I got the legal help I needed to protect me and my children from an abusive situation. It would not have been possible without legal aid.
Justice Denied: Unmet Legal Need in Arkansas

Two-thirds of adults have experienced a civil legal problem in the past 18 months.

Only 14% made their way to a court, lawyer, or legal aid.

Arkansas has the fewest attorneys per capita in the country, with one attorney for every 500 Arkansas residents.

The state’s 25 least populous counties are critically underserved, with one attorney for every 1300 residents in those counties.

1 in 5 Arkansans qualify for civil legal aid.

By comparison, there is one legal aid attorney for every 16,050 eligible Arkansans.

30,000 CALLS EACH YEAR FOR HELP

The Center for Arkansas Legal Services and Legal Aid of Arkansas receive 30,000 calls each year for help.

More than half are turned away because they lack the resources or capacity to meet the demand.
The Center for Arkansas Legal Services ensures fairness for low-income clients in 44 counties located in western, central, and southern Arkansas. In 2015, we accomplished this with a staff of 25 attorneys and paralegals, as well as 337 volunteer attorneys who accepted cases through our regional pro bono programs: Volunteer Organization for the Center for Arkansas Legal Services (VOCALS) and the River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP).

2015 AT A GLANCE

- **23 ATTORNEYS**
  - 2 paralegals who provided $3.9 million worth of services
- **4,737 CASES IMPACTING**
  - 12,084 people, including 5,193 children and 229 veterans
- **337 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS**
  - 375 cases at a value of more than $462,000
- **$2.3 MILLION**
  - In financial recoveries or losses avoided for clients

WHO WE HELPED

- **592 CONSUMERS**
  - 592 consumers victimized by scams or harassed by creditors
- **402 CHILDREN**
  - 402 children who were abused, neglected, or in need of permanency
- **522 ELDERLY/DISABLED**
  - 522 elderly or disabled people needing financial security
- **672 TENANTS/HOMEOWNERS**
  - 674 tenants and homeowners facing eviction or foreclosure
- **1,974 FAMILIES**
  - 1,974 families in need of stability through orders of protection, custody, or guardianship
- **573 INDIVIDUALS**
  - 573 individuals needing help accessing employment, health coverage, or education

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

**REVENUES** $3.14 million

- 72% Legal Services Corporation
- 10% Public Legal Aid Fund
- 09% IOLTA Mortgage Settlement Funds
- 05% Private Donations
- 04% Grants & Contracts

**EXPENDITURES** $3.42 million

- 64% Direct Services
- 20% Support Staff
- 16% Operational Costs
Crisis Averted for Expectant Parents
An expectant father walked into the Pine Bluff office of the Center for Arkansas Legal Services with his pregnant wife desperately seeking legal help. The client had received an eviction notice for non-payment of rent, as well as two utility shut-off notices. He and his wife were expecting a baby in less than eight weeks. Managing Attorney Vernon Walker connected his client with utility assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and helped the family work out a plan for getting current on their rent so they could stay in their home. With their utilities restored and eviction averted, the parents were able to provide a secure home for their new baby.

Home Preserved for Senior on Fixed Income
A 65-year old woman on a fixed income was having trouble making her monthly mortgage payments. She had applied for a loan modification, but was not getting any response from the mortgage company. CALS staff attorney Joycelyn Bell reviewed her file and helped the client resubmit the entire loan modification package. The client was subsequently approved for a loan modification, reducing her monthly payments from $800 per month to just over $400 per month. As a result, the client was able to preserve her primary asset and stay in her home.

Grandparents Secure Guardianship, Grandchildren’s Future
A pair of hardworking elderly clients reached out to the Center for Arkansas Legal Services to get a guardianship over their grandchildren. While living with their parents, one of the children suffered injuries and another started to struggle with anger issues. The grandparents began to care for the children, but they needed to establish guardianship in order to access medical care and daycare. With the help of VOCALS attorney Bonnie Robertson, the grandparents were able to secure a guardianship, enabling the grandparents to fully provide for the needs of their grandchildren.
Legal Aid of Arkansas

Legal Aid of Arkansas ensures fairness for low-income clients in 31 counties located in northern and eastern Arkansas. We also serve clients statewide through our Low Income Taxpayers Clinic and Medical-Legal Partnerships. In 2015, we accomplished this with a staff of 27 attorneys and paralegals, as well as 353 volunteer attorneys who accepted cases through our pro bono programs.

