BECAUSE LEGAL AID MATTERS
Legal Aid matters because legal rights aren’t self-enforcing. Without Legal Aid, thousands face the civil justice system empty-handed. It’s hard to play in a game where your opponent has the gear and you have nothing.

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 Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joseph and Warrensburg, Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.

Throughout our report we use pseudonyms and stock photos to protect client confidentiality.
If you are trying to fight an unlawful eviction, secure veterans’ benefits which you’ve earned but been denied, or protect your family’s safety from an abusive partner, you need civil legal help. But not everyone can afford an attorney.
Equal access to justice doesn’t just make some of the difference for people in need. It makes all the difference.
Our low-income neighbors experience 1-3 civil legal problems each year. And these legal problems create huge barriers to life’s necessities — necessities like housing, health care, food, and freedom from violence.
Legal Aid staff and volunteers work hard — but we can’t reach everyone. Because of funding and staffing limitations, we turn away more than half of the applicants who qualify for our help.
But, guess what...

Last year, we brought life-changing legal assistance to more than 13,000 families and individuals.

And your support made a difference — because Legal Aid does matter!
Patty is a young woman in her 30s who is completely deaf. In addition to having a hearing impairment, she also has other physical health issues that affect her everyday life. As a result, Patty lives with her parents and has collected Social Security benefits since childhood.

While attending an event for people with disabilities, Patty learned of a program that assists disabled persons with the challenges of entering the workforce. She was very excited about this opportunity and immediately entered the program. After she graduated, Patty found a part-time job that accommodated her deafness and other physical needs. Patty then notified Social Security of her new job and was enrolled in a trial work period, which allowed Patty to test her ability to work and still collect Social Security benefits.

Patty became one of her employer’s favorites and, although a part-time employee, she frequently was scheduled for significantly more hours. After several years of working there, she received two notices from Social Security; the first explained that she had been overpaid nearly $10,000 in benefits due to her income from wages, and the second notice explained that she had exceeded the trial work period by working too many hours for too long. Social Security no longer considered Patty disabled, and thus no longer eligible for benefits.

After receiving these notices, Patty’s parents suggested she contact Legal Aid. Her case was accepted, and Patty’s Legal Aid attorney immediately assisted her in filing a Request for Waiver, or a Reduced Repayment Plan, regarding the overpayment. While awaiting an answer on the overpayment issue, Patty’s attorney explained to her what it would take for her to receive benefits once again. Patty met with her physician, counselor, and employer. Ultimately, Patty decided she did not want to appeal the termination of benefits as she planned to continue full-time employment, even receiving a raise along with an assistant manager position that gave her more responsibilities.

With help from her Legal Aid attorney, Social Security agreed to reduce the total amount of the overpayment to $3,000, and a reasonable repayment plan of $25.00 per month was established. Patty makes her payments on time, often paying extra as she plans to pay it off early. She is very proud of her new position and is flourishing. She recently told her attorney that she plans to get her own apartment and live independently of her parents for the first time in her life.

THANKS TO HER LEGAL AID ATTORNEY, PATTY CAN SUPPORT HERSELF WITHOUT THE HELP OF PUBLIC BENEFITS.
Ava is a single mother of one daughter, Becky. Becky, who has developmental disabilities and must attend special education classes, loves the public school she attends and is doing well.

Last Fall, Ava had surgery and got behind on her rent. She was sued by her landlord for Rent and Possession and immediately contacted Legal Aid for help with the case. Ava lives in a USDA-subsidized rental complex and was very concerned about keeping her daughter in her current special education classes at her local school. She knew that if she were to be evicted and forced to transfer Becky to a different school it would affect her daughter’s well-being.

Ava told her Legal Aid attorney that she was working out a payment plan with her property manager. Her attorney contacted the opposing attorney and verified with management that an agreement was being prepared. The arrangement was that Ava would pay $1,000 by a certain date and sign an agreement to pay $187 per month in addition to her monthly rent until back rent was paid in full. Ava did not have the $1,000 needed, so she contacted local agencies for help. Her attorney verified that Community Action Agency and a local church would help her pay the $1,000.

Legal Aid set up a meeting for Ava with management of the complex to sign a promissory note, pay amounts due, and recertify before the trial date. The case was then dismissed. Now, Ava does not have to move and Becky can continue to thrive in her current school.

