

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

by Marcie Timmerman

I stepped in to help with social media VERY part-time to help fill a void that we thought would be a few weeks, then COVID-19 hit the state and all plans had to be changed. Here I am, submitting a hopefully brief and insightful board report.

I'm happy to welcome Alexandria Werner-Winslow as the newest employee at KEJC. Her expertise and skill are going to be a breath of fresh air to this organization's many communications platforms. I look forward to returning to my role as a supporter and fan!

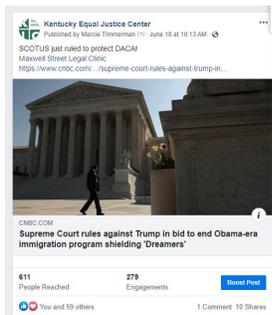
Despite a pandemic and significantly reduced attention, audience growth has happened across all platforms, including the blog ([kyequaljustice.org/news](http://kyequaljustice.org/news)). Our audience continues to be somewhat diverse but not that different from the general population using each platform, with the exception that our audience is largely progressive and Kentucky-based. It's no surprise that our Black Lives Matter post, post about the Supreme Court DACA decision and the post congratulating reinstated voter rights were our highest activity across platforms. Instagram continues to be less of a priority and is a place we may decide to grow under the new Communications leadership.

Staff members have been engaged in critical outreach regarding public programs, evictions, and housing concerns. That cooperative work with others has been helpful in introducing our accounts and our brand to new audiences. That's been a primary factor in our recent growth and reach.

It's summer, it's a pandemic, and we're still gaining followers on all platforms. We're well-poised for more growth with better quality and more consistent content, which I'm sure you will see next quarter.

The legislative session is still our biggest driver of audience growth and interest, as well as interaction. I doubt that will ever change, but we're having a booming summer in growth compared to previous years, and that's something we can contribute to the staff wide engagement in building and promoting us. Thanks all!

# FACEBOOK



# TWITTER



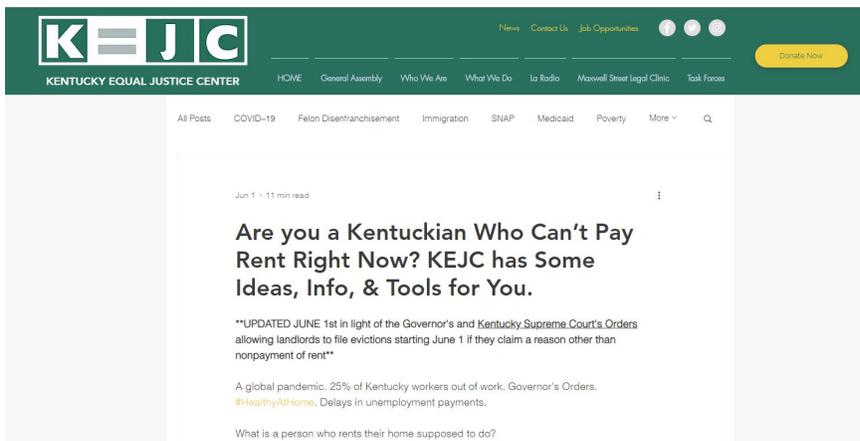
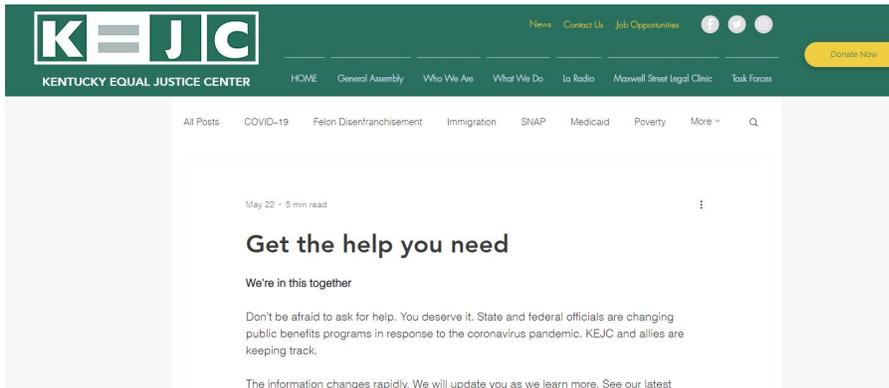
# INSTAGRAM



