



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





# GREETINGS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

## Greetings,

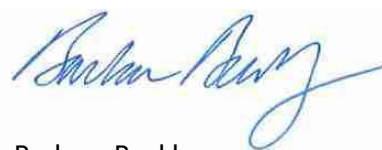
In 2022, we served over 189,000 people – the highest number in our history. Like 2021, we faced challenges. We continued to deal with the aftermath of the pandemic – the children we represent in foster care facing a shortage of foster homes and mental health services; the children with disabilities we represent in school district proceedings facing loss of staff and services; and our immigration and social security clients facing very long processing times at our federal agencies.

So what keeps us going?

- The faces of the people we help and the “wins” we have representing clients and collaborating with our partners to make positive change occur.
- Your support whether financial or taking a pro bono case to help foster children, struggling families, and others who need our help.
- The \$25 million dollars in rental assistance we secured for seniors and people with disabilities to get landlords paid and time to prevent homelessness.
- The dedicated, committed staff for fighting so hard to serve the people who need us most.

We accomplished a lot this year, and I invite you to read our 2022 annual report to learn more.

With appreciation,



Barbara Buckley,  
Executive Director



BARBARA BUCKLEY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*“We are so inspired by our clients. 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



# ALL SERVICES

We provided more legal services in 2022 than ever before. We also resumed in-person community outreach and increased our presence on social media where we share important legal updates, volunteer shout-outs, and upcoming events.

## LEGAL AID CENTER IN THE NEWS



61

News Stories  
in 2022

Visit Legal Aid Center in the News  
[www.lacsn.org/news](http://www.lacsn.org/news) to learn more.



8,454

Hotline Calls

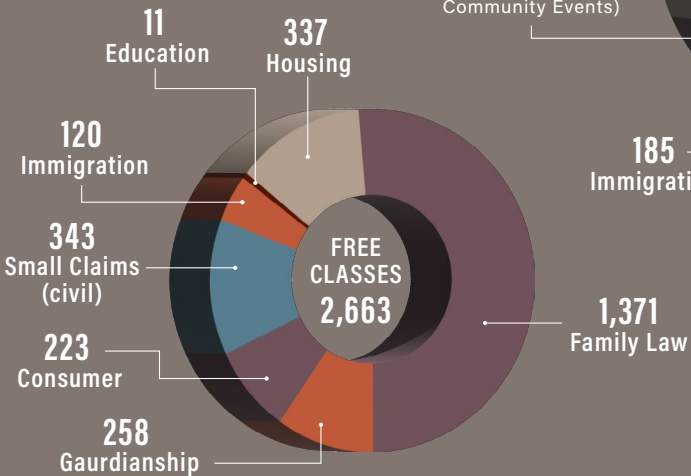
## OUTREACH

88

Events

2,727

Attendees



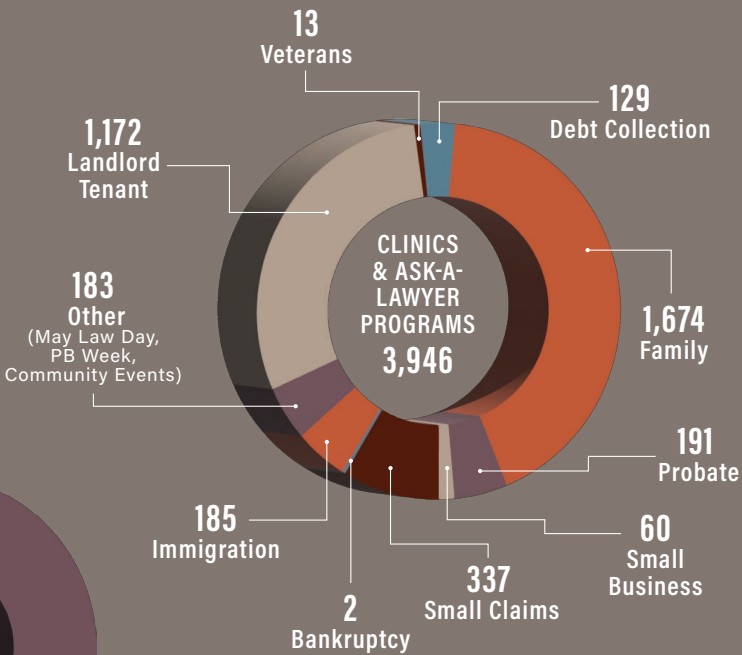
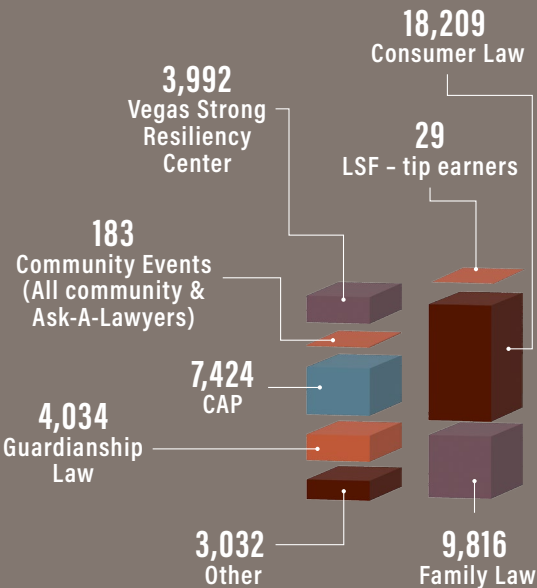
189,320

