

NWLS Celebrates 40 Years of Service

In 1969, 36 attorneys from the Erie County Bar Association came together with a vision of providing free legal help in civil cases to people who could not afford to hire an attorney. The legacy of that vision lives on as Northwestern Legal Services (NWLS), and on May, 7, 2009, over 500 attended the NWLS reception at Erie's Federal Courthouse, commemorating 40 years of providing access to justice and honoring the 38 original incorporators of NWLS. As part of the anniversary celebration, NWLS produced a [commemorative video](#). The keynote speaker for the event was Charles J. Olgetree Jr., Harvard Law School professor, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and founder and director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

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