

# WHAT IS LEGAL AID?



2015 IMPACT REPORT

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Throughout our annual report we use pseudonyms and stock photos to protect client confidentiality.

Legal Aid of Western Missouri has improved the lives of those in need through quality legal assistance since 1964. Legal Aid provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to people who need it most and can afford it least. With offices in downtown Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joseph, Warrensburg and a neighborhood office on Kansas City's Westside, Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.

LAWMO.ORG

Legal Aid of Western Missouri ON FACEBOOK

@LegalAidTweets ON TWITTER

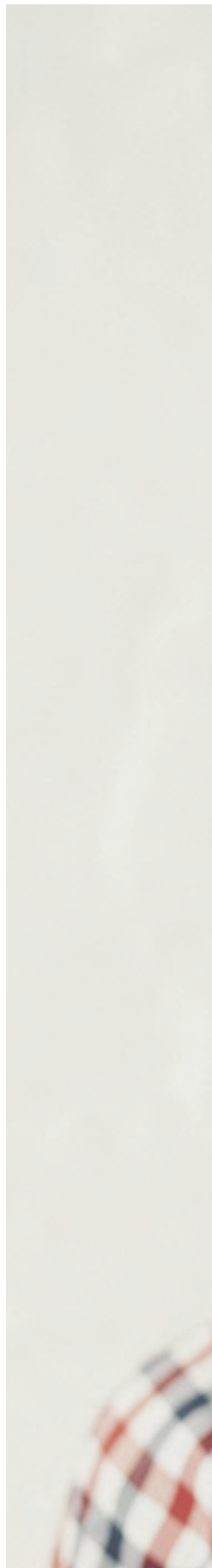


# LEGAL AID IS MORE THAN JUST LAWSUITS

Legal Aid is helping veterans get access to benefits. It's helping seniors get access to prescriptions. It's helping victims of domestic abuse get to safety. It's helping families facing eviction stay in their homes.

# LEGAL AID IS ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Every day, Missourians are denied access to the basic rights to which they are entitled under the law, simply because they can't afford an attorney. Equal access to justice doesn't just make some of the difference for people in need. It makes all the difference.











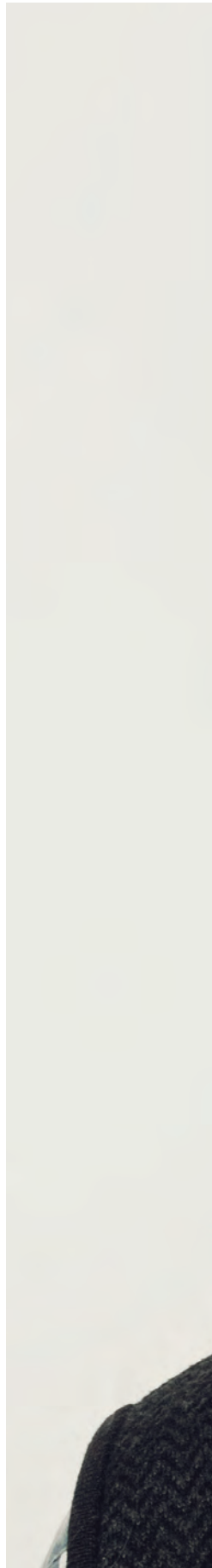


# LEGAL AID IS FAIRNESS

Legal Aid ensures fair play in a complex legal system that is stacked against our low-income neighbors. It's hard to play in a game where your opponent has the gear and you have nothing. Without Legal Aid, our low-income neighbors face the legal system empty-handed.

# LEGAL AID IS BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Legal Aid helps keep our poorest neighbors from falling further behind and needing more costly social services. By keeping low-income Missourians in their homes, securing their incomes and protecting their rights to health care and other benefits, we work to break the cycle of poverty.













# LEGAL AID IS REAL PEOPLE GETTING REAL RESULTS

People deserve results. In 2015, Legal Aid of Western Missouri provided free legal aid to more than 13,000 of low-income Missourians. Together, with our network of community partners, we worked hard to change, improve and save lives.



BRENDA AND HER CHILDREN ARE  
FREE FROM THEIR ABUSER. THEY  
HAD LEGAL AID ON THEIR SIDE.



## LEGAL AID IS...

# BRENDA

Brenda came to Legal Aid for help obtaining a custody order for her two children. The children's father, Wayne, was in prison at the time for robbery and domestic assault.

Wayne had abused and harassed Brenda for almost a decade. He punched her in the face repeatedly, kicked her in the face and stomach, tried to steer her car off the road while she and the children were inside, threatened to blow up her car and to burn down her home, slashed her tires, broke into her home and destroyed her property and told her "If I can't have you, no one can."

The children witnessed much of this abuse. Over the years, Brenda had obtained three orders of protection against Wayne, but Wayne simply ignored the orders, calling and texting Brenda hundreds of times.

Even though he was incarcerated, Wayne hired an attorney to try to get custody of the children. The court appointed a Guardian ad Litem. Wayne was released on parole and began visits with the children. Three months later, he was back in jail for assault. His parents intervened in the case and requested third party visitation. Ultimately, Wayne consented to Brenda having sole legal and sole physical custody of the children. Wayne will have phone contact but no visitation with the children. His parents will have visitation with the children for one weekend each month.

