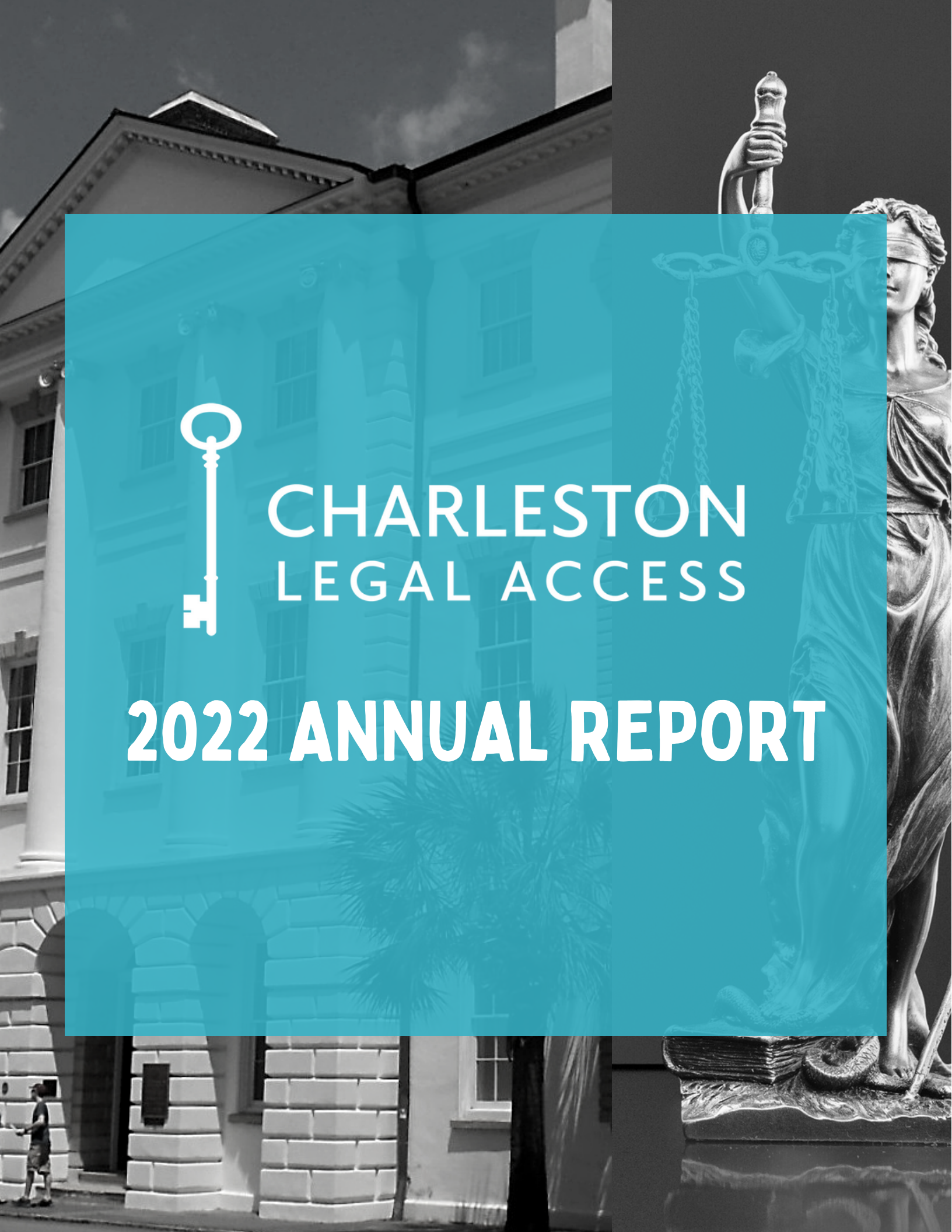




CHARLESTON  
LEGAL ACCESS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT







# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

As I reflect on the past year, I can't help but feel overwhelming gratitude for everyone in the CLA community. The dedication and commitment of our staff, board, volunteers, partners and donors has helped us grow and flourish over the past year. 2022 brought tremendous growth, maturity and innovation. We have increased our services and donors, we have created strategic partnerships to reach and serve more in our community and we have continued to bridge the gaps in services to ensure that everyone in our community has access to quality legal representation. I could not be prouder to share with you our accomplishments in 2022:

- We were awarded an Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Fellow and hired a full-time attorney fellow to increase direct representation to tenants and expand Housing Court in Berkeley and Dorchester Counties.
- We continued to expand our family law practice and assisted 161 families with their family law matters, a 9% increase from last year.
- We prioritized cases for victims of domestic violence and partnered with My Sister's House and SCCADVASA to offer legal office hours to victims of domestic violence to ensure that survivors have meaningful access to counsel. Through this partnership, we assisted 28 victims of domestic violence.
- We continued to partner with HALOS to provide legal assistance to kinship care providers seeking custody. In total, we have provided legal assistance to 25 kinship care families.
- We closed 357 matters increasing the number of families served by 109% from the previous year.

Before CLA, Lowcountry residents had no options for attorney access if they fell into the justice gap between free legal services and the private legal market. Our success to date, demonstrates the demand for quality and affordable legal representation. We have stayed at capacity since opening our doors in 2016 and the demand for our services has only continued to grow year after year. In 2022, CLA saw a 35% increase in incoming calls seeking our services.

We know there is a large and persistent need for CLA's services and with the help of committed partners and supporters like you, we will continue to innovate and work hard to make sure that every South Carolinian has access to meaningful legal representation.

I am proud to share the impact of your investment in your community. Thank you for taking this journey with us and helping to expand access to justice in the Lowcountry.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lana Kleiman'.

Lana Kleiman  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali B. Titus'.

Ali Titus Moriarty  
Board Chair



# ABOUT CHARLESTON LEGAL ACCESS

Charleston Legal Access is South Carolina's first sliding-scale nonprofit law firm dedicated to expanding access to legal services and rights in the Lowcountry. We provide low-cost legal representation and assistance to individuals and families with low to moderate incomes who do not qualify for free legal aid but who cannot afford a private attorney. Our costs are calculated on a sliding scale to help everyone who needs representation get a lawyer at a cost that won't break the bank.

**64.4%** of South Carolinians fall below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line.

## WHO WE SERVE

We serve those who do not qualify for free legal aid and cannot afford a private attorney.

Free legal aid is capped at 200% of the Federal Poverty Line. For a single person, the gross income limit is just \$29,160. For a family of four, the household income limit is just \$60,000.

