



# **2 0 1 4 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES**

712 S. Kansas Ave., Ste. 200  
Topeka, KS 66603

Marilyn Harp, Executive Director  
[www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)

# Message from the Executive Director

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2014 saw a huge expansion of the services that Kansas Legal Services was able to provide to America's Veterans. We know that 10 percent of our applicants for legal services were Veterans, Active Duty military, or their immediate family members. But, like over half of *all* applicants, we were having to turn these heroes away.



Where possible, we told them about a self-help resource or gave them advice. But, we couldn't provide them what they needed – a law trained person to guide them to resolution of their legal problem. We were very excited to sponsor two law students who were members of the AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps. Joe Pilgrim and Nicole Southall are both Washburn Law Students. They spent the summer providing much needed guidance to Veterans and active duty service members. Many Veterans were facing family law matters at home, sometimes while fighting a war far away. Joe, a Navy

Veteran, put their work in perspective. "We help them deal with home problems, so they can concentrate on fighting the war we have asked them to fight." Through their work, Joe and Nicole helped 74 Veterans, along with 54 children, to move forward with legal problems ranging from housing to domestic violence. These AmeriCorps members acquired a lot of legal knowledge. They also helped many people whom KLS would have been unable to serve.

We continue to expand our services to military clients. We are working with KU Law School to create a managed online match program to link service members with the many Kansas lawyers who are willing to provide them with advice and legal representation. Washburn Law School hosted two events in the fall for Veterans, allowing them to prepare wills and advance directives with the help of law students. Our AmeriCorps members helped to organize these Washburn events.

KLS-Kansas City attorneys spend time each week at the Johnson County Help Center, a facility in the Johnson County Courthouse set up to assist self-represented litigants. Since opening in May, 2014, the Center has provided computer access to legal forms for an average of 235 people a month. KLS attorneys are onsite to provide legal advice in the Center two days a week. We appreciate being in on the ground floor of this new experiment in aiding the Courts to deal with many unrepresented persons in family law matters. We appreciate the support of the Johnson County Bar Association in funding our participation. Volunteer attorneys are being recruited to provide additional support.

2014 also brought news of a new collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service to create a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic in Kansas. KLS staff will provide advocacy services to those receiving a notice from the IRS which they wish to dispute. Many people will benefit from help in understanding an IRS notice and gathering the required records to respond. Leland Cox will direct this project, which is accepting referrals from across the state.

You can't have so many beginnings without some endings. Changes in the priorities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development resulted in the closing of the Topeka Moving Ahead Program (TMAP) after 11 years of valuable service in the Topeka area. TMAP provided programming to equip long term unemployed persons for employment. We are pleased that Shawnee County made funds available in 2015 to enroll people in a modified TMAP.

I was pleased to go to Washington, DC with Board President Amy Fellows Cline in November to acknowledge the 40th Anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation. We were reminded by Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Kagan, Vice President Biden, Attorney General Holder and inaugural LSC Board member, Hilary Rodham Clinton, along with 100 other dignitaries, that we do valuable work and do it well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn Harp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn Harp, Executive Director

## OVERVIEW – KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES

As one of the programs born during the War on Poverty in 1964, Kansas Legal Services (KLS) seeks to eliminate the burdens of poverty on low income Kansans. KLS has eleven legal services field offices and two mediation offices located across the state. KLS works with the Kansas Bar Association and its members to supplement staff resources by involving private attorneys in legal work on behalf of low income Kansans.

### GOALS

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Kansas Legal Services has progressively focused its efforts on special needs individuals, such as victims of domestic violence, the homeless, children in foster care, the elderly, farmers, those with disabling conditions, individuals seeking access to health care, those seeking mediation services and persons who need basic life skills and employment training.

One mission of Kansas Legal Services is to provide equal access to justice for persons not able to pay for legal and other essential services. Kansas Legal Services is also a vehicle for keeping many low income people from falling permanently into the category of chronically poor. It serves as a conduit by which many low income people successfully get back on their feet and become self-sustaining.

### LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

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#### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Administered by the Office of Judicial Administration and overseen by the Supreme Court of Kansas, the Access to Justice Fund is designed to improve access to legal assistance for low income Kansans who need advice, representation or mediation services. The program is also intended to assist the Kansas courts by providing service to self-represented litigants. KLS was awarded Access to Justice funds for the first time in 1996. Access to Justice funding has made it possible to create a statewide Access to Justice Advice Line and to greatly expand the ability of Kansas Legal Services to provide advice and representation in family law matters, the area of need that is historically the most underserved. Many online resources and the “Live Help” service on the website are supported through this funding as well.

#### FAMILY LAW

Through Access to Justice, Legal Services Corporation, United Way, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Victims of Crime Act, and other funding, KLS represents thousands of low income persons each year in domestic law matters. The demand for legal assistance in family law matters continues to far exceed the capacity of KLS to provide direct representation. Priority is placed on cases of spousal or child abuse and protection from abuse orders.

**Access to Justice Funding (ATJ)** has increased the number of family law clients KLS has been able to serve. Due in large part to ATJ funding, KLS assists many low income Kansans with domestic law matters.

