



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



GREETINGS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Greetings,

Yesterday, I received a small donation from a former client who said, *"My sister and I saw you and Jim on the Mayor's show talking about evictions and how Legal Aid helps. I was at the end of my rope and decided to call. Haley and Taylor were like the cavalry for me and my sister who is my caretaker. We are both senior citizens and I have health problems and I'm in a wheelchair. We just lost our brother to COVID and did not know what to do. They were a Godsend."*

2021 was a hard year, in some ways harder than 2020. We started the year hopeful that the pandemic's toughest days might be ending very soon, but that didn't really happen. Our child clients in foster care faced dwindling mental health resources, causing a crisis more severe than we have ever seen. The number of families facing eviction skyrocketed – in 2021, we served 65,000 families facing eviction! By the end of the year, we had served 25,000 more clients than in 2020.

I am proud and thankful to our incredible staff for all they did for our clients in 2021. It's hard listening to desperate client after desperate client, but we are the only legal resource for so many in the community, and our staff never forgot that. I am proud of our pro bono attorneys who volunteer year after year to help our clients. I am thankful for our funders, our partners, and our friends who help us do what we do. "Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out." I am in awe of the sum of the efforts we made this past year and invite you to learn more about our work.

With Gratitude,



Barbara Buckley,
Executive Director



BARBARA BUCKLEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



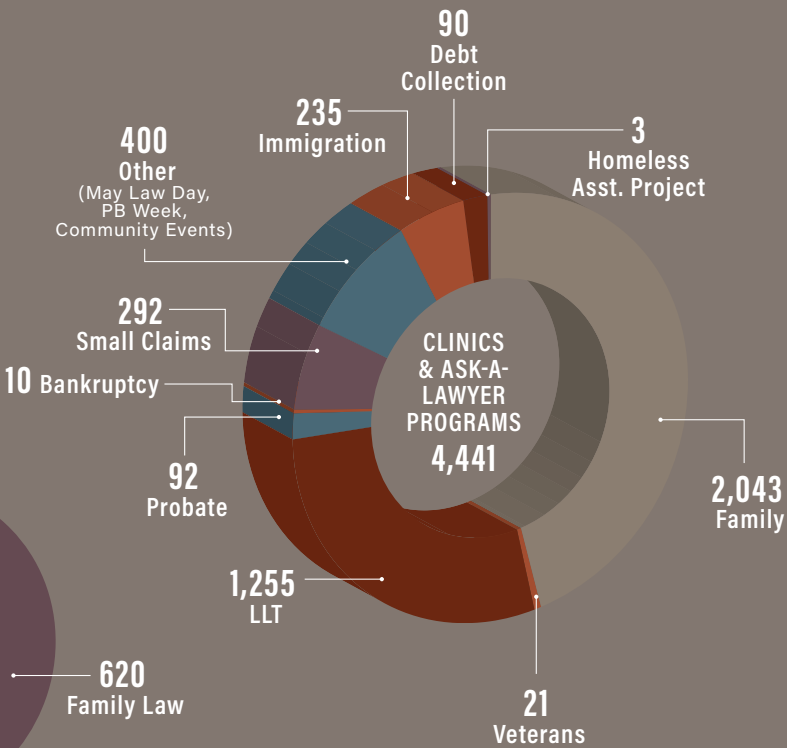
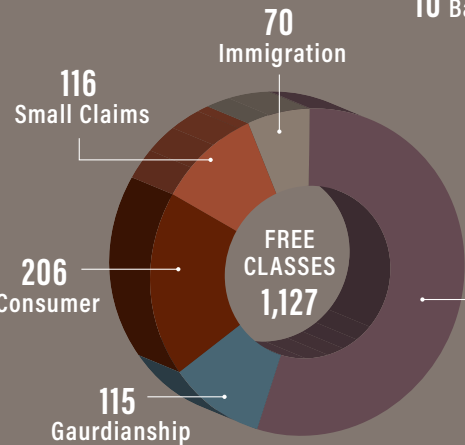
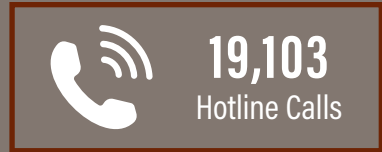
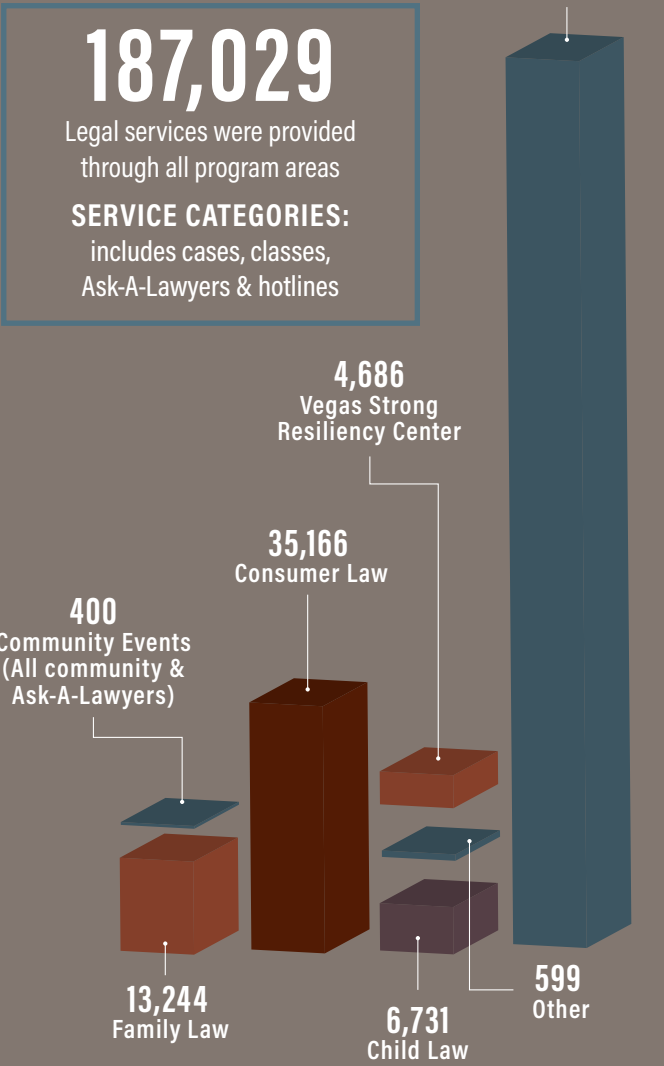
"What you and the Legal Aid Center have accomplished over the years is truly amazing. As you know I was a member of the board and later the president of the legal aid society in the 1960s. We thought we were doing good work and we were but it was so limited by comparison with what you're doing today. All who know you greatly admire what you've done at the Legal Aid Center and your dedication to those who cannot afford to pay for attorneys to represent them in a variety of civil proceedings." – Former Senator and Legal Aid Board Member Richard Bryan

ALL SERVICES

2021 was a year of expansion for Legal Aid Center despite the constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We provided more legal services 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 joined with Clark County, various municipalities and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District to bring our legal aid services out into the community.

