



**pictured Legal Aid Staff conducting Town Hall remotely*

While the Central New York region continues to battle the spread of COVID-19 and its economic impact, the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. (LASMNY) continues to evolve to meet the needs of our clients.

Thanks in part to a much-needed COVID-19 emergency funding in the spring through the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida counties and the United Way of the Mohawk Valley, Legal Aid could reorganize and provide remote work stations for all 70 employees.

Paul Lupia, ESQ, Executive Director, said that moving everyone was necessary to keep up with our community's civil legal demands.

"The COVID-19 pandemic created a civil legal crisis. Domestic violence and sexual assault are both on the rise. Many people have lost their jobs, their homes are in jeopardy, or they are coming close to bankruptcy," Lupia said. "Creating a remote working environment for our paralegals and attorneys was crucial to provide much needed legal counsel and advice to protect our community members."

The grant helped purchase remote work stations, including laptops and softphones vital to Legal Aid's daily work.

"The new equipment had a transformational effect on Legal Aid and our clients," Lupia said, "we were able to pivot quickly, continue our service, and have been able to handle the wave of new clients that have applied for services due to the pandemic."