Brenda is happy her children will not be exposed to Wayne's violent behavior. She will be able to make all the decisions affecting her children without having to interact with her abuser. Her family will be safe and intact.



QUICK ACTION BY HIS LEGAL AID  
ATTORNEY SAVED WELDON'S  
HOME FROM FORECLOSURE.

## LEGAL AID IS...

# WELDON

Weldon is a disabled man living on a small fixed income. He contacted Legal Aid after his home was foreclosed on and he faced imminent eviction. Due to his disability, Weldon was unable to find appropriate housing quickly and needed to delay his eviction.

In reviewing Weldon's case, his Legal Aid attorney realized that his mortgage company had violated several federal regulations by repeatedly denying his requests for a modification of his FHA-insured loan to reduce his interest rate and payment. Legal Aid represented Weldon in filing a bankruptcy case to delay the eviction and then filed a lawsuit against the mortgage company due to its violations of federal and state law in connection with Weldon's loan. Initially the mortgage company fought the lawsuit, but finally agreed that the foreclosure sale be set aside. The lender modified the terms of the loan to reduce Weldon's interest rate and payment to an affordable amount and brought his loan current.

After years of worrying that he would lose his home, Weldon now has a mortgage payment that he can afford and he feels confident that this will be his home for many years to come.



JUANITA'S BENEFICIARY DEED  
WILL PRESERVE HER HOME, HER  
NEIGHBORHOOD AND HER WISHES.



## LEGAL AID IS...

# JUANITA

Juanita contacted Legal Aid regarding beneficiary deed services. Her husband had recently fallen ill and she wanted to have a succession plan in place for their home.

As Juanita's husband was not able to make it to the Legal Aid office, the attorney and paralegal on the project met the couple at their home to sign and notarize their beneficiary deed. Together, they chose to name a trusted family member as the beneficiary to their home upon their passing.

Juanita then asked the team to get in contact with her father who lives nearby and wanted a beneficiary deed for his home as well. Legal Aid staff spoke with Juanita's father, did an intake for him and drafted a beneficiary deed for his home. He chose to name Juanita, his daughter, as the beneficiary to his home upon his passing.

Within the span of a couple weeks, Legal Aid staff signed, notarized and recorded two beneficiary deeds for one family. When the current homeowners pass away, the homes will pass smoothly and immediately to the loved ones they chose. Juanita and her father can rest assured that their homes will remain in the family, instead of becoming forgotten or abandoned.



THANKS TO HER ATTORNEY'S  
ATTENTION TO DETAIL, PATRICIA  
KEPT HER MEDICAID BENEFITS.

## LEGAL AID IS...

# PATRICIA

Patricia spent her childhood in and out of state custody. As an adult, she ended up in a series of abusive relationships. One of her abusers hit her head with a hammer so hard that she suffered a traumatic head injury. For many years Patricia was homeless, in and out of shelters, while suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, complications from the traumatic brain injury and auditory hallucinations.

In 2013, the Family Support Division (FSD) proposed to terminate Patricia's Medicaid benefits. The FSD determined that her health conditions had improved and found her no longer disabled. Patricia was distraught. She had recently had knee surgery, was suffering from chronic pain in addition to her many other serious mental health issues. Patricia was worried about what would happen to her if she no longer had access to the medical care she so desperately needed. She contacted Legal Aid for help.

Patricia's Legal Aid attorney gathered her medical records and requested a hearing to appeal the proposed termination. The Legal Aid attorney reviewed Patricia's file at the Family Support Division and discovered that the file did not contain medical records from several of the medical providers and some of the medical records were for an entirely different person. Patricia's Legal Aid attorney represented her at the appeal hearing and argued that Patricia's health had not improved.

Thanks to Legal Aid, the decision to terminate was overturned and Patricia can continue receiving much-needed medical care.

**“LEGAL AID HAD A HUGE  
IMPACT ON MY LIFE. BY  
HAVING LEGAL AID’S HELP,  
I WAS ABLE TO BREATHE  
AGAIN. SINCE I TAKE CARE OF  
MY ILL MOTHER AND CAN’T  
AFFORD LEGAL SERVICES, I  
WAS VERY BLESSED TO HAVE  
LEGAL AID’S ASSISTANCE.”**

**- RHONDA**



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What is Legal Aid? This report gives you a glimpse of the wonderful work that our staff does every day for our clients.

For our clients, Legal Aid is access to and guidance in a justice system that would otherwise be a foreign and dangerous place. It is hope in one of the hardest times in their lives. Legal Aid's advocacy empowers our clients to solve their problems and allows them to dramatically improve their lives.

In addition to improving the lives of people in need, however, Legal Aid is more.

For scores of community partners ranging from domestic violence shelters, to churches, to food pantries, hospitals, neighborhood associations and local governments throughout western Missouri, Legal Aid is a valuable, collaborative resource. Our talented attorneys bring tools to the table that no other not-for-profit can provide and, by partnering with these other agencies, we help them solve major community problems like homelessness, neighborhood blight, and domestic violence.

