



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

STORIES THAT MOVE US

Pro Bono Focus – Empowering Consumers to Stand Up to Predatory Loans	3
Legalization of Street Vending in California	4
Protecting Vulnerable Immigrant Children in California	6
Helping to End the Criminalization of Poverty	8
Victory for L.A. Tenants in Housing Discrimination Suit	10
Families Belong Together	12
Ensuring Relative Caregivers Receive Support	14
Section 8 Recipients Win Historic Class Action Settlement	16
Keeping Mothers and Children Together Through Holistic Support	18
Our Events	20
Accolades and Achievements in 2018	22
Our Supporters	23
Board of Directors	24
Financials & Grants	25

MISSION

Public Counsel is the nation's largest not-for-profit law firm specializing in the delivery of *pro bono* legal services.

Founded in 1970, Public Counsel works to protect the legal rights of disadvantaged children; represents immigrants who have been the victims of torture, persecution, domestic violence, trafficking, and other crimes; and fosters economic justice by providing individuals and institutions in underserved communities with access to quality legal representation.

Through a *pro bono* model that leverages the talents and dedication of thousands of attorney and law student volunteers, Public Counsel builds stronger communities in Los Angeles and throughout the nation. In 2018, Public Counsel provided legal services to 16,000 people and 300 nonprofit organizations. Of the 5,700 people to whom we provided full representation, 3,800, or two-thirds, achieved legal successes, resulting in \$11 million in revenue for our clients. We estimate that our impact cases benefited millions of underserved people, while our advocacy efforts affected many more.

ON THE COVER: Public Counsel staff members participated with their children in a rally to protest the government's horrific policy of ripping immigrant children away from their parents.

Dear Friends,

Difficult times require heroes.

Today, we live in times of great inequity and inequality, but Public Counsel has sought to right wrongs inflicted upon more than 16,000 clients in just this past year. For nearly 50 years, Public Counsel — working with its *pro bono* partners — has worked to make this country a more fair and compassionate place, particularly for those who cannot afford counsel and who fear coming forward to protect their rights. Through direct legal assistance, through efforts to impact policies, and through impact litigation, Public Counsel continues to make a real difference.



Public Counsel's acts of heroism this year are many, as you'll see in our Annual Report. Through the eight legal projects that organize Public Counsel's efforts, we have been able to address the rights of women and girls, fought for children, worked with communities to create affordable housing, fought for the rights of consumers, sought to address the horror of homelessness, and sought to assist veterans in their efforts to stabilize their lives.

There have been many successes this past year. Public Counsel has made profound efforts to stop our criminal justice system from continuing to incarcerate individuals just for being poor. Public Counsel has opened up the streets of Los Angeles for street vendors to serve their communities, to earn a living and to share their culture. Public Counsel continues to fight to ensure that schools will actually educate their students, and not just warehouse them. And Public Counsel continues to fight for immigrants who yearn for freedom and deserve an opportunity to contribute to our collective good.

There are more fights ahead. This year, I have been proud to work with Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law to fight against the use of punitive isolation and physical restraints on school children suffering from disabilities. Public Counsel is also working to challenge a bail bonds cartel that our clients believe to be inflating the costs of pre-trial freedom. And Public Counsel continues to hold cities accountable for following California's affordable housing and land use laws, an especially timely issue as residents become increasingly burdened with high rents and housing costs.

Heroism does require some behind the scenes investments. Public Counsel is unique in its ability to provide nearly \$100 million in legal services from a budget of just over \$15 million. How can Public Counsel do that? Public Counsel leverages its 70+ attorneys and 60+ staff through partnerships with some of the leading advocates and law firms in the country. All told last year, more than 5,000 individuals contributed more than 136,000 hours to assist those in need. These volunteers are, as well, heroes.

It has been my great honor and privilege to have served as Chair for this year. I hope you will show your own heroism by standing with me to support the work of Public Counsel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael H. Steinberg'.

Michael H. Steinberg
Board Chair

Dear Friends,

In 2016, Public Counsel honored civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson at our annual William O. Douglas Award Dinner. Mr. Stevenson spoke passionately about effecting change and creating a just world. One thing he said, however, resonated deeply: "Hopelessness is the enemy of justice. Injustice prevails where hopelessness persists."



No word better describes the importance of Public Counsel to our clients, supporters and staff than hope. Whether it is a client seeking legal assistance, or a volunteer looking to give back, each person who engages with Public Counsel is drawn by the promise that we can help solve problems and make the world a better place.

In 2018, however, our ability to give hope to our clients and to remain hopeful ourselves was sorely tested. On a warm evening in July, our staff stood with a mother at Burbank airport as she waited to reunite with her daughter after a two-month separation. Fleeing death threats and violence in Guatemala, the mother and daughter had come to the United States to seek asylum. Yet shortly after their arrival, they were torn apart as a result of the Trump Administration's cruel family separation policy. The mother and daughter were only reunited because of the heroic efforts of a *pro bono* attorney from Akin Gump, our committed staff, and a dozen volunteers that provided support.

Even this bittersweet moment, however, contains seeds of hope. It shows that people who care – Public Counsel staff, our *pro bono* volunteers, and the supporters who make our work possible – can make a difference. As Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project and volunteers worked to free this family from ICE detention and reunite them, our Opportunity Under Law project and Sidley Austin LLP connected with the mother, who agreed to be the plaintiff in a class action against the federal government. The suit seeks to repair the psychological trauma and severe harm inflicted by the government through its family separation policy.

This case illustrates the synergistic relationship between Public Counsel's multifaceted programs. We combine litigation expertise with on-the-ground legal services, and a first class *pro bono* program, to amplify impact. We also use knowledge gained from providing direct client services to advocate for policy change locally and at the state and federal level. In recent years, this unique blend of direct service, impact litigation and policy advocacy has positioned Public Counsel as a leader in the defense of our nation's democracy and the rule of law.

