

JUSTICE IN
ACTION



LONE STAR
LEGAL AID

YEAR IN REVIEW-2007

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to present Lone Star Legal Aid's 2007 Annual Report. For almost 60 years, our organization has been at the heart of Texas and Arkansas communities providing free legal assistance for low-income individuals and families facing overwhelming obstacles. Every day, we help rebuild lives and work to uphold laws, policies and ideas—narrowing the gap between what is promised and what is real.

This report is just a snapshot of what we have accomplished over the past year. In 2007 alone, we handled almost 20,000 cases, which impacted the lives of more than 45,000 people. These remarkable achievements are the direct result of our extraordinary attorneys, paralegals and support staff who are committed to tackling injustices on behalf of those whose last chance for help often lies in our hands. Many of our advocates have spent their entire careers devoted to legal aid, and they are known experts in various areas of poverty law. Others are fresh out of law school, and despite the burden of school debt have chosen legal aid for their life's work.

Practicing poverty law requires a unique passion and an unwavering commitment to level the playing field for people who otherwise would be unable to afford legal representation. If you ask our staff what drives them, the common theme in their responses is a true belief in the importance of what they do on a daily basis.

Our team will also tell you about the immeasurable rewards that come along with their efforts. Our clients are resilient in the face of what might appear to be insurmountable odds, and they are resolute in their desire to create a better life for themselves and their children. Working together, we have seen millions of lives change—real, lasting changes. The ripple effects from our successes can be felt throughout families and communities for generations.



Paul E. Furrh, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



Daniel D. Hu
Board Chair



OUR MISSION

To protect and advance the civil legal rights of low-income Texans by providing advocacy, legal representation and community education that ensures equal access to justice.

VISION

A society in which
equal justice for all
is a reality.

PLEDGE

At Lone Star Legal Aid, you can count on us to:

- Promote and protect client dignity
- Help our clients achieve safety, stability and independence in their lives
- Give our clients a voice in what we do and how we do it
- Take a holistic approach to client service, identifying underlying issues
- Offer innovative legal solutions to life's toughest problems
- Accomplish systemic change

- Teach our client community about its legal rights and responsibilities
- Maximize available resources to meet greater need
- Be accountable to our clients, funders, donors and community partners
- Exhibit leadership, but embrace collaboration
- Pursue the highest standards in all of our relationships and actions
- Champion diversity in our staff, board and client population

WHO WE ARE

Lone Star Legal Aid is a non-profit law firm, operating as the fourth largest legal aid organization of its type in the United States. We provide free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and families who have immediate needs but cannot afford an attorney.

2007 CASE STATISTICS:

Handled Cases
19,667

Closed Cases
17,844

Cases Continued into 2008
1,823

People Impacted by Closed Cases
44,107

Community Legal Education, People Receiving
50,179

Referrals
17,352

Cases Closed Without Litigation
85%

With an experienced team of 71 lawyers, 8 paralegals, 55 support staff and 14 administrative personnel, we serve approximately 1.5 million eligible persons in both rural and urban communities. Our service area covers one-third of the state, almost 60,000 square miles and 72 counties in the eastern and Gulf Coast regions of Texas, and also four counties of southwest Arkansas.

Headquartered in Houston, with an additional 12 branch offices, Lone Star Legal Aid is the only civil legal aid provider in our region to supply a full range of services. We engage in a wide array of activities, dependent upon client need and available resources, ranging from brief advice and counsel to representation in state and federal courts, in addition to special projects, a legal help line, community education, self-help clinics and referrals. Practice areas include domestic violence, child advocacy, housing, income maintenance,

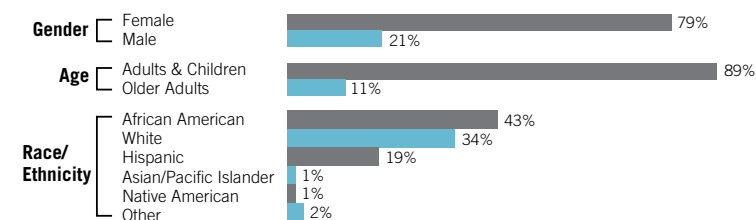
health care access, consumer fraud, disabilities rights, employment, education, estate planning and probate, civil rights and disaster relief.

We have a proud tradition of successful client-centered work, and historically we have won victories that affect not only individuals, but classes and groups of low-income people on local, state and national levels when our actions have resulted in systemic policy and procedural changes.

OUR PRIORITIES:

- Maintaining and protecting economic stability
- Preserving housing
- Improving outcomes for children
- Establishing and sustaining family safety and stability; health and well-being
- Assisting populations with special vulnerabilities

2007 CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

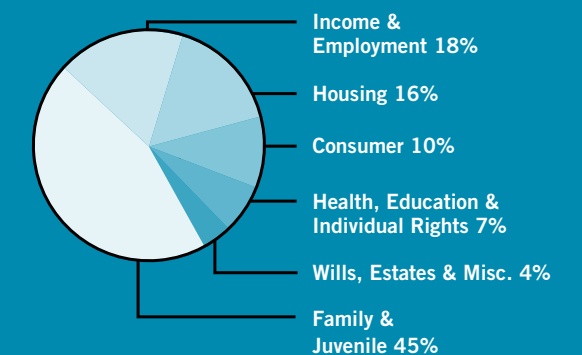


2007 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our skilled team of advocates won numerous victories on behalf of individuals, families and communities in 2007. Achievements include:

- > Secured awards, settlements, back payments and annualized monthly payments of more than \$6.1 million for clients.
- > Stopped evictions and prevented homelessness for hundreds of hurricane survivors using a range of strategies, including bringing FEMA into the eviction proceedings as a third party when it cut off rental assistance payments to landlords and hurricane survivors.
- > Directed targeted outreach efforts within Southeast Texas Vietnamese and Hispanic communities that continued to experience problems resulting from Hurricane Rita.
- > Acted as the sole protector of East Texas homeowners who fell victim to hurricane-related home repair scams during a time when neither FEMA nor state or federal governments were taking action to protect this group; won judgments for homeowners, including one for almost \$100,000.
- > Obtained benefits for thousands of disabled older adults statewide when we successfully challenged a state rule that left senior food stamp recipients without the assistance for two months while they transitioned to SNAP, an enhanced food stamp initiative that targets seniors receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- > Earned Awards of Merit from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children for outstanding work performed in an international parental child abduction case under the Hague Convention; and from the Bankruptcy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas for our dedicated efforts to protect the rights of Texas low-income consumers.
- > Secured a procedural change from the Texas Department of Transportation that mandates special patient transportation instructions from doctors must be included in the transportation orders given to service contractors, and special needs Medicaid patients (such as those in wheelchairs) must receive accommodation.
- > Represented clients alleging racial discrimination in the Paris Independent School District, resulting in ongoing investigations by the U. S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Division.
- > Challenged disciplinary action against a 14-year-old African American student penalized and expelled by the Paris ISD for pushing a hall monitor. She was sentenced to up to seven years in juvenile prison in separate criminal proceedings. A 14-year-old White teen was given probation for an arson conviction in the same court, leading to racial discrimination charges. Our client was released after one year following a local and national outcry.

TYPES OF CASES CLOSED IN 2007



PRESERVING HOUSING

Most of us think of our homes as sanctuaries for memories—our child’s first steps across the living room, an unforgettable feast prepared in the kitchen, a space where new beginnings and lives unfold. But many people with low incomes face a starkly contrasting picture. Sometimes it involves deplorable housing conditions. Other times, it is a matter of unlawful discrimination, unjust landlord practices or predatory lending.

