

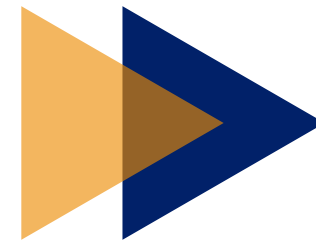


IMPACT REPORT

2021



**In 2021, our
attorneys &
paralegals**



opened **21,346 cases**



and obtained **\$29.5 million** in financial
benefits to our clients

In 2021, our attorneys & paralegals...



protected **3798 people** from eviction/foreclosure



helped **919 families** achieve stability through custody, guardianships & adoptions



obtained legal protection for **850 survivors** of domestic violence



obtained rental assistance for **2201 tenants**



obtained food stamp access for **414 clients** & their children



STEVE GOTTLIEB

A Word From the Executive Director

Every year I marvel at how long I have stayed with Legal Aid. I am often asked why. Sometimes I even get a strange look when I tell people that I have been executive director since 1980.

My answer is always the same: I came because of the mission and stayed because of the people. There has never been a year when that was more true than last year.

I regularly tell people about the challenges we faced in 2021—dramatic increases in housing cases, in incidents of domestic violence and in problems with unemployment benefits. I mention our need to advise clients about their rights without doing physical outreach. And I note our increased responsibility to inform the community at large about the needs of our clients.

In the face of these challenges, the people who work at Legal Aid did what we always do. We responded.



- We handled the increased cases and provided our clients almost \$30 million in client benefits.
- We did cutting-edge work which affected not only individuals, but people living in poverty across the state.
- We created new community education initiatives through explainer videos and launched an improved self-help platform on GeorgiaLegalAid.org.
- We used local and national media to document the problems of our clients and boosted their stories to illustrate the needs of clients across the country.

And all the while, we continued to protect the most vulnerable of our clients—people with disabilities, clients with hospitalized children, seniors, people with AIDS and cancer, people in danger of losing their homes, relatives raising other people’s children, victims of domestic violence or children fleeing from violence in other countries—all because our staff had a passion to protect them.

I am very proud of what we did in the face of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident we will continue to develop innovative solutions to these challenges in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SG' or 'Steve Gottlieb'.

Steve Gottlieb
Executive Director



KIMBERLY CHARLES

Welcome to Our New Deputy Director

We are pleased to formally announce that in 2021, we hired a deputy director to help lead Legal Aid through our next chapter. Kimberly Charles, former managing attorney of our Clayton office, takes the charge. Kimberly brings to the role over 16 years of experience at Atlanta Legal Aid.

From the moment she entered law school until now, Kimberly has represented low-income clients in civil legal matters. She began her law school tenure by representing tenants facing eviction, and she has since dedicated her entire career to civil legal services.

In her new role as deputy director, Kimberly acts as a liaison between clients, staff, the Board of Directors and our justice partners. Kimberly also serves as a Fulton County Magistrate Judge in a part-time capacity. Please join us in welcoming Kimberly to our leadership team!

With Thanks to Our Board

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president
John Fleming, *Vice President*
Yendelela Neely Holston,
Treasurer
Luke A. Lantta, *Secretary*
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Jennifer Whitton



In 2021, our housing caseload increased by 60%.

Housing Justice



Our attorneys responded quickly to this increase in need. In 2021, they took more than 8,000 housing cases.



Attorneys and paralegals also helped clients get over \$18 million in essential housing benefits.

Preventing Displacement:

Connecting Tenants to Rental Assistance



STEVEN BLOCKER

When the pandemic first hit,





In 2021, calls to our office related to domestic violence were up 50%

Family Law & Domestic Violence Protection



Our attorneys helped 850 survivors of domestic violence get legal protection against their abusers. They also helped 919 families achieve stability through custody, guardianships, and adoptions.



And they helped an additional 474 parents get child support to take care of their families. Our clients collectively gained access to \$2.5 million in family law benefits in 2021.

An Adoption Story: Forever Home for a Child with Autism

Aaron* was six years old when Legal Aid attorney Jack Grote first met him. At the time of their meeting, Aaron was in a foster home, under the care of a great foster mom. Aaron has autism and is mostly non-verbal. He has pretty significant behavior issues, including self-injurious behavior. But his foster mom was very active and engaged with Aaron, and was trying to get help for his self-harming behaviors.

