



Franklin County Legal Services

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# Providing HOPE

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Annual Report 2018



FRANKLIN COUNTY  
LEGAL SERVICES  
*each case matters*



## Message from Board Chair / Executive Director

### Dear Friends

We are pleased to share with you our 2018 Annual Report, **"Providing Hope"**. As you will see in the following pages, our clients reach out to us while facing devastating legal problems which critically affect their lives. Their inability to afford the services of an attorney during these critical times adds to their sense of desperation. Franklin County Legal Services provides hope. This hope comes from our very practical work of providing access to civil legal services.

Throughout the past year, Franklin County Legal Services has continued to provide free civil legal services to low-income people. We have continued to offer the services of two full-time attorneys to provide representation to people in need. We have continued to be officially recognized by the United States Department of Justice as a nonprofit agency providing immigration legal services to the indigent. We have also continued to coordinate the Franklin County Bar Association's Pro Bono Program. We work very hard every day to provide representation, advice, and education to the persons we serve.

Your support and involvement have made this work possible. From a mother facing a hearing where she could lose custody of her child, to a family being evicted, and to a young father in deportation proceedings, our work transforms despair to hope.

**Thank you for being a part of this important effort.**

Philip S. Cosentino  
Chair, Board of Directors

Gloria M. Keener  
Executive Director

## Meeting basic needs through immigration law

### OUR WORK INCLUDED

- Defending a child in immigration court.
- Keeping a family together through an approval of a Waiver which will help prevent years of separation across national borders.
- Defending an asylum seeker and her child in immigration court.
- Representing a US citizen in filing a petition for his wife so that she can adjust her immigration status enabling her to work, drive, have access to public benefits, and meet other basic human needs.
- Helping a homeless individual who was not born in the United States obtain proof of her US citizenship, a key to getting back on her feet.
- Working with an immigrant whose child had been a victim of a crime to petition for a visa based on her cooperation with law enforcement.
- Assisting a Chambersburg teenager change the venue of his court case from Houston, Texas to Philadelphia so that he would not be ordered deported in absentia.
- Filing a petition to unite a father with his teenage children and wife after years of separation.
- Welcoming a new US citizen through our representation in her naturalization case.
- Receiving Special Immigrant Juvenile Status based on a petition we filed for a child while she was in foster care.
- Winning Permanent Resident Status for a victim of domestic violence.
- Defending a single mother in immigration court based on the hardship it would cause her US citizen children if she were deported. We filed for employment authorization for her while her case is pending.

Services were provided in

**649** agency-wide  
matters in 2018.

## Preserving meaningful family relationships

### OUR WORK INCLUDED

- Obtaining court-ordered guardianship of two children after their mother passed away allowing their guardian to handle important matters such as enrolling the children in school and handling their medical needs.
- Helping a mother, who we had visited while she was incarcerated, re-gain custody of her children after her release from jail.
- Advocating for a father to have regular visits with his children.
- Assisting a mother obtain sole custody of her children after the father had abandoned them and was wanted by the police for over a decade.
- Obtaining a custody order for a guardian of an unaccompanied minor child from Central America.
- Successfully defending a mother in a custody trial and advocating for a fair family arrangement.
- Educating individuals about custody law and self-help legal materials to provide them with access to the court.
- Advocating for a father who had recently been released from jail and had been sued in custody court. We helped him establish a regular schedule where he could re-develop a relationship with his child.





## Ensuring stable and decent housing

### OUR WORK INCLUDED

- Defending a recipient of a mental health permanent supportive housing program voucher who was being evicted by a private landlord. The court case was dismissed, and the eviction will not appear on his record.
- Representing an elderly woman in an eviction from public housing. Negotiations prevented the case from going to court and the client stayed in her home.
- Saving a family from eviction based on our defense in court that the landlord had not followed the legal eviction procedure. The lawsuit filed by the landlord was dismissed and the family stayed in their home.
- Preventing an eviction through appealing a public housing decision and advocating for a client's special accommodations in the home based on a disability.
- Providing much-needed advice to a tenant fearing homelessness about the legal steps that a landlord must take to evict.
- Facilitating an orderly move for a couple being evicted. An agreement was reached that prevented a court judgment against the couple.
- Advocating for a family living with leaking sewage and a collapsed ceiling who had withheld rent and were being evicted. The repairs were made and the eviction prevented.



## Overcoming other crippling legal issues

### OUR WORK INCLUDED

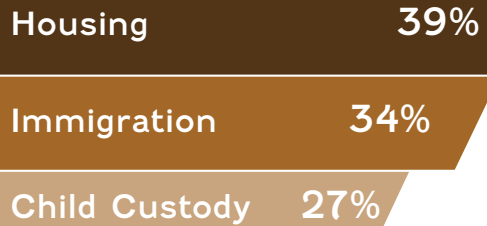
- Referring an elderly couple to a pro bono private attorney for the preparation of Wills, General Powers of Attorney and Healthcare Power of Attorney/Living wills.
- Visiting inmates at the Franklin County Jail to provide information and advice about civil rights issues.
- Referring a single mother to a pro bono divorce attorney for counsel and representation in important financial matters affecting her ability to provide for her children.
- Helping an individual save his mobile home he had lived in for decades through a referral to a pro bono bankruptcy attorney.
- Advocating for the return of a security deposit for a tenant who rightfully deserved it.
- Assisting an individual with a deed issue affecting her home where she had lived for over 50 years through a referral to a pro bono estate attorney.
- Helping a single mother obtain a Will and Guardianship Agreement regarding her child.



