

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to advance economic opportunity and social justice through effective legal advocacy.



Board of Directors 2023-2024

OFFICERS

President

D. Porpoise Evans, Esq.
Littler

1st Vice President

Karen J. Lapekas, Esq.
Lapekas Law

2nd Vice President

Debra Tyler
Better Way of Miami

Treasurer

Stephen Rosenthal, Esq.
Podhurst Orseck

Secretary

Arya Attari Li, Esq.
Lockton Companies

DIRECTORS

Emily Alejo Perry
AmeriCorps VISTA

Marissa Altman-Glatzer, Esq.
Miami Dade Public Defender's Office

Juanita Alvarez

Loreal Arscott, Esq.
L.A. Law Firm, P.A.

Scott Baena, Esq.

Candice Balmori, Esq.
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman

Jason E. Bloch, Esq.
Dade County Bar Association

Sonya Brown-Wilson
Miami Workers Center

Carlos I. Cardelle, Esq.
ADP

Stephanie L. Carman, Esq.
GrayRobinson, P.A.

Jose Cuneo, Ex Officio
Kaufman Rossin

Manuel Dobrinsky, Esq.
Dolan Dobrinsky Rosenblum Bluestein

Teresa Enriquez, Esq.
Miami Dade Public Defender's Office

Wifredo Ferrer, Esq.
Holland & Knight

Kevin Fitzmaurice, Esq.
Fitzmaurice Law

Serge Fortune
Family Action Network Movement

Rachel W. Furst, Esq.
Maderal Byrne & Furst

Jordi Guso, Esq.
Berger Singerman LLP

Corina Hernandez
Homeless/Formerly Homeless Forum, Inc.

Keith Ivory
Catalyst Miami

Fritznie Jarbath, Esq.
Jarbath Pena Law Group, P.A.

Phyllis Johnson
Jessie Trice Community Health Center

Enjoliqué A. Lett, Esq.
Greenberg Traurig

Freddi R. Mack, Esq.
Miami Beach City Attorney's Office

Aleida Martinez-Molina, Esq.
AXS Law Group, PLLC

Jesika Diaz Munar, Esq.
Munar Law

Hung I. Nguyen, Esq.
The Nguyen Law Firm

Carolyn Pates

Darrell Payne, Esq.
Stearns Weaver Miller

Waloli Salazar
Connect Familias FKA
Little Havana Community

Cherine Smith Valbrun, Esq.
Kim Vaughan Lerner

Natasha St.Cyr
Head Start/Early Head Start Program

Alejandro Uribe, Esq.
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman

Stanley Wakshlag
Kenny Nachwalter

Naomi Wiggins
Urgent, Inc.

Hermine Wilson
Advocacy Network on Disabilities

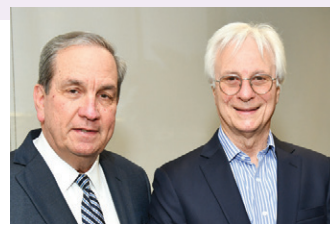
Ida Wright
Branches

Donald Yates, Esq.
Law Offices of Donald E. Yates

Laura Zapata-Kim, Esq.
Ryder System, Inc.

Special thanks to our departing members for their time and support throughout the past years.

Kristen Corpion • Liam Mugavin • Izegbe Onyango • Milagros Perez • Michelle Prescott • Sairy Salazar



Legal Services held its inaugural **Past Presidents' Dinner** in April, marking a nostalgic and heartfelt occasion. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and acknowledge the outstanding contributions of those who served in previous years. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of our past presidents for joining us in celebrating the ongoing success of our organization.

Message from Board Chair & Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends & Supporters:

We are committed to building a more equitable community. For too many of our neighbors, economic, housing, and food security are often out of reach. At Legal Services, we **challenge the legal structures that perpetuate these inequities**. In 2023, years of planning, hard work, and focus on high-quality advocacy came together and resulted in incredible successes for our program, clients, and community.

Last year we handled more cases and achieved a **47% increase in extended representation cases**. On average, these cases require 18 hours of attorney time to complete. This accomplishment is significant, as it increases access to justice and provides better outcomes for our clients. It is in part due to the **launch of the Miami Dade Eviction Diversion Project**, a collaboration with other legal providers and community partners, as well as a substantial increase in the number of staff attorneys and paralegals. Although housing instability cases continue to represent most of our work, consistent with our strategic plan, we further developed other areas of practice this year – growing the **Heirs' Property Initiative** to protect homeowners and build intergenerational wealth and advancing our **education advocacy** with a dedicated Skadden Fellow.

Increasing access to legal representation has a **lasting impact in our clients' lives**. The families on the cover of this report are a great example of that impact. All are former clients, and we recently reconnected with them to learn how they are doing years after receiving assistance: (clockwise) Robbie and Mimi **avoided foreclosure** and raised their daughter in their home; Anna **accessed critical healthcare services** for Nathan, which enabled her to complete nursing school; Felix **obtained veterans' benefits** that provided financial stability for his young and growing family, and Karls **received health services that changed the trajectory of his life**. For each of them, access to legal services was life changing.

In 2023, we were deeply honored that **MacKenzie Scott gifted Legal Services \$1.8 million**. Her foundation has donated billions to nonprofits around the country, and we are proud to have been selected in the first wave of local legal aid organizations that received an award. This gift and the incredible **generosity of our local and sustaining donors** better position us to continue our growth and retain our incredibly talented staff. Our advocacy, growth, and impact are possible only because of the financial support we receive.

It was an incredible year, and our success is not the result of a single decision, person, or moment but the collective result of a **dedicated and innovative staff** that is committed to our mission, an **outstanding Board of Directors and Leaders Council** whose vision moves us forward, and a **community that both relies on and invests in us**.

Thank you for joining us in our commitment to **Building a Community of Equal Justice!**

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink.

D. Porpoise Evans
Legal Services Board President

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink.