For our staff, Legal Aid is a home for their passion — harnessing and growing their energy and creativity to serve people in need. For them, Legal Aid is the opportunity for a fulfilling and gratifying career of service.

Similarly, for our volunteers, we provide the opportunity to serve. For those who are early in their legal career, we provide experience and responsibility, and the opportunity

to do meaningful work. For volunteers with more experience, we satisfy their hunger to give something back to their community.

But above all else for our clients, our staff, our partners, our volunteers and our donors, Legal Aid is a community.

In a time when so many people seem bent on anger and divisiveness, Legal Aid is a community of people devoted to building bridges. By helping those most in need, we make life better for all of us. The people of the Legal Aid community know that by working together, we can accomplish more than any of us can do on our own.

It is tremendously gratifying work.

I am proud and excited to be a part of the Legal Aid community. Thank you for joining us in this work.



Gregg Lombardi  
Executive Director

## OUR MAIN PRACTICE AREAS

**Family Law/Domestic Violence Protection:** For more than 30 years, Legal Aid's largest practice area has been domestic violence intervention. Legal Aid's experienced family law advocates help ensure lasting safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

We provide legal representation to low-income survivors of abuse and secure protective orders, establish paternity, obtain divorces and establish child custody and child support orders. Due to our limited resources, our Family Law attorneys are only able to accept cases that involve domestic violence and priority is given to those in which children are at risk.

Effective legal representation, combined with our ability to refer clients to other community resources for assistance with non-legal matters, has proven to be one of the most effective means of stopping domestic violence for our clients. With Legal Aid's assistance, domestic violence survivors are able to achieve physical safety and financial security. With this support, victims are more likely to leave their abusers and have the personal and financial capacity to establish a life free from abuse.

**Housing Assistance:** Legal Aid's housing advocates provide a broad array of legal services to clients living in poverty. We focus on public housing and other federally subsidized housing. The Housing Authority of Kansas City's public housing and section 8 voucher programs alone include 10,000 families. Legal Aid is the attorney for the Public Housing Resident Council of HAKC.

We also represent people with disabilities who have accessibility or accommodation challenges

needing resolution so they may equally enjoy housing as nondisabled tenants do. We help other clients with eligibility disputes for public and subsidized housing. Our housing attorneys and paralegals regularly provide advice or representation to help our clients avoid wrongful evictions, secure wrongfully withheld security deposits and correct improper rent calculations.

We step in to help residents when there is a systemic problem in a development, such as repairs not being made or rent being calculated incorrectly, in order to make sure the problem is corrected for everyone, not just a single person.

**Foreclosure Prevention:** Saving the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners from foreclosure is a Legal Aid priority. Through litigation in state and federal courts, we challenge deficiencies in the foreclosure process and frequently are able to stop foreclosure sales or to set aside legally invalid sales.

Legal Aid also negotiates directly with loan servicers to pursue loss mitigation options, including loan modifications to reduce interest rates and payments. We counsel homeowners and tenants on their legal options before and after a home is foreclosed and provide legal representation when needed.

**Economic Development:** Legal Aid's Economic Development Unit represents nonprofit community organizations in neighborhood improvement activities, including the creation of low-income housing in Kansas City. Staff attorneys provide legal assistance to neighborhood associations seeking to remedy vacant and blighted homes, to nonprofit social service providers for low-income

residents and to community development corporations seeking to rehabilitate and develop residential units in their neighborhoods. Legal services include property acquisition, financing, real estate closing and syndication, tax abatement, zoning and contracts with service providers.

**Federal Benefits:** Legal Aid provides assistance to clients with federal benefit claims. Staff represent clients in administrative hearings and in court to ensure they receive the public benefits to which they are entitled. Typical claims involve benefits such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Medicare.

**Health Care/State Benefits:** Legal Aid represents people who experience problems with state-administered public assistance programs. These programs include MO HealthNet for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (Medicaid), Medicaid Spend Down, Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), temporary assistance, food stamps, childcare assistance, Blind Pension, Supplemental Aid to the Blind and home and community-based services, among others.

Legal Aid also provides assistance to families, children and pregnant women to obtain and maintain Medicaid coverage. We provide legal representation to individual clients at administrative hearings and in negotiations with state agencies. We also provide advice and counsel to clients regarding eligibility requirements for public benefits programs. Our partnerships with Mosaic Life Care and other regional healthcare providers grants access to medical care for hundreds of low-income people every year.

We do extensive outreach to educate the community about public benefits. This outreach improves the quality of our clients' lives through increased access to healthcare, food assistance and income support programs.

