WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE
Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) ensures fairness in the civil justice system for the most vulnerable members of our community. From Silicon Valley to Napa Valley, we help clients protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. Our clients include the working poor, families with children, foster youth, seniors, immigrants, veterans, and persons with disabilities. Through our regional county offices, our mobile advocacy clinics, and our nationally-recognized Legal Advice Line, BayLegal prevents domestic violence and sexual assault, increases economic stability, protects consumers, expands access to healthcare, and prevents homelessness. For our clients, BayLegal makes the difference between staying in poverty and thriving toward a brighter future.

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Dear Friends of BayLegal,

As Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) supporters, you are a part of a growing community of individuals committed to more than just legal aid—you are committed to using legal aid as a tool to promote smart policy, fix broken systems, and above all else, change lives.

From intake to impact advocacy, BayLegal helps level the playing field to bring hope and fairness to our community.

When we help a woman and her children escape an abusive home, we break cycles of violence. We change not only her life, but the lives of her children. We amplify our impact when we appeal the denial of a domestic violence restraining order, and obtain a published legal decision mandating a judge follow certain steps in order to better protect victims. It is then that our actions help change thousands of lives.

When we help a young person caught at the intersection of the refugee and foster care systems receive the critical health coverage he needs, he is able to focus on excelling in school—and that has the power to change the course of his life. And when we file an impact litigation case to compel state agencies to fix their broken systems, hundreds, if not thousands of lives are changed.

We are at our best when we are working together. When our clients have the solidarity and support of friends and neighbors like you, the Bay Area thrives. When we are working together for justice, we change lives.

Alex R. Gulotta
Executive Director

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**You Changed Lives!**

You believed we could change clients’ lives through the power of law. Because of you, we prevented homelessness for Bay Area families. We empowered thousands to become survivors of domestic violence. We helped individuals transitioning back to their communities find a second chance. Together, we made justice possible. Thank you!
We’re at a point in time when government legal aid funding is being threatened, and yet the number of low-income residents who need legal representation is overwhelming and growing.

It was important to step up our giving to BayLegal this year to reaffirm the value of their services and to help ensure that BayLegal can continue to serve as a vital resource for Bay Area residents who are in need.” – Leah Spero

On behalf of our staff, board, and clients, we extend our thanks to Leah & Ben Spero for their generosity and visionary contribution.
Individual Donors

**Why BayLegal?**

As a client, annual donor, and member of the Board of Directors, Bob Planthold’s commitment to BayLegal’s clients is unparalleled. A longstanding, vocal community advocate, Bob’s fight for justice and inclusion for people living with disabilities has earned him numerous awards and honors in San Francisco—the city he has called home for over forty years.

“People with disabilities are the most unemployed and underemployed population in the country. We are under-housed. We are the most transit-dependent constituency in the country, and yet we are too often ignored,” Bob says.

“I’m proud to be a part of BayLegal because we are committed to fighting for justice.”

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(continued from page 3)
For five years, my husband, four kids, and I lived in increasingly unsanitary housing conditions; but the landlord was kind to us and fair with the rent. When a new landlord took over, however, the conditions became unbearable, and he refused to address any of it.

My daughter and youngest son were hospitalized many times for severe asthma. They couldn’t crawl or play on the floor because of the insects. When I tried to demand repairs, the landlord served us with a 60-day notice. He claimed there was no cause.

I was really scared. The first time I met my attorney, Oraneet Shikmah Orevi, was on a Wednesday. I felt relief because we sat down and she started asking me questions and listened to my answers. She said she would help me and we scheduled an appointment at her office the following day—it was a Thursday. I had a court date on Monday, and Oraneet represented me.

It’s been a year since we suffered through those circumstances, but I remember like it was yesterday. Today, it’s the opposite—everything’s positive. We live better. We’re happy. The children are happy. I hope for them that they’ll be good—that they’ll be students and learn.”

BayLegal congratulates Guadalupe for asserting her rights, moving into the new home she was able to save for as a result of her case, her newfound U.S. citizenship, and—above all else—her resilience.

“Where are we going to go? Maybe a hotel, but it’s expensive. And where am I going to take my kids?”
– Guadalupe
Profiles

Profile of a Justice Warrior

If you ask her clients, they will tell you that Protima is more than a family law attorney. They will tell you stories of how she fought for them during their darkest and most fearful hours, and how she never gave up on empowering them to believe they could live free from their abuser. They will tell you she is a justice warrior.

