

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



*Righting
Wrongs,
Changing
Lives*





Greetings friends and supporters

I have the best job in the world. Every day, I work with an amazing staff who refuse to take “no” for an answer. Every day, they see wrongs that

should not be happening and they right them. I work with board members, friends, and funders who believe in our cause and make it their own. I could not be more proud of our 2015 work:

- We helped victims of domestic violence break cycles of abuse and gain custody of their children, leaving us with heartfelt notes of thanks.
- We doubled the number of children we represent in the foster care system in the past three years and now represent 3,031 children. These children now have a voice in their future and have a much better chance to end up with a family that loves them.
- We are beginning a new project to give a voice to vulnerable seniors in guardianship court to ensure that they are not deprived of their civil liberties and life savings with no one by their side to protect their rights.

- We targeted predatory behavior by payday and title lenders – businesses ruining the lives of the working poor – through concerted action including lawsuits, regulatory complaints, and news articles.
- Our volunteers are just incredible: a record-breaking 5,935 clients were helped by volunteers, making 2015 a year for the record books.
- Over 100,000 people were helped at our two amazing self-help centers, the best legal emergency rooms in the country.

We could not have done what we did in 2015 without you. And we promise that we will continue to work to make our community proud in 2016.

With thanks from all of us,

Sincerely,

Barbara Buckley
Executive Director

An Overview of How We Serve

CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

- Giving children in foster care a voice in court.
- Enforcing foster children's right and desire for visitation with their siblings.
- Assisting low-income parents struggling to ensure their special needs children receive the educational support they are entitled to under the law.
- Recruiting and training volunteer surrogate parents to advocate for the needs of disabled children with the school district.

FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

- Representing domestic violence victims and helping them obtain protective orders, divorce decrees, and custody of their children.
- Teaching victims in domestic violence shelters about their legal right to live a life free of violence.
- Helping elderly grandparents obtain guardianship over their grandchildren.
- Representing those unable to navigate the divorce and custody court process.
- Helping immigrant victims of crime obtain visas, work authorizations, and status adjustments.
- Representing immigrant children eligible for special visas and deferred action to help families stay together.

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT

- Working against fraudulent sales practices.
- Fighting abusive debt collection activities.
- Helping people trapped in a debt cycle by payday, title, and high interest loans.
- Representing workers in bankruptcy court after a job loss and homeowners through the foreclosure process.
- Helping people with disabilities who have been denied social security benefits.
- Advocating for seniors who have been exploited by their guardians.

CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

- Providing trustworthy information, legal forms, and assistance to people representing themselves in civil matters such as evictions, small claims court, probate, and lawsuits to recoup losses.
- Functioning as a legal emergency room for people struggling to navigate the court system and obtain accurate legal information.

FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

- Providing self-help information, legal forms, and instruction to those representing themselves in family court matters.
- Hosting a free Ask-A-Lawyer program every week for people needing to speak with an attorney about divorce, custody, guardianship, adoption, or child support issues.

PRO BONO PROJECT

- Recruiting private attorneys to represent clients in such areas as consumer fraud, domestic violence, child abuse, bankruptcy, and family law.
- Training and mentoring volunteer attorneys in specialties of law outside their usual practice areas.
- Offering Ask-A-Lawyer sessions where unrepresented litigants can get expert legal advice from an attorney in the following areas:
 - Family Law
 - Foreclosure
 - Landlord/Tenant
 - Small Claims
 - Veterans
 - Federal Court
 - Homeless Assistance
 - Probate
 - Small Business Project

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT

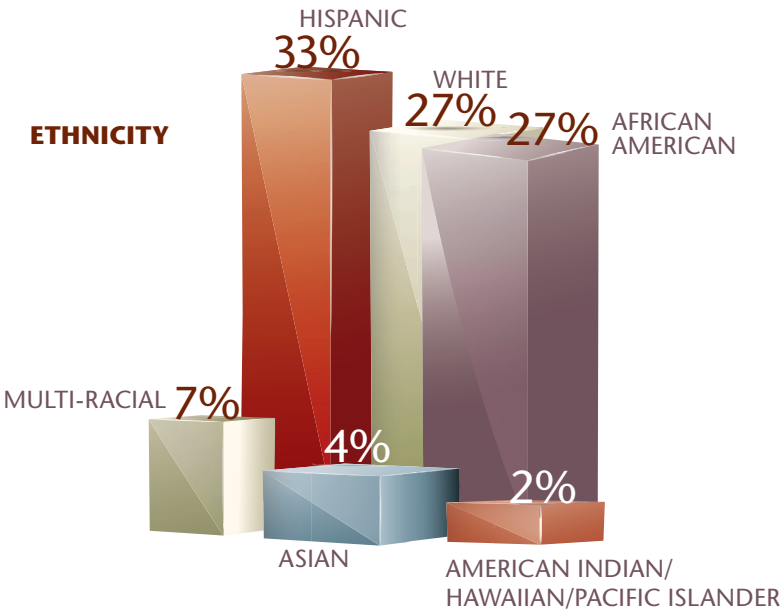
- Offering free weekly classes to the public in partnership with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law in the following areas:
 - Bankruptcy
 - Custody
 - Guardianship
 - Record Sealing
 - Spanish classes available in Family Law, Immigration, Small Claims, and Bankruptcy
 - Collection Proof
 - Foreclosure
 - Immigration
 - Small Claims