So Jack got to work to secure Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy. This is a therapy for children with autism; the younger children get access to this therapy, the better. Starting in December of 2020, Aaron began getting 20 hours of ABA therapy a week. Jack also got Aaron speech language services, which has helped Aaron find his voice. By spring, they'd seen major improvements with his self-injurious behaviors and Aaron's foster mom decided to move forward with adoption. Aaron is officially out of foster care and with his new mom!





Stable Housing for Domestic Violence Survivor

When Ms. Hudson reached out to Legal Aid, she was living in a homeless shelter with her seven year-old son. Legal Aid paralegal Ana Stanfield flagged her case and reached out to learn more about her story.

Ms. Hudson, like so many of our clients, had fled violence. Trying to leave a bad family situation in New Jersey, she told her husband she wanted to get a divorce. In response, he attacked her. She took her son and fled far away, to Georgia.

Ana quickly realized that Ms. Hudson qualified for Victim Legal Assistance Network resources, including the housing plus program. Through this program, we work to help victims of crime get stable housing. Ms. Hudson qualified for this program because she was working; she was living in a shelter; she was in need of stable housing; she had a child; and she was a victim of domestic violence. Ana helped Ms. Hudson to apply, and she received \$1,000 to use for her security deposit to get an apartment.

Ms. Hudson now has stable housing for her family and Legal Aid is helping with her divorce, so that she can move on from her abusive past.



In 2021, Legal Aid attorneys secured over \$2 million in unemployment benefits for our clients.

Unemployment & Consumer Law



With Legal Aid's help, 370 people who were out of work due to the pandemic received unemployment benefits.



Our attorneys opened 2,500 cases related to income maintenance and benefits, resulting in \$3.3 million in benefits to our clients.

Essential Unemployment Benefits for Single Mother

When COVID-19 hit and the schools shut down, Ms. Davis* had to leave her job in order to care for her son. She worked as a caretaker, visiting elderly people's homes and helping them with daily tasks. In addition to the complications of being a single mother and trying to parent, work, and teach her child during a pandemic, Ms. Davis was immunocompromised and especially at risk of contracting COVID.



Ms. Davis applied for unemployment and was approved. But the relief was short-lived; her employer appealed the decision, stating that she had voluntarily left the job for childcare needs. Ms. Davis was threatened with losing her benefits and having to pay them all back. That's when Atlanta Legal Aid got involved.

We conducted a hearing over the phone. Atlanta Legal Aid attorney Ellen Dorsey laid out the facts and showed how Ms. Davis had done everything right -- and furthermore, that Ms. Davis was eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, and should have been receiving that benefit if she was not eligible for traditional Unemployment. She asked the judge to send Ms. Davis' case to the PUA department to determine eligibility. The judge agreed and approved Ms. Davis' appeal, allowing her to keep the funds she received through the appeal process.



Health Law



In 2021, we secured \$2 million in health benefits for our clients, including nearly \$1 million for Medicare/Medicaid/Peachcare benefits.



Our attorneys and paralegals helped 218 people with disabilities receive benefits, healthcare, or housing.

Health Law Partnership Helps Family Find Relief

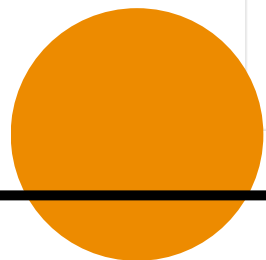
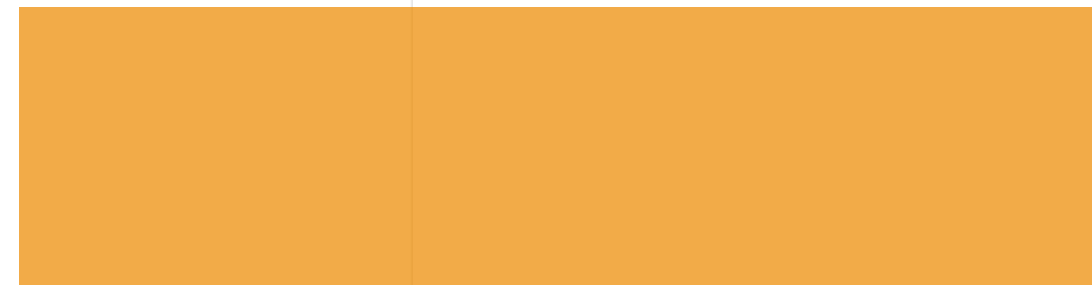
In 2018, McKenzie* was diagnosed with leukemia. At the time, McKenzie's family had applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, but they were denied. So the Health Law Partnership got involved. McKenzie had been determined medically eligible, but for reasons unknown at the time, her family was deemed to not be financially eligible. So law students from Georgia State University started digging. Through their research, they realized that the Social Security Administration had not communicated at all with the parents in Spanish. The students collected documents, reviewed financial eligibility standards, and argued to the court that her application should be reopened.

