



MidPenn Legal Services

213-A North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Phone 717-232-0581 FAX 717-234-0496

Toll-Free 800-932-0356

www.midpenn.org

December 1, 2011

Dear Friend,

These days everyone is under the gun. We worry about keeping our jobs, if we are lucky enough to have one. Foreclosures are everywhere, unemployment is high. Poverty figures are off the scale. What did we do to deserve this? Will we be OK? No matter what your income level, virtually everyone has been affected. Everyone has tightened their belts. But spare a thought for those families who were teetering on the brink before the crisis hit. Every day at MidPenn we see families facing very tough situations. You can help.

Put yourself in our client's shoes. What would you do?

- The father of Tanaya's children hit her and threatened her in front of their children. He broke their toys. He stole their dog. He stalked her.
- Lurnetta was seriously injured by a drunk driver. She couldn't work and fell behind in her mortgage. She couldn't get the bureaucrats to respond to her requests for help to save her home.
- James had special needs. When his doctor refused to see him. He didn't know where to turn.
- Mandy's landlord locked her out without warning. She and her kids had nowhere to go. Her dog was locked inside.
- Rachael and her two year-old daughter moved to Pennsylvania to be with the child's father. He and his new girlfriend took the child and refused to allow the mother, who is deaf, to have contact with her own child.

Legal aid matters to your community. We are the "emergency room" of the legal profession and we are all about solving problems. Our clients are very poor (a maximum annual income of \$13,603 for a single individual). We help them with bread and butter matters: a roof overhead, access to health care, personal safety, and securing an income. Families need to be safe; they need orderly resolutions to family disputes heightened by money worries.

We are doing more than ever, with less funding and less staff. We have expanded our Telephone Advice Project to provide quick access to critical legal advice. We work closely with bar associations, United Ways, foundations, local governments, and business leaders to raise funds to help more people.

The client stories in our Annual Report reflect the state of our communities. Children need the stability of a steady family life. Families need the basics to survive. Stable families make stable communities. MidPenn clients are not so different than you and me. Please pause for a moment - read about how they got the help that they needed. They had nowhere else to turn.



Think of the children in these families. It isn't their fault that they are in need. You can help them live better lives. You can help them become better people and better citizens. We are all better for helping these families in crisis. You can help them get their lives back on track.

Kindly keep them in your thoughts this holiday season and consider a gift of \$250 or whatever you can afford. Every dollar helps and all gifts are applied to your local office. Support legal aid and help keep your community stable. You can help these families in a meaningful way. We relish the challenge of helping our clients. But we need your support. Be part of the team in your community that helps out.

With best wishes for the holidays, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Debra A. Smith
President
MidPenn Board of Directors

P.S. This is my first year as President but I have been on the MidPenn Board of Directors for 12 years. The demand is overwhelming. Our limited resources result in 50% of eligible applicants being turned away. At every board meeting we discuss the cases that are being handled. In every single case, the need is great. I have been very impressed by the efficiency and the care with which this law firm for the poor operates. It does a lot with a little. Please give. Thank you.

**MidPenn Legal Services
Dauphin and Perry Counties
2010-2011 Office Fact Sheet**

Mission: MidPenn provides critical help for critical needs. We are the legal safety net for low-income persons and for domestic violence survivors in Dauphin and Perry Counties. We advise and represent on civil issues: domestic violence, custody, housing, health care, consumer, elder law and public benefits. We do not handle criminal cases.

Funding: Government funding is our primary source of funding. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) provides 46% of our funding from interest on legal escrow accounts (IOLTA), state and federal Title XX monies. The Legal Services Corporation provides 32% of our funds. Additional monies are obtained from local groups, private foundations, and individuals. We also receive funding from the United Way of the Capital Region, the Dauphin County Bar Foundation, the Dauphin County Commissioners (Gaming Grant), the Perry County Bar Association, the Perry County Area Agency on Aging and the Victims of Crime Act.

Dauphin County Statistics: Perry County Statistics:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Residents living below poverty level	9.4%	14.4%	7.5%	8.6%
Food Stamp recipients	4.8%	13.1%	3.3%	8.9 %
Eligible for Medical Assistance	10.1%	16.8%	8.0%	12.5%
Poverty Population	23,706	38,606	3,286	3,913

Dauphin/Perry – FY 10-11 Cases Handled	MidPenn	Volunteer Attorney	Total	%
Consumer	180	74	254	17.0%
Education	0	1	1	0.2%
Employment	57	0	57	2.7%
Family	350	201	551	30.8%
Domestic Violence	74	1	75	5.4%
Housing	569	17	586	30.9%
Income Maintenance	138	114	252	12.0%
Other/Multiple Topics	3	1	4	0.9%
TOTAL	1371	409	1780	100.0%

MidPenn advocates spent 5,921.60 hours on cases in Dauphin and Perry Counties in fiscal year 2010-2011.

Staff in MidPenn Harrisburg Office

213-A North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2240

Nick Matash, Attorney/Manager
Nancy Datres, Attorney
Martha Mosquera, Attorney
Shana Walter, Attorney
Matthew Rich, Paralegal
Celia Heffelfinger, Support Staff

**MidPenn Legal Services
Program Wide
2010-2011 Fact Sheet**

Mission: MidPenn provides critical help for critical needs. We are the legal safety net for low-income persons and for domestic violence survivors in Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Schuylkill and York Counties. We advise and represent on civil issues: domestic violence, custody, housing, health care, consumer, elder law and public benefits. We do not handle criminal cases.

Funding: Government funding is our primary source of funding. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) provides 46% of our funding from interest on legal escrow accounts (IOLTA), state and federal Title XX monies. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) provides 32% of our funds. Additional monies are obtained from United Ways, bar associations, local groups, private foundations, and individuals. MidPenn has state, county and local government contracts.

MidPenn Service Area Poverty Statistics:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Residents living below the poverty level	9%	11.76%
Food Stamp recipients	3.8%	11.5%
Eligible for Medical Assistance	8.2%	14.4%
Poverty Population	240,919	352,079

MidPenn Legal Services – FY 10-11 Cases Handled	MidPenn	Volunteer Attorney	Total	%
Consumer	1412	330	1742	11.8%
Employment	242	14	256	1.73%
Family	2664	1184	3848	26.08%
Domestic Violence	2503	96	2599	17.61%
Health	245	1	246	1.67%
Housing	3640	79	3719	25.2%
Income Maintenance	1869	201	2070	14.03%
Other/Multiple Topics	189	88	277	1.88%
TOTAL	12764	1993	14757	100.00%

MidPenn advocates spent 61,234.90 hours on cases in fiscal year 2010-2011

Executive Director: Rhodia D. Thomas, Esq. 717-234-0492

President, Board of Directors: Debra A. Smith, Esq. 570-622-8297