



C H E S A P E A K E
LEGAL ALLIANCE

“Lawyers for the Bay”



2015 Annual Report

A Message from the President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you our 2015 Annual Report, summarizing the Chesapeake Legal Alliance's (CLA) *pro bono* legal support to citizens and non-profit organizations working to achieve a clean, healthy, and ecologically diverse Chesapeake Bay.

With your support, 2015 marked our highest level of CLA volunteer attorney engagement in terms of the most legal activities supported and the most clients assisted since our founding in 2009! CLA facilitated over 5,000 hours of free legal support to 92 organizations and individuals – those who otherwise would have no recourse to critical legal help.

The value of the hours donated to our mission by our volunteer attorneys exceeded \$2 million - another benchmark in CLA's history! As a donor, you should take pride in that fact that every dollar contributed to CLA generated over \$6 worth of legal services toward protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

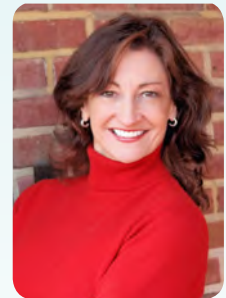
Without the support of our donors, we would be unable to carry out our job of continuing to expand our attorney network, research cutting edge legal strategies, and serving clients throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our clients tell us regularly that knowing they have access to legal services through CLA empowers them to do much more than they would be able to accomplish otherwise.

Working with our clients, we have helped address water quality in over 800 rivers, streams and other waterways, and have assisted in preserving or minimizing damage to over 6,000 acres of land, including conservation areas, pristine forests, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. In the course of these activities, we have helped protect drinking water supplies and reduced pollution from urban, suburban and agricultural communities throughout the Bay watershed.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for helping CLA and our "Lawyers for the Bay" achieve these wins for the Bay watershed, moving us closer to our goal of a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay.



Russell Stevenson
President



Jacqueline Guild
Executive Director

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2015 Accomplishments



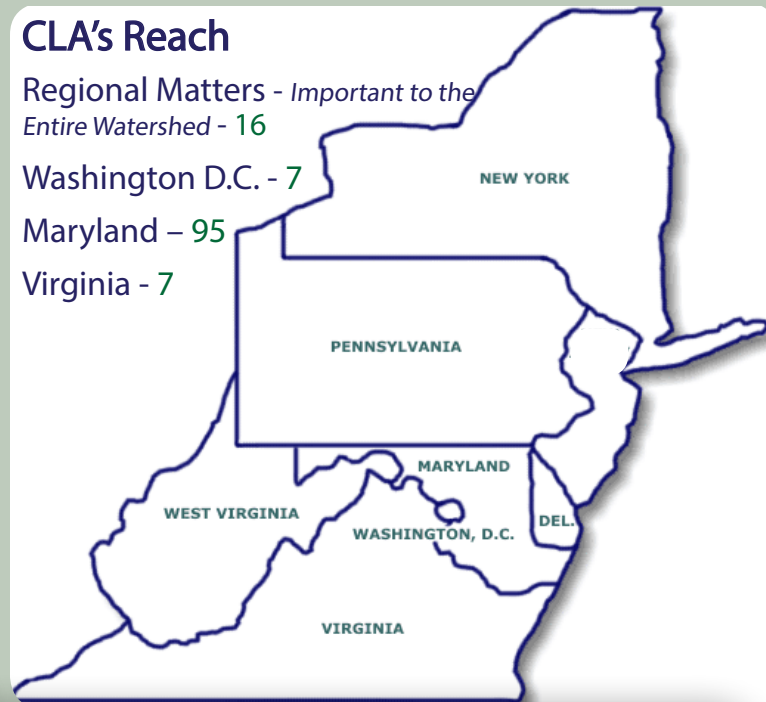
CLA's Reach

Regional Matters - *Important to the Entire Watershed* - 16

Washington D.C. - 7

Maryland - 95

Virginia - 7



87 new matters were placed with volunteer attorneys and **117 matters** were active.

