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Remembering BayLegal Board Director Bob Planthold

Bay Area Legal Aid lost a friend, ally and leader with the passing of Robert "Bob" Planthold on January 27th, 2022. During his decades on the BayLegal Board, Bob was a passionate advocate for our clients and a person "justly described as a giant of the disability rights movement," to use the words of Board Chair Rob Goodin.

From his service on the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and Ethics Commission, to his organizing for expanded transit access and safety for seniors and disabled persons, Bob’s advocacy for civil legal services was just one part of his extensive and lifelong activism. His life’s work was animated by an unwavering belief in equal justice and public accountability, and BayLegal will miss the force of this belief and Bob’s presence for years to come.
BAYLEGAL IN 2021 & BEYOND
A Message from Our Executive Director & Board Chair

Thank you for your partnership and support of our critical work with low-income communities throughout the Bay Area toward a more just society for all!

As BayLegal continues to advocate for clients and dares to imagine our “post-pandemic” work, our goal and vision is not for a return to the past, but for a future of true equity, inclusion, and stability for our clients and client communities — for a society in which everyone thrives.

The pandemic both exposed and increased deep historical inequities and disparities caused by racism, discrimination, an insufficient social safety net, and acceptance of a starkly divided economic system in which some have a lot, and many have very little and barely survive. The disparate economic fallout of the pandemic brought a rising tide of evictions, precarious housing, debt, poverty and a widening wealth gap that will continue beyond the public health crisis.

BayLegal’s vision of the future means we will continue to be on the front lines fighting for a just civil legal system that equitably serves all people regardless of race, sexuality, gender and class. We must continue to fight against predatory consumer debt collection practices, illegal evictions and housing displacement. We must continue to dismantle legal barriers to healthcare, education, employment, and the basic income, food, nutrition, and housing supports that make up our social safety net. We must continue to listen to our clients, meet them where they are, and help them address the legal barriers they face so they may obtain their goals. We must continue our work in systemic policy and impact litigation to stop identified patterns of oppression, dysfunction, and injustice. We must continue to share our expertise and participate in public and private partnerships centered on creating and enhancing the effectiveness of our social safety net to reduce homelessness and utilization of expensive emergency services and increase stability for low-income individuals and families. We must continue our advocacy to break down the legacy of preventable inequity and the justice divide in America.

We are grateful to you, our donors, supporters, allies and partners who join us in this vision and work for the future. Thank you for your commitment and solidarity through these difficult years — and thank you in advance for your continued partnership in the years ahead.

Genevieve Richardson
Executive Director, Bay Area Legal Aid

Robert A. Goodin
Chair, BayLegal Board of Directors
Maricela Garza* and her two children came to BayLegal facing the loss of their Section 8 housing voucher. Their landlord had informed the Santa Clara County Housing Authority that she believed there were unauthorized occupants living with Ms. Garza. SCCHA had given a Notice of Intent to Terminate Housing Assistance.

In the increasingly unaffordable South Bay rental market, a voucher provides critical support to prevent displacement, crowded and substandard housing, or homelessness. Many low-income families are housing cost-burdened even with a voucher—and without a voucher, housing may become out of reach.

For Ms. Garza, helping her family navigate the pandemic had meant adding her mother and niece to her voucher. It also meant that the father of one of her children visited frequently to provide childcare, and worked from her home while he was there. SCCHA’s investigation focused on these family members, and requested documents from Ms. Garza to prove that her child’s father was not living there, and that her mother and niece had not lived in the house while not on her voucher. All of these allegations likely originated with the landlord, who had attempted to pressure Ms. Garza into unlawful “side rent” payments and may have been retaliating.

Faced with the burden of quickly gathering her former partner’s bank statements and her own check cashing receipts, proof of address for three individuals, and custody documents for her niece, Ms. Garza had missed the deadline that SCCHA had set. BayLegal housing advocate Refugio Huizar, supported by Supervising Housing Attorney Lara Verwer, successfully negotiated a hearing for Ms. Garza with sufficient time to prepare. He then worked to assemble the extensive list of documents demanded by SCCHA, and was successful in the hearing; the hearing officer overturned the termination. Ms. Garza’s voucher was saved, and she and her children remained housed.