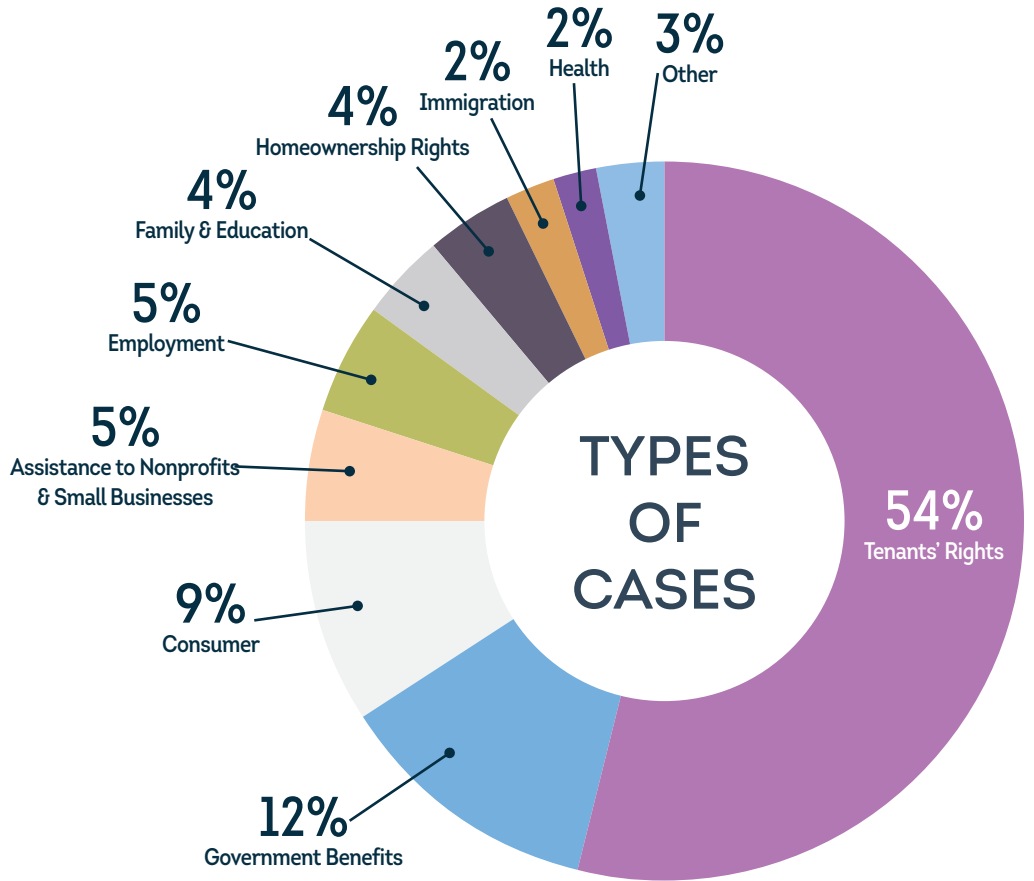
Monica Vignes-Pitan
Legal Services CEO

Engagement by the Numbers

**2023
AT A
GLANCE:**

22,696
People Helped

4,696
Cases Handled



2023 Key Impacts



\$11,178,947

Funds Recovered/Avoided and Housing Preserved



Protected **1,449** Families from Eviction or Foreclosure



Provided Community Education to **1,060** Social Service Providers



Recruited **182** New Pro Bono Volunteers to Serve Clients



Hosted/Participated in **134** Community Outreach Events



Dedicated **45,127** Hours to Legal Advocacy

Removing Legal Barriers to Healthcare Access & Critical Benefits



Protecting Student's Due Process Rights in School Discipline

A high school junior and her mom sought our assistance when she was expelled from her high school. A model student with good grades and extensive extracurricular involvement, she had never been in trouble before. She made a mistake and was immediately expelled for the remainder of her junior year and the following year. **Legal Services filed an appeal and was successful in reducing the expulsion by half a year**, allowing her to finish her senior year in her home school. **This ensures that she continues to stay on the right path, graduates from high school, and excels in her post-secondary goals.**

34% OF CLIENTS WE REPRESENT ARE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Financial Stability & Maximum Benefits for Army Veteran

A 50-year-old veteran, who was honorably discharged from the Army after four years of service sought our assistance with increasing his Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits. He had a 70% service-connected disability rating for various physical conditions. We filed a detailed claim requesting an increase and adding new claims for his major depressive disorder with anxiety distress as well as for his right hip condition. Subsequently, the **VA increased the disability rating for his physical condition**. Additionally, the **VA granted service connection for his mental disorder as 70% disabling**. **Because of our advocacy, his VA disability compensation more than doubled – it increased from 70% (\$1,716/month) to 100% (\$3,737/month) – and he was also awarded \$7,026 in backpay**. By maximizing his VA disability rating, we ensured this veteran receives the healthcare and benefits he rightfully earned.



SERVED **519** VETERANS WITH A VARIETY OF LEGAL ISSUES



Promoting Health Equity Through Medical-Legal Partnership

In his late 50s and with no medical insurance, our client had multiple hospital admissions and visits to the emergency room over the years because he lacked access to ongoing treatment for a myriad of health conditions. After being denied Medicaid several times, his hospital referred him through our Medical-Legal Partnership for help. We **successfully appealed the Medicaid denial, which guaranteed him ongoing health coverage** and provided retroactive coverage for seven months to ensure his medical bills for that period were paid. Additionally, we **assisted with his claim for disability benefits, providing him with a vital source of income**. Thanks to our advocacy, **our client obtained access to healthcare and disability benefits; both of which will significantly contribute to his health and well-being**. Recently, he finally had cataract surgery he desperately needed to help improve his vision and quality of life.

