



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





# GREETINGS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

## Greetings,

Well, 2020 was quite a year! Like most of you, I am very glad it is over, and I can't wait to get back to normal – to see loved ones and go on a vacation. But as hard as 2020 was for me, every day when I went into Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, I received a reality check as my situation truly paled in comparison to so many in our community. The pandemic's financial consequences caused more people than ever to seek our help. There were people who lost their job after working 30 years at the same place and victims of domestic violence cooped up with their abuser with no option to leave. There were thousands facing evictions with their unemployment applications backlogged with hundreds of thousands other claims. There were seniors who were being threatened by unscrupulous people seeking to get a guardianship over them. And the list goes on.

But even as I saw unprecedented demand and enormous challenges, I saw our staff and volunteers rise to the occasion. I saw our team transform and learn how to have thousands of phone calls ring from house to house so we could help from home. When the clerk's office in the court had to quickly close, our staff stepped up to accept protective order applications over the phone so that victims of violence had access to justice. Our lead attorneys created automated domestic violence and eviction forms allowing people to more easily file from home for the first time in the history of our community.

We created a Small Business Legal Advice Project to help small businesses affected by COVID-19 get connected with a free lawyer for trusted free legal help. We learned how to practice virtually, checking on clients through every remote platform available, and conducting virtual evidentiary hearings. Our pro bono attorneys began consultations over the phone and through video. Last year, we helped a record-breaking 162,662 clients.

To our friends and supporters, thank you! By contributing this year or in the past, you allow us to do what we do. By volunteering, you helped us expand our reach. By collaborating with us to effectuate change, you helped change our community for the good. I am grateful to all of you who help make "and justice for all" become a reality through our work.

With Gratitude,



Barbara Buckley,  
*Executive Director*



BARBARA BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

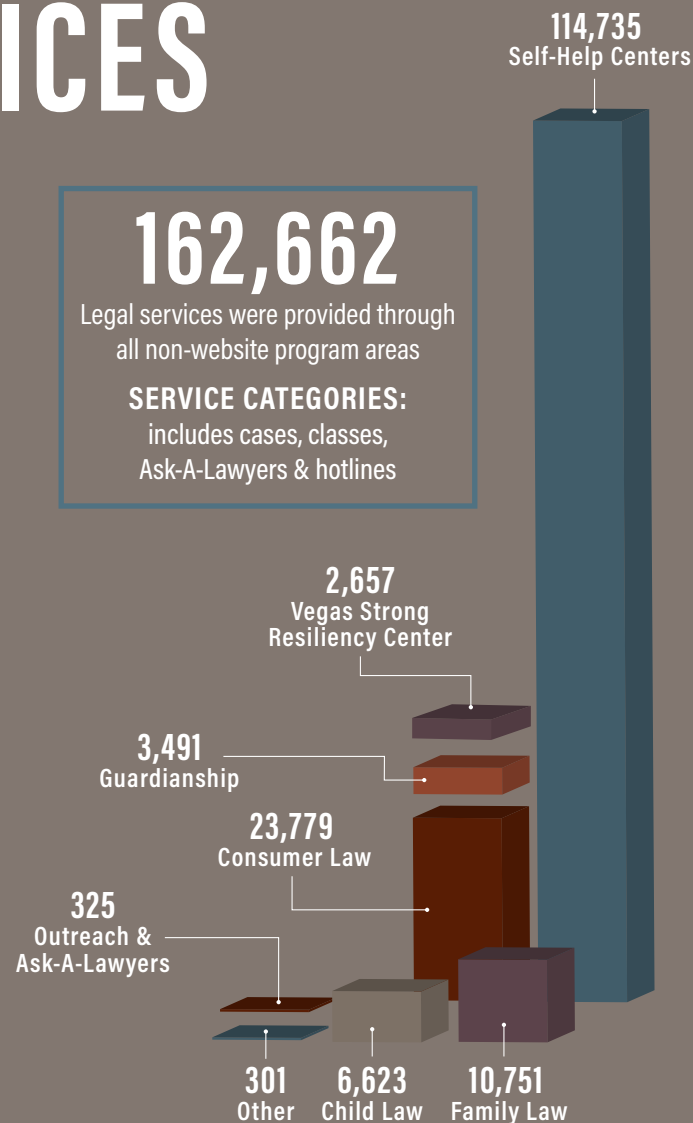
# ALL SERVICES

The COVID-19 crisis required us to quickly innovate our client service process. Within a couple of weeks, we invested in new laptops and software, redesigned our phone system, and moved from in-person services to phone, web, and email services to serve clients seamlessly. We also trained our staff on working remotely. We completed the changes as the numbers of requests for assistance began to jump. We created a Legal and Financial Toolkit with links and resources for food insecurity, utility contacts, eviction and foreclosure information, federal assistance updates, and unemployment information among others. It is updated continuously and available in Spanish. The toolkit is on our website at [www.LACSN.org/COVID-19](http://www.LACSN.org/COVID-19).

## 162,662

Legal services were provided through all non-website program areas

**SERVICE CATEGORIES:**  
includes cases, classes,  
Ask-A-Lawyers & hotlines



## WEBSITE



Over **2,499,554** users  
accessed legal information  
on our websites

**3,429,884**  
Total sessions

### FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE:

**1,185,821**  
USERS

**1,721,332**  
SESSIONS

### CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE:

**1,175,504**  
USERS

**1,507,850**  
SESSIONS

### LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE:

**146,227**  
USERS

**224,966**  
SESSIONS

### PRO BONO WEBSITE:

**16,373**  
USERS

**22,490**  
SESSIONS

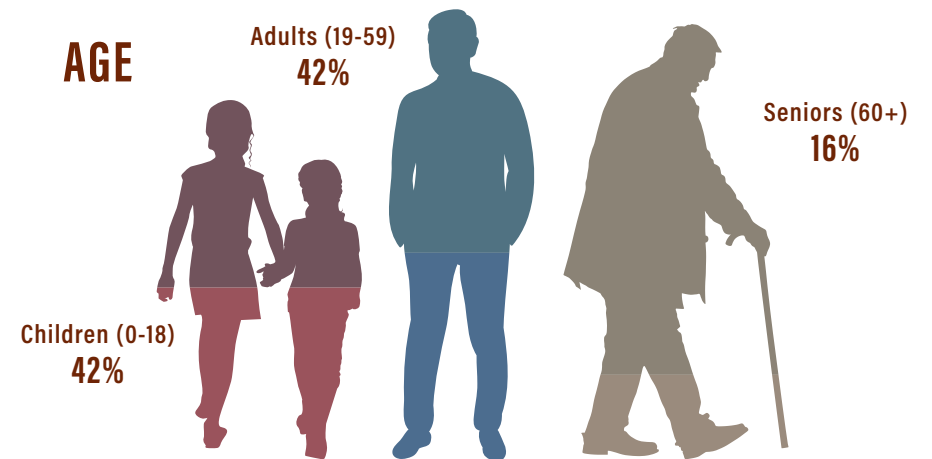
### VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER WEBSITE:

**15,071**  
USERS

**19,128**  
SESSIONS

*OUR YOUNGEST CLIENT WAS 4 DAYS OLD AND OUR OLDEST CLIENTS IN 2020 WERE A PAIR OF 105 YEAR OLDS!*

## AGE



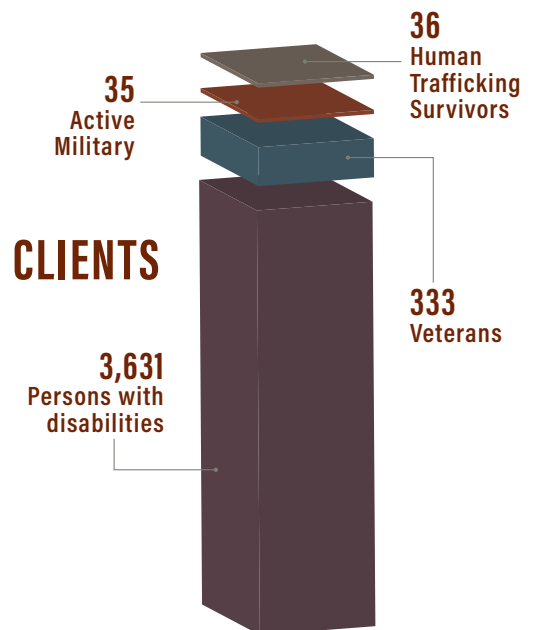
## GENDER

58% Female

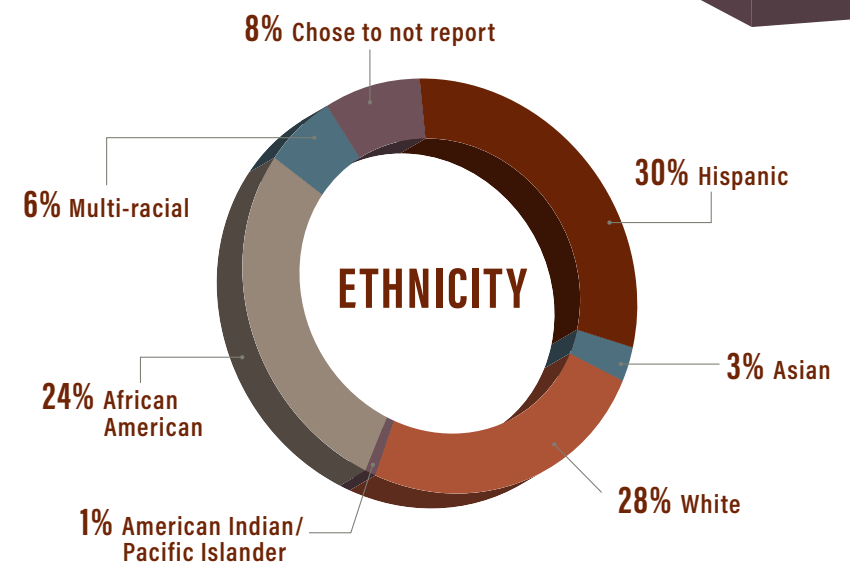
42% Male

>1% Chose to not report

## CLIENTS

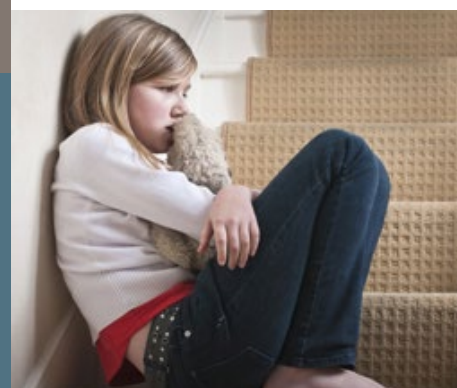


## ETHNICITY



# WHO WE SERVE

## DEMOGRAPHICS





# WHAT WE DO: HELPING CHILDREN

The **Children's Attorneys Project** (CAP) provides counsel, advice and representation to abused and neglected children in the foster care system. The attorneys serve as the child's voice before the court and community allowing the child to take an active role (and responsibility) in their own destiny. Our dedicated CAP team handles tough cases involving heartbreaking scenarios: young babies with broken bones, children who are sexually abused, and so many traumatized by removal to a strange environment. But our team is buoyed by the fact that they make a difference in the lives of our clients. It is an honor to represent these children.

## In 2020

- 6,001 children in foster care had a voice in court.
  - 4,728 were represented by CAP attorneys
  - 1,264 by Pro Bono CAP attorneys
- 9 CAP cases were decided on appeal

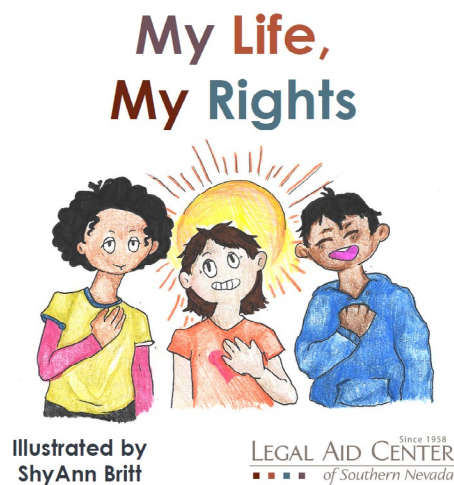
The **Education Advocacy Program**, a unit of CAP, provides advice, training, advocacy, and legal representation for children with disabilities who are entitled to special education services under federal and state law.

- 220 children in low-income families were represented by our Education Attorney to ensure they received the special education assistance necessary for them to be successful in school
- 114 Volunteer Education Advocates worked directly with the Clark County School District to ensure the needs of 287 CAP children with special education needs were met.