The **Guardian Ad Litem Support Center** (GALSC) is a statewide program that provides technical assistance, advice and other supportive services to guardians *ad litem*, those who represent children in court proceedings. KLS GALSC staff attorneys also provide direct advice and representation in child welfare cases.

**Victims of Crime Act Grants** (VOCA) are administered by the Governor's Grants Office to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. KLS offices in Emporia, Hays, Hutchinson, Kansas City, Pittsburg, Salina and Topeka were awarded VOCA funds in 2014 to provide legal advice, representation and referrals to families fleeing abuse.

The **Foster Care Helpline**, part of the GALSC, is a toll-free hotline that provided accurate and timely information to more than 709 foster children, foster parents and other concerned individuals who called with questions about the foster care system in 2014.

## PUBLIC BENEFITS AND DISABILITY LAW

The primary goal of KLS' public benefits advocacy is to assist low income individuals in accessing state and federal public benefits programs. KLS has committed resources to ensuring that applicants get public benefits for which they are entitled. Supplemental Security Income, Unemployment Insurance, Medicare Extra Help and other programs make a tremendous difference for low income families. KLS staff work to ensure that low income Kansans have necessary income, health care, food and shelter.

The **Children's Social Security Advocacy Project** seeks to obtain SSI for disabled children. The project is focused on children who are receiving services from the Department for Children and Families. Obtaining SSI cash and medical benefits for children often makes home placement possible.

## E L D E R L A W

KLS cooperates with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and the Area Agencies on Aging as an integral part of the state aging network. Older Americans Act funds are combined with Legal Services Corporation and other private funds to address this growing area of need.

One point of access is the Elder Law Hotline, a program that links KLS staff and private attorneys to provide the broadest range possible of legal advice and information.

### **1-888-353-5337 - Kansas Elder Law Hotline**

**Senior Citizen Law Project** (SCLP) provides services in a wide range of civil legal issues to persons age 60 and older. Its objective is to target the more vulnerable elderly population who are in the greatest social and economic need. Priorities include assuring that seniors obtain the cash and medical assistance essential to their well-being and stopping financial, physical or psychological abuse of elders. SCLP also has an extensive community education program through which seniors and workers serving them are educated about elders' rights and protections under the law.

## F A R M L A W

The **Farm Mediation Legal Counseling Program** is operated through a contract with Kansas State University. KLS provides legal assistance to Kansas farmers and ranchers upon referral from the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service (KAMS). KLS farm specialist attorneys provide both advice and legal representation to KAMS clients in every county of the state. When legal assistance helps farmers retain their farms, the economies of local communities and the state benefit.

## M E D I C A L - L E G A L P A R T N E R S H I P S

The Medical-Legal Partnership program continues a partnership with Compass Behavioral Health in Southwest Kansas, funded by the Sunflower Foundation, a leader in seeing the possibilities of integrated services in improving health outcomes.

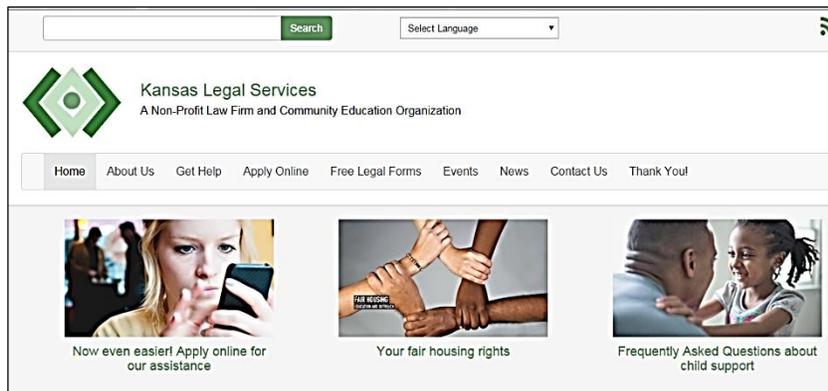
During 2014, the Medical-Legal Partnership also served Kansas patients of Children's Mercy Hospital West (Kansas City, Kansas), funded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. A number of partners work together to provide services across professional disciplines, focusing on the health and social benefits of these services to the people served.

## C O O P E R A T I V E P R O G R A M S W I T H T H E P R I V A T E B A R

Kansas Legal Services, Inc. continues to operate cooperative programs with the Kansas Bar Association (KBA) and local bar associations in the state. Current programs for increasing and improving the availability of legal services to low income Kansans include:

- **Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program** allows KLS to provide advice and representation for general legal, family law, consumer and housing issues and for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Kansas lawyers can support KLS by enrolling their client trust account in the IOLTA program through the Kansas Bar Association.
- The **Reduced Fee Plan** provides legal services to people living on lower incomes who might not otherwise be able to hire lawyers or qualify for free services. The program was designed with the KBA and assists those with incomes slightly above poverty level with routine legal matters at reduced fees.
- **Pro bono** panels have been organized in cooperation with many city and county bar organizations throughout the state to extend free services to low income Kansans.
- The **Elder Law Hotline** operates through a partnership of KLS staff and private attorney volunteers. Kansas seniors can receive legal information and advice with a single phone call.

