



# MIDDLE GEORGIA JUSTICE

Newsletter #3

December 2019

**“In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.”**

**Albert Einstein**

## **President's Page**

All of us at Middle Georgia Justice wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We have come a long way since June 2018 when we opened our office on Third Street. 2019 has been a very good year for us. The response from the community has been most gratifying. We have seen more lawyers step up to volunteer and many folks in our community and beyond come through with financial support. In addition to our lawyer incubator program and lawyer referral service, we have just opened a much needed family law self-help center. We have other plans for 2020 as we continue to look for effective ways to reduce the justice gap in middle Georgia. So while we have come a long way so far, we still have a long way to go. Please know your support is essential to our mission.

We are also gratified to see positive results for the people we serve, whether it is navigating a tough family law dispute or dealing with a difficult landlord or resolving title to property or getting a driver's license re-instated or cleaning up a criminal history or any of a number of other ways people need legal assistance to overcome obstacles in their lives. The success stories are mounting and help keep us going. We know the need is great and the cause is right so please help us out. Our goal remains to make you proud of what we can do as a community to improve our community through increased access to justice. Please drop by our office for a tour and go to our website at [www.mgajustice.org](http://www.mgajustice.org) to become a volunteer or donor.

Thank you!

Bill Adams, President  
Middle Georgia Justice  
[bill@mgajustice.org](mailto:bill@mgajustice.org)



## Recent Success Story



Mike Horner, Executive Director of Middle Georgia Justice and Client Heather Baldwin

Ms. Heather Baldwin came to Middle Georgia Justice seeking assistance with a very difficult domestic issue. We referred her to Attorney Paula Kapiloff and Paula was very successful in getting Ms. Baldwin a divorce and full custody of her children.

Quote from Heather:

“I can never express my debt of gratitude to Middle Georgia Justice as well as my awesome lawyer, Paula Kapiloff. They have changed my life forever. With their help, I am out of a dangerous and toxic marriage and now live in a healthy, happy environment with my children. Thank you for giving me my happiness and quality of life back.”



## Welcome to Horner's Corner

This is the season to be thankful and to celebrate. And as we close out the year, here at Middle Georgia Justice we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to celebrate! I am most excited about the debut of our new Family Law Self-Help Center. It has been a dream of this organization for almost a year now to have some way to provide assistance to people with family law issues who may not need an attorney, but do need some assistance filling out the required forms. After strategizing about different places we could house a self-help center, and who we could/should partner with, we decided to just go ahead and do it.

We are starting our new Family Law Self-Help Center with two computer carrels, right here in our office, where we have put the various domestic case forms. While we are beta testing our self-help center right now, with real clients in need of assistance, we are going to go fully live in mid-January. After an initial screening interview to determine if they are an appropriate candidate for forms assistance, folks will be able to schedule a 2-hour block of time during which they can receive assistance in filling out the required court forms. After speaking with court personnel, we have learned that much of their time is spent having to address forms that have been incorrectly filled out. As such, we believe this Family Law Self-Help Center will be a gamechanger for Middle Georgia, as it will enable us to help a great many more people, and will free up the courts' time to allow them to move cases along more efficiently.

Thanks to many of the people receiving this newsletter, we are also blessed to be ending the year in a very positive financial position. We hope you were able to come to our first signature fundraising event, "A Taste For Justice," which we held in October at Society Garden. If not, you missed a great time and you will want to plan on coming next year! Not only was this event a success financially, but everyone seemed to have a great time, and given it was our first time, we felt it went about as smoothly as possible. In addition to our fundraising event, we are also thankful for the individual donations we have received and some significant grant money that we have received.

I am thankful for our Justice Brigade, the group of lawyers who have signed up as volunteers to assist the people we see! We are steadily increasing the ranks of the Justice Brigade but are always looking for new recruits. As we close out the year, check out our Facebook page where we will be periodically honoring one or more of our Justice Brigade members. We truly could not exist without them.

Finally, I am thankful for the folks I have personally seen who have benefitted from our services. When someone is able to overcome a legal obstacle that has held them back for years, it is truly a life-changing moment for them. I feel lucky every time me or Bill or one of the members of our Justice Brigade are able to resolve a case successfully.

The arrow continues to point "up" – WAY up – for this organization. Thank you, to all of you, for being a part of our success!

