



# LASP Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

Newsletter

Jan. 28, 2023

Putting the  in legal services

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- It's here! **Clean Slate 3.0** goes into effect Feb. 12
- Annual Giving Thanks | **Target Circle giving RESULTS**
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- Meet our **new Pro Bono Coordinators** for Delaware & Montgomery counties!
- **In Memoriam**: David Tilove & Anita Santos-Singh
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- **Pro bono**: **Clean Slate CLEs Feb. 7 & 22**, pro bono opportunities in all 4 counties
- Upcoming **outreach** | Photos: **MLK Day of Service & more**

## DCBA Illumination Award



Pictured (from left): **Donald Weiss**, LASP Board of Directors; **Linda A. Cartisano**, Delaware County Court of Common Pleas President Judge; **Shawn Boehringer**, LASP Executive Director; **Kimberly Hollenback**, VOCA Supervising Attorney & Media Office Managing Attorney; **Michelle R. Terry**, Managing Attorney of LASP's Chester City Office in Delaware County; **Jennifer Pierce**, Pro Bono Director; **Richard A.J. Prebil**, Veterans Advocacy Project Supervising Attorney & DCBA Illumination Award recipient; and **Carolyn Johnson**, Chief Counsel.

## Delaware County Bar Association honors Richard Prebil with Illumination Award at annual President's Dinner

NEWTOWN SQUARE - At the Delaware County Bar Association President's Dinner, **Richard A.J. Prebil** was honored with an Illumination Award! The dinner took place Jan. 12, 2024 at Aronimink Golf Club, Newtown Square. Huge congratulations, Richard!

The award is for a lawyer, who, during the previous year, demonstrated devotion and enthusiasm for the practice of law and has been an inspiration to others by demonstrating superior legal skills and other such accomplishments, including charitable endeavors, community service and, most importantly, service to the members of the Delaware County Bar Association.



Richard is the Supervising Attorney of LASP's Veterans Advocacy Project, which he helped to launch in 2020. In presenting the award, 2024 DCBA President Rachael L. Kemmey (pictured with Richard above) commented that at the Wills for Heroes clinic, Richard ensured that each veteran was assisted.

From January-December 2023, the Veterans unit obtained more than \$1 million in retroactive benefits for low-income clients (specifically, \$1,003,838.90). In that same timeframe, the Veterans unit increased estimated lifetime income by \$15.87 million.

Since the first decision in 2021 through December 2023, LASP has assisted in obtaining over \$1.8 million in retroactive benefits for veterans. Through this and the monthly benefits, the veterans unit has assisted in increasing estimated lifetime income by almost \$31.79 million.

Website news

## Clean Slate 3.0 expands record-sealing eligibility in PA starting Feb. 12

Starting Feb. 12, 2024, more Pennsylvania residents with criminal records will have more chances for a fresh start. The new law expands record-sealing, and shortens the timeframe. Record-sealing helps people get better opportunities for jobs, housing and education.

Sealed records do not need to be disclosed, unless required by federal law.

### The new law, in brief

Some low-level drug and property-related felony convictions may be sealed if 10 years have passed, with no misdemeanor or felony convictions for 10 years.

Many misdemeanor convictions may be sealed if 7 years have passed, with no misdemeanor or felony convictions for 7 years.

Summary convictions will be sealed automatically after 5 years, with no current criminal charges. (starts June 2024)

### **What is record-sealing?**

A sealed record cannot be seen on most background checks.

If a conviction is not sealed automatically, a petition must be filed in court. LASP may be able to help low-income residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties with this process.

### **Low-level felony convictions which may be sealed after 10 years**

Many drug crimes with shorter sentences; theft, including retail theft and receiving stolen property; trespass; forgery & fraud, including access/device fraud, bad checks, ID theft & welfare fraud; criminal mischief; and conspiracy to commit an eligible crime.

### **Misdemeanor convictions which may be sealed after 7 years**

- Recklessly endangering another person; simple assault; driving under the influence (DUI); disorderly conduct; resisting arrest; harassment; terroristic threats; possession of an instrument of a crime; and prostitution.

Clean Slate 3.0 did **not** change Pennsylvania's expungement process. LASP helps low-income people in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties with expungements, pardons, and record-sealing.

### **Advocates: Learn more at upcoming CLEs**

- LASP Virtual CLE for pro bono attorneys, paralegals & LASP staff: **Clean Slate 3.0: Sealing More Records, More Quickly**, Feb. 7 from 1-2 p.m. (scroll down, or see [lasp.org/events/clean-slate-cle-2-7-2024](https://lasp.org/events/clean-slate-cle-2-7-2024))
- Montgomery Bar Association CLE for attorneys: **Basics of Clean Slate 3.0**, Feb. 22 from 11:30-1 p.m. (scroll down, or register: [bit.ly/MBA-2-22-2024](https://bit.ly/MBA-2-22-2024))
- [LASP flyer](#) (2-page PDF), or click image above

LASP News: more details

Clean Slate 3.0 Virtual CLE

## Annual Giving

### **Thank you to our Giving Tuesday & 2023 donors!**

Thank you to all our donors!

LASP greatly appreciates the support received towards our end-of-year campaigns. With support from caring individuals like you, we can continue to provide civil legal aid to those who can't afford legal assistance.

We look forward to another year of working together to achieve equal access to justice and opportunity.



Make your Annual Gift today!

## Target Circle giving campaign

**Thank you for voting for LASP! Your efforts resulted in a donation of \$2,977.28 from Target Circle!**

**To our friends & supporters,**

Thank you so much for voting for us in the Target Circle Giving Program. LASP received **166,977 votes** and a **donation of \$2,977.28** to help us further our mission, with help from your generous votes.

This Target Circle donation came from a larger pool of funds donated from Target to nonprofits tied to the local community.

View all the results at [target.com/circle](https://target.com/circle).

Continue checking LASP's website, e-news and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter/X) to learn more about our work.