DESPITE GETTING BEHIND ON RENT, AVA AND HER DAUGHTER WILL NOT HAVE TO MOVE. THEY HAD LEGAL AID ON THEIR SIDE.
Dan was separated, though not legally divorced, from the mother of his two children, five-year-old Lani and seven-year-old Jess. With no formal custody agreement, the children’s mother brought Lani and Jess to live with her boyfriend without disclosing the location of their home to Dan.

Their mother had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, including previous incarcerations, and was subject to supervised probation in a criminal court. Knowing his wife’s history, and not knowing his daughters’ address, Dan feared the conditions of his daughters’ home lives; this fear worsened when he received a call from their school letting him know that Lani and Jess had not been attending on a regular basis.

When Dan discovered where his children were living, he went to the property to inspect the conditions. He found them living in a stand-alone motor trailer that did not have running water, electricity, air conditioning, heat, or any neighbors nearby.

Lani and Jess told their dad that they often had no food, had very few clothes, and that their mom was inattentive. Furthermore, the girls’ mother and her boyfriend did not have any form of working transportation. After seeing these conditions, Dan took his children with him and immediately filed for a child protection order for both girls at the courthouse. There, a victim advocate referred Dan’s case to Legal Aid for assistance.

A Legal Aid attorney agreed to take Dan’s case and represented him at his protective order hearing. At the hearing, it was discovered that the children’s mother was in jail for violating her probation. Considering the evidence and circumstances, a full child protective order for both girls, including temporary custody of the minor children, was granted for a period of one year. However, Dan’s Legal Aid attorney stressed the importance of obtaining a permanent custody arrangement and agreed to further represent him in obtaining a divorce.

Dan was successful in obtaining a divorce from his daughters’ neglectful mother. Once the divorce was finalized, an agreed-upon parenting plan was established, which included joint legal and physical custody of Lani and Jess, with Dan having primary physical custody. The children’s mother was granted reasonable supervised visitation with the girls.

THANKS TO LEGAL AID, LANI AND JESS WILL HAVE A SAFE, STABLE, AND LOVING HOME WITH THEIR FATHER.
The theme of our 2018 Annual Report is Legal Aid Matters, and we at Legal Aid are very fortunate to be able to say that all seven members of the Supreme Court of Missouri agree with this message and are strong supporters of our mission.

In this year’s “Message from the Executive Director,” I believe it is appropriate to provide examples of their support by quoting from Judge Paul Wilson’s presentation to our staff and volunteer attorneys last Fall, and by quoting Chief Justice Zel Fischer from his January 2019 State of the Judiciary address.

Supreme Court Judge Paul Wilson stated:

“The increasing number of Missourians with unmet civil legal needs presents an existential threat to the legal system in this state. There is a gap between the amount of legal services Missourians need and those they can afford, and that gap is growing at a dangerous pace. Left unchecked, this storm threatens to overwhelm our system with unrepresented litigants. The number of unrepresented civil litigants in our courtrooms has passed 100,000 per year…”

“…the tide of unmet need for legal services is rising, and Legal Aid is the seawall holding that tide back. And unless Legal Aid has enough funding to double or triple its current capacity, we need LOTS of volunteer lawyers to plug the gaps and keep us going. That is why I started this talk by saying ‘Thank you.’”

Chief Justice Zel Fischer, in announcing a new Supreme Court rule and appointing Legal Aid of Western Missouri to conduct the pilot project for the new rule, said:

“A legal system that serves only the well-to-do is neither justice for all, nor justice at all. By far, the primary resource for those least able to afford an attorney comes from our legal service organizations.”

“They need help. Pursuant to a new rule and new pilot project, retired lawyers who agree to provide solely free legal help through one of our state’s legal aid organizations can apply to our Court to have their attorney enrollment fees waived.”

Thank you, Missouri Supreme Court for recognizing and assisting us with our mission.

After completing my second year here, the most difficult part of my job remains the large number of needy and qualified people who come to us for help but we must turn away for lack of staffing. We continue to need your support to help us get closer to meeting the needs of these individuals.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our staff, volunteer attorneys, agency partners, and financial supporters for all that you do. It goes without saying that we need you, and we could not do what we do without you, day after day, week after week and year after year.

