



# ACCESS TO AN ATTORNEY LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD.

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI

2024

"WE WOULD HAVE  
BEEN HOMELESS  
WITHOUT YOUR  
HELP. LEGAL AID IS  
VERY CARING AND  
GENUINE! I AM SO  
THANKFUL!"



## LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI has improved the lives of those in need through quality legal assistance since 1964. We provide free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to people who need it most and can afford it least. With offices in Kansas City, Independence, Joplin, St. Joseph, and Warrensburg, Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where more than 300,000 people live in poverty.

*At Legal Aid, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. So, while their stories are true, client names and images have been changed to protect their privacy.*

LAWMO.ORG





**NOT  
EVERYONE  
CAN AFFORD  
TO PAY AN  
ATTORNEY.**

## **LEGAL AID IS A GAME CHANGER.**

Legal Aid staff and volunteers address the most fundamental issues of any society — and the most basic human needs.

Think about it...if you're trying to secure veterans' benefits which you've earned but been denied, fight off an illegal eviction, or protect yourself from an abusive partner, you need civil legal help.

But the legal systems and the administrative agencies meant to provide safety and stability often fail to provide justice, especially for folks who can't afford an attorney.

At Legal Aid, we work to amplify the voices of our neighbors with low incomes — ensuring they are heard by the powerful institutions that shape their lives.

From the very first meeting to every hearing or trial, our dedicated advocates work alongside our clients, helping them get justice.

Everyone, regardless of race, income level, ability, or life circumstance, should have support during a legal crisis.

**Legal Aid is here so they don't have to fight alone.**

# ELLEN

Ellen arrived at the Jackson County Courthouse feeling overwhelmed. A creditor was suing her for a debt she didn't recognize, and she suspected her abusive ex-husband, Luis, had used her credit card without permission. Unsure how to defend herself, Ellen brought a police report documenting Luis' abuse but didn't know if it would help.

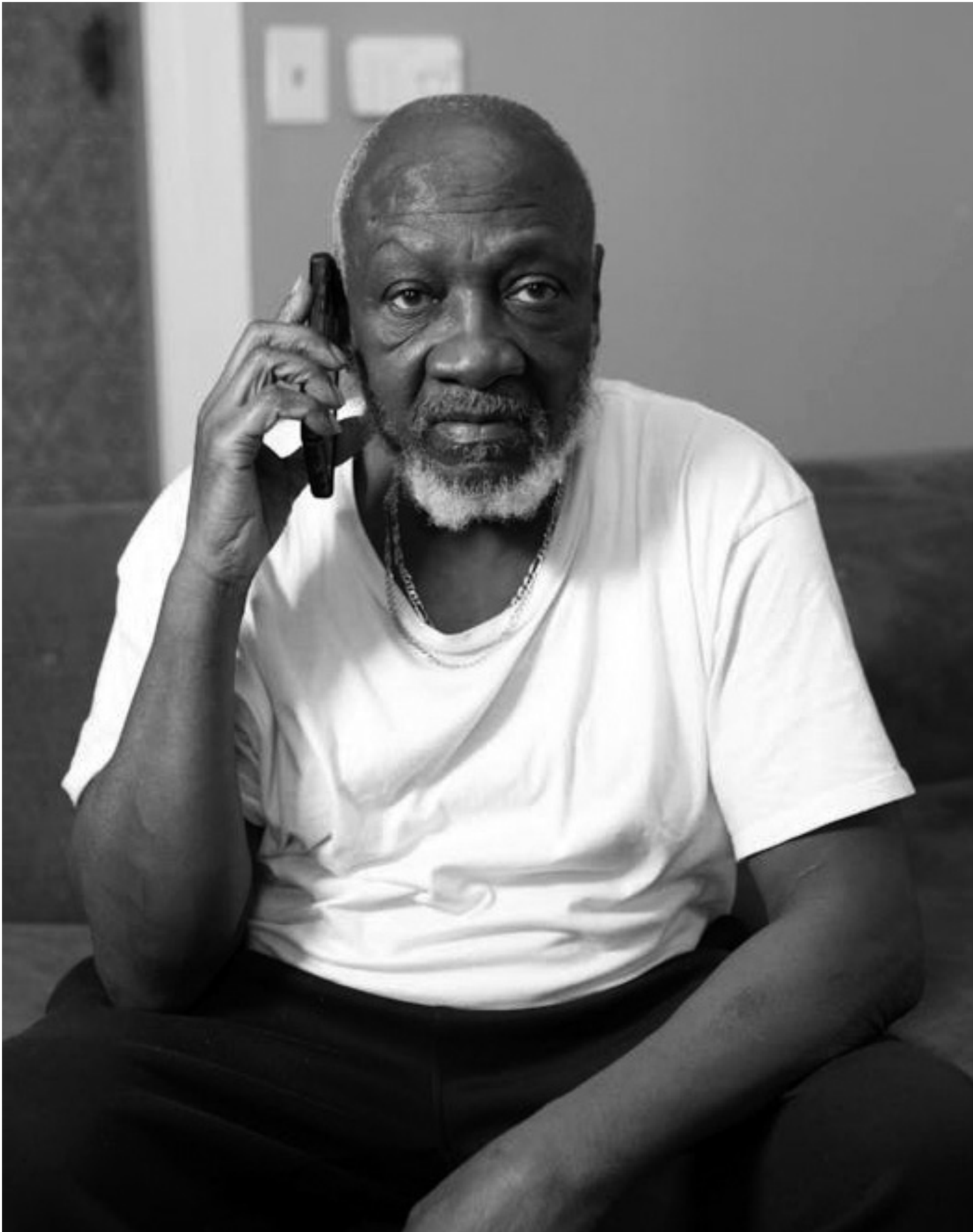
Then, she discovered Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Debt Relief Project table. The team quickly assessed her case, and an attorney agreed to represent her. In court, the attorney argued the debt was fraudulent, using Ellen's evidence of Luis' abuse to support her case.

The result? The lawsuit was dismissed, and the debt was removed from her credit report. With Legal Aid's help, Ellen walked away debt-free and ready to rebuild her life.

