



Media Release

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Kingsport Attorney Receives National Award for Local Volunteer Legal Service

NASHVILLE (January 23, 2018) – Karen Boyd, Site Coordinator for the Sullivan County Family Justice Center, has received national recognition for her volunteer work with Legal Aid of East Tennessee.

Legal Services Corporation (LSC) President James J. Sandman, LSC Board Chair John G. Levi, and LSC Board Member Gloria Valencia-Weber presented the Pro Bono Service Award to Ms. Boyd at a reception in Nashville on Monday evening. The reception was held in conjunction with LSC's quarterly Board meeting and was one of several events attended by Tennessee's civil legal aid programs, lawyers, judges, and other members of the state's access to justice community. Many of the events also were open to the general public.

LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation. Established in 1974, LSC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that promotes equal access to justice and provides grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans.

In making the presentation, Ms. Valencia-Weber called attention to the over 120 clients Ms. Boyd served in 2016 and 2017 through Legal Aid's Pro Bono Project, all while working as site coordinator for the Branch House Family Justice Center and raising three small children with her husband, Alan Boyd. As noted in the award nomination, Ms. Boyd has been instrumental in the expansion of certain Pro Bono programs in upper East Tennessee, including a recently launched a new partnership between Legal Aid, Eastman Chemical Company, and Habitat for Humanity to provide estate planning clinics for Habitat Homeowners. Ms. Boyd spearheaded the training for Eastman lawyers participating in the clinic.

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“Kingsport Attorney Receives National Award for Local Volunteer Legal Service” (cont’d.)

After relocating to Tennessee in 2013, Ms. Boyd immediately contacted Legal Aid in Johnson City to ask how she could serve the community and Legal Aid’s clients. Since that time, she has volunteered through Legal Aid’s Pro Bono Project and has consistently earned Legal Aid’s annual “Above and Beyond” award for her volunteer efforts.

“Karen Boyd has shown exceptional commitment and service to pro bono work,” said Sheri A. Fox, Legal Aid’s Executive Director. “When she became Site Coordinator for the Family Justice Center, she did so with the understanding that she could continue her pro bono work serving Legal Aid clients. Karen is willing to accept difficult or complex cases, and continues to promote pro bono work throughout the Tri-Cities, changing client lives every day. We are very proud of Karen and all her accomplishments.”

For more information on the Legal Aid of East Tennessee’s Pro Bono Project, contact Legal Aid’s Johnson City office at (423) 928-8311.

Photo: “Kingsport attorney Karen Boyd was honored Monday evening in Nashville by the federal Legal Services Corporation for her volunteer work with Legal Aid of East Tennessee.” Pictured left-to-right are: Alan Boyd, honoree’s husband; Christy Harris, Legal Aid’s Pro Bono Project Coordinator; Karen Boyd, honoree; and Deborah Yeomans-Barton, Managing Attorney for Legal Aid’s Johnson City office.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee’s mission statement: “Strengthening communities and changing lives through high-quality legal services.” Legal Aid serves eligible persons in 26 counties through offices in Chattanooga, Cleveland, Knoxville, Johnson City, Maryville, and Morristown.

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