ACTION WORKS:

2,862 housing cases completed

1,750 people obtained/retained affordable housing

670 homes were saved or protected

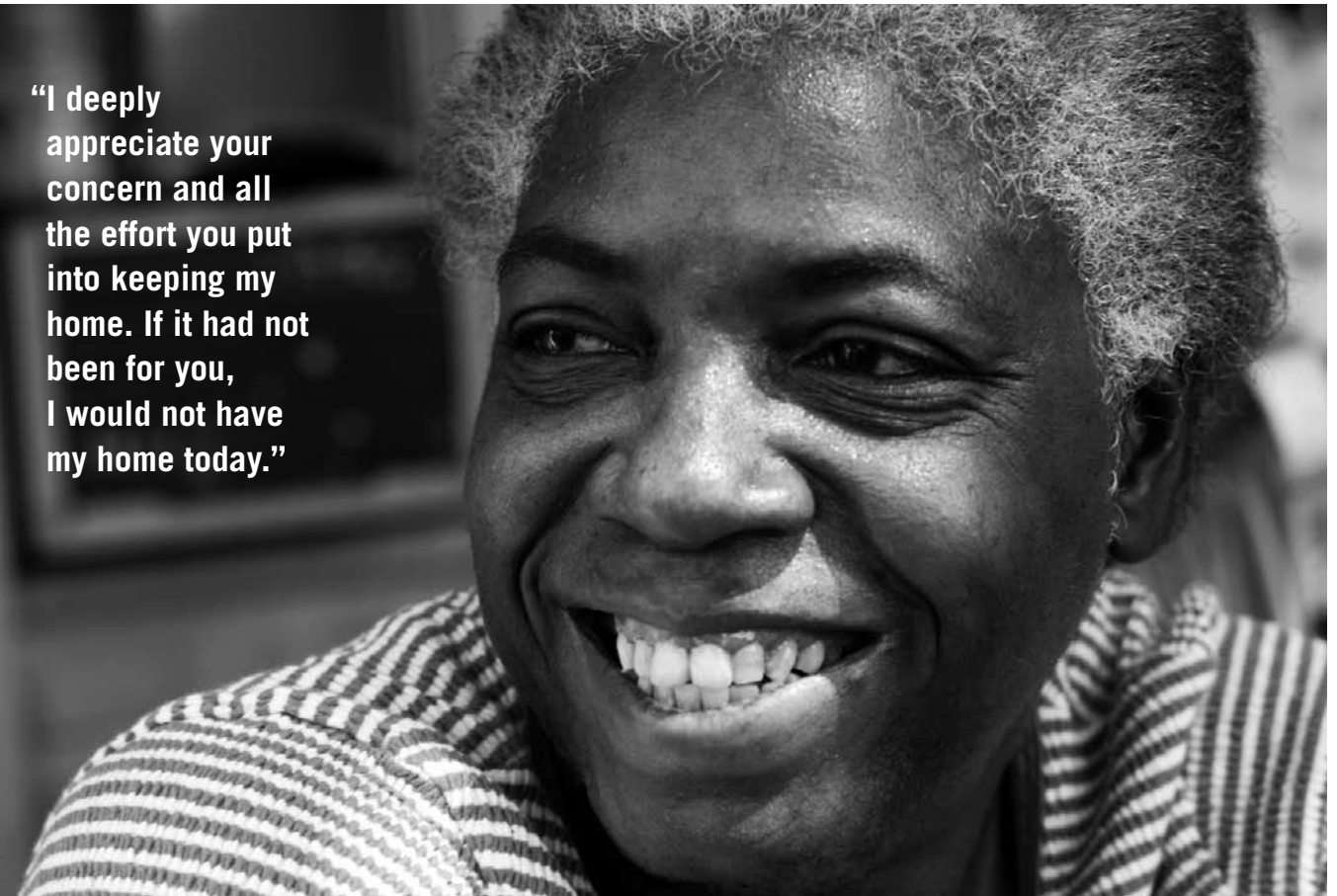
Housing impacts every other aspect of a person’s life. The stress of a pending eviction can impair a person’s job performance. Lack of housing options can force a domestic violence survivor to return to her abuser. A costly home improvement scam can rob an older adult of his or her independence.

Every year, Lone Star Legal Aid works to preserve, create and improve housing for low-income families and individuals. In 2007, we made notable progress on our efforts to establish Houston’s first permanent tenants’ rights association designed to address legal issues of low-income persons. Further, we obtained more than 300 housing court decisions, provided housing-related community legal education to more than 3,300 people and made 1,739 referrals for further assistance. Thousands of others worked out landlord disputes, avoided foreclosures and obtained necessary repairs thanks to Lone Star Legal Aid.

Selected Highlights – 2007 Completed Cases

Landlord/Tenant	1,232
Federally Subsidized Housing	854
Homeownership	485

“I deeply appreciate your concern and all the effort you put into keeping my home. If it had not been for you, I would not have my home today.”



JUSTICE IN ACTION: ADA’S STORY

For years, Texas consumer lawyers have worried about the consequences of home equity loans given to families with low incomes, and numerous advocates call these lending practices unwise at best. While some people may be technically eligible for these loans, many times in reality, they are only one crisis away from poverty, foreclosure or homelessness.

Ada’s story is no different.

For hours, Ada trembled in panic as she anxiously awaited treatment in the East Texas emergency room. Ada drew deep breaths. After all, this was her second trip to the emergency room since financial bounty hunters began calling the disabled 70-year-old several times a day, threatening her with imprisonment, labeling her a liar and demanding she sell her personal belongings to pay her outstanding debt. Harassing the poor, it seems, has become an art for debt collectors who routinely resort to extreme measures.

Ada’s financial stability abruptly changed after her husband unexpectedly died from a heart attack. And to make matters worse, her health was deteriorating as

she battled chronic respiratory problems, high blood pressure and obstructive pulmonary disorder, which reduces the ability to breathe.

Ada fell behind on her mortgage and called Lone Star Legal Aid as a last resort to save her house. Our experts took immediate steps to prevent the imminent foreclosure, citing the creditor’s noncompliance with the home equity provisions of the Texas Constitution and the collector’s violations of the Texas Debt Collection Act.

The more we looked into the case, the more complicated it grew, with the discovery of property tax debts, among other issues. Despite the legal complexities, Lone Star Legal Aid secured a settlement agreement for Ada that reduced the loan principal by more than \$20,000 and dropped the interest rate to 3%, resulting in a \$200 per month payment reduction, an affordable solution that allowed Ada to stay in the home that she and her husband had shared for years.

*All client names in this report have been changed to protect privacy.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

ACTION WORKS:

1,252 children provided financial support

1,635 adults and children provided family stability through adoption, visitation, custody or legitimation

19,151 children helped last year when we assisted their parents or guardians

3,391 children affected by our housing work

More than **\$3 million** in child support one-time benefits and annualized monthly payments

All children deserve to grow up in a safe, loving environment that nurtures their potential. Therefore, we vigorously defend their rights, helping ensure protection from abuse, eliminating discriminatory practices, and tearing down barriers to medical care and education, as well as fighting to obtain services and benefits for kids with disabilities.

Almost 80% of our clients are women, most of them mothers, so much of our work affects children in very concrete ways when we assist their parents. In some cases, we are addressing a child's deteriorating housing. Other times, it involves custody, adoption, guardianship, child support or a case of violence or neglect.

This past year, we helped stabilize homes, brought families together, increased and enhanced parental income and addressed educational inequities. In essence, we helped thousands of children get their best chance to succeed in life.

Selected Highlights – 2007 Completed Cases

Education	42
Adoption	48
Custody/Visitation	1,345
Guardianship	214
Parental Rights Termination	38
Paternity	43
Child Support	516

JUSTICE IN ACTION: BABY BEN'S STORY

Ben's mom Brenda only left for a minute. She trusted her new boyfriend Eric could watch the baby while she made a quick trip to the store. But when she arrived home tragedy unfolded in a way Brenda never could have imagined. Eric confessed that he had shaken the baby, and something was definitely wrong.

At nine months old, Ben was too young to speak. Crying was his only language. As his eyes rolled side to side, the baby seemed disoriented and could not move his arms or legs.

Sadly, Eric's violent abuse left the baby with severe brain damage, permanent blindness, severe motor skill impairments and throat paralysis, all of which made it complicated for Ben to eat, walk and talk.

Ben's father Mark approached Lone Star Legal Aid to get custody of the child. Ben's mom had already

filed for custody, and we made a court appearance on Mark's behalf. After a contested temporary orders hearing, the court awarded our client custody of Ben.

Brenda desperately wanted to be a part of her son's life, so the judge created mandatory directives that included parenting classes, including medical training for a special needs child. She met all of the requirements and, in the end, Mark and Brenda were awarded shared custody of Ben. Mark was awarded the right to make primary medical decisions for Ben, as well as control the baby's social security and Medicaid benefits.

The abuser, Eric, received 40 years in prison, and today, despite his disabilities, baby Ben is growing fast and can say a few words.



