

2017 Annual Report



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Who We Are

Michigan Advocacy Program (MAP) is the umbrella organization for a variety of civil legal aid programs in Michigan. Our services began in the early 1960's through several independent local legal aid societies. These local programs eventually merged and became Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM), which provides free civil legal aid for 13 counties in south and central Michigan. During the late 1990's, national legal aid leaders challenged states to create an integrated and comprehensive statewide network to provide legal services. In response, MAP developed several independent statewide programs to broadly support legal aid across Michigan and to serve specific populations, such as immigrants and older adults. These programs include: Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC); Farmworker Legal Services (FLS); Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP); Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project (MFPP); Michigan Elder Justice Initiative (MEJI); Crime Victims Legal Assistance Project (CVLAP); and Michigan Legal Help (MLH). MAP was created in 2015 to continue its direct operational support for the LSSCM offices and FLS, and to provide administrative support for these new statewide programs, collectively known as Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services (MSAS).

What We Do

MAP provides free civil legal help for those unable to afford an attorney. We believe that equal justice is a right, not a privilege, and our programs work to break the justice barriers in our country. Civil legal aid helps individuals and families with issues like: wrongful foreclosures, fraudulent debt collection, escaping domestic violence, eviction and homelessness prevention, accessing health care and disability benefits, and many other civil court cases. This legal advocacy is the foundation of MAP's LSSCM programs. FLS and the MSAS programs focus on serving populations with specific legal challenges, including migrant and seasonal farmworkers (FLS), immigrant communities (MIRC), families facing foreclosure (MFPP), vulnerable older adults (MEJI), victims of crime and violence (CVLAP), and self-represented litigants (MLH).

Our Funding

MAP is funded by federal, state, and local grants, as well as foundations, local non-profit agencies, and individual contributions. Our largest federal funder, the Legal Services Corporation, supports only the activities of LSSCM and FLS. For more details on how our funding breaks down, see the Financial Information and Funder lists included in this Annual Report. While grants make up a large part of our budget, community support is vital to the success of our programs and helps us to continue serving those in need. See MAP's website for a list of current supporters and to learn more about making a donation to MAP.



LSSCM
MAKING JUSTICE A REALITY

Providing access to justice for those who need it most



In 2017, LSSCM handled **10,476** cases and helped **24,765** people.



In 2017, LSSCM and Family Law Project handled **1,726 cases** on behalf of **survivors of domestic violence**.

Theresa is a single mother with two children. She lives on limited income due to a physical disability. Theresa came to LSSCM after receiving an eviction notice from her landlord. LSSCM represented Theresa in court and negotiated a payment plan that allowed her to stay in her home and pay back the additional rent owed. Without an attorney, there is little doubt that Theresa would have lost her home.



Evictions in Michigan

Michigan's eviction rate is 3.28% with 138,169 eviction filings and nearly 93 evictions each day in 2016.* Studies find that a tenant's chance of keeping her home during eviction proceedings is drastically increased when the tenant has access to legal assistance. While most landlords are represented by a lawyer throughout the legal process, most tenants are not. As a result, tenants like Theresa are much more likely to face the consequences of eviction if they don't have legal representation. These consequences mean more than just homelessness, as evictions often have cascading negative impacts on poor families: removal from their neighborhood and community, children forced to change schools, loss of possessions, difficulty maintaining prior employment, and exclusion from new affordable housing options because of the eviction record.

*Eviction rate is the number of evictions per 100 renter homes in an area. The national average in 2016 was 2.34%.
Data provided by evictionlab.org.



In 2017, LSSCM handled **3,653 housing cases** and helped **8,942 people** with housing issues.



