

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Since 1958
LEGAL AID CENTER
of Southern Nevada



RIGHTING WRONGS,
CHANGING LIVES





Photo: Sampsel Preston Photography

When Arturo Martinez turned in for the night with his wife and three young children in his modest Las Vegas home, he had no idea that his life would soon take a tragic turn. His oldest boy awoke the next morning to find his mother and sister lying dead and his father bleeding and unable to function due to blunt force trauma to his head. An unimaginable horror had befallen Arturo's family... an intruder had broken into their home and ripped their lives to pieces.

We soon received word that Arturo was in desperate need of our services. He had survived the attack, but was fragile and barely able to speak, let alone fight for his rights in court. Among the many legal issues that he faced, two required immediate attention: extended family members were contemplating competing court actions to take custody of his

Greetings Friends and Supporters

boys; and he could never return to his home as it had become an excruciating symbol of loss, though selling it seemed impossible as the mortgage was "upside down."

Arturo needed an effective legal advocate, and we were there for him. We successfully dismissed the family court petitions and had Arturo's children released to him the day he was well enough to come home. And home was another crucial aspect of this family's recovery. We worked with his bank to forgive his mortgage so this brave father and his boys would not have to go back to the home where so much tragedy occurred. We also recruited a pro bono attorney to draft a will for Arturo prior to follow-up brain surgery so his wishes for his boys would be known in case anything happened to Arturo during surgery.

At Legal Aid Center, we are in the business of righting wrongs and mending lives. We make sure that victims of crime – domestic abuse and neglect, consumer fraud, and random acts of incredible violence – have someone in their corner as they face the legal system. We also help community members who have been hit hard by the economic downturn – facing foreclosure, bankruptcy, and divorce – forge a new path. For the most vulnerable among us, we make sure that access to justice is more than a slogan.

But we could not do this life-saving work without your support and belief in our mission.

By 2008, the need for our services had exploded, forcing us to rent costly additional space to house

our expanding programs. Our board recognized the need to grow, and we launched a capital campaign, which unfortunately coincided with one of the worst recessions in Nevada history. That's when a dedicated group of individuals, foundations and government leaders stepped forward and saw us through to the finish line.

In 2012, we broke ground on a new 35,000 square foot facility, which is close to the courts and bus lines and reunites our staff under one roof. In this new home, we have a large classroom for self-help public classes on the law and training for volunteer attorneys. With room to grow in the future, we now have the ability to hire more staff to reach a long-held dream of representing every abused child in the Clark County Foster Care System. Last year, our staff of 65 – together with more than a thousand volunteer attorneys – stood up for 65,000 people like Arturo Martinez.

Whether you contributed money, time or advice to Legal Aid Center over the past year, we hope that when you drive by our new facility, you will think about the thousands of lives that you are helping to change every day. On behalf of these vulnerable Southern Nevada residents, we extend to you our most sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "C".

Barbara Buckley
Executive Director

An Overview Of What We Do

CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

- Gives children in foster care a voice in court.
- Enforces a child's right and desire to have visitation with siblings.
- Assists low-income parents who are struggling with the school district to protect their children's special education rights.
- Recruits and trains volunteers who are willing to become educational surrogate parents for children with disabilities, ensuring schools are meeting their disability-related needs.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

- Represents victims and helps them obtain protective orders, divorce decrees and custody of their children.
- Helps victims who are living in domestic violence shelters by teaching them about their legal rights to live a life free of violence.
- Assists battered immigrants who are victims of crimes under the Violence Against Women Act and the criminal witness U-visa Program.

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT

- Works against fraudulent sales practices.
- Fights against abusive debt collection activities.
- Enforces car warranties so people don't pay for a service that they don't receive.
- Represents those who have lost jobs in bankruptcy court.
- Represents homeowners going through foreclosure.
- Represents people with disabilities who have been denied social security benefits.

CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

- Provides self-help information to those representing themselves in civil matters, including forms, instructions and in-person assistance.
- Functions as a legal emergency room for people struggling to navigate through the court system and trying to obtain accurate legal information.