## **ELLEN WAS SUED FOR A DEBT SHE DIDN'T OWE — LEGAL AID HELPED HER FIGHT BACK**







# ALBERT

At 88 years old, Albert never imagined being forced from his home. He lived in a camper on his daughter Sheila’s property. One day, everything changed. In a fit of anger, Sheila threw his cane at him, leaving a bruise and breaking his watch. She then filed for an order of protection against him.

Confused and afraid, Albert turned to Legal Aid for help. His attorney guided him through the court process, ensuring he felt safe and supported. In court, Sheila was asked to provide a history of Albert’s alleged abuse. She couldn’t name a single instance. With no evidence, the judge dismissed the order of protection against Albert.

But the help didn’t stop there. Albert’s attorney referred him to our Social Work Assistance Program to secure safe housing away from Sheila. His attorney also helped him obtain an order of protection against her, ensuring his safety and peace of mind.

Thanks to Legal Aid, Albert has a fresh start—free from fear and on the path to a more secure future.

**LEGAL AID HELPED ALBERT ESCAPE ELDER ABUSE AND FIND A SAFE, NEW HOME.**

# RONDA

Ronda was excited to start fresh with her new housing voucher, quickly securing a home for herself and her multiracial children. But the property manager's attitude shifted when they saw her family. Shortly after, Ronda received a violation notice for her emotional support animal despite providing proper documentation. The manager dismissed her rights, saying, "We don't do that fair housing stuff," and fined her \$25 daily for the animal.

The situation escalated when vandals targeted her property with racial slurs, and the landlord attempted to revoke her voucher with false accusations. Fearing for her family's safety, Ronda sought help from Legal Aid. A paralegal fought to protect her housing voucher and arranged to transfer it to a safer location.

With her paralegal's help, Ronda also filed a Fair Housing complaint, citing discrimination based on race and disability. HUD intervened, and after extensive negotiations, Ronda received \$3,750 for lost wages and moving costs. The property manager and owner agreed to undergo fair housing training and revise leases to include protections for reasonable accommodations.

Thanks to Legal Aid's support, Ronda and her children now live in a safe home, and their fight led to fairer housing practices for others.

**WITH LEGAL AID'S HELP, RONDA FOUGHT BACK AGAINST HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AND HELD HER LANDLORD ACCOUNTABLE.**







# DANIELLE

Danielle and her 10-year-old daughter, Macy, lived in fear. For years, Danielle's partner and Macy's father, Mike, controlled them through violence. When Danielle decided to leave, he trapped them in their home and attacked them. A neighbor called the police, who arrived and instructed Mike to spend the night elsewhere. When Mike left, he took Danielle's car and did not return it.

With no car and nowhere to turn, Danielle sought help from Legal Aid. Her attorney stood by her, ensuring Mike was held accountable. In court, Mike fought the orders of protection, but expert cross-examination forced him to admit to his abuse. The judge granted protection for Danielle and Macy, ordered her car's return, and jailed Mike on a \$20,000 cash bond. Now, Danielle's attorney is helping her secure sole custody of Macy.

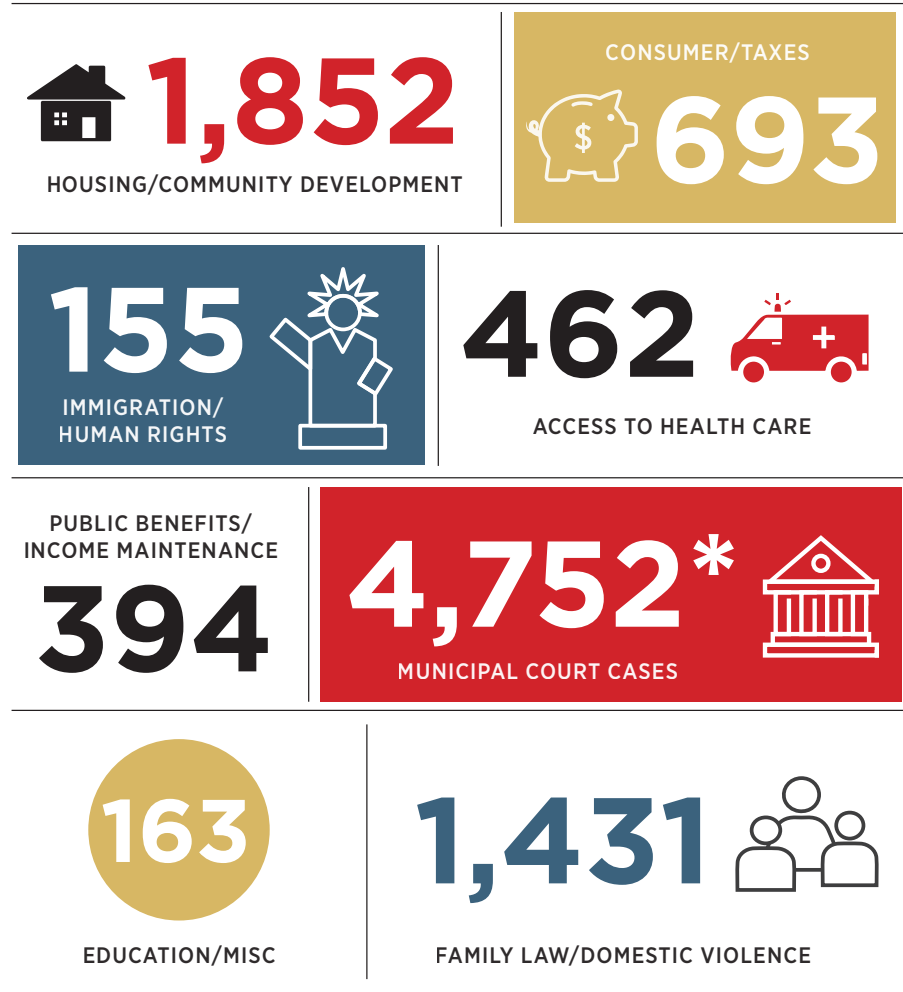
Thanks to Legal Aid, Danielle and her daughter are free from abuse and building a brighter future.