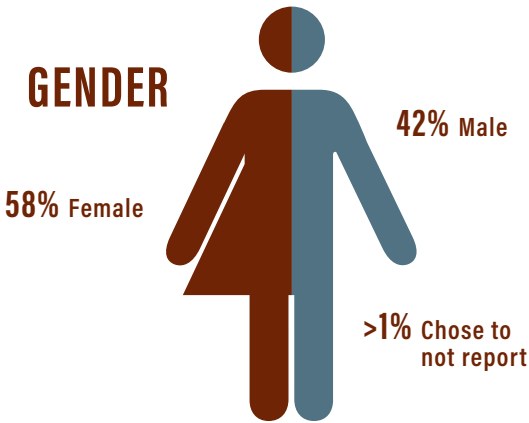
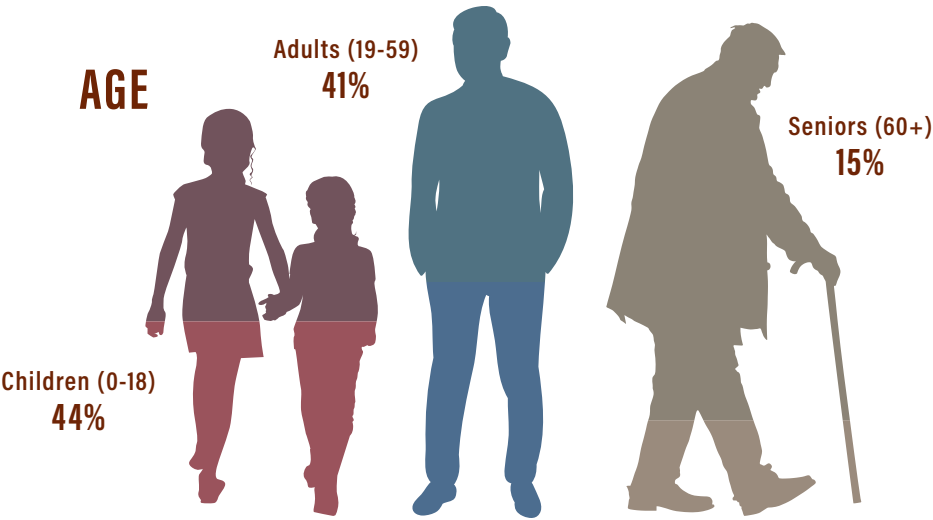
In the summer of 2021, we launched a series of eviction pop-up clinics throughout the valley where we helped tenants respond to time sensitive eviction notices and answered questions about the eviction process. We also resumed in-person community outreach and increased our presence on social media where we shared important legal updates, volunteer shout-outs, and upcoming events. In 2021, our staff participated in 152 interviews and media requests.

Visit Legal Aid Center in the News www.lacsn.org/news to learn more.



WHO WE SERVE

DEMOGRAPHICS



OUR YOUNGEST CLIENT WAS A NEWBORN & OUR OLDEST CLIENT IN 2021 WAS 105!

WEBSITE



FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE			CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE		
1,263,762	1,814,716	3,954,242	1,003,446	1,326,941	2,843,602
USERS	SESSIONS	PAGE VIEWS	USERS	SESSIONS	PAGE VIEWS
LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE		PRO BONO WEBSITE		VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER WEBSITE	
211,422	305,522	19,758	27,128	14,306	18,966
USERS	SESSIONS	USERS	SESSIONS	USERS	SESSIONS

FIGHTING TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES

We can't talk about 2021 without talking about the housing issues tens of thousands of our clients faced. We applied for grants in late 2020 to hire more attorneys, accept more referrals, provide online fillable eviction answers, reach out to the communities most impacted, and represent families in eviction court.

In 2021:

- Over 15,209 individuals contacted our Consumer Rights Project with eviction issues; an average of 292 every week!
- Over the course of 2021, Legal Aid Center alone provided direct assistance to a staggering 65,000 tenants through direct representation, our eviction prevention hotline, eviction pop-up clinics and events, and remote and in-person assistance at our Civil Law Self-Help Center.

The State passed laws providing eviction mediation, stopping evictions while tenants were pending rental assistance, and sealing eviction records to help tenants find safe places to live.

Clark County and the City of Las Vegas provided emergency funding for our staff to work with vulnerable families to prevent evictions and represent families in courts that were flooded with tenants trying to hold on to shelter.

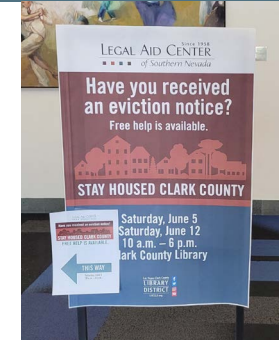


Betty, her husband, and their two young daughters found the Constable's 24-hour lock out notice on their door. A week earlier, a notice informing her that she and her family were behind on the rent was taped on their door, but like many other tenants, Betty trusted there were automatic protections that would prevent their eviction since they lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Further, having never been evicted before, Betty was unfamiliar with the eviction process and she failed to defend herself to the eviction court.

Choking back tears, Betty packed her family's

essential things but did not have time to move their furniture and belongings before the Constable changed the locks in the morning. Betty believed that her family had to abandon the possessions they earned during a lifetime of hard work. With the things they could gather, Betty and her family moved into a single spare bedroom owned by friends who had been more fortunate than Betty and her family.

Betty then called Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to ask if there was anything that she could do to prevent the eviction in the morning. Legal Aid Center informed Betty that



The novel coronavirus pummeled the Las Vegas economy leaving Melissa*, a casino worker, unemployed and making the difficult decision of whether to eat or make her rent payment. Despite her best efforts, Melissa fell behind on her rent and faced eviction.

Desperate for assistance, Melissa called Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada seeking help to keep herself from becoming homeless. A Legal Aid Center lawyer met with Melissa and explained that she could submit an application for rental assistance through the Clark County Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) and she would be protected from eviction until the CHAP application was approved or denied. However,

the attorney told Melissa, the protections were not automatic and she would need to file with the court to inform the judge that she qualified for the protections.

Melissa was relieved to have this information but did not have access to a computer or transportation. Recognizing Melissa's urgent need, Legal Aid Center assisted Melissa with completing the form and timely filed it with the court on her behalf.

Melissa remains in her home to this day and is grateful that she had the guidance and service of Legal Aid Center to protect her when she could not protect herself.

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of Legal Aid Center's clients.

there were strong protections for people who submitted a rental assistance application and could not afford their back rent due to the pandemic. Betty lost her job when the COVID-19 pandemic caused businesses to close, so she was the person the protections intended to help. Because these protections were not automatic, Legal Aid Center quickly assisted Betty with court documents to alert the judge that Betty had submitted a rental assistance application and that she and her family should have protection from eviction. Betty's Legal Aid Center attorney then represented the young family in the eviction appeal.

At the appeal hearing, Betty's Legal Aid Center attorney convinced the judge that the family had the right to return home. The appeal judge overturned the eviction, ordering that Betty and her family had the right to stay in their home until the landlord received rental assistance funds on Betty's behalf. Betty and her family returned to their home and rental assistance was paid to her landlord shortly thereafter.

Betty and her family are grateful for the Legal Aid Center representation and kept them from homelessness.

GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE A LEGAL LIFELINE

Nevada is ranked #4 on domestic violence in the nation. About 48.1% of Nevada women and 30.9% of Nevada men experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

In 2021

- Intake staff met with or spoke to 5,771 clients
- 453 new cases were accepted, totaling 631 cases for the year
- 3,484 files were opened, ranging from consultations, to advice, to brief service, to representation.

Human Trafficking

Nevada is ranked #1 in states with highest human trafficking numbers. Trafficking victims and domestic violence victims seek our services for a variety of family court issues. Name changes are essential to finding traditional employment after the cycle of bondage has been broken. Actions to adjudicate paternity and maternity become necessary when children were born during the period of control and victimization of trafficking.

Legal Aid Center served 110 survivors of human trafficking. Each survivor of human trafficking deals with multiple personal, financial, and legal issues. Legal Aid Center has assisted survivors with:

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

The **Family Justice Project** provides a wide range of representation to victims of domestic violence. Our attorneys appear at hearings to extend protective orders and 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 FJP staff provide:

- Community Legal Education Classes
- Divorce and custody consultations for Safe Nest shelter clients in English and Spanish
- Weekly Family Law Ask-A-Lawyer
- The Legal Aid Center Ask-A-Lawyer Pro Bono Project places family law cases with pro bono attorneys in addition to those accepted by FJP
- 24/7 internal "Domestic Violence Hotlines" for resource information and guidance
- Trial preparation class for pro se litigants
- Referral services to other legal aid offices throughout the US

FJP attorneys are members of

Nevada Attorney General – Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence (NCDV); Justice Partners, Sub-Committee on Domestic Violence (NCDV); Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Abuse; Nevada Policy Council on Human Trafficking; POWER Act Domestic Violence Partnership Committee; DV Partners (Eighth Judicial District Court-Family Division); Independent Legal Advocates Against Domestic Violence; Family Justice Center (Clark County) participant; Statewide Fatality Review Team, Nevada Committee of Domestic Violence.



The **Family Law Self-Help Center** is a legal "emergency room" for pro se litigants navigating the court system. The center provides an environment where walk-in customers, often with urgent legal issues, can request legal information regardless of their income, assets, or citizenship who need guidance in filing or managing their family court case.

- In total, 76,295 customers visited the Family Law Self-Help Center in 2021
 - Completed TPOs - 3,926
 - TPO help: 8,117
 - Completed Guide & File interviews: 5,958
 - Online CHATs – 15,054
- Over 1.2 million users accessed the Family Law Self-Help Center website for information and forms.

The Immigration Advocacy Program

provides legal assistance and representation to immigrant victims of violence. We also represent victims of crime who have civil and family law problems that are a result of their victimization and assist battered immigrants self-petition the government to remain lawfully in the United States.

The Afghan Project

We are working with the Governor's Office, ECDC African Community Center, Catholic Charities and UNLV Immigration Clinic to provide legal representation to 328 individuals and families. Although this is a daunting task, we understand how important it is for these individuals to escape the danger in their home country.

"April Green helped to save my life. Now I can be at peace thanks to her. She made this whole divorce 100% easier and understanding for me. She deserves a medal. Amazing person and lawyer!"

– Former Family Justice Project client

Maria and her husband separated in February, 2021. Shortly thereafter, the husband broke into her home one night. He was armed with a gun and physically assaulted her. Their son called the police. The husband confronted the police outside of the home, told the police to shoot him, and then retreated back into the home. At some point, Maria convinced him to surrender and he gave himself up to the police. He is in the Clark County Detention Center ("CCDC") on several counts of DV battery and other crimes. We assisted Maria with a TPO, which was granted. Maria relocated to an undisclosed location.

VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER



VEGAS STRONG
RESILIENCY CENTER

HELP IS HERE FOR YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE

Vegas Strong Resiliency Center is a place of healing and support dedicated to serving as a multi-agency resource and referral center for residents, visitors and responders affected by the shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival. The Center is managed by Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and is staffed by knowledgeable and caring professionals to help people access resources to help them build strength and resiliency in the aftermath of this incident.

Tara reached out to the VSRC seeking assistance navigating challenges she faced following Route 91. Tara also needed assistance moving out of the state for her mental health and better career opportunities. The Center's advocate helped submit and guarantee approval of Victims of Crime benefits for relocation. However, the benefit only provides reimbursement so Tara would need to pay out

of pocket first. Tara had exhausted all of her resources including her savings to secure her new lease/security deposit and had no idea how she would provide for her travel and lodging to get to her new home and her fresh start. The Center was able to provide her the remaining funds through the Emergency Financial Assistance Program. Through this assistance, Tara was able to get her fresh

start closer to her family and needed support system for healing. The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center staff attorney counseled her on applicable legal issues and provided follow up resources concerning a family law matter. Tara was able to make informed decisions to approach her child custody and support issues which greatly improved the circumstances for herself and her children.

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center provided 4,686 services in 2021.

In 2021, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center received the National Crime Victim Service Award from the Office for Victims of Crime during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This prestigious award honors extraordinary individuals and programs that provide services to victims of crime. The award recognizes programs and individuals whose work has been particularly noteworthy, and that exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes many victim service providers.

Additionally, the VSRC was designated as the **first** Statewide Victim Assistance Center by the Department of Health and Human Services. For many victims of crime, there are no centralized victim-services, leading victims to navigate the system alone. This designation allows the center to continue providing centralized services to all the survivors and bereaved families of 1 October as well as to **all** victims of violent crime, assist the Department of Health and Human Services with expanding available services, and provide training and technical assistance to communities statewide in the event of another mass incident. Our office looks forward to expanding the work of the Center by helping more victims with trauma-informed services such as system navigation, assistance with Victims of Crime funding, legal aid, and help with behavioral health resources.



HELPING CHILDREN

“She deserves a medal of honor for lawyers. Helped me throughout my life with my horrible living situation. P.S. When I get rich, you’re on the list.”
– former CAP client of Amy Honodel



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 before the court and community allowing the child to take an active role (and responsibility) 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.

In 2021

- 6,224 children in foster care had a voice in court
 - 4,862 were represented by Children's Attorneys Project attorneys and
 - 1,355 by Pro Bono CAP attorneys
- 7 CAP cases were decided on appeal

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

- 225 children in low-incomes families were represented by our education attorney to ensure they received the special education assistance necessary for them to be successful in school
- 92 Volunteer Education Advocates worked directly with the Clark County School District to ensure the needs of 215 CAP children with special education needs were met.
- Advocates attend Autism Court to ensure kids on the spectrum are getting the education support they need to be successful and avoid reentry into the juvenile justice system.
- 11 due process complaints were filed and another 12 cases were resolved without having to file due process. As a result, 2,806 hours of compensatory education were awarded to students, which is equivalent to \$78,568.
- 10 trainings and outreach events for community members were held for community groups and nonprofits.
- 3 webinars were held on helping kids with IEPs.

CAP Attorney shares good news:

One of my clients was constantly getting into trouble while he was in foster care. David moved from foster home to foster home often, had some run-ins with juvenile delinquency, and at one point ran away from a foster home. When David was close to turning 18, he asked to stay under the court's jurisdiction instead of losing all foster care protections on the day he turned 18. The Department claimed David should not be given the opportunity for Voluntary Jurisdiction because of his troubled past. I argued hard for David to have the chance to begin his adulthood with a supportive foundation. The Judge granted David's wish, telling David he would keep a close eye on him for the first 3 months. David called today to tell me he just started the summer semester of his program in community college and he is living in an apartment. The pride in his voice brought me so much joy!