## Tools for KLS Staff, the Public and Self - Represented Litigants



Research shows that 75 percent of low income persons have access to the internet. The KLS website has continued to grow in size and popularity. In 2014, 124,278 unique visitors visited the website, compared to 118,658 in 2013, a five percent increase.

In urban areas, more than 50 percent of family law cases have

one or both parties representing themselves. KLS does not have enough resources to provide legal representation for all low income Kansans who need to appear in court. Participants in civil litigation have no Constitutional right to Court-appointed counsel.

A partnership between Kansas Legal Services, the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Committee and the Kansas Judicial Council has created new solutions for self-represented litigants. Volunteer attorneys working with the Judicial Council initially created a set of divorce forms. KLS transformed these forms into an interactive interview, allowing users to answer a series of questions which result in completed paperwork for each stage in the divorce process or other legal matter. Warnings advise users to hire an attorney if they can afford one. KLS provides a review of those papers through limited scope representation. All this enables the self-represented litigant to be more successful and frees up time of court personnel in the process.

[www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)

The website was upgraded in the fall of 2014 into a new content management system. Besides having a whole new look, the website is much more user friendly on all devices – mobile, tablet, laptop and desktop. Our search feature is much more responsive and helpful. We have received favorable reviews on the change.

A great many people used these programs in 2014. The KLS website had more than 19,000 visitors to the Free Legal Forms page to create documents. Most documents were related to family law proceedings. Another 3,382 people applied for legal services online in 2014.

In 2014, we offered a form that allows self-represented litigants to file a paternity action in Kansas courts. The demand for this form is driven, in part, by the priorities of Child Support Enforcement contractors that leave many single parents without access to a court action to stabilize their parenting time.

These free forms will not put Kansas Legal Services out of business. Each client's situation is unique, requiring those with knowledge of the law to guide the litigant. The website provides resources for self-represented litigants that haven't existed before. The free legal forms provide a resource for some of the people KLS must turn away when demand exceeds the availability of service.

# Kansas Bar Association

## Recognizes Pro Bono Service

During the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Kansas Bar Association recognized attorneys for their service to low income Kansans.

**Claudia Dawson** (in photo, right) was honored with a KBA Pro Bono Award, recognizing her service to clients referred by Kansas Legal Services. She has been an active part of a number of KLS events, in addition to representing referred clients in Court.



**John Huey** received a Pro Bono certificate for his work in the KLS - Kansas City office. He provided advice to KLS clients in a variety of matters at the KLS office.

**Shook, Hardy and Bacon, LLP** received a Pro Bono certificate recognizing the firm's commitment to pro bono services. Working in several states, the firm provides about 25,000 hours of free legal services on an annual basis. In Kansas, the firm assists with expungement of criminal convictions, allowing many to find employment and in helping grandparents assume legal guardianship of their grandchildren.



**David Berkowitz** (right in photo below), Lawrence, received a Pro Bono award recognizing his willingness to continually have a pro bono case from Kansas Legal Services - Topeka. When David closes a case, he calls and requests another case. This willingness to help low income Kansans was recognized by the Kansas Bar Association with its highest pro bono award.

**John Paul Washburn** received a Pro Bono certificate recognizing his continual commitment to services to clients on a pro bono basis in family law matters.

**Bud Dale** received a Pro Bono Certificate honoring his work with KLS in accepting difficult family law matters and resolving them on a pro bono basis.

***Congratulations to these award winners and thank you for your services!***



## *KLS Gives Thanks to Our Pro Bono Attorneys!*

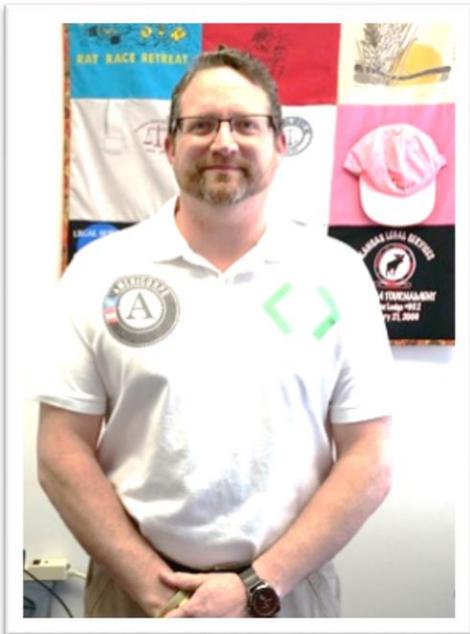
KLS recruited 42 private attorneys to provide advice to 430 clients in 2014. KLS placed 179 cases with 57 private attorneys for representation in 2014. These attorneys provided

**2,388** hours of legal services at no cost.

**3,058** hours were contributed by 34 law student volunteers to advance the legal needs of KLS clients. Helping others and preparing new attorneys to continue to give back during their careers on a pro bono basis is a win – win for all.

