Legal Aid is a Lifeline in a Time of Crisis
DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

As we reflect on this past year of extreme hardship, heightened awareness of inequities across our society, and the rapidly increasing need for legal services, we are grateful for you and your unwavering support for equal justice. Legal aid is a lifeline in a time of crisis and you helped extend that lifeline to tens of thousands of Washingtonians in need in 2020.

Together, our community of lawyers, judges, legal aid providers, and supporters of access to justice rallied and donated thousands of virtual pro bono hours and dollars to help people solve legal problems.

In 2020, LFW invested more than $11.3 million in grants to Washington’s legal aid system, including more than $1.8 million in emergency grants in response to COVID-19. As a result, more than 20,000 families received free legal services for help with urgent legal issues, many due to the pandemic. In addition, new policies to reform the civil and criminal justice systems were advanced successfully at the state and county levels by many of our partners, benefiting hundreds of thousands of workers and families.

In 2021, LFW’s grantmaking will continue to fight unjust systems and target inequities in the civil legal system, where people seeking justice in a wide variety of cases — including housing, immigration, worker rights, and domestic violence — need a lawyer to navigate complex legal systems. Even though we are slowly coming out of the pandemic, the number of low-income people continues to rise, putting increasing demand on an overburdened and underfunded legal aid system. With your help, we can and must do better.

We look forward to working with you as we recover from the pandemic to give low-income people and those historically unrepresented a seat and voice at the table to forge a more equitable future.

Thank you for walking with us toward justice.

With gratitude,

CAITLIN DAVIS  MIKE PONTAROLO  JOHN HOERSTER  MICHELLE MOERSFELDER
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Funding Systemic Reform

LFW is committed to long-term systemic change, and we currently commit more than half of our funding for impact litigation and policy reform to advance rights for people in poverty.

5-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE OVERTURNS DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES
Washington farmworkers have been at especially high risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, where their work has been more essential and dangerous than ever. But for the last 60 years, state law has allowed farmworkers to be excluded from overtime pay despite long, hazardous workdays. Jose Martinez-Cuevas and Patricia Aguilar, dairy workers from Yakima County, challenged this discriminatory practice in a lawsuit by Columbia Legal Services (CLS).

In a landmark decision, the Washington Supreme Court ruled the exclusion violated the state constitution’s “fundamental right for Washington workers to health and safety protections.” The Court also denied a motion to reconsider the case earlier this year. The Court's ruling entitles the 300 workers in this case to overtime pay, and this decision could impact more than 200,000 farmworkers in our state.

ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO COUNSEL
2021 saw a remarkable state legislative session that bolstered access to justice for Washington’s poorest residents. Three bills listed below affirmed what legal aid advocates have been saying for years: low-income people should have right to legal representation in civil cases.

LEGAL AID FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS
HB 1072 removes the restriction on using state funds to serve undocumented people with civil legal issues. This prohibition was contrary to the state’s commitment to not discriminate against its residents on the basis of immigration status.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTIONS
SB 5160 provides a right to legal counsel for people facing eviction. This is a huge win for tenants that will stem the tidal wave of need when the state’s eviction moratorium is lifted by resolving disputes and keeping families in their homes.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR YOUTH
HB 1219 provides a right to legal counsel for youth in dependency court proceedings. The current system for child legal representation was inadequate and resulted in a patchwork system that varied by county, where Black and Indigenous children of color were more likely to be removed from their parents and kept in the child welfare system longer than white children. This bill represents a huge step forward to a future where every single child will have an advocate in court.

Plaintiffs in Martinez-Cuevas v. DeRuyter Brothers Dairy, Inc. at the Washington Supreme Court.

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In a year of extraordinary needs and deepening inequities, we are proud to have made impactful and responsive investments in justice. The COVID-19 pandemic created complex legal challenges for low-income people. High unemployment and economic insecurity resulted in an eviction crisis with an estimated 200,000 renters in Washington unable to pay their rent\(^1\). Intimate partner violence has risen along with COVID shutdowns and isolation\(^2\). Communities of color, already disproportionately impacted by civil legal issues due to structural racism in the legal system, have been disproportionately harmed by COVID-19. Injustices in our systems have left communities of color at greater risk of infection and more likely to incur housing insecurity, denial of unemployment benefits, and other legal issues.

**RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

To ease the burden of unstable funding for legal aid programs, LFW responded to the pandemic by coordinating funding from various sources, providing emergency grants and resources to respond to increased needs, and reducing administrative load on programs.

In partnership with the Office of Civil Legal Aid and the King County Dept. of Community and Human Services, we distributed more than $1.8 million in funding for legal services related to eviction defense, unemployment, domestic violence, personal protective equipment, and more.

With LFW’s enhanced support, legal aid providers quickly adapted their services to meet the escalating needs and advocates mobilized to target systemic injustices through impact litigation and policy reform.

**COVID-19 IMMIGRANT RELIEF FUND**

Last fall, LFW proudly supported immigrant-led community organizations like Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, Fair Work Center, and Scholarship Junkies in partnership with Governor Inslee and the Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services in establishing the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund. The fund provides economic relief to people impacted by COVID-19 but excluded from federal relief funds because of immigration status. Thanks to this coalition, we disbursed $60 million in financial assistance to tens of thousands of families to help them stay housed and safe.

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\(^1\) Crosscut, “WA scrambles to avoid mass evictions as moratorium nears end” [https://crosscut.com/news/2021/02/wa-scrambles-avoid-mass-evictions-moratorium-nears-end](https://crosscut.com/news/2021/02/wa-scrambles-avoid-mass-evictions-moratorium-nears-end)

2020 Grantees

Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Benefits Law Center
Benton-Franklin Legal Aid
Blue Mountain Action Council
Center for Justice
Chelan-Douglas County Vol. Attorney Services
Civil Survival Project
Clallam-Jefferson County Pro Bono Lawyers
Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Columbia Legal Services
Communities Rise
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid
Disability Rights Washington
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima & Kittitas

Eastside Legal Assistance Program
Fair Work Center
Freedom Project
King County Bar Association
Kitsap Legal Services
Laurel Rubin Farmworker Justice Project
Lavender Rights Project
LAW Advocates of Whatcom County
Legal Counsel for Youth and Children
Living with Conviction
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Northwest Justice Project
Nuestra Casa
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
Scholarship Junkies

Seattle Clemency Project
Sexual Violence Law Center
Skagit Volunteer Lawyer Program
Snohomish County Legal Services
Solid Ground
South King County Discipline Coalition
Spokane County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
Tacomaprobono
Community Lawyers
TeamChild
Thurston Co. Volunteer Legal Services
Unemployment Law Project
WA Immigrant Solidarity Network
West African Community Council
Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services
MEET CHRIS
Chris's childhood was tumultuous, with a father addicted to drugs and sentenced to life in prison. Without his father around, Chris lacked a strong family support system, and he turned to gangs, drinking, and drugs. In a short period of time, Chris picked up several juvenile convictions and dropped out of high school.

When Chris reached adulthood, he wanted a different life. He got his GED, a job, and moved away from criminal behavior. Though he was proud of the growth he had made as a person, Chris had always wanted to be in a career where he could help the people around him. He tried to apply for a volunteer position at the fire department, but he was turned away because of his juvenile record.

Chris felt ashamed of his past and scared to seal his juvenile record because of the rejection he received.

But, after a few years, he built up the courage to contact Yakima County Volunteer Attorney Services (VAS) to see if they could help.

Yakima VAS was able to seal his juvenile record, taking a huge weight from Chris's shoulders and opening doors to future career opportunities. Chris plans to attend college and register for an EMT program.

Legal Aid for Individuals & Families
Yakima VAS helps seal a juvenile record and make a dream possible
Your gifts help vulnerable people across Washington

**LEGAL PROBLEMS SOLVED IN 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer &amp; Bankruptcy</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence &amp; Family Law</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Youth Justice</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eviction Defense &amp; Housing</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Benefits &amp; Workers’ Rights</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration/Naturalization</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability, LGBTQ+, &amp; Civil Rights</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Health, Nonprofit Law, Wills, etc.)</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2020 CLIENT RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS**

LFW is responsive to the changing needs of communities across Washington. We use demographic data to examine who is being served by legal aid and who needs more resources. We compare client service data to the poverty statistics for counties across the state to inform our grantmaking decisions.
Benefits Law Center secures disability benefits and pathways out of poverty

Benefits Law Center (BLC) helps provides life-saving legal advocacy to one of our society’s most invisible populations: people living with physical and mental disabilities, many of whom are homeless, who need help to obtain the resources necessary to secure financial, medical, and housing stability.

