or make dealing with chronic conditions more difficult. At present, KLS is pleased to partner with Children's Mercy Hospital providing onsite lawyer and paralegal support to this Medical Legal Partnership.

2009- 35th Anniversary of Legal Services Corporation

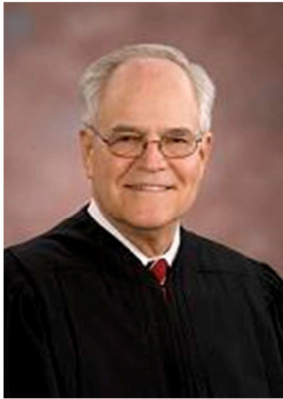


Throughout these years, the Legal Services Corporation had been a crucial funding source for KLS. The 35th Anniversary celebration of the Legal Services Corporation occurred at the Brown vs Board National Historic site in Kansas. Cutting the cake at that event was Topekan Ramona Shump.



Ramona was selected to cut the cake because of her role as an LSC Board member from 1979 – 1982. Shump's presence on the LSC Board as the sole Client Representative was due to an appointment by Jimmy Carter in 1979 and probably a recommendation by Senator Bob Dole. Notice another famous woman on the Board - Hillary Rodman, who soon after served as President of the LSC Board.

Ks Supreme Court Justice Robert Davis



You are the professionals who do not look away, who do not forget that those being served are human beings with faces and names, with life stories and life needs.

You meet these people with a promise that they will have access to justice.




During the 2007 celebration, the group received a Welcome message from Chief Justice Robert Davis. His words that day were very uplifting to a group who often work with little recognition for their efforts. Chief Justice Davis told the crowd of legal services staff: You are the professionals who do not look away, who do not forget that those being served are human beings with faces and names, with life stories and life needs. You meet these people with a promise that they will have access to justice.

Effect on the Juvenile Offender System

- Right to Jury Trial
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement program – (Detention Advocacy Services)
- Appointed Council
- Juvenile Justice Reform Committee




KLS has made a mark on the way the Courts interact with its citizens in several ways. One is the interaction with Courts and juvenile offenders. KLS has provided legal services to juvenile offenders in many parts of the state. In Wichita, as part of a disproportionate minority confinement reduction program, and in Garden City, Emporia, Hutchinson, Great Bend and Topeka as appointed counsel. Results of these efforts include having an involved, competent lawyer assist them in resolving the case. System-wide, it has resulted in a Supreme Court decision that grants juveniles the right to a jury trial and KLS participation in the recent Juvenile Justice reform committee. This process incorporated more evidence-based policies in the treatment of juvenile offenders.



Effect on the Child in Need of Care System

- Children's Advocacy Resource Center
- Permanency Planning Counsel
- Evidence-Based Policies
- Resolution in "Child Time"

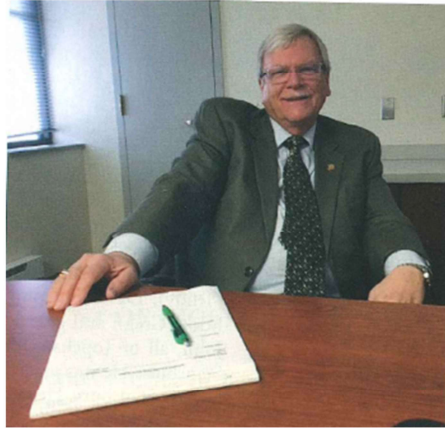


KLS has also been active in the Child In Need of Care arena. In addition to individual representation by KLS staff, the Children's Advocacy Resource Center has, for 17 years, provided legal resources for people who don't have representation in CINC cases. This can include foster parents and grandparents. Staff of this program serve on the Court's Permanency Planning Council. In that role, they have been a part of changing the timeframe for attempts to reintegrate children with birth parents. Policies have been adopted to incorporate the concept that time for children passes more quickly than for adults and that kids cases need to be resolved in "child time."



KLS has been involved with the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Committee since 2010. The work of this group has been to identify and recommend changes that would help the large and growing number of persons who represent themselves in state courts, because they don't have the financial resources to hire an attorney. Through that work, KLS has promoted Supreme Court rule changes to allow limited scope representation, where lawyers agree to take on a portion of a case. This is used largely to promote attorney review of documents filed with the Court by self-represented persons. Marilyn Harp and KLS Project Director Eric Rosenblad currently sit on this committee

Rule 208 – Emeritus Program



Another effort was the change to Rule 208, which allows retired or inactive attorneys to assist clients through KLS. The first attorney in Kansas approved under the KLS Emeritus Program was Tim Owens, who works with KLS in the Johnson County Court Help Center. KLS now has five emeritus attorneys approved and welcomes others.

