



**LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION**
OF LOS ANGELES

Justice • Equity • Hope



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.lafla.org

MESSAGE FROM SILVIA & KAHN

Dear friends,

At LAFLA, we believe that justice is built in community. In 2025, we saw that belief in action like never before. Through wildfires that displaced thousands of people, immigration actions that drove our neighbors into the shadows, and cuts to social services that further strained struggling families, **we responded with strength and determination**—coming together to protect, support, and uplift one another in the pursuit of justice.

Together, we secured **one of the most significant tenant rights victories in Los Angeles history**: the Right to Counsel Ordinance, guaranteeing legal help for low-income tenants facing eviction. That victory was built through years of advocacy alongside tenants, grassroots organizations, and public partners across the region. Today, we continue helping tenants make their rights a reality through our leadership in Stay Housed LA.

Together, we launched a swift response to the wildfires. Within days, **our new Disaster Response team mobilized hundreds of staff, volunteers, pro bono attorneys, and trusted partners** to help survivors secure disaster assistance from FEMA, achieve housing stability, and begin the long road to recovery. We continue to stand with survivors on their journey, adapting our response to meet evolving legal needs—including co-filing the first private lawsuit to protect against illegal rent gouging.

Together, we helped immigrant families prepare for emergencies, seek refuge from persecution, and access multilingual legal services. Through our Unhoused People's Justice Project, we advanced groundbreaking litigation to defend civil rights, challenged the criminalization of poverty, and advocated for lasting solutions to homelessness.

Our achievements this year remind us that justice is never built alone. **Every client's victory advances justice for all and helps our communities thrive.** Lasting change begins with people advocating for themselves, their families, and their neighbors—and with our advocates standing beside them.

Your support as a donor, volunteer, or partner is critical in our fight for justice for the communities and clients we are humbled to serve. We are grateful to you for standing with us in 2025 and beyond. Most of all, we are grateful to our clients. Their courage, trust, and leadership guide everything we do. Together, we will continue building communities where everyone has the opportunity to live in safety, dignity, and justice.

¡Adelante!



Silvia R. Argueta
Executive Director
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles



Kahn A. Solnick
2024-2026 Chair
LAFLA Board of Directors



TRANSFORMING LIVES

HELPING ALTADENA RENTERS REBUILD AFTER THE 2025 WILDFIRES

“What LAFLA does is so critically important because most people don’t know how to navigate the legal system anyway—and to do it in crisis is almost impossible.”

Altadena is the only home Derrick has ever known. When he was four, he and his mother Carole moved into the house they still rent today, nearly five decades later. But in January 2025, the Eaton Fire forced them to evacuate, leaving their home severely damaged and contaminated by smoke and soot. They were awarded emergency aid, but when they tried to use it, they were told it had already expired.

“I called FEMA, and they were like, ‘I’m sorry, we can’t help you.’ Click!” Derrick recalled. With nowhere else to go, he charged a hotel room to his credit card.

Over the next six months, Derrick maxed out two more credit cards as he cycled through 16 temporary living arrangements. The instability became too much for 84-year-old Carole, who went to stay with family out of state.

Derrick sought disaster recovery aid from FEMA to help pay rent and replace essential belongings. But his application was denied simply because he had carried a modest renters insurance policy—coverage designed for theft and break-ins, not to rebuild a household from scratch.

“We ran through every bit of money we had. We were counting on that aid,” Derrick said. ***“But because we were renters, we were completely overlooked. It was like salt in the wound—like our lives didn’t matter because we didn’t own a home.”***



Derrick shows a report he wrote on his neighborhood as a child.



Derrick and Carole amid their salvaged belongings.

Even amid his own crisis, Derrick helped raise money for the local high school, organize donation drives, and vet resources for neighbors. But eventually, the weight of his circumstances caught up with him. He was close to giving up when he connected with LAFLA's disaster response team at a tenant rights' workshop at Pasadena's Jackie Robinson Center.

LAFLA helped Derrick navigate the appeals process—and ultimately secured the assistance he had been fighting for. Today, Derrick and Carole are back in their longtime home, rebuilding their lives day by day.