Legal services were provided through all non-website program areas

## SERVICE CATEGORIES

includes case files, classes, Ask-A-Lawyers, advocacy & hotlines

141,842  
Self-Help Centers

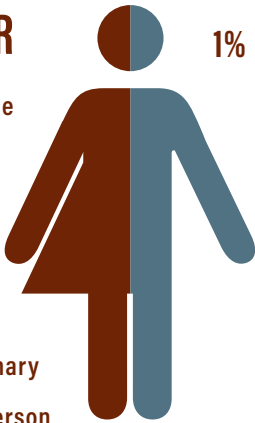


# WHO WE SERVE

## DEMOGRAPHICS

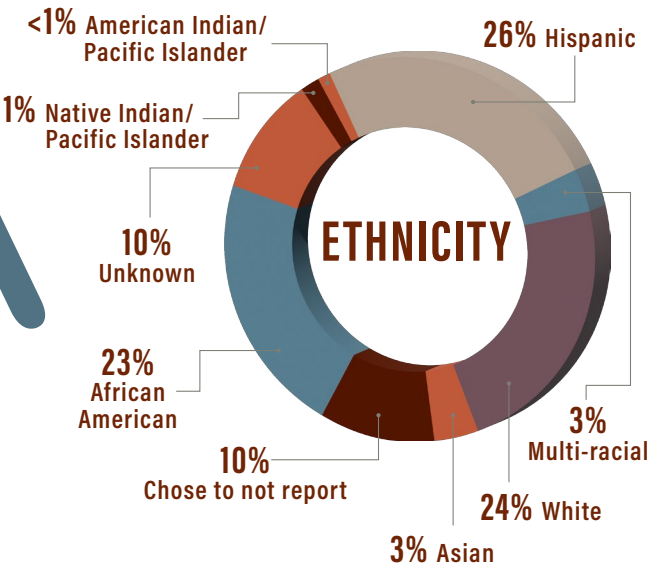
## GENDER

58% Female  
42% Male

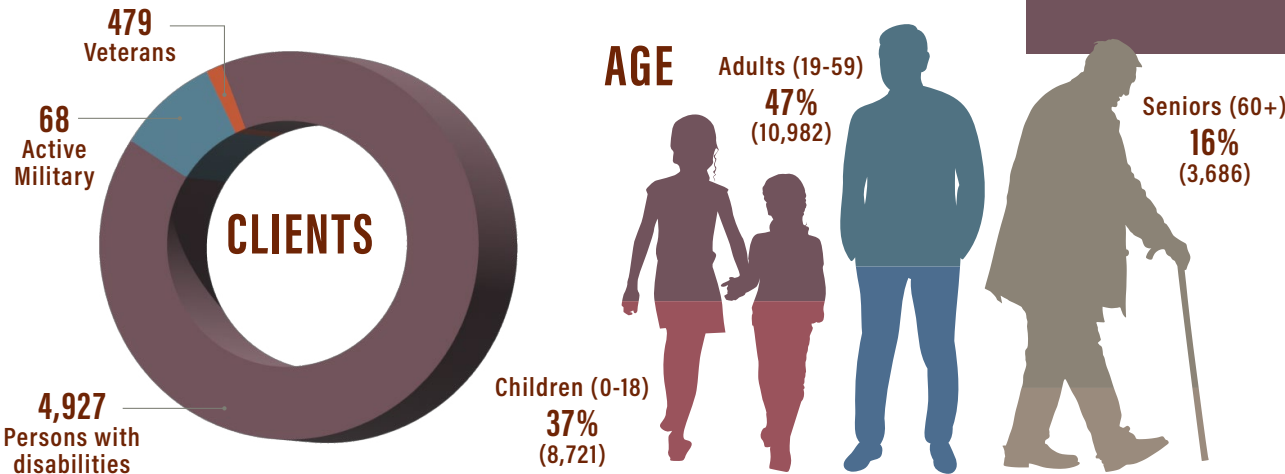


<1% Other  
<1% Non-binary  
<1% Transperson

## ETHNICITY



## CLIENTS



## WEBSITE



Over 2,367,114 users  
accessed legal information  
on our websites

3,228,847

Total sessions

## FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

1,139,585 USERS  
1,592,685 SESSIONS  
3,387,889 PAGE VIEWS

## CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER WEBSITE

978,368 USERS  
1,291,848 SESSIONS  
2,476,300 PAGE VIEWS

## LEGAL AID CENTER WEBSITE

210,292 USERS  
292,816 SESSIONS  
623,944 PAGE VIEWS

## PRO BONO WEBSITE

19,869 USERS  
26,638 SESSIONS  
56,168 PAGE VIEWS

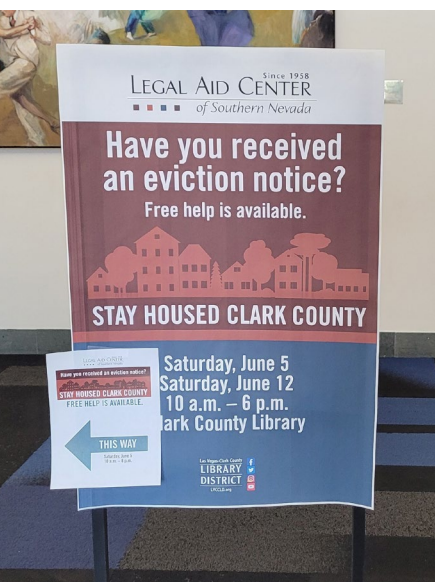
## VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER WEBSITE

19,000 USERS  
24,860 SESSIONS  
37,831 PAGE VIEWS



# FIGHTING TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES

Escalating rents and blistering rental increases hurt our client community. Many renting clients faced rental increases of \$400-\$800 a month, making it impossible to live in the same place. At the same time, Nevada has a severe shortage of affordable housing, making seniors, people with disabilities, and low-wage earners desperate and distraught, facing eviction, garnishment, and stressors, which sometimes lead to domestic violence.



The Consumer Rights Project successfully advocated for AB486 in the 2021 legislative session, which ensures that tenants who applied for rental assistance were protected from eviction while their applications were pending. In 2022, Housing Justice Program lawyers fought to ensure that as many tenants as possible could take advantage of those protections, with the ultimate goal of keeping tenants housed.

## How did we help people stay in their homes?

- ❑ We were able to secure \$25 million dollars in rental assistance for seniors and people with disabilities to get landlords paid and time to prevent homelessness.
- ❑ We supported a new eviction diversion court where we committed to representing every tenant in that court.
- ❑ We created online eviction forms so that both landlords and tenants can complete them from home and file them electronically, saving long drives or bus rides and more time away from work.
- ❑ We conducted 36 eviction sealing and tenants' rights classes attended by 337 people.

*Luke fell ill with COVID-19 during the pandemic. To make matters worse, Luke suffered complications and doctors amputated one of Luke's legs. Luke eventually recovered from his illness and returned home to his wife in their rented condominium, but Luke now required a wheelchair to assist him with mobility. Unfortunately, the condominium complex where Luke and his wife reside does not have accessibility ramps from the sidewalk to the parking lot. Each time Luke returned home he needed to exit his wheelchair, crawl up the sidewalk from the dirty parking lot, drag his wheelchair up the sidewalk, reenter his wheelchair, and then navigate home. To make matters even worse, Luke fell behind on his rent due to his lengthy hospitalization.*

*Luke and his wife made repeated pleas to both their landlord and condominium complex managers to install an accessibility ramp for Luke's use. They also asked for a repayment plan of the back rent. These pleas fell on deaf ears.*

*Luke contacted Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to ask if anything could be done to cause Luke's housing providers to furnish an accessibility ramp for Luke's use. Luke's Legal Aid Center attorney informed Luke that under the Fair Housing Act, a housing provider was required to approve a reasonable modification request, a reasonable structural change made to the premises to allow the person with a disability to allow equal use, and enjoyment of their residence. Additionally,*

*Luke's attorney informed Luke that there were rental assistance funds available from the local county's social services program that he could apply for to prevent his eviction.*

*As Luke had already made repeated unsuccessful requests to his housing providers for an accessibility ramp and payment plan for the rental arrears, Luke's attorney agreed to represent him in his housing fight. Legal Aid Center wrote a letter to both the landlord and condominium complex managers explaining the law and demanding that the housing providers allow Luke a reasonable modification of the residence by permitting installation of an accessibility ramp. Additionally, Legal Aid Center agreed to represent Luke and his wife in any eviction case that may be filed against him while he was waiting on rental assistance.*