Again, **to everyone who participated, spread the word, and shared the love, THANK YOU!**



LASP Ways to Give

## Staff update

### LASP names John E. Bowen as Controller

NORRISTOWN - **John E. Bowen** is Legal Aid of Southeastern PA's new Controller, beginning Jan. 22. He is based in the Administrative Office in Norristown and serves all four counties. John brings a 40-year career as a financial professional to LASP, with experience in both corporate and nonprofit roles.

From 1988-2018, he served as Financial Advisor at Cantor Fitzgerald, Legg Mason Wood Walker, and Wachovia Securities in Atlanta. As an Independent Director on the Maryland Financial Bank's Board of Directors from 2005-2018, he led the Audit Committee. He reviewed and approved commercial and real estate loans and managed a team of 17 professionals overseeing various financial functions. John's other previous employment included Wachovia Bank in Atlanta, where he was Investment & Trust Controller; Equitable Bank in Baltimore, where he served as Accounting Manager; and Ernst & Young in Baltimore, where he was Audit Manager. His career highlights include increasing sales across financial products by 700%.



John earned a Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) and MBA in 2021 from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, where he was nominated as Student of the Year. He is a CPA and earned a B.S. in accounting from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Since October 2012, John has served on the BGSU's College of Business Finance & Insurance Advisory Board, where he collaborates with finance executives to provide guidance on curriculum planning, mentoring students and scholarship.

In 2022, John moved to the Phoenixville area and established Bowen Farm, a 48-acre farm and vineyard in West Vincent Township, implementing the use of natural products and sustainable agricultural practices that benefit the environment and also the health and productivity of the land. He can be reached at 484-209-0863 or [jbowen@lasp.org](mailto:jbowen@lasp.org).

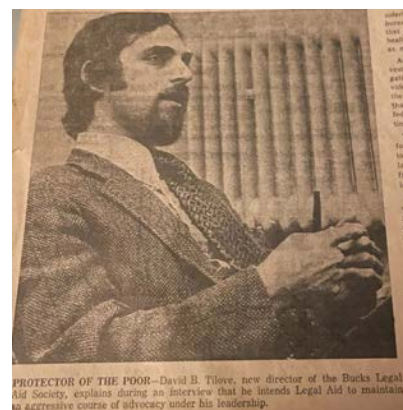
## In Memoriam

### David Tilove, Bucks County Legal Aid Society Staff Attorney & Executive Director

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of David Tilove, who served Bucks County Legal Aid Society (BCLAS) as Staff Attorney and Executive Director from 1970-1993. He died Jan. 2, 2024.

In 2001, BCLAS joined other longstanding legal aid organizations in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties to form LASP.

David continued his career dedicated to legal services at other organizations including North Penn Legal Services (NPLS).



- Philadelphia Inquirer obituary by Gary Miles | Jan. 16, 2024 | <https://bit.ly/Inquirer-1-16-2024>
- Obituary: <https://www.schugar.com/obituaries?id=2874>

Inquirer obituary

## Anita Santos-Singh, Philadelphia Legal Assistance Founding Executive Director

Anita Santos-Singh, Founding Executive Director of Philadelphia Legal Assistance and legal services advocate for 34 years, passed away Jan. 13, 2024, at the age of 59. PLA said in a statement, "Anita was one of the brightest lights of the Philadelphia legal community, laser-focused on bringing life-changing legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable Philadelphians."



In addition to connections with LASP staff over many years, Anita worked directly with LASP, MidPenn Legal Services and North Penn Legal Services in developing the response to Hurricane Ida in Pennsylvania in 2021. LASP sends our deepest condolences to Anita's family and to the Philadelphia legal community.

- PLA statement: <https://bit.ly/PLA-1-2024>
- Philadelphia Bar Association statement: <https://bit.ly/PhilaBar-1-2024>

## Battle of the 'Burbs softball tournament

### Sponsors invited! LASP's Inaugural Battle of the 'Burbs softball tourney Saturday, May 18!

Sponsors are invited! The **Inaugural Battle of the 'Burbs** has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 18, 2024**. **We look forward to a friendly competition & presenting a new trophy!** (Note: The October 2023 event was rained out.)

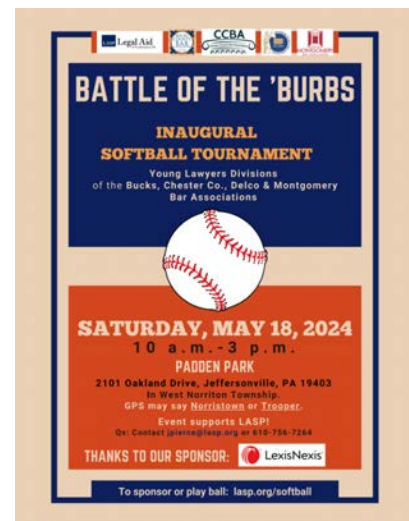
The competition will take place at **Padden Park**, 2101 Oakland Drive, Jeffersonville, PA 19403, in West Norriton Township. GPS may say Norristown or Trooper.

The event will feature the Young Lawyers Divisions of the Bucks County Bar Association, Chester County Bar Association, Delaware County Bar Association & Montgomery Bar Association. (You do not have to be a young lawyer to play!)

Thank you to **LexisNexis** for your sponsorship.

Learn more, sign up to play, & sponsor: [lasp.org/softball](http://lasp.org/softball).

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Pierce, Pro Bono Director, at [jpierce@lasp.org](mailto:jpierce@lasp.org).



Softball Tournament ~ Battle of the 'Burbs

## Pro bono news & opportunities



LASP Pro Bono

Spotlight

## Welcoming new Pro Bono Coordinators for Delco & Montco!

### Delaware County

CHESTER City - **Cassidy Heiserman**, LASP Staff Attorney, has been named **Delaware County Pro Bono Coordinator**. She is based in Chester City, Delaware County. Cassidy steps into the role as Delco pro bono coordinator following the [retirement of Thomas Kerstan](#) in December 2023.

