

The AIDS Law Project's Back-to-Work Initiative will collaborate with job training and placement programs like ActionAIDS' Positive Action. Pictured left to right are ActionAIDS Executive Director Kevin Conare, AIDS Law Project Associate Director Larry Felzer and ActionAIDS Coordinator of Special Programs Crystal Barnett. In front, AIDS Law Project Executive Director Ronda Goldfein



Good Counsel is published seasonally by the AIDS Law Project for our friends, volunteers and colleagues committed to protecting the rights of people with HIV and AIDS. The AIDS Law Project provides free legal services to nearly 1,800 people with HIV/AIDS each year, most of whom are low-income and have nowhere else to turn for help. We help people navigate the legal system, the welfare system, the housing system and the worlds of public and private insurance. We provide education and training to thousands of professionals who work with people with AIDS.

LAW PROJECT LAUNCHES BACK-TO-WORK INITIATIVE

Five years ago, returning to work was not a possibility for most people with AIDS. New drug treatments now enable many people with AIDS to feel healthy enough to work. As more people with AIDS contemplate a return to work, they need information on entering the workforce without losing critical health coverage.

The Pew Charitable Trusts recently awarded an **\$84,000 grant** over two years to support the AIDS Law Project's expanded Back-to-Work Initiative, which provides legal advice, representation and educational seminars to help people with AIDS strategize the best way to return to work.

The program, staffed by Executive Director Ronda Goldfein and Associate Director Larry Felzer, will work collaboratively with job training and placement programs serving people with HIV/AIDS, such as **ActionAIDS' Positive Action**. Goldfein and Felzer will provide on-site seminars, legal information, advice and representation for participants in these programs. Clients who are eager to work but lack the necessary skills will be referred to these job readiness programs.

Goldfein and Felzer will train AIDS case managers and others to help clients adhere to Social Security rules to ensure a

(concluded on last page)



NEWSLETTER OF THE
AIDS LAW PROJECT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Board of Directors

David Acosta, *President*
Sandra L. Thompson, *Vice President*
W.J. Freshwater, CPA, *Treasurer*
Bruce Flannery, *Secretary*

Daniel J. Anders, Esq.
Keith Burress
James Dean, MD
Allen Howell
Frank M. McClellan, Esq.
W. Gillies McKenna, MD
Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.
Alan Morrison, MD
Kevin Pleasant
Pat Stewart, ACSW, LSW

Ronda Goldfein, Esq.
Executive Director

Staff

Maria Alvarez
Toni Anastasia
Lakeya Chambers
Rodney Cunningham, Esq.
Lawrence Felzer, Esq.
Yolanda French Lollis, Esq.
Linda Hee, Esq.
Tim Rowe
Marianela Morrell
Sue Scotese
Carolyn Silver, Esq.
-Elisabeth Stuveras, JD

Martha McDonald, *Editor*

Laz Manou, *Designer*

1211 CHESTNUT STREET
SUITE 1200
PHILADELPHIA PA 19107
TEL 215.587.9377
FAX 215.587.9902

*This newsletter is lovingly dedicated
to the memory of AIDS Law Project
Board Members Michael Greenberg and
Jonathan Lax, Intake Advocate
Arnold Jackson and VISTA Volunteers
Gary Bailey and David Bertugli.*

*If you know someone who would like to
receive a copy or need to let us know of an
address change, please call Martha
McDonald, editor, at 215.587-9377.*

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During my eight years at the AIDS Law Project, I have witnessed a huge transformation in the AIDS epidemic.

In this country, AIDS initially affected gay white men. It is now devastating African-Americans, Latinos, women and children. Medical treatment guidelines, which once endorsed the use of HIV drugs early and often, now recommend delaying medication until absolutely necessary. Where the treatment goal was once eradicating HIV, people with AIDS are learning to manage it as a chronic illness.

As a result of these changes, our clients' legal needs have also changed. Eight years ago, our clients were focused on planning for death. Today, they are planning for their futures. Before, they were concerned with shifting from work to disability. Now, in the era of protease inhibitors and combination therapy, we are advising people who once thought their lives were ending on how to return to work. For many people, work brings not just income and security but a more normalized way of life. Still, fears about jeopardizing their disability income and health insurance coverage prevent many people with AIDS from trying to work.

As our cover story details, we've just launched an initiative to let disabled people know how to work without losing public benefits. Through our advice and representation, we hope to give people with AIDS the confidence to overcome those fears and return to work.

