

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC.

Building a Community of Equal Justice





2021 Annual Report

We are a non-profit law firm that advocates to remove legal barriers to economic prosperity and to achieve a more just and equitable community.

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Message from Board Chair & Executive Director



Dear Friends & Supporters:

Last year was filled with both challenges and successes as Legal Services continued to serve this community during the ongoing pandemic. Our team remains steadfast in its advocacy and commitment to achieving a more just and equitable community.

In 2021, we continued to refine our delivery model to ensure safety for both our clients and team, while also meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable clients who sought in-person assistance. We accomplished this while **our caseload increased nearly 20% in just one year**. While 55% of our cases focused on housing instability, mostly eviction, we also continued to help clients in a variety of areas including healthcare, education, vital government assistance and greater economic opportunity. We also continued our efforts to promote an equitable and inclusive organization and community.

Our ability to respond to these growing demands was largely due to increased philanthropic support from federal and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals. We received a 3.7M transformational gift from the estate of Jacqueline Allee Smith, ensuring that her legacy of promoting access to justice will benefit thousands of families. As we plan for the future, we will continue to develop partnerships and resources to sustain this growth and meet the growing demands for assistance from the community.

We celebrated our 55th anniversary last year, and it was an opportunity to reflect on where we started and where we are today. When we first opened our doors, it was said that our purpose was *to present the opportunity to live in decency and dignity*. Over the decades, the collective, brave, and tireless efforts of those that came before us shaped and enabled us to work towards ensuring not only dignity, but justice and economic opportunity for all. The pandemic has revealed to all of us how fragile economic stability is for so many in our community and our legal advocacy continues to achieve transformational change for our clients and community. Now more than ever, we continue to aim to bridge the economic and social gap by helping those in need overcome barriers and delivering systemic impact.

We are proud of our community and how it has come together and demonstrated strength and resilience. Our extraordinary Board of Directors, Campaign Committee, and Legal Services' team work tirelessly to effectuate change where we live. We know we cannot do this work alone and are grateful for our partners and supporters. **In 2022, we will focus on** *Celebrating Community* **to highlight the impact of both our supporters and our advocacy.** We appreciate and value your support and **thank you for being our partner in Building a Community of Equal Justice**.

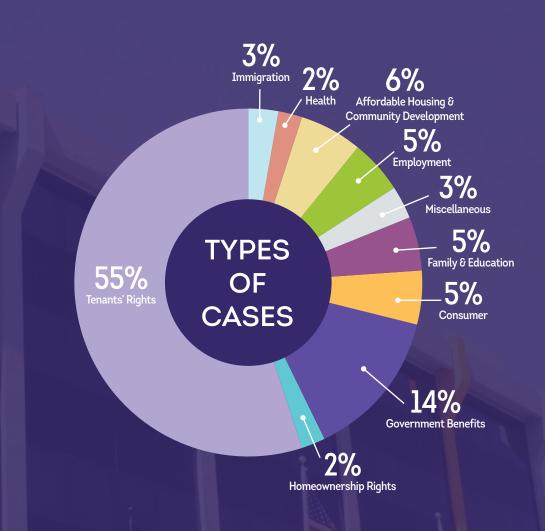
Manuel Dobrinsky Legal Services Board President

Monica Vigues-Pitan Legal Services Executive Director

Engagement by the Numbers

2021: AT A GLANCE 20,183 People Helped

5,115 Cases Handled



2021 Key Impacts



\$6,120,656

Funds Recovered/Avoided & Housing Preserved



Protected <mark>331</mark> Families from Eviction or Foreclosure



Offered Community Education to **1,026** Social Service Providers



Recruited 335 Pro Bono Volunteers to Serve Clients



3

Saving Homes & Preventing Homelessness

Successful Housing Stability Litigation in the Age of COVID-19

Our Tenants' Rights Unit experienced an **increase of more than 20% in cases over the prior year, which represented 55% of the cases handled in 2021.** They accomplished this while also learning the ever-changing body of law governing the various federal and local moratoria on evictions and successfully advocating for expansion of protections in many instances. Additionally, they participated in strategy efforts to improve the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, so that both landlords and tenants could benefit from available resources and avoid eviction. As a result of all these efforts, **thousands of clients received legal assistance to remain in their home.**

