



Annual Report July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



A report on the Say Yes Buffalo Legal Clinics from Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. to its partners

A Letter from VLP:

This detailed report outlines the activity and progress of the collaboration between Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. (VLP), Say Yes Buffalo (SYB), and the Buffalo Public School District (BPS) to operate the Say Yes Legal Clinics in BPS buildings. We want to thank our partners for all of their cooperation and commitment to making the Legal Clinics a success.

This was our second year coordinating the Legal Clinics. During the first school year, we concentrated much of our effort on developing the structure and support for the clinics. Towards the end of our first year, we were sad to say goodbye to our initial paralegal/clinic coordinator, Kimberley Boulden. However, we were pleased to welcome her successor, Talia Rodriguez J.D., who is fully bi-lingual. Gayle Murphy, VLP's Pro Bono Coordinator, continued as the attorney supervisor for the Legal Clinics. Gayle and Talia are responsible for so much of the program's success.

The commitment of our pro bono attorneys continues to be remarkable. During the year, we increased our school year Legal Clinics from four to five sites with the opening of a legal clinic at the BPS Adult Education Center at 160 Edward St. and Barclay Damon adopted that new site. We welcomed a new pro bono law firm, Gibson, MacAskill, and Crosby LLP, which co-adopted the East High School Clinic, sharing it with Harris Beach LLP attorneys. Hodgson Russ LLP; Phillips Lytle LLP; and Lippes, Mathias, Wexler Friedman LLP continued to sponsor clinics, as well.

We also completed the work for the opening of two clinics during the summer months. Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, and Cunningham, LLP adopted our new summer clinic housed at BPS Central Registration. Additionally, Barclay Damon generously agreed to continue staffing the legal clinic at the BPS Adult Education Center during the summer.

Last, but not least, we want to thank Co-Chair Federal Magistrate Hugh B. Scott and the Say Yes Buffalo Legal Task Force for their leadership and commitment made to the clinics. This truly is a community effort. VLP is pleased to be part of this innovative collaboration and we look forward to many more successful years.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. M. Elardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Executive Director/CEO for VLP

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LAW FIRM COMMITMENT, RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

Our Buffalo area law firms continued their extraordinary level of support for the Say Yes Buffalo Legal Clinics this year. Hodgson Russ LLP continued to support the clinic at P.S. 54, Phillips Lytle LLP returned to South Park High School, Harris Beach PLLC continued at East High School, and Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP remained at P.S. 18.

Barclay Damon LLP, which began by co-adopting the East High School Legal Clinic, generously agreed to adopt a new Say Yes Legal Clinic at the BPS Adult Education building at 160 Edward St. beginning October 2016. This site is the only year round legal clinic to date. On October 7, 2015, VLP coordinated an individual CLE for Barclay Damon LLP to train all their attorneys interested in providing pro bono legal assistance at the Adult Education Legal Clinic.

Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP was ready and waiting to co-adopt the East High School Legal Clinic this year, sharing responsibilities with their Harris Beach PLLC colleagues. The Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP attorneys joined the Barclay Damon CLE to learn about Say Yes and to prepare to volunteer at the East High School Legal Clinic.

On January 7, 2016, VLP offered a refresher CLE program at Phillips Lytle LLP.

Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC joined this dedicated group of law firms in spring 2016, adopting the legal clinic at the BPS Central Registration site for summer 2016.

Each CLE program included an orientation to Say Yes Buffalo by David Rust or Nadia Moore; presentations by Say Yes Family Support Specialists or BPS building administrators; an overview of VLP and the critical need for pro bono legal services in our community; ethical considerations of limited scope legal assistance; cultural competency; and the nuts and bolts of volunteering at a legal clinic, including learning how to use VLP's Reference Guide.



ADVERTISING AND MARKETING EFFORTS

VLP, SYB, and the BPS continued an intensive marketing campaign centered on a three tier strategy of: (1) a new poster designed by the SYB Communication Department for targeted community distribution; (2) traditional print and radio advertising; and (3) BPS robo-calls and mailings to the district's families. This strategy highlights the careful emphasis the SYB Legal Task Force placed on reaching all BPS families, especially members of Buffalo's diverse communities.

The SYB Legal Task Force members also spread the message throughout the community. The SYB Religious Leaders Task Force members shared the Legal Clinic information with their communities. VLP staff distributed the clinic posters to legal service organizations, community partners, and the courts. Community centers, block clubs, and business near the school were also provided with this poster to reach as many BPS families as possible.

DO YOU NEED *free LEGAL ADVICE?**

Buffalo public school students, parents and guardians will be able to take advantage of *free** legal advice from lawyers at any one of five Say Yes Legal Clinics located within Buffalo public school buildings.

Legal advice is available for non-criminal matters including, but not limited to: adoption, bankruptcy, child custody, child support, divorce, eviction, foreclosure, government benefits, housing, immigration and income tax.
LEGAL ADVICE WILL NOT BE OFFERED FOR CRIMINAL MATTERS.