Who We Serve

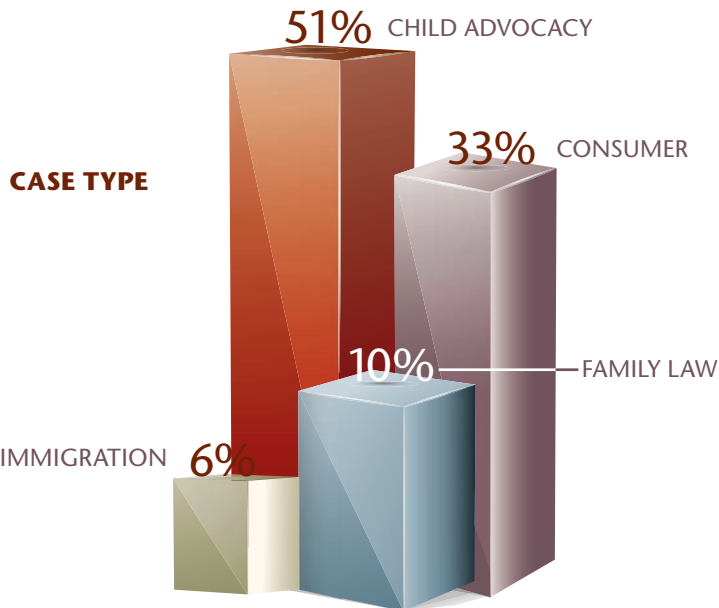
GENDER



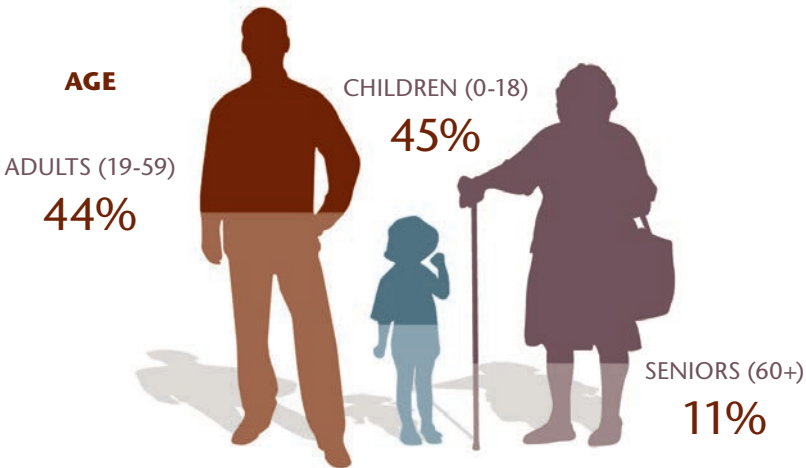
ETHNICITY



CASE TYPE



AGE



How Many We Serve

WEBSITE USAGE

OVER 614,000 USERS ACCESSED LEGAL INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITES.