**AFTER YEARS OF ABUSE, DANIELLE AND MACY ESCAPED. THEY HAD LEGAL AID BY THEIR SIDE.**

# YOUR 2024 IMPACT

In 2024, our staff provided free civil legal services to 11,644 children and adults in our community. We fought for benefits to ensure that seniors, those with disabilities, and folks who lost their jobs got the income they needed to survive. We put domestic violence survivors on a path to safety and self-sufficiency. We removed legal barriers to health care access. We fought to maintain housing so families could stay in their communities and thrive. And we lifted the burden of debt for consumers defrauded by unscrupulous businesses and individuals.

## CASE SNAPSHOT



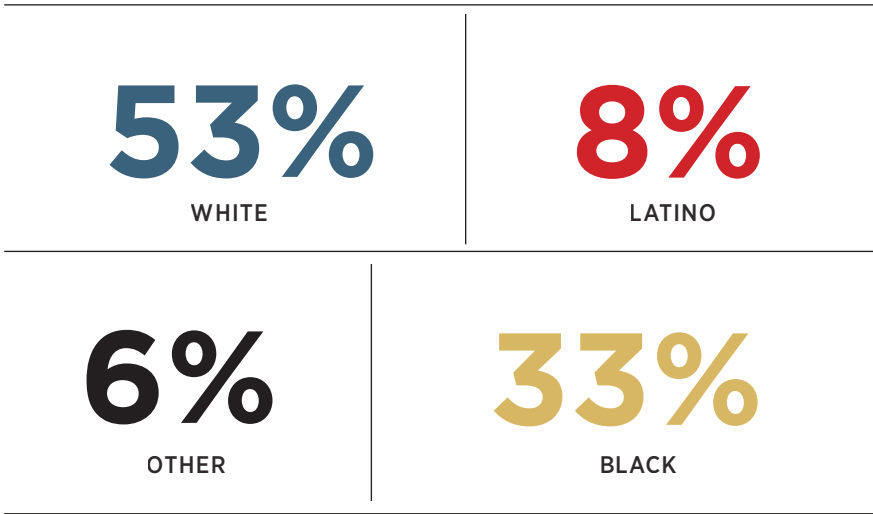
\*Municipal cases may have multiple charges.

## CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN	462
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE	3,480
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE	204
ST. JOSEPH	491
WARRENSBURG	580
TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED	5,147
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES	4,752

TOTAL 2024 CLOSED CASES 9,899

## 2024 CLIENT DIVERSITY



Did you  
know?  
➔

Unresolved legal problems often lead to homelessness, job loss, health problems, and more. By addressing the root causes of these legal issues before they escalate, we can significantly reduce poverty.



"LEGAL AID IS VERY  
HELPFUL BECAUSE I  
AM NOW ABLE TO GO  
TO A STORE AND GET  
FOOD FOR MY KIDS  
AND TAKE THEM TO  
THE HOSPITAL"

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Be brave. Be strong. Be courageous.*

In our region, we love our sports teams. The Chiefs, the Royals, KC Current, Sporting KC, the Mavericks. You name them and we have our own cheering section!

We love watching the tenacity and resiliency of our athletes on the field. They don't give up even when it is sometimes an uphill battle.

While many of our champions are front and center, I love watching our Legal Aid advocates because they are the hidden heroes. They are rarely on TV or in publications; they hardly ever receive awards; they aren't usually the focus of a documentary or podcast. In fact, most people don't realize all of the amazing things that Legal Aid advocates do on a daily basis. But within these pages of our Annual Report, you get a glimpse of their work.

Our lawyers represent domestic violence survivors so that they can have autonomous lives, free of their abusers. Our advocates represent clients in administrative hearings so that they can have access to their social security benefits. Our attorneys represent clients who have been unlawfully evicted in order to ensure that these families don't end up homeless.

Within a system that is built to often benefit those with the most knowledge and resources, our advocates fight for the most vulnerable to have an equal chance at justice. Day in and day out, their voices are heard in courtrooms and administrative hearings as

they speak up for those that our society often deems unworthy.

It is not an easy time to be an advocate for justice. We are told that we shouldn't rock the boat. We are told that we should just take the deal because our client doesn't deserve much and they should just be happy with what they get. We are told that people with low incomes deserve justice but only if it doesn't disrupt efficiency.

Legal aid organizations are created to ensure that strong advocates represent the most vulnerable among us. Along the way, as advocates, we learn the principles of resiliency and hope from our clients. It is a humbling experience.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent almost 15 years at Legal Aid of Western Missouri working with compassionate, intelligent, and tenacious advocates.

For those of you that support our mission, please continue to be brave, be strong, and be courageous as we continue to work for equal justice for all.



Alicia M. Johnson

# LEGAL AID OFFICES

## Kansas City - Central Office:

The staff includes 37 attorneys, 22 paralegals, 15 administrative staff, four intake specialists, and seven administrative assistants. Staff handle cases involving consumer law, housing, domestic violence, landlord/tenant matters, access to health care, and federal and state benefits issues.

The Central office houses the administrative offices, including the executive office, fiscal, human resources, our Volunteer Attorney Project, IT, and development.

## Kansas City - Economic Development:

For 46 years, the Economic Development Unit has provided counsel and representation on matters ranging from individual homeownership issues to city-wide economic and community development to over 40 of Kansas City's historic neighborhoods. These services are provided by Legal Aid's staff which includes six attorneys, three paralegals, and many volunteers.

## Kansas City - Municipal Defense:

Our Municipal Court Defense Unit is funded by a contract with the City of Kansas City Missouri. Attorneys represent clients charged with jailable offenses in the City's municipal courts. Staff includes nine attorneys, one paralegal, and one administrative assistant.

## Joplin:

The Joplin office provides services to six counties along Missouri's southwest border. The staff consists of six attorneys, three paralegals, one social worker,

and one administrative assistant. 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, guardianship cases, social security cases, and public benefits.