*Brad\* is a 17-year-old boy who was expelled twice from CCSD and sent to behavior school. Brad had significant issues with attendance and ended up in juvenile detention. Brad's mother, being concerned about her son's wellbeing, asked the school if he could get help from the special education department. The parent was told, "kids in high school can't get IEPs."*

*Brad's mother came to Legal Aid Center seeking help. The Legal Aid Center attorney filed due process to overturn one of the expulsions based on Brad's suspected disability of Autism. We resolved the due process favorably and were able to create an IEP for Brad where he would be placed in supportive classes to help with his struggles. Brad now attends school regularly and even plays in the high school marching band.*

\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of Legal Aid Center's clients.



*“[My attorney] spoke to me and cared what I felt and wanted. He made sure I didn't have to go back to be hurt.”*  
– Children's Attorneys Project client

## Sunny Day Fund

*My family & friends know how deeply I care about children in foster care. When children are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, their lives are instantly uprooted, they face uncertainty, and challenges the majority of us will never undergo. This is why Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada established the Sunny Day Fund. The Sunny Day Fund aims to return normalcy to the lives of children in foster care. The fund pays for activities and supplies that are not covered by the County. Examples include music lessons and sports equipment – relatively small dollar items that otherwise have a huge impact on normalizing the life of a child in foster care. This fund is in need of replenishing.*

This was a post on Facebook celebrating Barbara Buckley's 60th birthday which included a call to action requesting donations to the Sunny Day Fund to help support children in foster care.



*Dakota, an 11-year-old girl, came into foster care in November 2018 with her half- brother, who was released to the custody of his non-offending father. Dakota stayed with her half-brother and his father until the end of her school year.*

*At the 6-month review hearing, the Department sought to terminate parental rights and move toward adoption by Dakota's maternal grandmother. The Court was reluctant to fast-track the termination and adoption. Dakota's Legal Aid Center attorney knew that Dakota wanted to live with her grandmother. Dakota told her attorney that she had no contact with her mother since coming into foster care and she had not seen her father in 10 years. Neither parent was present in court. Dakota's Legal Aid Center attorney told the court what Dakota wanted, which was to move in with her maternal grandmother.*

*A hearing was set and Dakota's biological parents were appointed attorneys. Both parents said they did not want their rights terminated so a trial was set. On the day of trial, the father failed to appear. The mother was in custody at CCDC and was therefore brought to court. She claimed to be sober asked the court to postpone the trial. Dakota and her grandparents were present in court. The State opposed the mother's request. The Court asked Dakota's Legal Aid Center attorney what Dakota wanted. Dakota's attorney strongly opposed the request to move the trial months down the road, arguing that Dakota still had no contact with her mother, was happy and thriving with her grandparents, and that she wanted to be adopted by her grandparents. The mother then decided to relinquish her rights. Dakota was present for the entire proceeding and was very happy as they left the Court, feeling much more secure that she could have a safe and stable life with her grandparents.*

- In 2020, we expanded our Guardianship Advocacy Program to include representation of minors. Our attorneys began championing for their rights and guarding against financial and other kinds of exploitation. We represented 490 minors under guardianship.



# WHAT WE DO: PROTECTING SENIORS

Legal Aid Center provides direct representation, counsel, and advice to seniors through our Consumer Rights Project on legal issues from predatory lending, real estate, fraud, probate, social security appeals, mobile home issues, immigration, bankruptcy, and unlawful auto sales and mechanic work.

The **Adult Guardianship Program** within the Consumer Rights Project provides direct representation to seniors and adults facing or under a guardianship. The Program is on the forefront of a changing area of law and is helping to shape and enforce meaningful protections for those otherwise unable to protect themselves.

**In 2020**

- 12% of our senior clients had housing issues
- 68 seniors were victims of violence or domestic violence
- 48% of the guardianship cases we closed resulted in the guardianship being avoided or terminated for cause

Our Adult Guardianship Program attorneys represented	162 Guardianships were denied or avoided
2,613 clients in 2020	Adult Guardianship clients over age 70 40%



*Tim, a fifty-eight year old man, was hospitalized against his will. The hospital then refused to release him for over ninety days. When initially admitted to the hospital, a doctor, who had only observed Tim for a few minutes, wrote a report stating that Tim needed a guardian to manage every aspect of his life. Tim became trapped in the hospital as a result of this doctor's opinion. The hospital petitioned the court to appoint a guardian. Tim strongly objected to someone else choosing where he would live, how his*

*money would be spent, and what medical care he would receive, among other things. Fortunately, the court appointed Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to represent him in his guardianship matter.*

*At the hearing on the hospital's petition, a Legal Aid Center attorney fought for Tim's independence, relying on his long history of caring for himself independently. The hospital argued that because Tim was between housing,*

*it was unsafe to release him from the hospital. The hospital further argued, without any evidence, Tim could not be trusted to manage his own affairs. However, Tim, with Legal Aid Center counsel's assistance, clearly explained to the judge how he had previously managed his affairs and of his future plan to live with his brother until he located housing for himself, which he could easily afford on his Social Security retirement income. The judge was satisfied and denied the hospital's petition to*

*appoint a guardian. The hospital was ordered to release Tim immediately. After a long and needless three months in the hospital, he was finally free.*

*Tim reports that he moved into his brother's home as soon as the hospital released him, and is in the process of locating his own apartment. Tim is eternally grateful that his attorney listened to him and fought for his ability to live independently and manage his own affairs.*



# WHAT WE DO: GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE A LEGAL LIFELINE

The **Family Justice Project** provides a wide range of representation to victims of domestic violence. Our attorneys appear at hearings to extend protective orders and assist with divorce and custody issues. We also represent victims of crime who have civil and family law problems that are a result of their victimization.

The **Immigration Advocacy Program** provides legal assistance and representation to immigrant victims of violence. We also represent victims of crime who have civil and family law problems that are a result of their victimization and assist battered immigrants self-petition the government to remain lawfully in the United States.

## In 2020

- 1,466 victims of domestic violence received legal representation to help them reclaim a life free from violence
- 1,314 immigration cases were worked on to keep families together, from special visas for immigrant children to helping victims of crime so they could help the police without fear.
- Our attorneys assisted 3,831 additional low-income clients with family law issues like divorce, custody, guardianship, name/gender marker changes, counsel, advice, and information.

