Mission
Community Legal Services is a non-profit law firm committed to increasing fairness in the civil justice system by advocating, litigating, and educating on behalf of Arizona’s most underserved communities.

Vision
Community Legal Services desires to be Arizona’s leading legal voice for communities in need by protecting rights, increasing fairness and providing access to justice for underserved communities.

Core Values
Humanity  Respect  Collaboration  Excellence
Volunteer Attorney Helps Families with Home Ownership - A Community Legal Services Volunteer Attorney, agreed to help a family of four in Gilbert who struggled financially, lost their home to foreclosure, and faced possible loss of the father’s limited wages due to garnishment for consumer debts.

CLS' Volunteer Attorney helped them obtain $10,000 in excess proceeds they were entitled to after the home sale. He also negotiated payments on their debts, so the father’s wages remained intact, and the family remained financially stable without needing to file bankruptcy.

Subsidized Housing Preserved for Yavapai County Veteran - A veteran who lives with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resides in subsidized housing in Yavapai County. As a result of his PTSD, the veteran abused alcohol to self-medicate.

The subsidized housing management served the veteran with a notice to terminate his tenancy for various alleged acts related to alcohol consumption. Bret Rasner, CLS Lead Attorney, explained to the landlord that the veteran recognized his PTSD induced alcohol problem and had already sought substance abuse treatment through the local Veteran Administration (VA) and has been accepted into a VA alcohol abuse treatment program.

Mr. Rasner argued that the Fair Housing Act required the landlord to make a reasonable accommodation to the veteran as long as he was actively in treatment for the problem that caused his behavior and refrained from additional similar acts in the future. The landlord agreed with Mr. Rasner’s argument and waived the termination notice with the veteran’s agreement that he completed the alcohol abuse treatment program. The veteran is now continuing his treatment while remaining in his subsidized unit.

Victim of Domestic Violence Earns Control of her Own Finances - CLS was contacted by a local domestic violence program to assist their client, a woman receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to intellectual deficits and brain injury.

Her representative payee withdrew as her payee causing a disruption in her ability to receive her SSI benefits. The payee’s withdrawal was the result of harassment of the payee by the woman’s family members who were trying to gain access to the woman’s benefits. Due to her disabilities, she had a difficult time understanding the process of how to become her own payee or to have a new payee appointed for her.

CLS’ staff in our Mohave/La Paz Counties Office, asked the woman to sign necessary release forms so he could help coordinate an interview for the woman with an SSI representative at the Needles, California Social Security office. With CLS’ assistance, the woman became her own payee and now manages her own benefits.
2019 BY THE NUMBERS

$7,417,979
TOTAL REVENUE

- LSC: $5,715,113
- State and Local Municipalities: $44,797
- IRS Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic: $78,171
- Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project: $389,050
- Arizona Equal Justice Campaign: $233,400
- Bank of America: $229,557
- Victims of Crime Act: $226,547
- OCR Technology: $131,749
- Other: $370,093

16,192
INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED
BY CLS SERVICES IN 2019

- Consumer Law: 2,229 (14%)
- Employment Law: 1,627 (10%)
- Family Law: 5,026 (31%)
- Housing Law: 4,495 (28%)
- Health: 159 (1%)
- Other: 2,656 (16%)
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We appreciate the continued support of our community.