CLA assisted **92 clients**, several of which are composed of 10 or more organizations. Of these clients, **31 were new to CLA.**

The efforts of CLA volunteer attorneys yielded **5,384.5 hours** of work, valued at **\$2,024,963**, on behalf of CLA referred clients.



50 attorneys/law firms joined our volunteer network in 2015.

By empowering citizens and environmental organizations with legal muscle and expertise crucial to successful advocacy, CLA provides a missing resource in the efforts to save the Bay and its watershed. Our efforts are achieving change in citizen expectations, government enforcement of laws and regulations, and compliance by the regulated community.

Wins for the Watershed

We are proud of the work of our volunteer attorneys in 2015 that contributed significantly to projects to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Notable efforts include:



Keeping the Chesapeake Bay Clean Up Plan on Track - the Bay's best hope for recovery

Filed *amicus* briefs on behalf of the City of Annapolis, in Federal District Court and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's successful defense of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or "Chesapeake Bay Clean Up Plan." This important win became final early in 2016 when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the lower courts' decisions upholding this critical and comprehensive joint federal-state effort to restore the health of the Bay.

Provided legal analyses and drafting assistance on proposed regulations and policies in support of state implementation plans to achieve pollution limits set by the TMDL.

Curbing Agricultural Pollution - the largest source of Bay pollution

Assisted groups challenging the legality of permits for large poultry and other animal production facilities where the location of these operations or permit conditions would pose adverse effects to the environment and public health.

Provided legal support to advocates in their successful efforts to implement the "Phosphorus Management Tool," regulations designed to prevent over-use of phosphorus-laden poultry manure as a fertilizer.

Provided legal support for efforts to hold large integrators responsible for managing and disposing of poultry litter.

Provided legal support to coalitions seeking to increase the use of best management practices designed to reduce nutrient pollution from farming.



Stemming Urban/ Suburban Stormwater Runoff - the fastest growing source of Bay pollution - and preserving the Bay's natural buffers

Helped eliminate or reduce the impact of development on thousands of acres of forests, wetlands, parks, conservation areas and other lands and hundreds of associated waterways.

Defeated efforts of developers to circumvent requirements of the Maryland Critical Area Act, the Maryland Forest Conservation Act, federal and state Endangered Species Acts, and the federal Clean Water Act.

Contributed to the protection of pristine waterfront forests, including two of the largest contiguous forest stands remaining in Annapolis, and assisted with two new wetland restoration projects.

"Chesapeake Legal Alliance has been an amazing resource for the Choose Clean Water Coalition and its members. Their volunteer attorneys helped us analyze and comment on technical documents, providing knowledge and expertise that we would not otherwise have. They also connected us with an attorney that was an expert on lobbying regulations to help our members understand the general rules related to lobbying by 501(c)(3) organizations. Their assistance to the Choose Clean Water Coalition has been invaluable."

Jill Witkowski, Executive Director, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Holding Industry Accountable for its Pollution - clean up and permit enforcement

Successfully appealed a permit approved for Columbia Gas to extend a natural gas line across 81 streams on the grounds that it violated state and federal water quality requirements.



Provided ongoing support to efforts to hold owners of the former Bethlehem Steel Plant, south of Baltimore Harbor, to consent decree requirements to clean up the site and prevent toxic substances from migrating to the Patapsco River and other nearby waterways surrounding heavily populated areas.

Helped empower communities and coalitions with efforts to prevent adverse environmental and health effects from hydro fracking and associated pipelines and other infrastructure, including drinking water exposures and pipeline construction through national forests.



Oyster Restoration Efforts - the Bay's natural filtering system - and Habitat Protection