Hi Ms. Verwer, Thank you so much for your time. I appreciate all the advice you have given me as well as all the help I received from Mr. Huizar who fought for me in the hearing as well as grateful for agencies like Bay Area Legal Aid. I remember as a kid, my mom received help from your agency. At the time, I never knew what your agency did but my mom was always talking about “legal aid”. We stayed in our house for months to follow because of the help she received from you guys. Now, you guys have done the same for my kids. I am forever indebted and grateful! It means so much to someone like me. I cannot thank you guys enough! God bless and happy holidays as well!

—letter from Maricela Garza

According to the Legal Services Corporation’s 2022 Justice Gap Study:

**84% of households**

with high housing costs had 1 or more civil legal problems during 2021.

For Ms. Garza, helping her family navigate the pandemic had meant adding her mother and niece to her voucher. It also meant that the father of one of her children visited frequently to provide childcare, and worked from her home while he was there. SCCHA’s investigation focused on these family members, and requested documents from Ms. Garza to prove that her child’s father was not living there, and that her mother and niece had not lived in the house while not on her voucher. All of these allegations likely originated with the landlord, who had attempted to pressure Ms. Garza into unlawful “side rent” payments and may have been retaliating.

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* We have used a pseudonym to protect this client's privacy.
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Your support in 2021 was both generous and effective.

Every dollar donated translated into $1.68 in direct economic benefits for our clients.
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BAYLEGAL'S IMPACT IN 2021

Getting Results for Our Clients

HOUSING
BayLegal's 2,571 housing cases pushed back against the rising tide of evictions, helped secure access to pandemic rental assistance programs, and fought for the right to live free from discrimination in safe and affordable housing. Our 2,252 closed cases resulted in more than $7 million in benefits for clients.

PUBLIC BENEFITS
In 1,496 public benefits cases, our advocacy helped clients access critical public safety net programs supporting family health, nutrition, disability services, and a range of income supports. Direct economic benefits of more than $10.9 million across 850 closed cases resulted in an average benefit of more than $12,800.

HEALTH
BayLegal's Health Consumer Center helped clients in 1,041 cases by advocating for access to necessary and lifesaving health care coverage and services, and for some, preventing catastrophic medical debt. Our 913 closed cases resulted in economic benefits of nearly $2 million.

FAMILY LAW
In 588 cases, BayLegal helped survivors of violence and their children to remove legal barriers to safety and freedom from violence.

IMMIGRATION
In 446 cases, BayLegal represented immigrant survivors of violence in obtaining eligible immigration relief and employment authorization resulting in increased personal safety, reunited families, and self-sufficiency.

CONSUMER RIGHTS
BayLegal helped clients in 200 cases, fighting back against unlawful debt collection and predatory lending schemes, and recovering over $880,000 in 107 closed cases.

YOUTH JUSTICE
In 117 cases, BayLegal helped transition-age youth increase access to foster care benefits, educational supports, and guardianship.

OTHER LEGAL SERVICES
In 299 cases, BayLegal provided assistance with wills, advance directives, employment rights, expungement, license reinstatement, and civil rights matters.

5,938 clients represented in 6,758 cases
4,791 additional client household members
73,589 individuals helped with referrals, know your rights information and legal pleadings
100,000+ individuals statewide helped by our advocacy and litigation
96% favorable outcomes from representation
$35+ million in direct economic benefits for low-income families and communities

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2021 BAYLEGAL ANNUAL REPORT
BayLegal’s pro bono partners play a critical role in the delivery of civil legal services to individuals and families in communities across seven Bay Area counties. Our volunteers range from students and paralegals to corporate counsel and law firm partners.

They contribute significantly to positive outcomes for our clients by providing advice and counsel, assisting litigants with pro per pleadings and hearing preparation at our clinics, representing clients in limited and extended representation, and co-counseling on affirmative and impact cases. Our partnerships with law schools, law students and undergraduates furthers our commitment to supporting a new generation of public interest advocates and legal aid litigators.

BayLegal volunteers strengthen every aspect of our work to protect the rights of low-income communities, including access to public benefits and healthcare, eviction and homelessness prevention and intervention, protection against predatory and unlawful debt collection, safety for U.S.-born and immigrant survivors of interpersonal violence, and unique issues facing veterans, individuals formerly involved with the criminal justice system, and youth.

In 2021, 373 volunteers donated nearly 18,000 hours of service valued at more than $5.9 million.
Pro Bono & Volunteers

Jessica Dean
Anita Desai
Sarah Dhanani

“I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with BayLegal on litigation matters that have great significance to individuals who face injustices in the Bay Area.”

