

**WELCOME TO**  
**The Methodist Centre for Law & Justice, Inc.**



**Informational Bulletin # 1**

**“What is Legal Aid?”**

## **What is Legal Aid?**

Legal Aid is typically understood to be emergency legal services in very restricted areas of the law to underprivileged members of the community.

However, at the Methodist Law Centre, we do Legal Aid much differently. It is about providing high-quality legal services and little or no costs in areas of the law where it is difficult to find legal representation. In sum, our brand of Legal Aid is to go where there is the need.

## **Methodist Church History:**

The Methodist Church has a long history of being on the vanguard of socio-economic change and addressing social dislocations since

the Second Industrial Revolution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Its level of commitment to working-class communities and to communities of color is manifest throughout Methodist-affiliated church denominations through-out the United States and the world.

### **Methodist Legal Aid:**

The Methodist Law Centre leverages the resources of various Methodist churches (and donors) in order to underwrite the operation of a full-service law practice that is second to none. It takes pride in the Methodist brand as a very high standard of integrity and professionalism.

The Methodist Law Centre was founded as a non-profit full-service law firm in order to fill in the gap in traditional Legal Aid organizations' ability to provide high-quality, low cost legal services to:

- a. African American laborers, workers, independent contractors, small businesses, particularly those in small towns and rural areas;
- b. Hispanic farm workers and laborers, particularly those in small towns and rural areas;
- c. Small churches; pastors of small churches; and individual members of small church organizations, particularly those in small towns and rural areas; and

d. Protection of civil rights of those who are victims of religion or religious discrimination.

Second, the Methodist Law Centre is real law firm with real attorneys who are committed to evaluating each individual case, assessing its settlement value, potential for success at trial, and over-all merits, just as any other law firm would, with one exception: a non-profit law firm's affordability of the legal services.

**For more Information:**

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