## Top Post:



# BLOG POSTS



## Food Justice Fellow

Tyler Offerman

July 13, 2019

- **COVID-19:** Much of the second quarter of 2020 was spent responding to and advocating for policy changes because of the COVID-19 global health pandemic. A big part of this has been just trying to keep up with all the changes and waivers by regularly attending webinars and calls with national, state, and local allies and officials. Much of my area of focus has been on federal nutrition programs (SNAP, P-EBT, WIC) and unemployment insurance (PUC, PUA, PEUC).
- **Partnerships:** We continue to work with the KY Center for Economic Policy, Community Farm Alliance, and Feeding KY to do the long haul work of building strong and sturdy coalitioning spaces among farmer advocates, feeding organizations, policy advocates, and legal-aid programs.
  - This includes beginning discussions with DCBS staff, allied advocacy organizations, and legal aid programs around securing SNAP Outreach contracts.
- **Overpayments:** We've begun advocating for state policy changes around SNAP overpayments and Intentional Program Violations (IPVs). Due to the discovery of agency practices that are inconsistent with SNAP law, we are also planning for possible legal actions.

Betsy Davis Stone  
July 2020

## Health Law Fellow Board Report

**Networking.** While coronavirus has reduced (or basically eliminated) our travel for meetings, it certainly hasn't reduced the number of meetings we're attending. This year, ThriveKY, our coalition of advocates, has established **monthly meetings with leadership at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)** and an open line of communication for questions and policy suggestions. This week, we'll be having a special meeting with CHFS about health equity policy. I've also fostered **connections with the public health community** on a project to revise a proposed health equity bill for next session **and with Protection and Advocacy (P&A)** on a project to suggest changes for the state's Crisis Standards of Care. Finally, we forged a **co-counsel partnership with the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ)** that made it possible for us to confidently file suit against UK Healthcare and the Department of Revenue.

**Policy Advocacy.** One outcome of our monthly meetings with CHFS is the **Notice Improvement Project**, an initiative to revise and redesign the most frequently sent consumer notices in our public benefit programs. Right now, we're working on putting the finishing touches on proposed changes to Requests for Information. (CHFS sends out nearly a million Requests for Information per year in just the SNAP program alone.) Tyler and I are also focused in on issues with **overpayment claims in the SNAP and K-TAP programs**. We managed to secure [guidance](#) from CHFS' Office of Inspector General **preventing nursing home evictions** for non-payment during the state public health emergency, and we **submitted public comments** to CMS opposing Tennessee's Medicaid block grant proposal and [Oklahoma's waiver proposal](#) to add work requirements and premium payments to their Medicaid program.

**Litigation.** Most of our litigation energy in the Health Law Fellowship has been focused for the last several months on [filing a class action lawsuit](#) with NCLEJ against UK Healthcare and the DOR in federal court for violating the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. We're currently working on class certification in that case. We're also exploring potential litigation options for **due process issues with intentional program violation (IPV) claims** in our SNAP program.

**Community Education.** We might not be facilitating in-person trainings, but we're still regularly hosting **Health and Public Welfare Taskforce meetings** (now virtually), and we're releasing community education materials online via our **blog**, including these blogs on [nursing home evictions](#) during the pandemic and [protecting your stimulus check](#).

**Enrollment.** Since Medicaid terminations are currently on hold and more people can easily enroll for Medicaid coverage with the state's recent expansion of Presumptive Eligibility (PE), we've been doing a little less enrollment assistance than usual. We've been using that extra

time to advocate for **continuing broad access to Medicaid**. We're also **encouraging every legal aid program to onboard some Application Assisters** during the pandemic.

# Q2 2020 Board Report

*Ben Carter, Senior Litigation and Advocacy Counsel*

Welcome to your 4L year! Time to study up! Everything you (barely) know has changed, the stakes have never been higher, and your clients have never been more imperiled. Simultaneously and incredibly, the Overton window for lasting positive changes has never been more wide open!