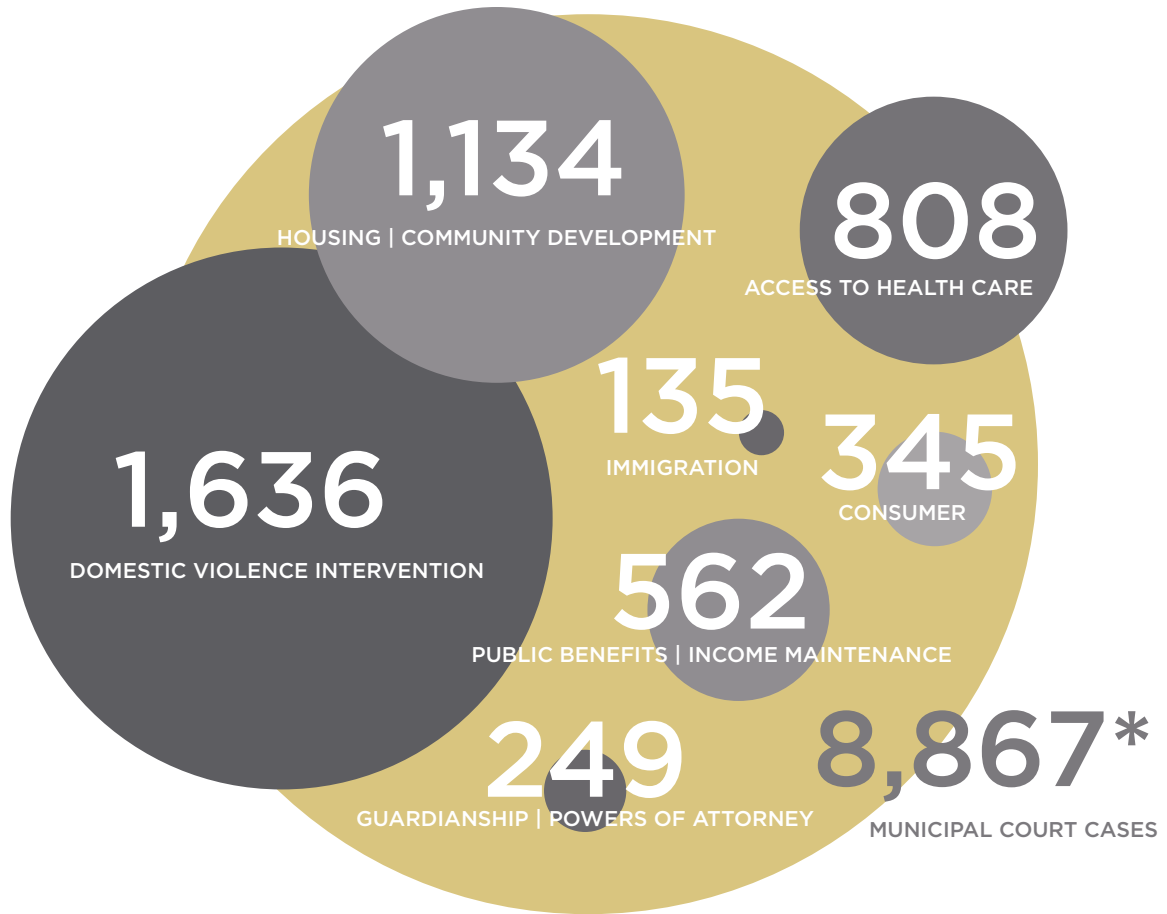
**Consumer:** Legal Aid advises and represents low-income clients, particularly seniors living on Social Security, in a variety of consumer issues. These include cases involving utility shutoffs, predatory loans, home repair, warranty claims, illegal and unfair debt collection practices and other debtor-creditor issues.

**Immigration Law Project:** Legal Aid staff represents individuals and their families in immigration cases to evaluate immigration benefit options and the potential to receive a waiver of immigration application fees, if applicable. Legal Aid staff provides comprehensive services and advice to assist individuals and families in obtaining United States citizenship, including those who are applying with a medical disability, residence status for family members, renewing or replacing resident cards for permanent residents, and aid conditional residents, refugees, and asylees in applying to obtain permanent resident status.

Legal Aid also provides assistance to United States citizens to apply for US passports or proof of citizenship status obtained from an US citizen parent.

Additionally, Legal Aid works with survivors of violent crimes and domestic violence to provide advice and evaluate immigration benefit options. Legal Aid staff is available for immigration presentations to inform domestic violence shelter caseworkers and other community organizations that assist immigrants.

