

LEGAL
AID *of*
MARIN

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Justice for all

MISSION

Legal Aid of Marin's mission is to provide access to the civil justice system low-income, vulnerable, and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County.

Legal Aid of Marin is the only provider of free civil legal services in Marin County. Since 1958, Legal Aid of Marin has helped low-income Marin County residents and seniors find practical solutions to problems involving their homes, incomes, jobs, and families.

Our work protects Marin's most vulnerable residents by providing access to legal justice and equity. We create economic and social impacts that help make Marin County a better place for everyone.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2019 in review

At Legal Aid of Marin, we believe every Marin County resident, regardless of age, race, income, or immigration status deserves an opportunity for dignity and freedom for exploitation. Our work tips the scales towards equity – towards justice for all.

Legal Aid of Marin's core practices are in the areas of economic justice through the Marin Community Court, senior legal services, housing law, and employment law. 2019 was my first full year serving as Legal Aid of Marin's executive director. In 2019 our reserves increased, as did our staff. Our Marin Community Court project expanded by double with the addition of a dedicated attorney. Our employment law practice more than doubled, hiring two dedicated staff members, thanks to a five-year contract to help immigrant workers redress workplace crimes.

With a \$1.1 million budget and 10 staff members, over half bilingual and bicultural, Legal Aid of Marin closed over 800 cases (833 cases in all) assisting over 1,600 unduplicated adults and children (1,606 individuals in all).

We provided services at weekly walk-in clinics at our San Rafael office and at locations throughout Marin County.

Our legal staff, pro bono lawyers, interpreters, and legal assistants held clinics in San Rafael at the offices of Canal Alliance and Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop). We also held clinics at North Marin Community Services in Novato, West Marin Community Services, and Phoenix Project in Marin City (a program of Performing Stars).

We publish this report in November 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis. We have learned this year that legal services are essential – that laws do not enforce themselves – that innovative, client-centered education and legal supports protect shelter, incomes, and the public's health. As we look to the future and our 63rd year, we will continue to innovate and to serve.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Stephanie Haffner
Executive Director



Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.
– Arthur Ashe

ECONOMIC JUSTICE



Marin Community Court | *Nine Years Of Success*

Marin Community Court, founded in 2011, is a restorative justice court that allows Marin County residents to eliminate fees for poverty-related civil infractions such as camping, jaywalking, and parking tickets. Our leading partners are Marin Superior Court and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County. In 2019, Marin Community Court expanded with support of the California State Bar. We also began weekly intake sessions in Marin City with our new partner, Phoenix Project, a program of Performing Stars. As a result, participation by African-American residents nearly doubled, to 39%.

Client Story

Cheryl came to Legal Aid of Marin because the van she purchased to live in was impounded and scheduled to be crushed with all her belongings and medications inside.

Cheryl was unable to register the car because it was riddled with tickets from the prior owner. With the help of Legal Aid of Marin Senior Attorney Lucie Hollingsworth, San Rafael Parking Services Authority agreed to put a hold on the destruction of Cheryl's van. Cheryl participated in Marin Community Court and fulfilled her community service hours. Subsequently, Cheryl regained possession of her van and completed her DMV vehicle registration.



Impact Report

2,423 volunteer hours completed by 187 participants
— nearly 25% more than in 2018

\$72,448 monetary value of volunteer hours

341 court fines removed

\$241,635 in fines eliminated through alternative service

49 participants had driver's licenses reinstated

60 vehicles were safely insured and/or properly registered
— nearly twice the number in 2018

SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES



Empowering Older People In Marin County

Since 2001, Legal Aid of Marin has served in partnership with Vivalon, formerly Whistlestop, to deliver direct legal services to Marin's adults 60 years or older. In 2019, pro bono volunteers like Rob Rosborough (pictured above) provided free 30-minute consultations on estate problems, financial abuse, real estate matters, and other problems.

