



IMPACT 2023

**Access to justice is not just a concept.
It is a roof above a family, access to healthcare,
and a home safe from violence.**

From the Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our mission to provide civil legal aid to those in need. The generosity of our donors and funders, collaborative partners, pro bono attorneys and our Board of Directors has been instrumental in our ability to make a meaningful impact on the lives of so many of our vulnerable neighbors.



The importance of access to civil legal aid cannot be overstated. It is the cornerstone of a fair and equitable society and ensures that every individual, regardless of their ability to afford a lawyer, can assert their rights and seek redress for injustices. While this may seem an abstract concept to many, to the clients that cross the threshold of our doors, access to legal representation can mean the difference between homelessness and housing security, between vulnerability and safety, between hope and despair. Your support has enabled us to continue our work in ensuring access to justice for all.

Over the past year, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of civil legal aid. Our work has kept families in their homes, secured earned public benefits for individuals and seniors, protected mothers and their children from abuse, and safeguarded seniors from scams or unlawful foreclosures. The team of CCLA attorneys are unwavering in their advocacy for those in need. Each success story is a testament to the profound impact that our collective efforts have on the lives of others.

None of this would be possible without you. Your belief in our mission and your dedication to our cause is the driving force behind our success. Together, we uphold the principles of justice and equality, making certain that no one is left behind or forgotten.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of providing equal access to justice for all. The need for civil legal aid is as urgent as ever. With your continued support, we will make an even greater impact in the years to come.

Once again, thank you for your generosity, compassion, and steadfast commitment to the 360,000 low-income residents of Broward County that may pass through the open doorway to justice of Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida.

With gratitude,
Lisa G. Goldberg

From the Chair:

As Board Chair, I am immensely proud of the dedication and commitment demonstrated by our entire team at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida. Amidst the soaring growth of Broward County and the challenges that arise from it, our organization remained steadfast in its mission to provide the most effective and efficient legal representation to our most vulnerable neighbors. Ensuring access to justice for all, regardless of their financial circumstances, CCLA's attorneys and staff were tireless in their efforts to remove the barriers to a safe, stable and financially secure life for all individuals and families that crossed our threshold to equal access to justice.

On behalf of our entire Board of Directors, thank you for your staunch commitment to a more equitable and just community for all.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Larrazabal



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By the Numbers: Cases Handled

22 Lawyers
15 Paralegals



53,600+

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



4,650+

Broward residents & families accessed free legal assistance in 2023



32,276+

Client hours in 2023



1,550+

Individuals & their children were helped with family law issues in 2023

IMPACT: Protecting Families and Victims of Crime

Stable families form the backbone of a thriving and resilient community. They provide a foundation of **support and security**. The Family Law and Victims of Crime Unit at CCLA provides expert legal representation to victims of crime and domestic abuse. Our **holistic legal approach** representing victims of domestic abuse and crime not only addresses immediate legal needs but additionally **encompasses emotional support, referral to social services, access to other vital legal services and long-term safety planning to empower survivors toward a life free from violence**. When families thrive, they create a ripple effect of resiliency, strengthening the fabric of our community.

Client Impact: CCLA's Holistic Legal Services Support Rosa Through a Difficult Time

Rosa's ex-boyfriend is her son's father and although they shared a home together, their relationship was platonic and for the benefit of their son. One night, Rosa was awakened by her abuser. He was in her room yelling at her. He accused her of having a sexual relationship with another man. He punched her in the face and beat her all over her body, berated her, and threatened her.

The next morning, her abuser left for work. Rosa went to the hospital.

Her eye was bruised and swollen, she had two broken ribs and a punctured lung. The hospital staff called the police for her. The police took pictures of her injuries and a sworn statement. Her abuser was arrested for aggravated battery with great bodily harm.



