LEGAL AID of MARIN

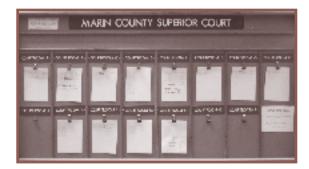
Protecting jobs, homes and families in Marin since 1958



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Mission Statement

Legal Aid of Marin's mission is to provide access to the civil justice system, through quality legal services, encompassing practical solutions, to low-income, vulnerable and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County.



LEGAL AID OF MARIN

Protecting jobs, homes and families in Marin since 1958

For nearly 60 years, LAM has helped thousands of low-income Marin County residents address critical legal issues directly affecting their homes, incomes, jobs and families. Our work protects and serves Marin's most vulnerable residents by providing access to legal justice.

LAM creates progressive economic and social impacts that help make Marin County a better place.

"The opposite of poverty is not wealth. In too many places, the opposite of poverty is justice." ACTIVIST BRYAN STEVENSON

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

What Does Social Justice Look Like?

We can picture injustice easily enough. Janitors toiling through the night without breaks, day laborers earning less than minimum wage, families facing homelessness through unlawful eviction...

You can see justice, if you look in the right place. It is reflected in the faces of LAM's clients as they leave the courthouse having negotiated settlements with their landlords, and as they leave the Marin Community Court with a fresh start and the freedom to keep contributing to society. Justice looks like fear and shame receding, and self-respect and dignity arising.

Justice also looks like the safety net we created for the displaced community of the Drakes Bay oyster workers, or the relief we won for a group of victimized elders in San Rafael. And plain old everyday justice looks like our lawyers and paralegals counseling nearly 2,000 of Marin's elderly, poor and vulnerable in our offices or around the county.

Social justice looks like humans helping humans face and transcend crisis, find equity, and regain their footing. In the coming year, LAM will embark on a new strategic plan to ensure your dollars impact your community in the most efficient, effective and leveraged way. We continue to grow in our reach and leadership in Marin County as we enter our 58th year.

Yes, you do know what justice looks like, and you know who we are. We are the faces of your investment in a better Marin. Together, we make justice happen.



JONATHAN GERTLER LAM BOARD PRESIDENT

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

OVERVIEW

Without legal representation, low-income families risk:

- Discrimination in Housing/Employment
- Foreclosure or Eviction
- Homelessness
- Family Disruption
- Domestic Violence
- Wage Theft
- Unhealthy Homes

Every Marin resident deserves financial, domestic and personal security.

With representation by LAM, low-income families benefit from:

LAM Staff Attorney Horace de la Vega delivers good news (and a check) to Novato resident Jorge Garcia following a court judgment in the LAM client's favor. Reliable

housing

More stable home life

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Financial stability

MILLION Wage claims and child support

\$5.0+

\$3.0+ MILLION Prevention of

housing loss

MILLION Prevention of domestic violence

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Family stability and reduced need for public assistance

More stable work force for employers

Increased school attendance due to secure home life

Less strain on court resources (85% of people in Marin's family court appeared initially without representation) Marin Community Court Clerk Hoang Leclerc, Judge Beverly Wood and Bailiff Vince Simpson have been key Marin Superior Court volunteers since MCC's inception in 2011.

MARIN COMMUNITY COURT

Fifth Year of Positive Impact

The first of its kind in Marin, the Marin Community Court debuted in April of 2011 with the goal of helping homeless defendants, and others living at society's margins, to confront the justice system with confidence. Our collaboration with the **Marin Superior Court** and the **St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County** has since assisted nearly 1,000 Marin residents to resolve their current or outstanding minor infractions (*e.g.* jaywalking, sleeping in public parks), and allows them to turn their lives around with a fresh start.

The court receives project funding from the Peter E. Haas Jr. Family Fund, the van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, the Fullerton Family Foundation, the County of Marin and Silicon Valley Bank. It has provided Marin County and the participants several hundred thousand dollars in savings, and currently represents over 10,000 hours of community service to Marin since 2011.

