



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# GREETINGS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

## Bringing Justice to More Nevadans

In 2024, I am celebrating my 35<sup>th</sup> year as a legal aid attorney! It seems like yesterday when I joined Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. What keeps me here? Two things: the clients we help and the opportunity to bring justice to more Nevadans.

Next year, we are undertaking one of the most ambitious expansions in our history. We will commence construction of our new Advocacy & Justice Complex right across the street from our main office. Upon completion of construction, the new complex will be the first statewide service campus where any Nevadan who has experienced the devastating trauma of violent crime can find justice and begin to heal. The growth of the Advocacy & Justice Complex is both exciting and necessary. In little more than a decade, the number of clients we serve annually has nearly quadrupled, from 58,235 in 2012 to 198,999 in 2023.

The new complex will house our Family Justice Project — primarily serving victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, the Guardianship Advocacy Project — primarily serving the elderly susceptible to exploitation, and the Resiliency & Justice Center, formerly the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center. The Resiliency Center, awarded the 2021 National Crime Victims Service Award from the Department of Justice

Office for Victims of Crime for its extraordinary work in serving survivors, is a national model showing how to serve survivors of violence. We integrate legal aid, victim navigation, resource connection, and behavioral health services in one Center to promote healing and resiliency and will do so for every survivor of violent crime in our community. We are also prepared to be activated by the Office of Emergency Management at Clark County to help survivors following any incident of mass violence in our community as we were in response to the December 6<sup>th</sup> UNLV shooting.

It will take all of our staff, pro bono volunteers, funders, and friends to help us accomplish this ambitious expansion. But this new Advocacy & Justice Complex will allow us to move into the future, providing help and hope to those in need. Learn more about this next chapter in Legal Aid Center’s journey as well as enjoy reading about all that kept us busy in 2023.

With appreciation,



Barbara Buckley,  
Executive Director



*A Conversation with*  
**Barbara Buckley**

Hosted by Mona Kaveh, Esq.  
of Kemp Jones, LLP



BARBARA BUCKLEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHO WE SERVE	Clients Served	Clients Served
	2012	2023
Family Justice Project	1,266	6,089
Guardianship Advocacy Program (2016)	0	4,218
Children’s Attorneys Project	811	6,940
Consumer Rights Project	2,715	12,741
Pro Bono Project	1,747	2,280
Ask-A-Lawyer	3,155	3,904
Christine Smith Community Service Program – Legal Education Classes	4,200	3,240
Civil Law Self-Help Center	44,341	69,025
Family Law Self-Help Center (2013)	0	86,982
Resiliency & Justice Center (2017)	0	3,580
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58,235</b>	<b>198,999</b>

\*\*All client names in this report are changed to protect client confidentiality.\*\*

*“We are so inspired by our clients. 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

# ALL SERVICES

We provided more legal services in 2023 than ever before. We added new staff to address the increasing demand for legal assistance, and we expanded our partnerships so that we could reach more people in need. We took part in 162 local events and our staff participated in over 100 interviews and media requests.



Visit Legal Aid Center in the News  
[www.LACSN.org/news](http://www.LACSN.org/news) to learn more.



**3,274**  
Hotline Calls

## OUTREACH

**162** Events  
**3,870** Attendees

## COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDANCE

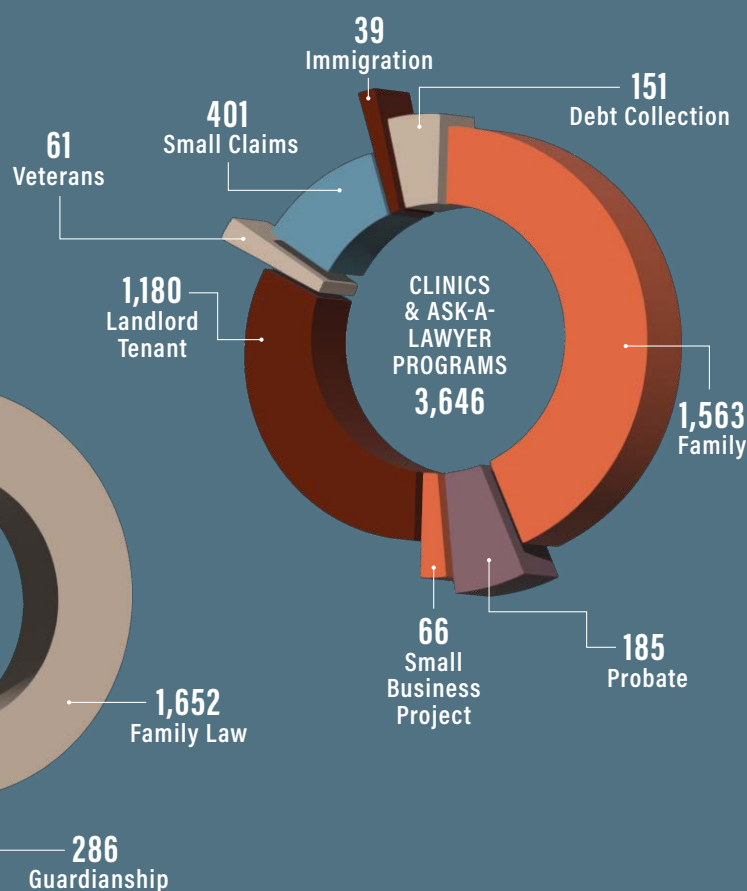
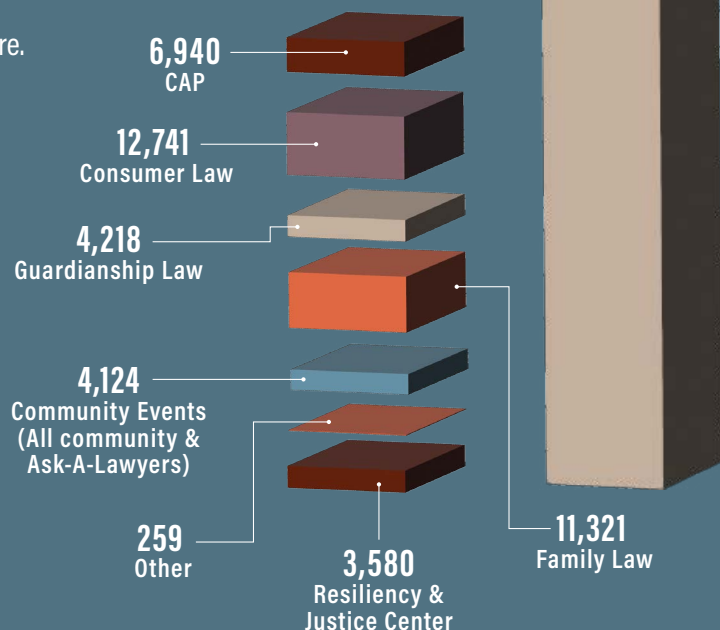
**122** May Day Law  
**136** Pro Bono Week

