



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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OUR LEADERSHIP

LSNF is guided by a 21-member Board of Directors,

Seven of whom represent low-income client groups or are low-income clients. The remaining members include an accountant and volunteer attorneys appointed by local voluntary bar associations and the Florida State University College of Law.

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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

2022 for Legal Services of North Florida represented a year of growth and learning. With so many facing the economic, health, and housing challenges in the wake of the pandemic, Legal Services leadership saw this opportunity to evaluate our work, implement new and innovative ways to delivery legal assistance, and to strategically plan for our future. While our staff numbers have grown significantly in recent years, the needs of our neighbors who are low-income or in at-risk situations have become more complex and layered. The challenges of affordable housing in particular are becoming paramount to all other issues facing our communities. Without safe, stable housing, all other aspects of a family fall into question. Our work to help these families address income, debt, education, and family violence issues helps to support more stable housing. At the same time, we reduce homelessness with our work to ensure that renters and homeowners alike access the protections the law provides.

We took time this year to engage in a complete regional needs assessment to focus on what the community is telling us its civil legal needs are. We then initiated a strategic planning process to be completed in 2023 and to guide the direction of Legal Services.

We created new leadership positions to focus on program development and implementation so that we are better working to meet the identified needs and measuring the impact of our work.

We invested in technology and innovations to support both our operations and our delivery of legal assistance. Our new voice over IP phone system will ensure improved access for clients for years to come. Two more visible additions in the fall of 2022 were our two mobile office units, designed to provide full legal assistance anywhere we may need to go to help communities get the help they need. Both were designed to aid our response to hurricanes and other disasters and will be deployed where internet, transportation, and other barriers exist to seeking legal help.

As Legal Services of North Florida enters 2023, we are stronger, more stable, and more agile in our ability to respond to the crises faced in our communities. We thank our donors, funders, volunteers, and community partners for achieving these improvements. We still have much more to do. We are better positioned to do that hard work together. Thank you.

NICK YOUTZ

BOARD PRESIDENT

LESLIE POWELL-BOUDREAUX

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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.

Helped

1,864

families stay in their homes.

41%

Cases directly helped children.

Provided housing advice to

2,072

people.

453

Wills & advanced directives prepared.

KENDRA was married to her husband for four years when she could not take the abuse anymore. Kendra's husband would retaliate when she refused advances and even physically assaulted her when she told him she was leaving. Kendra had her children to think about and with an incredible amount of courage, filed for a protective injunction. Kendra found LSNF shortly after and our attorneys helped her with her divorce, including protecting her children by advocating for supervised visitation with their father.



7,397

Cases Handled
in 2022

17,212

Children & Adults Assisted



HELP PROVIDED

LSNF serves thousands of people each year across 16 counties.

Each of our 5 primary locations manage hundreds of cases at a time, ensuring eligible clients receive professional and quality legal assistance.

OF LSNF'S CLIENTS

72%
were
women



\$3,142,319

in one-time benefits
awarded to clients

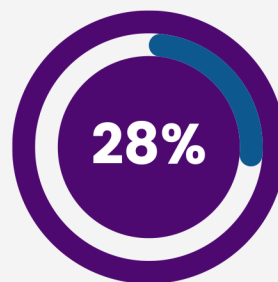
\$233,950

in annualized benefits
for our clients



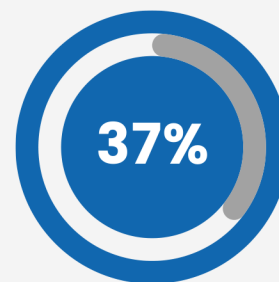
1,864

Senior Residents
over the age of 60 were
provided full
representation by LSNF
staff.



CASES

Supported the stability of
client housing



CASES

Ensured the safety and
stability of client family
relationships

ADDITIONAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

- ✓ Provided specialized service to veterans experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Obtained critical financial assistance for residents of public and subsidized housing.
- ✓ Resolved tax controversies for low-income taxpayers.
- ✓ Recovered social security benefits for clients with disabilities and the elderly.
- ✓ Represented children in the foster care system.
- ✓ Helped victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking find safety away from their abusers.

2022 Community Needs Assessment

conducted by *thredpartners*

325 Participants

Over 300 participants helped LSNF evaluate the needs and gaps in service through an extensive needs assessment in 2022.