As you read the stories contained in this annual report, I hope you are inspired by the courage of our clients and their fight for justice and opportunity. It is only through the contributions of thousands of volunteers and donors that Public Counsel is able to stand as a beacon of hope for them and for their families. Thank you for helping so many believe that change is possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret M. Morrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Margaret M. Morrow
President and CEO



PRO BONO FOCUS: EMPOWERING CONSUMERS TO STAND UP TO PREDATORY LOANS

Like many people looking for help to cover an unexpected expense, Maria Dominguez—a retired grandmother on a fixed income—considered a personal loan. When she came upon the company LoanMe she was seduced by their promise that the process would be “fast and easy!” However, the company’s advertisements failed to mention the exorbitant fees and astronomical interest rates she would be charged.

LoanMe preapproved Ms. Dominguez for a \$10,600 loan but did not explain there would be an upfront fee of \$2,500 – leaving her with only \$8,100. In addition, Ms. Dominguez did not understand her first payment would be \$1,700 even though her only source of monthly income was \$876 from social security, an amount disclosed on her application.

After many failed efforts to negotiate lower monthly payments, Ms. Dominguez became overwhelmed by the harassing phone calls. She was scared and a bankruptcy petition preparer advised her to file for bankruptcy. LoanMe filed an adversary proceeding against Ms. Dominguez suing her for \$10,600 – even though she only received \$8,100 – and alleged fraud.

Searching for help, Ms. Dominguez contacted Public Counsel’s Debtor Assistance Project, which determined she desperately needed legal representation. *Pro bono* counsel, Jonathan Hayes, agreed to represent Ms. Dominguez, and he was able to get her case dismissed. Ms. Dominguez was grateful for Mr. Hayes’ legal support and calls him her “angel.”



(Left Photo) Jonathan Hayes (right), partner at Resnik Hayes Moradi LLP, represented Maria Dominguez in an adversary proceeding, successfully getting the case dismissed. Ms. Dominguez calls him her “angel.”

(Above Photo) Members of Public Counsel’s Debtor Assistance Project, Vikki Padilla (left), Maggie Bordeaux (right) and Christian Cooper (back right), stand with pro bono attorney Jonathan Hayes (back left), and client Ms. Dominguez (center) after she received a favorable outcome in court.

LEGALIZATION OF STREET VENDING IN CALIFORNIA



A fruit cart displays a sign in support of Senator Lara's bill – SB 946, also known as the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act. Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill into law in 2018, ending the criminalization of sidewalk vending and opening doors of economic opportunity for vendors across California.

Tens of thousands of Californians work as street vendors. This work is an economic lifeline for many families living in poverty and a path to entrepreneurship for low-income immigrants who are excluded from other opportunities. Thanks to street vendors, we can buy fresh-cut fruit on a hot day, or sample delicious family recipes that originate from across the world.

Yet, until recently, most California street vendors were shut out of the formal economy. Many cities and counties banned street vending entirely, while others adopted regulations so restrictive that they amounted to a de facto ban. In nearly every jurisdiction, street vendors faced a daily risk of arrest, fines, confiscation of personal property, and criminal prosecution.

Seven years ago, Public Counsel joined the campaign to legalize street vending. The campaign scored a major victory in 2017, when Los Angeles became the first large city in California to stop issuing criminal charges for street vending. However, decriminalization is not the same as legalization, and vendors continued to face fines and were unable to formalize their businesses.

In 2018, the campaign joined forces with California State Senator Ricardo Lara to help pass legislation legalizing street vending



The new law captures this economic benefit not by exploiting immigrant workers, but by preserving and formalizing the skills and talent they bring to this country.





Street vendor and community leader, Merced Sanchez, speaks at LA City Hall, after the City Council voted to move forward a key legalization proposal. Councilmember Curren Price, a co-sponsor of the motion, stands to her right, along with other members of the campaign. Public Counsel Staff Attorney Doug Smith stands in the back row, far right.

throughout the state! Shortly after the law was enacted, Los Angeles finally adopted a comprehensive street vending program that will go into full effect in 2020.

Cities and counties across the state are following suit, and a more just economy is now taking shape. Micro-entrepreneurs are building

legitimate businesses without fear of arrest. It is estimated that in Los Angeles alone, street vending will generate over one hundred million dollars in annual tax revenue. Importantly, the new law captures this economic benefit not by exploiting immigrant workers, but by preserving and formalizing the skills and talent they bring to this country.



Public Counsel attorneys – Katie McKeon, front row third from left, Doug Smith, back row second from left, and Greg Bonett, back row far right – stand with street vendors and the leadership of community organizations that helped to secure the campaign victory: East Los Angeles Community Corporation, the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, and Leadership for Urban Renewal Network (LURN).

PROTECTING VULNERABLE IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN CALIFORNIA



Members of Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project, which has led the fight to protect hundreds of immigrant children in California: (L-R) Sara Van Hofwegen, Supervising Senior Staff Attorney; Mary Tanagho Ross, Staff Attorney; and Daniel Sanchez, Paralegal.



In early 2018, the federal government unlawfully began to deny class members' petitions for humanitarian relief by refusing to recognize the authority of some California juvenile courts to make necessary findings, a change that was implemented without notice or public announcement.

Federal law provides humanitarian relief to immigrant children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents. This form of relief, called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status ("SIJS"), provides a pathway to residency for children who meet the eligibility requirements.

However, in early 2018, the federal government imposed a new eligibility requirement and unlawfully denied immigrant children's petitions for relief by refusing to recognize the authority of some California juvenile courts to make the findings necessary to obtain SIJS status. This change was implemented without notice or public announcement.

In response, Public Counsel; Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP; and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area (LCCR) filed a class action lawsuit in federal court on behalf of hundreds of immigrant children between the ages of 18 and 20 who California state courts had determined had suffered parental abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and whom they had placed under the guardianship of loving caretakers.

Plaintiffs secured a critical win when a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking

Plaintiffs secured a critical win when a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking the government's efforts to implement the new policy.

the government's efforts to implement the new policy and enjoining the government from denying SIJS to any child based on its new policy. Judge Nathanael Cousins held that the government's justifications in support of its policy change were "lacking" and some of its reasoning was "flawed." He concluded that the Plaintiffs were "likely to succeed" in blocking the policy at the conclusion of the case.

The ruling provides security to hundreds of immigrant children across California who faced months of anxiety over the potential risk of deportation and separation from the guardians who care for them. Fortunately, this ruling is a proclamation that even the federal government has to follow the law and adhere to legal protections for vulnerable immigrant children.

