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It’s hard to believe that we are nearing the beginning of November already, which means it’s time for our year-end campaign! Be on the lookout for a mailing from CELJ, as well as emails marking the occasion. We hope that you will consider making a contribution this year, with the knowledge that every dollar we collect goes towards our work providing free legal services for older adults and those with disabilities in our community. Our legal staff cannot continue this impactful work without YOUR help!

Did you know:
- You can sign up to make automatic, monthly donations
- You can give via donor advised funds
- You can make a charitable gift from your IRA

We are also now accepting gifts in support of our endowed fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at sdi camillo@elderjusticeny.org.

Donate!
https://lightthewayforjustice.org/
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:
Elder Abuse Prevention

Our agency is at the very outset of another newly conceived program. CELJ has been awarded funding through the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to provide enhanced training and services to end abuse in later life in Niagara County. The grant was one of only nine awarded throughout the country and will provide $400,000 toward the group effort to protect the dignity and security of seniors in Niagara County.

The agency will partner with the Niagara County Sheriff’s Office, the District Attorney of Niagara County, and Pinnacle Community Services to provide training programs to law enforcement, prosecutors, units of local government, victim service providers, and other organizations in recognizing and addressing instances of elder abuse. The partners will also develop a multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, collaborative community response to bring awareness to the issue of elder abuse, create a more unified partnership within Niagara County, and educate community partners who interact with older adults on a daily basis. Members from each partner agency, Congressman Brian Higgins, Mayor of Niagara Falls Robert Restaino, and Niagara County Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti joined together (pictured above) to announce and celebrate the new endeavor.

Kathy Kanaley accepting the grant on behalf of CELJ
A Program of the Center for Elder Law & Justice, with support from Foundation 214 and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

Providing technical assistance
Discussing annual reports
Holding informational presentations and workshops

How Can We Help?

We Support Family Guardians by

Who Can We Help?

We assist court-appointed Article 81 Family Guardians living in Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, or Genesee Counties

Now, thanks to funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, those very same Family Guardians can contact Brad to request assistance in navigating the difficult duties of an appointed Guardian. Way to go Brad!

Contact Us Today
Bradley Loliger, Esq.
(716) 853-3087, ext. 220
bloliger@elderjusticeny.org

CELJ is proud to celebrate a new program allowing us to deliver more services and supports to our community.

All our staff are trained to spot new and recurring issues for the individuals that we serve and Staff Attorney Brad Loliger did exactly that when he noticed that many Family Guardians struggle with the requirements of their role. A Guardian is appointed by the court to protect and assist individuals who no longer can manage personal and financial decisions on their own.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:
Family Guardian Support Project

Visit us online at www.elderjusticeny.org
Your organization was a lifesaver for my dad. We so appreciate all that you did for him. It was a pleasure working with Brenda. Thank you so much!!

Rachel and Christine were very professional at handling my Father's case, very satisfied with Elder Law & Justice.

Thank you very much! So long I've been trying but with your help it went so easy! Thanks!
Everything started to change for Pauline after she suffered an unfortunate fall. She was admitted first to the hospital and then to a rehabilitation and nursing facility upon the request of a family member who said they could no longer care for her. Her acceptance to a nursing home triggered a review of her finances by Medicaid that revealed that her bank account had been almost depleted. Pauline could no longer count on those who were supposed to watch out after her best interests.

Fortunately, a social worker referred Pauline to our office and we quickly got to work. CELJ was able to begin work to investigate Pauline's finances and to revoke decision making authority from those who betrayed her trust.

Pauline Swanson had just one wish: to be able to age in her own home. That was her plan and although she thought it was a simple one, she didn't realize the challenges that she would have to overcome to do so. Fortunately, the Center for Elder Law & Justice was able to connect with Pauline when she needed our help the most.

Today Pauline is living with her daughter Tanya, who together with her wife Tina, were appointed by CELJ to serve as Powers of Attorney and Health Care Proxies for Pauline.

"They have and are still working non-stop, taking time to explain everything in detail to my mother and my wife and I. Mom has been home, albeit her new home, for just a few short weeks now and is doing amazing! They were literally the angels that swept in and turned my mothers worst fears and nightmares into a pretty happy ending. We owe this time to all of them who work so diligently each day to make sure my mothers voice is heard and her rights are protected"

-Tanya
Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Two of our Staff were kind enough to share their pride!

Brandy Hernandez has been a paralegal with CELJ for over 7 years and currently works in our Consumer Protection Unit. Margarita (Maggy) Rivera Rusch has over 20 years of experience in legal services and works as a paralegal in our housing unit.

**What does Hispanic Heritage month mean to you?**

**Brandy:** It’s the history of our culture and the stories told to me about my ancestors growing up.

**Maggy:** It’s the beauty of our culture and the achievements of our ancestors.

**Who has influenced you the most?**

**B:** I would have to say my mother and father. My parents raised me to be strong, respectful and to treat people the way you want to be treated. My parents gave me the skills to continue my education so that I can be a great example for my two sons. I have been a paralegal for over 7 year now and enjoy helping our community with free legal services.