Now president-elect of the Marin County Bar Association, Rob has been volunteering to help older adults since 2015. "A lot of seniors are struggling because of isolation. They don't have the right person to ask their questions. They are feeling out there on their own. Speaking to a lawyer is a real privilege and rewarding for them. People are pleasantly surprised how

easy it is to discuss their problems and how much good can be done in a short amount of time,” says Rosborough.

Client Story

Rosborough recalls the story of an older client who was administering her sister’s estate. We will call her Sarah. Sarah was remarkable because she made it most of the way through the complicated probate court process on her own although the judge repeatedly told her she was making mistakes. Sarah sought a consultation with Rob because she needed some help with the final stages. With Rob’s guidance, she completed the probate process and distributed her sister’s assets.

Impact Report

340 older adults received legal services

37% of all Legal Aid of Marin’s clients were older adults

42% of our work for older adults involved housing issues

36% involved estates, wills, and related consultations

We are here because we could not afford to pay for legal services. The volunteer who helped was very respectful and patient. I am an older person and I have trouble hearing. I always feel very accommodated and understood everything despite my bad hearing. We are extremely grateful for this service... we desperately need it. — CLIENT

EMPLOYMENT LAW



Protecting Marin's Workers

We provide low-income workers with legal advice and services for labor issues including wage theft, discrimination, and harassment. We helped clients reclaim lost wages through settlement conferences and hearings through California's Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. We held workers' rights clinics in partnership with West Marin Community Services in Point Reyes Station and Canal Alliance in San Rafael.

In 2019, this program expanded with the support of a 5-year, \$200,000 per year contract from the State of California serving victims of workplace crime, and focuses on outreach, service, and representation at Department of Labor Standards Enforcement and in Superior Court.

Client story

Mr. D. came to Legal Aid of Marin after he retired from his 16-year long career at Marin County funeral home. He needed help because his employer refused to allow him to roll over his 401k retirement account, even though he had a right to do so.

To address this egregious financial crime, Legal Aid of Marin's pro bono director Laurie Joyce reached out to Teresa Renaker, (of Renaker Hasselman Scott LLP,) a national expert on retirement benefits who agreed to assist Mr. Diaz and guide Legal Aid of Marin's Victims of Crime Act team through the steps to demand return of the funds. Mr. D. fully recovered the retirement fund balance that the former employer wrongfully withheld.

Impact Report

Closed 107 employment law cases

Secured \$323,073 in unpaid wages for low-income, primarily immigrant workers (more than double the recovery in 2018)

71% of employment law cases were for non-English speaking households

HOUSING LAW



Keeping Marin Residents in their Homes

Our housing law program helps clients retain housing, secure rent relief, protect their credit, preserve housing options, and secure emergency housing. We are grateful for Melissa Gonzalez (pictured above), a law school graduate, who assisted our legal team during her summer internship. Legal Aid of Marin also engaged in strategic policy advocacy resulting in the City of San Rafael adopting new legislation to protect renters from arbitrary or unlawful evictions.

Client story

Maria, a domestic abuse survivor, lived in Marin for most of her life. A woman filed a false criminal conduct complaint against her with Marin Housing Authority. As a result, Marin Housing Authority filed an eviction lawsuit against her. Unable to cope with the stress of being a parent, college student, and the possibility of becoming homeless, Maria dropped out of college.

After almost a year of having an eviction hanging over her head, Legal Aid senior attorney Lucie Hollingsworth brought Maria's case to a mandatory settlement conference where the eviction proceeding was terminated. This case served as a catalyst to engage Marin Housing Authority to collaborate more - avoiding the trauma of the eviction process. Now Maria is a volunteer for Legal Aid of Marin and has returned to school, making straight A's.

Impact Report

Helped 432 people and families

30% of tenants retained their housing

40% of tenants received rent waivers

\$55,185 in rent waived averaging \$2,904 per household

1.37 additional months planning time secured
for tenants who moved

“Having the assistance from Legal Aid took the burden off worrying about where I would live with my family, worrying about whether or not I'd have to store my things until I found housing, worrying about whether or not I would qualify to move into new housing because of the circumstances. Had [Legal Aid] not come not my defense, not listened to me and believed in me, I wouldn't be housed right now. I felt part of the team. I felt supported. I felt they listened.”