Community Member Surveys

187 ▼



Interview & Working Sessions

▼ 26



Community Partner & Library Surveys

▼ 43



Board and Staff Surveys

▼ 69



MOBILE OFFICE ON THE MOVE!



PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Law Day Celebration

Keynote speaker, Constitutional Law Expert and Professor, FSU College of Law Nat Stern, Esq. discussed last year's theme "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change", during Law Day Celebration on May 3, 2022. Legal Services of North Florida, alongside co-hosts Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee and the Florida State University College of Law, recognized the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the Second Judicial Circuit. Awards were presented for professional and judicial excellence to the following individuals:



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



Christian Minor
Joy Aukema Taps Children's Advocate Award



The Honorable Stephanie Ray
Parks & Crump Thurgood Marshall Award



Wendy S. Loquasto
Ervin Equal Justice Award



Trinidad A. Peraza
Blaise N. Gamba Award



PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Pro Bono Celebration

LSNF honored legal professionals throughout Florida's first and fourteenth judicial circuits on October 22, 2022. This Pro Bono Celebration recognized the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the First Judicial Circuit and Fourteenth Judicial Circuits. LSNF brought the 2022 Pro Bono Celebration back to the legal community, in-person, in Ft. Walton Beach.

LSNF was excited to have State Representative, The Honorable Patt Maney help distribute the 2022 Pro Bono Challenge Coin to our honorees across these judicial districts, celebrating their contributions to our community. Keynote speaker, Florida Bar President Gary Lesser, Esq. passionately spoke on the importance and history of pro bono service in Florida.



“

LOVE is spelled

T - I - M - E

The Honorable Gary Bergosh

”

PRO BONO RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

Over 200 pro bono attorneys served LSNF clients in need across the Florida Panhandle.

Their service provided incredible resources for low income and vulnerable populations that otherwise would not have had access to our courts.



\$603,255

LSNF Pro Bono attorneys gave the equivalent of \$603,255 worth of legal services through their time.

2,010

Attorneys gave over 2,000 hours of service to low income individuals across North Florida.



534

Over 500 clients were served by pro bono attorneys.



C. LEDON ANCHORS
1st Judicial Circuit



MARC E. TAPS
2nd Judicial Circuit



SUSAN V. CARROLL
14th Judicial Circuit

The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award Recipients

...represent members of the legal community across the entire state who are dedicated to their local communities and give their time to helping bridge the gap to justice by providing access to the courts through their pro bono work. Each year, the Florida Bar recognizes 21 lawyers for their pro bono services throughout the year. After a rigorous panel process, these attorneys are chosen. LSNF proudly nominates attorneys in our service area.

JAZZ FOR JUSTICE



Jazz for Justice 2022 did not miss a beat with live music at Pensacola's Museum Plaza on November 12, 2022. Hundreds of attendees from around the Florida Panhandle and beyond joined the festivities to watch Jazz for Justice's musical lineup.

Attendees were able to sway to Pensacola's very own 9th Avenue Brass Band, which opened the show and kept the crowd dancing!

The entertainment continued with crowd favorite Tuba Skinny who brought hundreds of music lovers wanting to enjoy their sweet vocals and rhythmic folk jazz. Closing out the night were The Soul Rebels! These sensational New Orleans based artists did not miss a beat bringing their heart and soul into their performance.





Dancing with the Stars

The 5th annual Dancing with the Stars Tallahassee was a night to remember with eight Celebrity Dancers **raising over \$60,000** for Legal Services North Florida! 2022 Dancers included Paul M. Aloise Jr., Tony Fusco, Khari James, Jason Newlin, Samantha Padgett, Elizabeth Ricci, Jamie Van Pelt, and Jessica Yearly, with dance studio support from Studio D, FSU Swing Dance Club, Ballet Arts Conservatory, Irish Dance Tallahassee, Artistry Dance Alliance, and Tallahassee Dance Academy.

The most exciting part of the event was of course the winners of the evening! The overall best dancer and Judge's Choice award winner was Samantha Padgett and Fasig | Brooks' very own, Tony Fusco, brought home the People's Choice award with his fundraising more than \$16,000.



Judges & Emcee

L to R: Alex Medina, Channing Frampton, Karah Bailey, Gail Stansberry-Ziffer, & Rick Minor.