That's pretty much what this global pandemic/economic crisis/work from home/racial justice movement has felt like. At the exact moment that conditions in the world would suggest working overtime, even just working regular hours has been...challenging.

## Impact Litigation

- See attached

## Advocacy

- Eviction Processes: Commitments & Recommendations
  - \* This was the set of proposals we provided to the Kentucky Supreme Court as part of our participation in the eviction subcommittee. The recommendations have been ignored.
- Eviction Cover Sheet
  - \* The one concession we got from the Kentucky Supreme Court as part of its rushed about-face on allowing evictions in late May was an agreement to put a cover sheet on forcible detainer actions containing the contact information for the local LSC-funded organization and the county clerk. After providing those to the Court, it declined to use them and I have not heard an update on the progress they are making on creating a cover sheet internally.

- Eviction Moratorium Demand Letter
  - \* We wrote a letter to Governor Beshear requesting that he promise not to lift his moratorium on evictions based on nonpayment of rent until at least August 24th. He wrote back (thorough counsel) to say the moratorium is in effect, but did not promise it would remain in effect until August 24th. In other words, he wrote back to say nothing.

## Training and Education

- Legal Community
  - \* Q2 Task Forces
  - \* Tyler facilitating Public Benefits work across Kentucky and throughout the Southeast
  - \* Monthly ThriveKY updates (Rich, Betsy, Tyler, Miranda)
  - \* Upcoming
    - \* Facilitating a training on contesting nursing home evictions with Justice in Aging and LABG's Stephanie Langguth. (July 31, 1:30 ET)
    - \* Statewide?
- Public Facing
  - \* I have been providing informal legal context for housing justice advocates in Lexington and Louisville.
  - \* Miranda and McKenzie continue to create timely content for RadioLex. (I did a roundup of renters' rights that was quickly out-of-date.)
  - \* I was a panelist for Metropolitan Housing Coalition's renter's rights (Louisville) forum at the end of June.
  - \* Blog posts
    - \* Renter Rights FAQ
      - \* <https://www.kyequaljustice.org/post/are-you-a-kentuckian-who-can-t-pay-rent-right-now-kejc-has-some-ideas-info-tools-for-you>
    - \* Debt Collection and CARES Act Protections

- \* <https://www.kyequaljustice.org/post/landlords-late-fees-cares-act-fair-debt-collection>
- \* Community.Lawyer
- \* Application to generate a letter to landlord re: inability to pay rent.
- \* <https://community.lawyer/cl/kyequaljustice/letter-for-kentucky-renters-to-their-landlords>
- \* Application to find your local legal aid organization:  
[kyrenterhelp.org](http://kyrenterhelp.org)
- \* Application to make a claim for destruction of property by LMPD at Injustice Square Park
- \* <https://community.lawyer/cl/kyequaljustice/injustice-square-park-claim>

## **Maxwell Street Legal Clinic Board Report 07/16/2020**

### **Highlights since 04/21/2020**

- Supreme Court found that DACA was improperly cancelled and ordered the termination memo rescinded, keeping the program alive for now.
- We started using our new software, elmmigration, at the beginning of April! It's been great with the remote work we've been doing.
- MSLC has been working remotely since 03/16. We're slowly re-opening and seeing urgent cases in person.
- Paola Schwartz started with us on February 24! She's been working on trainings and translations while we've been working remotely.

### **Caseload Summary**

- Cases handled from 12/10/2019 to 07/14/2020: 274
- Cases handled in the last year: 446
- Averaging 575 calls a month in 2020
- We've opened 28 new DACA initial cases since the Supreme Court decision in June!

### **Funding**

- Client fees from 12/01/2019 until 06/30/2020 were \$7,405.
- Catholic Diocese of Lexington granted awarded for \$8,630.
- United Way renewed for another year at \$12,960.

