



THE LEGAL AID ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Letter from the Executive Director

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but we now look forward to a promise of change in 2021. One thing hasn't changed at LAAC. We believe in our community in every thing you do, every day, to make California a better place.

Sheltering in place is not easy. Standing up to white supremacy is not easy. Helping clients understand evolving benefits or advocating for expanded eviction moratoria while supervising our kids' zoom school isn't easy. We are all hungry to see each other.

LAAC's work shifted in 2020 to respond to the challenges you're facing. We moved our popular multi-day NITA trainings for our members to an online model. We started free Wellness Summits in the summer and continue to offer them each month with free yoga and presentations on wellness topics.

We launched our free toolkit on developing office policies with a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens – a project of our board's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accountability in Legal Aid (IDEAL) Committee. We hired our first ever Racial Justice Coordinator to help our community connect with each other more and stand up for racial justice.

We worked with legislators to answer questions about how the coronavirus might impact low-income Californians and will continue to advocate in 2021 for more funding to increase your services. We know the legal response to COVID will last years.

We recognize your hard work – we see how much you are doing – and will continue doing all we can to back your efforts at balancing the scales.

In solidarity in the fight for justice,

Salena Copeland

Executive Director



HOW LAAC SHOWED UP IN 2020

While 2020 has been an unprecedented year in many ways, LAAC has continued to advocate for our members in many ways. This includes continuing to fight for the three things we always fight for: more funding for legal aid, better laws for legal aid and the low-income Californians that they serve; and effective and fair policies from the State Bar and Judicial Council. We advocate for these three things through our legislative and budgetary advocacy (state legislature); administrative advocacy (the State Bar and the Judicial Council); and legal aid and access to justice research and reports. By producing our own supporting letters and coordinating the community to vocalize support, we pushed for a number of bills this session, such as AB 3121 (task force on reparations); AB 2463 (consumer debt); and SB 908 (debt



collection). We continued our advocacy efforts at the State Bar and Judicial Council, spanning many different issue areas, including the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and the Paraprofessionals Working Group as well as comments on provisional licensing and Elimination of Bias MCLE. At the Judicial Council, we have worked on issues like Jameson implementation (access to a court reporter and record), remote hearings, and gender pronoun jury instructions. Last, our legal aid sector research and support has focused on collaborative projects like our work with OneJustice on a social worker survey as well as our report production with the California Access to Justice Commission. Through these projects, we have been able to examine important issues, like integrating social workers into legal aid organizations to ensure holistic services, the role of technology in increasing access to justice in rural areas, and the nexus between social determinants of health and legal services.

2020 FINANCIALS

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$302,720
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	\$340,061
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$210,583
CONFERENCE & SEMINARS	\$64,233
INTEREST	\$1,211
RESEARCH SUPPORT & CONTRACTS	\$26,158
OTHER	\$4,075

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE
\$949,041

EXPENSES

PERSONNEL	\$590,302
DAN BRADLEY FELLOWSHIPS	\$6,000
PROGRAM AND OPERATING	\$262,270
TRAININGS & CONFERENCES	\$39,954
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$898,526

NET ASSETS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020
\$272,809

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

\$10K+

Bigglesworth Family Fdn.
van Löben Sels/
RembeRock Fdn.
American College of
Bankruptcy Fdn.
Walter & Elise Haas Fdn.
State Bar of California
Jack London

\$1K-9,999

Henry Martin
DLA Piper Fdn.
Keker, Van Nest & Peters
LLP
Fenwick & West LLP
One Legal

\$500-999

Hilary Armstrong
Carl Millwood
Mechanics Bank

\$250-499

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Holland & Knight Charitable
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Up to \$249

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Aimee Ferrington
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Aman Murray
Amelia Alvarez
Ampha Cardenas
Amy Betts
Amy Lee
Amy Timperley
Ana Ponce
Anders Nelson
Andrea Luquetta
Andrew Lurie
Andrew Snyder
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Angie Chang
Anne Hadreas
Anonymous
Avni Desai
Ben Snyder
Ben Davis
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Christina Wyneken
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Janet Cha
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Janice Kramer
Jean Hom
Jenna Miara
Jenna Rinehart

"Donors do not give to organizations because organizations have needs; they give because organizations meet needs."

