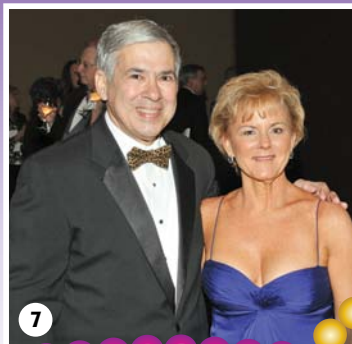


21st Annual Justice For All Ball

A Mardi Gras theme provided a party-like atmosphere for the 21st Justice for All Ball on February 26 in the Khorassan Room at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. The very popular and successful fundraiser netted close to \$100,000 for LSEM.

Sue & Bob Brownlee served as honorary chairs, and **Monica Hans** and **Jessica Martin** were the co-chairs of the 21st Annual Justice For All Ball. **Shannon Dodson** and **Brenda Glick**, auction co-chairs, successfully solicited some fabulous auction items, including a Broadway Theatre Package, suites for the St. Louis Cardinals games and a pre-release "Cars 2" poster signed by Academy Award Winner, John Lasseter. The entire LSEM family was saddened by Shannon's untimely passing shortly before the event.

Thank you for supporting LSEM.



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- 1. Front row (l to r): Nancy Snow, Sue Brownlee, Monica Hans, Jessica Martin. Back row (l to r): Dan Glazier, Bob Brownlee, Matt Hans, Jim Martin
- 2. Dan Glazier and Representative Russ Carnahan
- 3. Joe Sanchez & Kevin Roberts
- 4. Brenda Glick, Tom Glick, Mavis Thompson, Lenny Cervantes
- 5. Tom & Jill Lang
- 6. Peggy Porter & Angie Bay
- 7. Norm Pressman & Wendy Alper-Pressman



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LSC



In Memory of Melton M. Lewis



For many years, **Mel Lewis** was the most senior attorney with LSEM. He had practiced in several areas of the law during the course of his career with LSEM from 1966 to 2004. His passing this past March was a great loss to his friends and colleagues at LSEM.

“He was a friend, a mentor and a role model for so many,” said **Dan Glazier**, LSEM executive director & general counsel. “He was a caring, compassionate person committed to

those we serve and to providing equal access to justice for all.”

Lewis first joined LSEM as a staff attorney in 1966, at which time the organization was known as The Legal Aid Society for the City and County of St. Louis. He handled employment cases, family law and in later years, elder law matters. In 1969 Lewis was appointed managing attorney, and then in 1972, he was selected for the position of associate director. At the same time, he continued to handle a full caseload.

In addition to his case work, Lewis really liked going out into the community to provide educational seminars. He had plenty of opportunities to do just that when he was practicing elder law. He visited senior centers and other locations in the community where seniors gathered and provided educational seminars on protective services, wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives.

“I worked alongside of Mel for many years,” said **Stan Platke**, managing attorney of LSEM’s Elder Law Project. “He was a mentor and a true ‘mensch’. As an attorney of color, he blazed the trail for many who would follow. He was a beloved figure at LSEM both by staff and the clients he so ably served. That legacy, of course, is everlasting.”

Prior to joining LSEM, Lewis was in private practice as a general practitioner. He served two terms in the military, on active duty with

the Army during World War II, and as an officer during the Korean War. He was a graduate of Allen University in Columbia, S.C., where he received a B.A. in History and he received his J.D. from Lincoln University School of Law in Jefferson City, MO. He was a member of The Missouri Bar, The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Mound City Bar Association and the National Bar Association. While serving in the military, he was admitted to practice law in the Republic of South Korea.

Lewis and his wife of 70 years, **Sarah**, were very involved with international living and associations. Over the years, they had visitors residing with them from Ethiopia, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Italy and Mexico. They belonged to the Archeological Society-St. Louis Chapter, and the St. Louis Chapter of People to People. They also had a particular interest and dedication to youth and education. They sponsored several young adults who desired advanced education in addition to educating their own three children. The Mound City Bar Association honored the Lewises with Community Service Awards in 1991 for their commitment to youth and education.

