

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

EQUAL  
**JUSTICE**  
**STARTS**  
*HERE*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Welcome
4	Our Impact: Agency Statistics
5	Our Work in Action
6	Our Practice Groups
8	Our Client Stories*
16	Donor Spotlight: Sidley
18	2025 Donors
20	Financial Statements
22	Ambassadors Board Executive Committee
22	Leadership Team
23	Board of Directors

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Yesterday, **over 300** people called Legal Aid Chicago for help.

On every call, we meet someone whose ambitions and dreams are on hold while they face a legal challenge they cannot overcome alone. Perhaps a young parent, calling on a break between two jobs, is fighting for their child's right to a quality education. Maybe the caller is a survivor seeking safety from abuse, a veteran unfairly denied benefits, or a tenant whose utilities were illegally shut off. Whatever their specific circumstances, thousands of our neighbors carry an invisible burden, persevering under the weight of legal issues that keep them trapped in a cycle of injustice.

As the Midwest's largest provider of free civil legal services, Legal Aid Chicago works to ease this burden. Each year, we assist over 13,000 clients across Cook County, helping families stay in their homes, obtain safety and stability, secure healthcare and benefits, and protect their livelihoods. We cannot end poverty or resolve every hardship our clients face, but with an exceptional success rate of over 93%, our services lay the foundation for stability. Every day, our advocates help someone take the first steps toward a hopeful and prosperous future.

As our motto reminds us,  
**EQUAL JUSTICE STARTS HERE.**

The road to justice can be long and intimidating, but it begins with a simple act of courage: reaching out and asking for help. Most clients do so with one pressing issue in mind, but through our collaborative, holistic approach, we often uncover additional legal problems and pursue further remedies over the life of a case. Our teams work to resolve multiple issues at once, offering pathways to greater financial independence, safety, fairness, and lasting confidence.

\* Throughout this report, Legal Aid Chicago protects its clients' identity and privacy by removing personal information and referring to individuals using an alias.

Many people do not realize there is no guaranteed right to an attorney in civil cases, including eviction, domestic violence, immigration, or loss of benefits. When 92% of low-income Americans cannot afford legal help,\* organizations like ours must be selective, prioritizing those with the greatest need. Even with a staff of over 110 full-time attorneys—one of the largest teams among Chicago law firms—we cannot serve everyone who needs us.

We also recognize that the fight for equal justice extends beyond the courtroom. Our clients face inequities that the legal system alone cannot remedy. That's why we partner with organizations and professionals across Cook County and Illinois who share our commitment to whole-person care. Powerful examples are our Medical-Legal Partnerships with the University of Chicago Medicine's Level 1 Trauma Center in Hyde Park and Cook County Health. These professional collaborations address the intertwined medical and legal needs of survivors of gun violence—stabilizing lives, supporting long-term recovery, and ensuring that Equal Justice starts not only in courtrooms, but in hospital rooms as well.

## **EQUAL JUSTICE STARTS HERE—but it cannot start without you.**

Legal Aid Chicago never charges for our services, and we depend on private donations to sustain and expand our work. We need your partnership to create a world where poverty is never a barrier to justice. When you see the Legal Aid Chicago name on a downtown street banner, a t-shirt, or online, we hope you feel a sense of pride in what we are accomplishing together, as a force for good in our legal system.

Together, we will keep fighting for equal justice.

Sincerely,



*KWShank*

**KATHERINE W. SHANK**  
Chief Executive Officer &  
Executive Director



*JH*

**JARED T. HECK**  
Board of Directors Co-Chair  
Katten



*Timothy Kincaid*

**TIM KINCAID**  
Board of Directors Co-Chair  
Winston Taylor

# WHO WE SERVE



100%

In poverty or otherwise at-risk



63%

Women



31%

People living with a disability



12%

Clients who received services in a language other than English



5%

Veterans



## OUR IMPACT

### 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL STATISTICS

13,700+

Individual legal matters handled  
(includes brief advice as well as extended representation)

407

Clients who received additional support services through Legal Aid Chicago's 7-person social work team

93%

Overall case success rate

1,326

Individuals whose health was improved by accessing health and nutrition benefits, including Medicaid, SNAP, etc.