For young immigrants who have survived abuse or abandonment by a parent, a form of immigration relief called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) has long been available. In 2015, Public Counsel and pro bono partners helped Bryan (not a class member) secure SIJS and a year later he was able to obtain permanent residency.





Velia Dueñas (Right) stands with Theresa Zhen, then-legal fellow at A New Way of Life Reentry Project, before speaking to the California state legislature regarding the impact of license suspension on her and her family.

HELPING TO END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY

Velia Dueñas is a young mother of two, who suffers from cerebral palsy and is homeless. Because of unpaid citations that she received as a teenager, her driver's license was suspended, which made it even more challenging to get and keep a job and fulfill her responsibilities as a parent. As a result of the suspension, Ms. Dueñas suffered three additional misdemeanor convictions for driving with a suspended license. Each time she could not afford to pay the fines, so she had no choice but to serve jail time in lieu of payment.

In total, Ms. Dueñas spent over fifty days in jail simply because she was too poor to pay the fines. Even after serving out her fines in jail, however, Ms. Dueñas remained liable for court fees associated with her misdemeanor convictions!

The California 2nd District Court of Appeals issued a groundbreaking opinion, ruling that imposing court fees on indigent defendants who lack the ability to pay is a violation of due process rights.

In response, Public Counsel represented Ms. Dueñas in a criminal appeal challenging the \$220 in court fees she was charged without consideration of her ability to pay. The constitutional challenge sought to enforce bedrock federal and state constitutional principles that prohibit punishment on the basis of poverty.

Kathryn Eidmann, Public Counsel's Robins Kaplan Supervising Senior Attorney, argued on behalf of client Velia Dueñas in the California Second District Court of Appeals.

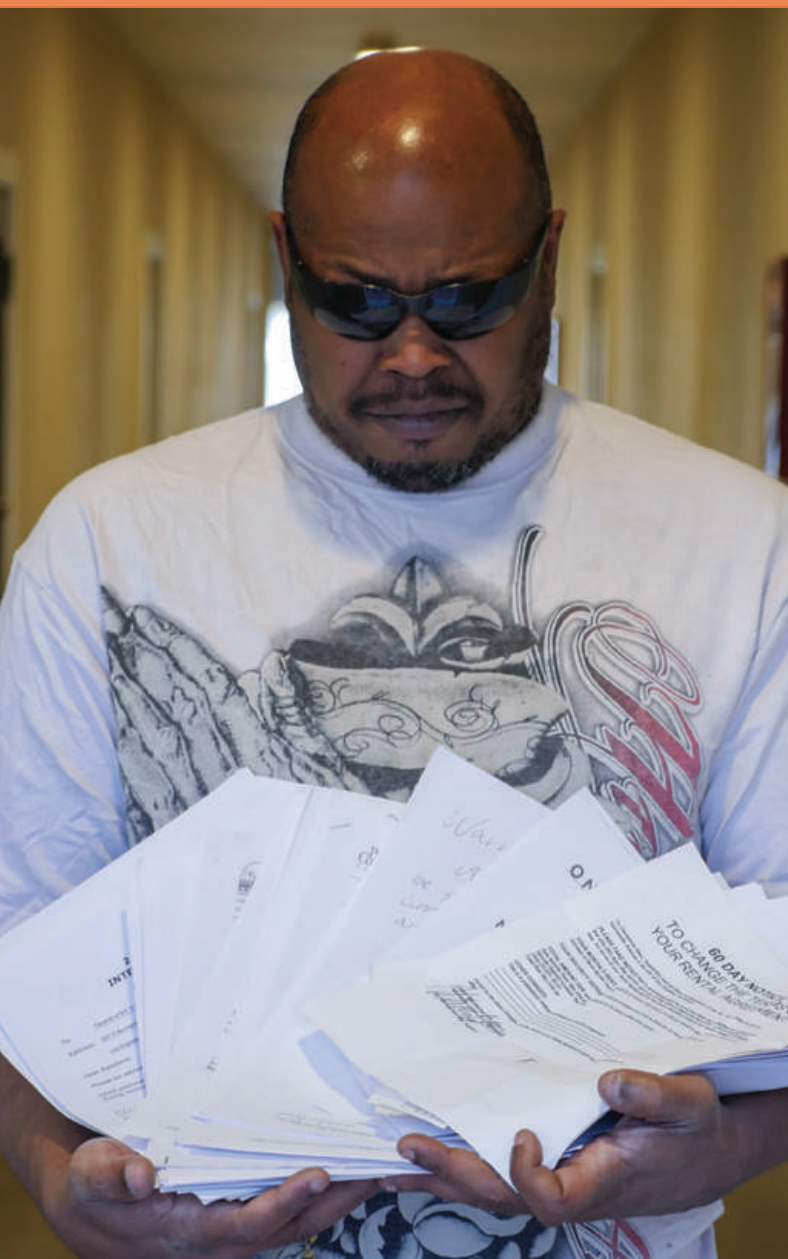


Two years after filing the appeal, the California Second District Court of Appeals issued a groundbreaking opinion, ruling that imposing court fees on indigent defendants who lack the ability to pay is unjust and violates the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution and California Constitution. The decision, authored by Justice Laurie Zelon, said:

"Imposing unpayable fines on indigent defendants is not only unfair, it serves no rational purpose, fails to further the legislative intent, and may be counterproductive."

The case stands as a landmark decision affirming foundational constitutional protections for all indigent defendants and will substantially advance the fight against the criminalization of poverty. Thousands of indigent individuals across the state faced with unaffordable fines and fees may now be able to escape a cycle of poverty that has included incarceration, escalating debt and harsh collections methods, reduced credit scores, and inability to access expungement.

VICTORY FOR L.A. TENANTS IN HOUSING DISCRIMINATION SUIT



After decades of homelessness and struggling with a mental disability, Arthur Rivera finally connected with a social service agency that helped him secure a cozy studio apartment. For years, he lived in peace, but in 2014, his world came crashing down when a new landlord purchased his building.

Arthur was bombarded with a flurry of notices – unlawful eviction notices, improper rent increases, and water shut-offs – causing him tremendous anxiety. Arthur was terrified that he would soon be homeless again.

