

Legal Aid Society

of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland

INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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Legal Aid Society Aims to Reach Low Income Parents and Immigrants with Metro Nashville Public Schools Partnership

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19, 2015—Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, Tennessee’s largest non-profit law firm, has launched a new partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools’ (MNPS) Office of English Learners to support access to justice for parents of school children and the immigrant community.

Through the partnership, Legal Aid Society runs a free legal clinic staffed by volunteer attorneys on the third Saturday of each month at MNPS’s English Learning Center at 615 Fessey Park Road, Nashville. The Nashville Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division and other community lawyers will provide *pro bono* legal advice and assistance at the clinics.

According to Lucinda Smith, director of Legal Aid Society’s Volunteer Lawyers Program, the effort to provide legal services through MNPS is two-fold: “First, reaching families with children must be a top priority. When parents are worried about legal issues at home, it can impact a child’s focus on education. In addition, our partnership with MNPS is a strategic way to expand our reach to the city’s immigrant and refugee population.”

Kevin Stacy, executive director of MNPS’s Office of English Learners, added that there approximately 15,000 students with limited English proficiency in Metro Nashville’s school system. Legal Aid Society will provide translators at the legal clinics to assist individuals with a non-English language background and is promoting the clinic through flyers in English, Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish and Somali.

“We have more than 130 different languages represented across our school district, and we work to ensure all families—those who speak English and those who do not— have access to essential services, like free legal clinics,” Stacy said. “Our partnership with Legal Aid Society will provide an essential resource for those who need help with legal issues in a familiar, approachable environment—the community school system. We’re excited to see this partnership already taking off.”

Legal Aid Society welcomes volunteers for the MNPS legal clinic. Those interested in volunteering can contact Jarod Word at 615-780-7131 or email jword@las.org for more information.

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Mountains advocates for fairness and justice under the law. The non-profit law firm offers free civil legal representation, educational programs and advice to ensure people in its region are able to protect their livelihoods, their health and their families. It serves 48 counties from offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge and Tullahoma. Legal Aid Society is funded in part by United Way. Learn more at www.las.org, by following the firm on [Facebook](#) or calling Legal Aid Society at 615-244-6610.

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