She joined LASP in March 2023 and focuses her practice on custody matters and landlord-tenant cases.

"I am excited to become more involved with the Delaware County Bar Association and to work closely with private attorneys, so that together, we can assist as many individuals as possible," she said.

She can be reached at 610-230-6074 or [cheiserman@lasp.org](mailto:cheiserman@lasp.org).



### Montgomery County

NORRISTOWN - **Melina Dixon**, Legal Aid of Southeastern PA Staff Attorney, has been named the new **Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator**. She takes on the pro bono coordinator role in place of Kathryn Palladino, Norristown Managing Attorney.

Melina joined LASP Dec. 1, 2021 as a Staff Attorney based in Norristown. She focuses her practice on elder law, senior wills, healthcare directives and powers of attorney.

"Having the opportunity to work with attorneys and the private bar for various events helps LASP expand our reach and help more clients," she said. She looks forward to exchanging information about pro bono opportunities and collaborating with the Montgomery Bar Association. "Pro bono attorneys expand our footprint and bring important skills to directly help people in the community who cannot afford an attorney."

She can be reached at 484-275-0463 or [mdixon@lasp.org](mailto:mdixon@lasp.org).



LASP website: [News](#)

Get involved in 2024!

LASP has multiple volunteer opportunities in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

Make 2024 your year to make a difference in your community by helping neighbors with limited incomes and resources gain access to justice.

How to find out more:

- LASP Pro Bono **news, events & info on ongoing opportunities**: [lasp.org/pro-bono](https://lasp.org/pro-bono)
- Sign up for a **specific** volunteer opportunity: [lasp.org/pro-bono-opportunities](https://lasp.org/pro-bono-opportunities)
- **Take a training** and consider taking a case outside your regular practice area, and/or watch a webinar on **trauma-informed advocacy**. To get the password to [lasp.org/pro-bono-trainings](https://lasp.org/pro-bono-trainings), contact any LASP pro bono coordinator: [jpierce@lasp.org](mailto:jpierce@lasp.org), [mreinprecht@lasp.org](mailto:mreinprecht@lasp.org), [bdoyle@lasp.org](mailto:bdoyle@lasp.org), [cheiserman@lasp.org](mailto:cheiserman@lasp.org), or [mdixon@lasp.org](mailto:mdixon@lasp.org).
- **Flyer** (1-page PDF), or click image above



## Feb. 7 Virtual CLE training: 'Clean Slate 3.0: Sealing More Records, More Quickly,' presented by LASP for attorneys, paralegals & LASP staff

- **Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-2 p.m.**
- Register: [bit.ly/clean-slate-cle-2-7-2024](https://bit.ly/clean-slate-cle-2-7-2024)
- Free for LASP Staff
- Free for pro bono volunteers who take a record-clearing case, assist at a record-clearing clinic, or \$20 donation: [bit.ly/cle-donation-2-7-2024](https://bit.ly/cle-donation-2-7-2024)
- **Flyer** (1-page PDF), or click image at right

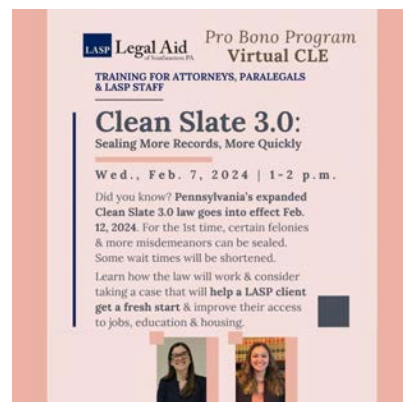
LASP's Pro Bono Program presents a virtual CLE training for attorneys, Paralegals & LASP staff. LASP is an accredited CLE provider (CLE credit for attorneys).

Did you know? Pennsylvania's **expanded Clean Slate 3.0 law goes into effect Feb. 12, 2024**. For the first time, certain felonies and more misdemeanors can be sealed. Some wait times will be shortened.

Learn how the law will work & consider taking a case that will help a LASP client get a fresh start & improve their access to jobs, education and housing.

Presenters:

- **Erica Briant**, LASP Director of Community Engagement & Training
- **Noelle Gambale**, LASP Community Engagement Unit Staff Attorney



## Bucks County pro bono opportunities

### Volunteers needed Thursdays at 2 p.m. for eviction prevention program in Lower Makefield Township

Pro bono attorneys are invited to volunteer for an eviction prevention program in Bucks County! The hearings take place **every Thursday at 2 p.m.** at Judge Kronnagel's MDJ court, located at **31 E. Cleveland Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067**. The project is a collaboration



between the Bucks County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee, LASP, and the Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC), with support from the Bucks County Dept. of Housing & Community Development.

More information: [website article](#). To learn more or sign up, contact Jennifer Pierce at [jpierce@lasp.org](mailto:jpierce@lasp.org) or Megan Reinprecht at [mreinprecht@lasp.org](mailto:mreinprecht@lasp.org).



## Represent plaintiffs at PFA hearings any Wednesday in Doylestown

DOYLESTOWN - Provide representation for plaintiffs at Protection from Abuse (PFA) hearings, held every Wednesday. CHOOSE ANY DAY(S)! Upcoming dates when volunteers for plaintiffs are especially needed are Wednesday, **Feb. 7, 21 & 28, 2024**.

LIMITED-SCOPE pro bono opportunity, with no expectation of continued representation beyond the day of volunteer service.

New volunteers can observe PFA Day and learn from staff and current volunteers before committing to provide representation. You do NOT need to be a family law attorney to participate. Hearings are at Bucks County Justice Center, Doylestown.

- To volunteer for plaintiffs, contact Durene McCarty at [dmccarty@lasp.org](mailto:dmccarty@lasp.org) or 215-398-6757.



## Chester County: Volunteer attorneys, paralegals, law students & community members needed for 2024 mobile home project

The 2024 Chester County Mobile Home Tax Reassessment Project will begin in February 2024 and continue through summer.