**198,999**

Legal services were provided through all non-website program areas

## SERVICES PROVIDED

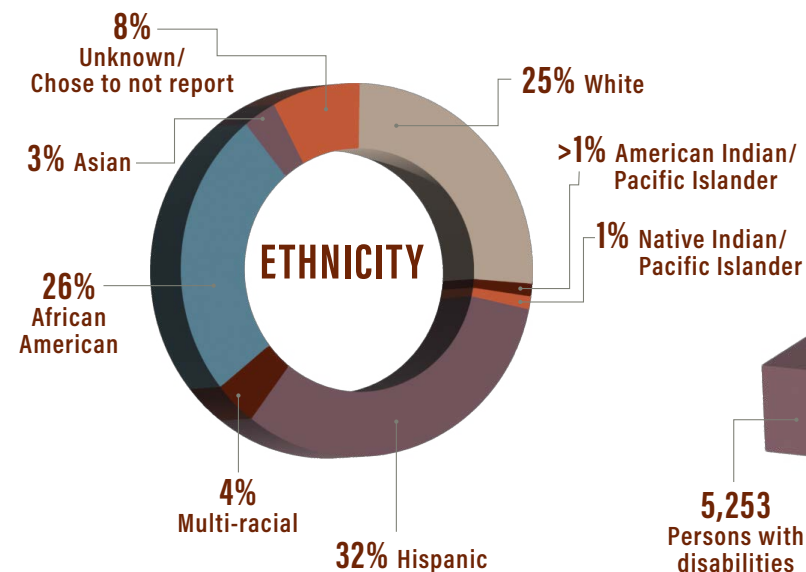
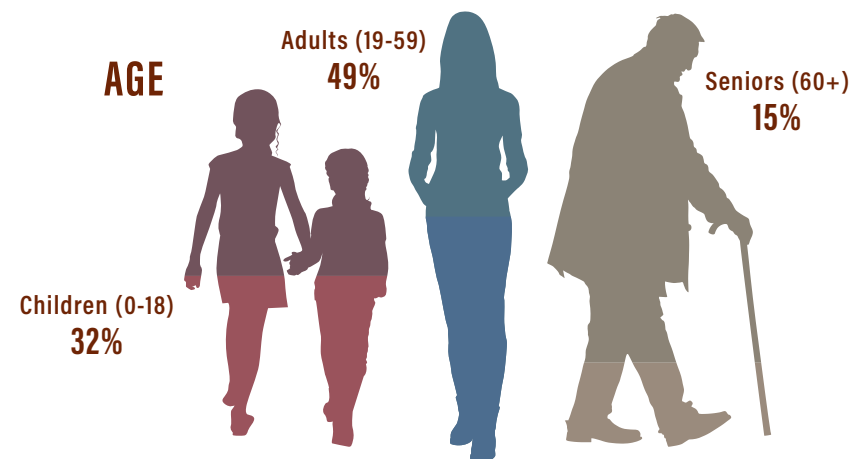
include direct representation, classes, Ask-A-Lawyers, advocacy & hotlines



**FREE CLASSES**  
**3,240**

# WHO WE SERVE

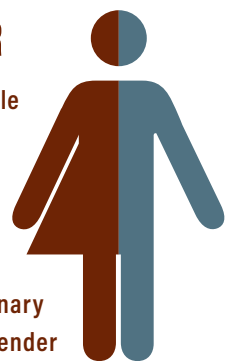
## DEMOGRAPHICS



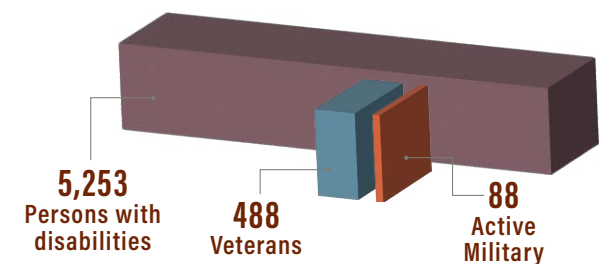
## GENDER

55% Female  
42% Male

1% Other  
1% Non-binary  
1% Transgender



## CLIENTS



# WEBSITE



Over **2,273,244** users accessed legal information on our websites

**6,333,514**

Page views across our 5 websites

## FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

**1,028,790**  
USERS

**3,104,713**  
PAGE VIEWS

## CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

**982,038**  
USERS

**2,489,994**  
PAGE VIEWS

## LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE

**228,475**  
USERS

**651,280**  
PAGE VIEWS

## PRO BONO WEBSITE

**17,118**  
USERS

**51,709**  
PAGE VIEWS

## RESILIENCY & JUSTICE CENTER WEBSITE

**16,823**  
USERS

**35,818**  
PAGE VIEWS



# 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 in court and in the community allowing the child to take an active role in their own destiny. Our dedicated CAP team handles very tough cases, often involving innocent children with broken bones, who have been sexually abused and are suffering from emotional damage. 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.

Children's Attorneys Project  
(CAP) helped  
**6,940**  
children in 2023

**526** Adoptions  
in 2023



The **Education Advocacy Program**, a program 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.

**414** School children  
represented by the  
**Education Advocacy Program**

The **Volunteer Education Advocate Program** trained and supported **86** volunteers who helped **304** school children get the education supports they needed to be successful in school.

## Minor Guardianship Program

Legal Aid Center launched our Minor Guardianship Program in early 2020, and we discovered the need was greater than we knew. Minor guardianship attorneys represent their clients using a multi-disciplinary approach, working closely with attorneys from other units to capitalize on institutional knowledge of children's law, family law, and immigration.

Our new Minor Guardianship Program celebrated its third full year of operations. In 2023, the team handled **982** cases. Pro bono attorneys represented another **62** minor guardianship clients.



## LETTER FROM A FORMER CAP CLIENT TO HIS CAP ATTORNEY

From the moment I found myself in foster care, I felt like a fragile fledgling, without purpose and afraid of the world. But my team became the feathers that sheltered and protected me, providing warmth, security, and a sense of belonging. Your unwavering support formed a comforting shield around me, protecting me from the harsh winds of uncertainty and fear.

Just as a bird's feathers are intricate and diverse, so too are the roles each of you played in my life. Like vibrant and colorful plumes, you all have diligently worked with coordinating my care, advocating for my rights, and ensuring that I found a safe home. You provided the sturdy foundation upon which my wings could spread and grow. You were the feathers of wisdom and healing, guiding me through the storms of trauma and pain. With your compassionate guidance, you taught me how to mend my broken wings, instilling in me the resilience and strength needed to overcome adversity. Your presence provided the necessary balance and stability for my flight.

As I sit here today, reflecting on my journey, I am filled with profound gratitude for each feather my team has provided, and each wing you all have strengthened. You have given me the gift of flight, of independence, and hope.

Once more, thank you all for equipping me with the power to navigate the winds of life, to embrace the unknown with courage and determination.

*Two young boys contacted their grandparents after they were abandoned by their mother at a local hospital. The grandparents rushed to pick up the boys. They called CPS for abandonment and abuse. They filed a Petition for Temporary and General Guardianship to be able to take care of the boys, particularly because one of their grandsons has a debilitating, high-risk medical condition that requires daily care and regular doctor's visits. Without a guardianship, they would be unable to get their grandson the life-saving immediate care he needed. In their temporary guardianship petition, they included a letter from a specialist that explained the extreme and emergent need for medical care that the grandparents could not get without the temporary guardianship.*

*All of this was presented to the court. Despite medical emergency and evidence presented, the district court denied the temporary guardianship. The court also appointed counsel for the minors, which meant that the boys had a Legal Aid Center attorney who reviewed the record and determined that the district court made an error in denying the temporary guardianship. The boys' Legal Aid Center attorney drafted an Emergency Petition for Writ of Mandamus with the Nevada Supreme Court. In a unanimous decision, the Nevada Supreme Court granted the Petition for Writ of Mandamus and directed the district court to issue the requested temporary guardianship. Because of our work, the child was able to access the medical care he needs to avoid a life-threatening emergency.*



# 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 **Guardianship Advocacy Project** provides direct representation to seniors and adults facing or are under a guardianship. The Project 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.

**4,218** protected persons were helped through our Guardianship Advocacy Project in 2023. Legal Aid Center guardianship attorneys worked on **3,147** cases and pro bono attorneys represented an additional **27** people.