Florida Tenants to Benefit After Appellate Victory

Ms. Axen and her children were facing eviction from subsidized housing. Like so many tenants in Florida, the trial court evicted the tenant by default under Florida's rent deposit statute. The law requires a tenant to deposit all past due rent with the court to defend against an eviction. The trial court evicted Ms. Axen despite a pending motion to determine rent, which a tenant files when there is a disagreement about the rent owed. Legal Services appealed the eviction judgment and, in Axen v. POAH Cutler Manor, the Third District Court of Appeal reversed the eviction judgment. It held the trial court should have first addressed a pending motion to determine rent before evicting the tenant. The landlord sought further review by the Florida Supreme Court, and Legal Services successfully defended against the landlord's petition. As a result, Ms. Axen and her children remain in their home as they continue to fight the eviction. As statewide precedent, the opinion reaffirmed a tenant's options at the outset of an eviction. This decision directly benefits the approximately 130,000 Florida tenants facing eviction each year and indirectly benefits all 2.7 million tenant households in Florida who could face an eviction at some point during their tenancies.

Housing Stability for Domestic Violence Survivor & Her Children

During the pandemic, a single mother was **living in a shelter after being terminated from Section 8** for vacating her unit without proper notice. However, **she left in order to escape domestic violence and keep her children safe. Due to this housing instability, her children were placed in the care of family members. Legal Services successfully appealed the termination**, ultimately demonstrating her actions were protected under the Violence Against Women's Act. Legal Services also reached a settlement and obtained a dismissal. She is now out of the shelter and back in the Section 8 program. **She has moved into a new unit and is reunited with her children.** She is now able to maintain her workfrom-home job, which was incredibly difficult to do while living at the shelter. Thanks to our advocacy, this family is once again together and will have long-term housing support through their reinstatement in subsidized housing.



4

Fighting for Access to Life-Changing Benefits & Healthcare

Prevail in Veteran Disability Appeal

An 85-year-old veteran who is the primary caretaker of his disabled adult daughter has suffered from ulcers that cause nausea, vomiting, and episodes of acute pain since his service in the Coast Guard. Despite his worsening condition, he was denied an increase in his disability rating. Legal Services filed an appeal and successfully obtained a favorable decision from the Board of Veteran Appeals, which increased his disability rating from 20% to 60% effective 2011. Not only is he entitled to **approximately \$1,000 more per month in VA disability benefits which will help him meet his basic needs, he also received an award of \$93,000 in retroactive benefits, which he rightfully deserved.**



served 458 veterans with a variety of legal issues

Life-Changing Award of Over \$100K Arising from Favorable Social Security Claim

Legal Services represented a client in his 60s with both the denial of his Social Security Administration (SSA) disability case and totalization claim. He had stopped working in 2015 due to seriously debilitating impairments and mental illness brought upon by HIV/AIDS. Legal Services appealed and successfully showed the client qualified for disability. Additionally, the SSA failed to recognize the foreign work credits he had earned while working in the U.K. and Germany. Since the U.S. has totalization agreements with these countries, Legal Services successfully showed the client should be allowed to combine work credits from these countries. As a result of these favorable decisions, the client is eligible for \$1,700 in monthly disability payments plus a retroactive award of almost \$120,000.

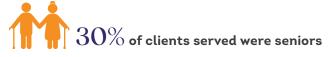




Home Healthcare Services for Medicaid Beneficiary with Chronic Disease

A quadriplegic, 64-year-old woman courageously battling muscular dystrophy for many years sought the assistance of Legal Services to obtain the 24-hour home healthcare she desperately required. As her disease progresses, it has left her with long-lasting damage and without the use of her hands or legs. Despite relying upon others for assistance with daily activities, such as eating, bathing, and dressing, her Medicaid health insurance company only provided a home health aide for a portion of the day.

