

CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP	02
OUR CLIENTS	04
CLIENTS & SERVICES	06
PRO BONO RECOGNITION	08
INVESTING IN LSNF	10
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	12
FUNDING PARTNERS	14



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



Annual Report
Legal Services of North Florida
2019

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Choices. We are often defined by the choices we make or do not make. Each day, we face so many choices. Some large, some small. Where to live, what job will we have, who will we marry – if we choose to marry at all, where will we go to school.

These choices seem simple to many of us. Imagine that those choices are limited. Imagine only one choice, and that choice has consequences that could harm you or your family. Imagine having no good choices. Do I feed my family, or pay the utility bill? Do I stay with the person abusing me, or risk living on the streets? Do I stay in my home – damaged from a hurricane and growing mold from a leaking roof; or do I move to a new community without the social supports I have here?

LSNF's advocates help people sort through these difficult choices every day, deploying legal solutions to improve the choices or reduce the harm caused as a result. A family living in substandard housing can decide whether to stay and fight for improvement or move to a new home, with a member of the LSNF team helping them know if there are other, better choices. With legal information and advice, someone can know the consequences of those choices better. A victim of domestic violence can lay out a safety plan that includes protection for their children and financial stability to prevent continued abuse. A person experiencing homelessness can access social security and other supports previously unavailable to them – giving them choices in housing and even a path to return to work.

Choices in 2019 were no different for those in the Panhandle, especially those still facing decisions around Hurricane Michael recovery, reduced availability of affordable housing, limited access to employment, and heightened stress causing challenges for students, families, and organizations alike. LSNF is honored to be working in the trenches with our neighbors as we turn this critical recovery effort into one of opportunity. Each person we helped – each case we handled – made



Leslie Powell-Boudreaux

Leslie Powell-Boudreaux, Executive Director

the Florida Panhandle a better place for that person and for our communities. As we look to 2020, we do so with a continued goal for our neighbors to find their world filled with better choices to protect themselves and their families economically and in improved health and



Yvonne Whitehead

Yvonne Whitehead, Board President

LEADERSHIP



BOARD OFFICERS

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2019 EXECUTIVE STAFF

Leslie Powell-Boudreaux, Executive Director

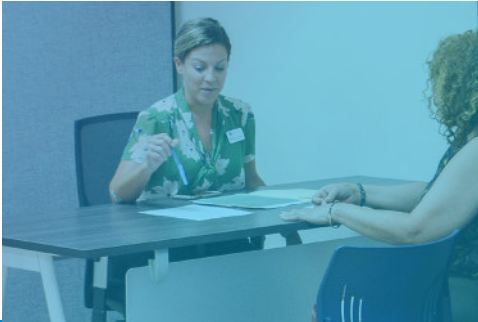
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Ashley Nevels, Chief Financial Officer