All clinics are walk-in only, on a first come, first serve basis. Clinics are for brief counsel and advice.
***To be considered for more in-depth services, clients must meet financial eligibility requirements.**

CLINICS ARE OPEN OCTOBER 13, 2015 THROUGH MAY 26, 2016
WHEN SCHOOL BUILDINGS ARE OPEN
 (stay tuned for summer location and hours)

<u>MONDAYS</u>	<u>TUESDAYS</u>	<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>	<u>THURSDAYS</u>
Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence 750 West Avenue Buffalo, NY 14213 3:30 to 5:30 pm SPANISH TRANSLATOR AVAILABLE	South Park High School 150 Southside Parkway Buffalo, NY 14220 3:30 to 5:30 pm	Adult Education Center 160 Edward Street Buffalo, NY 14201 12:00 to 2:00 pm Dr. George E. Blackman School of Excellence ECC 2358 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214 3:30 to 5:30 pm	East High School 820 Northampton Street Buffalo, NY 14211 3:30 to 5:30 pm

For more information, please visit www.SayYesBuffalo.org or call the Volunteer Lawyers Project's Say Yes Legal Clinic Information Line at 716-828-8491

DEVELOPING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

The Reference Guide developed by VLP last year has proven to be a well-used tool by our pro bono attorneys. It is regularly updated by volunteers and VLP staff. Legal Task Force member, Hon. Paul G. Buchanan, retired, has provided significant support for the highly utilized Family Law Section.

Jim Morrissey's book, Rights and Responsibilities of Young People in New York: A Guide for Educators & Human Service Providers, was updated this year thanks to the efforts of a great group of attorney volunteers that were coordinated by VLP. Thanks to Mr. Morrissey, the New York State Bar Association, and the Law Youth and Citizenship Committee, we have been able to provide each legal clinic, community partners and volunteers with a copy of this invaluable guide.



RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEW YORK

A Guide for Educators & Human Service Providers



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Law, Youth & Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association and the New State Education Department, and the Committee on Citizenship Education, I would like to thank James M. Morrissey, Esq. of Buffalo, New York leading the effort to revise the fifth edition of *Rights and Responsibilities of Young People in New York*.

Thanks also due to Robert Elardo and Gayle Murphy of the Volunteers Lawyers Project in Buffalo, New York for putting together a stellar team of volunteers who assisted Mr. Morrissey with this revision including: Sheila Sullivan Dickinson, Esq., Judith M. Gerber, Esq., Melinda R. Saran, Esq., Hon. Paul G. Buchanan, Gretchen Gonzalez Esq., Nikole M. Wynn, Esq., Jessica M. Lazarin, Esq., Sophie Feal, Esq., Natalie M. Stutz, Esq., Penny Selmonsky, Esq., Kimberly Boulden, Dr. Nate Daun-Barnett, Anne Modica, Pro Bono Scholar, Jeff Donigan, Pro Bono Scholar, Jason Fleischer, Law Student Extern, Thomas Michael Enright, Law Student Extern.

We would also like to acknowledge Jeffery C. Thrope, Esq., as co-author, with Mr. Morrissey, of the first edition of this publication and Monica de la Torre, Esq. who wrote the chapter on immigration for the fourth edition.

Martha M. Noordsy
Director
Law, Youth & Citizenship Program

ADULT EDUCATION LEGAL CLINIC – PRESS CONFERENCE

The fifth Legal Clinic site to open is at the BPS Adult Education Center on 160 Edward Street. This clinic, which is fully staffed by attorneys from Barclay Damon LLP, served its first client on October 14th, 2015. A press conference to commemorate this new clinic was held on December 16, 2015. Buffalo's legal community, VLP, local judges, BPS students and staff, and SYB leaders were all in attendance. Thanks to efforts of SYB Communication Supervisor Daphne Inman, for coordinating the event which was well covered by the press.

"As a judge, I believe it will not only affect the success of families and students in the work place, I think it will also turn around some of the problems we see in the criminal justice system. When we allow children to learn without distraction and stop them from dropping out of school, school becomes important. And if we can do that as a legal community, I think the lawyers in Buffalo will really have helped this town turn the corner."

-Hon. Hugh B. Scott



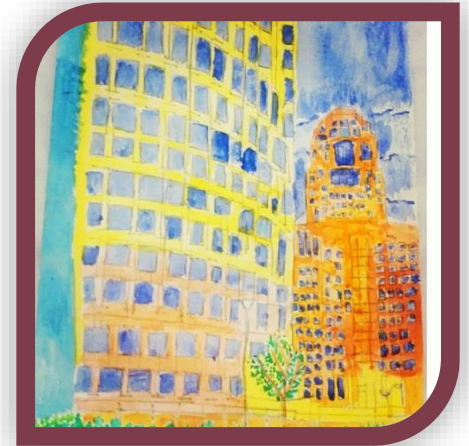
Top Photos: SYB Legal Task Force Co-Chairs: Hon. Hugh B Scott & Robert Elardo Esq. (ED/CEO of ECBA VLP)