Saved Senior Thousands of Dollars on Past Due Income Tax Debt

An elderly taxpayer came to Legal Services with a 2020 balance due of \$7,000. Even though she is on a fixed income of Social Security and living close to the federal poverty line, the IRS pressured her into an installment agreement of \$100 per month. This is the lowest installment amount the IRS said it could accept. She tried to make a few payments, but she was unable to pay the IRS and her basic living expenses.



ASSISTED **239** CLIENTS WITH TAX DISPUTES

We investigated the case and determined that the taxpayer's 2020 tax return was poorly prepared. With the help of a volunteer CPA, we **prepared a 2020 amended tax return showing that the taxpayer did not owe \$7,000. In fact, she was due a refund of \$600**. After waiting a year for the IRS to process the amended return, we referred the case to the Taxpayer Advocate Service to ask the IRS to expedite processing. The IRS ultimately issued a refund of \$678. **Not only was the taxpayer delighted to have a few hundred dollars refunded, but she was very relieved to have the tax burden lifted.**

Keeping Families in Their Homes & Safeguarding Tenants' Rights



Tenants' Rights Unit Achieves Systemic Changes for Public Housing & Section 8 Tenants

In 2023, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, Miami-Dade County resumed filing evictions against public housing tenants who were behind on rent. During the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandated that public housing authorities provide 30-day notice before filing an eviction. However, when the County resumed evictions, it did not comply with this new requirement. **After we challenged the County's notices, they changed their practice and dismissed the evictions they had erroneously filed.** Because of Legal Services' advocacy, all public housing tenants are now receiving a 30-day notice to pay before an eviction is filed.

The Tenants' Rights unit also **submitted detailed comments to the County about their local policies impacting our clients** in public housing and the Section 8 voucher program. The County adopted several of our recommendations. The highlights include:

1. Disabled tenants who need a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act will now be able to provide other verification documents and are no longer limited to providing documentation from a doctor;
2. The County will now be required to reach out to applicants by phone and email before they remove an application from the waiting list; and
3. The County agreed to simplify the process for public housing residents to obtain a rent adjustment when their income decreases.

Additionally, Legal Services and community partners **successfully advocated for policy changes, which will provide more time for a Section 8 tenant to find housing before their voucher expires – a critical change in this difficult housing market.** These increased safeguards will provide more stability to tenants and keep more Miamians in their homes.

Protecting Tenant from Source of Income Discrimination

During COVID, our client could no longer work to make ends meet and fell behind on her rent. She and her two children were protected from eviction by the CDC moratorium, so she applied for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help pay her past due rent. Miami-Dade County approved the rental assistance, but her landlord refused to accept it.

Miami-Dade County law prohibits landlords from discriminating against tenants based upon their lawful source of income, so we filed an administrative complaint with the Commission on Human Rights. Last summer, the **Commission issued a probable cause determination finding that the landlord discriminated against our client.** Shortly thereafter, the landlord and our client reached a **settlement agreement**, which waived past due rent and compensated our client for her damages. **We believe this to be the first case in Miami-Dade County where the Commission found a landlord discriminated against a tenant by refusing to accept the tenant's rental assistance** and know it will be useful to assist other tenants who use rental assistance to avoid eviction.

Favorable Settlement for Keys Residents Leads to Nearly \$500,000 in Rent Refunds

In 2017, a **55+ mobile home community located in Marathon raised lot rents by nearly 20%** while many residents are on a fixed income. Florida law prohibits unreasonable rent increases in mobile home parks. After facing this increase at a time when the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by only 2.5%, Legal Services helped the Homeowners' Association (HOA) challenge the increase. When negotiations failed, we filed a lawsuit challenging the unreasonable rent increase. In 2018, the park once again raised rents by 10%, and we filed a second lawsuit. After several years of litigation, including two appeals where the HOA prevailed at the Third District Court of Appeal, in June 2023, the HOA and the park reached a settlement agreement. **Rents will stay at current levels through April 2028** (as long as CPI remains below 5%). HOA members also received a **rent refund of approximately \$150,000.**



54% OF
CASES INVOLVED
LANDLORD/
TENANT ISSUES

In addition to the rent credits, the **park agreed to make community improvements.** In total, the **settlement agreement provides rent refunds of over \$450,000 and will prevent seniors on fixed incomes from being displaced.** At points during the litigation, we received pro bono support from Bilzin Sumberg and Kopelowitz, Ostrow, Ferguson, Weiselberg, Gilbert.

Defending Consumers in Foreclosure & Heirs' Property

This past year Legal Services defended consumers from improper bank and wage garnishments, advocated for the rights of consumers to obtain a fresh start from crippling debt in bankruptcy proceedings, and defended victims of ID theft against unwarranted debt collection lawsuits. **Protecting homeownership is at the center of our work.**



HANDLED
204
HOME-
OWNERSHIP
CASES

Protection from Foreclosure An elderly woman facing a reverse mortgage foreclosure for non-payment of taxes and insurance sought our assistance. We defended her on the grounds that the mortgage servicer refused to disburse insurance funds needed to make repairs to her roof and maintain the insurance. During litigation, we encouraged her to apply for pandemic-related mortgage assistance funds. Ultimately, **her application was approved, the funds were disbursed to the mortgage servicer and the foreclosure case was dismissed.** As a result, her home was saved from foreclosure.

In partnership with Fannie Mae, the Housing Assistance Council December 2023 Report cites "the homeownership gap between White households (73%) and Black households (44%) is the highest it has been in ten years."

Protection for the Next Generation The **Heirs' Property Initiative** was launched to assist existing homeowners with basic estate planning focused on securing the intergenerational transfer of their home. This initiative assisted an elderly, disabled veteran in one of Miami's historically Black neighborhoods. With our help he left his home to his sister through a "Lady Bird Deed," which provides for the transfer of one's home to one or more designated beneficiaries upon the homeowner's death, without the need for probate. We prepared similar deeds and wills for other homeowners. We are also currently handling complex cases seeking to remediate heirs' property with the goal of obtaining clear title for our clients' family homes.