ENSURING SAFETY

Almost one-third of all women indicate they have suffered intimate partner abuse in their lifetime. And the terror of violence reaches far beyond the victim. It rocks the core of any family's structure. That is why it is critical to provide every legal resource we can to guarantee women and children security, as well as an opportunity to regain control of their lives.

ACTION WORKS:

2,282 domestic violence cases completed

8,761 adults and children protected from violence

1,500 family law court decisions

4,866 children impacted by our domestic violence work

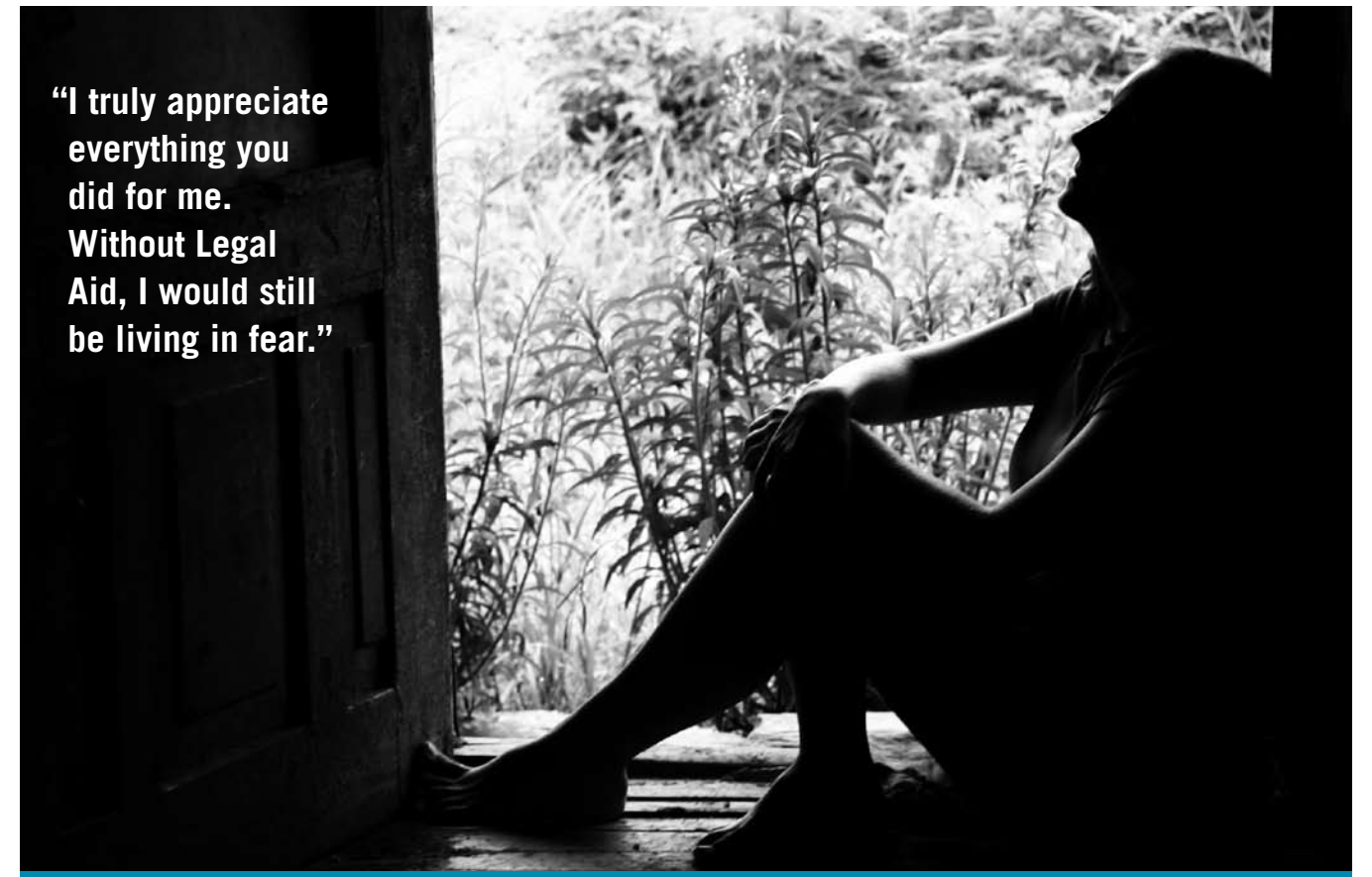
Domestic violence makes up a large portion of the Lone Star Legal Aid caseload. Women leaving an abuser face substantial concerns including child protection, harassment, landlord discrimination, homelessness and workplace issues. Access to legal assistance is a key component in a woman's ability to escape an abusive situation, and our advocates address needs, such as housing, child custody and support, protective orders, divorces, access to public benefits, employment and property and debt matters.

In 2007, we completed almost 2,300 domestic violence cases, impacting more than 8,750 women and children.

Selected Highlights – 2007 Completed Cases

Domestic Abuse	2,282
Custody/Visitation	1,345
Divorce/Separation	4,486
Name Change	70
Child Support	516

“I truly appreciate everything you did for me. Without Legal Aid, I would still be living in fear.”



JUSTICE IN ACTION: SARAH'S STORY

Sarah softly traces the lump on her face, all the while wondering if it looks as bad as it feels. She looks in the mirror. Another black eye, but this time, no blood. She prays it will all end, but deep down, she knows he will beat her again.

It all started around her 15th birthday, when Sarah's parents signed guardianship over to Clay, an older man who made grand promises of a better life for the girl. He would take care of everything, he said, and provide her with an education that the parents never could. So that day, Sarah's parents said goodbye as Clay drove their little girl hundreds of miles away.

So much happened inside this twisted world, but the only constant Sarah could count on was the violence. Life became a chaotic series of beatings, head-butts and other assaults. The bizarre entanglement of emotions and abuse became more complicated when Sarah turned 18, and Clay married her.

Over their 13 years together, black eyes, blackouts and emergency room visits were commonplace. During a fight, Clay punched Sarah so hard and so much that she lost consciousness and awoke in the county hospital

with massive head trauma. When they were in public, Clay often spanked her as if she was a child. But his favorite form of abuse was pulling her up by the throat and choking her. On one occasion, he grabbed Sarah by the neck, slammed her against the wall and pounded until a protruding nail punctured the back of her head.

Every day, his obsessive control intensified. He chose what she would wear. He decided when she was allowed to leave the house. He handled all the bills, and every dollar she made went to him. Their children and pets did not fare much better in the house; Clay regularly left bruises on his sons, and his violence toward Sarah almost always happened in front of the kids.

With her and her children's futures in jeopardy, Sarah contacted Lone Star Legal Aid. Our attorneys immediately began working with the local women's shelter to help secure Sarah's protective order. We were also successful in helping Sarah get sole custody of the children, child support and no visitation rights for Clay. Today, with the divorce nearly finalized, Sarah is blossoming. For the first time, she has control over her life.

SECURING HEALTH CARE

At 25%, Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation, and this statistic translates into devastating realities for millions of residents, but has a particularly profound effect on the low-income members of our community. In fact, poverty is the leading factor in health disparities.

ACTION WORKS:

1,144 health care cases completed

2,955 people impacted by our health cases

2,300+ people received health education

1,420 children gained access to health care

For many of our clients who struggle to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, medical care and costly prescriptions are unaffordable luxuries. Low-income persons often lack a regular health care provider, and even routine, preventive check-ups can be out of reach, all of which expose our clients to significant risk. Flu can turn into pneumonia, uncontrolled diabetes can lead to kidney disease and cancer can be diagnosed too late.

Lone Star Legal Aid helps clients obtain or retain critical medical care through county, state and federal resources. Educating our client community about their legal rights, along with referrals to area health-related agencies, are also vital features of our service provision.

Selected Highlights – 2007 Completed Cases

Medicaid and Medicare	327
Other Health (including County Indigent Health Care and Texas Children's Health Insurance Program)	817

JUSTICE IN ACTION: BOB'S STORY

Becoming one of the millions of uninsured Texans can be only an injury away.

Just ask Bob Crawford.

Bob spent years laboring at a station changing old tires on industrial trucks and equipment. He moved hundreds of pounds of rubber tires all day, every day, and regularly went out on the road to put tires on tractor trailer trucks that had broken down.