Middle Photos: Students of Adult Education

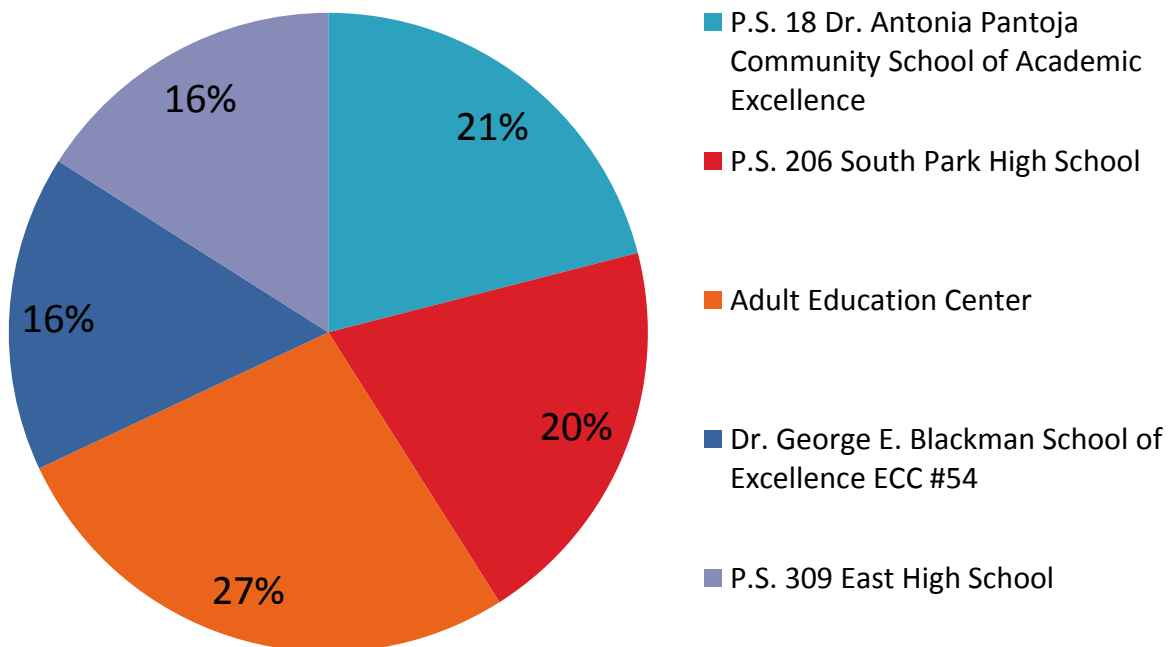
Bottom Photo: Talia Rodriguez (Coordinator), Dr. William Keresztes (BPS), Dr. Kriner Cash (Superintendent of BPS), Robert Elardo Esq., Nadia Moore (SYB), Hon. Hugh B. Scott (Task Force Co- Chair), Robert Heary, Esq. (Barclay Damon), Mr. Les Leopold (BPS), Mark Spitler, Esq. and Timothy Graber Esq. (Gibson McAskill, Crosby)

A YEAR IN REVIEW

620 Buffalonians Helped
 317 Children
 303 Adults
188 Cases Opened
164 Clients Served
127 Legal Clinic Sessions Held
 69 Attorneys Volunteered
 62 Clients Required Interpretation
 6 Law Firms Partnered with us
 5 Schools Hosted Legal Clinics



Say Yes Legal Clinic Cases by Site



INDIVIDUAL LEGAL CLINIC SPOTLIGHTS

Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP adopted the clinic at P.S. 18, Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence. This west side elementary school serves over 524 students from more than 20 different countries.

CLINIC DATA:

Clients: 35

Operational Days: 24

Volunteer Attorneys: 15

Client Case Study: *Our volunteer attorney met with an Arabic speaking Somali refugee, a single mother of four young children. Our client was worried because her rental home was infested with rats and fleas and she did not know what to do. Using the Language Line, the attorney explained her rights as a tenant, and advised her of the methods she could use to enforce her rights. In addition, a direct referral was made to a legal service organization to provide ongoing legal assistance.*



Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP



School 18

Philips Lytle LLP adopted the clinic at P.S. 206, South Park High School, in South Buffalo. Built over 100 years ago, this high school has served generations of families from South Buffalo, Lovejoy, Kaisertown, the Old First Ward, Seneca-Babcock, and the near east side. South Park provides comprehensive academic high school programs for approximately 900 students.

CLINIC DATA:**Clients: 32****Operational Days: 26****Volunteer Attorneys: 16**

Client Case Study: *Our client came to this legal clinic because she lost her job, had been denied unemployment insurance benefits, had no money and did not know where to go. During the consultation, the pro bono attorney learned that the client had been fired because she missed work to attend a school meeting for her young son with disabilities. The attorney advised the client of her rights as an employee, including her right to unemployment insurance benefits. The client was referred to VLP's Unemployment Insurance Benefits program and the client was represented by a VLP attorney at her unemployment insurance benefits hearing. The hearing officer determined that the client was entitled to both back and continuing unemployment insurance benefits.*

**Phillips Lytle LLP**

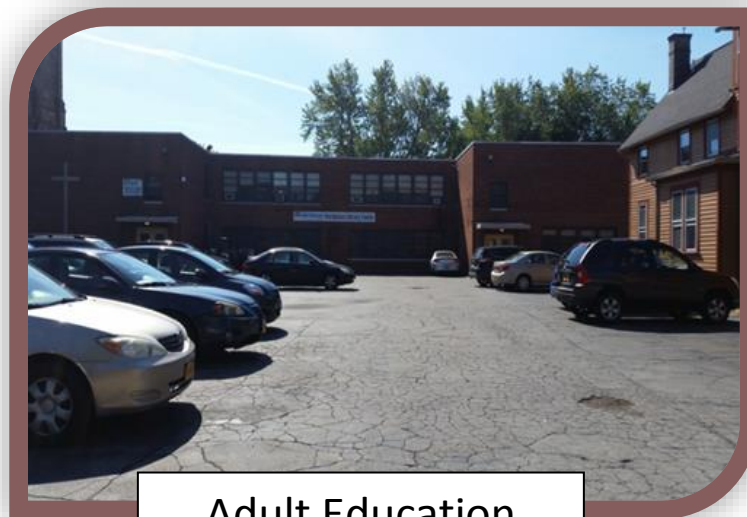
South Park High School

Barclay Damon LLP adopted the clinic at the Adult Education Center at 160 Edward St., also known as the BPS Workplace Literacy Center. Many adults attend classes here to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, and to learn job skills. Other adults are there to develop their basic English skills. According to Dr. Kriner Cash, BPS Superintendent, half of those adults attending classes or training within the BPS Adult Education Department also have two or more children who attend Buffalo Public Schools.