*Within ten days of receiving the letter from Luke's attorney, Luke's landlord installed an accessibility ramp for Luke's benefit. Luke greatly enjoys the dignity and accessibility that the ramp allows him as a wheelchair user. Luke was also quickly approved for rental assistance, resolving the lurking eviction. Luke reports deeply appreciating the services of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada who helped him when his repeated requests were ignored by his housing providers.*

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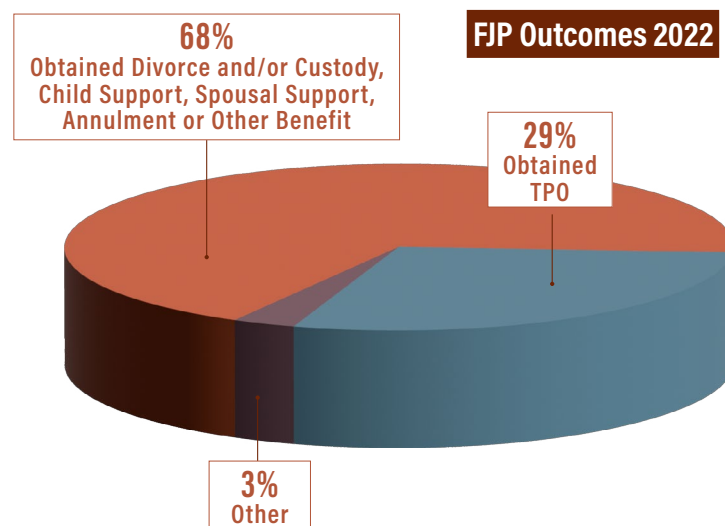
\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of Legal Aid Center's clients.



# GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE A LEGAL LIFELINE

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

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



## Community Involvement and Advocacy on Behalf of Domestic Violence Survivors

In 2022, FJP attorneys joined and affiliated with local agencies and groups to improve local services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking. Our Family Justice Project 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
- DV Partners (Eighth Judicial District Court-Family Division)
- Independent Legal Advocates Against Domestic Violence
- Family Justice Center (Clark County)
- Child Support Commission
- Clark County Court Administration DV Team

The **Family Law Self-Help Center** a legal “emergency room” for pro se litigants navigating the court system, provides a place where customers with urgent legal issues can request legal information regardless of their income, assets, or citizenship and obtain guidance in filing or managing their family law cases.

- In 2022, **79,514** customers visited the Family Law Self-Help Center
  - Completed TPOs - **4,562**
  - TPO Help - **8,640**
  - Online CHATs - **5,137**
- **1,139,585** visited the website accessing **3,387,889** pages of legal information.

## Immigration Advocacy Program (IAP)

In 2022, the IAP provided direct legal representation to **4,009** immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and others facing humanitarian crisis. Our efforts to assist immigrants were both challenging and filled with uncertainty due to the changes to legal policies and the litigation surrounding those policies. Moreover, the increasing immigration backlogs, both with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Immigration Court created additional barriers for our team and clients. Despite the challenges, our team worked relentlessly to assist our clients and the community with their immigration needs. Each year we have been able to serve more individuals in need due to support in our community and hard work.

## The Afghan Project Update

After filing our clients’ asylum applications, we spent four months traveling with them to California to attend their asylum interviews. As of the end of 2022, the Court approved four cases, and we are optimistic that we will see more approvals.

*Veronica was a prior client of ours. She was a derivative on her mother’s U Visa petition. Unfortunately, Veronica and her mother never healed from the domestic violence that her mother endured. Because of the abuse, Veronica and her mother had a strained relationship. Veronica ended up running away and her mom did not know where she was. Her U Visa status expired while she was estranged from her mom. Veronica was reunited with her mother five years later. Veronica was a victim of human trafficking. She had been living on the street and forced into sex trafficking at the age of sixteen. Her trafficker had threatened her family if she tried to escape. Her trafficker physically and sexually abused her. He made her believe that no one cared about her and that he was the only person who could help her. The breaking point for Veronica was when she became pregnant with her trafficker’s child, and he forced her to have an abortion. She decided that she would rather die than continue living the way that she was living. One day they went to the food court in a mall. Someone noticed how he was controlling her in public and contacted the police. She was afraid to talk to the police, but she knew this was her only way out of this situation. Legal Aid Center filed a T Visa for her, and she now has her immigration status. She is grateful that we accepted her case again and wants to use the opportunity to build a future for herself.*





# VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER



On October 1, 2017, Las Vegas experienced the largest mass shooting in the country after a gunman opened fire at the Route 91 Harvest Festival. The lives of 58 individuals were lost that night in the tragedy. The gunman injured thousands and 851 victims sustained severe injuries such as permanent brain injury and paralysis and injuries requiring hospitalizations. Not long after the mass shooting, Clark County established The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center (VSRC) to provide victim-centered services based upon the evolving needs of its clientele. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada has been managing the VSRC since March 2019.

In 2022, the VSRC continued executing its plan for transition from a service model for just those impacted by Route 91 to include all victims of violent crime in Nevada as well as any further incidents of mass violence. The VSRC continued its expansion 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. The VSRC also made strides at incorporating long-term recovery victim services into existing emergency management structures both locally and on a state level.

The VSRC is breaking down barriers and obstacles for isolated pockets of Route 91 impacted groups while fostering relationships and development of resources for the pending transition. We finalized the process for the development of the permanent 1 October memorial and experienced a very successful five-year remembrance. The main project of the VSRC was a lantern project with the tagline: “#VegasStronger: From the Darkest Night Comes the Strongest Light”.

In 2022, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center served **4,126** clients: **3,823** Route 91 survivors and **303** other victims of crime.



**VEGAS STRONG**  
RESILIENCY CENTER

HELP IS HERE FOR YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE

*Heidi came to the Center in order to pick up lanterns that the center had prepared and distributed to commemorate the five-year remembrance. While speaking with one of the advocates Heidi disclosed that she had never been to the Center before and had not contacted the center for any services. Our advocate also learned that Heidi is a first responder who had worked the night of October 1st, 2017.*

*Heidi told our team that her employer had her see a counselor after 1 Oct., and she felt it was primarily for her employer's benefit. She had resolved not to speak out or seek assistance after that bad experience. As our advocate followed up Heidi further discussed a recent traumatic motor vehicle accident that had severely limited*

*the use of Heidi's dominant hand that prevented her from working. Heidi started to express issues with insurance and disability, and our advocate requested if Heidi would be comfortable speaking briefly with the Center's attorney. After Heidi agreed, our advocate and attorney spoke with Heidi in one of the center's private "soft rooms." Besides giving Heidi an opportunity to validate her experience with others, the attorney learned about Heidi's current issues and helped categorize, prioritize, and review next steps and how the Center could assist.*

*Heidi had a short-term disability insurance benefit but had not yet started receiving benefits, she had been using savings but had*

*an upcoming \$300 premium payment that she could not afford. The Center assisted and approved Heidi for emergency financial assistance in order to pay the insurance premium and collected benefit information to help navigate the short-term disability program. Heidi had not accessed victims of crime compensation, so the Center sought and was approved for financial benefits that she was not aware she was eligible for. Heidi had an outstanding issue stemming from the pandemic. Our attorney reviewed the unemployment information and issues and ultimately helped Heidi waive an "overpayment" issued due to incorrect information. Our Center continues to work with Heidi to assist her to develop permanent solutions moving forward.*



# HELPING CHILDREN

The **Children's Attorneys Project** (CAP) has served and represented children in the child welfare system for over 23 years. Prior to its establishment, children in our dependency system had no voice – no one to advocate for the child in court. Often, the parent accused of abuse or the department was able to secure what they wanted – but the child's viewpoint was not considered. CAP changed that, ensuring that the most important person in the proceeding has a zealous advocate and a voice in their own life.

