

# 2017

## A Year of Accomplishments

Annual Report



disABILITY LAW CENTER   
OF VIRGINIA  
Protection & Advocacy for Virginians with Disabilities

1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23230

Toll Free (800) 552-3962 | Website [www.dLCV.org](http://www.dLCV.org) |   @disAbilityLawVA

# ABOUT

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We help clients with disability-related problems like abuse, neglect, and discrimination. We work with individuals who are living in institutions and in the community. We provide legal services and direct representation as resources allow. We provide everyone who contacts us with some basic information and tools, when possible.

## Our Mission & Vision

Our mission is to advance independence, choice and self-determination; protect legal, human and civil rights; and eliminate abuse, neglect and discrimination of people with disabilities through zealous and uncompromising legal advocacy and representation.

dLCV's vision is a Commonwealth free of legal barriers for individuals with disabilities.

---

**WE'RE A PASSIONATE  
ORGANIZATION FILLED  
WITH PASSIONATE  
INDIVIDUALS**

# LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors

Angela Thanyachareon, President  
Stephen Dawe, Vice President  
Thomas Walk, Treasurer  
Michael Toobin, Secretary  
Jacqueline Eubanks, PAIMI Chair  
Harry Gewanter, MD  
Donna L. Gilles, Ed.D  
Jefferson Harding  
Maureen Hollowell  
Carrie Knopf  
CW Tillman  
Colleen Miller, Ex Officio

## PAIMI Advisory Council

Jacqueline Eubanks, Chair  
Christine Winner, Vice-Chair  
Collin Connelly, Secretary  
Frank Carrillo  
Kathy Carrillo  
Deborah Dudack-May  
Pamela Durham  
Caroline Gendelman  
Steve Hornstein  
Amanda Long  
Bonnie Neighbour  
Brian Parris  
Jennifer Spangler  
Tara Wood

## Foundation Board of Directors

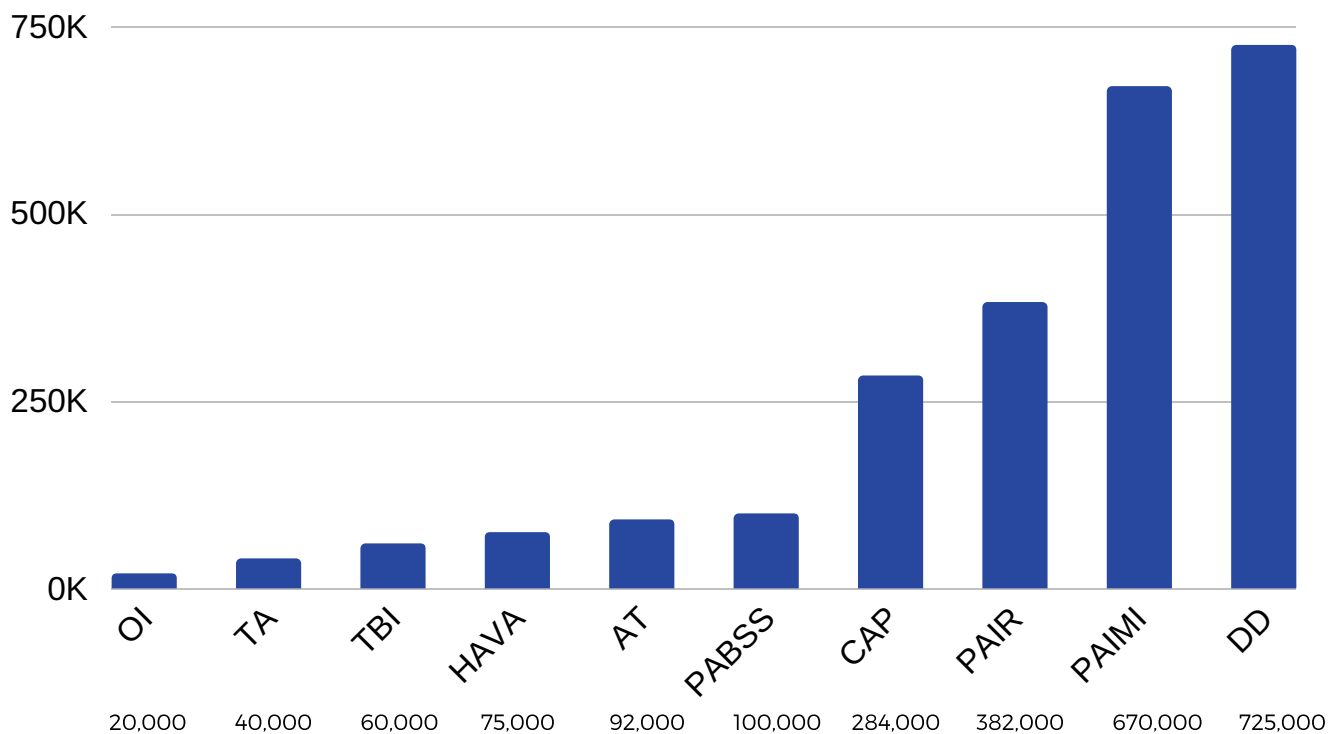
Stephen C. Piepgrass, Esq.,  
President  
Lauren Fisher White, Vice  
President  
J. Cory Hoffer, Treasurer  
Stacy Ruble, Secretary  
Sean Bamman  
Lizzie Drucker-Basch  
Harry Gewanter, MD  
Darrel Tillar Mason, Esq.  
Katherine Matthews, Ph.D.  
Steve Peterson  
Todd Ratner  
Rosemary Seltzer  
Stephen Dawe, Ex Officio  
Colleen Miller, Ex Officio