Without round-the-clock assistance, she was confined to her bed, without access to basic necessities. Her doctor prescribed **24-hour care assistance based on medical need. After Medicaid denied the request, Legal Services appealed** and zealously advocated on her behalf. Ultimately, a **settlement was reached where Medicaid agreed to provide the 24-hour care needed to ensure her health and safety.**



Securing Survivor Benefits for Toddlers

After the father of toddler-age children was tragically killed, the Social Security Administration (SSA) denied the mother's claim for Survivor's Benefits on behalf of the children because the father had not established paternity. Legal Services worked with the mother to furnish sufficient records to prove paternity. After years of advocacy, SSA granted the children Survivor's Benefits, including more than \$16,000 in retroactive benefits and an ongoing monthly benefit of \$370 for the children. These benefits, which they rightfully deserve, will relieve some of the financial strain placed on the family after the unexpected death of their father.



Stabilizing & Building Wealth in Low Income Neighborhoods by Assisting Small Businesses & Nonprofits

Negotiated Community Benefits Agreements in West Grove

Once a thriving Black community, the **West Grove has suffered decades of racial segregation and disinvestment**, making the neighborhood vulnerable to gentrification, often displacing residents and businesses that have called the neighborhood home for generations.

To foster a more equitable community, the West Grove, its residents, historic Black churches, community organizations, and other stakeholders, formed the nonprofit organization Grove Rights and Community Equity (GRACE) with the assistance of Legal Services.

Legal Services represented GRACE in several hearings and ensured their interests were considered and protected. Legal Services **successfully negotiated two agreements to secure funding for home repairs, job training programs, and affordable housing set-aside for the West Grove's low-income residents.**

Equitable Access to Justice Matters More Than Ever. Legal Services has continued to proactively seek ways

to eliminate racial inequities and has a dedicated attorney in the position of Senior Attorney for Equity Advocacy focused on these efforts throughout all of our practice areas. Legal Services represented GRACE in opposing a rezoning application which sought to reduce the housing supply in the Grove. This will ensure West Grove residents are an integral participant in the development of their community.



Support Small Business to Rebuild After the Pandemic

A successful minority owned entertainment & dance company was employing dozens of dancers, musicians, and other entertainers. **Business plummeted due to COVID-19**, with clients cancelling many events last minute after the company had invested significant time and money into preparing for them. In addition, former dancers and others were **using the company's name and choreography without permission** on YouTube and other platforms. **Through**

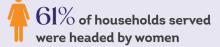


the Florida Community Development Project led by Legal Services, the attorneys have been instrumental in drafting the client's customer contracts, entertainer contracts, and protecting the company's intellectual property. It is now rebuilding its clientele and entertainer base to emerge stronger.

Protecting Consumers from Unfair & Fraudulent Business Practices

A Mother's Plea: Children's Bank Accounts Shielded from Unauthorized Seizure

A veteran, who is a working single mother of two, came to Legal Services because her bank accounts, including her children's accounts that carry her name as custodian under Florida's Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, were garnished to pay toward a money judgment against her. Legal Services filed claims asserting her statutory exemptions from this garnishment and asserting the nonliability of her children's funds notwithstanding her named as account custodian. The collecting plaintiff agreed to all the claimed exemptions and arguments, so the protected funds were quickly returned to her without having to wait for a hearing. This **advocacy protected over \$22,000 of her and her children's funds from being forcibly taken.** These funds are **critical to her family's financial stability.**



6

Shining a Light on our Pro Bono Champions

Mother of Two Left on the Curb by Unscrupulous Landlord

After receiving a notice of eviction from her current home, a divorced mother in her 50s placed a **security deposit in the amount of \$3,900 on a new home for herself and her two children.**

The day before her scheduled move, she was informed by the condominium association's management office that she was not approved to move in and therefore would not receive access to the unit.

At this point, she already had the moving truck with her belongings prepared to move in, so she tried to locate the landlord to no avail as the management office refused to provide the contact information.

Pro bono attorney Donald Mason partnered with St. Thomas University College of Law student Berkefield Hugh to assist this mother of two with retrieving her stolen security deposit. Mr. Mason mentored Mr. Hugh, and they drafted a demand letter on the client's behalf. In response, the landlord sent partial payment of \$1,300 stating it constituted full and complete release of all claims.