## In 2023

- 16% of our represented clients were over 60 years old.
- Our oldest client was 102.
- Legal Aid Center guardianship attorneys recovered **\$833,906** of our clients' misappropriated assets.

The Project continued to make strides in our Outreach Program, educating seniors in our community about how they can avoid court ordered guardianship. We also continued to engage with our younger community, teaching them and their families how to create Powers of Attorney and Supported Decision Making Agreements as a way to avoid unnecessary guardianship.

*“Thank you  
so much for  
helping me.”*

— Former Guardianship  
Advocacy Project client



*“My attorney was wonderful!  
She helped me get my life  
back. I will be coming back  
for additional help after the  
first of the year.”*

*“It was very important.  
Helped get bills,  
money in order for  
grandchildren.”*

— Former Guardianship Advocacy Project client

*Maggie, an elderly woman, found herself in the hospital after a fall. Once recovered, Maggie wanted to go home, but the hospital refused to let her go home. Maggie was worried about Micki, her dog, and she missed her terribly. Maggie asked her Legal Aid Center attorney to help her go home. Maggie's attorney fought the facility and showed that there was no medical reason for Maggie to remain in a facility. When Maggie got home, Micki was waiting for her. There were smiles, tears, and tail wagging!*

# WHAT WE DO

# GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE A LEGAL LIFELINE

In 2023, the **Family Justice Project**, (FJP), provided direct services to **3,186** people.

The Family Justice Project provides a wide range of representation to victims of domestic violence. Our attorneys appear at hearings to extend protective orders, assist with divorce and custody issues, and represent victims of crime who have civil and family law problems that are a result of their victimization. Beyond the courtroom, the staff provides, in English and Spanish:

- Community Legal Education Classes
- On-site direct representation to applicants at Safe Nest applying for initial TPO hearings to improve outcomes for survivors of domestic violence
- Weekly Ask-A-Lawyer sessions
- The Legal Aid Center Pro Bono Project places family law cases with pro bono attorneys in addition to those accepted by FJP
- Trial preparation class for *pro se* litigants

The **Immigration Advocacy Project** provided direct legal representation to **2,903** immigrant victims of violence, sexual assault, DACA recipients, asylum seekers, and others facing humanitarian crises.

- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada was able to assist **148** refugees from Afghanistan.
- Legal Aid Center staff represented **124** refugees and our pro bono attorneys helped **24** refugees.

## Human Trafficking

Nevada is ranked #1 in states with the highest number of victims of human trafficking. Legal Aid Center helps survivors of human trafficking tackle a multitude of challenges in recovery including:

- |                            |                             |                               |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▫ Adult Under Guardianship | ▫ Employment Authorizations | ▫ Record Sealing              |
| ▫ Bankruptcy               | ▫ Evictions                 | ▫ Social Security             |
| ▫ Consumer protection      | ▫ HOA issues                | ▫ Temporary Protective Orders |
| ▫ DACA Renewals            | ▫ Immigration Status        | ▫ Tickets/Warrants            |
| ▫ Debt Collection          | ▫ Name Changes              | ▫ Trafficking Visas           |
| ▫ Divorce/Custody/Support  | ▫ Probate                   | ▫ Wage Issues                 |
| ▫ Domestic Violence        | ▫ Public Benefits           |                               |



*“This case was very important to me because it was a new chapter in my life. I was able to move on with my life. I want to thank you guys for all your help.”*

*“She literally saved my life. I am so thankful for my attorney. She’s extremely professional, knowledgeable, sincere, patient and kind. She’s an extraordinary lawyer.”*

*“I now have permanent primary physical custody of my son and I can live life knowing my son will always be safe. You guys are amazing.”*

*“It helped get my life back on track.”*

– Former Human Trafficking clients

*Thank you!!! I can’t put into words how much I appreciate all you’ve done for my son and I. We are finally free because of your help. From day 1, you’ve kicked a\*\*. You fought for me with great passion and determination when I didn’t think I was brave enough. I’m beyond grateful for you being our rock for the past almost 2 years. You’re the best and I will be telling my son about you when he is older. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”*

– Former Family Justice Project client

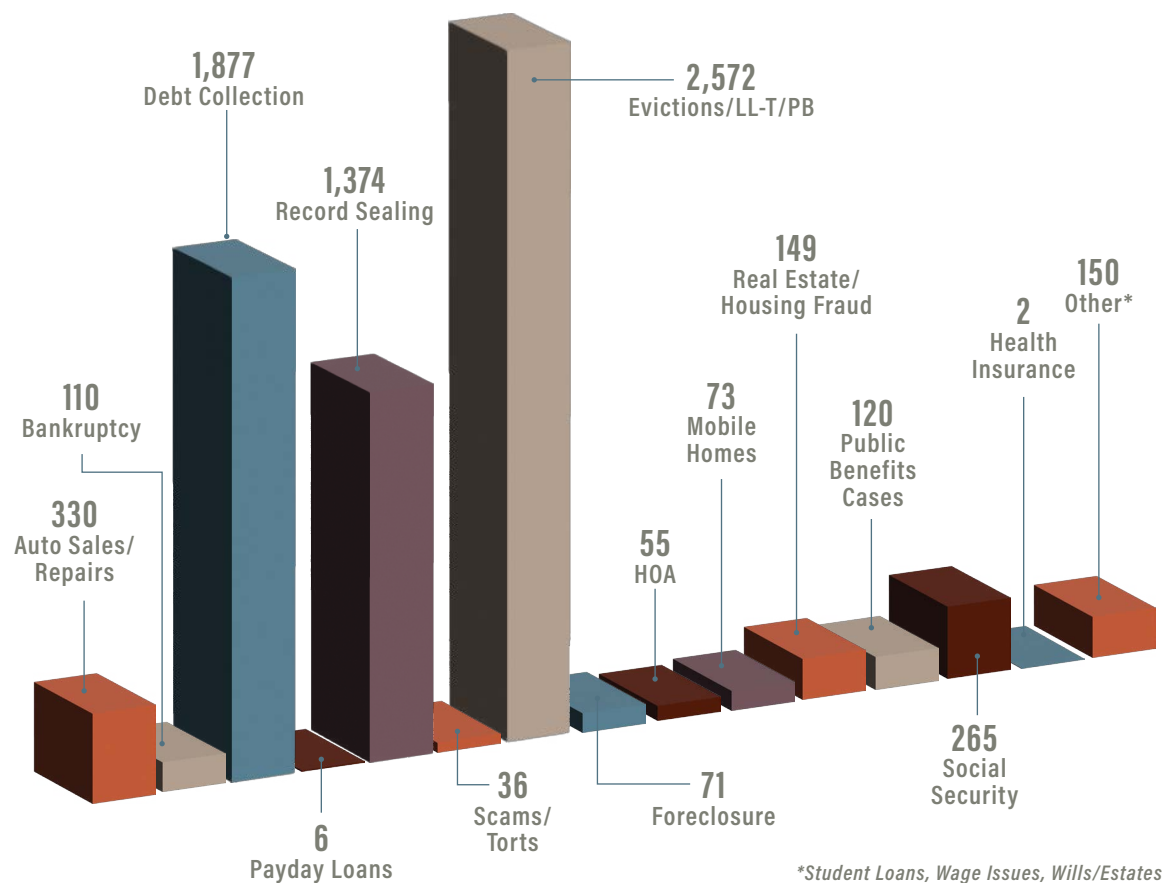




# WHAT WE DO DEFENDING VICTIMS OF FRAUD AND UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR

The **Consumer Rights Project** fights to protect low-income consumers in Southern Nevada from threats to their economic security and advocates on behalf of individuals threatened or victimized by deceptive business practices, illegal or abusive debt collection efforts, predatory and high-interest lending, and other harmful businesses, frauds, and scams that threaten the basic financial wellbeing and stability of vulnerable Nevadans. The Housing team is fighting to keep seniors, working families, and individuals with disabilities in their homes. Nevada's severe shortage of affordable homes is leaving people desperate and distraught, facing eviction, garnishment, and other stressors.

