



Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida 2020 Annual Report

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Dear Stakeholders,

We are living through an unprecedented time. The COVID-19 pandemic required many of this community's agencies to alter the way we serve our county. Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida's (CCLA) employees showed resourcefulness and remarkable dedication over the past year and a half. Without warning, staff was sent home. As an "essential service," we needed to continue providing critical legal services to the community. This extraordinary trial was met with great resilience.

CCLA's attorneys authored the narrative on the positive impact that legal resources provide to vulnerable members of our community, and for that, we received national media recognition.

The pandemic led to financial calamity and hopelessness. However, for many our intervention averted a crisis which would have otherwise led to homelessness.

Innovative projects were launched. When we could not meet senior citizens who were at high risk for COVID-19 at our office, or they lacked computer access, our Mobile Justice Squad's mobile law office conducted outreach and client business in parking lots and driveways throughout the county. Increasing our social media activity led to a wider reach into our community. Legal presentations on the availability of services and legal topics of interest are discussed on-air on Facebook and YouTube. Upcoming events, educational opportunities, and resources are posted on our website and Facebook page.

Two Equal Justice Works Fellows joined our team in 2020. David Johnson serves senior citizens through the Elder Justice Program helping victims of scams, abuse, and other crimes. Brittany Brooks created the Serving Our Sisters (S.O.S.) project which helps veterans and survivors of military sexual trauma stabilize their lives. Both new attorneys designed these projects to address unmet legal needs.

Despite the demands of working remotely, our staff handled the same number of legal cases that we had in previous years – close to 2,900 cases were opened in 2020. We assisted vulnerable senior citizen homeowners facing foreclosure, renters facing evictions, victims of domestic violence, disabled veterans living at or near the poverty level, and others being taken advantage of due to their sudden and dire economic status. Now, more than ever, members of our community are in need of equal access to justice, and deserve it, despite the state of emergency from which we are emerging.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors for the countless hours devoted to our program during this uniquely trying year. Our primary funder, Legal Services Corporation, provided us with sage guidance. Our mission would not be achieved without all our sponsors, funders, and donors. Having worked alongside this staff since our program's inception, I consider it a great honor to have been appointed the Interim Executive Director during these challenging times. In the coming year, we look forward to making an even greater impact on underserved people in our community and provide the life-changing civil legal services that so many need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa G. Goldberg'.

Lisa G. Goldberg, Esq.
Interim Executive Director
Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida

WHO WE ARE

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida provides free civil legal services to low-income and otherwise eligible residents of Broward County. We protect and defend the legal rights of families, seniors, veterans, and underserved populations such as homeless persons, victims of domestic violence, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Although there is no fee for any of our services, clients must qualify for different programs. Financial eligibility is based upon the income and assets of individuals in a household. Every year CCLA provides critical assistance to thousands of individuals who could otherwise not afford legal representation. We strengthen our community by stabilizing families in crisis, opening pathways to justice, and encouraging social and economic growth



41,000+

People have accessed free legal assistance since the start of CCLA in 2004



5500+

Broward residents benefited from our legal services during 2020



1,000+

Victims of domestic violence and their children were assisted during 2020



1.95M

Broward County has an estimated 1.95 million residents



250,000

250,000+ live in poverty and cannot afford legal help



4,388

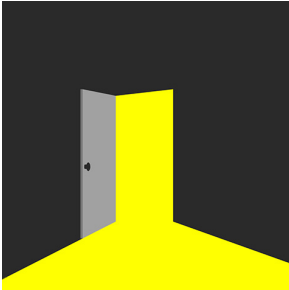
There is 1 full-time CCLA attorney for every 4,388 people in need

OUR FUNDERS



WHY IT MATTERS

Story of Justice: Alexis Survives Years of Sex Trafficking



Alexis* was sex trafficked for almost a decade. During that time, she overcame terrible forms of torture, punishment, and forced experiences. While being trafficked, the victimizer forced Alexis to commit crimes directly related to her victimization, which resulted in charges and convictions against her. When the opportunity came about, Alexis assisted prosecutors in their case against her trafficker. As a resilient individual, Alexis moved forward to overcome her victimization and became a survivor of human trafficking. Nevertheless, the charges and convictions Alexis received while being trafficked haunted her throughout her recovery.

