



A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS OF ACLC

APPALACHIAN,
CITIZENS'
Law Center



ACLC is a nonprofit law center providing free legal services to clients since our founding in late 2001.

We fight for justice in the Appalachian coalfields by representing coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety and by working with grassroots groups and individuals to protect the land and people from misuse and degradation caused by extractive industries.



Miners' Health & Safety



For 20 years, we have:

- ✓ Represented more than one thousand sick coal miners & their families in federal black lung benefits cases to secure healthcare & monthly benefits
- ✓ Represented more than 150 miners who experienced workplace discrimination or were illegally fired for making safety complaints
- ✓ Acted as a resource to those affected by black lung disease by providing information & guidance on black lung law, policies & medical research
- ✓ Worked to ensure coal companies protect current miners from over-exposure to coal & silica dust & successfully advocated for stronger legislation to make coal mines safer



credit: Dave Jamieson - Huff Post



credit: Lexington Herald-Leader



Secured **MILLIONS** of dollars in federal black lung benefits & healthcare for miners & families affected by black lung disease

Environmental Justice



For 20 years, we have:

- ✓ Provided community lawyering & organizing support to groups throughout Central Appalachia demanding a clean, safe & healthy environment
- ✓ Advocated for our clients' abilities to meaningfully & effectively participate in decisions affecting their communities & the environmental issues they face
- ✓ Ensured that the communities & families we serve have access to all relevant public information regarding the environmental issues they face
- ✓ Ensured that the decision-makers that are supposed to protect the health & environment of the communities we serve are hearing our clients' voices



Ensured local people & communities **have a say in decisions that affect their lives** related to the legacy costs of extractive industries

Policy & Advocacy



For 20 years, we have:

✓ Pushed for policies that support a just economic transition in the region & a better future for local people, families & communities

✓ Provided organizing & capacity support to Black Lung Associations in East Kentucky, Southwest Virginia & West Virginia

✓ Combined research capacity with legal expertise to identify legislative pressure points that allow for opportunities for change

✓ Affected policy through state & federal legislation & actively advocated for & participated in agency rulemakings



✓ Pushed for just & equitable policies that would ensure a better future for individuals, families & communities in the region

credit for all: © www.earldotter.com

Looking Ahead



We will continue to:

- ✓ Represent hundreds of miners & families affected by black lung
- ✓ Represent scores of miners wrongly terminated for voicing safety complaints at work
- ✓ Provide analysis & critique of regional issues & investments re: legacy costs & coal bankruptcies
- ✓ Grow our capacity to pivot & respond quickly to the needs of the region's communities & families
- ✓ Build a culture of inclusivity, equity, diversity, access & justice
- ✓ Fight for safe, affordable drinking water in Martin County & support the East Kentucky Water Network
- ✓ Maintain collaborative networks of residents, leaders, & ally organizations in Appalachia
- ✓ Push for policies that support a better future for local people, families & communities

...and, we will continue to meet the needs of our communities during the ongoing pandemic



COVID -19 Vaccine Clinic

Join us Friday, June 18 to receive your first dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine at no cost.

Big Sandy Health Care Shelby Valley
178 Douglas Pkwy, Pikeville, KY

Open: 8:00 AM

Close: 5:00 PM

If you attend the event, you will be entered to win a \$500 Visa Gift Card.

No appointment needed.
For questions, call Courtney at 606.633.3929

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Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.
Priority Access to Quality Health Care



Continue our fight for justice in the coalfields & adapt to the future needs of our communities via litigation, advocacy & organizing

Cheers to

20

YEARS

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Donors like you made this possible.

Thank you.

With your help, we will continue our fight for justice in the coalfields for at least 20 more.

20th Anniversary Donor Levels:

Legacy \$2500 or more

Champion \$1000 - \$2499

Advocate \$250 - \$999

Give today by visiting: **aclc.org/donate**

During our 20th anniversary campaign, we will be sharing the names of donors who give \$250 or more. If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift to ACLC without having your name featured on future materials, please e-mail hilary@aclc.org.

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