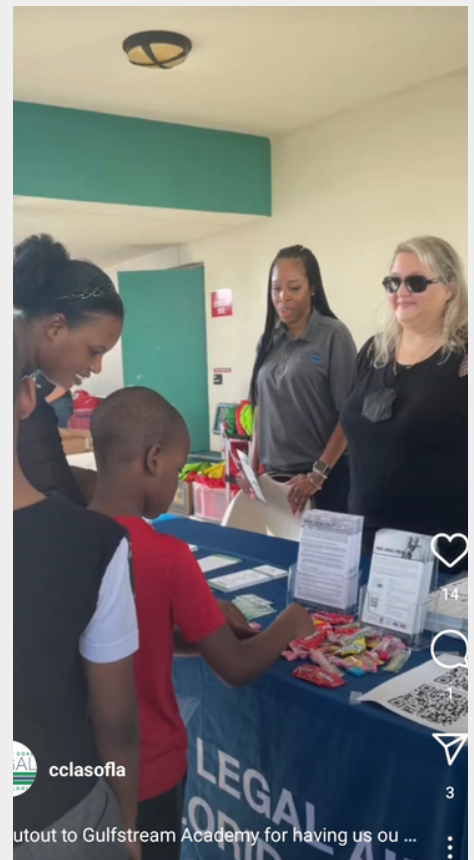




# 2022 Annual Report



## 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. Our mission is to improve the lives of low-income persons in our community through advocacy, education, representation, and empowerment. We provide assistance in the following areas of civil law: Family Law, Senior Law (Age 60 and over), Economic Advocacy & Community Health.



**765**

Individuals or families with family law issues were assisted during 2022



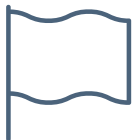
**4,000+**

Broward residents accessed free legal assistance during 2022



**50,600+**

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



**1.94M**

Broward County has an estimated 1.94 million residents



**300,000**

Nearly 300,000 live in poverty and cannot afford legal help



**5,600**

There is 1 full-time attorney for every 5,600 people in need

# Funders & Annual Sponsors

## Our Funders



## Annual Sponsors



# From the Executive Director

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Dear Friends,

As we emerge from the unprecedented events of the past couple of years, CCLA's focus returns to our guiding principle, every person, no matter what their socio-economic status, deserves equal access to justice. Each day our committed staff strives to improve the lives of low-income persons in our community through legal advocacy, education, and representation. We live in one of the most beautiful locations in the entire country. Yet, so many among us struggle for basic necessities many of us take for granted: a roof over our heads, food in our bellies, medicine when we need it, safety, and security.



Every day, our CCLA Team helps clients overcome the challenges they face. We restored Medicaid benefits for a child battling cancer, preserved an elderly couple's family home, obtained an injunction for protection for a victim of human trafficking, protected seniors from unscrupulous landlords, obtained a divorce for a victim of domestic violence who was told she would never be free, secured affordable health insurance for those without, and were the voice for victims of intimate partner violence in criminal court to assert and enforce their rights as a victim. There are countless other examples of CCLA providing equal justice to those who would be lost without our representation. Our sincere hope, for each of our clients, is that CCLA's intervention propels them to a more secure and stable place in life than when they first walked through our door.

We could not accomplish what we achieve without those who generously support us and champion our cause, including our funders and donors, pro bono attorneys, our collaborative partners, and our Board of Directors. We are grateful for your belief in our mission. Meaningful change takes a commitment from our entire community.

We know the need for free, civil legal services is vast. CCLA will continue its work to ensure equal access to justice for those in our region who are underserved, vulnerable, and under resourced. We hope that with even greater support from you, the impact of our services will reach even further.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa G. Goldberg', written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Lisa G. Goldberg  
Executive Director

# From the Chairperson

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Jeff Bezos in a recent shareholder's letter wrote, "If you want to be successful in business (in life, actually), you have to create more than you consume... Any business that doesn't create value for those it touches, isn't long for this world."

CCLA and their amazing Rockstars have a long track record of creating more than they consume. The work CCLA performs is underappreciated, and the voice they give to the voiceless is often ignored. However, the fruits of their labor can be seen throughout the community. Just recently, CCLA won a prestigious award from 211 Broward for their innovation within the Senior Law Unit's Mobile Justice Squad. Additionally, the staff at CCLA is constantly providing value to the community in ways that may not be visible but can be felt, such as writing and applying for their own grants and their outstanding work on social media.