In this rural East Texas city, jobs are scarce, and at 45, this proud working man found himself at the wrong end of the economic spectrum, suffering debilitating back injuries from years of hard labor and unable to perform the strenuous work he once could.

Two doctors, including a neurosurgeon, told Bob he needed immediate surgery; otherwise, the ruptured discs in his back would leave him paralyzed or worse, dead. His doctors ordered an MRI to determine the extent of the damage done to his spinal cord and chart what other surgeries may be necessary.

But Bob's health care coverage lapsed, and despite multiple efforts to get health care at the County Hospital, he never received a written determination on his application. The County Hospital refused to pay for Bob's MRI. Shortly thereafter, he was denied SSI benefits.

Lone Star Legal Aid immediately accepted this emergency case, quickly contacting the Hospital District Administrator and demanding the client's request for care. The Hospital District relented and paid for an MRI. It also made arrangements with the University of Texas Medical Branch to set up Bob's back surgery, with the expenses covered by the District. Luckily, before the surgery appointment, we won the client's SSI case. We told Bob that Medicaid would cover all his medical expenses in the future, so he would never have to worry about his health care coverage again.



STABILIZING FINANCES

ACTION WORKS:

6,007 economic stability cases completed

625 people avoided excessive or unlawful debt

2,084 persons increased their income as a result of our efforts

Helped clients obtain one-time benefits and annualized monthly payments that increased their household income:

\$1.5+ million Social Security/SSI

\$372,000+ Food Stamps

\$1+ million Consumer Savings

With one out of every six Texans in poverty and our state ranking low nationwide in terms of cash assistance to low-income households, millions face tremendous difficulties on a daily basis.

Lone Star Legal Aid's knowledge and expertise make a real difference in the lives of our clients. Our advocacy results in disability benefits, child support and food stamps; employment benefits and job training; protection of income and household assets from illegal or unfair sales practices; and estate planning. We work with clients to determine eligibility, address documentation issues and restore wrongly terminated or unjustly denied benefits.

We received over 400 public benefits administrative agency decisions in 2007, conducted income-related educational outreach with more than 14,000 people and provided over 5,000 referrals to community agencies for consumer, employment and income maintenance issues so that individuals and families could get benefits to which they are entitled.

Selected Highlights – 2007 Completed Cases

Food Stamps	1,570
Social Security and SSI	711
Bankruptcy/Debt Relief	441
Collections/Repossessions	697
Contracts/Warranties	220
Unfair Sales Practices	33
Job Discrimination	36
Wage Claims	35
Wills and Estate Planning	670



JUSTICE IN ACTION: DAVID'S STORY

In a dusty courtyard on a blistering hot April day, a power struggle ignited in a slim sliver of West African land. Triggered by its leader's death, the African nation of Togo plunged into chaos, unhinging some 40,000 Togolese refugees to scatter frantically across neighboring countries or flee to the United States.

When violent street battles erupted after contested presidential elections, many from this tiny country found themselves swept up into the instant mayhem. Security forces were relentless in abuse. Those who were captured and tortured, including many women and children, endured endless hours of whippings with cords and breaking of bones from belts binding their wrists and ankles together.

Bodies quickly became war zones.

David, his wife and their children fled to the United States as legal refugees seeking asylum. David tried to

work, but torture left him emotionally and physically impaired. After applying for SSI benefits and being denied, Lone Star Legal Aid stepped in to help. Our advocates represented David in an administrative agency hearing, which denied him benefits, despite documented physical impairments. But in a rare decision from the Appeals Council, we won a full reversal of the administrative judge's denial, securing David's SSI benefits, including almost \$20,000 in retroactive benefits.

Fortunately, David became a U.S. citizen soon after the appeal, so he now receives full benefit status and Medicaid. With anguishing post-traumatic stress symptoms and physical problems, this outcome was crucial to David's long-term well-being.



“Before I ever made my first phone call to you, I was told how good you were. Your calmness, wisdom and friendly professionalism got me through. I will always be grateful.”

JUSTICE IN ACTION: MARTINA'S STORY

When Martina heard a Spanish radio advertisement about a dental clinic that guaranteed new dentures for only \$121 a month, it seemed too good to be true. Martina hurried to the clinic, and the staff assured her that with this deal, she need not worry about cost. Besides, said the clinic, Medicare would cover any additional charges.

That day, the clinic pulled all of Martina's teeth. But soon after, when she returned for her dentures fitting, Martina was told that Medicare would not pay after all. No problem, said the clinic. They told her they had a better way for her to pay for the dentures. So Martina, who cannot read and speaks only Spanish, signed a credit card agreement for charges of \$4,500, excessive for even the best set of dentures.

Weeks later, Martina started getting bills from the creditor, so she began sending in payments of \$121 even though the dentures did not fit her. But the

more payments she made, the more bills she got. Eventually, the creditors began harassing her, calling at all hours and even threatening imprisonment.

Several years passed, but during that time, Martina bought new dentures from another source and had friends help write letters to the creditor of the original dentures, telling them she would not pay and explaining how she felt she had been swindled. Eventually, she stopped getting calls and letters; in late 2007, she was served with a lawsuit.

When Martina came to Lone Star Legal Aid, we had to act quickly to respond to the lawsuit and file a counterclaim for negligence. Within two days, opposing counsel requested a mutual dismissal. Martina was tremendously relieved that the burden of this questionable dental debt had been lifted.

WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Special populations demand special solutions. People who are particularly marginalized, such as those with physical or mental disabilities, the elderly, those who are homeless, persons in rural or remote communities and those with limited English language skills, require a concerted effort to bridge the gaps that exist. Others, such as hurricane survivors, have urgent problems that require specific, aggressive legal intervention.

SNAPSHOT:

Almost **17%** of our 2007 clients had physical and/or mental disabilities

We use multiple strategies to both reach and serve these vulnerable groups, such as elder law clinics at senior community centers and churches to provide education, one-on-one counseling and on-site document preparation for concerns such as estate planning, elder abuse, nursing home rights, Medicare, reverse mortgages and identity theft. And to address transportation issues, disabilities

and isolation, our advocates create mobile offices and travel to various communities across our service area, meeting with applicants and clients at convenient locations. In addition, strategic projects are developed, such as our disaster relief, language access and food stamp outreach initiatives, part of our commitment to making justice a reality for all.

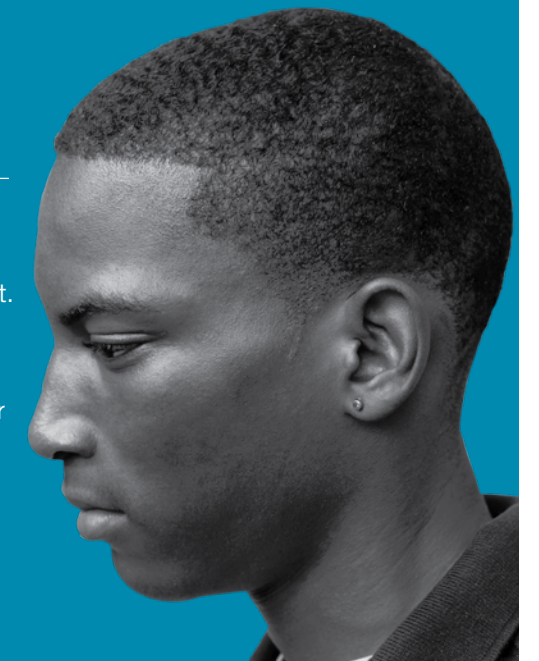
JUSTICE IN ACTION: LOIS AND JACOB'S STORY

Along the gray gravelly road dotted with battered trailers and sagging wood houses, Lois and her son Jacob thrived for many years, but all the while, the light slowly slipped away and eventually Lois went entirely blind. She adjusted—for she was no stranger to hardship, having spent the last 18 years caring for Jacob's special needs including organic brain syndrome and schizophrenia.

In 2007, new challenges arose when her guardianship

rights over Jacob were suddenly in jeopardy. But Lois stood firm—uncompromisingly confident that neither her, nor her son's disabilities would split them apart.

Lois and Lone Star Legal Aid teamed together to help her get permanent guardianship over her son. At the end of the hearing, the judge said he was satisfied that Lois took better care of Jacob than any other mother could, with or without sight.



