

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

A stylized illustration of a torch. The torch is depicted in a light gray color, with a flame that is composed of several overlapping, teardrop-shaped elements in vibrant colors: red, orange, yellow, and purple. The flame is positioned to the left of the text, with the word 'JUSTICE' partially overlapping it.

Franklin County Legal Services
Annual Report 2019



Message from Board Chair / Executive Director

Dear Friends

We are very pleased to share with you our 2019 Annual Report, “With Liberty and Justice for All”. Since our founding in 2002, Franklin County Legal Services has believed in and worked for ensuring the promise of liberty and justice for all through the provision of civil legal aid. As you will see from the following pages, that commitment provides a very practical lifeline of help for people in desperate situations. It means speaking up for the voiceless, defending the helpless, and standing up for human rights.

When we cut the ribbon for new office space in December of 2019, little did we know what 2020 would hold. Now, we reflect not only on our work in 2019, but also on the unprecedented challenges that 2020 has already presented to us. Although we have had to adjust how we deliver our services, our vision and our work continue to the fullest. Our services are even more important now.

2019 was a great year of providing civil legal services at no cost to low-income individuals. It was a year of growth! We expanded our staff and physical space to better meet community needs. We are now providing the services of three full-time attorneys!

We thank you so much for being a part of this important work for helping to make the promise of liberty and justice for all a reality through your support of Franklin County Legal Services.



Philip S. Cosentino

Chair, Board of Directors



Gloria M. Keener

Executive Director

IN 2019 WE:

Saved Lives.

Our client and her daughter had fled horrific domestic violence. She was powerless against it due to lack of law enforcement and protection for women in her country. Her only option to save her daughter and herself was to flee to the United States for protection. After they arrived, they were placed in deportation proceedings by the government. We prepared her case, defended her, and helped her tell her story in court. We proved that she had been persecuted based on her membership in a particular social group. The judge granted humanitarian asylum in the case. Now, they can work on re-building their lives in safety and peace.

Kept a Family Together.

After a mother's illness, a relative of the child took the mother to court to take custody of the child. We defended the mother and reunited her with her child.

Supported a New Beginning.

During the client's marriage, her finances had become entwined with her husband's and she was dependent on him for her financial needs. While she didn't want the marriage to end, her husband filed for divorce. Her life became a nightmare. She needed the help of an expert divorce attorney to help her in this complex situation since she had no income of her own. We connected her with a pro bono attorney who stayed by her side through it all. The attorney believed in her and helped her to start over on stable ground financially.

Rescued a Parent.

A single mother whose child lived with her was sued in court by the father. He wanted the child to live with him. She was filled with fear and she came to us for help. We successfully defended the mother at the trial and kept things the way they were.

Met Basic Needs.

A client was granted the right to work for the first time. A single mother, the client struggled to make ends meet and the employment authorization greatly helps her to provide for her children. We are currently advocating for the client to stay in the United States based on her good moral character, length of time here, and the exceptional hardship it would cause her children if she is deported. As we are defending the client under this law, the client is granted employment authorization while her case is pending.

Made Things Right.

We advocated for an immigrant who had been ordered removed (deported) before we met him. We identified defects in the way the court case was processed which made it very unfair to our client. We filed a Motion to Reopen and Terminate the client's court case. As a result, the court case was re-opened and the client is no longer under an Order for deportation. The client is, however, still in removal proceedings. We are defending him in his active proceedings and seeking asylum for him based on his fear of return to his country of nationality.

Saved a Home.

The client had received an eviction notice from her landlord. She was behind on her rent because she was waiting for her disability payments to begin. We negotiated with the landlord and a settlement agreement was reached. The client agreed to gradually catch up on her rent and the landlord agreed to not sue/evict the client. The client stayed in her home, an eviction was prevented, and the client will not have an eviction on her permanent record to harm her future housing options.

IN 2019 WE:

Defended a Family.