1,100+

Clients with more than one case closed in 2025

734

People who avoided homelessness by avoiding eviction/foreclosure or obtaining/retaining subsidized housing

\$31,785,000

Total financial impact for our clients in increased assets, increased income, and decreased debt

168

Orders of Protection obtained or modified for survivors of sexual and domestic violence/abuse

# OUR WORK IN ACTION

---

Focused on delivering the best outcomes for our clients, **Legal Aid Chicago** combines thoughtful collaboration with deep subject matter expertise across our eight distinct Practice Groups, with support from the amazing teams that comprise our Client Screening Group (CSG) and Client Support Services (CSS), as well as our administrative teams.

Our CSG intake staff identify legal needs, assess eligibility, and route clients to appropriate resources, while the social workers in CSS help clients navigate the non-legal barriers that can stand between them and meaningful relief.

# OUR PRACTICE GROUPS



## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES PRACTICE GROUP (CFPG)**

CFPG protects vulnerable children and families, focusing on cases where personal safety, family integrity, access to education and financial stability are at risk. The team protects students from harassment and advocates for their right to a quality education, represents survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and helps them obtain protective orders, divorce, or custody.



## **CONSUMER PRACTICE GROUP (CPG)**

Many clients find themselves trapped in cycles of debt and financial exploitation. CPG attorneys litigate in state and federal courts to break these patterns and protect our clients' most valuable financial assets, including their homes, cars, savings, and income. CPG services reflect the wide range of financial challenges and inequities that perpetuate poverty in our community. This group represents clients in bankruptcy, unfair debt collection, consumer fraud, foreclosure defense, utility services, identity theft, taxes, and predatory lending cases.



## **LONG-TERM CARE PRACTICE GROUP (LTC)**

Older adults and people with disabilities who live in long-term care facilities often face abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Legal Aid Chicago's LTC attorneys and paralegals investigate reports of poor facility conditions and deliver oversight, advocacy, and representation that redresses deficiencies in quality of care, prevents involuntary discharge, and promotes the dignity of all long-term care residents, regardless of age, health, or ability.



## **MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS (MLP)**

Legal Aid Chicago's MLP programs address the intersecting legal and medical challenges clients face when in a health care crisis. By working alongside doctors, nurses, and social workers, our attorneys and advocates help patients resolve legal challenges like unsafe housing, denial of public benefits, or lack of access to needed services. This holistic approach improves health outcomes by treating legal problems as part of a patient's overall care.



## HOUSING PRACTICE GROUP (HPG)

The HPG team works to foster a universal right to decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Our attorneys intervene in cases that involve unjust eviction, protect clients' housing benefits and subsidies, challenge housing discrimination, and stand up to unscrupulous landlords to ensure safe living conditions. They also advocate for accommodations for people with disabilities and special legal needs, including survivors of domestic violence.



## IMMIGRANTS & WORKERS' RIGHTS PRACTICE GROUP (IWR)

IWR serves vulnerable employees, immigrants, and agricultural workers in Cook County and beyond. Through administrative and court proceedings, the employment law team helps workers challenge employment discrimination, recover unpaid wages, secure unemployment benefits, and pursue claims under the Family Medical Leave Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. The immigration team represents immigrant victims of crime, domestic abuse, sexual assault, and persecution and provides comprehensive services for victims of human trafficking. IWR also provides outreach and representation to meet the legal needs of agricultural workers throughout Illinois.



## PRO BONO & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PRACTICE GROUP (PCG)

As noted at the start of this report, Legal Aid Chicago is not alone in its mission to make Equal Justice a reality for all. PCG attorneys and advocates foster relationships with dedicated volunteers, pro bono partners, and fellow service providers to expand our reach and amplify our impact. These partnerships empower an array of volunteer-based projects, including in-person community legal clinics, monthly virtual clinics, legal help desks, and direct services related to criminal records relief, advance directives, property transfers, and name changes. This practice group also provides expert training on a variety of legal issues to law firms and corporations, through professional clinics and consultation.



## PUBLIC BENEFITS PRACTICE GROUP (PBPG)

PBPG provides comprehensive services for clients who qualify for state and federal benefits. Our attorneys and advocates help these clients navigate complex benefits programs, challenging wrongful denials and terminations, and help families across Cook County meet their basic human needs. These programs include SNAP food assistance, medical assistance (Medicaid, Medicare, etc.), Social Security, veterans' benefits, Aid for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).



