



Community Navigation Forum

June 20, 2023

The Universities at Shady Grove





Yi Shen

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Montgomery County, MD
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Access to Legal Services

Challenges:

- Complexities of legal system
- Navigating available resources
- Time-sensitive situations
- Cost
- Scams

Access to Legal Services

Importance of legal representation:

- Provide legal advice
- Represent client in court
- Ensure clients' rights are protected

Access to Legal Services

Immigration:

Immigrants facing deportation do not have right to legal representation at government's expense if they cannot afford it

Access to Legal Services

Immigration:

- Immigrants with representation are up to 10 times more likely to obtain relief from deportation than those without.
- Currently over 1 million people facing deportation in immigration court without legal representation.



Presentations

- **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center**
- **Maryland Legal Aid**
- **Montgomery County Bar Foundation**
- **Catholic Charities**

Identifying Legal Resources in Montgomery County



CHARLES W. GILCHRIST

**IMMIGRANT
RESOURCE CENTER**

Welcome. Connect. *Together We Thrive.*



Yunie Hong

- Program Manager
- Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center
- Yunie joined the Gilchrist Center in 2018, and manages the Center's Information and Referral program, as well as the Gaithersburg site. Prior to joining the Gilchrist Center, she practiced humanitarian immigration law at a number of nonprofit organizations.
- Yunie.Hong@montgomerycountymd.gov



CHARLES W. GILCHRIST

**IMMIGRANT
RESOURCE CENTER**

Welcome. Connect. **Together We Thrive.**

Topics to be Covered

1) Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center Overview

2) How to Provide Targeted Legal Referrals

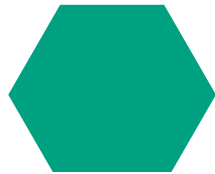
3) General Legal Services vs. Immigration Legal Services

4) Legal Resources on Gilchrist Center Website



Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center

We welcome all County residents, helping them build life skills and informing them about resources that can help them lead successful lives in Montgomery County.



At the Gilchrist Center, you can:

- Get information about programs and services that can help you.
- Take English, Basic Computer, and Citizenship classes.
- Volunteer with our programs to help immigrant communities.
- Receive services from our partners (legal consultations, educational advising, etc.)



Information & Referral Services

- Call us Monday to Friday, 9 am – 5 pm at 240-777-4940, or
- Visit our Locations in Wheaton, Gaithersburg or East County

We can help you to find:

Food Assistance

Health Care

Info about
Housing/Eviction
and Utilities

Where to Get Info
about Immigration
Questions

Free/Low-Cost
Legal Help

Classes and Job
Training

Low-Cost
Computers and
Internet

Child Care and
School Enrollment

COVID-19
Vaccine/Tests



How to Provide Targeted Legal Referrals

- 1) Identify area of law
- 2) Consultation vs. Direct Representation
- 3) Attorney vs. Self-Represented
- 4) Nonprofit vs. Private Attorney



Area of Law

From [Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center Website](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/):

Find Legal Help



Immigration



Domestic Violence &
Other Crime Victims



Eviction and
Foreclosure



Employment /
Workers' Rights



Seniors



Family Law



Criminal Cases



Disability Rights



Other

Additional Tools for Searching by Area of Law:

- <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/get-help/legal/legal-search-tool.html>

Legal Consultations

Can get questions answered and learn about your legal options, but typically will NOT receive direct representation in your case.

In-Person Consultations:

- [Bar Foundation of Montgomery County- Pro Bono Clinics](#)
- [Maryland Court Help Center](#)
- [Good Samaritan Advocates](#)

Phone Consultations:

- [Bar Foundation of Montgomery County](#)
- [Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center](#)
- [Maryland Court Help Center](#)
- [CASA](#) (must be member)

Hotlines:

- [Family Law Hotline](#) (Women's Law Center)
- [Employment Law Hotline](#) (Women's Law Center)
- [Senior Legal Helpline](#) (Maryland Legal Aid)
- [Veterans' Hotline](#) (Maryland Legal Aid)

Online:

- [ABA Free Legal Answers](#)



Attorney Representation vs. Self-Represented

Attorney Representation:

- Complex cases
- Pro Bono (free) attorney or private attorney (charges fees)

Self-Represented ("Pro se" or "Pro per" litigants):

- Simple cases
- If unable to afford private attorney and cannot find pro bono attorney
- Can receive guidance from [Maryland Court Help Center](#)
- Find legal information online:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/get-help/legal/online-resources.html>



Nonprofit vs. Private Attorneys

Nonprofit Organizations:

- Provide free or low-cost legal services to **low-income** residents.
- Limited capacity; typically focus on most vulnerable clients.
- Each organization has its own eligibility criteria and intake procedures.