Award Winners

Judges' Choice
SAMANTHA PADGETT

People's Choice
TONY FUSCO

INVESTING IN LSNF



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

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

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

Members of The Florida Bar can meet their pro bono goal by contributing to LSNF's Partner's in Service Campaign.

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

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

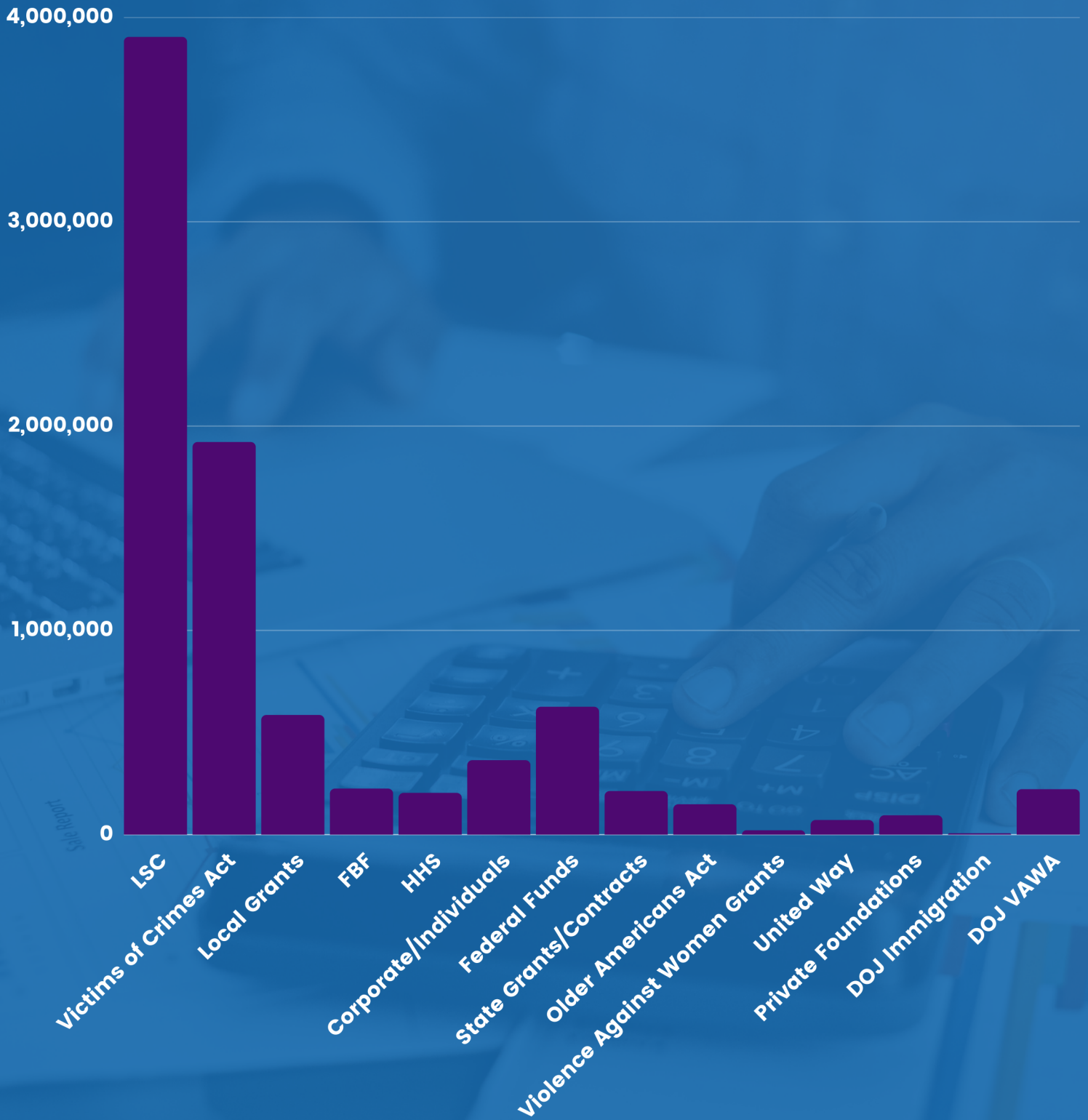
Become a sustaining donor through the Justice365 campaign.