CLINIC DATA:**Clients: 45****Operational Days: 26****Volunteer Attorneys: 11**

Client Case Study: *Our client, a Spanish speaking Puerto Rican native, was a student at the Adult Education Site (with children attending Lafayette High School). He did not understand his federal tax problem. After reviewing the client's documents, our pro bono attorney explained how the Internal Revenue Code applied to his specific situation and provided detailed information about pursuing "injured spouse status." Because of the complexity of the client's legal issue, he was referred to the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) at VLP. The LITC Staff Attorney at VLP assisted the client with the federal tax lien, and also discovered that our client was a victim of identity theft. This client continues to receive ongoing legal assistance from VLP.*

**BARCLAY
DAMON**



Adult Education

Hodgson Russ LLP adopted the clinic at P.S. 54, the Dr. George E. Blackman School of Excellence Early Childhood Center. Located at 2354 Main St. in Buffalo's Parkside neighborhood, this K – 4 school has 500 students and recently became a school "In Good Standing" with the New York Department of Education.

CLINIC DATA:**Clients: 26****Operational Days: 24****Volunteer Attorneys: 11**

Client Case Study: *Our pro bono attorney provided important legal advice regarding divorce, parental rights, support and custody/visitation to a client from Nepal. Our client reported that he lived in Buffalo with two young children and his wife attended college out of state. His wife continually threatened that she was going to divorce our client. With the assistance of a translator, our client left feeling confident about his rights and the legal process if he was served with divorce papers. He also understood that if he had additional questions he could always return to this or any other Say Yes legal clinic to talk with an attorney for free.*



School 54

Harris Beach PLLC and Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLP co-adopted P.S. 307, East High School, located in Buffalo's Humboldt Park neighborhood. East High School opened in 1927. Approximately 427 students attend East High School.

CLINIC DATA:

Clients: 26

Operational Days: 27

Volunteer Attorneys: 16

Client Case Study: Our pro bono attorney provided critical legal advice to our client, a single mother of four children with significant consumer debt problems. Our client recently learned of a judgment entered against her regarding old credit card debt. The attorney reviewed the client's legal documents and explained how the law applied to her individual situation. Our client was referred to the Western New York Law Center CLARO (Civil Legal Assistance and Resource Office) Program, for free limited advice and counsel sessions to help our unrepresented client through the legal process. She was also given information on where to obtain free and low cost credit counseling.



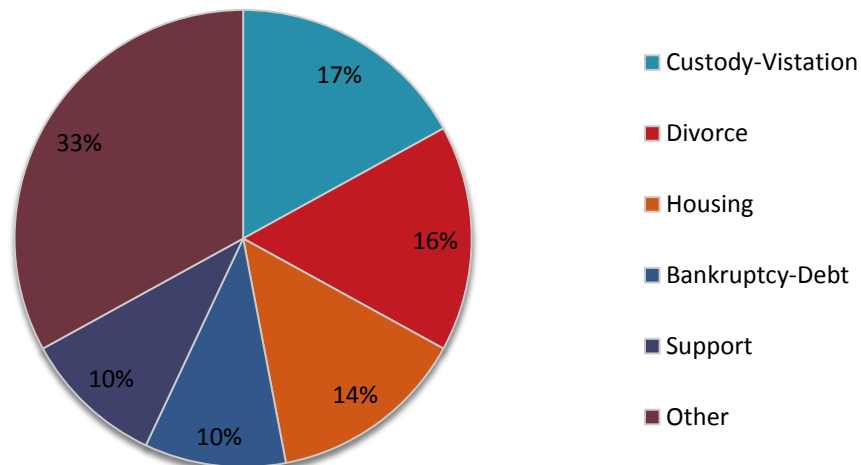
East High School

2015-2016 A YEAR IN REVIEW: CASE TYPES

<u>Legal Problem Type</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u># of Family Members Benefitted</u>
Custody/Visitation	32	109
Divorce	31	102
Housing	27	83
Child Support	19	62
Bankruptcy/Debt	18	56
Public Benefits	10	32
Education	9	34
Immigration	8	16
Tax	7	28
Employment	6	28
Torts	6	23
Other Family	6	15
Wills & Power of Attorney	5	11
Not for Profit	2	6
Individual Rights	1	3
Other Health	1	2