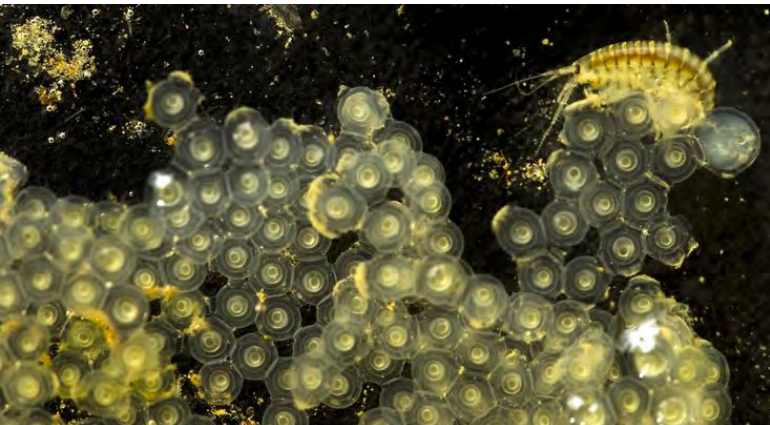
Stayed decision to eliminate ten of twelve oyster harvest reserve areas in Maryland rivers to allow further evaluation of this component of Bay oyster recovery efforts.

Negotiated agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to conduct more thorough analyses of the compatibility of aquaculture and conservation goals when reviewing aquaculture permit applications for oyster conservation areas.



Developed a strategy for addressing the failure to map and designate habitat protection areas as required under the Maryland Critical Area Act, thus taking steps to protect habitat for migrating fish and other sensitive species in Bay rivers.

Worked to protect habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species, including the northern long eared bat, cow knob salamander, James spiny mussel, yellow perch, and brook trout.



“Due to the efforts of CLA to provide us with expert legal representation, our organization has become a stronger voice for sensitive wetlands and waterways impacted by the Columbia Natural Gasline project in both Harford and Baltimore counties. These waterways include streams that are designated as drinking water supply streams for 1.5 million people in the Baltimore-metro area and that also support wild and native trout.

Without CLA's support, the Gunpowder RIVERKEEPER® would not have had equal footing in the motions, memos and oral arguments to be able to challenge the weak Maryland Department of the Environment Wetlands and Waterways Permit and have the permit remanded back to the agency by court order.”