“Having LAFLA as an advocate has been such a blessing. It’s been like a lifeline for me,” Derrick said. ***“LAFLA gave us hope when we weren’t being heard by anybody. LAFLA made us feel seen. That’s what LAFLA did.”*** ••••

WILDFIRE RESPONSE

When the Palisades and Eaton wildfires devastated Los Angeles, LAFLA launched into action to help survivors navigate the long road to recovery.

Our Disaster Response team continues to provide sustained, multilingual legal support to survivors—**helping secure disaster benefits, protect housing and jobs, and prevent fraud and exploitation.**

With the support of 300+ volunteers, and in partnership with the American Red Cross, American Bar Association, Legal Services Corporation, and trusted local organizations, we're providing essential legal support across the region.



Attorneys Towne Morton and Carlos Valdes at a disaster resource center hosted by the American Red Cross.



Attorney Bohan Chen assists a wildfire survivor with a FEMA issue at a Chinese- and Korean-language disaster legal clinic.

DISASTER LEGAL SERVICES

Opened **1,814** disaster-related cases

Educated **2,620** survivors on their legal rights and resources

Provided services in **10** languages

Created **8** know-your-rights guides

Trained **1,040** disaster response partners

Assisted **645** survivors at FEMA and Red Cross centers in the immediate aftermath



Scan to see our wildfire recovery work in action!

BRINGING RENT- GOUGERS TO JUSTICE

While thousands of families lost their homes, some landlords saw an opportunity. Rents across L.A. County surged by 20%—and in some neighborhoods, as high as 130%.

LAFLA and our partners responded with **a first-of-its-kind legal action** holding major landlords accountable for exploiting survivors. Together, we helped roll back the illegal rent increases and advance our region's recovery by curbing exploitation and protecting displaced families.



Volunteer attorneys at one of LAFLA's Altadena disaster relief clinics.



Attorney Marvel Faulkner and post-graduate fellows Tyler Caceres and Julia Nguyen assist wildfire survivors.



Managing attorney Giovanni Pesce leads a meeting with FFRP members in December 2024.

SUPPORTING FORMERLY INCARCERATED FIREFIGHTERS

Incarcerated firefighters risked their lives to protect our communities. They deserve the chance to continue that service after their release. In 2025, LAFLA held expungement clinics helping members of the **Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program (FFRP)** clear their records so they can continue protecting homes and lives.

HOUSING JUSTICE

Through legal services, litigation, and advocacy, LAFLA prevents homelessness, protects tenants, and defends the rights of unhoused Angelenos. We help low-income tenants fight eviction, preserve affordable housing, and challenge systems that deepen poverty and displacement.

FULFILLING TENANTS' RIGHT TO COUNSEL

The tenant right to counsel is a proven strategy to prevent homelessness and expand access to justice. In 2025, LAFLA helped advance the right to legal help in eviction cases and make meaningful support a reality for renters.

We continued leading legal services for **Stay Housed LA**, a countywide partnership supporting tenants facing eviction. In Los Angeles, we helped secure the landmark **Right to Counsel Ordinance**, guaranteeing free legal services to low-income tenants across the city. In Santa Monica, we helped launch a four-year expansion of the city's Right to Counsel and Eviction Prevention Program. And in Long Beach, we supported implementation of stronger just cause eviction protections.



A tenant helped by Stay Housed LA shared her story in a short documentary on LA's right to counsel by Results for America. [Watch the video here.](#)

In the fall, we served as experts in a policy solutions sprint hosted by Results for America, exploring how cities nationwide can adopt the right to counsel to reduce displacement and prevent homelessness.



LAFLA and Stay Housed LA partners share insights at the Right to Counsel Convening in New York.

PROTECTING HOUSING STABILITY THROUGH IMPACT LITIGATION

In 2025, we filed litigation to challenge illegal rental fees, protect mobile home residents from mass displacement, advance affordable housing development, and more.

Thanks to LAFLA's advocacy in *Heffesse v. Portillo Guevara*, an appellate court affirmed that **tenants cannot be evicted over city code enforcement fees**—amounting to just \$4 in this case! As a result, LAFLA's clients were able to remain in their home, reinforcing protections for tenants in rent-stabilized properties.

