



Community
Legal Services

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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www.clsaz.org

Arizona
305 South Second Avenue
Phoenix Arizona 85003

MISSION AND VISION

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.



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



OUR WORK

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

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.

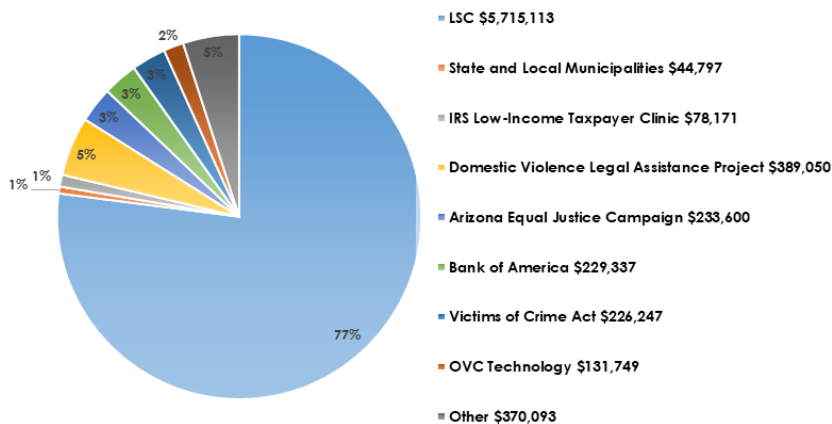
CLS' staff in our Mohave/La Paz Counties Office, asked the woman to sign necessary release forms so he could help coordinate an interview for the woman with an SSI representative at the Needles, California Social Security office. With CLS' assistance, the woman became her own payee and now manages her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

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES3

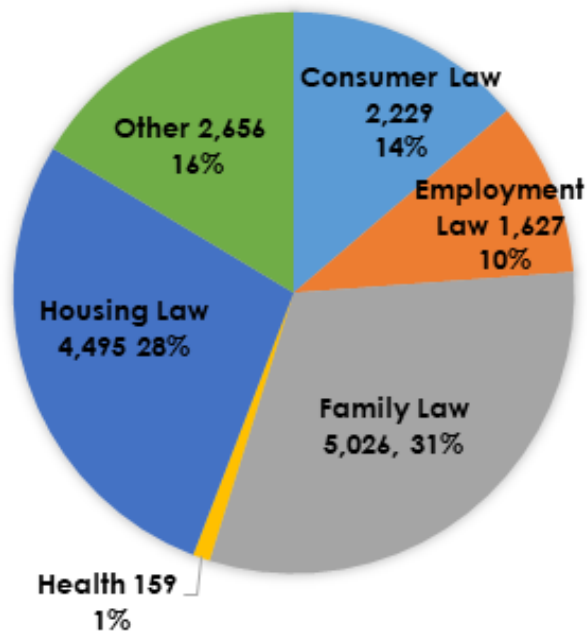
\$7,417,979

TOTAL REVENUE



16,192

INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY CLS SERVICES IN 2019



BOARD MEMBERS

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.



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County Superior Court

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Law, PLLC

Jennifer Elias, Esq. Farmers Insurance

Carlene Higgins

Diana Sugey Solorio

Diana Moll

Veronica Hernandez

EXECUTIVE STAFF

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

Executive Director - Lillian O. Johnson

Deputy Director - Sharon E. Sergent, Esq.

Director of Advocacy and Litigation - Pamela Bridge, Esq.

Director of Finance - Leesa Bowman

Director of Development and Communications - Naquana Borrero

Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program - Patricia Gerrich, Esq.

Managing Attorney Health and Economic Stability Unit - Dina Norwood, Esq.

Managing Attorney Farmworker/Employment/Tax Unit - Amanda Caldwell, Esq.

Managing Attorney Family Law Unit - Patricia Madsen, Esq.

Managing Attorney Housing Unit - Jeff Katz, Esq.

Managing Attorney Triage Unit - Sarah Youngblood, Esq.

Managing Attorney Mohave County Office - Tim Finn, Esq.

Managing Attorney Yavapai County Office - Martin Coleman, Esq.



We appreciate the continued support of our community.