### **Outreach, Media, and Community Involvement**

- In 2020, we have participated in the following outreach, media, training, and community events:
  - Nathalie was on the planning committee for this year's Kentucky Refugee and Immigrant Inclusion Summit. This year's conference was conducted virtually. Nathalie also moderated a panel on immigration legal services, on which Leah participated as a panelist talking about MSLC. Allison and Michelle recorded a presentation on immigration remedies for crime victims.
  - Allison and Michelle presented on immigration remedies for crime victims for DCBS social workers via Zoom.
  - Leah presented as part of a Zoom Town Hall about the Supreme Court DACA decision with Sarah Adkins of Neighbors Immigration Clinic, Emily Jones of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and DACA recipient Omar Salinas Chacon.
  - We had 2 family petition information session, providing information on the family reunification process. We are currently working on recording this presentation to have it available digitally, as we cannot currently conduct in person outreach.
  - We've continued our radio show with Victor Palomino at Lexington Community Radio, a monthly bilingual conversation about immigration issues, including a special recording after the Supreme Court decision on DACA.

## **Outreach Staff Report**

April 18 - July 13, 2020

### Outreach Update

- **Online Presentations:** Our workers' rights team presented to students in the Human Rights Advocacy Project at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. Our public benefits experts recorded a webinar for Step By Step young mothers and KCADV clients, and have shared it widely. Miranda and MSLC staff participated in recorded sessions on immigration, public benefits, and workers' rights for the Kentucky Refugee and Immigrant Inclusion Summit.
- **Community Meetings:** Miranda participates in Latinx Community Meetings online. The group went biweekly in June in response to rising COVID cases in the Hispanic community. Leah will be joining future meetings. We are quelling public charge myths and concerns and planning a public charge webinar with the local housing assistance community for late July.
- **Radio:** We've produced 3 new RADIOLEX episodes in English and in Spanish with "know your rights" information and resources on public charge and housing. Expert speakers were Leah, Nathalie, and Ben. An additional episode will air next week covering worker cooperatives with a guest from Patchwork Cooperative Loan Fund!
- **Social media:** Miranda worked with Marcie to produce timely social media content for the KEJC and radio pages in English and Spanish covering workers' rights, public benefits, and COVID-19. Lizz, U of L intern Theresa, and Miranda have almost completed a Workers' Rights social media toolkit to share with fellow advocates and service providers.

### Health Insurance Enrollment

- Assisted 6 new individuals and families since April 18, 2020, as well as previously established cases. Calls and emails for new case assistance are steady.
  - Mostly Medicaid and Presumptive Eligibility enrollments, 1 complete healthcare.gov application
  - 2 immigrants referred from Centro Latino in Danville
  - 1 VOCA client from MSLC
  - 1 trafficking survivor from La Casita Center

### Healthcare Advocacy: Miranda

- Participating in Lexington-area pilot program for the Kentucky Resources engine, [resources.ky.gov](https://resources.ky.gov), providing feedback on the resident “self-sufficiency” assessment tool
- Participating in Notice Improvement Project with the CHFS, providing consumer perspective for improving public benefits notices
- Participating in monthly update meetings with the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange
  - Alerted the KHBE to questions and potential issues with immigrant eligibility and enrollment in Presumptive Eligibility Medicaid during the pandemic state of emergency
- Completed Kentucky Online Gateway Organization Administrator Training to maintain KEJC’s access to KOG for benefit application assistance

### Workers’ Rights Team

- 5 claimants called for self-help with a wage claim from late March to early July
- Completed assistance with 3 demand letters. Others decided not to act or to consult their union.

### Development Work

- **Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky:** Rich and Miranda submitted an annual report and workplan for another year of “Boots on the Ground” work under the *Promoting Responsive Health Policy* grant.
- **Protecting Immigrant Families:** Miranda worked with MSLC, Tyler, and Betsy to submit a report and new proposal to the PIF campaign. We’ve been awarded \$15,000!
- **Public Welfare Foundation:** McKenzie and Miranda helped Rich write a report and proposal to the Public Welfare Foundation on our workers’ rights work. We’ve been awarded \$250,000 to help us sustain the program! We’ll be using some of those funds to hire a new Resource Organizer to help us manage foundation and donor relationships.
- **Fundraising Learning and Support Hub:** Rich and Miranda went to a training at the PWF headquarters in DC in February. Rich, McKenzie, and Miranda have been participating in regular calls with fundraising consultants from Beth Grupp Associates via this generous 18 month program through the PWF.