One of Mel’s cases that made a lasting impression on him was one he handled when he first joined LSEM. He was working one Saturday when a woman knocked on the office door and told him she was desperate for food for her family. She had applied for help from the Division of Family Services but had not yet heard anything about her application. Mel told her he would look into her case on Monday since the Family Services office was not open on Saturday. Later in the day the woman called him and said to just forget about her problem, and she would take care of it herself.

Lewis was alarmed by her call and asked his wife to go to her home to check on her. Sarah found the woman with her children sitting around a gas stove with the flames extinguished and smell of gas throughout the home. Mel brought the family some groceries to get them through the weekend and then followed up to make sure she received her benefits. He said he wondered what would have happened to that family if he had not been in the office on that Saturday. We could ask the same question about the thousands of people Mel helped throughout his 38-year career with LSEM.

Onder Law Firm Hosts Event for LSEM

Jim Onder very graciously offered to host a cocktail reception for LSEM on May 3. About 50 attorneys attended the event at the spectacular offices of the **Onder Law Firm**. The members of the plaintiff’s bar were invited to the event during which, in addition to enjoying to reception, they heard a brief presentation about LSEM by **Dan Glazier**, LSEM executive director and general counsel, as well as some remarks from retired **Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.** (Armstrong Teasdale), **Carrie Hermeling** (Husch Blackwell), co-chairs of the Bar Campaign, **Jerry Dobson** (Dobson, Goldberg, Berns & Rich, LLP), and **Melanie DeRousse**, LSEM staff attorney, who spoke about the vital role LSEM plays in the community.

“We want to thank Jim Onder and the members of the Onder Law Firm for hosting the reception on our behalf,” said Dan Glazier. “Their support and generosity will help our organization provide even more services and programs to our low-income clients in the 21-county area we serve.”



From left, **Jim Onder**, **Jerry Dobson** (Plaintiff’s Bar Committee chair for the Campaign), **Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.**, **Dan Glazier**, **Carrie Hermeling**, **Vennie Sharp**, LSEM board member, and **Candy O’Connell**, LSEM board member (photo courtesy of Josh Monken)

News From the Volunteer Lawyers Program

LSEM's Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) continues to work closely with lawyers throughout our region and refers hundreds of cases every year to the outstanding attorneys on its volunteer panel.

The success of this program is a direct tribute to the amazing dedication and commitment of lawyers and law firms in eastern Missouri. But in a time when reductions in basic LSEM funding threaten the fundamental work of LSEM, it is critical that the VLP go even further to help meet the increased need. For that reason, the VLP is continually exploring new and different pro bono initiatives focused on meeting the needs of low-income people in our community.

One such initiative is the Community Economic Development (CED) Program. This new program is in its early development stages, but will ultimately focus on providing more business-oriented legal advice to small nonprofit organizations that serve low-income people and even small businesses operated by low-income entrepreneurs in low-income communities. This assistance will range from entity formation considerations, obtaining tax-exempt status, review and negotiations of contracts and leases, and review of bylaws and governance issues. All clients will still have to demonstrate that they are low-income and qualify for our services.

Programs like the CED operate in numerous locations throughout the country and have been successful in providing these same types of assistance to help small organizations develop the infrastructure they need to effectively operate and ultimately succeed. The success of these nonprofit organizations and small businesses forms the building blocks for strengthening low-income communities and is a vital part of alleviating poverty.

The CED will function largely through a network of volunteer attorneys. Those attorneys whose interests or practice areas are more transaction/business oriented will be paired with these organizational clients to perform this important legal work. This is a perfect fit for many lawyers who have wanted to increase their pro bono involvement but are not inclined to do so with court appearances and trials.

The CED is in its early formative stage; the program cannot actively commence until new and independent funding for the program is secured. But once that hurdle is cleared, the CED promises to be a new and exciting way LSEM can continue to make an impact in this region.

To learn more about the CED or other volunteer opportunities, please contact **Jim Guest**, director of the VLP, at jhguest@lsem.org.