## FIGHTING ABUSE AND NEGLECT

During a routine monitoring visit to one of Virginia's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Juvenile Correction Centers (JCCs), dLCV met Brian, a young man abruptly taken off his medications for his mental health needs. When dLCV investigated, we found that Brian's meds were ceased as the psychiatrist had no record of the previous medications and was unconcerned about how this may impact Brian's functioning, remarking that he was "doing fine." Working with Brian and his family, dLCV educated JCC administrative staff on their responsibilities to residents concerning medication management. Brian is now seeing the JCC psychiatrist monthly for medication management. **At the client closure meeting, Brian remarked his thanks to dLCV and stated, "All it took was one call from you."**

# Annual Program Funding

<b>Developmental Disabilities:</b>	\$725,000 (30%)
<b>Mental Illness in Facilities:</b>	\$670,000 (27%)
<b>Individual Rights:</b>	\$382,000 (16%)
<b>Vocational Rehabilitation:</b>	\$284,000 (12%)
<b>Return to Work:</b>	\$100,000 (4%)
<b>Assistive Technology:</b>	\$92,000 (4%)
<b>Voting Rights:</b>	\$75,000 (3%)
<b>Traumatic Brain Injury:</b>	\$60,000 (2%)
<b>Transportation Access:</b>	\$40,000 (2%)
<b>Other Income:</b>	\$20,000 (1%)



## Outcomes By Numbers

- Total number of individuals served during FY 17: **14,827**
- Total number of individuals that received services: **548**
- People receiving information & referral services: **1,734**
- Cases in litigation: **10**
- People potentially benefiting from litigation: **453**
- People potentially benefiting from other systemic advocacy: **122,173**
- Abuse and neglect investigations: **52**
- Number of trainings/education activities presented by staff: **208**
- People trained/number of people benefiting: **8,765**
- Office Hours performed: **24 sessions at 8 locations.**
- Number of people benefiting from office hours: **54**
- Visits to dLCV's website: **65,663**





PHOTO: (KENA BETANCUR / AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

## PROVIDING TOOLS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION



**Voting Rights**

Lola takes her right to vote as a responsibility. She has cerebral palsy and needs special equipment to cast her ballot independently. Unfortunately, no one at her polling site had training to use the technology during the presidential election and she had to make a complaint to the electoral board. Believing the problem had been resolved, Lola went to vote in the primary. She again found staff unknowledgeable about the equipment and called dLCV for help.