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Ana Gonzalez
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Anna Koltunov
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Anna Lorenzo
Shealyn Massey

2021 Pro Bono Hero—Melody Sequoia

Melody Sequoia has been volunteering since 2020 with BayLegal’s Consumer Justice Unit on a case in which a landlord first evicted our client—who had been living in his Santa Clara County home for more than 30 years—and then immediately and without any justification sued our client for $55,000 in general civil court. Melody, who previously volunteered pro bono at BayLegal’s Consumer Rights Clinics in the South Bay, agreed to join BayLegal as co-counsel both in defending our client in this bad faith action, and in representing him in a cross-complaint for damages related to his landlord’s conduct.

Melody’s work with BayLegal in 2021—continuing into 2022—exemplifies the critical importance of our pro bono partners’ time and talent in providing high-quality legal services to our clients in long-term, complex matters. We share our deepest gratitude with Melody, and with all BayLegal 2021 volunteers!
HEALTH CONSUMER RIGHTS
Pushing Back Against Unfair Medical Debt Collections

When Freweini Solomon sought routine medical care at Highland Hospital in Oakland, she had no reason to believe that it would lead to thousands of dollars in medical debt and a collections lawsuit.

Staff at the hospital, a part of the Alameda Health System (AHS), took her insurance card but did not inform her that it had expired. No one spoke to her about alternative options for payment or informed her of her right to apply for charity care and the likelihood that she would receive free or significantly discounted care. This is a discussion that California Health and Safety Code (HSC) requires all hospitals to have with patients.

Ms. Solomon first learned that there was an issue when she received a notice that she was being sued by a third-party debt collector for unpaid medical bills. She reached out to BayLegal for assistance, and an attorney assisted her in filing an answer and a fee waiver.

BayLegal attorneys found that AHS’ failure to advise about charity care and alternative payment was widespread, impacting many low income patients visiting hospitals in the AHS network. Our attorneys sent a Public Records Act Request to AHS to obtain records about their charity care practices and figure out the extent of the problem.

BayLegal got Ms. Solomon’s case dismissed, and our attorneys' records requests caught the attention of AHS’ counsel. Conversations with opposing counsel about Ms. Solomon's case led to discussions with AHS about their broader charity care and debt collection policies.

[My BayLegal attorneys] were very kind and helpful individuals. They took my case as their own, and did all the follow up very attentively. I will forever be grateful for their help!

—email from Freweini Solomon

Under-resourced or unduly restrictive charity care programs contribute significantly to low-income Californians' lack of healthcare access and higher rates of untreated health issues. A 2021 study of California healthcare consumers by the National Bureau for Economic Research found that healthcare consumers who had access to charity care programs had a 13.4% higher rate of seeking necessary medical care when compared with patients at similar income levels who were not accepted into charity care programs. Defending our clients against improper or unlawful medical debt collections is a key strategy to advance our goal of more equitable access to healthcare for low-income communities.

As a result of BayLegal’s work, AHS ordered its third-party collection agency to dismiss dozens of pending collection lawsuits on AHS hospital debt and opened an ongoing dialogue regarding their charity care and general debt collection policies.
BAYLEGAL’S 2021 IMPACT
Litigation and Advocacy

Litigation

Consumer justice

Fighting unlawful debt collections
BayLegal successfully set aside a judgment against our client, proving that the debt buyer Achievable Solutions, Inc. (ASI) had submitted false declarations to obtain a default judgment.

Chambers v. Achievable Solutions, Inc. (affirmative San Francisco Superior Court case no. CGC-21-595091; defensive San Francisco Superior Court case no. CGC-19-581292).

In 2022 BayLegal initiated a case against ASI based on ASI and their process service agency’s failure to serve defendants with notice of their collections cases, and falsifying proofs of service in order to obtain default judgments. This case is ongoing; for details and media response please see https://baylegal.org/bay-area-legal-aid-files-suit-against-junk-debt-buyer-for-fraudulent-collection-practices/.

Furthering government transparency
As a result of litigation under the federal Freedom of Information Act against the U.S. Department of Education, BayLegal obtained information about for-profit colleges’ prior bad acts to support BayLegal clients’ application for discharge of federal student loans.


Fines and fees

Stopping vehicle tows that target low-income people
We continued our work since 2017, in both individual cases and impact litigation, challenging practices that punish poverty by towing cars when a person cannot afford to pay outstanding tickets.

