

September 2016



Find Out What All the Buzz is About!

Take a closer look at Legal Aid's significant accomplishments for clients in Palm Beach County, meet our donors, board members, staff, and volunteers; plus learn more about how you can get involved in the Legal Aid Society.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Buzz from Our Executive Director

Our Coverage to Care Legal Initiative Helps Clients Eliminate Barriers to Proper Health Care

In this month's issue of the Monthly Buzz you will learn about one of Legal Aid's newest projects, our Coverage to Care Legal Initiative. This program was established in 2016 to assist a significant number of low-income individuals who were contacting our office having been denied access to health insurance under the Affordable Care Act or coverage to certain health benefits under their own health insurance plans. With generous funding from the Quantum Foundation we were able to hire an attorney and paralegal experienced in health benefits and health insurance law to assist these individuals in securing essential health care coverage.



As I was writing this letter, Vicki Tucci Krusel, the attorney who supervises the initiative, informed me that she had just received a referral from U.S. Congresswoman Lois Frankel of a young woman who was due to give birth in

10 days and had just learned that the Marketplace and United Healthcare had cancelled her health insurance without reason or explanation. To read her story, click [here](#).

Stay tuned for information on Pro Bono opportunities with the Coverage to Care Initiative.

Warmest Regards,



Project Spotlight

Coverage to Care Legal Initiative

One of the newer projects at Legal Aid is our **Coverage to Care Legal Initiative**, which helps clients eliminate barriers to proper health care. Led by attorney Vicki Tuccie Krusel, together with her paralegal Ebonie Taylor, this initiative improves the ability of disadvantaged and vulnerable resident populations, to access health care coverage and utilize this coverage once they have it through legal representation and systemic advocacy. It provides community education and outreach related to the Affordable Care Act and private utilization of health plans.



The Coverage to Care Initiative was birthed out of Legal Aid's Navigator Project, which assisted community members with enrollment in the Federal Marketplace. As the Navigator team was enrolling clients it became more and more apparent that many of these clients were facing challenges and barriers within the Federal Marketplace and there were no resources available to help them with these challenges. Vicki began to act as an advocate for those clients. In an effort to assist more clients, Legal Aid received a grant from Quantum Foundation and the Coverage to Care Initiative was born.

To learn more about Coverage to Care Legal Initiative, click [here](#).

If you would like to invite Vicki to speak and train your group about the Affordable Care Act, please call 561.655.8944 ext. 281.

Client Spotlight

Florida Changes Hepatitis C Drug Policy for Medicaid Thanks to the Courage and Perseverance of Client

Thanks to the courage and persistence of Legal Aid client Vickie Goldstein, Florida health officials have changed the hepatitis C drug policy for Medicaid. According to Florida Department of Health, an estimated 300,000 Floridians are infected with Hepatitis C, with approximately 2,000 new cases occurring each year. Despite the growing number of Hepatitis C cases and the fact that a once incurable disease now has a cure rate above 90%, patients were being denied the medication because they were deemed not "sick enough." If left untreated the viral infection can lead to liver failure, cancer or death. To learn more of Vickie's story, click [here](#).



Vickie Goldstein

Photo Credit - Damon Higgins

"If I had Stage 1 breast cancer, would they say wait until Stage 3 or 4 to do anything about it? No. And this is a cure." – Vickie Goldstein

Staff Spotlight

Coverage to Care Legal Initiative Team

Vicki Tucci Krusel and **Ebonie Taylor** make up the two-person Coverage to Care Legal Initiative Team.

Vicki is the Supervising Attorney. She has been practicing law for ten years, concentrating mainly in the areas of administrative, constitutional, disability, employment, ethics, family, healthcare and juvenile laws. Her main practice area for the past several years has been healthcare, specifically focusing on the Affordable Care Act, health policy, systemic issues across the healthcare spectrum and elimination of barriers to care.

We've been lucky to have her at Legal Aid for over a 20 year period. In 1996, she started as a paralegal in the Ryan White Project, leaving to attend law school at Nova Southeastern University and later returning as an attorney to run the Disaster Project. She has also worked in Medical Legal and Foreclosure before taking the lead in Coverage to Care.



Vicki and Ebonie

To learn more about Vicki and Ebonie, please click [here](#).

Board Member Spotlight

Board Member and BBQ Pit Master Robert Shalhoub, Esq.

Bob Shalhoub has been a long standing member of the Legal Aid Society Board of Directors. He served as President from 2003-2004. Bob and his wonderful wife Bernadette, introduced us to the concept of the Gift Gathering Galas *and* they hosted the very first one in their home. Due to their efforts, the Gift Gathering Galas are now an essential part of creating an amazing silent auction at the Pro Bono Recognition Evening. Bob has also been the Chairman of our Cup of Justice Golf Classic tournament for the past 16 years.



Bob and Bernadette received our first ever ...*And Justice For All* Award in 1999.

He is a Board Certified Marital and Family Law Specialist, founding member of the Susan Greenberg Family Law Inns of Court as a Master, President of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

To learn more about Bob's accomplishments and his award winning BBQ, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events So Far....

- 10/10/16 [15th Annual Cup of Justice Golf Classic](#) held at Bear Lakes Country Club, Lakes Course - \$250 Sign Sponsorships still available
- 11/15/16 **Brooks Brothers** - Gardens Mall 6:00 - 8:00pm
- 12/03/16 **Gift Gathering Gala** - Home of Terry Resk & Steve Mayans
- 12/10/16 **Holiday Bookfest** - Barnes & Noble Palm Beach Gardens 10:00am - 4:00pm
- 01/28/17 **Gift Gathering Gala** - Equestrian Center in Wellington
- 02/24/17 **Pankauski Pour**
- 06/03/17 **PARIS** - Legal Aid's 29th Annual Pro Bono Recognition Evening

If you live in Boca Raton or Delray Beach and would like to host a **Gift Gathering Gala** in the South County area, please contact Harreen Bertisch at hbertisch@legalaidpb.org or 561.822.9763.



15th Annual Cup of Justice Winners
Esquire Bank



How You Can Help to Spread the Word

Legal Aid Society needs your help to spread the word about the amazing ways that we impact and change the lives of our clients. Your support is critical to us and you can help us by showing your support through 5 simple ways. [Like us on](#)

[Facebook](#), [Follow us on](#)

[Twitter](#), Tag yourself in one of our event photos or invitations on Facebook, [Sign up](#)

for our emails and Legal Aid's Monthly Buzz and best of all, by [Re-sharing](#) and [re-](#)

[tweeting](#) our events and posts with your friends and colleagues. We could not do this without you! Help us spread the word throughout our local community by being a Legal Aid Society Ambassador.



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