



STUDENTS FIRST

Attorney Margaret Jones embraces role as first Executive Director

As one of the founding members of Disability Legal Services of Indiana, Inc. in 2008, Margaret Jones has embodied the spirit and passion behind this Indiana nonprofit. As the organization grew and evolved, Jones emerged as the natural and unanimous choice when the board of directors voted in 2019 to create the position of DLSI's first-ever Executive Director. During her tenure at DLSI,



MARGARET JONES

Jones had served as board president while simultaneously working as the organization's primary attorney, representing parents and students throughout the state of Indiana in special education matters involving the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Indiana's Article 7, Section 504 and the American's with Disabilities Act. While she remains a front-line advocate for Indiana's students in need, she began a new role as Executive Director in March 2019. Here she reflects on this journey.

Question: *How does the establishment of the ED role benefit DLSI and its clients?*

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Jones: The Executive Director role has allowed me to focus my time and energies on promoting DLSI to ensure that other organizations are aware of DLSI's services, especially organizations that serve children with disabilities and at risk youth. That awareness has resulted in more referrals from organizations, which has expanded DLSI's reach across the state and allowed us to serve more families. DLSI has provided services to families from Gibson, Harrison, Floyd and Clark Counties in Southern Indiana to Lake, Elkhart and Allen Counties County in Northern Indiana, in addition to serving families in central Indiana.

Question: *What are the biggest lessons you have learned in your first year as ED?*

Jones: I have learned that being an effective Executive Director means leading, not just managing the organization. It requires consistent communication and a vision to put DLS's mission at the forefront. It also involves the ability to attract and recruit staff and board members who can move the organization forward into the future.

Question: *What is your biggest wish for DLSI as you grow in this job?*

Jones: I am excited to work with the DLSI's dedicated board of directors and staff to develop and implement strategies to accomplish DLSI's goals and to further DLSI's mission, building respect for the organization along the way.

Learn more about Margaret Jones at <https://www.disabilitylegalservicesindiana.org/margaret-jones>



SUCCESS STORIES

Grandparent seeks help for student's reading disability

DLSI was approached by a grandmother for assistance when her elementary age grandson was consistently reading below grade level. This frustrated the student and impacted his ability to be successful in his classes. The student had a specific reading disability and an individualized education plan,

but was not making sufficient progress on his goals. An investigation into the matter revealed he was not receiving appropriate services. DLSI attorneys successfully advocated for the student and he received individualized compensatory education services using a systematic, sequential reading program designed for his reading disability.

University makes accommodations for disabled student

A student with chronic medical conditions sought assistance from DLSI when the university she attended failed to provide reasonable accommodations for her disabilities. The college student filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, but

quickly became overwhelmed with the legal process and sought assistance from DLSI. With DLSI's assistance, the student was able to resolve her matter, receive her accommodations, as well as other benefits. She is continuing to successfully pursue her education.

New attorney joins DLSI

DLSI welcomed Mimi Huybers to DLSI in 2019. Mimi is a skilled attorney and disability advocate who is passionate about serving families of children with special education needs. She has experience working with parents, school staff, community organizations and local disability leaders. Huybers worked with IN*SOURCE for nine years before joining DLSI as a staff attorney. We are thrilled to have her working on behalf of our clients. Learn more about Mimi Huybers at <https://www.disabilitylegalservicesindiana.org/mimi-huybers>



MIMI HUYBERS

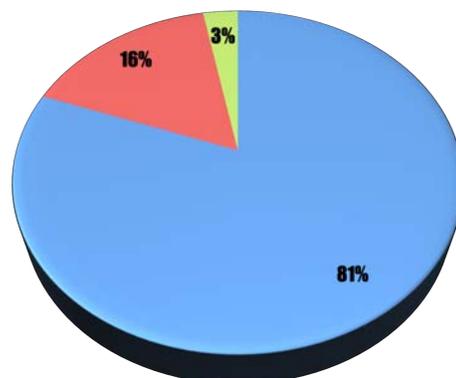
SUCCESS STORIES: Student gets compensatory services

DLSI assisted a student whose school unilaterally shortened his school day for behaviors related to his disabilities. DLSI advocated for the student and worked with the school to develop a new individualized education program for the student requiring a full day schedule

with proper support and services, including support during school and in after school extracurricular activities, additional accommodations, assessments and training for school staff. Additionally, the student received compensatory education services for his missed special education services.

DLSI 2019 Hours by Category

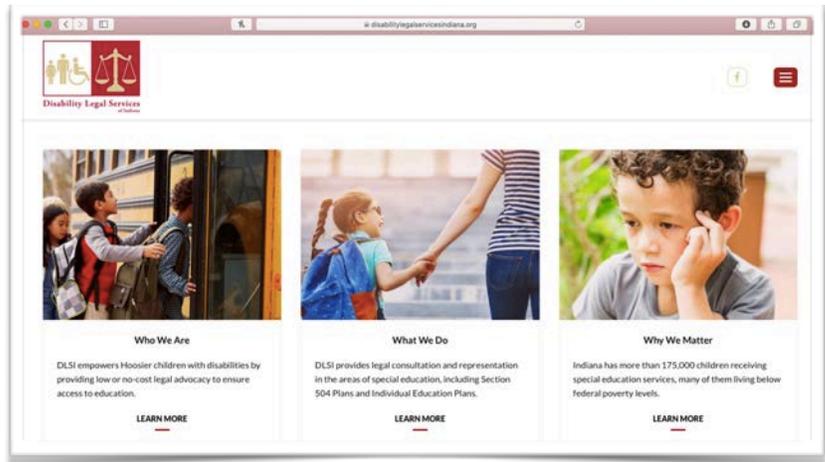
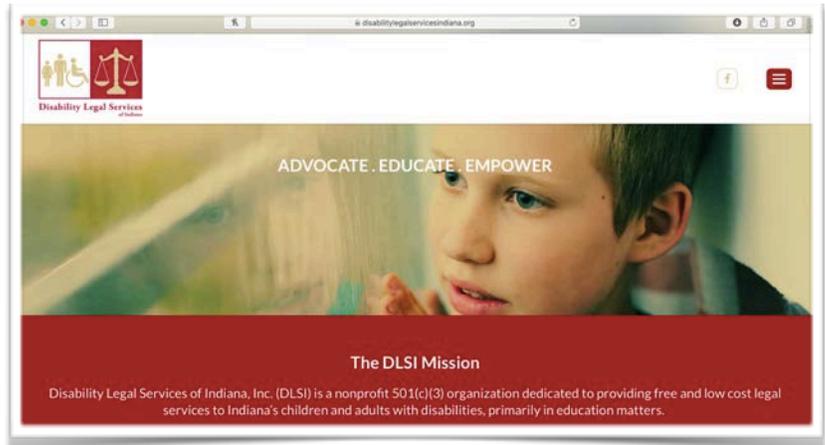
- Program Services
- Administrative
- Public Education Presentations



DLSI launches new website to reach more clients and share its mission

DLSI partnered with Clever Dogs Media Inc. to create a new website in July 2019 to better promote the organization’s services and to provide important information to prospective and current clients. The site at www.disabilitylegalservices.org features:

- The latest Search Engine Optimization technology that helps DLSI gain significantly higher rankings and views on Google and other internet search engines.
- Responsive site design that is easy to view and navigate on all devices, including mobile phones, desktop, tablets and tablets.
- Content management and tech support provided 24/7 by Clever Dogs Media.
- Easy integration of third-party software applications such as contact forms and video/audio content.
- Ongoing performance and security upgrades and an infrastructure that allows for site growth.



DLSI thanks these community partners for generously supporting our website