In 2022 we continued to deal with the aftermath of the pandemic: the children we represented in foster care faced a shortage of foster homes and mental health services, and the children with disabilities we represent in school district proceedings faced loss of staff and services.

## In 2022

CAP's goal of providing representation and advocacy to children is evident in the numbers they served.

- **6,831** children in foster care had a voice in court.
- **5,431** children received representation by CAP attorneys.
- **1,400** children received representation by Pro Bono CAP attorneys.



CAP hosted Legal Aid's inaugural **Diversity & Justice Fellow** – Danielle Oberlander. Danielle identified issues and solutions to promote individuality, heritage, and culture within CAP as well as race-based initiatives in our local child welfare system.

The **Education Advocacy Program** successfully expanded our education team to be able to assist more children with disabilities seeking to succeed in the school district.

## In 2022

The Education Advocacy Program

- Accepted **176** new kids
- Represented **308** kids (represented by volunteer attorneys and includes previous years' cases)

The Volunteer Education Advocate Program

- Accepted **89** new kids
- Represented **213** kids (includes previous years' cases)



## 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.

## In 2022

- Worked on **980** cases
- Accepted **585** new cases
- Served **1,410** clients

*Annie is a 13-year-old who is living with fictive kin and loves her placement. She wants to be adopted and the adoption date was set for 4 weeks prior to her 14th birthday. Annie's CAP attorney went to see her and informed her that college tuition is available to her if she is adopted after her 14th birthday. Client informed her attorney that she has plans to be a lawyer and tuition would certainly be beneficial to her. After several telephone calls and meeting with all parties, the CAP attorney was able to change the adoption date until after her 14th birthday. She was adopted after her birthday and is now eligible for free in-state tuition to college. She is thrilled!*



# PROTECTING SENIORS

Through our **Consumer Rights Project**, Legal Aid Center provides direct representation, counsel, and advice to seniors 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. And, we now have a new criminal record sealing team funded by Clark County.

**In 2022**

- 16% of our represented clients were over 60 years old
- Our oldest client was 104
- 72 seniors (non-guardianship clients) were victims of violence or domestic violence

Our Guardianship Advocacy Project represented an astounding <b>3,008</b> adults and <b>1,026</b> minors in guardianship cases.	Recovered over <b>\$800,000</b> in misappropriated assets	Became the Guardianship Advocacy Project with a team of <b>19</b> attorneys, <b>4</b> advocates and <b>5</b> legal assistants.
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*“Thank you, Barbara. We are so grateful to you and your team and also so very proud of all you continue to accomplish in a large variety of undertakings and so emphatically in the guardianship abuse area!!”*  
— Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas

John, 64 years old, wound up in a skilled nursing facility, with diagnoses of emphysema, acute kidney failure, depression, anxiety, Crohn’s Disease, memory loss, and confusion. The Petition for Guardianship described him as being “confused” and “dependent upon staff” for all needs. The Petition stated he needed 24-hour long-term care and according to the facility, was bed bound and his family could no

longer take care of him or provide for his needs. The Petition requested that the Clark County Public Guardian be appointed as guardian over the estate, with the main motivation being to have someone to apply for Medicaid benefits to pay the facility for John’s care.  
  
A GAP attorney stepped in and found John was lively, opinionated, and decisive. He understood



what guardianship was and absolutely did not want a guardian or feel that he needed one. He was furious that the facility filed such a Petition. He was also upset with the facility because they were not providing him with physical therapy to assist him in learning to walk again despite him repeatedly inquiring about it. John’s Legal Aid attorney told him that according to the Physician’s Certificate that Petitioner also filed, he had capacity to sign a Power of Attorney. A Power of Attorney could be a way to avoid the guardianship and allow him to choose who will make decisions for him and manage his finances. He immediately said his niece and his sister would help him. He was even willing to have them as his guardians if the court deemed it necessary. The Legal Aid attorney explained to him that she needed to make sure they were willing to act as agents first and then check with Petitioner’s counsel to see if completing a Power of Attorney would cause them to withdraw their Petition.

Given the Petition’s description of John’s family’s involvement, the attorney did not think it was likely that John’s niece and sister would be willing to be agents under a Power of Attorney, or alternatively, guardians. However, John’s niece and sister were both willing to do anything necessary to assist. In fact, they filed an Objection to the Guardianship alleging that they were not contacted about his health or potentially becoming his guardians.

The Legal Aid attorney contacted Petitioner’s counsel to see if they would be willing to withdraw the Petition for Guardianship if a Power of Attorney was completed and they agreed. The Petition was subsequently withdrawn. Petitioner’s counsel agreed they would provide a Certificate of Competency form, which is necessary for someone to complete a Power of Attorney when they are residing in a facility. It took two months and many follow ups for the Certificate to be provided, leaving John in limbo and unsure what was going to happen. By the time the Certificate was received, John, with assistance from his family, relocated to another facility. He received the appropriate therapy to walk again and he was discharged to his home on his own.  
  
The experience at the facility traumatized John, and he was terrified of ending up in that sort of situation again. Despite a Power of Attorney no longer being necessary because the guardianship case was dismissed, the Legal Aid attorney still discussed the benefits of completing one. John’s Legal Aid attorney assisted John with completing Powers of Attorney for both healthcare and finances, naming his niece as his agent and his sister as successor. The Power of Attorney also allowed John to specify his wishes for medical care. John was so appreciative of his attorney’s help and felt it ensured he would not be powerless again in the future.