Born and raised in India, Protima gained her commitment to social justice from her parents. As a young attorney Protima recognized the lack of services for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and she’s been advocating for survivors of abuse ever since. Today, Protima Pandey is the Managing Attorney of BayLegal’s San Mateo County office and Regional Counsel for Immigration. In addition to her full practice and service on multiple boards and domestic violence councils, Protima is honored to serve as a Commissioner to the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

“There is no battle bigger than the ones my clients are fighting. Their story is the single most important reason that I stand in court—in front of administrative law judges and adjudicating officers—to connect their struggles to a legal system that is meant to alleviate their suffering. It is their courage that inspires us to do our best work.”

We Grew!

This past year, we invested in growing our impact litigation and policy efforts, with Director of Litigation and Advocacy, Rebekah Evenson, and Senior Litigator, Bob Capistrano, leading the charge.

BayLegal advocates impact the lives of 60,000 clients and their families annually. By using the eyes and ears we have on the ground as the largest legal aid provider in the Bay Area, our attorneys are able to identify patterns and systemic breakdowns that affect large numbers of low-income clients in the Bay Area and throughout California. We develop coordinated, novel legal strategies to address these issues.

“We’re able to bring about cases that are really responsive to what our clients are telling us. Cases that require us to reimagine our current legal and administrative systems and not only consider what is, but what could be,” says Rebekah.

BayLegal’s work to end the suspension of drivers’ licenses due to inability to pay fines and fees—an issue that BayLegal’s impact team worked in close collaboration with legal aid providers statewide—is just one example of BayLegal’s successful advocacy model. Thanks to a statewide effort in 2016, today all courts are required to give low-income traffic defendants the opportunity to seek a reduced fine or community service. BayLegal is lead counsel in two impact suits aiming to bring further protections to over 600,000 Californians facing penalties from the DMV solely because they could not afford to pay traffic tickets.
Law Firm, Corporate, Cy Pres, and Foundation Support

Thank you to our allies for investing in the power of legal aid. Your support provided solutions to families who needed housing, food, and health care. By embracing the powerful tool that is legal aid, your support resulted in real change for thousands of Bay Area families. Investing in BayLegal is a win-win for all!

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When Noor came to BayLegal at age 18, he was caught at the intersection of the refugee and foster care systems. Noor immigrated alone to the U.S. two years earlier, after his family was displaced by the U.S. invasion of Iraq and then the Arab Spring.

When his health care coverage was incorrectly denied, a partner organization connected Noor to BayLegal. His BayLegal attorneys restored his medical coverage and they also recognized a broader, systemic issue affecting refugee foster youth throughout California.

“When we met Noor, my colleagues and I had no idea about the administrative confusion at Medi-Cal about where refugee foster youth ‘fit in’ to the system, nor the scope of the issue,” says Lisa Newstrom, BayLegal’s Santa Clara County Managing Attorney. “All we knew was that these administrative gaps could have devastating consequences for Noor and other refugee foster youth with urgent health care needs.”

BayLegal attorneys co-counseled with Hanson Bridgett LLP and the National Health Law Program to file *Kathem v. Lightbourne* et al., resulting in a successful settlement ensuring the state would comply with its legal responsibility to provide Medi-Cal health insurance to refugee foster youth like Noor.

Today, Noor’s determination, resilience, and talents have led him to Arizona State University, where he will join the school’s junior class on a wrestling scholarship. Congratulations, Noor!
THE NEED

In the past year, 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem.

In the Bay Area:

38,724 calls to BayLegal’s Legal Advice Line

3,195 people attended Legal Clinics

Top three legal needs:
- Housing Preservation
- Economic Justice
- Domestic Violence Prevention

Multilingual services + Legal expertise = CLIENT EMPOWERMENT

OUR IMPACT

Together, we changed more lives than ever before!

We raised over $16 million to help the Bay Area thrive.

We helped 4,500 people receive health care and safety-net benefits.

We provided advocacy for 5,000 families facing homelessness.

We empowered 9,400 survivors of violence and their children to escape abuse.

We counseled 14,500 people about deceptive lending practices.

We recovered $35.3 million in benefits for our clients and their families.

We’ve improved over 60,000 lives!