\$118,843

Raised during the
Partners in Service
Campaign

2022 REVENUE



FUNDING PARTNERS

LSNF is grateful to work alongside so many local, state and national governmental entities,

along with agencies across the Florida Panhandle who have embraced our mission of justice by supporting our work. On behalf of all those we serve we, LSNF would like to thank our funding partners.

90Works

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Advantage Aging Solutions

Bay Area Legal Services

Bay County Commission

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City of Tallahassee

City of Pensacola

City of Quincy

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North Florida

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and Families

Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Foo Foo Festival

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Gadsden County Commission

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Legal Services of Greater Miami

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Coalition

Okaloosa County Commission

Pensacola State College

Refuge House

Santa Rosa County Commission

Second Circuit State Attorney

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Community Living

U. S. Department of Justice, Office of
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United Way of Northwest Florida

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Dana Brooks	Howard Fischer	Lorena Holley



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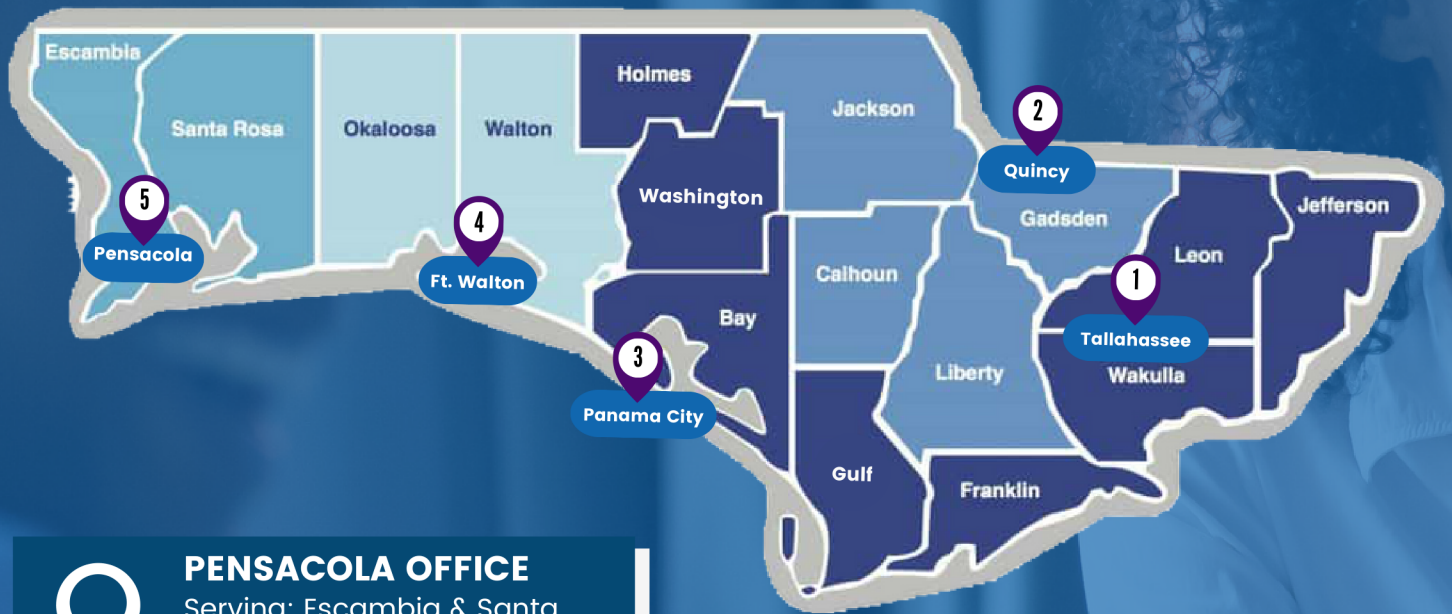
When we took our Oath of Admission to The Florida Bar, we vowed to fight for the defenseless and oppressed. LSNF does that every day, representing the most vulnerable citizens of the 16 counties it serves in legal matters like human trafficking, evictions, elder abuse, and social security benefits.

Jamie Ito
Attorney at Law

These law firms and individuals support Legal Services of North Florida by committing donations of \$350 per year as part of a partnership with The Florida Bar. Find out more about this program and see who else is part of this prestigious campaign by clicking below:

CLICK HERE

We thank you for your ongoing support of Legal Services of North Florida!



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