## Kentucky Equal Justice Center

### Director's Activity Highlights

April 21 to July 13, 2020

#### Governance

- Hosted KEJC Board Meeting (April 21)
- Convened Executive Committee (May 12, July 13)
- Initiated nomination process for new and continuing board members
- Sought bids for strategic planning

#### Management and Administration

- Reconciled bank transactions with Treasurer (May 27)
- Entered into agreement for FY 2019 audit and IRS 990
- Submitted VOCA grant adjustment on cash and in-kind match (July 14)
- Recruited new Communications Coordinator Alexandra Werner Winslow
- Initiated search for new Resource Coordinator
- Hosted weekly Happy ½ Hour check-in with staff

#### Grants and Fundraising

- Held staff fundraising training with Beth Grupp Associates (June 23) and participated in calls every week to ten days with BGA coaches (with Miranda and McKenzie)
  - Applied for Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan \$142,452 approved
  - Conducted Kentucky Gives Day campaign (May 12) \$4,221 donated
  - Filed grant reports, proposals, and agreements for:
    - MAZON Rapid Response Fund (Tyler wrote narrative) \$7,100 awarded
    - United Way of the Bluegrass renewal \$12,960 awarded
    - Protecting Immigrant Families (Miranda wrote narrative) \$15,000 awarded
    - Health Law Fellowship I (Betsy wrote workplan) \$45,000 awarded
    - Health Law Fellowship II (Betsy wrote workplan) \$45,000 pending
    - Boots on the Ground (Miranda wrote workplan) \$50,000 pending
    - MAZON Food Justice Fellowship (with Tyler) \$69,712 awarded
    - Public Welfare Foundation (with McKenzie and Miranda) \$250,000 awarded
    - Victim of Crime Act (with VOCA staff) \$213,095 pending
- \$854,540 total

#### Task Forces

- Participated in planning calls (with McKenzie and Miranda), and attended Workers' Rights Task Force Meeting via Zoom with over 70 participants (May 21)
- Participated in planning call (with Ben, Betsy and Tyler) (June 2) for Health Task and Public Benefits Task Force (June 16)

### **Workers' Rights Advocacy**

- Participated in conference calls about potential workers' center in Louisville with UK Prof. Ariana Levinson (June 9, 18, 29, July 13, 20) (with Lizz, McKenzie, and Miranda)
- Wrote to Marjorie Arnold at Labor Cabinet to request more prominent posting of link to file health and safety complaint online
- Convened state and national partners to plan Town Hall on unemployment insurance (scheduled for July 15)

### **Health and Public Benefits Advocacy**

- Participated in CHFS Notice Improvement Project (with Betsy and Miranda) (June 18, 25, July 9)
  - earlier wrote first drafts of revised Request for Information notices
  - provided graphic design guidebook from Civilla
- Participated in Kentucky Voices for Health:
  - ThriveKY coordination calls (almost weekly)
  - Board and Finance Committee Meetings (June 25, 26)

### **Food Justice Advocacy**

- Met with Community Farm Alliance re potential advocacy project subgrant and provided text about KEJC (with Tyler)

### **Communications**

- Emailed with Marcie several times a week about messaging, tweet storms, and social media support for multiple issues

### **Attended or participated in . . .**

- Conference call with Civilla re best practices in notice design (April 22)
- Biweekly Southeast Public Benefits TAG calls (organized by Tyler)
- Training webinar on new Maxwell Street case management system (April 29)
- Kentucky Nonprofit Network Town Hall on Paycheck Protection Program (April 7)
- Monthly advocates' meeting with CHFS Secretary and leadership (May 7, June 4, July 2)
- Long Term Care advocacy discussions with Eric Carlson (Justice in Aging) (May 12, June 25)
- Kentucky Legal Services "Lunch and Learn" (organized by Ben) (May 13)
- Planning session for Legal Impact Network conference (June 9)
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce "Racial Inequalities in Kentucky" webinar (June 18)
- Kentucky Together coalition meeting (June 24)