Theaux M. Le Gardeur, Gunpowder RIVERKEEPER®

CLA Clients

1000 Friends of Maryland *	Citizen, Caroline County, MD	Future Harvest—CASA	Potomac Conservancy
Action Committee for Transit	Citizen, Crownsville, MD	Good Jobs First	Potomac River Association
American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland	Citizen, Deale, MD	Greater Goshen Civic Association	Potomac Riverkeeper *
Agricultural Certainty Work Group	Citizen, Denton, MD	Grove Park Neighborhood Association	Public Justice Center
Allentown Residents for Clean Air	Citizen, Elkton, MD	Gunpowder Riverkeeper *	Queen Anne Conservation Association
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Citizen, Hallowing Point Trailer Park	Harwood Civic Association	Residents of Easton, MD
Alliance to Restore Northwest Creek	Citizen, Linthicum, MD	HasNa, Inc.	Riva Woods Homeowners Association
Alliance to Save the Rappahannock	Citizen, Mill Creek, MD	HOPE Impacts	SACReD *
American Chestnut Land Trust	Citizens, Montgomery County, MD (9)	Jessup Improvement Association	Sassafras River Association*
American University	Citizen, Oxon Hill, MD	Little Falls Watershed Alliance	Save Your Annapolis Neck
AMP Creeks Council	Citizen, Prince George's County, MD	Lothian Civic Association	Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Anacostia Riverkeeper	Citizen, Queen Anne's County, MD	Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper *	Seven Oaks-Evanswood Community Association
Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee	Citizen, Sherwood Forest, MD	Magothy River Association *	Seyvern River Association*
Anacostia Watershed Society *	Citizens, St. Mary's County, MD	Maryland Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee *	Seyvern Riverkeeper
Anglers Club of NY	Citizens Against Plan for Eva Mar Development	Maryland Bass Nation	Seyvern School Area Residents
Annapolis Citizen Group	Citizens for a Better Charles County	Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition *	Sierra Club (MD Chapter)
Annapolis Environmental Commission*	Citizens to Protect Bluff Point	Maryland Coastal Bays Program	Sierra Club (Southern MD Group)
Annapolis Green *	Citizens to Save Little Pimmit Run	Maryland Conservation Council	Shenandoah Riverkeeper
Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation *	Citizens to Save Valley Park & Whetstone Run	Maryland League of Conservation Voters	Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County
Assateague Coastal Trust *	City of Annapolis *	Maryland Native Plant Society	Smart Growth America
Assateague Coastkeeper	Clean Water Action	Maryland Open Government Network *	South County Citizens
Audubon Maryland-DC	Clean the Creeks of District 2	Maryland Pesticide Education Network	South Hampton HOA
Audubon Naturalist Society	Coalition for Smarter Growth	Maryland Pesticide Network	South River Federation *
Back Creek Conservancy	Common Cause Maryland	Mason Springs Conservancy	Southern Calvert Land Trust
Bay Land Trust	Community and Environmental Defense Services	Mattawoman Watershed Society	Southern Maryland Audubon Society
Bay Princess Condominium Association	Conservancy for Charles County	MD-DC-DE Press Association	St. Mary's River Homeowner Group *
Bedford County Citizen Group	DC Bar Association	MD Nutrient Management Trading Work Group	St. Mary's River Watershed Association
Beechwood Hill Homeowners Association	Dividing Road Property Owners	Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy *	String of Pearls *
Berrywood Community Association	DMV Environmental Justice Coalition	Mill Creek Citizen Group	Sunlight Foundation
Blue Water Baltimore/Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper *	EcoLatinos	Millers Island Community Federation	TAME Coalition *
BMAT Restoration Work Group	Elk and North East Rivers Watershed Association	Montgomery County Civic Association	Town Creek Foundation
Breton Beach Road Residents	Energy Justice Network	Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community	Trash Free Maryland
Calvert County Citizen Group	Engage Mountain Maryland	Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition	University of Maryland
Campaign to Reinvest in Oxen Hill, MD	Environment Maryland	National Wildlife Federation	Upper James Riverkeeper
Campbell Foundation for the Environment *	Environmental Integrity Project	Natural Resources Defense Council	Urban Ecosystems Restorations, Inc.
Caroline County Conservation Alliance	Environmental Integrity Project	Neighbors of Northwest Branch	Verna Harrison Associates
Cecil County Department of Public Works	Eyes of Paint Branch	North Linthicum Improvement Association	Waterkeepers Chesapeake *
Chapman Forest Foundation	Federal Hill Residents	Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association	Watershed Stewards Academy
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Food and Water Watch	OpenGov Foundation	West Montgomery County Citizens Association
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Frederick County Citizens Group	Oxford Landing Citizen Group	West/Rhode Riverkeeper *
Chesapeake Bay Funders Network	Friends of Bryan Park	Patuxent Riverkeeper*	Westport Residents, Baltimore, MD
Chesapeake Climate Action Network *	Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed	Pines on the Severn Community	Wylie Street Community Garden
Chesapeake Legal Alliance *	Friends of Hillmead Park	Port Tobacco River Conservancy	
Chester River Association *	Friends of Jug Bay		
Choose Clean Water Coalition *	Friends of Mc Millan Park		
Choptank Riverkeeper *	Friends of Oxon Hill		
Citizens, Annapolis, MD (3)	Friends of Rock Creek's Environment		
Citizens, Arlington, VA (4)	Friends of Sligo Creek		
Citizen, Arnold, MD	Friends of the Bohemia *		
	Friends of the Earth		
	Friends of the National Arboretum		

[New 2015 Client](#)

* New 2015 Matter with Existing Client



FINANCIALS

Overview of the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2015

Support and Revenue

Foundation Contributions	\$160,000
Individual Contributions	\$30,805
Board Member Contributions	\$27,050
Client Contributions	\$3,595
In-Kind Donations	\$3,242
Law Firm Contributions	\$3,000
Corporate Contributions	\$1,232

