

Lauri E. Cleary*Member*

As a Lerch, Early partner for more than 25 years, Lauri has developed a litigation practice that includes defense of a diverse group of religious institutional clients in a wide variety of employment and other matters. Prior to joining Lerch, Early, she received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of MD in College Park, and her law degree from the University Of Maryland School Of Law. She then served as judicial law clerk to the Hon. Howard S. Chasanow.

As an associate and (since 1993) a partner at Lerch, Early, she has worked to both shoulder her share of the firm's commitment to serving our community (and, more specifically, the least fortunate among us) and to inspire her colleagues to do the same. She believes that members of her profession have a duty to serve the needy in some manner throughout our careers, and that such service can benefit those who perform it even more than those we represent. Early in her career, she gained a great deal of experience working for and with pro bono clients who were among the least educated and advantaged, but most appreciative individuals in our community.

By serving on the Advisory Council and Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington (now Catholic Charities Legal Network), chairing the Bar Association of Montgomery County's Pro Bono Program and forming a consortium of pro bono service providers in the County (bringing together all of the groups providing legal services to the needy for dialogue and cooperation), she has tried to have an impact on the services provided to many more such clients. Since 2007 Lauri has hosted a cable access television program created by the Montgomery County Bar Foundation in 1997 called "Law School for the Public."