Janice Wolf, the Directing Attorney of CAP:

I went to a foster home to meet a new baby client today, and all the foster mother wanted to talk about was Kim (another CAP attorney) and how hard Kim fought to get her client a heart transplant and ultimately an adoptive family. That happened in 2016 and the foster mom still remembers everything Kim did for the foster child. She wanted to let me know that Kim has her undying gratitude and admiration.

From Jaymie, CAP Legal Advocate:

The San Francisco Social Security Administration regional office contacted me back yesterday afternoon and we were able to work out a streamline process to help foster care young adults who are transitioning to Step Up and need their Social Security card. And the State of Nevada is moving forward with a process to request Social Security cards online! This will make life for our 18-year-old foster care kiddos so much easier as they look for jobs and plan for college!

Minor Guardianship

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.



“The Legal Aid Center is such a wonderful asset to both the legal community, and more importantly, the entire Las Vegas community. Thanks to you and your office for your dedication and unwavering effort.” – Community member

In 2021:

- Worked on 877 cases
- Accepted 641 new cases
- Litigated 10 evidentiary hearings

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 Program** within the Consumer Rights Project provides direct representation to seniors and adults facing or are under a guardianship. The Program 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.

In 2021

- 15% of our represented clients were over 60 years old
- 29 seniors, non-Guardianship clients, were victims of violence or domestic violence
- Legal Aid Center assisted an average of 235 seniors a month

<p>Our Guardianship Advocacy Program attorneys represented</p> <p>2,848 clients in 2021</p>	<p>Attempts to obtain a Guardianship over a senior were denied or avoided</p> <p>162</p>
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Dinah is a 70-year-old woman with five adult children, four of whom reside in Dinah's home state of Missouri. The fifth child, Yolanda, has been caring for her mother since Dinah moved from Missouri to Las Vegas in 2019. Yolanda filed for guardianship over her mother because Dinah was diagnosed with dementia and requires substantial help with ADL's (activities of daily living), including help treating hypertension and diabetes. Dinah's Legal Aid Center attorney learned that Dinah was previously neglected and exploited by her family when she lived

in Missouri. Dinah's condition began declining several years ago when she was in Missouri and her family took advantage of her. For example, over a two-month period, Dinah was left alone in a condemned house by her oldest son, who, according to Yolanda, is an avid drug user. After filing the petition for guardianship, Yolanda received complaints from the family members in Missouri that they wanted their mother to move back to Missouri. Yolanda was concerned there was going to be a legal battle over her mother.

Dinah's Legal Aid Center attorney contacted the family members in Missouri to address their objections. The family members claimed they were only concerned that their mother's best interests were being looked after. With Legal Aid Center's appointment as counsel for Dinah, the Missouri family members no longer had a basis to object to the petition. It was clear to Dinah's Legal Aid Center attorney that Dinah knows Yolanda and wants to continue taking care of her. The guardianship was approved and Dinah is happy and protected.



“I think this was some of the most important work that Legal Aid Center has done. There are few citizens more vulnerable than the elderly who are exploited by ruthless people (children being the other category that immediately comes to mind, and we know what Legal Aid Center has accomplished in protecting them, which now fortunately also includes kids in guardianship situations). I look forward to reading the report. What you and your crew have accomplished is, in my mind, extraordinary, and I feel very grateful that Legal Aid Center is there protecting those that need it most in our community. I know it goes without saying to you and your incredibly dedicated staff, but keep up the great work.”

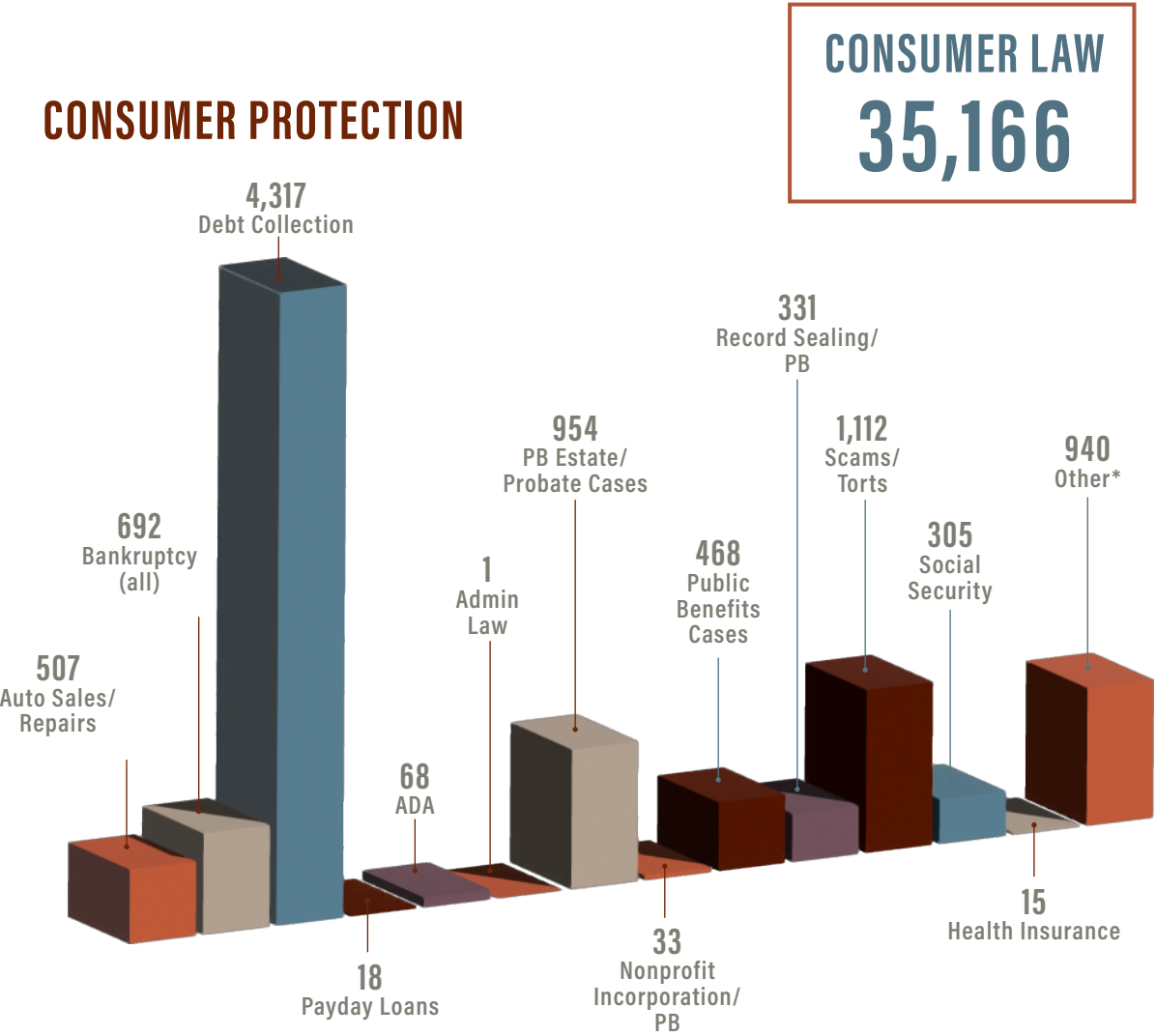
- J. Randall Jones, Board Member

DEFENDING VICTIMS OF FRAUD AND UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR

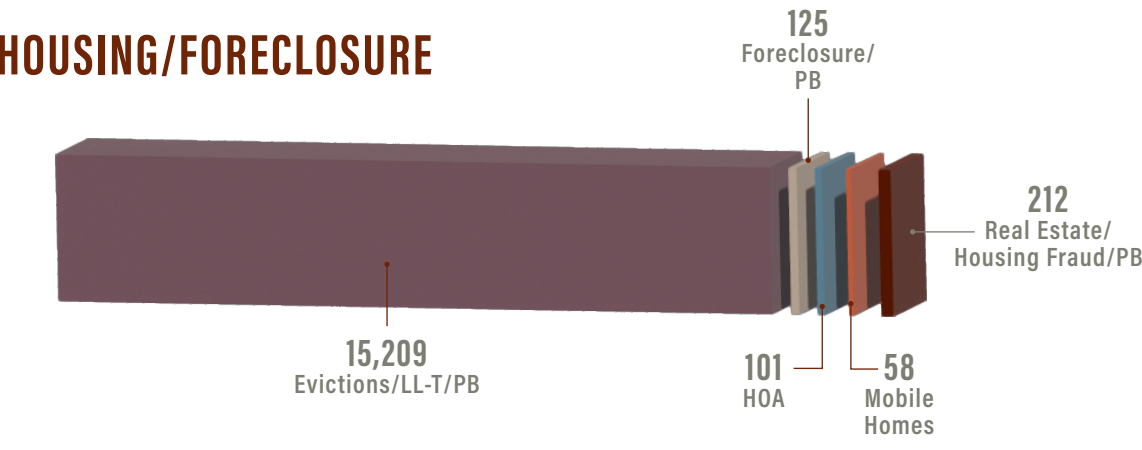


Our Consumer Rights Project helps people who cannot afford an attorney fight back against financial predators. Consumer attorneys fight for clients being abused by real estate and housing fraud, unlawful wage garnishments, predatory loans, car dealer scams, unscrupulous mechanics, and illegal repossessions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION



HOUSING/FORECLOSURE



Legal Services Fund

Our team with the Culinary & Bartenders Union Legal Service Fund Program (developed in partnership with the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, UNITE HERE Bartenders Union Local 165, & participating employers) provided 3,757 services from unemployment benefits, to housing, to family law matters.

3,757



“This gave me peace of mind after years of runarounds. I can now move to be with my family as a senior I am starting to need more care now. You have no idea what this has done for my morale. Now I can make plans for my move. Please keep up what you are doing for people like myself.”
– Consumer Rights Project client



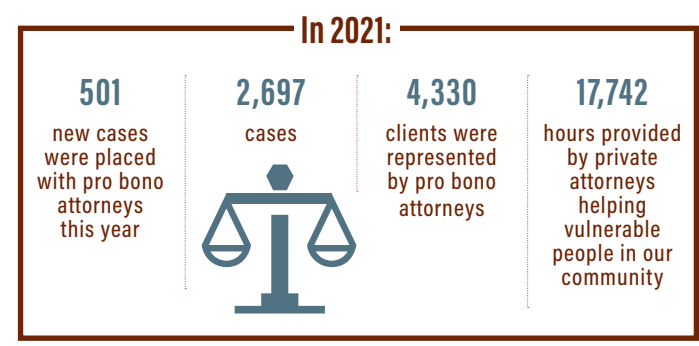
PRO BONO PROJECT

The Pro Bono Project recruits private attorneys to represent clients in civil legal areas such as child abuse, domestic violence, consumer fraud, family law, and education advocacy, and we train and mentor our volunteer attorneys in specialties of law outside their usual practice areas.



From our Pro Bono Director,
Michael Wendlberger

"The Pro Bono department is grateful to the legal community for stepping up during Covid. 2021 was a year of change and promise; the promise of increased pro bono presence in the community, the promise of the pandemic ending, the promise for a return to normal. In 2021, we started our pro bono minor guardianship program and expanded our immigration outreach to help families fleeing Afghanistan. We are thankful for every pro bono attorney in the community who took a case, volunteered in our Ask-A-Lawyer program, or helped out as a mentor. With your help, we can continue to bridge the access to justice gap."



AWARDS & WINNERS

21st Annual Pro Bono Awards

Each year since the Pro Bono Project became a part of Legal Aid Center, we honor local attorneys who collectively provide tens of thousands of hours of free legal services to low-income residents in Clark County this year. 2021 was a difficult year, yet pro bono attorneys continued volunteering to provide legal services to low-income and vulnerable people in need.



**VINCE A. CONSUL
MEMORIAL PRO
BONO AWARD:**
*Maggie McLetchie and
Adam Hosmer-Henner*
PRESENTER:
Justice Elissa F. Cadish



**MYRNA WILLIAMS
CHILDREN'S
PRO BONO AWARD:**
Atif Sheikh
PRESENTER:
Justice Douglas Herndon



**LOUIS WIENER
SERVICE AWARD:**
Alyssa Aklestad
PRESENTER:
Justice Abby Silver



PRO BONO FIRM OF THE YEAR:
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
PRESENTER:
Justice Ron D. Paraguirre



**ASK-A-LAWYER
COMMUNITY
COMMITMENT
AWARD:**
Sagar Raich
PRESENTER:
*Judge Michael P.
Gibbons*



**PUBLIC INTEREST
LAW STUDENT OF
DISTINCTION:**
Greer Sullivan
PRESENTER:
Judge Bonnie A. Bulla



**EDUCATION
ADVOCATE AWARD:**
Jordan Schuck
PRESENTER:
*Former Justice
Mark Gibbons*



**PRO BONO ATTORNEY
OF THE YEAR:**
Jason Onello
PRESENTER: *Chief Justice James
W. Hardesty*

LIED AWARDS

PRESENTER: *Justice Kristina Pickering*

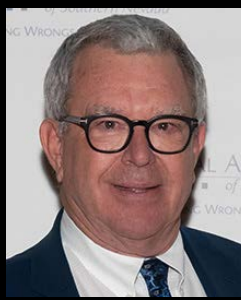
MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY A LAW FIRM:



MOST HOURS DONATED BY A LAW FIRM:



**MOST HOURS
DONATED
BY AN ATTORNEY:**



Robert P. Dickerson

**MOST CASES
ACCEPTED
BY AN ATTORNEY:**



Honorable Cheryl Moss

PRO BONO AWARDS SPONSORS

We are so fortunate to have the support of so many fine attorneys in the Southern Nevada legal community. Without their hard work and commitment to the cause, we would have to turn away thousands of our most vulnerable residents.