Whether it's outreach, presentations, or providing valuable resources to the community, they are on top of it. The focus should be on the staff at CCLA, from the attorneys, finance staff, law clerks, paralegals, intake specialists, and receptionists to the cleaning staff - everyone. This works because of them, and for that, we say "Thank you!"

Ready to rock!



Alejandro Larrazabal  
Chairperson

**Contact us to learn more about our programs or to schedule a tour.**

Email: [cclainfo@legalaid.org](mailto:cclainfo@legalaid.org) or Phone: (954) 736-2400

**Lisa Goldberg, Esq.**  
Executive Director

**Katianna Mazard, Esq.**  
Director of the Senior Citizen Law Project

**Mindy Jones, Esq.**  
Director of the Family Law & Victims of Crime Unit

**Courtney Magnus, Esq.**  
Supervising Attorney, Economic Advocacy and  
Community Health Unit (EACH)

# Human Trafficking Program

## Because It Matters

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida's (CCLA) Anti Human Trafficking Program provides comprehensive, free, trauma-informed legal services to survivors of human trafficking living in Broward County. Through this approach, a survivor need not recount their experiences to multiple attorneys, but instead only needs to tell their story once and works with one attorney on multiple legal problems. We provide holistic legal services for survivors' expungement cases, T-visa applications, civil injunctions for protection, divorces, name changes, and paternity actions.

CCLA developed this program in response to a mounting and frightening increase in human trafficking in South Florida. In 2004, Director, Mindy Jones, became a founding member of the Broward Human Trafficking Coalition (BHTC), just a workgroup at the time. BHTC worked closely with community organizations, and identified the clear increase in human trafficking in our service area. One of the gaps in services for this emerging underserved population was civil legal assistance.

By 2019, Florida ranked third in the country for reports of human trafficking. That year, Victoria Sexton, a former CCLA legal intern, applied for, and was awarded, an Equal Justice Works Fellowship through the Florida Bar Foundation to represent survivors of human trafficking at CCLA. Part of Victoria's fellowship involved extensive outreach in the community. Victoria became an integral part of the community's response to human trafficking. As her two-year fellowship was ending, CCLA applied for a 2021-2024 Office for Victims of Crime grant to provide legal services to victims of human trafficking. CCLA was one of only four programs chosen nationwide for this grant program. Our specialized, trauma-informed work on behalf of survivors of human trafficking continues. Victoria, a CCLA paralegal, Andrea Franco, and Mindy perform outreach, conduct and attend trainings, and represent survivors for their civil legal needs. Currently, Victoria is the Chair of the BHTC STRIPES Committee (focused on adult survivors). Throughout the project, Victoria has assisted survivors with expungements of criminal records related to their victimization, name changes for victims' safety, housing cases, benefits cases, divorces, and immigration applications. In 2022, Victoria was awarded the Florida Legal Award for Social Impact.

This CCLA program is just another example of the innovative approaches our staff takes to target and resolve the needs of our community.



*Attorney, Victoria Sexton and Supervising Paralegal, Andrea Franco present at a training*

## Story of Justice - Leslie

After being physically abused by her husband on several occasions, Leslie retained Coast to Coast Legal Aid to represent her at a Final Hearing on a Petition for Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence. She explained that her husband, Mike, picked her up from work, drove dangerously with her in his car, and strangled her when they arrived at their home. Leslie was able to call the police and Mike was arrested the night of the incident. After gathering the history of the case and reviewing the original Petition, we recommended that Leslie file a Supplemental Affidavit in order to clarify the incident as well as provide information regarding prior incidents of abuse.



We helped her draft the Supplemental Affidavit to include all the details of the event that conformed to the statutory factors the Court considers in reviewing a Petition for Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence. We subpoenaed the arresting officer to testify at the final hearing, obtained police body camera footage from the night of the arrest and photos of injuries sustained by our client. Prior to the final hearing, Mike violated the Temporary Injunction for Protection as well as a No-Contact Order entered in the related criminal case by sending Leslie text messages and a voicemail. To document these violations, we helped Leslie file a second Supplemental Affidavit. At hearing, the Respondent agreed to the entry of a Final Judgment for Protection against Domestic Violence, which was entered for a period of 3 years. The Court required Mike to surrender all weapons, attend a batterer's intervention Program, undergo a substance abuse evaluation, and obtain mental health counseling. Leslie was so appreciative to us for the fresh start.