Two key victories strengthened protections for low-income families with disabilities. In *Oceguera v. Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles* and *Murray v. Norwalk Housing Authority*, LAFLA challenged housing authorities that penalized Section 8 families for receiving In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) payments—tripling one mother's rent because she cared for her disabled son at home and terminating another client's housing voucher. The courts affirmed that IHSS cannot be treated as income for federally subsidized housing, securing the possibility of relief for tenants nationwide.

PURSuing JUSTICE & DIGNITY FOR UNHOUSED COMMUNITIES

In 2025, LAFLA and co-counsel continued **our landmark litigation challenging Los Angeles's practice of seizing and throwing away unhoused people's belongings**—including tents, sleeping bags, medications, and mobility devices—without any recourse. *Garcia v. City of Los Angeles* has since identified repeated misconduct by the City and affirmed the Constitutional rights of all Angelenos.

We also advocated for **a dignified response to homelessness that recognizes shelter—not criminalization—as the path forward**. Representing LA CAN and the Catholic Worker in *LA Alliance for Human Rights v. City of Los Angeles*, we fought to protect Angelenos' human and civil rights and to ensure that all residents, both housed and unhoused, have a voice in decisions that affect our city.

In addition, we continued combating “poverty tows”—the practice of seizing vehicles from people who cannot afford to pay parking tickets. California's **AB 1299**, passed in 2025, built on our previous litigation to expand access to payment plans for parking tickets—helping families prevent the devastating spiral into debt, unemployment, and even homelessness. . . .



Post-graduate fellow Lauren August and attorney Justin Fitzsimmons assist clients at a housing resource fair.

PROTECTING HOUSING STABILITY FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

“I came to LAFLA because my family may be low-income, but our rights should still be respected.”

For years, Eva has provided fulltime care for her adult son Isaac, whose severe disabilities cause frequent seizures and other life-threatening symptoms. Every day, Eva prepares his meals, manages his medications, handles his personal care, takes him to medical appointments, and monitors his condition for safety. Thanks to her dedication, Isaac can live at home with his family instead of in an institutional setting.

Because Isaac requires around-the-clock supervision, Eva cannot work outside the home. Instead, she receives modest payments through California’s In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, designed to aid family caregivers. As a low-income senior, Eva also relies on a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher to pay rent and keep her family stable.

That’s why Eva was shocked to receive notice that her rent was being tripled. The increase came after the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) counted Eva’s IHSS payments as income when determining her rent, despite new federal rules prohibiting housing authorities from doing so. Eva could not afford the sudden increase, but losing her

home would also mean losing her Section 8 voucher—threatening the housing stability that allowed her to care for Isaac safely at home.

“I was very stressed and worried, and I felt that what the Housing Authority was doing to me was unfair,” Eva said in Spanish. **“If I hadn’t had LAFLA’s help, I’m certain they would have left me on the street.”**

LAFLA and co-counsel went to court to help Eva challenge HACLA’s unlawful rent increase. **The court ruled in Eva’s favor, ordering HACLA to reverse the rent hike and stop counting IHSS support against families in federally subsidized housing.**

Eva’s victory extends far beyond her own family. HACLA administers nearly 53,000 Section 8 vouchers, and over one-third include a family member with a disability. Moreover, because all housing authorities in the country are subject to the same federal rules, this ruling could help protect low-income families nationwide. ••••



Eva with Isaac (right) and her younger son (left).



Managing attorney Manuel Villagomez appears on Univision to discuss the case.

LAFLA empowers people to secure the resources they need to support their households and build long-term financial stability. We help people access and maintain critical public benefits, including food and healthcare; protect workers’ rights to help families keep the income they’ve earned; and secure student debt relief for people harmed by predatory colleges or unable to work due to disability.

PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY

In 2025, we celebrated a milestone in our long-running campaign to protect Californians from benefits theft: the successful rollout of chipped EBT cards for CalFresh recipients! The new system—the first in the nation—strengthens security and helps ensure uninterrupted access to food benefits. By the spring, all 4.4 million EBT clients in California were issued chip-and-tap-enabled cards. One year later, California Governor Gavin Newsom reported that **theft of food and cash benefits had dropped by 83%!**



HOW WE GOT HERE: Emi (pictured) was just one LAFLA client who was shocked when her CalFresh account was completely drained by thieves—and the County demanded she reimburse them for the stolen funds. LAFLA intervened, and her benefits were restored. In our litigation *Esther Ortega et al., v. Kimberley Johnson, et al.*, LAFLA and co-counsel scored a major victory ruling that the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services must replace stolen food benefits.

