Paul Laurent, Director of Leadership Giving and Engagement

Paul Laurent is National Consumer Law Center’s Director of Leadership Giving and Engagement, working closely with major donors to increase support for NCLC’s activities through individual major gifts, cy pres awards, annual giving, planned giving, special events, law firm and corporate support, and direct mail appeals.

Prior to joining NCLC, Paul was Director of Development at NF Northeast, a rare disease patient advocacy organization. Paul has also held senior major gifts roles at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, where he worked closely with senior executives in the financial, professional services and legal communities, and at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Paul also worked in business and academia for more than two decades in the United Kingdom. He holds a BA in International Relations from Tufts University and a Masters in International Studies from the University of Birmingham, England. Paul currently serves as an elected member to his town’s School Committee.

Steve Hurley, Chief Development Officer
Steve Hurley is the National Consumer Law Center’s Chief Development Officer. He is responsible for leading NCLC’s development team, which is focused on expanding the organization’s impact on economic justice issues by increasing its annual and long-term support through a wide range of sources: individual giving and cy pres awards, foundation grants, conferences and events, planned giving and more. NCLC welcomes the support of all those who want to promote economic fairness and justice in our society.

Prior to joining NCLC, Steve was the Director of Strategic Development at the ACLU of Massachusetts from 2009-2016, where he led all fundraising and donor communication efforts and played a leading role in strategic planning and institutional advancement initiatives. Earlier in his career, Steve held a variety of senior management positions at the Boston-based direct marketing firm Share Group, Inc., where his non-profit and political clients included organizations like Oxfam America, the Southern Poverty Law Center, NAACP, Human Rights Campaign, EMILY’s List, Obama for America, and the national ACLU. And (long) before that, he was a campaign manager and legislative aide for a Massachusetts State Representative, and an organizer, campaign director and member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group.

Steve’s passion for NCLC’s complex work is informed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s simple statement: “This country should not be run for the biggest corporations and largest financial institutions.”

**Tashia Graham, Human Resources Manager**
Tashia Graham is the National Consumer Law Center’s Human Resources Manager. Tashia joined NCLC in 2016 and is responsible for benefits administration, coordination of personnel policies, assistance with recruitment, and coordination of periodic compensation studies. Tashia has a passion for serving underserved communities, demonstrated through her history of mission-based HR work, and also her volunteer work with local organizations. Previously, she served as the HR Generalist at Fenway Health in Boston, a nonprofit community health center serving the LGBTQ community. Tashia holds a Professional in Human Resources (PHR©) Certification and a BA in Psychology from St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

---

**SarahEmily Pina, Manager of Conferences and Trainings**

SarahEmily is responsible for the overall planning and implementation of conferences, training workshops, webinars, and special events at NCLC. She brings comprehensive knowledge and experience in development and event planning within nonprofit and academic settings. Prior to development work, SarahEmily taught and coordinated programs for adult English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) both overseas with the Fulbright program, and within the Dorchester Vietnamese community in Boston. She holds a BM from Millikin University, a Masters of Music in Ethnomusicology from Northern Illinois University, and continues to engage with music by sitting on the boards of two prestigious choral ensembles.

---

**Jenifer Bosco, Staff Attorney**
Jenifer Bosco is a staff attorney at NCLC who focuses on two broad areas: energy and utility issues that affect low-income consumers, and medical debt. She has advocated for low-income consumers in utility proceedings in several states, is a contributing author of NCLC’s treatise, Access to Utility Service, and has worked on transportation electrification policy and competitive energy supply issues. She co-wrote NCLC’s Model Medical Debt Protection Act, and is a contributing author to NCLC’s Collection Actions treatise. Prior to joining NCLC, she was the first director of the Office of Patient Protection at the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission. Previously, Jen advocated for health care needs of low-income individuals at Health Law Advocates, advocated for low-income clients at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and Merrimack Valley Legal Services, and served as an Assistant Attorney General in Massachusetts. Jen holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. from Boston College.

---

**Rising Star Award**

Nominate a 2020 Recipient today!

Established in 2015, the Rising Star award is presented annually by the National Consumer Law Center’s Partners Council. The award honors an attorney or attorneys (in practice for 15 years or less) who made major contributions to consumer law within the past two years by trying or settling a case of great success and significance.

**Rising Star Award Winners:**

2019: Jennifer Bennett || Andrew Guzzo || Matthew Osborne || Joe Villaseñor
2018: Katherine Hanson || Rick Berlin || Stephanie Eberhardt || Steve Sharpe
2017: Eileen Connor || Susan Shin
2016: Gina Chiala || Carolyn E. Coffey || J. Rachel Scott || Claudia E. Wilner
2015: Max Weinstein and Roger Heller

Submit nominations to consumerlaw@nclc.org
Questions? Contact Steve Hurley (shurley@nclc.org or 617-542-8010)

[View Criteria & Submit Nomination](#)
Awards

Countryman Award

Since the first award was presented in 1990 to Henry J. Sommer for his leadership in promoting the field of consumer law, the Vern Countryman Award has quickly become the top honor for consumer attorneys. Read more about our Countryman Award winners and how to nominate a 2020 recipient >>>

Rising Star Award

In 2015, the National Consumer Law Center’s Partners Council will present its first Rising Star award to the attorney who made the greatest contribution to consumer law within the past two years by trying or settling one or more cases with great success and significance. Read more about our Rising Star Award winners and how to nominate a 2020 recipient.....

Award Ceremonies Photo Gallery
April Kuehnhoff, Attorney

April Kuehnhoff is a staff attorney in the National Consumer Law Center's Boston office, where she advocates for fair debt collection. She is the co-author of NCLC’s *Fair Debt Collection* and a contributing author to *Surviving Debt*. Prior to joining NCLC, Ms. Kuehnhoff was an associate at Shapiro Haber & Urmy LLP, a law clerk for the Honorable Justice Gary Katzmann at the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and a Skirnick Public Interest Fellow at the Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services office of Greater Boston Legal Services. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Law School.

Joanna K. Darcus, Staff Attorney*

Joanna K. Darcus is a staff attorney who works on litigation, debt collection, and student loan matters. As part of the Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project, she represents low-income student loan borrowers, most of whom are people of color. Joanna uses advocacy and litigation to address predatory education and lending practices. From 2017-2019, she was the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation Racial Justice Fellow at NCLC.

Prior to joining NCLC, Joanna was a supervising attorney at Community Legal Services, Inc. of Philadelphia. While there, she represented hundreds of low-income consumers sued by debt collectors or struggling with student loans. She also trained other advocates and pursued policy reforms.
Joanna is a graduate of Williams College and Duke University School of Law. She is a contributor to NCLC’s Student Loan Law and Surviving Debt.

*Not licensed in the District of Columbia; practice limited to federal courts.*

---

**Abby Shafroth, Attorney**

Abby Shafroth is a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center and focuses on student loan and for-profit school issues, and on the intersection of criminal and consumer law. She has represented the interests of students and legal assistance organizations on federal and state policy committees, and is the co-author of two reports in the Confronting Criminal Justice Debt series: The Urgent Need for Reform and A Guide for Litigation. She is also an author of the National Consumer Law Center’s Student Loan Law and Collection Actions treatises. Prior to joining NCLC, Abby litigated civil rights and employment class and collective actions at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC in Washington, D.C., worked as an attorney at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Richard A. Paez of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Abby is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.