Fortunately, he connected with Public Counsel's Homelessness Prevention Law Project, which was able to stop the landlord's unlawful acts. While helping Arthur, we soon realized that tenants in six buildings owned by the same landlord were experiencing similar aggressive and illegal behavior.

In response, Public Counsel, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and other co-counsel filed a federal housing discrimination lawsuit on behalf of 15 tenants in six buildings. The complaint alleged that the owner of the buildings, a L.A. based real estate investment firm, targeted Spanish-speaking tenants, tenants with mental disabilities, and families with children — blanketing them with meritless

Client Demetrius Allen received 43 notices in less than 18 months – including unlawful rent increases and incorrect notifications of unpaid rent. A new on-site property manager told Mr. Allen that the building owners "planned to rid the building of persons with mental disabilities."

The \$2.5 million settlement ensured that our clients could stay in their homes, and included a novel term that expanded the supply of affordable housing.



Clients, family members and attorneys – many who had been involved in the case for three years – celebrate at Public Counsel after receiving word of the favorable settlement.

eviction notices, failing to make necessary repairs in their units, and verbally attacking their disabilities and national origin – in a concerted effort to push them out of the apartment buildings located in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood of Koreatown.

After a two-year legal battle, we won a \$2.5 million settlement for our clients! The settlement ensured that our clients could stay in their homes, and included a novel term that expanded the supply of affordable housing by carving out a set aside of seven future vacancies for Housing Choice (also known as Section 8) Voucher holders.



Client Arthur Rivera holds dozens of notices that he received after a real estate investment firm purchased the building where he rents. The barrage of false and misleading notices caused tremendous anxiety for Mr. Rivera, making him worry that he would end up homeless again.

FAMILIES BELONG TOGETHER...

This past year, Public Counsel has been on the frontlines of the fight to reunite families and repair the damage done by the government's reckless and destructive family separation policy.

As our Immigrants' Rights Project worked with individual parents held in ICE detention to locate and reunite them with children held elsewhere, our Opportunity Under Law project filed suit on behalf of a class of parents forcibly separated from their children. The suit is supported by expert declarations from leading child trauma researchers and clinicians, and seeks an order requiring the government to provide immediate mental health treatment for the families to repair the psychological trauma and severe harm inflicted upon them by the cruel family separation policy.

When we met one mother at a detention facility in Orange County, California, she had not had any contact with her daughter for 40 days. Our attorneys flew to Arizona to tell this child that her mother had not forgotten her and to document her story:

L.P. began to cry as she told me about the day she was taken from her mother. She told me that when they took her mother away, she fainted and hit her face and mouth... she cried every day after she was separated from her mother; she was depressed, hopeless, and confused. She said she had dreams that she saw her mother's shoes, dreams where she was back in Guatemala with her brothers but her mother wasn't there.

Thanks to the tenacious efforts of Public Counsel, an attorney from Akin Gump, and a team of over a dozen professionals — lawyers, social workers, psychologists, and community organizers who invested hundreds of hours of work — we were ultimately able to reunite this family. And we were present for a teary-eyed and joyous reunion at Burbank airport as L.P. stepped off the plane and into her mother's warm embrace.

However, this family's fight is far from over. The healing process from this traumatic experience is only just beginning. Our battle in federal court over this policy continues as well. We had our first hearing in September, where we sought immediate mental health screenings and treatment for these traumatized families.





2

1. We helped reunite a mother and daughter who were separated for two months because of the Trump Administration's cruel family separation policy.

2. Public Counsel immigration attorney Gina Amato holds her daughter while speaking at a rally to demand an end to the family separation policy.

3. In late June 2018, tens of thousands of people descended upon Los Angeles City Hall to protest the federal government's family separation policy.



3

ENSURING RELATIVE CAREGIVERS RECEIVE SUPPORT



María García, center, stands with the team that helped her secure \$11,000 in retroactive benefits from L.A.'s child welfare system: (L-R) Ana De La Noval, administrative assistant, The Walt Disney Company Legal Department; Brian Capra, senior staff attorney, Public Counsel; Ms. García; Maria Badillo, staff attorney, Public Counsel; Karen Frederiksen, Associate General Counsel, The Walt Disney Company.

Ms. García came to Public Counsel looking for assistance with the adoption of her two grandchildren. Like many relative caregivers, Ms. García had not planned on becoming a caregiver so late in life. Nonetheless, when

her two young grandchildren needed a home she did not hesitate to take them in.

The unexpected caregiving duties caused significant financial hardship for

Ms. García, however, who happens to be a monolingual-Spanish speaker. For 16 months, she borrowed from her retirement savings just to make ends meet.

Upon review of her case, Public Counsel discovered that Ms. García had not received the caregiving benefits to which she was entitled. Unlike most foster care parents who are automatically given benefits once their home is approved, relative caregivers must sign up for benefits through an application process.

The family met all the other requirements for the benefits, but the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) had not given Ms. García a benefits application when the grandchildren were placed in her care. Once DCFS provided an application, moreover, it was not in Spanish. DCFS also failed to explain the application's purpose, which caused further delay.

When Ms. García's attorney asked that DCFS make the missing payments, DCFS refused to give Ms. García any retroactive payments for the children's care, citing her delay in filling out and signing an application for benefits.

Public Counsel partnered with *pro bono* attorney Karen Frederiksen and administrative assistant Ana De La Noval – members of The

Walt Disney Company's Legal Department – to represent Ms. García at an administrative hearing contesting the denial of caregiver benefits. The team argued that DCFS failed to follow its own procedures by neglecting to timely provide a benefits application in the caregiver's language, or to offer assistance with the forms. The administrative law judge agreed and ordered the payment of approximately \$11,000 in retroactive benefits!

“*The family met all the other requirements for the benefits, but DCFS had not given Ms. García a benefits application when the grandchildren were placed in her care.*”



Maria García wipes away a tear while sharing the story of how she struggled to make ends meet when she stepped up to care for her grandchildren. Ana De La Noval, an administrative assistant with The Walt Disney Company's Legal Department, translates.