**Volunteer opportunities are available for attorneys, paralegals, law students and community members.**

Multiple opportunities are available, and you do NOT need to volunteer for all months of the project. Learn more about the project and its impact on our [webpage](#).

To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Brian Doyle, Staff Attorney and Chester County Pro Bono Coordinator, at 484-416-4259 x5210 or [bdoyle@lasp.org](mailto:bdoyle@lasp.org).



## Delaware County pro bono opportunities

**April 25: Volunteer attorneys, paralegals & notaries are needed for Senior Legal Clinic in Brookhaven**

Volunteers will help low-income seniors draft **simple wills**, **financial powers of attorney** and **healthcare directives**.

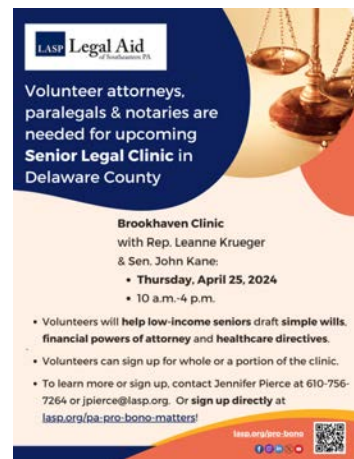
### Brookhaven Clinic with Rep. Leanne Krueger & Sen. John Kane:

Thursday, April 25, 2024 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Volunteers can sign up for **whole or a portion** of the clinic.

To learn more or sign up, contact Cassidy Heiserman at 610-230-6074 or [cheiserman@lasp.org](mailto:cheiserman@lasp.org), or Jennifer Pierce at 610-756-7264 or [jpierce@lasp.org](mailto:jpierce@lasp.org).

[Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right



## Pro bono attorneys needed for multiple practice areas

**Make a difference in Delaware County!** Pro bono opportunities include no fault, no asset divorces; simple wills, powers of attorney, healthcare directives for seniors; custody (limited scope available); and other civil legal issues low-income individuals face. Your volunteer service improves access to justice.

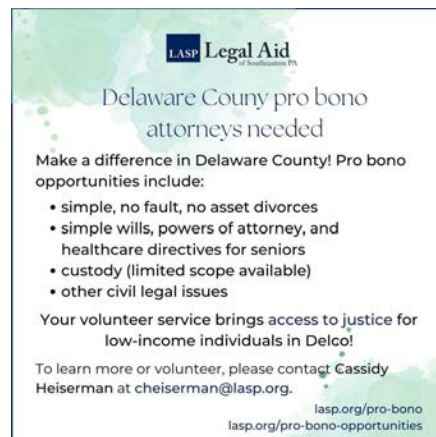
### Divorce

Pro bono volunteers are needed to represent clients in **no fault, no asset divorces**. The divorces are either by consent or one-year separation and do not involve equitable distribution, custody, support, or fault grounds. Typically, a pro bono volunteer will not need to appear at a court proceeding in these cases.

### Custody

Pro bono volunteers are needed to represent clients in custody cases **in a limited scope**, pursuant to the [PA Rules of Professional Conduct](#) and [Delaware County's limited entry of appearance rule](#). Delaware County's Rule 1012 permits attorneys to withdraw by praecipe after representation at the number of custody conferences agreed to in advance.

To learn more or sign up, please contact Cassidy Heiserman, Staff Attorney & Delaware County Pro Bono Coordinator, at [cheiserman@lasp.org](mailto:cheiserman@lasp.org). Or register at [lasp.org/volunteer-signup](https://lasp.org/volunteer-signup).



## Montgomery County pro bono opportunities

### Feb. 22: CLE on 'Basics of Clean Slate 3.0' at Montgomery Bar Association

NORRISTOWN - Join the Montgomery Bar Association's Criminal Defense & Pro Bono Committees for a CLE, "Basics of Clean Slate 3.0" on **Thursday, Feb. 22** from **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the MBA, 100 W. Airy St., Norristown, PA 19401.

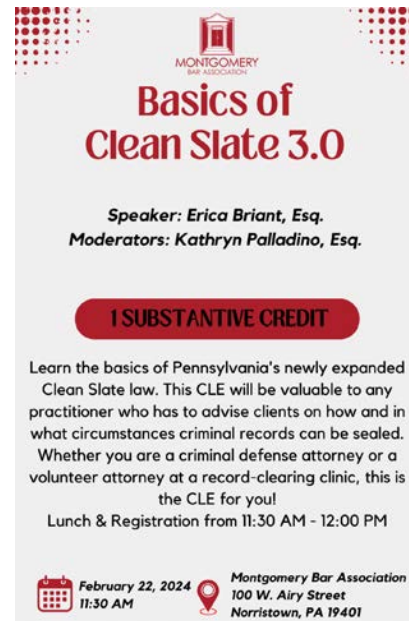
Register through MBA: <https://bit.ly/MBA-2-22-2024>.

Learn the basics of Pennsylvania's newly expanded Clean Slate law. This CLE will be valuable to any practitioner who has to advise clients on how and in what circumstances criminal records can be sealed.

Whether you are a criminal defense attorney or a volunteer attorney at a record-clearing clinic, this is the CLE for you.

Lunch & registration: 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | CLE: 12-1 p.m.  
1 CLE credit, Substantive

- Presenter: **Erica Briant**, Esq., LASP Director of Community Engagement and Training
- Moderator: **Kathryn Palladino**, Esq., LASP Norristown Managing Attorney & MBA Pro Bono Committee co-chair



**Basics of Clean Slate 3.0**

Speaker: **Erica Briant, Esq.**  
Moderators: **Kathryn Palladino, Esq.**

**1 SUBSTANTIVE CREDIT**

Learn the basics of Pennsylvania's newly expanded Clean Slate law. This CLE will be valuable to any practitioner who has to advise clients on how and in what circumstances criminal records can be sealed. Whether you are a criminal defense attorney or a volunteer attorney at a record-clearing clinic, this is the CLE for you!