Advocating for migrant and seasonal farmworkers across Michigan

Jessie, a U.S. Citizen from Puerto Rico, came to work in Michigan after hearing about a job opportunity that would pay \$12 per hour for at least four months, provide housing, and guarantee at least 10 hours of work per day. For three months, Jessie worked hard in a hot nursery tending vegetable plants for ten to twelve hours per day, six to seven days a week. He lived in the migrant labor camp and shared a room with eleven other men. Then, without warning and two months before the end of his work contract, Jessie and eight of his co-workers were unexpectedly fired and told that \$500 would be deducted from their final paycheck to pay for their transportation home. Jessie had met FLS staff earlier in the season during FLS' outreach to the migrant labor camp and he called for help. Through FLS' representation, Jessie and his co-workers were able to assert their rights and recuperate the losses they suffered due to the unexpected firing. This settlement proved to be indispensable to Jessie, who used the funds for home repairs and other relief after the 2017 hurricanes in Puerto Rico.



In 2017, FLS helped **2,125 people** in **577 cases** and made **560 visits** to migrant labor camps across Michigan.

A local domestic violence shelter referred Eva to CVLAP after Eva's husband physically assaulted her in front of their two young daughters. Eva was attempting to protect the family dog from her husband when he struck her in the face multiple times. CVLAP successfully obtained a personal protection order prohibiting Eva's husband from coming to her home, contacting her by phone or email, or harassing or harming her in any way. CVLAP also helped Eva enroll her children in mental health counseling to address the trauma they experienced from witnessing their father assault their mother. Through this counseling, the therapist discovered that the father was physically and, likely, sexually abusive to the children. As a result, CVLAP helped Eva obtain a court order revising the father's parenting time to ensure the safety of the children.



CVLAP

CRIME VICTIMS
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
PROJECT

Twenty-three attorneys across Michigan serving victims of domestic violence and elder abuse



James contacted CVLAP after his abusive son was designated as his patient advocate and forced James to live at a nursing home against his will. In addition to isolating James, his son unlawfully used the patient advocate designation to limit his father's access to visitors and prevent James from obtaining his own health care information. After CVLAP reviewed the actual language of the patient advocate designation and clarified the limited scope of its authority, James was able to once again access his home and health care information. CVLAP also helped James investigate services and supports in his home community, facilitated revocation of his son's authority, and ultimately assisted James in discharging himself from the nursing home.



In 2017, CVLAP handled **1,304 cases** and helped **3,491 people**.



Providing support to legal aid programs and other poverty law advocates across Michigan

MPLP's Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project handled **4,127 cases** helping **12,502 people** in 2017.



2017 Snapshot

- MPLP led a coalition opposing Michigan House Bill 4719, which would allow leases that make tenants liable for bed bug treatment, regardless of fault. MPLP's work helped **prevent passage of what would have been the first tenant unfriendly bed bug law** in the U.S.
- The Violence Against Women Act **provides special provisions for domestic violence survivors** in subsidized housing programs. In 2017, the federal government extended these protections. MPLP worked with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Michigan Rural Development Council to **train staff and ensure compliance** with the new law.
- MPLP **argued against the Federal Farm bill**, objecting to the bill's requirement that all SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients cooperate with establishing paternity and child support orders. MPLP cited that this requirement would be a harmful burden on families in need of SNAP benefits, particularly domestic violence survivors.
- MPLP's consumer law attorney represented a **58-year-old woman with a disability whose identity was stolen** by her neighbor. MPLP filed an identity theft report with the police and the Federal Trade Commission and negotiated with the neighbor and opposing counsel to have the **client's debt paid in full and the case dismissed**.



MPLP is a joint project with the University of Michigan Law School.



Michigan Elder Justice Initiative

*Empowering, educating,
and protecting older adults
and people with disabilities*

George came to MEJI after receiving notice that the state planned to reduce his in-home care from 24 to 6 hours a day. George has a debilitating form of muscular dystrophy and is paralyzed from the neck down. He relies on a ventilator to breathe, but has lived in his own apartment for more than 20 years thanks to round-the-clock care through the Michigan Home Help program. The proposed reduction in caregiver services would put George's life at risk if his ventilator or tracheostomy tube required attention while he was alone. MEJI appealed the state's decision and won the case. As a result of MEJI's intervention, George continues to receive 24-hour care. MEJI also worked to ensure that George's caregivers receive prompt payment and assisted George with a transition to another Medicaid program that offers additional long-term care services and the opportunity to attend community events outside his home.



