



MLPB
ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

December 2022

IDEAS IN MOTION



MLPB [files amicus brief](#) in case that will impact Massachusetts tenants challenging unhealthy housing conditions

Nationally, most tenants are unrepresented in eviction proceedings, legal cases that can [catapult families into homelessness](#). Currently, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is considering [Jason Dacey v. Sandy Burgess](#), a case that could impact the health and well-being of residential tenants across the Commonwealth.



Are you part of a community of care that's invested in healthy housing for your patients/members? If so, you'll want to learn more!

Sometimes the judiciary allows "friends of the court" (*amicus curiae*) to share important data and perspective on a pending case. To access MLPB's *amicus* brief (letter) and for more information on *Dacey v. Burgess*, check out:

- [MLPB Amicus Brief Letter](#)
- [SJC Case Docket for Jason Dacey vs. Sandy Burgess](#)
- [SJC Oral Arguments on Dacey v. Burgess](#)

BRIDGING DIVIDES

Check out MLPB's latest blog post:

Compassion, Fixing, and the Work of Caring: Reflections from a Law & Policy Consultant

Read the blog post



Kate Gannon, Law & Policy Consultant, MLPB



DIGITAL DIGEST

With the start of a new calendar year comes many changes to state and federal policies. We encourage you to visit the [Digital Digest](#) for the most up-to-date information about what these changes mean, include timestamps to ensure your confidence in this information.



Federal Immigration Update

- Effective **Dec. 12, 2022**, USCIS will automatically extend the validity of Green Cards for lawful permanent residents who have applied for naturalization.

Massachusetts Housing Updates

- The MA Department of Housing and Community Development has issued a [new guide](#) to help tenants apply for housing assistance through the new Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program portal. The new RAFT [application portal](#) is now live.
- As a reminder, [certain protections for MA tenants facing eviction](#) for non-payment of rent currently are extended through **Mar. 31, 2023**.

Rhode Island Updates

- Rhode Island's public health emergency was extended through **Jan. 10, 2023**.
- Starting **Jan. 1, 2023**, RI's minimum wage will increase to \$13/hour.
- Starting in **Jul. 2023**, Driver Privilege Cards will allow Rhode Islanders without social security numbers, but who have filed tax returns, permission to legally drive in Rhode Island.

Federal Digital Digest

MA Digital Digest

RI Digital Digest



ON OUR MIND



Top Story:

[A Fact-Based Strategy For Swimming Upstream Toward Prevention](#) (ConvergenceRI, Dec. 12, 2022)

Criminal Legal Systems & Health

- [National Center For Access To Justice Releases New Fines And Fees Justice Reports On Decriminalizing Poverty In The Judicial System](#) (Fordham Law News, Dec. 1, 2022)

Family-Centered Policies & Health

- [Congress Is Considering Financial Help For Parents. Here Are The Details.](#) (The New York Times, Dec. 15, 2022)
- [Childhood's Greatest Danger: The Data On Kids And Gun Violence](#) (The New York Times, Dec. 14, 2022)
- [To Confront Elder Mistreatment, Look To The VA's Social Work Response](#) (Health Affairs Forefront, Dec. 9, 2022)
- [They Brought Their Sick Baby To The Hospital. Three Days Later, The State Took Their Kids Away](#) (The Boston Globe, Dec. 7, 2022)

Health Inequities and Care Transformation

- [A Bold Step To Address Health Inequities](#) (BCBSMA Coverage, Dec. 15, 2022)
- [House Approves Referendum To 'Decolonize' Puerto Rico](#) (The Boston Globe, Dec. 15, 2022)
- [Structural Stigma In Law: Implications And Opportunities For Health And Health Equity](#) (Health Affairs, Dec. 8, 2022)

Housing & Health

- [How To Ensure Affordable Housing In Massachusetts](#) (The Boston Globe, Dec. 14, 2022)
- [Judge Blocks McKee Order To Evict Homeless Rhode Islanders Camping At State House](#) (The Boston Globe, Dec. 9, 2022)
- [Fighting Homelessness, And 'Not In My Backyard'](#) (The Boston Globe, Dec. 7, 2022)

- [Massachusetts Enacted Its Most Ambitious Housing Law In Decades. Now The Hard Part Is Enforcing It.](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Dec. 4, 2022)
- [Evictions Are Rising Again. It's Time To Get Creative.](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Dec. 2, 2022)
- [How Hospitals Respond When Mentally Ill People Come In From The Streets](#) (*The New York Times*, Dec. 2, 2022)

Income Supports & Health

- [Some Chelsea Residents Got \\$400 A Month, No Strings Attached. Here's What Happened Next](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Dec. 7, 2022)

LGBTQIA+ Rights & Health

- [Senate Votes To Protect Same-Sex Marriage, With Crucial Backing From Some Republicans Who Helped Install Conservatives On Supreme Court](#) (*The Boston Globe*, Nov. 29, 2022)

Care planning, delivery and financing should systematically account for people's legal rights, risks and remedies. MLPB equips communities of care with legal education and problem-solving insight that fosters prevention, health equity and human-centered system change. Through training, consultation and technical assistance, we help teams and organizations better connect people to the resources and legal protections they seek.

At a household level, this capacity-building support disrupts the trajectory of a social, economic or environmental need into a legal — and health — crisis. At a population level, this work cultivates communities of care as partners in system and policy change.

MLPB is a fiscally sponsored organization of [TSNE](#).

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