ENGAGING IN STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

LANGUAGE ACCESS INITIATIVE: A substantial portion of our potential client population does not speak English as its primary language, and this can lead to isolation from local support networks, creating a dangerous situation when legal crises occur that affect health, safety or self-sufficiency. At Lone Star Legal Aid, we are committed to ensuring that our services are available in every neighborhood and community in our region.

ACTION WORKS:

Almost **1,300** cases completed for clients with limited English capabilities

We have traditionally taken a number of steps to eliminate language barriers, including bilingual staff, use of translators and targeted outreach. This past year, we launched an ongoing language access initiative that will employ extra measures to make sure that limited English skills do not prevent applicants and clients from navigating the legal system.

One of our first steps was to develop a central system to track the progress of our non-English speaking applicants and clients, including the offices serving them, the legal problems they experience, the level of assistance we provide and case outcomes. Monitoring each step in the helping process will allow us to pinpoint internal strengths

and weaknesses, in addition to the need for new tools and resources. Future plans include a client-directed newsletter in Spanish and Vietnamese, which represent the two most common non-English languages spoken by our clients, along with a new program website that provides application information in multiple languages.

During 2007, Lone Star Legal Aid saw a 65% increase in the number of cases closed on behalf of Spanish-speaking clients.



DISASTER RELIEF INITIATIVE: They came ashore after churning in the Gulf for days, unraveling destruction none of us could have ever imagined. Thousands of people dead in their wake. Millions lost their possessions, their jobs and their homes.

But long after the shocking images stopped flooding our living rooms, the impact still lingers along the Gulf Coast and across East Texas, where poverty flourished long before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Lone Star Legal Aid was one of the first responders, continues to provide recovery assistance today and anticipates this work will remain constant for years to come.

With a permanent Disaster Relief Team in place, Lone Star Legal Aid held clinics throughout our service area in 2007 to serve hurricane-affected East Texas and Gulf Coast residents who still experience problems with FEMA benefits, landlord-tenant issues, family matters and countless other concerns. We also halted evictions of hurricane survivors, using a variety of strategies, including bringing FEMA into eviction proceedings as a third party after FEMA cut off

rental assistance payments to landlords and hurricane survivors. Our creative advocacy helped hundreds of clients, many of whom had no family or support systems in Texas, avoid eviction and homelessness.

Repairing hurricane-damaged homes continues to be a major problem across East Texas and the Gulf Coast. We have filed and won cases against contractors and, in some cases, “stormchasers” who received cash payments from FEMA or insurance companies but whose repair work was of little or no significant value, with unfinished work leaving homes exposed to on-going deterioration. Legal aid is likely the last chance for relief since homeowners find themselves without the financial resources to contend with the damage and most governmental and private agencies are overwhelmed and unable to effectively respond.

ACTION WORKS:

To date, Lone Star Legal Aid has closed more than **10,000** hurricane-related cases and reached tens of thousands of hurricane survivors through community outreach.

FOOD STAMP INITIATIVE: Our food stamp outreach efforts began in 2004 after we learned that nearly half a million people living in poverty in 13 counties surrounding Houston did not receive food stamps. For eligible elderly, less than a third received this public assistance.

Using bilingual teams meeting with potential clients at community centers and local agencies throughout our region, we have reached thousands of low-income persons through 2007, providing education about benefit availability, addressing application barriers, conducting individual eligibility screening, submitting food stamp applications to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and monitoring the application process.

In addition to notable outreach efforts, our firm's 2007 food stamp advocacy will continue to have a significant influence in the lives of low-income elders throughout the state of Texas. SNAP (Simplified Nutrition Assistance Program), a sector of the Texas food stamp initiative that targets older adults 65 and over who are also

SSI recipients, provides higher benefits for a longer period of time and with fewer bureaucratic hassles. But an HHSC rule required eligible persons receiving regular food stamps to go without this benefit for two months before transitioning to SNAP. A Lone Star Legal Aid attorney and paralegal prepared an aggressive strategy to challenge this policy, beginning with an appeal on a client's case. Our team not only won a favorable decision in the client's situation, but also convinced the hearing officer that the imposition was not in accordance with applicable law. As a result, HHSC revised its SNAP policy, removing the time-based restriction, which means thousands of disabled seniors no longer have to wait two months to receive these important and necessary benefits.

ACTION WORKS:

1,570 food stamp cases completed

\$372,000+ in food stamp one-time benefits and annualized monthly payments

“Thanks a million for your help with my food stamp case. I’m convinced the food stamp case workers were convinced they could ignore my appeals until Lone Star Legal Aid began to help.”



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP PRO BONO

Low-income households experience approximately one civil legal need per year, and Lone Star Legal Aid has 71 attorneys with a service area that includes almost 1.5 million eligible people at 125% of federal poverty guidelines. That means there is approximately one legal aid attorney for every 21,127 low-income persons in our region versus one attorney for every 334 persons in the general population of Texas.

ACTION WORKS:

1,312 pro bono attorneys closed
2,214 cases last year, representing more than
\$2 million in legal help donated to Lone Star Legal Aid.

Participating in our firm's pro bono program, volunteer lawyers and other crucial partners, such as bar associations, community organizations and law schools, generously donate their time and expertise to help us meet a portion of this immense legal need. Lone Star Legal Aid also leverages its resources by funding the work of other related programs, such as Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse and the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, and pre-screening applicants prior to referring to these entities.

Joining forces with these dedicated volunteers and partner organizations gives us access to more attorneys than we possibly could afford to keep on staff and increases our capacity to serve the many people with serious issues who otherwise would not have access to legal representation.

“We thank everyone who helped us in our adoption of Susan.... Our attorney was there to comfort us, wipe our tears and reassure us that everything would be all right. Words alone could never say how we feel about her.”

PRO BONO LEADERS

We are fortunate to have thousands of volunteer attorneys involved in our program. Four partners who had a significant impact on our 2007 efforts are featured.

JOHN W. ALEXANDER

A champion against injustice and a strong supporter of legal services for those who are poor, John W. Alexander began handling pro bono cases for East Texas Legal Services in 1982 and continues to do so for Lone Star Legal Aid today. While maintaining his own active trial practice in Wood County and serving on our firm's Board, he has donated over 6,000 hours of pro bono service, handling over 500 cases for our clients that range from simple matters to complex litigation.

Alexander does more than his share to ensure that the legal system is accessible to everyone, and encourages others to do the same. He does not just practice law—he promotes the promise of justice for all. The State Bar of Texas recognized Alexander's extraordinary devotion with the 2006 Frank J. Scurlock Award, which honors outstanding pro bono legal efforts on behalf of those in need.

BECK, REDDEN & SECREST, LLP

For the past two years, Lone Star Legal Aid and its clients have benefited from the volunteer spirit of Beck, Redden & Secrest, a Houston-based firm recognized as one of the nation's top Litigation Boutiques. Committed to community enrichment, the firm has provided highly skilled legal help to our clients who are facing evictions and other landlord-tenant disputes.

Beck, Redden & Secrest has been quite successful in its endeavors to protect the rights of our at-risk clients, either preventing evictions or obtaining fair and favorable leave conditions. Their aggressive approach in handling these cases has sent a strong message to unscrupulous landlords or those who fail to maintain knowledge of their legal responsibilities. As a result, the firm's actions have encouraged fairness and achieved justice in the outcome of each case.

NIX, PATTERSON & ROACH, LLP

Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP, provides a significant portion of Lone Star Legal Aid's representation of low-income battered women and children in a six-county area of East Texas. Over the past decade, the firm has helped hundreds of low-income families gain a new start in life by providing first-class legal counsel for those who could not pay.

Founded in 1965 by Harold Nix in his hometown of Daingerfield, Texas, the firm has become one of the leading plaintiff's firms in the United States and a model of dedication to the provision of pro bono legal services to low-income Texans. In 1998, the firm's work was acknowledged by the State Bar of Texas when it presented Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP, with the W. Frank Newton Award, which recognizes the outstanding pro bono law firm in the state. The firm's exceptional commitment has made an enormous contribution to the well-being of our East Texas community.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION PRO BONO PROGRAM

Since 2000, the Jefferson County Bar Association Foundation (JCBAF) Pro Bono Program has been one of our loyal partners, not only providing legal expertise but also offering compassion and understanding to low-income community members in crisis.