The pro bono team then prepared a Small Claims Complaint for the monetary difference and asserted the offer of settlement was invalid. For six months, they fought a bitter battle with the landlord to recover the stolen funds.

Ultimately, the Court agreed with Mr. Mason and Mr. Hugh, and they successfully recovered the remaining deposit of \$2,600 plus \$317.91 in costs and interest, which the client can now use to find a suitable home. Mr. Mason expressed that it was important to "send a very loud and clear message to someone who would wrongfully withhold a portion of the security deposit." Mr. Mason is a great pro bono advocate, who took the time to mentor a law school student on a litigation case that changed a client's life.



At our annual Pro Bono Celebration, Legal Services proudly presented the 2021 Equal Justice Awards to the following in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to equal justice:

Collaborative Partnership Award McDermott Will & Emery Restaurant Brands International

Professional Partner Award Gerson Preston Klein Lips Eisenberg Gelber

> Solo/Small Firm Award Ryan C.Tyler, Esq.

> > Impact Award Steven Kellough, Esq.

Clinic Volunteer Award Rob Collins, Esq.

Partners for Equal Justice Award Alvaro A. Acevedo Jr., Esq., CPA, LLM

We congratulate these exemplary honorees for their dedicated service and outstanding work that improves the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. We thank all our pro bono volunteers, which includes more than 330 individuals, for inspiring us all with their commitment to our mission.

Thank you for making us #ProBonoStrong!

Fundraising Highlights

Heart of Giving Celebration & Judicial Reception Another Huge Success

Our 12th annual signature event went virtual for the second year due to the pandemic. We presented the **2021 Equal** Justice Leadership Award to the Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, the **2021 Equal Justice** Judicial Leadership Award to the Honorable Marcia G. Cooke, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the Equal Justice Philanthropic Award posthumously to Jacqueline Allee Smith. Thanks to 69 sponsors and countless other supporters, the night was an incredible success raising nearly \$157,000.

Give Miami Day Breaks Fundraising Record

2021 was a record-breaking Give Miami Day thanks to the remarkable participation of our supporters. We saw a 23% increase in donations over the prior year, raising a total of $\$83,\!135$ from more than 180 donors, 44 of which were new donors to our organization.

Celebrated Our Rich History Through 55 Years Strong Campaign

We opened our doors in 1966 and have been serving our community through everything from catastrophic hurricanes to pandemics. In 2021, we celebrated with a 55 Years Strong movement, looking back at all that we have accomplished. We have always fought to eradicate barriers to economic opportunity and ensured access to justice for all, helping more than 250,000 families so far. Our advocacy and impact are made possible through the support of our community members-as volunteers, advocates, and philanthropic supporters. This campaign focused on our mission over the years and brought in more than \$20,000.

Young Professionals Council's Events Financially Support Much-Needed Client Fund

The Young Professionals Council hosts key events each year while raising support for the Legal Services Client Fund, providing grocery money for our clients who are in dire need. Through another year of virtual events, the Council raised over \$2,000 for direct client impact. H.T. Smith, Founding Director of Florida International University College of Law's Trial Advocacy Program, The Honorable Patricia Seitz, U.S. Senior Judge for the Southern District of FL, and Rebecca Fishman Lipsey of the Miami Foundation were each featured speakers for the Council's Conversations with Leaders series with a collective attendance of over 100 people. The Council was instrumental in our Give Miami Day efforts, contributing and raising more than \$3,000 of our total number. A note of thanks to all Council members and outgoing Chair, Jennifer Fine, Bilzin Sumberg attorney. Additionally, we extend our thanks and our congratulations to our incoming Young Professionals Council's Executive Committee: Christopher Noel, Sequor Law (Chair), Alex Jimenez, Grove Bank & Trust (Vice Chair), and Jacqueline Durand, White & Case (Development Chair).

Campaign Committee

We are grateful to the Campaign Committee, a group of prominent leaders, for their philanthropic contributions and community leadership. Thanks to their tireless work, we exceeded this year's fundraising goal by 15%.

