

Louisiana Campaign to

Preserve Civil Legal Aid



*Imagine having
your home taken
away, your
children taken
away or being a
victim of domestic
violence, and
having no
constitutional right
to a lawyer . . .*

*. . . this is the reality
facing thousands of
low-income people in
Louisiana who can't
afford a lawyer.*

It's Not Justice If It's Not Equal



Why a Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid?

Civil legal aid provides free legal assistance to those who would otherwise go unrepresented. Unlike in criminal cases, there is no constitutional guarantee of counsel in civil cases.

Louisiana's poverty rates are among the nation's highest: 19.9 percent compared to 15.9 percent nationally.

Nearly one in five Louisianans lived in poverty last year, the third-highest rate in the nation. That includes more than 300,000 children, 28 percent; the fourth highest rate in the nation.

Declines in state and federal funding combined with high poverty place our already challenged legal aid system in crisis.



Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funds declined 74 percent between 2007 and 2011 resulting in unavoidable cuts in IOLTA funding for legal services for our poorest citizens.

Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the largest single donor nationally for civil legal aid, has seen funding per eligible client drop by almost 60 percent over the past decade.

Louisiana's civil legal aid programs have lost more than a third of their LSC funding over the last five years.

Why Does Civil Legal Aid Matter?

Civil legal aid provides the difference to needy families -- the difference between staying in a home and living on the street; between a safe family and a life of fear and violence; between getting paid earned wages and having nothing to eat.

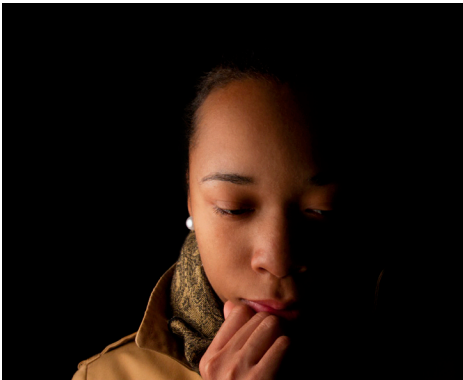
Funding for civil legal aid will have a ripple effect, impacting not only the families served, but the community at large. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems.

Civil legal aid helps people solve critical, life changing problems.



“No community thrives when people are homeless, children are out of school or families experience violence. The help legal aid programs provide keeps faith with one of America’s core values – equal access to justice – and changes the lives of low-income people every day.”

Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson



“Civil legal aid is an absolutely essential element of fulfilling what we say when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance and confirm our dedication to liberty and justice for all. If we fail to assure access to justice for all, we have failed in the American dream. Let’s work together to assure that dream is not lost.”

*Richard K. Leefe
2013-14 LSBA President*



“As lawyers, we swore an oath to *never reject, from any consideration personal to [ourselves], the cause of the defenseless or oppressed or delay any person’s cause for [monetary gain] or malice.* I believe that oath places upon all lawyers, as a profession, the obligation to not only care about civil legal aid, but to actively do something about it.”

*Leo C. Hamilton
2013-14 LBF President*

“Sometimes legal aid is the only thing standing between a family’s ability to be self-sufficient and poverty. For many Louisiana citizens facing crisis, an effective and powerful response must include civil legal aid.”

*Hon. Wendell Manning
2014-15 LBF President*

Who will the Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid Help?



WOMEN who are victims of domestic violence

CHILDREN who need a stable home or special education

ELDERLY whose economic security or health care is in jeopardy

CONSUMERS impacted by improper lending practices

WORKERS denied lawful wages and benefits

DISABLED people denied opportunities

IMMIGRANTS who work the lowest-wage jobs without benefits or contracts

COMMUNITIES devastated by natural disasters

Women

Four years after Beth fled her abusive husband, she was still stalked by him. Beth's husband located her home, forced entry, destroyed her furniture, punched holes in the wall and refused to leave. Legal aid attorneys put an end to this nightmarish terror by helping Beth obtain a permanent injunction, divorce, and sole custody of her child.



Children

Eric, a deaf student, was expelled from school because of behavior problems directly related to a disability. Legal aid attorneys requested an Individualized Education Planning meeting on Eric's behalf. Through that process, his parents were able to secure an appropriate educational plan for him. With his communication and behavioral needs being properly addressed, Eric is flourishing in his new school and receiving the education he deserves.



Elderly

Earl, an elderly Section 8 tenant, was taken advantage of by his landlord who wrongfully overcharged his rent for 5 years. Nonetheless, the landlord refused to reimburse Earl. Legal aid attorneys helped Earl obtain \$2,450 in rent refunds from his landlord.



How Can You Help?

The Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Louisiana State Bar Association together with other key Louisiana legal service organizations, have united to launch and promote the statewide ***Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid***. The mission of the ***Campaign*** is to spread awareness and increase the resources available to address the critical need for civil legal aid in Louisiana. The ***Campaign*** will provide funding for civil legal aid for low income Louisiana citizens.

I support the *Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid!*

☐ ***Enclosed is my donation of:***

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 Other \$ _____

☐ ***I commit to a multi-year donation for:*** ☐ 3 years ☐ 5 years ☐ 10 years; in the annual amount of: ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 Other \$ _____

☐ ***Establish a Living Legacy Fund:*** Please have someone from the LBF contact me. (minimum gift of \$10,000; donor designates agency/funding area annually)

☐ ***My company (as indicated below) will match my gift.***

Name(s) as you would like it to appear for donor recognition:

Preferred address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Company or Firm name: _____

☐ Check enclosed, payable to ***Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid***

☐ Please charge a one-time payment to my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Circle one: Visa AmEx MC

Name as it appears on card: _____

Billing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____



1615 Poydras Street, Suite 1000, New Orleans, LA 70112
504-561-1046 fax 504-566-1926 www.raisingthebar.org

For more information contact Laura Sewell, Development Director, at 504-561-1046 or laura@raisingthebar.org.

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