

## Massachusetts Law Reform Institute: *Impact in Action*

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) is a statewide non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to advance economic, racial and social justice through legal action, policy advocacy, and education. We specialize in large-scale legal initiatives and policy reforms that address the root causes of poverty, remove barriers to opportunity, promote economic stability and create a path to self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families. We advocate for systemic reforms that achieve economic and social justice for low-income children and families, elders, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, and defend against policies and actions that harm people living in poverty.

MLRI's advocacy is cross-substantive, providing us with a unique capacity to identify and address structural poverty issues. Our issue areas include: Child Welfare, Employment Law, Family Law & Domestic Violence, Health Care, Housing, Immigration, Hunger & Food Insecurity, Income Stabilization/ Benefits, and Racial Justice. In addition, MLRI explores innovative strategies and systemic reforms that combat structural and intergenerational poverty.

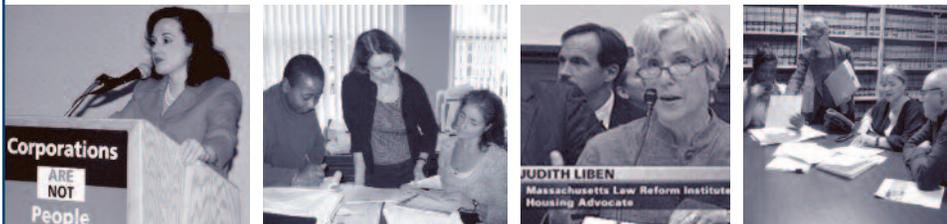
For more information, please visit MLRI's website at [www.mlri.org](http://www.mlri.org) or contact:



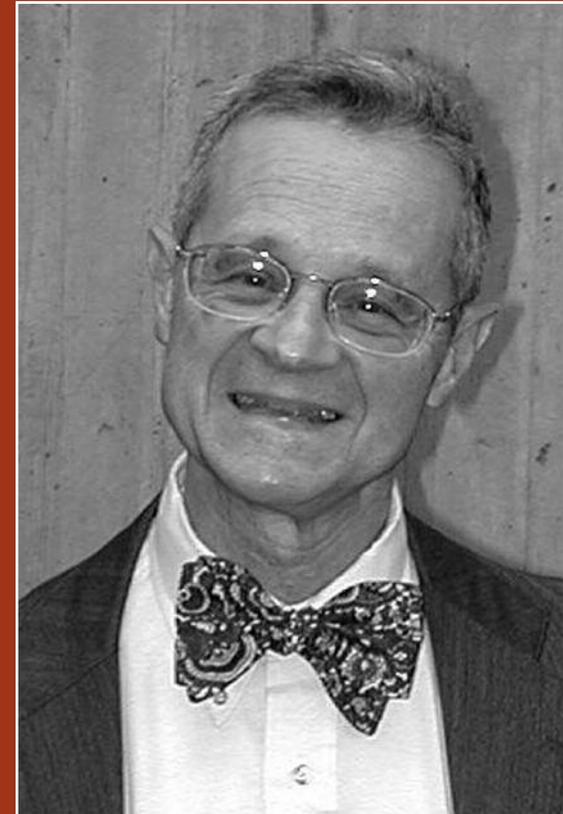
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[www.mlri.org](http://www.mlri.org)

Georgia D. Katsoulomitis, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
99 Chauncy Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-357-0700 x314  
gkatsoulomitis@mlri.org

*45 Years of Fighting Poverty and Advancing Justice*



## The Ernest "Tony" Winsor Fund for Justice



**MLRI** MASSACHUSETTS  
LAW REFORM  
INSTITUTE

## Ernest “Tony” Winsor



March 13, 1956 -  
November 4, 2015

**Fearless advocate for the poor, the disenfranchised, and the forgotten.  
Brilliant lawyer who relentlessly advanced the promise of justice for all.  
Respected mentor to generations of public interest advocates.  
Beloved colleague and friend.  
Inspiration.**

Ernest “Tony” Winsor was hired as an attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute on November 4, 1970. Over the course of his 39 years at MLRI, he left an indelible imprint on the legal and social justice communities. A handful of Tony’s many accomplishments include:

### **Court Watching**

In the 1970s, Tony Winsor organized court-watching groups for the District Courts and the Boston Municipal Court Department. Court watchers had significant impact on improving practices in those courts. MLRI’s court-watching efforts gained national attention.

### **Indigent Court Costs Law**

In the early 1970s, poor people would lose access to the courts because they could not pay the court fees and other costs. Tony drafted a bill providing for an affidavit of indigency to cover court costs for low-income litigants. After several years of determined advocacy, the bill was adopted by the Legislature in 1974.

### **Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Reform**

One of Tony’s landmark accomplishments was CORI reform. Information about criminal records was often used to deny people employment and housing, and strong patterns of racism were evident from abusive use of CORI information. Tony and MLRI attorney Fran Fajana worked with the Union of Minority Neighborhoods, the Boston Workers Alliance, EPOCA of Worcester, and other allies to develop a campaign that ultimately led to the passage of a comprehensive CORI reform law in 2010.

### **Language Access**

For decades, low-income, non-English speaking people had been denied adequate interpretation services in the legal system. In the mid-1970s, Tony established and led the Babel Coalition (named after the biblical Tower of Babel and the confusion of languages). He and the Babel Coalition asked state government agencies to translate important notices into the most commonly spoken languages of beneficiaries, which the state eventually did. For the next 30 years, Tony led successful efforts to expand language access to the courts and to medical facilities.

## Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

### The Ernest “Tony” Winsor Fund for Justice

*A Lasting Tribute to a Visionary Public Interest Lawyer  
and Champion of Justice*

Tony Winsor’s intrepid and brilliant advocacy impacted countless people, touched the larger social justice community, and significantly transformed unjust and unfair systems and policies in Massachusetts. In addition, Tony not only inspired but also directly mentored hundreds of legal services lawyers and public interest advocates who continue to carry on the anti-poverty and social justice work so important to him.

To honor Tony’s legacy and lifetime of work on behalf of low-income, vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities, and to recognize his unwavering commitment to social justice, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute has established a fund in his name.

Donations and pledges to the **Ernest “Tony” Winsor Fund for Justice** will be used to support MLRI advocacy initiatives that further its mission to advance economic, racial and social justice for low-income and underserved individuals, families and communities, including:

- to further MLRI’s efforts to reform barriers to justice that deny low-income people opportunities to make a better life for themselves and their families;
- to promote MLRI initiatives that improve the delivery of civil legal aid and the administration of justice to those most in need;
- to support MLRI in developing innovative projects that address structural racism and intergenerational poverty;
- to support endeavors that address economic and societal inequalities resulting from race, gender, disability, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual preference and/or socioeconomic class;
- to support MLRI’s activities that mentor and train the future generation of public interest lawyers and advocates who will carry on the legacy of Tony Winsor.

Income and principal of this Fund will be used to support the projects, activities and work in furtherance of this mission.

*For information about MLRI’s **Ernest “Tony” Winsor Fund for Justice** or to make a donation or pledge, please visit our website at [www.mlri.org](http://www.mlri.org) or contact MLRI’s Executive Director Georgia Katsoulomitis at [GKatsoulomitis@mlri.org](mailto:GKatsoulomitis@mlri.org) or at 617-357-0700 x314.*