



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings –

Sixty years ago, a small group of attorneys founded the Clark County Legal Aid Society. These attorneys were proud to be our community's first lawyers and wanted to make sure those in need of legal help received it. These legal pioneers – Herb Jones, Bill Boyd, Dick Bryan – to name just a few – began our important work by volunteering their own time and recruiting other attorneys to represent community members who could not afford an attorney. Sixty years later, their vision lives on in our work here at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada through our network of over 1,000 volunteer attorneys and 50 staff attorneys, dedicated to helping the most vulnerable in our community at the most critical time in their lives.

2017 was a remarkable year for us. We officially dedicated a new program to represent the elderly and adults with disabilities who were being exploited in guardianship court. We expanded our representation to almost 90% of the children in foster care. We began a program to help survivors of human trafficking. We helped more people than ever through an elaborate network of self-help centers, free legal classes, one-on-one consultations, and direct representation of clients in every court in our judicial system. Seven years ago, we helped 45,000 – this past year, we helped more than 130,000. And now, more than ever, we are needed to do this important work.

To our friends, partners, volunteers, and donors, we thank you for partnering with us to right wrongs and change lives.

With thanks from all of us,



Barbara Buckley



BARBARA BUCKLEY | Executive Director

GREETINGS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

“In our society, no one should be denied access to justice because they can’t afford to hire an attorney to defend their rights.”

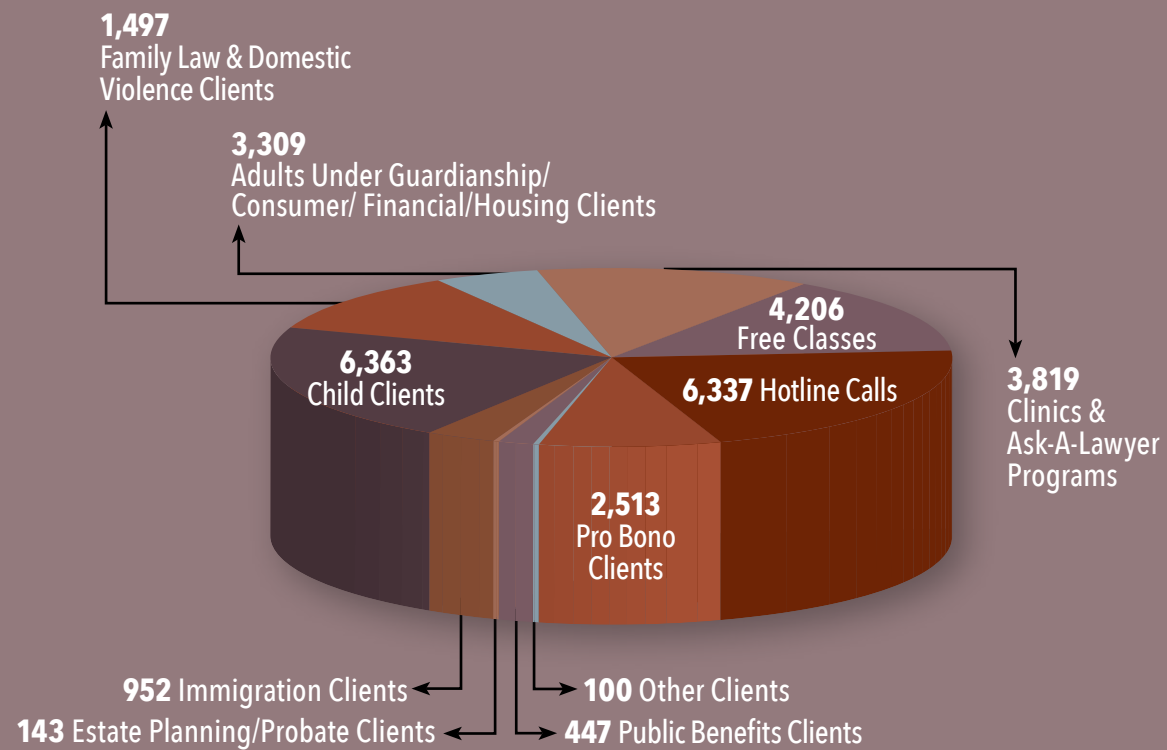
-Barbara Buckley



ALL SERVICES

(NOT SELF-HELP RELATED)