Simon Law Firm Holds Annual CLE to Benefit LSEM

Thanks to the **Simon Law Firm, P.C.** for hosting another annual CLE event with all proceeds benefitting LSEM. The firm has extensive courtroom experience representing businesses and individuals in a wide range of cases. This year the firm will hold its annual CLE on Tuesday, June 21, at the Missouri Athletic Club, 405 Washington Avenue in downtown St. Louis. The registration fee is \$150.00 and all fees will be donated to LSEM.

For more details on the event and the registration form, please visit the Simon Law Firm, P.C. website at www.simonlawpc.com

All About the Staff



Joel Ferber, director of advocacy, received the Clarence Darrow Award from Saint Louis University School of Law on April 15. This prestigious award is presented annually to a local attorney for outstanding public interest legal work. "This is a wonderful and well-deserved recognition for Joel," said **Dan Glazier**, LSEM executive director and general counsel. "He has been a terrific advocate on behalf of our clients and we salute Joel for his many significant accomplishments."

Ferber joined LSEM in 1985 as a staff attorney focusing on welfare law issues. In 2002, he was named managing attorney of the Health & Welfare Unit, and was appointed director of advocacy in 2009.

Throughout his career, Ferber has been involved in state and federal litigation as lead or co-counsel, and advocacy efforts regarding many federal and state public benefits and health care issues. His policy advocacy includes the areas of health care conversions, Medicaid home health policies, home and community based waiver programs, Children's Health Insurance Premium policies, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families time limit policies and work requirements, Food Stamp policies and requirements, Medicaid managed care contracts and administrative hearing regulations.

Ferber previously received awards for his work from the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Progressive Youth Connection, the Missouri Dental Association, and Reform Organization of Welfare.

All About the Board



Jan Robey Alonzo, member of the LSEM Board of Directors, received an Enterprise Award at the 13th Annual Women's Justice Awards program on April 27. The awards are presented annually by *Missouri Lawyers Media* to recognize women across the state of Missouri who have improved the quality of justice and exemplified the highest ideals of the legal profession. Alonzo is general counsel for UniGroup Inc., the parent company of United Van Lines, Mayflower Transit and other transportation-related companies.



Congratulations to **Tom Glick**, vice president of the LSEM Board of Directors, on completing his year as president of The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL). Among the goals Glick set for his year as president were an emphasis on equal access to justice and enhancing the 100-year relationship between LSEM and BAMSL, preserving an independent judiciary, and increasing BAMSL membership.

In 1911, BAMSL hired a public interest attorney to help low-income people with their legal needs. In 2011, BAMSL held a series of events to honor the 100 years of equal access to justice. The 100-year anniversary events included a pro bono day in January that was attended by over 100 lawyers and law students, a special reception to recognize lawyers who have demonstrated a special commitment to justice and the rule of law, and a new BAMSL committee that will address education issues for children with special needs.

As Glick stated in one of his monthly messages to members of BAMSL, "... Legal Services of Eastern Missouri has required more than flowery words. It requires our participation in the Volunteer Lawyers Program and our financial contributions to the current Bar Campaign. Such participation and contributions also satisfy the broad mandate of Missouri Supreme Court rule of professional conduct 4-6.1... Legal Services of Eastern Missouri is happy to assist the Bar in meeting their obligations in either of these ways."



Jon Althaus, managing attorney of the Union Office, was featured in a *National Law Journal* article on March 14. The article was part of a series covering Legal Services programs across the country. Althaus talked about the challenges of providing services in a large rural area where the poverty rate is higher than the national average.

Kareema Aziz, public benefits specialist in LSEM's Health & Welfare Unit, participated in the "Women's Health Awareness Event" May 10 sponsored by the St. Louis County Department of Health as part of National Women's Health Week. The event was held at the North Central Community Health



Center. A variety of organizations participated and provided health information, discussions and education on a variety of women's health topics.



Kathleen DuBois, managing attorney for LSEM's St. Louis County Family Court Project, was asked to serve on a Missouri Bar Special Committee on Adoption Issues. The committee was formed to identify issues related to the termination of parental rights and adoption, and to propose safeguards against concerns identified by the Supreme Court of Missouri in the case *In re C.M.B.R.*, 332 S.W.3d 793 (Mo. banc 2011). The Supreme Court reversed the trial court's judgment of adoption in this case, and unanimously agreed that due process and statutory violations in the proceedings below amounted to "manifest injustice".