## Story of Justice - Jim

Jim worked his entire life doing hard labor until an injury on the job prevented him from working and he started getting SSDI benefits. While getting benefits, he developed a new condition which caused painful chronic tumors on the bottom of his feet. His doctors were baffled as to the cause of the tumors or how to prevent them from recurring. His only treatment option was being subjected to surgery after surgery to remove the tumors. Sadly, the tumors would quickly grow back. Despite this painful and chronic condition, Social Security reviewed his case and decided he was no longer disabled and advised him to return to work.



Jim knew he would be unable to work with the pain, the surgeries and the recovery, and he appealed Social Security's decision. Jim sought assistance from Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida's (CCLA) Economic Advocacy and Community Health Unit. CCLA attorneys worked closely with Jim, representing him at a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Remarkably, despite all of Jim's surgeries and complications, the ALJ denied his case. CCLA attorneys helped Jim file appeals with the Appeals Council and worked with pro bono counsel on an appeal in Federal Court, ultimately obtaining a favorable decision which sent the case back to the judge for a new hearing. Also at stake this time was whether Jim would have to repay the \$88,000 Social Security claimed was an overpayment. CCLA once again represented Jim at his new hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. This time, the ALJ agreed that Jim was still not able to work and should keep receiving benefits.

For over 6 years, Jim lived with the pain of both his condition and the surgeries while fighting to keep his SSDI benefits. With CCLA's help he ultimately prevailed, allowing him to keep his monthly SSDI benefits and Medicare, and Jim also avoided having to repay the \$88,000 Social Security had paid him. This was a huge weight off of Jim's shoulders as he continues to require multiple surgeries a year and did not know what he would do without his benefits or health insurance.

## Max's Garden

Max's psychiatrist recommended that he garden for its therapeutic benefits and made it part of his treatment regimen. Using a letter from Max's doctor, CCLA requested a Reasonable Accommodation from his landlord, explaining that keeping the garden was essential for his treatment and well-being. The Landlord denied our request.

CCLA filed a complaint with Broward County's Human Rights Commission, which began a formal investigation into the denial. CCLA also began a co-counseling collaboration with Disability Rights Florida, a non-profit law-firm and the state's leading expert on litigating fair housing issues.

A hearing was requested to dispute Max's termination, and CCLA represented Max at the hearing. The neutral hearing panel ruled in Max's favor stating that Max should be allowed to keep his garden for its therapeutic benefits. Nonetheless, the Landlord (almost inexplicably) filed the eviction case against Max.

CCLA and team filed a nearly 75-page response to the eviction complaint. The argument focused on Max being a disabled senior whose fair housing rights and right to a reasonable accommodation was being denied. For good measure, we mentioned how Max was known to deliver gift baskets full of fresh fruit and veggies from the garden to the Landlord's staff members during the holidays.

CCLA took great pride in litigating this case at every step. Significant discovery, including interrogatories, admissions, and production of documents were all requested by our team. A jury trial was demanded and preparations began. The Landlord was so frustrated that this would not be a quick and easy eviction that they changed lawyers three times. In Florida, we usually measure eviction cases in days or weeks at most; this one was over a year and a half old.

While litigating vigorously, we also kept a steady line of communication open with the Landlord about a potential settlement. Max's goal in the settlement wasn't just to get his case dismissed. He was thinking long-term and wanted the Landlord to understand why fair housing rights were so important to people with disabilities, especially those with mental health issues. He wanted Landlord's staff to have training and more compassion for people with mental health issues.