In a combination of self-advocacy and work by dLCV, the electoral board fired the staff person causing the problem and agreed to train all of their poll workers on the proper ways to accommodate voters with disabilities.

**Lola is pleased with this outcome and proud she'll now be able to do her civic duty independently.**



## WORKING & DRIVING

Sherry had a strong desire to work but didn't have a driver's license. Because of her disability, she also needed supported employment assistance to find the right job for her. Sherry reached out to dLCV to request assistance getting the right services from the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). With a dLCV advocate by her side, Sherry was able to complete an Individualized Plan for Employment that ensured post-secondary training as well as private transportation until she completed driving school. **Now Sherry can drive herself to her new job!**

## COMING HOME

Can you imagine your 10 year old living in a nursing home? Seth had been living in a facility for several years because his family did not have access to the Assistive Technology (AT) that he needed to communicate. His parents reached out to dLCV to see if there were any last legal options. Working with a dLCV advocate, Seth applied for a Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus Medicaid Waiver to provide funding for his family to get the necessary AT equipment at home. **After a few short months, Seth was released from the facility just in time for Christmas and now lives at home with his family.** Seth learned from dLCV that he can be an advocate for himself.





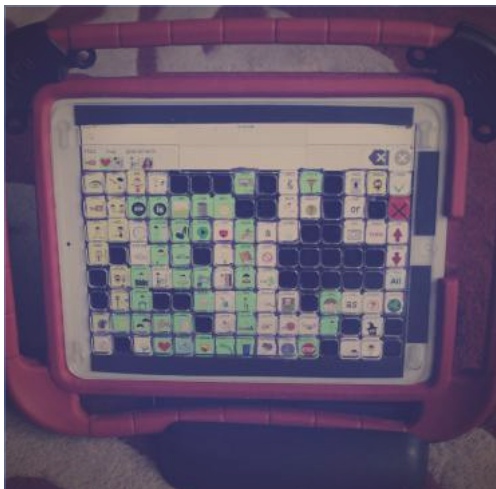
# PROTECTING YOUTH



John's mother, Sandy, called dLVCV in desperation after fighting with his school about his IEP plan, "**I just want my son to read.**" John is legally blind and needs braille. dLVCV's advocate collaborated with the National Federation for the blind to get John 100 minutes of braille instruction a week, train him in touch typing, and offer Extended School Year services. dLVCV even negotiated training for his mom to learn Braille. **After the meeting, Sandy said, "I couldn't have asked for anything more."**



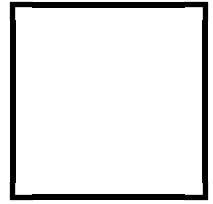
Nico was really struggling - he was two to three years behind grade level and not getting much help from the school. He has multiple processing disabilities, including dyslexia and dysgraphia, but his education plan did not address these problems. We worked with Nico and his parents to go to formal mediation with the school district. **After intense negotiations, the school finally agreed to provide the necessary reading supports, plus extra instruction as the new school began. Nico is on his way!**



Rudy is a 16 year old, non-verbal student who struggled to communicate at school without any Assistive Technology (AT). dLVCV successfully advocated for the school to evaluate Rudy's AT needs. The school provided Rudy with an iPad to use at home and school, so that he can practice communicating in a variety of settings.

**Rudy's iPad has given him a voice.** Rudy uses his iPad to self-advocate at school transition meetings, which has resulted in a plan that encompasses Rudy's wishes and desires.

1512 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 100  
Richmond, VA 23230



TO

---

---

---

www.dlc.v.org • info@dlc.v.org  
Toll Free (800) 552-3962 • (804) 225-2042



CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

# LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia Foundation invites you to  
celebrate the 5th annual Liberty and Justice for ALL Gala.

Friday, April 13, 2018 • Hippodrome Theater • Richmond, VA  
For Tickets, visit [www.dlc.vfoundation.org](http://www.dlc.vfoundation.org).