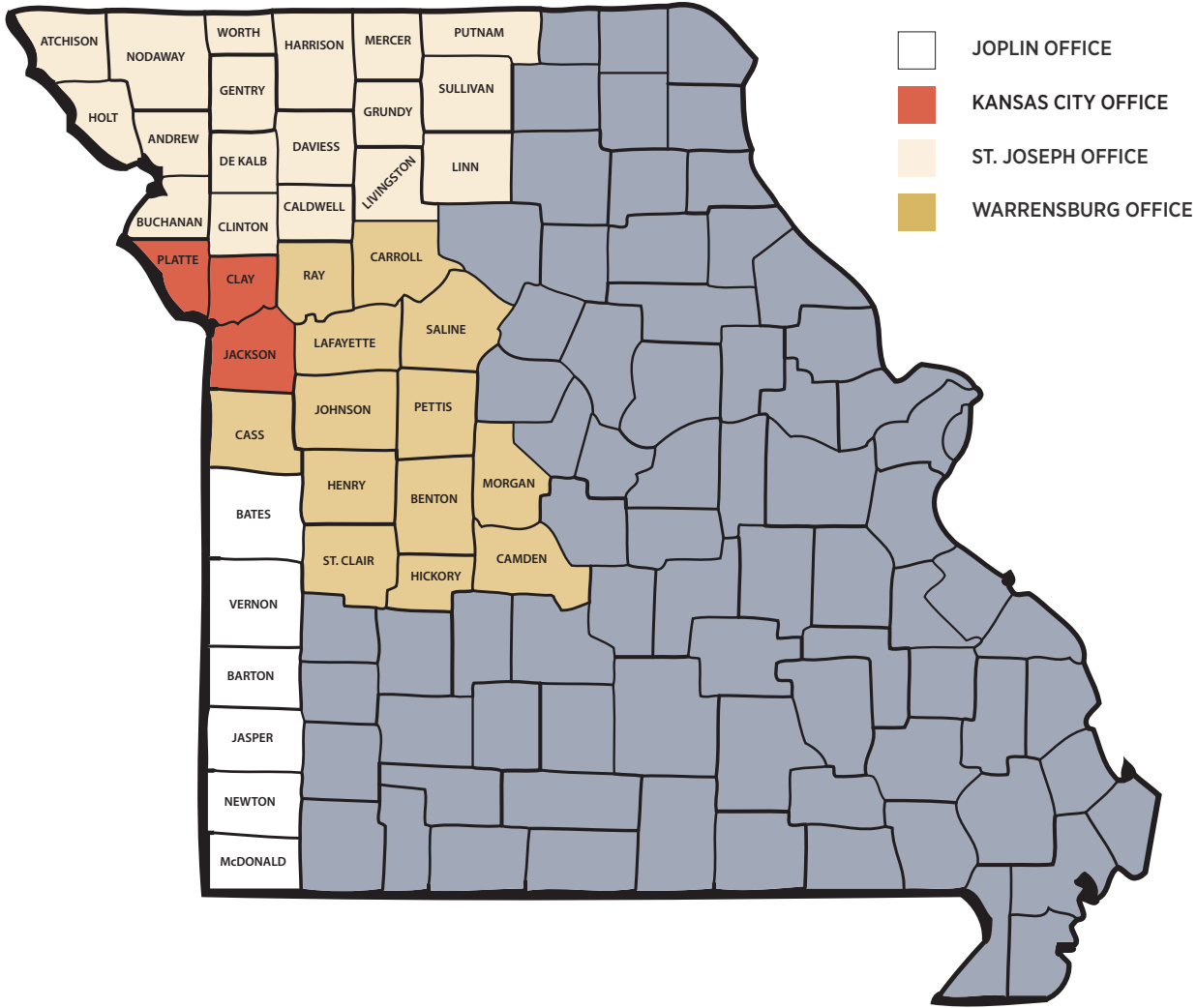
## St. Joseph:

St. Joseph's staff includes four attorneys, three paralegals, and one administrative assistant serving an 18-county area in northwest Missouri. The office represents a mix of both rural and urban clients. Many of the cases involve family law, including marriage dissolution, custody, guardianship, and orders of protection. In addition, staff handle cases involving consumer issues, landlord/tenant law, and other civil matters.

## Warrensburg:

This office serves thirteen rural counties in west-central Missouri. The staff consists of two attorneys, three paralegals, and one administrative assistant. Also in 2024, the office hosted a legal intern and a social work intern. The Warrensburg staff handle cases involving consumer law, housing, domestic violence, landlord/tenant matters, and public benefits issues. The staff maintains a strong presence in the community and works directly with local agencies in several counties.

# OUR 40-COUNTY SERVICE AREA



## KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE

4001 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
SUITE 300  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64130  
816-474-6750

## INDEPENDENCE

(Opening 2025)  
304 W. WALNUT, SUITE 100  
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050  
816-474-6750

## ST. JOSEPH

(Moving in 2025)  
706 FELIX STREET  
ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501  
816-364-2325/800-892-2101

## KANSAS CITY - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6285 PASEO BOULEVARD  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64110  
816-474-9868

## JOPLIN

1027 S. MAIN, SUITE LL7  
JOPLIN, MO 64801  
417-782-1650/800-492-7095

## WARRENSBURG

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

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



Legal Aid serves 40 counties in Missouri where more than 300,000 people live in poverty. You may not know them, but they're your neighbors — they raise families, cheer for the local sports teams, and share the same hopes and dreams. You are more alike than you might think.



# CORE PRACTICE AREAS



**Consumer Protection:**

Legal Aid helps clients, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, with consumer issues such as personal property taxes, auto fraud, debt collection practices, and other issues. We work with home loan servicers to prevent foreclosure and can stop foreclosure sales through bankruptcy or litigation. The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic assists taxpayers in resolving issues with the IRS and Missouri Department of Revenue.