JUDGE BILL HENDERSON
FAMILY COURT

Wynn
RESORTS

UNLV WILLIAM S. BOYD
SCHOOL OF LAW

BAILEY KENNEDY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

THE COSMOPOLITAN
of LAS VEGAS



LEWIS ROCA

KEMP JONES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NEVADA
GOLD MINES
OPERATED BY BARRICK

MCDONALD CARANO

R & R
FOUNDATION

NEVADA Legal NEWS

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Mutual of America
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HOLLAND & HART

BOYD GAMING

**Maggie Lambrose,
John Lambrose &
Laura Fitzsimmons**

Clark Hill

Southwest Gas Foundation
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Springel & Fink
State Bar of Nevada
Yianna "Anna" Albertson of Legal Angel

News & Notes

PRO BONO NEWS

Legal Aid Center Announces 2021 Pro Bono Winners

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) hosted its annual Pro Bono Awards luncheon on December 10, 2021. The 2021 Pro Bono Award winners are:

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year: Jason Onello

Onello understands the importance of providing access to justice to those most in need. He began his legal journey as a law clerk at LACSN. He is a litigator with a focus on family law, estate planning, and personal injury. Despite a full caseload, he is working on eight active pro bono matters and routinely volunteers for LACSN's Family Law Ask-A-Lawyer and partners in pro bono programs, providing mentorship to law students on an active case.

Law Firm of the Year and Lied Award for Most Hours by a Law Firm: Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Las Vegas team contributed more than 1,240 hours of pro bono legal work this year. This firm is active in several pro bono programs, including the Nevada Supreme Court Appellate Program, the Federal Pro Bono program, immigration, name change, landlord-tenant, consumer, foreclosure, and the Ask-A-Lawyer program.

Lied Award for Most Cases by a Law Firm: Lewis Roca

Lewis Roca accepted 16 new pro bono cases this past year in a variety of areas of law, including appeals, the Children's Attorney Project (CAP), consumer, and landlord-tenant. This firm also volunteered for numerous ask-a-lawyer events.

Lied Award for Most Hours by an Attorney: Robert "Bob" P. Dickerson

Robert "Bob" P. Dickerson makes pro bono a core part of his practice. He has completely embraced the work of helping children in the CAP program, and as a result, has made a huge difference in the lives of his young clients. In fact, his dedication to pro bono work has spanned decades as he was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year in 2001. In the past year, he contributed an astonishing 650 hours of time serving children in the foster care system, to ensure their wishes are represented in the process of finding safe, loving, and permanent homes.

Lied Award for Most Cases by an Attorney: Ret. Judge Cheryl Moss

Retired Judge Cheryl Moss has been a consistent, tremendous supporter of pro bono. She accepted 14 new pro bono cases this past year in a variety of areas of law, including divorce, name changes, and LACSN's newest program, minor guardianship.

Vince Consul Memorial Pro Bono Award: Maggie McLetchie and Adam Hosmer-Henner

This award is given in memory of Vince Consul, an attorney who was a champion for access to justice and pro bono, who passed away in 2010. Through LACSN and the Federal Pro Bono program, Maggie McLetchie and Adam Hosmer-Henner accepted the representation of eight inmates who were being denied treatment for Hepatitis C, along with hundreds of other Nevada inmates. They joined together and filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court. They struck a settlement that provided for treatment of all affected Nevada inmates. The monetary value of their work was some \$30 million. More importantly, their work literally saved lives.

News & Notes

Public Interest Law Student of Distinction: Greer Sullivan

The Public Interest Law Student of Distinction Award recognizes a law student who has made a substantial commitment to the community by doing public interest work and promoting access to justice. Greer Sullivan is a distinguished third-year student at the William S. Boyd School of Law. She is a Public Interest Fellow, a Senior Staff Member of the Nevada Law Journal, the prior president and current vice president of finance for the Public Interest Law Association, served as the events director for the Organization of Women Law Students, is a member of the Just and Inclusive Law School Committee, served on the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, and is the Student Bar Association President.

Ask-A-Lawyer Community Commitment Award: Sagor Raich

Sagor Raich volunteered at 25 Ask-A-Lawyer sessions, including small claims and landlord-tenant. What set this attorney apart was his willingness to jump in on a moment's notice and his fortitude to do everything in his power to keep tenants housed. He provided advice to those striving to avoid eviction, guided tenants on how to file an answer, and explained how to apply for rental assistance, ensuring they would not be locked out during the pandemic.

The Legal Aid Center also recognized members of the 50 Hours and 100 Hours Clubs during the luncheon. The full list can be found at lacsnaprobono.org/awards/.



LEGAL EMERGENCY ROOMS



Self-Help Centers function as legal emergency rooms for people struggling to navigate the court system and obtain accurate legal information. The staff at each Self-Help Center provides trustworthy information, legal forms, and assistance in civil and family matters.

www.FamilyLawSelfHelpCenter.org/

www.CivilLawSelfHelpCenter.org/

- Civil Law Self-Help Center assisted **49,908** people
- Family Law Self-Help Center assisted **76,295** in total

25,212	31,786	3,978	15,054	265
In-Person	Telephone	Email	Online Chat	Mail

- **21,174** online interactive interviews, across 30 available interviews, were completed.
- **12,965** people were able to complete online interactive guide and file interviews across 30 legal subject areas. The interviews asks questions and use the answers to populate the legal form, making it easier for a pro se litigant to tell their story and request relief.



Sheri came to the Self-Help Center seeking assistance filing a protection order against the father of her three children. Sheri stated that she suffered decades of abuse, beginning when she was a teenager. Sheri was agitated, antagonistic, and at other moments - extremely calm. She reported intimidation and assault with a gun, physical attacks including cutting her foot, hitting, kicking, and choking her, verbal abuse toward her and the children, and enlisting others, including his dogs, to harm her.

Sheri filled out an application with critical information missing. She did not want to write down specific incidents of abuse and believed she could talk to the judge without making a written statement. The Facilitator at the Self-Help Center explained to Sheri that without pertinent details, the application would be insufficient, risking denial of her application. The Facilitator worked with Sheri to assemble a completed application and submit it for filing. In Court, the Hearing Master granted the protection order covering Sheri and her children, and scheduled an extension hearing.



ASK-A-LAWYER, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

Complementing our direct legal services, we assist thousands with free legal guidance in a variety of legal topics in partnership with the William S. Boyd School of Law. During a regular academic year, 40 classes a month are taught to the public by teams of law students, under the supervision of an attorney to provide free legal education on relevant legal issues. Classes are designed to explain legal concepts, provide information on alternatives to litigation, and supply answers to Nevadans unfamiliar with the law.

To date, **over 75,000** community members have attended these classes.