— CLIENT

MARIN PRO BONO NETWORK

Making A Difference for the Public Good

Formed in 2017, the Marin Pro Bono Network is a project of Legal Aid of Marin. We match pro bono lawyers, interpreters, and legal volunteers with low-income and senior Marin County residents in need of direct legal services.

Our volunteers provide free legal advice and advocacy to clients in a variety of different areas including housing law, employment law, domestic violence, recovery of disabilities, debt, unpaid wage claims, and estates and trust matters. We are grateful for our major organizational partners, Canal Alliance, Marin Community Foundation, and One Justice, who help us bridge the justice gap.

Impact Report

\$553,807 in-kind value of volunteer services

1,045 low-income Marin residents received assistance

Pro Bono volunteers devoted 1,742 hours for individual consultations and outreach

*This is how I redeem my soul. Pro bono work
is the real way of doing something useful
for people that need it most*

— MARIN PRO BONO NETWORK VOLUNTEER



Thank you to our 2019 volunteers



Shane Anderies
Ain Ashby
Paula Astalils
Timothy Barteau
Joseph Barton
Peter Bassing
Neil Bloomfield
Debra Bogaards
Pieter Bogaards
John Boudett
Aaron Burnett
Susan Brennan
Brendan Brewer
Matthew Briggs
Gregory Brockbank
Scott Buell
Diana Caal
Karen Carrera
Morena Castaneda

Diego Castillo
Helen Castillo
Amelia Chenoweth
Robyn Christo
Peter Churchill
Kelly Crandell
Janis Crum
Paul Davis
Lisa Del Gallo
Morgan Desmond
Stuart Diamond
Michele Dillard
Scott Emblidge
Casey Epp
Robert Epstein
Frank Falkenburg
Caroline Fawley
Susan Feder
Koji Felton

Joan Foadisch
Deborah Fox
Nancy Frease
Ahtossa Fullerton
Michelle Garcia
Katy Gasparini
Patrice Goldman
Jackie Gorton
Ziad Hamdon
Matthew Harris
Robert Harris
Teresa Harrison
Zoe Hauser
Michele Hayden
Lindsay Hibbits
Joseph Hoffman
John Hullverson
Benjamin Imdieke
Robert Jaret

Lynne Jones
Karen Karlow
Scott Kauffman
Melissa Keyes
Murray Klein
Brian Kram
Bonnie Landles-
Dowling
Pauli S. Larsen
Elissa Lasserre
Leslie Lava
Theresa Lawless
David Levin
Drew Lewis
Marc Lichtenberg
Kathleen Lynaugh
Diana Maier
Lisa Maslow
Bonnie Marmor
Nancy McCarthy
Rebecca McGuire
Mary Mills
Christine Mullen
Timothy Nardell
Desiree Navarro
Carole Okolowics
Dennis O'Leary
Charles Ostertag

Mark Peters
Josefina Plaister
Lisa Poncia
Pablo Portillo
Katherine Post
Erin Pulaski
Kelly Reiter
Teresa Renaker
Leonard Rifkind
Robert Rosborough
Woodford Rowland
Catherine Rucker
Malcolm Ruthven
Robert Sammis
Andrew Sampson
Alan Sankin
Cady Sardorius
Barrett Schaefer
Christian Schreiber
Jenny Schwartz
Marie-Helene
Senhaux
John E. Sharp
Annette Shaughnessy
Jessica Shavers
Colleen Shaw
George Shea
Christina Sherman

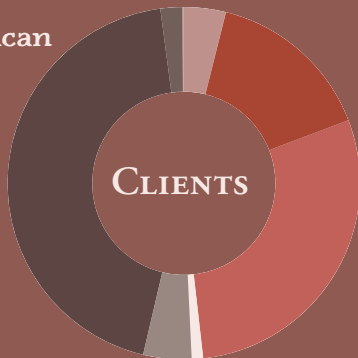
Vincent Simpson
Jeff Slavitz
Scott Slomiak
Sandy Stadtler
Larry Strick
George Sullivan
Patricia Tobin
Pauline Tomita
Denise Top
Stacy Turner
Luis Ugozzoli
Jeannette Vaccaro
Alex Vahdat
John Vos
Maria Wait
Tatiana Wallace
David Weinsoff
David Weltin
Matthew White
David Winnett
Andrew Wolff
Sarah Wright
David Zeff
*Every effort was
made to include
all 2019 volunteers.*



