

60

60TH ANNIVERSARY

LEGAL
AID *of*
MARIN

Justice for all

For the past 60 years, Legal Aid of Marin has been providing vital legal services to underserved members of our community. In 2017, we served over 2,000 community members.

WHO WE ARE

Mission: To provide access to the civil justice system to low-income, vulnerable and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County. We strive for practical solutions to client problems through quality legal service.

Legal Aid of Marin was formed 60 years ago, in 1958, to provide low-income Marin County residents direct representation, pro per assistance, pro bono services, and to serve their interests through impact litigation. Our work with Marin County seniors and low-income residents improves:

social justice | economic equity and opportunity | assures due process and equal protection of the law | assists in resolving legal disputes

OUR SERVICES

Housing

Housing cases represent over a third of our legal services. In 2017, we secured substantial relief for five plaintiffs in Novato whose landlord had subjected them to deplorable living conditions, including pervasive bedbugs, sewage backups, mold, and infestations of cockroaches, rats, and other vermin. The plaintiffs included several parents of small children. Each had notified the landlord multiple times about the unlivable conditions to no avail – one plaintiff was even physically assaulted when he reported a sewage back-up in his tub.

Tenants contacted Legal Aid of Marin, and Legal Aid of Marin attorneys in turn reached out to the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster. Together, Morrison & Foerster and Legal Aid of Marin, as co-counsel, filed suit. The owners promptly sold the property, but counsel continued to pursue the former owner on behalf of our clients. At the same time, we advocated with the new owners to make the units habitable. Our intervention not only helped our clients obtain compensation from the prior owners, but it also secured decent and safe living conditions for all of the building's residents.

Marin Community Court

This landmark restorative justice program provides low-income residents an alternative avenue to satisfy poverty-related civil infractions such as camping, jaywalking, and parking tickets. With the enduring leadership of Judge Beverly Wood of the Marin Superior Court, residents can satisfy these obligations through community service instead of fines, and thereby remove otherwise insurmountable barriers to work, housing, and stability. In 2017, more than 210 individuals participated in the Marin Community Court Program.

Pro Bono Representation

We rely on an extensive network of experienced pro bono attorneys to provide legal services to our clients. In 2017, one of our pro bono attorneys successfully represented a 70-year-old woman who was the victim of wage theft when her employer repeatedly refused to pay her for overtime hours worked at the employer's request. Our client recovered the entire amount of overtime pay owed to her.

Community Development

We collaborate with a network of local community partners in our multifaceted community development initiative, with the goal of furthering fair housing in Marin. One aspect of our collaboration focuses on the renovation of Golden Gate Village, the only public housing property for families in Marin. As we explained to Marin Housing Authority in our comment letter, "Many barriers have resulted in Marin County becoming the least diverse region in the San Francisco Bay Area, and this places a special responsibility on any proposal for renovation of Golden Gate Village."

A second major aspect of the community redevelopment initiative is support for residents of the predominantly Latino neighborhood known as the "Canal" area of San Rafael. This densely populated neighborhood provides relatively affordable housing despite high prices throughout Marin County, but the current crisis places new pressures on immigrant families living in the Canal area as new investors have been buying properties, raising rents, and taking other actions.

A third area of focus is to provide security over the long term for low-income and vulnerable renters threatened by the regional housing crisis. Manag-

ing Attorney David Levin served on a County task force charged with recommending measures to affirmatively further fair housing in Marin. Following the task force's recommendation, in 2017, the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted a mandatory rent mediation ordinance – requiring mediation to be offered for rent increases above five percent. Watch this space for more action around the County to come.

Eviction Prevention

In 2017, we completed 364 housing related cases. Legal Aid of Marin staff and volunteer attorneys help tenants at a twice monthly Mandatory Settlement Conference clinic at the Marin County Superior Court. Through these court-mandated conferences for unlawful detainer (eviction) cases, tenants get expert legal help to keep their housing, and protect their future ability to obtain housing in Marin.

Worker's Rights

In 2017, we completed 104 employment cases on behalf of Marin County workers related to wage theft, discrimination, and wrongful termination. Legal

Aid of Marin staff reached out directly to marginalized workers through frequent intakes at Canal Alliance in San Rafael and Hannah Project in Marin City.

Individual Rights & Seniors

In 2017, we completed 65 family law cases, 71 consumer protection cases, and 236 individual rights cases, in addition to wills, estate planning, income maintenance, and other areas. Many of our individual rights cases protect seniors. In total we served over 370 households with clients age 60 or older.

Volunteers

We rely on a committed and passionate volunteer corps of attorneys, social workers, students, and community members. In 2017, 113 pro bono volunteers donated 3,939 hours to serving Legal Aid of Marin and its clients, representing over \$1.1 Million in donated time.