In April, the judge found that McKenzie is entitled to benefits moving forward. They also agreed to re-open the previous case, which would make McKenzie eligible for backpay and would have a huge impact on her family.



Disability Accommodations for Young Child

Erik & Vivian's Story





Community Education

Six Facebook Live Sessions



1,776 people viewed our Facebook Live sessions in 2021



3,944 People Reached

Legal Aid provided critical, accessible community education through Facebook Live.



Seven Quick Explainer Videos Released

We produced and released seven one-two minute explainer videos with actionable info.



Over 6,000 Video Views

These videos were viewed over 6,000 times by people seeking legal self-help.

GeorgiaLegalAid.org & AyudaLegalGeorgia.org

Atlanta Legal Aid completed a refresh on the statewide legal self-help websites

GeorgiaLegalAid.org and AyudaLegalGeorgia.org, updating the content and the design. The websites received 732,672 visits in 2021!

Our team worked hard to make sure all of the legal content was updated, the website was accessible to people with visual impairments, the layout was functional, and that all resources were made available in Spanish.



Legal Aid in the Press

WABE

Rental Assistance Programs
In Metro Atlanta Won't Pay
Tenants Directly

ABC News

For many motel dwellers,
eviction ban provides no
relief

Washington Post

Evictions Loom After
Supreme Court Decision

AJC

Pandemic Exacts Heavy
Financial Toll on Georgians

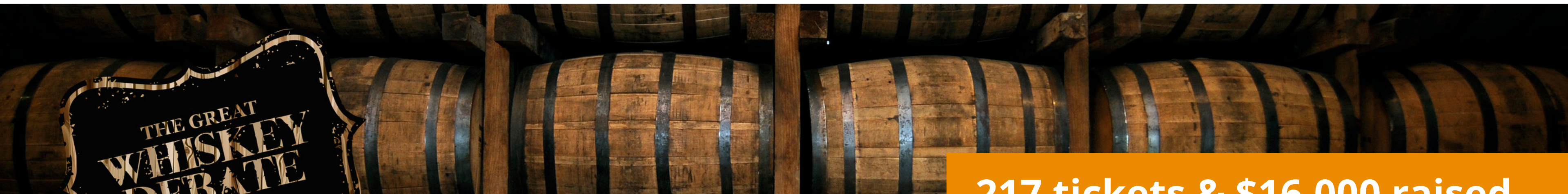
Atlanta Civic Circle

Atlanta Braces for Crush of
Evictions

The New Republic

Silicon Valley's Answer to the
Affordable Housing Crisis

Events & Fundraisers



217 tickets & \$16,000 raised

Disco
Locke Lorde
Daily Report
My Friend's Bottle Shop
B Riley Advisory Services
Legare Attwood & Wolfe

Paul Hastings
Schulte Roth & Zabel
Shook Hardy & Bacon
Slotkin Law
Veritext Legal Solutions

Beam Computer Forensics
Berman Fink Van Horn
CJS Contracting, Inc.
Dawn Elizabeth de Klerk
Deborah Johnson

Eversheds Sutherland
Jennifer Whitton
Kathleen Dumitrescu
Kathryn Hecker

Lauren Frisch
The Leonard Firm
Meagan Griffin
Talis Trevino
Taryn & Nick Harper

NEADWERX
THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED™

BakerHostetler

THE CHAMPION FIRM
PERSONAL INJURY + WRONGFUL DEATH



VANLANDUYT GREER
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS

justice jam

104 tickets & \$12,000 raised



Daily Report
Johnson & Alday
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Gentry Law Firm LLC
Jones & Swanson
Taylor English
The Holder Group
Judge Ann Harris

