



CHESAPEAKE
LEGAL ALLIANCE

2018 Annual Report



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A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

A big birthday is always a good time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. As we approach Chesapeake Legal Alliance's 10th birthday in 2019, we've been doing both. I am pleased to be able to share our reflections and our plans.

In July of 2018, I was honored to be chosen by our Board of Directors to succeed Jackie Guild as Executive Director. While I was tasked to lead Chesapeake Legal Alliance into its next chapter, I stand on tall shoulders. Thanks to Jackie's dedicated efforts since 2011, CLA now counts on over 300 legal professionals willing to work for free on behalf of CLA, our partners, and our local waterways from Virginia to New York! To date, CLA network attorneys have provided well over \$13,000,000 in free legal services! Moreover, our incredible staff works tirelessly to ensure that no community member or organization goes unrepresented in their efforts to protect their waterways. CLA's **Pro Bono Legal Services** program successfully levels the legal playing field by connecting those on the front lines of Bay issues with top-notch legal counsel to guide their efforts.

Unfortunately, however, the threats to our waterways and our health remain persistent, and in some cases are even increasing. Human-induced climate-change, is causing in our weather patterns that result in extreme local flooding as huge amounts of stormwater pollution is flushing into the Bay. Federal environmental protection rollbacks are ubiquitous. State-level environmental enforcement efforts are on the decline. Under-represented communities continue to suffer from disproportionate amounts of pollution. With these challenges in mind, during 2018, CLA began expanding its in-house services. In addition to our Pro Bono Services program, we added two programs areas. Our new **Legal Innovation** program works with communities to generate creative and cutting-edge legal and policy solutions. Our new **Community Legal Education** program arms communities with the legal tools necessary to effect positive environmental change. Each of these programs is staffed by a talented and experienced CLA Senior Staff Attorney. Please take a moment to learn more about each program in this report.

If you are new to CLA, we want you to welcome you on our journey to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Chesapeake for all. If you are already a friend of CLA, we want to say *Thank You*. Your participation, interest, feedback, donations, and moral support all play a vital role in our success. Only together can we truly create positive change here in the Bay.

All the Best,

Eliza Smith Steinmeier
Executive Director
eliza@chesapeakelegal.org



"CLA advocates for and empowers communities with free innovative and informed legal tools to protect water quality and ensure a healthy future for our Bay communities."

PROBONO LEGAL SERVICES

CLA's network of over 300 volunteer attorneys donate their time to help people and organizations stand up for clean water and healthy communities throughout Chesapeake Bay watershed. Together these volunteer attorneys provide approximately \$2M in legal services annually, and their efforts result in cleaner streams, increased government accountability, protected coastlines, safer water for recreation, stronger community organizations, and increased native habitats.

PRO BONO SERVICES

We provide access to free legal services through our team of passionate volunteer attorneys.

2018 ProBono Legal Services

☀️ A CLA volunteer attorney from Wiley Rein dedicated more than ten years to SACReD and West/Rhode Riverkeeper to defeat an illegal development plan in Anne Arundel County, which would have destroyed lands within 1000 ft of the shoreline, an area protected under Critical Area Law. Not only did the case result in important shoreline protections, the win also resulted in a county-wide improvement in how the Critical Area Law is applied.

☀️ CLA volunteer attorneys from Kirkland & Ellis helped Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy execute the necessary contracts to restore a stream a create a living shoreline in Cattail Creek, a tributary to the Magothy River. This project reduced stream erosion and water pollution, and increased native habitat.

☀️ CLA volunteer attorney, Mary Staley, worked with ShoreRivers to persuade Maryland Department of Natural Resources to more effectively protect Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) under Maryland law. These critically important Bay grasses provide habitat for many species of wildlife around the watershed.

☀️ CLA volunteer attorneys from Cleary Gottlieb donated over 190 hours to help merge South River Federation and West Rhode Riverkeeper into Arundel Rivers Federation, creating a stronger community voice for water-quality in Anne Arundel County.