## CONSUMER RIGHTS CASES



## LEGAL SERVICES FUND

In 2023, the Legal Services Fund team provided invaluable assistance navigating the impenetrable bureaucracy to protect Culinary and Bartenders Union members from unfair treatment. Attorneys and staff also helped union members with more traditional legal assistance, including estate planning and immigration.

*Rosa is disabled with chronic pain, living on Social Security benefits of less than \$1000 a month. Rosa sought help from Legal Aid Center because she was concerned that she was the victim of a predatory lending scheme.*

*Rosa couldn't afford to pay the full balance for repairs needed for her car. The mechanic shop suggested applying to ABC Finance so she could make monthly payments. Rosa was approved in March 2023. Her payments were \$300 a month, which was about 1/3 of her monthly income. Seven months later, Rosa was struggling to make the monthly payments and didn't understand how she hadn't paid off the repairs yet.*

*Rosa was up to date on her monthly payments when she requested legal help. A Legal Aid Center attorney recognized the finance company and knew that this finance company focused on lease-purchase agreements, which means Rosa would pay for months and months, and when the amount was paid off, the Company would either demand the items financed back, or demand a purchase price for the items financed. In this case, the leased items were, "Auto Repair."*

*How was Rosa supposed to give back auto repair if she couldn't afford to pay the price ABC Finance would demand? Auto repair is a non-tangible service with no residual value. The Legal Aid Center attorney explained the lease-purchase agreement to Rosa. He stated that the agreement was disguised financing and not a true lease. Rosa's Legal Aid Center attorney contacted ABC Finance company's in-house counsel and explained his findings. The finance company's attorney reviewed the client's contract and agreed to settle Rosa's case.*

*Rosa is now free from the payments. She is happy with the outcome and thrilled to be able to afford a heating pad to ease her pain – something she had been putting off due to her financial obligations to ABC Finance.*



*"Our lawyer has shown true concern for our lives, our safety, our health, and our well being by assisting with our situation and trying to achieve a positive outcome for everyone"* — Former Consumer Rights Project client



# LEGAL EMERGENCY ROOMS



Our **Self-Help Centers** are “legal emergency rooms” for pro se litigants navigating the court system. The Centers provide an environment where walk-in customers, often with urgent legal issues, can request legal information regardless of their income, assets, or citizenship.

- The Self-Help Centers served a record number of people in 2023 – over **156,007**!
- The **Civil Law Self-Help Center** assisted **69,025** people averaging **5,750** people per month and over **280** people a day.
  - Online eviction litigation forms were created so both landlords and tenants can complete forms and file them electronically.
- The **Family Law Self-Help Center** assisted **86,982** people averaging **7,249** people per month and over **335** people a day.
  - **9,504** individuals sought assistance for a domestic violence protection order issue and the staff helped **4,373** people with protection order applications.
  - The Center partnered with the Nevada Supreme Court Law Library to translate nearly **50** of the most common family law forms into Spanish, Tagalog, and Mandarin.

FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE  
**1,028,790**  
USERS

CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE  
**982,038**  
USERS

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

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

*“At a time like this divorce is already hard, and there were a couple of times that I felt like just falling to the ground and sobbing uncontrollably and staff could see that I was in a little bad shape, and they would let me just a few seconds to stand there, so I could compose myself And it really helped my dignity and self-worth. I really appreciate them there at the family help services.”* – Former Self-Help Center client

*“The employees at the self help center went above and beyond to assist me. Legal documentation can be very intimidating and this service helps ease the process!”*

– Former Self-Help Center customer



*“La señorita Ana, fue una persona muy Cortés, muy profesional y denota que le agrada mucho el trabajo que realiza. De requerirlo nuevamente, quisiera que ella o una persona como ella me atendiera”*

– Former Self-Help Center client



*Thomas was brutally attacked three times within a two-month period at the behest of his estranged wife. He was brutally stabbed in three separate incidents and the attacks left him disabled and homeless. Thomas was eligible to file a Victims of Crime Program application, but he was struggling with understanding the process due to the disabling attacks. Thomas was left with no money and homeless. His cell phone was about to be turned off, further restricting his ability to get assistance. He was also still legally married and feared the attacks would continue until they ended his life.*

- The Victims of Crime Program (VOCP) connected Thomas to the Resiliency Center. Thomas' advocate worked with the VOCP office to obtain the benefits he qualified for and then his advocate helped him obtain his medical bills. The advocate then connected Thomas with Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living for housing solutions and assistance with disability benefits. Lastly, Thomas' advocate connected him with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Family Justice Project for pro bono assistance with a divorce.*

*Thomas was able to move into a weekly rental immediately, with his basic household goods kit to help him get set up. His new cell phone enabled him to communicate and advocate for himself while applying for disability benefits. His pro bono attorney is working on his divorce proceedings. Thomas is looking forward to a new life, free from violence.*

*“It affects my personal safety. My heartfelt thanks. My advocate was so attentive, patient and very kind to me.”*

The Resiliency & Justice Center provides comprehensive assistance to survivors of violent crime and responds to any mass violence incident in our community. The Resiliency Center received the 2021 Department of Justice Service Award for its model of assistance and the 2023 Congressional Crime Survivor's Award.



# PRO BONO PROJECT



Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is the agency of last resort for many low-income individuals and families who face critical legal problems that affect their basic needs. The Pro Bono Project connects vulnerable clients with committed and compassionate volunteer attorneys.

509  
New Cases

2,727  
Total Cases

Visited  
20  
Law Firms

1,945 + 16,611 = 18,556  
Volunteer Ask-A-Lawyer Hours Pro Bono Hours Pro Bono & Ask-A-Lawyer Hours Combined

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon

Every year we honor attorneys who provide thousands of hours of free legal services to the most vulnerable in our community.



PRO BONO FIRM OF THE YEAR  
*Lewis Roca*



PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR  
*Meng Zhong*



WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
*J. Randall Jones, Bob Dickerson, and Maximiliano D. Couvillier, III*



JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE  
*Magistrate Judge Cam Ferenbach*



VINCE A. CONSUL MEMORIAL PRO BONO AWARD  
*Andréa L. Vieira*



MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD  
*Sabrina M. Dolson*



LOUIS WIENER PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD  
*Africa A. Sanchez*



PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION  
*Eva Guevara-Gutierrez*



ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD  
*Jenica D. Yurcic Westerman*



VOLUNTEER EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD  
*Dorie Williams*

## LIED AWARDS

MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY A LAW FIRM  
*Lewis Roca*



MOST HOURS DONATED BY A LAW FIRM  
*Brownstein Hyatt*



MOST HOURS DONATED BY AN ATTORNEY  
*Raelene K. Palmer*



MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY AN ATTORNEY  
*Bonnie V. Smith*



AWARDS & WINNERS



# PRO BONO AWARDS SPONSORS

Without the support, hard work, and commitment of the legal community in Southern Nevada, we would have to turn away thousands of people who need our services.

**JUDGE BILL HENDERSON**  
FAMILY COURT

*Wynn*  
RESORTS



**UNLV**  
WILLIAM S. BOYD  
SCHOOL OF LAW



A division of Western Alliance Bank. Member FDIC.