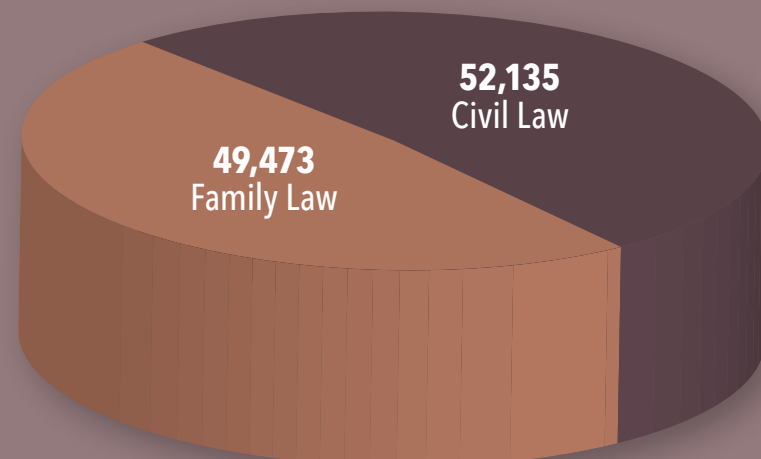
OVER **130,061** INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED THROUGH ALL PROGRAM AREAS



SELF-HELP CENTER

OVER **1,564,667** USERS ACCESSED
LEGAL INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITES | **2,189,921** SESSIONS

USERS **610,744** SESSIONS **918,190** | FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE
USERS **824,620** SESSIONS **1,072,372** | CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE
USERS **91,639** SESSIONS **145,720** | LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE
USERS **37,664** SESSIONS **53,639** | PRO BONO WEBSITE



“The outcome has given me relief from my past pain of being married to an abusive husband and I now have control over my life. I am so relieved and appreciate their ability to make people like me survivors and not victims. Thank you so much.”