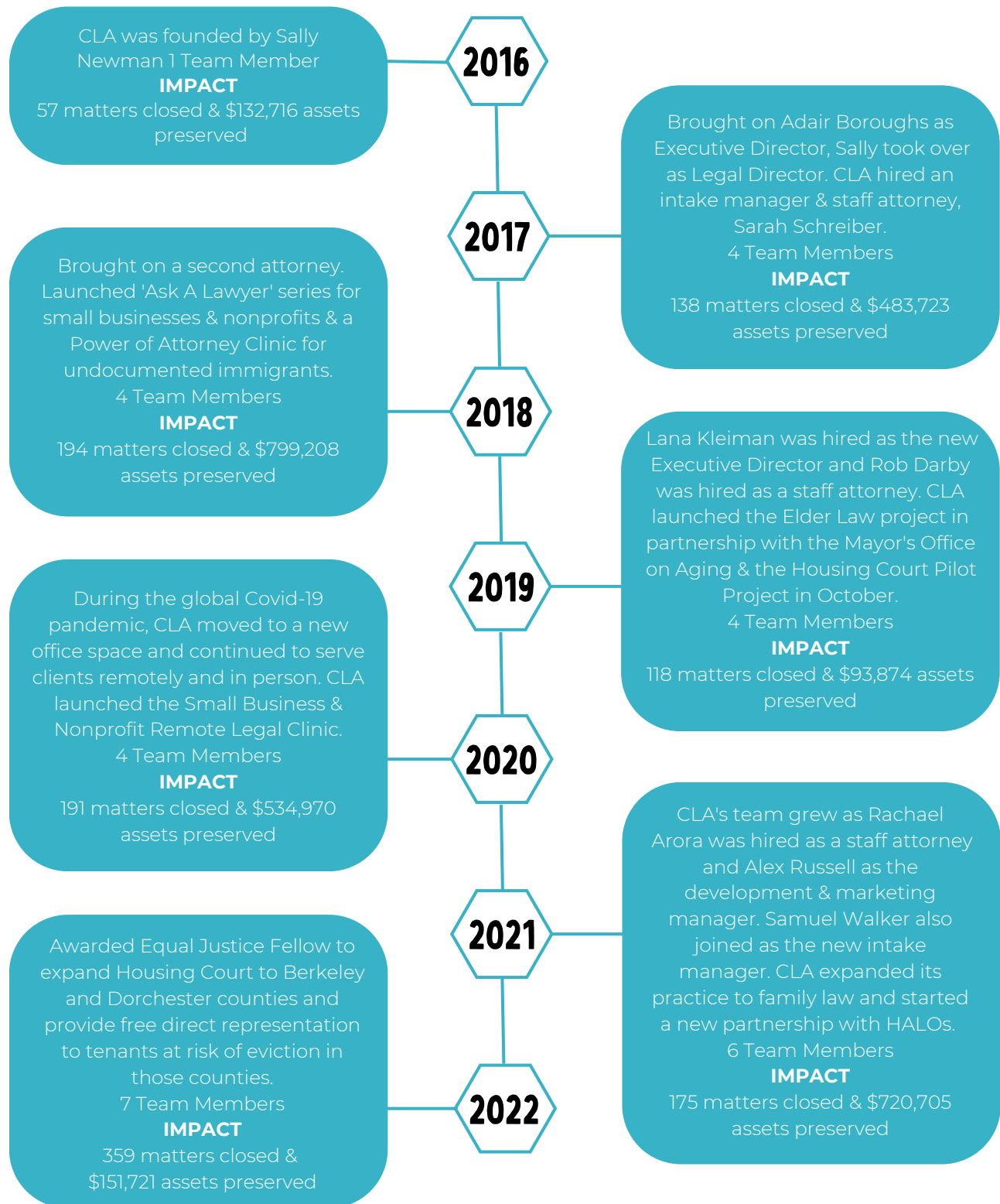
We serve individuals and families that fall below 400% of the Federal Poverty Line residing in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.



1: Source U.S. Census Bureau (2019). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. Retrieved from: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=s1701&g=0400000US45&tid=ACST5Y2019.S1701&hidePreview=true>



# CLA HISTORY



# SERVICES

Our services include:

- advice and counsel sessions over the phone for free
- 1-2 hour in-depth, in-person consultations for a flat fee
- full legal representation on a sliding scale

**Our sliding scale model provides legal assistance at low, accessible rates of \$50 - \$100 per hour.**

Rates are determined by income and family size. We handle a variety of civil matters including:

- Civil Rights
- Contract/Tort Litigation
- Consumer Issues
- Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation
- Family Law
- Housing
- Probate
- Property
- Simple Wills & Power of Attorneys
- Victims Rights
- Wage Theft



Mr. M came to CLA after he had provided construction work and materials to a general contractor who then refused to pay him for his work. Mr. M. did not speak English and felt that part of the reason the contractor did not pay him was because he was an immigrant and less likely to take legal action. CLA filed a complaint in Circuit Court against the contractor and the contractor soon agreed to pay \$20,000 to Mr. M to settle the case.