Joseph P. Dandurand
Executive Director
OUR MAIN PRACTICE AREAS

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; Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary; Temporary Assistance; SNAP (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 representation to individual clients at administrative hearings and in negotiations with state agencies. We provide advice and counsel to clients regarding eligibility requirements for public benefits programs. We also 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.

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 enabling our clients and their children to escape abusive relationships. With Legal Aid’s assistance, domestic violence survivors are able to achieve physical safety and financial security. With this support, survivors are more likely to permanently leave their abusers and have the personal and financial capacity to establish a life free from abuse.

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.

Housing Assistance: Housing advocates focus on public and other federally subsidized housing. Legal Aid is the attorney for the Public Housing Resident Council of the Housing Authority of Kansas City which provides housing subsidies for about 10,000 families. This housing is critical to families with extremely low income. Families are able to find work and even purchase homes after a few years in stable public housing.

We prioritize representing people who have accessibility challenges due to a disability by fighting for fair treatment so they may live in housing with non-disabled tenants. Some need help with disputes over eligibility for these valuable benefits. We regularly provide advice or representation to help our clients avoid wrongful evictions, recover wrongfully withheld security deposits and make sure subsidized rent is correctly calculated. We help residents when there is a widespread problem in a housing development to make sure the problem is corrected for all the tenants, not just a single person.

The Housing Team leads an eviction self-help clinic at the Jackson County Courthouse to reach out to renters who are being evicted. Staff and volunteers are available for consultation and advice in the halls outside the courtrooms before, during, and after the Landlord/Tenant dockets. Already, we have answered questions and provided advice to more than 200 renters as they wait for court.

Immigration Law Project: Legal Aid staff represents individuals and their families in immigration cases to evaluate immigration benefit options. We provide comprehensive services and advice to assist individuals and families in obtaining: United States citizenship through naturalization, including helping with applications for those with a medical disability or proving United States Citizenship for a child that obtained it from a parent; Lawful Permanent Resident status for family members; and renewed or replaced resident cards for permanent residents.

We assist conditional residents, refugees and asylees in applying for permanent resident status. Additionally, Legal Aid works with survivors of violent crimes, human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as migrant farmworkers to provide advice and evaluate immigration benefit options.

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.

Attorneys provide legal assistance to neighborhood associations seeking to remedy vacant and blighted homes, to nonprofit social service providers helping 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.

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 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 upon and provide legal representation when needed.
YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Without you, there would be no justice for our low-income and at-risk neighbors. Together, we helped seniors, children, the ill and disabled, veterans, and more! Here’s a brief look at how we did in 2018.

6.7
AVERAGE HOURS SPENT ON EACH CIVIL CASE

56,848
TOTAL HOURS SPENT ON CIVIL CASES

26,470
TOTAL MUNICIPAL COURT DEFENSE CHARGES

3.1
AVERAGE # OF CHARGES PER MUNI CASE

CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN 604
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE 2,803
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE 211
ST. JOSEPH 523
WARRENSBURG 393

CLOSED CASE SNAPSHOT

1,042
CONSUMER

85
IMMIGRATION

569
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

467
PUBLIC BENEFITS/INCOME MAINTENANCE

8,525*
MUNICIPAL COURT CASES

2,001
FAMILY LAW/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

136
EDUCATION/MISC

* MUNICIPAL CASES MAY HAVE MULTIPLE CHARGES

TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED 4,534
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES 8,525
TOTAL 2018 CLOSED CASES 13,059

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Without you, there would be no justice for our low-income and at-risk neighbors. Together, we helped seniors, children, the ill and disabled, veterans, and more! Here’s a brief look at how we did in 2018.