Private Attorneys:

- Charge fees.
- Must provide retainer agreement which outlines services to be provided and cost.
- Beware of fraud!



Tools for Searching for both nonprofits and private attorneys available here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/get-help/legal/legal-search-tool.html>

General Legal Services vs. Immigration Legal Services

Things to keep in mind re immigration legal services:

- Clients should not delay in seeking immigration legal services.
 - Deadlines:
 - Must file for asylum within one year of entry to US.
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for abused/abandoned/neglected youth must be obtained before turning 21 years old.
 - Immigration cases may take years to resolve due to backlogs.
 - Beware of notarios and fraud!
 - Some cases, such as domestic violence, involve both general legal services (protection order, divorce, etc.), and immigration legal services (VAWA, U visa, etc.).



Legal Resources on Gilchrist Center Website

Visit our NEW website:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Gilchrist



Our Classes

View current class schedule for English Language, Computer and Citizenship preparation classes

[Explore classes >](#)



Get Help

Learn more about the programs and services offered by Gilchrist Center, find useful community resources

[Get help >](#)



Information & Referral

Call us at 240-777-4940 (Mon to Fri, 9am—5pm) or visit our locations to find programs that can help you.

[Learn more about Information & Referral Services >](#)



Immigrant Resources

<https://cmsdev.mcgov.org/gilchrist/volunteer/>



Citizenship



Volunteer

Legal Resources on Gilchrist Center Website

Get Help page:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/get-help/>

Get Help

If you cannot find what you're looking for from the information below, call us at (240) 777-4940 (Mon to Fri, 9am—5pm) or [visit us](#) at one of our locations to ask about programs that can help you.



Multiple needs



Financial



Housing



Food



Legal



Health



Crisis Services



Job Readiness



Tech &
Internet Access



Clothing,
Diapers, Etc.



For Youth
& Seniors



Disability
Services

Legal Resources on Gilchrist Center Website

Immigrant Resources page:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/immigrant-rights/index.html>

Immigrant Resources



Immigration
Legal Services



Citizenship



Know
Your Rights



Family
Preparedness



Immigration
Agencies



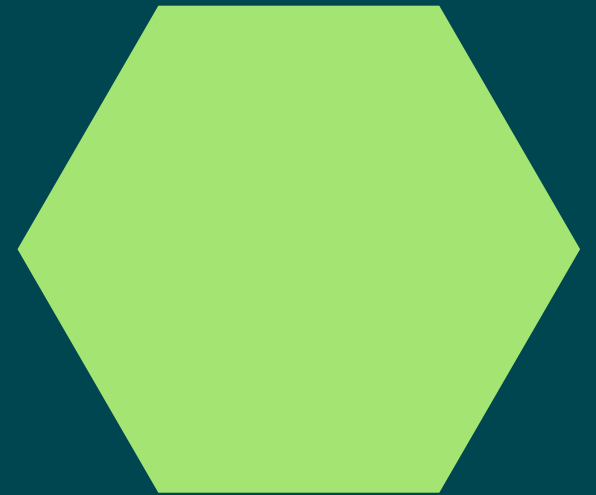
Public Benefits
& Public Charge



Thank you!



Maryland Legal Aid Montgomery County Impact





**Dini
McCullough**

- Chief Attorney
- Maryland Legal Aid, Montgomery County Office

cmccullough@mdlaborg

Who We Are:



MARYLAND

LEGAL AID

OUR MISSION:

To provide high-quality, free legal services to Marylanders living in poverty through representation and advocacy and to bring meaningful change to the systems that impact them.

