

**March 2017**



## 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

**The Fair Housing Project Staff are Devoted to Protecting Individual Rights to Fair Housing Throughout Palm Beach County & The Treasure Coast**

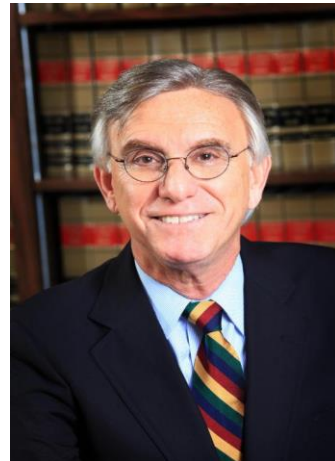
Dear Friends of Legal Aid,

The March issue of the Buzz features Legal Aid's Fair Housing Project, which was established in 1999 with a grant from the City of West Palm Beach to ensure that no resident of the city was denied housing based on race, color, national origin, gender, disability, marital status, age, and/or sexual orientation.

In 2006, under the leadership of Supervising Attorney Tequisha Myles, the Project has expanded its services to provide community outreach, advocacy, and enforcement activities to compliment its direct client representation. This expansion was made possible through multi-year grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and funding from the cities of Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Boynton Beach. Additionally, increased funding has enabled the project to provide fair housing assistance to residents on the Treasure Coast.

Tequisha and her staff are devoted to protecting individual rights to fair housing throughout Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast.

Warmest regards,



## Project Spotlight

### Fair Housing Project

Legal Aid's Fair Housing Project provides community outreach, education, advocacy and enforcement of all federal, state, and local housing laws to ensure that no Palm Beach County resident is denied access to housing based upon race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.



The Project, which began in 1999, is led by Supervising Attorney Tequisha Myles and includes Staff Attorneys Sandra Powery, Denise Mutamba, and Homeless Legal Prevention Project Attorney Latrice Dean, Paralegal Samantha Acosta, Fair Housing Advocate Rick Collier, Legal Assistant Jessica Pierre, Testing Coordinator/Investigator Kammy Sloan, and Education Outreach Coordinator Carlton Smith. The Fair Housing Project staff also includes Attorneys Rachel Bentley and Andrew Batog and Paralegal Laika Sanchez, who focus on Consumer Advocacy.

The Project is funded by two federal grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Under the federal program it covers residents of four counties: Palm Beach, Hendry, Okeechobee, and Martin. It also receives a smaller amount of funding through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from Palm Beach County, City of Boca Raton, City of Delray Beach, and the City of Boynton Beach.

To learn more about the Fair Housing Project, please click [here](#).

## Fair Housing Project's Social Media Sites

As part of their Education Outreach Program, the Fair Housing Project has very active social media sites to educate the community and keep them informed of their rights. Click the links below to visit the Fair Housing Project's Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube sites.



## Client Spotlight

**Fair Housing Project Helps Widow & Family Keep Their Home**

Fair Housing Project Attorney Sandra Powery represented a widow who is unable to work due to her disability. The widow's family resided in farmworker housing in Belle Glade. She was given a deadline to move out of the rental community because her farmworker husband died and the community claimed to not have provisions for widows.



The Fair Housing Project staff got involved and determined that there actually was a widow's clause that allowed families, surviving spouses and children, including adult children, to continue to live in the community after the passing of the retired or current farmworker's family member. As a result of our representation, our client and her three children were allowed to continue to live there and pay the subsidized rent at \$293 based on her current disability income instead of \$470 which was based on her deceased husband's income, which the family no longer received.

## Staff Spotlight

### Fair Housing Project Staff



Back Row, Left to Right: Kammy Sloan, Samantha Acosta, Rachel Bentley, Laika Sanchez, Andrew Batog, Rick Collier, Jessica Pierre, Carlton Smith  
Front Row, Left to Right: Latrice Dean, Tequisha Myles, Denise Mutamba, Sandra Powery

## April is Fair Housing Month

### Fair Housing Month Events

**April 3, 2017 - 6:00pm Fair Housing Workshop** at the City of Delray Beach Library

**April 4, 2017 - 7:30pm Plug the Mic: Neighborhood Edition Fair Housing themed Poetry Slam** at Kafe Hub in Riviera Beach

**April 13, 2017 - 6:00pm Fair Housing Workshop** at the Boca Public Library (Downtown Library)

**April 19, 2017 - 6:00pm Fair Housing Essay & Poster Contest** at Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches

**April 20, 2017 - 11:30am Fair Housing Month Celebration Luncheon** at the West Palm Beach Lake Pavilion

**April 26, 2017 - 8:00am Sober Homes: Understanding Their Role in Creating More Inclusive Communities** at the American Polish Club in Greenacres



## Board Member Spotlight

### Gary Woodfield, Esq.

Board member and past Board President, Gary A. Woodfield is an attorney with Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger. Gary practices in the area of general civil, commercial and white collar criminal litigation in both state and federal courts throughout the country. He is a member of the New York and Florida Bars as well as the Palm Beach County Bar Association.



Gary received his undergraduate degree from Alfred University and his law degree from Fordham Law School where he was one of the founders of the Urban Law Journal and its first articles editor. He also served as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve.

He has tried more than 50 jury and non-jury trials involving disputes in the areas of breach of contract, securities fraud, theft of trade secrets and non-competition agreements, intellectual property disputes, partnership dissolutions, shareholder disputes, defamation, insurance matters, probate and trust litigation involving will contests and the removal and surcharge of trustees, real estate disputes, construction litigation, commercial foreclosures, and receivership issues, tax shelter and Ponzi scheme matters.

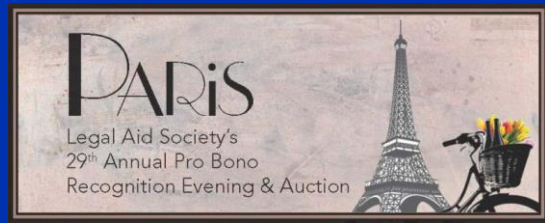
To learn more about Gary and his pro bono work, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

05/17/17 **GREAT GIVE Palm Beach & Martin Counties** Midnight to Midnight

06/03/17 **PARIS** - Legal Aid's 29th Annual Pro Bono Recognition Evening

For sponsorship information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at [www.legalaidpbcc.org](http://www.legalaidpbcc.org) or contact Harreen Bertisch at [hbentisch@legalaidpbcc.org](mailto:hbentisch@legalaidpbcc.org)



## 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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