### **AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps at KLS in 2014**

In 2014, Joe Pilgrim (pictured below) and Nicole Southall (pictured right) are two AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps members who volunteered during their summer break from Washburn Law School to provide direct legal services to Kansas servicemembers, Veterans and their families. The emphasis of this program was on post-9/11 deployed servicemembers.



Joe and Nicole provided direct services to over 50 individuals. They assisted with 23 family law issues, six consumer issues, and four housing issues. One of their more memorable cases was a servicemember who completed two deployments in a war zone. She needed repairs to her rental house. Repair people showed up without notice and were looking into the windows without making any contact with her first. From the landlord's perspective, the people were making repair cost estimates. From the tenant's perspective, these unanticipated, unannounced visitors were triggering her PTSD reactions. Intervention by the AmeriCorps members resolved this situation.

KLS and the clients served appreciated the efforts of these AmeriCorps members.

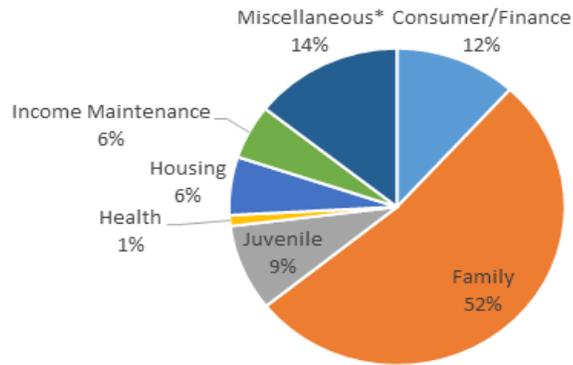
***Thank you, Joe and Nicole!***

## CASE TOTALS

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>Consumer/Finance</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	1,958	2,037	2,209	2,251	2,024
Representation	115	173	194	205	174
Other Service	795	957	1,052	1,280	533
Mediation	1	3	3	6	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>3,742</b>	<b>2,739</b>
<b>Family</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	5,755	5,610	5,664	5,496	5,320
Representation	3,008	3,410	4,076	4,119	4,098
Other Service	4,852	5,022	6,103	4,546	3,400
Mediation	132	133	162	143	703
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,752</b>	<b>14,175</b>	<b>16,005</b>	<b>14,304</b>	<b>13,521</b>
<b>Juvenile</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	368	248	284	298	274
Representation	1,208	1,680	2,015	1,976	1,939
Other Service	373	448	461	442	383
Mediation	7	3	9	10	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,637</b>
<b>Health</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	249	250	261	230	253
Representation	3	5	10	3	3
Other Service	46	44	60	56	64
Mediation	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Housing</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	1,509	1,376	1,605	1,294	1,417
Representation	64	62	49	48	29
Other Service	127	162	203	207	299
Mediation	5	2	5	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,746</b>
<b>Disability/Income Maintenance</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	503	492	543	663	532
Representation	585	843	1,268	2,283	1,945
Other Service	185	157	236	353	572
Mediation	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>3,049</b>
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>					
Advice & Brief Service	2,380	2,368	2,425	1,995	1,914
Representation	821	786	1,211	1,443	1,833
Other Service	598	584	656	152	536
Mediation	156	143	480	437	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>4,027</b>	<b>4,459</b>
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>25,808</b>	<b>26,998</b>	<b>31,244</b>	<b>29,939</b>	<b>28,471</b>

\*includes education, employment, individual rights, Indian/Tribal law, wills, criminal/juvenile defense.

## CASE DISTRIBUTION



\*Includes education, employment, individual rights, Indian/Tribal law, wills, criminal/juvenile defense

## CLIENT PROFILES IN 2014

GENDER	
Female	12,779
Male	5,740
Transgender - Female	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,523</b>

### AGE/ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	Age Group				Total
	Under 18	18-35	36-59	60 & over	
Asian	7	61	46	28	142
Black	277	834	833	377	2,321
Hispanic	145	715	402	128	1,398
Multi-Racial	11	209	82	23	325
Nat Hawaiian/Other Pac Isl	0	9	7	4	20
Native American	0	1	0	0	1
Nat Amer/Alaskan Native	22	106	86	36	250
Other Race	75	55	54	30	214
White	1,549	4,947	4,132	3,232	13,856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>6,937</b>	<b>5,642</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>18,523</b>

\* Includes Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander

### 2014 Elizabeth Ferguson Award Recipient: KYM WALKER

In 2014, the Elizabeth Ferguson award was given to Kym Walker, a secretary in the Kansas Legal Services – Wichita office.

Elizabeth Ferguson was an outstanding client board member who was very involved in her local community. Upon her death, the KLS Board of Directors decided to honor her by giving a KLS staff member recognition for "Outstanding achievement(s) by Kansas Legal Services staff members providing substantial direct benefit to a client or the client community". The Elizabeth Ferguson Award has been presented by the Board of Directors annually beginning in 1987. Recipients have included many outstanding Kansas Legal Services staff members.



