The Chesapeake Bay is on the mend - cleaner water, more submerged aquatic vegetation, repopulation of species, fewer dead zones. In fact, the Bay is healthier than it has been in decades and you are helping us keep the waves of change in motion.

With your support, we increased the size of our volunteer attorney network by 25 percent allowing us to take on the largest number of legal projects in our history as an organization. More legal projects generated greater advances on behalf of the Bay.

You helped us amend laws to provide greater protections for our forests, advocate for funds for Bay restoration programs and enforcement positions, and start the work on new laws and regulations to protect the air we breathe and the right to a healthy environment.

You helped us achieve favorable administrative and judicial decisions that protect a citizen’s right to appeal environmentally offensive acts in their communities, protect important lands and waters, and require everyone to follow the laws designed to protect the environment.

You helped us clean up polluted sites, fix outdated sewer systems, get restoration projects underway, and assist with the creation of innovative strategies to address nutrient pollution entering the Bay and its waterways.

You helped us strengthen the Bay community with legal information through our guides, webinars, and citizen information presentations, and provide corporate legal support to help Bay non-profits fulfill their missions.

Thank you for everything you have done to make this past year successful and for supporting our work in 2018. Together, we can provide the critical legal services needed to make a lasting difference in the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its lands, rivers, and streams.

Warmest Regards,

Jackie Guild
Executive Director
Where We Worked in 2017

Entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed - 21
Pennsylvania - 17
Maryland - 98
DelMarVa (MD, DE, VA) - 15
Delaware - 1
Virginia - 12
West Virginia - 4
New York - 4

99 NEW Legal Projects
145 Active Projects
28 NEW Clients
63 Clients Served
102 NEW Legal Providers
61 Attorneys Engaged in Legal Projects

2017 GROWTH
CLA’s 2017 Highlights

Permanently Conserving Forests and Wetlands
CLA volunteer attorneys helped preserve permanently 9.4 acres of wetlands along the Magothy River that serve as spawning areas for returning yellow perch. We supported our partners in convincing the City of Annapolis to save 4 acres of forest along the South River, assisted a community group in preserving 6.5 acres adjacent to an urban Richmond, VA park slated for development, and protected lands adjacent to Stony Run, near Baltimore, by requiring adherence to floodplain designations and open space zoning.

Strengthening Local Environmental and Zoning Laws
CLA supported partners who advocated successfully for amendments to the City of Annapolis’ Forest Conservation Act implementation ordinance, including an acre for acre tree replacement requirement (replacing a 1/4 acre replacement requirement), and creating a clear appeals process of forest conservation plans associated with planned subdivisions, grading permits, and sediment control plans. CLA also partnered with Socially Responsible Agriculture Project and community groups on the Eastern Shores of Virginia and Maryland to protect human health and the local environment through new zoning requirements for setbacks from property adjacent to large, industrial animal feeding operations.

Standing Up for Citizens’ Rights
CLA ensured that Maryland citizens, community groups, and local non-profit organizations had the right to protest destruction of sensitive forests and wetlands critical to protection of waterways. Over the course of 20 hours of hearings, our perseverance on behalf of community champions resulted in the 2018 dismissal of a development proposal concerning land that includes some of Anne Arundel County’s last, pristine, waterfront forest.

STATE AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY
CLA supported partners to secure $73 million in funding for the Chesapeake Bay program, no cuts to Farm Bill conservation programs, and $400,000 for Maryland enforcement and compliance positions.

ILLEGAL DEVELOPMENTS
CLA challenged seven developments where developers and officials were not following federal, state, and/or local laws. This work led to 160.3 acres of land entering permanent conservation.

PIPELINE PROJECTS
CLA assisted groups on issues concerning five natural gas pipeline development proposals that could affect over 1500 miles of wilderness across six states.
Funding for Maryland Clean Water Enforcement
CLA, in partnership with the Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition and others, informed the Maryland legislature about the impacts of insufficient inspection and compliance due to staffing shortages at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Our group efforts resulted in the Maryland General Assembly designating $400,000 for staff positions for MDE and MDA.

Preventing Sewage Discharges to Baltimore Waters
CLA assisted Blue Water Baltimore to achieve long overdue improvements to Baltimore’s broken sewer system, which currently releases tens of thousands of gallons of polluted water to the Inner Harbor and connected waterways with every storm event. Persistence paid off with a new court approved agreement to upgrade the system and include key accountability and clean up requirements that will allow use of water quality data, collected during the project, to modify activities designed to achieve water quality standards.