(See https://baylegal.org/tag/poverty-tows/ for an overview of updates and publications related to this advocacy).

While the litigation was pending, BayLegal’s advocacy resulted in the City and County of San Francisco creating a $2,500 balance due threshold before towing vehicles for late parking tickets. This minimum threshold will affect 27,697 of the 33,911 vehicles – 82% of the vehicles – the City would have otherwise towed immediately. Persons under the threshold now get a 72-hour period to resolve the unpaid debt and citation before the City tows the vehicle. Also, the City will no longer tow a vehicle if it is apparent the vehicle is being used as a home as long as it is safely and legally parked. Such persons will be considered for the City’s one-time waiver of all parking citations for persons experiencing homelessness. The City also reduced towing costs and fees for eligible low-income persons.


Halting unlawful driver’s license suspensions
In other work to stop fines and fees targeting low-income people, we continued pre-litigation negotiations with Marin Superior Court for its unlawful initiation and maintenance of driver’s license suspensions for failure to appear. In response to our advocacy, the Court has not sent any failure-to-appear notices to the DMV that would trigger a driver’s license suspension since April 2020.

Access to health care

Expediting Medi-Cal enrollment
We settled a case with the CA Department of Health Care Services ensuring applicants who meet eligibility criteria have health coverage as soon as they apply. Under the settlement,
Impact Litigation and Advocacy

Applicants who appear to be eligible at the time of application will not have to wait for verification of that information and may receive Medi-Cal covered health care services pending verification ("Accelerated Enrollment"). For most this means immediate access to health care. Applications that do not qualify for Accelerated Enrollment must be decided within 45 days or receive a notice that additional information is needed within 45 days.

Rivera v. Kent, Cal. Supreme Court case no. S257304; First Appellate Dist., Div. 4 case no. A147534.

Advocating for fair share-of-cost policies
We continued litigating a case challenging the inclusion of tax garnishments in assessing a Medi-Cal recipient’s share of cost.


Justice for unhoused persons
We continued negotiating with San Francisco on behalf of the Coalition on Homelessness regarding the City’s encampment sweeps and disposing of the property of unhoused persons.


Economic justice for individuals with criminal legal system contact

Promoting fair and equal employment opportunities
In 2018, BayLegal and the Impact Fund (later joined by the Safe Return Project) filed suit against the West Contra Costa Unified School District, challenging the district’s hiring practices and policies for persons with criminal legal system contact. In particular, our suit challenged the legality of criminal background checks as an up-front "gatekeeping" screening question as they had been applied to our client, Walter Killian.

The case was settled in 2019, with the school district pledging to stop asking about prior convictions on its initial job application form, and instead evaluate an applicant’s overall fitness for a position first, before considering criminal history.

In 2021 BayLegal received the final settlement implementation report from West Contra Costa Unified School District. This included five implementation reports across two and a half years of tracking settlement implementation. We created a website to serve as a resource for impacted persons and advocates and to encourage other California school districts to make similar improvements. For further detail on this case, please see https://www.impactfund.org/equal-opportunity-hiring-in-ca-schools, and updates in our newsfeed at https://baylegal.org/new-resources-for-equal-opportunity-hiring-impact-funds-advocacy-guide-for-school-districts-after-the-killian-settlement/.


Fighting predatory bail bond practices
In 2021 we settled a collections case against a BayLegal client who had co-signed an agreement to pay a bail bond "premium". In the litigation, we argued that the bail bond company violated the Unfair Competition Law when it failed to provide our client with a co-signer notice in connection with the premium financing agreement.

Case and client name and identifying details withheld to protect client confidentiality.

Since the resolution of BayLegal’s case, the Court of Appeal held in a similar case that bail bond companies are required to follow consumer protection laws. For details on that case, see https://www.courthousenews.com/bail-company-must-abide-by-california-consumer-protection-laws-court-rules-in-major-setback-for-bail-industry/.
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Advocacy

Healthcare access

*Increasing access for seniors and persons with disabilities*
BayLegal advocated, together with partners, in support of AB 470 (Carrillo) which increases and then eliminates the asset limit for Medi-Cal programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities. Eliminating the asset test increases access to health care services and ends a disproportionate harm to people of color, who are more likely to have cash savings instead of exempt assets like a home. Governor Newsom signed the health budget trailer bill AB 133, which increases the Medi-Cal asset from $2,000 to $130,000 for a one person household and includes additional increases for family members in the household effective July 1, 2022. AB 133 will fully eliminate the asset test for non-MAGI Medi-Cal programs starting January 1, 2024.