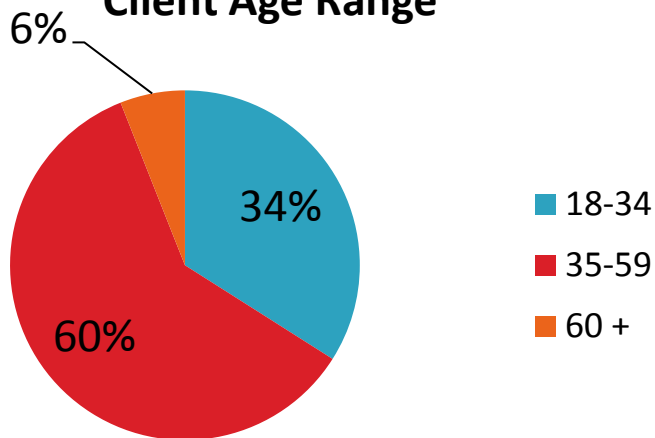


Case Types

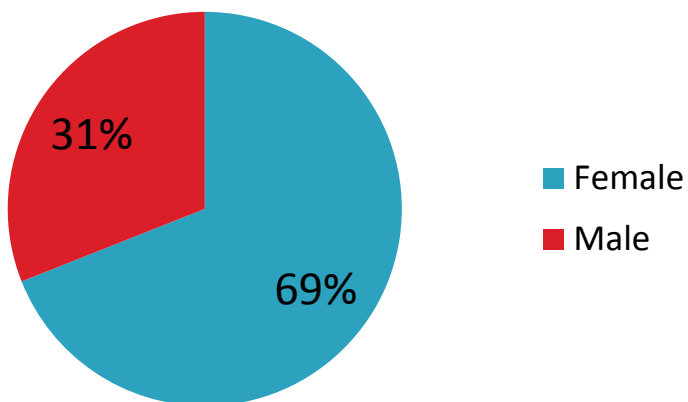


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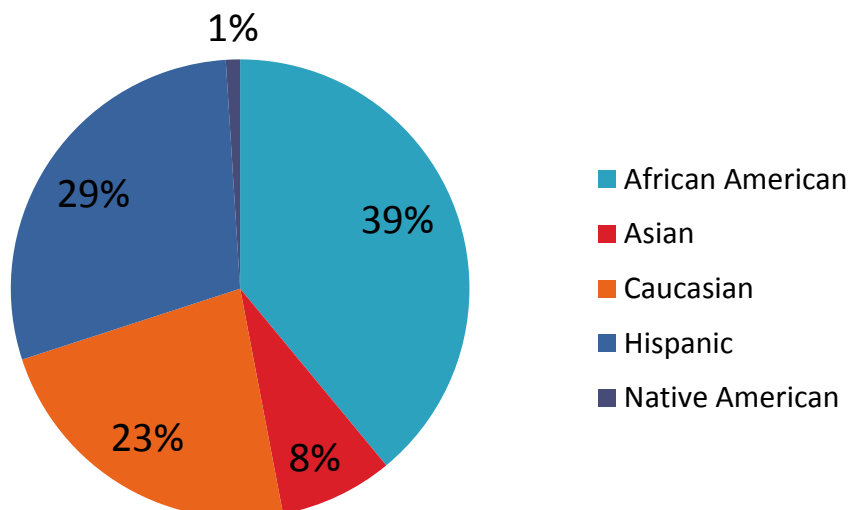
Client Age Range



Client Gender



Client Race/Ethnicity

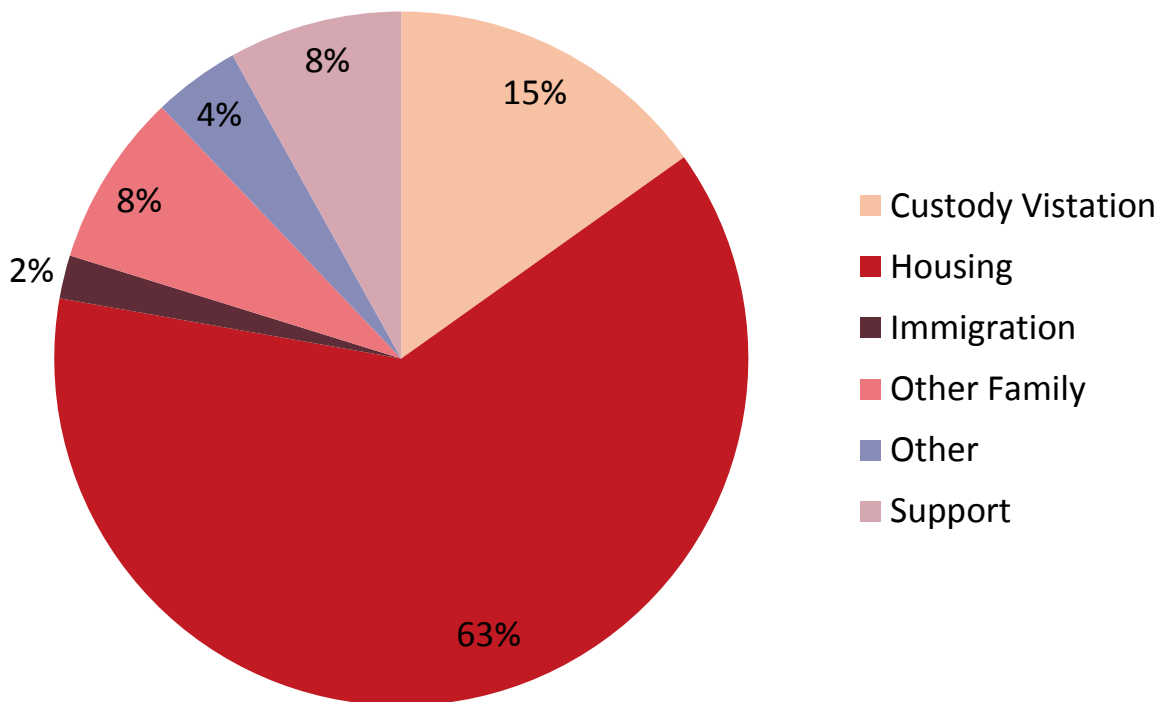
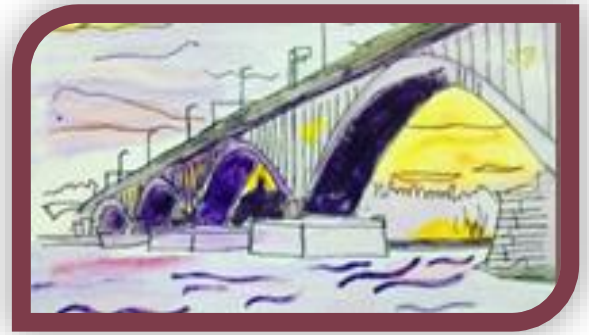