One Friday afternoon, I got the call that every Legal Aid lawyer dreads: Max had passed away (in addition to his mental health issues, Max had a litany of physical conditions as well.) Max's neighbor said the last thing they saw him do outside was water his garden. While sad, it was a comforting thought that we'd kept Max in his home and close to his garden for so long. We went back and scrolled through emails Max had sent. The last one he sent read:

***"This has been a very humbling week in every aspect and I have so much to be grateful for so I know I will be ok. You all have my deepest gratitude and respect. Feel like I have the tenants dream team lawyers representing me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm pretty nervous about this and having you both is a big relief to me. I know you are overworked, way too busy but want you to know how grateful I am to you and your staff. Thank you all. I hope you enjoy and realize how much I value your help."***





# A Look Back



BCBA Award to Mindy Jones  
Lynn Futch Professionalism Award



Outreach



Wear Purple Day  
Domestic Violence Awareness



Trial Skills Presenters - CLE



CCLA & BCBA Gather  
Hurricane Supplies



CCLA at Investiture of  
Judge Michael Davis



Mobile Justice Squad Brings Hurricane  
Supplies to Collier County

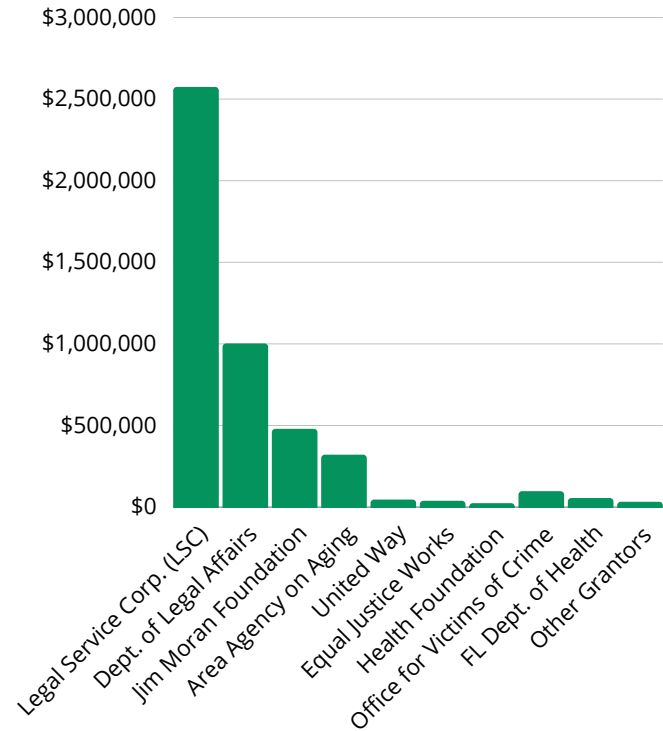


John Offerdahl & Board Member Doug Reynolds  
at Bridge To Justice Breakfast

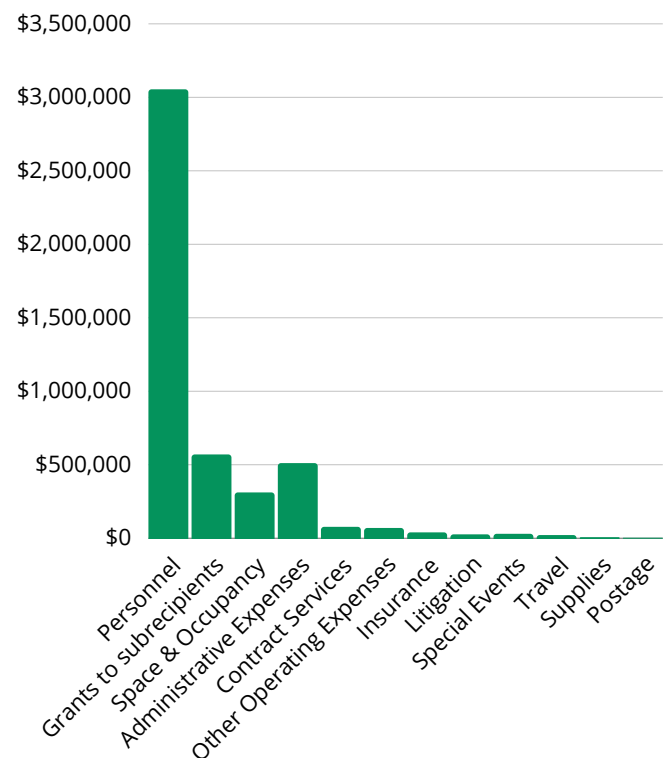
# By the Numbers

## 2022 Revenue and Expenses

Source	Revenue
Legal Service Corporation (LSC)	\$2,574,403.00
Dept. of Legal Affairs (AG Office)	\$1,002,835.00
Jim Moran Foundation	\$479,663.00
Area Agency on Aging Broward County	\$321,141.00
United Way of Broward County	\$46,238.00
Equal Justice Works	\$38,785.00
Health Foundation	\$24,020.00
Office for Victims of Crime	\$97,624.00
FL Dept. of Health - Ryan White	\$55,609.00
Other Grantors	\$32,574.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,672,892.00</b>



