IMPACT 2021

6,961 People helped

366 Volunteers
attorneys, law students, paralegals, interpreters, mediators

4,725 Donated Hours
of pro bono legal services

$1,363,050 Value Provided
in pro bono legal services

LACBA supports Counsel for Justice’s legal services projects:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
AIDS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
LACBA Counsel for Justice
Domestic Violence Legal Services Project

2021 Year-End by the Numbers

Working together for a more just LA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons Served</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,915 People helped</td>
<td>100 Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>attorneys, law students, paralegals, interpreters</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donated Hours</th>
<th>Value Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,669 Donated Hours of pro bono legal services</td>
<td>$564,225 Provided in pro bono legal services</td>
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</table>

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
AIDS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
Survivor Story

The California Civil Rights Act requires agencies receiving state funding (like LACBA Counsel for Justice) to provide language access services. Failure to provide language access services may be a form of illegal discrimination. While all litigant-facing DVP staff are bilingual English/Spanish speakers, DVP had struggled to provide consistent, high-quality services to litigants who spoke a language other than English or Spanish. In September, with funding from the City of Los Angeles, DVP began using Language Line remote interpreting services to provide on-demand remote interpreting over telephone or videoconference. Since September, DVP has used Language Line to communicate with litigants in Russian, Korean, and other languages such as Bangleshi, as described below . . .

Jane was a Bangladeshi speaker who also spoke some Spanish. She had been living in the U.S. for less than a year. Jane was referred to DVP by the Department of Children and Family Services after she was beaten by her husband. After the attack Jane called the police, who came to the scene, made a report, and issued Jane an Emergency Protective Order protecting her and her son, who had also been beaten by the abusive person, his father. Jane had suffered emotional, physical, financial, and social abuse at the hands of her husband for over two years. As Jane was referred to DVP at the height of the Delta COVID-19 resurgence, Jane preferred to receive all services remotely. Using Language Line, DVP was able to provide services to Jane in her preferred language. DVP explained the legal process and Jane’s rights regarding the various remedies available through a restraining order, such as custody and support orders, debt payment, and others. DVP also conducted a thorough interview to draft Jane’s court forms and declaration.

After Jane approved and electronically signed the documents with the help of the interpreter, DVP filed using the court’s fax-filing system. That same day, the court issued temporary protective, custody and monetary orders pending the hearing. At the close of DVP services, DVP provided Jane with referrals to other legal aid agencies for attorney representation with her restraining order hearing, family law issues, and for assistance pursuing victim-based immigration remedies such as U-Visa or VAWA. DVP also referred Jane to culturally-specific case management services.

Jane was able to serve her husband with the restraining order and both parties were present at their hearing in pro per. Because of the clear and detailed declaration prepared by DVP describing the long history of abuse, Jane was able to obtain a renewable two-year Restraining Order after Hearing, as well as custody and other orders in her favor, even without attorney representation.

DVP 2021 Highlights

- Between COVID surges, DVP returned to in-person services in July and again from November through the end of the year.
- This fall, DVP moved to using a web-based forms production tool to prepare the court documents, allowing volunteers to use the same process whether they are working in person or remotely and facilitating remote review and approval of documents by the Project Attorney.
- When DVP returned to in-person services in November, we began using our new “remote-services stations” at the courthouse clinic. These stations allowed a litigant present in the clinic to connect via videoconference with a remote volunteer to conduct the interview and prepare their forms, which were then printed out in the clinic for the litigant to file in person. Litigants were very happy to be helped by remote volunteers.
- In December, the City of Los Angeles approved $200,000 contract for DVP to provide restraining order legal services at the LAPD Central District Family Justice Center. Although the contract was not approved until December, the contract period covers the period July 2021-June 2022.
- In December LACBA Counsel for Justice was awarded over $64,000 through the Domestic Violence American Rescue Plan Program of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. These funds will support DVP operational expenses over the next two years.
LACBA Counsel for Justice
Immigration Legal Assistance Project