Campaign Committee Co-Chairs

Brigid Cech Samole

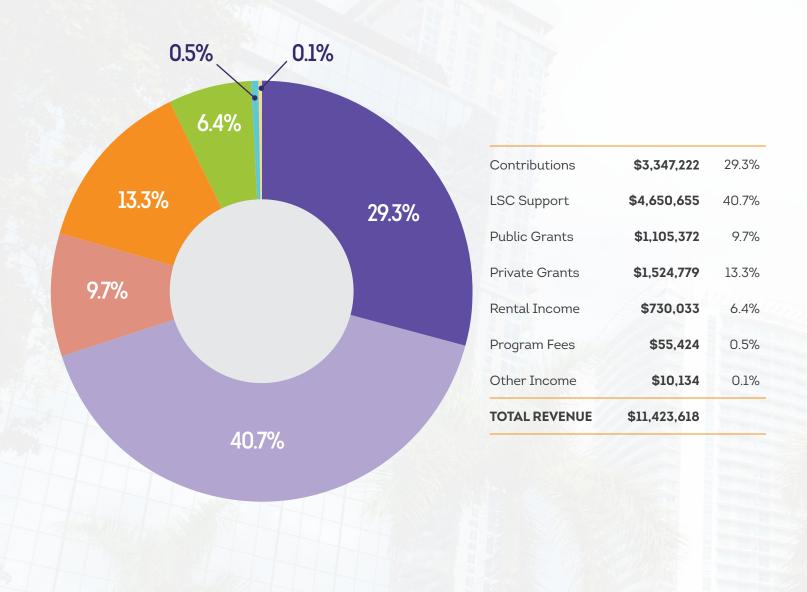
Jason Kellogg

Campaign Committee Members

Scott L. Baena Elizabeth S. Baker William S. Berk Michael E. Brand Jennifer Stearns Buttrick Carlos J. Canino Raoul G. Cantero Karen Cespedes Kendall B. Coffey Sherril Colombo Xavier I. Cortada Jeffrey B. Crockett Jose Cuneo Allison R. Day Ramon de Legorburu Michael P. Elkin Richard S. Fechter Wifredo Ferrer Jennifer E. Fine David M. Gersten Jordi Guso Steven Hadjilogiou George Haj Lance A. Harke Alexander Jimenez Marcos D. Jimenez Michael Jimenez Thomas R. Julin Michael Kaczka Lilly Ann Sanchez

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2021 REVENUE





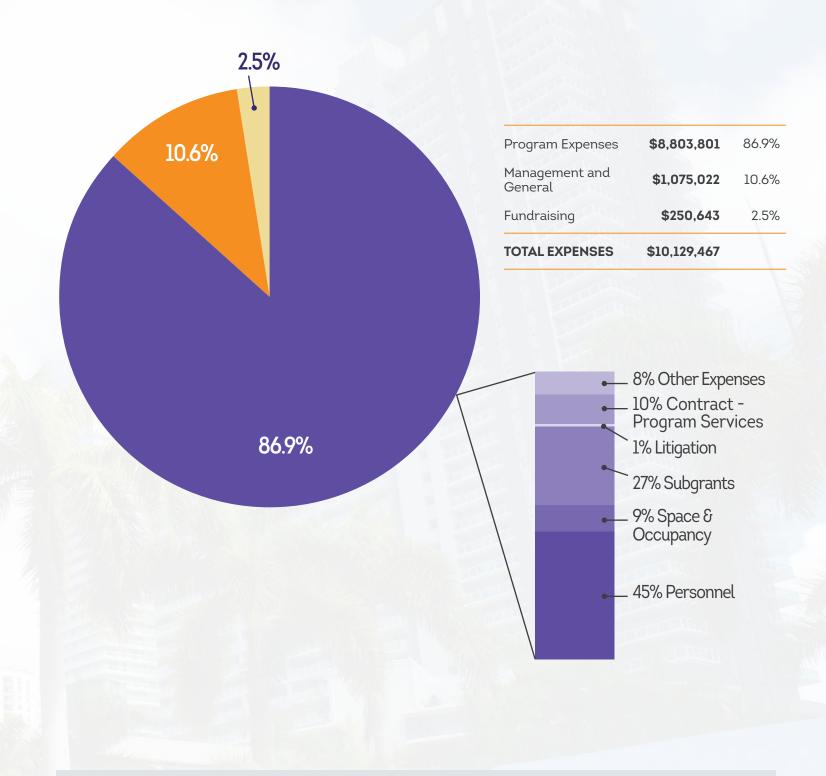
In Memory of Jacqueline Allee Smith (1943-2020)

A leader in the legal community and decades-long supporter who entrusted Legal Services with a transformational legacy gift.