Ms. García didn't hesitate to take in her two young grandchildren when they needed a home, but she endured significant financial hardship because DCFS failed to inform her about available support for relative caregivers

SECTION 8 RECIPIENTS WIN HISTORIC CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT



Outside the courthouse after approval of the \$2 million settlement: (L-R) Anne Richardson, immediate past director of Public Counsel's Consumer Law Project; attorney Barry Litt; Steph Carroll, senior staff attorney with Public Counsel; and Patrick Dunlevy, former director of Public Counsel's Consumer Law Project.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federal program that provides rental assistance to low-income individuals – providing protection to many vulnerable members of society, including single parent families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Federal and state laws require that local housing authorities send Section 8 recipients a notice before any cuts to voucher payments are made.

In 2004, the L.A. Housing Authority sent a notice to nearly 12,000 Section 8 recipients that was so poorly worded that its meaning was incomprehensible. The notice used the term “payment standards” six times without ever defining the term. Consequently, Section 8 recipients were blindsided when their housing vouchers later decreased in value – forcing them

to pay an average increase of \$104 per month in rent. Public Counsel partnered with attorney Barry Litt of Kaye, McLane, Bednarski & Litt, LLP, to file a class action lawsuit challenging these illegal cuts to the rental voucher payments of thousands of Section 8 recipients in the City of L.A.

In early 2018, after ten years of litigation, a U.S. District Judge approved a settlement that provided over \$2 million in reimbursements to 2,269 individuals who joined the lawsuit. The case also established important protections for Section 8 recipients by establishing that notices must be written in clear and understandable language. The ruling has wide-ranging implications for all types of government communications as well.



Plaintiff Nidia Peláez was shocked when her monthly rent increased by \$161 without warning. She had received a notice from the L.A. Housing Authority but didn't understand what it meant.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

NOTICE

Effective April 2, 2004 the Housing Authority lowered the payment standards used to determine your portion of the rent. We will not apply these lower payment standards until your next regular reexamination. If you move, however, these new lower payment standards will apply to your next unit.

PAYMENT STANDARDS and TENANT-BASED SHELTER PLUS CARE PAYMENT STANDARDS EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2004

Bedroom Size	Payment Standard
Mobile H. Space	\$463
SRO	\$505
0	\$674
1	\$807
2	\$1,021
3	\$1,378
4	\$1,646
5	\$1,892
6	\$2,139
7	\$2,386

Regardless of its location, the unit's rent can never be higher than the comparable rents determined by the Housing Authority.

Section 8 recipients were blindsided when their housing voucher later decreased in value – forcing them to pay an average increase of \$104 per month in rent.

This nonsensical notice was sent to thousands of Section 8 recipients. The language was so unclear that in 2015 a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined the notice "in no way explained the potential effect of the change."

KEEPING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER THROUGH HOLISTIC SUPPORT



The Audrey Irmes Project for Women and Girls' Rights was created thanks to a generous grant from the Audrey Irmes Foundation for Social Justice. The project aims to advance equality, economic justice and opportunity for low-income women and girls utilizing direct legal services, policy advocacy, impact litigation, and community education.

The Audrey Irmes Project for Women and Girls' Rights launched in 2017 due to a generous grant from the Audrey Irmes Foundation for Social Justice. One of the project's early clients presented with an incredibly complex case that required deft navigation of multiple government systems. The client – named Frida – is a legal permanent resident, who was detained by immigration authorities and told that, unbeknown to her, she had been charged with felony assault four years earlier in connection with an incident that occurred while she was 19 and in foster care.

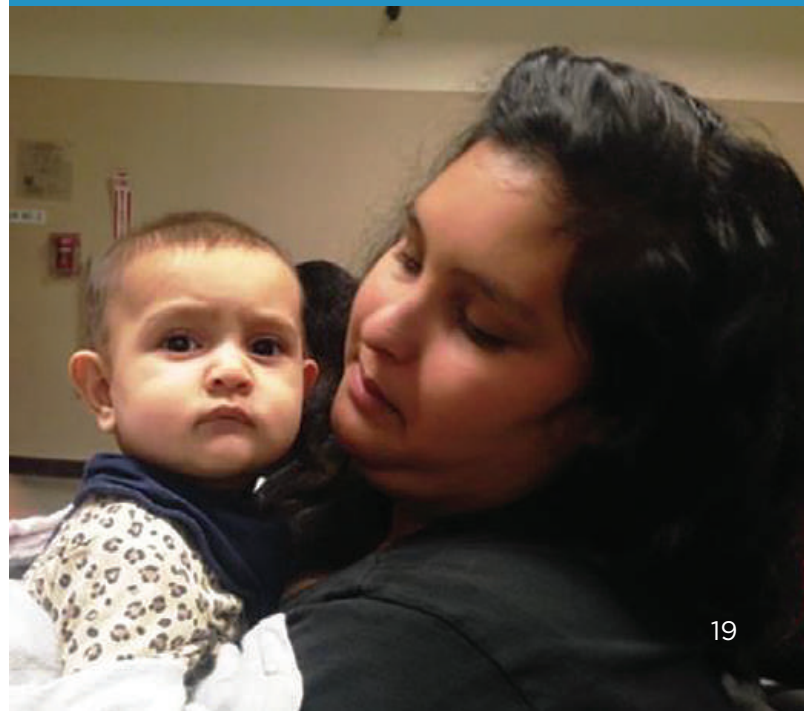
Now 23, Frida was pregnant and at risk of becoming homeless. The Women and Girls' Rights Project successfully advocated with immigration officials for the reinstatement of Frida's legal status, and secured the return of her confiscated green card pending resolution of the criminal matter.

Next, the project helped Frida find emergency shelter and enrolled her in crucial social safety-net programs, like CalWorks, CalFresh, and WIC. Once Frida's baby was born, Public Counsel donated a crib, clothing, and diapers.

After preparing a mitigation packet of medical and child welfare records and letters of support, the Women and Girls' Rights Project successfully advocated with the district attorney for substantially reduced criminal charges and community service, keeping Frida out of jail and protecting her and her baby daughter from near certain deportation. The project also obtained a reasonable accommodation for Frida to enable her to receive Section 8 housing. Frida is now back on track, caring for her child, applying for community college, and hoping to start a small beauty care business.