Through our alliance, the JCBAF Pro Bono Program recruits volunteer private attorneys to handle cases for Lone Star Legal Aid clients, who have been pre-screened and referred to the Pro Bono Program by our Beaumont team. The Pro Bono Program handles a variety of cases for our clients, including family matters, income assistance, discrimination, employment, health care, consumer, housing, education and estate planning. At the end of 2007, 186 attorneys closed 210 cases, contributing an incredible 2,416 hours on behalf of Lone Star Legal Aid clients. In total, the Jefferson County Bar volunteer effort donated more than \$360,000 in free legal help to our organization.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our deepest gratitude is extended to the people and organizations which generously supported our 2007 efforts and those who worked tirelessly to help Lone Star Legal Aid equalize access to justice this past year.

GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Legal Services Corporation
Texas Access to Justice Foundation
Basic Civil Legal Services
Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts
Crime Victims Civil Legal Services
Hurricane Relief
American Association of Retired Persons
Bell County – Lawyer Magistrate
Bell County – Pro Se Assisted Program
Bell County – Protective Orders
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Center for Arkansas Legal Services
City of Houston, Area Agency on Aging
Equal Justice Works
Galveston County Department of Parks & Senior Services
The Grant Family Fund
In honor of Julian A. Grant
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Office of the Texas Attorney General
Other Victim Assistance Grant

UNITED WAY

United Way of Baytown Area
United Way of Brazoria County
United Way of Central Texas
United Way of Greater Houston
United Way of the Greater Fort Hood Area

DONORS

Mark L. Aschermann, Attorney at Law
(Cy Pres Award)
Halliburton Employee Giving Program

ASAP Bail Bonds
Central Texas Workforce Board
GMT Service Corp.
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Jackson
Gail L. Peek
Jeffrey J. Skarda, Attorney at Law

Edward M. and Pamela S. Behan
Judge Joe Carroll
Lawrence Malone
James B. Matlock

UNITED WAY DESIGNATIONS

Nancy J. Bailey
Carla Beckendorff
Maralynn A. Burke
Mary Chollar
Douglas J. Collins
Stephen J. Courtney
Ted Dohmen
Linda Good
Bobbie Greer
Laura Piros McCarver
Mary Montgomery
Shannon C. Palmer
Jennifer Powis
Steven S. Runner
Mary E. Walker
Timothy Watson
Felicia M. Wheaton
Michael Young
Zachry Construction Corporation
Anonymous (10)

IN-KIND DONORS

American Red Cross
Anderson County Courthouse
Asian American Bar Association of Houston
Bell County Indigent Health Services
Boat People SOS – Houston
Catholic Charities
Joseph Giron
Tiew Jong Han
Houston County Courthouse
Howrey, LLP
Jennifer Kin
Joe Faggard Community Center
Lone Star College System
North Harris Campus
Marisa Middleton
Organization of Chinese Americans
Greater Houston Chapter
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Polk County Courthouse
Queen of Vietnam Catholic Church
Ralph Wilson Youth Clubs
San Jacinto County Courthouse
Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization
St. James Catholic Church
St. Matthews Methodist Church
Trinity County Courthouse

Tyler County Courthouse
United Methodist Church Committee on Relief, Rita Recovery
Wharton County Library
Women's Shelter of East Texas, Inc.

PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS/ VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS**

Anderson County Bar Association
Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the Elderly
Asian American Bar Association
Bell County Bar Association
Brazos County Bar Association
Fort Bend County Bar Association
Galveston County Bar Association
Gregg County Bar Association
Harrison County Bar Association
Henderson County Bar Association
Houston Bar Association
Jefferson County Bar Association
Foundation Pro Bono Program
Lamar County Bar Association
Lampasas County Bar Association
Mills County Bar Association
Nacogdoches County Bar Association
Smith County Bar Association
Smith County Bar Foundation
South Asian Bar Association
Waco-McLennan County Bar Association
Wood County Bar Association

Baylor University Law School
South Texas College of Law
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program

Fields Alexander
Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP
John W. Alexander
The Alexander Law Firm
Ralph Allen
John S. Ament
The Ament Firm
Daryl Atkinson
Bruce D. Bain
Bain, Files, Jarrett, Bain & Harrison, PC
Joseph D. Balfour
Law Office of Joseph D. Balfour

Melba S. Baxter
Tab Beall
Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP
Ted Beaty
Beaty Law Office
Eric T. Bishop
J. Powers Branch
Alan E. Brown
Boyd & Brown, PC
F. Edward Brown
F. Edward Brown, Attorney at Law
Tina High Brumbelow
Melissa Charles
Patrice Childress
Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP
Tim Cleveland
Beck, Redden & Secrest, LLP
Eric S. Clifford
Dan Corbin
Corbin & Associates
Jasmine Crockett
Ronald Ned Dennis
Louie "Skeet" DesChamps
Law Office of Skeet DesChamps
Diane DeVasto
Potter Minton, PC
Jay DeWitt
The DeWitt Law Firm, PC
Patricia J. Donovan
Steven Duskie
Lindley, Wiley & Duskie, PC
Edward Ellis
Bill Flanary
Law Office of Bill Flanary
John T. Fleming
Law Office of John T. Fleming
Jill K. Frankel
Jones & Harrell, PC
William J. Gardner
William J. Gardner, PC
John Gauntt
Taylor, Gauntt & Guess, PLLC
James R. Hagan
Angela L. Hammonds
Jeff Harrelson
Vivian J. Harvey
The Law Office of Vivian J. Harvey
Terry K. Haynes
Vicki K. Haynes
Sean P. Healy
Healy, Milne & Associates, PC
B. Diane Heindel
The Law Office of B. Diane Heindel, PC
Dennis C. Holle
Dennis C. Holle, Attorney at Law

Stephen L. Hubbard
Stephen Hubbard, PC

James W. Huggler, Jr.

Karen G. Hughes
Potter Minton, PC

Nancy Hui

Brad Hutchison
McLaughlin, Hutchison, Starnes & Biard, LLP

Alfred Darrell Hyatt

David J. Ingram

Jeffrey C. Irion

John Jarvis

Aubrey L. Jones, Jr.

Jack W. Jones, Jr.
Jones & Harrell, PC

Walter W. Lackey, Jr.
Law Office of Donald Ross Patterson

Carolyn Law
Sinclair Law Office

Lisa Londergan
Gray & Becker, PC

Diane Macfarlane

Buck Major

Nabila Mansoor

Yolanda Cortés Mares

Christopher T. Massey
J. Bennett White, PC

Derric McFarland

Duston McFaul
Vinson & Elkins, LLP

Dan Meehan

Peter J. Milne
Healy, Milne & Associates, PC

Ebb B. Mobley

Brad Morin

Andrea Myntti-Groom
Stark & Groom, PC

Jesse L. Nickerson

Harold W. Nix
Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP

Daniel A. Noteware, Jr.
Potter Minton, PC

Yvonne M. Parks

Denise Patrick

Richard B. Patteson
Richard B. Patteson, Attorney at Law

Kristen J. Pauls
Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP

George L. Preston

Will W. Ramsay

Brent Ratekin
Sinclair Law Office

Patricia Ray
Law Offices of R. L. Whitehead, Jr.

J. Michael Risinger
Law Office of J. Michael Risinger

Nelson J. Roach
Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP

Kyna J. Roberts
Cowles & Thompson, PC

Richard E. Roberts
Richard E. Roberts, Attorney at Law

Raymond E. "Bo" Rogers, Jr.

Jon M. Rowan
Potter Minton, PC

Burrell Rowe

Peter E. Ryba
Law Office of Peter E. Ryba

Jo Ann San Miguel

William A. Sansing
William A. Sansing, Attorney at Law

Jerry Scott

Jamey Secrest
Secrest Law Firm

Pamela Fisk Sheets

Beau Sinclair
Sinclair Law Office

Joel Smith
Adams, King & Smith

Angela Smoak

Rick Standifer

Steve Stark
Stark & Groom, PC

Cari Starritt-Burnett
The Ted Smith Law Firm

Sid S. Stover
Seale, Stover & Bisbey

Frank L. Supercinski
Law Office of Frank L. Supercinski

Leslie Taylor

John G. Troy, Jr.