MEET DANNY

Prior to linking with BLC’s attorneys, Danny had filed multiple applications for disability benefits over many years but was always denied, as his mental health disabilities made it nearly impossible for him to navigate the system. Danny filed a new application with BLC’s help and, through the diligence of BLC, Danny was awarded his SSI disability benefits in February 2020. Danny was able to receive appropriate medical coverage and found the financial stability to live independently.

LFW is proud to fund BLC with an annual general operating grant. Your donations help us fund 40 legal aid programs like this every year.
Public Funding for Legal Aid

The Equal Justice Coalition (EJC) educates policymakers about the importance of civil legal aid and advocates for sufficient public funding for civil legal aid programs, many of which are funded by LFW.

STATE FUNDING FOR LEGAL AID

The state of Washington stepped up with a record funding increase for civil legal aid thanks to the bipartisan support in the Legislature and the civil justice advocates who raised their voices during the EJC’s Virtual Lobby Days. In addition to new funding associated with new right to counsel bills, the Legislature’s final biennial budget fully funded the ongoing civil legal aid COVID-19 response services that began with temporary emergency funds in 2020. This investment means expanded legal aid work around eviction defense, unemployment benefits, protection against domestic violence, and other issues exacerbated by the pandemic will continue over the next two years and help ensure our state’s COVID recovery is fair and equitable.

FEDERAL & LOCAL FUNDING

The EJC worked with Washington’s Congressional delegation to push for increased funding in legal services in the annual budget and in emergency COVID-19 relief packages including the CARES Act. In King County, the EJC’s advocacy led the King County Council to allocate emergency funds to LFW to distribute to local programs in 2020.
Campaign for Equal Justice

The Campaign is our state’s largest annual fund drive for civil legal aid in Washington. Thank you for contributing to fund equal access to justice. Since 1992, the Campaign has raised more than $30 Million!

2020 NUMBERS

6,700 Campaign Donors

$2 Million Raised

100 Law Firms

The Rainier Cup is awarded annually to the county with the highest percentage of attorneys donating to the Campaign for Equal Justice.

2020 WINNER – 26% participation

Whatcom County

The Associates Campaign is a group of 10 law firms in Seattle that raise money for civil legal aid.

2020 WINNER – highest average gift

Keller Rohrback
Thank you to our Justice League donors, who give monthly to support the Campaign for Equal Justice. Thank you to these donors for contributing $100,000+ in 2020 to ensure equal access to justice.

Jim Degel & Jeanne Berwick
Davis Wright Tremaine
Lucy Lee Helm

Perkins Coie
Brad Smith & Kathy Surace-Smith

Joshua Anfinson
Lauren Berkowitz
Donna Fay Mustard Bond
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Andrea Carino
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Matthew Pearson
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Diana Perez
Nancy Retinas
Kathryn Rosen
Ella Vincent
Mark Wagner
Kristine Waldo
Kip Wayerski
Emma Wright
Robert Wyler

First Virtual Event
GOLDMARK LUNCHEON
With your help, we raised more than $420,000 for legal aid. Thank you!

Lembhard G. Howell
Goldmark Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Doug Baldwin Jr.
Keynote Speaker
Corporate Campaign for Equal Justice

THANK YOU to the following corporate leaders for investing in equity and justice.

$40,000
Microsoft

$2,500
AT&T
Canterbury Consulting

$10,000
Amazon
Starbucks
T-Mobile

$1,000
Buell Realtime Reporting
JND Legal Administration
Lighthouse Global
Russell Investments
Seattle Seahawks

$5,000
Expedia Group

$500
BECU

$3,500
Seattle Mariners
Washington Trust Bank

We cannot succeed as companies if the communities in which we are based are not doing well. The right lawyer at the right time can make all the difference in the world for someone. It can literally change the trajectory of their life.