OUR CLIENTS

From Napa Valley to Silicon Valley, we serve some of the most vulnerable, yet incredibly resilient, members of our communities.

47% Family members with disabilities

40% Client households with children

25% Seniors

15% Recent immigrants

Cases by County

25% Contra Costa

35% Alameda

8% Napa & Marin

17% San Francisco

15% San Mateo & Santa Clara

“I feel like I can do anything with my life now.”

– Monica, U.S. Navy veteran and former BayLegal client
Our pro bono heroes provided more than 30,000 hours of service in 2016. Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment make a real difference in the lives of our clients and their families.

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Steffi Chan is a Public Finance Attorney and the Managing Associate of the San Francisco office of Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe LLP. She has the career that lawyers work hard to achieve. Respected by her colleagues and the partners at her firm, she has a bright future ahead of her.

But Steffi doesn’t settle for her own bright future. Through her pro bono work, she makes sure that others, like Jose and Luis, have a chance to make their dreams come true.

Jose and Luis’ family is like many immigrant families—working hard for the American dream and enduring extreme hardships along the way. Their mother suffered severe domestic violence, but found the courage to cooperate with law enforcement to help prosecute her abuser. Her resilience inspired Jose and Luis to believe in a better future.

As high school students, they excelled in their academics and were active in their church community. They focused on building a new life and attending college—a dream that would require them to adjust their immigration status. When Steffi learned she could help, she did not hesitate. Because of Steffi, Jose will attend college in the fall, and his brother, Luis, looks forward to joining him in paving the way for their three younger siblings.

“I am fortunate to be in a position to help underserved communities, and am grateful to work at a firm that encourages its attorneys to make a social impact,” says Steffi. “Immigrants’ rights are human rights, and I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for them.”
Pro Bono Heroes

(continued from page 11)

Robert Vesperini
Angela Vigil
Giselle Vigneron
Joan Villa
Pamela Vincent
Micheline Visser
Nathan Volz
David Vondle
Katharine Walsham
Spencer Wan
Daniel H. Wang
Sarah Ward
Zachary Wechsler
Susan Welch
Robert Wells
May Whitaker
Lindsay White
Beth Williams
Gary Williams
Hannah Withers
Debbie Won
Alvina Wong
Jonathan M. Wong
Brandy Worden
Jack Yang
Chanell Yates
Bruce Yen
Raymond Yetka
Stephanie Yonker
Jenna Yott
Richard Young
Anna Yuan
Carol Yur
Flavia Zanetto
Hallie Zimmerman
Rachel Zuraw
Catherine Hertel
Loretta Ho
Tania Hyatt
Erica Johnson
Malikia Kaur
Colleen Kent
Matt Kesner
Frank Kong
James Kwan
Virginia Li
Julie Liang
Cori Liu
Rosalind Liddell
Julia Mariani
Michelle Martinez
Sophie Mason
James McKenna
Felix Peralta
Heidi Porlier
Janhun Ren
Tetyana Retslav
Erika Salum
Elizabeth Sanchez
Santiago
Michael Simpson
Ati Soleimani
Jill Sperber
Justin Steele
Ivy Tao
Rena Thiagarajan
Olha Tolkalenko
Maggie Urrutia
Christina Valencia
Kathryn Van Gaasbeek
Christian Vescia
Tinh Vy
Christian Wagner
Denise Watt
Melody White
Siu Williams
Lisa Wu
Cecilia Yoshida
Alexander Gobret
Janene Grigsby
Erin Gunter
Courtney Hatchett
Sophia Hang
Linh-Phuong Ho
Seung Eun Hong
Jenna Hsieh
Jennifer Hsu
Jessica Hong
Maja Iyani
Jermain Jones
Janet Jun
Julia Kantor
Jan Kawano
Brandon Kim
Michelle Kim
Lori Komshan
Martha Kong
Toni Lambert
Tina Lee
Christine LeVasser
Ruth Lindemann
Heidi Liu
Amy Loo
Jamilah Mena
Kellen Miller
Dave Mitchell
Dan Morrison
Brooke Murphy
Zach Newman
Zachary Nguyen
Ana Oldwin
Brian Olffo
Aditya Pai
Ji Yong Park
Pia Pyrtek
Gautam Rao
Marissa Rhoades
Lisa Richards
Alex Rosenberg
Christopher Roth
Carolyn Saraspi
Alysha Seroussi
Shiva Rupal Shah
Emma Strong
Amy Tannerbaum
Daniel Tayakin
Chanmealea Tho
John Treat
Chieh Tung
Clay Venetis
Janet Werkman
Julie Westerling
Anita Williams
Lyjuana Xiao
Hailey Yoon
Eric Young
Veronica Zavala
Tracy Zhang
Summer Xiayun Zhou