Equity and Economic Development

Supporting Small Businesses & Nonprofits

The Community Economic Development Unit (CED) provides corporate and real estate legal assistance to small businesses and local nonprofits.

Highlights:

- Represented nonprofits in several multi-million-dollar transactions to build affordable housing in our community.
- Attorneys provided counsel on critical nonprofit governance matters. Whether it was reviewing an agreement with a well-known artist to paint a mural, or a commercial lease, construction-related agreements, or agreements with subgrant recipients, or guiding a nonprofit through an executive transition, CED attorneys made certain that our clients' interests were protected. Without our help, these nonprofits would have either forgone legal representation or curtailed vital community services.
- Provided small business start-up consultations and represented small businesses in contract drafting and commercial lease transactions.

Assist Nonprofit in Closing Loan to Develop Affordable Housing & Maximize Impact

CED closed a \$1 Million line of credit facility for Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida (NHSSF) and its real estate development subsidiary. Both entities provide housing and mortgage services to local low-income families. The credit facility will provide them additional resources to acquire property to build and rehabilitate affordable single-family housing in our community.

In addition, we negotiated general contractor and home inspector agreements for NHSSF's weatherization contracts with Miami-Dade County and FPL where NHSSF facilitates weatherization services for low-income homeowners, including new insulation, air-conditioning, and other appliances to increase energy efficiency.

"With Legal Services as our trusted ally, we have the peace of mind needed to serve boldly and realize our mission."

—Kamalah Fletcher, NHSSF Deputy Director



ASSISTED
40 SMALL
BUSINESSES



ASSISTED
54 NON-
PROFITS



HANDLED
223
CASES

Fundraising Highlights

14th Annual Heart of Giving Celebration Recognizes Two Esteemed Community Leaders



Pictured above: Legal Services CEO Monica Vignes-Pitan and Legal Services Board Director Laura Zapata-Kim (Assistant General Counsel, Ryder) pose with honorees, Dr. Pedro "Joe" Greer and Alan G. Greer, Esq., as well as with Event Chair Lilly Ann Sanchez (The LS Law Firm) and Master of Ceremonies Glenna Milberg (WPLG Local 10 Reporter and This Week in South Florida host).

Over 350 members of the legal, business, and civic community gathered last May at the 14th Annual Heart of Giving Celebration held at the stunning **Rubell Museum**. We presented the **2023 Equal Justice Leadership Award** to **Alan G. Greer**, a prominent trial lawyer and former Miami partner at Day Pitney LLP and the **2023 Equal Justice Humanitarian Leadership Award** to **Dr. Pedro "Joe" Greer**, a distinguished doctor who established Camillus Health Concern and Saint John Bosco Clinic in Miami, and more recently the founding Dean of the Roseman School of Health Sciences in Las Vegas.

Thanks to **Ryder**, our exclusive title sponsor, and the **more than 70 sponsors and countless supporters**, we were able to continue this annual tradition, **raising over \$138,000** toward our mission.

Cocktails Under the Stars Raises \$25,000

The 2nd Annual Cocktails Under the Stars, a fundraising initiative developed in partnership with **Evensky & Katz/ Foldes Wealth Management**, raised **\$25,000** to benefit our mission. Over 150 supporters in the corporate and legal industries gathered to support the **importance of equal access to legal representation**. We are incredibly grateful to **David Evensky** and **Marcos Segrera**, who along with the entire Host Committee ensured the night's success.



Pictured above: Several distinguished host committee members pose in front of Step and Repeat along with Legal Services CEO Monica Vignes-Pitan.

Meet Felix



“ Legal Services has played a crucial role in helping me obtain enhanced medical care, mental health support, and financial assistance. ”

SUPPORT LEGAL SERVICES ON 11.16.23

Give Miami Day Brings Our Community Together

Through the generous contributions of 210 donors, we smashed past Give Miami Day records to raise **\$107,405!** Throughout the campaign, we featured client stories that are full of inspiration and showcase intergenerational change. The outpouring of support from the community was absolutely remarkable. These contributions are not just financial, they are mission-critical and directly contribute to transforming the lives of our neighbors who need it the most.

Young Professionals Council Makes Big Impact

The Young Professionals Council members put in a lot of work throughout the year to bring more awareness to our mission. They organized three **Conversations with Leaders**, featuring the amazing speakers **Judge Rosemary Barkett**, **Judge Darrin P. Gayles**, and **U.S. Attorney Markenzy Lapointe**. Also, they assembled spring break boxes for client families, raised money through a trivia night, launched the inaugural Associates' Drive, and participated in Give Miami Day. Thank you to the entire Council and to the **2023 Executive Committee: Dan Humphrey, Alexandra Cimo, Jacqueline Durand, Alex Jimenez, and Christopher Noel**.



Pictured left: Featured Conversations with Leaders speaker, The Honorable Darrin P. Gayles, stands with several Young Professionals Council members.

A Special Evening with Gilbert King



Last fall, members of our Chesterfield Smith Society for Equal Justice, along with Leadership Circle donors and supporters gathered for an exclusive cocktail reception, generously hosted by White & Case. The evening featured a discussion with **Gilbert King**, the writer, producer, and host of **Bone Valley**, a 9-part narrative podcast about murder and injustice in 1980s central Florida. King is a New York Times bestselling author and the 2013 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction. Joined by special guest, **former Judge Scott Cupp**, King discussed his latest project which thoroughly explores a powerful and timely story of injustice in the criminal judicial system.

Special Acknowledgments



Philanthropist **MacKenzie Scott**, known for her commitment to supporting impactful organizations, wowed us with a **generous, surprise gift of \$1.8 million**. The funds will significantly enhance our capacity to address the justice gap and meet the growing community demand for our services.

We express our profound gratitude for being the **recipient of a \$193,000 Cy Pres award**, that was equally shared with Legal Aid Service of Broward County. A huge thank you to class counsel **Lawrence A. Kellogg** and **Gordon Dobie** who requested this generous allocation.