## CASES CLOSED BY PRACTICE AREA

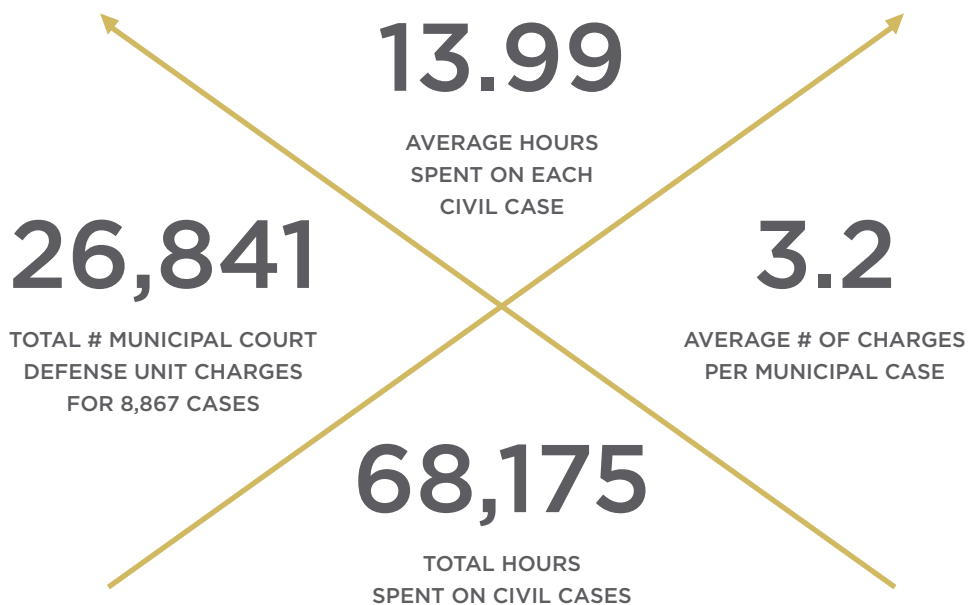


\* MUNICIPAL CASES MAY HAVE MULTIPLE CHARGES.

TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED	4,871
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES	8,867
<b>TOTAL 2015 CLOSED CASES</b>	<b>13,738</b>



## LEGAL AID BY THE NUMBERS



## CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN	550
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE	2,830
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE	255
ST. JOSEPH	772
WARRENSBURG	464

**“I KNOW IF IT HADN'T BEEN  
FOR MY LEGAL AID ATTORNEY,  
I NEVER WOULD HAVE WON MY  
CASE. THANKS TO HER, SHE'S  
GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO LIVE  
AGAIN. THANK YOU FROM THE  
BOTTOM OF MY HEART.”**

**— MARCELLA**

## WHERE WE WORK

With offices in downtown Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joseph, Warrensburg and a neighborhood office on Kansas City's Westside, Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.

**Joplin:** The Joplin office provides services to six counties along Missouri's southwest border. The staff consists of four attorneys, two paralegals and one legal secretary. The majority of cases handled by the Joplin office involve victims of domestic abuse seeking Orders of Protection, marriage dissolution, paternity, custody, visitation and support orders. In addition, the staff handles cases involving consumer matters, landlord/tenant law, social security cases and public benefits.

Many clients have problems beyond the immediate legal issues that brought them to a Legal Aid office. Staff members are active in various organizations that focus on specific issues facing clients, including domestic violence, homelessness and financial stability. Close partnerships with community agencies enable Legal Aid to help clients address these issues.

**Kansas City - Central Office:** The Central office in downtown Kansas City. The staff consists of 33 attorneys, 12 paralegals, 11 administrative staff, two intake specialists, six legal secretaries and three Volunteer Attorney Project staff members.

The Central office is home to Legal Aid's Municipal Court Defense Unit. This program is funded by a contract with the City of Kansas City and provides representation to low-income clients charged with jailable offenses in the City's municipal courts.

**Kansas City - West Office:** Kansas City's Westside community is served by Legal Aid's bilingual staff located in the office on Southwest Boulevard.

The staff includes five attorneys, one paralegal, a legal secretary and several volunteers. For the past 41 years, this dedicated Legal Aid team has specialized in providing counsel and representation on issues of immigration, economic development, community development and housing.

**St. Joseph:** St. Joseph's staff of nine includes five attorneys and four paralegals serving an 18-county area of northwest Missouri. In addition, the Mosaic Life Care Medical-Legal Partnership project operates with one attorney and two paralegals. These three individuals handle Medicaid appeals.

The St. Joseph office represents a mix of both rural and urban clients. Many of the cases involve family law, including marriage dissolution, custody, guardianships and Orders of Protection. In addition, staff handles cases involving consumer issues, landlord/tenant law, social security cases, unemployment denials, utility shut-offs and other civil matters

**Warrensburg:** The Warrensburg office serves thirteen rural counties in west central Missouri. The staff consists of four attorneys, three paralegals and one secretary. The Warrensburg staff handles cases involving consumer law, housing, domestic violence, landlord/tenant cases and public benefits issues. The staff maintains a strong presence in the community and works directly with local agencies in several counties. Staff members also make outreach presentations to local groups.

## SERVICE AREA



## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### CENTRAL KANSAS CITY OFFICE

1125 GRAND BLVD, SUITE 1900  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106  
816-474-6750

### WESTSIDE KANSAS CITY OFFICE

920 SOUTHWEST BLVD.  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108  
816-474-9868

### JOPLIN

302 SOUTH JOPLIN  
JOPLIN, MO 64801  
417-782-1650/800-492-7095

### ST. JOSEPH

706 FELIX STREET  
ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501  
816-364-2325/800-892-2101

### WARRENSBURG

305 NORTH HOLDEN  
PO BOX 396  
WARRENSBURG, MO 64093  
660-747-7101/800-892-2943

### ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

616 E. 63RD ST., SUITE 201  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64110  
816-994-2183

# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LISA WEIXELMAN  
PRESIDENT

HON. JERRY VENTERS  
VICE PRESIDENT

SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS  
TREASURER

BLAKE HEATH  
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SHARON COURTER  
HON. CHARLES CURLESS  
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DAVID TUSHAUS  
GILLIAN WILCOX  
BRAD YERETSKY  
KATIE HOLLAR-ADVISOR