**BOYD**



## THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCHEON SPONSORS

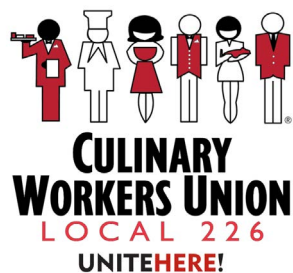
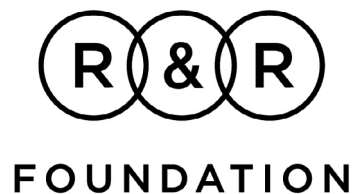
Anthem Injury Lawyers  
Bank of Nevada  
Boyd Gaming  
Culinary Workers Union  
Local 226  
Griffin Company  
Judge Bill Henderson –  
Family Court  
Kemp Jones  
Lewis Roca

Mutual of America  
Financial Group  
Nevada Gold Mines,  
Operated by Barrick  
NV Energy Foundation  
R & R Foundation  
Southwest Gas Foundation  
UNLV William S. Boyd  
School of Law  
Wynn Resorts

## THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS

ACLU of Nevada  
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Assembly Democratic  
Caucus  
Bailey Kennedy, LLP  
Ballard Spahr LLP  
Battle Born Burgers  
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Judges Stephanie Charter,  
Heidi Almase, Stacy  
Rocheleau  
Kainen Law Group

Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson  
& Haluck, LLP  
Las Vegas Raiders  
Law Office of  
Africa A. Sanchez  
Law Office of  
David C. Nelson  
Maggie Lambrose  
McDonald Carano  
Nevada Legal News  
Nevada Senate Democrats  
Reid Rubinstein & Bogatz  
Republic Services  
Robyn & Aldo Manzini  
Senior Judge Cheryl Moss  
Sklar Williams PLLC  
Snell & Wilmer  
Spencer Fane LLP  
Springel & Fink LLP  
State Bar of Nevada  
Stephen & Beth Martino  
Thomas & Mack  
The Abrams & Mayo  
Law Firm  
The Dickerson Karacsonyi  
Law Group



**KEMP | JONES**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



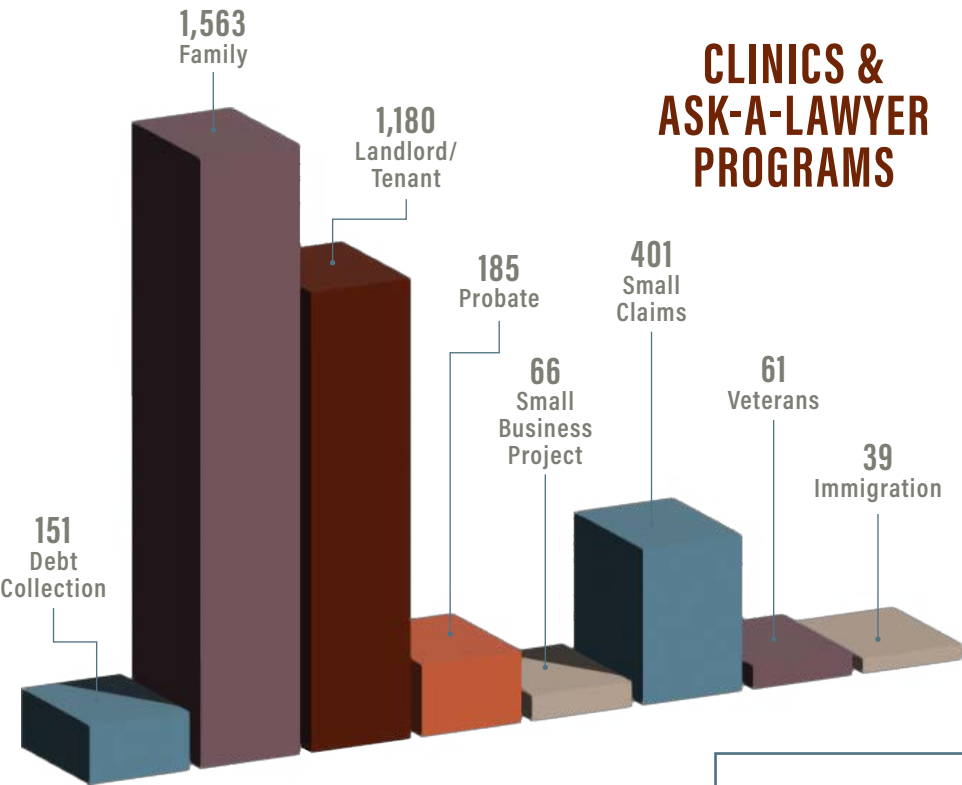
**LEWIS ROCA**





# WHAT WE DO

# ASK-A-LAWYER, EDUCATION & OUTREACH



COMMUNITY  
ASK-A-LAWYER  
EVENTS

**3,905**

OUTREACH

**162** | **3,870**

Events | Attendees

*“Thank you so much for helping me manage all of my problems, I enjoyed getting to know you. You will forever be in my heart. Keep helping others like you helped me.”*

– Former Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada client

CHRISTINE SMITH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM	Clients Served
Divorce	739
Paternity/Custody	538
Guardianship	286
Spanish Family Law	65
Bankruptcy	278
Small Claims	448
In Debt	53
Family Law Lit & Trial Prep	238
Immigration	37
Eviction Sealing	215
Tenant’s Rights	271
Spanish Family Law Forms	72
TOTAL	3,240



Christine Smith



# FELLOWSHIPS

## Community Justice Fellowship

The Community Justice Fellowship, sponsored by Paul Padda Law since 2019, 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 198,000 services a year. The Fellow works in each of Legal Aid Center's project area, and assists in addressing the great unmet legal need in Clark County. [www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship)

### Past Fellows

Shay Digenan (2022); Widad Sairafe (2021); Wesley Su (inaugural Fellow now with our Family Justice Project) (2020)



## Legal Aid Center's Diversity and Justice Fellowship

The Diversity and Justice Fellowship encourages law students who plan to practice in Nevada and are minorities and/or from diverse backgrounds, to explore careers in public interest law. Experienced attorneys who also come from diverse backgrounds will mentor the summer fellow in providing access to justice to low-income and vulnerable individuals in our community. Fellows gain practical legal skills from researching, drafting documents, communicating with clients, and working with a small number of attorneys in one of our project areas throughout the summer. [www.LACSN.org/DiversityFellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/DiversityFellowship)

**Past Fellows** Danielle Oberlander (2022)



Joshua Lozano

## Civil Justice Summer Fellowship

The Fellowship was created in 2020 by Robyn Ratcliffe Manzini and Aldo Manzini. The Fellow is assigned an attorney in one of our project areas to mentor the Fellow, and the Fellow gains practical legal skills from interviewing potential clients, to drafting documents and appearing in court, to seeing a case to final resolution. [www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice](http://www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice)

### Past Fellows

Jay Brunner (2022); Allison Hedrick (2021)



Madison Johnson

## Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Summer Fellowship

The Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Summer 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! The Fellow works in our Pro Bono Project carrying on Melanie's work assisting those unable to afford the civil legal help they need. [www.LACSN.org/Fellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/Fellowship)

**Past Fellows** Eva Guevara-Gutierrez (2022); Priscila Venzor (2021); Azra Odezmir (2020); Brittini Tanenbaum (2019); Olga Torres (2018); Matthew Cook (2017)



Melanie Kushnir



Ciara Clark

## 2023 Associates Challenge Sponsored by Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

The Associates Challenge is an annual competition of new associates supporting legal services. [www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge](http://www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge)

Caleb Green

### WINNERS

Access to Justice Champions



Associates Trophy

Caleb Green, Dickinson Wright



## Firms Participating in the Associates Challenge

Brownstein

Ballard Spahr LLP

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

HUTCHISON & STEFFEN ATTORNEYS

Littler

LEWIS ROCA

1972 50th 2022 MARQUIS AURBACH CHTD.