The **Family Law Self-Help Center** is a legal “emergency room” for pro se litigants navigating the court system. The center provides an environment where walk-in customers, often with urgent legal issues, can request legal information regardless of their income, assets, or citizenship who need guidance in filing or managing their family court case.

- In total, 75,680 customers visited the Family Law Self-Help Center in 2020.
- Over 1.1 million users accessed the Family Law Self-Help Center website for information and forms.





# WHAT WE DO: GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE A LEGAL LIFELINE



## The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center saw many improvements to the services offered to survivors of the mass shooting on October 1, 2017. In its 3rd year of operations, the Center responded to requests by offering integrative services, updating the website, and offering a Spanish language social media channel.



**VEGAS STRONG**  
RESILIENCY CENTER

HELP IS HERE FOR YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE

*"I'm so happy with my life right now. Thank you is not enough. I really appreciate the help of what my attorney did for my life. Legal Aid Center is a big help with how to get out of my nightmare. I will never forget her [my attorney]. She changed my life."* – Family Justice Project client

*Ms. Clay reached out to the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center about the financial assistance program because her family's finances were significantly impacted by the pandemic. They also lost their health insurance. Ms. Clay was receiving medical treatment for her physical and mental health due to Route 91 but the loss of insurance combined with a lower income created an untenable situation. As a result, Ms. Clay contacted the Center seeking financial assistance. The Center's staff talked with Ms. Clay and reviewed her financial situation. Ms. Clay originally applied with the VOCP in 2017, but became frustrated with the paperwork and bureaucracy when she tried to get medical claims reimbursed through VOCP. The Center collected Ms. Clay's financial and health documents and helped communicate with the VOCP in order to smooth out any frustrations. Through the Center's advocacy, the VOCP reimbursed Ms. Clay for thousands of dollars in medical bills and resolved overdue medical provider invoices. Moving forward, Ms. Clay has the ability to continue medical treatment while focusing on restoring her family's financial security.*

## MEETING NEEDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS DURING COVID-19

-APRIL S. GREEN, ESQ.  
DIRECTING ATTORNEY  
FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

LEGAL AID CENTER  
Since 1958  
of Southern Nevada





# WHAT WE DO: DEFENDING VICTIMS OF FRAUD AND UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR

*“This gave me peace of mind after years of runarounds. I can now move to be with my family as a senior I am starting to need more care now. You have no idea what this has done for my morale. Now I can make plans for my move. Please keep up what you are doing for people like myself.”*  
– Consumer Rights Project client

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Consumer Rights Project helps people who cannot afford an attorney fight back against financial predators. Consumer attorneys fight for clients being abused by real estate and housing fraud, unlawful wage garnishments, predatory loans, car dealer scams, unscrupulous mechanics, and illegal repossessions.

## In 2020:

- Over 17,000 people contacted our Consumer Rights Project seeking help
- Our staff expanded our work with landlords and tenants, assisting 7,467 people seeking to stay in their homes during the worst health crisis and rental crisis in 100 years.
  - An average of 156 every week!

In February, we announced that \$706,875 in unclaimed class action settlement funds would be used to help combat emergency housing issues in Clark County. The funds are a result of a class action lawsuit initiated by a team of attorneys from Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and pro bono attorneys from Kemp Jones, LLP. The funds were donated to the Southern Nevada Emergency Rent Fund managed by nonprofit Nevada Community Foundation. This fund donates to HELP of Southern Nevada's emergency rental assistance program which protects individuals and families from eviction.

When COVID-19 shut down businesses in March, we knew individuals and families would soon be struggling with rent and eviction issues. We set up an Eviction Protection Program to assist tenants with their legal rights, to understand the various moratoriums and emergency directives, and how to seek protections under those directives. We represented tenants in court and helped them with their paperwork, when they had nowhere else to turn.

Our team with the Culinary & Bartenders Union Legal Service Fund Program (developed in partnership with the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, UNITE HERE Bartenders Union Local 165, & participating employers) assisted with issues concerning unemployment benefits, housing and family law matters. Call and email volume skyrocketed as the shutdown dragged on from days to weeks to months.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: NEVADA'S EVICTION BAN

How does Nevada's new eviction ban impact residential evictions?

How do I claim the new ban's protections?

What if I already gave my landlord a declaration under the federal CDC ban?

Who is eligible for the ban's protections?

What kinds of evictions does the new ban prevent?

What kinds of evictions does the new ban allow?

What if my landlord has already started an eviction against me and filed with the court?

What steps do I need to take to protect myself?



*In February 2020, Crystal moved into a rental unit. Shortly thereafter, Crystal was laid off from her job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Crystal's landlord grew increasingly aggressive and constantly demanded rent. Crystal believed that her landlord accessed her unit without prior authorization. Further, he began to shut down essential services with impunity. First, he told Crystal that she must not be able to make payments to the power company so he shut off the power to her unit. Then he shut off the water and removed her stove from her unit. Crystal sought legal assistance from Legal Aid Center.*

*The Legal Aid Center attorney assisted Crystal with the filing of a Verified Complaint for Unlawful Exclusion of a Tenant and Termination of Essential Services. After filing the lawsuit, Crystal returned home to discover that her landlord had chained the front gate and unlawfully locked her out of her unit. Crystal's attorney represented Crystal in court and told the Judge what the landlord was doing to Crystal. The Judge found that the Landlord unlawfully terminated essential services and unlawfully evicted Crystal. The Court awarded Crystal over \$1,100 in damages. Crystal is relieved to have this experience behind her.*







# LEGAL EMERGENCY ROOMS



**Self-Help Centers** function as legal emergency rooms for people struggling to navigate the court system and obtain accurate legal information. The staff at each Self-Help Center provides trustworthy information, legal forms, and assistance in civil and family matters.

[www.FamilyLawSelfHelpCenter.org/](http://www.FamilyLawSelfHelpCenter.org/)

[www.CivilLawSelfHelpCenter.org/](http://www.CivilLawSelfHelpCenter.org/)

The Family Law Self-Help Center expanded their services this year to provide assistance with Temporary Protective Orders and our staff assisted 14,409 people in just this one area.

- Civil Law Self-Help Center assisted 39,055 people
- Family Law Self-Help Center helped 75,680 in total (14,409 assisted with Temporary Protection Orders)
- 12,965 people completed on-line interactive guide and file interviews across 30 legal subject areas. The user answers questions and the program populates the answers in a legal form, making it easier for a pro se litigant to tell their story and request relief.



