

Testimony of Djaria Yaya
February 19, 2014 – Appropriations Committee
Re: Governor's Proposed FY 15 Budget Adjustments

I am here today at the request of the New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. and would like to share my thoughts on the state budget for legal services.

My name is Djaria Yaya; I am a single parent raising four children. My legal problems began when my husband tried to evict me from the home that we lived in together with our four children. Although we lived in the house for seven years and paid the mortgage and bills together, the home was not in my name. One day my husband took my house keys from me.

Luckily, God sent me an angel, Attorney Amy Eppler-Epstein, who changed everything for me and my four children. Amy stopped the eviction and kept me and my children in the house. She also helped me get child support after my husband refused to provide any support for our children. Thank God New Haven Legal Assistance and Attorney Eppler-Epstein were there to help me in my time of need.

Without legal aid I do not know what would have happened to me and my children. There are many people in Connecticut who, like us, cannot afford to retain a lawyer. I strongly urge the state to continue to support the Legal Assistance Association in its mission to aid low income individuals and families.

Thank you.