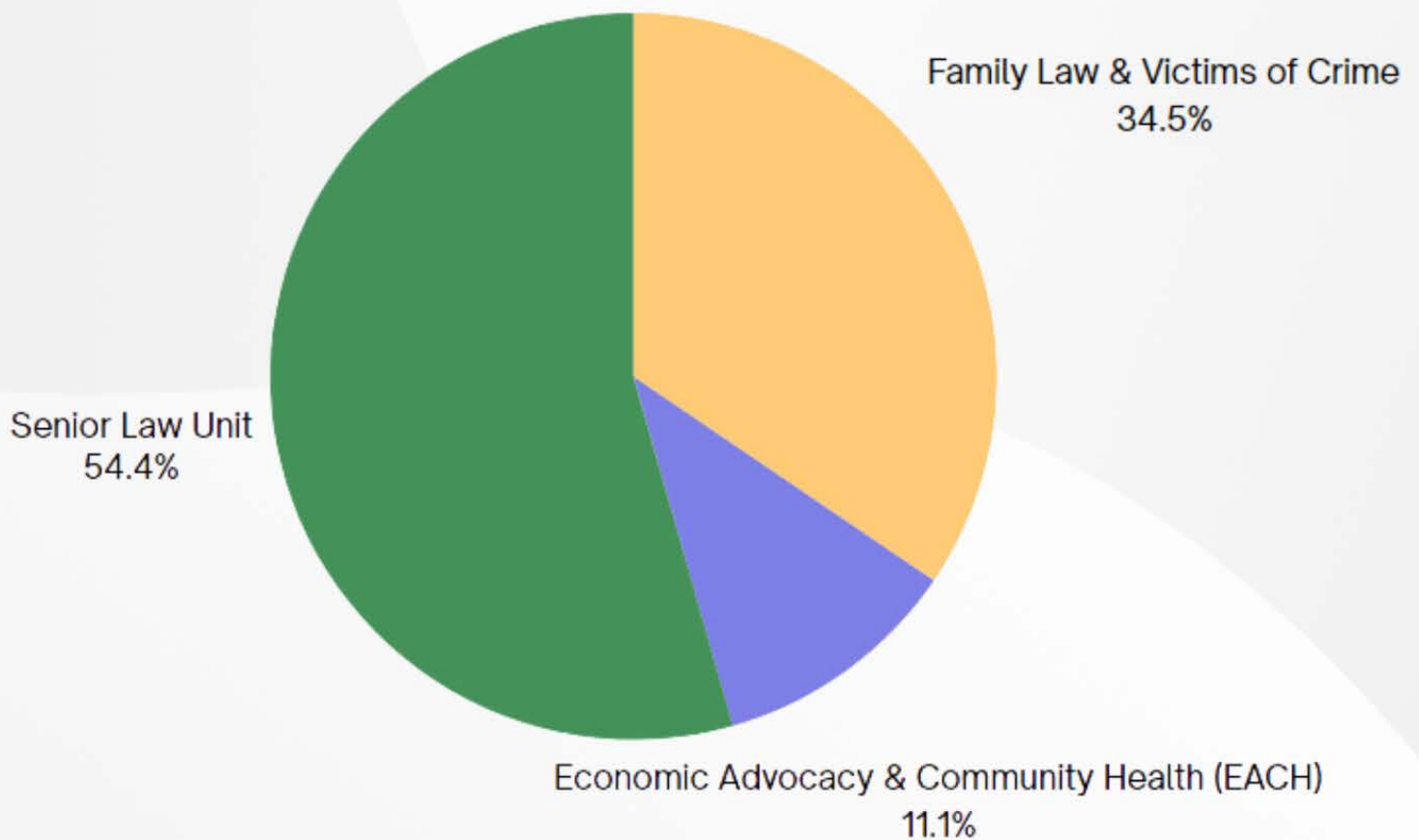
Rosa filed a Petition for an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence and came to Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida. CCLA represented Rosa at her return hearing and companion paternity case. With the felony criminal charges still pending, the abuser agreed to the entry of a Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence until further order of the court. We encouraged Rosa to apply for victim's compensation to obtain financial aid for her medical bills and worked with her victim advocate to complete the application. Rosa was able to have her medical bills covered. Rosa's abuser was sentenced for the aggravated battery. CCLA secured a Final Judgment of Paternity with Rosa retaining sole parental responsibility and 100% time-sharing with the minor child.

