



CANCER LEGAL CARE
LAWYERS ON YOUR CANCER CARE TEAM

TEN YEARS
TEN VOICES

Thousands of lives

IT IS AN HONOR TO INTRODUCE YOU TO CANCER LEGAL CARE

This booklet, 10 Years 10 Voices, celebrates our organization's response to a growing need: the Minnesota cancer community's need for legal care as a critical part of their overall cancer care. Founded in 2007, Cancer Legal Care recognizes cancer's financial toll on patients and families, and the many legal issues that follow as a result. Families dealing with cancer often face difficulties with employment, foreclosure, insurance coverage, navigating Social Security Disability, bankruptcy, and estate planning. Having an attorney on the care team to help with these issues makes a critical difference in the lives of our clients.

Each year we serve a greater number of clients thanks to the generosity of our foundation partners, donors, and volunteers who make our mission come to life. Using both staff and volunteer attorneys, Cancer Legal Care's various programs have provided:

- over \$8.4 million in free legal services
- direct legal care serving over 2,700 Minnesotans
- additional outreach to over 4,400 Minnesota cancer patients, caregivers, health care providers, and attorneys through 116 group presentations

These Minnesotans had no other access to an attorney's help for the legal issues that threatened their health and well-being.

10 Years 10 Voices gives a face and a voice to these numbers and the care our organization provides. We look forward to expanding the definition of health care to include the legal care needed by so many.

THOMAS R SMITH, MD
BOARD CHAIR

CONNECTION

As the outpatient oncology social worker for the largest health care provider in Minnesota, I receive numerous referrals for patients and families who are facing complicated legal concerns due to the sudden crisis of a cancer diagnosis. Receiving a cancer diagnosis is already challenging without the added stressors of applying for social security disability, writing a living will or health care directive, navigating short or long-term disability, facing loss of health insurance, or filing bankruptcy due to immense medical bills. In times of legal crisis, I consistently turn to Cancer Legal Care to receive expert legal advice and compassionate care for my patients and their families. On more than one occasion, I have seen patients in tears when they learn of the legal care and support available to them. Cancer Legal Care provides so much more than legal advice and referrals. They continually offer advocacy and empowerment to individuals in the most vulnerable of situations. Cancer Legal Care offers hope in a time of darkness, and that is something to be celebrated.

BETH JOHNSON
REFERRING SOCIAL WORKER





HOPE

You have breast cancer. These words changed my life. Cancer is scary. It can be a dark journey with lots of unknowns, worry and tough decisions. Treatment can make you feel sick, tired and vulnerable. Still, I count my blessings. I know I am beyond lucky. On my cancer journey, I had a good job, with short term disability and excellent insurance. As I moved through surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, I could focus on getting better. I never had to face any legal concerns. I did not have to worry about losing my job even though I couldn't work for months. I did not have to worry about losing our home because we had to choose between paying the mortgage and paying the bills. I was able to focus on getting better. Not everyone is so fortunate. Many people must battle employment issues, insurance denials and extreme financial pressure, in addition to a cancer diagnosis. My wife and I wanted to find a way to help others facing these issues. We found Cancer Legal Care.

TRACEY BAUBIE & DEB ANDERSON
BOARD MEMBER & DONORS

STABILITY

After my cancer diagnosis, I worked with Cancer Legal Care regarding the preparation of my will and transferring a power of attorney, issues involving SSDI, unemployment, financial concerns, and end-of-life planning.

At each crossroad I was in a very vulnerable state dealing with significant health and emotional challenges. It was so critical to receive professional, respectful and credible information during these times when life felt so out of control. Cancer Legal Care provided those services with professionals who are passionate about providing invaluable assistance in a very efficient and effective manner.

I have had the opportunity to work with their attorneys one-on-one, and I have been able to attend a number of their education seminars. All of these experiences have been extremely valuable and have helped me feel a sense of peace so I can focus my energies on healing.

I truly cannot express my sincere appreciation for all of the services this incredible organization has provided. The comfort of knowing many of my legal issues are resolved gives me much more peace of mind.

DIXIE W

CLIENT

November 17, 1954 – August 5, 2013





CHAMPION

Working at a safety net hospital, Hennepin County Medical Center, I find treating patients for cancer, wherever they are in that course—from initial diagnosis to end of life, often brings them in need of legal help. Many of our patients are facing questions like: What if I can't continue working? I'm not a US citizen, what do I do now? What if I can't manage my finances? Who will be there for my kids if I die? Tackling legal issues in the midst of dealing with cancer treatment is daunting and can prevent patients from getting the care they need. Additionally, these are questions that we, as oncologists, can't answer. While we have integrated mental health, social workers, dieticians and insurance counseling in our program, *legal services remain a gap*. Fortunately, Cancer Legal Care has been there for us. Relieving the anxiety that comes with threatened loss of housing, immigration status, will preparation, and a host of other issues where legal advice is needed, can make the difference for a patient who is so distracted that they don't get their medical care. As a physician, I say "thanks" to Cancer Legal Care for allowing both my patients and me to focus on medical needs.