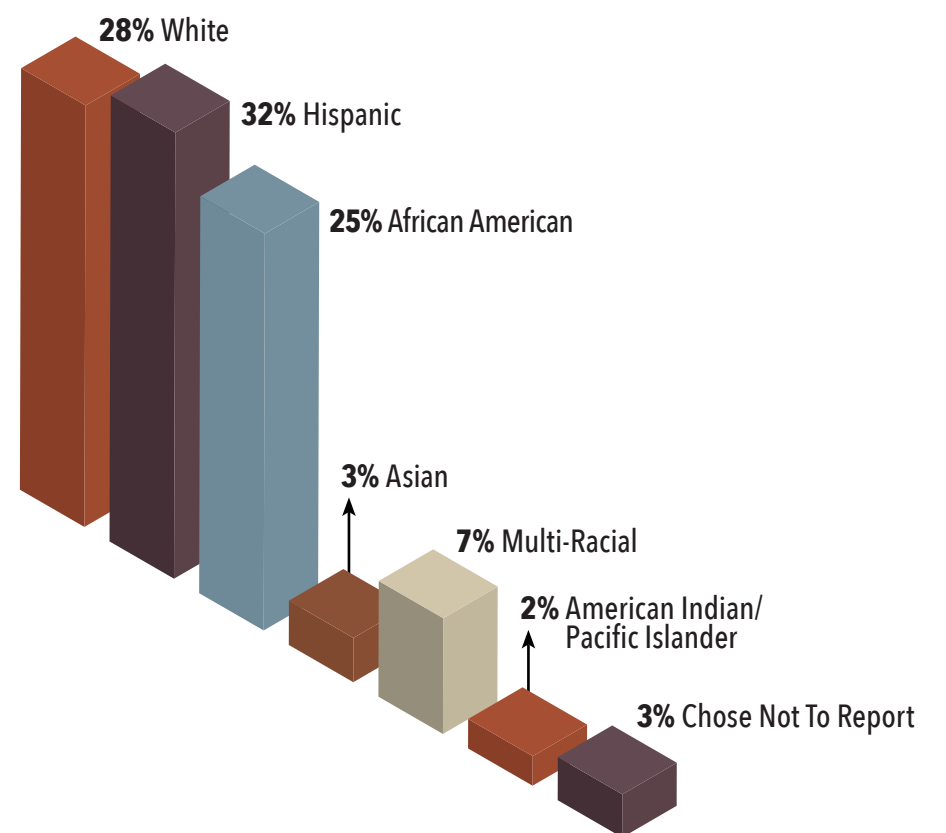
HOW
MANY
WE
SERVE



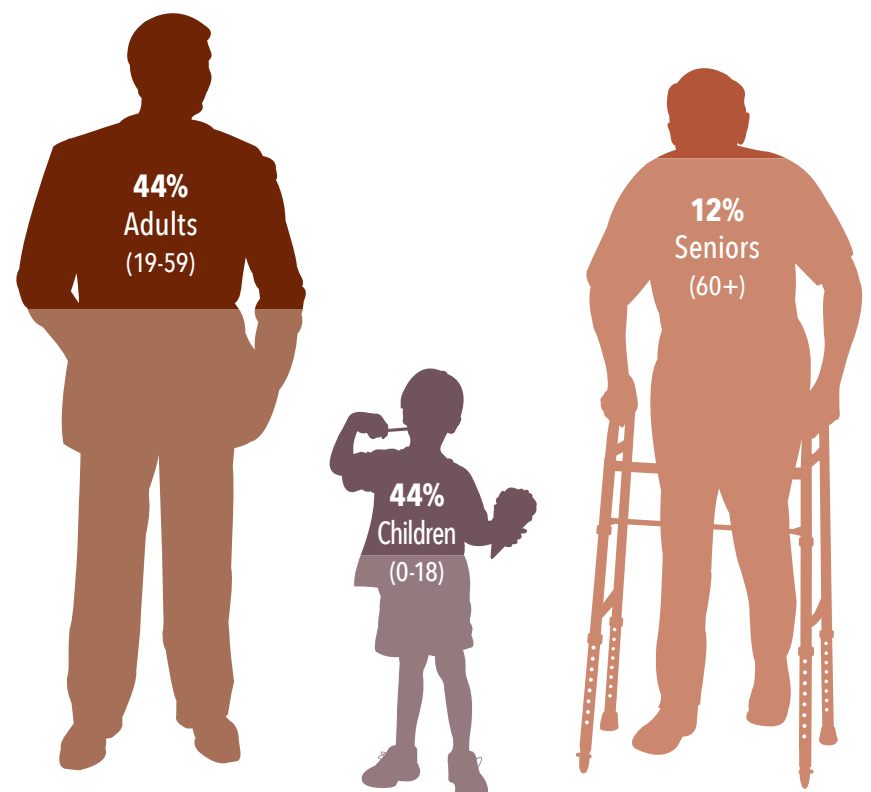
WHO WE SERVE

“This was the most important thing in my life. Now I can live and feel comfortable being the true person I am.”

ETHNICITY



AGE



CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

“Amy always makes us smile and hugs us like we are her kids. I loved her.”