Many people with AIDS, who were understandably preoccupied with immediate needs and not their financial future, now face tremendous debt. In response, we recently hired Linda Hee, our first lawyer with bankruptcy experience. To help clients move forward with their lives, Linda assists them in filing for bankruptcy, arranging payment plans or simply notifying creditors of an inability to repay a debt.

Here at the AIDS Law Project, we are committed to listening to and learning from people with AIDS, their case managers, their health care providers, their families and their friends. Through this open dialogue, we can respond with programs that meet the ever-evolving needs presented by this epidemic.

—Ronda Goldfein



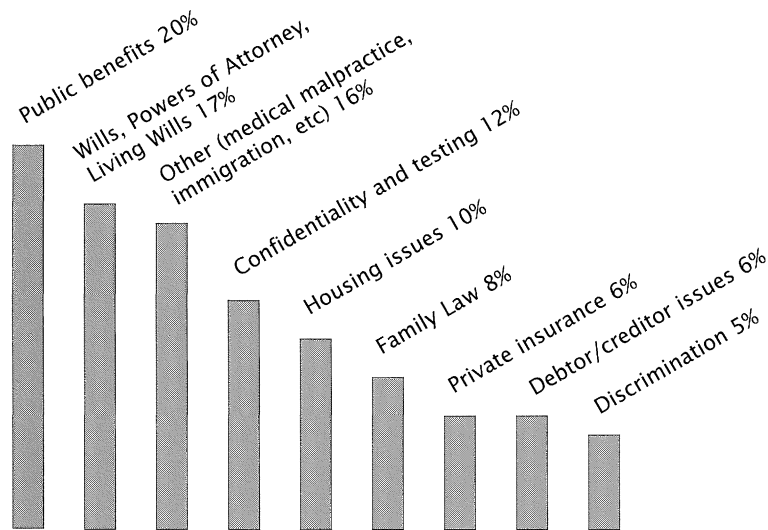
Independence Foundation Challenge Grant Continues!

Last Fall, Independence Foundation renewed its challenge grant to the AIDS Law Project, challenging us to raise \$25,000 in new money over the next year, which they will match dollar for dollar. This will bring in \$50,000 in new money to help the AIDS Law Project fight for the rights of people with HIV and AIDS.

*We need your help to reach our goal of \$25,000 by September 15!
Please make a gift in the enclosed envelope. Every new dollar
you donate will be matched—doubling your gift!*

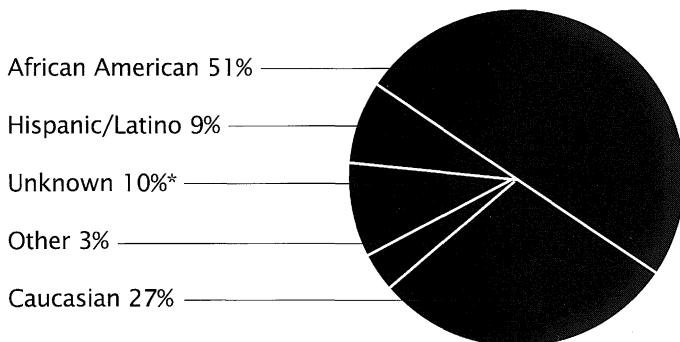
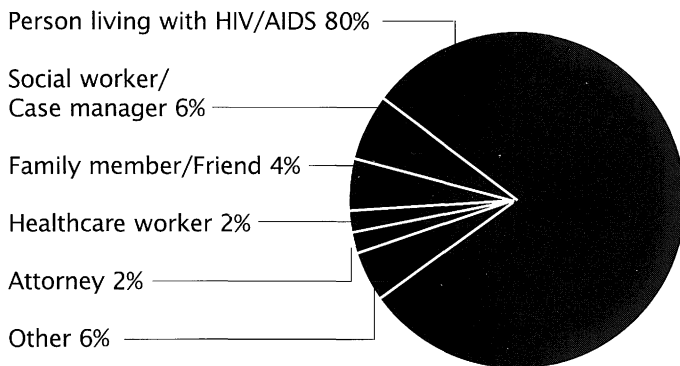
LEGAL SERVICES — 2000

(Many clients receive more than one kind of legal service)



