LEGAL AID OF MARIN
Justice for all

PROTECTING THE MARIN COMMUNITY SINCE 1958

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
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2018 Case Services

1,924 INDIVIDUALS REACHED INCLUDING:

1,410 ADULTS

514 CHILDREN

996 TOTAL CASES

947 UNIQUE CASES

18% PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

22% SPANISH LANGUAGE PREFERENCES

37% SENIORS (age 60 and over)

8% VETERAN HOUSEHOLD

INDIVIDUALS REACHED INCLUDING:

1410 ADULTS

514 CHILDREN

996 TOTAL CASES

947 UNIQUE CASES

18% PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

22% SPANISH LANGUAGE PREFERENCES

37% SENIORS (age 60 and over)

8% VETERAN HOUSEHOLD
Who We Are

Legal Aid of Marin provides 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. In 2018, we celebrated 60 years of service. Through direct representation, pro per assistance, pro bono services, and impact litigation, our work improves social justice, promotes economic equity and opportunities, protects due process and equal protection of the law, and facilitates the resolution of legal disputes and the dispensation of justice in our community.

We believe every Marin resident, regardless of age, race, income or immigration status, deserves an opportunity for dignity and freedom from exploitation. Marin County can be an equitable place that includes, welcomes, and protects all. With your help, we can tip the scales toward justice for all.
Our Successes

**KEEPING MARIN RESIDENTS IN THEIR HOMES**

- Helped nearly 350 households avoid long-term homelessness and get relief from exploitative rent increases and poor living conditions.

- Helped 95 households at court-based Mandatory Settlement Conferences with solutions including protecting credit, securing time and money to move, and preserving housing long-term.

- Secured new legal protections for renters - including limits on "no cause" evictions in unincorporated Marin, and protection from rental discrimination in Fairfax, Novato, San Anselmo, and San Rafael.

**WORKERS’ RIGHTS**

Legal Aid of Marin closed 107 employment cases last year, and recovered over $146,000 in unpaid wages for low-income, primarily immigrant workers. Over 80% of our workers’ rights clients in 2018 were monolingual Spanish-speaking immigrants. Workers’ wage claims are often too low to attract private lawyers – and are nevertheless critically important for low-wage workers. We help fill the gap, and in 2018, secured a multi-year contract to expand workers’ rights services from 2019 on.

Ms. D was a live-in caretaker for over four years before she was fired. She worked long shifts, lived without privacy, and was unable to take meal and rest breaks or paid sick leave. Legal Aid of Marin connected her with a pro bono attorney who helped her make a claim for unpaid wages. After over a year of hard-fought advocacy, she recovered $22,400 from her former employer.

Supporters of tenants’ rights at a San Rafael press conference organized by Legal Aid of Marin and Marin Organizing Committee. (Alan Dep/Marin Independent Journal)
MARIN COMMUNITY COURT

In 2018, the Court held 19 sessions, accepted 221 participants, removed 272 civil infractions, and eliminated $215,133 in fines through alternative service. In 2019, the Court secured new funding allowing it to double in size, expanding outreach and services in 2019.

Mr. E. had a minor civil infraction, and could not afford to pay a $180 fine because his income was needed to help his parents buy medications. The Court reduced his fine to a $25 donation to a community-based organization, which he paid. After, he was able to turn his life around. He secured a new job at a local restaurant - and then a promotion.

VOLUNTEERS & PRO BONO SERVICES

Community members donate valuable time by volunteering with Legal Aid of Marin-sponsored clinics, taking on individual cases, and contributing expertise through co-counseling. In 2018, 144 pro bono attorneys and community volunteers donated 2600 hours, valued at $625,409, in support of Legal Aid of Marin services.

FAMILY LAW

When clients are unable to secure services from Family and Children’s Law Center, an experienced family law attorney offers a brief consultation. We served 25 family law clients in 2018 - including 10 full scope.

Pro bono attorney Michael Samuels helped Ms. C secure a restraining order and award of full custody - protecting her and her daughter from violence.
The Marin Pro Bono Network officially launched in 2018. The project, a collaborative of the Marin Community Foundation, One Justice, Legal Aid of Marin, and Canal Alliance – and housed with Legal Aid of Marin – connects attorneys to pro bono opportunities through a unique web portal where volunteers can learn about opportunities, get training, and sign up.


People Are Talking

“…helped me to understand that my mother’s financial situation is more complicated than I thought it was.” - C.E., client

“…an excellent, knowledgeable, logical attorney. He was able to help me calm down and think clearly!” - S.G., client

“An incredibly helpful and erudite man! So many thanks!” - W.R., client

“Not only did the attorney agree to see me when I mixed up the appointment time, but she gave me confidence that I can handle the case myself.” - B.N., client

“Very easy to talk to, very compassionate person. It was a good experience.” - J.Y., client
**DIRECT COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
Community members in 2018 contributed 47% of the support that allows Legal Aid of Marin to serve Marin residents. Volunteers donated $649,318 in services and goods. Community financial support equaled over one quarter of Legal Aid of Marin's 2018 budget – generous local law firms and individuals invested $252,772 in Legal Aid of Marin services.

**GRANTS & CONTRACTS**
In 2018, Legal Aid of Marin received $955,393 in grants and contracts for services in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Exactly half of Legal Aid of Marin's support came from grants and contracts in 2018. Of this, approximately two thirds came from private foundations, and one third from state and local government – the State Bar of California and County of Marin's Area Agency on Aging. Since 2001, Legal Aid of Marin does not accept those funds that would restrict services based on the type of legal assistance we provide or on clients' immigration status.

**2018 FINANCES SNAPSHOT**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct community support (contributions, bequests, &amp; in-kind)</td>
<td>$902,090</td>
<td>$1,265,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contracts*</td>
<td>$955,393</td>
<td>$718,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$42,642</td>
<td>$128,292</td>
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<td>Total public support &amp; revenue</td>
<td>$1,900,152</td>
<td>$2,112,168</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,243,726</td>
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<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administration</td>
<td>$240,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$132,519</td>
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*2018 income includes grants for 2019-2020 for which expenses have not yet incurred
Our 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.