

# MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL'S Office of Public Service



## The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics

Our legal clinics serve low-income clients at five locations—House of Peace, Milwaukee County Veterans' Services Office, Sojourner Family Peace Center, United Community Center, and Milwaukee Justice Center. Plus, we have a Mobile Legal Clinic that goes where people who need service are. And we put on estate planning clinics in several locations.

### Who Supports This Work?

Much of Marquette Law School's public service work is underwritten by generous donors. The Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation, established by a Marquette lawyer from the class of 1936, has provided several hundred thousand dollars in grants over the past decade. We also receive significant support from unrestricted donations to the Law School's Annual Fund. The annual "Howard B. Eisenberg Do-Gooders' Auction" each February brings the Marquette Law School community together and attracts additional support.

"I want to thank the law student and lawyer for being kind and patient with me. They did not stop until they were confident that I understood what was going on in my case. I appreciate how they involved me in the process so I knew more clearly what the document needed. Bless you guys!"

—Mary, client at Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic's House of Peace location

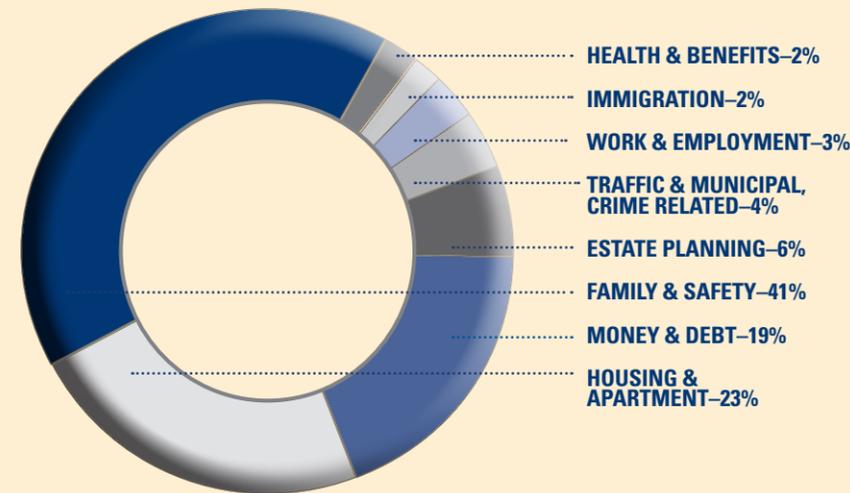
"Very good experience; great service, friendly, kind, extremely helpful, and showed concern toward my questions. Keep up the good work and continue to assist the veterans."

—Mark, client at Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic's Veterans' Services Office location

## Who Coordinates, Enables, and Encourages All of This?

Marquette Law School's Office of Public Service leads the community in this work. The Law School created the office in 2006 to build upon the Jesuit tradition of public service and to capture the legacy embodied by the late Dean Howard B. Eisenberg. Led by Angela Schultz, assistant dean for public service, the office works with the community at large to offer students, alumni, and other members of the legal profession a range of opportunities. These include pro bono work, community service, and contributions to issues focused on access to justice.

### What Types of Questions Do MVLC Clients Have?



Close to **5,000** clients are served annually. Of those, 70% live at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.

**47%** In the 2017–2018 academic year alone, 47% of students were involved in pro bono opportunities and provided 10,199 hours of pro bono legal work to our community.

**72%** Among the current student body, 72% have participated in pro bono work at some point during their law school careers.

**50%** Students who complete 50 or more pro bono hours graduate wearing honor cords for service. In recent years, half of the graduates have achieved this accomplishment.

## What Other Pro Bono Opportunities Exist for Students?

Plenty. Here's a partial list:

- Marquette Legal Initiative for Nonprofit Corporations (M-LINC)
- Domestic Violence Project
- Milwaukee Justice Center Family Law Forms Assistance Clinic
- Estate Planning Clinic
- Bankruptcy Help Desk
- Eviction Defense Project
- Guardianship Clinic
- Legal Action of Wisconsin U-Visa Project

### DIFFERENCE MAKER:

Marquette University President Michael R. Lovell presented a Difference Maker Award to Angela Schultz, assistant dean for public service at Marquette University Law School, for her work in the Milwaukee Justice Center, a collaboration among Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts, Milwaukee Bar Association, and Marquette Law School. The Milwaukee Justice Center addresses unmet legal needs of low-income individuals through court-based programs and legal resources.



Pictured (from left): Mary Ferwerda, executive director of the Milwaukee Justice Center; John Barrett, Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts; Michael R. Lovell; Angela Schultz; Josh Gimbel, attorney and MJC volunteer; Ernesto Romero, attorney and MJC volunteer; Katie Mertz, Law School director of pro bono and public service; Robert Maniak, 1L and MJC volunteer; Mark Vannucci, MJC clinic supervisor; Kyla Motz, MJC legal director; Maggie Frawley, 2L and MJC volunteer; Matthew Sowden, 3L and MJC volunteer; Nancy Cattani, MJC legal assistant; Jack Ceschin, AmeriCorps Public Ally at the Mobile Legal Clinic; DMari Gizsel Belmontes, MJC information specialist.

EXCELLENCE | FAITH | LEADERSHIP | SERVICE

## ... And Then There's the Public Interest Law Society

Putting excellence, faith, leadership, and service into action—those words describe the Public Interest Law Society (PILS), a long-standing and wide-ranging program that supports Marquette law students in public interest summer internships.

For more than 20 years, Marquette University Law School has sponsored PILS fellowships. Students who are fellows during the summer receive a \$4,000 stipend to support them in unpaid summer internships in public interest organizations in the law. Most fellowships are in the Milwaukee area, but a number are in locations around the country. All fellows provide at least 350 hours of service to their host site during the summer.