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INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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Lambert and Cohen Join Legal Aid Society's Columbia Office

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Oct. 29, 2018 — [Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlandands](#), Tennessee's largest nonprofit law firm, announced that two new staff members have joined the firm's Columbia office. Debora Lambert is the new Columbia office manager and Jillian Cohen joins as a health and benefits/family law attorney.

Lambert previously worked for two years at the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center in Nashville as a domestic violence/family advocate, where she assisted survivors of domestic violence, drafted and presented orders of protection, and assisted district attorneys and clients at hearings and safety plannings. Simultaneously, she was a Batterer's Intervention Program and Anger Management Facilitator at Time for Change. In this position Lambert taught a court-mandated curriculum, assessed participant behaviors and maintained communication with law enforcement and the courts of all participants.

Previously, she worked at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for 10 years, nine of which she spent as the area director. In this managerial position, she facilitated meetings for the governor and senators on legislation, community affairs and issues pertaining to social justice and human rights.

Lambert graduated from Tennessee State University with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice/sociology and later received her master of business administration from the American University in Paris. She speaks French, Haitian Creole and Cape Verdean Creole.

Cohen graduated from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in May in the top 7 percent of her class. During her time in school, she received several recognitions, including the Scholastic Excellence Award and the Outstanding Student Attorney Award.

Cohen worked in various legal positions throughout her schooling. She most recently worked as a legal intern with Disability Law Colorado, where she advocated on behalf of disabled and mentally ill clients. In this position she most notably monitored a facility and its records in order to investigate allegations of abuse of people with disabilities.

Cohen has also worked as a law clerk at the Colorado attorney general's office, where she investigated businesses for violation of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act, drafted subpoenas and worked with defense witnesses reporting deceptive trade practices. She is fluent in Spanish and spent nearly two years teaching English to elementary-aged students in Madrid, Spain.

"Debora and Jillian clearly have a passion for helping people. Their extensive background in the field will be so valuable to our office, and we're very excited to have them join our team," says DarKenya W. Waller, executive director of Legal Aid Society.

About Legal Aid Society

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 and educational programs to help people in its region receive justice, protect their well-being and support opportunities to overcome poverty. 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, or by following the firm on [Facebook](#).

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