Educating and Empowering
CLA informed and inspired citizens groups, community leaders, and elected officials with 22 educational projects including a Citizens Guide to Participating in the NPDES Permitting Process, a Shoreline Stewardship Guide for residential and commercial property owners, a white paper concerning legal requirements to finance water quality improvement projects, and articles on the importance of enforcement of laws affecting the Bay’s lands and waters. We also provided training to Bay advocates on IRS lobbying rules, and information to federal and state law makers on the importance of funding Bay programs and enforcement and compliance positions.
Exploring Innovation to Advance Water Quality
A CLA volunteer attorney worked with the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to identify the legal challenges and support for pay-for-success funding models in Pennsylvania being considered to incentivize public-private partnerships to improve water quality.

Creating Stronger Partnerships
CLA provided corporate assistance to non-profit organizations on 21 projects to advance their Chesapeake Bay watershed related missions. This work included the merger of three Eastern Shore organizations to become ShoreRivers, an organization that will provide a strong and unified voice for Maryland’s Eastern Shore communities.

CLA’s 2017 Highlights

Building a Nutrient Trading Program
CLA assisted the Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition and its partners in advocating for quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable nutrient trading regulations as part of the effort to incentivize best management practices, especially those implemented on agricultural land, that will prevent polluting nutrients from entering the Bay and its tributaries. CLA provided legal analyses and comments on proposed regulations, and associated technical memoranda, to help create an effective Maryland trading program.

Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites
CLA volunteer attorneys assisted Bay watershed groups with clean up of dump sites, former industrial lands, and streams adjacent to commercial operations. Remediation began at dumpsites in Crownsville, Maryland and Lorton, Virginia; clean up efforts continued on the land and water associated with the Bethlehem Steel Plant, outside of Baltimore; and remedial efforts commenced on the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

“The Chesapeake Legal Alliance plays an absolutely critical role in the effort to restore the Bay. CLA connects communities and concerned citizens with top notch legal representation. And the expert law and policy guidance they provide is essential for the success of other advocates like me. If the organization didn’t exist, we’d have to invent it.”
-Evan Isaacson, Center for Progressive Reform
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy is thankful to have CLA as a major resource for our policy and legal battles. Through CLA we’ve connected with several volunteer attorneys that have helped us strengthen the conditions and enforceability of NPDES permits for industrial processing facilities throughout the Choptank, Miles and Wye River watersheds. CLA is one of the best tools we have to fight for the protection of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay.”

-Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
“Assateague Coastal Trust, a small non-profit environmental advocacy organization located on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, has limited resources and capacity, so being able to take advantage of the legal resources afforded by Chesapeake Legal Alliance has been a great benefit to us. CLA has assisted ACT with our submission of public comments to MDE on NPDES permits and has also provided the assistance in putting pressure on local government agencies to clarify county actions and substantiate permit determinations. Our mission to protect and preserve the coastal watershed has been enhanced by the services provided through Chesapeake Legal Alliance.”

-Kathy Phillips, Executive Director/Assateague COASTKEEPER, Assateague Coastal Trust
Since 2009, CLA has assisted...

