

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

RIGHTING WRONGS,  
CHANGING LIVES







# Greetings friends and supporters

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After six years of planning and fundraising during some tough economic times, I am very proud to announce that Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada has a new home! Our 35,000 square foot, energy-efficient facility is the realization of a long-held dream to represent every child in foster care, every victim of domestic violence and consumer fraud, in short, every resident of Southern Nevada who cannot afford to hire an attorney to fight for their rights.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "A threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." These words are inscribed on a wall in our new lobby, and they inspire us every day as we take on some of the toughest cases you can imagine.

In order to serve the voiceless, achieve access to justice for all, and allow for growth into the next decade and beyond, we needed to triple our office and classroom space, bring all of our programs under one roof, and achieve

infrastructure efficiencies that would save us time and money. Thanks to the enormous generosity of so many, we were able to accomplish this while staying downtown, close to the courts and bus lines, and retire our mortgage, enabling us to devote all future money raised to expanding our staff and programming.

Immediately upon moving into our new home, we implemented our plan to expand services to those in need. We were able to secure additional funding from the Justice League of Nevada to hire one new attorney to help victims of domestic violence and two new attorneys to help abused children. Already, we have been able to increase the number of children who can shelter with a trusted relative rather than enter the foster care system, freeing up valuable resources for those children who do not have this option. We have brought numerous complaints against certain used car dealers and payday lenders whose practices often cause grave financial chaos to the lives of people in our community who are living right on the edge of poverty. We have enlisted the help of our pro bono lawyers to represent all of these clients. Today, as I write this letter, we have a new group of volunteer attorneys arriving for classes to learn how to stand up for infants and toddlers who are brought into the child welfare system and have no one to fight for their rights.

We invite you to stop by our new home for a tour. You will see our spacious new classroom, where grandparents can learn how to obtain guardianship of an endangered grandchild, and young mothers

facing abandonment will discover that they have a right to child support and full custody. You will see volunteer lawyers arriving to be trained in family or consumer law so that they can help our clients in need. You will see victims of domestic violence being interviewed in a private room with their children safe in a special play area where they can't hear their mothers' frightening accounts of terror.

I am also pleased to announce that we have begun a new Veteran's Ask-A-Lawyer program together with our legal and veteran partner groups. In our first month of operation, nearly 100 veterans received legal help on issues ranging from benefit denials to consumer fraud to record sealing. They are so grateful for our help, but we are honored to serve them.

Whether you contributed money, time, advice, or moral support, we hope that when you drive by our home at 725 E. Charleston Boulevard, you will think about the thousands of lives that we are changing together every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barbara Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue, textured background that resembles a piece of paper or a card.

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.

## FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

- Represents domestic violence 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, work authorizations, and adjustments.
- Assists children with Special Immigrant Juvenile visas and deferred action for childhood arrivals.

## 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.

## FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

- Provides self-help information to those representing themselves in family court matters, including forms, instructions and in-person assistance.
- Hosts weekly Ask-A-Lawyer program for those needing to speak with an attorney about divorce, custody, guardianship, adoption or child support matters.