322,594

CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

190,702

FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

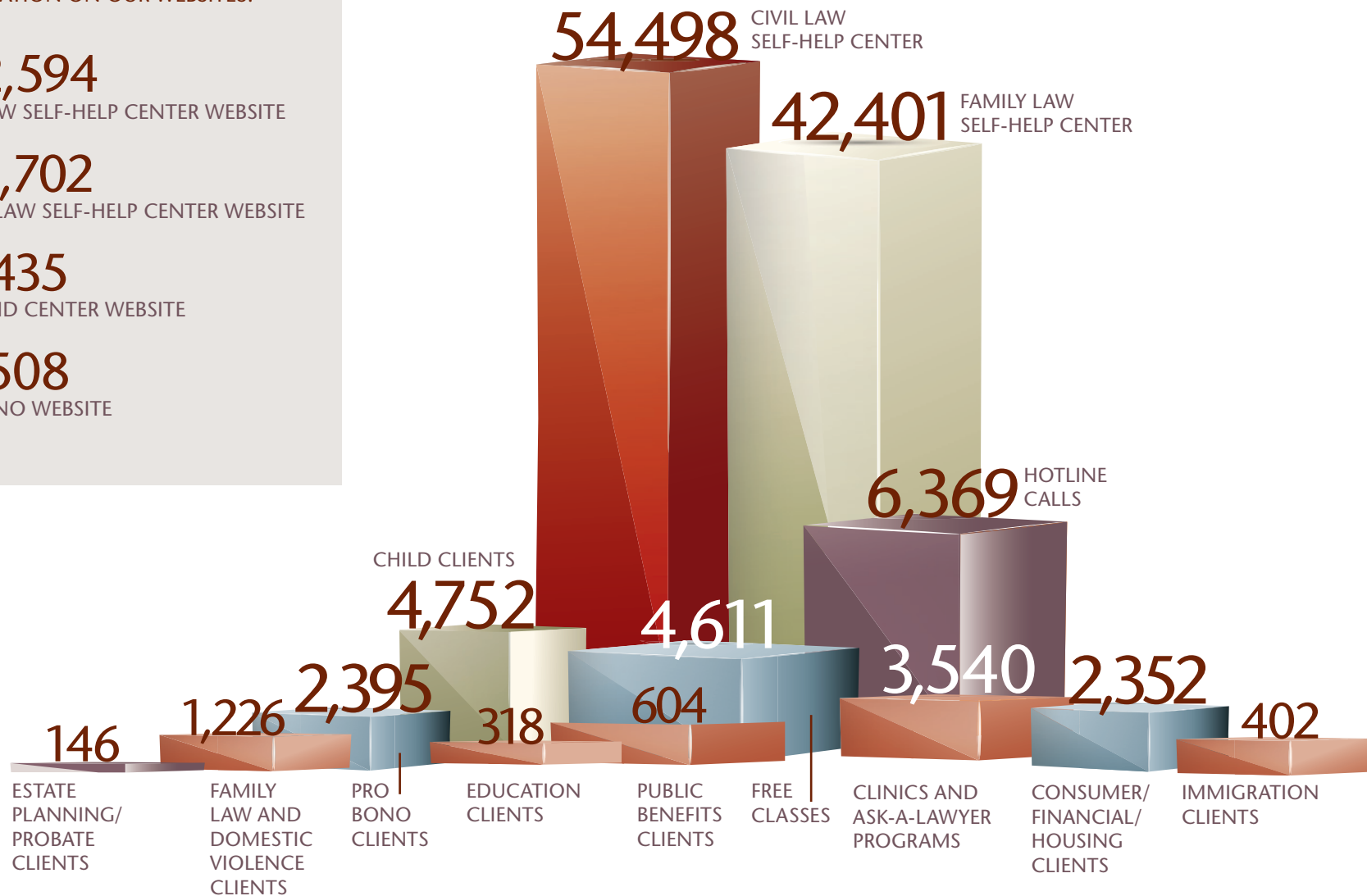
88,435

LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE

12,508

PRO BONO WEBSITE

OVER 121,000 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THROUGH ALL OF OUR PROGRAM AREAS.



15th Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon



Hundred Hours Club with Nevada Supreme Court Justices

PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR:

Ogonna Brown

LIED AWARD FOR MOST HOURS FOR LAW FIRM:

Lewis Roca Rothgerber

LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR LAW FIRM:

Kunin & Carman

LIED AWARD FOR MOST HOURS FOR ATTORNEY:

Airene Williamson

LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR ATTORNEY:

Ishi Kunin

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR:

Lewis Roca Rothgerber

WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation Trust

Ogonna Brown, Esq. (left) receives the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award from Chief Justice James Hardesty, Nevada Supreme Court (right).

Dan Waite, Esq. (left) and Dan Polsenberg, Esq. (right) with Lewis Roca Rothgerber receive the Law Firm of the Year award.

The continued increase in need for our services over the past several years reminds us yet again how fortunate we are to have the support of so many fine attorneys in the Southern Nevada legal community. Without their hard work and commitment to this cause, we would have to turn away thousands of our most vulnerable residents. Each year, our Annual Pro Bono Luncheon honors these local attorneys, who collectively provided 25,000+ hours of free legal services to low-income residents of Clark County.