## LEGAL AID STAFF

### JOPLIN OFFICE

SHELLEY BOSTON  
AUTUMN DEER  
SARAH CANADA  
LISA LIVINGSTON-MARTIN  
SHANNON MCKINNEY  
PAMELA ROYCHAUDHURY  
JEFFINER THOMPSON

### CENTRAL OFFICE-KC

LATRICIA ADAMS  
BRIAN ADKINS  
KATHY ANDERSON-REINKE

ERIN BARTLING  
ALYSSA BIRD  
LAURA BORNSTEIN  
TAMA BYRNES  
LISA CLARK  
JULIA COTTER  
SCOTT CRIQUI  
JAMES CRUMP  
KAREN CUTLIFF  
EFFIE DAY  
CRISSY DEL PERCIO  
JANET DOBSON  
JACKIE DOMIAN  
KATIE DOUGHERTY  
CHRISTY DRAY  
DANIELLE ELAM-JOBE  
BEN EMBRY  
MEGAN FREDERICKSON  
CHRISTINA FROMMER  
LISA GARZA  
KARA HARMS  
VINCE HAYES  
WARREN HAYTER  
KATHLEEN HOLMES  
ALICIA JOHNSON  
KAREN KARNES  
SUSAN KEPHART  
SELINA KHAN  
SANDRA KINCAID  
LISA KIVETT  
CAROL KLINKENBERG  
CHARLOTTE KREBS  
CHARITY LINDGREN  
GREGG LOMBARDI  
EDDIE LORENZO  
PAT LUKENBILL  
SAM MCHENRY  
SUSAN MCRILL  
DALE MEYER  
REBECCA MORRISON  
MARTIN MOSCOSO  
JOSH MURPHY  
TRACIE NEWMAN  
EMILY O'CONNOR  
MICHAEL O'GORMAN  
SARA OLAZAR  
KAITEE PURDON  
CODY RUSSELL  
SILYA SHAW  
MEGAN SIMPSON

JAMES SMITH  
WAYNE SMITH  
GWEN SOWDER  
PERLA TAPIA  
RIVER TEMPELIN  
EVAN THOMPSON  
CLAUDIA TRUJILLO  
WARREN WADE  
LIDA WATSON  
MAURA WEBER  
MADISON WESSELMAN  
KATIE WOOD  
JANE WORLEY  
KIM WRIGHT

### WEST OFFICE-KC

BRENDA ROMO ALBA  
MICHAEL DUFFY  
PETER HOFFMAN  
KAYLA HOGAN  
BECCA MCQUILLEN  
RON NGUYEN  
LORRAINE SANDS  
JENNIFER WIEMAN EARLES  
JEFF WILLIAMS

### ST. JOSEPH OFFICE

LINDA CLARK  
CHRIS CRAIN  
TIFFANY HOLLON  
JOHN KEIFFER  
JANICE LEE  
PAMELA MAY  
NHU NGUYEN  
PETER ROTTGERS  
KENISHA SANDERSON  
ELISA SMITH  
JEREMY SWENSON  
DAVID TORSIELLO  
DOUG TSCHAUDER

### WARRENSBURG OFFICE

KELLY BARTLETT  
KIM BASINGER  
JACQUELINE DUVALL  
VANESSA GULER  
SUSAN HANRAHAN  
ABBIE ROTHERMICH  
BILL SHULL  
JESI STANLEY



**“I FEEL SECURE AND WILL  
REST IN PEACE DUE TO THE  
EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE THAT  
WORK FOR LEGAL AID. LEGAL  
AID’S STAFF ARE THE MOST  
INCREDIBLE PEOPLE I HAVE  
HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET.”**

**— JULIAN**

# VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT

The Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP) places eligible clients with private attorneys who agree to provide free legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. The private attorneys who volunteer their time through VAP believe in the principle of equal access to the legal system, of making “justice for all” more than just a promise. These attorneys are convinced that our legal system must work for all its citizens. They donate their time and considerable talents to make that ideal a reality.

During 2015, VAP attorneys closed 532 cases representing more than 4,944 hours of legal representation, approximately \$988,800 worth of legal services. The following attorneys accepted new VAP cases in 2015.

## KANSAS CITY

TODD ABPLANALP  
DANIEL ALLEN  
JASON AMERINE  
CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON  
DAVID ANDERSON  
TERESA L. ANDERSON  
ASHLEY ARAMJOO  
DWIGHT ARN  
KIMBERLY ATHIE  
ANNE BAGGOTT  
BRIAN BALTZELL  
JOHN BARBER  
JOHN S. BARKER III  
DAVID BARLOW  
TRACY BARNES  
BRITTANY BARRIENTOS  
AMANDA BASRI  
JACOB BAYER, JR.  
KATIE BECHINA  
JAMES BELL  
JON BENEVIDES  
JAMES BERNARD, JR.  
JUDITH BERRY  
MARY ELLEN BIGGE  
DANIEL BOATRIGHT  
STEPHEN D. BONNEY  
JONATHAN BORTNICK  
SHERRIE BRADY  
FAITH BRENNAN  
DOUG BREYFOGLE  
JOHN M. BRIGG  
CATHERYN BROOKS  
WALTER BROWN  
DAVID BRYAN

