

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The VLPCNY **Talk-to-a-Lawyer Clinics** offer both in-person and remote options, allowing volunteers to provide critical legal advice telephonically. Our **Veterans Program** continues to meet the needs of those who have served our country and this fall we were thrilled to celebrate Naomi Godbey (Director of North Country Immigration Program) as she was presented a certificate of appreciation in recognition of the contributions she's made to the soldiers and families of the 10th Mountain Division. We were proud to partner with volunteer attorneys and law students to provide legal aid on a wide array of issues at the CNY Veterans Expo. The **LGBT Rights Program** is growing and accomplished its 800th name change this year. We tabled at the CNY Pride Festival, offered an LGBT Pride Reception with the Bar Association and facilitated numerous clinics and trainings for the community this year.



THIS YEAR VLPCNY
SERVED

OUR PROGRAMS
REACHED

LGBT RIGHTS PROGRAM
COMPLETED

IMMIGRATION
PROGRAM SERVED

4,160

CLIENTS

53

COUNTIES IN NEW YORK

800

NAME CHANGES SINCE ITS
INCEPTION

2,000

CLIENTS SINCE ITS
INCEPTION



SUPPORT FOR NEW AMERICANS

The New York State Office for New Americans substantially increased funding to legal services providers across the state. Our **Immigration Program** has volunteers serving Central New York, the Mohawk Valley and North Country, and in collaboration with partner agencies also serves the Capitol Region and Western New York. This spring we co-hosted a Pro Bono Immigration Symposium. Workshops were geared toward cultural competency, legal and practice skills and best practices. This year, one of our clients who had fled violent persecution from the Taliban in Afghanistan, worked with a volunteer attorney who contributed over 100 hours of pro bono work to make his case and submit his application for asylum. In early October, our client was informed he'd been granted asylum by the United States.





SECURE HOUSING & FAMILY STABILITY

The **Family Court Clinic** and **Surrogate's Court Clinic** continue to offer critical service with Court-based programming. In Family Court, volunteers assist with petitions for custody, visitation, paternity and child support, while the Surrogate's Court volunteers give free advice and information about small estates, 17-A guardianship, power of attorney, wills, and other trusts and estates issues. To assist tenants in Syracuse, our new **Renters' Rights Clinic** is being hosted at Salt City Market. These consultations allow renters to meet with an attorney and discuss everything from problems with a landlord, maintenance concerns and questions about leases.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The VLPCNY **Debt Clinic** is helping consumers draft court forms to fight medical debt, credit card debt, student loans, car loans and lines of credit. Our **Small Business Program** provides legal services to those starting or operating a business. This year we celebrated the 9th anniversary of former VLPCNY client, Doula 4 A Queen. SeQuoia Kemp is a community-based birthworker in Syracuse who offers doula care and childbirth education. She's also an activist and educator on issues surrounding infant and child mortality in black communities. VLPCNY was honored to work with Doula 4 A Queen to obtain an LLC.



PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES TOOL

The launch of our **Pro Bono Opportunities** portal has been a great success. Thanks to generous funding from the New York Bar Foundation, we've created an easy online tool for volunteers interested in learning about cases in need of pro bono placement with our agency. There's an option for everyone - limited service, ongoing representation, remote volunteering, in-person clinics and a variety of program needs. Visit the tool at vlpcny.org/pro-bono-opportunities to learn more about ways to get involved.

