

Milwaukee Justice Center

Mobile LEGAL Clinic

A project of MARQUETTE LAW SCHOOL and the MILWAUKEE BAR ASSOCIATION



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

Megan L. Morrisey, JD



The Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic: A Project of Marquette University Law School and the Milwaukee Bar Association is an innovative program that provides vital civil legal aid to the people of Milwaukee by bringing volunteer lawyers and law students to community agencies in neighborhoods that are marginalized and isolated. As a team, we strategically curated clinic times and other supportive resources to address the specific needs of the particular clinic location. As an example, when the MLC is hosting a legal clinic on the south side of Milwaukee, we staff bilingual Spanish speaking lawyers and law students, along with the Mexican Consulate of Milwaukee, which provides direct services to Mexican nationals and their families living in Milwaukee. Because the MLC also serves as a mobile classroom, the law student volunteers have a unique opportunity to assist and shadow a variety of legal practitioners in the community while interacting with a multitude of different clients with varied legal concerns. This hands on, apprenticeship-style of learning demonstrates the dynamic practice of law, right in our own city. The MLC partners to host clinics with specific community, agencies, like out-patient medical clinics, libraries, and food pantries, to provide a free civil legal aid to people at familiar and respected organizations. Hosting clinics at these community partner sites creates a comfortable and convenient setting for clients to receive multiple social services in one location.

2019 has been a record breaking year: the MLC hosted a grand total of 102 clinics, serving a total of 725 Clients, a large increase from 73 clinics and 403 people served in 2018. We are all so proud of this accomplishment and cannot wait to see the growth and future of this collaborative and unique program.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC

The Mobile Legal Clinic (MLC) welcomed new additions to its team in 2019. In February 2019, Attorney Megan Morrisey became the Coordinator of the Mobile Legal Clinic. In September 2019, Joenny Lopez joined us as the AmeriCorps Public Ally. The Mobile Legal Clinic and Milwaukee Public Allies partner to build the capacity of the MLC to serve the Milwaukee community. The partnership with the Public Allies focuses to actively cultivate new community partners for the MLC and helps to expand services to self-represented litigants in Milwaukee.

Megan Morrisey has dedicated her legal career to serving those caught in our legal system and assisting marginalized individuals by effectively problem-solving their way to a just resolution. She was an assistant state public defender in the Milwaukee Trial Division until 2015. During her legal career, she taught evening courses in criminology and criminal law at Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC). Megan also investigated sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and Title IX discrimination complaints by faculty and student employees at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Recently, Megan was the community outreach director at Stork & Company, where she presented on infant safe-sleep education and distributed Baby Boxes to address and combat the high infant mortality rate in Milwaukee. Megan is an adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School, where she teaches Interviewing and Counseling, in the Dispute Resolution Program. This course incorporates techniques and artful skills in interviewing clients by casting actors from Milwaukee's Repertory Theater in the role of clients. This course creates a unique opportunity for the law students to practice their newly refined techniques and skills in addressing the needs of their clients who are often frustrated and anxious about their legal dilemmas. Megan graduated from the University of



Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and Law and a certificate in Criminal Justice. She is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she participated in the Legal Defense Program and the Wisconsin Innocence Project. She is honored and excited to coordinate the Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic and be part of the solution to bridge the "Justice Gap" that inflicts so many in Milwaukee.



Joenny Lopez is a scholar, activist, and leader who is passionate and dedicated to serving and empowering Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) throughout the city of Milwaukee. Joenny graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor's in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies in May of 2019. Throughout her undergraduate career Joenny was involved in organizations that allowed her to cultivate enriching and meaningful experiences. She is a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Incorporated, Ronald E. McNair Scholar, and Les Aspin Center for Government Intern. Joenny believes leadership is about action and the ability to lay a foundation for change for generations that come after us. She is excited to serve Milwaukee and its diverse communities by bringing the law to the people through the Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic.

