


2015 Annual Justice Partners Report

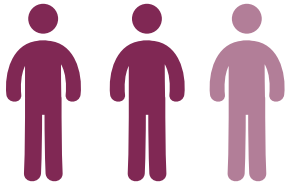


Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation
Center for Arkansas Legal Services
Legal Aid of Arkansas



**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.**

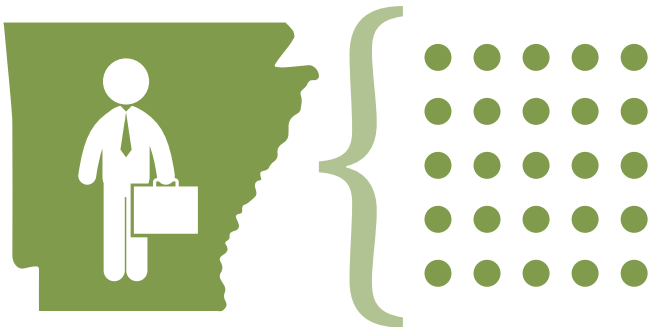
Justice Denied: Unmet Legal Need in Arkansas



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.



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



1 in 5 Arkansans qualify for civil legal aid.



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.



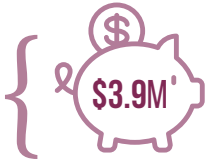
More than half are turned away because they lack the resources or capacity to meet the demand.

Center for Arkansas Legal Services

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
02 PARALEGALS



23 attorneys and 2 paralegals who provided \$3.9 million worth of services

4,737
CASES IMPACTING



12,084 PEOPLE

4,737 cases impacting 12,084 people, including 5,193 children and 229 veterans

337 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS
375 CASES



\$462,000

337 volunteer attorneys who handled 375 cases at a value of more than \$462,000

\$2.3
MILLION



\$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

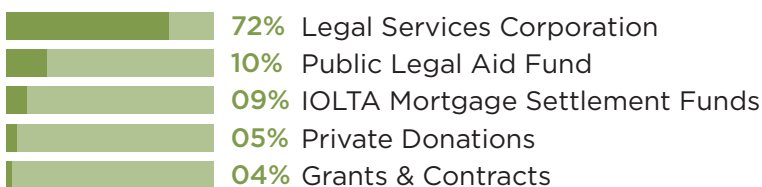


573
INDIVIDUALS

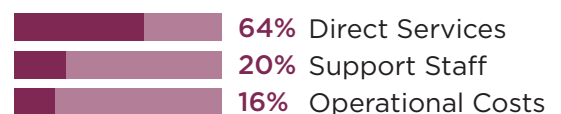
573 individuals needing help accessing employment, health coverage, or education

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES **\$3.14 million**



EXPENDITURES **\$3.42 million**



Center for Arkansas Legal Services

CLIENT STORIES

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,



As a result,

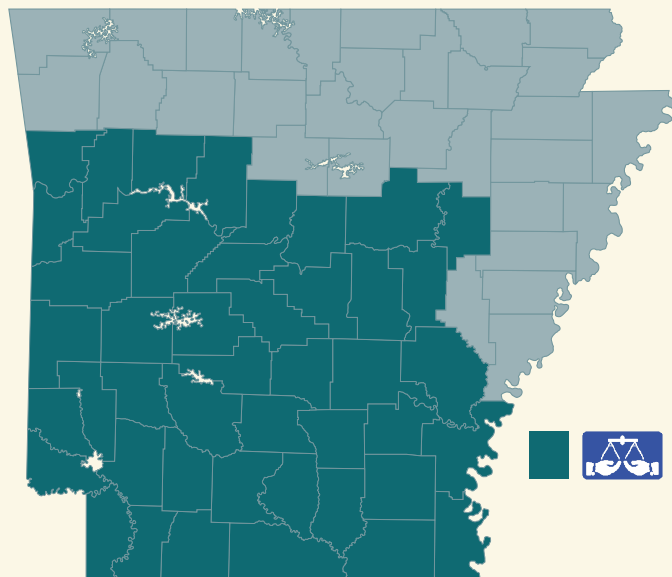
the client was able to preserve her primary asset and stay in her home.