OUR SUPPORT

Individual

We rely on contributions from community members and supportive law firms to fund the services we provide. In 2017, over 50% of our support came from individual donations and in-kind contributions.

Foundation Grants

We are fortunate to have partnered with generous philanthropic funds who provide invaluable financial resources to our organization.

In 2017, 25% of our support came in the form of grants from such organizations. Major foundation donors include the Marin Community Foundation, the Peter E. Haas Jr. Family Fund, van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, and the Maisin Foundation.

Government Support

We also rely on local, state, and federal government grants and contracts to fund our services.

In 2017, approximately 10% of our support came from local, state, and federal government grants, with the County Area Agency on Aging and the State Bar of California as major contributors.

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TESTIMONIALS

“[THE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY] HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. STELLAR IN HER HELP AND EXPLANATIONS.”

— IRENE K, CLIENT —

“LEGAL AID OF MARIN IS A BLESSING FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE OF MARIN.”

— MARK G, CLIENT —

“I APPRECIATE DAVID LEVIN’S WISE AND THOUGHTFUL ADVICE. HIS INTERN ... WAS ALSO HELPFUL.”

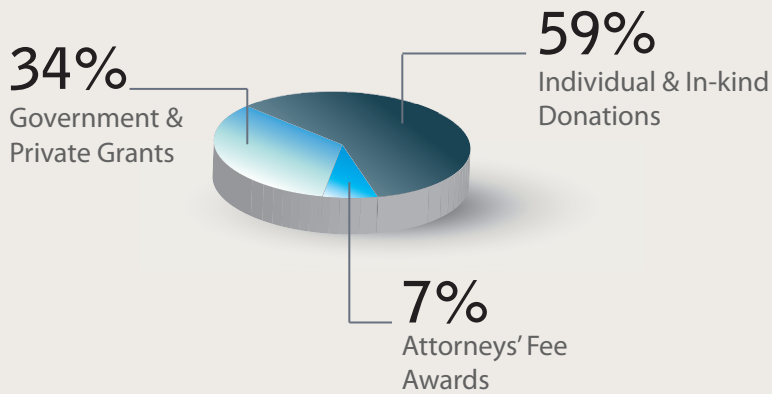
— LOUISE E., CLIENT —

“I WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH MY [LEGAL PROBLEM] WITHOUT YOUR HELP ... I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP. THANK YOU.”

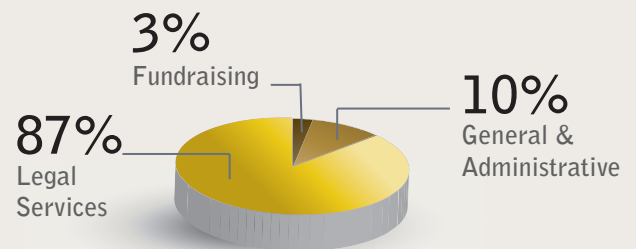
THERESA Z, CLIENT

FISCAL YEAR 2017 FINANCIALS

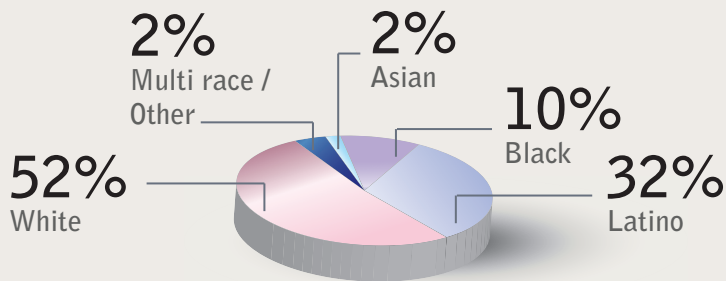
Support



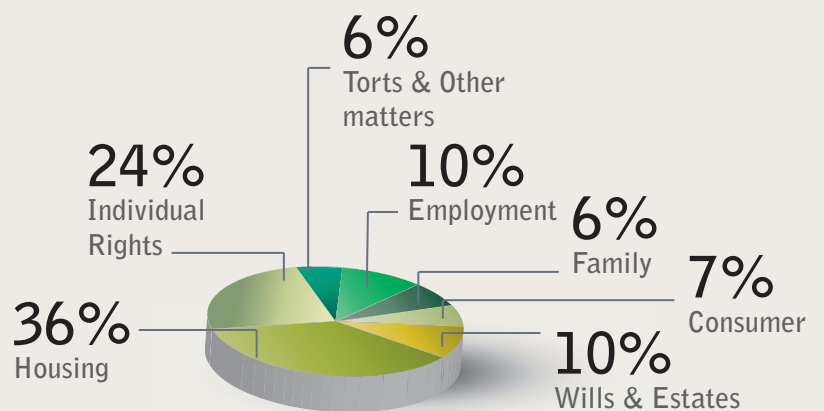
Expenses



Client Demographics



Our Services





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