We helped a family stay in their home after the owner claimed their children were causing problems and filed to evict them. The family was so devastated that they had sent an older child to live elsewhere to help their chances of not being evicted. We successfully defended the family in court. The Judge ruled in our favor, the family was able to have their child return home, and they stayed in their home.

Prevented Homelessness.

A mother living with her children was scheduled to attend an eviction hearing. After our negotiations, the landlord withdrew his eviction complaint and a judgment was never entered against the client. The client continues to live in her home with her children.

Brightened a Future.

A teenage client was awarded Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. This status will protect him from violence, poverty, displacement, and enable him to participate in the normal activities of his classmates, such as getting a driver's license and a job. His new legal status has given him a much brighter future. He has had a long, challenging road, but now has hope for his future.

Provided a Lifeline.

A participant in the Haitian Family Reunification Program obtained permanent residence through our services, giving her the ability to get a job, stay united with her family, get a driver's license, and participate fully in the community. Our work has given her the ability to meet basic needs and work toward her dreams.

Provided Refuge.

We represented a guardian who had taken in a child from Central America who had traveled to the United States on his own to escape danger and neglect. After a stay at a shelter for unaccompanied youth near the border, the child was placed in a home in Franklin County. Through our services, the guardian sought custody of the child to stabilize the child's life and to help protect him from being deported to an unsafe situation. The guardian was awarded custody. We continue to defend the child in immigration court.

Cared for the Disabled.

We referred a disabled, elderly veteran to a pro bono attorney for services for a Power of Attorney. The client was staying in a nursing home and could not go to an attorney's office. The pro bono attorney visited the client in the nursing home, and prepared the document. The client needed this Power of Attorney document so his relatives could help him efficiently at this time in his life.

IN 2019 WE:



Protected the Vulnerable.

An immigrant living a home condemned by the Borough of Chambersburg due to serious repairs that were needed was forced out and had to sleep in her car until she could find other housing. The landlord was refusing to return the rent that she had pre-paid for that month and her security deposit. After our advocacy, the landlord returned the funds which were much-needed by the client to find new housing and provide for her family's needs.

Welcomed an Immigrant.

An immigrant worked very hard to learn English and United States civics. Franklin Legal Services represented her in her naturalization case and the client became a proud citizen of the United States of America at the Franklin County Courthouse on June 14, 2019. It was a great celebration day!

Summary of 2019 Audited Financial Statements

Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$199,360
Fundraising Events (Net)	\$51,914
Government Contract for Services	\$15,600
Other	\$1,989
Total Revenue	\$268,863

Expense

Program Services	\$235,014
Administration	\$11,512
Fundraising	\$1,451
Total Expense	\$247,977

Net Revenue \$20,886

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$162,821
Other	\$29,254
Total Assets	\$192,075

Liabilities

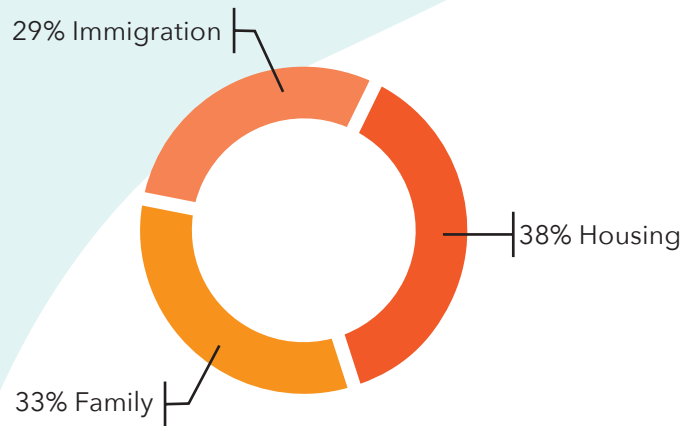
Payroll Withholdings and Accruals	\$5,697
Total Liabilities	\$5,697