Cipperly Law & Mediation
Judge Tara Riddle

BakerHostetler LLP
Judge Brendan Murphy
Cobb Bar - Family Law Division
Cobb Bar - Young Lawyer Division
Judge Jane P. Manning
Judge Kimberly Childs
Moore Colson & Company
Warner Bates

Rhodes Law
Tabitha Ponder,
Mediator/Arbitrator

841 tickets & \$34,000 raised

Ballard Spahr
LLP

 **BARNES &
THORNBURG** LLP

 **THE COCHRAN FIRM**

 **PRATT CLAY LLC**
PRECISION LITIGATION

 **Garland
Samuel
& Loeb**

 **TCW Global**

Alston & Bird
Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
BakerHostetler
Buckley Beal

Crawford Investment Counsel
Delta
Fellows LaBriola
Kraft Kennedy

ASD Interiors
Atkins David
Bob & Harriet's home bar
Caplan Cobb
Carlton Fields
Downs Law llc
Hunton Andrews Kurth
IST Management Services

Legare Attwood & Wolfe
Polsinelli
Smith Gambrell Russell
Veritext

Jennifer Whitton
Kevin Leipow
Law Space Match
Moore Colson & Company
Parker Poe
Paul Wilson
Troutman Pepper





picturing Justice

with thanks to presenting sponsor:

Ballard Spahr
LLP

When the pandemic shut down the country in March 2020, the bottom dropped out for Melvin White, his wife, Raneice, and their family of four school-aged children (pictured above). After losing regular work at a restaurant, Melvin moved his family into the Drury Hotel, an extended-stay hotel on the border of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport, joining more than 30,000 working families in the metro area who are in a particularly vulnerable position.

Legal Aid hired photographer Dustin Chambers and writer Sonam Vashi to document the White's story for our annual photograph exhibit, *Picturing Justice*.

You can see the photos and read the full story at: acpfest.exposure.co/featured-event-picturing-justice-2021

Fundraiser Highlight



Protectors of Justice

A monthly giving club for justice



In 2021, 56 donors joined our monthly giving club, up from 25 the year before. These donors are critical sustainers of Legal Aid's work.



These donors collectively contributed \$19,000. That's 38 families who got access to a skilled legal advocate, instead of having to navigate the complicated legal system alone.

Join the club at give.atlantalegalaid.org/monthly



Your donation
gives families
the stability
to recover.

Fundraiser Highlight

#Giving Tuesday



This year's #GivingTuesday was our most successful single-day fundraiser yet, with 115 donors raising \$73,000 for domestic violence protection.



Women aren't guaranteed lawyers in domestic violence situations. But lawyers are the best way to prevent future violence. With the help of our community, 146 women living in poverty got access to lawyers, so that they can leave abusive situations and keep their children safe.

Legal Aid Pro Bono in 2021



700+ volunteers
provided over
18,000 hours of pro
bono work



\$1,480,000 in financial
outcomes for clients,
including \$600K
through the Enhanced
Services Project



200+ survivors of
domestic violence
assisted by our
volunteers



130 law students
worked with us ,
including 18 externs
& 21 summer interns

Projects & Providers

Gender-Affirming Name Change Project:

Alston & Bird
Coca-Cola
Georgia State University School of Law Center for Access to Justice
Trans Housing Coalition

Kinship Care Project:

Atlanta Bar Association's Family Law Section
Claiborne Fox Bradley, LLC
Cobb County School System
DAS Kinship Care Work Team
DeKalb County School System
Georgia Department of Human Services
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Kinship Navigator Program
Marietta City Schools
Project GRANDD at ISDD
Project Healthy Grandparent at Georgia State University
Atlanta Public Schools
Fulton County Schools

Adult Guardianship Project:

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Estate Planning:

Georgia Association of Paralegals
Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys
Thank Me Later
Impact Church
Georgia Bar Young Lawyers Division
Women in the Profession Section
Alston & Bird
Troutman Pepper
Hunton Andrews Kurth
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Georgia Senior Legal Hotline:

Coca Cola Legal Department
Alston and Bird
Troutman Pepper

QIT Project:

Troutman Pepper

Domestic Relations Unit:

Discrete Professional Services
Georgia State University School of Law Center for Access to Justice
State Bar of Georgia's Family Law Section
Smith & Files, LLC

Unemployment Benefits Project:

Dentons

Housing Preservation:

Siemens Energy, Inc.
Siemens Corporation
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Atlanta BeltLine Partnership
Grove Park Foundation

Cobb Domestic Violence Protection (TPO) Project:

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Taylor English Duma, LLP

Pro Bono Mediation:

Kennesaw State University's Conflict Management Program





Volunteer Honor Roll

Cobb

Patricia Ammari
Laura Anderson
Miriam Archibong
Aliayah Baaith
Timothy Bailey
Ashley Bays
Alyssa Blanchard
Lily Bristow
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Reid Brownsmith
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Lawrence Burke
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Diane Cherry
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Rachel Colledge
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Nancy Ghertner
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Jennifer Jack
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Tracie Klinke
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Roderick Martin
Tessa Martin
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Cynthia Propst

Allan Raulerson
Josie Redwine
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John Richard
Amanda Riedling
Nicole Rizza
Tiffany Roberts
Leah Schultz
Patricia Shewmaker
Loretta Smith
Stephanie Steele
Jonathan Stoye
Nicholas Tate
Michelle Tomkovicz
Talis Trevino
Alicia Vail
Alycia Vail
W. Frank Ward
Nedra Wick
Melanie Williams
Kimi Wise

Decatur

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Miriam Akbar
Griffin Bell III
Glenda Cucher
Christine Emello
Daniel Fowler
Darara Gubo
Randy Hughes
Donal Noonan
Sarah Rosenberg
Phil Sandick
Danny Seelos

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Claire Moynihan

Domestic Relations Unit

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Betsy Hodges
Megan Miller
Annie Mulligan

General Law

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Chris Galanek

Health Law Project

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Ashley Lightsey

Enhanced Services Project

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Sydney Jordan
Bill Layng
Kathryn Lee
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Talley Mills
Michika Reynolds-Quillin
Lin Stradley
Justine Tanguay
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Lauren Willard-Jelks
Mtiisha Wilson

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Isabel Alexander
Cha'Ron Ballard-Gayle
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Andrew Cox
Adriana de la Torriente

Gwinnett (continued)

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Stacy Ehrisman
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Lance Gowens
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Sherley Joseph-Roper
Wally Kelleman
Vanessa Kosky
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Kinship

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Stacie Kerschner
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Kathryn Wade
Laura Whitman
Sherri Wilcox

SCLP

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Clark Calhoun
William Callahan
Tom Choi
Symone Davis
Terence Graves
Jennifer Guzdial
Paul Koster
Sabrina Lasarte
Evelyn Liu

Maia Mercer
Madeline Moulton
Vernessa Roberts
Stephen Spicher
Renuka Srivastava
Jyll Thomas
Adrienne Washington
Quincey Wilson
Yiran Wu

Southside

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Gacy Barksdale
Joseph Chad Brannen
Leslie Gresham
Sherron Harris
Margaret Head
Chuba King
Matt Kirk
Allen Kowalczyk
Arlene Labrew Sanders
Todd Larsen
Constance Manigo Daise

Shonterria Martin Stokes
Rowan McDaniel
Darrell Reynolds Sr.
Sarah Siedentopf
Tammy Stanley
Phyllis Talley
Katherine Thompson
Latosha Walker
Charles Wardlaw
Nancy Wasdin
Andrew Williams
Betty Williams-Kirby

Pro Bono

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Paige Adams
Warren Adegunle
Ashley Akins
Melissa Akins
Sara Alexandre
Valentia Alleyne
Karla Ariosa
Sandra Artreche
Renaë Bailey Wainwright
ChaRon Ballard
DeVondrel Banks
Regina Banks
Justin Berger
Ron Bingham II
Constance Brewster
Morgan Brock-Smith