*Establishing speech therapy as a Medi-Cal benefit*
BayLegal collaborated with NHeLP to escalate a Medi-Cal plan's denial of speech therapy for a 22-year-old Medi-Cal beneficiary diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Our advocacy resulted in systemic benefit based on DHCS's confirmation that speech therapy is a Medi-Cal benefit if it is medically necessary and there is no basis for a plan to limit speech therapy based on the age and diagnosis it is being sought to treat.

*Protecting transgender and nonbinary health consumers*
As a result of BayLegal's advocacy with our partners in 2020, the Dept of Health Care Services released a directive (All Plan Letter 20-018) that Medi-Cal health plans cannot issue categorical denials of gender-affirming care as cosmetic without considering medical necessity. In 2021, BayLegal played an important role monitoring plan compliance, working with community partners and the transgender community, and reporting cases to DHCS in which plans categorically denied gender-affirming care.

*Strengthening the Hospital Fair Pricing Act*
BayLegal supported AB 1020 (Friedman), which was signed into law. This bill has many increased protections for health consumers including: requiring hospitals to send an application for financial assistance to patients prior to sending a bill to collections; prohibiting debt collection before 180 days after the initial billing; penalizing hospitals that improperly bill a patient; and establishing an appeals process by regulation.

*Access to justice and the safety net during the pandemic*

*Opening access to COVID stimulus payments and tax assistance at Santa Rita Jail*
Despite their federal right to receive Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), aka COVID-19 stimulus payments, people incarcerated in prison or jail often did not receive payments. BayLegal's advocacy led the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) to reverse its policy of sending back IRS checks and to allow use of the jail as one's mailing address on tax returns. The ACSO also agreed to provide BayLegal with information and materials, and a hotline for individuals who are incarcerated about how to file a 2020 tax return.

*Expanding access to SSI benefits*
Applications and awards for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) dropped significantly after March 2020. We participated in the Social Security Administration's COVID workgroup in 2020 and 2021 and successfully advocated for sub-regulatory policy changes to increase access to benefits and services for individuals with disabilities.

*Expanding access to the courts*
BayLegal successfully advocated for expanded
Impact Litigation and Advocacy

access to the courts, ensuring accessible remote hearing options and improved courtroom safety:

Remote appearances are important for litigants who struggle to appear in person due to financial hardships, prohibitive health conditions, and childcare barriers. BayLegal clients who would have otherwise lost their homes or faced continued intimate partner abuse during the pandemic have successfully accessed the courts because of these remote options. The emergency rule authorizing remote appearances, however, was set to expire. BayLegal supported Senate Bill 241 (Umberg) which passed into law, authorizing the continuation of remote appearances in civil cases.

At a peak of the COVID-19 surge, SF Superior Court continued to mandate in-person appearances for some litigants, including tenants facing evictions and low-income litigants seeking fee waivers. This put our clients, attorneys, court staff, and the public in danger of COVID-19 exposure. As a result of BayLegal and pro bono partner Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP’s threat of litigation and resulting negotiations, the Court outfitted many departments with video conferencing capability and adopted a local rule creating a safety standard which had to be met before in-person appearances would be compelled. Our advocacy in SF also resulted in enhanced language access for remote appearances, with notices being translated into Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish and Russian, and improved processes for handling reasonable accommodation requests to appear virtually.

Domestic violence prevention

Improving police policies and training
BayLegal advocated for the passage of San Francisco Police Department’s (SFPD) Department General Order (DGO) 6.09, an overhaul of the SFPD’s policies and procedures related to domestic violence that was drafted over the course of four years. The DGO, drafted and framed in significant part by BayLegal, is unique in the country in its progressive response to domestic violence, including use of lethality assessments, integrating racial and cultural components, addressing language access, and using LGBTQI framing. The new policies include mandatory domestic violence training for first responders, SFPD officers, and Judges. On January 13, 2022, the police commission passed the DGO and authorized its immediate implementation by SFPD.

Advocating for housing vouchers for survivor safety
BayLegal advocated with Public Housing Authorities in Alameda County to participate in the Emergency Housing Vouchers program to the fullest extent, highlighting how they could use emergency vouchers to provide unit transfers for participants seeking to escape domestic violence. The Housing Authorities adopted policies that were in line with our recommendations. We already invoked these new policies to secure a safety-related transfer for a survivor of domestic violence.