Community Legal Education Classes

Legal Aid Center educated **1,127** individuals through **378** free weekly and monthly virtual classes designed to explain legal concepts, provide information on alternatives to litigation, and supply answers to Nevadans unfamiliar with the law. We partner with the Williams S. Boyd School of Law to train law students how to teach individuals who are in the early stages of understanding their legal plight in various legal areas:

- Bankruptcy
- Being Collection Proof
- Divorce
- Guardianship
- Litigation and Trial Preparation
- Paternity and Custody
- Small Claims
- Special Education
- Family Law classes are also taught at local shelters

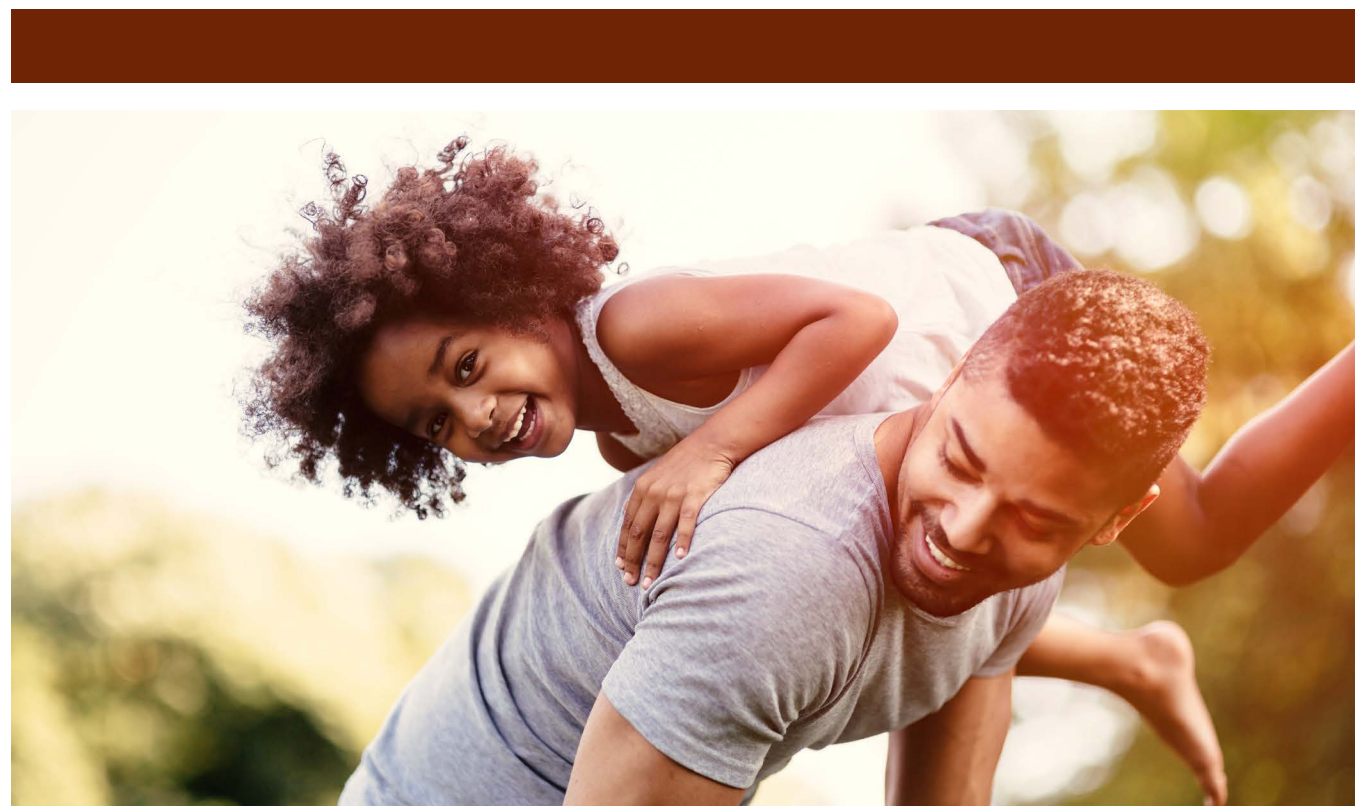
Ask-A-Lawyer

Staff and pro bono attorneys volunteered for free weekly **Ask-A-Lawyer** sessions, offering **4,441** unrepresented individuals who cannot afford an attorney, 15 minutes free with a pro bono attorney who can answer specific legal questions in the following legal areas or at community-wide events:

- Bankruptcy
- Debt Collection
- Family Law
- Homeless Asst. Project
- Immigration
- Landlord/Tenant
- May Law Day
- National Celebrate Pro Bono Week
- Probate
- Small Claims
- Veterans

Outreach

Pro Bono attorneys, Legal Aid Center attorneys and staff volunteered for **81** outreach events helping **1,527** people around Clark County in 2021, including Pop-Up Eviction Clinics, virtual events, meetings, nonprofit events, and Community Law Day, among others.



FELLOWSHIPS

Community Justice Fellowship Sponsored by Paul Padda Law

In 2019, we announced the Community Justice Fellowship Sponsored by Paul Padda Law. It 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 187,000 services a year. The Fellow assists with the great unmet legal need at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada while training and working in each Legal Aid Center's Project areas throughout the year. The first fellow, Wesley Su, began his Fellowship in August 2020. Wesley then joined our Family Justice Project as a Staff Attorney. Widad Sairafe, our second fellow began her fellowship year in August 2021 and Shay Digenan is our 2022 Community Justice Fellow! www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship



PAUL PADDA LAW
INJURY ATTORNEYS



Widad Sairafe

Civil Justice Summer Fellowship

In 2020, Robyn Ratcliffe Manzini and Aldo Manzini and Legal Aid Center announced the creation of the Civil Justice Summer Fellowship. Allison Hedrick was the first Civil Justice Summer Fellow in 2021! Allison is graduating with her Juris Doctorate from the William S. Boyd School of Law in May 2022. www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice

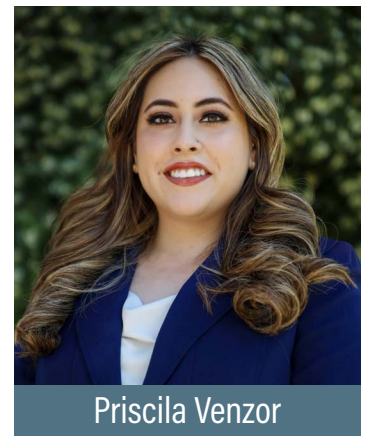


2021 Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Fellow Priscila Venzor

The Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice 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. One law school student is selected annually to spend their summer as a staff member in the Pro Bono Project, carrying on Melanie's work in assisting those unable to afford the civil legal help they need. www.LACSN.org/Fellowship



Melanie Kushnir



Priscila Venzor

2021 Associates Challenge

The Associates Challenge is important not only because of the contributions raised to benefit Legal Aid Center's low-income and vulnerable clients, but also because of its role in building a tradition of consistent and generous support for legal services among young lawyers.

Emily Dyer, Matthew McKissick, and William Nobriga, the associates at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, were determined to keep the Challenge going for it's 3rd year.

Attorneys and staff at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Snell & Wilmer, McDonald Carano, and Marquis Aurbach Coffing donated this year and raised over \$11,000!

www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge

**Brownstein Hyatt
Farber Schreck**

Snell & Wilmer


**MARQUIS AURBACH
COFFING**

WINNERS

Access to Justice Champions
Brownstein Hyatt Farber
Schreck

Associates Trophy
Mark Starr

McDONALD



CARANO

LEWIS  ROCA

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 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

AT&T
Attorney General National Settlement
Charles Schwab
Clark County
Federal Attorney Admission Fund

Irvin Stern Foundation
Nevada Bar Foundation
Nevada Gold Mines, Operated by Barrick
U.S. Department of Justice
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

IN-KIND SUPPORT

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Assistance League of Las Vegas
Clark County Bar Association
Global Intelligence Network, Alex Lousignont
HELP of Southern Nevada
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District
Miriam Lira-Hickerson, State Ombudsman
of Consumer Affairs for Minorities
Nevada Bar Foundation
Nevada Justice Association