-Kay Sprinkle Grace

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Jennifer Dickinson
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Jeremy Aliasson
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Vekyr Ueit
Victoria Snyder
Vijay Gupta
Wes Pan
Xasha Valderrama
Yasmin Bigdeli
Yvette Lope

Here's what your donations did in 2020:

**Provided a Dan Bradley Fellowship
Created new positions for our racial justice work
Provided LAAC staff competent DEI training
and more!**

WE



OUR MEMBERS!

Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA)
AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP)
Alliance for Children's RightsAsian Americans
Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (Advancing Justice-ALC)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (Advancing Justice-LA)
Asian Law Alliance (ALA)
Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal)
Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Break the Cycle*
Butte County Law Library*
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Indian Legal Services (CILS)
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA)
California Women's Law Center (CWLC)
Capital Pro Bono
Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC)
The Center - Long Beach*
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies - California
Central California Legal Services, Inc. (CCLS)
Child Care Law Center
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO)
Community Legal Aid SoCal
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLs)
Dependency Advocacy Center
Disability Rights California (DRC)
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC)
East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)
Elder Law & Advocacy
Elder Law and Disability Rights Center*
Eviction Defense Collaborative
Family Legal Assistance at CHOC Children's
Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP)
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance (GBLA)
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law
HEART LA
Homeless Action Center (HAC)
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA)
Immigrant Legal Defense*
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
Impact Fund
Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS)
Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc. (IELLA)
Inner City Law Center (ICLC)
Insight Center for Community Economic Development (Insight Center)*

Justice and Diversity Center (JDC)
Justice in Aging
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area (LCCR)
Learning Rights Law Center
Legal Access Alameda (Legal Access)
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC)
Legal Aid of Marin
Legal Aid of Sonoma County
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD)
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS)
Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE)
Legal Services for Children (LSC)
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)
Legal Services for Seniors
Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC)
Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice (LACLJ)
McGeorge Community Legal Services
Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS)
National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
National Housing Law Project (NHLPL)
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA)
OneJustice
Open Door Legal*
Positive Resource Center*
Prison Law Office
Pro Bono Project*
Public Advocates Inc.
Public Counsel
Public Interest Law Project (PILP)
Public Law Center
Riverside Legal Aid
Root & Rebound*
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP)
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation
Senior Adults Legal Assistance (SALA)
Senior Advocacy Network - Senior Law Project
Senior Citizens Legal Services (SCLS)
Step Forward Foundation*
University of San Diego Legal Clinics
Veterans Legal Institute
Wage Justice Center
Watsonville Law Center (WLC)
Western Center on Law & Poverty (WCLP)
Worksafe Legal Center
Youth Law Center (YLC)
Yuba Sutter Legal Center for Seniors

*Associate Members

TEN BENEFITS OF LAAC MEMBERSHIP

1. Advocacy for statewide legal aid funding
2. Free legal aid trainings & MCLE
3. Self-care and wellness support
4. Corporate discounts
5. Networking opportunities
6. Executive Support
7. Dan Bradley Fellowship eligibility
8. Access to exclusive listservs
9. Eligibility to join the LAAC board
10. Access to LAAC Award ceremonies

"Working at legal aid organizations, we don't often get the funding to attend important legal education courses such as these. I was grateful to get an opportunity to participate. I learned a lot, and this will help me be a more effective advocate to our community and the clients we serve."

-LAAC Member & NITA Attendee

**102 Members
in 2020!**

Discounts include:

Daily Journal SF
Westlaw
LexisNexis
CaseText
Essential Forms
Voiance
ClassPass
24 Hour Fitness
Capitol Seminars
NITA, and MORE!



RACIAL JUSTICE IS CIVIL JUSTICE

This past year, anti-racist protests against police violence across the country called our team to the table to take a deeper look at how we can do better. As an organization, we centered anti-racism and racial justice in all of our programs and are engaged in deep introspection about our workplace culture, policies, and hiring practices. We are building capacity for racial justice work by adding new positions and working with consultants on best practices. As a legal aid association, our commitment extends through our advocacy work on bills that progress racial justice and equity. And we are excited to announce that in January 2021, we are distributing a free legal aid DEI and racial justice toolkit to the community.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

LAAC's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accountability in the Law (IDEAL) Committee continues its work to support our members and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work in the broader legal aid community. After three years of hard work, the committee has finished the first ever DEI toolkit for legal aid service providers. The toolkit will be accompanied by a series of digital events and community conversations exploring DEI, racial justice and much more.

OUR COVID-19 & DISASTER RESPONSE

LAAC has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and advocating on behalf of and with the legal aid community since the beginning of the pandemic. Here's how.