Lunch & Registration from 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

February 22, 2024  
11:30 AM

Montgomery Bar Association  
100 W. Airy Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

## Ongoing Montco volunteer opportunities

### Divorce cases | Custody cases | Lansdale outreach

More details about each opportunity are at [lasp.org/pro-bono](https://lasp.org/pro-bono), or contact Melina Dixon, Staff Attorney and Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator, at 484-275-0463 or [mdixon@lasp.org](mailto:mdixon@lasp.org).

## Eviction prevention in 8 courts across the county as part of EPIC

The Eviction Prevention & Intervention Coalition (EPIC) started in 2017 in one courtroom in Norristown and is currently in **eight Magisterial District Justice courtrooms** across Montgomery County: three in Norristown, two in **Pottstown**, and one each in **East Norriton**, **Jenkintown** and **Lansdale**.



**Volunteer attorneys appear in court to help those facing eviction.** You can specify your courtroom location/day of service, etc. To learn more or volunteer for EPIC, please contact Michelle Dempsy, LASP Staff Attorney & lead attorney with EPIC, at [mdempsky@lasp.org](mailto:mdempsky@lasp.org).

LASP Pro Bono

Sign up: specific opportunities

**Stay tuned:**  
pro bono  
CLEs!

[Bucks Co. Bar  
Assoc. events](#)

[Chester Co.  
Bar Assoc.  
events](#)

[Delaware Co.  
Bar Assoc  
events](#)

[Montgomery  
Bar Assoc.  
events](#)

**LASP in the news**



**Bucks County Community College Announces Monthly Virtual Paralegal/Legal Studies Information Sessions: The newly re-named Department of Business, Innovation and Legal Studies underscores the College's commitment to legal education and career preparation**  
Lansdale Reporter | Jan. 22, 2024 | <https://bit.ly/Reporter-1-22-2024>

LASP website: In the News

## Other news

**20 Delco renters face eviction each day. How can official change that? After a year of discussion and planning, the Delaware County Housing Coalition presented a series of recommendations for the county to undertake**  
by Kenny Cooper | **WHYY News** | Jan. 26, 2024 | <https://bit.ly/WHYY-1-26-2024>

**'A paycheck away': More than 300 are homeless in Delaware County; 20 renter households face eviction notices daily: Delaware County Housing Coalition looking to delve into issues this year**  
by Kathleen E. Carey | **Delaware County Daily Times** | Jan. 25, 2024 | <https://bit.ly/Daily-Times-1-25-2024>

**As Climate Shocks Worsen, U.S. Disaster Agency Tries a New Approach to Aid: Changes include immediate cash for more evacuees, and more money for temporary housing and for repairing damaged homes**  
by Christopher Flavell | **New York Times** | Jan. 19, 2024 | <https://nyti.ms/3U9wKcZ>

**First Comes the Hurricane, Then the Evictions: How storms are squeezing America's renters**  
by Olivia Ferrari | **The Atlantic** | Jan. 2, 2024 | <https://bit.ly/Atlantic-1-2-2024>

## Rental Assistance

### ALERT: Montgomery County rent/utility assistance applications closed Jan. 26

Your Way Home of Montgomery County announced on its [Emergency Rent and Utilities Coalition \(ERUC\) webpage](#) that applications **CLOSED** Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

This was the last chance to submit an application for help through ERUC.

As of June 2023, ERUC has provided over \$100 million in assistance to 8,300 households.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY UPDATE | Jan. 2024

**RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

**ALERT: Montgomery County rent & utility assistance applications CLOSE Jan. 26, 2024**

- **APPLY ASAP!**
- Your Way Home of Montgomery County announced that applications for the Emergency Rent and Utilities Coalition (ERUC) close Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.
- If you or someone you know needs rent or utility assistance, this is the **final chance to submit an application for help** through ERUC.
- As of June 2023, ERUC has provided over \$100 million in assistance to 8,300 households.
- More information: [yourwayhome.org/eruc](http://yourwayhome.org/eruc)

Details + links for Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties:

LASP Legal Aid [bit.ly/rent-utility-help](https://bit.ly/rent-utility-help)

Rental assistance: 4-county updates

## Chester County Mobile Home Tax Reassessment Project

### LASP & United Way of Chester County team up to help Chester County mobile home owners with free tax reassessments

The Chester County Mobile Home Tax Reassessment Project is gearing up for 2024.

A collaboration between LASP and United Way of Chester County, this impactful project provides free tax reassessments. Since 2019, this project has assisted in 1,014 successful appeals and saved each mobile home owner an average of \$800+ on their annual taxes.

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, July 12, 2024.

- Application form and other information on the United Way of Chester County webpage: [unitedwaychestercounty.org/our-impact/mobile-home-tax-reassessment](https://unitedwaychestercounty.org/our-impact/mobile-home-tax-reassessment).
- LASP webpage: [lasp.org/chester-county-mobile-home-tax-reassessments](https://lasp.org/chester-county-mobile-home-tax-reassessments).

**MOBILE HOME TAX REASSESSMENT PROJECT**

**YOU CAN LOWER YOUR PROPERTY TAXES!** **DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 12!**

United Way of Chester County, in partnership with Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, is offering assistance to mobile home owners in Chester County to file for property tax reassessment appeals. We will do all the work and pay the fees on behalf of the homeowners in the program.

Your mobile home depreciates over time, but the tax authority won't lower your assessment unless you appeal. Since 2019, we assisted in 1,014 successful appeals, lowered assessments by 65%, saved each mobile home owner an average of \$800 on their annual taxes, and collectively saved these homeowners \$9 million over the next 10 years that they should have never owed to begin with if not for a flaw in state tax code.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

- Visit [unitedwayforhomeowners.com](https://unitedwayforhomeowners.com) and fill out the 2024 Reassessment Form or call Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania at 877-429-5994 to make an appointment.
- Once the form is complete, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania will contact the client to schedule a 30-minute intake interview between March and mid-July with a representative from Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania.
- A paralegal will complete the forms and will contact the client for their signature.
- A United Way of Chester County volunteer will take photos of the home for documentation.
- All forms will be submitted between May 1 - August 1 to the County Reassessment Office.
- Clients will be notified the results of their reassessment appeals in October.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO THE APPOINTMENT?**

- You need to know the year, make, model and size of your mobile home. A property tax bill, preferably the school tax bill.
- Title or sales agreement to your mobile home, information about how much you paid for the home, including a bill of sale if you purchased within the past 5 years, as well as insurance information.