INVESTING IN THE MARIN COMMUNITY

\$28,503 value of community service hours in 2015

UNCLOGGING MARIN'S COURT SYSTEM

10 court sessions 370 appearances 310 tickets zeroed out \$177,967 saved by participants

SOCIAL IMPACT

 3,167 hours of community service and
191 alternative sentences completed by
164 participants (sobriety programs, mental health care services, life skills
training, traffic school, drivers license renewal and vehicle insurance and registration).

22 participants obtained the veterans services due to them by law

Juarin Independent Jonenal



LAM's 2015 Marin Community Court team: Susana Romo, Jenny Finden-Watson, Maura Prendiville and Penny Chernow.

The Marin Community Court has received **consistent press coverage** and praise for its proven track record of results (as in this article for the Marin Independent Journal).

"I was down on my luck facing fines I couldn't pay. I am disabled, and having the option of community service through MCC motivated me to solve my problems. I fell through the cracks and LAM picked me up."

> Mary Davis DISABLED MARIN COMMUNITY COURT CLIENT

Maura Prendiville, pictured at right conferring with a Marin Community Court client, played an instrumental role in starting the award-winning program. The MCC won the 2012 Heart of Marin Award for Excellence in Innovation.



LAM Staff Attorney Ann Munene (at right) confers with Jennifer Chindo at the Hannah Project in Marin City, where LAM now hosts weekly intake hours for the community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Making a Difference for Marin's African-American Community

African-Americans and African Immigrants represent the second largest low-wage income population in Marin, and social barriers often prevent urgent legal counseling from reaching the black community. Since hiring Attorney Ann Munene in 2014, LAM has made strides in better serving this community.

An immigrant from Kenya and resident of Marin for nearly 15 years, Ann has established the groundwork of advocacy and education tailored to the needs of low-income workers in Marin's black community. Since Ann joined LAM as our 2014 **Ralph S. Abascal Fellow**, and now as a full time staff attorney, nearly **11%** of our clients come from the black community, up from less than **8%** prior to her work.

BUILDING TRUST AND PROVIDING ACCESS

More than 100 hours of LAM presence in 2015 at the Hannah Project in Marin City

250 Marin residents received worker rights education with a focus on issues facing the black community.

"I'm not one to ask for help, but I didn't know what else to do or where to go. Thank you, for all you've done for us."

A 63-year-old grandmother AND SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY RECIPIENT ASSISTED BY ANN MUNENE Barbara Monty (second from left) and LAM Pro Bono Manager Nancy Murphy (far right) celebrate a victory with older adult clients.

OLDER ADULTS

ROGRAMS

Empowering Our Elders

LAM secured a major victory for a group of senior residents facing severe elder abuse from the management of their subsidized senior housing project. Abuses ranged from staff members stealing property of deceased residents to demanding bribes for basic maintenance work and creating a hostile environment of sexual harassment. Fed up with complaints going unanswered and fearing retaliation through eviction, the elderly group organized and came to LAM.

Co-counseling with **Barbara Monty** of **Monty White LLP**, LAM spent a year and a half advocating and negotiating on behalf of these older clients. After multiple mediations, meetings and interviews with over 35 witnesses, the housing manager was fired. The management company was replaced, a grievance system was improved and the overall living conditions are now safe, healthy and respectful.

OLDER ADULT LAW IMPACT

30% of all LAM clients are 60 or older18.9% of Marin residents are 65 or older—the fastest growing population in our county

Each year, LAM provides more than 2,000 hours of legal service to older adults, assisting with issues of elder abuse – physical, emotional or financial. "The residents feel empowered. They know that they have legal recourse. They are no longer victims. This is another instance in which LAM sought justice for the disenfranchised and prevailed."

Barbara Monty

PROGRAMS

LAM Legal Assistant Rocio Espinoza's presence (left) at Canal Alliance every Wednesday morning adds to the more than 35% Latino clientele served by our agency.