HOW WE SERVE

- Giving children in foster care a voice in court
- Enforcing foster children's rights and desires for visitation with their siblings and for permanency
- Assisting low-income parents struggling to ensure their children with special needs receive the educational support they are entitled to under the law
- Recruiting and training volunteer education advocates to represent the child and protect the rights of disabled children within the school district

Bobbie was removed from his mother's care for the third time. His mother had already lost parental rights to several of her other children. Bobbie wanted to live with the man that he knows to be his father. Paternity testing revealed this man was not Bobbie's father, but this man still treated Bobbie as his own. Bobbie asked to be placed with "his father" when he was removed from his mother in the past, but was denied and instead went through several foster homes, often exhibiting behavioral problems.*

This time, Bobbie was represented by a CAP attorney, who requested to have Bobbie placed with the man he believed was his father. Once again, the request was opposed and a hearing was set. On the day of the hearing, the mother began yelling at Bobbie in the hallway just outside the courtroom, blaming Bobbie for being taken from her care. The "father" quickly stepped between them, allowing another relative to remove Bobbie from the vicinity. During the hearing, the Court was informed of the actions taken by the "father" to protect the boy just minutes prior to the hearing. The Court granted Bobbie's request to "go home to dad" rather than have him continue in a standard licensed foster care home.

Bobbie is thriving, earning A's and B's at school and has been identified as a GATE student. Bobbie is in the process of being adopted, making this man Bobbie's legal father in addition to just being "dad."

STATS

- Helped 1,966 children achieve permanency quicker
- Expedited the adoptions of over 500 kids
- Assisted over 250 special needs students receive educational support
- Represented over 5,000 children in foster care

**Names of all Legal Aid Center clients have been changed to protect their privacy.*



FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

*“The outcome was very important to me.
I feel safer. I have some piece of mind now.”*

HOW WE SERVE

- Representing domestic violence victims and helping them obtain protective orders, divorce decrees, and custody of their children
- Teaching victims in domestic violence shelters about their legal right to live a life free of violence
- Helping elderly grandparents obtain guardianship over their grandchildren
- Representing those unable to navigate the divorce and custody court process
- Helping immigrant victims of crime obtain visas, work authorizations, and status adjustments
- Representing immigrant children eligible for special visas and deferred action to help families stay together
- Helping DACA and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) eligible individuals complete renewal applications
- Became a community partner in the new “Family Justice Center” (FJC), a one-stop-shop for domestic violence victims; staffed position at the FJC

Vivian was a stay-at-home mom with one daughter. She and her husband were married for over 17 years. During that time, Vivian did not have access or control of their finances. They lived in a house Vivian's parents gave Vivian before she was married. However, after a few years of marriage, her husband said they needed to put the home under the husband's name, and only under his name, so he could take care of their financial issues, which Vivian did. Her husband was an alcoholic who degraded and controlled Vivian to keep her submissive and meek. No one knew. Vivian's husband was liked and respected and she was sure no one would believe that he was abusive. Vivian didn't know how to get out of her situation and she had no hope. Vivian tried to find an attorney, but with no access to money, she could not find an attorney who would take her case. Eventually, Vivian did talk to a friend, who told her about Legal Aid Center.*

When Vivian came to Legal Aid Center, she was very timid, emotional, and scared. She brought the mail with her so she could open it with her attorney. After several meetings with her legal aid attorney, Vivian's confidence grew. She began to understand her finances and situation. We represented Vivian through her divorce proceedings and Vivian was able to face her husband in court. Vivian obtained custody of her daughter, spousal and child support, and was able to keep her home.

Vivian's life is totally different now. She and her daughter still live in their home and Vivian is working.

STATS

- Over 1,290 new cases in 2017
- Represented 569 victims of domestic violence divorce their abuser
- Helped 456 immigrant victims of crime begin a new life



CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT

“The guardian was a thief and totally untrustworthy. I was grateful to get rid of him and end the guardianship.”