1000 Friends of Maryland
Action Committee for Transit
American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland
Agricultural Certainty Work Group
Allentown Residents for Clean Air
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Alliance to Restore Northwest Creek
Alliance to Save the Rappahannock
American Chestnut Land Trust
American College of Environmental Lawyers
American University
AMP Creeks Council
Annapolis Environmental Commission
Annapolis Green
Annapolis Neck Peninsula
Annapolis Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee
Annapolis Watershed Society
Anglers Club of NY
Anne Arundel Equestrian Alliance
Anne Arundel Patapsco River Alliance
Annapolis, MD (4)
Citizen, Arnold, MD
Citizen, Baltimore County, MD (2)
Citizen, Berkeley City, WV
Citizen, Calvert County, MD
Citizen, Caroline County, MD
Citizen, Crownsville, MD
Citizen, District of Columbia (2)
Citizen, Deale, MD
Citizen, Denton, MD
Citizen, Elkton, MD
Citizen, Franklin County, PA
Citizen, Hallowing Point Trailer Park
Citizen, Linthicum, MD
Citizen, Marietta, PA
Citizen, Mill Creek, MD
Citizen, Montgomery County, MD (11)
Citizen, Oxon Hill, MD
Citizen, Prince George’s County, MD
Citizen, Queen Anne’s County, MD
Citizen, Salisbury, MD
Citizen, Sherwood Forest, MD
Citizen, St. Mary’s County, MD
Citizen Against Plan for Evan Mar Development
Citizens for a Better Charles County
Citizens for Protect Bluff Point
Citizens to Save Little Pimmit Run
Citizens to Save Valley Park & Whetstone Run
City of Annapolis
Clean Water Action
Clean the Creeks of District 2
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Common Cause Maryland
Community and Environmental Defense Services
Conservancy for Charles County
D.C. Bar Association
D.C. Citizens for Reasonable Development
Dividing Road Property Owners
DMV Environmental Justice Coalition
Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
EcoLatinos
Elk and North East Rivers Watershed Association
Engage Mountain Maryland
Environmental Action Center
Environment Maryland
Environmental Integrity Project
Eyes of Paint Branch
Federal Hill Residents
Fish 21
Food and Water Watch
Frederick County Citizens Group
Friends of Bruce Monroe Park
Friends of Bryan Park
Friends of Cabin John Creek
Friends of Hillmead Park
Friends of Jug Bay
Friends of Mc Millan Park
Friends of Oxon Hill
Friends of Rock Creek’s Environment
Friends of Sligo Creek
Friends of the Bohemia
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the National Arboretum
Future Harvest—CASA
Good Jobs First
Gravely Property Owners Association
Greater Chesapeake Civic Association
Grove Park Neighborhood Association
Gunpowder Riverkeeper
Halt the Harm Network
Harwood Civic Association
HasHa, Inc.
HOPE Impacts
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Jessup Improvement Association
Little Falls Watershed Alliance
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Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper
Magothy River Association
Maryland Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee
Maryland Bass Nation
Maryland Clean Agriculture Coalition
Maryland Coastal Bays Program
Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Native Plant Society
Maryland Pesticide Education Network
Maryland Pesticide Network
Mason Springs Conservancy
Mattapoman Tribe
Mattawoman Watershed Society
MD-DC DE Press Association
MD Nutrient Management Trading Work Group
Mehooping Creek Watershed Association
Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
Mill Creek Citizen Group
Mills Island Community Federation
Mountain Watershed Association
Montgomery County Civic Association
Myersville Citizens for a Rural Community
Nanojimoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Neighbors of the Mayo Peninsula
Neighbors of Northwest Branch
North Linthicum Improvement Association
Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
Oxford Landing Citizen Group
Patapsco River Alliance
Patuxent Riverkeeper
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
Pines on the Severn Community
Port Tobacco River Conservancy
Potomac Conservancy
Potomac River Association
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Public Justice Center
Queen Anne Conservation Association
Residents of Easton, MD
Riva Woods Homeowners Association
Rockaway Beach Improvement Association
Turkey Point Improvement Association
SACReD
Sassafras River Association
Save Our Sanctuary
Save Your Annapolis Neck
Scenic Rivers Land Trust
Seven Oaks-Evanswood Community Association
Severn River Association
Severn Riverkeeper
Severn School Area Residents
Sidney Center Improvement Group
Sierra Club (MD Chapter)
Siesta Club (Southern MD Group)
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
ShoreRivers
Smart Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County
Smart Growth America
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
South County Citizens
South Hampton HOA
South River Federation
Southern Calvert Land Trust
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
SorciWings
St. Mary’s River Homeowner Group
St. Mary’s River Watershed Association
String of Pearls
TAME Coalition
Town Creek Foundation
Trash Free Maryland
Trot Unlimited
University of Maryland
Upper James Riverkeeper
Urban Ecosystems
Restorations, Inc.
Verna Harrison Associates
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Watershed Stewards Academy
West Montgomery County Citizens Association
West/Rhode Riverkeeper
Westport Residents, Baltimore, MD
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Wylie Street Community Garden
Zion Baptist Church

New 2017 Client

▲ = Existing Client Served in 2017
● = Client with More than One Active Project in 2017
FINANCIALS
Overview of the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017

Support and Revenue
Foundation Contributions $293,620
Board Member Contributions $ 69,458
Individual Contributions $ 38,943
Client Contributions $ 11,403
Law Firm Contributions $ 7,000
Corporate Contributions $ 277
Other Contributions $ 1,036
TOTAL $ 421,737

Expenses
Program Services $ 313,335
Administrative $ 43,521
Fundraising $ 34,718
TOTAL $ 391,574

Change in Net Assets $30,163
Net Assets, January 1, 2017 $69,542
Net Assets, December 31, 2017 $ 99,705

“It is a new day where Citizens are organized and shine a flashlight on the misdeeds and inappropriate relationships between elected officials and developers with inappropriate projects. We will hold our elected officials and the regulators they oversee accountable, to enforce the environmental laws we have, to save the important lands we have left. Thanks to Chesapeake Legal Alliance for empowering our communities!”

-Mike Shay, South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development (SACReD)
CLA IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR OUR 2017 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS!

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$10,000 and up
Keith Campbell Foundation
Chesapeake Bay Trust
Helena Foundation
Merrill Foundation
Rauch Foundation
Shared Earth Foundation
Russell Stevenson
Town Creek Foundation

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Ridgway Hall
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Jacqueline Guild

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