Ana Carroll, Corporate Secretary

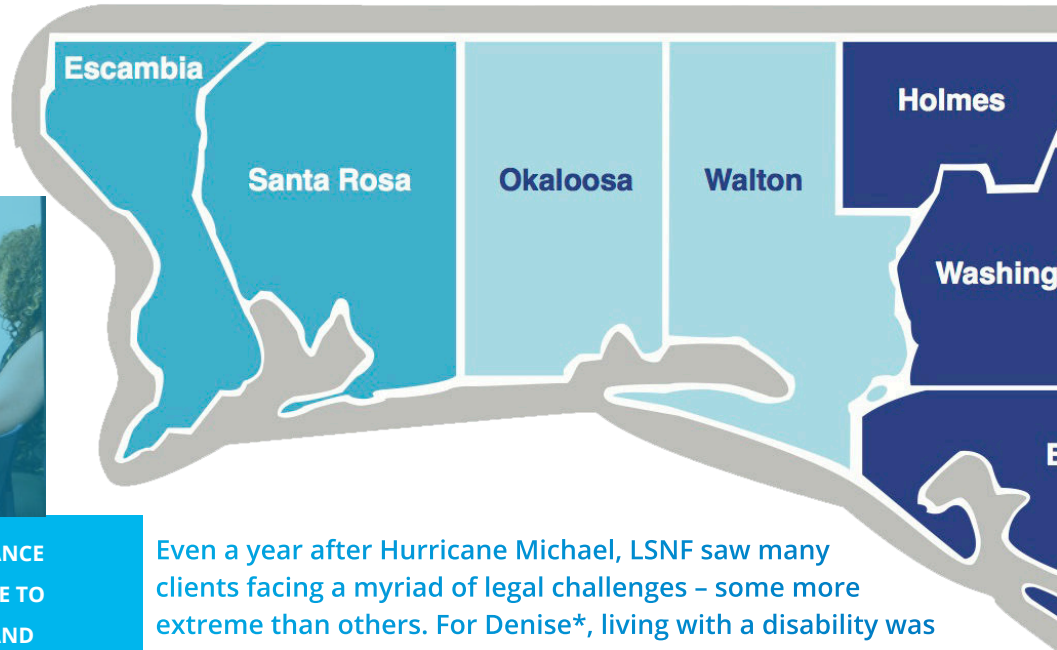
The mission of Legal Services of North Florida is to provide an opportunity for justice for eligible residents through representation conducted efficiently and comparable in quality to that of the private bar, and through other forms of legal assistance designed to provide a full range of civil legal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



Even a year after Hurricane Michael, LSNF saw many clients facing a myriad of legal challenges – some more extreme than others. For Denise*, living with a disability was difficult, but after the storm it was even harder in her subsidized housing. After being sexually assaulted by a contractor in her apartment complex, she decided she needed to leave, but her landlord wouldn't let her switch apartments and affordable housing in her area was nearly nonexistent. Denise found LSNF and we were able to ask for accommodations from the public housing offices based on her circumstances. Our attorney was granted an emergency transfer request and even secured a 20% increase for the rent payment.



LSNF was appointed as attorney ad litem for Annie*, a minor in foster care. At the time, Annie was being considered for residential treatment. LSNF worked with Annie to make sure she had representation throughout the dependency case proceedings, which included pre and post termination of parental rights. Our attorneys advocated and negotiated on Annie's behalf to ensure proper placements based on her needs and to make sure that she had the proper treatment and medications. All of the work LSNF did to help Annie eventually ended with her in the safety of her grandmother's home, who adopted her.



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

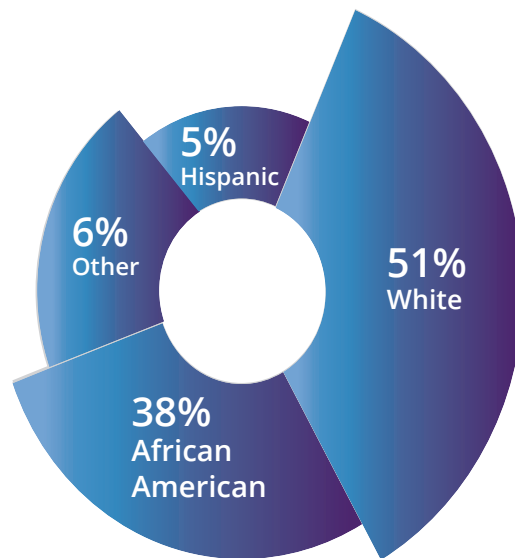
- Helped 1,087 families stay in their homes by defending unlawful evictions, negotiating reasonable terms, and providing legal counsel
- Prepared 542 wills and advanced directives

