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February 2024 Newsletter

BRIDGING DIVIDES



New Rhode Island law protecting housing seekers went into effect January 1st

Starting just last month, a new [law](#) prohibits landlords from charging rental application fees from prospective tenants. We applaud Rhode Island lawmakers for taking this step to protect tenants in an especially virulent affordable housing shortage. Check out our most recent [blog.post](#) exploring the new law!

Read more!



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Teixeira on her family's newest addition—her baby girl arrived on February 10. We are so excited for Nedhi and her family, and we wish them a lifetime of love, laughter, and cherished moments.



Welcome to our new Spring intern, Megan Wong. In her own words, here are her goals for her time with MLPB:



I am a rising senior at [Boston University](#) majoring in Health Science on a pre-law track. I've previously interned at the [Asian American Civic Association \(AACA\)](#) as an intake coordinator, mostly aiding immigrants in the Boston community at the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. I've also written several published articles for the [Sampan](#) newspaper, specifically focusing on current public health challenges. At Boston University, I have taken a particular interest in reproductive health rights, food & housing insecurity, and health policy. As an intern for MLPB, I am excited to acquire more knowledge and experience on legal advocacy, public health-related issues, and policy matters that impact the significant challenges that individuals are encountering daily.

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DIGITAL DIGEST



In Massachusetts

SNAP benefits **will be available to immigrants** with legal status who meet income requirements in **February 2024**. The benefits will be **retroactive** through **December 2023**.

In Rhode Island

Free tax preparation assistance is **available through** the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Many VITA locations opened on **February 1**.

Search for locations on the [IRS website here](#). Many VITA locations opened on February 1.

On the Federal front

As of February 2024, federal student loan borrowers who took out **more than \$12,000** and have **been repaying loans for 10 years** will have their remaining student loan balance canceled once they have enrolled under the SAVE plan. Under [updated guidelines](#), student debt may be discharged through bankruptcy if certain conditions are met.

Look for in 2024 [a new employer student loan matching program](#) to begin and SAVE payments to [change how monthly payment calculations are made](#) for those with federal student loans.

MA Digital Digest



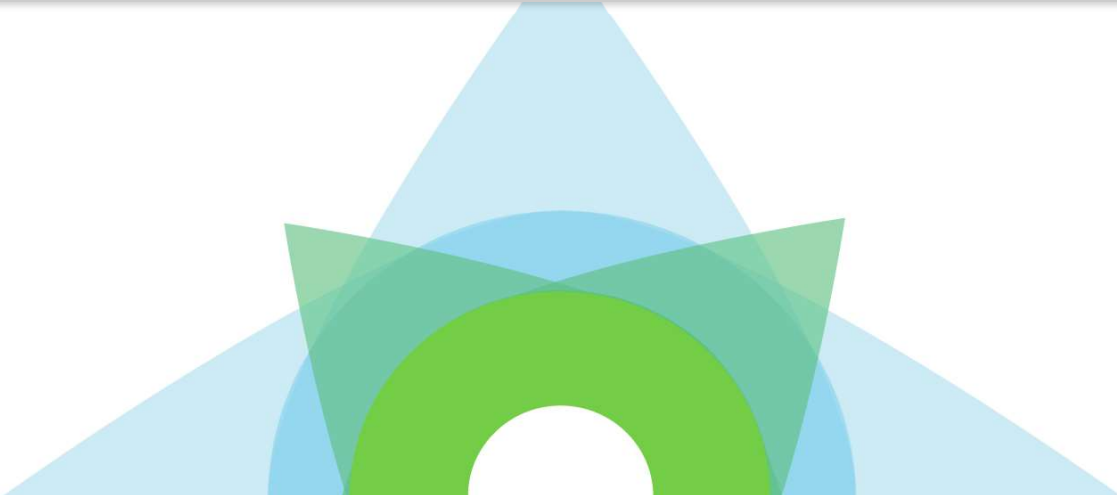
RI Digital Digest



Federal Digital Digest



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Care planning, delivery and financing should systemically account for people's legal rights, risks, and remedies. MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving insight that fosters preventions, health equity, and human-centered system change. Through training, consultation and technical assistance, we help teams and organizations better connect people to the resources and legal protections they seek.

MLPB is a fiscally sponsored organization of [TSNE](#).

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