Joel Ferber, LSEM's director of advocacy, presented on a panel entitled "Working Together: How Do We Make it Happen?" sponsored by Community Catalyst and Boston Center for

Independent Living on April 21 in Washington, DC. His role was to discuss how LSEM works with Centers for Independent Living and other disability groups. The event, *Making the Connection: Working Together to Create Health Care that Serves People with Disabilities*, was held to discuss the way health care is delivered to people with physical disabilities through new opportunities offered in the Affordable Care Act. **Ferber** was appointed by the Missouri Department of Social Services to an Eligibility and Enrollment Advisory Group for development of Missouri's Health Insurance Exchange.

Dan Glazier, executive director & general counsel, has been appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Pro Bono Committee's working group that will review, revise and update the ABA's *Standards for Programs Providing Civil Legal Services to Persons of Limited Means*. The working group, the Pro Bono Standards Review Team, will present its final work product to the full Pro Bono Committee for final approval before it is submitted to the ABA House of Delegates. On April 6, **Glazier** participated in a workshop on diversity at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University.



Sharon Hurt, social worker in the Family Law Unit (Lasting Solutions) has been elected for a one-year term as treasurer on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Family Violence Council.

JoAnne Morrow, managing attorney of Advocates for Family Health, was appointed to the Consumer Advisory Council for the Missouri Health Information Organization. The mission of the organization is to oversee a collaborative process to maintain a statewide health information exchange infrastructure, and to provide leadership for the exchange strategy that will lead to improvements in health care quality, affordability, and outcomes for all Missourians.

Kim Murray, managing attorney of the Immigration Law Project, was a panelist on March 16 with the *HIRE St. Louis Economic Diversity Roundtable*. The event was coordinated by the International Institute of St. Louis in partnership with

Heschel-King Awards

On May 15, LSEM was proud to host the 7th Annual Heschel-King awards celebration of **Jews United for Justice**. The two recipients of this year's awards were **Judge Richard B. Teitelman**, Supreme Court of Missouri, formerly with the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, and former LSEM executive director, and **Judge Ronnie White**, partner with Holloran White Schwartz & Gaertner LLP, and formerly with the Supreme Court of Missouri and the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District.

This annual event honors individuals who have played a significant role in advancing social justice issues for all. **Dan Glazier**, LSEM executive director commented that "Judge Teitelman and Judge White have made access to justice for all the hallmark of their lives' work. Martin Luther King's classic quote in "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" hangs on a wall in our building: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere'."



David Lander, Hon. Richard B. Teitelman, Hon. Ronnie White, and previous Heschel-King award recipients Robert Cohn, Norman Seay, Georgia Rusan, Sam Bernstein and Bill Kahn

FOCUS St. Louis and the Holden Public Policy Forum. The goal of the discussion was to enlighten employers and immigrant advocates about barriers immigrants face in employment and how employers can achieve a fair and balanced work environment.

The 18th edition of the *Senior Citizens Handbook* is available.

Stan Platke, managing attorney of the Elder Law Project, is the general editor of the publication. LSEM appreciates the support of **The Missouri Bar** and the **Missouri Bar Foundation** for the publication and distribution of the handbook. Single copies are available by calling **Colleen Landefeld** at (314)256-8745.



Amanda Schneider, William Guerri chair attorney with the LSEM Children's Legal Alliance, assisted with planning and presented at a *Restorative Discipline in Schools Workshop* for local school districts on April 8. Presenters discussed a traditional discipline approach v. a restorative discipline approach. The event was held at the Cardinal Rigali Center and was sponsored by BJC School Outreach and Youth Development with support from the Sisters of St. Joseph Tabitha Ministry Fund for Missouri Restorative Justice Coalition.



Rob Swearingen, attorney in the Consumer Unit, was on the "St. Louis on the Air" program on KWMU radio on February 10 to discuss payday loans, and on April 15, he spoke on the same subject at a forum sponsored by the Missouri Association for Social Welfare and the Missouri Consumer Council. **Swearingen** also spoke on April 20 at an agency staff training event for the University of Missouri Extension regarding predatory lending, debt collection and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.