*Betty called the Family Law Self-Help Center in need of help applying for a protection order against her former dating partner who suffered from mental health and addiction problems.*

*She described being threatened with a gun, receiving harassing calls and text messages, being barricaded in a room for two days against her will, and seeing her property damaged. The court's COVID-19 health and safety protocols require applicants to use an internet-accessible device to complete and submit an application or go in person to file the application and have a hearing. Betty had limited technical access that hindered her ability to complete the application online and timely file it. She also struggled telling her story logically or chronologically.*

*Over the phone, the Family Law Self-Help Center Facilitator explained the application*

*sections (i.e., demographic information, past incidents of violence, and requested court orders). A successful interview requires letting the Applicant communicate the story. Here, Betty “talked out” her statement in a stream of consciousness manner. The Facilitator was then able to discuss the events reported in greater detail to discover which incidents were closer in time than the others and allowed the applicant to express her statement in a logical manner. The Facilitator transcribed Betty's information in an order that was easy to follow and offered assistance that eliminated the barriers to technology.*

*Betty submitted an application explaining events concisely. The Judge granted the protection order and scheduled a hearing to determine whether to extend the protection order for up to two years.*



# WHAT WE DO: ASK-A-LAWYER, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

Complementing our direct legal services, we assist thousands with free legal guidance in a variety of legal topics in partnership with the William S. Boyd School of Law. During a regular academic year, 40 classes a month are taught to the public by teams of law students, under the supervision of an attorney to provide free legal education on relevant legal issues. Classes are designed to explain legal concepts, provide information on alternatives to litigation, and supply answers to Nevadans unfamiliar with the law.

To date, **more than 75,000** community members have attended these classes.

## Community Legal Education Classes

Legal Aid Center educated 1,506 individuals through 375 free weekly and monthly classes designed to explain legal concepts, provide information on alternatives to litigation, and supply answers to Nevadans unfamiliar with the law. We partner with the Williams S. Boyd School of Law to train law students how to teach individuals who are in the early stages of understanding their legal plight in various legal areas:

- Bankruptcy\*
- Being Collection Proof
- Divorce\*
- Do I Have a Path to Citizenship?\*
- Guardianship
- Litigation and Trial Preparation
- Paternity and Custody\*
- Small Claims
- Family Law classes are also taught at local shelters

\*Classes available in Spanish

## Ask-A-Lawyer

Staff and pro bono attorneys volunteered for free weekly **Ask-A-Lawyer** sessions, offering 3,071 unrepresented individuals who cannot afford an attorney, 15 minutes free with a pro bono attorney who can answer specific legal questions in the following legal areas or at community-wide events:

- Debt Collection
- Family Law
- Homeless Asst. Project
- Immigration
- Landlord/Tenant
- National Celebrate Pro Bono Week
- Probate
- Small Business Legal Advice Project
- Small Claims
- Veterans

## Outreach

Pro bono attorneys, Legal Aid Center attorneys and staff volunteered for 46 outreach events around Clark County in 2020, including outreach to local schools, senior living homes, community group meetings, nonprofit events, and Community Law Day, among others. All outreach events were virtual due to the pandemic. This also included virtual trainings for community partners on federal and state eviction moratoriums, and virtual Town Halls on unemployment, consumer issues, small business matters, and housing.

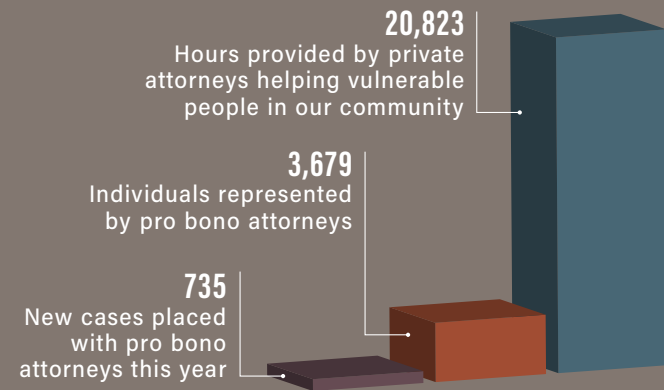






# PRO BONO PROJECT

The Pro Bono Project recruits private attorneys to represent clients in civil legal areas such as child abuse, domestic violence, consumer fraud, family law, and education advocacy, and we train and mentor our volunteer attorneys in specialties of law outside their usual practice areas.



## 20th Annual Pro Bono Awards

Each year since the Pro Bono Project became a part of Legal Aid Center, we honor local attorneys who collectively provide tens of thousands of hours of free legal services to low-income residents in Clark County. 2020 was a difficult year, yet pro bono attorneys continued volunteering to provide legal services to low-income and vulnerable people in need. Instead of our regular luncheon, we held our first virtual Pro Bono Awards, which is available on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/eMeIEyABKZw>



**PRO BONO FIRM OF THE YEAR:**  
*Hutchison & Steffen, PLLC*



**PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR:**  
*Jennifer Abrams,  
The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm*



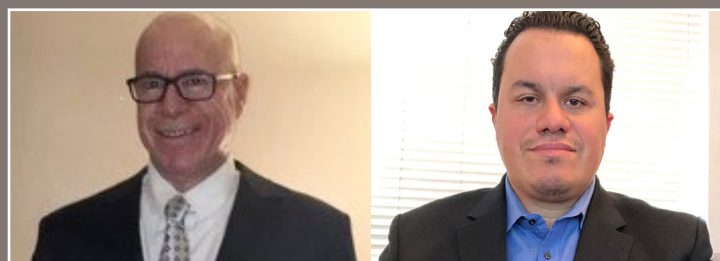
**PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION:**  
*Cristian Gonzalez Perez*



**JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE:**  
*Honorable Mark Gibbons, Justice, Nevada Supreme Court*



**MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD:**  
*Jason Ferris, Luh & Associates*



**ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD:**  
**(TIE)** *Lawrence Phillips (left) and Carlos Morales (right)*



**WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** *AT&T*

## AWARDS & WINNERS

### LIED AWARDS



**MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY A LAW FIRM:**  
**(TIE)** *Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, Hutchison & Steffen LLC and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP*



**MOST HOURS DONATED BY AN ATTORNEY:**  
*Bethany L. Rabe, Of Counsel,  
Greenberg Traurig*



**MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY AN ATTORNEY:**  
*Marshal S. Willick,  
Principal, Willick Law Group*



**MOST HOURS DONATED BY A LAW FIRM:**  
*The Dickerson Karacsonyi Law Group*



# PRO BONO AWARDS SPONSORS

We are so fortunate to have the support of so many fine attorneys in the Southern Nevada legal community. Without their hard work and commitment to the cause, we would have to turn away thousands of our most vulnerable residents.