6.7
AVERAGE HOURS SPENT ON EACH CIVIL CASE

56,848
TOTAL HOURS SPENT ON CIVIL CASES

26,470
TOTAL MUNICIPAL COURT DEFENSE CHARGES

3.1
AVERAGE # OF CHARGES PER MUNI CASE

CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN 604
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE 2,803
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE 211
ST. JOSEPH 523
WARRENSBURG 393

CLOSED CASE SNAPSHOT

1,042
CONSUMER

85
IMMIGRATION

569
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

467
PUBLIC BENEFITS/INCOME MAINTENANCE

8,525*
MUNICIPAL COURT CASES

2,001
FAMILY LAW/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

136
EDUCATION/MISC

* MUNICIPAL CASES MAY HAVE MULTIPLE CHARGES

TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED 4,534
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES 8,525
TOTAL 2018 CLOSED CASES 13,059
Joplin: The Joplin office provides services to six counties along Missouri’s southwest border. The staff consists of six attorneys, three paralegals and one legal secretary. The cases handled by the Joplin office involve survivors of domestic abuse seeking orders of protection, marriage dissolution, paternity, custody, visitation and child support orders. In addition, the staff handles cases involving consumer law, landlord/tenant law, healthcare law, guardianship cases, 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 affecting 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 staff consists of 40 attorneys, 16 paralegals, 12 administrative staff, two intake specialists, six legal secretaries and three Volunteer Attorney Project staff members. Legal Aid’s Municipal Court Defense Unit is funded by a contract with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and provides representation to low-income clients charged with jailable offenses in the City’s municipal courts.

Kansas City - West Office: The Westside community — and many other inner-city Kansas City neighborhoods — are served by Legal Aid’s bilingual staff located in the office on Southwest Boulevard. The staff includes seven attorneys, three paralegals, one 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 and community development and housing. Two Adopt-A-Neighborhood staff work off-site at an Eastside Kansas City location.

St. Joseph: St. Joseph’s staff of twelve includes six attorneys and five paralegals serving an 18-county area of northwest Missouri. The Mosaic Life Care Healthy Housing Project operates with one attorney, handling landlord-tenant issues, quiet title actions and Abandoned Housing Act claims. Most recently, the office added a new full-time attorney handling cases involving elder law issues.

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 handle cases involving consumer issues, landlord/tenant law, social security cases, unemployment benefit 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 matters and public benefits issues.

The staff maintain a strong presence in the community and work directly with local agencies in several counties. Staff members also make outreach presentations to local groups.

WHERE WE WORK

Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.

