

Family Justice Project Year-End Report 2022



Executive Summary

The Family Justice Project, (FJP), of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, provides direct legal representation for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.. FJP attorneys also represent elders, disabled persons and vulnerable parties in family court in order to meet the needs of the most marginalized and underrepresented sectors of our population. While the landscape of family court litigation has changed post-COVID, the problems our clients face have not. The facts in our divorce, custody and protection order cases have become more alarmingly complex and convoluted over the years. We see more strangulations, child abductions, incest, extreme child abuse and cruelty cases as the years pass. FJP has adapted to our evolving work by improving our screening and referral process and by expanding services.

Representation

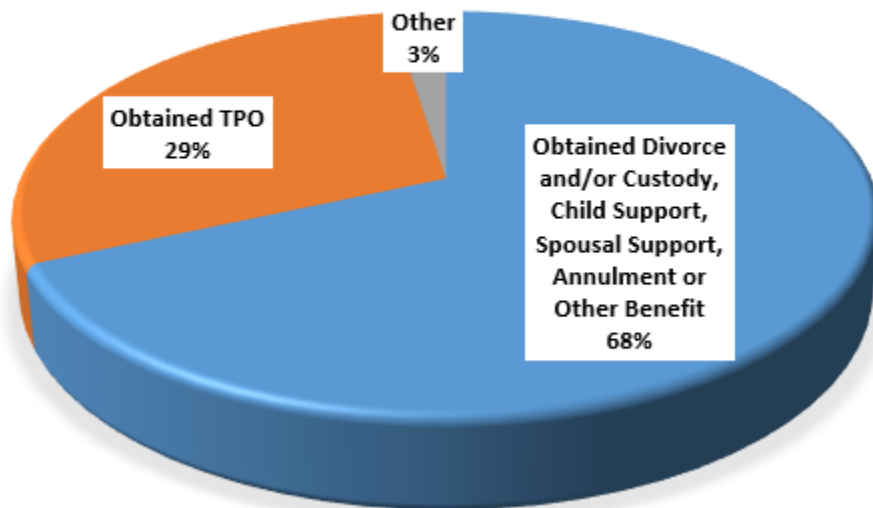
Below are charts showing the numbers of individuals FJP represented in 2022.

Family Justice Project 2022	
Consultations 2022	2,167
New cases accepted for litigation 2022	532
Total cases worked on by attorneys (includes new and previous years' cases)	750
Total annual clients served	2,917

Pro Bono Family Law 2022	
New cases placed 2022	66
Total cases worked on by attorneys (includes new and previous years' cases)	338
Number of clients served in Ask-A-Lawyer	1,734
Total annual clients served	2,072

Outcomes

FJP OUTCOMES 2022



Accomplishments

In 2022, our outreach efforts garnered additional community partners such as Shade Tree, a local shelter for women and children, and Unshakable, an organization committed to helping domestic violence shelters become independent through employment. Historical community partners such as the courts, local police departments, and domestic violence shelters regularly refer their clients to FJP for legal services. They depend upon us to get their clients through the rigorous legal process so that they may break the cycle of violence.

Expanded Partnerships to Serve More Domestic Violence Survivors

In 2022, the FJP formed a collaboration with Safe Nest, the largest domestic violence shelter and service provider in Clark County, to provide in-person/on-site legal services at the Safe Nest campus. Our attorneys, through this new partnership, represent domestic violence victims who lack the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves so they do not have to face their abusers without the information and support they need to gain favorable results. Family Justice Project attorneys go to Safe Nest weekly to provide one-on-one consultations and to represent domestic violence victims in protection order hearings on the Safe Nest campus. This new program has enabled FJP to increase the number of survivors receiving attorney representation at protection order hearings where the survivors of domestic violence are more likely to be successful because they are represented by experienced domestic violence attorneys. In 2022, this program was a pilot. In 2023, it was officially adopted as a standing program between our offices.

Community Involvement and Advocacy on Behalf of Domestic Violence Survivors

In 2022, FJP attorneys joined and affiliated with local agencies and groups to improve local services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking. The following is a list of groups our attorneys are affiliated with:

Member, Nevada Attorney General – Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence (NCDV);
Member, Justice Partners, Sub-Committee on Domestic Violence (NCDV);
Member, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Abuse;
Member, Nevada Policy Council on Human Trafficking
Member, DV Partners (Eighth Judicial District Court-Family Division);
Member, Independent Legal Advocates Against Domestic Violence;
Member-Participant, Family Justice Center (Clark County);
Member, Child Support Commission
Member, Clark County Court Administration DV Team

Success Story

Parties were married for 30 years. Husband made our client pay “rent.” He controlled all of the finances and she had to beg and plead for grocery money. Before initiating the divorce, client became self-employed. She was suffering from a dental issue and had to spend approximately \$10,000 on dental care. Even though this was necessary, husband did not assist her emotionally or financially with this expenditure. The marital residence was in husband’s name only. At the beginning of the case, husband took the position that the house was his sole and separate property because it was in his name only. In the end, the Legal Aid Center attorney was able to obtain court orders on behalf of client wherein husband was compelled to refinance the house and give client ½ of the entire equity; all community debts were satisfied with the refinancing, including client’s outstanding dental bill, and client received a lump sum of spousal support in the amount of \$30,000. Client was able to move to another state and have a fresh start.