Total Net Assets \$186,378

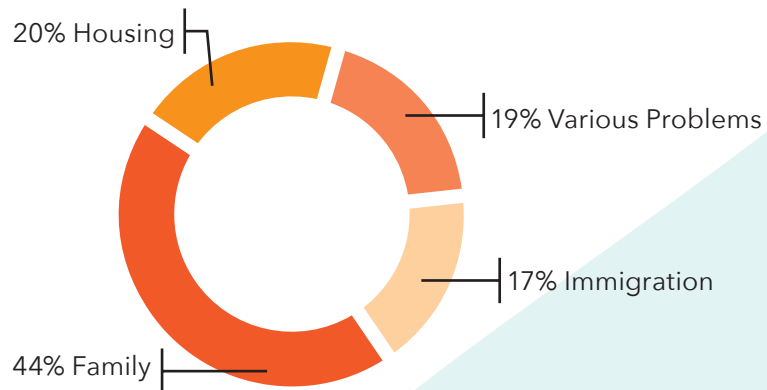
Franklin County Legal Services' complete audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2019, are available upon request.

By the numbers:

Direct Representation

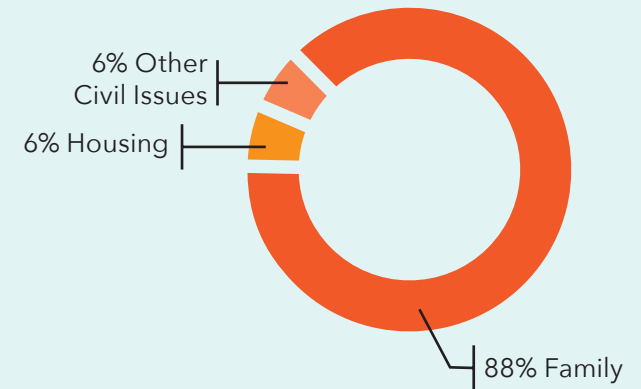


Advice Only

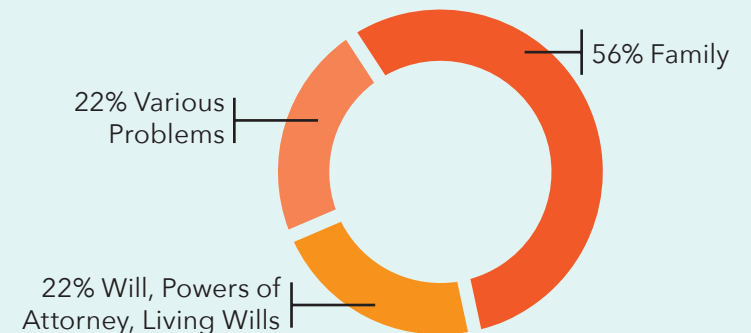


Statistics reflect matters that were closed in 2019.

Self-Representation Education and Assistance



Referrals to Private Attorneys For Pro Bono Services



Services were provided in 663 matters agency-wide in 2019.