FREDERICK BRYANT  
C. ROBERT BUCKLEY  
NELSON BUNCH  
BRETT BURMEISTER  
DEANNA BURNS  
STEPHANIE BURTON  
RYAN CALLAHAN  
JOSEPH CAMBIANO  
ROBIN CARLSON  
LYDIA CARSON  
GINA CHIALA  
JOHN CHICK, JR.  
CARL CHINNERY  
PATRICK CIERPIOT  
CARL R. CLARK  
ROBERT CLARKE  
GARY COLLINS  
BRIAN RYAN COLLINS  
TAMARA COMBS  
DAVID COOPER  
EDWARD COULSON  
JOHN COWDEN  
ERIN MAYFIELD CRAIG  
FRED CROUCH  
ASHLEE CROWL  
JOHN CRUCIANI  
JOHN COLLOM  
CHARLES CURRY  
DONALD DAVIS  
GARDNER DAVIS  
PAUL DAVIS  
KENDALL DAY  
MICKEY DEAN  
JOHN DEDON  
JAY DEHARDT

SHERRY DEJANES  
MEGAN DENNIS  
DANIEL DEVINE  
COULTER DEVRIES  
JANEEN DEVRIES  
ASHLEY DILLION  
JONATHAN DILLY  
CINDY DODGE  
JENNIFER DODSON  
JACOB DOLESHAL  
PHILIP DONNELLAN  
JENNIFER DOUGAN  
DENISE DRAKE  
ERICA DRISKELL  
PRESTON DROBECK  
KRYSTAL DUNN  
STEVEN EFERTZ  
COLEMAN ELLIS  
JERALD ENSLEIN  
KENT ERICKSON  
ADAM EVANS  
GAYLE STUTZMAN EVANS  
THOMAS EVANS  
WILLIAM FARRAR  
ANDREW FELKER  
ASHLEY FELTON  
G. ADDAM FERA  
JENNIFER FINCH  
NICOLE FISHER  
ANGELA FITLE  
RACHEL FOLEY  
EDWARD FORD, III  
NICOLE FORSYTHE  
JAMES FREEMAN, III  
DANIEL GABRIS

BRIAN GADDY  
VINCE GAULTIER  
STANLEY GILLESPIE  
SARA WEILERT GILLETTE  
STEVEN GILLEY  
BARBARA GLESNER-FINES  
CHRISTINA GONDRING  
ROBERT GORDON  
CHARLES GOTSCHALL  
HUNTER GOULD  
GENE GRAHAM  
STEPHEN GRIFFIN  
ANGELA HABEEBULLAH  
SCOTT HAINES  
DEBORA HALE  
DANIEL HALL  
SHANE HAMMAN  
JOANI HARSHMAN  
KATE HART  
KRISTI HARTMANN  
ANGELA HIGGINS  
TIMOTHY HILTON  
DAVID HOLDSWORTH  
CHARNISSA HOLLIDAY-SCOTT  
CAMRON HOORFAR  
STEPHEN P. HORN  
WILLIAM HUBBARD  
PATRICIA HUGHES  
DALE IRWIN  
BRISA IZAGUIRRE  
KRISTEN JACOBS  
KATHLEEN JEANETTA  
JOSEPH JEPPSON  
MAX JEVINSKY  
NANCY JOCHENS

## VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT (CONTINUED)

CARTY JOHANNSEN  
 SARAH JOHNSON  
 JUSTIN JOHNSTON  
 DANA KAISER  
 BARRY KATZ  
 MATTHEW KENTNER  
 TERESA KIDD  
 JOHN KILGORE  
 RYAN KILIANY  
 D. BRYANT KING III  
 RYAN KNIPP  
 ALICIA KORANDA  
 CHRISTOPHER KORTH  
 ABRAHAM KUHLE  
 ADAM LABODA  
 MARSHA LANER  
 THOMAS LASLEY  
 BRENT LAPOINTE  
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ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PROJECT

BENEFICIARY DEED PROJECT

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH:

- MOSAIC LIFE CARE
- KANSAS CITY CARE CLINIC

MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROJECT

MIGRANT FARMWORKERS PROJECT

NEIGHBORHOOD ATTORNEY PROJECT

PROJECT ASSIST-NORTHWEST (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

RURAL ASSISTANCE NOW (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

VETERANS RELIEF PROJECT

VOICES IN COURT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

ZOMBIE DEBT ERADICATION PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- ABANDONED HOUSING ACT PROJECT
- ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
- BENEFICIARY DEED PROJECT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION MENTORSHIP PROJECT
- EDUCATION PROJECT
- ELDERLY OUTREACH PROGRAM
- HOMELESS OUTREACH
- LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC ATTORNEY PANEL
- PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION
- PROJECT CONSENT (GUARDIANSHIPS)
- PRO SE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE CLINICS
- TRANSACTIONAL LAW PROJECT