Missy Waldman, healthcare advocate with LSEM's Advocates for Family Health, was recently appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee at Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS) of St. Louis. Inspired by Jewish tradition, JF&CS provides quality social services to the Jewish and general communities empowering people in need to meet the challenges of daily living.

Update on the Bar Campaign

The LSEM Annual Bar Campaign Steering Committee, under the able leadership of co-chairs **Carrie Hermeling** and **Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Sr.**, is in the process of soliciting law firms, individuals, foundations and corporations to achieve the 2011 goal of raising \$600,000. As this newsletter goes to print, over \$445,000 has been raised.

The campaign took on new importance when LSEM learned its federal funding for 2011 from the Legal Services Corporation was cut by \$90,000. These funds were, of course, part of the LSEM budget, putting the organization in an unfortunate financial situation.

Please help us achieve our goal of closing the justice gap by taking this opportunity to make a three-year campaign pledge or a one-time gift by contacting **Judith C. Miniace**, CFRE, at 314-256-8742 or jcminiace@lsem.org. You can also visit our website at www.lsem.org and make a gift on-line by clicking on "Donate Now!" on the left side of the home page.



United Way's

2-1-1 Phone Helpline

Every hour of every day someone is in need of essential services. With more than 10,000 health and human service organizations throughout Missouri and Southwestern Illinois, finding information to meet those needs can be no easy task.

Now it's easy to access the many services by dialing the 2-1-1 telephone helpline. The service is available throughout the state of Missouri and to Illinois residents in certain counties (St. Clair, Clinton, Randolph, Monroe, Madison, Jersey, Greene, Calhoun and Macoupin).

The 2-1-1 service is free, confidential, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is staffed by trained specialists. Calling 2-1-1 provides a direct link to services like food banks, housing shelters, utility help, senior centers, child care, health care, support groups and more.

Individuals with true emergency situations need to dial 9-1-1 if in need of an ambulance, fire or police assistance. But 2-1-1 will help with many human service needs.

2-1-1 Missouri is managed by the **United Way of Greater St. Louis** and partially funded by the **Missouri Foundation for Health**. Other United Ways across Missouri are partnered in this effort:

At this time, 2-1-1 can only be reached from AT&T/Cingular cell phones, but other cell phone providers will be added. The service can still be reached from a cell phone by dialing 800-427-4626. You may also visit the website at www.211missouri.org or www.211il.org.



Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 30:

For the Common Good Awards Reception, 5:30 PM, Westin Hotel, downtown St. Louis. Watch for more details.

Elder Law Project Success Story



Our client in this case is an 87-year-old woman who was very confused when she received a letter from her bank stating that her bank account had been frozen due to a garnishment order from a St. Louis area

court. The issue was confused even further when she received a Notice of Exemption about the same issue from a sheriff's office in a remote Missouri county. She did not understand what the Notice of Exemption meant nor why it would come from a sheriff in a far-away county.

At this point, the client came to LSEM for help. Investigation by LSEM Elder Law Project advocates found that some attorneys were filing garnishments in counties that it would not be easy

for defendants to reach. In addition, in this particular client's case, the county of filing did not have preprinted forms to file for the exemption and our client was totally confused about what the exemption was about.

LSEM was able to help her understand the circumstances surrounding the filing of the Notice of Exemption. Since her bank account contained only exempt funds, under Missouri law the account should not have been frozen by the bank. LSEM advocates prepared and filed a Notice of Exemption with the sheriff's office and negotiated early release of the garnishment with the opposing counsel.

We were also successful in negotiating with the bank to get the \$75.00 garnishment fee waived, as well as fees relating to any returned checks due to the garnishment. Our client was very pleased with the results in her case. Her bank account was no longer frozen and the fees were waived. Those fees and the frozen bank account would have been a very serious hardship for our client. Without help from LSEM, she might still be in this predicament.