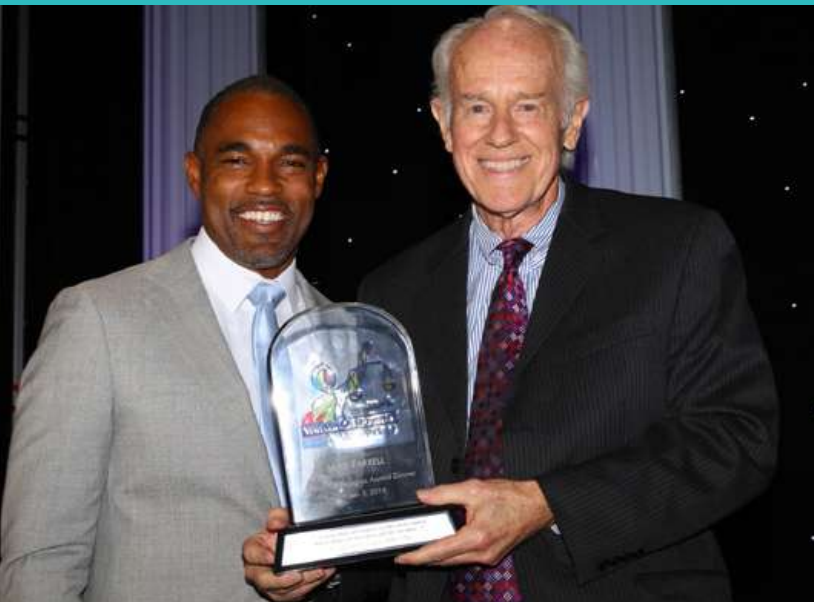
Frida and her baby. Frida was one of the Women and Girls' Rights Project's early clients, and the support she received from Public Counsel protected her from deportation and incarceration, allowed her to care for her child, and permitted her to begin community college and plan for her future.

The project helped Frida find emergency shelter and enrolled her in crucial social safety-net programs... Once Frida's baby was born, Public Counsel donated a crib, clothing, and diapers.



OUR EVENTS

2018 WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS AWARDS DINNER



Actor and human rights activist Mike Farrell receives the William O. Douglas Award from actor Jason George.



Philanthropist and longtime Public Counsel supporter Audrey Irmas receives the inaugural Audrey Irmas Social Justice Impact Award from civil rights attorney Catherine Lhamon.



Associate Justice Audrey Collins (left) presents the Law Firm *Pro Bono* Award to Stacy Horth-Neubert and Brian McCarthy, accepting for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.



Grammy-nominated artist Aloe Blacc performs a special musical set featuring three of his hit songs: "My Way," "The Man" and "Wake Me Up."



Actor Ed Begley, Jr. (left) presents the Corporate Achievement Award to Gabriel Brakin, chief operating officer of Participant Media, accepting on Participant's behalf.

STEVEN A. NISSEN LOBBY DEDICATION CEREMONY



Steven Nissen (center), Public Counsel's executive director from 1984-1997, stands with his wife and three sons (left), Public Counsel President & CEO Margaret Morrow (center right), LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA City Attorney Mike Feuer, and LA City Councilman Paul Koretz.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti recognized Steven Nissen for the incredible contributions he has made to Public Counsel and to the movement for justice in LA and beyond.

In an incredible moment, Steven Nissen asked all the people who had worked with him at Public Counsel to share the stage with him! Under Steven's leadership, Public Counsel expanded from a 3-person team to become one of the largest public interest law firms in the country.

RUN FOR JUSTICE FUNDRAISER



Over 450 people came out to the 15th annual Run For Justice. Forty-five teams helped Public Counsel exceed its goal of raising \$110,000 to help bring justice to communities in L.A. and across the nation!

LEGENDARY BINGO FUNDRAISER



Over 150 people attended the 2nd annual Hamburger Mary's Legendary Bingo fundraiser in West Hollywood. Public Counsel's Leadership Council secured 11 event sponsors and raised over \$13,000.

ACCOLADES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018



Public Counsel recognized for its Work to Create Affordable Housing and End Homelessness

Public Counsel staff were honored to attend A Community of Friends' 30th anniversary celebration, where Public Counsel was recognized for its advocacy work to create affordable housing and end homelessness. Public Counsel's Community Development Project has had the privilege of working with A Community of Friends (ACOF) for years — helping to advance their mission to provide permanent supportive housing in L.A. County!

Public Counsel staff stand with Coach Byron Scott after accepting Public Counsel's award



Directing Attorney of Consumer Law Project Appointed to L.A. Superior Court

Anne Richardson, directing attorney of Public Counsel's Consumer Law Project, has been appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown. For four years, Anne led a department that defended and strengthened consumer protections in significant ways, and worked across all departments to serve as a resource and mentor for attorneys pursuing litigation. Anne's leadership, mentorship, intellect, reasoning and temperament will be greatly missed, but these qualities will also make her an amazing judge.

Directing Attorney Anne Richardson at her enrobing ceremony to become a Superior Court judge



Civil Rights Attorney Honored with California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award

Mark Rosenbaum, directing attorney of Public Counsel's Opportunity Under Law project, has been recognized with the California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) award for his work to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Mark and his team, plus pro bono counsel, filed suit against the Trump Administration to block the repeal of the DACA program. The team scored a significant victory when the federal judge hearing their case issued a nationwide injunction, blocking the Trump Administration's efforts to entirely shut down the DACA program.

Directing Attorney Mark Rosenbaum speaks to the press after arguing on behalf of six DACA recipients in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals



Children's Rights Social Worker Honored as Colleague of the Year

Mara Ziegler, a senior social worker, was recognized by her peers as Public Counsel's Karen Paull Colleague of the Year Award. In selecting Mara, her colleagues highlighted her warmth, strength and collegiality as qualities for which they are grateful. Mara will shortly celebrate her 30-year work anniversary at Public Counsel, and has empowered and helped countless clients during that time. Thank you, Mara, for your decades of dedication to Public Counsel's clients, and congratulations!