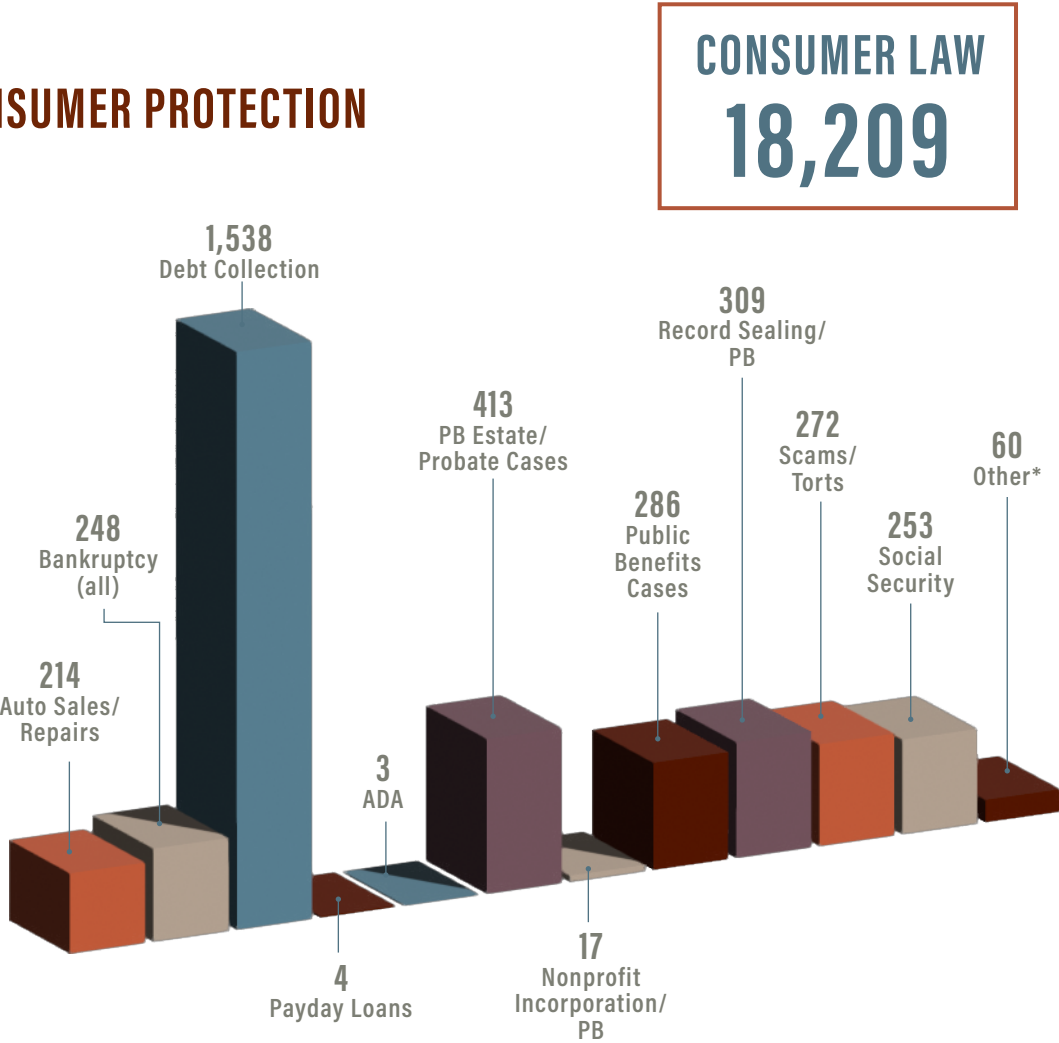


# DEFENDING VICTIMS OF FRAUD AND UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR

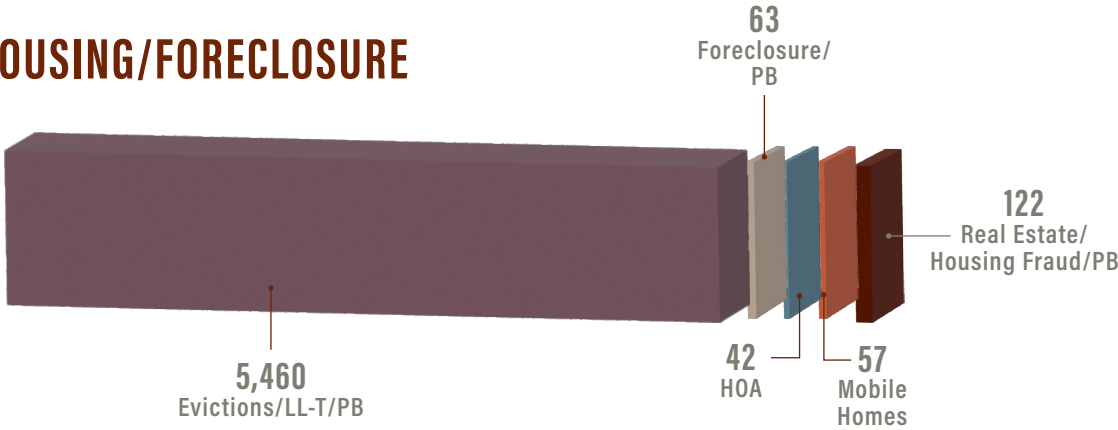


Our **Consumer Rights Project** helps people who cannot afford an attorney fight back against financial predators. Consumer attorneys fight for clients being abused by real estate and housing fraud, unlawful wage garnishments, predatory loans, car dealer scams, unscrupulous mechanics, and illegal repossessions.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION



## HOUSING/FORECLOSURE



**732**

## LEGAL SERVICES FUND

In 2022 the Legal Services Fund team provided invaluable assistance navigating the impenetrable bureaucracy to protect Culinary and Bartenders union members from unfair treatment. Attorneys and staff also helped union members with more traditional legal assistance, including estate planning and immigration.

## CRIMINAL RECORD SEALING

**290 CLIENTS**



*“The expert assistance that you and your team provide to seniors, children and other vulnerable members of our community is not only amazing, it is often life-changing or life-saving. What a critical, one of a kind community resource you have built! It is no wonder that other jurisdictions are beginning to understand the tremendous need that an organization such as Legal Aid Center addresses.” — Debra March, former City of Henderson Mayor*



# PRO BONO PROJECT

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada is the agency of last resort for many low-income individuals and families who face critical legal problems that affect their basic needs. The Pro Bono Project recruits private attorneys who generously volunteer to provide free legal assistance to individuals who cannot afford an attorney.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pro Bono Awards

Every year we honor attorneys who provide thousands of hours of free legal services to the most vulnerable in our community.



PRO BONO FIRM OF THE YEAR  
*Ballard Spahr, LLP*



PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR  
*Marjorie Guymon*



WILLIAM S. BOYD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
*R&R Partners*



JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE  
*Justice James Hardesty*



VINCE A. CONSUL MEMORIAL PRO BONO AWARD  
*Dan R. Waite*



MYRNA WILLIAMS CHILDREN'S PRO BONO AWARD  
*Keiara A. Stevenson*



LOUIS WIENER SERVICE AWARD  
*Shannon Wilson*



PUBLIC INTEREST LAW STUDENT OF DISTINCTION  
*Priscila Venzor*



ASK-A-LAWYER COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD  
*Michelle Darquea*



VOLUNTEER EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD  
*Stephanie Stolz*



In 2022

396  
pro bono  
attorneys took  
449  
cases



14,000+  
hours  
provided by  
attorneys helping  
vulnerable people  
in our community

## LIED AWARDS

MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY A LAW FIRM



MOST HOURS DONATED BY A LAW FIRM



MOST HOURS DONATED BY AN ATTORNEY  
*Dawn Hathaway Thoman*



MOST CASES ACCEPTED BY AN ATTORNEY



*Andrea Viera*



*Keiara A. Stevenson*

AWARDS & WINNERS



# PRO BONO AWARDS SPONSORS

Without the support, hard work, and commitment of the legal community in Southern Nevada, we would have to turn away thousands of people who need our services.