OUR SERVICE AREA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LINDSEY BACHMAN
JANELLE BALEY
JOSE BALTISTA
RONDA CALVERT
HON. RICHARD COPENLAND
HON. CHARLES CURLESS
MATT DAMBRO - VICE-PRESIDENT
HEBER GONZALEZ
SAUNDRA HAYES
BLAKE HEATH - PRESIDENT
MATT KEENAN
LESLIE KERN
RONDA CALVERT
HON. RICHARD COPELAND
HON. CHARLES CURLESS
MATT DAMBRO - VICE-PRESIDENT
HON. FRED ENNIS
HON. WILLIAM FORD
HON. ANGELA FURTADO
HON. ALI GIBB
HON. RONALD GILLIAM
HON. JOHN GILLIAM
HON. MERYL LANGE
CATE MANLEY
BENJAMIN MANN - TREASURER
HON. MIKE MANNERS
LUANN MARLOW BROWN
KIRK RAHM
DENNIS ROBINSON
FRED SGROI
STEPHEN SHEBBENBERGER
KESIA SMITH - SECRETARY
PAT STAIKE
CYNTHIA THOMAS
HON. JERRY VENTERS
GILLIAN WILCOX
KATHLEEN WILLIAMS
MATT WILLIAMS
LESLIE WOLF
KATIE BARNARD - ADVISOR
MARGARET MAY - ADVISOR
LEGAL AID STAFF
JOPLIN OFFICE
PAMELA ROYCHAUDHURY BHEND JAME BLOOD
SHELLEY BOSTON
SARAH CANADA
AUTUMN DEER
SHANNON McKINLEY
JENNIFER THOMPSON
CHERYL VASQUEZ
HEATHER WALKER
MATT WILLIAMS
CENTRAL OFFICE-KC
LATRICA SCOTT ADAMS
KATHY ANDERSON-REINKE
ERIN BARTLING
ALYSSA BIRD
JIM BRIGHTMAN
KATIE BROWN
TAM BYRNE
EDNA CALDERA
LISA CLARK
KAREN CUTHILL
JOE DANDURAND
CRISI DEL PERICO
JANET DOBSON
JACKIE DOTMAN
DANIELLE ELAM-JOBE
MEGAN FISHER
ANGELA FUTURE
ADRIAN FITZMAURICE
JULI FRAZIER
CHRISTINA FRISCHMEYER
LISA GARZA
JESSICA GOATLEY
LINDSEY GRAHAM
DICK HALLIBURTON
KARA HAMERS
VINCE HAYES
WARREN HAYTER
CHARITY HOLLIDAY
KATHLEEN HOLMES
ALICIA JOHNSON
KAREN KARNE
SUSAN KEPHART
REM TIMBERS
SELENA KHAN
SANDRA KINCAID
LISA KVETT
CAROL KLINKENBERG
SARA KOSMICKI
JULIE LARSON
RYAN LAIDERMILK
EDDIE LORENZO
PAT LUKENBILL
LAURA MACFARLAND
SAM MCNERVY
SUSAN MOFFIT
DALE MEYER
MIKE MILLER
ANNABELLE MONA
BRENT MORRISON
JOSH MURPHY
TRACE NEWMAN
MICHAEL O’GORMAN
LANA PARTRIDGE
KATE PAULIC
MADDISON PEAK
MEGAN PIERRE
LARRY PITTMAN
KATHALEEYA PLUNKHENV
ERIC QUALLS
DAVIANNE REYES
TERRY RINEHART
STEVEN ROWE
CODY RUSSEL
SILVA SHAW
CORI SMITH
JAMES SMITH
WAYNE SMITH
GWEN SOWDER
PERLA TAPIA
RIVER TEMPELIN
EYAN THOMPSON
CLAUDIA TRUJILLO
MEGAN VANAUSDALE
WARREN WADE
MAURA WEBER
MOLLY WILLS
JANE WORLEY
KIM WRIGHT
WEST OFFICE-KC
BRENDA RODRIGUEZ
DENNIS CHAMBER
JULIANA WOODY-COULLGREN
BRAD YERETSKY
KATIE BARNARD - ADVISOR
MARGARET MAY - ADVISOR
LEGAL AID’S SPECIAL PROJECTS
ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH
GUARDIANSHIPS FOR MINORS AND INCAPACITATED ADULTS
HEALTHY HOUSING (MOSSAIC LIFE CARE - ST. JOSEPH)
LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH KANSAS CITY CARE CLINIC
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH MOSSAIC LIFE CARE- ST. JOSEPH
MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROJECT
MIGRANT FARMWORKERS PROJECT
NEIGHBORHOOD ATTORNEY PROJECT
PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)
VETERANS RELIEF PROJECT
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT SPECIAL PROGRAMS:
• ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
• EDUCATION PROJECT
• JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS (JACKSON COUNTY)
• LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC ATTORNEY PANEL
• PRO BOND PROGRAM FOR BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION
• PROJECT CONSENT (GUARDIANSHIPS)
• PRO SE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE CLINICS
• SECOND SEASON AT LAW PROJECT
• TRANSACTIONAL LAW PROJECT
SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS WITH KANSAS CITY MUNICIPAL COURT:
• DRUG COURT
• MENTAL HEALTH COURT
• VETERANS’ TREATMENT COURT

Civil 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.
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 2018 VAP attorneys closed 453 cases representing more than 8,014.23 hours of legal representation worth $1,602,846 worth of legal services. The following attorneys accepted new VAP cases in 2018.

