



News Release
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PACKERS QB AARON RODGERS JOINS FIGHT FOR EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

Team Makes Donation to Help Provide Civil Legal Aid to Poor and Elderly

Green Bay, WI — Legal Action of Wisconsin received a \$50,000 donation from five player representatives of the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field today.

On behalf of Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy presented the donation to Legal Action. The donation is part of the players' and the NFL's *Social Justice Initiative*—a joint effort between the players and the NFL to use their platform to tackle the complex societal issues in their communities.

Legal Action Executive Director David Pifer, along with Legal Action Board President Ben Obregon, joined Andrea Gage-Michaels, the managing attorney of Legal Action's Green Bay Office, to accept the donation. Pifer was pleased to announce that the players will continue to support Legal Action after today's event.

"Social justice is our work. Equal justice for all is our work. Aaron Rodgers' and the other players' choice to support Legal Action of Wisconsin affirms that equal justice for all is one of the most important American ideals," said Pifer. "Demanding equal justice for all is what we have done for 50 years, and what we will continue to do as long as it is needed."

"Our clients struggle to make ends meet. They struggle to make their rent, feed their kids, and buy gas to get to work or school. They are elderly men and women, students, veterans, and people with disabilities. They are working moms and dads" said Gage-Michaels. "Our clients work hard, but ordinary life problems can get in the way and become major civil legal problems that can *only* be solved by lawyers."

Legal Action's 80 lawyers and 46 support staff give hope to thousands of Wisconsinites statewide every year. Legal Action staff is working to solve the eviction crisis, to end homelessness, and to protect victims of human trafficking and elder abuse.

"Our work at Legal Action of Wisconsin provides a *solution* to social injustice—a solution that changes the status quo for low-income people," said Gage-Michaels.

The full text of Gage-Michaels' news conference remarks is attached.

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Good morning. My name is Andrea Gage-Michaels. I'm the Managing Attorney of Legal Action of Wisconsin's Green Bay office. I'm joined by Legal Action Executive Director David Pifer, and Ben Obregon, the president of our board of directors.

We're also joined by Green Bay Packers Mark Murphy who is presenting our donation on behalf of Aaron Rodgers, who as recently as this Sunday, showed the world what it looks like to work hard in the face of adversity. It's very fitting that he's presenting this donation today, because our clients throughout Wisconsin also face adversity every single day.

We've been pleased to see NFL players nationwide take up the fight for social justice, because demanding equal justice is what we do at Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Social justice is our work. Equal justice for all is our work. The Packers' decision to support Legal Action of Wisconsin affirms that equal justice for all is one of the most important American ideals.

Our clients struggle to make ends meet. They struggle to make their rent, feed their kids, and buy gas to get to work or school. They're elderly men and women, students, veterans, and people with disabilities. They're working moms and dads. Throughout Wisconsin, they cannot afford the help they need when they face a civil legal problem. For the past 50 years, Legal Action of Wisconsin has been their law firm.

Civil legal problems are exactly the **barriers to opportunity** that the Packers' players' initiative aims to address. Our clients work hard, but ordinary life problems can get in the way—and become major civil legal problems can **only** be solved by lawyers.

Legal Action's 80 lawyers and 46 support staff give hope to thousands of Wisconsinites every year. We give real hope to solving the eviction crisis and ending homelessness, to protecting victims of human trafficking, to recouping precious stability for our senior citizens, to ensuring that our clients can move past old mistakes and can get a clean slate, so they can get and keep a job.

We provide a **solution** to social injustice -- a solution that changes the status quo for low-income people. From the perspective of our clients, the civil legal system often seems out of reach. Our work is to make equal justice under the law available and accountable to all Wisconsinites. Accountability and equal justice for all **is** possible, with the help of a lawyer. Equal justice is a right, not a privilege.

This generous donation is just the kind of help Wisconsin clients need from **their team -- our team!* —the Green Bay Packers* the very definition of community action. On behalf of our clients across the state, we thank these players and the entire team, for recognizing that equal justice for all is as important to Wisconsinites as the green and gold.

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