

LEGAL
AID *of*
MARIN

Justice for all

PROTECTING THE MARIN
COMMUNITY SINCE 1958

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



Board of Directors

Jonathan Gertler - President
Chavez & Gertler

Jessica Karner - Vice President
Keegin Harrison

Douglas Roberts - Treasurer
Treasury Wine (ret.)

Anastasiya Korolev - Secretary
Crescent Cove Advisors

David Winnett
Nominations Committee Chair
Liuzzi Murphy Solomon Churton Hale

Michael Yongue
Audit Committee Chair
Bank of Marin

William Aarsheim
Q Surgical

Travis Armstrong
Hemming Morse

Kim Berry
*University of California San Francisco
Medical Center*

Pieter Bogaards
Bogaards Law Offices

Jeffrey M. Fisher
Farella Braun & Martel

Jackie Gorton
Nurse Attorney

Edward Lasseter

Philip Levin
Philip Levin & Associates

Russell Marne
The Marne Law Group

Luis Navas
Silicon Valley Bank

Megan Oliver Thompson
Hanson Bridgett

2018 Case Services

1,924

INDIVIDUALS REACHED

INCLUDING:

ADULTS **1410**

CHILDREN **514**

996

TOTAL CASES

947

UNIQUE CASES



18%

PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES



22%

SPANISH
LANGUAGE PREFERENCE



37%

SENIORS
(age 60 and over)



8%

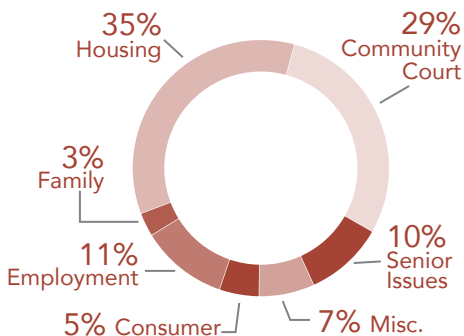
VETERAN
HOUSEHOLD

Who We Are

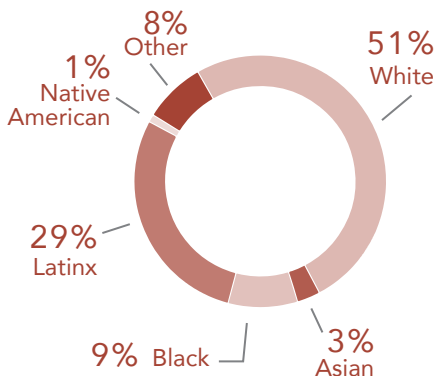
Legal Aid of Marin provides access to the civil justice system to low-income, vulnerable and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County. We strive for practical solutions to client problems through quality legal service. In 2018, we celebrated 60 years of service. Through direct representation, 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.

CASE SUBJECTS



CLIENTS BY RACE



Our Successes

KEEPING MARIN RESIDENTS IN THEIR HOMES

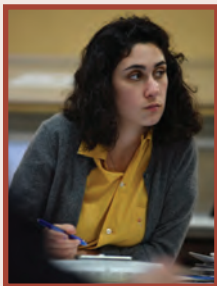
- Helped nearly 350 households avoid long-term homelessness and get relief from exploitative rent increases and poor living conditions.
- Helped 95 households at court-based Mandatory Settlement Conferences with solutions including protecting credit, securing time and money to move, and preserving housing 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.



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)

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.



Volunteer Sahar Priano attends a case.

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.

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.



Pro Bono Director Laurie Joyce and volunteer attorney George Shea

SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES

379
CLOSED
CASES

38%

HOUSING-
RELATED

25%

WILLS, ESTATES,
HEALTH &
INCOME

14%

MARIN
COMMUNITY
COURT

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.



Volunteer attorney Clay Greene at Community Court

M A R I N

marinprobononetwork.org

PRO BONO  NETWORK

A Project of Legal Aid of Marin

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.

The Marin Pro Bono Network hosted eleven community-based clinics in 2018 ranging from Bankruptcy, Workers' Compensation, Car Insurance, Elder Law, Employment Law, and Small Claims. In two Canal Alliance/New Americans Campaign Naturalization clinics, 57 volunteers helped complete 35 naturalization applications.

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*



Finances

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

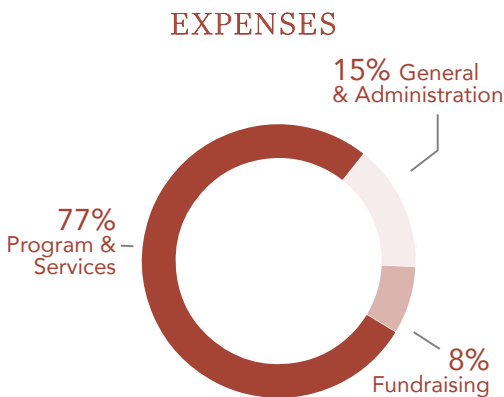
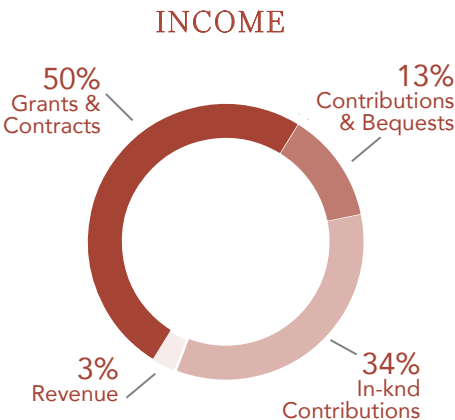
Income

	2018	2017
Direct community support (contributions, bequests, & in-kind)	\$902,090	\$1,265,715
Grants & Contracts*	\$955,393	\$718,461
Revenue	\$42,642	\$128,292
Total public support & revenue	\$1,900,125	\$2,112,468

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,243,726	\$1,823,450
General & Administration	\$240,169	\$203,150
Fundraising	\$132,519	\$74,952

*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.

STEPHANIE HAFFNER
Executive Director

LAURIE JOYCE
Pro Bono Director

VIVIAN ALATORRE
Operations Manager

ANGELINA ALAS
Bilingual Legal Assistant

TOMAS AVINA
Community Court Coordinator

YARELI BANDA
Receptionist

ELIZABETH BERG
Senior Attorney

LUCIE HOLLINGSWORTH
Senior Attorney

NIMA MEHRENFAR
Law Graduate

ASYA SOROKURS
Staff Attorney

GABRIEL SPELLBERG
Bilingual Legal Assistant

LEGAL
AID *of*
MARIN

Justice for all

legalaidmarin.org

1401 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 101
San Rafael, California 94903
415.492.0230