LAM Staff Attorney Joanna Shalleck-Klein won the prestigious Legal Aid Association of California 2015 Award of Merit.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Proximity is Key to Outreach

A key component of LAM's successful community outreach is our longstanding partnerships with several organizations throughout Marin County. Beyond our office doors, LAM offers weekly intakes at trusted community centers such as **Novato Human Needs**, **Whistlestop** in San Rafael, the **Mill Valley Community Center** and the **Hannah Project** in Marin City. Throughout the year LAM also conducts outreach at the **San Geronimo Community Center** and the **Point Reyes Station**

Dance Palace in West Marin.



For nearly 15 years LAM has also partnered with **Canal Alliance**, where we host weekly hours assisting members of Marin's Latino community on legal issues such as family, employment, consumer and other civil law matters.

LAM's growing network of community partnerships provide county-wide access to legal services.

EMPLOYMENT LAW

A Landmark Victory for Janitors

Since joining LAM as an Equal Justice Fellow in 2011, Joanna Shalleck-Klein has championed the rights of clients working in the underground economy-janitors, day laborers and caregivers who are often monolingual Spanish-speaking immigrants. As LAM's lead staff attorney on employment matters, she was instrumental in securing a landmark statewide class action settlement on behalf of hundreds of underpaid janitors who cleaned Ross Dress For Less stores in California.

The case broke new ground under California Labor Code section 2810, which bans companies from knowingly underfunding janitorial contracts so subcontractors cannot afford to comply with the law. The settlement provides \$1 million for janitors who cleaned Ross stores, along with prospective relief designed to ensure current and future janitors are paid minimum wage.

EMPLOYMENT LAW IMPACT

The LAM Employment Team of Shalleck-Klein, Ann Munene and Sandra Esquivias recovered more than \$4 million in settlements and judgments on behalf of workers since 2010.

75 clients served, including wage claims, employee discrimination claims, and other employment matters in 2015 LAW 360 Marin Outland & Tribune San Francisco Chronicle

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

LAM's victory for California janitors received extensive media coverage.

PROGRAMS

LAM Staff Attorney Laurie Joyce informing an immigrant resident in Marin City on the best ways to solve a myriad of legal issues affecting his family.

FAMILY LAW

Protecting Family Life

LAM continues to provide family law services through the dedicated work of Staff Attorney Laurie Joyce, who is experienced in contentious issues such as divorce, custody disputes and restraining orders. The impact of her work has been profound. In 2015, LAM provided family law counseling to **100 low-income families**, many involving serious drug and alcohol abuse or mental illness.

Laurie, who collaborates with groups such as Marin County District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance program and the Center for Domestic Peace, believes a holistic approach is key to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and has experience providing representation to women and men on the issue. "Having representation on both sides enables families to ensure that both parents are able to visit children in a safe environment."

FAMILY LAW IMPACT

Provided family law counseling to **100** low-income families in 2015

Helped break the cycle of domestic violence for **20 families**

Advised **4 families** in custody matters involving mental illness

"I am so thankful to LAM. Now I am no longer afraid to walk outside."

A Mother FOR WHOM LAM WAS ABLE TO GET A RESTRAINING ORDER AND SOLE CUSTODY

HOUSING LAW

Keeping Marin's Most Vulnerable Citizens in their Homes

When a West Marin oyster farm faced closure this year, it proved to be a polarizing debate. Caught in the middle was a tightly knit community of workers and families whose entire livelihood was deeply rooted within the **Point Reyes National Seashore** farm. Suddenly, more than **30 Drakes Bay families**—some with ties to West Marin going back generations—were losing both their jobs and their homes.

To inform the workers of their rights, LAM stepped in. Collaborating with the **County** of Marin, LAM guided each household through the legal system and found that several were entitled to federal relocation benefits.

UNLAWFUL DETAINER SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IMPACT

010

Initiated in 2011 to alleviate Marin's fast-growing eviction rate

100% of unrepresented eviction litigants guaranteed attorney advocacy from LAM

85% of cases resolved to avoid trial and possible eviction

"LAM was there for our family when we had nowhere else to turn. We are forever grateful to LAM for providing us with the legal advice we needed to make a new start."

