

Annual Report

Legal Services of North Florida

2018

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Legal Services
of NORTH FLORIDA
HOPE. JUSTICE. FOR ALL.

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Change is a theme threaded through poems and lyrics of songs. Change weaves itself throughout sayings and quotes intended to help us celebrate it or curse it.

At Legal Services of North Florida, we see change each day in the communities we serve. Our neighbors lose their jobs, putting their homes and family stability at risk. Our families face medical issues that causes tremendous debt, which forces families to make an impossible choice between food, rent, utilities, and other basic necessities. As stewards of justice for the Florida Panhandle, LSNF works to meet these growing, ever-changing needs.

In 2018, we launched an enhanced phone system that increased access to legal help for all who might seek assistance. We expanded our work to those with limited English proficiency, to survivors of human trafficking, and to victims of crime. We expanded our Justice on the Block legal clinics and community education events to place ourselves within our clients' community – where they live, work, and seek support. In October 2018, Hurricane Michael forced an immediate and tragic change to eleven of the 16 counties we serve. Families lost their homes, places of worship, schools, workplaces, and so many spaces that defined their communities. Members of our own LSNF family shared in this cost when they lost their homes. As prepared as we were, the impact of a Category 5 storm in our most rural counties posed a further challenge to how we responded and served in the recovery from this devastation.

While change continues to be certain, we know that the changes we made in advance of Hurricane Michael better prepared us to meet the changes it brought to our door. Our experiences have strengthened our resolve to continue bringing high-quality legal work to those low-income and vulnerable families, children, and victims in the Florida Panhandle that desperately need our help.



We will continue to work toward positive change for our communities – more affordable and safe housing, freedom from abuse and victimization, avoidance and reduction of predatory debt and practices, and the recovery of devastated communities.

Thank you for being a part of this positive change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Powell-Boudreaux".

Leslie Powell-Boudreaux, Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Renee Gordon".

Renee Gordon, Board President

LEADERSHIP



BOARD OFFICERS

Renée Gordon, Esq., President

Yvonne Whitehead, Vice President

Stephanie Zottoli, CPA, Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Richard Benham, Esq.

Travis A. Bright, Esq.

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Jamie Ito, Esq.

Elizabeth Gabriel

Sally Gertz, Esq.

Barry Gray

Michael Hamby, Esq.

Oliver Hill, Sr

Lorena Holley, Esq.

Wendy Loquasto, Esq.

Nick Youtz, Esq.

Skip Mitchell

Julie L. Sheppard, Esq.

Josephine Smith

Dan Thompson, Esq.

Towanna Fullmore

2018 EXECUTIVE STAFF

Leslie Powell-Boudreaux, Executive Director

Scott Manion, Director of Litigation

Ashley Nevels, Chief Financial Officer

The mission of Legal Services of North Florida is to provide an opportunity for justice for eligible residents through representation conducted efficiently and comparable in quality to that of the private bar, and through other forms of legal assistance designed to provide a full range of civil legal services to those in need.

OUR CLIENTS



THESE STORIES ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING THE BEST QUALITY SERVICE TO OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND SECURING JUSTICE FOR THEIR UNTENABLE SITUATIONS.

*Names of clients have been changed



Martha has survived many experiences in her life, but nothing compared to going through Hurricane Michael in Panama City. As a senior living in subsidized housing, she was dependent on her landlord and her neighbors to let her know what is going on. The hurricane's force took out her water and power. The next day she received a written notice giving her just hours to move. She met an LSNF attorney at the Disaster Recovery Center and showed the attorney her notice. The LSNF attorney called the landlord and demanded that the illegal notice be withdrawn, keeping Martha from facing homelessness in a town with nowhere else to go.



Seven-year-old Ben was living in a rural county, and had suffered significant trauma, which led him to acting out. When the behavior did not improve after traditional interventions, the school threatened removal. LSNF advocated for more innovative strategies for Ben, including a safe place for children not seen as a punishment; a meeting between the school and a trauma expert; and added provisions to the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) including art therapy, counseling, emotional regulation training, and computer-based learning. The interventions were so successful that the District ESE specialist indicated they would use similar services for other children in the future. For Ben, it meant staying in school and receiving the education he needs to grow.



WHO DO WE SERVE?

Clients are normally limited to an adjusted income of 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, with several of our grant sources having other income guidelines. All cases must be civil in nature and adhere to our priorities.