Charles Tucker

Melissa Tyroch
Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, PC

Michael R. Unger

Kenneth R. Valka
Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, PC

James D. VanDeventer
Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius, PC

Gary L. Waite

VaLita F. Waits
Waits Law Firm

Jack H. Welge, Jr.

Susan Whatley
Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP

Mark S. Whitaker
Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, PC

R. Laughton Whitehead, Jr.

Jerry N. Whiteker

Cindy Whitman
Vinson & Elkins, LLP

Richard T. Wilbanks, III

Alesha L. Williams
Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP

James E. Williams
James E. Williams, Attorney at Law

Robert Hughes Wilson
Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius, PC

Marshall Wood
Norton & Wood, LLP

**This list does not include volunteer attorneys participating exclusively through their bar associations or those who requested anonymity.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Acres Homes Multi-Purpose Center – Houston

Advocacy, Inc. – Longview and Nacogdoches

Alvin Head Start Center

Alvin Senior Center

Angleton Rotary Club

The Arc of Fort Bend County

Area Agency on Aging – Harris County

Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas

Arkansas Department of Human Services

Asian American Bar Association of Houston

Austin County Courthouse – Juvenile Probation

Bay City Service Center

Baylor University
Department of Political Science

Baylor University Law School

Bell County Indigent Health Services

Better Business Bureau Education Foundation – Houston

Boat People SOS – Houston

Boy Scouts of America – Caddo Area Council

Brazoria County Bar Association

Brazoria County Law Library

Brazos County Civil Legal Aid

Burke Center/MHMR – Lufkin

Catholic Charities – Angleton, Beaumont and Houston

Central Texas Council of Governments

Coalition Against Human Trafficking – Houston

Concerned Citizens for Racial Equality – Paris

Crisis Center of Anderson and Cherokee Counties

Domestic Violence Prevention Center – Texarkana

East Texas Border Health Clinic

East Texas Community Health Services, Inc.

East Texas Crisis Center – Athens, Canton, Mineola and Tyler

Mark Evans, Trinity County Judge

Families in Crisis, Inc. – Killeen and Lufkin

Family Abuse Center – Waco

Family Haven – Paris

Family Outreach Center – Bastrop

Family Services of Southeast Texas Women and Children's Shelter

Family Time, Inc. – Humble

Focusing Families – Hempstead

Fort Bend Center for Independent Living

Fort Bend County Women's Center

Fort Bend Family Health Center

Fort Bend Lawyers Care

Fort Hood Family Advocacy Program

Galveston Community Network

Godtel Ministries – Nacogdoches

Good Shepherd Mission – Huntsville

Greater East Texas Community Action Program

Gulf Coast Community Services

Hardin County Crime Victims' Assistance Center

Harris County District Attorney's Office, Family Violence Division

Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Helpings Food Stamp Outreach Project – Waco

Houston Area Community Services

Houston Area Women's Center

Houston Center for Independent Living

Humble Area Assistance Ministries

Jack & Jill of America – Texarkana

Jefferson County Crime Victim's Assistance Center

The Jesse Tree – Galveston

Judge Advocate General (JAG) III Corps

Kappa Alpha Psi – Texarkana

Katy Christian Ministries

Kilgore Community Crisis Center

Killeen HELP Center

Lakes Regional MHMR Center – Paris

Life Church of Angleton

Lone Star College System – North Harris Campus

Longview Wellness Center

Love, Inc., Nacogdoches

Lutheran Ministries and Social Services – Waco

Magnolia Community Center

Matagorda County Multi Service Center

Matagorda County Women's Crisis Center

McLennan County District Attorney's Office

Montgomery County Dispute Resolution Center

Montgomery County Women's Center

NAACP – Dallas, Paris, Texarkana, Harrison County and Nacogdoches County

Nacogdoches Convalescent Center

New Horizons Women's Center – Baytown

Newton County Chamber of Commerce

North East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

North East Texas Opportunities

Northeast Texas MHMR

Nutrition & Services for Seniors – Beaumont

Pearland Neighborhood Center

People's Law School University of Houston

Phoebe's Home – Bryan

Polk County Courthouse

Project Unity – Bryan

Salvation Army – Freeport

Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas (SAFE-T) – Mt. Pleasant

Social Security Administration – Mirabeau

Society of Samaritans – Magnolia

South Houston High School

South Texas College of Law

Special Health Resources – Longview

St. Paul's Baptist Church – Texarkana

State Bar of Texas

Stephen F. Austin State University

Temple Help Center

Texarkana ISD School Health Advisory Committee Blue Ribbon Working Group

Texas Access to Justice Commission

Texas A & M University Department of Sociology

Texas Attorney General's Office – Child Support Division

Texas C-Bar

Texas Civil Rights Project

Texas Cooperative Extension – Fort Bend County

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services

Texas Lawyers Care

Texas Southern University Center on Aging

Texas Workforce Commission – Angleton

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Triangle AIDS Network – Beaumont

United Way of Baytown Area

University of Houston Law Center Clinical Program and Student Bar Association

USDA Rural Development – Angleton

U. S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Wharton County Library

Women's Center of Brazoria County

Women's Center of East Texas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel D. Hu, Board Chair
Houston Bar Association

John W. Alexander
Wood County Bar Association

Charles D. Barnette
Texarkana Bar Association

Steve Bavousett
Houston Bar Association

Rhonda Beassie
University of Houston Law Center

Clara Luz Black
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Lady's Guild

Amy Blevins
Brazos Valley Interfaith Outreach

Pearly Blunt
Lone Star Legal Aid Clients Council

Women's Shelter of East Texas, Inc.
X-Change Place – Lufkin

YMCA International

Youth and Family Counseling Services – Angleton

INTERNS (LAW STUDENTS)

Appalachian School of Law
Antonio A. Melvin

Baylor University Law School
Sorana Ban
Peter Campbell
Tony Drummond
Stephanie Gates
Ginger Hunter
Taibat Ibrahim
Linda Jergermanis
Nicole Kalogeropoulos
Brandon Kinard
Jeanie Larson
Laura Morgan
Tasha Roberts

Creighton University Law School
Dallas Cornish

Florida A & M University College of Law
Rasmi Gamble

Pepperdine University School of Law
Denise Fortenberry

Rutgers School of Law
Yexenia Gilmet
Christina Thomas

South Texas College of Law
Michael Driver
Jigna Patel
Marilyn Reeves
T. Philip Washington
Howrey, LLP, Externship

Southern Methodist University School of Law
Aubrey Boswell

Texas Tech University School of Law
Shanon Stanfield

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Fallon Hamilton
Kristina Larry

Robert Blunt, Sr.
Mothers on the Move

Forrest G. (Duke) Braselton
Nacogdoches County Bar Association

Brenda Cherry
Paris Housing Task Force

Lydia Clay-Jackson
Walker County Bar Association

James M. Douglas
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Jamie J. Elick
Austin County Bar Association

Bonnie Fitch
Houston Lawyers Association

Lynette Fons
Houston Bar Association

David O. Fraga
Houston Bar Association

University of Houston Law Center
Matthew Bean
Lauren Brigance
Katherine Brown
Lindsay Conn
David Freshwater
Robert Gilbert
India Isbell
Nicholas Krohn
Dustin Lee
Maria Lowry
Brock Maples
Rochelle McCain
Scott Portis
Faheem Prasla
Ross Robin
Gary Saunders
Erin M. Silva
Will Taylor
Stacianne Wilson

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana College of Law
Anthony Russomanno

University of Michigan Law School
Gabriela McDonald

University of Tulsa College of Law
Adria Ground

University of Texas School of Law
Peter Hansen

William and Mary School of Law
Tim Newman

(UNDERGRADUATES)

Baylor University
John Allicock
Shy Nwajei

Texas A & M University
Lindsey Harris
Elizabeth Oviatt
Megan Pecorano
Jody Rodenberg

University of Michigan
Sarah Banco

SPECIAL THANKS TO HOWREY, LLP

For the past five years, Howrey, LLP, has funded a summer extern position at Lone Star Legal Aid. We have been fortunate to have passionate and highly committed Howrey externs from Duke University School of Law, University of Houston Law Center, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, South Texas College of Law, and the University of Texas School of Law. Thank you, Howrey, for your dedication to providing meaningful experiences for future attorneys pursuing justice for all.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOWS

Maria Luisa Mercado
David Sadegh

VOLUNTEERS

Eliseo Arriaga
Allison Brewton
Susan Chambliss
Marolyn Corbin
Angela Eisenhoffer
Karen Gonzales
Jeanette Hales
Joan Hemmer
Matt Howard
Darlene Limbocker
Richard Pereira
Paul Pinto

We have made every effort to accurately reflect the names of individuals and organizations. In the event of an error, we apologize and request that you call 800-733-8394, ext. 1214, to correct the issue.