MLC PROGRAM PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Milwaukee County Clerk of Court

Mary L. Ferwerda, Executive Director, Milwaukee Justice Center

Milwaukee Bar Association/Foundation

Megan Morrisey, Coordinator, Mobile Legal Clinic
Sarah Martis, Executive Director, MBA / MBA Foundation

Marquette University Law School

Angela Schultz, Assistant Dean for Public Service
Joenny Lopez, AmeriCorps Public Ally

MLC FUNDERS & FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Frank Daily and Julianna Ebert
Marquette University Law School
Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation
Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Inc.
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
The Green Bay Packers Foundation
The Dorothy W. Inbusch Foundation

MLC LEGAL PARTNERS

Once Per Month Commitments

Godfrey & Kahn

Michael Best & Friedrich

DeWitt Law

Borgelt Powell Peterson & Frauen

von Briesen & Roper

O'Neill Cannon Hollman DeJong & Laing

MLC EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Marquette University Law School
Marquette University
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT: THE 2019 DATA

102 Clinics

9-12 Monthly Average

725 Clients

61 Expungement/Pardon Clients

66 Spanish Speaking Clients

222 Lawyers

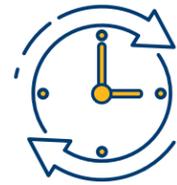
140 Law Student Volunteers

95 Community & Intern Volunteers

472 Total Lawyer Volunteer Hours

299 Law Student Volunteer Hours

\$103,690 in Free Civil Legal Aid
to Milwaukee County Residents

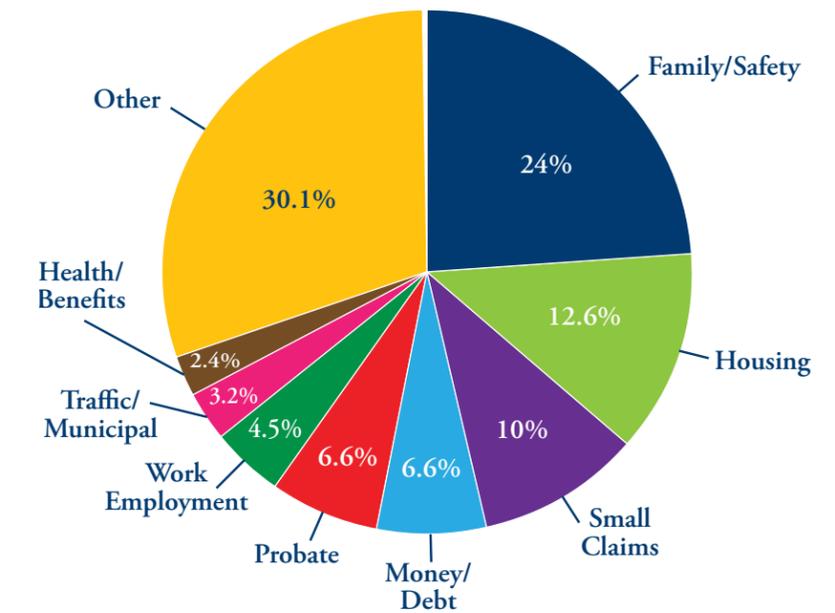


OF CLINICS @ PARTNER SITES & NEIGHBORHOODS

- 7 @ All Saints Medical Center* Lincoln Park
- 1 @ Atkinson Public Library Rufus King
- 8 @ Benedict Center* Halyard Park
- 5 @ Bradley Crossing* Brown Deer
- 1 @ Capital Public Library Dineen Park
- 3 @ City on the Hill* Avenues West
- 3 @ Despensa de la Paz* Muskego Way
- 2 @ Fatherhood Summit Kilbourn Town
- 3 @ Hope House* Clock Towers Acres
- 13 @ Meta House* Riverwest
- 8 @ Milwaukee Rescue Mission* Marquette University
- 9 @ Mill Road Public Library* Granville
- 6 @ Mitchell St. Public Library* Historic Mitchell
- 1 @ MLK School Festival King Park
- 6 @ Next Door Foundation* Capital Heights
- 7 @ Sixteenth Street Clinic – Cesar Chavez* Clark Square
- 7 @ Sixteenth Street Clinic - Parkway* Polonia
- 9 @ St. John's Lutheran Church* Veteran Affairs
- 1 @ Washington Park Public Library Washington Park
- 2 @ Zablocki Public Library Jackson Park

* Recurring Community Partner Sites for the Mobile Legal Clinic's Regular Monthly Calendar

TYPES OF LEGAL ISSUES THE MLC ASSISTED



MJC MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

Shannon Allen
Carmen Anderson
Christopher Avallone
Nina Beck
John Black
Erin Block
Ann Bowe
Amanda Bowen
Terri Boxer
Herbert Bratt
Christy Brooks
Richard J. Carpenter
Anne Carroll
Colin Casper
James Cauley
Steven Chernoff

