

Oshun Vicente
February 19, 2016
Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
Re
Funding for Legal Aid

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Oshun Vicente. I work for the Minority Construction Council as the Assistant Director in Hartford, CT. I am on Hartford's 7th District Town Committee. And I proudly raise 7 children, birth and through placement, as a single mother.

I came to Greater Hartford Legal Aid because I needed protection from domestic violence, help with getting a parenting plan that was in the best interest of my children, and a fair division of my husband's retirement plans. My attorney, Linda Allard, obtained an order where I received more than \$43,000 in retirement benefits.

I also sought their assistance in helping 3 of my children get the appropriate educational services they needed. My attorney, Lynn Cochrane, helped me solidify special education services in 2 of my children's schools. She worked diligently to advocate for private education at Ben Bronze Academy and The Learning Incentive where my child moved up 5 grade levels.

Lastly, when I was being threatened by the biological mother of 2 of my children, GHLA provided me with advice on how to successfully get a restraining order that protected my ex-husband and children.

Legal Aid provided a necessary service to many vital parts of my life. Do not cut funding to this crucial agency.