

# February Newsletter

## Rhode Island Legal Services 2019 Priorities:



The Rhode Island Legal Services mission is not only to provide access to justice, but it also involves the elimination of poverty. Consequently, achieving Financial Stability for our clients becomes paramount for us to succeed in our mission. Financial Stability is one of six RILS Priorities that guides our efforts. Within this priority, we have three programs that assist clients to secure their financial future.

## *Achieving Financial Stability for our Clients*

Rhode Island Legal Services' Financial Stability Group represents clients in matters that have an important impact upon their economic situation and financial stability. The Group practices before various administrative and

judicial forums including the Rhode Island District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and the Department of Labor and Training.



*Judy Covington, Legal Assistant,  
Financial Stability Group*

The Financial Stability Group provides holistic legal assistance to reduce consumer debt, manage tax liability, and eliminate barriers to employment. Through the Financial Stability Group, we are able to help Rhode Islanders thrive and provide for their children and families.

## **Reduction of Consumer Debt for Financial Stability**

Managing Attorney, Rebecca Angelone, assists clients in reduction of their debt through bankruptcy proceedings and by combating predatory lending practices. Consumer law issues are becoming more prevalent in the low-income and elderly communities that Rhode Island Legal Services serves. The work not only provides needed financial stability, it also provides peace of mind so that clients can focus on their career or school and be able to better provide for their families.



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## **Tax Liability Reduction: Fair and Equitable Treatment by the Internal**

## Revenue Service



Managing Attorney and Director of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), Stephanie Coleman, provides legal assistance to low-income Rhode Islanders who have tax liability and are experiencing difficulties with the Internal Revenue Service.

RILS is able to assist low-income Rhode Island taxpayers, including those for whom English is a second language (ESL), to obtain fair and equitable treatment in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as well as achieve favorable resolutions of their controversies with the IRS. LITC focuses part of its efforts on outreach to educate ESL populations about tax filings and help them navigate the tax process. With RILS' help, our clients are able to resolve their tax liability and manage tax season successfully now and in the years ahead.

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## Eliminating Barriers to Employment and Housing Opportunities: Expungement of Minor Criminal Records

Supervising Attorney, Brian Furgal, assists in securing jobs for disadvantaged individuals by removing legal barriers to employment and housing. He works to help our clients expunge minor criminal records, reinstate driver's licenses needed to travel to a job, prevent the loss of an occupational license, and connect clients with job skills and job seeking services after the barrier to employment is removed.



This program is able to increase employment opportunities for our

clients and provide a chance for a financially stable future for them and their families.

Save the Date!  
**06. 27. 19**

Thursday from 6-9pm

**RILS 50th Anniversary  
&  
Equal Justice Celebration**

**At Rhodes on the Pawtuxet**

**60 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905**

*Email [adwyer@ribs.org](mailto:adwyer@ribs.org) to join our mailing list. Keep up with RILS news and receive an invitation to this event!*



***Donate Here***

# *View our testimonials*

Rhode Island Legal Services, 56 Pine Street Suite 400, Providence RI 02903 [Visit our Website](#)

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