Photos courtesy of TalbotSnow.com

JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD
OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE:

Judge Frank Sullivan

VINCE A. CONSUL MEMORIAL PRO BONO AWARD:

Benjamin Reitz

LOUIS WIENER SERVICE AWARD:

Shannon Wilson

MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD:

The Lawyers of Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Travis Barrick

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION:

Samantha Rice

ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD:

Mitch Cobeaga

VOLUNTEER SURROGATE AWARD:

Daniel Maul



The lawyers of Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara LLP receive the Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono Award from Justice Michael Douglas (fifth left), Nevada Supreme Court.



Benjamin Reitz, Esq. (right) receives the Vince A. Consul Memorial Pro Bono Award from Michael Consul (left).

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Shannon Wilson, Esq. (right) receives the Louis Wiener Service Award from Justice Mark Gibbons, Nevada Supreme Court (left).



Mitch Cobeaga, Esq. (left) receives the Ask-A-Lawyer Community Commitment Award from Justice Michael Cherry, Nevada Supreme Court (right).



Samantha Rice (second left) receives the Public Interest Law Student of Distinction Award from Justice Ron Parraguirre, Nevada Supreme Court (right).



Travis Barrick, Esq. (right) receives the Award of Excellence from Barbara Buckley, Esq. (left).

"After my divorce I was facing many stressful situations; debts and creditors were a never ending story and on top of that I am disabled. Thank you for your patience and knowledge in preparing me for... a better life."

~ Consumer Rights Project client



"Thank you for caring so much and for allowing me to have Alex and Andrew in my life. They are amazing little boys and I'm excited to watch them grow up and make a difference in this world like you have in theirs."

~ Adoptive mom of two Children's Attorneys Project clients





"Your staff is the 'best ever' no matter how bad or tough my situation is they calm me down and inform me correctly. I never thought my court experience would be this good."

~ Civil Law Self-Help Center customer



"Thank you for making this nightmare less scary. I love your website and this place. Everyone's attitude shows a willingness to help. No "dumb" questions here! Thanks for helping us! I had no money to hire a lawyer and my beautiful daughters were going to be taken from me."

~ Family Law Self-Help Center customer

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Deanna Brinkerhoff
Amanda Brookhyser
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Peter Brown
William Brown
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Ernest Buche
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Lauren Calvert
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Pro Bono Volunteers



Ishi Kunin, Esq. (left), recipient of the Lied Award for Most Cases for Attorney, and Michael Carman, Esq. (right).



Daniel Maul (right) receives the Volunteer Surrogate Award from Justice Kristina Pickering, Nevada Supreme Court (left).



Judge Frank Sullivan (left) receives the Justice Nancy Becker Pro Bono Award of Judicial Excellence from Chief Justice James Hardesty, Nevada Supreme Court (right).



Airene Williamson, Esq. (left) receives the Lied Award for Most Hours for Attorney from Justice Michael Douglas, Nevada Supreme Court (right).



Ishi Kunin, Esq. (left) and Michael Carman, Esq. (right) of Kunin & Carman receive the Lied Award for Most Cases for Law Firm from Justice Michael Douglas, Nevada Supreme Court (center).



Christina Hixson (right) receives the William S. Boyd Award of Excellence, on behalf of herself and the Lied Foundation Trust, from Bill Boyd (left).



Dan Waite, Esq. (right) and Dan Polsenberg, Esq. (left) of Lewis Roca Rothgerber receive the Lied Award for Most Hours for Law Firm from Justice Michael Douglas, Nevada Supreme Court (second right).



Jeanette "Jae" Barrick, Esq. (left) accepts the Award of Excellence for Travis Barrick from Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez (right).

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Rob Schmidt
Robert Sidell
Michael Stannard
Amanda Stevens
Seth Strickland
Frank Urrutia
Sarah White
Matthew Winters
Shauna Wood

*"I felt completely alone and afraid,
terrified and your help gave us some
security and direction to rebuild.
Thank you!"*

~ Family Justice Project client



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2015 Financial Statement

INCOME

2015

Court Filing Revenue	\$4,175,736	45%
Grants & Contracts	\$2,452,078	26%
Private Foundations	\$475,000	5%
IOLTA	\$1,572,630	17%
Donations	\$367,577	4%
Interest Income / Other	\$242,228	3%
Income Before Donated Services	\$9,285,249	