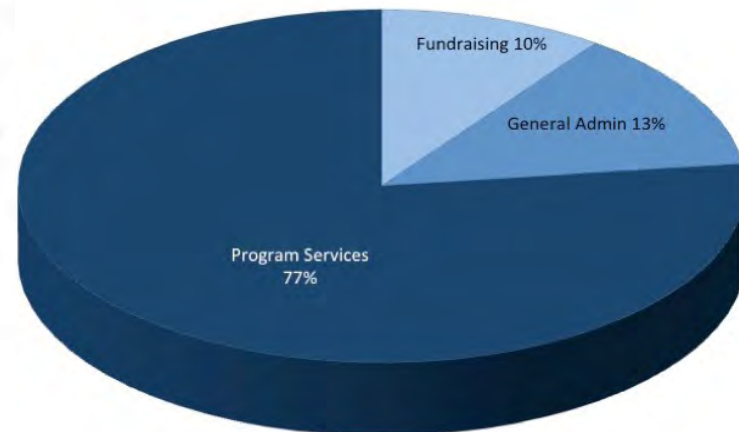
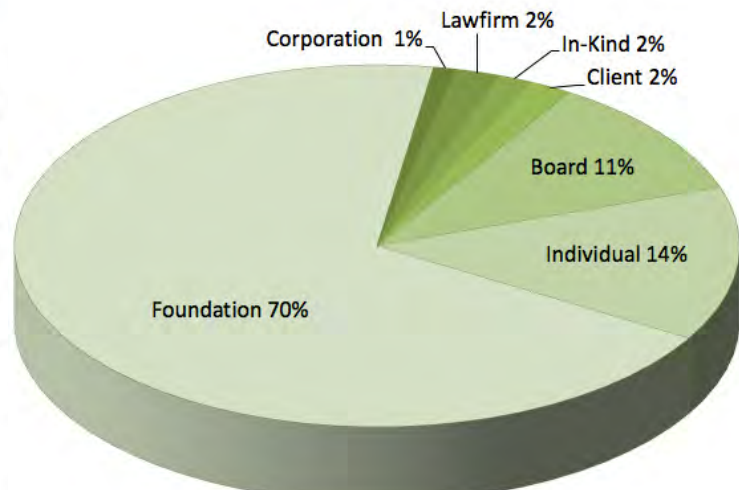
TOTAL \$228,924

Expenses

Program Services	\$256,778
Management and General	\$43,739
Fundraising	\$33,999

TOTAL \$334,516

Change in Net Assets	\$105,592
Net Assets, January 1, 2015	\$185,066
Net Assets, December 31, 2015	\$79,474



"The Back Creek Conservancy is grateful to the Chesapeake Legal Alliance for putting us in touch with CLA pro bono attorney, Ross N. Phillips. Since his appointment as our attorney in November 2015, Ross has been serving as the organization's Registered Agent, and he has given us very helpful advice on the Conservancy's IRS application for tax exempt status. Ross has also guided us on approaches to interacting with waterfront property owners, and he has helped us to develop a strategy to monitor the MDE general discharge permits of yacht yards and marinas on Back Creek. Since then, the IRS has determined that the Back Creek Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and the Board of Directors is reassured that sound legal counsel is readily at hand."

David Read Barker, Ph.D., Chair, Back Creek Conservancy

CLA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Our success is due to the following individuals, organizations and foundations who believe in our mission and provided financial support in 2015.

Blue Heron

\$10,000 and up

Abell Foundation
Helena Foundation
Keith Campbell Foundation
MARPAT Foundation
Rauch Foundation
Town Creek Foundation

Blue Crab

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Michael Murphy
Russell B. Stevenson

Bay Oyster

\$2,500-\$4,999

Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann
Robert Sussman
David Weinberg
Kenneth Weinstein

Rockfish

\$1,000-\$2,499

Laura & Guy Cecala
Patrick Coyne
Dealy Foundation
Geico Philanthropic Foundation
Ridgway Hall
Joe Hollingsworth
Stephen Kurzman
Terry and Margaret Lenzner
George and Kennie Lupton
Ann Marsh
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David and Anne Menotti
Scenic River Trust
Kendall and Vickie Wilson

Terrapin

\$500-\$999

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Robert Stout
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Osprey

\$250-\$499

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J.B. English
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Sheila Jones
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Kincey Potter
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Doug and Karen Smith
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Harrison and Susanne Wellford
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Allison Zieve

Mallard

\$100-\$249

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Gwenn Azama
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