

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

MLP SUCCESS STORY: A CHRISTMAS EVE REPRIEVE

Kudos to **Mark Cianci** (pictured at right), a [Ropes & Gray](#) associate who conducted, on very short notice, an intake and case evaluation for a tenant with cancer. Mary, a single mother of a 1st grader, was scheduled to appear in eviction court on Christmas Eve — an especially vulnerable time for patients to experience housing insecurity and a challenging time to secure legal counsel. Her social worker at [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#) (DFCI) recognized that the circumstances surrounding the eviction were confusing, and consulted with MLP | Boston. We flagged a potential defense under the stalking-related provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, since the eviction seemed to be related to threatening behavior by Mary's neighbor — behavior that was corroborated by an independent witness.



We received the consult only days before Christmas, and in response to our outreach for *pro bono* assistance, Ropes & Gray thought outside the box and offered a valuable service: evaluating the facts of Mary's case and sharing with MLP | Boston a general sense of what to expect and what resources were available at housing court, so we could in turn work with Mary's DFCI social worker to help Mary put her best foot forward. Mary told her social worker that she won her case and — having felt so alone, confused, and afraid before getting the guidance she did — was elated!

January is [Stalking Awareness Month](#). MLP | Boston has shared educational materials about anti-stalking strategies with the referring DFCI social worker, which she has in turn shared with her team. This will help DFCI support other patients in their efforts to make sure home remains a stable and safe place from which to engage in cancer treatment.

MLP IN THE NEWS

- ***A high dose of case manager + a low dose of lawyer = housing stability for low-income, medically vulnerable older adults.*** Check out [here](#) what we've learned from 2+ years of a pilot with Boston Medical Center's [Elders Living at Home Program](#). The pilot — *Aging Right in the Community* — launched in 2013 thanks to a challenge grant from the [Oak Foundation](#) and matching support from several generous donors. Our findings to date reinforce that helping professionals can be more effective in this context when they combine efforts!



MLP ON THE MOVE

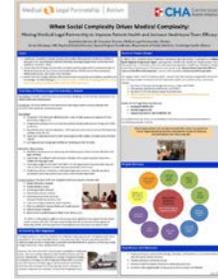
- ***Supporting Healthcare Workforce Transformation re: Social Determinants of Health.*** Over the last 4 months, our team has conducted intensive trainings for healthcare providers and staff at [Cambridge Health Alliance](#), [Hallmark Health System](#), and [Mount Auburn Hospital](#). This SDOH curriculum — subtitled *Helping People Access Critical Benefits and Services* — was developed thanks to a *Health Care Workforce Transformation Fund Training* initiative convened by the [Metro North Regional](#)

[Employment Board](#). The grant that makes this work possible was issued by the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development](#), and is administered by [Commonwealth Corporation](#). Pictured below are MLP | Boston trainers and colleagues from MNREB and HHS after a "double-header" session on 11/6/15.



From L-R:

- Elizabeth Brusie, Staff Attorney, MLP | Boston
- Kathleen Wahl, AmeriCorps Fellow, MLP | Boston Training Coordinator
- JoHanna Flacks, Legal Director, MLP | Boston
- Meelyn Wong, Associate Director, Metro North Regional Employment Board
- Madeline Hoffman, Director of Employment & Labor Relations, Hallmark Health System, Inc.



- **Going Upstream at the 6th Annual Conference.** Thank you to the interdisciplinary faculty, sponsors, and participants who attended and made last fall's conference such a huge success! We are especially grateful to [Attorney General Maura Healey](#) (pictured to the right) for her inspiring keynote remarks.
- **Promoting Healthy Families through an MLP-backed Home Visitor Model.** It was an honor to present on the promising "math" from our pilot with [Greater Fall River Healthy Families](#) (a program of [People, Incorporated](#)) at the 2015 [Healthy Families America](#) Leadership Conference in Chicago on 11/5/15. Alongside our valued partners from [Healthy Families Massachusetts](#), we shared how a **high dose of home visitor + low dose of lawyer = a healthy family!**
- **"Mechanizing" MLP for New Colleagues.** Terrific stakeholders from California, Florida and Vermont gathered in Los Angeles in early December to plan for replication of **DULCE** — whose promising findings are described [here](#) — in five new communities. We are thrilled to be supporting the legal teams committed to this replication effort led by the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#). And what a pleasure to comment on the "hot topic" of MLP Memoranda of Understanding during a January 20 webinar hosted by the [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership!](#)

IT TAKES TWO

- Did you know that a person often cannot access health-promoting benefits or services without an appropriately completed doctor's note or medical certification form? Thanks to support from the [J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation](#), and with graphic design support from [Artists for Humanity](#), we have built a portfolio of "trifold" tools to facilitate improved communication between providers and patients about common requests that influence a patient's access to valuable supports. Check out these recent additions that were previewed during our 6th Annual Conference:



- [Shut-off Prevention Strategies for Electric and Gas Service](#)
- [Getting to Healthcare Appointments: Putting the Patient in the PT-1](#)
- [Getting to Healthcare Appointments: The Public Transportation Reimbursement Process](#)
- [Responding to Requests for Medical Certifications and Doctor's Notes: What's the Deal?](#)

Stay tuned for other new **It Takes Two** content in 2016!

SPEAKING OF IT TAKES TWO: IS YOUR PATIENT PREGNANT AND WORKING?

Most women can continue to work throughout their pregnancies, but some require adjustments to their job to be able to continue working safely. Healthcare providers have a critical role to play in supporting patients to secure reasonable accommodations to which they are legally entitled. However, **too often** (as documented in *The New York Times* last year [here](#) and [here](#)), **physicians' written certifications have defects that expose their patients to significant risks**, including being pressured by employers into unpaid leave, losing their health insurance, or even losing their jobs. If you or your healthcare institution want to get these reasonable accommodation certifications right, check out [PregnantatWork.org](#), which provides web-based tools created by the [Center for WorkLife Law](#) at the [University of California, Hastings College of the Law](#). The online tools offer guidance for healthcare providers on how to write effective reasonable accommodation letters for pregnant patients, on a customized, state-by-state basis. What a terrific resource!

SEEKING NEW TEAM MEMBER!

We're recruiting an Attorney to support our service delivery in the pediatrics context! You can find [the job description here](#). To apply, visit [tsne.org/jobs](#); or apply by fax to: (617) 523-2070; or by mail to: Third Sector New England, Attn: Employment Manager, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111.

DONATE

Our mission is to equip healthcare, public health and human services teams with legal problem-solving strategies that promote health equity for vulnerable people. We are a fiscally-sponsored program of [Third Sector New England](#).

Information contained in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship



Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston 75 Arlington Street Suite 500 Boston, MA 02116

You received this email because you are subscribed to Newsletters from Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston.

Update your [email preferences](#) to choose the types of emails you receive.

[Unsubscribe from all future emails](#)