Source	Expense
Personnel	\$3,054,554.00
Grants to subrecipients	\$570,053.00
Space & Occupancy	\$311,585.00
Administrative Expenses	\$511,136.00
Contract Services	\$77,492.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$69,806.00
Insurance	\$39,780.00
Litigation	\$26,340.00
Special Events	\$30,049.00
Travel	\$21,495.00
Supplies	\$7,138.00
Postage	\$3,499.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,722,927.00</b>



# 2022 Pro Bono Attorneys



## Thank You to Our Attorney Volunteers

### Broward Lawyers Care Pro Bono Program

Maggie Abdo-Gomez	Alan S. Fishman	Nicole Levy Kushner	Patricia Preciado
Daniela Abratt	Anne Flanigan	Jordan Lande	Kevin Rajabalee
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Michael Alman	Amanda Gagliano	Chadwick Layton	Lisa Rask
Lauren Alperstein	Loris Gayle	Tobi Lebowitz	Michelle Reichler
Ilena Alvarez	Nadine Gedeon	John Licciardi	Louis Reinstein
Shera Anderson	Barbara Ginn	Joshua Lida	Kyle Roberts
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Anisha Atchanah	Daryl Greenberg	Laurence Meyerson	Gayle Sarju
Alexandra Audate	Sandra Grim	Ninowtzka Mier	Nikki Setnor
Lilli Balik	Natalie Guerra-Valdes	Bonie Montalvo	Ofer Shmucher
Annabella Barboza	Thessica Harris	Michael Moore	Sharaine A. Sibblies
Lauren Beck	Ross Hartog	Anthony Moreland	Jason Slatkin
Eneami Bestman	Charles Hayes	Marina Moussa	Loyal Souwed
James Bishop	James Heaton	William Mulligan	Arnold M. Straus
Beverly Brennan	Gabrielle Higgins	Samantha Munro	Mayra Talarico
Farah Bridges	Lorraine C. Hoffmann	Heather Needelman	Shelby Tatum
Cheryl Bucker	Eddie L. Holiday	Justin Nepola	Meah Rothman Tell
Rose Marie But	Chad Van Horn	David Newman	Sean F. Thompson
Maria Florencia Cadagan	Diana A Ho-Yen	James Nici	Jennifer Tingle
Clare A. Casas	Ava Hue	Marc Nocera	Carol J. Trefry
Hilda Cenecharles	Richard F. Hussey	James Nolan	Paul Udouj
Ellen Chadwell	Nnamdi Jackson	Sarah Oquendo	Ali Vazquez
Howard Cohen	Miles Jolley	Linda Osberg-Braun	Angela Velez
Dia T. Colbert	Trevor C Jones	Maria Francesca Passeri	Claudia M. Volk
Peggy Cruz-Townsend	Howard N. Kahn	Joi Pearsall	Kimberly Wald
Lawrence Jay Davis	Manju Kalidindi	Alexiz Perez	Thomas R. Walser
Marva Davis	Lily Kao	Shelley Rhoads Perry	Morgan Weinstein
Bryan F DuBon	Lisa Karp	Kristen Pesicek	Miranda M Weiss
Robert Edwards	Dora Kaufman	Edna Pierre	Lisa Williams
Lynnette Ensign	Colette Joy Kellerhouse	Kevin Pierre	Suzanne E. Williams
Beth Feder	Julie Klahr	Lawrence Ploucha	Wendy Wilson
Marla Ferguson	Pavel ("Paul") Kogan	Verna Popo	Andrew Zaslow
Elizabeth Finizio	Erin Kuenzel	Chaya G. Posner	

### Collier Lawyers Care Pro Bono Program

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Ellen Chadwell	Colette Kellerhouse	William Pearson	
Gregory Champeau	Lisa Kirby	Melinda Riddle	
Marva Davis	Katie Kohn	Ana Rodriguez	

# Stay Connected

*Be sure to check out CCLA's social media platforms for community news and informational videos about legal issues and resources. Follow, like and share.*

[https://linktr.ee/ccla\\_sfl](https://linktr.ee/ccla_sfl)



COAST TO COAST  
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