## OUR IMPACT SINCE 2016

**\$2,916,918**

assets preserved

**1,165**

individuals and families helped



# MEET THE TEAM

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ali Titus Moriarty,**  
Board Chair

The Riley Center for Livable  
Communities

**Annie E. Andrews**  
Steinberg Law Firm

**Fernando Soto Gauden**  
NuestroEstado.com

**John O'Hearn,**  
Obviouslee Marketing

**Julie Moore,**  
Duffy & Young

**Lucy Brenner**  
The Lanning Group

**Mavis Huger**  
Counts & Huger, LLC

**Patrick Wooten**  
Duffy & Young

**Tola Familoni**  
Charleston County Public  
Defender's Office

**Tope Leyimu**  
Motley Rice, LLC

## CURRENT CLA STAFF



**Lana Kleiman**  
Executive Director



**Sarah Schreiber**  
Senior Staff  
Attorney



**Mary Vosburgh**  
Senior Staff Attorney



**Lisa Russell**  
Staff Attorney



**Denver Tanner**  
Intake Manager &  
Legal Assistant



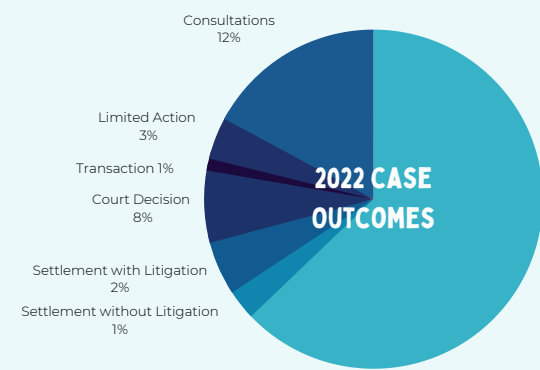
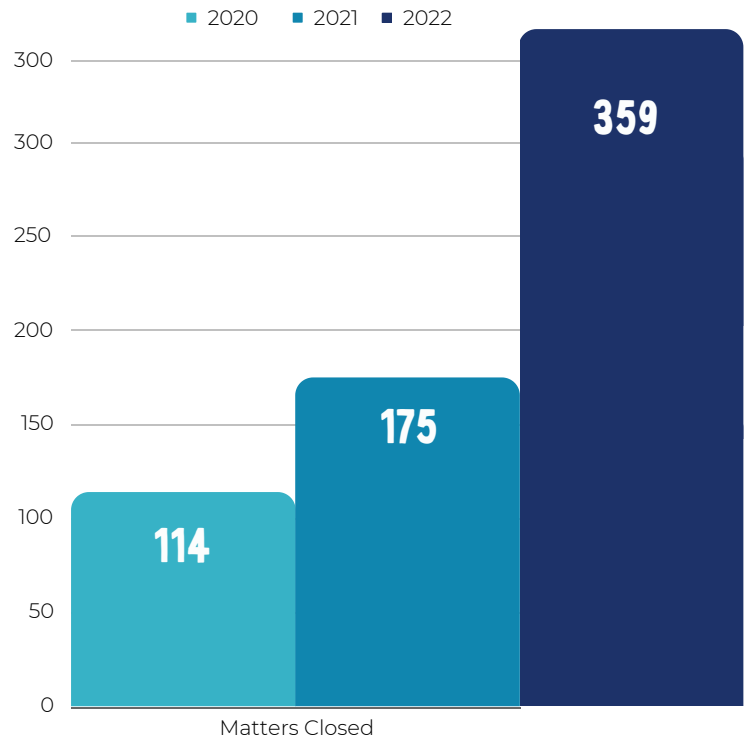
**Taylor Rumble**  
Housing Justice  
Program Fellow

# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

**1,357**  
Total Intake  
Calls

**25%**  
Intake Callers  
Assisted

**64%**  
of Clients Fall Below 200%  
of the Federal Poverty Line



## MATTERS & CASE OUTCOMES

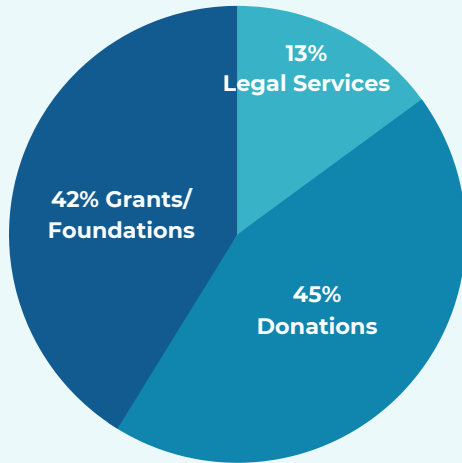


Julie Moore, CLA Board Member + Attorney at Duffy & Young, LLC  
 "The dignity of our legal system and the pursuit of justice absolutely requires access to legal representation. Those words may sound lofty but that is what makes Charleston Legal Access such a special, important organization: we are particularly dedicated to making this ideal the reality for everyone in our community. If there is to be any justice at all, the barrier to its achievement simply cannot be dependent upon an individual's ability to retain and pay for quality legal representation."