Leaders Council

We are grateful to our Leaders Council, formerly Campaign Committee, a group of prominent volunteers, for their philanthropic contributions and community leadership. The Council members worked tirelessly to achieve the fundraising goals and to spur support for our organization.

Co-Chairs

Brigid Cech Samole
Jason Kellogg
Lilly Ann Sanchez

Members

Brett Amron
Scott L. Baena
Elizabeth S. Baker
William S. Berk
Michael E. Brand
Jennifer Stearns Buttrick
Carlos J. Canino
Raoul G. Cantero
Franco Celeste
Karen Cespedes
Alexandra Cimo
Kendall B. Coffey
Sherril Colombo
Jeffrey B. Crockett
Jose Cuneo
Allison R. Day

Ramon de Legorburu
Jesika Diaz Munar
Michael P. Elkin
D. Porpoise Evans
Richard S. Fechter
Wifredo Ferrer
Jennifer E. Fine
David M. Gersten
Jordi Guso
Steven Hadjilogiou
Lance A. Harke
Dan Humphrey
Alexander Jimenez
Marcos D. Jiménez
Michael Jimenez
Thomas R. Julin

Alan J. Kluger
Lisa Lopez
Leslie J. Lott
George G. Mahfood
Michelle Martinez-Reyes
Gabriel D. Mazzitelli
John W. McLuskey
Gustavo Membiela
Brian Miller
Michael T. Moore
Hung Nguyen
Tracy Nichols
Christopher A. Noel
Joseph Pack
Robert L. Parks
Darrell Payne

Mey-Ling Perez
Richard A. Pollack
Craig V. Rasile
Mark F. Raymond
Stephen F. Rosenthal
Lauri Waldman Ross
Marcos A. Segrera
Paul A. Shelowitz
Jason B. Sherry
John K. Shubin
Bradley H. Stein
Gabriel Valdes
Stanley H. Wakshlag
Stephen N. Zack



The Community Outreach Sub-Committee hosted the annual Business Breakfast Panel on *Housing Insecurity: What It Means for You & Your Business*. Pictured above: Panelists **Jason T. Smith**, Director of Equity & Engagement, Office of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and **Annie Lord**, Executive Director, Miami Homes For All, pose with **Monica Vignes-Pitan**, Legal Services CEO, and panelist **Alberto Milo, Jr.**, President, Related Urban Development Group, as well as moderator **Matt Haggman**, EVP, Opportunity Miami, Miami-Dade Beacon Council.

We express our sincere gratitude to our departing members for their dedication and service.

Xavier Cortada • George Haj • Michael Kaczka • Marilee Mark

Honoring Our Pro Bono Partners

Advancing Justice for Elders: \$175,000 Settlement for Woman Wrongfully Evicted from Her Home

In a heartening victory for justice, **Barakat + Bossa secured a settlement of \$175,000 in a pro bono case involving an elderly woman who faced wrongful eviction** from her cherished family home. The unsettling story of murky title disputes and investor tactics found a positive resolution, highlighting the crucial role of legal advocacy in safeguarding vulnerable individuals.

The client, in her 70s and battling several health challenges, inherited her family home from her parents. Years later, an investor seemingly acquired the property, leading to her eviction. Giacomo Bossa is a specialist in business litigation and complex real estate law, so Barakat + Bossa took on the case to ensure justice prevailed. The pro bono attorney filed a **Quiet Title and an elderly abuse lawsuit to establish her rightful ownership** against the initial title holder. **The result was a \$175,000 settlement that is now providing her with additional support as she navigates assisted living.**

Bossa emphasized, **"Our victory is more than financial. It's about restoring dignity and quality of life to a person who didn't deserve such distress. We must always advocate for our elderly population who too often bear the brunt of such situations."**



32% OF
CLIENTS SERVED
WERE SENIORS



In celebration of National Pro Bono Week, Legal Services proudly **recognized the volunteer services of 310 attorneys at our Annual Pro Bono Celebration**. Over 100 guests attended the cocktail reception and awards ceremony, **exclusively sponsored by Ocean Bank**. Along with special guest speaker, **Cecilia A. Altonaga, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of FL**, we presented the **2023 Equal Justice Awards** for exceptional service and contributions to equal justice in the following categories:

Large Firm Award: McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Special Project Of The Year Award: White & Case LLP

Corporate Partner Award: Santander Bank

Impact Award: Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Rising Star Award: Vanessa Offutt, Esq.

Champion For Justice Award: Holland & Knight LLP

Tax Clinic Award: Anita Friedlander, Esq. · Steven Klitzner, Esq.
Michael Lampert, Esq. · Karen Lapekas, Esq.
Joseph Barry Schimmel, Esq.

Solo/Small Firm Award: Tomas A. Gonzalez, Jr., Esq.

Clinic Volunteer Award: Elisabeth Magloire, Esq.