Martin Alonso

The Alonso family have been members of the West Marin Drakes Bay community for more than ten years. LAM helped the Alonsos secure benefits to purchase a new family mobile home, which helped them focus on finding new jobs. 0

Attorney Tim Chambers has volunteered his time with LAM since 2001.

3

VOLUNTEERS AND PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Sharing Valuable Expertise

For more than ten years, Attorney Timothy J. Chambers has volunteered his time providing legal services for LAM's older adult clients at Whistlestop in San Rafael.

Tim began his pro bono service with LAM immediately after graduating law school in 2001, as a way to give back to his community. Many of the clients Tim serves are older adults seeking trustworthy and practical advice on issues dealing with wills and trusts. As clients often cannot afford to pay for an estate plan, Tim can guide them through steps of drafting a will, saving the expense of hiring an attorney.

LEGAL SERVICES

235 attorneys volunteered more than 3.085 hours in 2014

COMMUNITY SERVICES

75 additional volunteers gave more than 3.890 hours of their time in 2014

IN-KIND VALUE

\$1,869,530 in services, 2014

"It is truly rewarding to help people on an immediate basis and know they can walk out with a problem solved and have peace of mind. I've especially enjoyed working with older adults and hearing so many wonderful and inspiring stories from those of the 'Greatest Generation.'

> **Timothy J. Chambers** TRUST AND ESTATE LITIGATOR

LEGAL AID OF MARIN 2014 PRO BONO ATTORNEYS AND VOLUNTEERS

David Abella Carissa Anderson Victoria Argumedo Alexandra Atencio Gordon Atkinson David Baer Louis Barella Maria Barnes Lisa Bellard Luisa Bigornia Cory Birnberg Alan Bishop Debra Bogaards Pieter Bogaards Diana Braa Larry Bragman Beth Brandes Brendan Brewer Matt Briggs Greg Brockbank Nicole Cabrera Karen Carrera **Timothy Chambers** Clyde Charlton Christine Chen Sophia Chen Penny Chernow Renee Chernus Susan Chow Robyn Christo Cari Cohorn Diane Cokely Nathaniel Cooper Robert Cranston Mark Danis Jasmine Davaloo Aaron Davis Chris de la Vega Stuart Diamond George Dirkes Stephen Dye Pauline Edgemon Robert Elam Jennifer Ellis Casey Epp Cate Eranthe Genevieve Evarts Pauline Farmer Koppenol

Lisa Fialco Jenny Finden-Watson Timothy Findley Jessica Finkel Kadhine Fitz-Patrick Michael Flynn Matthew Freeman Henry Froneberger Athossa Fullerton Marlene Getchell Andrew Giacomini Sarah Givan Patrice Goldman Julia Goldman Ron Goldman Felicia Goldstein Johanna Gomez Ridhi Goswami Kayla Grant Sharon Green Sandra Groven Alison Gude Jessica Guest Joel Gumbiner Stephen Gustavson Laura Haley **Timothy Hamilton** Robert Harrison James Hastings Stephen Healy Kevin Heaney David Hellman Richard Helzberg Neha Hemmad Jose Herrera Fernando Hildago Shirley Hochhausen Joe Hoffman Debbie Holstedt Greg Hopewell Martha Howard Beth Huber

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Arjuna Farnsworth Nerissa Irizarry Michael Jacobs Robert Jaret George John Robert Kane Karen Karlow Jessica Karner Clarissa Kearns Hannah Kecskes Ryan Kent Clayton Kent Steve Kesten Paul Killion Nam Kim Chris King Kent Kirmaci Martha Kirubi Liza Kostinkskaya Brian Kram Shelley Kramer Alexandra Laks Paulie Larsen Hay-Lian Lau Jordan Lavinsky Hoang LeClerc Jacqueline Lee Tommy Lee Nathaniel Leeds Michelle Lerman Don Lesser Phil Levin Xiang Li Sheila Lichtblau Marc Lichtenberg Carl Lippenberger Michael Lopez Scott Lueders Kristina Maalouf Patrick Macias Liwen Mah Goli Mahdavi Diana Maier Renee Marcelle Russell Marne Alan Mayer Rebecca McGuire Elizabeth Merchant Janice Mock Barbara Monty