BRAD SMITH
Chief Legal Officer and President, Microsoft
The King County Law Firm Campaign has proven to be one of the most efficient and effective ways to support civil legal aid in our region. We give to this campaign each year and make it part of our annual budget to make “access to justice for all” a reality.

JAMES WILLIAMS
Seattle Office Managing Partner, Perkins Coie
The Endowment for Equal Justice is the only sustainable fund for legal aid in Washington and the largest fund of its kind in the nation. Founded in 2000 by David Andrews, Mark Hutcheson and Ada Shen Jaffe, the Endowment exists to provide stability in the form of long-term, unrestricted funding to legal aid organizations through its annual disbursement to the Legal Foundation of Washington. The Endowment for Equal Justice cultivates a broad community of engaged donors and stewards their gifts to enable civil legal aid organizations and those they serve to overcome individual injustices and dismantle systemic barriers to equitable justice in Washington State.

Reach 20

With your help, we’ve raised more than $5 Million to grow our investment fund for legal aid to more than $20 Million

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR $5,000+ DONORS

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*Members of the Justice Society, the Endowment’s legacy giving program  To see a list of all Reach 20 donors: legalfoundation.org/endowment/reach20/
Justice Society Honor Roll

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Judge Rebecca M. Baker
Jim A. Bamberger
Kirsten Barron and Steven Brinn
Beth and Rebecca Bloom
Paula Boggs and Randee Fox
Bruce Brooks and Debra Prinzing
Carolyn Cairns
Greg and June Dallaire
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Sharon L. Grant
Lucy Lee Helm
John and Carol Hoerster
Scott and Turie Holte
Donald J. and Lynda Horowitz
Mark A. and Julie Hutcheson
Mark A. Johnson
Karen and Ronald Kohut
J. Richard Manning
Gail Mautner and Mario Shaunette
John McKay
Michael McKay
Geoff Revelle
Sara Sandford
Ada Shen-Jaffe and Dr. Kenneth M. Jaffe
Judge Michael Schwab
Paul Stritmatter
Linda and David Strout
Robert V. Taylor and Jerry Judkins Smith
Tracey Thompson
Pat and Ed Wagner
Gordon W. Wilcox
Nancy Williams

The Honor Roll consists of the founding members of the Justice Society who have named the Endowment for Equal Justice as a beneficiary of their estate, thereby planting a seed of justice that will bloom for future generations.

ENDOWMENT FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

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"We joined the Justice Society because everyone in our state deserves equal access to an attorney when times are tough. Leaving a legacy of sustainable legal aid funding was as easy as completing a form naming the Endowment for Equal Justice as a beneficiary in our retirement accounts."

BETH & REBECCA BLOOM

2020 Financial Statements

Revenue
Donations and Pledges $1,683,003
In-Kind Donations $47,506
Investment Income $2,603,263
Total Revenue $4,333,772

Expenses
Grant to LFW $847,512
Program $23,423
Fundraising $234,318
Total Expenses $1,105,253

Statement of Financial Position
Net Assets Beginning of Year $18,998,351
Net Assets End of Year $22,226,869
Change in Assets $3,228,518
LFW Advances Equity in Yakima

In 2019, LFW examined the racial demographics of poverty populations in Washington, looking for areas where legal aid is underfunded. One area that stood out was the Yakima Valley, which has the highest percentage of low-income people of color in LFW's grantee network, as well as the highest poverty rate in the state. 68% of people in poverty in the region are Latinx. Using a racial equity lens, we compared the Yakima Valley with other regions similar in size, geography, and immigrant populations.

LFW’S IMPACT: From our analysis, it was clear that Yakima was underfunded, and the grants that we had previously allocated for the area were not sufficient to meet the need for civil legal aid. To begin to remedy this disparity, LFW increased the grant for Yakima Co. Volunteer Attorney Services in both 2019 and 2020, helping the program add a full-time staff person and increase capacity to help those in need. Yakima VAS is one of 16 pro bono legal aid organizations around the state that LFW funds, and in 2020, Yakima VAS’s 84 volunteer attorneys were able to help 351 families.

THANK YOU!