**KANSAS CITY**

- Coreena Abernathy
- Robert Abernathy
- Todd Abplanalp
- John C. Aisnabrey
- Shauna Alexander
- Kathryn Alsbrook
- Colin Alteri
- Rachel Alvey
- Jason Amerine
- Conrad Amisof
- Christopher J. Anderson
- David Anderson
- Teresa L. Anderson
- Dwight C. Arin
- Kimberly Athie
- Anne Baggett
- Brian Baggett
- Sam Barfoot
- David R. Barlow
- Brittany Barrientos
- Amanda R. Basri
- Jacob W. Bayer, Jr.
- Giovanna Bearden
- Katherine Bechyna
- John Bednarz
- James Berger
- Anna Berman
- Judith L. Berry
- Mary Ellen Bigge
- Kelsie Denis
- Nancy E. Blackwell
- George Blackwood
- Valerie Blewina
- Stephen Douglas Bonney
- Johna Boyce
- James Breckenridge
- Faith Brenner
- Douglas Breffogle
- John M. Briggs
- Jenna Brooks
- Catheryn M. Brooks
- Daniel R. Brown
- Johnathan Brown
- Lee Brumit
- Matthew Brunkhorst
- Frederick Bryant
- Megan Bui
- Brett T. Blamey
- Deanna Burns
- Samuel Butler
- Ryan Callahan
- Joseph Cambianno
- Christopher T. Campbell
- Jeffrey Carey
- Chandler Casib
- Kevin Chaffee
- Gina Chala
- Sara Christensen
- Teresa Chui
- Carl R. Clark
- Sean Collignon
- Meredith K. Collins
- John Constance
- Rich Cook
- Cameron Cooper
- David L. Cooper
- John Cowden
- Fred Crouch
- James Crump
- Charles C. Curry
- Christopher J. Cusack
- Keith Cutler
- Erin Dark
- Jason Davey
- Donald L. Davis
- Gardiner B. Davis
- Paul R. Davis
- Robert Davis
- David Dean
- Margaret Dean
- Mickey Dean
- Jay Dehardt
- Sherry DeJanes
- Timothy Denker
- Jordan Dillon
- Jonathan Dilly
- Cynthia Dodge
- Brian Doherty
- Jacob Doshal
- Erica A. Driskell
- Preston Drobeck
- Michael Dubay
- Elizabeth Duff
- McKinnon Duke
- Steven Effertz
- Coleman R. Ellis
- Mark Ellison
- James Ensz
- Kent Erickson
- Joshua Erwin
- Gayle Evans
- Hon. Arthur Federman
- G. Addam Fera
- Brandon Ferguson
- Jennifer Finch
- Joshua Fisher
- Nicole Fisher
- Michael F. Flanagan
- Rachel Foley
- Edward F. Ford II
- Edward W. Foster
- Sheena Foje
- Erica L. Frank
- Chris Franitz
- Brandon Fransoen
- James Friedman
- Marsha Friedman
- W. Brian Gaddy
- Aubrey Ganis-Redmon
- Brian Gardner
- Stanley Gillespie
- Clayton Gillette
- Sara Weichert Gillette
- Jordan Glasson
- Gretchen Gold
- Robert E. Gordon
- Shannon Gordon
- Charles W. Gottschall
- Hunter Gould
- Gene Graham
- Stephen Owen Griffin
- Vincent Qualtieri
- Angela Habeebullah
- Jennifer Hagerty
- Scott Haines
- Bridget Halbur
- Daniel Hall
- Steve Hamilton
- Shane Hamman
- Robert Hammeke
- Beth Hanus
- Mollie Harmon
- Ashley Harrison
- Kristi Harmann
- John P. Hastings
- Amy Hatch
- Shaheed Hayes
- Anika Hickman
- Angela Higgins
- Tim Hilton
- Sarah Holdmeyer
- David K. Holdsworth
- Charissa Holloway-Scott
- Cameron Hooper
- Jennifer House Packard
- William Hubbard
- Justin Hunt
- Alexandria Hutchings
- Nadia Gram
- Christopher Iff
- Daniel Jeffers
- Charley Jensen
- Joseph Jeppson

“I would just like to say how very grateful I am for the excellent assistance, high level of competency, and thoroughness of my volunteer attorney throughout the very challenging experience of being forced to file bankruptcy due to extended illness.”

— Thomas
Charles was interested in rehabilitating a debilitated, vacant property in his neighborhood. He was able to locate and contact the property’s owner, and they made an agreement in exchange for $100 cash, the owner would grant Charles permission to occupy the premises and the rehab to avert the demolition. The owner also promised Charles a deed to the property in exchange for $2,500.

Satisfied with this agreement, Charles then got to work on the project. He spent his own money and hundreds of hours of labor to bring the property into compliance with municipal standards. Months later, the City filed a written release of the dangerous building certificate and its demolition order based on the repairs Charles made to improve the condition of the property.

Charles moved into the house and continued to renovate the property. Five months later, the owner entered into a written contract with Charles to sell the property. However, shortly thereafter, the owner refused to convey the property or accept additional payments and threatened to evict Charles.

