

**PRO BONO MOMENTS**  
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Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services

What a year 2017 has been for CPBLS! From celebrating legal milestones, to countless outreach and educational seminars – from sold out fundraising events to cheering the addition of a second full time attorney – it'll be one to remember. Here's a brief look back at the 2017 highlights and exciting endeavors.

This past year marked fifty years of civil legal aid in this community – dating back to the incorporation of Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program in 1967. On July 11, 2017 in recognition of our 50 years of service, City of Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg issued a proclamation declaring July 19, 2017 as Pro Bono Legal Services Day! It also marked the beginning of Charleston Pro Bono's 50-for-50 Campaign with the goal of raising \$50,000 in celebration of providing 50 years of service to the Charleston community. Over the past 50 years, we have helped thousands of people with a diverse array of legal issues from keeping families together, to defending tenants and preventing evictions, to preserving final wishes. In the first five months of the campaign, we achieved 57% of our goal, raising \$28,654.00. We're hopeful you'll help us reach our goal in the coming months.

We also completed an incredibly successful year in outreach and educational seminars for both the general public and legal community alike. We continued our work with community partners like East Cooper Community Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, Next Steps, and Ansonborough House, in addition to forging new relationships with Father to Father and SC Strong. Over the course of the year, we provided more than three dozen outreach programs covering topics such as family, housing, and immigration law to these allies for good positively impacting hundreds of low-income residents in our community.

Maintaining our dedication to instilling an ethos of public service to the up and coming generation of lawyers, our team hosted the eleventh annual Ackerman Fellowship Program, made possible by grants from the Ackerman and Yaschik Foundations. Eight law students from around the country participated in two 6-week immersive legal fellowships. These students conducted client intake, eligibility determination, fact-gathering, and assisted in preparation of *pro se* pleadings. They also helped us at various community events and clinics such as City of Charleston's Homeless Taskforce meetings, Community Resource Day hosted by the Charleston Housing Authority, and worked with clients from the Ryan White Wellness Center and Our Lady of Mercy. In addition to the Ackerman Fellows, volunteers donated nearly 2,200 hours of their time at our office meeting with clients, conducting research, and preparing case files!

Charleston Pro Bono held two very successful fundraising events this past year. First was our Valentine's Day online auction in February, made possible by our generous community – both the local businesses that donated items and the legal community who purchased them. In November, we hosted the 18th annual Art on the Beach – Chefs in the Kitchen home tour/art walk/food tasting on Sullivan Island. This was the third year the event benefited our organization and we were thrilled to have a sold out event including record-breaking figures! A special thank you to the Charleston County Bar Association members who supported us – you helped secure homes, sponsors, volunteers, and patrons!

Finally, this past year focused on renewed efforts for addressing the issue of access affordable housing and playing a role in effectively ending homelessness. The most impactful event surrounding our efforts addressing legal injustice for housing-related issues was the addition of a full time housing attorney in late Fall thanks to a grant award from the South Carolina Bar Foundation. Attorney Paluzzi focuses on providing educational clinics to the community on tenant rights, offering advice and counsel one-on-one in collaboration with numerous community partners, and serving as direct representation on legally meritorious claims. In her short time serving in this capacity, she's already successfully resolved 28 cases – most of which would otherwise have been completely lost in the judicial system without an attorney's help.

Looking ahead, we are striving to strengthen our efforts to make a lasting impact. But we simply cannot do it without you. We need volunteer attorneys to accept one of the dozen cases currently waiting for a *pro bono* attorney. Alternatively, consider assisting with a clinic, teaching a seminar, or simply donating. No matter your area of practice or level of experience, we have an opportunity for you. How about just one more 2018 New Year's Resolution? Find a way to be of service to your local community through CPBLS!

*[include donation box]*