BENEFITS TO CLIENTS

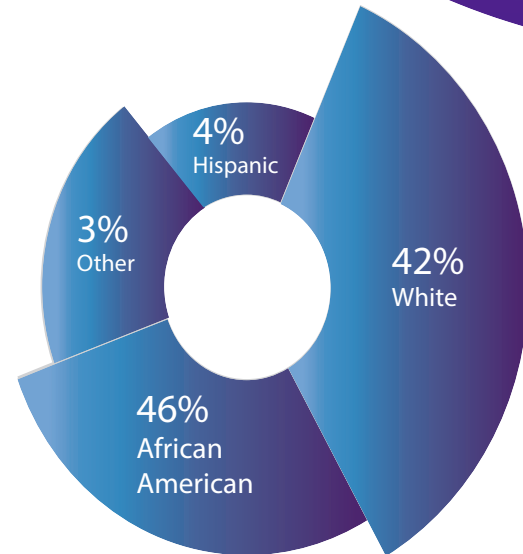
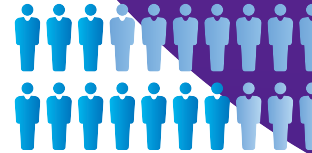
- \$1,682,897 in one-time benefits awarded to clients
- \$1,699,620 million in annual benefits for our clients



HELP PROVIDED

- Helped 1,270 families stay in their homes by defending unlawful evictions, negotiating reasonable terms, and providing legal counsel
- Prepared 306 wills and advanced directives

CLIENTS & SERVICES



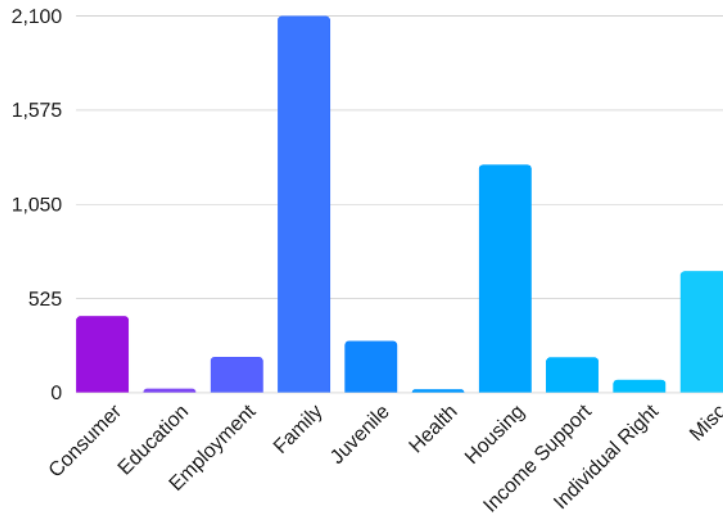
CLIENTS & SERVICES

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CLIENTS SERVED:
5,263



ADDITIONAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

- Provided specialized service to veterans experiencing homelessness
- Obtained financial relief for residents of public housing
- Resolved tax controversies for low-income taxpayers
- Recovered social security benefits for clients with disabilities
- Represented children in the foster care system
- Helped victims of domestic violence or sexual violence or human trafficking separate from their abusers



PRO BONO RECOGNITION

LAW DAY CELEBRATION

Keynote speaker, Former Florida Governor Bob Martinez, spoke about the critical role of the Separation of Powers in our government structure during Law Day Celebration on May 2, 2018. Martinez and the legal community also recognized the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the Second Judicial Circuit, along with partners Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee and the Florida State University College of Law. Awards were presented for professional and judicial excellence to the following individuals:

The Joy Aukema Taps Children's Advocate Award
Chuck Mitchell

The Parks and Crump, Thurgood Marshall Judicial
Excellence Award
Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson

The Richard W. Ervin Equal Justice Award
Judge George Reynolds

The Blaise N. Gamba Outstanding Pro Bono Award
Brenda Czekanski

LSNF works closely with private attorneys throughout our 16-county service area to give legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable individuals. Through the Private Attorney Involvement Program (PAI), this cooperation takes several forms including coordinating volunteer attorney resources of time and/or financial support.



PRO BONO ENGAGEMENT

PRO BONO RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award Recipients are those who have been juried through a rigorous panel process. These members of the law community across the entire state are dedicated servants to the community and provide a great deal of time to helping those who most need support finding justice.