RICHARD T. ZERA, MD, PHD
PHYSICIAN

INSPIRATION

As a Heffelbower Fellow at Cancer Legal Care, I learned the importance of using legal knowledge and skills for good. Cancer Legal Care is an exceptional organization with dedicated lawyers who saw an unmet need. They got to work supporting people's legal needs at a critical time in their lives. Every person deserves access to the law. To facilitate that access, all attorneys must do their part. We all have a role to play.

ALLISON ROCHFORD, ESQ
NEW ATTORNEY



TRUST

A primary challenge for cancer caregivers is protecting their care recipient from the onslaught of information that follows a cancer diagnosis. Caregivers don't need flyers and monologues from service providers, they need dialogues. Dialogues like they get when they call Cancer Legal Care. Jack's Caregiver Coalition has managed to make an impact only because we stand on the shoulders of organizations like Cancer Legal Care. When we send caregivers to Cancer Legal Care it doesn't feel like we're sending them somewhere else. Cancer Legal Care is us and we're them.

KYLE WOODY
CAREGIVER





GIVING

Whatever I have given in terms of providing peace of mind, I know it has been returned to me at least 10 times more in the satisfaction I have in helping people. Sure, wills, power of attorney and health care directives are legal documents providing for the orderly transfer of assets, appointment of representatives, and the expression of wishes. But most importantly, these documents collectively provide peace of mind for the people I help. They know that their affairs are in order and having these documents in place will make everything easier for their loved ones.

Volunteering as a Cancer Legal Care lawyer enables me to provide this peace of mind. Relieving burden and worry on behalf of the people I help provides me with much satisfaction. Thank you Cancer Legal Care for providing me this wonderful opportunity to use my professional skills to help others.

STUART BEAR, ESQ
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY



IMPACT

Learning that I had stage 4 cancer was probably the most stressful event of my life. Finding the will to keep living life knowing that one day this evil disease could take it away was too much to bear, and my mind did not have much room for any other stress.

Not long after receiving my diagnosis, I began receiving phone calls from debt collectors regarding a 5 year old “debt” from a home security contract that I had thought had been ruled as “not valid” by previous collectors. I tried my best to reason with them, sent out all the necessary paperwork multiple times and had numerous phone conversations but they were relentless. I was mentally exhausted and felt victimized. I reached out to Cancer Legal Care not sure what to expect. After we got off the phone with them, I just sobbed with relief that it finally felt like someone was on my side. They took care of the matter swiftly and I have had no issues from the creditors since.

Living on one income with 3 children and medical bills piling up, hiring a lawyer would not have been an option for us. In addition to helping with the debt collector issue, Cancer Legal Care has been an invaluable resource in helping me understand and navigate the process of obtaining Social Security and now the process of the return to work program. I cannot express the relief that this organization has given me. Living with cancer is hard and complex, but knowing there is someone on my side just a phone call away takes some of the weight off my shoulders.

BRENDA W
CLIENT



VISION & DEDICATION

My work with Cancer Legal Care has been the joy of my professional life. Ten years ago, I had a vision for what I wanted this organization to be—a place of warmth, strength, and calm for people who were feeling anything but. While my vision was clear, the way of making it all happen was a bit more opaque. What made the critical difference was people, the ever widening circle of people who embraced our mission as their own and added their own magic and love to it. I never could have fully envisioned what we have become and where we are headed without the incredible efforts of our staff, board, and volunteers, and the generous support of our foundation partners, sponsors, and donors. This combined goodness has created a place where thousands of people in need have been welcomed, heard, and cared for. Our clients' fortitude and gratitude sustain and fuel our collective drive to keep making change happen. I am so fortunate to be able to do this work, and so very grateful to all of those who make it possible today and everyday.

LINDY YOKANOVICH, ESQ
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I have had the privilege and honor of being part of Cancer Legal Care from the very beginning. The vision of a nonprofit where attorneys make a difference in the lives of cancer patients was one that resonated with me immediately. Working at Cancer Legal Care is more than a job, it is a way to use my legal knowledge to try and make the hard journey of cancer a little less stressful. The goal is that after our help, our clients can focus on their health. I am so proud of all that Cancer Legal Care has done and so excited about what the next ten years will bring!

LINDSAY FLINT, ESQ
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

SPECIAL THANKS

To Our Generous 10 Years 10 Voices Sponsors:

**FAEGRE BAKER
DANIELS**



In Kind Support:



**We believe health care is incomplete
without legal care.**

At Cancer Legal Care, our attorneys help
Minnesotans deal with the legal complexities
of cancer treatment and survivorship.

To learn more, find us at **CancerLegalCare.org**

Thank you for caring with us.