ADDITIONAL VLP LEGAL HELP PROVIDED TO BPS FAMILIES

In addition to all of the BPS families that VLP helped through the Say Yes Buffalo Legal Clinics, VLP also helped 847 BPS families through its other VLP free legal services.

Over 500 of these BPS families received free representation at VLP's Attorney of the Morning Program when they were facing an eviction proceeding. In 26% of these cases, the VLP lawyer was able to save the tenancy for the family. In another 61% of the cases, the VLP lawyer was able to obtain additional time for the family to move so they could avoid temporary homelessness. In another 5% of the cases, we were able to get the matter adjourned and referred to Neighborhood Legal Services for more in-depth representation on federally subsidized housing issues or warranty of habitability issues.

Over 200 BPS families were assisted at VLP Family Court Help Desk where they had the benefit of getting direct legal advice from an experienced Family Court lawyer. The remaining clients visited VLP's office for help with a variety of civil legal problems.



ATTORNEY SURVEY RESULTS

All attorneys who volunteered at a Say Yes Legal Clinic were asked to complete an anonymous survey at the end of the fall and spring terms. The responses were overwhelming with a response rate of over 65% sharing their feedback.

Here is what we learned from our volunteers:

95.5% were likely or extremely likely to recommend the Say Yes Legal Clinics to others as a place to volunteer.

91.2% are likely to continue volunteering at the Say Yes Legal Clinics.

95.6% were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their volunteer experience with VLP.

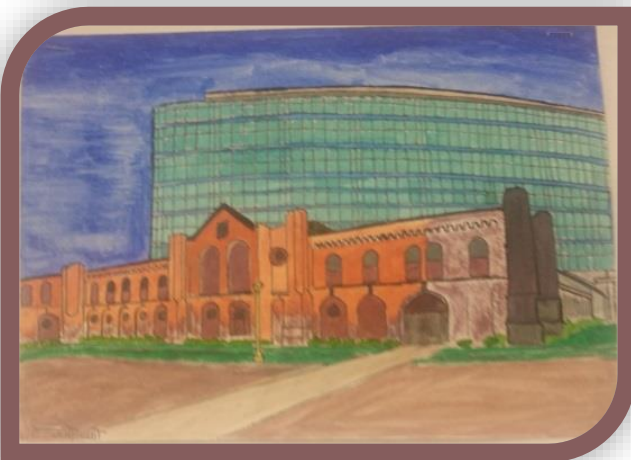
93.3% found our coordinators, volunteers and staff to be supportive/helpful or very supportive/very helpful.

90.9% said the Reference Guide met or exceeded their expectations.

91% thought their work made an impact or a great deal of impact on the clients they served.

95.1% reported that the volunteer training sessions were useful or extremely useful.

95.6% were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their overall volunteer experience.



"It is a wonderful way to feel needed as a lawyer."

"It was really satisfying to help a real person with a concrete problem."

"The Say Yes Legal Clinic is a great program."

"I have already recommended it to attorneys inside and outside my firm and described the rewarding experience of volunteering through the clinic."

"There is great satisfaction in helping the people who came in."

"Your support staff is amazing. Talia is extremely helpful, resourceful, and professional at the site."

"The online database is invaluable."

"The reference guide is a great resource. It doesn't cover everything, but is a really good tool to get started."

"I was still nervous going in because you never know what kind of issue you will get, but the guide was great and it turned out that the training session was helpful."

"Support from the Volunteer Lawyers Project was good and there is great satisfaction in helping the people who came in."

LANGUAGE SERVICES

As the population of the City of Buffalo grows, so does its diversity. This beautiful diversity is illustrated in the student body of Buffalo Public Schools.

Around 5,000 of the 34,000 children who attend Buffalo Public Schools speak languages other than English at home. As a part of the BPS continuing partnership with Say Yes Buffalo and VLP, the Buffalo Public Schools provides our legal clinics with unlimited access to Language Line. Language Line is a private third party translation and interpretation service that offers professional linguists trained to facilitate conversations efficiently.

Over the 2015-2016 school year approximately 62 clients were provided translation. Spanish speaking clients were assisted during intake, by Say Yes Buffalo Legal Clinic Coordinator Talia Rodriguez, who is bi-lingual. LanguageLine services allowed clients to utilize their native languages of Spanish, Arabic, Swahili, Karen, Bengali, and Burmese during their client consultations.