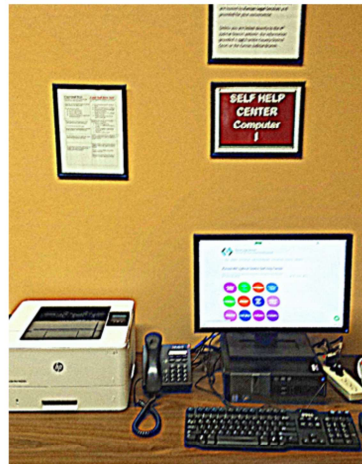


KLS first got “on the web” in 2000, with very minimal public resources. KLS supported efforts to make free legal forms available on the KLS website. Using Supreme Cour-approved forms and creating interactive interviews to support self-represented persons allows KLS to serve nearly 20,000 people a year in this manner.



A new website for Kansas pro bono attorneys, providing resources and links to cases and activities, was unveiled in 2017.

Courthouse Based Help Centers



Kansas 4th Judicial District Self Help Center

Click on the circle below of the legal area you want to explore. If your topic isn't here or if you aren't sure what you want, go here.



KLS currently supports courthouse-based help centers in Johnson County, where we schedule clients for four trained emeritus attorneys and provide other staff support AND in five rural courthouses, where we provide the entry point for their computer resources and a paralegal to answer questions of self-help center participants. One thing that will help this effort is the adoption of Model Rule 6.5 that recognizes a different ethical expectation regarding conflicts in these help center environments vs. traditional practice.

KLS Alumni from 1977



Karen Humphreys,
District Court Judge,
US Magistrate - retired



Brian Moline, Chair, Kansas
Corporation Commission



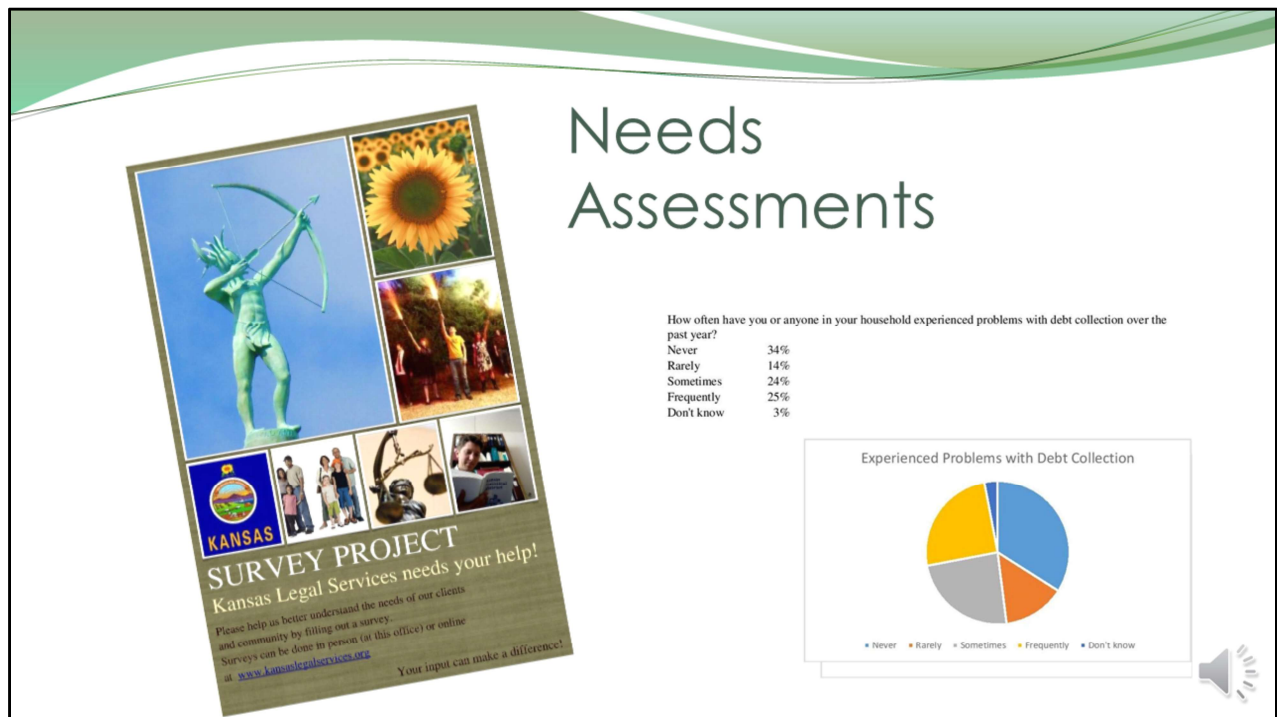
Through the years, we have been pleased to be the starting point for many outstanding Kansas lawyers. Two who were with KLS 40 years ago, include Karen Humphreys - retired Federal Magistrate and Brian Moline who ended his career as Chair of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Lowell Paul

