

Senate Resolution No. 1915

**BY:** Senator MARTINEZ

**COMMEMORATING** the 60th Anniversary of Legal Services of Long Island, Inc.

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Legal Services of Long Island, Inc. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded by the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, the mission of Legal Services of Long Island, Inc. (LSLI) is to provide quality legal services in civil matters in a manner which respects the individual dignity of low-income and disabled individuals and helps ensure that they are afforded the full protection and benefits of the law; and

**WHEREAS,** Legal Services of Long Island seeks to create equal access to the civil justice system through the provision of easily accessible, high-quality, comprehensive legal services to low income and disabled Long Island residents in matters dealing with survival needs, housing preservation, health care, economic justice, and family stability; and

**WHEREAS,** When LSLI was first established in 1966, the organization began with two core units: Housing and Welfare; these programs were created to address pressing challenges facing low-income individuals and families; and

**WHEREAS,** As community needs changed and the work of LSLI expanded, the Welfare Unit evolved into the modern Public Benefits Unit—a program dedicated to helping clients navigate and secure vital public assistance programs; and

**WHEREAS,** Legal Services of Long Island currently operates 22 specialized units dedicated to serving low-income residents across Long Island, with each unit focusing on key areas such as housing preservation, public benefits, healthcare, education, and family stability; and

**WHEREAS,** From landmark housing litigation to advocacy for students experiencing homelessness, LSLI's units work together to protect vulnerable individuals' rights, combat homelessness, and ensure fair access to essential services—all at no cost to clients; and

**WHEREAS,** With a unique role at LSLI, the Legal Support Center for Advocates, a specialized unit, acts as a legal back-up center for advocates from social service agencies, religious organizations, health care facilities, and other community-based agencies; and

**WHEREAS,** Further, Legal Services of Long Island boasts another specialized project, known as the Community Legal Help Project (CLHP), which is a partnership of legal services providers created by the NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and the Suffolk County Access to Justice Committee; the CLHP's network of non-profit partners and pro bono volunteers currently provides legal information, referrals, and limited-scope representation through a phone line and brief in-person consultations at public libraries or the courthouse; and

**WHEREAS,** Legal Services of Long Island values outreach, community legal education, and the dissemination of public information to clients, alongside networking with and training community advocates to create effective partners in service; and

**WHEREAS,** With a belief that all eligible clients should have access to the justice system, LSLI takes full advantage of opportunities to be noticeably present and available in courts, local libraries, hospitals, and other venues and events where people gather, reflecting their dedication and passion for serving those in need in their pursuit for justice and fair treatment under the law; and

**WHEREAS,** The importance of the Legal Services of Long Island was clear 60 years ago at its inception, and that importance remains constant today; then, as now, Legal Services of Long Island remains a positive force determined to shape a more just society for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Legal Services of Long Island, Inc.; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Legal Services of Long Island, Inc.