Leaving a Legacy

Jacqueline Allee Smith's bequest, totaling more than \$3 million, is the largest single gift in Legal Services' history. "We are honored and humbled that Jackie entrusted Legal Services to preserve her legacy in the name of supporting access to justice," said Monica Vigues-Pitan, Legal Services Executive Director. This gift showcases Jackie's passion to use the law to better the lives of those who could not afford legal representation and continues her legacy of leadership and service.

2021 EXPENSES



Looking Ahead: Sustaining Our Growth

The demand for legal assistance and the need for advocacy on behalf of our community continues to grow. In 2021, the demand for our services grew by 27%, and our team grew by 22% to meet that need. In 2022, we have added advocacy positions dedicated to focus on some of the most critical issues, and we continue to develop partnerships and expand our team to better meet the demand. Expanding our resources is critical to sustaining this growth into the future for the benefit of our community.

Leadership Circle

Our work is made possible through the generous support of our donors.

BLUE DIAMOND \$100,000 +

Edie Laquer Foundation -Endowed Women & Children's Rights Attorney Chair

Harke Clasby & Bushman - Social Justice Fellowship in Honor of Nancy T. Clasby

Holland & Knight

Jacqueline Allee Smith -Jacqueline and Chesterfield Smith Fellows Program

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.

Wells Fargo Foundation

DIAMOND \$50,000-\$99,999

Stephen H. Cypen, President, Jerome A. Yavitz Charitable Foundation, Inc. - *Harry & Irving Cypen Tax Fellowship*

The Fine & Greenwald Foundation

Helliwell Family Foundation - In Memory of Paul L. E. Helliwell, Esq.

Ryder System, Inc.

GOLD \$25,000-\$49,999

Akerman LLP Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP Coffey Burlington, PL Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A. Hunton Andrews Kurth Kluger Kaplan Silverman Katzen & Levine, PL McDermott Will & Emery McLuskey, McDonald & Hughes, P.A. Ver Ploeg & Marino White & Case LLP

SILVER \$10,000-\$24,999

Honorable A. Leo Adderly Dolan Dobrinsky Rosenblum LLP Greenberg Traurig Gunster Harper Meyer Perez Hagen O'Connor Albert Dribin & DeLuca LLP Kevin & Yolonda Jacobs JP Morgan Kaufman Rossin - Accounting Fellowship Kenny Nachwalter, P.A. Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton Leon Cosgrove, LLP Meland Budwick, P.A. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

The Moskowitz Law Firm Nelson Mullins Peckar & Abramson Podhurst Orseck Rivero Mestre LLP Ross & Girten The Sain Orr Royak DeForest Steadman Foundation Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman William J. & Tina Rosenberg Foundation

BRONZE \$5,000-\$9,999

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Mansukhani LLP Grove Bank & Trust

Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association

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IberiaBank/ First Horizon Bank

Donor levels reflect cumulative giving for the Campaign period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

The Legacy Society was first established to promote the economic stability of our most vulnerable neighbors and build a stronger community for generations to come. Members of The Legacy Society have aligned their passion and resolve in building a community of equal justice through sound gift planning. These planned gifts may support the overall work of Legal Services or may be restricted to a concentration of interest to the donor such as tenants' rights or access to healthcare.

Marcia K. Cypen Edie Laquer Jacqueline Allee Smith

The above-listed pioneer members have made a lasting commitment to support our community by including Legal Services in their estate. They serve as a testament to a legacy of care, concern and compassion, creating a brighter future for the entire community.