IMPACT STORY #1

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES (CFPG)

---

Isabella, a high school freshman, was sexually assaulted and repeatedly harassed by her ex-boyfriend, an older student at her school. Isabella and her mother initially sought an Order of Protection (OP), but Isabella feared the prospect of testifying at a hearing. She simply wanted her ex-boyfriend to leave her alone.

Isabella's mother reached out to Legal Aid Chicago for help. Staff Attorney Olivia Harrison took Isabella's OP case and negotiated a restraining order that kept her ex-boyfriend away from Isabella, without requiring her to testify. Meanwhile, Staff Attorney Jenae Longenecker negotiated a safety transfer to a new school and secured supportive measures for Isabella, including a formal academic support plan that would address the educational impact of the anxiety Isabella experienced after the assault. The plan included social work services and academic accommodations to help Isabella succeed in school while healing.

Throughout the case, CSS Social Worker Mari Avila also connected Isabella's family with several community resources, including financial assistance, helping to ease some of the family's burden during a difficult time. Through these coordinated, wrap-around services, **Legal Aid Chicago ensured Isabella had the legal protection, academic support, and family resources she needed to feel safe and move forward.**



IMPACT STORY #2

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## CONSUMER (CPG)

Last year, Richard learned he was suddenly facing foreclosure. Determined to save the home where he and his wife had lived since 1998, he called Legal Aid Chicago for help. The house was owned by Richard's wife, who was also the sole borrower on a reverse mortgage tied to the home. When her health began to decline, Richard's wife moved into a nursing facility. Around 10 months later, the mortgage company suddenly initiated foreclosure, claiming that Richard lacked homeowner's insurance.

In fact, Richard *did* have coverage, but the lender had not received proof of his new policy. CPG Equal Justice Works Fellowship Attorney Julia Linares assisted Richard in proving his coverage, and the initial foreclosure was dismissed. However, because Richard's wife no longer lived in the home, the lender still had grounds to seek foreclosure. Julia continued to work closely with Richard, helping him apply for the Mortgagee Optional Election Assignment, a program that would permit him to remain in the home as a non-borrowing spouse. This application then led to the dismissal of a second foreclosure.

Thanks to Julia's advocacy, Richard overcame the threat of foreclosure twice and can continue to enjoy his retirement in the home he and his wife built together. His story is a powerful example of how **Legal Aid Chicago protects not just homes, but stability, dignity, and peace of mind.**



IMPACT STORY #3

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## HOUSING (HPG)

---

After suffering a stroke, Geraldine developed significant physical disabilities that made it impossible for her to climb the stairs to her apartment. She requested a reasonable accommodation from the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), asking to be transferred to a ground-floor unit or to a building with an elevator. CHA initially approved the request—but then failed to act.

Geraldine was effectively trapped and isolated in her apartment for nearly two years, unable to leave her home independently, until her 17-year-old granddaughter learned about our services through a school-based legal clinic. When she reached out for help, Supervisory Attorney Julie Pautsch quickly stepped in, filing a federal lawsuit against CHA for violating Geraldine's rights under the Fair Housing Act and other housing statutes. Eight months later, CHA finally transferred our client to a fully accessible apartment building with an elevator, restoring her ability to move freely and safely in her community. Our team also secured a strong financial settlement that provided additional stability and helped Geraldine reclaim her independence.

Geraldine's case reflects the life-changing impact of persistent advocacy and shows how **empowering young people with legal knowledge can help protect entire families.**



IMPACT STORY #4

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## IMMIGRANTS & WORKERS' RIGHTS (IWR)

---

Among the many facets of our work, Legal Aid Chicago represents survivors of crime seeking a legal path to permanent residency or citizenship. Last year, IWR represented one such client, Miguel, in his effort to obtain a T visa, a specialized immigration status reserved for survivors of sex or labor trafficking. Miguel, a family man with a wife and children, was taking his son to football practice when he was detained. Before he could be transferred out of state, our team filed a habeas petition challenging new policies that led to the detention of immigrants who were previously eligible to seek bond before an immigration judge. Thanks to our successful representation, Miguel is now back with his family and working with legal authorization, as we continue to pursue long-term status for him, a process that can take years and will require our continued support.