Kym Walker

Kym Walker comes in to work every day at the crack of dawn, just so she can try to get a head start. Kym has trained many people and knows her domestic law. Kym goes above and beyond when the attorneys, paralegals, secretaries, and even clients need her help. The Wichita office would be lost without her knowledge and willingness to help out. She always strives for perfection and wants KLS to look its best with the best representation.

In addition, the Board of Directors created the Charlotte Lee Client Service Enhancement award. This educational stipend will be awarded for the first time in 2015, to allow a staff or Board member obtain training in an area that will expand services that KLS will provide to clients.

# EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

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## Who is served by employment training programs?

Individuals enrolled in Kansas Legal Services' employment training programs are generally classified as "economically disadvantaged."

More specifically, this group includes:

- Those on TAF (cash assistance) who are required to be enrolled in job-related activities as prerequisite for cash assistance.
- Individuals with disabling mental or physical conditions.
- Low income individuals seeking to upgrade skills in order to obtain a higher-paying job.
- People whose employers wish to have them trained in a particular software application.
- Persons who are homeless and need assistance in overcoming persistent barriers in obtaining employment and housing.
- Persons referred by Shawnee County Community Corrections to enhance their employability.

### HISTORY

Since 1995, Kansas Legal Services has provided employment and life-skills training to low income Kansans, helping them acquire and maintain family-supporting employment. KLS offers a variety of training services and works closely with clients in a one-on-one, supportive and nurturing environment to ensure that individual goals are met. KLS currently has five employment training programs.

### Number Served by Employment Training Division in 2014

Topeka Custom Computer Training	31
Topeka Moving Ahead Program (enrollees, alumni and S+C)	75
Topeka Job Success — Expecting Success	10
Shawnee County Community Corrections	112

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**Total Served in ETD in 2014**      **228**

**Job Success** was created in 1999 by KLS. Job Success provides job readiness and life skills training to recipients of long-term cash assistance and other persons entering the workforce for the first time. The different workshops address job readiness, assessments, case management, and job retention. Classes are open entry/open exit allowing clients to take part in all workshops or only selected ones. Job Success classes are located in Topeka.

**Expecting Success** is a job readiness program in Topeka started in 2009 through a contract with the Department for Children and Families. The program assists pregnant or post-partum participants in the following curriculum: Nutrition Classes, Basic Math, Life Skills, Goal Setting, Organization/Prioritizing, Prenatal Information, Self-Esteem Building, Job Readiness, Assessments and Pregnancy Prevention.

**Custom Computer Training (CCT)** was created in 2001 in direct response to client needs for specialized computer training. Enhanced computer skills very often allow for advancement to better-paying and more stable employment. CCT offers training in small group settings. CCT provides wide-ranging services, from specialized one-one-one training in particular software applications to job readiness.



**Shawnee County Community Corrections Job Club's** goal is to learn marketable skills to get, and more importantly, maintain a job. Employment Training Specialists assist in teaching skills that will help a job become a career, including tools to use such as resumes, federal bonding program and the employer tax credit. Job Club also helps students work on correcting criminal thinking, finding a support system, talking about personal history and building positive futures.

**Topeka Moving Ahead Program (TMAP)** was created in 2003 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Topeka Moving Ahead Program (TMAP), a member of the Topeka-Shawnee County Continuum of Care, is a job readiness program that helps individuals and families break the cycle of homelessness through housing and employment. TMAP assists participants in developing their skills, obtaining employment and barrier resolution. The philosophy of TMAP is to assist individuals with four major life transitions:

- From homelessness to personal and community support
- From addiction to recovery
- From hopelessness to an experience of self-efficacy
- From isolation to a career, economic self-sufficiency and a valued community role

Other services for TMAP participants range from assistance in applying for public benefits, Social Security cards and Kansas ID or driver's license (all of which may involve records search and legal rehabilitation), to finding a variety of solutions to barriers. Individual needs/referrals that need to be addressed are handled on a case-by-case basis. TMAP's commitment to participants extends far beyond the thirteen-week curriculum. TMAP has created a network of program alumni and staff who provide the caring and emotional support that is necessary to help each graduate successfully face their unique social and career needs.

TMAP ended in July, 2014, when funding was cut by HUD in a change of mission and philosophy. Plans are to restart the program in early 2015 on a smaller scale.

# TMAP ends with tears, laughter and vows to move forward

Program to help homeless transition lost federal funding, participants say it helped them

*Excerpt from Topeka newspaper article, June 26, 2014, about the last graduation ceremony of TMAP*

ANDY MARSO/THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL cjonline.com



Lea Vincent (right, standing), director of the Topeka Moving Ahead Program, presents Class 77 graduate Paul Miller (left) with his certificate Thursday. "TMAP has been a great program for me and I'm hating that their doors are closing," Miller said.

The sadness of the program's end was palpable. But the crowd of 100 included about a dozen alumni as well as families of graduates and program staff. They propped each other up, much as the program itself has done for those looking for a second chance.

Rather than providing public housing, TMAP provides things like job skills, social support, computer training and resume help in the hopes that participants will be able to get employed and find private housing.