At CCLA, we understand that holistic legal assistance can stabilize a victim and reduce the possibility of returning to an abuser. We assisted Rosa as she obtained food assistance benefits for her citizen child and immigration assistance. We represented Rosa for her Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status as a victim of crime. We filed her Petition and Rosa was able to obtain a temporary driver's license and work authorization. **Rosa's case is truly a testament to the benefit of holistic legal services for victims of crime, especially victims of domestic and intimate partner violence.**

By the Unit:

Open Cases in 2023

- Family Law & Victims of Crime
- Economic Advocacy & Community Health
- Senior Law Unit



[Learn more about our Family Law & Victims of Crime Unit](#)

[Learn more about our Senior Law Unit](#)

[Learn more about our EACH Unit](#)

IMPACT: Advocacy

In Broward County over 360,000 people live at or below the poverty line, many of them children and seniors. **The Economic Advocacy and Community Health (EACH) program is dedicated to ensuring their economic status is not a barrier to obtaining benefits that provide for their basic human needs.** Through active legal advocacy, the EACH team assists clients in obtaining benefits that include SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medical Assistance (Medicaid, Medicare) SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Social Security, and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). **By providing individuals and families access to these programs, CCLA contributes our community's stability.**

Client Impact: Advocating for Eve's Social Security



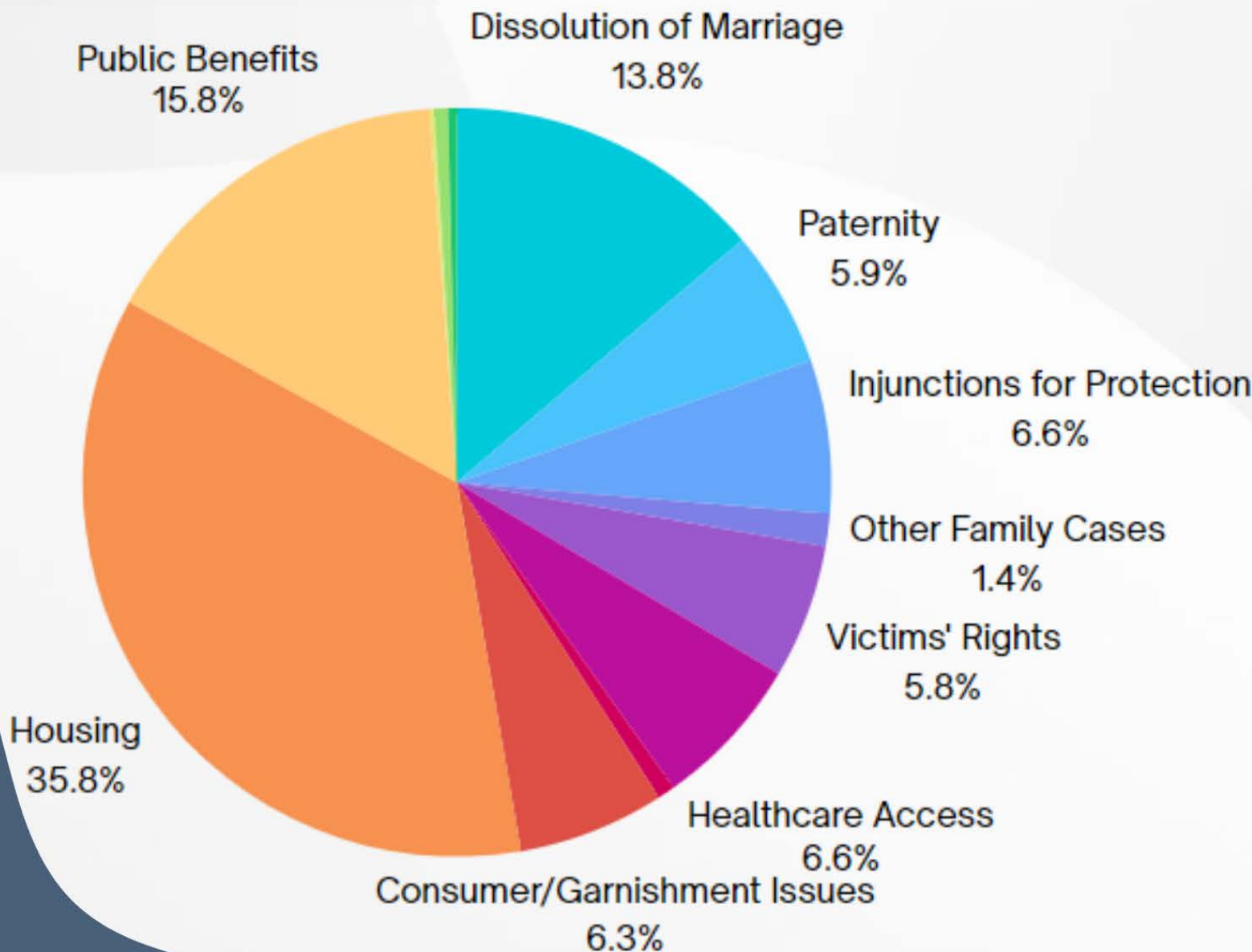
Eve has struggled with depression and PTSD for over 10 years. Due to past traumatic events, she endured, and has difficulty completing daily activities, such as going to the grocery store. Eve tried applying for Social Security disability benefits multiple times on her own, even attending a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