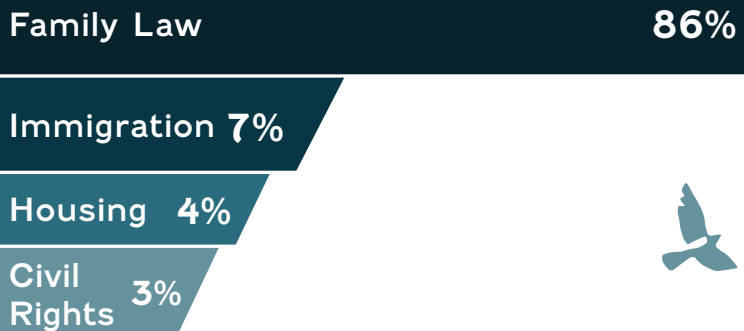
Each Case  
Matters

## Activities by the Numbers

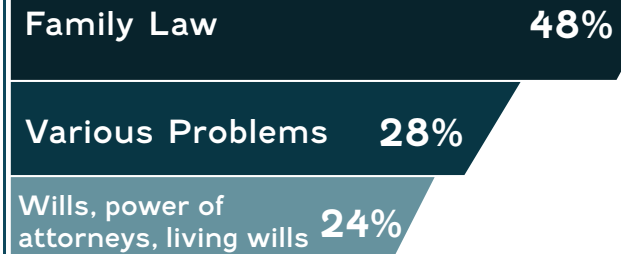
### Direct Representation



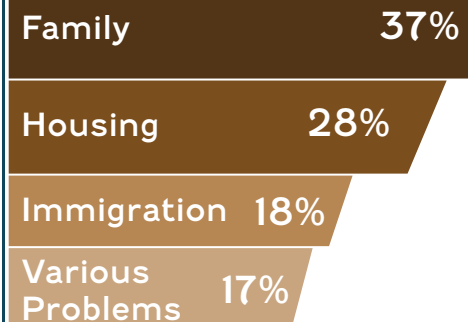
### Self-Representation Education and Assistance



### Referrals to Private Attorneys for Pro Bono Services



### Advice Only



\*Statistics reflect matters closed in 2018.

Providing  
**HOPE**



## Our Financial Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the following financial supporters who generously contributed funds and cash equivalents in 2018 and made our critical work possible. **Thank you!**

### Organizations

ACNB Bank	Kornfield & Benchoff, LLP
Alexander Stewart, M.D. Foundation	Law Office Forest N. Myers
Alpha Media	Law Office of Anne M. Shepard, LLC
AmazonSmile	M&T Charitable Foundation
Boerner Memorial Trust	Northern Virginia Community College
County of Franklin	Orrstown Bank
DiLoreto, Cosentino & Bolinger, P.C.	Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board
F&M Trust	Printaway
Franklin County Bar Association	Shoap Law Offices
Franklin County Bar Foundation	Sommer & O'Donnell, LLC
Franklin County Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities	Strickler Agency, Inc.
Friends of Legal Services	Tip Top Cleaners
Keller Williams Realty, Lane Thrush Office	United Way of Franklin County
	Volvo Construction Equipment



## Individuals

Clint Barkdoll  
 Deborah Barnes  
 Lorna Barthalow  
 Elizabeth Clark  
 Susan DeVos  
 Joseph Doyle  
 M. David & Michele Emmett  
 Ann & Bill Fasnacht  
 Thomas Finucane  
 Sandra Grotberg  
 Alan & Mary Ellen Hain  
 George & Leslie Hanks  
 Susan & David Hartman  
 Richard Hoskinson  
 William Kaminski  
 John & Dudley Keller  
 Mr. & Mrs. Julio Lecuona  
 John Lisko  
 John Madden  
 John Magee  
 Douglas, Laura, & Erin Martzluf  
 Don & Deanna Nolder  
 Mary Orr  
 Jim & Nancy Probst  
 Sandra Sheaffer  
 Bernice Somers  
 Edward & Diana Steckel  
 Brian & Susan Wadel  
 John Walker  
 Martha Walker  
 Mrs. Rudolf Wertime  
 Jane Wingerd

## Circle of Hope

(Gifts from individuals of \$500 or more)

Anonymous  
 Joan Applegate  
 Valerie Barnes  
 Alice Brumbaugh  
 Phil & Kathy Cosentino  
 Tony & Taia Cosentino  
 Bob & Rhoda Keener  
 Zachary Mills  
 Carol Parsons  
 Frank & Cheryl Stearn  
 Thomas Trgovac