## 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:

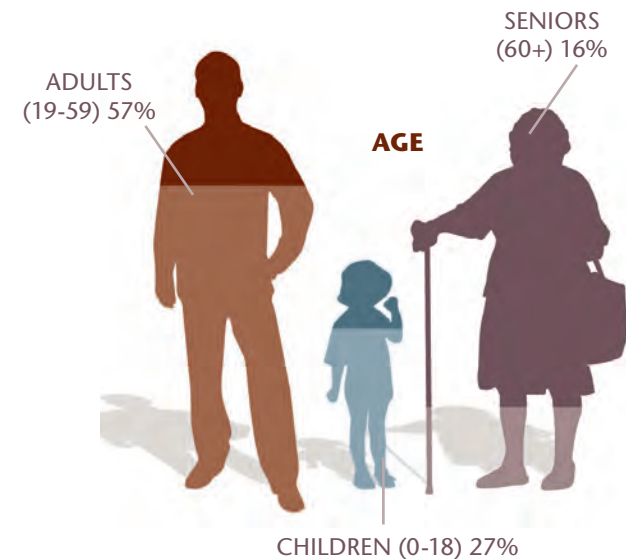
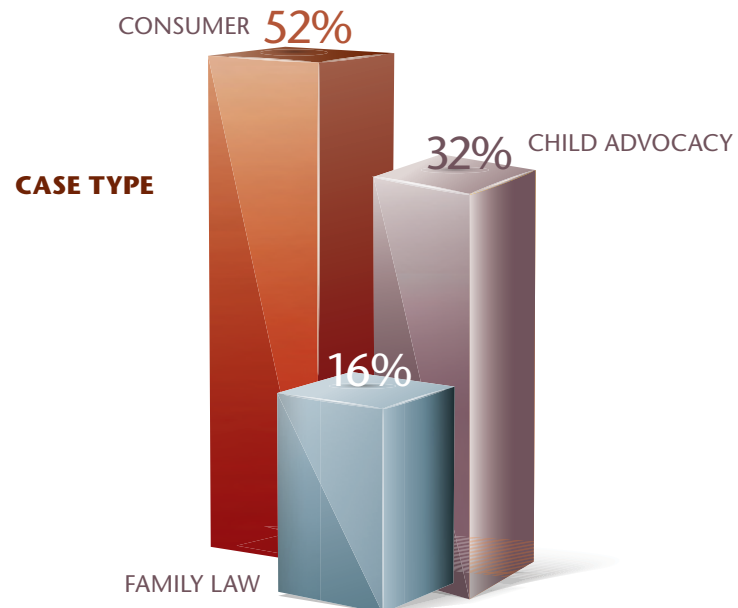
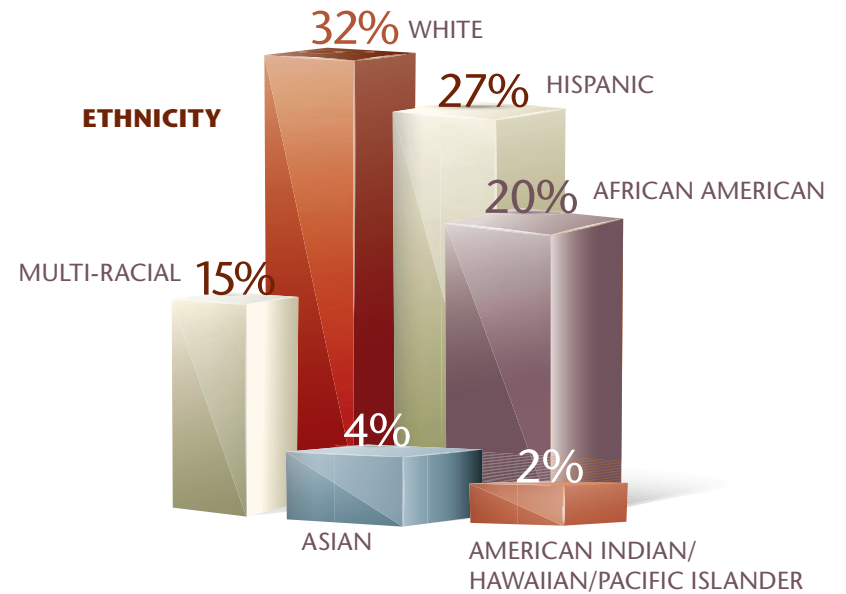
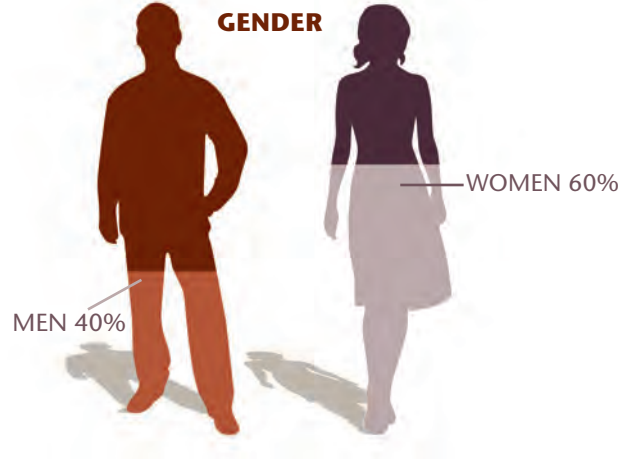
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| ■ Divorce                                                              | ■ Bankruptcy       |
| ■ Custody                                                              | ■ Foreclosure      |
| ■ Guardianship                                                         | ■ Collection Proof |
| ■ Small Claims                                                         | ■ Record Sealing   |
| ■ Spanish classes available in Family Law, Small Claims and Bankruptcy |                    |

*The outcome of this case was very important to my daughter. The school staff started treating her better and teaching her on an individual basis at her level.*



# Client Statistics

OVER 80,000 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THROUGH ALL OF OUR PROGRAM AREAS.





