

## LAS honors pro bono work for those in need, abused

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Jerome M. Krulewitch, McDonald's vice president, general counsel and secretary, speaks with Jonathan Bunge, partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, during the Legal Aid Society's Equal Access to Justice award luncheon on Wednesday at the Palmer House Hilton. Krulewitch received an award from LAS, and Bunge served as co-chair of the event. — *Sarah Mansur*

POSTED October 17, 2019 11:07 AM

Maria, a Legal Aid Society client, was desperately trying to escape her abusive husband when she arrived at the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse in February.

A Legal Aid Society staff attorney at the 555 W. Harrison St. facility noticed Maria almost immediately and took on her case. Maria filed a restraining order against her husband, and took him to court when he violated it.

"I wouldn't be here without that help," Maria said Wednesday at the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services' 2019 Equal Access to Justice Award Luncheon at the Palmer House Hilton.

The event highlighted the range of legal help LAS staff attorneys have provided to low-income or vulnerable individuals over the past year. LAS has obtained more than 715 orders of protection on behalf of 360 clients

# Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

This year marks 100 years since LAS joined United Charities, the precursor to the modern-day Metropolitan Family Services.

LAS has its earliest roots in the Protective Agency for Women and Children, chartered in 1886.

The nonprofit gave its Scott C. Solberg Pro Bono Awards to Malou Roth, principal at People First HR Services and to the professional services firm Aon.

The event also honored Jerome M. Krulewitch, executive vice president, general counsel and secretary for McDonald's Corp., with its William H. Avery Award for Equal Access for Justice.

Krulewitch, a graduate of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, worked at Winston & Strawn LLP and as a federal prosecutor in Chicago before he joined the global burger chain.

During his 15-year tenure at McDonald's, Krulewitch served as vice president of litigation, senior vice president and general counsel for the Americas and senior vice president and chief counsel of global legal operations.

He serves on the boards of directors for the Metropolitan Family Services and the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago.

"It provides true wraparound services," Krulewitch said of LAS and Metropolitan Family Services. "It's one-stop shopping for people in need."

For individuals like Maria, he said, seeking legal advice can be overwhelming.

"[LAS staff attorneys] have just done a phenomenal job of providing victims of really tough situations an opportunity to get out of it," he said.