Increasing reporting of domestic violence cases
BayLegal helped shape a recently-enacted San Francisco ordinance that addresses a practice of inappropriate diversion and under-reporting of domestic violence (DV) cases. The ordinance holds the police and DA more accountable to accurately report and charge DV cases as DV rather than non-DV offenses. Compliance with the ordinance will result in more accurate data for the community on DV.

More equitable safety net programs

Increasing funding for indigent clients
With an invitation from legislators in the context of California’s record-setting budget surplus, and in coordination with other advocates, we successfully advocated for substantial increases to the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) for SSI recipients, CalWORKs grant increases, and the expansion of the California Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), including funding for legal services.
Impact Litigation and Advocacy

**Advocating against policies promoting displacement**
BayLegal informed the California Department of Social Services that the CalWORKs Housing Support Program was inadvertently accelerating displacement of low-income families, disproportionately families of color, from San Francisco, exacerbating gentrification and racial inequity. In response, CDSS committed to quarterly meetings with its Housing and Homelessness Division and advocates to address this and other concerns, and committed to providing counties guidance on how to administer CalWORKs housing programs in a way that complies with counties' duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

**Supports for children and youth**

**Supporting youth emancipating from foster care**
BayLegal engaged in planning meetings, contributed to a policy paper, and provided public benefits eligibility technical assistance to help inform universal basic income pilot programs for SF youth emancipating from foster care.

**Protecting unaccompanied immigrant children in CA**
BayLegal supported Assembly Bill 1140 (Rivas), the Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Protections Act, which passed into law. In California, around 2500 unaccompanied children arrive each year and are held in Office of Refugee Resettlement custody in state-licensed facilities. This Act sets a new national standard by ensuring that these children are extended the same protections and support as other children in state-licensed settings.

**Fines and fees**
BayLegal joined SPUR and advocates around the state to advocate with the MTC/BATA oversight committee to reduce FasTrak fines and fees and create processes for debt relief. Prior to this advocacy, FasTrak fines and fees for unpaid tolls had no process for debt forgiveness, no payment plans, no ability to pay determinations, and too often led to low-income drivers being unable to register their vehicles and facing potential license suspensions.

**Protection from unlawful collections**
BayLegal supported Assembly Bill 1405 (Wicks)—the 2021 California Fair Debt Settlement Practices Act—which provides legal protections for consumers targeted by “debt settlement” scammers. These companies aggressively advertise services to financially distressed consumers, skimming thousands of dollars in fees from monthly payments that rarely result in resolving outstanding debts and mislead already struggling families into defaulting on their debts and destroying their credit, only to abandon them when they are sued by creditors. BayLegal included the experiences of its clients in its advocacy letter for the bill, which passed into law.

**Increased legal services funding in CA**
BayLegal advocated along with the Legal Aid Association of CA to increase the Equal Access Fund (EAF) in the Judicial Branch Budget through multiple support letters and meetings with legislators to educate them on the importance of legal services. The legislature’s final budget included $70 million in EAF, which represents $50 million in new funding for legal services. These new funds help address prior funding shortfalls and increasing costs to maintain and expand civil legal services for low-income Californians who would be otherwise unable to obtain legal assistance with the myriad legal issues they confront.

**Protection from landlord harassment**
BayLegal witnessed an increase in reports of landlord harassment during the pandemic, and corresponding displacement of low-income tenants. We provided data and stories to the city of Richmond demonstrating various ways tenants are impacted by landlord harassment. In June, 2021, Richmond joined cities like Oakland and Los Angeles in recognizing the impact landlord harassment can have on displacement, and adopted an anti-harassment ordinance.
2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Nonprofit Community Organizations Helping Our Clients