PRO BONO PROJECT

- Recruits private attorneys to represent clients in the areas of consumer fraud, domestic violence, child abuse, bankruptcy, family law and foreclosure.
- Trains volunteer attorneys in specialties of law outside their practice areas.
- Mentors volunteer attorneys who need assistance in areas of law outside of their usual practices.
- Manages Ask-A-Lawyer Programs in family law, landlord/tenant and foreclosure, where unrepresented litigants can get expert legal advice from a practicing attorney.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT

Offer free weekly classes to members of the community in partnership with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law in the following areas:

- Divorce
- Bankruptcy
- Custody
- Foreclosure
- Guardianship
- Collection Proof
- Small Claims
- Spanish classes available in Family Law, Small Claims and Bankruptcy

My CAP attorney always spoke up for me and was always there for me. She is very nice and made it easy for me to go to court. She is my friend.



2012 Milestones

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON NEW FACILITY

After four years of fundraising, in January 2012, construction began on our much needed new facility. Our dreams of expanding capacity to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, consumer fraud and abused and neglected children soon would become a reality. We moved into the new facility in March 2013 and our old building will now become the site of our future parking garage. We expect the entire complex to be completed by fall 2013. We could not have accomplished this without the leadership of our Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Bill Boyd, CEO of Boyd Gaming, and Dick Morgan, former dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV and Legal Aid Center board member.

CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT TACKLES PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS ISSUE

The children's mental health treatment system is in a shocking state. In case after case, we see abused children being prescribed a dangerous level of psychotropic medication, being recommended for locked "treatment" centers or being forced to attend hours of therapy each day. After representing children one at a time, we decided to attack the problems on behalf of every abused child, and sent a demand letter to the responsible governmental agencies. As a result, the County and State agreed to implement a new pilot program with community based treatment providers, have a new psychiatrist review the cases we brought to them for alternative treatment, and immediately change their Medicaid database to allow County case workers to track psychotropic drug prescriptions.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children may request consideration for temporary immigration status and a work authorization. In August 2012, the procedures and guidelines were issued for those eligible to apply. Within hours of this announcement, we were flooded with requests for assistance and information about this program—including an inquiry from a UNLV student who was about to go to medical school. We immediately coordinated resources with our community partners, including the UNLV Boyd School of Law Immigration Clinic, the Mexican Consulate and the immigration bar, to develop an informational presentation to those seeking help. In four months, approximately 600 people attended these informational sessions and Ask-A-Lawyer programs.

LEGAL AID CENTER WINS AUTISM INTERVENTION SERVICES DECISION

We began receiving complaints from parents of children with autism as they attempted to secure appropriate federally mandated "intensive intervention services" from the Clark County School District. These services are life-changing: if provided early enough, a child's life will change; they will be able to learn in school; and live a life unimaginable from their early years. For low-income parents able to secure an evaluation and approval for services, the District required they pay up to \$1,000 upfront each month for the services and be reimbursed later. As a consequence, only high-income parents could afford to secure