Robert Ingram Louis Napoli Tim Nardell Phillip Neiman Kathy Oliver Charles Ostertag **Richard Paris** James Parton Linda Patch Anne Peskoe Tim Peters Mark Peters Susanne Peterson Jeb Pickett Jessica Pliner James Poindexter Lisa Poncia Sangeeta Powaku Patricia Prince Brendon Quigley Jennifer Raab Gary Ragghianti Mansooreh Rajabi **Robin Reasoner** Aarti Reddv Alexandria Reynolds Len Rifkind Lauren Roberts Travis Robertson Christopher Robinson Maria Rodriguez Carolyn Rosenblatt James Rush Ryan Russell Elizabeth Rutger Malcolm Ruthven Mary Sackett Payam Saljoughian Robert Sammis Michael Samuels William Saul Barrett Schaefer Nestor Schnasse Andrew Schwartz Roberta Schwarz Kristen Scott Neha Shah Jessica Shavers

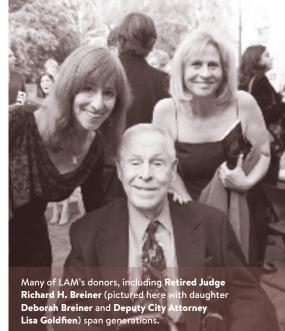
Colleen Shaw George Shea Christina Sherman Monique Sherman Julie Sherman Candice Shih Vince Simpson Scott Slomiak Elesia Small Kyle Smith Lillian Smith Phil Snell Ronnie Solomon Frank Sommers Neil Sorenson Lisa Spann Maslow Sander Stadtler Eric Sternberger Lisa Stockholm Jeanne Stott Larry Strick Rebecca Sudtell Linda Swanson Alex Taufer Cassady Toles Eric Toscano Stacy Turner Christopher Walters Kristen Washburn Steven Wasserman David Weinsoff David Weltin Matt White Debra Whitehouse Harry Willis Sara Wilson Michael Winn Kyle Wong Hon. Beverly Wood Mitchell Wunsh Marina Ramos Wynn Katherine Yamamoto Natasha Zaslove **Richard** Zieman

Thank You Legal Aid of Marin Donors Fall 2014 – Fall 2015

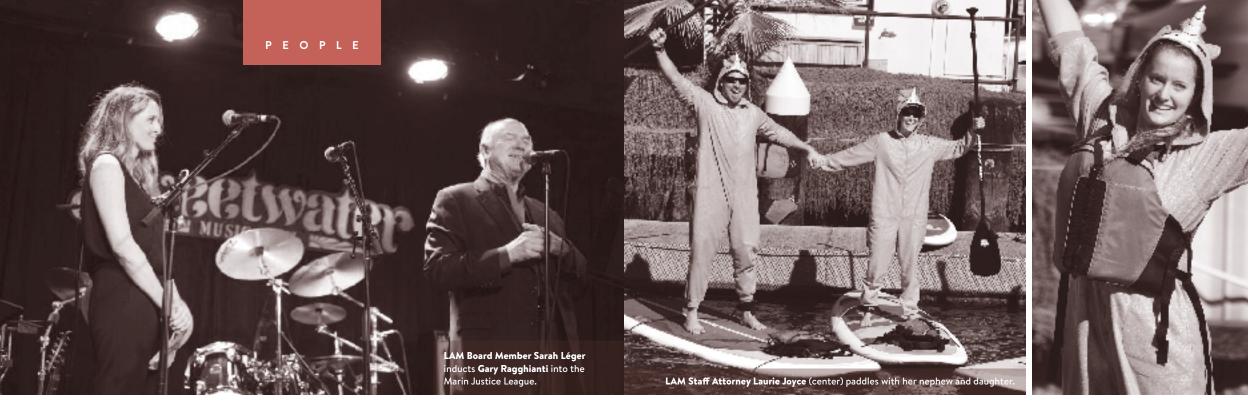
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jam, Paddle and Tip for Justice