2021 Year-End by the Numbers

Working together for a more just LA

Persons Served

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pro Bono Court Panel</td>
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Volunteers

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<td>Volunteers</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>attorneys, law students, paralegals, interpreters</td>
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Donated Hours

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<tr>
<td>Pro Bono Court Panel</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Donated Hours</td>
<td>Donated Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of pro bono legal services</td>
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Value Provided

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<td>Pro Bono Court Panel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provided in pro bono legal services</td>
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LACBA supports Counsel for Justice’s legal services projects:

- Domestic Violence Legal Services Project
- Immigration Legal Assistance Project
- AIDS Legal Services Project
- Veterans Legal Services Project
Client Story

Carmen came to our office looking for help in acquiring her first US passport but encountered some difficulties with the State Department’s Passport office. The problem stemmed from the fact that she had changed her name through the naturalization process and USCIS had failed to properly issue a corresponding name change document. Without this proof of legal name change the passport office could not issue her a passport under her legal name.

Carmen had been navigating the USCIS appointment system with only the help of her 18-year-old daughter and she was at her wits’ end. She came into our office in tears after having been rebuffed by DHS at the service windows. The officers had said that they could not find her file and she would have to order another copy of her document from USCIS at great expense and delay. This process would have taken many months and would in no way ensure that she would receive the proper document in return. Carmen needed to travel outside the country to see her ailing mother. She was becoming despondent because her experience with this federal agency was giving her the impression that her U.S. citizenship was not being fully recognized.

Through our relationships with USCIS, we helped Carmen get another appointment and accompanied her to the appointment at which we discovered that USCIS had failed to sign and issue the name change document. We argued that since USCIS had erred they should re-issue the document. After much discussion, we persuaded the officers to issue the document on the spot.

Our unique location in the Federal building and our relationship with USCIS enabled us to inquire directly how best to move forward on this benefit request. Because of that, we were able to advocate and empower this US citizen to navigate the federal agencies that held the keys to her passport.

ILAP 2021 Highlights

› Returning to in-person walk-in clinic in the summer of 2021 was a big accomplishment for us. There are so many people who cannot get services because of closures or limited staffing. They are happy to get some guidance from our clinic.

› The Immigration Court resumed their pro se master calendar hearings in November 2021 which allowed us to resume our Pro Bono Panel program. We are assisting with the family unit calendar which is parents with children facing removal.
LACBA Counsel for Justice
Veterans
Legal Services
Project

2021 Year-End
by the Numbers

Working together for a more just LA

Persons Served

 Clients helped

Volunteers

 Volunteers
attorneys, law students, paralegals, interpreters

Donated Hours

1,404
Donated Hours
of pro bono legal services

Value Provided

$376,024
Provided in pro bono legal services

LACBA supports Counsel for Justice's legal services projects:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
IMMIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
AIDS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
Client Story

Giving C. Guerrero a Lifeline

C. Guerrero served for nine years, from February 1990 through 1999, as a Canon Crew Member in the United States Army. Born in Mexico and a permanent resident of the United States, he joined the military because of his gratitude for this country. He was honorably discharged at the rank of E-4, Army Specialist and received over 11 medals and decorations during his service, including an Army Service Ribbon and National Defense Service Medal. He heard about LACBA Counsel for Justice Veterans Legal Services Project through another veteran's service provider, which had referred him due to his crippling legal troubles.

At the time, Mr. Guerrero was facing a ticket for expired registration on a vehicle he was fixing up for his daughter. He didn’t yet have the money to fix the car to pass the smog test after he had already replaced the car’s engine, which is when he got pulled over. He has been on SSDI due to chronic disabilities and looking for work, though it has been hard to manage with his injuries. To compound matters, his ticket also came at a time when he was dealing with homelessness. Because of the pandemic, he was already rationing his funds to provide for his 2 children and didn’t have the money to pay for the $400 ticket. The legal matters only added to the stress of trying to look for a housing unit in the midst of a pandemic, dealing with his chronic pain, and working with the little income he was receiving.