Current Staff & Board of Directors



Staff

Carolyn Carter, Esq.
Co-Director

Brittany Henderson, Esq.
Supervising Attorney

Gloria Keener
Executive Director

Rosita Methner
Service Facilitator

Katrina Smith
Immigration Paralegal

Brendan Sullivan, Esq.
Attorney

Shane Young, Esq.
Attorney

Board of Directors

Clinton Barkdoll, Esq.
Director

Andrew J. Benchoff, Esq.
Secretary

Philip Cosentino, Esq.
President

Ellen Gigliotti
Director

Amy Herrold
Director

J. McDowell Sharpe, Esq.
Director

Edward Steckel, Esq.
Vice President

Thomas Steiger Jr., Esq.
Director

2019 Franklin County Bar Association Pro Bono Attorneys

Laura Rebecca Ables

Clinton Barkdoll

Andrew Benchoff

Jared Childers

Michael Connor

Anthony Cosentino

Philip Cosentino

William Cramer

William Dick

Julie Dorsett

Jeffrey Evans

Adam Fennen

Eileen Finucane

Michael Finucane

John Frey

George Glen

Courtney Graham

Bradly Griffie

Kristen Hamilton

Charles Hartwell

Janice Hawbaker

Hannah Herman-Snyder

Deborah Hoff

Richard Hoskinson

Brady Johnson

John B. Keller

John N. Keller

Donald Kornfield

Stephen Kulla

John Lisko

R. Thomas Murphy

Forest Myers

Aaron Neuharth

Jason Piatt

Mark Orndorf

Christopher Reibsome

Lawrence Rife IV

Ann Marie Rotz

Abigail Salawage

Robert Schollaert

Mary Beth Shank

Alexander Sharpe

Alexandra Sipe

Edward Steckel

Thomas Steiger, Jr.

James Stein

Matthew Stewart

Elliott Sulcove

Jan Sulcove

Jerrold Sulcove

Kevin Taccino

Barbara Townsend

Suzanne Trinh

Martha Walker

Jessica Weaver

Jerry Weigle

George Wenger, Jr.

Geoffrey Weyl

Samantha Wolfe

Joel Zullinger

Financial Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the following financial supporters who generously contributed funds and cash equivalents in 2019 and made our critical work possible. Thank you!

Organizations

ACNB Bank
Alexander Stewart, M.D. Foundation
Alpha Media
AmazonSmile
Boerner Memorial Trust
Chambersburg Area School District
Christopher Reibsome Law, LLC
County of Franklin
DiLoreto, Cosentino & Bolinger, P.C.
F&M Trust
Franklin County Bar Association
Franklin County Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
Friends of Legal Services
Keller Williams Realty, Lane Thrush Office
Kornfield & Benchoff, LLP
M&T Charitable Foundation
Northern Virginia Community College
Orrstown Bank
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts Board
Printaway, Inc.
Rotary Club of Chambersburg
Rotz & Stonesifer, P.C.
Salzmann Hughes, P.C.
Strickler Agency, Inc.
The Butcher Shoppe
Tip Top Cleaners
United Way of Franklin County
Volvo Construction Equipment

Circle of Hope (Gifts from individuals of \$500 or more)

Anonymous	Bob & Rhoda Keener
Valerie Barnes	Zachary Mills
Alice Brumbaugh	Carol Parsons
Les & Jeanette Clugston	Frank & Cheryl Stearn
Phil & Kathy Cosentino	Thomas Trgovac
Tony & Taia Cosentino	Brian & Susan Wadel
Jean Keener	

Individuals

Clint Barkdoll	John & Dudley Keller
John & Peggy Bryner	David Keller
Elizabeth Clark	Gerald & Gloria Keyser
Debbie & Todd Cornell	John Lisko
Susan DeVos	Douglas, Laura, & Erin Martzluf
Juan Domingo Aguilar	Richard & Ellen Miller
Michele & David Emmett	Mary Orr
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James & Gunilla Finucane	Mahesh Rao
Thomas Finucane	Bernice Somers
Lucia Gabriel	Edward Steckel
George & Leslie Hanks	John Walker
Amy Herrold	Mrs. Rudolf Wertime
Allan Judson	Gordon & Grace Yoder
Steve & Bethany Keener	

In Memory of Joan Applegate

Valerie Barnes	John & Susan Rogers
Alice Brumbaugh	Marilyn Ross
Center for Progressive Reform	Blaine Shover
Brendan & Anne Finucane	David & Carole Teegarden
Gilmore-Hoerner Endowment	Aaron Rubin & Susan Becker
Larry Klotz	Jane Wingerd
Rupert Loucks	

In Memory of Mildred Gould

Alice Brumbaugh

In Honor & Memory of Lea Judson

Harry Geller



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