OUR VALUES:

To grow out of in-depth conversations with our clients across the state about the issues that they and their families face everyday. Maryland Legal Aid has adopted a human rights framework to our advocacy.

OUR VISION:

To lead in providing high-quality legal services; to build on mutual respect for clients, staff, and others; to advocate for justice; and to add maximum positive value to all who request legal assistance.

What We Do:

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) provides life-changing civil legal assistance to eligible residents in every part of the State. Since 1911, MLA has provided high-quality legal services* to low-income, and marginalized individuals and communities--helping them remedy their civil legal issues and become empowered to overcome challenges, achieve stability and independence, and an overall better life.

Areas of Law

Consumer
Employment
Family
Health
Housing
Income Maintenance

Individual Rights
Miscellaneous
Community Lawyering
Initiative
State & Regional Services
Grievance Process





1,105
housing clients
served in
Montgomery County

— 2022 —



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID



918
CINA clients
served in
Montgomery County

— 2022 —





3,369

**consumer and public
benefits clients served
in Montgomery County**

— 2022 —



**MARYLAND
LEGAL AID**



595
family clients
served in
Montgomery County

— 2022 —





695
senior clients
served in
Montgomery County

— 2022 —



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Where We Are:

Allegheny/Garrett

138 Baltimore Street
Suite 204
Cumberland, MD 21502

Anne Arundel/Howard

2024 West Street
Suite 204
Annapolis, MD 21401

Baltimore City

500 E. Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Baltimore County

215 Washington Avenue
Suite 305
Towson, MD 21204

Cecil/Harford

103 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21014

Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset,
Wicomico, Worcester
201 E. Main Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Midwestern Maryland

Carroll, Frederick, Washington
22 S. Market Street
Suite 11
Frederick, MD 21701

Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza
Suite 430
Rockville, MD 20852

Prince George's County

8401 Corporate Drive
Suite 200
Landover, MD 20785

Southern Maryland

Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's
15045 Burnt Store Road
Hughesville, MD 20637

Upper Eastern Shore

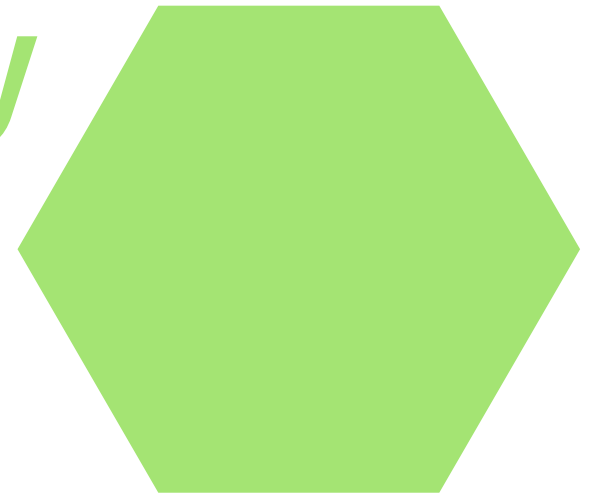
Caroline, Kent, Queen
Anne's, Talbot
106 Washington Street
Suite 101
Easton, MD 21601



Thank you!



Bar Foundation of Montgomery County





**Deborah
Mantilla
Craven**

- Program Coordinator, Pro Bono Program
- 301-762-5831
- Debbie@barfoundationmd.org

Mission



The mission of the Montgomery County, MD, Bar Foundation, Inc., as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, is to organize, operate and contribute to programs dedicated to the promotion of social welfare, the elimination of prejudice and discrimination and the protection of civil liberties, and to ensure the availability of qualified legal assistance of every kind to the members of the community. Specifically, its purposes are to provide equal access to justice for all members of the community, to maintain legal services for the indigent and to promote community education.

Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program provides FREE LEGAL SERVICES to low-income county residents in civil cases. The Pro Bono Program provides two means for residents to receive free services - at a legal advice clinic or through the client intake line for referral to an attorney volunteer for direct representation.





Pro Bono Program



Who is eligible?