**JUDGE BILL HENDERSON**  
FAMILY COURT

*Wynn*  
RESORTS

**UNLV**  
WILLIAM S. BOYD  
SCHOOL OF LAW

**BAILEY  
KENNEDY**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**LEWIS  ROCA**

**NEVADA**  
GOLD MINES  
OPERATED BY BARRICK

**BANK OF  
NEVADA**

A division of Western Alliance Bank. Member FDIC.

**NV Energy**  
FOUNDATION  
The Power of Good is Always On

**R & R**  
FOUNDATION

## THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Anthem Injury Lawyers  
Bailey, Kennedy  
Bank of Nevada  
Boyd Gaming  
Clark Hill  
Culinary Workers Union Local 226  
Judge Bill Henderson – Family Court  
Kemp Jones  
Lewis Roca  
McDonald Carano  
Mutual of America Financial Group  
Nevada Gold Mines, Operated by  
Barrick  
NV Energy Foundation  
R & R Foundation  
Southwest Gas Foundation  
Wynn Resorts  
UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law

## THANK YOU TO OUR TABLE SPONSORS

The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm  
Advanced Resolution Management  
Aldo Manzini and Robyn Ratcliffe  
Manzini  
Assembly Democratic Caucus  
Assemblywoman Rochelle Nguyen  
AT&T  
Battle Born Burgers  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck  
Caesars  
The Dickerson Karacsonyi Law Group  
Dickinson Wright PLLC  
Gallian Welker & Associates  
Garman Turner Gordon  
Goldsmith & Guymon  
Greenberg Traurig  
Hartwell Thalacker  
Holland & Hart  
Honorable Sr. Judge Cheryl Moss  
Howard Hughes Corporation  
Hutchison & Steffen  
Jones Lovelock  
Kainen Law Group  
Koeller Nebeker Carlson Haluck  
Las Vegas Defense Lawyers  
Law Office of David Nelson  
Litigation Section –  
State Bar of Nevada  
Milan's Legal  
Reid Rubinstein & Bogatz  
Southern Nevada Association  
of Women Attorneys  
Southern Nevada Senior Law  
Program  
Spencer Fane  
Springel & Fink  
State Bar of Nevada  
Thomas & Mack  
Willick Law Group

**KEMP | JONES**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**McDONALD  CARANO**

**BOYD GAMING**

  
**CULINARY  
WORKERS UNION**  
LOCAL 226  
UNITE HERE!

Southwest Gas Foundation  
**FUEL GOOD**  
Corporate Giving

  
**Mutual of America**  
Financial Group  
Retirement Services • Investments

  
**ANTHEM**  
INJURY LAWYERS

 **Clark Hill**



# LEGAL EMERGENCY ROOMS



Our **Self-Help Centers** are “legal emergency rooms” which are a vital source of trustworthy information, legal forms and assistance for people struggling to navigate their legal issues through the court system. This past year we created online eviction forms so that both landlords and tenants can complete forms, file them electronically, and save themselves long drives or bus rides causing more time away from work. We rebuilt the TPO application as the State revised the form and created a new form bank for discovery in family law.

- The Self-Help Centers served record numbers of people in 2022 – nearly **142,000**.
- The Civil Law Self-Help Center assisted **62,238** people averaging over **5,000** people assisted per month and, on some days, up to **500** people in one day.
- Close to one million – **978,368** people – used the website.
- We supported a new eviction diversion court and committed to representing every tenant in that court.
- The Family Law Self-Help Center assisted **79,514** customers.
  - **8,640** people sought assistance for a domestic violence protection order.
  - **4,562** people were assisted with their domestic violence protection order applications.
  - **1,139,585** people accessed the Center’s website and visited **3,387,889** pages of legal information.

[www.FamilyLawSelfHelpCenter.org/](http://www.FamilyLawSelfHelpCenter.org/)

[www.CivilLawSelfHelpCenter.org/](http://www.CivilLawSelfHelpCenter.org/)

*“Such wonderful, helpful, pleasant, knowledgeable, caring and helpful (I could go on, but I won’t....). Short of offering free coffee and cheese danishes, YOU GUYS ROCK! Thank you for helping me deal with a shi\*\*\* situation when I was under duress; YOU MADE IT EASIER, and that really, really matters! What a Blessing your staff is...”*

*“The family help center employees helped me during the most scariest part of my life. They were kind, knowledgeable and eager to assist me, even at times where I wasn’t the most polite. Thank you for your help during this case!”*

*Li, an elderly person of color, hired a contractor to perform plumbing repairs at his house. However, the contractor turned out to be a scam artist and never completed the work—leaving Li without a shower or tub or interior walls for three years.*

*In January 2019, Li’s pipes clogged and overflowed, leaving standing sewer water throughout the house. Li contacted a plumbing company for help with this problem, and an employee named John responded to the call. When John was at Li’s home, John advised Li that the pipes would need to be dug out and replaced, at a cost of \$10,000. Li explained that he did not have \$10,000. Upon hearing this, John informed Li that if Li had homeowner’s insurance, he would be able to handle the matter so that the insurance would pay Li. John further explained that to begin work immediately on the repairs, Li could apply for a loan to get the \$10,000. Li agreed and was approved for the \$10,000. Li, however, never received an agreement or contract, or any disclosures for this transaction.*

*The plumbing company then began tearing down the property and digging five feet down underground to address the problems. In February 2019, the plumbers stopped working on Li’s residence when Li’s homeowner’s insurance would not pay for the work allegedly performed. Li was living in a home without a shower or tub. Li repeatedly contacted the plumbers to determine the status of the repairs, but no one returned his voicemails.*

*In March 2019, the plumbing company recorded a Notice of Lien against Li’s property for \$44,438.16. The company then sued Li to foreclose on the lien. Li called Legal Aid Center searching for help.*

*Li’s Legal Aid Center attorneys discovered that the plumbing company intentionally misled consumers with false promises. Specifically, to trick the consumer into signing a contract with the company, they would tell the consumer that their homeowner’s insurance policy would cover the work and that the work must start immediately. The company’s pattern and practice was to cease work if the insurance refused to pay and walk away. Then, they would record a mechanic’s lien against the residence. This pattern and practice left individuals like Li indebted to the company based on the agreement deceptively entered into in amounts far greater than these individuals expected.*

*Li’s Legal Aid Center attorney filed a counterclaim against the company as well as their sureties for consumer fraud. One of the sureties deposited \$9,560 from the bond with the court. Li’s Legal Aid Center attorney worked with other homeowners to get the bond funds distributed, with Li receiving \$6,314.84. Li’s Legal Aid Center attorney also assisted Li with filing a claim with the Nevada Contractors Board Residential Recovery Fund. The Board reviewed the claim and awarded Li \$38,001.45. Finally, Li is able to afford the much-needed repairs to his home.*



# ASK-A-LAWYER, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

Each year, we assist thousands with free legal information through our partnership with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, Ask-A-Lawyer programs, and attending community partners' events and resource fairs.