**Rental Housing Assistance:**

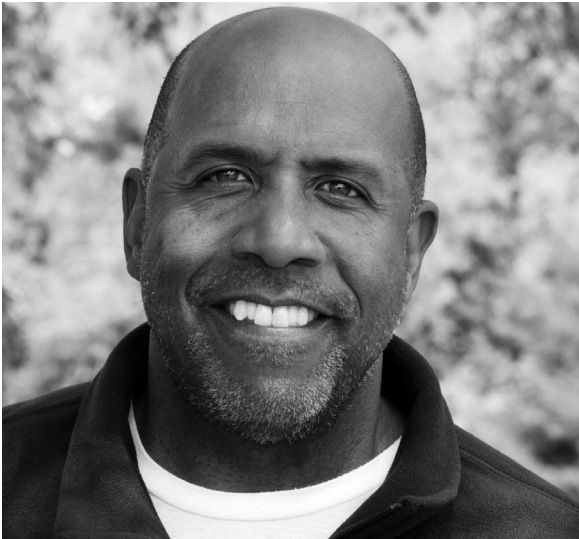
Housing advocates assist those in public housing, federally subsidized housing, and private housing. We provide advice or representation to help clients avoid unlawful evictions, coordinate rental assistance, penalize illegal conduct by landlords, and recover wrongfully withheld security deposits. We also help residents when there is a widespread problem in a housing development to correct the problem for all the tenants, not just one individual or family.



**Family Law/Domestic Violence Protection:**

Legal Aid’s Family Law advocates help survivors of domestic violence secure safety and stability by offering legal representation for orders of protection, divorce, paternity, custody, and child support. Attorneys focus on cases involving domestic violence and prioritize those with at-risk children.

Our representation, combined with community resource referrals, enables survivors to escape abuse and achieve physical and financial security.



**Public Benefits:**

Legal Aid helps people with issues related to state and federal public assistance programs, including MO Health-Net, SNAP, childcare, unemployment benefits, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare. We provide representation and advice at hearings, negotiations, and appeals. We also do outreach to educate the community and improve access to healthcare, food and income support programs.



**Economic Development:**

Legal Aid’s Economic Development Unit represents nonprofit community organizations in neighborhood improvement activities, including creating and preserving affordable housing in Kansas City.

Legal services include property acquisition, financing, title clearance, real estate closing and syndication, tax abatement, zoning, applications for tax exemption, non-profit formation, and contracts with service providers.



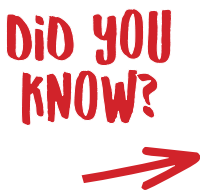
**Human Rights Protection Team:**

The Team consists of the Immigration Project and the Migrant Farmworkers Project. We provide quality, trauma-informed representation for refugees, asylees, permanent residents, and survivors of violent crimes, trafficking, and domestic violence.

The Immigration Project handles naturalization, visa processing, and Violence Against Women Act applications. The Migrant Farmworkers Project addresses wage theft, labor trafficking, housing, immigration, and safety concerns for low-income farmworkers throughout Missouri.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN RURAL SERVICE AREAS (ST. JOSEPH, WARRENSBURG & JOPLIN)
- ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH
- DEBT RELIEF PROJECT
- JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS (KCPS, CENTER, GUADALUPE CENTERS CHARTER SCHOOLS, HOGAN PREP, AND HICKMAN MILLS)
- LEGAL AID IN THE LIBRARY
- LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC
- MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROJECT
- MIGRANT FARMWORKERS PROJECT
- PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)
- RIGHT TO COUNSEL
- URBAN HOMESTEADING PROJECT
- VETERANS RELIEF PROJECT
- VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT:
  - ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
  - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE
  - HON. ARTHUR B. FEDERMAN CITIZENSHIP CLINIC
  - PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION
  - PRO SE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE CLASS
  - SECOND SEASON AT LAW
  - TRANSACTIONAL LAW PROJECT
  - UMKC-LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI SELF-HELP LAW CLINIC
  - WARRANT RELIEF PROJECT
- SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS WITH KANSAS CITY MUNICIPAL COURT:
  - WELLNESS COURT (FORMERLY DRUG COURT & MENTAL HEALTH COURT)
  - VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT



Legal Aid staff and volunteers are dedicated to helping people — not for fame or fortune but because it’s the right thing to do. Our advocates work hard to find tailored solutions for each client. We understand that every situation is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach doesn’t deliver justice.

LEGAL AID STAFF\*

CENTRAL OFFICE-KC

DAWN ADAMS  
MICHELLE ALBANO  
CARLY ARDUSSI  
BRANDI ASHBY  
ERIN BARTLING  
DEANNA BERGERN  
THEO BLACKWOOD  
JAMES BOYCE  
CODY BROOKS  
KATHRYN BROWN  
KRISTIN BRUMM  
AMELIA BUSHEK  
SHANNON CARNEY  
AMANDA CASTILLEJA  
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ALEXANDER DEHAAN  
JACKIE DOMIAN  
KYLEE ELLIS  
MASON ELLIS  
DENNIS GALLOWAY  
JOSHUA GONZALEZ-ESCOBAR  
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KARA HARMS  
BLAKE HATFIELD  
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KIMBERLY HAYES  
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TAYLOR HIRTH  
CHARITY HOLLIDAY  
KIMBERLY HOMER  
THOMAS HOUDEK  
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TESS JOHNSON  
KAREN KARNES  
CHLOE KETCHMARK  
KATHERINE KETTLER  
SELINA KHAN  
MENDY KNIGHT  
SARA KOSMICKI  
MERCEDES KUSTERS  
JULIE LARSON  
KATHRYN MACAN  
FREDDY MAWYIN  
ISABELLA MCCARTY  
LAURA MCFARLAND  
DEBORAH MILAM  
WILLIAM MILLER  
MICHAEL MILLER  
JESSICA NASTERNAK  
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MICHAEL O’GORMAN  
BILLIE ORR  
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PAMELA PATCHEN  
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KATHALEEYA PLUNGKHEN  
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LINDSEY PRAECHTER  
GARRISON PRIDDLE  
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KYLE RICHARDSON  
MARIA JULIA ROGERS  
SUSANNAH RUIS  
EDWIN SAGASTUME  
SAMANTHA SCHIPPER  
MEAGAN SHANAHAN  
SILYA SHAW  
TINA SIMPSON-COLLINS  
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EMILY SWENSON  
SHANNON THOMAS  
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MAURA WEBER  
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KAYLA DELOACH  
JESSICA GITTEMIER  
KAYLA HOGAN  
JAMIE ORTEGA  
JOSIE PENNINGTON  
JOCELYN REYES  
LINDSEY RICH