However, each time, she was denied. After submitting another new application in January 2021, Eve contacted CCLA for help.

A CCLA attorney worked with Eve throughout her case to develop strong evidence and we represented her at her hearing. When Eve's psychologist agreed to testify at her hearing, the attorney worked with the psychologist to help him prepare his testimony. At the hearing, Eve's psychologist was able to explain Eve's limitations due to her mental health conditions, and the ALJ commented on how helpful the psychologist's testimony was. This time, with CCLA's representation, the ALJ approved Eve's case! After fighting to get SSI benefits for almost 10 years, Eve was so grateful that CCLA's representation finally allowed her to get her benefits.

By the Legal Issue:

Open Cases in 2023



IMPACT: Stable Housing for Seniors

For low-income seniors, stable housing is essential for maintaining their overall well-being and quality of life, providing a sense of security and comfort in their later years.

Many face challenges that can jeopardize their housing and threaten that sense of safety. CCLA's Senior Law project attorneys assist individuals age 60 and older who are facing eviction, foreclosure, or are living in unsafe housing conditions. Funded in part by The Jim Moran Foundation, the **CCLA Senior Law Project is dedicated to protecting housing rights and preserving the stability of senior residents across our region.**

Client Impact: Fighting a Wrongful Eviction



Mateo, a hardworking senior who emigrated from Peru a decade ago, sought a better life in the United States. In Peru, he was a high-level government accountant, but in pursuit of the American Dream, Mateo adapted to his new life, working diligently here cleaning trucks. His efforts enabled him to achieve a significant milestone: purchasing his own mobile home. Throughout this time,

Mateo was a model resident of his mobile home park, consistently paying rent on time and never having an issue with Park Management. However, in 2023, Mateo's peaceful life took a drastic turn when he confronted a Park employee for speeding in the neighborhood, a concern for the safety of many children in the area. A day after this confrontation, he unexpectedly found an eviction notice on his door. While on paper the Park has a rule that it is for people 55 and over, throughout his entire time at the Park, he'd seen numerous kids living there. His own kids had lived at the Park for years without any issues. Yet, this eviction notice cited a violation of the Park's age policy for having his own children live with him. He'd planned to move out in Spring 2024 to take a new job elsewhere but had no means to move before then. He was concerned that he, his wife, and two young children would be homeless.