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS WITH KANSAS CITY MUNICIPAL COURT:

- DRUG COURT
- MENTAL HEALTH COURT
- VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

**“YOUR ORGANIZATION  
RESTORES HOPE TO THE  
HOPELESS AND CONFIDENCE  
TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED. MY  
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE  
ATTORNEY WHO HANDLED  
MY CASE. HE’S A WONDERFUL  
GENTLEMAN.”**

**— LORETTA**

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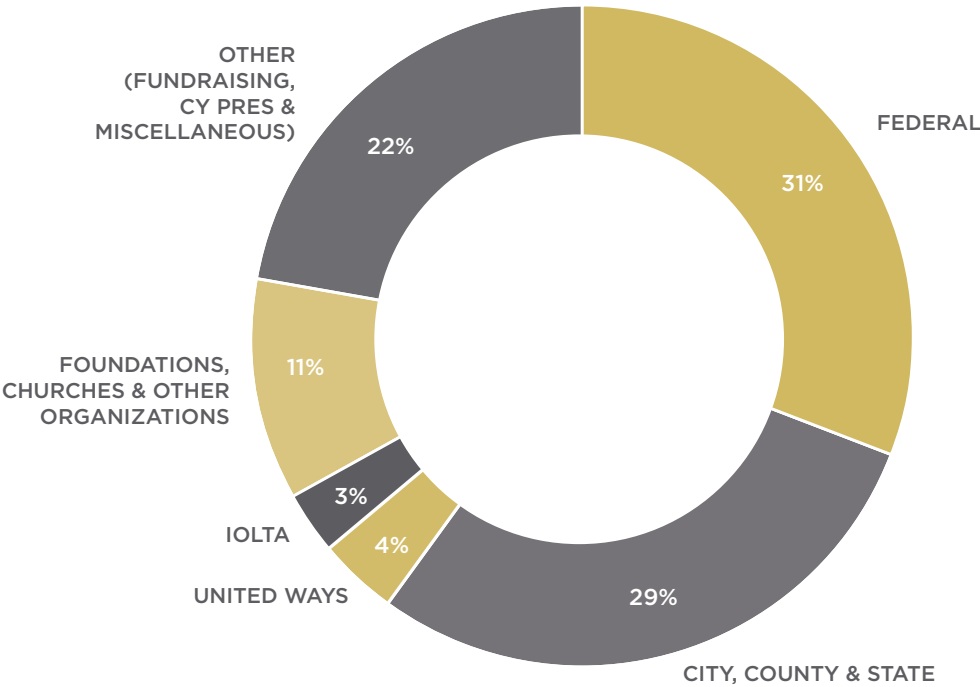
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## IDENTITY THEFT THREATENED TIMOTHY'S VA BENEFITS

Timothy came to Legal Aid's onsite office hours at the Kansas City VA Medical Center needing assistance with a VA benefits overpayment. Timothy's identity had been stolen, and the resulting use of his information caused the VA to believe he had been over paid almost \$25,000 in monetary benefits. Legal Aid helped Timothy compile information regarding his identity theft and drafted an argument for why he should not be held responsible for the debt. Legal Aid then filed a waiver request on Timothy's behalf. The VA agreed to waive the entire debt, and Timothy will receive almost \$13,000 in back benefits.

# 2015 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2015 REVENUE



2015 TOTAL REVENUE = \$8,560,787

## 2015 EXPENSES



2015 TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS = \$7,172,267

2015 TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL COSTS = \$1,388,520

# MARIA

Maria contacted Legal Aid after she received an audit notice from the IRS regarding her 2013 tax return. She had never received a notice from the IRS before and only hoped she had not inadvertently done something wrong by claiming her grandchildren on her tax return. Maria was especially nervous because she did not have the means to pay back nearly \$10,000 she had received as a refund.

At the interview, the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic attorney learned that Maria's daughter gave birth in early 2013 and stayed in Maria's home with the baby for that year. The daughter did not work, but provided care for the baby and other children. Because the children's father was no longer a part of their lives, Maria worked two minimum-wage jobs to house and financially support her daughter and her three grandchildren. She claimed her grandchildren as dependents on her tax return, as well as the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Credit.

When her income tax return was audited, Maria attempted to provide the necessary documents to the IRS on her own. However, she was overwhelmed with the audit process and not understanding what else she needed to provide. The LITC attorney represented Maria in the audit appeal. The attorney helped Maria gather supporting documents and wrote a letter of explanation to the IRS. Maria and her daughter believed the children's father might have claimed them, even though they did not live with him and he did not provide financial support. Thus, the LITC attorney preemptively explained that he was not entitled to claim the children.

A month later, Maria received notification of "no change" to her return. She was relieved that she had done nothing wrong, and that she would not need to find a way to pay the IRS back.

“LEGAL AID TURNED A SEEMINGLY  
HOPELESS SITUATION COMPLETELY  
AROUND. WORDS CAN NOT DESCRIBE  
THE APPRECIATION I HAVE FOR THE  
ENTIRE LEGAL AID STAFF.”

— GERALD