Wayne White, former director of programming at Kansas Legal Services, sat quietly in the crowd throughout the 90-minute program, absorbing repeated praise for starting TMAP. Afterward he called it a "team effort" that included partners like the Topeka Rescue Mission, which agreed to give all TMAP participants a place to stay while they're in the program.

White acknowledged that TMAP was "always a stretch" for the \$190,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that kept the program running until this year. HUD is focused more on metrics like how many people it puts into residences.

"It's a bittersweet experience," White said. "It's very gratifying to hear the positive influence this program has had in so many lives and it's just profoundly sad the funding is ceasing."

No one felt that sadness more than TMAP director Lea Vincent, who seemed on the verge of tears several times Thursday but never broke down.

Vincent said she dove into TMAP's mission in part because she had seen her own siblings struggle with drug addiction. Vincent's family was in the audience Thursday, including her two daughters who, when they were young, set up a driveway lemonade stand that raised about \$23 for TMAP.

"Today is not a day to be sad," Vincent said. "Today we are here not to just celebrate Class 77 and 78; we're here to celebrate TMAP as a whole."

# 2014 KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2014, Kansas Legal Services provided life changing services in the following manner:

- 1,229** Victims of domestic violence obtained a Final Protection from Abuse order, through the representation of a KLS advocate and funded by a variety of sources, including the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) funding
- 168** Adults received steady monthly income from Social Security or SSI disability benefits, putting over \$4 million in the Kansas economy
- 19,000+** Kansans visited the Free Legal Forms page on the KLS website to complete forms, which has 28 sets of legal forms available
- 3,783** Veterans or their families, including 829 service members deployed since 9/11, sought legal advice or representation. 55% of the Post 9/11 deployed families live at or below 125% of poverty
- 294** Cases were mediated, involving employment, insurance or family issues
- 125** Clients served in the medical legal partnership clinics of Kansas Legal Services, including the Children's Mercy Hospital Clinic (KC, KS), the Community Health Ministry (Wamego), Konza Prairie (Junction City) and the Medical Legal Partnership in Southwest Kansas
- 41** Kansas families got a fresh financial start from a bankruptcy filed by KLS offices
- 148** Families met their child's special needs, due to successful Children's disability and Medicare benefit claims, funded by the Kansas Department for Children and Families
- 112** Persons on parole participate in Job Club to improve employability, as part of the KLS Employment Training programs services to 385 job seekers
- 2,388** Hours of legal services provided at no cost to 828 clients from private attorneys, through KLS pro bono program or low bono program
- 982** Parents received child support orders benefiting 2,345 children in divorce and paternity cases, represented by KLS staff
- 54** Attorneys and paralegals provide high quality, effective legal advocacy for low income Kansans
- 124,278** People viewed the resources on the website at [www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)
- 3,058** Hours were contributed by **34** law school volunteers to advance the legal needs of KLS clients, preparing them to continue to give back during their careers on a pro bono basis
- 12,722** Clients received timely legal advice as they faced family law, housing or consumer related or other crises in their lives.
- 37,374** Applicants for KLS service, including 26,481 handled by the Central Intake Unit.
- 1,025** Self-represented persons had questions answered via the Live Help feature on the KLS website

## What is mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained mediator facilitates communication and negotiation between parties in dispute. The goal of mediation is to facilitate greater understanding between parties in dispute, and attempt to reach an agreement that settles the dispute in a mutually satisfactory manner.

Mediations are conducted at a neutral location and in an informal and non-threatening environment. During the process, all participants have the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings regarding the matter in dispute. With the mediator, all individuals collectively create an agenda, identify the issue in dispute, define each individual's interests and create an agreement.

### ***Mediation is non-judgmental.***

Mediators do not act as advocates, render any opinion or decide how the dispute should be resolved. The mediator does not assess fault or take sides.

### ***Participants control the outcome.***

Individuals involved in mediation create their own agreement. The mediator's role is to help develop a realistic, workable solution that takes everyone's thoughts and feelings into consideration.

### ***Mediation is confidential.***

Kansas law (with some exceptions) makes mediations confidential. All notes made by mediators are destroyed after an agreement is reached.

### ***Mediation can resolve issues quickly.***

Mediation can resolve disputes quickly, as opposed to the months or years it may take in traditional legal proceedings.

### ***Mediation can preserve relationships.***

Mediation can help build a positive framework for future interactions between individuals. Mediation also models problem solving, listening and negotiation skills that can benefit participants long-term.

### ***Mediation gets results.***

Depending on the type of dispute, between 40 and 80 percent of disputes taken to mediation result in agreement.

## How do people access mediation services?

KLS provides mediation in a wide variety of cases including employment disputes, insurance disputes, employment, housing and public accommodations discrimination matters, special disputes and domestic matters such as custody and visitation. Kansans received mediation assistance from KLS, which receives referrals from local district courts, the Kansas Human Rights Commission, the Kansas Insurance Department and others. KLS also offers fee-based mediations on a sliding scale.