TOTAL REQUESTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE — 1,731

CLIENT PROFILES



*includes clients who contact us by mail



Thanks! TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS

AIDS Fund
 Abbott Laboratories
 Agouron Pharmaceuticals
 Arcadia Foundation
 City of Philadelphia, Department of Health,
 AIDS Activities Coordinating Office
 The Claneil Foundation
 Douty Foundation
 DuPont Pharmaceuticals
 Samuel S. Fels Fund
 Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
 Estate of Charlotte I. Harrison
 Allen Hilles Fund
 Independence Foundation
 Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust
 Account Board
 Philadelphia Bar Foundation
 Philadelphia Foundation
 Caroline Saunders Trust No. 2
 The Pew Charitable Trusts
 The Philadelphia AIDS Consortium
 William Penn Foundation
 Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS NEEDED

to advise and represent
 the growing number
 of people with HIV/AIDS
 who call the AIDS Law
 Project for help.
 For more information,
 call Larry Felzer at
 215.587.9377

Gifts of \$1,000 or more

James Bryson
 Avi and Judith Eden
 Frances Reiner Lax
 Mark M. Maslack
 William G. McKenna and
 Ruth Muschel
 Rotko Family Foundation

Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Daniel Anders
 Michael A. Bloom
 James Bloomer
 Ed Ciolko
 Aretha Delight-Davis
 Eric J. Fischer
 Jan P. Levine
 Frank M. McClellan
 Martha McDonald
 Bill McNett and Chris Mallios
 Donald M. Millinger
 Joseph O'Donnell
 James E. O'Neill III
 Jay Ochroch
 Scott Small
 Mary Gardys Van Den Berg-Wolf
 and Hans B. Van Den Berg

Gifts of \$250 to \$499

Margaret Barnes
 Charlotte Ann Bliss
 Mary S. Brinker
 Frank L. Drummond
 Peter C. Erichsen
 Linda Garfield
 Daniel Grankee
 Del Guilfooy
 Laura and Marc McKenna
 Kathleen and Barry Nazar
 Philadelphia High School for
 Creative and Performing Arts
 David J. Rudzenski
 Harris J. Sklar
 Scott Wagner

Gifts of \$100 to \$249

David Acosta
 Jennifer Aldrich
 Sara Allen
 Atwater Kent Foundation
 James and Karen Bailey
 Catherine Balsley
 Rebecca A. Baranowski
 Richard L. Berkman
 Gladys and Marshall Bernstein
 Craig R. Blackman
 Margo Bloom and Mark Segal
 Ed Bomba
 Ben Burenstein and
 Eva Gladstein
 Lawrence and
 Barbara Caniglia
 Andrew Chirls
 Leon Chubin
 Roger Cobb
 James Cowden
 Charlene D'Amore
 Mark A. Davis
 Daniel Dex
 Richard M. Dunlevy
 William and Anne Ewing
 Joseph W. and Jacquelyn Fanelle

... AND TO OUR CHALLENGE GRANT DONORS

Daniel Farrington
 David M. Fedor
 Doris and Lionel Felzer
 Herbert Felzer
 Susan Felzer
 Nan Feyler and Lisa Shulock
 Robert F. Firestone
 Bruce Flannery
 Lawrence Evan Frankel
 Gloria M. Gilman
 Darlene Goines
 June Goldfein
 Alexis Gonzalez
 Mrs Claire Greenberg
 Ron Greenblatt
 Sean Halpin
 Stephen P. and Jeri Hauptman
 Bill Heinzen
 Scott Higgins
 Amy Hirsch and
 Jessica Robbins
 Robert Holmes
 Glenn Holsten and
 Peter Dobin
 Chris Huhn
 Peter Huthwaite
 J. Dennis Hyde
 Steven Jacobson
 Peter M. and Linda Jucovy
 Beth Medoway Kagan
 and David Kagan
 Stephen Kanovsky
 Marian A. Kornilowicz
 Alan and Pamela Kosansky
 Kevin Kotch
 Donald and Vicki Kramer
 Jeffrey M. Lindy
 Kent Lollis
 Marvin Lundy
 Cletus P. Lyman
 Rob Roy MacGregor
 Frank Hoffman and
 Mark Smith
 Leslie A. Miller
 Rosette Narkunski
 Douglas Nightengale
 Julie Pangelinan
 Steve M. Peura
 Gerald Power
 Bonnie Rabinowitch
 Abraham C. Reich
 Robert Ross
 Michael J. Rutkowski and
 Timothy Harper
 Barry Schonwetter
 Jay Segal
 Craig Shields
 Samuel W. Silver
 Susan B. Spencer
 Pat Stewart
 J. Stephen Stines
 Mark A. Taylor
 Ellen Tedaldi
 Elizabeth T. Trego
 Robert J. Upton
 Deborah Weinstein and
 Dick Goldberg
 Marcia White and Mary Kelley
 Ron Wilson
 Heshie Zinman

