

FISCAL YEAR 2016

TIME FOR JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT

TIMEX

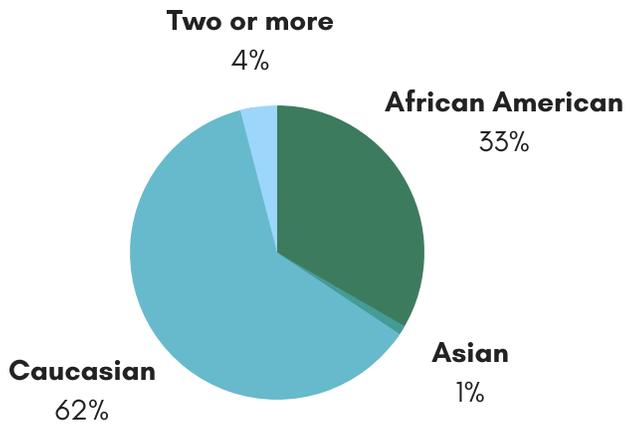
disABILITY LAW CENTER
OF VIRGINIA



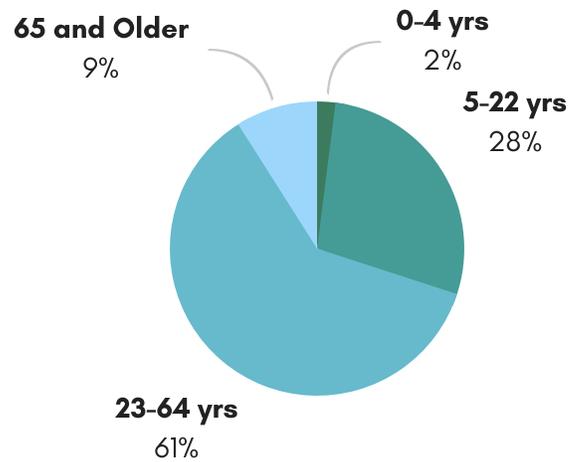
Protection & Advocacy for Virginians with Disabilities

QUARTZ

CLIENT DIVERSITY BY ETHNICITY



CLIENT DIVERSITY BY AGE



2016

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

Total number of individuals served during FY 16: **13,102**

Total number of individuals that received services: **683**

People receiving information & referral services: **1,979**

Cases in litigation: **14**

People potentially benefiting from litigation: **127**

People potentially benefiting from other systemic advocacy: **66,472**

Abuse and neglect investigations: **78**

Number of trainings/education activities presented by staff: **215**

People trained/number of people benefiting: **10,440**

Office Hours performed: **21 sessions at 7 locations.**

Number of people benefiting from office hours: **25**

Visits to dLCV's website: **71,059**

100%

client satisfaction rate

from the number of individuals who completed our survey.

13,102

individuals served

during our fiscal year.



HOURS THAT COUNT

During 2016, we launched our volunteer program to broaden and strengthen our advocacy footprint by leveraging volunteers and their community networks throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. dLCV trained thirty-two volunteers. **Our volunteers contributed over 160 hours of their time towards ensuring the rights of Virginians with disabilities.**

Our volunteers supported: committee work, attended community education outreach events, surveyed post offices, surveyed polling places; and collected data for community resources for transition age youth.

dLCV looks forward to having volunteers provide assistance in as many areas as possible! If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer for dLCV, please fill out dLCV's volunteer application which can be found on our website home page at www.dlcv.org.



WAITING FOR HELP

A longstanding auto and helicopter mechanic went in for routine carpal and cubital tunnel surgery on his dominant arm and came out nerve damaged permanently precluding his return to work. The doctors took no responsibility.

He turned to the Social Security Administration for financial relief and health insurance and waited two full years for a decision. With representation by the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, **he was finally approved! He received over \$20,000 in retroactive pay as well as a \$1,700 monthly benefit and Medicare coverage.**

During this protracted wait the client lost his home (and health insurance) and lived in the woods for 6 months until his benefit came through. Now he has his own home!

Everyone wants to vote, including people with disabilities. In 2016, dLCV staff randomly selected 202 polling places in 31 jurisdictions across the Commonwealth. We assessed whether each location was accessible.

SURPRISINGLY, SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO VOTING WERE IDENTIFIED IN 49 OF THE 202 POLLING PLACES SURVEYED, THAT IS APPROXIMATELY 24%.