Senior social worker, Mara Ziegler, with President & CEO, Margaret Morrow

OUR SUPPORTERS

2018 DOUGLAS DINNER MAJOR DONORS

Guardians Of Justice (\$100,000)

Harbor Freight Tools Foundation, LLC
Suzanne & David Johnson
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Sentinels Of Justice (\$75,000)

Association of Corporate Counsel
– Southern California Chapter
Sidley Austin LLP
Tom & Janet Unterman

Millennium Founders (\$50,000)

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Proskauer

Founders (\$35,000)

Abacus Credit Counseling
Arnold & Porter
Irell & Manella LLP
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Paul Hastings LLP
Robins Kaplan LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP

Underwriters (\$25,000)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alston & Bird LLP
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim,
Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.
DLA Piper LLP
Girardi I Keese
The Audrey Irmas Foundation for
Social Justice
Jenner & Block LLP

Johnny Carson Foundation
K&L Gates LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Panish Shea & Boyle LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
Southern California Edison
The Walt Disney Company
Winston & Strawn LLP

Benefactors (\$15,000)

Bentham IMF
Pamela Buffett
Capital Group
The Cook Law Firm, P.C.
Dentons US LLP
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
LexisNexis
Locke Lord LLP

Loeb & Loeb LLP
Morrison & Foerster LLP
Margaret M. Morrow
Stephen Pickett & Elizabeth Matthias
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
Thomson Reuters Elite

Partners (\$10,000)

21st Century Fox / Fox
Entertainment Group
Tanya Acker & Randy Douthitt
Albert R. Broccoli and Dana
Broccoli Foundation
CBS Corporation
Chen Yoshimura LLP
City National Bank
Comcast | NBCUniversal
Bruce Cormicle
First Republic Bank
GlassRatner Advisory & Capital
Group LLC
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Judicate West
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Lionsgate
Mayer Brown LLP
Molly Munger, Stephen R. English and
Connie Rice
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
Nelson & Fraenkel LLP
Fred & Joan Nicholas
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Polsinelli LLP
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Strange & Butler LLP / The Johnny
Strange Foundation
TM Financial Forensics, LLC
Union Bank
Warner Bros. Entertainment
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edeman
& Dicker LLP

DOUGLAS SOCIETY

The Abascal Family
Anonymous
Jonathan H. Anschell &
Abigail Goldman
Carol & Rand April
Steven D. Archer
Wayne M. Barsky &
Margaret J. Goldenhersch
Jamie Broder & John H. Post
Helen & Morgan Chu
Daniel Clivner & Steven Cochran
Philip E. Cook & Jennifer Phillips
Steven Cox & Jennifer King
Mark & Laura Epstein
Erin Farrell
Richard Finkelman
Bill & Tricia Flumenbaum
Paul & Denise Freese
Barbara L. Garcia
Daniel Grunfeld & Colleen Regan
Matthew & Linda Heartney
Melissa D. Ingalls
Audrey Irmas
Jessie Kohler
Margaret Levy
Christopher Murphy &
Daniel Kagan
Frederick M. Nicholas
Neil R. & Judith Beerman O'Hanlon
Stephen E. Pickett &
Elizabeth M. Matthias
Cheyanne Picone
William & Elizabeth Quicksilver
Jack Quinn
Timothy D. Reuben &
Stephanie Blum
Tracy K. Rice
Nancy & Mark Samuels
Robert & Donna Scoular
Patricia Klous & Roman M. Silberfeld
Brian & Sharma Strange
Randy & Debra Sunshine
Gail Migdal Title
Tom & Janet Unterman
Hernán D. Vera
Robert S. Wolfe
Mara & Peter Ziegler
Ken & Ellen Ziffren
Marty & Carol Zohn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael H. Steinberg

Chairperson, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Philip E. Cook

Vice Chairperson, The Cook Law Firm, P.C.

Jonathan H. Anschell

Treasurer, CBS Television

Karen N. Frederiksen

Secretary, The Walt Disney Company

Rand S. April

Past Chairperson, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Ret.)

Wayne M. Barsky

Past Chairperson, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Jamie Broder

Immediate Past Chairperson, Paul Hastings LLP (Ret.)

Daniel Clivner

Past Chairperson, Sidley Austin LLP

Karlene Goller

Past Chairperson, The Law Office of Karlene Goller PC

Matthew T. Heartney

Past Chairperson, Arnold & Porter

David G. Johnson

Past Chairperson, ACT 4 Entertainment

Stephen E. Pickett

Past Chairperson, Southern California Edison (Ret.)

Robert F. Scoular

Past Chairperson, Dentons US LLP

Roman M. Silberfeld

Past Chairperson, Robins Kaplan LLP

Brian R. Strange

Past Chairperson, Strange & Butler LLP

Paul W. Sweeney, Jr.

Past Chairperson, K&L Gates LLP

Gail Migdal Title

Past Chairperson, ADR Services, Inc.

Martin S. Zohn

Past Chairperson, Proskauer

Tanya M. Acker

Progress LLP

Angela C. Agrusa

DLA Piper LLP (US)

Laura M. Ahart

Abacus Credit Counseling

Jennifer S. Baldocchi

Paul Hastings LLP

Dr. Ying Chen

Chen Yoshimura LLP

Vincent H. Chieffo

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Rosemarie Chiusano-Drohan

Judicate West

Allison K. Chock

Bentham IMF

Morgan Chu

Irell & Manella LLP

Alfred M. Clark

Locke Lord LLP

Carmen J. Cole

Polsinelli LLP

Cory Copeland

LexisNexis

Kevin C. Cops

City National Bank

Bruce Cormicle

Law Office of Bruce Cormicle

Bert H. Deixler

Kendall Brill & Kelly LLP

Michael J. Finnegan

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

William Flumenbaum

The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

Laurence R. Goldman

The Reape-Rickett Law Firm

Daniel Grunfeld**Mark E. Haddad**

Sidley Austin LLP (Ret.)

Jacqueline J. Harding

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Yakub Hazzard

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

Christopher M. Hopkins

Brener International Group, LLC

Kathy J. Huang

Alston & Bird LLP

Peter J. Kennedy

Reed Smith LLP

Moe Keshavarzi

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

Jessie A. Kohler

Panish Shea & Boyle LLP

Tony Lee

Dickerson Insurance Services

Jerome L. Levine

Holland & Knight LLP

David R. Lira

Girard I Keese

Barbara E. Mathews

Southern California Edison (Ret.)

