



WE CARE ABOUT CHILDREN

2021 Annual Summary



WHAT WE DO

We Care About Children is a program of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation (DCBF) which promotes access to justice for those struggling with poverty, domestic violence, and custody issues. WCAC is our collaboration with MidPenn Legal Services to provide a full-time specialized attorney, handling approximately 546 domestic violence and child custody cases annually. 100% of all donations benefit WCAC and do not support administrative fees. With legal support...

- Our court system can run more efficiently.
- Families are stabilized.
- Our entire community is strengthened.



MEET OUR SUPPORTERS



**LORI K.
SERRATELLI, ESQ.**

*Schiffman, Sheridan &
Brown, PC.*

*Former Dauphin
County Court Judge*

“From my time on the bench, I was exposed to countless families who would have been denied access to justice without the great benefit provided by WCAC. It became quite clear, quite quickly, to me that a larger number of family law cases coming before the Court involve unrepresented parents. Having an attorney can often help the parties come to a resolution without litigation which is always beneficial to the children. If litigation is necessary, the attorney can ensure the cases are presented properly, allowing the Judge to make a decision in the best interest of the child. I am personally thankful to WCAC for offering those parents professional, quality representation.”



**HILARY PEERY
VESELL, ESQ.**

Vesell Law, LLC

“Healthy families beget healthy communities. We Care About Children is dedicated to the well-being of our community and its children. Congratulations on your anniversary and upcoming celebratory events!”

 **Dauphin
County Bar
FOUNDATION**

 **We Care About Children**
DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Since 2010, with the support of WCAC:

- 1,558 cases closed
- 4,151 adults and children helped

Did You Know?

- The average cost of a domestic violence or custody case is \$598.
- The average number of custody cases handled by Attorney Lyndsay Conforto each month is 52 cases.
- From July 2021-December 2021
 - 157 cases were handled
 - 38 cases were closed
 - 114 adults and children were helped

YTD Comparison of Cases Handled

Month	Cases Handled	Cases Closed
July	51	15
August	51	16
September	55	7
October	62	17
November	50	18
December	38	14
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
Total	307	87

In Dauphin County (2021-2022), with the support of WCAC, the family law attorney:

Closed: 49 Cases

Helped: 151 adults and children

Since 2010, with the support of WCAC, the family attorney –

Closed: 1,644 cases

Helped: 4,416 adults and children



of Cases Handled and # of Cases Closed (Monthly) in 2021-2022

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
July	30	42	51
August	36	36	51
September	23	25	55
October	8	24	62
November	21	31	50
December	15	46	38
January	30	30	0
February	23	34	0
March	24	42	0
April	15	44	0
May	13	47	0
June	18	51	0

of Adults Helped and # of Children Helped (Monthly) in 2021-2022 in Cases Closed.

Month	Adults Helped	Children Helped
July	15	27
August	16	33
September	7	16
October	18	37
November	18	43
December	14	21
January	0	0
March	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
	88	177

A MESSAGE FROM MIDPENN LEGAL SERVICES

"When we think of what is important to us, most people put family first. Yet custody matters can often be overlooked as a vital part of our civil legal aid programs. I'm thankful that is not the case in Dauphin County. For the past six years, I've had the privilege to provide critical legal services for custody and domestic violence matters to our low-income residents through MidPenn Legal Services. It would not be possible without the generous support of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation and the We Care About Children campaign. Thank you to everyone who has supported the WCAC campaign for the past 11 years and, with your support, I look forward to continuing this important work for the next 11 years."

Lyndsay M. Conforto
Family Law Attorney



YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK:

REUNITED WITH LILLY!

All Becky wanted was to see her five-year-old daughter, Lilly. It was the end of spring and Becky did not know where Lilly's father, Rob, and her daughter were located. Despite having joint custody with Rob, this was the longest Becky had ever gone without seeing her daughter. She felt hopeless and did not know what to do next. Children and Youth Services became involved and were able to locate Rob's address. She discovered that he did not have Lilly enrolled in school during that time she was unable to locate them. The WCAC-sponsored family law attorney explained the court process and the specific steps involved in gaining custody. In August 2020, Becky filed the first petition. She learned that Lilly was still not attending school and filed a second petition in December 2020. The final hearing took place in March 2021 in front of a judge. As a result of the hearing, Becky was granted primary custody of Lilly. Becky said having a family law attorney, in partnership with WCAC, was essential to securing Lilly's safety and reuniting with her permanently. Lilly is now living primarily with her mother, attending school full-time, and is thriving!



*Names were changed to conceal the identity of the client.