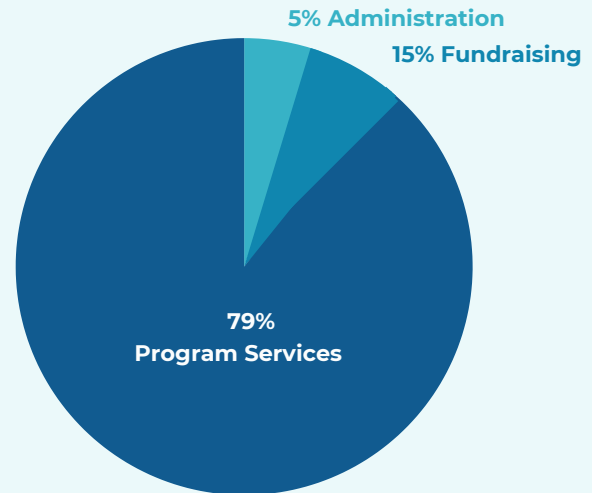
# 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

2022 Revenue \$612,881



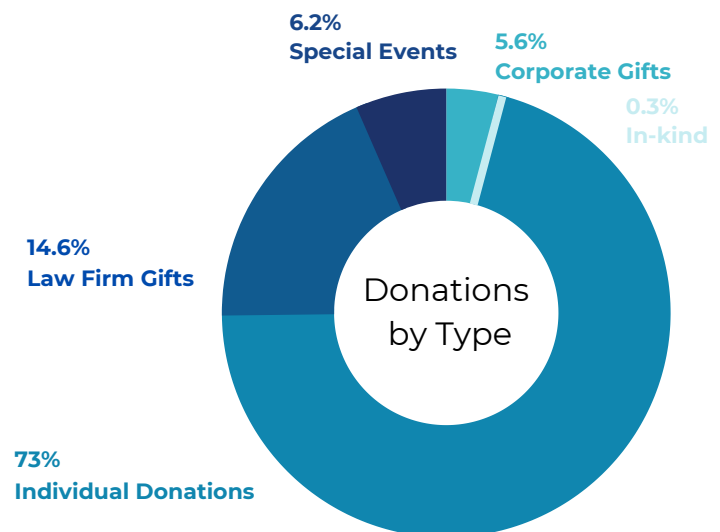
Public Support	\$257,948
Grants/Foundations	\$277,602
Legal Services	\$78,236

2022 Expenses \$449,648



Program Services	\$355,499
Administration	\$24,386
Fundraising	\$69,763

With client fees only covering 17% of our operational expenses, support from our donors allows CLA to continue to provide affordable legal services to those who otherwise would be priced out of the legal market.





## KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER WITH HALOS

Ms. L. was referred to CLA from HALOS. She was seeking custody of her minor grandchild because of DSS involvement with the grandchild's maternal grandfather. The Client's daughter passed away in 2015 and her grandchild went to live with his grandfather. The grandfather was mentally unstable and the child was hurt while under his care. DSS agreed that it was in the best interest of the child to live with our Client. CLA helped Ms. L navigate the family court and the custody process. We were able to get the grandfather to sign over custody and our client's grandson is now living with her, safely.

In March 2021, CLA entered into a partnership with HALOS, a nonprofit organization that provides services to kinship families, to ensure kinship caregivers have access to legal counsel and services regarding custody of their kinship children.