# Dedicating our new building



With the completion of its modern new building, located at 725 E. Charleston Boulevard, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada reached an important milestone in its mission to provide equal access to justice for all valley residents.

To celebrate this monumental achievement, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, June 13, 2014, with special guests including Kris Engelstad McGarry from the Engelstad Family Foundation; Christina Hixson from the Lied Foundation Trust; Marianne Johnson from The Boyd Foundation; Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman; Clark County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly; and Congresswoman Dina Titus.

Against all odds, and in spite of the worst recession in living memory, Legal Aid Center was able to raise the \$16 million required to obtain the land adjacent to their original headquarters and build a new, 35,000 square foot facility. The new building houses the organization's many programs serving low-income residents with their civil legal issues and



allows for expansion as demand for their services continues to grow. By more than doubling the existing office, classroom and intake space, Legal Aid Center expects to hire additional staff and add new areas of law to the non-profit firm's practice, including programs serving the unmet legal needs of children and veterans.

Even before the economic downturn, the Legal Aid Center board recognized the need to dramatically expand its current facility. Legal Aid Center was forced to rent additional space in office buildings nearby, but this increased overhead costs and still didn't address needs like educational classes and private areas for client intake.

The organization's board of directors launched a capital campaign in 2007, and within months, the economy took a nosedive. However, Capital Campaign Co-chairs Bill Boyd, president & CEO of Boyd Gaming; and board member Dick Morgan, founding dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, were undaunted.



The Lied Foundation kicked off our capital campaign with a challenge grant during the height of the recession and the momentum took off from there. The legal community also made significant contributions and the Engelstad Family Foundation sealed the deal with a major gift. This is a great example of what collaborative philanthropy can accomplish. Clark County and the City of Las Vegas also assisted the effort by awarding HUD Community Development Block Grant funds to the project.

# 13th Annual Pro Bono Awards Luncheon



HUNDRED HOURS CLUB WITH NEVADA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

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(L TO R) ANDREW KYNASTON WITH KAINEN LAW GROUP RECEIVES THE PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM CHIEF JUSTICE PICKERING.

TOM FELL, WITH GORDON SILVER, RECEIVES THE LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM JUSTICE PARRAGUIRRE.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF XAVIER PLANTA, ESQ.





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 20,000+ hours of free legal services to low-income residents of Clark County in 2013.



PAOLA ARMENI WITH GORDON SILVER RECEIVES THE MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S AWARD FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTRO.



DAN WAITE, WITH LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER RECEIVES THE VINCE CONSUL MEMORIAL PRO BONO AWARD FROM JUDGE FERENBACH.

## Luncheon Sponsors



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LAURA DEETER WITH GHANDI DEETER LAW OFFICES RECEIVES THE LOUIS WIENER SERVICE AWARD FROM FORMER SENATOR VALERIE WIENER.



AMBER ROBINSON RECEIVES THE ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD FROM JUSTICE PARRAGUIRÉ.



SHANNON PHENIX RECEIVES THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION AWARD FROM JUSTICE GIBBONS.



# Pro Bono Volunteers

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MARTI FORD RECEIVES THE VOLUNTEER SURROGATE AWARD FROM JUSTICE CHERRY.



JUSTICE MICHAEL DOUGLAS ACCEPTS THE JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND JUSTICE HARDESTY FROM NANCY BECKER.

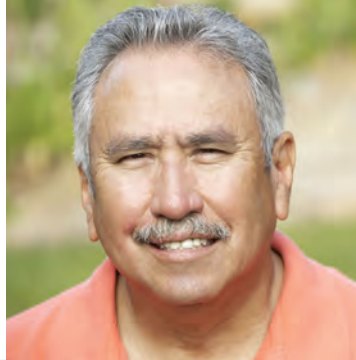


ISHI KUNIN RECEIVES THE LIED AWARDS FOR MOST PRO BONO CASES FOR A LAW FIRM (KUNIN & CARMAN) AND MOST PRO BONO CASES FOR AN ATTORNEY FROM CHIEF JUSTICE PICKERING.



