

End poverty. Advocate for justice.

EVOLVING STRATEGIES, CHANGING SYSTEMS, IMPROVING LIVES

People living in poverty and communities of color were disproportionately harmed by COVID-19.

As the only multi-issue law firm for people living in poverty in our region, we adopted new strategies to help people withstand income loss, challenges to obtaining food, health care and education, and overall threats to safety and stability. **The following is a snapshot of our impact.**

EVOLVING STRATEGIES

Opened up a new phone portal to reach us directly for COVID-related problems.

Bridged the digital divide by reconfiguring our facilities to enable clients without computer access to participate in remote court proceedings.



Helped our clients and community partners understand new laws and programs in areas including public benefits, education, employment, and housing by holding community briefings and preparing plain language materials in English and Spanish to explain the changes.



GHLA presented “Resources for Immigrant Families” in English and Spanish.

“Getting a full pardon will allow me to get a better job to support my family.” – Client

CHANGING SYSTEMS

“I got my SSI and I can move on. I have more hope for the future.” – Client

- ✓ ***Preserved housing*** by helping to craft state level eviction moratoria, extensions, and rental assistance programs.
- ✓ ***Strengthened the state’s safety net*** for people needing help with food, unemployment benefits, and basic income – and helped achieve Medicaid telehealth so low-income families could follow COVID safety guidelines and still receive needed health care.
- ✓ ***Led Connecticut’s legal non-profits*** to support federal litigation opposing harmful restrictions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to defend the Governor’s authority to institute an eviction moratorium.
- ✓ ***Provided access to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance*** (PUA) for Spanish speaking workers by translating all of the CT Department of Labor PUA instructions and application materials for DOL’s website.
- ✓ ***Convinced the CT Department of Public Health*** to increase COVID testing for nursing home staff to protect nursing home residents from asymptomatic transmission from the community.
- ✓ ***Resolved federal litigation*** on behalf of a dozen immigrant crime victim clients, to obtain long overdue employment authorization, in collaboration with pro bono partner Shipman & Goodwin and our sister legal services organizations.
- ✓ ***Raised up concerns of students with disabilities*** about access to education during weekly meetings with the CT Department of Education throughout the pandemic.

IMPROVING LIVES

Mr. Dixon complained to his landlord about terrible conditions in his apartment but the landlord brought an eviction action against him instead of fixing the problems.

Mr. Dixon was a senior who was frightened of losing his apartment during the pandemic and he asked GHLA for help. His GHLA attorney got the eviction case dismissed and strategized with Mr. Dixon about how to compel his landlord to do the repairs.

Zachary experienced such debilitating anxiety that he did not attend classes at his high school for more than a year. His school made no attempts to reengage him. Due to GHLA's advocacy, Zachary's school district agreed to provide him with 400 hours of compensatory education, including tutoring, extended year classes and post-secondary support.

Beth, who was four months pregnant, was referred through our Hartford HealthCare Medical-Legal Partnership because she had lost her state benefits and was a victim of domestic violence. GHLA attorneys quickly restored all her state benefits and then worked in concert with community providers to ensure not only Beth's safety but also the safety of her five children.



Worked on
3320
Legal Matters

OPENED
1190
New Cases

Reached Over
4000
People through
Community Legal Education

“GHLA does critical work. I'm grateful for our partnership.” – Leader of a
Hartford Community Organization

ghla
Greater Hartford Legal Aid

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