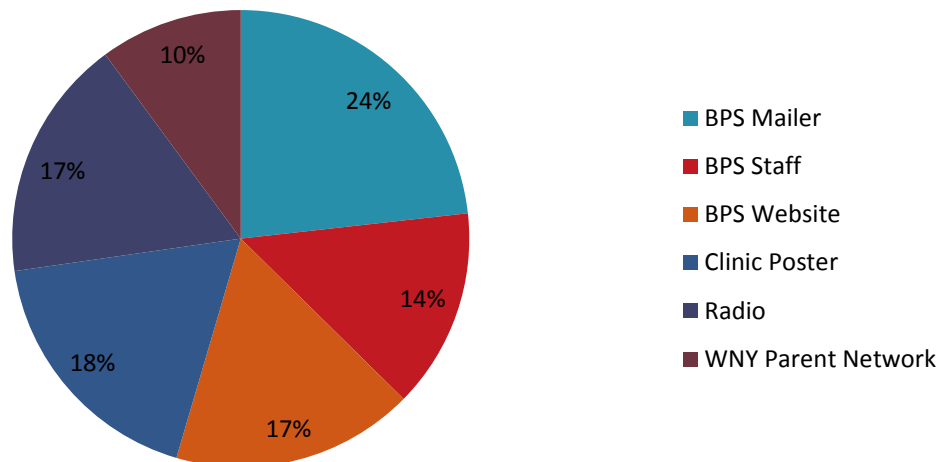


Source of Referrals to the Legal Clinic:

- Buffalo Public School Staff
- Buffalo Public School Website
- Clinic Poster
- Former client referral
- Family Court Help Desk
- Family Members
- Local Church
- Mailer
- Radio
- Robo Call
- Word of mouth
- WNY Parent Network
- Say Yes Buffalo Staff
- Veterans Administration
- Volunteer Lawyers Project



Top Six Sources of Referrals to the Legal Clinic

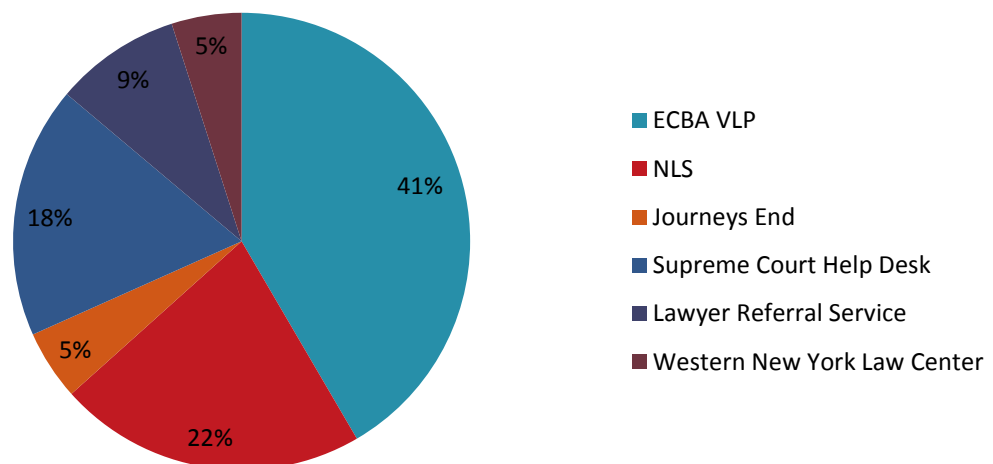


Common Referrals We Made:

- Child & Family Services (Center for Resolution and Justice)- Mediation
- City of Buffalo- Building Inspector- Code Enforcement
- City of Buffalo Office of Senior Services
- Bar Associations of Erie County Lawyer Referral Service
- Erie County Office of Senior Services
- District Parenting Coordinating Council
- Family Court Help Desk
- Foreclosure Prevention Project
- Internal Revenue Service
- Journeys End –Walk in Legal Clinic
- Legal Services for the Elderly & Disabled
- Neighborhood Legal Services
- NYS Court Website
- NYS Supreme Court Help Desk
- Western New York Law Center- Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO)
- Western New York Parent Network
- Volunteer Lawyers Project- Consumer Bankruptcy Department
- Volunteer Lawyers Project- Unemployment Insurance Benefits program
- Volunteer Lawyers Project- Low Income Tax Payer Clinic
- Social Security Administration Buffalo Office



Top Six Common Referrals We Made



OUTREACH

As a part of our ongoing effort to build awareness about the legal clinics, Volunteer Lawyers Project conducted outreach with the following organizations.

- Boys and Girls Club (4 locations)
- Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization
- Buffalo Urban league
- CASH- United Way of Buffalo
- Catholic Charities
- Citizen Action Organization
- Community Action Organization
- Compeer of Buffalo
- Court Appointed Special Advocates- Mental Health Association
- Dear Tayrin Inc.
- District Parenting Coordinating Council (DPCC)
- Erie County Sheriff's Office – Domestic Violence Unit.
- Girl Scouts of WNY
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hispanic Heritage Coalition
- Hispanos Unidos de buffalo
- Journeys End Refugee Service
- Kaleida Health
- Lakeshore Homeless Alliance
- Literacy Buffalo New York Buffalo- Niagara
- Lt. Col Mat Urban Center
- Native American Community Service
- Olmsted Center for Sight
- Open Buffalo
- Panorama Hispano
- PUSH Buffalo
- Salvation Army
- Service Collaborative of WNY
- Suicide Prevention Coalition of WNY
- Susan G. Komen WNY
- West Side Bazaar
- WNY Peace Prints
- WNY Parent Network
- Zonta Club of Buffalo



HERES WHAT COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE SAY YES LEGAL CLINICS



"Adopting South Park High School continues the firm's strong tradition of community involvement."