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CHRISTINA FROMMER  
WARREN HAYTER  
CAITLIN HOLT  
EDDIE LORENZO  
SUSAN MCRILL  
LILLIAN MEHLER  
DALE MEYER  
MICHAEL RIZZO  
STEVEN ROWE  
CODY RUSSELL

JOPLIN

PAMELA BHEND ROYCHAUDHURY  
JAMIE BLOOD  
SHELLEY BOSTON  
JOHN BOYER  
KATHIE BYRNES  
SARAH CANADA  
AUTUMN DEER  
CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS  
DARREN WALLACE  
JENNIFER WESTERN  
CHRISTINA WILSON

ST. JOSEPH

REBECCA COURTNEY  
JORDAN GREER  
KAILEE JACKSON  
WILLIAM KARIKER  
TIFFANY SADLER  
JEREMY SWENSON  
BLAINE WYSE

WARRENSBURG

KIMBERLY BASINGER  
JUDITH HALL  
RUSSELL JACKSON  
CYNTHIA LOWRY  
COURTNEY NOLL  
KATELYN PERALES

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\* As of April 2025



“MY VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WAS A BLESSING - SO SUPPORTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING. HE WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND.”

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. They donate their time and considerable talents to make that ideal a reality.

 <b>3,987</b> HOURS OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION	 <b>592</b> CLOSED CASES	 <b>\$996,750</b> DONATED LEGAL SERVICES
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THE FOLLOWING ATTORNEYS ACCEPTED VAP CASES IN 2024:

<b>KANSAS CITY</b> ROBERT ABERNATHY KRISTIN JACOBS ALEXANDER KATHRYN ALSOBROOK DARA ALVARADO JASON AMERINE DAVID ANDERSON CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON BRAD ANDERSON ARA BAILEY BROWNY MARY ARGANA KIMBERLY ATHIE JOE BACKER ANNE BAGGOTT BRIAN BAGGOTT ERIN BAJACKSON BRIAN BALTZELL DAVID BARRETT ALEX BARRETT AMANDA BASRI JOSE BAUTISTA GRETA BAX JACOB W BAYER JR. KYLE BELEW JAMES BERGER ANNA BERMAN JEFFREY BLACKWOOD VALERIE BLEVINS	DESTINY BOUNDS JOHNDA BOYCE DOUG BREYFOGLE CATHY BROOKS JARED BROWN RYAN BRUNTON C. ROBERT BUCKLEY MEGAN BUI NAOMI BUIE BRETT BURMEISTER COURTNEY BURRESS KRISTEN BUZZELLI EMILY CARNEY FRANK CASCONE II GINA CHIALA NATHAN CHO KEVIN COLE TIM CONGROVE AMIROF CONRAD MATT COOK DAVID COOPER CHERYL COWHERD CASEY CRAWFORD FRED CROUCH JOSEPH DANDURAND JAMES DANIELS BELL DAVID PAUL DAVIS	LAUREN DAVIS GARDINER DAVIS DAVID DEAN JAY DEHARDT SHERRY DEJANES SAMANTHA DELEE ALEX DEMASI KAITLYN DEYOUNG SUNNY DHALIWAL PRESTON DROBECK TONY DURONE MICHAEL EASON PHIL ECKERT WILLIAMS ED ALY ENGLANDER LOGAN FANCHER ARTHUR FEDERMAN DAN FLANIGAN ALISON FLORES MICHAEL FOSTER SHEENA FOYE RUSSELL FRACASSA CHRIS FRANTZE MARSHA FRIEDMAN BEN GAMBLE JOHN GATES MATTHEW GEARY STACEY GILLMAN	BARBARA GLESNER FINES CAYCE GOOD GENE GRAHAM MACGREGOR GREENLEE STEVEN OWEN GRIFFIN L.ANNETTE GRIGGS RACHEL GROVES ANGELA HABEEBULLAH DANIEL HALL WILLIAM HANNA JAY HARRINGTON TAYLOR HARRINGTON KRISTI HARTMANN MOLLY HASTINGS KIM HATCH JOHN HAYOB CAILYNN HAYTER CHANDLER HIATT ANGELA HIGGINS JACKSON HOBBS J.R. HOBBS AARON HOUSE TEDRICK HOUSH JUSTIN HUNT MORGAN HUTCHINSON ASHLEY IRWIN CARLENE IVERSON ALICE JACKS
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VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT (CONTINUED)

