



You are invited to participate in the

16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Walk to the Hill**  
*for*  
**Civil Legal Aid**

11 am – 1 pm

January 29, 2015  
Massachusetts State House, Great Hall



Each year, hundreds of attorneys participate in one of the largest lobby days at the Massachusetts State House. Their goal is to urge lawmakers to protect state funding for programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income Massachusetts residents. Walk to the Hill is sponsored by various law firms and bar associations around the Commonwealth.

### **Can't join us in Boston on January 29<sup>th</sup>?**

You can “Talk to the Hill” by calling your legislators to request their support for an increased state investment of civil legal aid. You can reach your representative and your senator by calling the State House switchboard at 617-722-2000.

When calling, urge your elected representatives to support the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation's **\$25 million budget request for FY 16 in line item 0321-1600**. To find out who your elected officials are, visit [www.wheredoIvotema.com](http://www.wheredoIvotema.com)

#### **Here are some additional talking points for you:**

- Civil legal aid programs are a vital safeguard for Massachusetts residents and communities, providing critical support in housing, employment, and domestic violence cases, among others, and helping people across the Commonwealth maintain safe, stable, and healthy lives.
- Lack of funding means that legal representation in civil cases is out of reach for most low-income people who need it. Sixty-four percent of eligible clients in Massachusetts who seek civil legal aid services are turned away due to lack of funding.
- In addition to catastrophic effects on the health, safety, and stability of low-income individuals and families, lack of access to legal representation in civil cases costs the state money, hinders our court system and denies the basic right of access to justice.
- Civil legal aid is a smart investment. Every dollar invested in legal aid saves the state money on costs for other services, including emergency shelter, health care, and law enforcement.

**Once you've called your representative and senator, please visit the link below to fill out a very short survey to report the results of your conversation, so we can track how many calls we've generated. Thank you.**

<http://equaljusticecoalition.org/legislatorresponse.html>