



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice Margaret Workman to launch new Legal Aid program to help Charleston families

For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Margaret L. Workman will formally announce the kick-off of a new partnership between Legal Aid, Charleston attorneys, and a Charleston elementary school at an event from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Black Sheep Burrito and Brews, 162 Summers St., Charleston.

The national Legal Services Corp. in Washington, D.C., has awarded a 24-month, \$270,028 *pro bono* innovation fund grant to West Virginia Legal Aid.

The grant will allow Legal Aid of West Virginia to hire an attorney and a paralegal to work solely on the school project, recruiting and training private attorneys who will volunteer their time to provide free services to families of students who attend Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary. Of the 500 students there, 90 percent are from low-income families; 75 percent have experienced domestic violence, child abuse, or been exposed to adult substance abuse; 20 percent are homeless or living in shelters; and 14 percent have no transportation.

Lawyers from law firms who volunteer to “adopt a month” will help families with civil litigation needs in cases of eviction, domestic violence, guardianship, custody, and adoption, among other things. The attorneys who volunteer will be trained and mentored by Legal Aid. Legal services will be provided at the school, an environment where children and families feel safe.

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