PRO BONO IMPACT: By the Numbers



310
PRO BONO
VOLUNTEERS



3,552 HOURS
OF PRO BONO
SERVICE PROVIDED

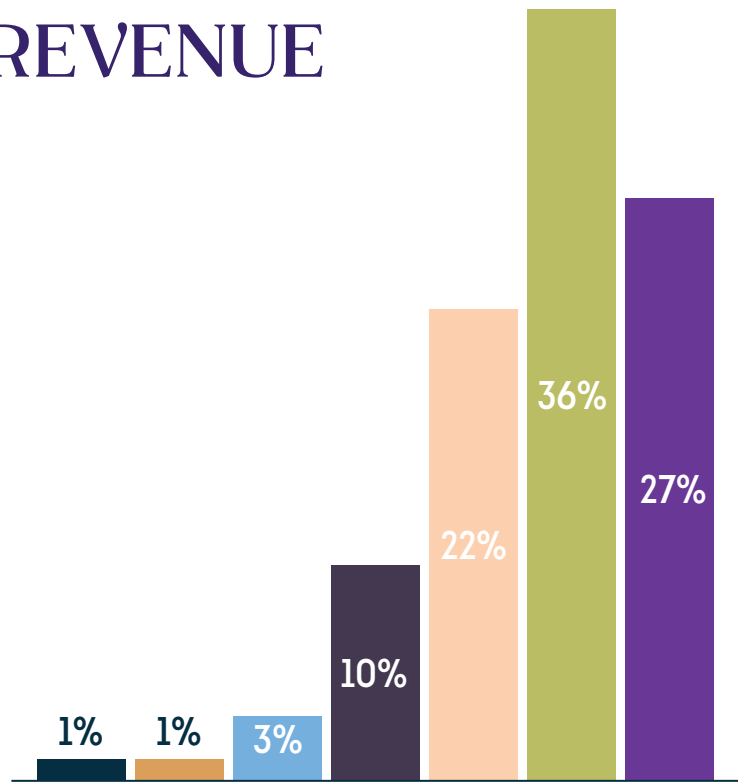


380 CLIENTS
ASSISTED
THROUGH
PRO BONO

Thank you for making us #ProBonoStrong!

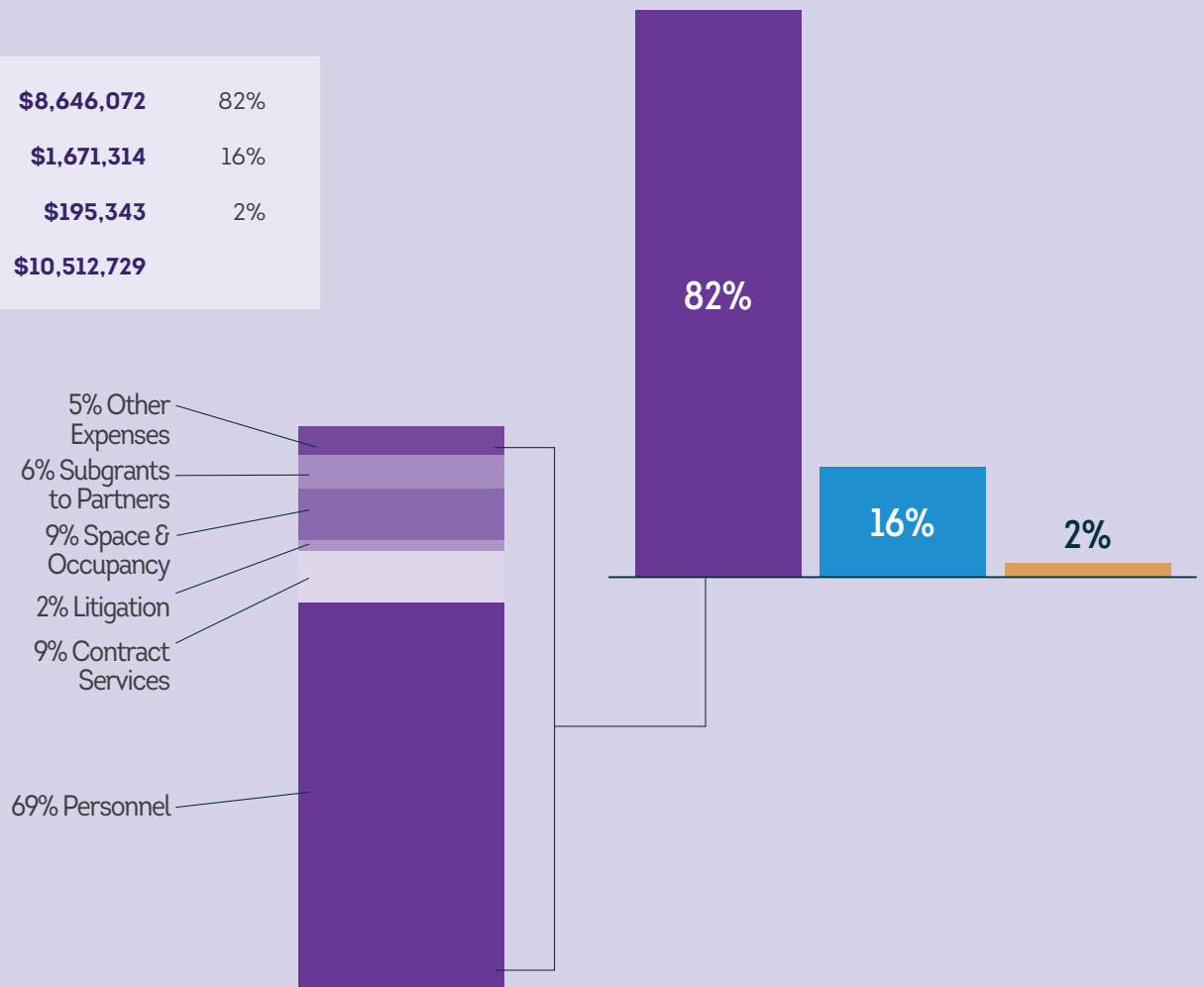
2023 REVENUE

Contributions	\$3,713,644	27%
LSC Support	\$4,844,758	36%
Public Grants	\$3,001,568	22%
Private Grants	\$1,420,375	10%
Rental Income	\$376,209	3%
Program Fees	\$87,823	1%
Other Income	\$121,999	1%
TOTAL REVENUE*	\$13,566,376	



2023 EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$8,646,072	82%
Management & General	\$1,671,314	16%
Fundraising	\$195,343	2%
TOTAL Expenses*	\$10,512,729	



*Preaudit numbers

Leadership Circle

Our work is made possible through the generous support of our donors.