The team at CCLA stepped in to defend Mateo. CCLA attorneys made a Public Records Request which revealed over 20 children were registered for school with the Park's address and there was a school bus stop in the neighborhood. This evidence clearly indicated that the Park was not uniformly applying the age rule and was treating Mateo unfairly. As CCLA prepared for the deposition of the Park Manager to probe this discriminatory enforcement, Mateo proposed a pragmatic solution: a settlement allowing him to stay until Spring 2024, aligning with his plans for a job-related move.

The Park agreed to Mateo's terms, leading to a settlement and dismissal of the eviction case. This settlement secured Mateo's right to stay in his home and continue their lives according to their plan.

IMPACT: Community Outreach and Education



153 outreach events in 2023

- In Person and Online
- 4 Clinics
- CCLA reached over **7,100** community members

Learn more about CCLA's community outreach

IMPACT: Human Trafficking

Florida ranks 3rd in the country for human trafficking and Broward County ranks second highest in Florida for reported human trafficking. Upon arrival at Fort Lauderdale International Airport, visitors receive a welcome recording warning them to be aware of this. **As an award-winning program, 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, survivors only need to tell their story once; they work with one attorney on multiple legal problems related to their victimization. We provide holistic legal services for survivors' legal issues including: expungements, T-Visa applications, civil injunctions for protection, divorces, name changes, paternity actions, and enforcement of victims' rights in the criminal cases against their traffickers.

Client Impact: Human Trafficking Victim Has Her Record Cleared Fighting a Wrongful Eviction



For nearly ten years, Jessica was the victim of sex trafficking. She survived trafficking, torture, severe punishments, threats, physical emotional and mental abuse, and extreme traumas. Throughout her victimization, Jessica was forced to commit criminal acts for her trafficker. If she refused, Jessica was beaten and tortured. Because of the abuse and coercion, she would eventually do as she was

instructed. On multiple occasions she was arrested for these crimes, resulting in a criminal record that spanned several years.

She spent years overcoming the horrors she endured. She bravely assisted prosecutors in the prosecution of the trafficker. Throughout this time, she began to heal and move forward. Jessica's resilience and strength would not be defeated by her past victimization. Jessica now has a beautiful family and lives in a safe home. However, her criminal record continued to haunt and prohibit her from fully moving on and starting the next chapter in her life. Jessica came to Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida to seek legal assistance with expunging her criminal record. With the assistance of our specialized human trafficking attorney, Jessica was able to expunge her criminal record. She is thrilled and relieved with the results of her case. She is now applying to colleges to pursue a career helping others.

IMPACT: 2023 Community Recognition



CCLA awarded Top Workplace



Paralegal Delanor Ulysse honored with Commitment to Justice award



CCLA 's Rights In Systems Enforced (RISE) Project named Broward Domestic Violence Council's Outstanding Program



Broward County Proclamation during Sexual Assault Awareness Month for Denim Day presented to CCLA



Broward Victim's Rights Coalition's Victim Assistance Professional of the Year CCLA Attorney Paul Yune



211 Non-Profit of the Year Award For Innovation



Senior Continuum of Care with Goodman Jewish Family Services Community Partner

PRO BONO: Reimagined

Over the past 50+ years, access to justice has developed into a movement. **Pro Bono work has moved beyond traditional direct, "one client, one case" representation.** Following this trend, opportunities for private attorneys to assist us to bridge the justice gap through pro bono work and support have expanded. CCLA offers different ways for you to volunteer with us to help ensure access to justice in our communities. **Whether you are a new attorney or experienced attorney, we offer different opportunities for you to give back.**

Ways to Volunteer

- Lead an in-person Legal Clinic
- Provide Advice and Counsel Over the Phone
- Engage in Outreach for Our Organization
- Create Materials for CCLA to Use With Other Pro Bono Attorneys and the Public
- Conduct a CLE
- Represent Someone in Need
- Co-Counsel a Case With Us
- Host a Fridays With Friends to Introduce Resources in Our Community
- Teach a Virtual Legal Learning Episode or Clinic Session on Our Social Media Platforms

2023 Virtual Clinics

The collage features five promotional posters for virtual legal clinics. Each poster includes a moderator, a list of panelists, a QR code, and a 'LIVE' icon. The topics are: Public Benefits and Health Care Panel Discussion, EVICTIONS AND HOUSING PANEL DISCUSSION, Home Ownership Issues Panel Discussion, and Housing Resources and Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence.