McDONALD CARANO

Snell & Wilmer

WEINBERG WHEELER HUDGINS GUNN & DIAL TRIAL LAWYERS



# 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 individuals and groups in our community, 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

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Attorney General Consumer  
Protection Settlement  
Caesars Foundation  
Catholic Charities  
Charles Schwab  
City of Las Vegas  
Clark County  
Culinary & Bartenders  
Legal Service Fund

Federal Attorney Admission Fund  
Nevada Bar Foundation  
Nevada Gold Mines,  
Operated by Barrick  
State Bar of Nevada  
State of Nevada  
U.S. Department of Housing and  
Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Amy Ayoub  
Anthem Injury Lawyers  
Assistance League of Las Vegas  
Clark County Bar Association  
Communique  
HELP of Southern Nevada  
Las Vegas-Clark County  
Library District  
Nevada Bar Foundation  
Nevada Justice Association  
Nevada Lawyer  
Nevada Legal News

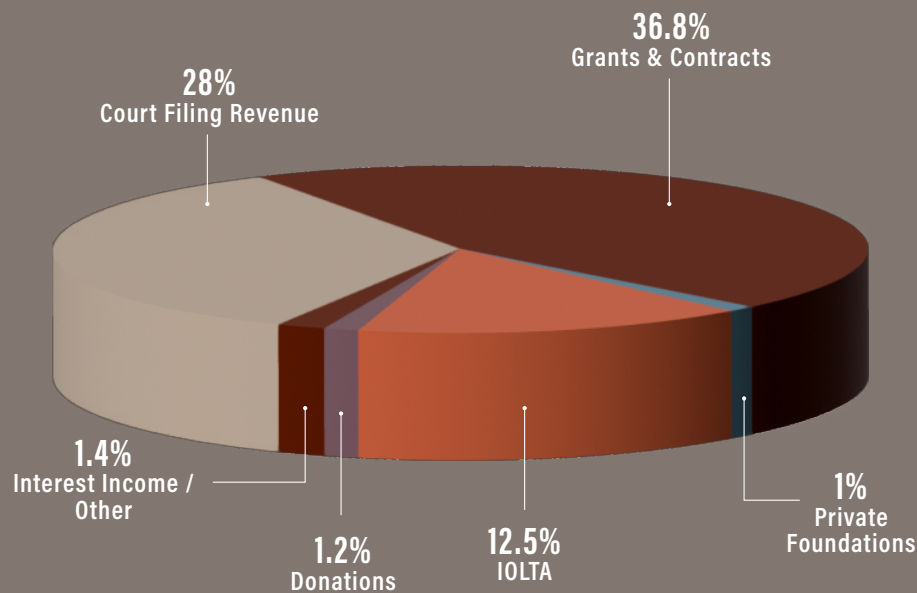
Nevada Supreme Court Access to  
Justice Commission  
Parkdale Recreation and  
Senior Center  
QDRO Masters at Willick Law Group  
Radford Smith, Esq.  
R&R Partners Foundation  
Rotary Club of Green Valley  
State Bar of Nevada  
William S. Boyd School of Law  
Immigrant Rights Coalition  
William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV  
Wynn Las Vegas

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

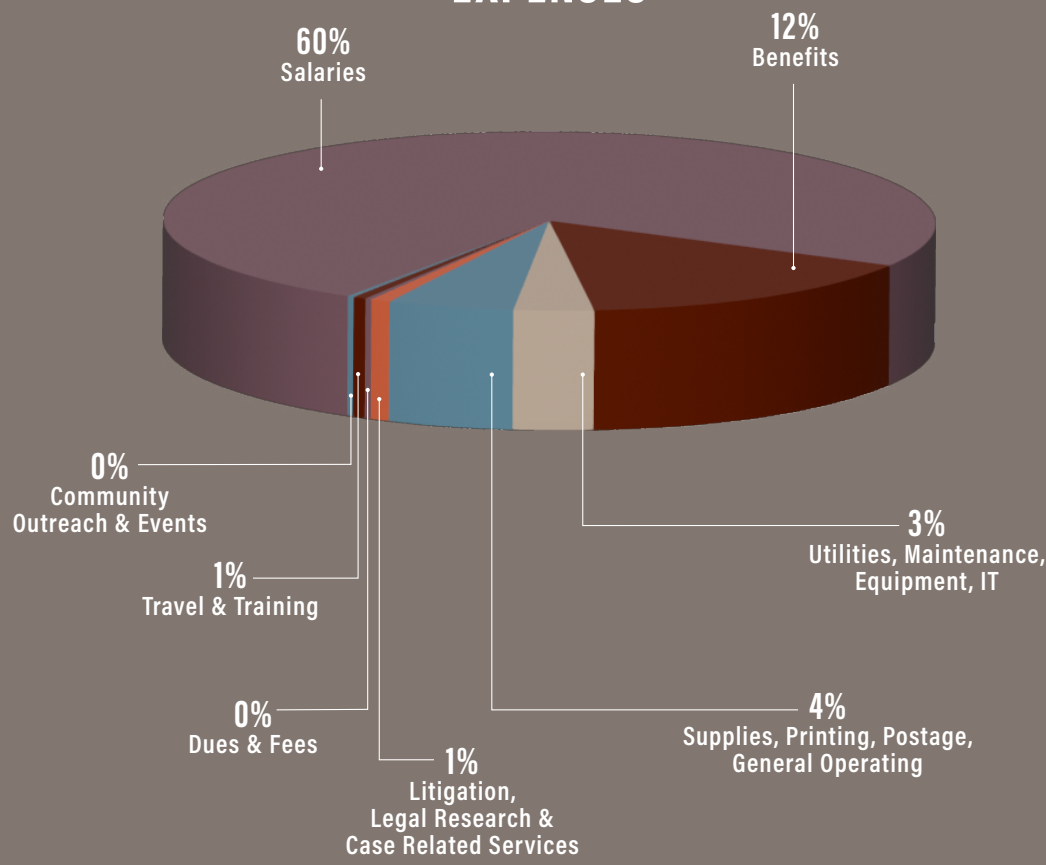


# 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## INCOME

Court Filing Revenue	\$8,186,353	28%
Grants & Contracts	\$10,756,356	37%
Private Foundations	\$270,000	1%
IOLTA	\$3,657,374	13%
Donations	\$363,210	1%
Interest Income / Other	\$397,567	1%
Income Before Donated Services	\$23,630,861	81%
(18,556 hrs at \$300/hr) Donated Services	\$5,566,800	19%
Endowment Contribution	\$1,337	0%
Total Income, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$29,198,997	100%

## EXPENSES

PERSONNEL		
Salaries	\$16,986,814	60%
Benefits	\$3,509,364	12%
Personnel Subtotal	\$20,496,177	72%

## NON-PERSONNEL

Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment, IT	\$763,482	3%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Operating	\$1,229,290	4%
Travel & Training	\$154,455	1%
Dues & Fees	\$57,029	0%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$151,627	1%
Community Outreach & Events	\$31,722	0%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$2,387,603	9%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$22,883,781	81%

## Expenses Before Donated Services & Endowment

Donated Services	\$5,566,800	19%
Total Expenses, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$28,450,581	100%

NET FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS \$748,417



# OUR TEAM



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT (until December 8, 2023)

Max Couvillier, Esq.  
*Kennedy & Couvillier*

### PRESIDENT (since December 8, 2023)

Marisa Rodriguez, Esq.  
*North Las Vegas City Attorney's Office*

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Elizabeth Nelson, Esq.