BLUE DIAMOND \$100,000+

Harke Clasby & Bushman –
Social Justice Fellowship in Honor of Nancy T. Clasby
Holland & Knight
Jacqueline Allee Smith –
The Jacqueline Allee Smith Legal Fellowship Program
Stearns Weaver Miller

DIAMOND \$50,000+

Helliwell Family Foundation –
In Memory of Paul L. E. Helliwell, Esq.
Ryder System, Inc.
White & Case

Gold \$25,000+

Akerman LLP
Berger Singerman LLP
Bilzin Sumberg LLP
Cole Scott & Kissane, P.A.
Evensky & Katz/Foldes
Wealth Management
Greenberg Traurig

Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman,
Katzen & Levine
Scott Family Foundation
Ver Ploeg & Marino
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole
& Bierman, P.L.
Yavitz Cypen Foundation –
Harry & Irving Cypen Tax Fellowship

SILVER \$10,000+

AXS Law Group
Bast Amron LLP
Dribin & DeLuca
The Fine and Greenwald
Foundation
Gunster
Hamilton Miller & Birthisel
Harper Meyer Perez Hagen
O'Connor Albert
Hunton Andrews Kurth
Jimenez Mazzitelli Mordes
Kaufman|Rossin –
Accounting Fellowship
Kenny Nachwalter, P.A.

León Cosgrove Jiménez
Levine Kellogg Lehman
Schneider + Grossman
McDermott Will & Emery
McLuskey, McDonald & Hughes
Meland Budwick, P.A.
The Moskowitz Law Firm
Ocean Bank
Peckar & Abramson
Podhurst Orseck
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart
& Sullivan
The William J. and Tina
Rosenberg Foundation
Winston & Strawn

BRONZE \$5,000+

The Hon. A. Leo Adderly &
Wilda Adderly
Scott Baena
Berk, Merchant, & Sims
Buckner, Shifrin, Etter,
Dugan & Bradfute
Camillus House
CareSource Foundation

Continental Corporate Services.
Day Pitney
DLA Piper
Dolan Dobrinsky Rosenblum
Bluestein
Gamba & Herrera Trial Lawyers
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani
Grove Bank & Trust
Kevin & Yolonda Jacobs
Kirkland & Ellis
The Miami Foundation
The Morrison & Foerster
Foundation
Pack Law
Darrell & Debbie Payne
Ross & Girtten
Rivero Mestre
Santander Bank
Saul Ewing LLP
Sequor Law
Shubin & Bass, P.A.
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan
Stanley Wakshlag

Donor levels reflect cumulative giving for the campaign period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Chesterfield Smith Society

GUARDIANS \$2,500 - \$4,999

A to Z Injury Law, PLLC
Dr. Karen Brooks
The Columbus Foundation
Jennifer Fine
First Horizon
Gwen S. Cherry Black Women
Lawyers Association
Nelson Mullins Riley &
Scarborough
Professional Bank
TD Bank

CHAMPIONS \$1,000 - \$2,499

The Hon. Rosemary Barkett
BCA Watson Rice LLP
Jill Berman
Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors
and Accountants LLP
Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP
Maura Bulman
The Children's Movement
of Florida
Community Justice Project
Caroline Corbin
Jeffrey Crockett

Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein
Nicole Dominguez
Sarah Engel
Esquire Deposition Solutions
D. Porpoise Evans
Federal Bar Association
S. FL Chapter Inc.
Charles Foschini
Fox Rothschild
Bobbie Garrison
Genesis Systems Consulting
Graystone Consulting
Eric Gros-Dubois
Jordi Guso
Alison Harke
Thomas Hawkins
Homer Bonner Jacobs Ortiz
Marcos Jimenez
Kaplan Financial Services
Jason Kellogg
John Kozyak
Lee Kraftchick
Krinzman Huss Lubetsky
Feldman & Hotte
Kula & Associates
Lapekas Law
Lash & Goldberg

George Mahfood
Marcus Neiman
Rashbaum & Pineiro
Marsh & McLennan Agency
Miles McGrane
Peter Mekras
Diana Mendez & Daniel Rowinsky
Miami-Dade Trial Lawyers
Association, Inc.
Todd Michaels
Munar Law
Rene Murai
Mutual of America
Christopher Noel
Michael Olin
PAAST
Robert Parks
Darrell Payne
Pamela Perry
Joel Perwin
Rabin & Lopez
Daniel Rios
Steven Robinson
Frank Rodriguez
Salmon & Dulberg
Dispute Resolution
The Hon. Elizabeth Schwabedissen

The Hon. Patricia Seitz
Services on Site
Siegfried Rivera
Matthew Sitkowski
Stanley & Susan Rosenblatt
Family Foundation
St. Thomas University
College of Law
Jocelyn Watkins
Shaefer Withers
Wiseheart Foundation
Yip Associates
Zarco Einhorn
Salkowski & Brito

ADVOCATES \$500 - \$999

Avison Young
John Barkett
Ilana Bitton
Jason Bloch
Samuel Blum
Carlos Cardelle
Alexandra Cimo
Jose Cuneo
Marcia Cypen*
Daniel DiClemente
Sharon Dixon

John Dodd
 Richard Dunn
 John Elson
 Christina Folds
 Carmen Fuente
 Jennifer & Thomas Geeker
 Rachel Glade
 Heise Suarez Melville
 Roberto Hernandez
 Dan Humphrey
 JAMS
 George Jenkins
 Julie Kane
 Soneet Kapila
 Kevin Kenneally
 David Leiwant
 Carolina Lombardi
 John Lukacs
 James Meyer
 Michael and Leslie Moore
 Paul Morris
 Jennifer Mosquera
 Hung Nguyen
 Elena Otero
 John Patterson
 Erica Perdomo
 Joshua Pines
 Oluwole Pitan &
 Monica Vignes-Pitan
 Toni Randolph
 Sandra Regner*

Anthony Recio
 Andres Rivero
 David Rosendorf
 Stephen Rosenthal
 Stephen Rossman
 David Samole &
 Brigid Cech-Samole
 Frank Scruggs
 Marcos Segrera
 Christi & Thomas Sherouse
 Kathryn Sorenson
 Joshua Spector
 Bradley Stein
 Gabriel Valdes
 Susan Werth