Gifts of \$50 to \$99

David F. Abernethy
 Gary Bell
 Mark Benko
 William Brown III
 Randi Carr
 Frank Cervone and
 Judith Algeo
 Lenora Chapman
 Howard Childs
 Katherine R. Conlon
 Mr and Mrs Ajay J. Creshkoff
 Joseph and Kathy Davidson
 John and Regina Dean
 Janet Dreher
 David Drum and Curtis Key
 Sharon B. Eckstein and
 Lawrence Indik
 Carmen Febo-San Miguel
 Stanton and Stephanie Felzer
 Immy and Phillip Ferrara Sr
 Martha Feyler
 Pamela French and
 Evelyn Kratz
 Andrew Garvin
 Sandra Goldberg
 Jeffrey B. Goldman
 Jodie Green
 Peggy Greenfield
 Mary Harris
 Barbara Hee
 Sophia Janney
 Michael E. Kachur
 David Kairys and
 Antje Matthews
 Larry Kashi
 Eugene Klotz and
 Carole Netter
 Larry Kovnat
 Pam Lethbridge
 Valerie and Ron Levenberg
 Helene and Herb Levine
 Gregory Liacouras
 Arthur P. Liebersohn
 John P. Lollis
 Jeffrey Lonoff
 Rosalind D. Lovett
 Andrea Felzer Marmon
 William and Lynne Matles
 Carl Minster and
 David Facciolo
 Minie Murphy
 Madeleine Niewodowski
 and Robert Balmer
 Judith Palmer
 Nancy M. Park
 Barry D. Parsons
 Michael David Patterson
 Dr and Mrs Stanley Plotkin
 Melissa B. Rasman
 M. A. Ricksecker
 Len Rieser
 Edgar and Sylvia Rosenthal
 Joseph and Antoinette Ruzic
 Phyllis Schnell
 Jill Schwartz
 Denis Shields
 Kim Silverman and
 Leigh Braden
 Winnie Smart-Mapp
 Francis and Joan Smith

Walter Tsou
 H. M. Tucker
 Judy A. Turetsky and
 F. Scott Beadenkopf
 Sallie I. Winters
 Chuck Wogan

Gifts of \$49 or less

Conda Abbott
 Debra Aisenstein
 Bernard Appelbaum
 Gary Baker
 Charlotte Bant
 Becca Bernstein
 Judith Bernstein-Baker
 Jose Boscan
 Amelia H. Boss
 Andrea Broad
 Jeff Burak
 Scott Burris
 Ann Butchart
 Marvin Cardonick
 Fernando Chang-Muy
 Morris and Lillian Cherrey
 Jason Cohen
 Shirley Collier-Warner
 Rosemary Connors
 Victor Corcino
 Frederic Cunningham
 Lori Mossberg Curtis
 Kevin Davies
 Clark Dingman
 Aurelia Douglas
 Mary Anne Eidmann
 Nancy Feld and Ned Heltzer
 Ellen Fischer
 Linda Fossi
 Donald Friedman
 Henry Garfield
 Linda Gerson
 William L. Glosser
 Amanda Goff
 Theodore Gutowicz Sr
 Ralph W. Hackett
 Anthony Harris
 James Hatton and
 Ruth Woudenberg
 Ron Hauser
 Sheila Henry
 Peter Iacovini and
 Frank Powell
 Leigh Ann Jerner
 Dennis Johnston
 James F. Kelly
 Allan Klein
 Linda Kligman
 Gina M. Krowka
 Ira J. Lefton
 Susan and Paul Lerman
 Linda Levin
 Michael Lombardi
 Murtis Lyghts-June
 Ken Lynn
 Martha Masseaux
 Ron Maurais
 David Mayberry
 C. Todd and Julie McVoy
 Donald N. Meyers
 John Morrison Jr
 Tara Newman