John Brookhuis
Audrey Brown
Erin Brown
Stephanie Brown
Brittanie Browning
Dr. La Chunna Bryant
Seth Buchwald
Shelby Burnam
Ian Calhoun
Matthew Calvert
Andrew Cameron
Colony Canady
Pia Candotti-Sherman
Kathleen Casper
Fanny Chac
Maria Chadwick
Chanel Chauvet
Shannan Collier Stalvey

Hannah Couch
James Cox
Tammra Credit
Bill Custer
Elizabeth Davenport
Conor Delehanty
Lawrie Demorest
Katie Donald
Chan Dong
Kristin Doyle
Elizabeth Dunn
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Regina Edwards
Sean Ekhlās
Mack Emerson
Patrick Emery
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Jena Emory

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Brittany Fales
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Clinton Ford Jr.
Malik Foster
Sally Fox
Susan Foxworth
Lauren Frisch
Gabby Fulton
Alexander Garmestani
Philip Garnett
Ashuana Gbye
Crystal Genteman
Laura Giambalvo
Courtney Gilkinson

Pro Bono (continued)

James Gober
Gabrielle Gollomp
Radha Gordon
Ronnie Gosselin
Morgyn Graber
Esther Graff-Radford
Caryl Greenberg Smith
Meagan Griffin
Irma Griffith-Steele
Anna Grover
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M. Nicole Hammett
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Alexandra Hecht
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Matthew Higgins
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Ashley Janelle Adams

Comfort Johnson
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Daniele Johnson
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Sora Kang
Erin King
Tyler Knauss
Rocardo Knolton
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Arlene Koslow
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Sheri Lake
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Pingping Miao
Najah Middleton
Jody Miller
Paul Minchella
Sara Ming
Stephanie Mitchell
Kathryn Mize
Mariana Mogoruza
Carla Montgomery
Erika Morales
Kathryn Morris
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Kristy Nguyen
Mirabella Nwaka
William Page
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Bill Pauly
Kelsey Peaden
Rebecca Penar
Ash Penn
Branden Phillips
Julian Pierce
Mindy Pillow
Althea Prince
Andrew Puckett
Sarah Quattrocchi

Margaret Quinlan
ShaMiracle Rankin
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Maria Repokis
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Briana Sabataso
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Cameron Saunders
Lesia Schnur
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Zoe Siepert
Patrick Silloway
Heather Silva
Katherine Silverman
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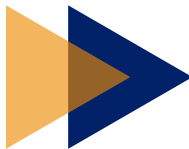
Pro Bono (continued)

Jenny Smith
Luke Smith
Olivia Smith
Lee Snitzer
Haley Solomon
Natalia Souza
Barbara Squires
William Stanhope
Sandra Stevens

Troy Stram
James Sullivan
Julia Sullivan
Daniel Swaja
Michelle Taitz
Greg Taube
Niyech Theus
Tara Tourville
Talis Trevino
Chimere Trimble

Priscilla Upshaw
Michael Van Cise
Veronique Vernot
Chimere Victor
Shannon Vreeland
Jennifer Walters
Nina Walzer
Laurence Warco
Sarah Watchko
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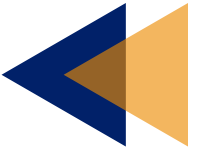
The Justice Robert Benham Community Service Award

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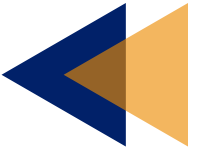
Expenses: \$12,855,000

Personnel	\$11,109,000.00
Consulting	\$615,000.00
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Supplies	\$247,000.00
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Insurance	\$36,000.00
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Other (telephone, litigation, etc)	\$165,000.00

Income: \$12,855,000

Administrative Office of the Courts	\$907,000.00
Atlanta Regional Commission	\$275,000.00
City of Atlanta & Counties	\$1,029,000.00
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Georgia Bar Foundation	\$966,000.00
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Other Federal Sources	\$760,000.00
Private Bar/Annual Campaign	\$1,658,000.00
United Way	\$235,000.00
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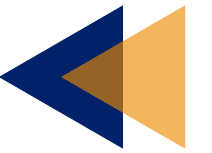
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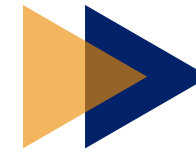
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