FRIENDS
\$350 - \$499

Henry Adorno
 Jill Anderson Blanco
 Mario Arango
 Edward Baker
 Elizabeth Baker
 Jeffrey Benjamin
 W. Todd Boyd
 Chris Brochus
 Julia Browne
 Leonardo Canton
 Gary Carman
 Melissa Coates
 Gabrielle Craft
 Luis de la Cruz

Kathy Deckler
 Teresa Enriquez
 Andrew Figueroa
 Kevin Fitzmaurice
 Rachel Furst
 Kelly Garces
 Monique Garcia
 Marissa Glatzer
 John Graham
 Pascale Guerrier
 Mark Hendricks
 Timothy Henkel
 Armando Hernandez
 Brett Horowitz
 Matthew Hutchinson
 Fritznie Jarbath
 David Jessup
 Lauren Kahn
 Michael Katz
 Robert Kofman
 Susan Lerner
 Freddi Mack
 Tara MacNeill
 Hugo Mantilla
 Aleida Martinez-Molina
 Daniel Martinez
 Jason Mays
 George McCleary
 The Law Offices of
 Nathalie Santos
 James Null

Isel Perez
 Victor Perez
 Jorge Piedra
 Larry Pounders
 Daniel Raab
 C. Ryan Reetz
 Karel Remudo
 Andrew Riddles
 Nelson Rodriguez-Varela
 Elsie Romero
 Arthur Rosen
 Giselle Sardinias
 Detra Shaw-Wilder
 Edward Shohat
 Peter Sitaras
 Robert Steinberg
 Marc Sternbaum
 Christopher Sundby
 Miguel Suro Carrasco
 Therrel Baisden LLP
 Avi Tryson
 Alejandro Uribe
 Cherine Valbrun
 Judith Valdes
 Yetian Wang
 Jennifer West
 Benjamin Widlanski
 Juan Zamora

*Sustainers

Donor levels reflect annual gifts from November 18, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

Every effort has been made to ensure this listing is complete and accurate.

If errors or omissions have occurred, please accept our apologies and call 305-438-2513 to report corrections. Thank you!

For more information on how you can become a supporter, please contact: MVignesPitan@legalservicesmiami.org



**THE
 LEGACY
 SOCIETY**

The Legacy Society promotes economic stability and builds a stronger community for generations to come. Members of The Legacy Society align their passion with their resolve to build a community of equal justice through their planned gift.

THANK YOU FOR PAVING THE WAY!

- Michele & Scott Baena
- Marcia K. Cypen
- Edie Laquer
- Gisela Munoz & Daniel Baker
- Jacqueline Allee Smith*

*Realized gift



This is our community and those in need are our neighbors. We are grateful we are able to help, and we know of no better way to do so than by supporting Legal Services of Greater Miami.

— Michele & Scott Baena

Invest in a Community of Equal Justice



SCAN TO GIVE

Annual Giving:

Chesterfield Smith Society

The Chesterfield Smith Society recognizes annual support while celebrating the legacy of the great Chesterfield Smith (1917-2003), a lifelong advocate for access to justice. Smith encouraged all lawyers to “do good by doing right” – by providing pro bono legal services and supporting organizations that work to ensure that all persons have access to justice in our civil legal system without regard to their ability to pay.

Giving levels range from \$350 to \$4,999.

Cryptocurrency & Stock Gifts

Legal Services accepts both cryptocurrency and stock gifts, giving our supporters even more ways to make a difference. Both avenues allow for easy, tax efficient transfers that lead to immediate impact. Cryptocurrency and stock gifts can be made by contacting Jennifer Geeker, CFRE at JGeeker@legalservicesmiami.org.

Event Sponsors

Legal Services event sponsors are a distinguished group of supporters from the business, legal and civic community. In addition to recognition at the event, they are showcased on the Legal Services website, social media, and in our print media which reaches more than 5,000 people.

Sponsorship levels range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Sustainers

Sustainers are individuals who make monthly recurring gifts, contributing year-round support for our legal advocacy. These gifts allow for life-changing work, all while saving time and resources, and increasing your impact. Becoming a Sustainer is as simple as setting up a recurring gift online.

The minimum monthly contribution is \$10.

Young Professionals Council

The Legal Services Young Professionals Council’s mission is to advance access to equal justice by connecting young professionals through community involvement, service, and philanthropy. The Council serves as active ambassadors in the community, volunteers time and services, raises funds for clients in need, and hosts various events.

There is a suggested annual contribution of \$100.

Major Giving:

The Leadership Circle

The Leadership Circle recognizes sustained giving over a three-year period. Members of the Leadership Circle have made a substantial commitment to supporting the highest quality cutting-edge legal services as the needs of our community continue to grow. They are recognized online through the Legal Services website and social media channels, promoted through a Daily Business Review ad announcing their gift, and on Legal Services print and electronic newsletters.

Giving levels range from \$5,000-\$100,000.

Planned Giving:

Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes donors who make charitable bequests to Legal Services in their will or living trust, ensuring that we may continue to break down the barriers of poverty for the most vulnerable in our community well into the future. Legacy Society donors connect their compassion and concern to their financial and estate planning to transform the future for someone in need.

Pro Bono:

Volunteer Opportunities

With over 500,000 low-income individuals and families in our community, the need for free legal services cannot be met by Legal Services staff alone. Pro bono resources are critical to supplement the work we do and to help address the many unmet legal needs. Legal Services welcomes pro bono assistance from law firms, individual attorneys, law students, and other volunteers, and provides the necessary training and mentoring to support those volunteers.



Special Thanks to Our Major Grantors



MIAMI BEACH



4343 West Flagler Street, Ste 100
 Miami, FL 33134
 (305) 576-0080 • www.legalservicesmiami.org

