



JASON KORANSKY NAMED LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

February 2017

Pattishall lawyer [Jason Koransky](#) was named “Volunteer of the Year” by the Children and Families Practice Group of LAF (formerly named the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago) at its Gelato Social on February 23, 2017. The Award recognizes Jason for his work in helping numerous clients successfully appeal from DCFS administrative hearings.



Rich Cozzola (LAF) and Jason Koransky

“Jason Koransky takes tough cases,” read a display at the award ceremony about Jason’s pro bono work for LAF clients. “Jason’s attention to detail and commitment to justice is evident in his hard work. Our clients and LAF are fortunate that Jason is here for us.”

Jason took his first LAF case in 2013 when his friend and Oak Park neighbor Mara Block was LAF’s Director of Volunteer Services. Mara recruited Jason for an appeal of a DCFS indicated finding, an administrative proceeding by which a person contests a DCFS finding of neglect, abuse, or other harm to a minor in their care. An indicated finding on a person’s record can impact their ability to



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find work, help at their child's school, or otherwise work with children, and the proceedings attempt to expunge this finding from their record.

Cases in which Jason has successfully expunged improper indicated findings from LAF clients' records include one for a mother indicated for "burns by neglect" when her child pulled a cup of hot tea on herself; another for immigrant parents of a medically complex child who had been indicated for "environment injurious" and "inadequate supervision" when their electricity was turned off due to poverty; helping a foster parent indicated for "inadequate supervision" when a 2-year-old child scratched her neck after crawling under a bed; and representing the guardian aunt of a teenager in a "physical abuse" claim where the teenager alleged that the aunt had hit her with several objects.

Since 1966, LAF has provided free, high quality civil legal services to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups. With more than 100 full-time attorneys and staff providing its clients with comprehensive legal services, LAF's advocacy results in such successes as gaining custody of a child, obtaining an order of protection against an abusive spouse, preventing an unfair eviction, and getting justice for a victim of consumer fraud.