For more information, call 877-429-5994. Para más información en español, llame a 610-436-4510.

United Way of Chester County | United Way | LASP Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

[English flyer](#)

**Programa de Reevaluación de Impuestos Sobre Casas Móviles**

**¡USTED PUEDE PAGAR MENOS IMPUESTOS SOBRE LA PROPIEDAD!** **FECHA LÍMITE PARA APLICAR ¡ES EL 12 DE JULIO!**

Si usted es el dueño de una casa móvil o casa rodante (mobile home or trailer park home en inglés), usted puede ser elegible a pagar menos impuestos sobre su propiedad.

El United Way of Chester County y Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, están ofreciendo ayuda a los dueños de casas móviles o casas rodantes para que soliciten un nuevo estimado del valor de su casa móvil/casa rodante y de esa manera pagar menos impuestos sobre la propiedad. Según pasan los años el valor de su casa móvil baja y en menos de lo que usted pagó cuando la compró. Esto se llama depreciación. Pero las autoridades fiscales no reducen lo que usted debería que pagar en impuestos al menos que usted pida una reconsideración (apelación) para que ajusten el impuesto de acuerdo a lo que vale su casa móvil actualmente.

En los últimos dos años hemos ayudado a gestionar 1,014 apelaciones y los dueños han reducido por 65% lo que tienen que pagar en impuestos. Esto quiere decir que los dueños han reducido un promedio de \$800 dólares en impuestos anuales por su casa móvil. Ahorros que sumaran a \$9 millones en los próximos 10 años – algo que los dueños hubiesen tenido que pagar debido a una falla en las leyes fiscales.

**¿Recientemente apeló sus impuestos? Use esta tabla para determinar si necesita apelar este año:**

Si su casa es...	Entonces deberían reapelar cada...
5 años o menos	2 años
5-10 años	3 años
10+ años	5 años

**¿Qué Documentos Necesito para Mi Casa?**

- Necesita saber el año, fabricante, modelo y tamaño de su casa móvil. La factura de impuesto sobre la propiedad, preferible la factura de impuestos escolares.
- El título o el acuerdo de compra y venta de su casa móvil, información sobre como pagó por la casa. Si la compró en los últimos 5 años traiga la factura de venta, así como la información del engano.

Para más información en español, llame a 610-436-4510.

United Way of Chester County | United Way | LASP Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

[Spanish flyer](#)

## FEMA Individual Assistance reforms

### Published Jan. 22, new FEMA reforms seek to improve equity for disaster survivors who apply to the Individual Assistance program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced changes to the Individual Assistance Program for future disasters. The new rules were announced Jan. 19, and published as an interim federal rule on Jan. 22, with a goal to "increase equity by **simplifying processes, removing barriers to entry, and increasing eligibility for certain types of assistance**" under the program.

Some changes, outlined by Brittany Perrigue Gomez, Disaster Benefits Team Manager at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, include establishing Serious Needs Assistance and Displacement Assistance, removing loan application requirements, helping underinsured survivors, expanding habitability criteria, making accessibility improvements, removing

barriers for late applicants, streamlining Temporary Housing Assistance applications, simplifying the appeals process, and more.

The changes are expected to take effect for new disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024.

**Further reading:**

- FEMA's 342-page publication | Federal Register | <https://bit.ly/FEMA-1-22-2024>
- New York Times: <https://nyti.ms/3U9wKcZ>
- Washington Post: <https://wapo.st/47QhLYD>
- [FEMA flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image above

**FEMA Reforms Disaster Assistance to Help Survivors**

To help survivors recover faster, FEMA will make significant updates to its Individual Assistance Program

<p><b>Establish New Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standardizing Serious Needs Assistance</b> FEMA is streamlining assistance for serious needs by making a \$750 payment available in all disasters requiring individual assistance for eligible households to access essential items like food, water, baby formula and other emergency supplies.</li> <li>• <b>Create Displacement Assistance</b> The new form of assistance is designed for survivors that cannot return to their home following a disaster and provides them financial assistance they can use flexibly to cover their immediate housing needs. It will provide eligible survivors with options to spend with irrevocable housing options of their choice until they are able to secure a more option to focus on their long term recovery.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cut Red Tape and Expand Eligibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Simplify Other Needs Assistance</b> FEMA will no longer require survivors to apply for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan before being considered for certain types of assistance. Survivors now have the option to apply for a low interest SBA loan at the same time they apply for FEMA assistance.</li> <li>• <b>Expand Eligibility Criteria</b> Survivors who need to fix a disaster-damaged area of their home may qualify for FEMA support so long as the home is in a safe and sanitary condition, to include home repair regardless of pre-existing conditions of the disaster-damaged area. For example, if an already leaky roof was further damaged by a disaster, it may be eligible for repairs needed to bring it back to a working condition.</li> <li>• <b>Make Accessibility Improvements</b> Survivors with disabilities may now use FEMA funding to make certain accessibility improvements to homes damaged by a declared disaster.</li> <li>• <b>Simplifying Assistance for Entrepreneurs</b> FEMA may provide self-employed survivors with some initial financial support to replace disaster-damaged tools and equipment, or other items required for a specific trade or profession.</li> </ul>
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**Coming Soon!**  
Changes go into effect for disasters declared on or after March 22, 2024

**Simplify the Application Process**

- **Streamline Temporary Housing Assistance Applications**  
FEMA is reducing documentation requirements for applicants seeking certified temporary housing assistance. Individual claimants will engage closely with survivors to offer support and increase transparency.
- **Remove Barriers for Late Applicants**  
Survivors requesting approval for a late application no longer have to provide documentation supporting the reason for their late application.
- **Simplify the Process for Appeals**  
Survivors who do not agree with the type or amount of FEMA assistance offered will experience a simplified process to appeal. A signed written request letter will no longer be required to accompany supporting documentation.