The Florida Bar each year recognizes 21 lawyers for the pro bono services throughout the year. The 2018 Pro Bono Awards ceremony on January 25, 2018 was hosted by the Florida Supreme Court and certificates were presented by Florida Bar President Michael J. Higer. LSNF is honored to have nominated these three deserving recipients:

AWARD WINNERS

1st Judicial Circuit
Antonio Bruni

2nd Judicial Circuit
Dan B. Hendrickson

14th Judicial Circuit
Jennifer Wintrobe Shuler



PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION

LSNF celebrated Pro Bono Celebration week in Pensacola, Florida on October 24, 2018, alongside co-hosts Emerald Coast Legal Aid, The Pensacola Chapter of the American Inns of Court, and the Escambia Santa Rosa Bar Association. Each year, our Pro Bono Celebration recognizes the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the First Judicial Circuit and brings together more than 150 attorneys representing top local law firms across the Florida Panhandle. Keynote presenter, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles T. Canady, spoke about the importance of pro bono. The Honorable Gary Bergosh presented the LSNF challenge coins and service awards to local attorneys.



INVESTING IN LSNF

Planned Giving: Leave a lasting legacy by naming LSNF as a beneficiary in your will.

Endowment Fund: Sustain LSNF's services well into the future by helping our endowment grow.

Founders of Justice: Pledge or give \$5,000 or more to LSNF and you can become a Founder of Justice.

Partners in Service: Members of The Florida Bar can meet their pro bono goal by contributing to LSNF.

Sponsor An Event: Sponsor our fundraising events, like Jazz for Justice or Dancing with the Stars, throughout the year.

Support one of our many in-kind gift giving programs.

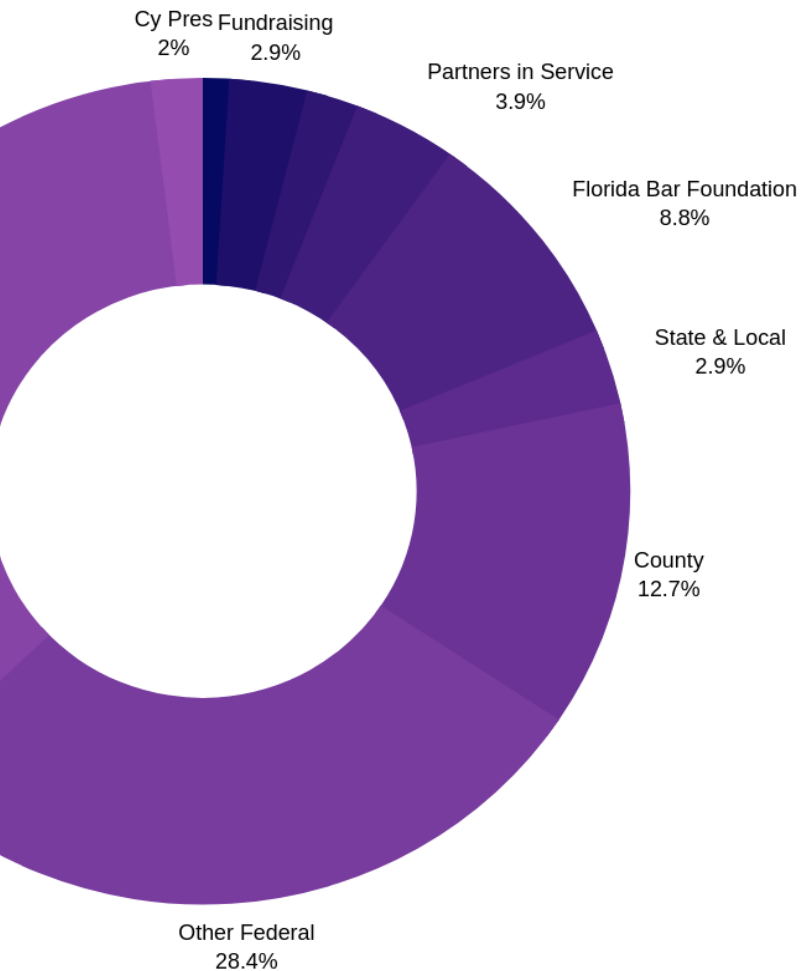
Attorneys and judges can consider designating Cy Pres Funds to LSNF.

ROUND UP your purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the extra change to LSNF, every penny matters!