2015 AT A GLANCE

22 attorneys and 5 paralegals who provided $5.8 million worth of services

6,485 cases impacting 16,000 people, including 7,209 children and 452 veterans

353 volunteer attorneys who handled 613 cases at a value of more than $753,000

$4.1 million in financial recoveries or losses avoided for clients

WHO WE HELPED

657 consumers victimized by scams or harassed by creditors

414 children who were abused, neglected, or in need of permanency

374 elderly or disabled people needing financial security

717 tenants and homeowners facing eviction or foreclosure

3,187 families in need of stability through orders of protection, custody, or guardianship

1,136 individuals needing help accessing employment, health coverage, or education

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES $2.76 million

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<tr>
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EXPENDITURES $2.61 million

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<td>Operational Costs</td>
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Legal Aid of Arkansas

CLIENT STORIES

Cutting Through Red Tape
An Arkansas Children’s Hospital patient had been waiting for Medicaid coverage for about a year. The child had not been to any well baby check-ups. Due to her lack of insurance coverage, the mother was worried about not being able to pay for the expense of seeing a doctor. She contacted Legal Aid during our outreach blitz regarding Medicaid applicants who had not received their determinations within 45 days. Staff Attorney Casey Trzcinski Sherman filed a fair hearing request and shortly thereafter the child was approved for ARKids. Now, the child has insurance coverage and the mother is able to make regular pediatric appointments.

Fighting for Victims
A client came to Legal Aid after her husband broke her nose by punching her in the face. He had adopted her children from a previous relationship. Staff Attorney Giana Messore first secured a 10-year Order of Protection, then followed up with a divorce action to give her finality. The client obtained sole custody of the children, child support, and was awarded a car, debts to be repaid to our client, and half the proceeds of the sale of another car. We also obtained a name change for the client and children.

Protecting the Vulnerable
The client’s sister had been appointed his guardian in 2003 for the limited purpose of settling a tort claim. The guardianship was to terminate after the settlement funds were properly deposited in a bank. The sister continued to act as the client’s guardian, however, spending the entirety of his $200,000 settlement recovery. Pro Bono Attorney Tom Garner of Glencoe, Arkansas, terminated the sister’s guardianship over the client and negotiated a recovery for the client. The sister deeded some family property to the client, with the agreement that it would be appraised and the sister would make monthly payments to make up the difference between the value of the property and the original settlement she spent.

WHERE WE HELP

[Map of Arkansas showing service areas]
Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year

R. Scott Morgan

Jefferson County VOCALS Attorney of the Year
Ramsay, Bridgforth, Robinson & Raley LLP

Chris Hayes

Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly Service Award
Davis, Clark, Butt, Carithers & Taylor, PLC

Jack Butt

Equal Access to Justice Panel Outstanding Service Award
Nickle Law Firm

W. Ray Nickle

Tenth Judicial District Attorney of the Year
Attorney at Law

Chris Hayes

Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership Attorney of the Year
Walmart

Benjamin Poole

River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project Attorney of the Year
Attorney at Law

Shelton E. Sargent

Pulaski County VOCALS Attorney of the Year
PPGMR Law

R. Scott Morgan

For more information about the 2015 Pro Bono Award winners, visit:
http://arlegalaid.org/give-help/pro-bono-awards
http://www.arlegalservices.org/probonoawards
CORPORATE, FIRM, AND FOUNDATION DONORS

Champions of Justice ($50,000+)

Walmart Stores, Inc.

Benefactors of Justice ($20,000-$49,999)

Friday, Eldredge & Clark

Defenders of Justice ($10,000-$19,999)

Wright, Lindsey & Jennings

Supporters of Justice ($5,000-$9,999)

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Kutak Rock

Axiom

Mitchell Williams

Hilburn, Calhoon, Harper, Pruniski & Calhoun

Tyson Foods Inc.