"The limitations on federal assistance have frustrated survivors and delayed recovery for far too long. FEMA was determined to remedy this situation and help reach more people"  
- FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell



**Free legal outreach**

# Events

[lasp.org/events](http://lasp.org/events)

**FREE outreach:**

Learn more about a legal issue of interest.

**In-person: Bucks County Custody Clinic in Doylestown - Feb. 6**

- **Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**
- at **LASP's Bristol Office**, 1230 Veterans Highway, Suite F-13, Bristol. PA 19007
- **Register** or learn more about the clinic, contact Carol Wilbur at **215-340-1818**.
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right

BRISTOL - Join LASP at a free Bucks County Custody Clinic. Schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. Intake
- 10-11 a.m. Information session
- 11 a.m. Meet with an attorney for approximately 20 minutes

**LASP Legal Aid**  
of Southeastern PA

**CUSTODY CLINICS**  
Free legal clinics for Bucks County

**Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 in Doylestown**  
1260 Almshouse Road, Building C, 4th floor Conference Room, Doylestown

**Tuesday, Feb. 6 in Bristol**  
1230 Veterans Highway, Suite F-13, Bristol, PA

**Tuesday, March 12 in Doylestown**  
1260 Almshouse Road, Building C, 4th floor Conference Room, Doylestown

- 9:30 a.m. Intake
- 10-11 a.m. Information session
- 11 a.m. Meet with an attorney for approximately 20 min.

**First step: Register**  
To register by phone or learn more about the clinic, please contact Carol Wilbur at 215-340-1818.

**Who we can help at the FREE clinic**

- **Parents only** (no grandparents or extended family members)
- Assistance is for **Bucks County cases only**.
- **Parents must meet financial eligibility** for Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP).

LASP provides free civil legal aid in Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties.  
 Helpline: 877-639-5964 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., or 24/7 [lasp.org/24hr](http://lasp.org/24hr)  
 for better spanish. Language Line access & interpretation available in 240+ languages.  
 More details: [lasp.org/events](http://lasp.org/events) Follow @legalaidpa

**In-person: Legal outreach at Community Health & Dental Care in Pottstown - Feb. 7**

- **Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** (monthly)
- at **Community Health & Dental Care's Coventry Mall site**, 351 W. Schuylkill Road, Pottstown, PA 19465
- [ch-dc.org/event/free-legal-aid-event-4/](http://ch-dc.org/event/free-legal-aid-event-4/)

POTTSTOWN - LASP will hold a legal outreach at Community Health & Dental Care's Coventry Mall location

**GHDC**  
Your Health. Our Community.

**LASP Legal Aid**  
of Southeastern PA

**FREE Legal Aid Event**

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024  
11:00AM - 1:00PM  
CHDC Office at the Coventry Mall

to discuss how to obtain FREE legal services for civil matters. Eligibility is determined by your monthly income, assets, family size, and other factors. This event is open to the community. You do not need to be a CHDC patient or register to attend!

## Hybrid: Legal Workshops in Exton & virtual - Feb. 7 & 13

- **Clean Slate** | Wednesday, Feb. 7, 10-11 a.m. | Virtual: [bit.ly/clean-slate-2-7-2024](https://bit.ly/clean-slate-2-7-2024) or in-person
- **Unemployment Compensation** | Tuesday, Feb. 13, 10-11 a.m. | Virtual: <https://bit.ly/uc-2-13-2024> or in-person
- at **PA CareerLink office**, 479 Thomas Jones Way, Suite 500, Exton, PA 19380
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right

EXTON - A LASP attorney will hold free Legal Workshops. **Attend in person or virtually.** This workshop series is presented in partnership with LASP, United Way of Chester County, and PA CareerLink of Chester County.

Open to all counties! LASP serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

Hybrid (virtual or in-person)

**Free Legal Workshops**

- Get information on a legal issue, in about an hour.
- An attorney from Legal Aid of Southeastern PA will discuss the legal topic.
- Then, meet one-on-one with the attorney to discuss specifics of your situation.

**Your choice:**

**Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024**  
10-11 a.m.  
**PA Clean Slate / criminal records expungement**  
[bit.ly/clean-slate-2-7-2024](https://bit.ly/clean-slate-2-7-2024)

**or in-person at**  
**PA CareerLink office**  
479 Thomas Jones Way  
Suite 500  
Exton, PA 19380

**or virtual:**  
Register in advance with Keystone login.  
Links to each workshop are posted at: [lasp.org/events](https://lasp.org/events)

or [pacareerlinkchessco.org/events](https://pacareerlinkchessco.org/events)

Logos: United Way, Pennsylvania CareerLink, LASP Legal Aid

## In-person: Legal Clinic in Exton - Feb. 14

- **Wednesday, Feb. 14** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Also: March 13, April 10, May 8 & June 12, 2024
- at **PA CareerLink of Chester County**, 479 Thomas Jones Way, Suite 500, Exton, PA 19380
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right

EXTON - A free legal clinic will be held monthly at PA CareerLink of Chester County. The clinics will be the second Wednesday of the month through June 2024.

To schedule a 30-minute appointment with a LASP attorney, contact Edwina at 610-429-9400, ext. 4115 or [ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org](mailto:ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org).

The clinics are a partnership between LASP, United Way of Chester County's Financial Stability Center, and PA CareerLink of Chester County.

In person, in Exton!

