

## 2015-J6347

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Legal Services of Central New York upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations within our midst that have shown an enduring commitment to improving the quality of life in their communities and to enhancing their profession and fostering the highest level of professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Legal Services of Central New York upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary to be celebrated on June 9, 2016, at Drumlins Country Club in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1966 as Onondaga Neighborhood Legal Services, Legal Services of Central New York is a non-profit law firm that has remained dedicated to providing free, civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of Central New York has greatly expanded its programming over the years to operate throughout the Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Otsego, and Oswego counties; and

WHEREAS, Each year, Legal Services of Central New York works on cases that affect the lives of more than 17,000 people, helps stabilize the lives of individuals who have been marginalized, and assists families and individuals denied legal protection because they cannot afford an attorney; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of Central New York's clients include senior citizens, veterans, disabled individuals, and women who turn to the law firm in a time of need; in fact, two-thirds of the clients are women,

often who are struggling to raise a family on their own; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of Central New York represents their clients in court, at administrative hearings, before government agencies and the legislature, and help their clients know and enforce their legal rights; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of Central New York also offers a variety of programs, which include: the Advocacy Group, the AIDS Law Project, the Cancer Legal Advocacy and Services Project, the Central New York Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative, and the Central New York Legal Help-line; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Legal Services of Central New York moved to the George H. Lowe Center for Justice at 221 South Warren Street in Syracuse, where Legal Services of Central New York (LSCNY), Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY), and the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County are all under one roof to help provide greater access to the community; and

WHEREAS, Presently, Legal Services of Central New York has 34 lawyers, and five paralegals, providing thousands of individuals with free legal information, assistance, and representation in various civil legal matters; and

WHEREAS, Legal Services of Central New York has and continues to ensure that all people have equal access to the justice system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Legal Services of Central New York upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Legal Services of Central New York.