HUTCHISON & STEFFEN AND LEE, HERNANDEZ, LANDRUM, GAROFALO & BLAKE SHARE THE LIED AWARD FOR MOST PRO BONO HOURS BY A LAW FIRM FROM CHIEF JUSTICE PICKERING. ACCEPTED BY CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY ON BEHALF OF LEE, HERNANDEZ, ET. AL., AND MICHAEL WALL ON BEHALF OF HUTCHISON & STEFFEN.

*Without this free service for low-income families like me, I would always get abused mentally and bullied my whole life. After 14 years married, finally, because of Legal Aid Center's help, I can stand up for myself and my children in the future.*



*The outcome of this case was extremely important. My mother is finally sleeping soundly, no more stress and worries about losing our home. The total experience has been a pleasant and easy one from your staff.*







*It keeps me going to move on in my life, to become an independent parent so my kids can look up to me. Before I got this service from Legal Aid, I thought my life is over because I can't do anything. But when I have this service, it changes my whole life.*



*How can I thank you enough for your help?! You're wonderful! Awesome! Amazing! What you did was help change my life! I have been fighting Social Security for 33 years!*

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Amber Robinson  
Juan P. Rodriguez  
Molly S. Rosenblum  
Patricia A. Ross  
Shannon M. Russell  
Beverly J. Salhanick  
Africa A. Sanchez  
Benjamin R. Saxe  
Matthew D. Schneider  
Susan G. Segel  
M. Nelson Segel  
Erik C. Severino  
Travis E. Shetler  
Ambrish S. Sidhu  
Nikola Skrinjaric  
James E. Smith  
Jeffrey Stempel  
Holly S. Stoberski  
Jason P. Stoffel  
David A. Straus  
Hardeep "Dee" Sull  
Kevin M. Sutehall  
Susan G. Trautman  
Lucas J. Tucker  
Kristin M. Tyler  
Elyse M. Tyrell  
Rene L. Valladares  
Soraya M. Veiga  
Rolando Velasquez  
Abran E. Vigil  
Sheri "Sugar" Cane Vogel  
Jennafer D. Wagner

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Jenica D. Yurcic Westerman  
Airene Williamson  
Marshal Willick  
Shannon R. Wilson  
Karen C. Winckler  
Anthony M. Wright  
Jennifer Yim

Joseph Barth  
Rochelle Bocker  
Bailey Bortolin  
Kenneth Bothuel  
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Lorrie Curriden  
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Amanda Stevens  
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Michael Vanluven  
Brian Vasek  
Allison Vitangeli  
Elena Zarubo

# 2013 Financial Statement

## INCOME

2013

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Court Filing revenue           | \$4,660,786 |
| Grants & Contracts             | \$1,845,882 |
| Private Foundations            | \$400,000   |
| IOLTA                          | \$877,500   |
| Donations                      | \$205,621   |
| Interest Income / Other        | \$237,461   |
| Income Before Donated Services | \$8,227,250 |

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| (20,771.5 hrs at \$250/hr) Donated Services | \$5,192,875         |
| <b>Total Income &amp; Donated Services</b>  | <b>\$13,420,125</b> |

## EXPENSES

### Personnel

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries                  | \$4,888,958        |
| Benefits                  | \$989,551          |
| <b>Personnel Subtotal</b> | <b>\$5,878,509</b> |