JUDGE BILL HENDERSON  
FAMILY COURT



NEVADA Legal NEWS

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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## THANK YOU TO OUR CHAMPION OF JUSTICE SPONSORS:

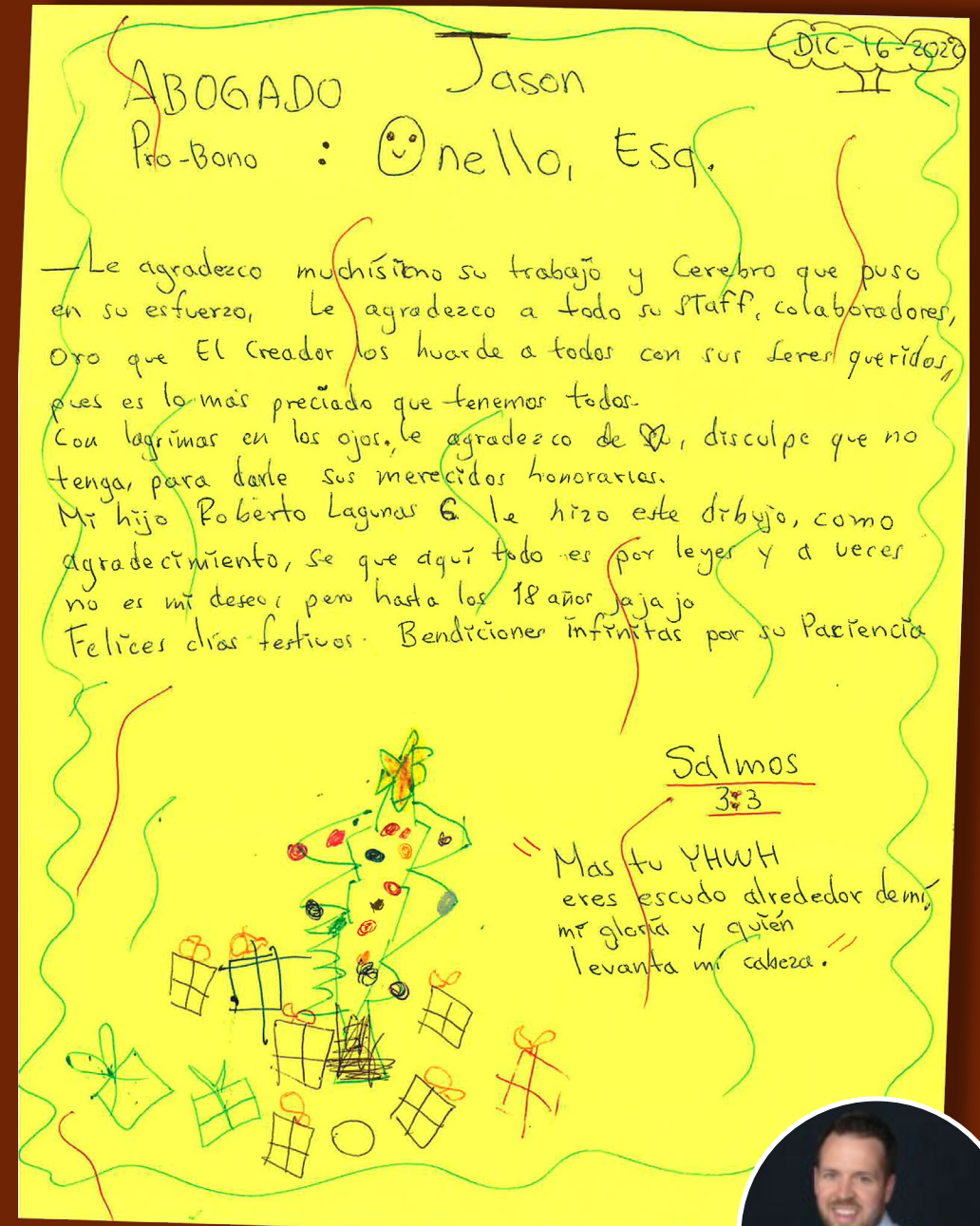
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AT&T  
Bailey Kennedy, LLP  
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas  
Judge Bill Henderson - Family Court  
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Hutchison & Steffen  
Garman Turner Gordon  
Mutual of America  
Kemp Jones

Nevada Gold Mines,  
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Anthem Injury Lawyers  
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Robyn & Aldo Manzini  
Hammer Resolution Facilitators  
Clark Hill  
Goldsmith Guymon, PC  
Assemblyman Howard Watts  
Nevada Senate Democrats  
Fox Rothschild  
The Howard Hughes Corporation  
Christine Smith  
Southern Nevada Senior Law  
Program  
Spencer Fane  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck  
Gallian Welker & Beckstrom  
Willick Law Group  
State Bar of Nevada



## A LETTER FROM A CLIENT TO A PRO BONO ATTORNEY

### English Translation:

*I am so thankful for all of your help and thought you put into this and for all of your effort. Thanks to all of your staff, and collaborators. I pray to the Creator that he may watch over all of you and your loved ones because this is the most precious thing we all possess.*

*With tears in my eyes and from the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful. I am sorry that I do not have a way to repay you your well-deserved attorney fees. My son made you this drawing, in appreciation. I know that everything must be done legally even if that is not my desire until he is 18.*

*Happy holidays, and infinite blessings for your patience.*

*Psalm 3:3: But you, Lord (YHWH) are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.*







## Community Justice Fellowship Sponsored by Paul Padda Law

In 2019, we announced the Community Justice Fellowship Sponsored by Paul Padda Law. It is a one year fellowship for a law school graduate who wants to work in a public interest law firm and learn how the top legal aid in Nevada provides over 162,000 services a year. This fellow helps us meet the great unmet legal need by training and working in each of the different Project areas at Legal Aid Center throughout the year. Wesley Su, the inaugural fellow, began his fellowship in August 2020. Widad Diab, the 2021 fellow, begins in August 2021. [www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship)