Unfortunately, Miguel's story is not unique. In 2025, IWR also represented Daniel, a Chicagoland resident of over 20 years with a wife and children in high school and college. Employed as a landscaper, Daniel has serious health issues, including a tumor and insulin-dependent diabetes. Like Miguel, Daniel was detained and faced the risk of transfer out of state, far from counsel, family, and access to his medications. We represented him in a successful habeas petition and bond hearing, and our client was able to post bond and return home. Reunited with his family after a considerable period of separation, Daniel was finally able to resume managing his health with his regular doctor and move forward with the support and stability we helped make possible.

IWR handled many, many cases like these in 2025, **demanding agility and quick-thinking leadership while striving to protect clients' rights during a year of rapid immigration policy changes.**



IMPACT STORY #5

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## LONG-TERM CARE (LTC)

---

George is an older adult living with dementia. For years, his wife Shirley served as his primary caregiver and decision-maker, supporting him at home as his condition progressed. When George's care needs eventually exceeded what she could provide, Shirley made the difficult decision to move her husband to a nearby assisted living facility, where he could receive help with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, and eating.

The facility assured Shirley it could meet George's needs, but when his condition worsened, the facility reversed course and repeatedly sent George to the hospital, claiming they could no longer care for him. When a final hospital stay left George bedridden and vulnerable to serious complications, the facility issued a notice of involuntary discharge, essentially evicting him.

That's when George's wife turned to Legal Aid Chicago. Our attorneys worked closely with Shirley to keep George in the facility he already considered home. **Through strategic advocacy and negotiation, our staff challenged the discharge and helped coordinate an appropriate transition to hospice care within the facility.** After a hearing, the assisted living facility withdrew its discharge attempt. Today, George remains in his community and receives the care he needs, thanks to his wife's unwavering dedication and persistence.



IMPACT STORY #6

#### OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS (MLP)

Jason was only 15 years old when he was critically injured by a gunshot wound that left him paralyzed. Against all odds, a team of heroic doctors and medical professionals saved Jason's life, but even with the best medical care, Jason now faced a future that was fundamentally transformed. As he recovered, his family confronted urgent questions about how they would support him, medically and financially.

Our Medical-Legal Partnerships team stepped in during this overwhelming moment to meet Jason at the hospital and work with his family to secure disability benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Jason was awarded the maximum SSI benefit amount, providing his family with reliable monthly income to help cover the cost of his care. Today, he continues to receive these benefits without disruption.

Income support was only part of the solution. Jason's family lived in a housing unit that was not wheelchair accessible, creating daily barriers to his independence and safety. Legal Aid Chicago's MLP team worked alongside medical providers and housing partners to pursue a reasonable accommodation and a housing transfer request, advocating for a living environment that could meet Jason's needs.

Through coordinated legal advocacy, **Legal Aid Chicago helped stabilize Jason's benefits and housing, giving him and his family greater security as they focus on the future.**



OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## PRO BONO & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (PCG)

---

For many of the people we serve, the path to stability and justice begins not in a courtroom, but in neighborhoods across Cook County. Legal Aid Chicago's PCG team meets clients where they are, bringing legal services to local communities with support from volunteers and pro bono attorneys. Every day, these partnerships and collaborative initiatives remove legal barriers before they can become crises.

In 2025, PCG expanded access to justice through a network of community-based legal clinics. Our in-person clinics, located in Austin, North Lawndale, Woodlawn, and Wicker Park / Humboldt Park, served over 700 clients, providing timely guidance on issues ranging from housing and consumer protections to family law and public benefits. These clinics offer both immediate support and a critical connection to ongoing advocacy when it's needed most. Roughly 85% of these cases involved direct collaboration and assistance from pro bono attorneys, whose partnership significantly expands our reach and impact.

At the same time, PCG's criminal records work helped open doors that had long been closed. For many people with past involvement in the justice system, a criminal record creates barriers that persist long after they have completed their sentence, limiting access to employment, housing, and financial security. By helping clients clear these records, our PCG team opens paths to stability and economic mobility, empowering individuals to move forward with dignity. Last year alone, PCG helped hundreds of clients expunge or seal their records, achieving a 96% success rate. In total, clients' records were sealed or expunged in over 1,200 cases.