Nevada Lawyer
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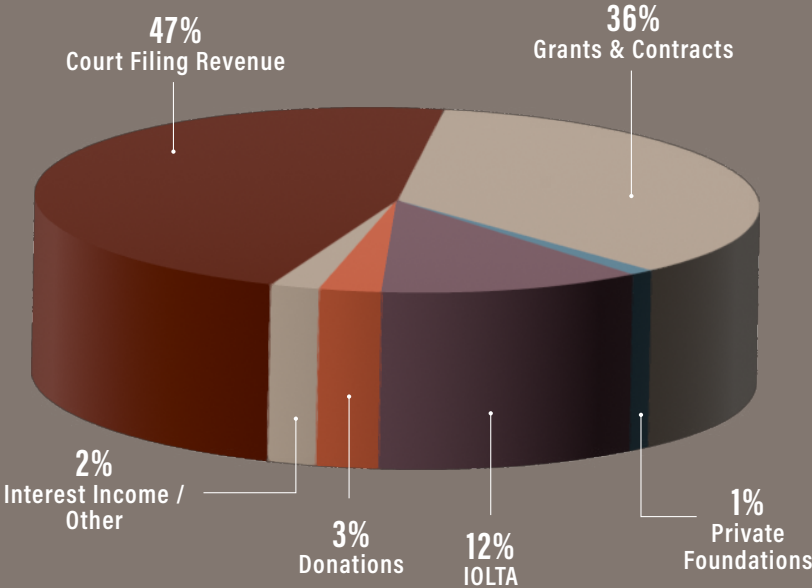
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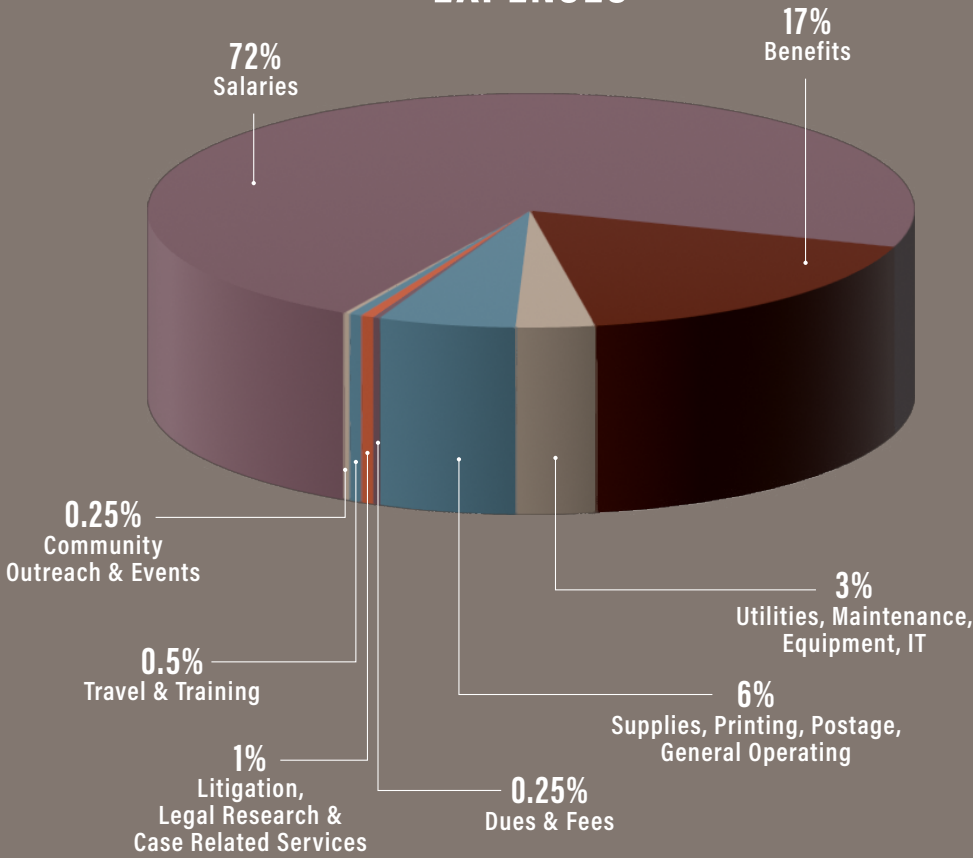
2021 DONORS

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME



EXPENSES



INCOME	2021	
Court Filing Revenue	\$10,413,507	47%
Grants & Contracts	\$7,887,039	36%
Private Foundations	\$110,000	1%
IOLTA	\$2,536,620	12%
Donations	\$567,081	3%
Interest Income / Other	\$433,189	2%
Income Before Donated Services	\$21,947,436	100%
(16,839 hrs at \$300/hr) Donated Services	\$5,051,700	
Endowment Contribution	\$21,529	0%
Total Income, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$27,020,665	

EXPENSES		
PERSONNEL		
Salaries	\$12,444,933	72%
Benefits	\$2,967,955	17%
Personnel Subtotal	\$15,412,888	89%
NON PERSONNEL		
Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment, IT	\$542,504	3%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Operating	\$1,018,585	6%
Travel & Training	\$74,877	0%
Dues & Fees	\$61,993	0%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$94,343	1%
Community Outreach & Events	\$42,394	0%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$1,834,696	11%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$17,247,584	100%

Expenses Before Donated Services & Endowment	
Donated Services	\$5,051,700
Endowment Investment	\$225,724
Total Expenses, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$22,525,008
NET FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS	\$4,495,657

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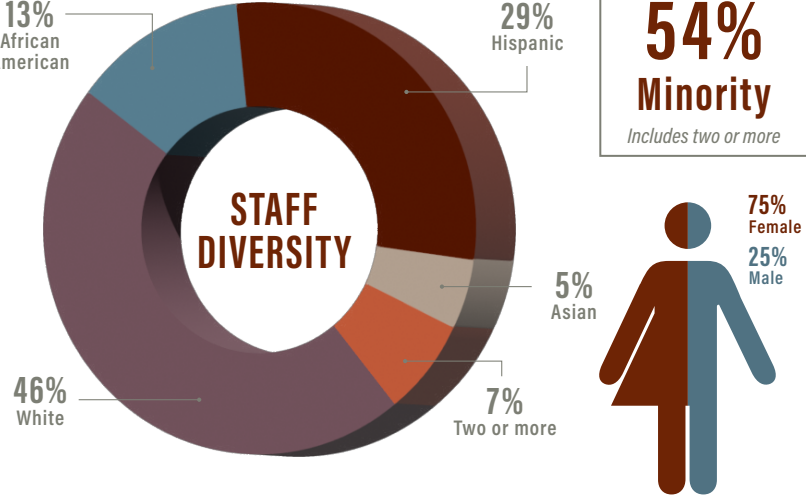
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“We are so inspired by our clients. And it is because of our clients that we must ensure that Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada continues its mission of righting wrongs and changing lives for decades to come. Client strength and resilience in the face of unimaginable hardships inspire us every day.”
– Barbara Buckley, Executive Director



725 E. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89104 ■ 702.386.1070 ■ www.LACSN.org

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.lacsnprobono.org/available-cases/
or call 702.386.1422

VOLUNTEER:

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or call Ilka at 702.386.1446

DONATE:

www.lasn.org/donate
or call Venicia at 702.386.1442



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