- Senior Research Attorney. Everyday, Lowell makes young KLS staff realize what they can accomplish. Lowell also takes the pressure off busy staff who need support with brief writing.



and Lowell Paul, who still works for KLS as the Senior Research Attorney. Everyday, Lowell makes young KLS staff realize what they can accomplish. Lowell also takes the pressure off busy staff who need support with brief writing.



There are always resource distribution issues for KLS. We have deliberately placed staff around the state, enhancing access in rural areas. We proudly say that we serve clients in all 105 counties in Kansas. Every 5 - 8 years, KLS undertakes a deliberate process to assess the needs of our client community. We use this information in our priority setting process for case selection. Consistently, we have found family law, housing and public benefits to be high needs of low income persons. KLS works to meet those and other needs that our clients present to us.

40th Anniversary - 2017

Staff: 101 people including 36 attorneys provided direct legal services or legal education to 22,757 low or moderate income persons

Budget: \$6.65 million from all sources LSC portion is \$2.7 million *

*compare to \$2.26 million in 1980

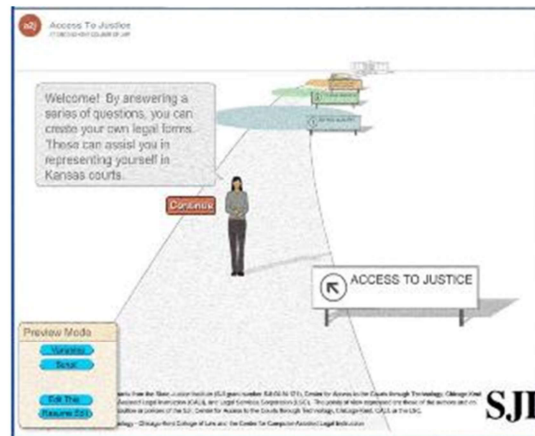
Volunteer lawyers provide 1,227 hours of assistance to 750 people

31 law students provide 2,214 hours of volunteer service, helping 1,187 clients and starting their legal career with a give back attitude



As we celebrate, the 40th Anniversary, we record the state of the organization at this point.

- Online forms completed by 12,875 Kansans, using the interactive interviews that KLS creates
- 205,465 people looked up legal information on the KLS website each year
- 1,334 people, using Live Chat, were guided in form completion



Our images through the years...

KLS has had many different images through the years

Our effects on Kansans' lives through the years

- Disabled people have stable income
- Domestic violence victims have safety and security
- Children have stable, predictable time with parents and child support



But the image we most appreciate is the profound effect we have had on the lives of Kansans for the past 40 years.

Our effects on Kansans' lives through the years

- Persons have records expunged and credit disputes resolved
- The elderly have living wills and DPOAs in place
- Seniors are aware of Extra Help and Medicare Savings Programs through March Medicare Madness



Our effects on Kansans' lives through the years

- Persons are in their homes instead of evicted or foreclosed upon
- Veterans have access to legal services (15% of current clients)
- People have better job skills to get better jobs



40th Anniversary Kansas Legal Services

The State of Kansas recognizes the 40th Anniversary of Kansas Legal Services.

Kansas Legal Services urges all citizens to increase their awareness and support of the efforts to provide access to the justice system to all Kansans.



July, 2017 is the 40th Anniversary of Kansas Legal Services. By Proclamation, the State of Kansas recognizes that anniversary. KLS urges all citizens to increase their awareness and support of the efforts to provide access to the justice system to all Kansans.

Let's Celebrate 40



and plan for 40 more