2015 was an eventful year as LAM celebrated three of our most successful fundraisers to date. In May, we hosted our marquee gala "Jam For Justice," at a sold-out Sweetwater Music Hall in Mill Valley. The energy in the room was palpable as Peter Obstler & his All-Star Band rocked the house with members of Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Our supporters also toasted LAM's guest of honor, Gary Ragghianti for his decades of services to LAM and Marin's legal community.

The tradition will continue at Sweetwater as we host the 3rd Annual Jam For Justice in May of 2016 honoring former LAM Board Member Andrew Giacomini.

On Halloween, LAM Board Member Capt. Ron Steinau unveiled a new family event, "Paddle For Justice," a partnership with 101 Surf Sports in San Rafael where all kayak and stand-up Paddleboard rental proceeds went to support our family law work.

And in December, we "**Tipped Our Hats for Justice**" at the fourth annual noir-esque breakfast at the **Panama Hotel and Restaurant**. Started by civil rights champion **Ethel Seiderman**, longtime LAM supporter **Joan Capurro** and former Executive Director **Paul Cohen**, the event is LAM's main avenue for honoring our work with older adults.



Jam for Justice photos by Trevor Henley.

Paddleboard and Judge Chernus Images by Captain Ron. Bottom right hat photos by Trevor Henley.

Staff

DAVID LEVIN INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HORACE A. DE LA VEGA STAFF ATTORNEY

> LAURIE JOYCE STAFF ATTORNEY

ANN MUNENE STAFF ATTORNEY

JOANNA SHALLECK-KLEIN STAFF ATTORNEY

> SANDRA ESQUIVIAS PRO BONO ASSOCIATE

"As a resident of Marin for nearly 18 years, I am excited to help serve the community with these vital legal programs for our clients."

David Levin was appointed by the LAM Board of Directors as Interim Executive Director in the fall of 2015. David brings a wealth of experience, having worked as a housing attorney for more than ten years at Bay Area Legal Aid in Richmond, where he also directed a HUD-financed regional fair housing program.

Paul Cohen, as LAM's Executive Director for nine years, oversaw provision of free legal services to nearly 20,000 Marin households. His focus is now on protecting and preserving housing with the Eviction Defense Collaborative of San Francisco.



ALUMNI

Maura Prendiville was instrumental in establishing the award-winning Marin Community Court and spent several years in the leadership role of Senior Staff Attorney. She continues her career of service at the Office of Labor Standards **Enforcement** of the City of San Francisco.



ROCIO ESPINOZA

LEGAL ASSISTANT

NANCY MURPHY

PRO BONO AND VOLUNTEER MANAGER

SARAH PRINDLE

FINANCE DIRECTOR

KENIA RIVERA

DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

SUSANA ROMO

COMMUNITY COURT COORDINATOR

DELFIN VIGIL

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

AND DEVELOPMENT

Araceli Ontiveros-Venegas, a longtime Staff Attorney with LAM, is now an attorney with the California Department of Managed Health Care in Sacramento. "I most enjoyed being part of a team that worked hard every day for our clients," she says.

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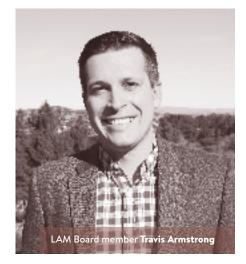
DAVID SUTTON SUTTON MEDIATION SERVICES

WARREN WEBSTER HASSARD BONNINGTON LLP

"Being a new resident of Marin, I wanted to get involved with a local non-profit that focuses on serving the residents in a truly meaningful way. By providing legal services to underserved Marin residents so they stay in their homes and obtain basic rights at work, LAM allows its clients an opportunity to feel a sense of security enjoyed by most of Marin's residents."