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*Serl Keefer Welter, CPAs, LLP*

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*Lewis Roca*

Karen Haller, Esq., *Southwest Gas Corporation*

Mona Kaveh, Esq., *Kemp Jones*

Robyn Ratcliffe Manzini

Michon Martin, *R&R Partners*

Paul Martin

Stephen Martino,

*MGM Resorts International*

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Betsy Ward,

*Las Vegas-Clark County*

*Library District*

John Valery White, Esq.,

*UNLV William S. Boyd*

*School of Law*

Marshal Willick, Esq.,

*Willick Law Group*

### GENERAL COUNSEL

Dan R. Waite, Esq.,

*Lewis Roca*

### EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

J. Randall Jones, Esq.

(1987 – 2023), *Kemp Jones*

Bob Dickerson, Esq.

(2000 - 2023), *The Dickerson*

*Karacsonyi Law Group*

## STAFF

Barbara Buckley, Esq.,

*Executive Director*

Terry Bratton,

*Chief Financial Director*

Venicia Considine, Esq.

*Director of Development &*

*Community Relations*

Christine Smith,

*Director of Community*

*Initiatives & Outreach*

Bailey Bortolin, Esq.,

*Director of Advocacy &*

*Strategic Initiatives*

### CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

Janice Wolf, *Directing Attorney*

Xavier Planta, *Deputy Director*

Kim Abbott, *Attorney and Mental*

*Health Initiatives Manager*

Jennie Albarado, *Attorney*

Jennifer Arbizu, *Legal Assistant*

Gillian Satterfield Barjon,

*Attorney, Team Chief*

Candace Barr,

*Attorney, Team Chief*

Amy Connell, *Legal Advocate*

Angela Cook, *Attorney, Team Chief*

Ellen Craker, *Attorney*

Jaqueline Deam, *Attorney*

Tara Dye, *Legal Advocate*

Patricia Fernandez,

*Legal Assistant*

Ilka Fisher, *Legal Advocate*

Cesar Flores,

*Legal Assistant*

Dewey Fowler,

*Attorney, Team Chief*

Ana Gaitan, *Legal Assistant*

Denise Glasgow,

*Attorney, Team Chief*

Danyell Gustaw, *Attorney*

Cassandra Hammon, *Attorney*

Patrick Hirsch, *Attorney*

Amy Honodel, *Attorney,*

*Strategic Initiatives Manager*

Laila-Rose Hudson, *Attorney*

Jaymie Junsay, *Legal Advocate*

Sharon "Nikki" Kotler,

*Legal Assistant*

Nancy Lemcke, *Attorney*

Alexander Matter, *Legal Advocate*

Tonya McCormick, *Attorney*

Yolanda Miller, *Attorney*

Maria Parra-Sandoval, *Attorney*

Gregory Paul, *Attorney*

Rhonda Peck, *Attorney*

Sandra Robertson, *Attorney*

Irma "Jasmin" Rodriguez,

*Legal Advocate*

Adrian Rosehill,

*Attorney, Team Chief*

Fernande Rossetti, *Attorney*

Jissela Sandoval, *Legal Assistant*

Jennifer Spelman, *Attorney*

Sara Stephan, *Attorney*

Alexis Stewart, *Attorney*

Zoe Terry, *Attorney*

Elena Thomas, *Legal Assistant*

Penny Walker, *Legal Assistant*

Audrey Whitehurst, *Attorney*

Tiffani Wickel, *Attorney*

Valencia Wilson, *Legal Assistant*

Alicia Woods, *Legal Assistant*

Annie Youchah, *Attorney*

Samantha Zabo, *Attorney*

### CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

Michael "Bo" Anderson,

*Directing Attorney*

Marco Guerra,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

Anthony Mackenzie,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

Pamela Pearson,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

Victor Urbina,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

Edelia Vazquez,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

Kat Williams,

*Legal Information Facilitator*

### CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT

Courtney Lee, *Directing Attorney*

Peter Aldous, *Attorney*

Taylor Altman, *Attorney*

Yesenia Alvarez, *Legal Advocate*

Harrison Bohn, *Attorney*

Haley Box, *Attorney*

Catherine Cochrane, *Attorney*

Magdalena Cormier,

*Legal Assistant*

Jayne Diaz, *Legal Advocate*

Jason Fisher, *Attorney*

Robert Fleming, *Attorney*

Alejandro Flores-Duran,

*Legal Advocate*

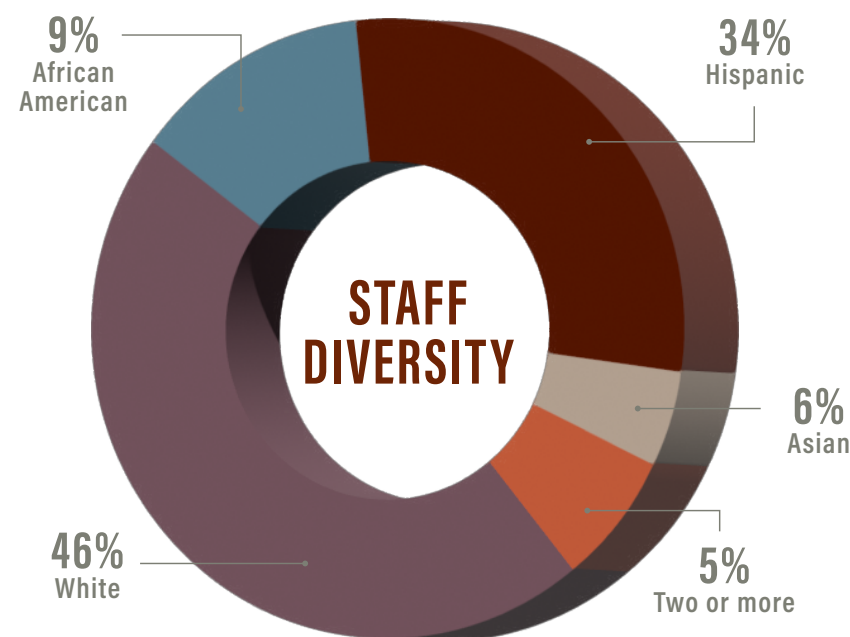
Carina Gamboa-Flores,

*Legal Advocate*

**54%**  
**Minority**

*Includes two or more*

**76%** **24%**  
**Female** **Male**



Stephany Garcia, *Legal Advocate*

Elizabeth Gomez, *Legal Assistant*

Nicholas Haley, *Attorney*

Linda Hernandez, *Legal Advocate*

Patricia Lawson, *Legal Advocate*

Guadalupe Ledezma,

*Legal Advocate*

Ryan McConnell, *Attorney*

Christine Miller, *Attorney*

David Narvaez-Manriquez,

*Legal Advocate*

Kimli Nguyen, *Legal Assistant*

Estela Ramirez, *Legal Advocate*

Rosa Reinoso, *Legal Assistant*

Samuel Reyes, *Legal Advocate*

Carlos Sanchez, *Legal Advocate*

Lucia Villanueva, *Legal Advocate*

A'Sha Ward, *Legal Advocate*



# OUR TEAM (CONT)

## FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

April Green, *Directing Attorney*  
Brianna Bower, *Attorney*  
Amy Buchanan, *Attorney*  
Angelica Corona, *Legal Advocate*  
Lesa Curvey, *Attorney*  
Silvina Gimenez, *Legal Advocate*  
Madeline La Forgia, *Attorney*  
Nina Marcello, *Attorney*  
Earlean Nelson-Deal, *Legal Assistant*  
Susan Noyce, *Attorney*  
Ana Ramirez, *Legal Advocate*  
Irene Rodriguez, *Legal Advocate*  
Cristina Rosas, *Legal Assistant*  
Aileen Yeo, *Legal Assistant*

## FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

Stephanie McDonald, *Directing Attorney*  
Giovanni Andrade, *Staff Attorney*  
Miriam Diaz,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Ana Ibarra, *Legal Information Facilitator*  
Yaquelin Martinez,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Blanca Nunez,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Gerardo Olvera,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Karla Retiguin,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Tammy Twitchell-Maskew,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Selena Vedro,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Andrea Velasco,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*  
Gicola Wright,  
*Legal Information Facilitator*

## GUARDIANSHIP ADVOCACY PROJECT

Debra Bookout, *Directing Attorney*  
Katie Anderson, *Attorney*  
Joice Bass, *Attorney*  
Jennifer Bocek-Dobijanski,  
*Legal Assistant*  
Marcus Brouwers, *Attorney*

Anna Caceres, *Legal Advocate*  
Raeshann Canady, *Attorney*  
Scott Cardenas, *Attorney*  
Marina Dalia-Hunt, *Attorney*  
Niria Del Toro, *Legal Advocate*  
Michelle DiNapoli, *Legal Assistant*  
Julie Fox-McCullough, *Legal Assistant*  
Nisey Garcia, *Legal Advocate*  
Nadia Gilkes, *Attorney*  
Jeanette Gonzalez, *Legal Advocate*  
Heather Goodlett, *Attorney*  
Aleasa Guerra, *Attorney*  
Shauna Hill, *Attorney*  
Michael Kostrinsky, *Attorney*  
Melissa Lipman, *Attorney*  
Elizabeth Mikesell, *Attorney*  
Elizabeth Montes, *Legal Advocate*  
Keila Morales, *Legal Assistant*  
Karla Muneton, *Legal Advocate*  
Kristin Riebsomer, *Attorney*  
Joyce Riley, *Attorney*  
Jayne Rovianek, *Legal Advocate*  
Elizabeth Scheinman, *Attorney*  
Karen Virgen, *Legal Assistant*  
Patty Walsh, *Attorney*  
Grace Warburton, *Attorney*

## IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY PROJECT

Giovanni Alonso, *Directing Attorney*  
Lizeth Barboza Searcy, *Legal Advocate*  
Shaun Fernandez, *Attorney*  
Leslie Joya, *Attorney*  
Laura Lopez Puccio, *Attorney*  
Mariah Murphy, *Legal Advocate*  
Michael Warth, *Attorney*  
Sherry Woodard, *Legal Assistant*  
Garrison Wright, *Attorney*  
Rosalba Sales, *Legal Assistant*  
Wesley Su, *Attorney*  
Erika Velez, *Legal Assistant*

## PRO BONO PROJECT

Michael Wendlberger, *Directing Attorney*  
Genevieve Galman, *Assistant Director*  
Cindy Morales, *Legal Advocate*  
Carmen Ramirez, *Legal Advocate*  
Elizabeth Siravo, *Legal Assistant*



## RESILIENCY & JUSTICE CENTER (FORMERLY VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER)

Tennille Pereira, *Directing Attorney*  
Jennifer Kenan, *Legal Advocate*  
Clariza Magat, *Legal Advocate*  
Melissa Moreno, *Legal Advocate*  
Yesica Rodriguez, *Legal Advocate*  
Ellie Roohani, *Attorney*  
Tyler Winkler, *Attorney*

## ADMINISTRATION

Brian Birdsong, *IT Systems Administrator*  
Abraham Cantu, *Office Facilities Assistant*  
Brenda Cardona, *Data Entry/Receptionist*  
Crystal Cota, *Accountant*  
Rick DeRousse, *IT/Network Specialist*  
Gwenda Dixon, *Grants Manager*  
Jared Golub, *Digital Media & Design Coordinator*  
Debbie Jacoby, *Executive Assistant*  
Sandra Melito, *HR Director*  
Ryan Melyan, *HR Assistant*  
Liz Murillo, *Bookkeeper*  
Samantha Snelling,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Adriana Solorzano Contreras,  
*Receptionist*

## NEVADA COALITION OF LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Jonathan Norman, Esq.,  
*Statewide Advocacy, Outreach, and Policy Director*

*“My attorney was patient and went above and beyond for me. I couldn’t be grateful enough. She was the reason I won this case. She is amazing at her job.”* — Former Consumer Rights Project client



*“As always, the staff are outstanding!! They are always smiling, cheerful, and ready to offer their assistance! It is always a pleasure coming to this office.”* – Former Family Law Self-Help Center client





## A New Legacy

Every 38 minutes, someone experiences a violent crime in Nevada. Despite this statistic, for many years, Nevada offered virtually no services to assist survivors of violent crime. Then October 1, 2017 happened. A comprehensive victim assistance center, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center, was born.

Six years later, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center rebranded as the Resiliency & Justice Center. Its mission has been expanded to serve all survivors of violent crime in Nevada, whether the crime involves one person or a thousand.

More than 3,500 victims of violent crime and their families sought assistance at the Resiliency & Justice Center in 2023. This consistent and urgent need has led us to this decision to grow and to serve all survivors of violent crime across the state, whether the tragedy affects one family or thousands. We need a home campus for survivors, not multiple locations. It is for this reason that we are constructing an Advocacy & Justice Complex where any Nevadan who has experienced the devastating trauma of violent crime can find justice and begin to heal.

### Bringing Justice to More Nevadans

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Advocacy & Justice Complex will house three critical Projects:

- The Family Justice Project, which represents survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.
- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Resiliency & Justice Center, which helps all victims of crime in Nevada.
- The Guardianship Advocacy Project, which prevents exploitation of the elderly and children in guardianship matters.

### Thank you to our early donors:

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ▫ Clark County                    | ▫ Peggy Leen          |
| ▫ The Agassi Foundation           | ▫ Brad Lewis          |
| ▫ The Engelstad Family Foundation | ▫ David & Liz Nelson  |
| ▫ The State of Nevada             | ▫ Marisa Rodriguez    |
| ▫ MaryKaye Cashman                | ▫ Rebecca Saxe        |
| ▫ Michael Douglas                 | ▫ Tom & Lesley Thomas |
| ▫ Matthew Granda                  | ▫ Edward Wynder       |

For more information and to donate, visit

[www.LACSN.org/development-center/advocacy-justice-complex](http://www.LACSN.org/development-center/advocacy-justice-complex)

*Legal Aid Center is a diverse law firm staffed with compassionate and devoted employees who together create a collaborative and supportive work environment devoted to protecting the rights of its clients. Legal Aid Center believes that diversity, equity, and inclusion leads to better, innovative approaches to serving our clients and ensures we are closer to the community we serve.*

## 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.*

### TAKE A PRO BONO CASE

[www.lacsnpobono.org/available-cases/](http://www.lacsnpobono.org/available-cases/)  
or call 702.386.1422

### VOLUNTEER FOR EDUCATION ADVOCACY PROGRAM

[www.lacsnpobono.org/volunteer-today/](http://www.lacsnpobono.org/volunteer-today/)  
or call Ilka at 702.386.1446

### DONATE

[www.lacsn.org/donate](http://www.lacsn.org/donate)  
or call Venicia at 702.386.1442

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