Alexis, who could not afford an attorney, reached out to Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) seeking free civil legal assistance. An expungement for her convictions would vastly improve her chances of getting control back over her life. A CCLA attorney worked with Alexis to file her expungement. After a long process which included talking with the State Attorney and filing a petition, CCLA finally obtained an order granting her expungement.

Now that her record is clear, Alexis is thrilled with the outcome of this case and is ready to begin her next chapter in life. Alexis has a beautiful family now and is excited to start school and pursue a career.

Story of Justice: Brittany Seeks Justice for her Rape During her Military Service



Brittany* joined the Air Force at 18 years old, excited at the prospect of a career in the military. Within a month, she was victimized and raped by the very soldier assigned to mentor her. She reported the rape but nothing was done and she was left on base with her assailant. Rather than the career she had planned, she left the military when her term was up with an honorable discharge. Brittany filed a claim for service-connected benefits and was granted a 30% total for anxiety related to the rape as well as back injuries sustained from a vehicle accident. As the years went by and her back condition worsened, she requested an increase in her benefits. At this moment, her compensation status was changed to "anxiety related to her back problems." No mention remained of her assault or her PTSD.

Brittany's life continued to fall apart for the next 10 years. She left her husband and gave up custody of her 8-year-old child. She alienated her family so that they obtained a restraining order against her. As a result, she went through numerous periods of homelessness and abusive relationships. Eventually, Brittany came to CCLA for assistance with her claim requesting an increase in her benefits due to her back problems. CCLA represented her at the VA and filed additional medical records on her behalf. CCLA submitted a full brief showing the connection of the assault to the Veteran's current condition. Brittany received a proper PTSD diagnosis and obtained treatment for her mental health problems.

CCLA was also able to obtain congressional assistance with her case. Ultimately, the VA increased the rating to 90% and granted TDIU, effectively placing her at 100% disability with a monthly payment amount of \$3,000, and was awarded back benefits in the amount of \$118,000. Needless to say, this changed Brittany's life.

***Names and images have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients**

CCLA'S MOBILE JUSTICE SQUAD



In October 2020, Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) announced the launch of its Mobile Justice Squad. The Mobile Justice Squad provides free mobile legal services to seniors 60 and older who are homebound, isolated, disabled or face challenges with transportation and reside in Broward County.

The Squad travels to clients' homes and to local senior centers using the Mobile Justice Van to provide a full range of legal services in areas such as health and public benefits, housing and foreclosure defense, domestic violence, financial exploitation, and consumer matters.

The Mobile Justice Van is in effect a mobile working office for CCLA's attorneys to provide legal services on-the-go. For this purpose, the van underwent large interior modifications like a securely fastening a working desk to the floor of the van, as well as alterations made in response to COVID to allow social distancing through a plexiglass shield. The van is also equipped with Wi-Fi, computer and laptop access, a printer/copier/scanner, electric outlets. Attorneys will be able to screen clients, review legal issues, prepare, scan and copy documents all in one visit, eliminating the need for clients to travel to the office or send documents through the mail.



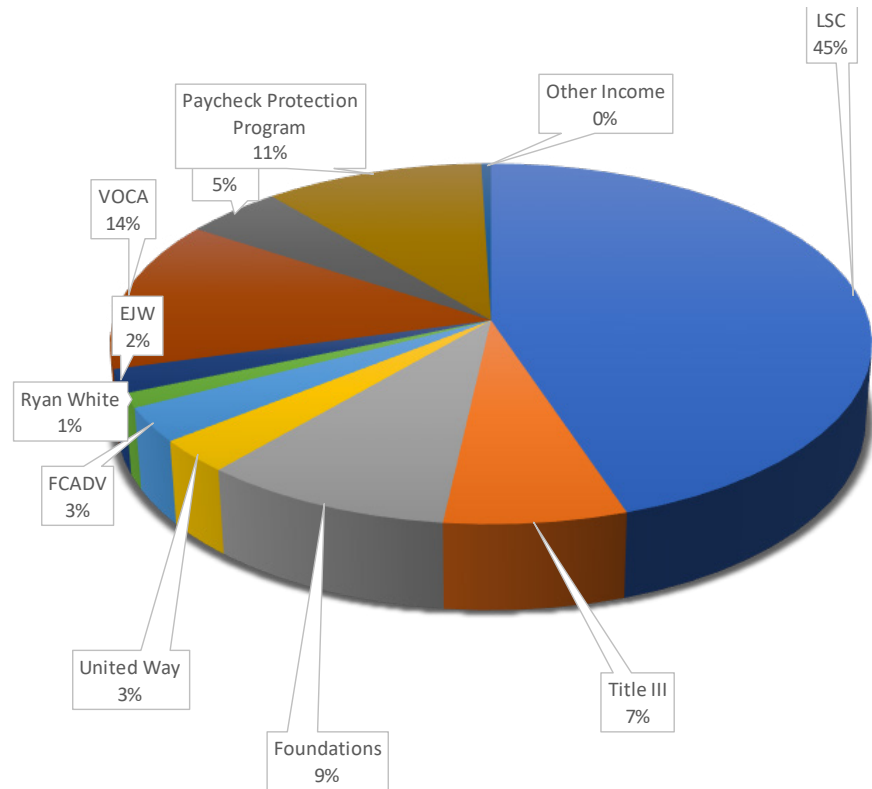
The Mobile Justice Squad is lead by Geraldine DeBianchi, Esq., a CCLA attorney with nearly thirty years of private practice legal experience focused on general civil matters. "Being able to provide mobile services is integral to continue CCLA's mission of providing high quality free civil legal advice, representation, and education to those who need it most." Says DiBianchi.