To strengthen statewide advocacy and service delivery, LAFLA hosted our bi-annual Social Security Disability training, bringing together legal and community advocates from across California to improve support for clients navigating SSI, SSDI, and other disability benefit systems. ••••

We advance equal access to justice through targeted outreach and specialized services that help communities overcome systemic barriers and exercise their rights. We help formerly incarcerated people access opportunity; empower survivors of domestic violence to achieve safety and independence; and support survivors of trafficking, persecution, and crime to secure lawful status in the United States.



Attorney Christine Yoon joins client **Carmen**, 90, at her citizenship ceremony!

Access to justice depends on the ability to understand and be understood. In 2025, LAFLA worked with public agencies and lawmakers at the local, state, and federal levels to provide trainings, policy recommendations, and technical expertise on language access in housing, healthcare, the courts, and civic participation.

Our advocacy helped shape new tenant protections under California **AB 863**, requiring eviction notices to be provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean, so renters can understand and defend their rights. In September, we filed **amicus briefs before the Ninth Circuit** to advance language rights in immigration proceedings. Our advocacy supported asylum seekers from Senegal who were placed in detention after they struggled to complete their applications in English. We worked to ensure no one is shut out of life-changing protections because of language barriers.



Pro bono attorneys attend a LAFLA training on asylum claims.

PRO BONO PARTNERS SUPPORT REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

The **Permanency Project**, LAFLA's annual pro bono immigration clinic, brings together students from the UC Irvine School of Law and attorneys from Orrick to help refugees and asylum seekers pursue lawful permanent residency. This year, volunteers assisted clients from Russia, Uganda, Guatemala, and Venezuela while receiving hands-on training and mentorship from LAFLA's immigration experts.

ADVANCING LANGUAGE JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION & HOUSING

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS TO GAIN SAFETY & FREEDOM

From securing Domestic Violence Restraining Orders to navigating divorce, child custody, housing, and critical financial benefits, legal aid is key to survivors' safety, stability, and a fresh start.

In 2025, we maintained three onsite shelter-based legal service programs, ensuring survivors can access legal help in safety. As members of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, we also continued our leadership to improve coordinated responses for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We trained law enforcement, city officials, and—for the first time—public defenders on legal protections for survivors, including enforcing restraining orders, housing and workplace protections, child custody issues, and firearms laws.



Special Counsel Paula Savage at a U.S. Coast Guard event on sexual violence in the military.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF PROJECT IMPACT

2025 marked the final year of Project imPACT, an innovative reentry initiative that helped formerly incarcerated Angelenos rebuild their lives through integrated legal, mental health, housing, and employment services. As a partner in the City-led program, LAFLA helped participants clear criminal records, secure occupational licenses, and overcome barriers to employment. **Fewer than one-third were rearrested**—demonstrating the power of the wraparound service model to create lasting stability.



Attorneys David Schlusell and Chelsea Bell accept a certificate from Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass recognizing LAFLA's work in Project imPACT.

TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS' JOURNEY TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

“What may seem like a process on paper has truly been a life-changing experience for me—one that represents hope, perseverance, and the realization of the American dream.”

April and Joy came to Los Angeles from the Philippines, believing they were on the path to a better life. They were recruited by an agency for teaching positions in the United States, taking on significant debt to make the journey. But upon arrival, they discovered those jobs did not exist—and that they had become victims of human trafficking.

April was forced to work as a caregiver without pay, while Joy was placed in hazardous work conditions. They returned each night to a bare room crowded with other victims, enduring constant abuse and harassment from their “employer,” who threatened them with arrest or deportation if they spoke out.

By the time they escaped, they had not seen their families in six years. Their visas had expired, and they were deep in debt. Though free from their captors, they still lived in fear.

But soon, April and Joy found LAFLA—and our advocates stood by their side for the next 12 years.



April holds her naturalization certificate.