CLIENTS & SERVICES



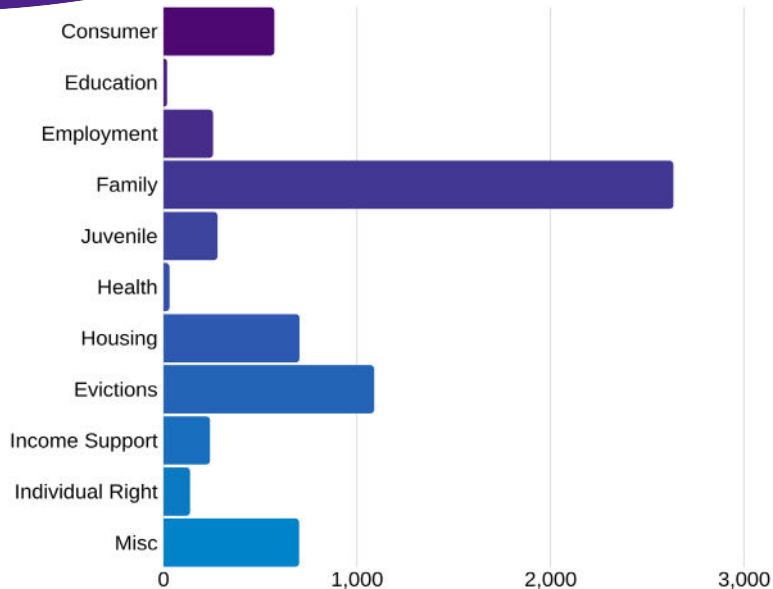
1,311 Men

3,942 Women



CLIENTS & SERVICES

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CLIENTS SERVED:
6,641



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
- Helped survivors of disaster

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

LAW DAY CELEBRATION

Keynote speaker, Tom Julin, Esq. spoke during Law Day Celebration on May 1, 2019. Speaker Tom Julin spoke on the 2019 Law Day theme—Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society—focusing on these cornerstones of representative government. Law Day also recognized the law community's 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
The Honorable Mark Walker

The Parks and Crump, Thurgood Marshall Judicial Excellence Award
Representative Lorrane Ausley

The Richard W. Ervin Equal Justice Award
The Honorable Stephen Everett

The Blaise N. Gamba Outstanding Pro Bono Award
Laurel Tallent

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 RECOGNITION

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 their pro bono services throughout the year. The 2019 Pro Bono Awards ceremony on January 25, 2019 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:

1st Judicial Circuit

Nancy Lynn Carty Hartjen



AWARD WINNERS

2nd Judicial Circuit

Jennifer LaVia



14th Judicial Circuit

Julia K. Maddalena



PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATION

LSNF honored Pro Bono Celebration week on October 23, 2019, alongside co-hosts Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF), Okaloosa Bar Association, Walton County Bar Association, Inc. And The Florida Bar Foundation. Each year, 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, The Florida Bar President John Stewart, 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.

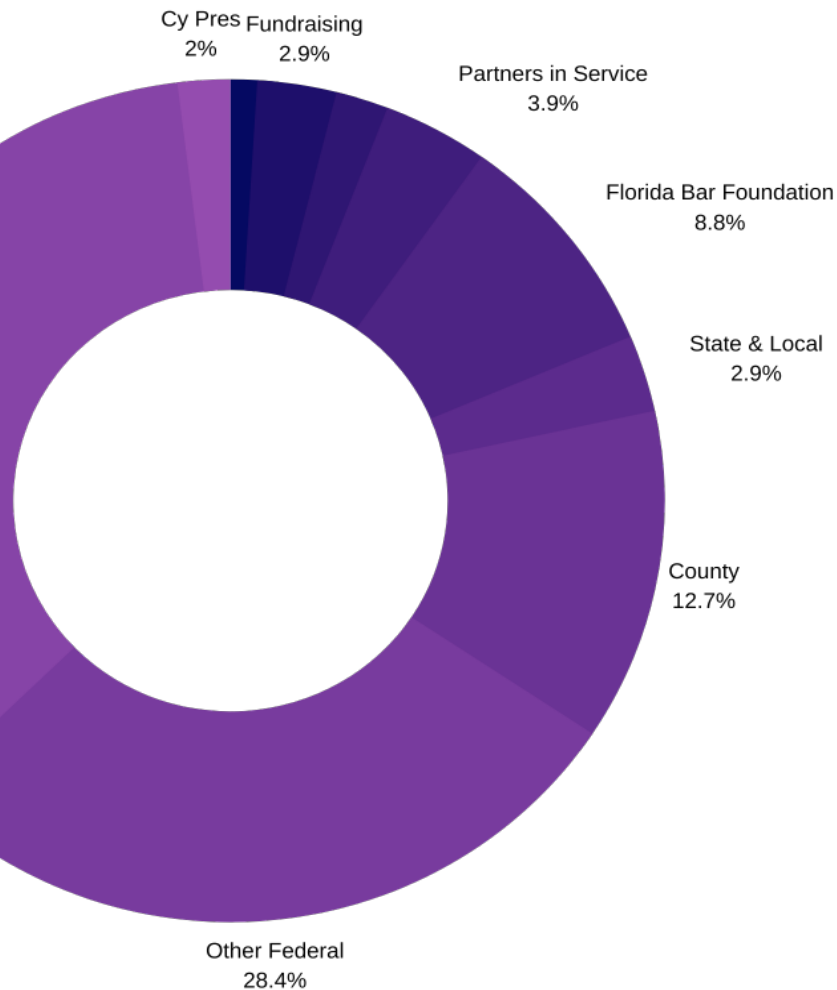
ROUND UP your purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the extra change to LSNF, every penny matters!