5,540

total pro bono hours



\$1,996,586

estimated value of hours



LEGAL INNOVATION

Restoring the Bay is a complex and difficult task. CLA's new Legal Innovation Program develops creative legal and policy solutions to persistent environmental issues, holds government agencies accountable for enforcing our local, state, and federal environmental laws. CLA's staff attorneys work directly with community members to remove legal barriers to progress and implement strategies to achieve the Chesapeake Bay that our families and communities deserve.

LEGAL INNOVATION

We work with communities to generate creative and cutting-edge legal and policy solutions.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

The Community Legal Education Program teaches Bay advocates how to use legal tools to protect and restore their local waterways. The law can be confusing and intimidating, but it doesn't have to be that way. CLA's Education program produces informational materials and hosts workshops and presentations to make the law more accessible – and useful – to Bay advocates.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

We arm communities with the tools needed to effect positive environmental change.

2018 Legal Innovations

☀ The Maryland nutrient trading program is founded on the premise that trading of pollution credits will incentivize polluters to decrease pollution levels at their sites (industrial, agricultural, municipal, etc.). CLA Vice-Chair and volunteer attorney, Ridgway Hall, successfully advocated for the Maryland trading regulations to avoid pollution “hot spots” as the result of a trade, ensure pollution credits are fairly and scientifically calculated, exclude interstate trading, which is uncertain and unverifiable. The result is a stronger and more workable set of trading regulations for Maryland, which exceed the program requirements of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

☀ CLA conducted extensive legal research on the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights amendment and has provided legal advice to various partners on how to use this law, and similar laws in other Bay states, as a new legal means to achieve Bay cleanup.

“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)

2018 Community Legal Education

☀ CLA and the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper developed and hosted a workshop educating local environmental groups and attorneys on the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment. The workshop discussed recent jurisprudence that has expanded the interpretation of the Pennsylvania amendment.

☀ CLA, together with partners, organized and presented a workshop, Elevating Conversations for Women Leaders in Conservation, at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Annual Watershed Forum. Guided by panel members, a packed room actively practiced self-reflection and networking skills in order to better utilize and grow their networks to meet their personal and professional goals as environmental stewards for the Chesapeake Bay community.

“Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association is blessed to have a partner in Chesapeake Legal Alliance. In 2018, the two organizations collaborated to create, deliver, and facilitate a Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment workshop with over 50 residents and the Amendment author, former Senator Franklin Kury, in attendance. Both organizations plan to continue to explore applications for its use in our fight for clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment for all communities throughout the watershed and state. We are all stronger when partners come together. Thank you, Chesapeake Legal Alliance.”

- Carol Parenzan
Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper

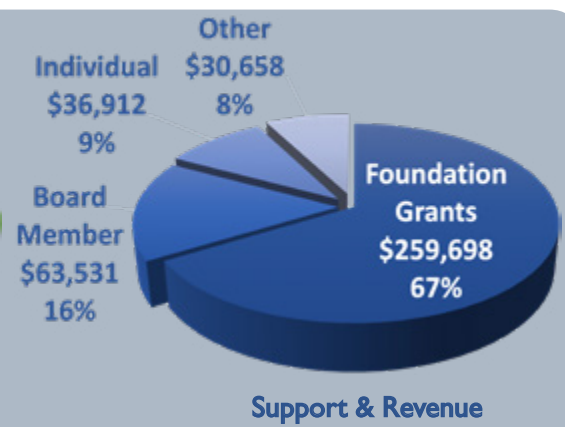
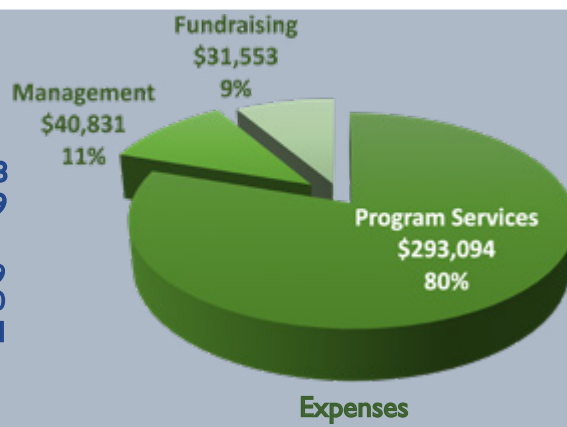