## In Memory of Samuel M. Gillespie

Anonymous  
 Craig & Patricia Musser

## In Memory of Lea S. Judson

Joan Applegate  
 Valerie Barnes  
 Alice Brumbaugh  
 John Rogers





## 2018 Franklin County Bar Association Pro Bono Attorneys

Cayla Amsley  
Clinton Barkdoll  
Andrew Benchoff  
Jared Childers  
Michael Connor  
Anthony Cosentino  
Philip Cosentino  
William Cramer  
Julie Dorsett  
Jeffrey Evans  
Eileen Finucane  
Michael Finucane  
George Glen  
Courtney Graham  
Kristen Hamilton  
Charles Hartwell  
Janice Hawbaker  
Hannah Herman-Snyder  
Deborah Hoff  
Richard Hoskinson  
David Keller  
John Keller  
Donald Kornfield

R. Thomas Murphy  
Forest Myers  
Aaron Neuharth  
Ann Marie Rotz  
Abigail Salawage  
Robert Schollaert  
Mary Beth Shank  
J. McDowell Sharpe  
David Spang  
Edward Steckel  
James Stein  
Matthew Stewart  
Elliott Sulcove  
Jan Sulcove  
Jerrold Sulcove  
Barbara Townsend  
Martha Walker  
Jerry Weigle  
Eric Weisbrod  
George Wenger  
Geoffrey Weyl  
Joel Zullinger



## Board of Directors

Clinton Barkdoll, Esq.  
*Director*

Andrew J. Benchoff, Esq.  
*Secretary*

Philip Cosentino, Esq.  
*President*

Ellen Gigliotti  
*Director*

Amy Herrold  
*Director*

Julio Lecuona  
*Director*

J. McDowell Sharpe, Esq.  
*Director*

Edward Steckel, Esq.  
*Vice President*

Thomas Steiger Jr., Esq.  
*Director*

## Staff

Carolyn Carter, Esq.  
*Co-Director*

Brittany Henderson, Esq.  
*Supervising Attorney*

Gloria Keener  
*Executive Director*

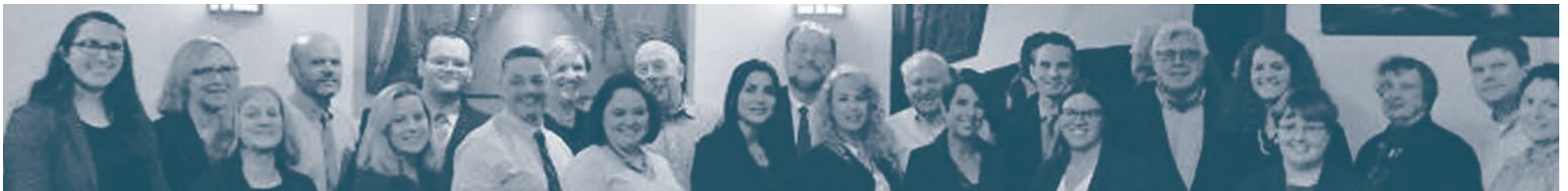
Rosita Methner  
*Service Facilitator*

Brendan Sullivan, Esq.  
*Attorney*



## In the words of a client:

"I have greatly benefited. It was awesome, fast, and accurate. I love the services they provide to people. They treat us with respect and right. They helped me in less than a year and I have my green card now."





## Summary of 2018 Audited Financial Statements

### Revenue:

Grants and Contributions .....	\$165,181
Fundraising Events (Net) .....	\$51,271
Fees for Services .....	\$15,600
Other .....	\$756
<b>Total Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$232,808</b>

### Expense:

Program Services .....	\$191,424
Administration .....	\$9,746
Fundraising .....	\$1,151
<b>Total Expense .....</b>	<b>\$202,321</b>

### Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents .....	\$148,132
Other .....	\$20,961
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$169,093</b>

### Liabilities:

Payroll Withholdings and Accruals .....	\$3,601
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$3,601</b>

**Total Net Assets .....** **\$165,492**

\* Franklin County Legal Services' complete audited financial statements for the year ending **December 31, 2018**, are available upon request.

### 2018 Highlights

- Pro Bono Attorney Martha B. Walker, Esq., accepted 15 complex divorce matters, an extraordinary service helping those starting over with financial stability.
- We worked on 16 deportation defense cases and are currently representing those clients in immigration court.
- We opened 121 matters for tenants facing eviction and inadequate housing issues.

“Franklin County Legal Services helped me with my son’s case. They helped me as I am a single mother and I couldn’t manage. I want them to keep helping people that need it. They helped me so much and they continue helping me.”



# FRANKLIN COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES

*each case matters*

**Franklin County Legal Services**  
336 Lincoln Way East, Suite B  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

717-262-2326  
[www.fcsls.net](http://www.fcsls.net)

## **Friends of Legal Services 2019 Book Sale**

Friday, June 7, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 9, noon – 4 p.m.

Laird Hall at Wilson College,  
Chambersburg, PA