

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

Information for Release

Contact: Jeff Bradford / Mike Reed
info@bradfordgrp.com
615.515.4888

LEGAL CLINIC TO BE NAMED FOR NASHVILLE ATTORNEY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. April 30, 2009 – The Legal Aid Society announced that its monthly Saturday legal advice clinic will be named in honor of Nashville Attorney William Thomas McHugh.

"Bill McHugh was a committed proponent of pro bono work by attorneys," said Gary Housepian, executive director of the Legal Aid Society. "Early in his career, he would go to the courthouse on Wednesdays and volunteer to serve as attorney for indigent persons. His support for the work of the Legal Aid Society and the Nashville Pro Bono Program has been invaluable."

McHugh's widow, Lou McHugh, set up a fund in her husband's name to sponsor the monthly clinics which will be called the McHugh Legal Clinic. They are held the fourth Saturday of each month at the offices of the Legal Aid Society, 300 Deaderick Street. The walk-in legal advice clinic will be staffed by volunteer attorneys and will offer help on a variety of civil legal issues.

"Bill believed, as do I, that all attorneys should volunteer some time to work with people who cannot afford their services," said Mrs. McHugh. "It was important to him and I know it is important to the Legal Aid Society."

A Nashville native, McHugh received his law degree from Cumberland Law School, which was then in Lebanon, TN and is now located at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in the Pacific during World War II. He began practicing law in Nashville in 1947.

So far this year, the clinic has helped 27 individuals each fourth Saturday of the month. There have been 20 volunteer attorneys participating, with many attending more than one clinic.

The Legal Aid Society is the state's largest non-profit law firm. It 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 organization is funded in part by the United Way.

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