Nearly **80,000** people have attended our free legal education classes, taught in-person and virtually by law students at the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, under the supervision of an attorney. In these classes, students explain legal concepts, provide information on alternatives to litigation, and answer questions on the law.

## Community Legal Education Classes

Legal Aid Center with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law and Nevada Legal Services educated **2,663** individuals in the community legal education classes. Law students under the supervision of an attorney gave class attendees information on how to navigate their legal matters in the following legal areas through the courts.

- Bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Criminal Record Sealing
- Eviction Sealing
- Education
- Immigration
- Paternity Custody
- Small Claims
- Tenants' Rights

## Ask-A-Lawyer

Thanks to pro-bono attorneys and staff who volunteered to help people in free weekly **Ask-A-Lawyer** appointments and events, nearly **4,000** unrepresented individuals were able to meet with an attorney for 15 minutes or more to get their legal questions answered in the following legal areas.

- Bankruptcy
- Debt Collection
- Family Law
- Immigration
- Landlord Tenant
- Probate
- Small Business
- Small Claims
- Veterans' Issues

## Outreach

Pro Bono attorneys, Legal Aid Center attorneys, staff, community partners, and law students volunteered for **88** outreach events helping **2,727** Clark County residents.





# FELLOWSHIPS

## Community Justice Fellowship

The Community Justice Fellowship, sponsored by Paul Padda Law since 2019, 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 189,000 services a year. The Fellow works in each of Legal Aid Center's project areas, and assists in addressing the great unmet legal need in Clark County. [www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/CJFellowship)

### Past Fellows

Wesley Su (inaugural Fellow now with our Family Justice Project) (2020)  
Widad Sairafe (2021); Shay Digenan (2022)



PAUL PADDA LAW  
INJURY ATTORNEYS



Shay Digenan

## Civil Justice Summer Fellowship

Created in 2020 by Robyn Ratcliffe Manzini and Aldo Manzini, the Civil Justice Summer Fellowship. Attorneys in one of our project areas mentor the fellow, and the fellow gains practical legal skills from interviewing potential clients, to drafting documents and appearing in court, to seeing a case to final resolution.

[www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice](http://www.LACSN.org/CivilJustice)

### Past Fellows

Allison Hedrick (2021); Jay Brunner (2022)



Jay Brunner

## Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Summer Fellowship

The Melanie Kushnir Access to Justice Summer 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! The Fellow works in our Pro Bono Project carrying on Melanie's work assisting those unable to afford the civil legal help they need.

[www.LACSN.org/Fellowship](http://www.LACSN.org/Fellowship)

### Past Fellows

Matthew Cook (2017); Olga Torres (2018); Brittni Tanenbaum (2019); Azra Odezmir (2020); Priscila Venzor (2021); Eva Guevara-Gutierrez (2022)



Melanie Kushnir



Eva Guevara-Gutierrez

## 2022 Associates Challenge Sponsored by Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

The Associates Challenge is an annual competition of new associates supporting legal services.

[www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge](http://www.LACSN.org/AssociatesChallenge)

### WINNERS

Access to Justice Champions  
Dickinson Wright PLLC

Associates Trophy  
Caleb Green, Dickinson Wright



Caleb Green

## Firms Participating in the Associates Challenge

Brownstein

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LEWIS ROCA

1972 50<sup>th</sup> 2022  
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# 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 our partners' generosity.

### GRANTS

Attorney General National Settlement  
Catholic Charities  
Charles Schwab  
City of Las Vegas  
Clark County

Culinary & Bartenders Legal Service Fund  
Federal Attorney Admission Fund  
Nevada Bar Foundation  
Nevada Gold Mines,  
Operated by Barrick

State of Nevada  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Amy Ayoub  
Assistance League of Las Vegas  
Clark County Bar Association  
Communique  
Alex Lousignont,  
Global Intelligence Network  
HELP of Southern Nevada

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District  
Nevada Bar Foundation  
Nevada Justice Association  
Nevada Lawyer  
Nevada Legal News  
Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

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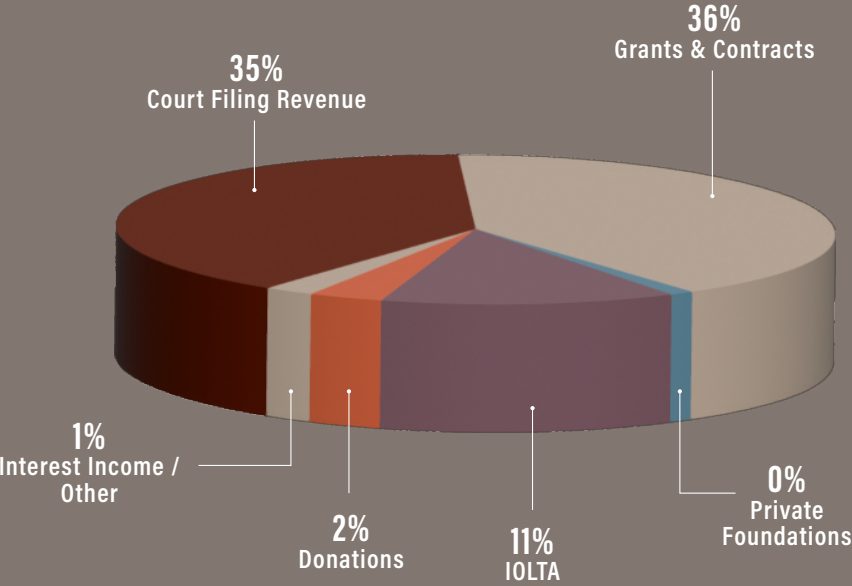
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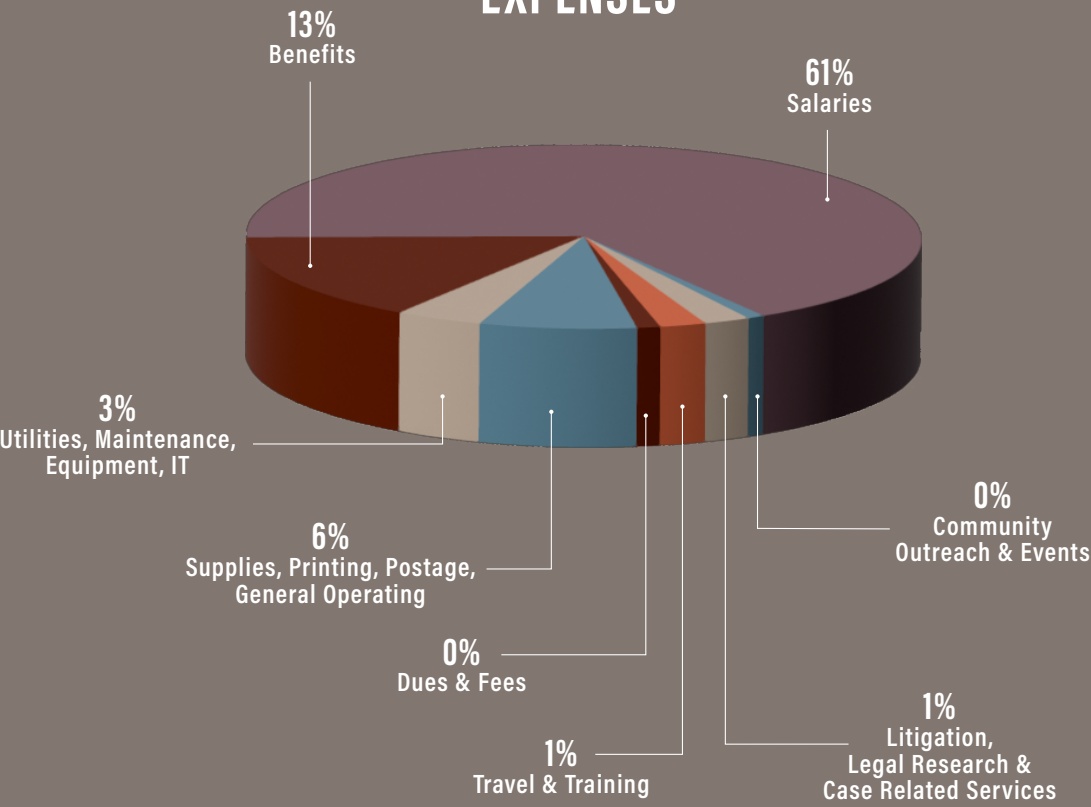