Immediately, Charles contacted Legal Aid. A Volunteer Attorney Project attorney agreed to help Charles resolve a dispute with the property’s owner. Charles permission to occupy the premises and rehab the property to avert the demolition. The owner also promised Charles a deed to the property in exchange for $2,500.

Satisfied with this agreement, Charles then got to work on the project. He spent his own money and hundreds of hours of labor to bring the property into compliance with municipal standards. Months later, the City filed a written release of the dangerous building certificate and its demolition order based on the repairs Charles made to improve the condition of the property.

Charles moved into the house and continued to renovate the property. Five months later, the owner entered into a written contract with Charles to sell the property. However, shortly thereafter, the owner refused to convey the property or accept additional payments and threatened to evict Charles.

Immediately, Charles contacted Legal Aid. A Volunteer Attorney Project attorney agreed to help Charles resolve a contract dispute. The attorney filed a Verified Petition for Specific Performance, Quiet Title to Real Estate and Damages in Circuit Court.

After overcoming various procedural hurdles, the attorney prevailed on behalf of his client when the court found Charles as the owner of the property free and clear of any lien, right, claim, title, or interest of encumbrances of the opposing party.
“My attorney helped with an order of protection. She was awesome. She showed me that I matter and there are people who care about others and love their job.”

— JENNIFER

2018 GIFTS & 2017-19 CAMPAIGN PLEDGES

We are fortunate to have the support of dedicated friends and others who make our work possible.

PLEDGES & MULTI-YEAR DONATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Name</th>
<th>Pledges/Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHOOK HARDY &amp; BACON, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $239,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLSKIECKL PC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CHILDREN OF BETH &amp; ED SMITH</td>
<td>Three-year gifts of $70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STINSON LEONARD STREET, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $308,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUSCH BLACKWELL, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $305,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATHROP &amp; GAGE, LC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $54,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVIS BETHANY &amp; JONES, LLC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $41,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEIFREED BINGHAM</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $41,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPENCER FANE, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $29,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUTAK ROCK, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $27,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAIGNER LLP</td>
<td>Five-year pledge of $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUEVE SIEGEL HANSON, LLP</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $19,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATRICK &amp; JANA STUEVEY</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN MAY, PC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $14,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGDON &amp; EMISON</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $13,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAMBURG JOHNSON &amp; BERGMAN, CHARTERED</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEWIS RICE &amp; FINGERISH, LC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOLLAR BURNS &amp; BECKER, LC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $4,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 LAW FIRM, FOUNDATION & CORPORATION DONATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Name</th>
<th>Pledges/Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE MEYERS LAW FIRM, LC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRIEGEL &amp; KRIEGEL, PC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITTLE MENDELSON, PC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEVIN M. CONNER</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDWARD A. &amp; SARA DAVIS WILLIAMS</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REDFERN LAW FIRM, PC</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACK &amp; JEANNE RANGERT</td>
<td>One-year pledge of $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERIC ZIEGENHORN</td>
<td>Three-year pledge of $750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DONATIONS OF $7,500 & ABOVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Firm Name</th>
<th>Pledges/Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENTONS US LLP</td>
<td>Hallmark Cards, Inc. - Legal Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENTONS US LLP</td>
<td>Lord Mark Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS OF $2,500 &amp; ABOVE</td>
<td>Catholic Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph J.B. Reynolds Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS OF $1,000 &amp; ABOVE</td>
<td>Lawyers Association of Kansas City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS OF $750 &amp; ABOVE</td>
<td>Robbi and Robbi, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC CARES CHARTABLE FUND</td>
<td>Heartland Combined Federal Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROYALS CHARITIES</td>
<td>VanTrust Real Estate, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS OF $250 &amp; ABOVE</td>
<td>Wynsch Hobbs &amp; Miraglia, PC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DONATIONS OF $100 & ABOVE
COPILEVITZ & CANTER, LLC
GARMEN INTERNATIONAL
H & R BLOCK FOUNDATION
MUSSWILLIAMS, LLC

2018 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
DONATIONS OF $10,000 & ABOVE
COPILEVITZ & CANTER, LLC
GARMIN INTERNATIONAL
H & R BLOCK FOUNDATION
MULVIHILLHUNTER, LLC