First, LAFLA helped April and Joy secure humanitarian relief, enabling them to live freely in the United States and to finally reunite with their families. As they began building new lives, LAFLA connected them to employment resources, social services, and public benefits. Later, when they became eligible for green cards, LAFLA helped submit their applications.

Recently, over a decade since first seeking LAFLA's help, **April, Joy, and their families raised their right hands and took the Oath of Allegiance, officially becoming U.S. citizens.** This powerful milestone resulted from years of perseverance, courage, and support.

“You have made a lasting impact not only on my life, but on my future, and my family’s as well,” said Joy. “Your work changes lives, and I am one of the many who will always remember and appreciate it.” ••••



Joy and her husband celebrate their citizenship ceremony.

API COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We expand access to justice for LA's diverse communities with dedicated help lines in Filipino, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Japanese. We also advocate for language justice in public programs.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

We help people get, keep, and use public benefits, including food and healthcare. We protect workers by fighting wage theft, denial of unemployment benefits, wrongful firings, and discrimination. We secure student debt relief for victims of predatory for-profit colleges.

EVICITION DEFENSE CENTER

Our pioneering Eviction Defense Center transformed homelessness prevention services when it was founded in 1983. We continue to lead the way with Stay Housed LA, a countywide collaboration to prevent evictions through legal representation, know-your-rights education, and case management.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

Through a community lawyering approach, we work with tenants and tenant organizations to challenge housing injustices, enforce tenant protections, and advocate for stronger housing laws.

IMMIGRATION ACCESS

We assist survivors of violence, human trafficking, and other serious harm to gain secure

status in the U.S., including visas, asylum, and citizenship. Our Torture Survivors Project advances a trauma-informed, culturally intelligent service model nationwide.

RESTORING COMMUNITIES

We support formerly incarcerated individuals seeking a fresh start by expunging criminal records and traffic tickets, assisting with occupational licensing, and removing barriers to housing and opportunity.

SURVIVOR & FAMILY JUSTICE

Our assistance with emergency restraining orders, custody and visitation orders, child support, and more empowers survivors to overcome core obstacles on the journey to safety, such as protection for children and financial freedom.

UNHOUSED PEOPLE'S JUSTICE PROJECT

We partner with community organizations, unhoused residents, and tenants to end the criminalization of homelessness, protect the civil rights of unhoused people, and prevent displacement from shelters and temporary housing.

VETERANS JUSTICE CENTER

We help Veterans rebuild their lives with access to a steady income, a stable home, and healthcare—upgrading less-than-honorable discharges and disability ratings to secure eligibility for VA benefits. ••••



Members of LAFLA's leadership and management teams at the 2025 Access to Justice Gala.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

We bring justice into reach by embedding our services where people already seek help—inside courthouses, medical centers, and other resource hubs. Through partnerships with law firms, law schools, and hundreds of volunteer attorneys, we provide high-quality legal assistance where and when it is needed most.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships at major healthcare providers across LA County, patients can be referred to LAFLA by their medical teams—sometimes just down the hall. Our nationally recognized Medical-Legal Partnership model helps patients and their families overcome social, legal, and economic problems that impact health and wellbeing.

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

We partner with four Los Angeles County courts to expand access to legal information and resources for people navigating the legal system. With legal information and guidance on court forms, our **Self-Help Legal Access Centers** empower community members to tackle issues like eviction, family law matters, restraining orders, and more.

MOBILIZING THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

LAFLA leads the **Pro Bono Training Institute (PBTI)**, a free online training hub that equips private attorneys to support low-income communities' legal needs. In 2025, PBTI developed 18 trainings—including new sessions on legal issues facing Los Angeles wildfire survivors—expanding its library to 211 modules!



UC Irvine law students and Orrick attorneys volunteer at a LAFLA immigration clinic.

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY OFFICE

We offer LAFLA's full range of services to the unique Santa Monica community, including housing rights, family law, and public benefits.

BUILDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST PIPELINE

We are deeply committed to developing the next generation of public interest advocates. **In 2025, we welcomed 29 summer law clerks, including our first-ever disaster recovery fellow**, reflecting our growing response to communities affected by natural disasters. Eight clerks participated in our LEIF Fellowship, designed to encourage future careers in public interest law. And at the end of the summer, 12 fellows proudly swore the oath to become licensed attorneys—ready to serve our communities.