This work is made possible through strong partnerships with volunteer attorneys, corporate legal teams, and community organizations across Chicago. Together, they extend the reach of Legal Aid Chicago's mission, **ensuring that more people, regardless of income, background, or past involvement with the legal system, have a fair chance to build a stable future.**



IMPACT STORY #8

OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

## PUBLIC BENEFITS (PBPG)

Two years ago, Julie, a veteran, visited our specialty veterans' legal clinic, hosted by PBPG's Veterans' Rights Project. Although she received VA benefits for PTSD, she was struggling to cover living expenses while managing her mental health and caring for her terminally ill parents. Hoping for stability, Julie had applied for Social Security Disability Insurance based on her work history and medical condition. Because the VA had already found her 100% disabled, she expected the process to be straightforward. Instead, the Social Security Administration denied her claim.

Confused by this result, Julie visited our legal clinic, where Supervisory Attorney Sam Reese assisted her in requesting a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Despite Julie's impassioned testimony, the judge denied her claim. Refusing to give up, Sam and his team partnered with Donna Calvert, a volunteer attorney and former Social Security Judge, to review the decision. Ms. Calvert identified three legal errors in the ruling and helped Julie prepare an appeal. Less than a month after filing, the Appeals Council issued a fully favorable decision, awarding Julie over \$84,000 in back benefits along with ongoing monthly payments of over \$2,000.

**With legal support and skilled pro bono advocacy, Julie finally secured the benefits she earned, allowing her to focus on caring for her parents.**



**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**  
**SIDLEY**

# LEADING BY EXAMPLE: CELEBRATING SIDLEY'S ENDURING COMMITMENT TO EQUAL JUSTICE

---

For over 25 years, Sidley has stood as one of Legal Aid Chicago's leading private donors and most enduring champions, demonstrating what it looks like when one of Chicago's largest law firms is built to lead with purpose and principle. While the scope of Legal Aid Chicago's work has evolved to reflect our community's changing legal needs, Sidley's commitment to ensuring access to justice has never wavered.

The partnership between Sidley and Legal Aid Chicago is rooted in a core belief that civil legal aid is essential and that the presence or absence of a lawyer can mean the difference between stability and catastrophe. Sidley's ongoing investment in Legal Aid Chicago's work ensures that we can continue to meet our clients' needs with skilled advocacy.

Sidley's collaboration with Legal Aid Chicago also extends beyond financial support. Lawyers from the firm have long been engaged as volunteers across a variety of pro bono projects, and have served as consistent advocates for our work within the broader legal aid community. Their culture of engagement reinforces a powerful message: that advancing equal justice is not peripheral to the practice of law, but central to it.

Today, Sidley remains Legal Aid Chicago's largest law firm supporter, and its investment has a direct and measurable impact on our ability to serve clients across Cook County.

As Legal Aid Chicago continues to confront rising demand for services amid growing economic instability, leadership partnerships like Sidley's are more vital than ever.

In the words of Sidley Partner and Legal Aid Chicago Board Member Dan Craig, **“Sidley’s longstanding partnership with Legal Aid Chicago reflects our deep belief that civil legal aid plays a critical role in helping individuals and families navigate some of the most challenging moments in their lives. We are proud to support its important mission of expanding access to legal services for those who need it most.”**

From all of us at Legal Aid Chicago, thank you to everyone at Sidley who makes this partnership possible and sustains the firm's commitment to equal justice. Your leadership sets a powerful example and proves that long-term, unrestricted support is one of the most effective ways to protect access to justice and strengthen communities across Chicago and Cook County.

# 2025 DONORS

## \$100,000+

AgeGuide  
AgeOptions  
All Chicago  
Alphawood Foundation  
Chicago Bar Foundation  
The Chicago Community Trust  
City of Chicago—Department of Family and Support Services  
City of Chicago—Department of Housing  
City of Chicago—Department of Public Health  
Cook County  
Cook County Health and Hospital System  
Illinois Access to Justice  
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Illinois Department of Veteran Services  
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation  
Internal Revenue Service  
Law Center for Better Housing  
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois  
Legal Services Corporation  
The Resurrection Project  
Sidley & The Sidley Foundation  
Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare  
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
United States Department of Justice—Office for Victims of Crime  
United States Department of Justice—Office on Violence Against Women  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
University of Chicago Medicine  
Westside Justice Center  
Bob Woodruff Foundation