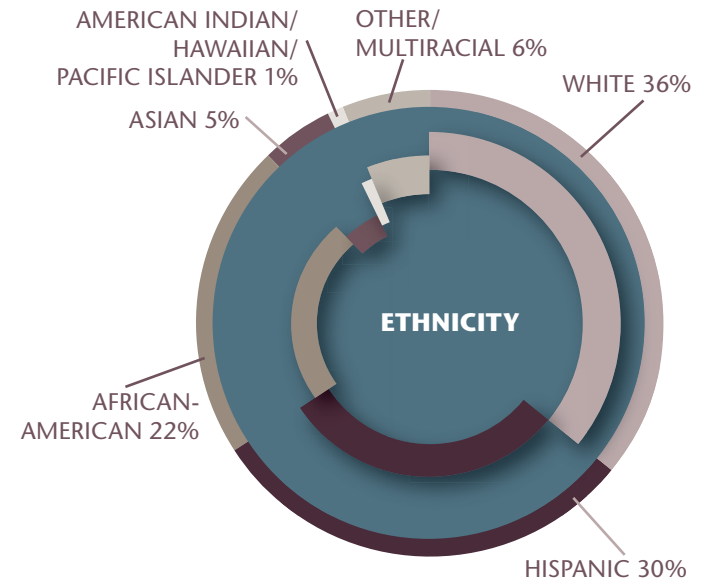
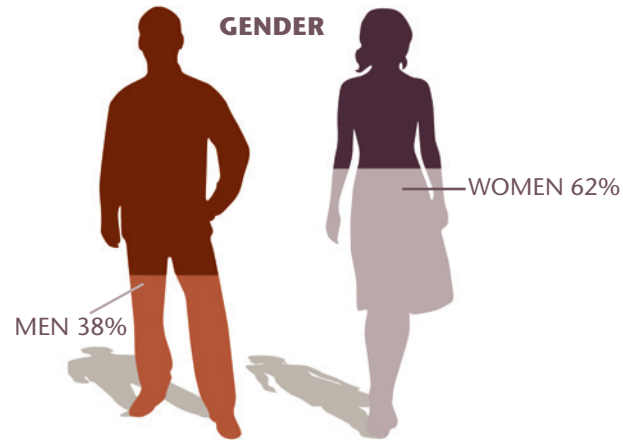
services for their child. We spent hundreds of hours litigating this case, and the State of Nevada ruled in our favor, holding that every child in need of these services was entitled to receive it, without delays and without financial barriers.

FORECLOSURE EXPANSION—ATTORNEY GENERAL'S GRANT

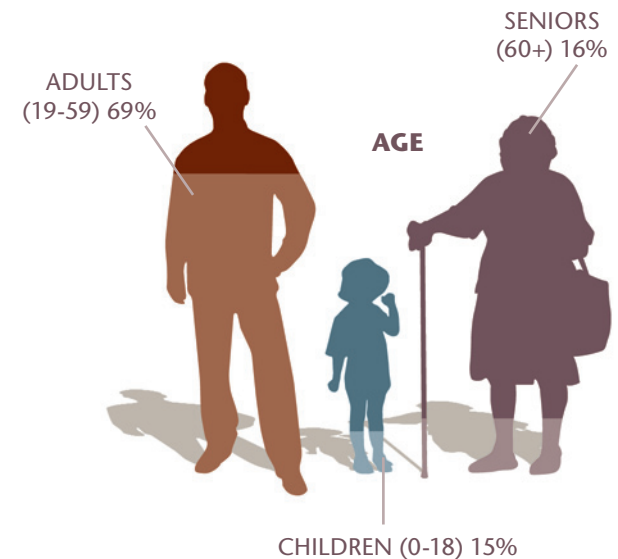
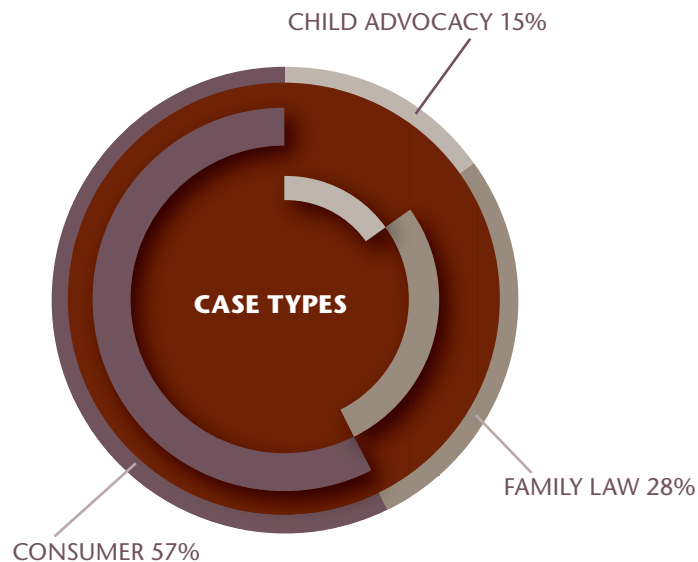
With funding from the Attorney General's National Settlement against banks over the foreclosure crisis, we have been able to expand our foreclosure work through our Consumer Rights Project. This funding has allowed us to maintain and increase our representation of homeowners with foreclosure related issues, including mediations, loan modifications, short sales, and other mechanisms to help people stay in their homes.

