

LEGAL AID SERVICES OF OKLAHOMA

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ANNUAL REPORT 2010





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma continues to balance the increasing need for legal services while coping with funding cuts from many directions. More Oklahomans qualify for legal aid than ever before but fewer dollars are available. While Legal Aid serves thousands of Oklahomans every month, more are turned away.

Despite the financial problems facing the country and their impact on Oklahoma, Legal Aid works to provide professional and effective legal services for the hundreds of thousands of low-income and elderly persons in Oklahoma. For this dedication and expertise, I commend the dedicated staff, the hundreds of volunteer attorneys who offer their services pro bono, the hundreds of firms and individual attorneys who make financial contributions to the Campaign for Justice and our corporate and business partners throughout the state. Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma simply could not do this work on this scale without the longstanding support of the legal and philanthropic communities, including the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Oklahoma Bar Foundation.

Together we will improve access to the courts and justice for all in Oklahoma.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Layden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Layden

President, Board of Directors

## HISTORY

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma has completed its ninth year as one of our state's largest law firms and the only statewide not-for-profit law firm for Senior Citizens and low-income Oklahomans.

Legal Aid provides critical civil legal services in the following case areas: family law and domestic violence; housing; income maintenance; access to medical care; and consumer law. Legal Aid's successful advocacy keeps families together, with economic security and hope for the future.

Legal Aid serves clients in all 77 counties through a network of 21 offices, strategically-located throughout the state.

## OUR FUTURE

Legal Aid is one of Oklahoma's largest law firms, with a legal staff in 2010 of 64 full-time and 12 part-time attorneys, 15 paralegals and 34 clerical assistants, providing expertise in areas of law vital to the nearly 820,000 low-income and elderly persons eligible for Legal Aid's services, offering all clients the experience of the firm.

Legal Aid hopes the future provides greater access to justice for low-income and elderly Oklahomans. A better economy and strong community relationships and will enable Legal Aid to provide greater access and assure Legal Aid is available for Oklahomans who need it.

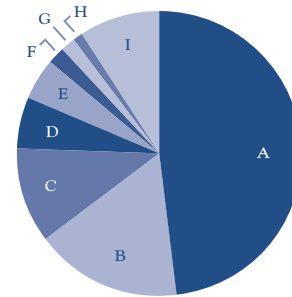
## OUR MISSION

To be a partner in the community making equal justice for all a reality.



## OVERVIEW OF CASEWORK

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma—the only statewide provider of free civil legal help in our state—handled a total of 15,141 cases in 2010. Of these cases, 7,317 (48%) (A) were in the area of family law; 2,521 (17%) (B) were in the area of consumer law; 1,638 (11%) (C) involved housing-related problems; and 866 (6%) (D) were in the area of income maintenance. The remaining 18% of cases involved multiple areas of law including education (I), employment (F), juvenile (E), health (H) and individual rights (G).



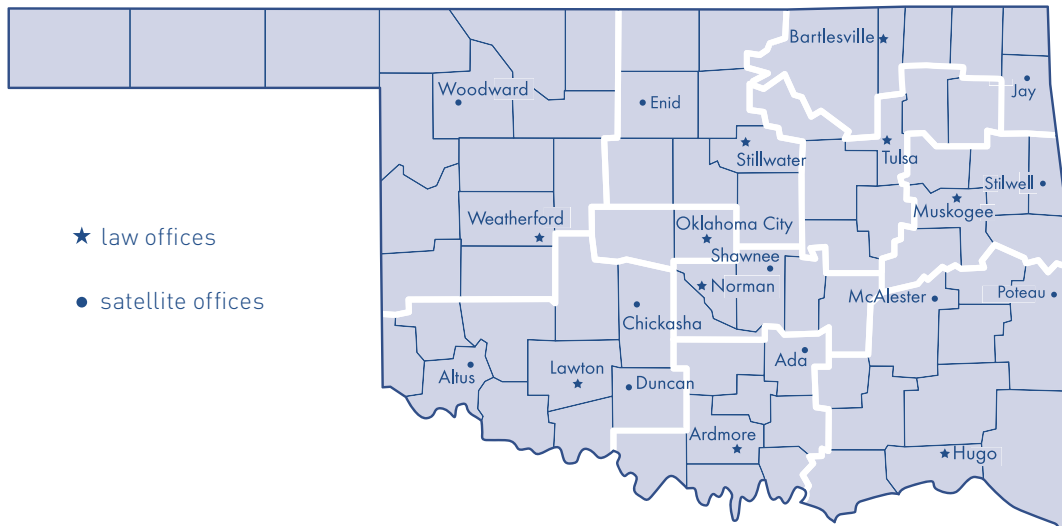
CASES BY AREA

These 15,141 cases involved 14,571 children and a total of 33,404 persons. More than 15% percent of these cases, or 2,320, involved domestic violence; a total of 6,231 children and adults were impacted directly by these domestic violence cases.

A total of 333 private attorneys handled at least one case for LASO on a pro bono basis in 2010.

A total of 1,232 cases were closed by pro bono attorneys in 2010.