## \$50,000+

Bobbi and James Anderson  
DLA Piper & the DLA Piper Foundation  
Robert E. Gallagher Charitable Trust  
Heartland Alliance

Katten  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Kirkland & Ellis Foundation  
Latham & Watkins LLP  
Mayer Brown  
McDermott Will & Schulte  
Ontra  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Winston Taylor

## \$25,000+

Baker McKenzie  
Ted Chung and Lydia Hankins  
Dentons US LLP  
D & R Charitable Fund  
Jenner & Block LLP  
Julius N. Frankel Foundation  
Virxhini Gjonzeneli  
Greenberg Traurig LLP  
Dave Haracz and Mary Dolan  
Ryan Hedges  
Illinois Immigration Funder Collaborative  
Illinois Office of the Attorney General  
Catherine M. Masters  
Daniel and Jen McElroy  
Metropolitan Family Services  
Anne Mitchell  
Reed Smith LLP  
Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.  
Charles & M.R. Shapiro Foundation, Inc.  
Holly Snow and Christopher Allen

## \$15,000+

ALA Chicago  
Michael C. Andolina  
Bartlit Beck LLP  
Nader and Sarah Boulos  
Carol A. Cleave  
Daniel C. Craig  
Greg Deis  
Ted Helwig and Dawn Helwig  
Katten & Temple, LLP

Robert Kriss and Laura Schriesheim  
Thomas and Kymberly Marrinson  
Amanda Metts  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Kenneth P. Morrison  
The Owens Foundation  
Paul Hastings  
Megan B. Poetzel  
Ben and Nancy Randall  
Terra Reynolds  
Patrick A. Salvi  
Katherine W. Shank and Mitch Gordon  
Supportive Housing Providers Association  
Richard Wheelock  
Ami Wynne and Aaron Kolb

## \$10,000+

AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Anonymous  
ArentFox Schiff  
BFKN  
Amanda L. Brown  
Daniel Campbell  
Chapman and Cutler LLP  
Valerie Concepcion  
Katherine Jahnke Dale and Eric Dale  
Ruthanne K. DeWolfe  
Discover Financial Services  
Dykema  
Faegre Drinker  
Gair Gallo Eberhard  
John and Jeanne Gallo  
Natasha Granholm  
Brian and Laura Haussmann  
Jared and Bindu Heck  
John and Yvonne Held  
Carolyn B. Hilliker  
Lena K. Hoplamazian  
Barry Horwitz  
Illinois Department on Aging  
Jones Day  
King & Spalding LLP  
Ed Malone



McGuireWoods LLP  
My Favorite Murder, Inc.  
Michael A. Pope  
Ropes & Gray LLP  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Leo Smith and Heather Steans  
Vedder  
Diana and Peter White  
White & Case LLP

### \$5,000+

AlixPartners  
Alston & Bird LLP  
Uma Amuluru and Jack Theis  
Robert M. Andalman  
Anonymous (4)  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP  
Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa  
BakerHostetler  
Baxter International Inc.  
Peter G. Bell  
Benesch  
Blank Rome LLP  
Byrne, Byrne and Company  
Michelle Carr  
CIBC  
Cooley LLP  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
Exelon  
FHLBank Chicago  
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
William J. Gibbons  
Goldberg Kohn

Charley and Jill F. Gross  
Beverly V. Groudine  
Teresa Wilton Harmon  
Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Timothy D. Kincaid  
Kuvare  
Law Rocks  
The Local South Foundation  
David Lurie  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP  
Marmon Holdings, Inc.  
Maureen Mudron  
Nixon Peabody LLP  
Northern Trust  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Michael and Tanya Polsky  
Katherine Proctor  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Barbara and Richard Shank  
Gary Shapiro  
Caesar A. Tabet  
Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC  
Taft Law  
Troutman Pepper Locke  
LeDeidre S. Turner  
Anne Ulnick Foundation  
Venable Foundation  
Waiken and Sabina Wong  
Zurich North America