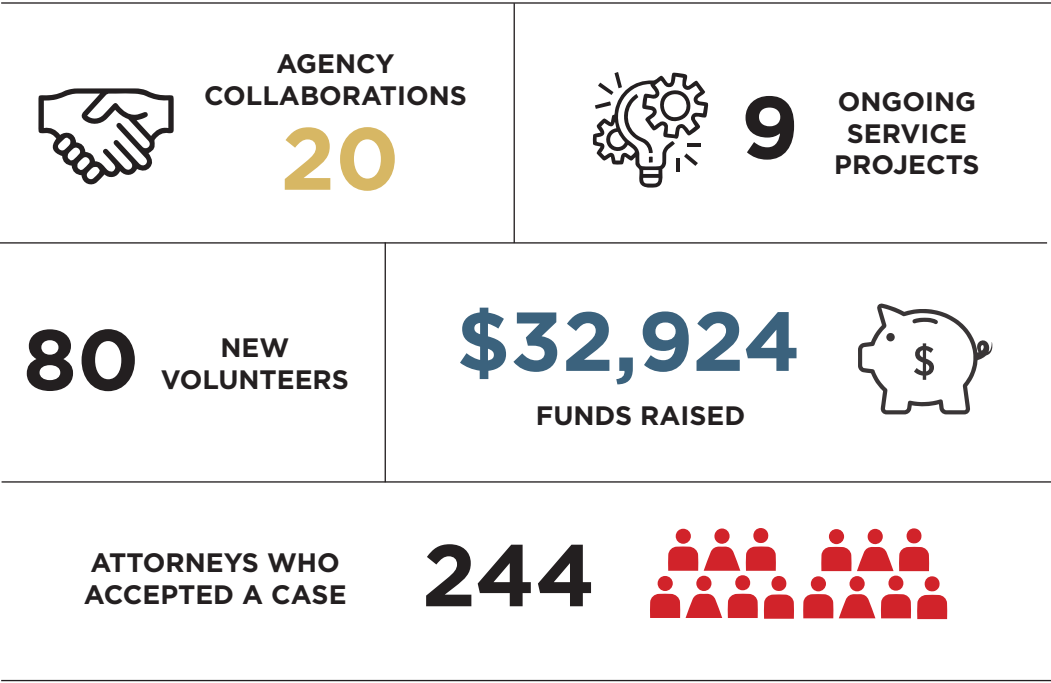
JEFF JARRETT	MICHAEL MCVEY	NICOLETTE RODRIGUEZ	CHRIS TROPBITO
JOSEPH JEPPSON	R.B. MILLER	THOMAS RUANE	ANNA TURNER
CARTY JOHANNSSEN	TONY MILLER	NEIL SADER	WARREN WADE
ALFRED JORDAN	KATIE MIYA	BLAKE SAFFELS	DENNIS WAITS
SARA JUAREZ	JASON MOEHLMAN	TINA SCHAEFER	PAIGE WAITS
JORDAN KAHLE	CHAD MOORE	ANDREW SCHENDEL	LINDSEY WAITS
CURTIS KAINE	PHILLIP MURPHY	BEN SCHMITT	BRIAN WALLACE
BRIANNA KAPPELMAN	ROGER NAIL	JERE SELLERS	TIMOTHY WALLNER
DANIEL KENNEDY	JOE NASTASI	RUSSELL SHANKLAND	JASMINE WARD
SUSAN KEPHART	DEWANNA NEWMAN	DARREN SHARP	JOHN WATT
D. BRYANT KING III	MARISA NO	JOHN SHAW	BRIAN WEBB
KATE KLAUS	KIMBERLY NOLTE	MICHAELA SHELTON	VICTOR WEBER
RYAN KNIPP	HEIDI NOWOTNY	MEGAN SHOLY WELLS	EMILY WEMHOFF
KRISTEN KOERBER	BERTHA OLIVES	CHRIS SIMONS	THOMAS WEST
COURTNEY KROEGER	MARK OLTHOFF	STEPHAN SKEPNEK	ANASTASIA WESTON
STEPHEN KROGMEIER	RACHEL ORR	CAROL SMITH	DANIEL WHEELER
JOE KRONAWITTER	JOANNA ORSCHELN	GARRETT SOLOMON	GILLIAN WILCOX
APURVA KUNTE	DANA OUTLAW	JOHN SOMMER	DANA BASSORE WILDERS
SEAN LAJAUNIE	KATHLEEN OVERTON	TRACY SPRADLIN	PEGGY WILSON
JESSICA LANGLEY	IAN PAGE	NADER STANFOD	VICKI WIND
JOSH LANGLOIS	RYAN PATTON	JANICE STANTON	KIM WINGATE
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Did you know?



Second Season at Law is an initiative aimed at increasing pro bono legal assistance through services provided by retired and semi-retired attorneys. This program allows attorneys the flexibility to choose when, where, and how they will offer their pro bono support. Many volunteers provide advice and counsel at a Self-Help Clinic offered in collaboration with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

2024 VAP SNAPSHOT



Anna retained her CNA license thanks to swift action by a hardworking volunteer attorney.

Anna contacted Legal Aid for help retaining her certified nursing assistant (CNA) license. Anna is a single mother working as a CNA. A resident of the facility where she worked claimed Anna harmed him. However, Anna could prove she was not even in the facility at the time of the alleged incident. Despite this, Anna was fired, and the state took action to begin the process of revoking her license.

Since this is such a specialized case, a volunteer attorney stepped in to help Anna. The attorney represented Anna at a meeting with the state and provided all evidence showing she could not have harmed the resident as alleged. As a result of this meeting, the proposed termination of her license was rescinded, and the matter and investigation were closed.

In less than two months, Legal Aid’s volunteer attorney helped Anna retain her employment and, in turn, her ability to provide food, clothing, and shelter for her children.



"i WAS SO GRATEFUL  
FOR HELP. IT WAS  
MY FIRST POSITIVE  
AND HELPFUL  
EXPERIENCE WITH  
THE LEGAL SYSTEM."

2024 DONATIONS & 2023-25 PLEDGES

Your support helps ensure fair & equal access to justice for our neighbors in crisis or experiencing poverty.

★ The law firms listed below donated at the rate of \$350 per attorney in the second year of our 2023-25 Justice for All Campaign. ★

SHOOK HARDY & BACON, LLP 3-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$258,300	GILMORE BELL, PC 3-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$27,300	LANGDON & EMISON 2-YEAR GIFTS OF \$10,500
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<b>2023-25 PLEDGES</b> BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP 3-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$30,000 REDFERN LAW FIRM, PC 3-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$1,050	MORGAN STANLEY MOUNT SCHOLASTICA, INC PATTERSON LEGAL GROUP THE PULSE LEGAL PUBLICATIONS ROWLAND FAMILY FUND SHAFFER LOMBARDO SHURIN TURNER FAMILY FOUNDATION	BRICE BARNARD DAVID & KATHERINE BARNARD THEODORE D. BARNES BRIAN BEAR CHRIS BECICKA JAMES & JUDITH BECK PAUL BECK BRYCE BELL ANGELA BENEDETTI JENNIFER BERHORST ABBY BEYRAU ALYSSA BIRD SCOTT BLAKESLEY VALERIE BLEVINS DANIEL & JANE BORNSTEIN JAMES R. BORTHWICK JOHN BOURDOW CJ BOYD KATHY & RONALD BREMER GERALD BRENNEMAN AMY BROZENIC KRISTIN BRUMM GARY BRUSH SHELLY BUCHANAN RHETT BUCHMILLER C. ROBERT BUCKLEY CATHLEEN BURNETT SCOTT & RHONDA BURNETT DEANNA & JEFFREY BURNS JORDAN BURNS SONYA BURRIS KIM BUSHEK KAREN CARNEY SHANNON CARNEY
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Continued on page 28

