

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

Information for Release

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TWO NEW ATTORNEYS JOIN LEGAL AID SOCIETY

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 16, 2009 – The Legal Aid Society announced today that two new staff attorneys have joined the firm – Rae Anne Seay and Nikylan B. Knapper. Seay will work from the firm’s Columbia office and Knapper will be based in Tullahoma.

“We are glad to have these two experienced and eager attorneys join the firm and we’re certain our clients will benefit,” said Gary Housepian, executive director of the Legal Aid Society. “Rae Anne and Nikylan understand the importance our work has for our clients who have no where else to turn.”

Previous to joining the state’s largest non-profit law firm, Seay was in private practice in which she focused on children’s law. For two years she served as a grant writer and law clerk for the Legal Aid Society in the Nashville office. She came to the Legal Aid Society from the YWCA where she was director of grant writing. She also served as law clerk for the General Civil Division of the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General.

Seay is a graduate of the Nashville School of Law where she ranked first in her class. She holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor’s of social work from Harding University. She is the chair of the juvenile and children’s law section of the Tennessee Bar Association. She was appointed to the Tennessee Children's Justice Task Force and serves as co-chair of that organization's Court Improvement Committee. She is also a member of the law committee of the Administrative Office of the Courts’ Court Improvement Program.

Knapper comes to the Legal Aid Society from Nashville where she had a solo practice that litigated cases in General Sessions, Criminal and Civil Courts, Circuit Courts and Juvenile Parentage Court.

Previous to her private practice, Knapper was an assistant public defender for the Office of Metropolitan Public Defender in Nashville. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law and a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Young Leaders Council and Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee.

The Legal Aid Society gives free civil legal aid to people who have nowhere else to turn. It serves 48 counties from offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, and Tullahoma. The Legal Aid Society is funded in part by United Way.

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