



## **South Coastal Counties Legal Services Appoints New Executive Director**

**Fall River, MA (February 1, 2023)** – South Coastal Counties Legal Services announced the appointment of Christopher M. Oldi as its next Executive Director. Oldi resides in Westchester County, NY and currently serves Legal Services of the Hudson Valley as its *Pro Bono* Director. Oldi has been an attorney and administrator at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) since 2014 and previously practiced law with firms in New York City and White Plains, NY. Oldi is a graduate of Vassar College and earned his JD degree from the City University of New York School of Law.

“For more than 50 years, South Coastal Counties Legal Services (SCCLS) has served the people of Southeastern Massachusetts, providing needed legal services in civil matters and improving the lives of its most vulnerable residents, their families, and their communities,” said Bettina Holton, Chair of SCCLS Board of Directors. “We are confident that the next chapter for South Coastal Counties Legal Services under the leadership of Chris Oldi will further strengthen our state.”

While an attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Oldi represented clients with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, and he led the creation of the LGBTQ Legal Project, representing low income LGBTQ individuals in areas such as job discrimination, housing, government benefits, and family law. Later in his time at LSHV, Oldi was a supervising attorney in their Yonkers office, assisting survivors of domestic violence, individuals with mental health challenges, and people with disabilities. “I have been privileged to provide legal services directly for low income individuals, supervise other hard working attorneys and administer our programs at LSHV, and most recently engage the private members of the bar in providing *pro bono* legal services for the most vulnerable people in our community. This leadership opportunity at SCCLS will allow me to work with some of the best public interest lawyers in New England and in one of the most compassionate and generous jurisdictions in terms of legal services in the country. South Coastal Counties Legal Services is a model program in the Commonwealth and across the nation, and it is a privilege to be selected to lead this incredible team,” Oldi noted.

Oldi will succeed Susan Nagl who has been South Coastal Counties Legal Services’ Executive Director since 2012. She has been with SCCLS, or a predecessor organization, for thirty years serving in a variety of leadership roles prior to being tapped for Executive Director. These roles have included Supervising Attorney of the Housing Practice Group; Managing Attorney of the Plymouth and New Bedford offices; and Director of Advocacy. During her tenure as Executive Director, the organization’s revenues have grown from \$4.7 million to nearly \$11 million per year. Susan will continue to serve as Executive Director until Oldi assumes that position on March 1, 2023 and will remain available during his relocation from New York to Massachusetts and his transition to this leadership role. “We cannot overstate the enormous contributions that Susan has made to SCCLS as a thriving organization and to the low income residents of Southeastern Massachusetts. Susan is a recognized champion of legal services both in the



Commonwealth and nationwide. We wish her well as she embraces her next chapter.” stated Bettina Holton.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. (SCCLS) is a private, non-profit organization which provides free legal help in civil matters to low income residents of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket and Plymouth counties and the towns of Avon and Stoughton in Norfolk County. Together with its wholly owned subsidiary, the Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts, SCCLS operates fully staffed, community based law offices in Fall River, New Bedford, Hyannis, and Brockton. The administrative office is located in Fall River. Each year, the organization provides legal help to approximately 5000 low income individuals and families in Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod & the Islands. SCCLS and its predecessor organizations have been providing free quality legal assistance to the community for more than 50 years. Christopher Oldi’s appointment follows a nationwide search by a hard working committee chaired by Attorney Holton and led by Isaacson, Miller.

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