Chesterfield Smith Society

GUARDIANS \$2,500 - \$4,999

A to Z Law Firm Baron & Herskowitz Boies Schiller Flexner Boyers Law Group Jose A. Casal* Diaz Reus & Targ Wifredo A. Ferrer Hon. Mary Jo Francis Kelley Kronenberg Margaret Moores Marsh & McLennan Munar Law Tracy A. Nichols Professional Bank

CHAMPIONS \$1,000 - \$2,499

Julie A. Azuaje Gregory Baldwin & Jose Castro Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida Rosemary Barkett Fund Berger Singerman Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors & Accountants BTC Media LLC Maura Bulman Jason E. Bloch* Cimo Mazer Mark Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, District 12 Office Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein Dana Dombev Nicole Dominguez* Sarah Clasby Engel* Federal Bar Association Jennifer E. Fine Dori Foster-Morales Genesis Systems Consulting LLC Goldberg & Rosen Gray Robinson **GRM** Management Grossman Roth Yaffa Cohen Jordi Guso Alison Clasby Harke* Jeffrey Hearne JAMS George Jenkins Jason & Cassandra Kellogg Kula & Associates, P.A. Lapekas Law Ellen Leesfield ADR

Carolina A. Lombardi Freddi Mack George G. Mahfood Peter A. Mekras Miami Dade Trial Lawyers Association Miami Homes for All Gisela Munoz Michael Olin PAAST Pamela Perry, P.A. Joel Perwin Patricia Redmond* Robert L. Parks, P.L. Rudd & Diamond Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr Shubin & Bass Matthew J. Sitkowski St. Thomas University College of Law Jocelyn Watkins Wiseheart Foundation Santiago Zapata

ADVOCATES \$500 -\$999

The Aquilera Law Center Jeffrey S. Benjamin Samuel S. Blum Carlos I. Cardelle Karen Cespedes Marcia K. Cypen* Damian & Valori Mary Ann David Sharon Dixon Manuel L. Dobrinsky John R. Dodd II **Richard Dunn** Gill S. Freeman Carmen J. Fuente* Rachel Glade* Marissa Glatzer Thomas Hawkins Harke Law, LLP Mark Heise Roberto Hernandez Joel Hirschhorn Homer Bonner Jacobs Ortiz Kacin & Johnston Lawrence & Jacquelyn Kamin Fund Kaplan Financial Forensics Kevin Kenneally Lee Kraftchick Michael Levine Lexus of North Miami

Littler Mendelson, P.C Marcos D. Jimenez, P.A. Barnaby L. Min Rene V. Murai Nguyen Law Firm Christopher Noel Susan Osorio John C. Patterson, Jr. Dino P. Peragallo Victor Perez Pita Weber Del Prado Sen. Jason Pizzo Hon. Catherine Ravinski Judith Rosenthal Rubinstein & Associates, P.A. Salmon & Dulberg Hon. Patricia A. Seitz Sequor Law Services on Site Christienne Sherouse **Jacqueline Simkin** Aaron T. Slavens H.T. Smith Kathryn Sorenson Charles Throckmorton Allison Weiss Wetzel & Associates* **Burton Young**

FRIENDS \$350 - \$499

Perry M. Adair Henry N. Adorno Loreal Arscott Elizabeth Baker John M. Barkett Sheryl E. Berkowitz Ilana Bitton Beau Blackwell William R. Bloom Christopher W. Brochyus Leonardo A. Canton Kathy R. Cantor James S. Carmichael Vivian Z. Chavez David C. Cimo Karon M. Coleman Jose Cuneo Nicholas M. Daniels Aurora De Gasperi Christopher M. Delp Adam Dionisopoulos D. Porpoise Evans Rachel W. Furst