Mike Horner  
Executive Director



## My Journey to Middle Georgia Justice

I have had many jobs and titles in my life, Customer Service Rep, High School English Teacher, Employment Specialist and Corporate Trainer just to mention a few. Being able to help people in need is always rewarding and every job I have held, I have assisted people in one way or another. However, working at Middle Georgia Justice is profoundly different and it has changed me in ways that I could not have imagined. Compassion and empathy have always been part of my DNA but assisting the people who walk through our doors has been the most rewarding work I have done in the last 40 years of my working career.

Here is one reason why:

There have been so many clients that we have assisted but one in particular stands out. A man, who I will call John, came in and needed several issues addressed, some were legal and some were not. He was homeless and clearly needed someone to care about his plight. He also needed glasses and told me he was off of his medication. After speaking with him, I was able to assist him with getting his name off of a large electric bill that clearly was not his. He happened to be incarcerated during the time the electricity was put in his name. After a few letters to the appropriate people, along with providing evidence that he was incarcerated during the time, the electric company removed his name from the bill. I also suggested he go see a doctor and get his eyes checked because I noticed him squinting when he read. I gave him some names and numbers of some resources and hoped he would follow-through.

About four months had passed before I saw John again. I was at the Rescue Mission to drop off some donations and John was standing in front of the building. He saw me and came up to the car to say hi. I could tell that he was in much better shape and I was very happy to see that he had glasses and wasn't squinting anymore. After speaking with him for a few minutes, I could tell that he was feeling much better and seemed more relaxed. I didn't ask, but I was pretty sure he was back on his medication. It is stories like this that make me very happy to come to work every day.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of people. Everyone involved with MGJ, including the President, Board of Directors, Executive Director, Incubator Attorneys, Volunteer Attorneys, and Externs are dedicated to helping those in need. Their dedication, compassion, empathy and understanding of the difficulties our clients face are the reasons why we have been so successful so quickly.

Please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Debbie Aickelin  
Office Manager



**DONATIONS & GRANTS (01/01/2019 to Current)**

**Up to \$249**

Timothy K. Adams  
Sarah Emily Bottchen  
Bobby Braddock  
Honorable Verda M. Colvin  
K. David Cooke, Jr.  
Cooper, Barton & Cooper \*  
Honorable Bryant Culpepper  
Tomieka Daniel  
DAR - Mary Hammond  
Washington Chapter  
Shelley Davidson  
Adriana DeCastro  
Jason Downey \*  
Kim Easterling  
Jeanna Fennell  
Cara Fiore  
Lori Forbes  
Kathryn Gerhardt  
William Gifford  
John Glover, Jr.  
Neal Graham  
Virginia Hall  
Mary Beth Hand \*  
Sarah and Bill Harris  
Michelle Hendrix  
Trineice Hill  
Rebekah Hogg  
Mike Horner \*  
Frank Howard  
Jane McKenney Jordan  
Kelly Joyner  
Shandi Kennedy  
Robin Kenney-Bineau  
Brittney Kish-Lightsey  
Peter Leering  
Patrick Longan \*  
Rob & Sandra Matson  
Bianca Nawrocki  
John Newberry  
Robert C. Norman, Jr.  
Erik Pirozzi  
W. Warren Plowden \*  
Jeffrey Powers  
Albert Reichert, Jr.  
Holly & Spencer Reeves  
Lauren Rogers  
Ryan Salame  
Rachael Schell  
Nyonnohweah Seekie  
Silver Goat Media

**Up to \$249 (Continued)**

Simpson Mediation Services  
Kay Shurden  
Honorable Lamar W. Sizemore, Jr.  
Janet Stovall  
Erica Taylor  
Benjamin Templin  
Anna Usry  
Kavitha Vemuri  
Donna Wallman

**\$250-\$499**

Debbie & Ron Aickelin  
Childers & McCain, LLC  
CP Security Group, Inc.  
Ronald Daniels  
Ashley Deadwyler-Heuman  
Deadwyler-Heuman Law Firm, LLC  
Edifice Consulting  
The Frame Game  
Jarome E. Gautreaux  
Joel Grist, Jr.  
Honorable Jeffrey B. Hanson  
Lanford, Smith & Kapiloff  
Mary & Rick Katz  
Jim Marshall & Camille Hope  
Michael Mayo  
John Mitchell Jr.  
Smith, Hawkins, Hollingsworth &  
Reeves, LLP  
Jeff Smith Chrysler Dodge Jeep Kia