In 2017, MLTCOP made **3,355 visits** to licensed long-term care facilities.

MLTCOP | MICHIGAN LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

MI HEALTH LINK
OMBUDSMAN



Building a thriving Michigan where immigrant communities are fully integrated and respected

In 2017, MIRC



- Handled **1,259 cases**
- Helped **3,284 people**
- Filed **160 citizenship applications**
- Handled **154 cases** for unaccompanied minors



Kujoe was 15 years old and living in his home country in western Africa when a mob of teenagers attacked him, leaving him severely wounded. The group targeted Kujoe for his connections to the LGBTQ community. Kujoe’s family then threatened to kill him, both for his friendship with a gay man and as retribution for his father’s recent death, which they attributed to Kujoe’s actions. As soon as he was able, Kujoe fled to the United States, where he was placed in federal custody in Michigan. This is where MIRC met Kujoe and represented him in seeking asylum. When Kujoe was approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), MIRC also accompanied him to his adjustment of status interview. Today, Kujoe has a green card, is no longer in court proceedings, and is living independently in Michigan.



MICHIGAN LEGAL HELP

Helping Michigan residents solve their legal problems



984,612 visitors

1.4 million visits

109,057 legal forms drafted

18 Self-Help Centers or Networks in the state
serving **56.8% of MI**

MLH LiveHelp agents **assisted 7,098 people** with answers to their questions about navigating the MLH website and the MI court system.

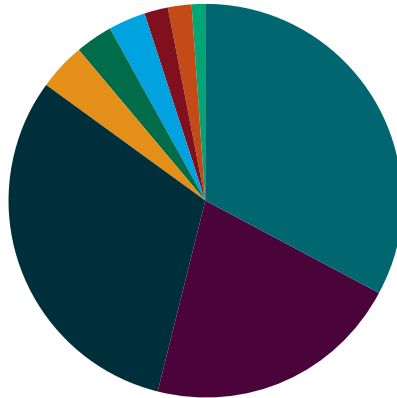
In October 2017, MLH launched the new **Guide to Legal Help**. Between October and December, more than **9,000 people used the Guide** to get personalized guidance and referrals.

“I cannot express enough gratitude and appreciation for all of the help the Michigan Legal Help website provided me in my most difficult of times. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

“Oh my - this is the best tool ever to prepare a legal document especially having low income. I appreciate this greatly.”

Funders & Financials

2017 MAP + MSAS Summarized Financial Information*



Revenue & Other Support

Michigan State Bar Foundation**	\$ 3,280,209	33%
Legal Services Corporation***	\$ 2,111,548	21%
Other Governmental Funding	\$ 3,080,039	31%
Local United Ways	\$ 417,100	4%
Contributions	\$ 327,925	3%
Foundations****	\$ 264,000	3%
Local Area Agencies on Aging	\$ 218,916	2%
Miscellaneous Income and Interest	\$ 190,417	2%
Other grants	\$ 120,190	1%

Total Revenue **\$ 10,010,344** **100%**

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 8,906,772	92%
Administration and Fundraising	\$ 724,995	8%

Total Expenses **\$ 9,631,767** **100%**

*Does not include donated goods and services.

**Reflects equity used in 2017.

***The Legal Services Corporation supports only the activities of LSSCM and FLS. Any contributions to LSSCM and FLS may not be used in any manner inconsistent with the Legal Services Act and Regulations.