## STATEWIDE NETWORK



### SERVICE AREAS

#### Ardmore:

Carter, Garvin, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc

#### Bartlesville:

Craig, Delaware, Nowata, Osage, Ottawa, Washington

#### Hugo:

Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha

#### Lawton:

Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Stephens, Tillman

#### Muskogee:

Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Sequoyah, Wagoner

#### Norman:

Cleveland, Hughes, McClain, Pottawatomie, Seminole

#### Oklahoma City:

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#### Stillwater:

Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Noble, Payne

#### Tulsa:

Creek, Mayes, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pawnee, Rogers, Tulsa

#### Weatherford:

Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Washita, Woods, Woodward

## CASE STUDIES

### *Maria*

Maria is the mother of two daughters. She has muscular dystrophy and for several years the older daughter has lived with Maria's father. This year Maria's MS advanced to the point where she was no longer able care for her younger daughter. Her father agreed to care for the 11-year-old as well as her older sister, but Maria needed a power of attorney so he could enroll her in school. Maria contacted Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma for help. Legal Aid quickly completed a power of attorney and now the sisters are back together, being well cared for by grandpa and attending the same school.



### *Eloise and Leonard*

Eloise and Leonard came to Legal Aid when both of their paychecks were garnished to cover unpaid medical bills. They were deeply in debt, and filed a pro se motion to stop the garnishment, claiming hardship when he was hospitalized. The court ruled in his favor, but his employer would not stop the garnishment without a court order. Since Leonard did not have an attorney or know how to obtain a court order, the garnishment continued for another three months. The couple could not make their house payment and the mortgage company sent them a foreclosure notice. They contacted Legal Aid, and Legal Aid filed bankruptcy for them, stopping garnishment and discharging all of the debts. Additionally, Legal Aid's attorney filed a separate proceeding and recovered the money garnished from Leonard's wages prior to the bankruptcy.



## *Paula*

Paula contacted Legal Aid a year ago, wanting a divorce and custody of her two children. She was contemplating reconciliation when her eight-year-old daughter came home from school and told her mother that her stepfather had been touching her inappropriately since she was four years old. Paula immediately took steps to keep her children and self safe.



A forensic exam confirmed the abuse. Law enforcement agencies were contacted, and protective orders obtained. The husband was arrested and charged with lewd molestation. Legal Aid represented Paula and promptly filed a divorce action and proceeded to win full custody of her children, child support, a judgment for past due support and all of the property in her possession.

## *Tonya*

Tonya was 19 when she came to Legal Aid after her husband asked for a divorce and requested genetic testing of both of their two children. If he was the father of both children, he wanted custody. Tonya was unemployed and she described her husband's violent behavior including beating her one week after her daughter was born, while the baby was in her arms. She obtained a protective order and sought custody of the children.



When the DNA results came in, the husband was found to be the father of both children and began actively seeking custody. Tonya found a job and moved herself and two children in with her parents. The husband dropped his custody claim and accepted a settlement for graduated visitation. At the hearing, Tonya appeared well-groomed, well-dressed, outgoing and personable, and thanked her Legal Aid attorney for her professional but caring approach.

## 2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL ASSETS      | 3,396,747 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 720,205   |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS  | 2,676,542 |

### REVENUE

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| A. GOVERNMENT GRANTS       | 6,047,303        |
| B. CONTRACTS               | 1,352,373        |
| C. CAMPAIGN*               | 724,804          |
| D. UNITED WAYS**           | 508,298          |
| E. DONATED SERVICES***     | 433,078          |
| F. PRIVATE GRANTS          | 313,882          |
| G. OKLAHOMA BAR FOUNDATION | 246,646          |
| H. INTEREST                | 8,819            |
| I. MISCELLANEOUS           | 7,181            |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>       | <b>9,642,384</b> |

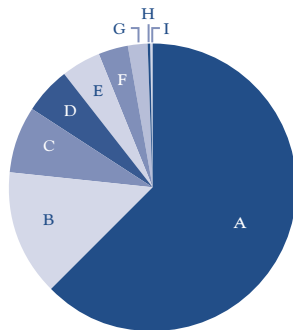
\*The total listed here is the audit's campaign total, however certain grants were not included in the campaign total. The official campaign total for 2010 was \$856,977.

### EXPENSES

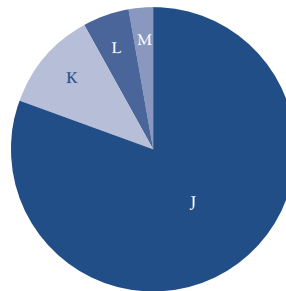
|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| J. LEGAL SERVICES          | 7,389,921        |
| K. ADMINISTRATION          | 1,058,593        |
| L. MUNICIPAL SERVICES      | 465,495          |
| M. FUNDRAISING & MARKETING | 251,377          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>      | <b>9,165,386</b> |

\*\*United Ways in Ada, Ardmore, Duncan, Grady County (United Fund), Lawton, McAlester, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Pottawatomie County, Stillwater, Tulsa and Woodward (United Fund).

\*\*\*Time donated by private attorneys.



REVENUE



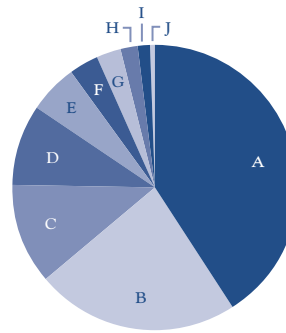
EXPENSES

## CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE 2010

Goal: \$750,000

### BALANCE SHEET

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| A. FOUNDATIONS            | 350,913        |
| B. LAW FIRMS              | 197,484        |
| C. ATTORNEYS (INDIVIDUAL) | 98,930         |
| D. NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES | 77,000         |
| E. BUSINESSES             | 47,575         |
| F. BAR ASSOCIATIONS       | 29,000         |
| G. CY PRES AWARD          | 24,119         |
| H. FRIENDS OF LEGAL AID   | 15,950         |
| I. BOARD MEMBERS          | 12,088         |
| J. STAFF                  | 3,918          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>856,977</b> |



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