### \$2,500+

Paul J. Andrews  
Anonymous  
Robin Armour  
Francis Beidler Foundation  
Nicole Berg  
Capital One  
CGF Charitable Giving Fund  
Philip H. Corboy  
Matt and Carrie Cotter  
Maria Crawford Scott  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Ann and Bill Fisher  
Shalyn and Ben Ganellen  
Daniel Kaplan  
Betsy Kopczynski  
John Levi  
Elizabeth Lewis  
Amanda Lockwood  
BeLinda I. Mathie  
McDonald's  
Alan D. Nesburg  
Teri E. Newman  
Amy O'Dell  
The Options Clearing Corporation  
Benjamin J. Rosenthal Foundation  
Douglas B. Sanders  
David M. Schiffman  
Tully & Associates Ltd.  
Valley National Bank  
Roger G. Wilson

# FINANCIALS



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2025

### REVENUE

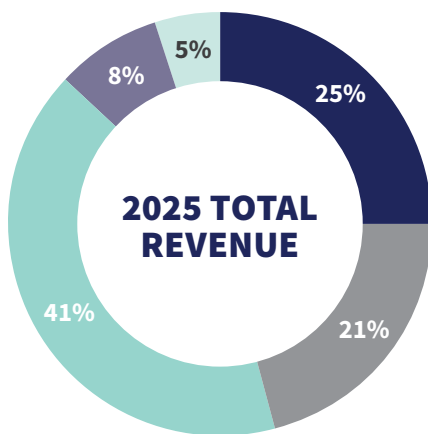
Grants—Legal Services Corporation	\$8,303,674
Grants—Other Government, Foundations, & Fellowships	\$17,872,361
Private Contributions & Special Events	\$2,908,973
(Less cost of direct benefits to donors)	(\$127,670)
Cy Pres Award & Attorney Fees	\$345,680
Investment Return (Loss)	\$1,168,565
Miscellaneous	\$145,487
In-Kind Contributions	\$2,523,687
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$33,140,757</b>

### EXPENSES

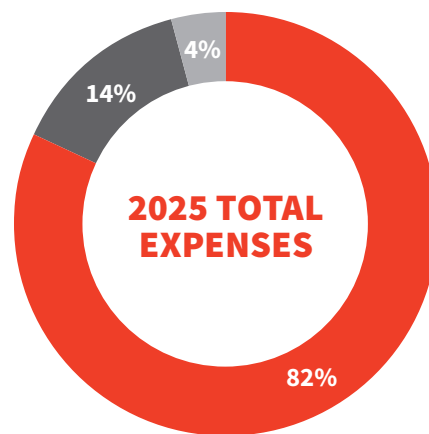
Program Services	\$25,263,829
General and Administrative	\$4,249,928
Fundraising	\$1,217,410
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$30,731,167</b>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

**\$2,409,590**



Legal Services Corporation	25%
Private Support	21%
Federal, State, & City Grants	41%
In-Kind Services	8%
Other Revenue	5%



Program Services	82%
General & Administration	14%
Fundraising	4%



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2025

### ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$7,028,601
Restricted Cash, Client Deposits	295,363
Restricted Cash, Letters of Credit	250,000
Grants and Contracts Receivable	4,084,722
Prepaid Expenses and other Assets	831,917
Investments	8,054,403
Net Property and Equipment	293,836
Operating Right-of-Use Asset	216,842
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$21,055,684</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$93,868
Lease Liability—Operating	1,921,283
Accrued Vacation Expenses	955,377
Fringe Benefits and Payroll Withholdings	132,278
Other Liabilities and Accrued Liabilities	251,248
Client Deposits	295,363
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,649,417</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$16,726,628
Temporarily Restricted	679,639
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$17,406,267</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$21,055,684</b>
---	---------------------

# AMBASSADORS BOARD

## 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### CO-CHAIRS

Lee Muench  
*Benesch*

Kelley Smith  
*gunnercooke*

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Shalyn Ganellen  
*DePaul School of Law*

Lauren Keane  
*Sidley*

Matt Binder  
*Notre Dame Law School*

### RECRUITMENT & ONBOARDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jonathan Glover  
*Northern Trust*

Emil Becker  
*DLA Piper*

Daniel Schufreider  
*ArentFox Schiff*

### MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jani Mikel  
*Akerman*

Elizabeth Wurm  
*Faegre Drinker*

Alexia Pettis  
*American Osteopathic Association*

Interested in joining the Ambassadors Board?