**Contact Randy Hershey,  
Director of Mediation,  
at 785-232-5348**

## MEDIATION SERVICES *PROGRAM OVERVIEW*

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The KLS mediation program has eight approved mediators providing civil rights, employment, domestic, truancy, permanency, offender-victim, juvenile, insurance and other mediation services throughout the state. Mediation services complement the work of KLS by providing a non-adversarial dispute resolution method for appropriate cases.

- **Access to Justice (ATJ) Mediations** are funded by the Office of Judicial Administration under the direction of the Kansas Supreme Court. ATJ funding enables parties' access to KLS offices for mediation services at no cost to participants who qualify. Most ATJ mediations involve post-divorce custody and parenting time issues.
- **Human Rights Mediations** offer voluntary mediation to individuals involved in employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination claims filed with the Kansas Human Rights Commission.
- **Kansas Insurance Department (KID) Mediations** are provided to consumers and insurance companies who are in dispute over property and coverage claims in matters referred by the KID.
- **For Fee Mediations** are offered to parties in domestic matters when neither party is ATJ-eligible on a sliding fee basis, and is available to parties in some civil matters at a reasonable hourly rate.



Photo by Marie Landry  
KLS - Topeka Staff Attorney

## FUNDING AND STAFF FIGURES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS 2011 - 2013

	2014	2013	2012	2011
Legal Services Corporation	\$2,569,194	\$2,267,659	\$2,246,389	\$2,632,274
Department of DCF – State of Kansas	129,600	127,100	215,784	690,398
Access to Justice	699,335	693,724	729,836	779,001
U.S. Department of HUD	89,145	199,890	188,621	190,641
IOLTA & Bar Sponsored	638,958	652,088	650,057	722,347
City/County Grants	659,197	679,390	750,012	1,085,834
Area Agencies on Aging	274,065	290,687	282,166	277,683
Custom Computer Training	43,990	90,281	110,542	110,938
Mediation Contracts & Fees	115,449	115,669	116,898	116,345
United Way	236,394	214,432	231,276	261,600
Office of the Governor & Dept. of Justice	99,746	329,844	380,720	289,058
Farm Counseling	12,350	22,195	35,808	31,898
Office of Judicial Administration - GALSC	110,000	140,000	150,000	150,162
Job Success	32,624	47,497	89,141	276,254
Foundation Grants	146,000	168,000	168,000	165,750
Court Awards	413,487	558,469	743,902	293,020
Cy Pres Awards	7,492	321,061	0	0
Interest Income	888	1,165	1,362	2,245
Medical-Legal Partnerships	85,964	190,598	296,832	351,959
Other Miscellaneous	223,111	263,098	242,438	205,991
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$6,586,989</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,372,847</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,629,784</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,633,398</u></b>

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## STAFF TOTALS

	2014	2013	2012	2011
Full-time equivalent employees	93	109	117	136

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## EXPENSES

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YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2011 - 2013

	2014	2013	2012	2011
Salaries	\$4,445,148	\$4,597,924	\$5,070,209	\$5,607,142
Employee Benefits and Payroll Taxes	1,123,579	1,055,908	1,176,462	1,249,130
Rent, Parking, Utilities and Maintenance	570,113	599,653	641,772	665,743
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	63,233	73,481	71,676	79,344
Office Supplies, Printing and Postage	128,994	132,956	151,942	193,961
Telephone	120,290	117,001	88,468	118,523
Travel	70,091	72,269	100,220	108,281
Training	52,412	59,846	28,212	86,356
Library Upkeep	44,901	45,874	52,003	59,179
Insurance	38,670	37,469	41,387	43,892
Litigation Expenses	19,489	19,923	24,594	21,781
Audit, Consulting and Contract Services	131,556	105,789	139,593	239,622
Private Attorney Retainers	15,670	62,319	37,882	46,471
Kansas Bar Foundation Subgrant	36,483	35,077	42,316	46,505
Depreciation	59,788	52,783	33,701	44,494
Other	77,634	88,675	83,163	79,281
Total Expenses	<u>\$6,998,051</u>	<u>7,156,947</u>	<u>\$7,783,600</u>	<u>\$8,679,705</u>

## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charles H. Apt, III Attorney Pittsburg Service Area Term: 2014 - 2017	Margann Bennett Attorney Washburn University School of Law Term 2012 - 2014	Kristin Fisher Boyer Attorney Salina Service Area Term: 2010 - 2013
James Campbell Attorney Emporia Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016 <b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Christopher Attorney Topeka Service Area Term: 2012 - 2016	Amy Fellows Cline Attorney Wichita Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016 <b>President</b>
Marla Craig Client Representative Emporia Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016	Marcelina (Tina) M. Faucett Client Representative Pittsburg Service Area Term: 2011 - 2014	Delores Jones Client Representative Kansas City Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016
Amy Lemley Attorney-at-Large Term: 2012 - 2015	Amanda Manning Client Representative Hays Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016	Deborah (Mori) Moreno Client Representative Topeka Service Area Term: 2013 - 2016
Shawn Morris Client Representative Manhattan Service Area Term: 2011 - 2014	Lou Mulligan Attorney University of Kansas School of Law Term: 2013 - 2016	William Pitsenberger Attorney – At Large Term: 2014 - 2017 <b>Vice President</b>
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Michael Sharma-Crawford Attorney Kansas City Service Area Term: 2012 - 2014	Robert Stephan Attorney Kansas Bar Association Representative Term: 2012 - 2015	Gabriela A. Vega Attorney Manhattan Service Area Term: 2014 - 2017
Wayne White Staff Representative Term: 2013 - 2016	Lucius Woodard Client Representative Wichita Service Area Term: 2012 - 2015 <b>Secretary</b>	

# KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

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## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-233-2068 telephone  
785-354-8311 fax  
**Executive Director: Marilyn Harp**

## EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

712 S Kansas Ave., Second Floor  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-233-2068 telephone  
785-354-8311 fax  
**Director: Lea Vincent**

## MEDIATION SERVICES

712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-232-5348 telephone  
785-233-5932 fax  
**Director: Randy Hershey**

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICES

### **Dodge City**

701 E. Comanche, Suite F  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-227-7349 telephone  
620-227-8001 fax  
Managing Attorney: Tim Woods

### **Emporia**

527 Commercial, Suite 201  
Emporia, KS 66801  
620-343-7520 telephone  
620-343-6898 fax  
Managing Attorney: Ty Wheeler

### **Hays**

2017 N. Vine  
Hays, KS 67601  
785-625-4514 telephone  
785-623-4262 fax  
Managing Attorney: Candace Bridgess

### **Hutchinson**

206 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
620-694-2955 telephone  
620-663-2519 fax  
Managing Attorney: Candace Bridgess

### **Kansas City**

400 State Avenue, Suite 1015  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
913-621-0200 telephone  
913-621-3817 fax  
Managing Attorney: Leland Cox

### **Manhattan**

104 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
785-537-2943 telephone  
785-537-2927 fax  
Managing Attorney: Paul Shipp

### **Pittsburg**

408 N. Walnut  
P.O. Box 1509  
Pittsburg, KS 66762  
620-232-1330 telephone  
620-232-1344 fax  
Project Director: Eric Rosenblad

### **Salina**

1000 Westchester Dr.  
Salina, KS 67401  
785-825-8147 telephone  
785-825-2250 fax  
Managing Attorney: Candace Bridgess

### **Seneca**

203 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seneca, KS 66538  
785-336-6016 telephone  
785-336-6429 fax  
Managing Attorney: Paul Shipp

### **Topeka**

712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 201  
Topeka, KS 66603  
785-354-8531 telephone  
785-233-2096 fax  
Managing Attorney: Kerrie Lonard

### **Wichita**

340 S. Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Wichita, KS 67202  
316-265-9681 telephone  
316-265-5902 fax  
Managing Attorney: Rhonda Sullivan

**Application Line:  
1-800-723-6953**

**Or apply online:  
[www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)**

## AT KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES, WE ARE PROBLEM SOLVERS

In 2014, Kansas Legal Services solved significant legal problems for low income Kansans in the following ways:

- 1,229** Victims of domestic violence obtained a Final Protection from Abuse order, through the representation of a KLS advocate and funded by a variety of sources, including the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) funding
- 168** Adults received steady monthly income from Social Security or SSI disability benefits, putting over \$4 million in the Kansas economy
- 19,000+** Kansans visited the Free Legal Forms page on the KLS website to complete forms, which has 28 sets of legal forms available
- 3,783** Veterans or their families, including 829 service members deployed since 9/11, sought legal advice or representation. 55% of the Post 9/11 deployed families live at or below 125% of poverty
- 294** Cases were mediated, involving employment, insurance or family issues
- 125** Clients served in the medical legal partnership clinics of Kansas Legal Services, including the Children's Mercy Hospital Clinic (KC, KS), the Community Health Ministry (Wamego), Konza Prairie (Junction City) and the Medical Legal Partnership in Southwest Kansas
- 41** Kansas families got a fresh financial start from a bankruptcy filed by KLS offices
- 148** Families met their child's special needs, due to successful Children's disability and Medicare benefit claims, funded by the Kansas Department for Children and Families
- 112** Persons on parole participate in Job Club to improve employability, as part of the KLS Employment Training programs services to 385 job seekers
- 2,388** Hours of legal services provided at no cost to 828 clients from private attorneys, through KLS pro bono program or low bono program
- 982** Parents received child support orders benefiting 2,345 children in divorce and paternity cases, represented by KLS staff
- 54** Attorneys and paralegals provide high quality, effective legal advocacy for low income Kansans
- 124,278** People viewed the resources on the website at [www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)
- 3,058** Hours were contributed by **34** law student volunteers to advance the legal needs of KLS clients, preparing them to continue to give back during their careers on a pro bono basis
- 12,722** Clients received timely legal advice as they faced family law, housing or consumer related or other crises in their lives.
- 37,374** Applicants for KLS service, including 26,481 handled by the Central Intake Unit.
- 1,025** Self-represented persons had questions answered via the Live Help feature on the KLS website