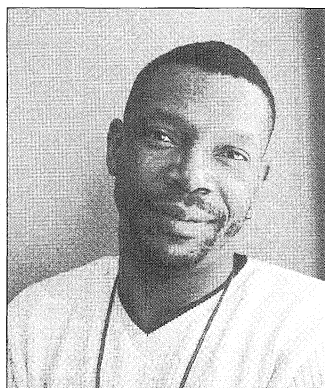
Regina Niewodowski and
 Rob Doncourt
 Theresa Niewodowski
 Crystal Oliver
 Sue Osthoff
 Peter Padilla
 Maria Pajil Battle
 C. Olivia Parr Rud
 Charles Pennachio
 Joanna Pennypacker
 David Perry
 Judith and Gerald Porter
 Lori Reddy-Martin
 Peter Reitsma
 Helen Resnick
 Robert Rohde
 Tiffany Rooks
 Preston Rosenberg
 Cindy Rosenthal and
 Art Read
 Scott Rubinsky
 Fred Rutenberg
 Karlova Sambour
 Dave Scheller
 Peter D. Schneider and
 Susan DeJarnatt
 Eric and Julie Schwartz
 Randi G. Shayne
 Robert Shipley
 Randi Siegel
 Thurman Simmons
 Leonard N. Sosnov and
 Robin Forrest
 Carole Spease
 Janet Stotland
 Robert F. Sutton
 Sandra L. Thompson
 Jeffrey Whitt
 Ann Williams
 Joseph and Geraldine
 Wodock
 Emily and Michael Wolf
 Lynn Zetlin
 Michael Zuckerman

*Gifts received
 September 16, 2000
 to March 8, 2001*

Welcome New Board Members . . .



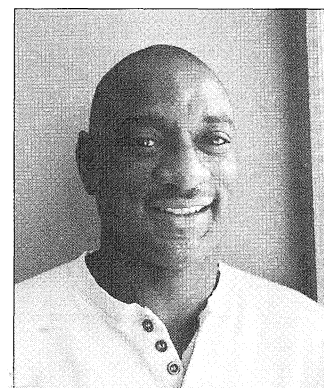
Daniel J. Anders, Esq., is an associate in the Philadelphia office of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Dan has worked for several years as a *pro bono* attorney for AIDS Law Project clients. He also serves as the local chair for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gays and a board member of OutFront.



Allen Howell has worked as a case manager assistant at the Jonathan Lax Treatment Center, a health clinic for people with HIV/AIDS run by Philadelphia FIGHT, since the clinic opened three years ago. Prior to that, Allen was a peer educator with Project TEACH. Allen has received legal assistance from the AIDS Law Project and refers many of his clients for legal help. He brings a unique perspective to the board and is looking forward to "stepping up to the plate for people with AIDS."



Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq. is a Custody and Support Master, Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division. Prior to becoming a Master, Cathy directed the AIDS Law Project's Family Program for five years, playing a critical role in the successful passage of Pennsylvania's Standby Guardianship Law. She is board president of Custody and Support Assistance Clinic, a student-run family clinic that she helped found. She is also the proud mother of four-month-old Elijah.



Kevin Pleasant works as office manager for Philadelphia FIGHT, which provides HIV/AIDS case management, clinical treatment, peer education and prevention outreach. Kevin was the original outreach coordinator for FIGHT's peer educator program, Project TEACH. As an HIV-positive peer educator and client of the AIDS Law Project, he brings ten years' experience advocating for the needs of people with HIV/AIDS.



Special thanks to members of the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts' AIDS Awareness Committee who raised funds for the AIDS Law Project during their "Day Without Art" event in December 2000. The committee handed out AIDS awareness information and red ribbons outside their lunchroom. They also hung large sheets of paper on the wall and invited students to write messages and draw pictures in memory of friends and family members they had lost to AIDS. Pictured with the committee is Guidance Counselor Dr. Linda Garfield (far right).

The AIDS Law Project extends its warmest thanks and best wishes to outgoing Board Members **Marcos Acevedo**, **Dawna Edwards** and **Jan Levine, Esq.**

and New Staff

Administrative Assistant **Sue Scotese** is the newest member of the AIDS Law Project staff. Sue brings a broad range of experience from her work with a number of non-profit organizations including data entry and data-base management with the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and donor health counseling and marketing support with the Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania. She also works part-time as a veterinary nurse at the Mt Airy Animal Hospital and cares for four cats and a dog in her Roxborough home.