Learn more at: [legalaidthicago.org/get-involved/join-ambassadors-board](https://legalaidthicago.org/get-involved/join-ambassadors-board)

# LEGAL AID CHICAGO LEADERSHIP TEAM

Katherine W. Shank  
*Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director*

Teresa A. Sullivan  
*Deputy Director & General Counsel*

Dennericka Brooks  
*Managing Director*

Benna Crawford  
*Managing Director*

Holly H. Gilson  
*Chief Advancement Officer*

Vivian Hessel  
*Chief Information Officer*

Mark Kennedy  
*Chief Financial Officer*

McKenzie Marks  
*Director, Human Resources*

Cynthia Sadkin  
*Chief Strategy Officer*

## OUR MISSION

At Legal Aid Chicago, we work together to provide high quality civil legal aid to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups. Through advocacy, education, collaboration, and litigation we empower individuals, protect fundamental rights, strengthen communities, create opportunities, and achieve justice. In carrying out our mission, we treat everyone with compassion and respect.

## OUR VISION

It is our vision that poverty will not be an impediment to justice in Cook County. Legal barriers that perpetuate poverty and inequality will be dismantled. Laws and legal systems will be open and equally effective for all who need their protection, especially those who experience unfair and disproportionately unjust treatment due to personal or community characteristics.

Legal Aid Chicago is built on long-term relationships and sustained investment from partners like you. Your support helps us make equal justice accessible to all. Please join us by supporting our work at [legalaidthicago.org/donate](https://legalaidthicago.org/donate).

**EQUAL JUSTICE STARTS HERE.**



# BOARD OF **DIRECTORS**

---

## **CO-CHAIR**

Jared Heck  
*Katten*

## **CO-CHAIR**

Tim Kincaid  
*Winston Taylor*

## **VICE CHAIR**

Ami N. Wynne  
*Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP*

## **SECRETARY**

Shamika Robinson  
*Community Leader*

## **TREASURER**

Veronica Gonzalez  
*Community Leader*

---

Uma Amuluru  
*Boeing*

Bobbi Anderson  
*Vantage Group Holdings Ltd.*

Michael Andolina  
*White & Case LLP*

Donald Bell  
*Community Leader*

Nader Boulos  
*Kirkland & Ellis LLP*

Amanda Brown  
*Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

Daniel Campbell  
*McDermott Will & Schulte*

Michelle Carr  
*Baker McKenzie*

Nadine Chest  
*Community Leader*

Tracey Christmas  
*Community Leader*

Ted Chung  
*Jones Day*

Daniel C. Craig  
*Sidley*

Greg Deis  
*Mayer Brown*

Virxhini Gjonzeneli  
*FHLBank Chicago*

Tania Gomez  
*Community Leader*

Natasha Granholm, CPA  
*PwC*

Brian C. Haussmann  
*Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC*

Ryan S. Hedges  
*BakerHostetler*

Barry Horwitz  
*Greenberg Traurig, LLP*

Katherine Jahnke Dale  
*DLA Piper*

Julia Johnson  
*Community Leader*

Robert Kriss  
*Mayer Brown (retired)*

June Lewis  
*Community Leader*

Stacy Lockhart  
*Community Leader*

Ed Malone  
*Barack Ferrazzano*

Thomas Marrinson  
*Reed Smith LLP*

Daniel McElroy  
*Bartlit Beck LLP*

Tracy McLellan  
*Community Leader*

Amanda Metts  
*Baxter International Inc.*

Anne Mitchell  
*Whitt Sturtevant LLP*

Elaina Mohead  
*Community Leader*

Chris O'Hara  
*Community Leader*

Megan Poetzel  
*Jenner & Block LLP*

Whitney Porter  
*Community Leader*

Avis Reynolds  
*Community Leader*

Terra Reynolds  
*Latham & Watkins LLP*

Patrick A. Salvi II  
*Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.*

Alice Scott  
*Community Leader*

Holly Snow  
*Paul Hastings LLP*

Tim Storino  
*Dentons US LLP*

Nancy A. Temple  
*Katten & Temple, LLP*

LeDeidre Turner  
*ComEd*



200 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60601

[legalaidthicago.org](http://legalaidthicago.org)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL  
PERMIT NO. 218