Children's Legal Alliance Success Story

J.B. is 13 years old and in middle school. His mother came to LSEM for help in obtaining special education and to get an appropriate individualized education program (IEP) for the child's emotional disturbance. J.B. had been suspended for short periods of time throughout the year for his disruptive and disrespectful behaviors to staff. J.B.'s mother had sincere concerns with the principal's understanding of her child's special needs as well as the suspension teacher's unkind and unfair treatment of him.

An advocate in the LSEM Children's Legal Alliance attended meetings with J.B. and his mother every step of the way in the special education process in order to ensure that the child was found eligible for special education and assisted in writing an appropriate IEP. In the fall, LSEM was also able to assist in getting J.B. transferred to a new school to help him get a fresh start.

J.B. flourished at his new school. Academically he is scoring at very high levels in all areas of reading, and he is passing all of his courses with mostly A's and B's and a few C's. He has also improved overall

socially and emotionally, so far having only one suspension for the entire year. Without LSEM's help, J.B. might not be getting the appropriate assistance he needs to succeed in school.



Bryan Cave LLP Donates to LSEM Kids Corner



Thanks to **Bryan Cave LLP** for donating new coloring books and crayons for the "Kids Corner" in the LSEM reception area. For several years the firm has donated coloring books and crayons for the children of parents visiting LSEM. The donation presentation was on March 24 when a group of Bryan Cave's associates visited the program. Bryan Cave LLP has a diversified international legal practice, and represents a wide variety of business, financial, institutional and individual clients.

Front row, from left: Jill Joerling, Bryan Cave associate, Carol Li, Bryan Cave associate, and Rebecca Holdredge Bryan Cave associate. Back row, from left: Patricia Harris, LSEM receptionist, Dan Glazier, LSEM executive director & general counsel, Tino Ochoa, Bryan Cave associate, and JoAnne Phillips, LSEM office manager

Remember

Your Friends and Loved Ones

LSEM invites you to acknowledge a colleague, a friend, or someone you love on a special occasion. To make an honor or memorial donation to LSEM, please send your donation to the executive director at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, 4232 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108. Provide us with the name and address of the person you would like to receive an acknowledgement. You may also donate through our website (go to www.lsem.org and click on "Donate Now").

LSEM established the **Daniel E. Horkheimer Memorial Fund** in memory of our colleague. Donations to the fund will be used for translation and interpreter services for our immigrant client population. Donations may be mailed to the address listed above or you may visit our website. LSEM established the **Ann Lever Training Fund** to honor our colleague when she retired in 2009. Donations to the fund will be used for LSEM staff training.

LSEM is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are tax deductible.

Honor Gifts

In honor of Joel Ferber for receiving the Clarence Darrow Award:
Samuel & Beatrice Ferber

In honor of Amy J. Lorenz-Moser for receiving the Missouri Lawyers Award 2011 from Missouri Lawyers Media:
Nina Balsam

In honor of Kathleen Sanchez on the occasion of her 50th birthday:
Stephen & Mary Moore

In honor of Judge Richard B. Teitelman for receiving the 1911 Award from The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Heschel-King Award from Jews United for Justice:
John & Anne Donnelly

Memorial Gifts

In memory of William "Bill" Anderson:
Joel D. Monson

In memory of Carolyn Birkes:
W. Dudley & Elizabeth McCarter

In memory of Ronald Colbert, Sr.:
Nicole Colbert-Botchway

In memory of Shannon Dodson:
Jon & Melissa Baris
Leonard & Julie Frankel
Diana Gray

Robert & Sandra Johnson
David Krauss & Nada Fremder-Krauss
Jacki Langum
Gerald Ortals
Kate Reid
Missy Waldman

In memory of Audrey Fields:
Robert & Sandra Johnson

In memory of Rachel Foster:
Jeanne Philips-Roth & Eddie Roth

In memory of Honorable Carl Gaertner:
Joel D. Monson

In memory of Allen Irl Harris:
Leonard & Julie Frankel

In memory of Ken Klein:
Gerald Ortals

In memory of Michael Kornblum:
Matthew J. Rossiter

In memory of Lois Levine:
Dan Glazier & Nancy Snow
June O'Brien

In memory of Melton M. Lewis, Sr.:
Dan Glazier & Nancy Snow
Ann Lever & Carmileta Matheny
Edward & Sigrid Renner
Betty & Billy Springfield