(25,450 hrs at \$300/hr) Donated Services \$7,635,000

Total Income & Donated Services \$16,920,249

EXPENSES

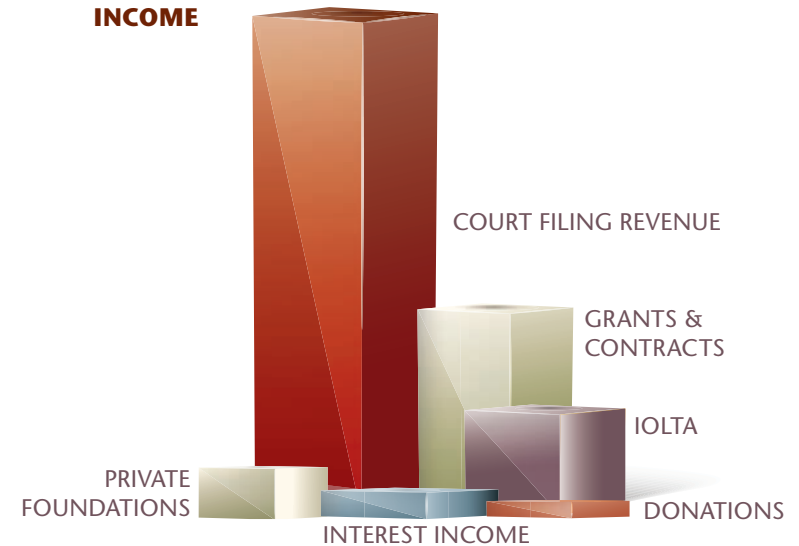
Personnel		
Salaries	\$6,079,119	73%
Benefits	\$1,424,905	17%
Personnel Subtotal	\$7,504,024	90%

Non Personnel		
Space & Utilities	\$100,728	1%
Equipment Rental, Maintenance, IT	\$113,951	1%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Office Related	\$299,203	4%
Travel & Training	\$137,878	2%
Dues & Fees	\$63,182	1%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$88,597	1%
Community Outreach & Events	\$33,578	0%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$837,116	10%

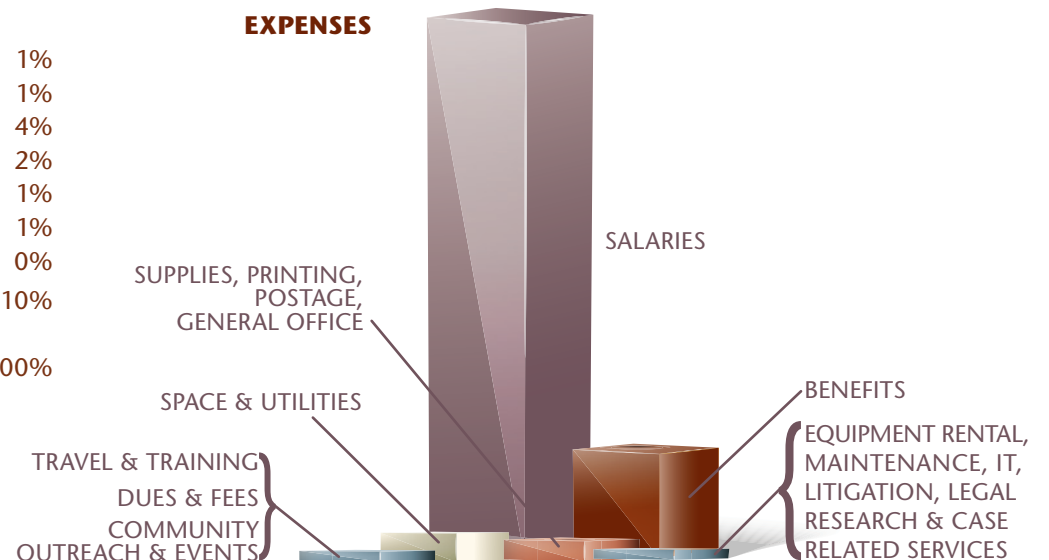
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$8,341,140 100%

Expenses Before Donated Services	
Donated Services	\$7,635,000
Total Expenses & Donated Services	\$15,976,140
NET OPERATIONS	\$944,109

INCOME



EXPENSES



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As a non-profit law firm that provides legal assistance at no cost to our clients, Legal Aid Center is in fundraising mode year round. We are so thankful to have forged strong partnerships with the following groups, who support us in a variety of ways, ranging from monetary donations to marketing and communications advice to relationship-building. We could not serve the thousands that we do without their generosity:

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*"I appreciate my attorney
and I thank him for fighting
for my brothers and I. He has
made a major impact on my
life and future."*

*~ Children's Attorneys
Project client*



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*"Sometimes we are in
a profession for years
and get numb and have
no heart – this was the
complete other side of the
spectrum. Thank you for
giving me hope in this time
of my life."*

*~ Consumer Rights
Project client*





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The preservation of access to justice and the provision of quality legal counsel, advice and representation for individuals who are unable to protect their rights because they cannot afford an attorney.



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