BY THE NUMBERS

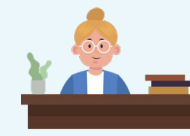
Each year, LAFLA's services impact the lives of over **100,000 people**.

In 2025, our advocacy created **\$65.7 million in long-term economic benefits** for our clients—the people of Los Angeles.

SERVICES



22,436
cases open



29,235
self-help services
provided

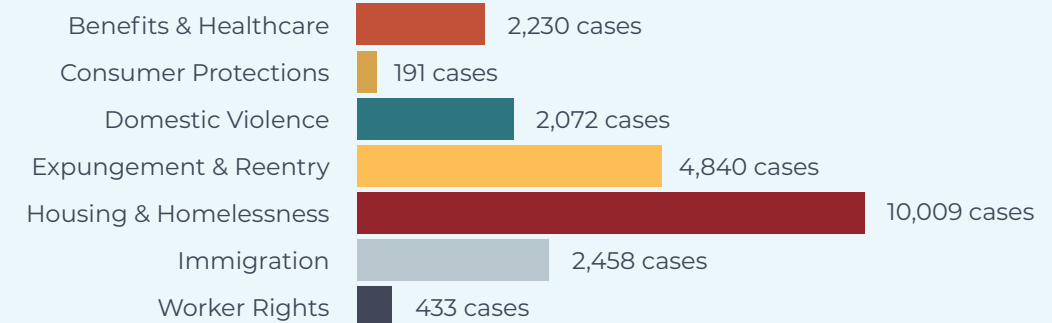


9,196
people joined
educational events



300,000+
people accessed
online resources

ISSUES



REACH



6,674
clients with
children



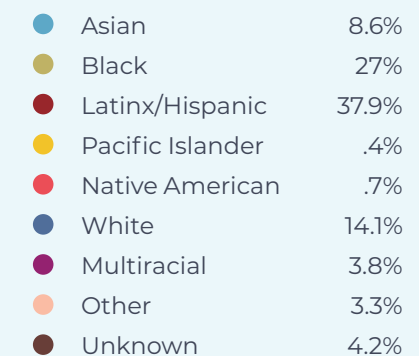
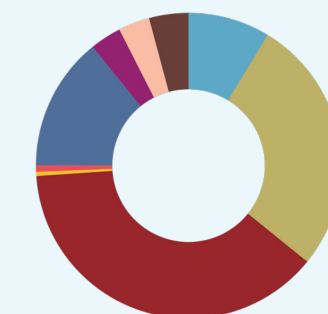
5,109
clients with
disabilities



877
Veterans



2,338
senior citizens



ACCESS



5
neighborhood
offices



4
self-help
centers



3
domestic
violence clinics



6
medical-legal
partnerships



29+
languages
served

ACCESS ^{TO} JUSTICE GALA



Executive Director Silvia Argueta (center) with honorees Paris Barclay, Jack Londen, and Glenn Pomerantz.

Our annual Access to Justice Gala celebrates the individuals and organizations whose leadership, generosity, and advocacy are helping build a more just Los Angeles. In 2025, we were thrilled to honor Emmy Award-winning television director **Paris Barclay** with the Access to Justice award for his exemplary support of social justice and disinvested communities. The evening also honored **Glenn Pomerantz** (Partner, Munger, Tolles & Olson) as

a dedicated champion of equal justice for low-income communities, and **Morrison Foerster** and **Jack Londen** (Senior Of Counsel) for mobilizing the legal community to expand access to justice through pro bono service.

Anthony, a firefighter who spent the year helping communities recover from the Palisades and Eaton wildfires, shared his story at the Access to Justice Gala. Despite his proven service as an emergency responder, a past conviction barred him from pursuing a firefighting career in Los Angeles County. With LAFLA's help, Anthony cleared his record and now proudly protects the community he loves.



Anthony speaks at the 2025 Access to Justice Gala.