Kelly Garces Monique Garcia Brandon Grzandziel Pascale Guerrier Randy A. Hummel David Jaksic Jonathan M. Jaffe R. Hugh Lumpkin Alex Jimenez Jade Kastel Michael D. Katz Robert T. Kofman David Leiwant Arya Atari Li R. Hugh Lumpkin Aleida Martinez-Molina The Miami Foundation Brian P. Miller Norman A. Moscowitz Paul Morris Maria Papasakelariou Scott D. Ponce Kevin Probst Larry Pounders, Esq. & Dr. Fatima Sequiera Fund C. Ryan Reetz Karel Remudo Loriellen K. Robertson Susan Robin David Rogero Elsie Romero Arthur R. Rosen Stephen F. Rosenthal Patrick Russell Matthew K. Ryan Lavenia Dianne Santos Edward R. Shohat Dayron Silverio Thomas W. Snook Jeanne Spital Bradley H. Stein Marc Sternbaum Amanda R. Stevens Marilyn Strauss Peter Suarez Miguel A. Suro Therrel Baisden LLP Monica Vigues-Pitan J. Michael Wermuth Werth-Silver Foundation Jennifer A. West Patricia D. White

*Sustainers

Donor levels reflect Annual Gifts for the period beginning January 1, 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure this listing is complete and accurate. If errors or omissions have occurred, please accept our apologies and call 305-438-2513 to report corrections. Thank you!

Invest in a Community of Equal Justice

Annual Giving: Chesterfield Smith Society

The Chesterfield Smith Society recognizes annual support while celebrating the legacy of the great Chesterfield Smith (1917-2003), a lifelong advocate for access to justice. Smith encouraged all lawyers to "do good by doing right" - by providing pro bono legal services and supporting organizations that work to ensure that all persons have access to justice in our civil legal system without regard to their ability to pay.

Giving levels range from \$350 to \$4,999.

Cryptocurrency & Stock Gifts

Legal Services is proud to accept both cryptocurrency and stock gifts, giving our supporters even more options to make a difference while offering tax-efficient vehicles. Cryptocurrency gifts can be made on our website. Stock gifts can be made by contacting Jennifer Geeker, CFRE at jgeeker@ legalservicesmiami.org or 305-438-3824. Both of these avenues allow for easy transfers that lead to immediate impact.

Event Sponsors

Legal Services Event Sponsors are a distinguished group of supporters from the business, legal and civic community. In addition to recognition at the event, they are showcased on the Legal Services website, social media, and in our print media which reaches the more than 5,000 people.

Sponsorship levels are \$750 to \$10,000.

Sustainers

Introducing our newest giving level to recognize those who make monthly recurring gifts at any amount. Monthly support contributes to a sustainable community with year-round support for our legal advocacy and lifechanging work, all while saving time and resources, and increasing your impact. Becoming a Sustainer is as simple as setting up a recurring gift online.

The minimum monthly contribution is \$10.

Young Professionals Council

Young Professionals Council includes dedicated young professionals in South Florida (lawyers and non-lawyers alike) who support equal access to justice. The Council organizes events, such as the Conversations with Leaders series, and raises funds to support the Legal Services Client Fund.

The suggested minimum contribution to join is \$100.



SCAN TO GIVE

Major Giving: The Leadership Circle

The Leadership Circle recognizes sustained giving over a threeyear period. Members of the Leadership Circle have made a substantial commitment to sustaining the highest quality cutting-edge legal services as the needs of our community continue to grow. They are recognized online through the Legal Services website and social media channels, promoted through a Daily Business Review ad announcing their support, and on Legal Services print and electronic newsletters.

Giving levels range from \$5,000-\$100,000.

Planned Giving: Legacy Society

The Legacy Society recognizes donors who make charitable bequests to Legal Services in their will or living trust, ensuring that we may continue to break down the barriers of poverty for the most vulnerable in our community well into the future. Legacy Society donors connect their compassion and concern to their financial and estate planning in order to transform the future for someone in need.

Pro Bono: Volunteer Opportunities

With over 500,000 low-income individuals and families in our community, the need for free legal services cannot be met by Legal Services staff alone. Pro bono resources are critical to supplement the work we do and to help address the many unmet legal needs. Legal Services welcomes pro bono assistance from law firms, individual attorneys, law students, and other volunteers, and provides the necessary training and mentoring to support those volunteers.

For more information on how you can become a supporter, please contact: MViguesPitan@legalservicesmiami.org



Special Thanks to Our Major Grantors