Through funding from the Legal Services Corporation, CCLA funds two pro bono projects in our region, Broward Lawyers Care (BLC) and Collier Lawyers Care (CLC).

In 2023, BLC & CLC placed 520 cases with pro bono attorneys and closed 494 cases.

Learn more about volunteering with CCLA

IMPACT: Mobile Justice Squad



Four years ago, Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida launched its **Mobile Justice Squad (MJS)**. MJS provides free mobile legal services to seniors 60 and older who are homebound, isolated, disabled or face challenges with transportation.

The Mobile Justice Van provides a full range of legal services in areas that include health and public benefits, housing and foreclosure defense, domestic violence, financial exploitation and consumer matters. It is, in effect, a mobile working office for CCLA's attorneys to provide on-the-go legal advocacy.

Mobile Justice Van By the Numbers

103 cases opened for vulnerable seniors in 2023

The Mobile Justice Squad project is funded by The Jim Moran Foundation and the American Bar Endowment (ABE).

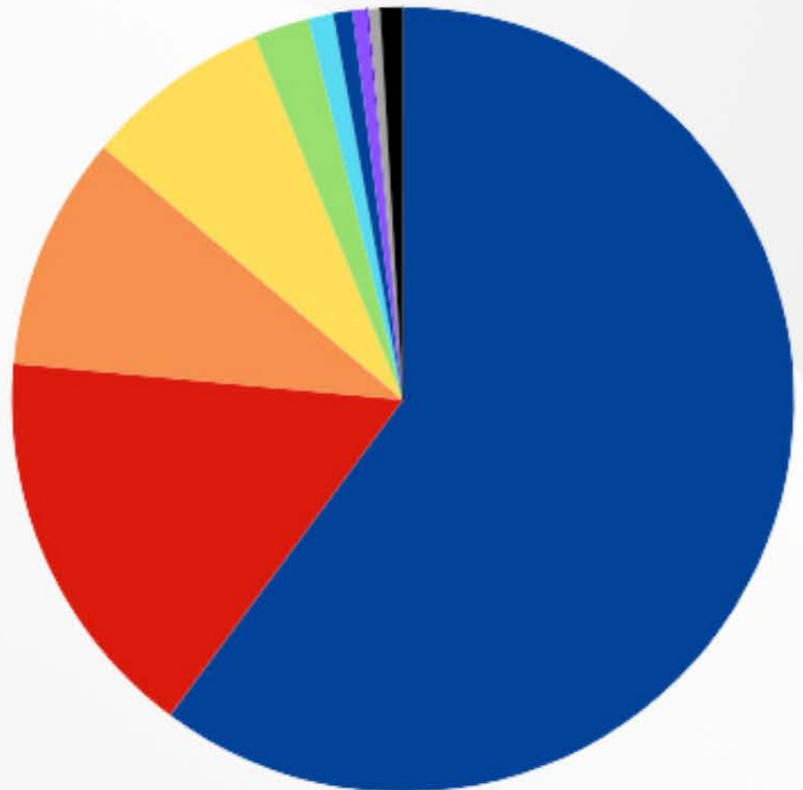


Learn more about CCLA's MJS

IMPACT: Finance

Revenue and Public Support

Legal Services Corporation-General Support (including Pro Bono Program)	\$3,189,453
Department of Legal Affairs Office of the Attorney General (LAS Sub Grant)	\$865,158
Jim Moran Foundation	\$511,670
Areawide Council on Aging of Broward County	\$407,936
Human Trafficking	\$121,300
State of Florida, Department of Health- Ryan White Title 1 Grant (LAS Sub Grant)	\$54,899
Florida Bar Foundation	\$41,489
Health Foundation	\$31,414
Contributions	\$3,824
Special Event Revenue	\$25,019
Interest and other income	\$49,716
Total Revenue:	\$5,439,598



