

# LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES LEGAL AID SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Wiltshire retirement reception honors 37 years of service to justice*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. June 28, 2007 – More than 200 friends, colleagues and civic leaders gathered on the mezzanine of the Metropolitan Courthouse on June 18 pay tribute to Ashley Wiltshire, who is retiring after 37 years with Legal Aid Society.

As part of the tribute, friends and associates of Wiltshire established a charitable fund in his name. The Wiltshire Fund, which currently stands at approximately \$9,000, will be used to underwrite Legal Aid Society services.

“Ashley’s leadership has been inspiring to us all,” said Kathryn Edge, president of the Legal Aid Society Board of Directors and an attorney with Miller & Martin PLLC. “His passion and dedication to the cause of justice is the main reason Legal Aid Society has grown so much during his tenure.”

Also making remarks during the evening were Charles Warfield, one of the original board members for Legal Aid Society and currently an attorney with Stites & Harbison PLLC, and Howard Stringer, chair of the Community Advisory Council for Legal Aid Society.

Wiltshire was presented with a framed copy of a speech by the Honorable William Wayne Justice, titled, “Burr Under A Saddle,” as well as an antique pitchfork – symbolizing Wiltshire’s intention to spend more time on the family farm in Houston County.

“I want to thank everyone who made this possible,” said Wiltshire. “Especially Charlie Warfield and Harris Gilbert who were there from the beginning. Legal Aid Society is a wonderful and important part of the legal community and I’m certain that it will continue to grow in both size and influence. I know I leave it in good hands.”

Wiltshire joined Legal Aid Society in 1970 as a summer clerk while he was a second-year law student at Vanderbilt University. He became executive director in 1976 at the

age of 35.

“When I started, there were four or five lawyers in the Stahlman Building downtown,” he said. “Legal Aid Society was in its youth. It was only two years old in 1970. We were excited about making a difference. And 37 years later, we still are.”

The event was underwritten by Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC; Bass, Berry & Sims PLC; Bone McAllester Norton PLLC; Burr & Forman LLP; Harwell Howard Hyne Gabbert & Manner, P.C.; KraftCPAs PLLC; McGugin Leader & Carlson PLC; Miller & Martin PLLC; Neal & Harwell, PLC; Keith S. Simmons; Sherrard & Roe, PLC; Stites & Harbison PLLC; Trauger & Tuke; and Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis LLP.

Founded in 1968, the Legal Aid Society is a private, not-for-profit organization governed by a local board of directors comprised of attorneys and members of the client population. Legal Aid Society provides free legal assistance in civil matters to people in 48 Middle Tennessee counties with a total eligible population of 382,000. It has offices in Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, Columbia, Tullahoma, Cookeville and Oak Ridge.

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