FINANCIALS

Overview of the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018

Expenses \$ 365,478
Support & Revenue \$ 390,799

Net Assets, January 1, 2018 \$ 96,239
Net Assets, December 31, 2018 \$ 121,560
Change in Net Assets \$ 25,321



WE APPRECIATE YOU

Bald Eagle \$15,000 and up

Campbell Foundation, Merrill Foundation, Rauch Foundation, Shared Earth Foundation, Town Creek Foundation

Blue Heron \$10,000 to \$14,999

Chesapeake Bay Trust, Jeff Harris, Helena Foundation, Mike & Elizabeth Murphy, Russell Stevenson

Blue Crab \$5,000 to \$9,999

Richard Hinds, David Menotti, Michael Murphy, RBC Wealth Management, David Weinberg, Wiley Rein

Bay Oyster \$2,500-\$4,999

Decker Anstrom, Mike & Trish Davis, Ridgway Hall, Steve Kurzman, Thomas Mansback, Powell Family Charitable Trust, Rouse Charitable Foundation, Holton "Skip" Shipman, Jr., South River Federation, Robert Sussman, Ken Weinstein

Rockfish \$1,000-\$2,499

Thomas Barba, John Bray, Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, Josephine Cooper, Patrick Coyne, Dealy Foundation, Michael Echart, Henry Foundation, Joe Hollingsworth, Deborah Jennings, George & Kennie Lupton, Harry & Judy Martin, Thomas O'Donnell, William Pedersen, Joyce Schlesinger, Edward Strohbehn & Heather Ross, Greg & Susan Walker

Terrapin \$500-\$999

Leslie Carothers, Carrolton Manor Improvement Association, Heather Cass, Louis Cohen, Davidsonville Area Civic Association, Daniel & Mary Dent, Lowell Dodge, Charles Elkins & Betsy White, Patricia Goldman, Jackie Guild, Terry & Margaret Lenzner, Harry & Judy Martin, Jerome Murphy, Kincey Potter, Thomas Reinert, Sherry Rogers-Frost, Barbara Santos, Scenic River Land Trust, Steptoe Foundation, Brendan & Lila Sullivan, Robert Vom Saal, Eliza Steinmeier, Steve & Linda Weitz, Donor Advisor Fund, Susanne Wellford, Kendall Wilson, Charles Work

Osprey \$250-\$499

Melvin Bender, Risa Bender, Philip Bogdonoff, Wells Burgess, Richard D'Amato, JB English, Allison Fultz, Elizabeth Jeppson, Alice Kipel, Benjamin Klubes, George Marcou & Karen Barker, Robert & Suzanne McDonald, Barbara McMillan, Nancy Prendergast, Steve & Linda Weitz, Susanne Wellford

Mallard \$100-\$249

Back Creek Conservancy, Marie Birnbaum, Joseph Bredekamp, Daniel Chemers, Edward Connell, Richard Coppola, William & Adrienne Croll, Dorothea Davison, Nick DiPasquale, Robert Doyle, Robert Eden & Janice Bird, John Filippini, Catherine Gage, Theophilus Griswold, Melanie Hartwig-Davis, Suellen Keiner, Dick Lahn (String of Pearls), Linstead Community Association, Patricia Lynch, Carroll McGillin-Greve, James Murphy, Greg & Juliet Page, Rick Parish, Carl Pavetto, Ann Powers, Michael Pretl, Wayne & Ursula Quin, Anita & Chris Rizek, Jacqueline Samuel, Barbara Santos, Jacqueline Savitz, Elvia Thompson, Frederick Tutman, Robert Wayland, Charles Yonkers, Allison Zieve

Friends of CLA

Arden Civic Association, Karl Blankenship, Jennifer Duffy, Robert Gallagher, Joseph Haggerty, Joshua Handler, Verna Harrision, Sally Horner, Lori Jones, John & Edith Kuhnle, Avram Reisner & Nina Cardin, Paul Smail, Marissa Spratley, William Taft, Richard Worth

In-Kind Donations

Downstream Project, Glen's Garden Market, Ridgway Hall, Matt Steinmeier



CLA Board enjoyed a tour of the Anacostia River with Anacostia Watershed Society's Jim Foster

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