> Travis Armstrong LAM BOARD MEMBER

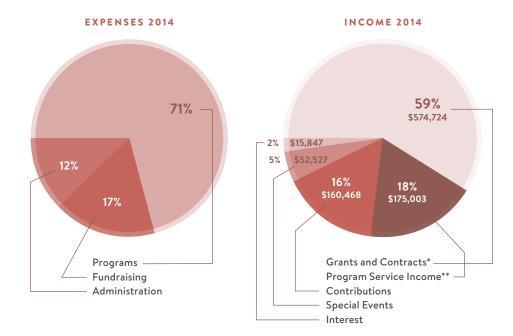
A partner with Hemming Morse LLP, Travis joined LAM's board of directors shortly after moving to Marin in 2013.



FINANCE

INCOME	2013	2014
In-Kind Support/Volunteer Legal Services	\$2,528,225	\$1,869,530
Cash & Cash Equivalents	758,742	572,800
Investments/Reserves		179,734
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,140,079	986,543
EXPENSES		
Salaries, Payroll Taxes & Benefits	816,935	805,393
Other Operating Expenses	418,534	250,214
2015 financial audit available Spring of 2016.		
CLIENTS SERVED	2014	2015
Cases Opened	1,404	1,167
Cases Closed	1,168	
Cases Ongoing		278

Case numbers exclude households reached through LAM workshops, clinics and presentations. Through combined case work and outreach, LAM serves between 1,800 and 2,000 Marin households each year.



TAX STATUS

Legal Aid of Marin is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions to Legal Aid of Marin are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Tax Identification Number: **94-141 9330**



* LAM is affiliated with and receives core funding from Marin Community Foundation.

**Program Service Income includes attorney's fees, claims administration fees and grants/contracts that require regular report and invoice for reimbursement.



Neal Simon 1938-2015

Neal Simon had many roles throughout his life—husband, father, brother, social worker, professor, teammate, husband, grandpa—and with each new role Neal was known for his extraordinarily giving nature.

When Neal died suddenly earlier this year, he left behind a treasured legacy at LAM. For more than 20 years, Neal trained, mentored and inspired hundreds of social work students who interned at LAM. Our agency and the Marin community at large benefited tremendously from Neal's expertise in handling cases involving clients in crisis.

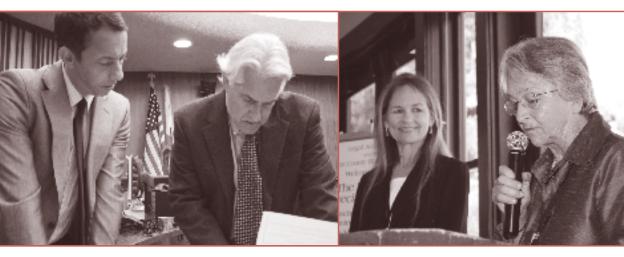
To honor Neal, Legal Aid of Marin has introduced the **Neal Simon** Legacy Fund – intended as planned giving program for those who, like Neal, believe in giving back to others.

All planned gifts to Legal Aid of Marin through the Neal Simon Legacy Fund ensure that the most vulnerable members of the Marin community will continue to receive much needed legal services for generations to come. For information on honoring Neal Simon, contact development@legalaidmarin.org.

Nancy Boughey and Neal Simon photo by Linda Hummel.

Annual report design by Andrew Nimmo. Editorial content and direction by Delfin Vigil. Photography by Delfin Vigil, Trevor Henley and Images By Captain Ron. Data gathered by Kenia Rivera. Below: LAM Attorney Horace de la Vega reviews a case file with Pro Bono Attorney Alan Mayer. The Hon. Faye D'Opal presents a Wiley W. Manuel Award to attorney Sara Wilson at the Pro Bono Appreciation Awards Luncheon in 2015.

Front: Pro Bono Program Manager Nancy Murphy assists a LAM client at Whistlestop in San Rafael. LAM client Patrick William Connolly celebrates a legal victory. LAM Staff Attorney Ann Munene conducts outreach at the Hannah Project in Marin City. Photos by Delfin Vigil.



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