Dale

Williams and Anderson

Baxter, Jewell & Dobson

Jefferson County Bar Association

McMath Woods PA

Branch, Thompson, Warmath & Dale

Kamps & Stotts PLLC

Hankins Law Firm

Lax, Vaughan, Fortson, Jones & Rowe PA

Hardin & Grace PA

Smith, Williams and Meeks

Caldwell & Berkowitz

Huckabay Law Firm

McMullan Law

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz

Jefferson County Bar Association

Munson, Rowlett, Moore & Boone, PA

Baxter, Jewell & Dobson

Kamps & Stotts PLLC

NEA Data

Branch, Thompson, Warmath & Dale

Lax, Vaughan, Fortson, Jones & Rowe PA

Mackie, Wolf, Zientz & Mann PC

Chapter AK PEO Sisterhood

Lax, Vaughan, Fortson, Jones & Rowe PA

McMath Woods PA

Shults & Brown

Conner & Winters LLP

McMullan Law

Smith, Williams and Meeks

Craighed County Bar Association

Munson, Rowlett, Moore & Boone, PA

St. Bernard's Hospital

Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus

NEA Data

Stanley & Woodard, PLC

Dillard’s General Counsel

Newland & Associates

Stephens Inc.

Dover Dixon & Horne

Rose Law Firm

Waddell, Cole & Jones

Entergy

Second Presbyterian Church

Watts, Donovan and Tilley

First Security Bank

Shults & Brown

Gary Holt & Associates

Snap Fitness of Central Arkansas

Gill Ragon Owen, PA

Shults & Brown

Hankins Law Firm

Smith, Williams and Meeks

Kutak Rock

Hardin & Grace PA

St. Bernard's Hospital

Mitchell Williams

Hiland Dairy

Tyson Foods Inc.

Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly Service Award

Williams and Anderson

Jefferson County VOCALS

The Testamentary Trust of Wesley Gibbs

Tenth Judicial District

Bill & Patty Waddell

Taylor, PLC

Equal Access to Justice Panel

Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield

Rose Law Firm

The Testamentary Trust of Wesley Gibbs

Baker, Donelson, Bearman,

Second Presbyterian Church

Waddell, Cole & Jones

Caldwell & Berkowitz

Rose Law Firm

Williams and Anderson

Baxter, Jewell & Dobson

Rose Law Firm

Hilburn, Calhoon, Harper, Pruniski & Calhoun

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The Testamentary Trust of Wesley Gibbs

Tenth Judicial District

Taylor, PLC

Equal Access to Justice Panel

Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly Service Award

The Testamentary Trust of Wesley Gibbs

Bill & Patty Waddell

*Donations were received in the 2015 calendar year and were gifts made to the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation, Volunteer Organization of Center for Arkansas Legal Services, or Legal Aid of Arkansas through the Campaign for Legal Aid.
### Benefactors of Justice ($2,500-$4,999)

- Henry & Justice Annabelle Imber Tuck

### Defenders of Justice ($1,000-$2,499)

- Lori A. Chumble
- Nate Coulter
- Judge Audrey R. Evans
- Chuck & Susan Goldner
- Erlinda Merrilees
- Rodney Nagel
- Kathryn W. Roberts
- Frank B. Sewall
- Robert S. Shafer
- James D. Sprott

### Supporters of Justice ($400-$999)

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<tr>
<th>Jordan Abbott</th>
<th>Kevin Burns</th>
<th>Angela Duran</th>
<th>A. Vaughan Hankins</th>
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Circle of Justice (Gifts up to $399)

Emily Abbott
Rose Adams
Gaylynn Alden
Nicolas Alexander
Shana Alexander
Rhonda Allen
Tony Allen
Whitney Allison
Maggie Arroyo
Jess Askew
Toby Atkinson
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Amy Bagnall
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Jackie Barbot
John Benjamin Barnett
Jason Barrett
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Baret Bell
Joyce Lynn Bell
Judge Kathleen Bell
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Vada Berger
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Jarred Parrish
Ashley Peoples
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Rev. Steve Hancock
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Judge Patricia S. Harris
Sandra Y. Harris
Julie Harrison
Charles L. Harwell
James Hathaway III
Marcus Hatley
Pamela Haun
Marien Henderson-Santamaria
Kathryn Henry
Gloria Hernandez
Heather Hersh
In memory of Kenneth B. Baim
Karen Baim Reagler

In memory of Casey Croxton
Colene Gaston

In memory of Hardy W. "Casey" Croxton
Shery Crum Boyles

In memory of Jack Deacon
Pamela Haun

In honor of Senator Joyce Elliott
Stacy Sells & Tim Gauger

In memory of Carl E. Fielder
Pamela Haun

In memory of Jack Fink
Matt House

In honor of Judge Harry A. Foltz
Joel D. Johnson
In honor of Susan & Chuck Goldner
Philip & Ranko Oliver

In honor and memory of Chief Justice Jim Hannah
Judge Alice Lightle

In honor of Amy Dunn Johnson
Chapter AK PEO Sisterhood

In honor of Amy Dunn Johnson
David Neumeyer

In honor of Amy Dunn Johnson
The Wesley Class

In honor of Senator David Johnson
Stacy Sells & Tim Gauger

In memory of F.H. Martin
Judge Kim M. Smith

In memory of James H. McKenzie
Glenn Vasser

In honor of Charles "Skip" Mooney
Jordan Meador

In memory of Carolyn Jean Raddatz
David Schoen

In honor of Richard A. Reid
Robert B. Branch, Sr.