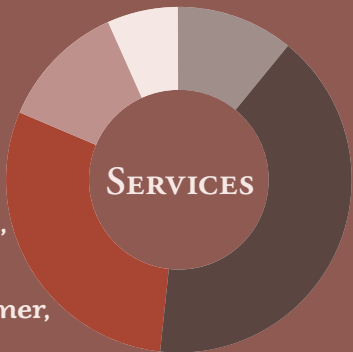
- 52% Grants & Contracts
- 48% Revenue, Contributions & Bequests

Fiscal

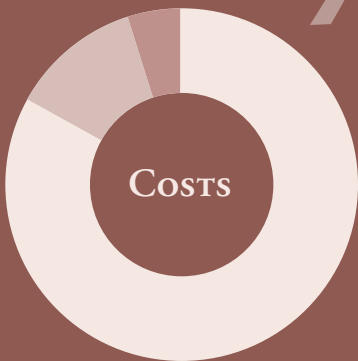
- 1% Native American
- 3% Asian
- 16% Black
- 29% Latinx
- 3% Other
- 46% White
- 2% Declined



- 40% Housing
- 25% Community Court
- 13% Employment
- 13% Wills, estates, income planning
- 9% Other (consumer, family)



Report



- 81% Program Services
- 13% General & Administration
- 6% Fundraising

Fiscal Report Cont.

INCOME

\$781,314

Revenue,
Contributions
& Bequests

\$873,020

Grants & Contracts

EXPENSES

\$1,302,290

Program Services

\$216,238

General &
Administration

\$99,024

Fundraising

2019 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$1,201,759

Legal Aid of Marin
is a 501(c)(3) organization.

All contributions to Legal Aid
of Marin are tax-deductible
to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Tax ID #94-141-9330.

STAFF

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Community Court
Coordinator

Shelley Clark
Staff Attorney

Ellyn Moscowitz
Senior Attorney

Yareli Banda
Receptionist

Tahirah Dean
Staff Attorney

**George “Josh”
Sullivan**
Supervising
Attorney

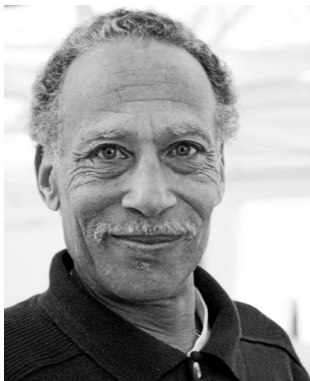
Henry Bono
Legal Assistant

Marnie Glickman
Development and
Communications
Manager

Helen Castillo
Pro Bono
Consultant

**Lucie
Hollingsworth**
Senior Attorney

GRATITUDE



Kerry Peirson is a leading advocate for justice and equity in Marin County. We honor his lifetime commitment to local public service.

Kerry twice served as chair of Marin County Human Rights Commission. He was appointed by Marin County Board of Supervisors as a member of Marin Community Foundation Board of Trustees to be the

“Representative of the Poor and Needy.” Kerry also served on the boards of ACLU Marin Chapter, Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Commission, and Marin County’s Affirmative Action Advisory Committee. He is a co-founder of Phoenix Project in Marin City and Marin Action Coalition for Equity.

Kerry served on Legal Aid of Marin’s board of directors in the 1980s. During his tenure, he raised awareness of problems that eventually led to creating the Marin Community Court. He continues to be inspired by the dedicated work of Legal Aid of Marin’s attorneys and staff. He hopes that, with your support, we will keep expanding our work to help more people access justice and build equity.

Thank you, Kerry, for your visionary leadership.

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Justice for all

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