Coordination of the legal aid community. We distributed resources and collaborated on an array of issues, including the CARES Act, with the Alameda County Bar Association and other Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative partners (including the Partner Portal for posting and exchanging resources). We responded to ad hoc questions from members, and hosted our annual Tech Summit in March virtually and pivoted the entire agenda on tech used in COVID response.



Legislative & budgetary advocacy. We followed federal and state legislation related to COVID-19 (eviction moratoriums, funding issues, etc.), communicated with legislative staff about increased need for legal services, participated in a range of stakeholder calls and Zoom meetings (such as those convened by National Low-Income Housing Coalition), and monitored and circulated information regarding bills related to preventing evictions, such as AB 1436.

Monitoring the Judicial Council and State Bar. We relayed information to our community (especially regarding emergency orders from the Judicial Council), commented on the Pandemic Working Group's guide for reopening and the consideration process for removing the eviction moratorium, and analyzed the implications of the crisis for IOLTA revenue.

Public-facing resources. We created, maintained and updated LawHelpCA's COVID Disaster Relief Information page as well as wildfires page.

Trainings focused on the implications of COVID-19. We offered webinars on COVID-19 on a range of topics and created a page on LAACOnline.org to provide links to all relevant trainings.

California Commission on Access to Justice (CalATJ) policy papers and reports related to COVID-19. We worked with CalATJ on policy papers including The Role of Technology in Enhancing Rural Access to Justice (which has a COVID-19 component) and *California's Attorney Deserts, Social Determinants of Health, and COVID-19* along with the *Remote Hearings and Access to Justice During COVID-19 and Beyond*.

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diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice

We are committed to DEI and racial justice internally as an organization, and externally in the services we provide the legal aid community. For more information on this commitment, please read our "[Commitment to Racial Justice](#)".

responsiveness

We are committed to fulfilling the needs of legal aid organizations and we will be responsive and supportive with accountability in all we do.

fostering community

We are committed to connecting the legal aid community statewide.

progress

We are committed to always seeking progress on our issues. We will seek incremental change as we fight for transformative change.

wellness

We are committed to wellness for ourselves and within our community. We recognize the necessity of self-care as fundamental to helping others.

LAAC Trains

LAAC continues to offer free and low-cost trainings for the California legal services community. 2020's offerings included: time relevant trainings such as "Access to Medi-Cal During the COVID-19 Pandemic" co-sponsored by The National Health Law Program, our Annual Tech Summit and follow up mini-summits focused on technology challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, two fully remote Trial Advocacy Trainings through our partnership with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA), wellness education summits, online MCLE, and more.

1200+

MCLE Processed

50+

MCLE Hours

88

NITA Attendees

180+

Wellness Attendees

"I feel so much more equipped for court representation than I ever thought possible. Not only that, but my confidence has gone way up. Running through those practical exercises was invaluable. I also really appreciated that everyone else was a legal aid / nonprofit attorney. I felt more comfortable putting myself out there and finding my voice knowing I was among my peers in a judgment-free space. Thank you for this incredible opportunity!" - LAAC Training Attendee

LawHelpCA, California's ONLY online legal information resource

446,387

users served

1,674,016

pages viewed

In response to COVID-19 and the California wildfires, LawHelp enhanced our disaster information hub to better connect users to emergency resources, housing protections, benefits and much more. The LawHelp team also greatly expanded

our live chat volunteer program so users can connect in real time. We also devoted significant time and resources to improving the site to ensure it's as broadly accessible and intuitive to all users as much as possible.

LAAC



CalATJ

LAAC works extensively with CalATJ and we co-authored or assisted on a number of policy papers focused on access-to-justice issues including: California's Attorney Deserts, Social Determinants of Health, and COVID-19, and The Role of Technology in Enhancing Rural Access to Justice. We also surveyed 58 county court websites to determine whether they provide information and forms to access language services will hopefully be published, in some form, soon. Another exciting project LAAC partnered with CalATJ on is an online tool designed to strengthen the connection between legislative caseworkers and their districts legal service providers. This online resource will be used by legislative staff when assisting constituents with legal needs, connecting them directly with someone from legal aid in their district. The tool was distributed to all State Senate and Assembly offices and will continue to operate beyond times of crisis by being easily and regularly updated. Closing the communication gap between legislative offices and legal aid is important to ensure legal support is reaching low-income Californians.