- DEFENDER**
Munger, Tolles & Olson
- CHAMPION**
Michael & Laura Wallace
- GUARDIAN CHAMPION**
Gibson Dunn
Latham & Watkins
Ontra
- GUARDIAN**
City National Bank
HKA
Kirkland & Ellis
Morgan Lewis
Morrison Foerster
Molly Munger & Steve English
O'Melveny
Glenn & Carol Pomerantz
Proskauer
Sidley
Skadden
Ave Tucker & Dianne Bostick
- GUARDIAN ADVOCATE**
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan
Sullivan & Cromwell
- ADVOCATE**
Brad & Claire Brian
Fox
John Frank & Diann Kim
Glaser Weil
Hogan Lovells
Barbara & Zach Horowitz
Kendall Brill Kelly
Manatt
NBCUniversal
Paul Hastings
Sheppard
Marc M. Seltzer & Susman Godfrey
- PATRON**
Amgen
Covington
Debra Fischer & Sherwin Frey
Foley & Lardner
Jenner & Block
Loeb & Loeb
McGuire Woods
Southern California Edison
Wasserman Foundation
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
- PARTNER**
Amazon
Christopher & Paris Barclay
DLA Piper
Karen Frederiksen & Gordy Goldsmith
Gallagher
Greenberg Glusker
Jim Hornstein & Victoria Diamantidis
Innovative Artists
Moldex
Netflix
Norton Rose Fulbright
Reed Smith
Seyfarth
Sony Pictures
Spertus Josephs & Minnick
Martin & Karen Tachiki
The Walt Disney Company
Rita Tuzon & Richard Stone
Wilson Sonsini

16

ANNUAL FINANCIALS

REVENUE & SUPPORT	
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$ 70,908,519
GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 4,533,238
SPECIAL EVENTS (GROSS)	\$ 927,170
MISC. INCOME	\$ 4,260,631
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 80,629,558
EXPENSES	
PROGRAM	\$ 82,941,422
SUPPORT	\$ 8,002,274
FUNDRAISING	\$ 430,158
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 91,373,854
DONATED SERVICES	
DONATED SERVICES	\$ 17,832,475

2024-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT**
Kahn A. Scolnick
- VICE PRESIDENT**
Lynette M. Jones
- SECRETARY**
Joseph Farrell
- TREASURER**
Brianne Weiss
- COMMUNITY COMMITTEE CHAIR**
C. Cleo Ray
- Eric J. Bakewell
Wendy R. Cabil
Kyle Casazza
Sean A. Commons
Carissa Coze
Marc Feinstein
Debra L. Fischer
Gary E. Gans
Felix Garcia
Fanny Gomez
Naomi Haywood
Amy Lerner-Hill
James E. Hornstein
Kimberly Klinsport
Bethany Kristovich
- Michael Maddigan
Clementina Lopez
John Maldonado
Matthew Marmolejo
Virginia F. Milstead
Kevin J. Minnick
Christopher Rivas
David Lewis Sagal
Kareen Sandoval
Marc M. Seltzer
Douglas A. Thompson
Nicholas A. Trutanich
Ronald B. Turovsky
Jaqueline Vazquez
Pamela L. Westhoff



Members of LAFLA's Board of Directors at the 2025 Access to Justice Gala.



DEDICATED TO ELENA ACKEL

OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year, LAFLA was deeply saddened by the passing of the inimitable Elena Ackel—an extraordinary advocate who devoted her career to confronting the systems that keep people in poverty.

A pioneering force behind LAFLA's work on student loans and government benefits, Elena also achieved victories for healthcare access and people with disabilities. She secured lasting protections for tens of thousands of Social Security recipients in *Lopez v. Heckler* (1983), and helped save two major L.A. County hospitals in *Harris v. Board of Supervisors* (2004).

A true believer in the mission of legal aid, Elena devoted over 50 years of service to LAFLA. Asked why she stayed, she once replied: **“Because everything is still so decidedly unfair, and the stakes are very high.”**

She received many acknowledgements for her work, including the California State Bar's Loren Miller award. Her colleagues remember that she loved nature, had the heartiest laugh, and never, ever suffered fools.

To Elena, we can only say: Thank you for everything.

¡Elena Ackel, presente!



**LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION**
OF LOS ANGELES

Justice • Equity • Hope

RON OLSON JUSTICE CENTER • EAST LOS ANGELES • LONG BEACH •
SANTA MONICA • SOUTH LOS ANGELES

WWW.LAFLA.ORG