- You must be a **resident of Montgomery County**
- You must **meet the Maryland income eligibility guidelines**
- You must need assistance in an **area of law which volunteer attorneys in the pro bono program will handle**

Pro Bono Program



CASES HANDLED BY THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

- Absolute Divorce
- Separation Agreements
- Custody
- Adoption/Guardianship
- Simple Name Changes
- Bankruptcy (Simple Chapter 7)
- Limited Debt Collection Defense
- Private Landlord Tenant (Security Deposits Only)
- Limited Immigration cases (Simple Change of Status)
- Wills and Powers of Attorney

Pro Bono Program



CASES NOT HANDLED BY THE PRO BONO PROGRAM

- Emergency Cases
- Criminal and Traffic Cases
- Social Security, Unemployment, or Worker's Compensation Cases
- Any Fee-Generating Cases
- Public Benefits
- Public Housing
- Alimony/Child Support/Visitation (if not part of custody/divorce proceedings)
- Appeals
- Post-Decree Motions (orders, enforcement, or modification proceedings of any kind)

Pro Bono Program



In-person Free legal advice on a walk-in basis

- **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center
Gaithersburg Library 2nd floor**
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
 - Sign in: 6:00pm-6:30pm
- **TESS Community Action Center**
 - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
 - Sign in: 6:00pm-6:30pm
- **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center - Wheaton**
 - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month
 - Sign in: 6:00pm-6:00pm

Pro Bono Program



What to do if I need an attorney to represent me for free?

Call the Pro Bono Program at **(301) 424-7651** between the hours of **9:00 am - 3:00pm** Monday - Thursday for an initial eligibility screening. (Please note that walk-ins are not accepted)

Every effort will be made to place your case with an attorney; however, we do not guarantee placement.

Will I get an attorney to represent me immediately?

No. The Pro Bono Program depends on volunteers, so it may take several weeks to find an attorney available to represent you. For this reason, **the Program cannot assist people who have emergency cases.**

Thank you!



Legal Services offered at Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of Washington DC



Catholic Charities
Newcomer Network

Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.



**Celia
Rivas**

- Immigrant Services Coordinator
- Catholic Charities
 - Law Degree from Pontifical Catholic University of Peru 1986
 - Masters in Law Degree from Howard University in 1993
- Joined CCADW in 1991
- Serves as an advisor to officials in the Greater DC area concerned with impact of policies on immigrant community

Celia.Rivas@cc-dc.org

Immigration Legal Services

- Part of our Newcomer Network

Provides professional immigration legal services to *low-income foreign-born individuals and their families* needing assistance with matters before **US Citizenship & Immigration Services** and the **Immigration Courts**- *without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, nationality or any other protected status legally recognized.*

ILS has represented individuals from more than 135 countries around the world needing legal assistance with an immigration matter.



NEWCOMER INTAKE CALL CENTER

To schedule a virtual legal consultation

- **CONSULTATION FEE: \$85, please use our online portal at:**
<https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/ils-schedule-a-legal-consultation/>

Or call the intake line for immigration
legal services and/or information & referrals:

240-858-0958

- **Mondays 1pm - 5pm**
- **Wednesday 3pm-7pm**
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am – 1pm**



Required Documentation



Please have with you at your appointment time:

- ***ALL documentation regarding your current immigration status, including your A number if you have one***
- **Prior immigration history**
- **Relevant criminal history**
- **Any other documents related to your case**

Program Fees



- **We charge \$85 for consultations.** There is limited financial assistance available for those who qualify, with documentation of your household income and/or financial situation.
- We have a special limited grant that allows us to *waive the consultation fee and most legal services fees for naturalization cases for Maryland and D.C. residents.*
- ****RECEIVING A CONSULTATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE REPRESENTATION. IF OUR PROGRAM IS ABLE TO REPRESENT YOU THERE ARE SEPARATE LEGAL COSTS FOR EACH MATTER REQUIRING REPRESENTATION.****

Program Contact Information

If you are a current client, please call your legal representative directly.

If you are a current client and do not know who your representative is, please call our intake line at **240-858-0958** and leave your name and contact number. We will have your legal representative follow up with you directly.