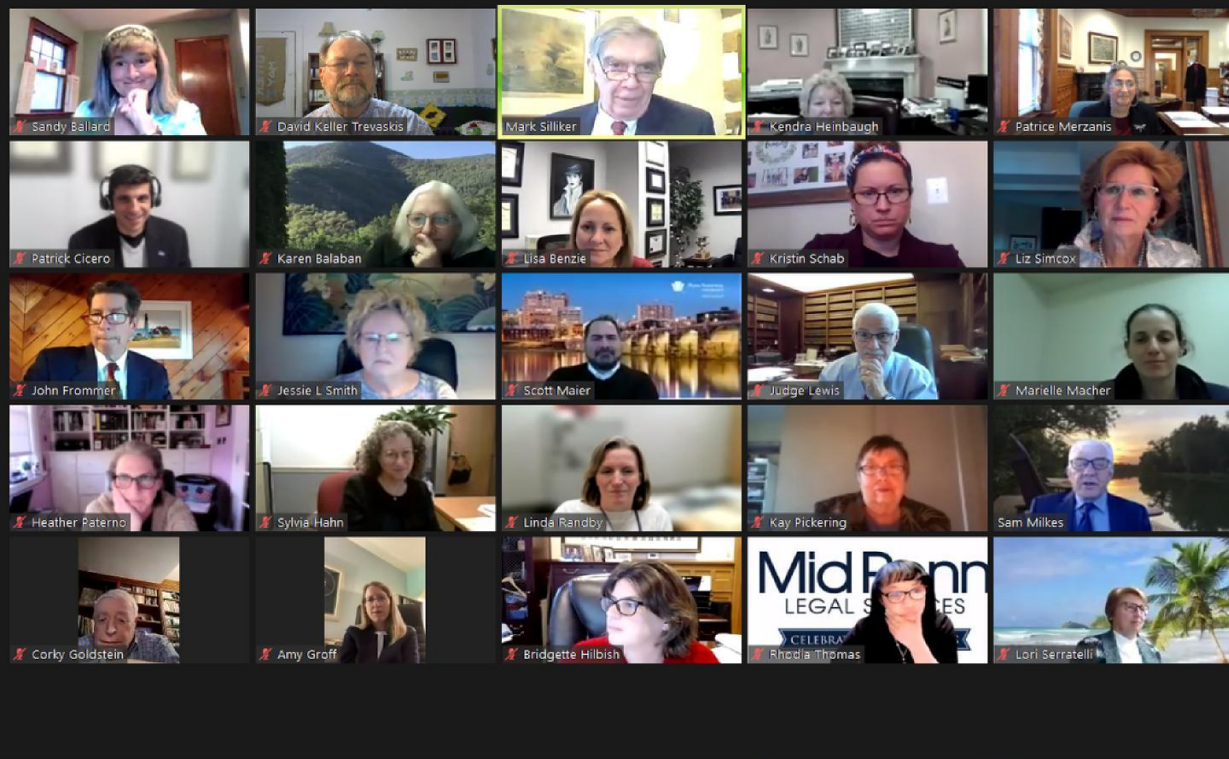


To celebrate our 11-year anniversary, DCBF hosted a variety of programs and awareness campaigns from November 10-20 to highlight and celebrate the success of WCAC.

ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS: 11 DAYS TO CELEBRATE 11 YEARS

- A virtual event to celebrate the retirement of Sandy Ballard, long-time DCBA Public Services Coordinator
- DCBF Board Virtual Caring Circle
- DCBA Young Lawyer Section Caring Circle Happy Hour
- Remarks from current WCAC donors and supporters
- WCAC social media outreach
- A thank you to our donors

#11daystocelbrate11years #wcac



Sandy's Celebratory Send-off!
WCAC Virtual Fundraising Event Honors Sandy Ballard
November 16, 2021

A Recap by: David Travaskis, Esq., PBA Pro Bono Coordinator

Harvard Law defines poverty law as, "the legal statutes, regulations and cases that apply particularly to the financially poor in his or her day-to-day life". In a commonsense understanding and in practice, the goal of poverty law is to protect the disadvantaged poor from unfair treatment by the law.

Sandy Ballard, a product of Harvard Law but the heart and soul of the Dauphin County Bar Association public interest community for the past 19 years, was celebrated in a virtual retirement ceremony on November 16, 2021. Videos, live remarks, written praise, and unique graphics came together in a wonderful event that honored the longtime DCBA staffer, a true champion of access to justice, while raising more than \$14,000 for WCAC of the Dauphin County Bar Foundation. WCAC supports a full-time family law lawyer at MidPenn Legal Services dedicated to helping Dauphin County families, handling more than 500 domestic violence and child custody cases annually. Ballard's event was part of the DCBF's 11 days for 11 Years effort that commemorates the 11th year of the We Care About Children Campaign.