****Does not include foundation grant designated for 2018-2021 services.

Funders

Aging and Adult Services Agency of Michigan
Ann Arbor Housing Commission (Continuum of Care)
Area Agency on Aging – Regions IB, II, IIC, CareWell Services Southwest, Tri-County
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – New Americans Collaboration
Beckwith Foundation
Branch County United Way
Calhoun County Senior Millage
Capital Area United Way
Capital Regional Community Foundation
City of East Lansing
City of Lansing
City of Monroe
Community Action Agency (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)
Community Catalyst Health Justice Fund: Voices for Better Health
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Equal Justice America
Food Bank Council of Michigan
Global Detroit
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Ingham County
Ingham County Bar Foundation
Ingham County Register of Deeds
Ingham County Treasurer
Jackson Community Foundation
Jackson County Treasurer
Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Legal Services Corporation
Lenawee Community Foundation
Livingston County United Way
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Aging and Adult Services Agency (Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman)
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Victim Services
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Integrated Care Division (Michigan Health Link Ombudsman)
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, SSI Program
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
Michigan State Bar Foundation
Michigan State University College of Law
Michigan Supreme Court
National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
National Immigration Forum (New American Workforce)
National Ombudsman Resource Center
Open Society Foundations
SOS Community Services (Continuum of Care)
State Bar of Michigan
The Kresge Foundation
The Wege Foundation
U.S. Department of Education Federal Work Study
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Supportive Services for Veteran Families
United Way of Jackson County
United Way of Marshall
United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties
United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region
University of Michigan Law School
Vera Institute of Justice
Volunteers of America Michigan (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Washtenaw Coordinated Funders: A collaboration between the Office of Community & Economic Development (representing the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, and Washtenaw Urban County), United Way of Washtenaw County, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ann Arbor, and the RNR Foundation.
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
Wayne State University's Office of Economic Development
Weatherwax Foundation
Welcoming America
Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation

Funders & Financials

2017 MAP Summarized Financial Information*

Revenue & Other Support		
Michigan State Bar Foundation**	\$ 2,157,657	34%
Legal Services Corporation***	\$ 2,111,548	33%
Other Governmental Funding	\$ 1,032,048	16%
Local United Ways	\$ 417,100	7%
Contributions	\$ 189,401	3%
Foundations	\$ 152,500	2%
Local Area Agencies on Aging	\$ 132,030	2%
Miscellaneous Income and Interest	\$ 93,388	1%
Other grants	\$ 36,513	1%
Total Revenue	\$ 6,322,185	100%

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 5,523,417	94%
Administration and Fundraising	\$ 378,334	6%
Total Expenses	\$ 5,901,751	100%

*Does not include donated goods and services.

**Reflects equity used in 2017.

***The Legal Services Corporation supports only the activities of LSSCM and FLS. Any contributions to LSSCM and FLS may not be used in any manner inconsistent with the Legal Services Act and Regulations.

2017 MSAS Summarized Financial Information*

Revenue & Other Support		
Michigan State Bar Foundation**	\$ 1,122,552	30%
Other Governmental Funding	\$ 2,047,991	56%
Contributions	\$ 138,524	4%
Foundations***	\$ 111,500	3%
Local Area Agencies on Aging	\$ 86,886	2%
Miscellaneous Income and Interest	\$ 97,029	3%
Other grants	\$ 83,677	2%
Total Revenue	\$ 3,688,159	100%

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 3,383,355	91%
Administration and Fundraising	\$ 346,661	9%
Total Expenses	\$ 3,730,016	100%

*Does not include donated goods and services.

**Reflects equity used in 2017.

***Does not include foundation grant designated for 2018-2021 services.



Circle of Excellence 2017

Leadership Level

Bredell & Bredell PC
Conlin McKenney & Philbrick
Crippen Urquhart & Weber LLP
Curtis Curtis & Brelinski PC
Dykema
Ford Motor Company
Goethel Engelhardt PLLC
Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP
Hooper Hathaway PC
Kline Legal Group PLC
Miller Canfield
Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels PC
Schmick Law Offices PC
Soble Rowe Krichbaum LLP

Excellence Level

Bodman PLC
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC
Fraser Trebilcock
Garris Garris Garris & Garris PC
Hamilton Graziano & London PLC
Nichols Sacks Slank Sendelbach & Buiteweg PC
Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge PC
(Ann Arbor office)
Thrun Law Firm PC
Vandervoort Christ and Fisher PC
Warner Norcross & Judd LLP
Willingham & Coté PC

All of these firms met the State Bar of Michigan's Voluntary Pro Bono Standard because on average each lawyer within these firms donated at least \$300 or provided 30 hours of free representation for low-income persons. The Leadership level is determined on an aggregate firm basis using a \$500 donation standard.