**M:** Honestly, I would say my grandmother and mother. My grandmother passed away in May of this year at the age of 96, a wonderful woman that showed me that life is not what it gives you; it is what you make out of it. My mother taught me that you have to be a strong woman to make it in this world, she has always pushed me to continue my education so that I can have the career that I wanted. I have to say, that I have loved being a paralegal for the last 21 yrs. I also own my own business as an event planner, 716 Events.

(Cont.)
In your opinion, what challenges remain for Hispanic Americans today and how can understanding history help us to overcome them?

B: The term Hispanic is used in the United States to describe all people of Latino and Spanish descent. It is a broad ethnic classification of people originating from over 20 countries in Central and South America. Educators need to account for diversity among Hispanic of different origin.

M: Many people are not educated in the culture of Hispanic Americans. Military has always been a part of my family heritage. My great-great grandfather was in the war and most of my family continued to serve our country. I think it’s important for Americans to become aware of the Hispanic contributions made to our history.

“In 1898, the United States acquired Puerto Rico in the Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American War. By the following year, Congress had authorized raising a unit of volunteer Soldiers in the newly acquired territory. Several thousand Hispanic volunteers, mostly from the southwestern United States, fought with distinction in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. Capt. Maximiliano Luna and others who comprised a portion of the famous 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry with Col. Theodore Roosevelt -- better known as the "Rough Riders" -- fought in Cuba. George Armijo, another Rough Rider, later became a member of Congress.”

What's a fun fact you have?

B: I love to dance and sing to any Spanish music. I also enjoy the holidays when my parents and I make Hispanic foods together.

M: I love to dance Salsa...

¡GRACIAS BRANDY Y MAGGY!
Staff were encouraged recently to show their support by showing out in their best Bills gear.
# Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 03</td>
<td><strong>ERAP - Rent Relief Clinic</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hamburg Senior Center&lt;br&gt;4540 Southwestern Boulevard Hamburg, NY 14075</td>
<td>Assistance for landlords and tenants applying for Emergency Rental Assistance Program rent relief funds.</td>
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<td>November 05</td>
<td><strong>Silver Pride Mobile Legal Unit</strong>&lt;br&gt;Amherst Senior Center&lt;br&gt;370 John James Audubon Pkwy, Buffalo NY 14228</td>
<td>Join us for coffee hour with the Pride Center of WNY! A presentation on our services will be provided as well as free legal consultations.</td>
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<td>November 06</td>
<td><strong>Caring for Aging Loved Ones Information Session</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hamburg Senior Center&lt;br&gt;4540 Southwestern Boulevard Hamburg, NY 14075</td>
<td>Come learn about living wills, health care proxies, and how to have “the conversation,” with aging loved ones, presented by Assemblymember Monica Wallace. Free legal consultations will also be available.</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td><strong>Health Fair</strong>&lt;br&gt;Harlem Road Community Center&lt;br&gt;4255 Harlem Rd, Buffalo, NY 14226</td>
<td>Our mobile legal unit will be offering free legal consultations and will be one of multiple vendors offering services and information to attendees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td><strong>ERAP - Rent Relief Clinic</strong>&lt;br&gt;Amherst Town Hall&lt;br&gt;5583 Main ST. Ste. 1, Williamsville, NY</td>
<td>Assistance for landlords and tenants applying for Emergency Rental Assistance Program rent relief funds. Request a spot by contacting Susan Fitzpatrick at (716) 631-7053 or at <a href="mailto:SFitzpatrick@amherst.ny.us">SFitzpatrick@amherst.ny.us</a></td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td><strong>CELJ - ERAP Rent Relief Clinic</strong>&lt;br&gt;CELJ - Main Place Tower - 1st Floor Sun Room&lt;br&gt;438 Main Street (1st Floor Sun Room), Buffalo, NY 14202</td>
<td>Assistance for landlords and tenants with applying for Emergency Rental Assistance Program rent relief funds. Free legal consultations will also be available. Call (716) 853-3087 (ext. 235) to register.</td>
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For More Information Contact:<br>Liam McMahon - (716) 853-3087 (ext. 257)<br>lmcmahon@elderjusticeny.org
Upcoming Events

Details:

**November 18**

**Mobile Legal Unit**
- Hamburg Senior Center
- 4540 Southwestern Boulevard Hamburg, NY 14075
- Join us for a presentation about our services followed by free legal consultations. Call 716-646-0665 to reserve your spot.

**November 18**

**WNY Stand Down**
- Jamestown Community College
- 425 Falconer Street, Jamestown, NY 14701
- A gathering of service providers and vendors offering services, information, surplus and food to Veterans! Open to veterans and one guest. CELJ will be on site offering free legal consultations. Register online at buffalostanddown.org

**November 19**

**Mobile Legal Unit**
- Town of Tonawanda Senior Center
- 291 Ensminger Road, Tonawanda, New York
- Our mobile legal unit will be offering free legal consultations and will be one of multiple vendors offering services and information to attendees.

**December 07**

**Scam Prevention Training and Mobile Legal Unit**
- Dorothy J. Collier Community Center
- 118 East Utica Street, Buffalo, NY 14209
- What: A free presentation on common scams targeting seniors and others as well as free legal consultations provided by our mobile legal unit.

For More Information Contact:
Liam McMahon - (716) 853-3087 (ext. 257)
lmcmahon@elderjusticeny.org