

Annual Report: LegalWorks 2017  
From: James Levin, Director and Chief Attorney  
December 30, 2017

### **Introduction**

We are completing a strong year for LegalWorks. We are continuing our mission in removing obstructions and impediments that can dash one's pursuits towards employment and community engagement.

In 2017, our efforts remained primarily linked with the Famicos Foundation at its main offices on Ansel Road, working office hours at least twice per week. Additionally, linked with the County Public Defenders' Office, the Cleveland Municipal Court, Legal Aid, the County Re-Entry Program, Judge Shannon Gallagher and Judge Suzan Sweeney, LegalWorks helped coordinate four intake sessions at various neighborhood centers in Cleveland (June to August), and we served in a support capacity at two other sessions coordinated by the Cleveland Municipal Court (one in Mount Pleasant and one at the AME Church on East 105 (August and October).

We also are positioned to expand our outreach by setting up a second office at the Cleveland Women's Recovery Center located at 6201 Storer Road, near West 65<sup>th</sup> Street in the Stockyard Neighborhood. We celebrated our first day at the WRC on Dec 12 and a press release announcing same will be sent out in the near future.

### **Connections**

In addition to our connections with the Public Defenders, Legal Aid, the Re Entry Program, we also continued our connection with Case's student employment program and hired as paid interns three Case students in 2017 and developed a strong relationship with CSU's Marshall Law School whose Community Outreach Clinic assisted in processing several expungement motions, "overflow" from our intake sessions.

### **Numbers**

Through December 30, LegalWorks met with 294 new clients at Famicos in 2017. 168 of those were primarily related to expungement (really, Motion To Seal) issues: 59 motions were granted, 41 were found to be ineligible (and some then applied for clemency or CFE), 2 were denied. Of those found to be ineligible we are focusing on strategies to "make them eligible" in 16 cases, where we are seeking to vacate or modify an underlying , thus removing a precluding conviction and thus making the client eligible. We have had considerable success in turning "ineligible" into "sealed."

We also dealt with 45 people with open warrants and outstanding minor criminal matters where we have dealt with the underlying offenses and/or probation violations.

We also worked on 40 cases with driving privilege suspensions, 12 of which have been successful restored (either fully or with driving privileges), 22 remain pending.

We (primarily James but with significant assistance from Richard “Tadd” Pinkston) worked out of twenty five courts, throughout Cuyahoga County and occasionally in Lake, Lorain and Summit Counties.

The Clients came from throughout the Greater Cleveland area. The highest contributing zip codes were: 44106 (46 people), 44108 (41), 44112 (22), followed by 44103 (19), 44105 (14), 44104 (14), 44110 (14).

More detailed information about any of the above are available upon request.