Immigration Services Available



- **Naturalization (citizenship)**
- **Family-based permanent residence (green cards)**
- **Consular Processing**
- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**
- **Self-petitions for battered spouses and children**
- **U visas (survivors of crimes)**
- **T visas (survivors of human trafficking)**
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**
- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**
- **Asylum, Employment Visa Petitions, etc.**
- **Relief from removal (formerly called deportation)**

NAVIGATOR PROGRAM:

If you are a newcomer and live in **Montgomery or Prince George's County**, you may be eligible to receive case management support from a **Navigator Case Worker**. Navigators can connect you and your family with services such as:

- **Food programs**
- **Medical and dental clinics**
- **Prenatal care**
- **Job training**
- **Employment services**
- **Financial education**
- **ESL classes**
- **Legal services**

Entry into the Newcomer Network is through **Catholic Charities' Immigration Legal Services** program.



Legal Orientation Program for Sponsors of Unaccompanied Minors (LOPC) Tel: 202-465-9245



Offers **FREE LEGAL ORIENTATION SESSIONS** providing information about:

- **Responsibilities of a sponsor:** PROVIDE for, PROTECT and ENSURE that the child attends ALL his or her hearings
- **Requirements for Social Services and Schools:** Proof of Age, Identity, Residence, and Vaccinations, etc. in Maryland, DC, & Virginia
- **Immigration process:** legal options for the child
- **How to obtain legal representation:** Avoid notary fraud, seek out non-profit organizations and reputable private attorneys.

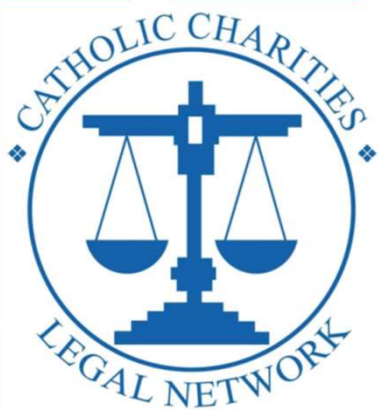
CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

Catholic Charities Legal Network provides *pro bono* legal services to those who otherwise would not have access to legal representation. It has been serving the community since September 1989 with general information, access to volunteer attorneys and law firms, as well as referrals to other appropriate legal service organizations - *without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, nationality or any other legally protected status.*



Catholic Charities Legal Network focuses on serving low-income families and individuals whose earnings are equal to or less than 200% of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Catholic Charities Legal Network offers its services to residents of the District of Columbia and surrounding Maryland counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

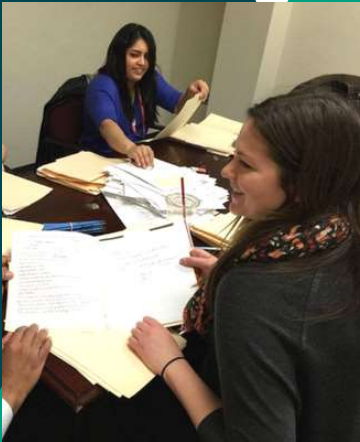


Civil law subject areas this program addresses are:

- **Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy**
- **Employment**
- **Family Law (including Child Custody and Domestic Violence)**
- **Landlord-Tenant/Housing Issues**
- **Public Benefits (Social Security, Disability)**
- **Estate Planning: Will Drafting, Advanced Healthcare Directives and Power of Attorney**

****The Legal Network does NOT handle Criminal, Fee-Generating or Immigration Cases.***

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK INTAKE & COSTS



- An appointment is required. To schedule, please call our:
INTAKE HOTLINE at (202) 350-4305.
- **Mon.-Fri.: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM & 2:00-4:30 PM**
- **Also Wed. & Thurs.: 4:30 PM-7:00 PM**
- James Cardinal Hickey Center at 924 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. (between 9th and 10th Streets).
- The Legal Network places eligible cases with volunteer attorneys on a *pro bono* (free) basis. The client may be responsible for court fees, such as deposition fees, or other related expenses.
- The costs depend on the nature of the case and will be explained to the client when the case is placed with a volunteer attorney.

Public and Private Collaboration



Immigration Legal Services

The generous support of Maryland Legal Services Corporation, Montgomery County, MD, and individual and law firm donors enables our Immigration Legal team to continue to offer in-depth comprehensive services to our clients.

Catholic Charities Legal Network

The generous support of the DC Bar Foundation and individual, corporate and law firm donors enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to our clients.



Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.