HOW WE SERVE

- Working against fraudulent sales practices
- Fighting abusive debt collection activities
- Helping people trapped in a debt cycle by payday, title, and high interest loans
- Representing workers in bankruptcy court after a job loss and homeowners through the foreclosure process
- Helping people with disabilities who have been denied social security benefits
- Protecting seniors and adults with disabilities from unnecessary guardianships and representing those who have been exploited by their guardians
- Sealing criminal records, filing name changes and other legal assistance for survivors of sex trafficking
- Helping survivors of the October 1st shooting with civil legal issues

Ms. Brown, an eighty-five year old woman, suffered a fall that resulted in her residing in a rehabilitation hospital for nearly one year. While Ms. Brown was trying to recover in the hospital, a private professional guardian filed a petition for guardianship with the court and obtained the power to manage all of Ms. Brown's affairs. The court appointed an attorney from Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to represent Ms. Brown's interests.*

Upon meeting with Ms. Brown, the Legal Aid Center attorney quickly learned that, although Ms. Brown was not physically capable of caring for herself, Ms. Brown did not lack mental capacity. She was perfectly capable of making her own decisions. The Legal Aid Center attorney discussed Ms. Brown's wishes with her and, at Ms. Brown's direction, filed a petition to terminate Ms. Brown's guardianship. Eventually, Ms. Brown's guardianship was successfully terminated.

Ms. Brown then chose to give her niece powers of attorney for financial and healthcare matters. Ms. Brown's Legal Aid Center attorney drafted the necessary documents and Ms. Brown reports that she is happy to be near family and is finishing her rehabilitation.

STATS

- Worked on more than 1800 cases in 2017
- Guardian Advocacy Program represented over 390 senior citizens and adults with disabilities
- Assisted 291 families going through foreclosure
- Represented 435 people with disabilities seeking Social Security
- Helped 200 community members injured by the October 1 shooting



CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

“Very friendly staff, made me feel calm during a not so comfortable situation.”



HOW WE SERVE

- Functioning as a legal emergency room for people struggling to navigate the court system and obtain accurate legal information
- The Civil Law Self-Help Center provides trustworthy information, legal forms, and assistance to people representing themselves in civil matters such as evictions, probate, and small claims court matters
- The Family Law Self-Help Center provides self-help information, legal forms and instruction to individuals representing themselves in divorce, custody, guardianship, adoption, or child support issues
- Hosting a free Ask-A-Lawyer program every week for people needing to speak with an attorney about divorce, custody, guardianship, adoption, evictions, foreclosure, probate, and small claims issues

STATS

- **Family Law Self-Help Center** assisted a record **49,473** people in person during 2017
- **Family Law Self-Help Center** website had a record year, with a total of **610,744** users
Those users visited the site 918,190 times and viewed over 2.2 million pages!
- 64% of the people seeking assistance at the Family Law Self-Help Center make less than \$30,000 a year
- **Civil Law Self-Help Center** helped 52,135 individuals in 2017
- **Civil Law Self-Help Center** website had 824,620 users who visited the site 1,072,372 times in 2017
- 75% of the people seeking assistance at the Civil Law Self-Help Center make less than \$30,000 a year
- The Self-Help Centers hosted five “Ask-A-Lawyer” programs, at which over 3,815 litigants met with volunteer pro bono attorneys in 2017
- 97% of the litigants strongly agree or agreed that the information they received at the Center helped them to understand their situation better



Legal Aid Center worked with the Access to Justice Commission to create a self-help website for the Nevada Supreme Court’s website, which contains forms and instructions broadly available to 15 rural counties in Nevada.

<http://selfhelp.nvcourts.gov/>

The litigant who was filled with fear, who didn’t know where to go, what to file, or what her options were—she now goes to the courthouse and finds the Self-Help Center, where her questions are answered, the forms she needs are explained, and the procedure is described to her.

- *“The help I received today was excellent. I was nervous and confused about the whole process. She put me at ease during the entire process.”*
- *“I don’t know what we would have done without this service. Can’t thank them enough. We got our property back!!”*
- *“The ladies in the Self-Help Center are amazing. Because of them, I now have some education of how the process works. When I first came to file the answer to the divorce I was amazed. I am now aware of my rights as a Defendant & feel I am confident moving forward.”*



FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

“It definitely changed our lives for the better.”



JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE:
Honorable Cam Ferenbach and Honorable William Cobb



PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR:
Dawn Lozano



LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR:
Kemp Jones & Coulthard



WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:
Wynn Resorts



VINCE A. CONSUL MEMORIAL PRO BONO AWARD:
William Brown



LOUIS WIENER SERVICE AWARD:
Marilyn Caston



MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD:
Mona Kaveh

HOW WE SERVE

- Recruiting private attorneys to represent clients in such areas as consumer fraud, domestic violence, child abuse, bankruptcy, and family law
- Training and mentoring volunteer attorneys in specialties of law outside their usual practice areas
- Placing 846 new cases with volunteer attorneys
- Over 2500 clients were represented
- Representing over 2500 clients
- 234 different attorneys participated in an Ask-A-Lawyer session, equally nearly 2000 hours of attorney time

LIED AWARD FOR MOST HOURS FOR LAW FIRM:
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

LAW FIRM RISTING STAR:
Pisanelli Bice

LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR LAW FIRM:
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION:
Seleste Wyse

LIED AWARD FOR MOST HOURS FOR ATTORNEY:
Dawn Hathaway Thoman

ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD:
Mary Bacon

LIED AWARD FOR MOST CASES FOR ATTORNEY:
Marshal Willick

VOLUNTEER EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD:
David Schoen

PRO BONO PROJECT

17TH ANNUAL PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON

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 resident. Each year, our Annual Pro Bono Luncheon honors these local attorneys, who collectively provided over 25,000+ hours of free legal services to low-income residents of Clark County.



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COULTHARD
Attorneys At Law

CAESARS
ENTERTAINMENT



“This is the single most important thing to ever happen to my son and myself. If not for April, life, our future would have been dark and now I have nothing but a bright future to look forward to for my son.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASSES

“Lauren came to my rescue, she explained to me things that I was totally unaware of which saved me from doing something I wasn’t supposed too.”



4,206 people attended a free weekly class, in partnership with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law:

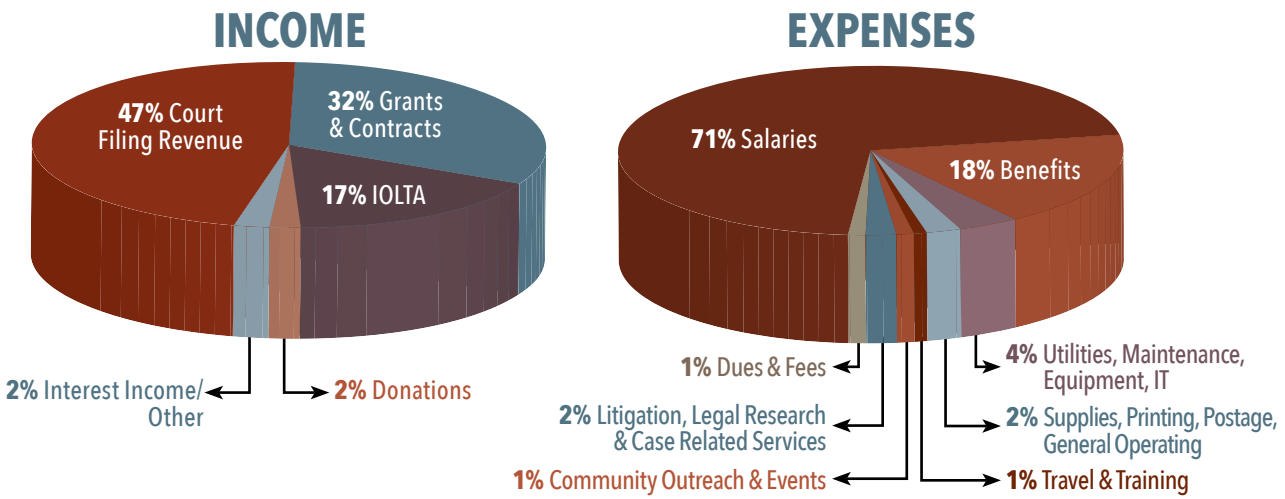
- Divorce
- Custody
- Immigration
- Guardianship
- Small Claims
- Bankruptcy
- Collection Proof
- Criminal Record Sealing
- Litigation and Trial Preparation *New in 2017!*
- Payday and Title Loans
- Classes in Spanish are available in Family Law, Immigration, Small Claims, and Bankruptcy