## Introducing the Civil Justice Summer Fellowship

In 2020, Robyn Ratcliffe Manzini and Aldo Manzini and Legal Aid Center announced the creation of the Civil Justice Summer Fellowship, which begins in 2021. This fellowship will support a law student for a summer and provide them with valuable legal training in public interest work. [www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice](http://www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice)

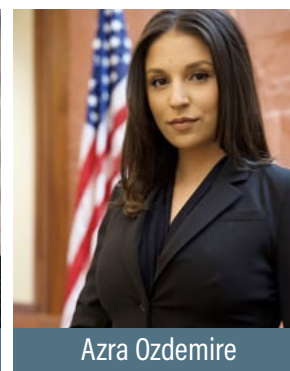


## 2020 Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellow Azra Ozdemir

The Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellowship was created in honor of Melanie Kushnir. Melanie passionately believed that those who face domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, consumer fraud or other civil legal challenges can have their lives forever changed for the better with an attorney who will stand and fight for their rights — and that they deserve nothing less.



Melanie Kushnir



Azra Ozdemire

One law school student is selected annually to spend their summer as a staff member in the Pro Bono Project, carrying on Melanie's work in assisting those unable to afford the civil legal help they need. [www.LACSN.org/Fellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/Fellowship)

## 2020 ASSOCIATES CHALLENGE

Associates Coming Together to Help the Community



## Associates Challenge

The Associates Challenge is a friendly competition between law firms to raise awareness about the unmet legal needs of low-income individuals residing in Southern Nevada. Associates at the participating firms challenged each other and their own firm members to donate to Legal Aid Center.

We didn't know if there would be a 2020 Associates Challenge, due to the uncertainties of the pandemic. But Emily Dyer and Matthew McKissick, the Associates at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, were determined to keep the Challenge going.

"We've decided to revamp the challenge for this year with a new theme: Associates coming together to help the community! We're about unity this year, and we'll get back to the real challenge next year!"

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, and McDonald Carano, participated in the second annual event and raised \$9,000! [www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge](http://www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge)



**WINNERS**

Access to Justice Champions  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Associates Trophy  
Michael Kalish



# HOW WE DO IT



## Community Partners

As a non-profit law firm providing 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:

### GRANTS

Attorney General National Settlement	Irvin Stern Foundation
AT&T	Nevada Bar Foundation
Charles Schwab	Nevada Gold Mines, Operated by Barrick
Clark County	U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Attorney Admission Fund	Walter S. Johnson Foundation

### IN KIND SUPPORT

Alex Matter	Pro Bono Court Reporting Program
Assistance League of Las Vegas	QDRO Masters at Willick Law Group
Clark County Bar Association	R&R Partners Foundation
Global Intelligence Network	State Bar of Nevada
HELP of Southern Nevada	Tyler Technologies
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District	UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law
Nevada Justice Association	Vegas PBS
Nevada Legal News	

Aaron Shipley	Christopher Humes	Henry Runge	Liz & David Nelson	Robert Larsen
Alan & Carole Kushnir	Clifford Ristow	Henry Sotelo	Lloyd Mack Flatt	Robert Murphy
Alan Bennett	Connor Shea	Howard D McKibben	Lorne Malkiewich	Robyn & Aldo Manzini
Albert Kovacs	Craig B. Kushnir	Chapter of NV	Mackenzie Warren	Rory Kay
Alex Lin	Dana Waldman	Irvin Stern Foundation	Maggie Carlton Cartwright	Rosemary Ashton
Alfredo Alfonso	Danielle Foerschler	Jack DeGree	Maira Espinoza	Ruperto Rubio
Allen & Michelle Thach	David Kushnir	Jaime Zimmerman	Marc Rubenstein	Ruth Dyer
Allie Elwell	David Thoman	James Ferrence	Marileidys Estrada	Sally Yeager
Amanda Allstock	Dayvid Figler	James E Williamson	Mark Schrieber	Sandra Douglas Morgan
Amanda Benenson	Daniel Hamilton	Jamie Carper	Mark Starr	Sandra Jauregui
Amanda Kern	Debbie Leonard	Jamie Lynn Thalgott	Mark Stufflebeam	Sara Funtek
Amanda Morgan	Debra L. Gibson	Jane Karadbil	Marla Turner	Sara D. Kushnir
Amanda Yen	Dennis Gutwald	Jane Ann Morrison	Mary McCarthy	Sara Ngan
Amazon Smile Foundation	Dickinson Wright	Janet Pancoast	Mary Tran	Sarah Mansell
Amie Sabo	Department of Motor Vehicles	Jaqueline Gilbert	Matthew Francis	Scott Borison
Amy Ismail	Doreen Spears Hartwell	Jason Close	Matthew Granda	Scott Katherman
Andrew Pasternak	Doris Nehme-Tomalka	Jason Sifers	Matthew McKissick	Scott Scherer
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AT&T Nevada	Eliza Lantrip	Jim Crockett	Michael Kalish	Sonya Vermeys
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Bart Larsen	Emily Baracco	John Mehaffey	Michael Moore	Steven Yeager
Betsy Ward	Emily Dyer	John Mowbray	Michael Whittaker	Sugar Vogel
Bonnie Bula	Emily Ellis	John Olenick	Michel McCue	Susan L. Myers
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Brent Childress	Erik Foley	John Wiles	Network for Good	Teresa Bell
Brian Anderson	Erik Lovaas	Judith Swezey	Nick Ferndino	The Lionel Trust
Brian Blakely	Erin Elliott	Jus Run, LLC	Nikhail Nigam	Thelma Reindollar
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Carolyn Ellsworth	Gloria Sturman	Lance Wilson	Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada	Venicia Considine
Carrie Moreau	Grace Young	Las Vegas Chapter of National Bar Association	Renee Galgano	Wayne Hardy
Catherine Chrobak	Greene Infuso	Laurel Davis	Rev. Victoria Warren	Western Elite
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Chad Harrison	Harriett Cummings	Leslie Anne Smith Godfrey	Richard & Tina Morgan	William Nobriga
Chelsee Jensen	Heather Armantrout	Lindsay Williams	Rob McPeak	Wynn Foundation
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# 2020 DONORS

We were honored to receive a significant donation from the Estate of Judge Laurel Davis Babero. Judge Babero practiced law for 26 years in Arizona and Nevada, representing various parties in bankruptcy proceedings. She served as a highly respected and admired United States Bankruptcy Judge from 2013 until her death in 2018. In addition to her work volunteering with Legal Aid Center, Judge Babero also lent her skills to the American Diabetes Association, AFAN (Aid for Aids of Nevada), Habitat for Humanity, and the American Heart Association.