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.



WHERE WE HELP

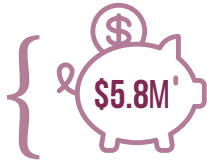


Legal Aid of Arkansas

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
05 PARALEGALS



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

6,485
CASES IMPACTING



16,000 PEOPLE

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

353 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS
613 CASES



\$753,000

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

\$4.1
MILLION



\$4.1 million in financial recoveries or losses avoided for clients

WHO WE HELPED



657
CONSUMERS

657 consumers victimized by scams or harassed by creditors



414
CHILDREN

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



374
ELDERLY/DISABLED

374 elderly or disabled people needing financial security



717
TENANTS/HOMEOWNERS

717 tenants and homeowners facing eviction or foreclosure



3,187
FAMILIES

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



1,136
INDIVIDUALS

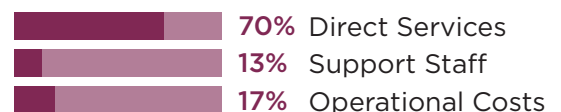
1,136 individuals needing help accessing employment, health coverage, or education

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES **\$2.76 million**



EXPENDITURES **\$2.61 million**



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,



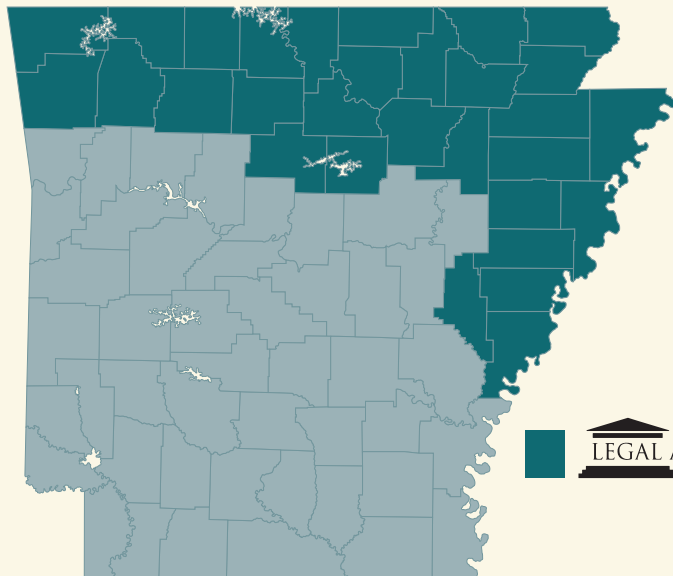
and was awarded a car, debts to be repaid to our client, and half the proceeds of the sale of

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



Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year



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

David Bridgforth



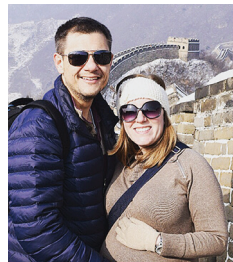
**Equal Access to Justice Panel
Outstanding Service Award**
Nickle Law Firm

W. Ray Nickle



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

Jack Butt



**Outstanding Medical-Legal
Partnership Attorney of the Year**
Walmart

Benjamin Poole



**Tenth Judicial District
Attorney of the Year**
Attorney at Law

Chris Hayes



**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>

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INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Champions of Justice (\$5,000+)

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

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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 Neumeier

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

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David Schoen

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In honor of Lee Richardson

Jim McLarty

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

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In honor of Bill Waddell

Rose Adams

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

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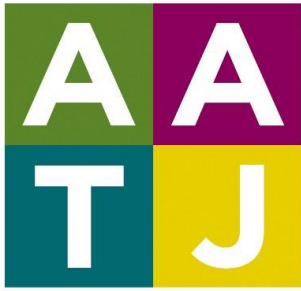


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