



## **COVID H.E.L.P. Illinois Honored with 2021 American Bar Association Louis M. Brown Select Award**

CHICAGO, March 16, 2021 — The ABA Standing Committee on Delivery of Legal Services has awarded [COVID H.E.L.P. Illinois](#) (Housing & Economic Loss Prevention) with the 2021 Louis M. Brown Select Award. The Select Award is awarded annually to the nominee that receives the most online votes from the public. The Louis M. Brown Award honors the work of those who advance the mission of improving access to legal services for those of moderate incomes in ways that are remarkable and replicable.

COVID H.E.L.P. Illinois provides a reliable and secure access point for Illinoisans to legal information on the most common legal concerns caused by the pandemic and can serve as a model for other states to replicate post-pandemic. COVID HELP is a joint project of CARPLS Legal Aid and other Illinois legal aid agencies.

“We were honored just to be nominated for the Louis M. Brown Award,” said Al Schwartz, Executive Director of CARPLS Legal Aid. “To win the select award is amazing, and we hope this means more people will be able to access our free, much-needed COVID HELP service.”

The project was generously funded by the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois.

“It demonstrates what legal aid programs can do when they come together as a creative, collaborative community,” said Mark Marquardt, Executive Director of the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois. “The award also helps validate the idea of using innovative technology and human-centered design principles to make legal information, self-help tools, and legal aid services more widely available.”

The Award originated in 1995 and honors the work of Louis M. Brown, who for more than 60 years worked toward improving access to legal services for those of moderate incomes.

For more information on COVID H.E.L.P. Illinois, contact Nicole NeSmith at [nnesmith@carpls.org](mailto:nnesmith@carpls.org).

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### ***About CARPLS Legal Aid***

Founded in 1993, CARPLS Legal Aid has helped nearly one million low- and moderate-income Illinoisans find solutions to their everyday legal matters. Learn more at [www.carpls.org](http://www.carpls.org).