## PROJECT HEAL AT KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE

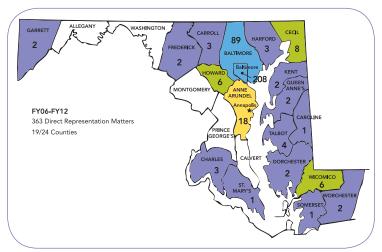
# PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS, FREE ADVOCACY, AND LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy and Law) provides multiple services for low-income families and children seeking legal assistance. We offer:

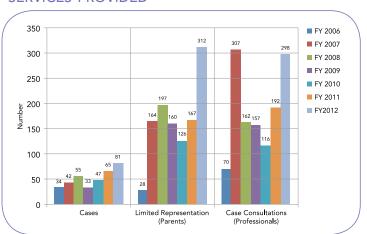
- Limited representation for families and children in the areas of:
  - Adult Guardianship
  - Collections
  - Community referral resources
  - Criminal record expungement
  - Employment
  - Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
  - Family law
  - Housing
  - Income Taxes

- Informal Kinship Care
- Landlord-tenant disputes
- Name change
- Public benefits
- School discipline/bullying
- Simple estate planning
- Special education and education-related matters
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Case consultations for professionals and outside agencies on all of the above, along with:
  - Assistance with patient advocacy letters
  - Government forms
- Direct representation for families and children on issues such as:
  - Family law (including divorce, custody, child support, visitation, and limited power of attorney)
  - Informal Kinship Care
  - o Public benefits (including terminations and denial)
  - Special education and education-related matters (including IEPs, 504 plans, and school discipline)
  - Supplementary Security Income (SSI) benefits (including determination and appeals)

#### **DIRECT REPRESENTATION**



#### SERVICES PROVIDED



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## **ADVOCACY**

In addition to offering legal assistance and educational training, Project HEAL is dedicated to improving the quality of life for low-income families and children with developmental disabilities everywhere. We work with reputable advocacy groups on local, state, and national levels.

#### Local

- Baltimore Women's Bar Association
- CityWide Special Education Advocacy Project

#### Statewide

- Education Advocacy Coalition
- Education Task Force
- Governor's Office for Children
- Maryland Special Education Lawyers
- Maryland State Bar Association
- Oberl Kaler
- People's Law Library
- Women's Bar Association

#### **National**

- American Bar Association
- Council for Exceptional Children
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Project HEAL has received broad-based support from the community and foundations, partners, and has initiated an annual direct mail fundraising campaign to expand support and achieve long-term sustainability. Some of our current and past supporters include:

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Associated Black Charities

- Baltimore Bar Foundation
- Baltimore Community Foundation
- Equal Justice Works
- Fund for Change
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- Kennedy Krieger Institute
- Maryland Home & Community Care Foundation
- Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
- Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for Children of Baltimore City
- Zanvyl & Isabelle Krieger Fund

## **M**ENTORING

Since the summer of 2008, Project HEAL has partnered with the area's law schools to provide meaningful opportunities through internships and externships for their highest achieving students. These include:

- The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
  - 5 Asper fellows (140 hours of public service per student)
  - 5 Maryland Public Interest Law Project Grant Recipients (400 hours per grant)
  - o 3 Health Law Externs (208 hours per externship)
  - o 17 Volunteers (+500 hours total)
- The University of Baltimore School of Law
  - o 2 UBSPI (400 hours per grant)
  - o 2 Attorney Practice Internship (180 hours)
  - o 2 Volunteers (+175 hours total)

### TRAINING

At Project HEAL, we know that one of the best ways we can help low-income families and the developmental disabilities community is by teaching them how to deal with the legal challenges they often face. We offer approximately 85 different training opportunities annually for patients and families, health care professionals, local, state, and national community groups, pro bono attorneys, and paralegals with MVLS. Topics include:

- Adult guardianship and less restrictive alternatives
- Disability rights
- Family law
- Government and state forms
- Interpreting medical records
- Overview of Project HEAL and MVLS
- Public benefits
- School discipline
- Social Security benefits
- Special education law and education-related matters

## CONTACT INFO

**Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute:** www.kennedykrieger.org/projectheal

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