Abode Services
ACLU of Northern California
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alameda County Family Justice Center
Alameda County Healthcare for the Homeless
Alameda County Law Library
Alliance for Children’s Rights
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Asian Law Services
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
Asian Women’s Shelter
Au Co Vietnamese Cultural Center
Bay Area Community Services
Bayview Hunter’s Point Foundation
Berkeley Food & Housing Project
Bill Wilson Center
Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
Black Organizing Project
Building Blocks for Kids
Building Futures with Women and Children
Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency
California Association of Food Banks
California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations
Calli House
Catholic Charities
Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants
Centro Legal de la Raza
Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco
Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse
Community Action Napa Valley
Community Health Center Network
Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto
Community Solutions
Community Violence Solutions
Contra Costa Family Justice Centers
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services
Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic
Cope Family Center
Council for a Strong America: Fight Crime Invest in Kids
Covenant House
Daly City Community Center
DeafHope
Disability Rights Advocates
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Dolores Street Legal Services
Dreamcatcher Youth Services
East Bay Children’s Law Offices
East Bay Community Law Center
East Oakland Community Project
Eastside Preparatory
ECHo Housing
Eviction Defense Center
Eviction Defense Collaborative
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California
Fair Housing Napa Valley
Familias Unidas
Family Violence Appellate Project
Family Violence Law Center
Five Keys
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Freedom Forward
Fremont Family Resource Center
Glide Memorial Church
Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program
Healthy Richmond
Homeless Action Center
Homeless Advocacy Project
Homeless Prenatal Program
Housing & Economic Rights Advocates
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco
HYPE Center
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Impact Fund
International Children Assistance Network
International Institute of the Bay Area
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Justice & Diversity Center, Bar Association of San Francisco
Justice in Aging
Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center of Santa Clara Law School
Kids in Need of Defense
La Casa de las Madres
Larkin Street Youth Services
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Legal Aid Association of California
Legal Aid of Marin
Legal Aid of Sonoma
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Assistance for Seniors
Legal Assistance for the Elderly
Legal Services for Children
LGBTQ Connection
LifeLong Medical Care
LifeMoves
Lincoln Family Services
MAITRI
Mission Economic
Development Agency
MISSSEY
Monarch Justice Center
Monument Crisis Center
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Napa Valley Communities
Active in Disaster
NARIKA
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Health Law Program
National Homelessness Law Center
National Housing Law Project
National Immigration Law Center
NEWS-Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services
On the Move
OneJustice
PRC
Public Interest Law Project
Puertas Abiertas
Rainbow Community Center
Reentry Success Center
Ritter Center
Roots Community Health Center
Rubicon Programs
Ruby's Place
RYSE Center
Sacred Heart Community Service
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments (SAVE)
Safe Return Project
Saint James Infirmary
San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium
San Francisco Law Library
San Francisco LGBT Center

Santa Clara County Family Justice Centers
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Seneca
Senior Adult Legal Assistance
Shanti
Shelter Inc.
Sidra Wellness Center
Sourcewise
SparkPoint Centers
STAND! For Families Free of Violence
Step Forward Foundation
Swords to Plowshares
TAY ROC
Ted Adcock Community Center
Tenants Together
UpValley Family Center
Vietnamese American Roundtable
Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation
VOICES
Westcoast Children's Clinic
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Young Women's Freedom Center
Youth Law Center
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2021 Calendar Year

Revenues

Expenses

Program Services 90.0%
Management & General 7.1%
Fundraising 2.9%

### Statement of Financial Position

**as of 12/31/2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash / cash equivalents / cash held in trust</td>
<td>$3,610,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>3,374,909</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>323,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets and prepaid expenses</td>
<td>172,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>4,871,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>5,614,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$17,967,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; net assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$447,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>1,333,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>788,997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paycheck Protection Program</td>
<td>1,529,934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>3,293,329</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$7,393,561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **NET ASSETS**                              |              |
| Without donor restrictions                  | $8,245,420   |
| Unrestricted - property and equipment       | 1,744,221    |
| Temporarily restricted                      | 583,891      |
| **Total net assets**                        | $10,573,532  |

### Total liabilities & net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$17,967,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Activities

**as of 12/31/2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and support</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government contracts</td>
<td>$1,552,132</td>
<td>$16,394,726</td>
<td>$17,946,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated services</td>
<td>5,938,303</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,938,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,642,476</td>
<td>1,642,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,277,694</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,277,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attorney fees</td>
<td>931,391</td>
<td>29,536</td>
<td>960,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (cy pres / rent / interest / investments)</td>
<td>1,234,002</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1,234,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>18,364,884</td>
<td>(18,364,884)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>$29,298,406</td>
<td>(297,154)</td>
<td>$29,001,252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>24,513,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; general</td>
<td>1,931,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>803,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$27,248,514</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in net assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,049,892</td>
<td>(297,154)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>7,939,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$9,989,641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>