IMPACT: Finance

Expenses

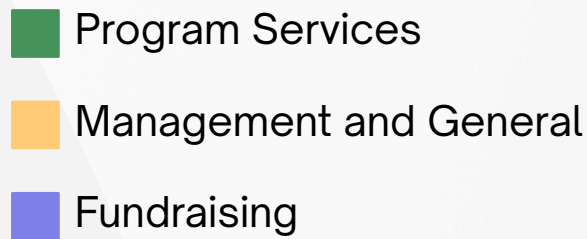
Program Services: \$4,569,774

Supporting Services:

Management and General \$833,898

Fundraising \$30,405

Total Expenses: \$5,434,077



IMPACT: Legal Education



CHECK OUT CCLA'S INFORMATIONAL LEGAL VIDEOS

SCAN OUR QR CODE OR LOOK US UP

 YOUTUBE - @CCLA_SFL 

 FACEBOOK - COASTTOCOASTLEGALAID 



Social Media Links

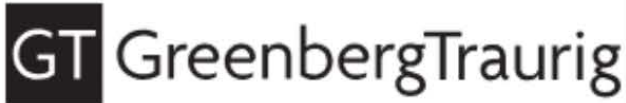


THANK YOU: 2023 ANNUAL SPONSORS

Silver Level



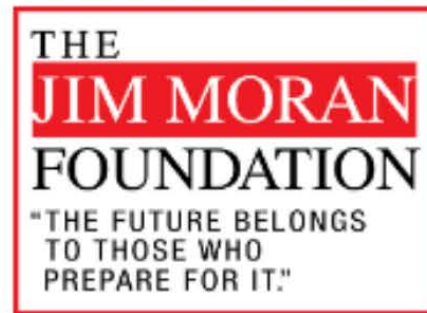
Bronze Level



Patron Level



THANK YOU: 2023 FUNDERS



Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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IMPACT: From Our Clients

"I think my Attorney went above and beyond with her support and counsel, she was very professional and I felt well represented in Court...I got help with 2 cases, which I really appreciate. I got all the support I needed and the information I needed."

"This email is a thank you letter to everyone in this business... my Attorney was more than I could ever imagine. I really felt cared for and valued as a victim. I often think about how she represented me in the most perfect way when I felt most vulnerable. I have been effected greatly by the violence done to me to where I am still in shock and unable to think or articulate my thoughts clearly. She advocated for me at my most vulnerable time and presented everything I could think of and more. Because of her professionalism and expertise, the verdict was in my favor."

"I was depressed after surviving of an abusive husband. I didn't know what to do or how to handle divorce. My English wasn't enough and my financial situation wasn't able to afford a lawyer. CCLA provided me legal help, a lawyer and even translator! I am very thankful all I wanted was the divorce and live without fear. I am free of fear now."

"I wanted to express my gratitude for your help and support during this time with my unemployment case. Your experience and knowledge in law were important resolving this case positively. I couldn't have done it without your support. Thanks I wish the best for you and your family."

THANK YOU: DONORS, FUNDERS, & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We extend our **heartfelt gratitude** to the entire community for their unwavering support of Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA). To all those who **supported our organization** financially, provided outreach opportunities to **educate** our clients and the legal community, and to **our community partners and pro bono attorneys**, your contributions were instrumental to the **success of CCLA this year**.

Your dedication underscores the importance of **civil legal aid as a doorway to a community of equal justice**. Together, we have made significant strides in ensuring that everyone has access to the legal resources they need, fostering a **more just and equitable society**.

Thank you for your invaluable support and commitment to our mission.



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