Joe Petronis
Bell-Coryell Bar Association

Loyce Mayes Pool
Houston Area Urban League

James E. Rice, Jr.
Limestone County NAACP

Richard E. Roberts
Northeast Texas Bar Association

Denise U. Scofield
Houston Bar Association

Sallee S. Smyth
Houston Bar Association

Michelle A. Stover-Jones
Brazoria County Bar Association

Professor David Swenson
Baylor University Law School

Gregory C. Ulmer
Houston Bar Association

Ms. Charles Wilson
Harrison County NAACP

LOCATIONS

ANGLETON

126 N. Velasco Street
Angleton, TX 77515-4437
Counties – Brazoria, Matagorda and Wharton

BEAUMONT

2345 IH-10 East, Suite 3
Beaumont, TX 77702-1343
Counties – Hardin, Jefferson, Liberty and Orange

BELLVILLE

1304 S. Front Street
Bellville, TX 77418-3305
Counties – Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Waller and Washington

BELTON

512 South Main Street
Belton, TX 76513-3462
Counties – Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas and Milam

BRYAN

200 East 24th Street, Suite A
Bryan, TX 77803-5302
Counties – Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Walker

GALVESTON

306 22nd Street, Suite 202
Galveston, TX 77550-1589
Counties – Chambers and Galveston

HOUSTON

1415 Fannin Street
Houston, TX 77002-7632
Counties – Fort Bend, Harris and Montgomery

LONGVIEW

140 East Tyler Street, Suite 150
Longview, TX 75601-7261
Counties – Camp, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk and Upshur

NACOGDOCHES

408 East Pilar Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
Counties – Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler

PARIS

115 S.W. First Street
Bank Building, 5th Floor
Paris, TX 75460-5714
Counties – Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Titus and Red River

TEXARKANA

1425 College Drive, Suite 100
Texarkana, TX 75503-3533
Counties – Bowie and Cass (Texas); Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River and Miller (Arkansas)

TYLER

110 N. College Avenue, Suite 302
Tyler, TX 75702
Counties – Henderson, Rains, Smith, Van Zandt and Wood

WACO

900 Austin Avenue, 7th Floor
Waco, TX 76703-0527
Counties – Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan and Navarro

STAFF

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Paul E. Furrh, Jr.
Dwayne Bilton
Shimon Kaplan
Robert Sohns
Debra Wray

ADMINISTRATION

Nick Altizer
Diane Baker
Michael Blackburn
Rhonda Campbell
Eddie Cheng
Cristina De Los Reyes
Darren Gold
Britney Jackson
Mable Jackson
Patrick Kwan
Kim Lewis
Lisa Maddux
Mary Jo Molandes
Howard Stoneking

SUPERVISING AND MANAGING ATTORNEYS

Mike Andreozzi
Dana Bias
Ernest W. Brown
Robyn Brumbelow
Dorman Brumbelow
Paula Brumbelow
Yvonne Como
Harold Desselle
Don Dickson
Linda Good
Terry Hamilton
Roslyn Jackson
Stephen McIntyre
Diane McManus
Jane Parreiras-Horta
Sharon Reynerson
Susanne Seré
Nic Serna
Max Sukiennik
Sheryl S. Swanton
Brenda Willett

ATTORNEYS

Sapna Aiyer
Jan Allen
Yvonne Alvarez
Saundra Brown
Cyndi Cantu
Christopher Chance

Timothy David Craig
Curlee Epperson
Ronald Esposito
Reggie Fox
Christina Gindratt
Sallie Godfrey
Mark Grandich
Lori H. Hartgroves
Steven Hollimon
Richard Ishihara
Paula K. Johnston
William K. Kimble
Fred Krasny
Rachel Kunath
Reverend Dr. Jones
Jeff Larsen
Edward Long, Jr.
Sonia Lopez
Helen Malveaux
Kathryn Mecredy
Maria Luisa Mercado
Ericka Moore
Ed Mullikin
Martha Orozco
Cliff Ransom
Michael Rees
David Sadegh
Sandra Salas
Romi Schwartz
John Stoneham
Thomas Stuckey
Paul Sweitzer
Todd Thompson
René Torres
John Torti
Patricia Tsai
Carolyn Turley
Robert Wharton
Catherine Whitmore

PARALEGALS

Versie Brooks
Mandy Cazares
Laura Flores
Salvador Gonzales
Linda Hatherley
Jessie Keeton
Gloretta Thornton
Salma Turrubiarres

SUPPORT STAFF

Ysidro Almanza
Laurie Ambrose
Darryl Arceneaux
Nora Benitez
Sherri L. Bodensteiner

Kim Boehnke
Ela Calvert
Nelda Campos
Lou Ann Chism
Judy R. Combest
Martha Cowden
Kathleen Davis
Lillian Davis
Joyce Dawson
Shannon DeCamp
Robert Downing
Linda Eckelberg
Alma Espinoza
Carolyn A. Evans
Ernestina (Tina) Fenton
Laurita Flores
Laura Foster
Jo Ann Galloway
Margo Galvan
Yolanda Gongora
Brandy Henderson
Dianna J. Hope
Evelyn Jean
Courtney Jones
Janelle G. Kennedy
Jennifer Kin
Helen Lacey
Sylvia Lugo
Lydia Luna
Maritza Marin
Urika Mendoza
Peggy Mijares
Jane Moore
Anthony Muñoz
Lilian Murray
Aurora Nunez
Jean Oliver
Terri J. Peek
Michelle Pereira
Maria Ramos
LaTasha Butler Roberts
Sylvia Santana
Dolores Sifuentes
Kenya Sims
Lometa Smith
Sheila Spencer
Grace Thomas
Sheila Timberlake
Charity White
Doretta Withem

CASE TYPES

CONSUMER

- Fraud/Deceptive Trade Practices
- Warranty/Breach of Contract
- Debt Collection Abuse
- Repossession
- Bankruptcy
- Fair Lending Practices
- Home Repair Problems

DISCRIMINATION

- Based on race, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability or family size
- In employment, housing, education, public accommodations or government programs

EDUCATION

- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Rights of Persons with Limited English Proficiency
- Expulsion and Suspension from School

EMPLOYMENT

- Work Safety and Health
- Wage Claims
- Unlawful Termination

FAMILY LAW

- Divorce (involving violence and/or children)
- Custody/Visitation
- Child Support
- Spousal/Child Abuse
- Guardianship
- Name Change
- Paternity
- Parental Rights Termination
- Adoption

HEALTH CARE

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Nursing Home Issues
- County Health Care
- Denial of Emergency Room Care
- Access to Care

HOUSING

- Fair Housing
- Public Housing
- Federally Subsidized Housing
- Landlord/Tenant
- Foreclosure
- Eviction
- Utility Shut-offs
- Code Enforcement

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS AND INCOME ASSISTANCE

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security
- County Welfare
- Unemployment Insurance
- Veterans' Benefits
- Workers' Compensation

JUVENILE RIGHTS

DISASTER RELIEF NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS

- Municipal Services
- Public Utilities
- Environmental Problems

WILLS, ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2007

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$ 9,388,311
State Grants and Contributions	2,365,236
Local Grants and Contributions	1,615,620
United Way Allocations	202,197
Interest and Other Income	195,935
Attorney Fees	420
Rental Income	2,400

Total Support and Revenue \$13,770,119

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$11,385,089
Management and General	2,440,916
Total Expenses	\$13,826,005

TAKE ACTION

Due to Lone Star Legal Aid's limited resources, less than 20% of the legal needs of low-income Texans in our region are being met.

We are counting on friends like you to help increase the number of Texans who receive free civil legal aid each year.

For more information on how you can support Lone Star Legal Aid and its activities, please contact our Resource Development Department at 713.652.0077, ext. 1214.



Lone Star Legal Aid
1415 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Phone: 713.652.0077
Toll Free: 800.733.8394
www.lonestarlegal.org