Clerical Support
Gicel Angeles
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Veronica Avila
Karen Avila
Stephne Lynn
Baltazar Poole
Jessica Bedolla
Abrina Carlos
Gyu Choi
Hannah Choi
Razan Dabdabd
Ravi Dahiwal
Diana Demchenko
Alicia Ponce Diaz
Diana Escamilla
Jennifer Estevez
Veronica Fletcher
Corine Forward
Annalisa Fredricks
Amisha Gandhi
Linda Gao
Jovelyn Gonzalez
Alma Gonzalez-Martinez
Andrea Guevara
Allison Hayes
Matt Hehman
Katherine Jordan
Shannon Kakuk
Gloria Kim
Zoe Korpi
Anthony Kwan
Ye Na Lee
Rebecca Lei
Michel Li
Kelly Liu
Amy Loo
Cristal Lopez
Rosario Lopez
Leonia Major
Leilanie Martinez
Vanessa Mejia
Tara Michandani
Dave Mitchell
Liliana Morales
Meralina Morales
Dan Morrison
Brian Nichols
David Pankratz
Marissa Plante
Kadija Samura
Cameron Scott
Curtis Sicks
Mayeli Soto
Christina Toma
Ram Vaidyanathan
Carolina Valentines
Liliana Vazquez Elizalde
Judy Wang
BayLegal works alongside over 100 nonprofit organizations throughout the Bay Area to advance innovative, effective partnerships that improve outcomes for our clients and communities.

We would like to recognize some of our many inspiring community partners in 2016:

Abode Services  
Alameda County Family Justice Center  
Alliance For Children’s Rights  
American Canyon  
Family Resource Center  
Asian Women’s Shelter  
Auction Napa Valley  
Bay Area Community Services  
Calli House Youth Shelter  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
City Of Calistoga  
Communities Overcoming  
Relationship Abuse  
Community Action Napa Valley  
Community Solutions  
Community Violence Solutions  
Contra Costa County  
Alliance to End Abuse  
Contra Costa County Superior Court  
Contra Costa Family Justice Alliance  
Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic  
Cope Family Center  
Council for a Strong America: Fight Crime Invest in Kids  
Covenant House  
Daly City Community Center  
DeafHope  
Dept. of Child Support Services  
DreamCatcher Youth Shelter  
East Bay Community Law Center  
East Oakland Community Project  
Eastside Preparatory  
Fair Housing Napa Valley  
Familias Unidas  
Food Bank of Solano and Contra Costa Counties  
Fremont Family Resource Center  
Glide Memorial Church  
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay  
Highland Hospital  
Homeless Prenatal Program  
Housing & Economic Rights Advocates  
International Institute of the Bay Area  
Justice in Aging  
Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center of Santa Clara Law School  
Larkin Street Youth Shelter  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo  
Monument Crisis Center  
Napa County Women Lawyers  
NARIKA  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Health Law Program  
NEWS-Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services  
OneJustice  
Positive Resource Center  
Puertas Abiertas  
Rainbow Community Center  
Reentry Success Center  
Rubicon Programs  
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments  
San Francisco LGBT Center  
San Mateo County Law Library  
Santa Clara County Family Justice Center  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
Shelter Inc.  
SparkPoint Centers - Contra Costa County  
SparkPoint Initiative, United Way of the Bay Area  
STAND! For Families Free of Violence  
Swords to Plowshares  
Ted Adcock Community Center  
Tenants Together  
University of California Hastings College of the Law  
UpValley Family Centers  
Veteran’s Home of California - Yountville  
VOICES  
West Contra Costa County Family Justice Center  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
Yountville Veterans Home  
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

**San Francisco Medical-Legal Partnership**

Working together, doctors and lawyers are solving legal problems and creating better health outcomes. BayLegal’s Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) with the Children’s Health Center at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG) is proving that a holistic approach can make a difference.

Through the partnership, patients and families are connected with an attorney on site, who can assist them with legal barriers that contribute to their health issues.