MAP Board of Directors

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Melanie Wandji, Secretary
Rob Mossel, Treasurer
Kent Bieberich
Charles Borgsdorf
Brad Brelinski
Lorena Dosti
William Godfroy
Kassie Gray
B. Daniel Inquilla
Charo Ledon
Guillermo Martinez
Luwanda McClain
Michael Randall
Lee Reimann
Kenja J. Riley
Reshma Sambare
Suelynn Scarnecchia
Mary Kay Scullion
Ann Sherzer

MSAS Board of Directors

Delphia Simpson, President
Tom Daniels, Vice President/
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Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Elinor Jordan
Linda Rexer
Suelynn Scarnecchia
David Shaltz



MLTCOP's Local & Volunteer Ombudsman Quarterly Training in Frankenmuth (September 2017).



Michigan Poverty Law Program's Lisa Ruby at the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.



LSSCM's Kerene Moore spoke at the Class of 2017 Lavender Graduation at the University of Michigan (photo credit: University of Michigan Division of Student Life).



Anne and Jim Fleming of Fleming & Fleming PC received LSSCM - Jackson's 2017 Pro Bono Award.



Eva Alvarez of Michigan Immigrant Rights Center was awarded MAP's 110% award.



Elaine Barr from LSSCM - Lansing received MAP's Outstanding Advocate Award.



MAP staff in front of our new building in downtown Ypsilanti.



Angela Tripp, Director of Michigan Legal Help and Co-Director of Michigan Statewide Advocacy Services, was awarded a 2017 Access to Justice Award from the Michigan State Bar Foundation (pictured with MAP Co-Directors Ann Roult and Bob Gillett).



Eric Frankie received LSSCM - Monroe's 2017 Pro Bono Award.

From our **115** attorneys & staff across Michigan, **thank you** for your support! We couldn't do this work without you.

MICHIGAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Administrative Staff

Alyson Robbins, Manager of Outreach & Development
 Amanda Revels, Technology Manager and Program Administrator
 Ann Routt, Co-Director
 Bob Gillett, Co-Director
 Christine Robison, Chief Financial Officer
 Eleanor Avsharian, Grant and Pro Bono Coordinator
 Emily Brown, Financial Manager
 Lisa Golidy, Financial Assistant

Legal Services of South Central Michigan

Battle Creek

Alisa Parker, Managing Attorney
 Anna Moss, Supervising Attorney
 Chris Letcher, Staff Attorney
 Debra Gibbs, Staff Attorney
 Gabriela Vicente-Lemus, Receptionist
 Karen Braasch, Grants Manager
 Katy Reed, Staff Attorney
 Pam George, Paralegal

Jackson

James Boufides, Staff Attorney
 James Tiderington, Staff Attorney
 Joanne Laux, Staff Attorney
 Michael Derby, Managing Attorney
 Sue LaFountain, Legal Assistant

Lansing

Alice Marines, Legal Assistant
 Alicia LeVezu, Staff Attorney
 Christina Corcoran, Staff Attorney
 Elaine Barr, Staff Attorney
 Jane Martineau, Grants Manager
 Jessica Maas, Staff Attorney
 Justin Babbitt, Staff Attorney
 Kristina Martin, Staff Attorney
 Liza Rios, Managing Attorney
 Linda Rawls, Staff Attorney
 Marissa Geyer, Staff Attorney
 Nickie Perera, Staff Attorney
 Nicole Shannon, Supervising Attorney
 Sarah Bouck, Staff Attorney
 Tanya Mathis, Legal Assistant

Monroe

Amanda Eicher, Staff Attorney
 Jenna Furman, Staff Attorney
 Patrick Clement, Staff Attorney
 Peggy Grodi, Legal Assistant
 Shannon Lucas, Managing Attorney