Logos: LASP Legal Aid, United Way, Pennsylvania CareerLink

Financial Stability Center  
**FREE LEGAL CLINICS**

**2nd Wednesdays**  
**Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12, 2024**  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**PA CareerLink Office**  
479 Thomas Jones Way | Suite 500  
Exton, PA 19380

Schedule a 30-minute appointment with a Legal Aid of Southeastern PA attorney. Contact Edwina at 610-429-9400, ext. 4115 or [ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org](mailto:ejohnson@uwchestercounty.org)

## In-person: Legal Clinic in Lansdale - Feb. 22

- **Thursday, Feb. 22** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (monthly)
- at **Manna on Main Street / North Penn Commons**, 606 E. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right

LANSDALE - LASP will hold a free monthly outreach event at North Penn Commons / Manna on Main Street in Lansdale. Stop by our table!

Have a question? Contact Erika Felpel at 484-275-0672 or [efelpel@lasp.org](mailto:efelpel@lasp.org).

In person, in Lansdale!

Logos: North Penn Commons, LASP Legal Aid, manna on main street

**NEED FREE LEGAL SERVICES?**

Stop by our table on these dates: **Thursdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 28, April 25, May 23 & June 27, 2024 (4th Thursdays)**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

at **North Penn Commons / Manna on Main Street**  
606 E. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

- Stop by Legal Aid of Southeastern PA's table to learn if you qualify for free legal services.
- Have a question about LASP's services? Contact Erika Felpel at 484-275-0672 or [efelpel@lasp.org](mailto:efelpel@lasp.org).
- Se habla español. Language access & interpretation available for 240+ other languages.

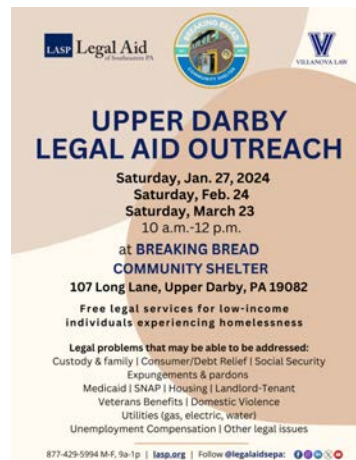
[lasp.org/events](https://lasp.org/events)

## In-person: Upper Darby Legal Aid Outreach - Feb. 24

- **Saturday, Feb. 24** & March 23 from **10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
- at **Breaking Bread Community Shelter**, 107 Long Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PDF), or click image at right

UPPER DARBY - A free legal outreach will be held at Breaking Bread Community Shelter in Upper Darby.

LASP attorneys, working with law students from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, will provide free legal services for low-income individuals experiencing homelessness.



## In-person: Expungement Clinic in Upper Moreland - March 12

- **Tuesday, March 12** at **5:30-7:30 p.m.**
- **Upper Moreland Library**, 109 Park Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090
- [Flyer](#) (1-page PNG), or click image at right

UPPER MORELAND - Looking to clean up your record? Join us for an expungement clinic hosted by PA Rep. Nancy Guent, Sen. Maria Collett, the Montgomery County Public Defenders, and Legal Aid of Southeastern PA.

Appointment is required. Call Sen. Collett's office to make an appointment at 215-368-1429. Please provide name and date of birth when making an appointment.



## 9th annual MLK Day of Service





DARBY - LASP, in partnership with Sen. Anthony H. Williams (front row, fourth from left) and House Speaker Joanna McClinton (front row, fifth from left), held the ninth annual Expungement Clinic in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 15 at Darby Borough Complex.

LASP attorneys and pro bono attorneys, paralegals and students helped 35 people get a better understanding of their record-sealing options under the new Clean Slate 3.0 which goes into effect Feb. 12, or start the expungement process.

## LASP Scrapbook



### MBA Annual Business Meeting

BLUE BELL - LASP attorneys at the Montgomery Bar Association Annual Business Meeting Luncheon included (from left): **Melina Dixon**, Staff Attorney and Montgomery County Pro Bono Coordinator; **Jennifer Pierce**, Pro Bono Director; **Kathryn Palladino**, Norristown Managing Attorney; and **Michael E. Kelley**, Staff Attorney.



### LASP Staff-Board Holiday Reception

NORRISTOWN - A Staff-Board Holiday Reception followed the LASP Board of Directors meeting Dec. 13, 2023 at the Montgomery Bar Association. Staff based in Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties were on hand.

Flickr album (13 photos):

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBbUzr>

Pictured (from left): **Christina Cozzetto**, Staff Attorney; **Kate Pietragallo**, Staff

The meeting was held Jan. 5 at Blue Bell Country Club.

Attorney; **Katrina Ihrer**, Staff Attorney; **Michael Shelton**, Board member; **Erica Briant**, Director of Community Engagement & Training; and **John Farrell**, Grants Compliance Specialist.

## LASP career opportunities

### BRISTOL

- Bristol Managing Attorney

### CHESTER City

- City of Chester Staff Attorney

### NORRISTOWN

- Norristown Staff Attorney
- Norristown Paralegal
- Helpline Paralegal/Administrative Support Staff
- Executive Administrative Assistant
- Regional Disaster Relief Case Manager

### POTTSTOWN

- Pottstown Staff Attorney

### WEST CHESTER

- VOCA Staff Attorney



Job descriptions & how to apply: [lasp.org/careers](https://lasp.org/careers)

Website: Careers

Subscribe to e-news, or read past issues: [lasp.org/enews](https://lasp.org/enews)

Questions or feedback? Contact Marion Hoffman Fraley, Communications Director & Editor, at [mfraley@lasp.org](mailto:mfraley@lasp.org)

[lasp.org/ways-to-give](https://lasp.org/ways-to-give) | [2020-22 Annual Report](#)

[Photo albums on Flickr](#)



Legal Aid of Southeastern PA  
610-275-5400 | [lasp.org](https://lasp.org)

Helpline **877-429-5994** M-F 9a-1p  
[lasp.org/apply](https://lasp.org/apply)



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Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania | 625 Swede Street, Norristown, PA 19401

[Unsubscribe mfraley@lasp.org](mailto:mfraley@lasp.org)

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