The Mobile Justice Squad project is funded by the Jim Moran Foundation and the American Bar Endowment (ABE.) For more information about CCLA's Mobile Justice Squad visit coasttocoastlegalaid.org/mobile-justice-squad.

BY THE NUMBERS: 2020

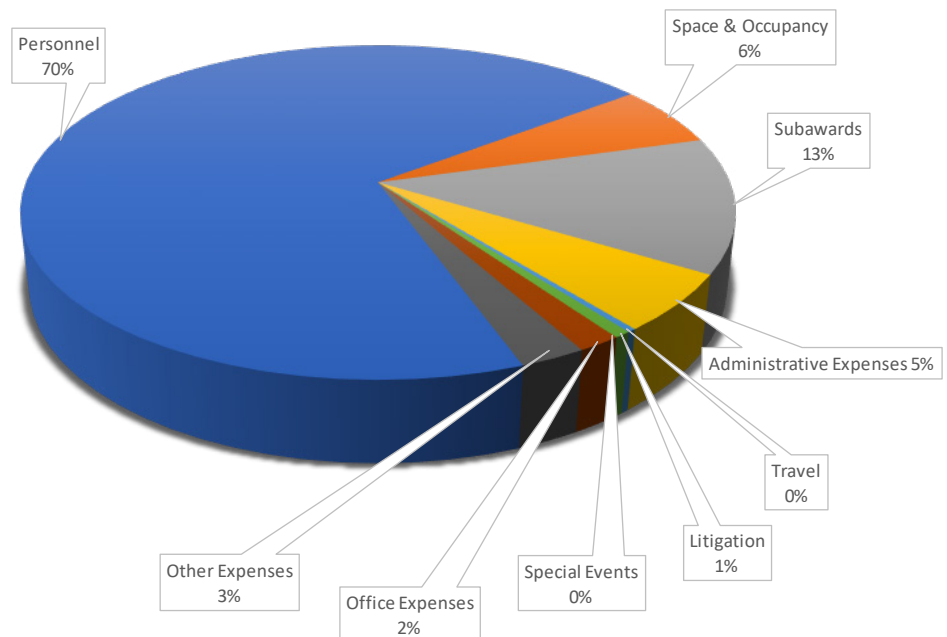
Revenue

Source	Revenue
LSC	\$ 2,095,339
Title III	\$320,636
Foundations	\$442,601
United Way	\$139,007
FCADV	\$143,991
Ryan White	\$59,701
EJW	\$98,934
VOCA	\$633,549
NCVLI	\$218,576
Paycheck Protection Program	\$492,630
Other Income	\$21,826
TOTAL	\$4,666,790



Expenses

Source	Expense
Personnel	\$3,425,087
Space & Occupancy	\$287,963
Subawards	\$683,316
Administrative Expenses	\$270,606
Travel	\$16,425
Litigation	\$31,791
Special Events	-
Office Expenses	\$81,910
Other Expenses	\$125,053
TOTAL	\$4,877,151



*During fiscal year 2020, LSC required a change in how unexpended funds be reported, thus having a significant impact on the financial results.

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programs or to schedule a tour.**

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