Washtenaw

Kathryn Haroney, Legal Assistant
 Kerene Moore, Supervising Attorney
 Libby Benton, Staff Attorney
 Lisa Maskill, Staff Attorney
 Min Kim, Staff Attorney
 Nick Gable, Staff Attorney
 Sarah Munro, Staff Attorney
 Tish Lee, Managing Attorney
 Tonya Correll, Legal Assistant/Receptionist
 Zach Levi, Legal Assistant

Family Law Project

John Sloat, Staff Attorney
 Martha Gove, Staff Attorney
 Rebecca Shiemke, Managing Attorney

Farmworker Legal Services

Diana Marin, Staff Attorney
 Elizabeth McClain, Staff Attorney
 Esbeydy Villegas, Outreach Advocate
 Jennifer Gallardo, Staff Attorney
 Jose Lopez, Outreach Advocate
 Jose Rosas, Legal Assistant
 Kara Moberg, Managing Attorney

MICHIGAN STATEWIDE ADVOCACY SERVICES

Crime Victims Legal Assistance Project

Amber Libby, Staff Attorney
 Amy Myers, Supervising Attorney
 Brittany Tucker, Staff Attorney
 Brooke Wilsner, Staff Attorney
 David Ballard, Staff Attorney
 Emily Miller, Supervising Attorney
 Erika Damstetter, Staff Attorney
 Linda Kellum, Staff Attorney
 Mireille Phillips, Staff Attorney
 Natalie Cherry, Staff Attorney
 Roger West, Staff Attorney
 Stephanie Saad, Staff Attorney
 Visishta Boeringa, Staff Attorney

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

Ana Raquel Devereaux, Supervising Attorney
 Anna Hill, Staff Attorney
 Camila Trefftz, Program Coordinator
 Catherine Villanueva, Staff Attorney
 Christine Sauv e, Welcoming Michigan Director
 Denni Middleton, Welcoming Michigan Communities Coordinator
 Erika Murcia, Intake Coordinator
 Eva Alvarez, Outreach Advocate
 Hannah Lehker, Outreach Advocate
 Hillary Scholten, Staff Attorney
 Jose Rosas, Legal Assistant
 Katrina Pradelski, Staff Attorney
 Meagan Roche, Welcoming Michigan Communities Coordinator
 Mercedes Rodriguez, Staff Attorney
 Mollison Morgan, Intake Coordinator
 Rebeca Ontiveros-Chavez, Staff Attorney
 Ruby Robinson, Co-Managing Attorney
 Sarah Schoettle, Staff Attorney
 Susan Reed, Co-Managing Attorney
 Tania Morris Diaz, Staff Attorney

Michigan Legal Help Program

Angela Tripp, Director
 Amy Billmire, Staff Attorney
 Christine Rogers, Administrative Assistant
 Kim Cramer, Staff Attorney
 LaDierdre McKinney, Staff Attorney
 Michael Kiehne, Staff Attorney
 Ramzi Badwi, Program and Outreach Coordinator
 Scott Ellis, Statewide Technology Coordinator

Michigan Elder Justice Initiative

Alison Hirschel, Director
 Ahnuh Hayes, Local Ombudsman
 Dakima Jackson, Assistant State Long Term Care Ombudsman
 Dan Wojciak, Staff Attorney - MI Health Link Ombudsman
 Karrie Jordan, Assistant State Long Term Care Ombudsman
 Kenny Wirth, Local Ombudsman
 Salli Pung, State Long Term Care Ombudsman
 Shelby Coolbaugh, Administrative Manager
 Susan Steinke, Outreach Coordinator

Michigan Poverty Law Program

Alison Hirschel, Elder Law Attorney
 Angela Tripp, Co-Director
 Benefo Ofosu-Benefo, Systems Administrator
 Jim Schaafsma, Housing Law Attorney
 Kierra Gray, Training Coordinator / Office Manager
 Lisa Ruby, Public Benefits Attorney
 Lorry Brown, Co-Director and Consumer Law Attorney
 Rebecca Shiemke, Family Law Attorney
 Scott Ellis, Statewide Technology Coordinator

