

It's simple. Many people need legal care to be healthy.

MLP SUCCESS STORY

Helping a single dad pay the bills and care for his sick child

Mr. G, a single dad of an 8-year-old boy newly diagnosed with acute leukemia, was forced to resign from his full-time job in order to be with his son during a bone marrow transplant, which required a lengthy hospitalization. Mr. G's employer had denied his requests to work part-time or to take a temporary leave of absence from work so that he could care for his son during this medically critical time. Mr. G applied for unemployment insurance but his application was denied and the family was launched into a complex and stressful appeal process. A member of the oncology team contacted MLP | Boston to see if the family could get any legal support.



Myra Green

MLP | Boston tapped experienced healthcare lawyer Myra Green to represent Mr. G on a *pro bono* basis at two Division of Unemployment Assistance hearings. Thanks to Mr. G's perseverance and Ms. Green's vigorous advocacy, Mr. G's appeal was ultimately successful. He has been paid \$7,000 in retroactive UI benefits, and will receive future payments to the extent he remains eligible. This victory came just in time to bolster the family's budget as they confront another series of draining daily treatments for Mr. G's son.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

- On the heels of the outstanding *pro bono* victory described above, MLP | Boston is thrilled to welcome **Myra Green** to our program as a **2014-2015 Access to Justice Fellow!** Myra was Senior Vice President and General Counsel, DentaQuest and Health Dialog Corporation, as well as a partner at Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP. The [Access to Justice Fellows Program](#) enables experienced lawyers to partner with non-profits, legal services organizations, and the courts to enhance access to justice for under-served people in the Commonwealth. We are so grateful to the Program – and to Myra – for sharing her valuable time and talent with MLP | Boston!
- **Porsha Eden**, a Wellesley College graduate, will be interning with us over the next few months. Here, in Porsha's own words, are her goals for this internship.

"I majored in healthcare, science, and bioethics and am greatly interested in the intersection between race, class and gender and how that impacts health disparities. I strongly believe that it is critical for me to gain a legal perspective within the context of health, seeing that my future patients will have circumstances that extend beyond their visit. The knowledge I am gaining during my MLP | Boston internship will help me become a well-rounded, informed, social and culturally competent nurse-midwife."



Welcome Porsha!

MLP ON THE MOVE

- In August, we were delighted to teach a class to [Boston University School of Medicine](#) first-years on *Social Determinants of Health: What Future Physicians Need to Know*.
 - In September, we enjoyed participating in another Learning Day at the [Kraft Center for Community Health](#). Congratulations to the newest group of Kraft Fellow and Practitioners!
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MLP IN THE NEWS

- Ever heard of ECM, or "extreme case management"? We hadn't either, until we started partnering with the [BMC](#)-based [Elders Living at Home Program \(ELAHP\)](#). Check out our [Legal Director JoHanna Flacks' blog post](#) on what she's learned from this collaboration geared to stabilizing housing for low-income, medically vulnerable older adults. It was wonderful to present on this work last Friday at the [Case Management Society of New England's](#) annual conference. We look forward to co-facilitating with ELAHP a roundtable on related subjects at the 2014 [Grantmakers in Aging conference](#) later this month!
- **Samantha Morton** and **Deborah Durant** co-authored an article with **Dr. Kirsten Meisinger** of [Cambridge Health Alliance](#) in the [Boston Bar Association Health Law Reporter](#) last month. You can learn more about [Lawyering as Problem-Solving: Implications of Patient-Centered, Accountable Healthcare for the Legal Profession](#) [here](#).
- [Project DULCE](#) (Developmental and Legal Understanding for Everyone) recently was featured in an article in [The Journal of Zero to Three](#) (only available via subscription). MLP | Boston was proud to be a collaborator on this innovative intervention that, among other things, equipped a Family Specialist with new tools to help connect pediatric patient-families with [concrete support in times of need](#).

A TIMELY TIP FOR HEALTHCARE PARTNERS



Domestic Workers Bill of Rights signed into Law!

Domestic work makes it possible for seniors and people with disabilities to live with dignity at home. Domestic workers make it possible for many busy families to provide safe, reliable care for vulnerable loved ones. Many patient-families treated at our partner healthcare sites are headed by women employed as personal care attendants and nannies, but up until now they've done so with almost no labor or non-discrimination protections. Thanks to the [Massachusetts Domestic Workers Bill of Rights](#), signed by Governor Patrick in July, things have changed. [Your patients – or your patient's parents, guardians, or caregivers – may have new rights under this law.](#) Keep this in mind to the extent your patient is reporting concerns about her ability to access medical care (or maternity leave) and keep her job in a domestic work context.

Connect with us!

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MLP | Boston's mission is to anticipate, prevent, and address social determinants of health affecting vulnerable people through legal strategies. Informed by public health knowledge and interdisciplinary approaches, we tackle patients' health-harming legal risks and problems. Our services measurably improve the health and well-being of patients and reduce the incidence of health disparities.

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