In honor of Lee Richardson
Jim McClarty

In memory of Burton Schoen
David Schoen

In memory of Daniel M. Sprott
James D. Sprott

In memory of Professor Ray Trammell
Jim Ross

In honor of Justice Annabelle Imber Tuck
Reverend Annabelle Smith

In honor of Dr. Sherece West-Scantlebury
Stacy Sells & Tim Gauger

In honor of Keesa Smith
Tamisha Cheatham

In honor of Mary Kathryn Williams
Kathryn W. Roberts

PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

Wayne Ackerman Wayne Ball Frank Booth Fuller Bumpers Mitchell Cash
Storm Adams Joe Barrett Misty Wilson John Burnett T. Lindsey Castleberry
Tina Adcock-Thomas Benjamin Barton Borkowski Ronald Burnett Mark Chadick
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William P. Allison Michael Bell Eric Bray Arkie Byrd Kristin Clark
Robyn P. Allmendinger Steve Bell David Bridgforth Bill W. Byarlay Suzanne Clark
Billy Allred Kimberly Bennett John Bridgforth Joseph D. Calhoun Ralph Clifton
William Greg Almand Paul Bennett William C. Bridgforth Brian Campbell Degen Clow
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J.R. Andrews Lee A. Biggs Rep. Mary Broadaway Sheila F. Campbell Robert Coleman
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Laura Avery Allen W. Bird Brandy Brown Ruben Cantu Mike Cone
Brent Baber Matt Bishop Chad Brown Leta Caplinger Patrick Conley
Amber Wilson Bagley Clayton R. Blackstock Kristen Brown Jim Carfagno Michalene Connealy
Andrew Bailey John Blair Thomas Brown Jodi Carney Robert Conner
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*Attorneys listed are those who had active cases in 2015
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Too many Arkansans that need our help had to be turned away last year, and the same will be true this year. As Arkansans and as lawyers, we can do better for those less fortunate in our community. Please consider a gift to the Campaign for Legal Aid. 100% of the donations received go directly to the Center for Arkansas Legal Services and Legal Aid of Arkansas to provide legal aid that supports families, preserves homes and maintains economic stability.

For a monthly investment of just $20, $50, or $100, you can cover what it costs for legal aid to represent a domestic violence victim, a veteran struggling to readjust to civilian life, or a child in need of a stable home or special education and fulfill your responsibility under Arkansas Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1. Monthly donors become part of our 6.1 Society and receive a decal and a listing on our website.

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There are many reasons to volunteer. It’s a great opportunity to network, to learn new skills, and, most importantly, to give back to the community. Our volunteer opportunities aren’t just limited to taking cases. We offer a wide range of services, and attorneys, law students, and community members of all backgrounds are needed to support our efforts. Volunteers can do something as simple as helping us keep legal fact sheets up to date or as involved as giving one-on-one consultations to clients at outreach events.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to sign up through legal aid, visit http://www.arlegalservices.org/probonocoordinator
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Bar Number _________________________________________________________________________ ______

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☐ Equal Access to Justice Panel (EAJP): Legal Aid of Arkansas
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☐ River Valley Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP): Center for Arkansas Legal Services
☐ Volunteer Organization of Center for Arkansas Legal Services (VOCALS): Center for Arkansas Legal Services

Practice Areas - Case Types:   _____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

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Notes:   ___________________________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________________________

Please return form to:
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c/o Arkansas Access to Justice
1300 West 6th Street, Room 110
Little Rock, AR 72201

For more information about how you can help bridge the justice gap in Arkansas, please visit our website at: http://www.arlegalservices.org/probonocoordinator
As legal aid attorneys, we work to make sure that the most vulnerable Arkansans are on equal footing with the most powerful. Otherwise, ‘justice for all’ is really ‘justice for some.’

-Dustin Duke, Managing Attorney, Center for Arkansas Legal Services
To champion equal access to justice for all regardless of economic or social circumstances