“I can work with the doctor to make sure that a landlord takes care of mold or rodents that are at the root of a child’s asthma. A multidisciplinary approach enhances the medical and legal side,” says Jia Min Cheng, BayLegal’s MLP Attorney. “I am able to quickly build relationships with my clients because their medical provider has vouched for me, and I encounter fewer barriers to getting the corroboration from medical providers needed in a legal case.”

We congratulate Jia Min for being honored with the ZSFG Foundation’s Hearts and Heroes Award for her work with the Partnership.
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We thank God there are still good people like you in this troubled world.”  
– Letter from client to her attorney, Cristina Peña Vásquez

“"We thank God there are still good people like you in this troubled world.”  
– Letter from client to her attorney, Cristina Peña Vásquez

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Oraneet Shikmah Orevi, Esq.
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University of California, Davis School of Law
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University of La Verne College of Law
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Mélody Saint-Saëns, Esq.
University of Miami School of Law
Mohammad Sheikh
Director of Finance and Administration
Anne Sidwell, Esq.
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Ann Surapruik, Esq.
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Sacha Steinberger, Esq.
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Adam Stone
Director of Information Technology
Trevina Tang, Accountant
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Ken Theisen, Advocate
Chantal Tien, Advocate
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Cristina Peña Vázquez, Esq.
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Michelle Weger, Senior Grants Officer
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Naomi Young, Esq.
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Lily Zhang, Esq.
University of California, Hastings College of the Law

“Sarah is a miracle worker! She is the only person who was able to help me get on Medi-Cal. Your services are a blessing to the community.”
– Letter from client to her attorney, Sarah Demarest

Staff list as of 7/1/2017
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2016

Assets
Cash and cash equivalents $ 1,416,034
Grants receivable 1,575,297
Pledges receivable 460,607
Other assets 129,173
Investments 2,292,938
Property and equipment 6,785,653
Total assets $ 12,659,702

Liabilities & net assets
LIABILITIES
Accounts payable $ 218,055
Accrued liabilities: 899,749
Deferred revenue 667,164
Notes payable 5,119,467
Total liabilities 6,904,435

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted 3,210,785
Unrestricted - Property and equipment 2,451,328
Temporarily restricted 93,154
Total net assets 5,755,267

Total liabilities & net assets $ 12,659,702

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended December 31, 2016

Revenue and support
Government contracts $ 6,194,612 $ 4,330,760 $ 10,525,372
Donated services 2,877,494 2,877,494
Contributions 946,302 946,302
Grants 1,613,028 1,613,028
Attorney Fees 156,276 156,276
Other revenue 539,252 539,473
Net assets released from program restrictions 5,923,658 0
Total revenue and support 16,637,594 20,638 16,658,232

Expenses
Program services 14,529,661
Support services 1,452,800 1,452,800
Fundraising 498,855 498,855
Total expenses 16,481,316 0 16,481,316

Change in net assets 156,278 20,638 176,916
Net assets, beginning of year 5,505,835 72,516 5,578,351
Net assets, end of year $5,662,113 $93,154 $5,755,267
We Moved!

BayLegal’s San Francisco office found a new home in the newly-renovated San Francisco LGBT Center.

“Many of our clients, particularly those with disabilities, would find it impossible to access our services if we did not have a presence here,” says Jerel McCrary, BayLegal’s Managing Attorney for San Francisco County.

“BayLegal’s very presence and the community’s recognition of the work we do here in San Francisco allow us to learn about innovative, replicable solutions, participate in their development, and export the lessons to other jurisdictions facing similar problems.”

We Merged!

In 2016 we deepened our roots in Napa. When Legal Aid of Napa Valley approached BayLegal about a formal merger, we knew we had an opportunity to build on the incredible work of our long-time partner in justice.

“Because of our shared commitment to serving the community, our advocacy has not missed a step since the merger,” says Genevieve Richardson, BayLegal’s Managing Attorney for Napa, Contra Costa, and Marin counties.

We have expanded our advocacy and focus on representing survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in a full range of immigration, housing, and family law matters. We continue to work closely with long-time funders and community partners to protect seniors from abuse, harassment, and homelessness.

Today the Napa office is home to an expanded staff and regional infrastructure, and we celebrate the Napa community’s warm welcome.
Bay Legal Helps People Solve Problems

Bay Area Legal Aid serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.