Sharon Mayer

Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Drooks, Lincenberg & Rhow, P.C.

John M. McCoy III

21st Century Fox

Mark R. McDonald

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Marcellus A. McRae

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Martin R. Melone**Owen W. Murray**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Steven A. Nissen

NBCUniversal

Thomas J. Nolan

Latham & Watkins LLP

Neil R. O'Hanlon

Law Office of Neil R. O'Hanlon

Laura R. Petroff

Winston & Strawn LLP

Stacy D. Phillips

Blank Rome LLP

Barry Porter

Clarity Partners

William T. Quicksilver

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Shana E. Ramirez

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Philip R. Recht

Mayer Brown LLP

Frank Reddick

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Kevin D. Rising

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Gregory Robins

Latham & Watkins LLP

John A. Rogovin

Warner Bros. Entertainment

Alexandra A. Roje

Lathrop Gage

Rick R. Rothman

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Marc L. Sallus

Oldman, Cooley, Sallus, Birnberg, & Coleman, L.L.P.

Mark A. Samuels

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Stuart N. Senator

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Michael S. Spindler

GlassRatner Advisory & Capital Group LLC

Deborah L. Stein

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Josh F. Stinn

Loeb & Loeb LLP

G. Thomas Stromberg

Perkins Coie LLP

Randall J. Sunshine

Liner LLP (Ret.)

Joel R. Weiner

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

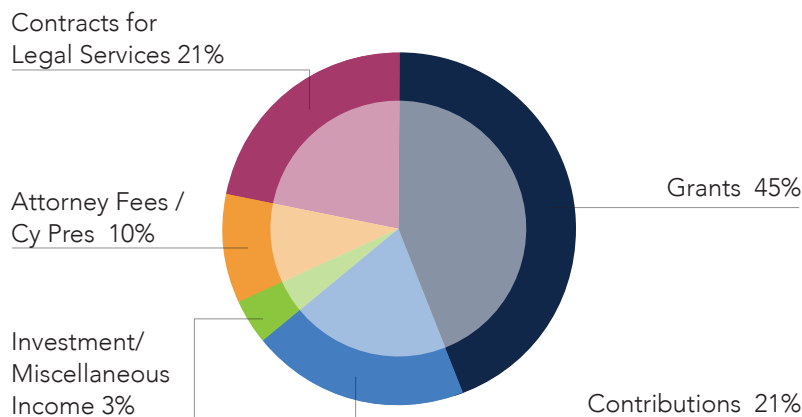
Robert S. Wolfe**Laura A. Wytsma**

Loeb & Loeb LLP



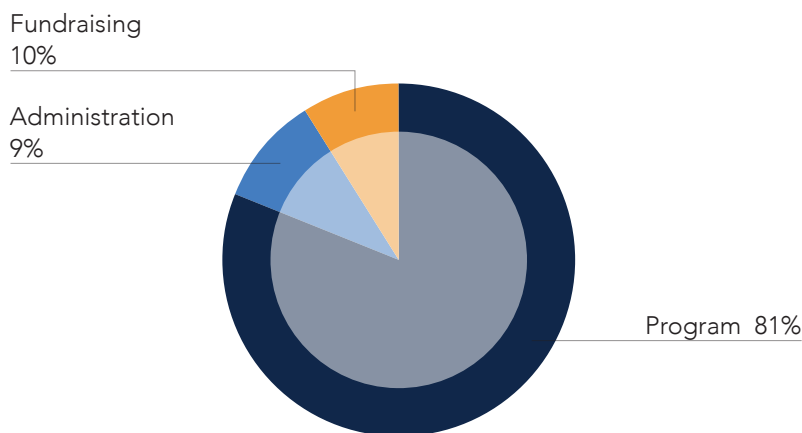
FINANCIALS & GRANTS

2017 - 2018 REVENUES



Contributions	\$3,103,414	21%
Grants	\$6,486,690	45%
Contracts for Legal Services	\$3,080,323	21%
Investment/Miscellaneous Income	\$448,647	3%
Attorney Fees/Cy Pres	\$1,430,381	10%
Total Revenues	\$14,589,455	100%
Revenues	\$14,141,986	
Investment Earnings	\$447,469	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$14,589,455	

2017 - 2018 EXPENSES



Program	\$10,554,046	81%
Fundraising	\$1,306,613	10%
Administration	\$1,116,725	9%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,977,384	

OUR GRANTS

Ahmanson Foundation
 American College of Bankruptcy
 Foundation
 Annenberg Foundation
 Armanino LLP
 Audrey Irmas Foundation for
 Social Justice
 Avaaz
 The Bandai Foundation
 Bank of America Charitable
 Foundation
 Bob Woodruff Foundation
 Borealis Philanthropy
 Boston Private Bank & Trust Company
 California Community Foundation
 The California Endowment
 The California Wellness Foundation
 Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
 Eisner Foundation
 The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
 The Green Foundation
 Hearst Foundations
 Herman Family Foundation
 In-N-Out Burger Foundation
 The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris
 Foundation
 Los Angeles Times Family Fund (a
 McCormick Foundation fund)
 Low Income Investment Fund
 Lucile Packard Foundation for
 Children's Health
 Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation
 May and Stanley Smith
 Charitable Trust
 Plum Foundation
 Qualcomm Incorporated
 The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
 RELX Group
 Resources Legacy Fund
 Richard B. Siegel Foundation
 Robert Ellis Simon Foundation
 The Rosalinde and
 Arthur Gilbert Foundation
 The Rose Hills Foundation
 Rosenthal Family Foundation
 Sears Consumer Protection and
 Education Fund
 Sidley Austin LLP
 Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 The Skillman Foundation
 Southern California Edison
 Stuart Foundation
 UniHealth Foundation
 United Way of Greater Los Angeles
 W. M. Keck Foundation
 Weingart Foundation
 William M. Keck, Jr. Foundation
 The Wunderkinder Foundation



Public Counsel
610 S. Ardmore
Los Angeles, CA 90005
213.385.2977