Jay Creagh
Sandhya Dammu
Joseph Dannecker
Julie Darnieder
Kelley Daugherty
James Davies
Alexander DeGuire
Maria DelPizzo Sanders
Michael Demo
Joseph Dobbs
Kelly Dougherty
Sarah Ellis
Richard Esparza
John Gardner
Carolyn Garski
Stacy Gerber Ward

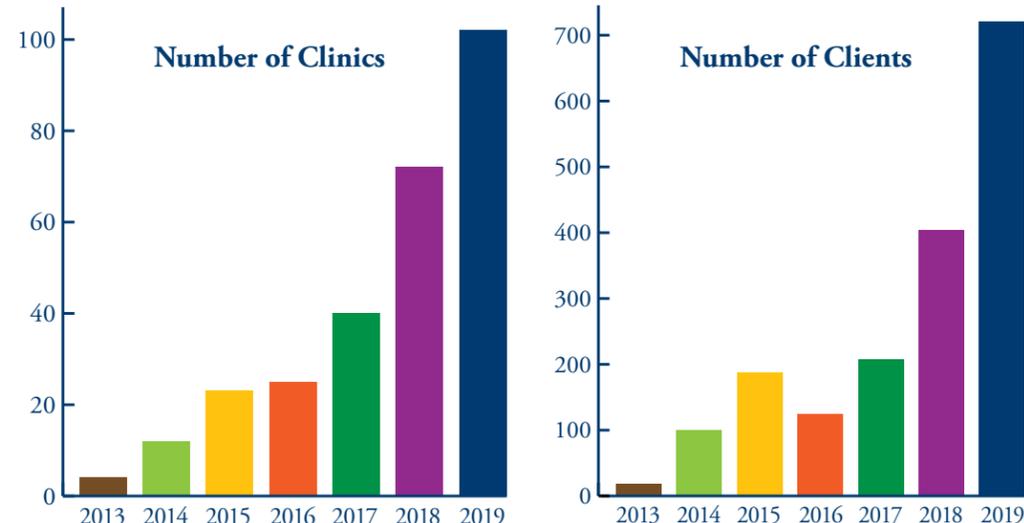
Lisa Gingerich
Marisol Gonzalez
Castillo
Andrea Goode
Shawn Govern
Akila Grace
Lulu Guerrero
Taylor Haeefe
Arthur Harrington
Andrew Helminiak
Cynthia Herber
Pedro Hernandez
Matthew Hills
Jonathan Ingrisano
Brian Jacobs
Anne Jaspers

Valerie Johnston
Charles Kahn
Russell Karnes
William E. Keeler, III
Alison Kliner
Michael Kruse
James Law
Kelly Lewandowski
Paul Lucey
Calvin R. Malone
Mont Martin
Alma Martinez
Madison Mears
Rebecca Meyer
Samuel Mitchell
John Movroydis

John Mueller
Daniel Narvey
Elizabeth Neal
M. Nicol Padway
Ernesto Romero
Peter Ramirez
Erica Reib
Kathleen Reiley
S. Ed Sarskas
Leslie Schmerin
Mary D. Scholle
Thomas Schrimpf
Joseph Seifert
Andrew Simon
Shantanu Singh
Andrew Skwierawski

Michael Skwierawski
Brian Smigelski
Kathleen B. Stilling
William Sulton
Melinda Swartz
April Toy
Julie Tranetzki
Karl VanDeHey
Eric M. Vega
Yvonne E. Vegas
Michelle Velasquez
Ed Wallace
Ruth Wantz
Elizabeth Ward
Danielle White
Justina Zukauskaitė

Mobile Legal Clinic Expansion, 2013-2019



COMMENTS FROM CLIENTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Natalie, Client

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity to receive free legal advice. A lot of people are confused and unaware of how the legal system works. Most people don't have the funds to hire attorneys, yet these are the people that find themselves in legal situations more often than not. Thank you for the service you provide & keep giving back to the community! Great job!"



Marychel Figueroa Hernandez, the Consulate of Mexico, Milwaukee

"The Consulate of Mexico in Milwaukee is a Mexican Government office, whose main mission is to protect the rights and interests of Mexican nationals abroad. The collaborative partnership with the Mobile Legal Clinic has allowed the Consulate to inform Mexican Nationals about the services that are offered, especially since the Consulate is a fairly new office. As a Mexican Government office, it is very important to us that Mexican nationals have access to free legal assistance, regardless of their immigration status. Having the Mobile Legal Clinic in the areas within the city where Mexican nationals reside, is crucial to fulfill the demand of access to free legal assistance in Spanish."