ASK-A-LAWYER EVENTS

Ask-A-Lawyer programs provide free 15-minute consultations with volunteer attorneys for unrepresented individuals. Over 3,800 people attended Ask-A-Lawyer programs in 2017. There are weekly and monthly sessions for:

- Family Law
- Landlord/Tenant Law
- Foreclosure
- Small Claims
- Probate
- Veterans
- Annual National Law Day

Attorneys and staff volunteered for 54 outreach events around Clark County in 2017, too.



INCOME	2017	
Court Filing Revenue	\$5,043,560	47%
Grants & Contracts	\$3,395,313	32%
IOLTA	\$1,774,358	17%
Donations	\$268,635	2%
Interest Income/Other	\$258,673	2%
Income Before Donated Services & Endowment	\$10,740,539	
Donated Services (25,597 hrs at \$300/hr)	\$7,679,100	
Endowment Contribution	\$4,166,361	
Total Income, Including Donated Services & Endowment	\$22,586,000	

EXPENSES		
PERSONNEL		
Salaries	\$7,212,014	71%
Benefits	\$1,795,508	18%
Personnel Subtotal	\$9,007,522	89%
NON-PERSONNEL		
Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment, IT	\$416,284	4%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Operating	\$233,540	2%
Travel & Training	\$136,142	1%
Dues & Fees	\$74,013	1%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$250,879	2%
Community Outreach & Events	\$61,512	1%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$1,172,370	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$10,179,892	
Donated Services	\$7,679,100	
Endowment Investment	\$4,166,361	
Total Income, Including Donated Services & Endowment	\$22,025,353	
NET OPERATIONS	\$560,647	

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

“My TPO case was dire to my safety and children. We currently feel safe and grateful. I’m truly grateful I didn’t have to go through this difficult time alone.”

LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA ACCESS TO JUSTICE ENDOWMENT

SECURING THE FUTURE OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF YOUR DONATION

When there is a need in our community, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada responds. On any given day, Legal Aid Center staff have a stack of new cases on their desks and a lobby full of clients with urgent needs. Over the last ten years, we have taken dramatic steps to help close the justice gap in our community. In 2007, Legal Aid Center staff served 13,544 clients. In 2017, we served 130,061, an increase of 860%. But our work is not done. We must be ready to help those who have nowhere else to turn.

We need to be sustainable, not just now, but for decades to come. Our community will continue to grow and we want to leave a stronger Legal Aid Center for the next generation.

On September 13, 2017, we announced the second phase of our long-term growth plan: establishing an endowment fund to allow expansion of our vital existing programs, the addition of new legal specialties, and the creation of a "bridge" for those years when a past funding source may sunset.

<https://www.lacsn.org/development-center/access-to-justice-endowment>



THE ENGELSTAD FAMILY FOUNDATION'S \$10,000,000 CHALLENGE GRANT

To begin the endowment campaign, the Engelstad Family Foundation generously seeded the Access to Justice Endowment Campaign with a \$10,000,000 challenge, the largest single contribution ever given to Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and towards the cause of equal justice.

- For each dollar raised (up to \$5,000,000), the Engelstad Family Foundation will match it \$2-for-\$1
- This 200% match will produce a \$15,000,000 endowment to assist some of Southern Nevada's most vulnerable members: abused children, frail seniors, victims of predatory scams, and domestic violence survivors
- This endowment will provide a stable future for Legal Aid Center, allowing it the flexibility to respond to crisis in the community efficiently and providing a steady stream of income protecting services during turbulent times

Engelstad Family Foundation

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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:

GRANTS

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U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Vets

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Fran Abbott	Michael Pandullo	



2017 DONORS

“Mr. Fleming literally saved my life when I thought my case to be hopeless! ...liberating me from a hopeless life of homelessness, he changed my life just when I needed help the most.”