**\$500-\$999**

David Addleton  
Honorable & Mrs. Lanier Anderson  
Edwards & Bullard Law  
John Carey  
Donner Law  
Gina & Grant Greenwood  
Mayo Hill  
Franklin & Patricia Horne,  
Katherine M. Kalish  
Ashley Tyson Mackin, PC  
Julia Magda \*  
Law Offices of Larry K. Moore, LLC  
Rebekah Myers \*  
John Reeves \*  
A. James Rockefeller  
Jack & Laney Sammons \*  
David Thompson  
Mark Toth



**DONATIONS & GRANTS (01/01/2019 to Current)**

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

Brian P. Adams \*

Adams, Hemingway, Wilson & Rutledge, LLC

Adams, Jordan & Herrington, P.C.

Anderson, Walker & Reichert, LLP

Chambless, Higdon, Richardson, Katz & Griggs, LLP

Clark & Smith Law Firm, LLC

Cathy Cox & Mark Dehler

Tracey L. Dellacona LLC

Tim & Daisy Floyd \*

Honorable Hardy Gregory, Jr.

James-Bates-Brannan-Groover, LLP

Jon R. Hawk, Sr, LLC

C. Brian Jarrard \*

Jones Cork, LLP

Paul Knott \*

Martin Foundation, Inc.

Martin Snow, LLP

Middle Georgia Trial Lawyers Association

Amber Moxley

William Noland \*

Law Offices of Mr. Ken Smith, LLC

Nancy Terrill

Honorable Marc Treadwell - Peyton Anderson Foundation

Westmoreland, Patterson, Moseley & Hinson, LLP

Stuart E. Walker \*

C. Alan Wheeler, PC

Ed & Marcy Whitten

**\$5,000 +**

Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Bill & Cheryl Adams \*

Georgia Bar Foundation, Inc.

Griffith Family Foundation

Katherine L. McArthur, LLC

Powers Family - Community Foundation of Central Georgia

Ed Sell - Peyton Anderson Foundation

Connie L. Williford \*

**\* Monthly Donor**



# THE JUSTICE BRIGADE

These attorneys have signed up to accept referrals of cases to be handled on a pro bono or reduced fee basis. They are crucial to our mission, and we are most grateful for their willingness to serve our community in this way.

Bill Adams  
V. Jim Adams  
David Addleton  
Sam Alderman  
Ken Barton  
Robert Berlin  
Steven Bloodworth  
Timothy Joseph Boyd  
Ashley Brodie  
Morris Carr  
Craig Childs  
Ronald Daniels  
Shelley Davidson  
Lauren Deal  
Michael Deal  
Robert Divis  
Chad Ethridge  
John Fleming  
Frank T. Gaddy  
Karen Gibson  
Emmett Goodman  
Joel Grist  
Travis Hall  
Jennifer Haskins  
Kevin B. Hicks  
Trineice Hill

Mike Horner  
Eva Hutcherson  
Jordan Josey, Jr.  
Katherine Kalish  
Paula Kapiloff  
Lise Kaplan  
Charles Lanford  
Michael Lemon  
Rob Matson  
Mike Mayo  
Veronica McLendon  
Lori Obenauf  
John Reeves  
Amanda Richardson  
A. James Rockefeller  
Alex Sanders  
Matthew Sanders  
Nyonnohweah Seekie  
Honorable William J. Self  
Joel Sherlock  
Kim Stroup  
Graham Thorpe  
Anna Usry  
Jenny Stansfield Walker  
Connie Williford  
Martin Wilson

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support Middle Georgia Access to Justice Council, Inc., by starting your shopping at

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-3547410>

**Middle Georgia Access to Justice Council, Inc.**

241 Third Street, Suite 200

Macon, GA 31201

P.O. Box 1732, Macon, GA 31202

Phone (478)238-0224 \* Fax (478)207-5082

Find us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/mgajustice](http://www.facebook.com/mgajustice)

Visit our website at: [www.mgajustice.org](http://www.mgajustice.org)

If you do not want to receive our Newsletter in the future, please email us at: [info@mgajustice.org](mailto:info@mgajustice.org)