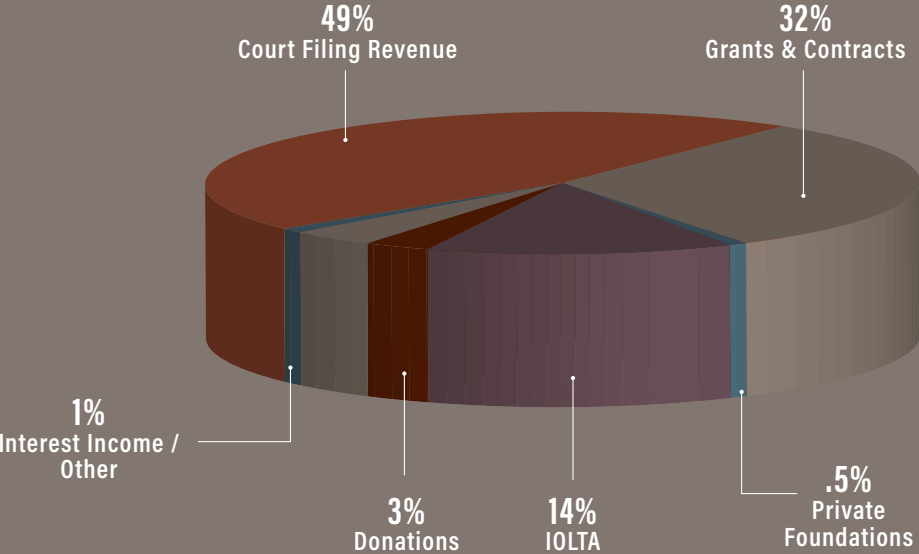
We are incredibly grateful for the gift, which will support our Bankruptcy Facilitator program. We thank her estate for generously bestowing this so that we may continue Judge Babero's legacy of preserving access to justice for everyone, regardless of their financial status.



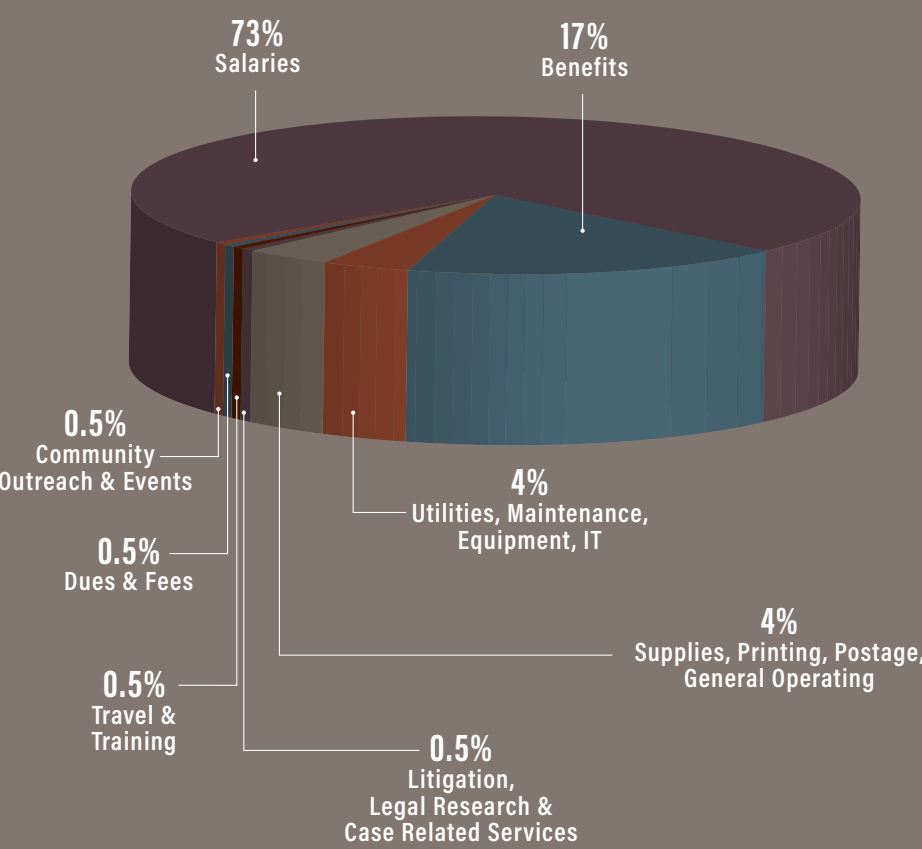


# 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## INCOME

	2019	
Court Filing Revenue	\$9,083,456	49%
Grants & Contracts	\$6,006,656	32%
Private Foundations	\$100,000	0.5%
IOLTA	\$2,640,120	14%
Donations	\$483,540	3%
Interest Income / Other	\$225,915	1%
Income Before Donated Services	\$18,539,686	100%
(22,515 hrs at \$300/hr) Donated Services	\$6,754,500	
Endowment Contribution	\$784,217	4%
Total Income, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$26,078,403	

## EXPENSES

PERSONNEL		
Salaries	\$11,650,747	73%
Benefits	\$2,808,685	17%
Personnel Subtotal	\$14,459,432	90%

## NON PERSONNEL

Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment, IT	\$667,534	4%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Operating	\$679,205	4%
Travel & Training	\$73,705	0.5%
Dues & Fees	\$66,000	0.5%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$91,877	0.5%
Community Outreach & Events	\$13,339	0.5%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$1,591,659	10%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$16,051,091	100%

## Expenses Before Donated Services & Endowment

Donated Services	\$6,754,500	
Endowment Investment	\$453,087	
Total Expenses, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$23,258,678	
NET OPERATIONS	\$2,819,725	



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*“We are so inspired by our clients. And it is because of our clients that we must ensure that Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada continues its mission of righting wrongs and changing lives for decades to come. Client strength and resilience in the face of unimaginable hardships inspire us every day.”*  
– Barbara Buckley, Executive Director



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Since 1958  
**LEGAL AID CENTER**  
of Southern Nevada

### ***Our Mission:***

*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.*