

CLSACC WELCOMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARBARA MITCHELL



Barbara Mitchell began work as CLSACC's new Executive Director in September, succeeding Leslee Klein, who was Executive Director for more than 21 years. Barbara brings to CLSACC a wealth of experience in advocacy on behalf of low-

income families and victims of domestic violence, seasoned management and leadership skills, and international experience in the legal rights of women and children.

Barbara was previously the Managing Attorney of the Family Law Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), where she worked for more than twenty years. She is currently a mentor for

attorneys on the Women's Bar Foundation Pro Bono Family Law Project for Battered Women and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI). In addition to her activities locally, Barbara has worked in the arena of women's legal rights in Mexico, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania and Great Britain as a legal consultant, researcher, and lecturer.

While at GBLS, Barbara collaborated with staff at other legal services agencies, including CLSACC. Barbara was also a volunteer attorney at CLSACC in the 1980s, when it was known as Cambridgeport Problem Center. "I have long admired CLSACC's innovative approach to integrating mental health and legal services to benefit clients," she says. "I look forward to finding ways to enhance CLSACC's interdisciplinary model and its use of volunteers, who are integral to CLSACC's work."

CLSACC HIGHLIGHTS 1986-2007

1986 Leslee Klein becomes Executive Director of Cambridgeport Problem Center (CPC). **1991** CPC expands its interdisciplinary approach, adding a social work intern to the legal program to improve legal outcomes and help clients manage their lives. **1995** CPC's 25th anniversary. CPC becomes Community Legal Services And Counseling Center and establishes the Dr. Joseph H. Brenner Award. **1998** CLSACC, collaborating with Casa Myrna Vasquez, is one of eight programs in the nation to receive a federal grant under the Violence Against Women Act for services to battered immigrant women. **1999** CLSACC's Counseling Program and the Cambridge Women's Commission begin Kitchen Table Conversations, a support group for women affected by federal welfare reforms. **2003** CLSACC receives the Advancement Award from The Boston Club for its work with battered immigrant women. **2004** CLSACC completes its Strategic Plan. **2005** CLSACC receives United Way's highest rating for overall organizational excellence—one of only 18 out of 130 nonprofit agencies so honored. The Psychological Evaluation Project is established. **2006** Leslee Klein receives the Lawyer Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. **2007** Barbara Mitchell succeeds Leslee Klein as Executive Director.

CLSACC RECEIVES AWARD FROM RESPOND, INC.



CLSACC and **Greater Boston Legal Services** (GBLS) have been named this year's recipients of **RESPOND, Inc.'s** Marie Siraco Community Activism Award in recognition of the free civil legal services CLSACC and GBLS provide survivors of domestic violence. The award will be presented at RESPOND's gala and award dinner in October.

RESPOND, a domestic violence program based in Somerville, has helped women free themselves and their children from abuse for more than thirty years.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS NEW MEMBER

ELIZABETH ANDERSON joined CLSACC's Board this fall. Liz is a paralegal at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. In March, she shared her experiences as a client at CLSACC with more than 500 attorneys at the Walk to the Hill in support of civil legal aid. She told the crowd, "Without legal services, I never would have won the freedom that allowed me to hope for the future for me and my children."



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