Client Statistics

OVER 65,000 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THROUGH ALL OF OUR PROGRAM AREAS.



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1 You saved my life and my sanity. Gave me time to take care of my husband with Alzheimer's, our small business, and our home. Since the mediation I have stabilized our small business and personal finances with steady, reliable boarders. I'm very grateful for your help.

2 Your help was life altering. I was in an abusive marriage for over 23 years. Leaving was step 1. Meeting my attorney was step 2. The divorce was the final step to getting my life back. Thank you, thank you, thank you!





3 *I was struggling to keep my home. I was scared and nervous about losing my home. I had no idea what to expect at mediation or after. Legal Aid Center helped me quickly and with expertise. The entire team helped educate and serve me. I cannot thank you enough.*

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4 *This was very important for my wife and I to adopt my nephew. This would bring more joy to my house and give the best of us to our new son. I would like to thank my attorney for her dedication and knowledge. Her service provided to us was excellent. God bless you always!!*

12th Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon



PATRICIA LEE RECEIVES THE PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT.



(L TO R) TOM FELL ACCEPTS THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD ON BEHALF OF GORDON SILVER FROM JUSTICE RON PARRAGUIRRE.

ISHI KUNIN (AND GRANDDAUGHTER) ACCEPTS THE LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR AN ATTORNEY FROM JUSTICE MICHAEL DOUGLAS.

The continued increase in need for our services over the past several years reminds us yet again how fortunate we are to have the support of so many fine attorneys in the Southern Nevada legal community. Without their hard work and commitment to this cause, we would have to turn away thousands of our

most vulnerable residents. Each year, our Annual Pro Bono Luncheon honors these local attorneys, who collectively, provided 16,000+ hours of free legal services to low-income residents of Clark County in 2012.

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year:

Lied Award for Most Hours for Law Firm:

Lied Award for Most Cases for Law Firm:

Lied Award for Most Hours for Attorney:

Lied Award for Most Cases for Attorney:

Small Law Firm of the Year:

Access to Justice Award:

Pro Bono Award of Excellence:

Justice Nancy Becker Pro Bono Award of Judicial Excellence:

Vince A. Consul Memorial Pro Bono Award:

Louis Wiener Service Award:

Myrna Williams Children's Pro Bono Award:

Public Interest Law Student of Distinction:

Ask-A-Lawyer Community Commitment Award:

Volunteer Surrogate Award:

Patricia Lee

Snell & Wilmer (1167)

Hutchison & Steffen (47)

Cynthia L. Alexander (295)

Israel "Ishi" Kunin (27)

The Dickerson Law Group

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Marquis Aurbach Coffing

Judge Betsy Gonzalez

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CORINNE PRICE ACCEPTS THE LOUIS WIENER SERVICE AWARD FROM SENATOR VALERIE WIENER.



KATHERINE PROVOST, BOB DICKERSON AND RENA HUGHES OF THE DICKERSON LAW GROUP ACCEPT THE SMALL LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM JUSTICE KRISTINA PICKERING.

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CHAD FEARS ACCEPTS THE LIED AWARD FOR MOST HOURS FOR A LAW FIRM ON BEHALF OF SNELL & WILMER FROM JUSTICE MICHAEL DOUGLAS.



JOHN KRIEGER ACCEPTS THE MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD FROM THE HONORABLE MYRNA WILLIAMS.



JENICA YURCIC WESTERMAN ACCEPTS THE ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD FROM JUSTICE MARK GIBBONS.

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TERRY MOORE ACCEPTS THE PRO BONO AWARD OF EXCELLENCE ON BEHALF OF MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING FROM JUSTICE JAMES HARDESTY.



HUTCHISON & STEFFEN ACCEPTS THE LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR A LAW FIRM FROM JUSTICE MICHAEL DOUGLAS.



BILL KISSAM ACCEPTS THE VOLUNTEER SURROGATE AWARD FROM JUSTICE NANCY SAITTA.