*William Brennan, Philips Lytle,
Law Firm Partner*

"I thank Say Yes Buffalo on behalf of our families for their recognition of this need, and for the willingness to remove yet another important obstacle that can impede quality of life. This is an important and vital social service for our families."

*Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent of the
Buffalo Public Schools*

"The thing that keeps me going as a supporter of this initiative is that whenever we ask people to step forward, they not only step forward but they do so enthusiastically and demonstrate their commitment to this effort we have."

*Aphonso O'Neil-White, Chair Say Yes
Buffalo Scholarship*

"Children are instrumental to our future. We want to use our talents and our profession to help children be able to focus on education. We want to make sure they aren't worried about where they are going to sleep if their family is evicted."

*Tracie Lopardi, Harris Beach,
Law Firm Partner*

"These legal clinics are helping children to achieve better in school by addressing important legal needs that could otherwise disrupt family stability."

*Robert Elardo- ECBA VLP, Executive
Director and CEO*

ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS

2015-2016 School Year

Christina Arthurs
Sean Balkin
Lydia Bebe
Jennifer Beckage
Erin Borek
Allison Bosworth
Jason Britt
Sharon Buffum
Joanna Chen
Kimberely Colaiacovo
Erin Connare
Jessica Copland
Ryan Crawford
Patrick Curran
Mark Davis
Jillian Deck
Elise De Rose
Nicholas De Marco
Andrew Devine
Joanna Dickinson
Thomas Digati
Catherine Dines
Emily Dinsmore
James Domagalski
Christine Donovan
Kyle Dukeman
Meghan Dwyer
Rosemary Enright

Joshua Feinstein
Thomas Fennell
Sarah Fenster
Michael Ferdman
Amy Flaherty
Patrick Fitzgerald
Abigal Flynn Kozara
Thomas Gaffney
Eric Glynn
Timothy Graber
Rebecca Guerra
Adam Haney
Patrick Hines
Tristen Hujer
Theodore Joerg
Kevin Kearney
Leslie Kellogg
David Kernan
Karl Kistoff
Timothy Kucinski
Arianna Kwiatkowski
Chelsea Latta
Craig Leslie
Brendan Lillis
Brendan Little
Sarah Miller
Melissa Morton
Frank Muggia

Deena Mueller
Robert Murray
Matthew Palmieri
Rosa Pizzi
Seth Pullen
Richard Scherer Jr.
Paul Schulz
Ryan Stearns
Jeffery Weiss
Benjamin White
Peter Wiltenburg
Benjamin Wisniewski



SAY YES BUFFALO LEGAL TASKFORCE

The Say Yes Legal Task Force is a consortium of Buffalo professionals who meet bi-monthly to discuss the status, progress, and continued development of the Say Yes Legal Clinics. The Say Yes Legal Task Force directly involves community stakeholders whose input is essential to the success of the legal clinics. Below is a list of our **2015-2016** Task Force Members.



Task Force Chairs: Hon. Hugh Scott (United States Magistrate Judge WDNY) and Robert Elardo Esq. (Executive Director & CEO of Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project).

Say Yes Buffalo: David Rust (Executive Director), Nadia Moore, Betsy Behrend, Daphne Inman, Emily Wikoff, Linda Ray, Daytun Antonetti, Kelly Luce, Stephan Galucci, Leah Rush, and Melanie O'Donnel.

Buffalo Public Schools: Dr. Will Keresztes and Dr. Eric Rosser.

Judges: Hon. Paula Feroletto (Administrative Judge, 8th judicial district), Hon. Susan Eagan (Buffalo City Court), Hon. Paul Buchanan (Erie County Family Court), and Hon. James A Mcleod (Buffalo City Court).

Law Firm Partners: Robert Heary (Barclay Damon LLP), William Brennan (Phillips Lytle LLP), Joshua Feinstein (Hodgson Russ LLP), Thomas Gaffney (Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP), Tracie Lopardi (Harris Beach PLLC), Timothy Graber (Gibson, McAskill & Crosby LLP), and Erin Cody (Rupp Baase Pfalzgraff Cunningham LLP).

SUNY Buffalo Law School: Melinda Saran (Vice Dean of Social Justice Initiatives) and Rebecca Donoghue (Executive Assistant to Dean).

Public Servants: Michael Russo (NYS Attorney General Office), David Edmunds (NYS Liquor Authority), Michael Siragusa (Erie County), and Timothy Ball (City of Buffalo).

Bar Association Representatives: Jennifer Scharf (Women's Bar Association), Stephanie Saunders (Minority Bar Association), Rasheed McDuffie (Minority Bar Association) and K. John Bland (ECBA Lawyers for Learning).

Legal Services: Karen Welch (Neighborhood Legal Services), Penny Selmonsky (Neighborhood Legal Services), and Pam Neubeck (Legal Aid Buffalo).

Not for Profit: Elizabeth Harned (Planned Parenthood), Julie Loesch (Child & Family Services of Erie County), and Bridget O'Connell (Child & Family Services).

Members of Private Bar: Sarah Frederick (Frederick Law Offices), and James Morrissey.

VLP: Gayle Murphy (Pro Bono Coordinator) and Talia Rodriguez (Say Yes Buffalo Legal Clinic Coordinator).