In memory of Albert Monroe, Jr.:
Judy Miniace
Jeanne Philips-Roth & Eddie Roth

In memory of Louis Teitelman:
Dan Glazier & Nancy Snow

In memory of Edward Tokarz, Sr.:
Jane Aiken
Annette Appell
Leonard & Julie Frankel
Dan Glazier & Nancy Snow
Calvin Hwang
Daniel & Jane Keating
Stephen Legomsky & Lorraine Gnecco
Max & Lisa Ramamurti
Michael & Barbara Rea
Walter Tokarz
Lisa Van Amburg
Michael & Patricia Wolff

In memory of Margaret Winters:
John & Elizabeth Ammann

In memory of Ted Zlotopolski:
Karen Tokarz

A Message from the Director



Dear Friends:

We handle a host of legal issues at LSEM on behalf of our clients each and every day. A review of recent cases where we provided representation gives a revealing snapshot of our work. We helped an elderly client get out of an unfair contract with penalty provisions that would have saddled her with crippling debt. We aided a child with cerebral palsy get the special foot brace he needed, after the initial request was denied by the state. We helped a child with severe ADHD get back in school with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and we assisted a family living in poor housing conditions get a new Section 8 voucher so the family could move to a decent home.

We deal with helping our clients overcome challenges and we do it as efficiently and effectively as we can. Nearly 95% of our cases result in successful outcomes for our clients. In 2010, we helped our clients receive \$7.5 million in monetary benefits ranging from recouping debts wrongfully collected, to disability payments owed, to critical housing vouchers secured.

As we help our clients face challenges, we at LSEM face some of our own – most notable is the continuing effort to bridge the justice gap, the widening gulf between the increased need for our services (our completed total cases rose 30% in 2010) and the

challenge of diminishing resources. The funding from Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), which is based on interest rates, has severely dropped due to reductions in interest rates, and we have lost Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funds which Congress took away from our 2011 budget. These reductions translate into fewer cases being handled.

When you face challenges you look to allies to help, and there are many. The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) has always been supportive, but this year under the presidency of Tom Glick, who also serves as one of the vice presidents of LSEM's Board of Directors, we had a particularly strong alliance. We celebrated the 100-year anniversary of BAMSL's creation of the first Legal Aid program in St. Louis – the precursor of LSEM today. Under Tom's direction, BAMSL put on a Pro Bono Day training, celebrated the creation of a new Special Education Committee for children, and hosted a pre-ball celebration at the Justice For All Ball. The theme of "access to justice" permeated all BAMSL activities throughout the year.

The United Way has always been a critical ally and we were honored to learn recently that based on our application and site visit in 2010, we have been placed in the highest funding category which is reserved for those agencies which demonstrate the strongest adherence to quality standards which govern a United Way agency. We are grateful, honored and determined to continue to strive for the excellence that is the hallmark of this United Way designation.

Certainly our significant allies continue to be you – our many supporters. We are embarking on the second year of our Annual Bar Campaign and as we head towards our goal of \$600,000 for this year, I continue to be heartened by the support we are receiving from so many of you – our partners in justice.

Our greatest resource continues to be the extraordinary men and women who work for LSEM as part of our team. These committed individuals help us to define high quality advocacy to our clients. As chronicled in this edition, we lost an important member of the LSEM family with the recent death of former LSEM attorney and associate director, Mel Lewis. Mel worked for LSEM for 38 years until his retirement in 2004. Mel epitomized the commitment, tenacity and skills of our LSEM team. He was a strong advocate for his clients while being a very caring and compassionate gentleman to all who knew him. Mel helped us to confront and face many challenges and played an important role in our efforts to overcome them. It is his legacy, along with the efforts of so many of our fine staff, allies and supporters who give us the strength each day to tackle the challenges we face on behalf of our clients.

Thank you for your help,

Daniel K. Glazier

Executive Director & General Counsel

The mission of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri (LSEM) is to provide high-quality legal assistance and equal access to justice for low-income people.

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