UNLV BOYD LAW STUDENT ALEXANDRA VARELA ACCEPTS THE PUBLIC LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION AWARD FROM JUSTICE NANCY SAITTA.



JUDGE BETSY GONZALEZ ACCEPTS THE JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE FROM THE HONORABLE NANCY BECKER.

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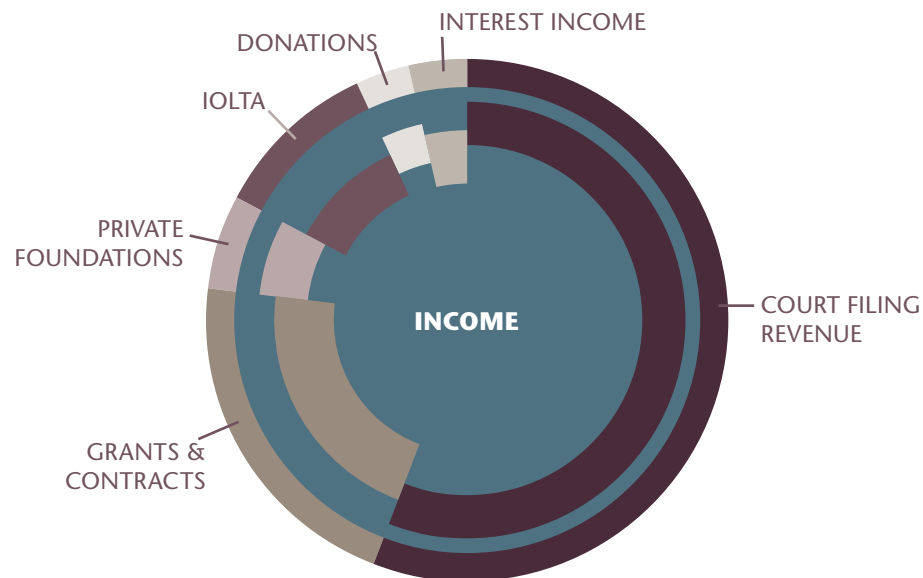
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2012 Financial Statement