2024 DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

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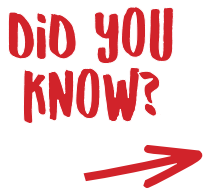


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HANNAH HARRIS BY	ELIZABETH JINKINS	
JERALD ENSLEIN		



Our neighbors with low incomes experience 1-3 civil legal problems each year. And these problems create huge barriers to life’s necessities — necessities like housing, health care, food, and freedom from violence.

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Legal Aid’s Heroes of Justice make convenient and sustaining monthly gifts.

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2024 GENEROUS ASSOCIATES DRIVE

The Generous Associates Drive is a multi-week competition run by associates to see which firm can raise the most money to benefit Legal Aid. The 2024 Drive raised \$8,861 from 101 individuals. To learn how your firm can get involved, please contact Karen Cutliff at [kcutliff@lawmo.org](mailto:kcutliff@lawmo.org).

**2024 Participating Firms:** Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner - \$1,004, Lathrop GPM - \$1,319, Polsinelli PC - \$3,127, and Spencer Fane - \$3,411.

2024 ENDOWMENT GIFTS

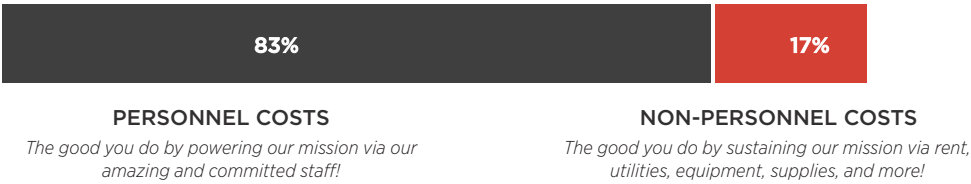
The following made pledges, payments, or direct donations to the Legal Aid of Western Missouri Endowment in 2024.

BRUCE BETTINGER	STEVEN STREEN	KENDA TOMES
HUYCKE DAVIS CHARITABLE FUND		

We attempt to reflect accurately and completely our donors’ names. However, if you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies, and contact us at [kcutliff@lawmo.org](mailto:kcutliff@lawmo.org) so that we can correct our records — and the digital version of this report.

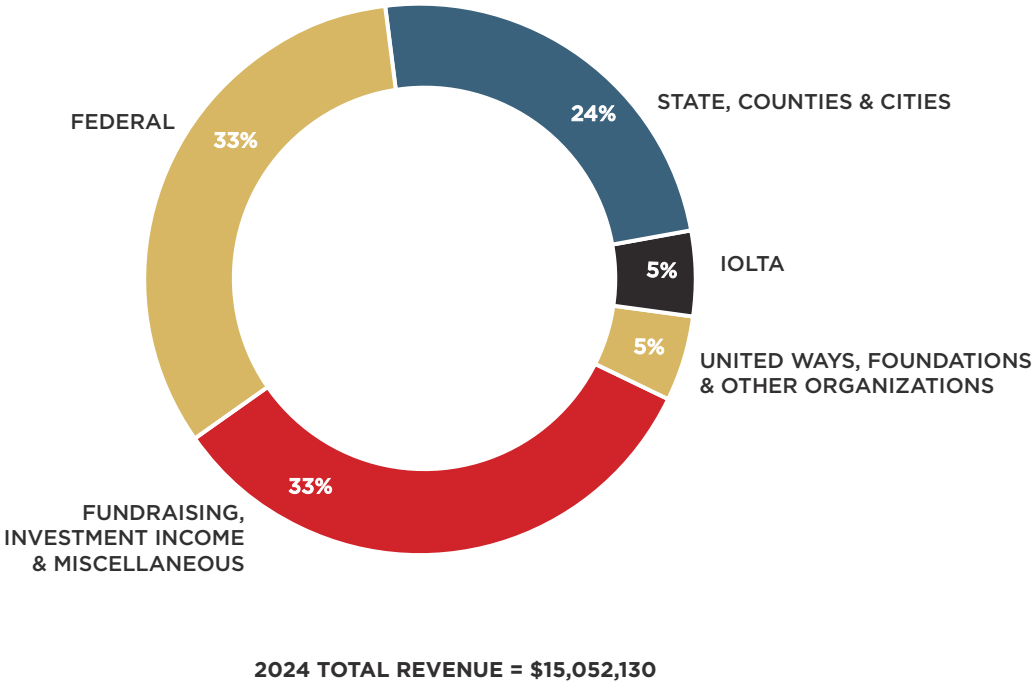
# FINANCIALS: YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

## 2024 EXPENSES



2024 TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS = \$11,183,952  
2024 TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL COSTS = \$2,316,424  
2024 TOTAL EXPENSES = \$13,500,376

## 2024 REVENUE



## LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

Legal Aid's online community is one of our most powerful assets. And people like you — people who care about justice — are the backbone of our work.

Following us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Bluesky, or Instagram will take you a few seconds, but for us, it's huge show of support and a great way to stay in touch!

Please scan the codes below and join our fight for justice!



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**"MY ATTORNEY WAS  
AMAZING. I AM SO  
APPRECIATIVE OF ALL  
THE HOURS SHE PUT IN  
TO MAKE SURE I WAS  
ABLE TO STAY IN MY  
APARTMENT."**

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT  
LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI  
LAWMO.ORG**