**Since we started the HALOS partnership, CLA has assisted 25 caregivers with their legal matters.**

*"Without [CLA], those boys wouldn't have a chance. They would still be shuffling around through DSS. Our two blessings have been Charleston Legal Access and HALOS." - Mrs. N*



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH HOUSING COURT

Charleston Legal Access was selected as a host organization for the Equal Justice Works' Housing Justice Program and as a subgrantee of a HUD award issued as part of its Eviction Protection Grant Program. CLA's selection to participate in these programs marks a crucial victory in its effort to combat the worsening housing crisis and prevent homelessness in the Tri-county area by providing legal services to low-income tenants at risk of or facing eviction and expanding Housing Court to Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

Given the exceptionally high risk of eviction in these counties, accessible legal representation is needed now more than ever. Currently, in South Carolina, a staggering 99.7% of tenants are not represented in eviction cases, mainly due to the high costs or complicated steps involved in getting an attorney. CLA hopes to eliminate these barriers by continuing the expansion of the Housing Court.

*"Finding CLA was a godsend, the representation was excellent. I am no longer living in fear and can feel settled again." - Mrs. J*



## MY SISTER'S HOUSE PARTNERSHIP

CLA prioritized cases in 2022 for victims of domestic violence and partnered with My Sister's House and SCCADVASA to offer legal office hours to victims of domestic violence to ensure that survivors have meaningful access to counsel.

**Through this partnership, we assisted 28 victims of domestic violence.**



# LAW FIRM AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

We thank our community sponsors, partners, and foundations who generously gave their time, talent, and/or financial support

- Abrams Law Works
- Baxley Law Offices, LLC
- Butler Snow LLP
- Charleston County Bar Association
- City of Charleston
- County of Charleston
- Clawson, Fagnoli, Utsey, LLC
- Counts & Huger
- C.T. Lee & Associates
- Duffy and Young, LLC
- Ethridge Law Group
- Evans Moore, LLC
- Grace Church Cathedral
- Henry & Sylvia Yaschik Foundation
- Joye Law Firm
- K&L Gates
- Kelly Law Firm, LLC
- Motley Rice
- Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
- Nexsen Pruet Law Firm
- Patrick Family Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina
- South Carolina Bar Foundation
- South State Bank
- Stasmayer Inc
- Steinberg Law Firm
- Tbonz Foundation
- Trident United Way
- The Boeing Company
- The Tiny Tassel
- Uricchio, Howe, Krell, Jacobson, Toporek, & Keith PA
- Walker Gressette Freeman & Linton, LLC
- Yarborough Applegate, LLC

For partnership opportunities, please contact [lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org](mailto:lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org).



## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

**John P. Linton, Jr., Member at Walker Gressette & Linton and CLA Board Member, shares why he and his firm support expanding access to justice:**

"By providing meaningful access to legal representation and the protections afforded by our judicial system, CLA makes our community a better place. Walker Gressette & Linton, LLC is proud to have supported CLA from its inception and we remain impressed with the ways our investment in CLA is efficiently used to advance its goals."



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Together, we can expand access to affordable legal services and create an equitable justice system in the Lowcountry.

## **ONLINE:**

Visit [charlestonlegalaccess.org/donate](https://charlestonlegalaccess.org/donate)

## **BY CHECK:**

Check may be made payable to Charleston Legal Access and sent to:

Charleston Legal Access  
ATTN: Lana Kleiman  
1816 Success Street, Suite 102  
North Charleston, SC 29405

## **MORE WAYS TO GIVE:**

To make a matching gift, stock gift, planned gift, or discuss other ways of giving, please email [lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org](mailto:lane@charlestonlegalaccess.org)

**"CLA HAS  
CHANGED MY  
LIFE. DONATE. IF  
YOU CAN'T  
DONATE, PRAY  
FOR THEM."**

- Former CLA Client and  
Elder of a local church





**JUSTICE IS  
WHAT LOVE  
LOOKS LIKE IN  
PUBLIC.**

**-CORNEL WEST**



# CHARLESTON LEGAL ACCESS

Questions? Contact us.

[www.charlestonlegalaccess.org](http://www.charlestonlegalaccess.org)

[info@charlestonlegalaccess.org](mailto:info@charlestonlegalaccess.org)

843-640-5980