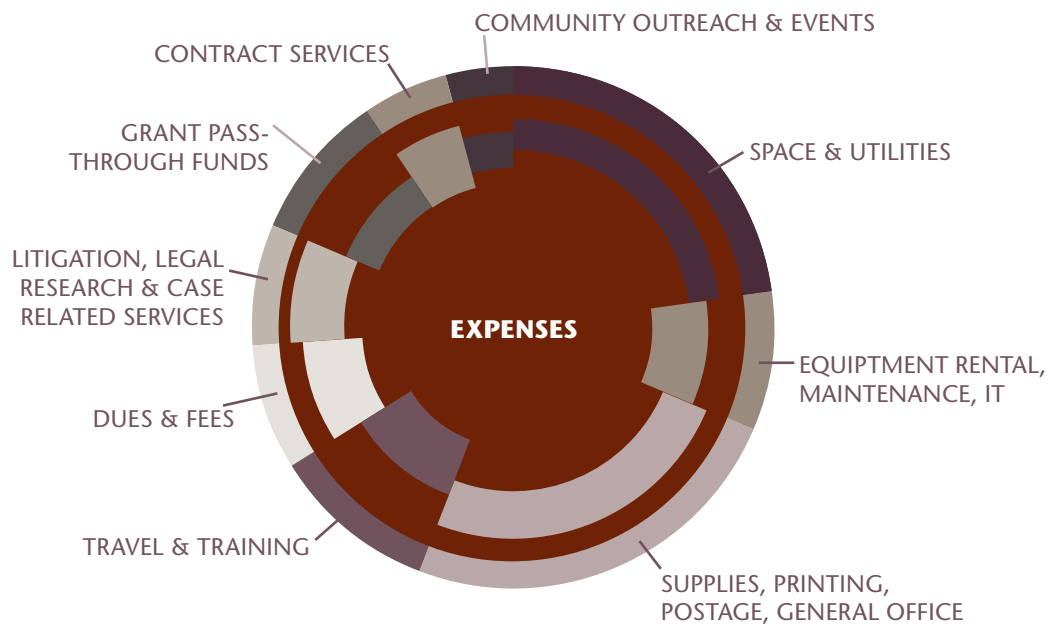
INCOME

	2012
Court Filing Revenue	\$4,700,764
Grants & Contracts	\$1,657,073
Private Foundations	\$500,000
IOLTA	\$827,758
Donations	\$237,450
Interest Income / Other	\$277,803
Income Before Donated Services	\$8,200,848
(18,940hrs at \$250/hr) Donated Services	\$4,734,972
Total Income & Donated Services	\$12,935,820



EXPENSES

Personnel	
Salaries	\$4,278,397
Benefits	\$835,637
Personnel Subtotal	\$5,114,034
Non-Personnel	
Space & Utilities	\$214,752
Equipment Rental, Maintenance, IT	\$79,101
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Office Related	\$220,769
Travel & Training	\$90,910
Dues & Fees	\$66,702
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$80,811
Grant Pass-Through Funds	\$80,138
Contract Services	\$48,000
Community Outreach & Events	\$35,465
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$916,648
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$6,030,682
Expenses Before Donated Services	
Donated Services	\$4,734,972
Total Expenses & Donated Services	\$10,765,654
NET OPERATIONS	\$2,170,166



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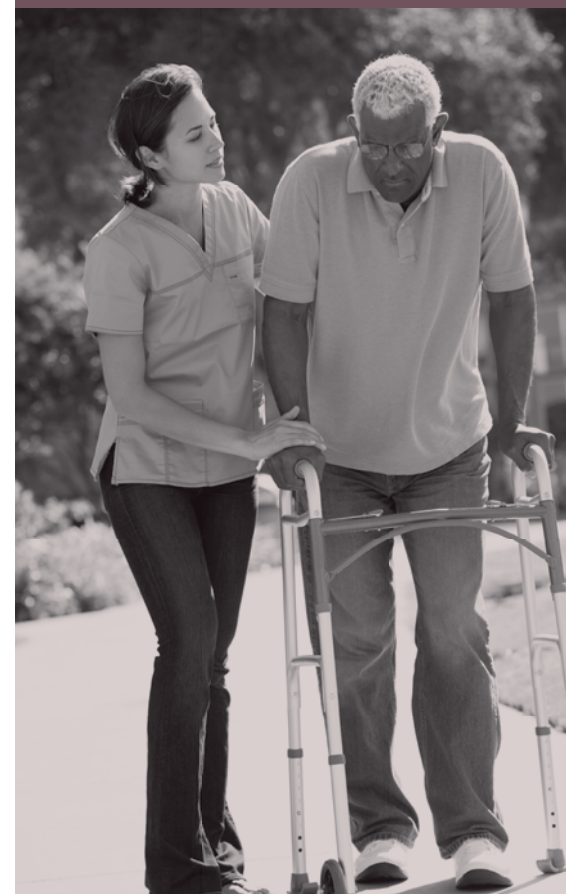
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Because of Legal Aid Center's help I was able to continue to receive my Medicaid benefits. Thank you. My attorney went above and beyond to help me. Her kindness was greatly appreciated! I would recommend Legal Aid Center to anyone who needed legal help!



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

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*Thank you so much for all of
your time, hard work, and
wonderful words of advice. It
was very important, winning
full custody of my daughter,
and relocating was the best
thing that ever happened to me.
Thank you so much...
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IN MEMORIAM JAMES GRIFFIN, ESQ.

In January 2013, we lost one of our own, James Griffin. James was an amazing attorney, dedicated to our mission of helping those in need. James began his tenure with Legal Aid Center as a law clerk in 2007 and quickly learned why he had gone to law school—to fight for those who had no one else on their side. Once James passed the bar in 2009, we hired him to work in our Consumer Rights Project. James would tell us, day after day, that he found his dream job working at Legal Aid Center. During his time with our office, James made an incredible impact both on our organization and on his clients, and we are all forever changed by his presence and his absence.



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