Following our survey work, dLCV provided a comprehensive report to the State Board of Elections (SBE). The State Board of Elections ultimately agreed to seek regulations granting dLCV access to monitor polling locations in the future.



dLCV investigated a complaint about the abusive use of restraints at CCCA. A fourteen-year-old male resident of CCCA was injured during physical restraint and use of the emergency restraint chair. In fact, his arm was fractured. dLCV launched an investigation, as authorized by federal law, into the circumstances surrounding the treatment of children at CCCA.

THE USE OF RESTRAINT IS A TREATMENT FAILURE, NOT A BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION, AND HAS NO THERAPEUTIC BENEFIT.

As a result of dLCV investigation and advocacy, the facility improved oversight and made systems changes on numerous levels. The full report is available at: <http://dlcv.org/ourwork/treatment-failures-at-cca/>.

Accessing Accommodations

"We are pleased to report that our client successfully passed the bar exam!"

dLCV filed in the Federal Court for the Eastern District of Virginia for an injunction against the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners (VBBE) to require that our client be provided accommodations on the Virginia Bar Exam.

The parties then agreed that a Virginia clinician would administer a test approved by VBBE, and the Virginia clinician, not the VBBE, would determine whether accommodations would be provided.



The clinician found the accommodation of 150% time allowance for the essay portion of the exam, which is all the Plaintiff requested, was necessary, and the accommodations were provided. Our client received the accommodations in time for the July bar exam, and she passed!

VBBE further agreed to accept dLCV's input on accommodation standards for future bar exams.

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In 2016, we launched an effort to ensure that the United States Postal Service (USPS) offices in Virginia were fully accessible for people with disabilities under the Architectural Barriers Act. We surveyed 123 USPS locations to assess existing barriers to accessibility in general categories where barriers typically prevent access: Parking; Path from parking to entrance, ramps, entrance, and counter and service area. **Nearly three-quarters of the USPS locations dLCV surveyed presented some barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities.**

“ 73% of the surveyed locations presented some barrier to accessibility. ”



I/DD Self-Advocacy and Complaint Portal

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia is committed to helping protect the rights of individuals with disabilities. Many Virginians are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and a mental health condition. Some are at risk of institutionalization or are inappropriately institutionalized due to a lack of necessary supports in the community. Has this happened to you? Let us give a platform to you and the ones you love.

Visit our Self-Advocacy Portal and let your voice be heard. Learn more about our Self-Advocacy Portal at: <http://dlcv.org/crisis>

Keys to Success: A Dorm Room for Sarah

It was the summer before Sarah's first year at college. Most girls her age were busily choosing classes, talking to their new roommates and picking items to make their dorm room a home.

The school Sarah would be attending in the fall promised her a single room because of her health conditions. When the school later broke this promise, she called dLCV in a frustrated panic. We asked Sarah if she was excited for college.

"I'm terrified," she replied, "I think I am going to be homeless."

dLCV asked them to grant the accommodation of a single room due to medical necessity. Within 30 minutes of sending our letter, Sarah was given a single room.

Sarah is currently studying assistive technology. She hopes to make assistive technology for people who have visual impairments.



"Not sure if I have thanked you today, but your response yesterday lifted a great weight from her, and she felt like someone was on her side. We both really appreciate your efforts. Having you help out also gives her motivation to keep going."

- Sarah's Mom

#IamAbleRu

**HOW
ACCESSIBLE
IS YOUR
CAMPUS?**



Let us know at info@dlcv.org

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PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF VIRGINIANS.

disAbility Law Center of Virginia

OUR ORGANIZATION

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. Due to limited resources, it is not possible for dLCV to provide legal services or direct representation to everyone who calls for assistance. However, we provide everyone who contacts us with some basic information and tools, when possible.

MISSION

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.

CONTACT US

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STRATEGIC GOALS AND FOCUS AREAS

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

01

**People with Disabilities are Free
from Abuse and Neglect**

02

**Children with Disabilities Receive
an Appropriate Education**

03

**People with Disabilities Have
Appropriate Access to
Government Services**

04

**People with Disabilities Live in the
Most Appropriate
Integrated Environment**

05

**People with Disabilities are
Employed to their
Maximum Potential**

06

**People with Disabilities have Equal
Access to Appropriate and
Necessary Healthcare**

07

**People with Disabilities increase
Self-Advocacy through
Education and Training**