Delilah, Client

"I was very impressed with the knowledge provided and so quickly and thoroughly. The facts provided to me taught me how to process information needed to complete what I desired to get done."

Elijah, Expungement/Pardon Clinical Client

"The Mobile Legal Clinic took the time handling my case to make sure they didn't miss a thing that would hinder me from receiving my expungement. From the continuous check-ins to the final meet; Megan was helping me figure out what to do next. I never left a meeting feeling clueless or hopeless. We didn't get the outcome we wanted during the course of my case but we definitely got some unanswered questions taken care of."

Anne Rasmussen, Public Service Area Manager, Milwaukee Public Library

"The Milwaukee Public Library sees our partnership with the Mobile Legal Clinic as an incredible win for the city because providing access to information is a our fundamental function. MPL looks for new ways to connect with our community, and the expungement clinic provides invaluable access to desired and needed information for patrons. Serving six branch libraries, the Mobile Legal Clinic has helped 61 patrons, *specifically related to Expungement/Pardon*, in the very few months of our partnership. *The Mobile Legal Clinic has assisted a total of 81 clients our regular scheduled MPL clinics.* We look forward to growing our relationship with the MLC to help build healthy neighborhoods and a vibrant, strong Milwaukee."

Joel, Client

"I would like to personally thank the Mobile Volunteer Legal Clinic team for taking their time and the advice they gave me."

Sophia Torrijos, Executive Director, Friedens Community Ministries

"At Friedens Food Pantries we strive to give community members peace of mind, understanding that food is just the beginning. We have been incredibly fortunate to partner with the Mobile Legal Clinic, offering our clients' access much needed free legal advice. Many of our families not only struggle with food insecurity, but housing insecurity, job inequities, and immigration challenges. The partnership with the MLC enriches the experience at our pantries by allowing more need to be met in the moment. I've been consistently impressed with the MLC's community-centered approach and their commitment to bringing Spanish-speaking lawyers who can communicate with our clients in a language they understand. I can say we are excited to continue growing this partnership in the future."



Eugenia, Client

"Fué de mucha ayuda, muchas gracias por tomar su tiempo y ayudar a la comunidad. Muy valioso el programa que tienen."
"It was very helpful, thank you very much for taking your time and helping the community. This is a very valuable program."

Sandra Olsen, Program Administrator, All Saints Family Medicine Residency Clinic

"At All Saints Family Medicine Residency Clinic we recognize that without addressing social determinants of health, our efforts cannot be optimized. We conducted a number of community stakeholder meetings to identify the community's perceived needs. An issue that was addressed repeatedly was the need for accessible legal services. Almost as an answer to our prayer,



an associate connected us to Megan at the MJC – Mobile Legal Clinic. At first meeting, we recognized the intersection of our organization's missions and commitment to the community. In this first year, the legal professionals have provided tremendous support to our patients and our community. I have heard nothing but support and gratitude for the help that they have provided. In fact, their presence on the third Tuesday of every month prompted us to offer additional social services in the Family Health Center at the same time, beginning to address more of the community's perceived needs."

Giovana, Client

"After the visit I was aware of how to properly go about my concern. At first I was not sure about how to handle it. But the lawyer was kind and went above and beyond."

Maria Rios, BSW, Social Worker, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

"Our patients and community members expressed deep gratitude for the MLC for their much needed service to our agency and the news spread. A patient shared her positive experience; saying, *"After consulting with the attorney, my anxieties and worries were drastically reduced. I felt like the attorney really cared about my case; he demonstrated a lot of experience in this area. I plan to recommend this service to my friends and family."* We heard these type comments in our Social Services Department meetings. Megan's service coordination was amazing; and she made sure we had Spanish speaking lawyers. She jumped right in, to lend a helping hand when needed. We hope to carry this remarkable partnership into the next year and for years to come. Thank you!"



MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

Mobile LEGAL *Clinic*

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The Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic: A project of Marquette University Law School and the Milwaukee Bar Association takes civil legal aid to the streets, providing brief legal advice and referrals to Milwaukee County residents in their neighborhoods

Milwaukee Justice Center Mobile Legal Clinic
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414-278-5392 • www.mkemobilelegalclinic.com