# 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## INCOME

Court Filing Revenue	\$8,199,904	35%
Grants & Contracts	\$8,416,820	36%
Private Foundations	\$100,000	0%
IOLTA	\$2,660,498	11%
Donations	\$484,388	2%
Interest Income / Other	\$229,936	1%
Income Before Donated Services	\$20,091,546	85%
(11,858 hrs at \$300/hr) Donated Services	\$3,557,400	15%
Endowment Contribution	\$3,702	0%
Total Income, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$23,652,648	100%

## EXPENSES

PERSONNEL		
Salaries	\$14,185,102	61%
Benefits	\$3,022,824	13%
Personnel Subtotal	\$17,207,926	74%

## NON PERSONNEL

Utilities, Maintenance, Equipment, IT	\$574,342	3%
Supplies, Printing, Postage, General Operating	\$1,270,800	6%
Travel & Training	\$233,700	1%
Dues & Fees	\$68,528	0%
Litigation, Legal Research & Case Related Services	\$148,778	1%
Community Outreach & Events	\$49,056	0%
Non-Personnel Subtotal	\$2,345,204	11%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$19,553,130	85%

## Expenses Before Donated Services & Endowment

Donated Services	\$3,557,400	15%
Total Expenses, including Donated Services & Endowment	\$23,110,530	100%

NET FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS \$542,118



# OUR TEAM



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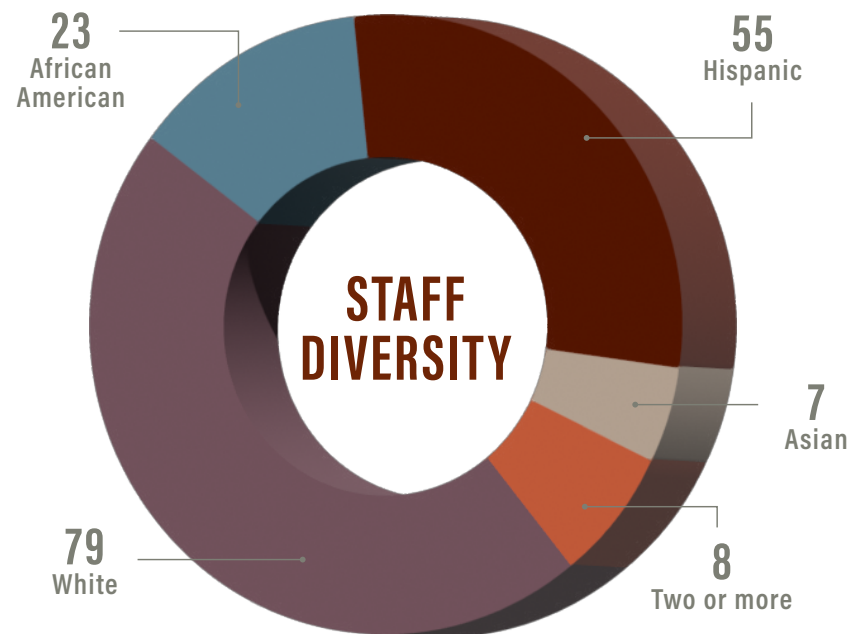
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Christine Miller, Esq., *Director*  
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Christine Smith, *Director of*  
*Community Initiatives &*  
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### CHILDREN'S ATTORNEYS PROJECT

Janice Wolf, *Directing Attorney*  
Xavier Planta, *Deputy Director*  
Kim Abbott, *Attorney and Mental*  
*Health Initiatives Manager*  
Jennie Albarado, *Attorney*  
Gillian S. Barjon, *Attorney,*  
*Team Chief*  
Candace Barr, *Attorney,*  
*Team Chief*  
Ashley Biehl, *Attorney*

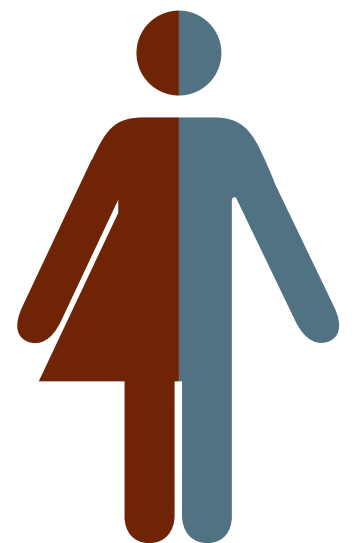
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*Team Chief*  
Ellen Craker, *Attorney*  
Courtney Cruse, *Legal Assistant*  
Jackie Deam, *Attorney*  
Patricia Fernandez,  
*Legal Assistant*  
Ilka Fisher, *Legal Advocate*  
Dewey Fowler, Jr., *Attorney,*  
*Team Chief*  
Ana Gaitain, *Legal Assistant*  
Denise Glasgow, *Attorney,*  
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Danyell Gustaw, *Attorney*  
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*Team Chief, and Manager of*  
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Audrey Whitehurst, *Attorney*



**54% Minority**  
*Includes two or more*

**136 Female**  
**36 Male**



Tiffani Wickel, *Attorney*  
Valenica Wilson, *Legal Assistant*  
Alicia Woods, *Legal Assistant*  
Samantha Zabo, *Attorney*

### CIVIL LAW SELF-HELP CENTER

Bo Anderson, *Directing Attorney*  
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Marco Guerra,  
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Peter Aldous, *Attorney*

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Wesley Su, *Attorney*  
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## VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER

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Christy Martell, *Legal Advocate*  
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