2018 REVENUE

LSC
35.3%





PRO BONO INVESTMENT IN 2018



\$1,020,000 Worth of Legal
Services Donated by
Volunteer Attorneys

\$166,000 Contributed
through Partners
in Service



Nearly 4,000 Hours of
Pro Bono Service

Over 800 Pro Bono
Attorneys



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ALL PROCEEDS FROM
OUR FUNDRAISING AND
AWARENESS EVENTS HELP
LSNF PROVIDE LEGAL
ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS
WHO QUALIFY TO RECEIVE
THE FREE CIVIL LEGAL
SERVICES LSNF PROVIDES
THE COMMUNITY.

PENSACOLA: JAZZ FOR JUSTICE



Jazz for Justice brought hundreds of guests to the Seville Quarter in 2018 for an array of music, food, and entertainment on November 11. Eric Lindell, a fusion soul, R&B, and rock artist headlined the event, with additional riffs coming from great artists like Chris Godber, Zoesch and Green, Sua Sponte, Big Daddy and Red Hot Java, Whiskey and Water, and KC & the Irresistibles. Funds were raised through sponsorships, VIP ticket sales, and a silent auction that displayed the many incredible businesses and talented local artists in North Florida.

TALLAHASSEE: DANCING WITH THE STARS



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Debra Henley



JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD

Karen Walker



On December 6, 2018, the 2nd Annual Dancing with the Stars Tallahassee (DWTS) had a record-breaking evening raising funds for LSNF. The sold out, standing room only crowd of 300 community leaders cheered on their favorite celebrity dancers who collectively raised a record \$106,834 for LSNF. Debra Henley won the 2018 People's Choice Award by bringing in a whopping \$20,000 in votes/donations all by herself. Karen Walker took home the 2018 Judges' Choice Award for the best dance routine with an awe-inspiring number that featured intricate aerial spins, tosses, and back flips. All of our celebrity dancers including Jami Coleman, Brandi Thomas, Jack Campbell, Neil St. John Rambana, Carol Dover, Jimmy Fasig, Rachel Borntrager, and Jean Thrasher did an outstanding job with their dance performances and combined to help LSNF reach new heights and exceed our goal of \$100,000. Additionally, each year LSNF recognizes outstanding volunteers who make DWTS possible. The 2018 DWTS volunteer award winners were Catherine Chapman and Barbara Walker!

FUNDING

LSNF is grateful for the many local and national governmental entities, agencies and grantors who have embraced our mission of justice by supporting our work. On behalf of all we serve we thank our funding partners.

PARTNERS

Archibald Foundation
 Area Agency on Aging of North Florida
 Bay County Bar Association
 Bay County Commission
 Calhoun County Commission
 Capital City Bank Group
 Chase Bank
 City of Tallahassee
 Escambia County Commission
 First Presbyterian Church of Quincy
 Florida Attorney General's Office
 Florida Bar Foundation
 Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 Florida Coastal School of Law
 Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
 Florida Guardian ad Litem
 Franklin County Commission
 Gadsden County Clerk of the Courts
 Gadsden County Commission
 Gulf County Commission

Holmes County Commission
 Internal Revenue Service
 Jackson County Commission
 Jefferson County Commission
 Judicial Administration Commission
 Lakeview Center
 Legal Services Corporation
 Leon County Commission
 Liberty County Commission
 Okaloosa County Commission
 Refuge House
 Regions Bank
 Second Circuit State Attorney U. S. Department of Justice
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
 United Way of Escambia County
 United Way of the Big Bend
 Wakulla County Commission
 Walton County Commission
 Washington County Commission



Tallahassee

P: (850) 385-9007

F: (850) 385-7603



ADDRESS

2119 Delta Blvd.

Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Counties Served

Franklin, Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla



Quincy

P: (850) 875-9881

F: (850) 875-2008



ADDRESS

121 N. Jackson St.

Quincy, Florida 32351

Counties Served

Calhoun, Gadsden, Jackson, Liberty



Panama City

P: (850) 769-3581

F: (850) 785-2041



ADDRESS

211 E. 11th St.

Panama City, Florida 32401

Counties Served

Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington



Fort Walton Beach

P: (850) 862-3279

F: (850) 862-6327



ADDRESS

133 Staff Drive NE, Ste. B

Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Counties Served

Okaloosa, Walton



Pensacola

P: (850) 432-8222

F: (850) 432-2329



ADDRESS

1741 N. Palafox St.

Pensacola, Florida 32501

Counties Served

Escambia, Santa Rosa