The impact of Sandy's work was reflected in the diversity of those who honored her, starting with the Masters of Ceremony for the event, noted by pro bono volunteers Mark Silliker and John Frommer. Dauphin County Court President Judge John Cherry, former President Judge Richard Lewis, and retired Judge and CASA Board President Lori Serratelli all lauded Ballard's work. Many noted pro bono lawyers also cheered Ballard on, from the venerable Corky Goldstein, to Doreen McCall, from Jim DeAngelo, whose challenge grant lifted the fundraising, to Tracy Updike and Ed Spreha. Past DCBA Executive Director Liz Simcox joined current Executive Director Patrice Merzanis and the entire DCBA staff in thanking Ballard for her service over the years. MidPenn Legal Aid Executive Director Rhodia Thomas harkened back to being involved in interviewing Ballard nearly two decades ago as Ballard applied for the position, a position Ballard has made uniquely her own, noting that even then Thomas knew it would be special having such a colleague. Former Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Executive Director Sam Milkes joined his successor, Patrick Cicero, and IOLTA's Stephanie Libhart in heartfelt messages of similar sentiments.

Ballard's peers in the statewide pro bono network, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's David Trevaskis, Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Barbara Griffin and Sylvia Hahn of Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc., all shared how honored they were to work with Ballard. The event concluded with remarks from the honoree, with Ballard ending the evening by sharing a prayer a friend had recently sent her:

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.



DCBA FAMILY LAW SECTION CARING CIRCLE

DCBF would like to recognize and thank the DCBA Family Law Section for their generous gift to WCAC! DCBF is grateful to all the officers and Family Law Section members who voted unanimously to make their donation. The 2021 Family Law Section officers include Lori K Serratelli, Esq., Chair; Allison Hastings, Esq., Vice Chair; Karen Miller, Esq., Secretary; and Daniel Bell-Jacobs, Esq., Treasurer.

DCBA YOUNG LAWYER SECTION CARING CIRCLE

DCBF would like to recognize and thank the DCBA Young Lawyer Section for their generous gift to WCAC! They surpassed one week of justice and raised over \$2,000 at their Caring Circle.



Kim Selemba and Jason Giurintano

Thank you to our YLS Caring Circle host and sponsors!

CAFÉ FRESCO
CENTER CITY



THANK YOU TO THE DCBA YOUNG LAWYER SECTION 2021 CARING CIRCLE



Devon DiBiase, Fawn Kehler,
and Victoria Edwards



Hon. Richard Lewis, Grant Malleus,
and Mike Foerster



Fawn Kehler and Nicole Antos

#11daystocelebrate11years #wcac



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS!

**\$17,220+ RAISED IN 11 DAYS BY
OVER 60 DONORS FOR WCAC!**

We would like to thank two individuals who have enhanced our anniversary celebration by inspiring multiple donors through their challenge gifts in honor of Sandy Ballard.

Thank you to...

- Jim DeAngelo, Foundation Board Member, who matched all gifts received to WCAC, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000.
- David Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator, who added \$500 to the challenge after ten donors donated \$100 or more.

VOLUNTEERS MAKING AN IMPACT!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 DCBF BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

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DCBA members interested in joining / learning more about the board of directors should contact Nicole Antos, DCBA Director of Legal & Community Services, at nicole@dcba-pa.org.

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors!

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1 Week of Justice Sponsors

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Thank you to our 2021 sponsors!

All Justice Sponsors

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We apologize if we missed your name.
Please let us know so we can fix our error.

THE POWER OF GIVING: HOW YOU CAN HELP!

1. Your Gift at Work

Your gift will directly impact WCAC! Sponsor 1 month (\$7,000), 2 weeks (\$3,500), 1 week (\$1,750), 1 day (\$250), or another amount at your comfort level. Your gift is always tax-deductible.

2. Connect Today!

- Open your doors to allow a DCBF member to share the benefits of supporting this cause with your group or office.
- Connect us with other community members who you think will be inspired by this cause.
- Initiate an internal campaign at your office to encourage others to support.

3. Contact Us Today!

For questions about WCAC and sponsorships, please contact Dr. Ivy Buchan, Campaign Consultant, at ivy@helixllc.org or 717-857-7432



Have you included WCAC in your estate plans? If so, we would love to hear from you! You can also designate your gift through the United Way. Just write Dauphin County Bar Foundation on your form.





YOUR GIFT MATTERS!

Your ongoing support will help to enhance the safety and comfort for the families and children we support!

Contact Us Today!

Contact Dr. Ivy Buchan, Campaign Consultant, for more information about sponsorship opportunities!

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