



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

CHRISTIAN
LEGAL AID

"Without CLS we wouldn't be where we are today. It is because of CLS that we got started, hired first staff, did strategic planning, and grew to where we are now."

- Pete Hileman, Executive Director, Christian Legal Aid Clinics of Philadelphia

A SPECIAL LOOK: CHRISTIAN LEGAL CLINICS OF PHILADELPHIA

In 2016, Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia sent 7 staff members to the CLS National Conference to further develop their skills in aiding the Philadelphia community through Christian Legal Aid. A leader in the Christian Legal Aid community, Philadelphia Executive Director Pete Hileman was recipient of the John Robb Award for leadership in 2016. Today, CLCP is the fastest growing Christian legal aid program in the country, having just opened its 10th clinic location in Spring 2017. CLS is grateful for CLCP's service to the needy in Philadelphia and the example it sets for the national CLA community.



A MESSAGE FROM



CHRISTIAN LEGAL CLINICS OF
PHILADELPHIA

Our goal for this year is to go deeper. Deeper with clients, deeper with our volunteers, and deeper in our own faith. We want to do a better job in all areas to improve the clinic experience and in the cases we handle. We want to advocate for more people who are in real need of help and hope. We want to make a lasting difference in their lives, like we are doing with John, a man who made some bad decisions and needed help to make things right.

John introduced himself to me after church last month. He had heard about our legal clinic from his pastor. John expressed his need for legal help so we set an appointment for him at our Hunting Park clinic. During his consultation, I learned that his parents had passed away and he was living alone in their row house which is directly across the street from the church. Real estate taxes on the house were unpaid and the city had petitioned to sell the property at a tax sale. Without intervention, that would have happened on March 30 and John would have been homeless. I filed an answer to the petition, applied for an owner occupant agreement, and went with him to the hearing. We succeeded in postponing the sale.

I've enjoyed getting to know John and being part of his rehabilitation. He told me he used to be a derelict, was homeless, and a drug addict. "I was good for nothing" he said. "But now, in Christ, he can make something out of nothing." We have been redeemed and it gives us great joy to help clients like John. He needs to find a job. We will be able to expunge much of his criminal record and he has already begun making reasonable payments toward the back taxes.



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