2018 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
DONATIONS OF $5,000 & ABOVE
VIRGINIA & MATTHEW CRIMMINS
BRIAN & RONDI GARDNER
MARY STEEB & GLEN LITTLETON

DONATIONS OF $1,000 & ABOVE
JOHN & ELLEN AISENBREY
DANIEL ALLMAYER
KAREN BISSET & ROB BARNES
HON. DANIEL C. COLLINS
KEVIN A. DUNN
ARTHUR & DIANE FEDERMAN
JAMES CONLON BY
JAMES & JULIE FRICKLETON
SHERMAN HARVEY BY
JOHN LAWRENCE WILLIAMS
PATRICIA KOROSSEC BY
KATHLEEN HOLMES
STEVE ADAM KOVAC
LAWRENCE PATRICK O'BRIEN BY
ROBERT R. O'BRIEN
JEFF WILLIAMS BY
LORD MARKER FAMILY FOUNDATION
HON. JOHN WILLIAMS BY
MARY BETH DENZER

DONATIONS OF $500 & ABOVE
KATHY ANDERSON-REINKE
JACK & JEANNE BANGERT

Every attempt has been made to reflect accurately the names of our generous contributors. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Space does not permit the listing of every contributor, but we value all of our donors.

GIFTS & PLEDGES (CONTINUED)

2018 TRIBUTE GIFTS
In memory of
BUB CURLESS BY
CHARLES CURLESS
JAMES CONLON BY
JAMES & JULIE FRICKLETON
SHERMAN HARVEY BY
JOHN LAWRENCE WILLIAMS
PATRICIA KOROSSEC BY
KATHLEEN HOLMES
STEVE ADAM KOVAC
LAWRENCE PATRICK O'BRIEN BY
ROBERT R. O'BRIEN
JEFF WILLIAMS BY
LORD MARKER FAMILY FOUNDATION
HON. JOHN WILLIAMS BY
MARY BETH DENZER

2018 ENDOWMENT GIFTS
The following individuals made direct gifts to the Legal Aid of Western Missouri Endowment in 2018. Established in 2008 to ensure the long-time financial health of Legal Aid, the Endowment currently contains pledges and gifts from over 180 donors.

JACK & JEANNE BANGERT
BRUCE BETTINGER
GARY BROUILLETTE
BURNETT DRISKILL
THE CHILDREN OF BETH & ED SMITH

Did you know?
Civil legal aid is helping a veteran access much needed benefits. It's helping an elderly widow get access to prescriptions. It's helping a victim of domestic abuse get to safety. It's helping a young family facing eviction stay in their home. Civil legal aid protects people's livelihoods, families, health, and homes.
Stanley contacted Legal Aid for assistance with his landlord. While Stanley was in the process of moving apartments, his landlord changed the locks on the door and proceeded to throw Stanley’s personal belongings off the third-floor balcony. Stanley’s landlord did all of this despite the fact that he had not obtained a court-ordered eviction against Stanley. A Legal Aid Housing Team attorney filed suit against Stanley’s landlord for an unlawful eviction and obtained a multi-thousand-dollar settlement.

During her representation of Stanley, the Housing attorney learned Stanley was disabled but was not receiving any Social Security benefits. She referred the case to Legal Aid’s Federal Rights Team and a Federal Rights attorney accepted the case. She helped Stanley properly complete a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application and ensured he provided all the necessary information. Stanley’s SSI application was approved, and now Stanley has a regular monthly income.

During Stanley’s SSI case, the Federal Rights attorney learned his Missouri HealthNet for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (MHABD) application had also been wrongfully denied, so she referred the case to Legal Aid’s Public Benefits team. They accepted the case, and a Public Benefits paralegal represented Stanley at a hearing to appeal this rejection. The paralegal’s representation resulted in Stanley receiving MHABD coverage backdated nine months from the approval date. Stanley is now able to receive regular medical treatment that he needs.

LEGAL AID STAFF MEMBERS ON THREE DIFFERENT TEAMS WORKED TOGETHER AND OBTAINED GREAT RESULTS FOR STANLEY SO THAT HE CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.
On any given day, at any given moment, Legal Aid matters to someone somewhere.