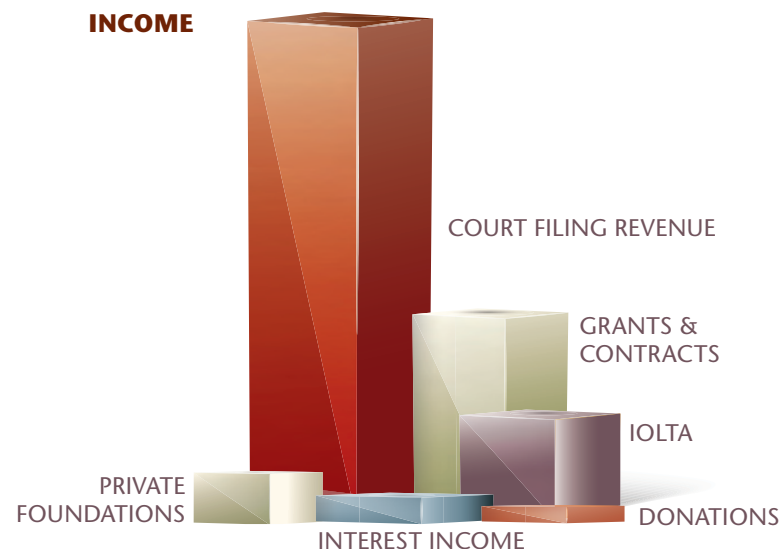
### Non Personnel

|                                                     |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Space & Utilities                                   | \$254,479        |
| Equipment Rental, Maintenance, IT                   | \$72,419         |
| Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Office Related | \$215,006        |
| Travel & Training                                   | \$96,808         |
| Dues & Fees                                         | \$39,377         |
| Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services  | \$46,521         |
| Community Outreach & Events                         | \$48,161         |
| <b>Non-Personnel Subtotal</b>                       | <b>\$772,771</b> |

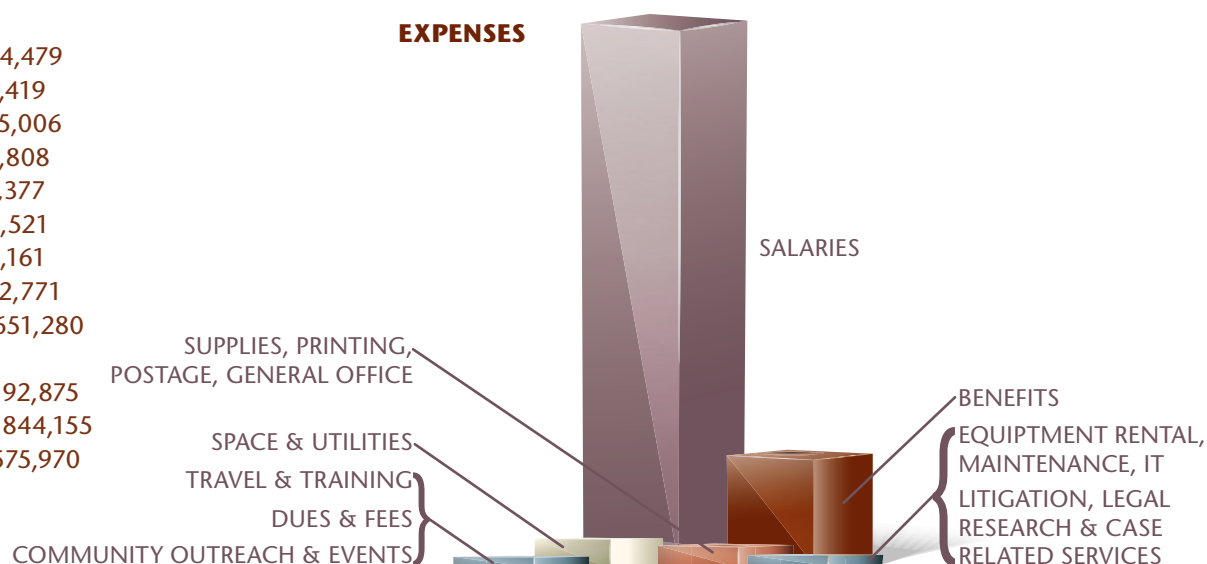
### TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

|                                              |                     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Expenses Before Donated Services             | \$6,651,280         |
| Donated Services                             | \$5,192,875         |
| <b>Total Expenses &amp; Donated Services</b> | <b>\$11,844,155</b> |
| <b>NET OPERATIONS</b>                        | <b>\$1,575,970</b>  |

## INCOME



## EXPENSES





# 2013 Donors

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Toyota Financial Savings Bank  
Bank of America  
Barbara Buckley

*My child is my life and my attorney has made me believe that there are good people still out in the legal world.*



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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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*Deputy Executive Director  
Dan Wulz, was named  
the 2013 Social Justice  
Superhero by Community  
Chest for his longtime  
dedication advocating for  
consumers in Nevada.*





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

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