2019 REVENUE

LSC
35.3%



PRO BONO INVESTMENT IN 2018



\$1,283,085 Worth of Legal Services Donated by Volunteer Attorneys

Over \$50,000 Contributed through Partners in Service



Nearly 4,277 Hours of Pro Bono Service

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 2019 for an array of music, food, and entertainment on November 10. Headlining the event, Rebirth Brass Band a Grammy-winning and a true New Orleans original brought all of the true French Quarter vibes to Jazz for Justice. Along with Rebirth, we featured incredible artists like locals Whiskey & Water, The Quashers, Ellen Vinson and Denise D'Angelo, and Big Daddy and Red Hot Java. 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

Christian Cutillo



JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD

Josie Tamayo

On December 11, 2019, the 3rd 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 of over \$113,000 for LSNF. Christian Cutillo won the 2019 People's Choice Award by bringing in over \$27,000 in votes/donations! Then with a rousing paso doble, Josie Tamayo glided across the dance floor with incredible grace, sweeping up the crowd and judges in her performance, which led to Josie taking home the Judge's Choice. All of our celebrity dancers including Kristin Dozier, Tom Findley, Mutaqee Akbar, "Rocky" Bevis, Jasmyne Henderson, Mia McKown, Carrie Roan, and Glenda Thornton did an outstanding job with their dance performances and combined to help LSNF reach new heights and exceed our goal of \$100,000.

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

AARP Foundation
 Archibald Foundation
 Area Agency on Aging for North Florida
 Bay Area Legal Services
 Bay County Bar Association
 Bay County Commission
 Calhoun County Commission
 Capital City Bank Group
 Center for Disaster Philanthropy
 Chase Bank
 City of Tallahassee
 Escambia County Commission
 Equal Justice Works
 First Presbyterian Church of Quincy
 Florida Office of the Attorney General
 Florida Bar Foundation
 Florida Coastal School of Law
 Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
 Florida Department of Elder Affairs
 Florida Guardian ad Litem
 Franklin County Commission
 Friends of LSC

Gadsden County Clerk of the Courts
 Gadsden County Commission
 Gulf County Commission
 Holmes County Commission
 Internal Revenue Service
 Jackson County Commission
 Jefferson County Commission
 Justice Administration Commission
 Lakeview Center
 Legal Services Corporation
 Legal Services of Greater Miami
 Leon County Commission
 Liberty County Commission
 National Low-Income Housing Coalition
 Okaloosa County Commission
 Pensacola Foo Foo Festival
 Refuge House
 Regions Bank
 Second Circuit State Attorney
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
 Administration for Community Living
 U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence
 Against Women



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