With the help of the Veterans Project, Mr. Guerrero was able to have his ticket dismissed and his record cleared. He was able to put money he would have had to pay for the ticket towards his children and their expenses. He could now focus his attention back onto his own life and potentially find a housing unit that would allow him to reunite with his son that has been living at his mother’s house.

When asked what getting help from the Veterans Legal Services Project meant to him, Mr. Guerrero mentioned that his experience with LACBA CFJ was ‘a lifeline.’ He was going through a lot at the time and all he needed was a little help in resolving his legal matters, especially since he didn’t know how to resolve them himself or where to start. To him, the Veteran’s Project was an organization that “at a time of need, gave him another avenue.” He described the organization’s work as monumental, as it allows for veterans to “reach out against the society that is stacked against them.”

VLSP 2021 Highlights

› First Annual May Fundraising Campaign- “Who Are You Remembering” – raised over $19,000.00 towards program services.

› The Veterans Project was selected for two grants, a $20,000 grant from Wells Fargo and 3-year grant in the amount of $176,961 from the State Bar to expand services to include a Homelessness Prevention Advocacy Project.

Clinic Headliners of 2021

› Q1: O’Melveny and Google, Foley & Mansfield, Sheppard Mullin

› Q2: O’Melveny and Bank of America, UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic and LACBA AFCOM, Gibson Dunn

› Q3: DLA Piper, Foley & Mansfield, Reed Smith

› Q4: Wells Fargo, Proskauer, DLA Piper
### 2021 Year-End by the Numbers

**LACBA Counsel for Justice**

**AIDS Legal Services Project**

**Working together for a more just LA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>427 Clients helped</td>
<td>100 Volunteers attorneys, law students, paralegals, interpreters</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Donated Hours</th>
<th>Value Provided</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>942 Donation Hours of pro bono legal services</td>
<td>$247,500 Provided in pro bono legal services</td>
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- Immigration Legal Assistance Project
- Veterans Legal Services Project
Client Highlights

**Asylum**
A team of Goodwin Proctor attorneys worked for 6.5 years on an affirmative asylum application for a young HIV+ mother from Nigeria who faced discrimination and violence in her home country, afraid to even tell her family she was living with AIDS.

**COVID Mortgage Forbearance**
A long-time ALSP volunteer attorney spent 30 hours to assist a 71 year old client hold onto her house when her lender threatened to foreclose after she missed several mortgage payments. The client works as a hairdresser and her business plummeted during COVID. The volunteer was able to negotiate with the lender and assist the client in accessing government and non-profit grants to bring her payments up to date.

**Needs Assessment**
The ALSP received a $67,000 subgrant from Inner City Law Center (ICLC) to lead a County-wide Legal Needs Assessment of particularly vulnerable subgroups of people living with HIV & AIDS (“PLWHA”). A draft report has been sent to ICLC. Initial findings include housing stability is the number one concern across all populations of PLWHA.

In addition:
45% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness in the past five years.
51% reported experiencing violence or harassment in the past year.
60% had some interaction with the criminal justice system.
75% were diagnosed with depression, anxiety and/or some other mental health condition.

**Homelessness Prevention Advocacy Project**
With $20,000 annual grant from the LA City Department on Disability (“DOD”), created new tenant advocacy project designed to engage volunteers to negotiate disputes between disabled tenants and landlords before they spiral out of control and lead to possible eviction proceedings. Designed all ancillary materials including intake, referral and evaluation forms. Researched relevant Fair housing laws and other statutes and created a PPT training for social service providers that also served as the model for the advocate training. Secured a small grant to engage an Incubator Project attorney to draft the advocate training manual and recruited pro bono attorneys to conduct the first training. Also worked with ADA mediators from the DOD to create a scaled down “mediation” training that would provide dispute resolution tools for volunteers. Over 30 attorneys attended the first training and an equal number attended the first provider training with AIDS Project Los Angeles/Alliance for Housing & Healing. Worked with Veterans Project to expand and provide similar service to disabled veterans and to secure a State Bar grant to hire a part-time housing attorney to supervise.