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Deputy Executive Director
Terry Bratton, Chief Financial Director
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Director of Development and
Community Relations
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CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

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Mary McCarthy, *Attorney*
Tonya McCormick, *Attorney*
Jonathan Norman, *Attorney*
Xavier Planta, *Attorney*
Adrian Rosehill, *Attorney*
Jennifer Silverman, *Attorney*
Jennifer Spellman, *Attorney*
Sara Stephan, *Attorney*
Ilka Szaktilla, *Legal Advocate*
Elena Thomas, *Legal Assistant*
Kelly Venci Gonzalez, *Attorney*

CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

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Prescilla Arellano,
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Stephanie Garcia,
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CONSUMER RIGHTS PROJECT

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Jim Berchtold, *Attorney*
Amy Berlin, *Legal Assistant*
Debra Bookout, *Attorney*
Anna Caceres, *Legal Advocate*
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Marry Demus, *Legal Advocate*
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Alejandro Flores, *Legal Advocate*
Peter Goatz, *Attorney*
Heather Goodlett, *Attorney*
Lupe Ledezma, *Legal Advocate*
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FAMILY JUSTICE PROJECT

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Gabrielle Jones,
Deputy Directing Attorney
Ebru Cetin, *Attorney*
Angelica Corona, *Legal Advocate*
Miguel Flores, *Legal Advocate*

Silvina Gimenez, *Legal Advocate*
Sihomara Graves, *Attorney*
Athar Haseebullah, *Attorney*
Linda Hernandez, *Legal Advocate*
Magaly Kochis, *Legal Advocate*
Madeline La Forgia, *Attorney*
Bryan Martin, *Attorney*
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Susan Noyce, *Attorney*
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FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

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Celina Mason,
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PRO BONO PROJECT

Noah Malgeri, Esq., *Director*
Sara Funtek, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Sasha Hinkel, *Legal Assistant*
Cindy Morales, *Recruiter*
Angela Romero, *CAP Liaison*

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Sandra Arballo, *HR/Office Manager*
Crystal Cota, *Staff Accountant*
Bryan Glynn, *Office Assistant*
Julio Gonzales, *Runner*
Debbie Jacoby, *Legal Assistant*
Liz Murillo, *Office Assistant*
Erika Velez, *Receptionist*
Marc Vaccarino, *IT Administrator*

2018 IS LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY!

“Our clients’ strength and resilience in the face of unimaginable hardship and violence inspires us every day.”

Believing the time was right, a small group of southern Nevada lawyers got together in the summer of 1958 to form the Legal Aid Society, to assist those who are the most vulnerable in our community and could not afford lawyers. There was no staff and the attorneys were all volunteers.

January 1970 – Clark County Legal Aid Society changes its name to Clark County Legal Services and merged into Nevada Legal Services in 1982. In response to increased restrictions on the use of Legal Services Corp. funds, Clark County Legal Services and Nevada Legal Services split and Barbara Buckley becomes Executive Director on January 1, 1996.

During the recession, the demand for our services was exploding. Lines stretched out our doors every morning. People were losing their jobs, their houses, and their families were buckling under the pressure. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada needed to expand our services. We needed a building where all of our attorneys and staff could work under one roof, meet with clients, and hold free classes for the community.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is often the last line of defense for victims of child abuse, domestic violence, consumer fraud, and elder exploitation.

Our community looks so much different than it did in 1958 and so does our Legal Aid Center. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is one of the most respected legal aid centers in the country.



STAFF

“The staff has helped me in the most amazing way by allowing to be more aware of my rights and my ability to represent myself on my current situation, whether I win or lose I feel more empowered.”



In February 2000 Clark County Legal Services, with 21 staff, moved into 800 S. 8th St.



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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.