

Changing Laws



Changing Lives



Lawyers Working to End Homelessness

2007 Annual Report

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

Message from the Founder & Executive Director

Dear Friends of NLCHP:

July 22, 2007 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The passage of this legislation, now known as the McKinney-Vento Act, was historic. It was the first major federal legislation to address the growing national crisis of homelessness.

Over the past two decades, NLCHP and our allies have worked hard to expand that law, increase its funding, and enforce its provisions. But this landmark legislation was intended as a first, emergency, step only. It was to be followed by longer term solutions: affordable housing, adequate incomes, and needed social services.

Twenty years later, still hundreds of thousands of American men, women and children are homeless every day.

We cannot wait another 20 years to end homelessness in America.

In 2007, NLCHP marked the bittersweet 20th anniversary of McKinney-Vento by kicking off a campaign for those long-term solutions. We worked with our allies on a joint consensus statement and a 10 step plan for moving forward, and won a Congressional resolution to do more. We are now working to strengthen our coalition and move this agenda forward.

In 2007 we won key victories in Congress and in communities across the country, including:

- Winning key changes to Head Start that will make it possible for homeless children to access pre-K education.
- Defeating laws that criminalize homelessness or punish those trying to help people experiencing homelessness.
- Helping service providers in 16 communities apply for free surplus federal property to help homeless people, and creating a step-by-step guide to the application process used by hundreds more.
- Winning federal funding to streamline the appeals process for disability benefits, to help the hundreds of thousands of homeless people who qualify for benefits but are unable to get them.
- Organizing regional and national trainings to build support for the human right to housing here at home.

Throughout 2007, NLCHP's work drew national and local media attention, helping us educate and reach out to the public on key issues. Our advocacy drew press coverage from NPR, the New York Times, L.A. Times, Associated Press, and others. NLCHP also published in law journals and magazines, and wrote several book chapters for publication in 2008.

NLCHP's Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) network grew in 2007, and we are proud that LEAP includes many of the nation's most prestigious law firms.

Although we accomplished a great deal in 2007, there is much more to be done. We are deeply grateful to all of our volunteers and donors, including our pro bono legal partners at firms nationwide.

Let us now work for a new year in which homelessness becomes less widespread and homeless Americans are treated with the dignity and respect that we all have a right to enjoy. We look forward to working with all of you in 2008 to make this dream a reality.

Thank you all for your support.

Sincerely,

Maria Foscarinis
Founder & Executive Director

William Breakey
Chair, NLCHP Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

To end and prevent homelessness in America by serving as the legal arm of the nationwide effort to end and prevent homelessness in America; to alleviate the pain of homelessness while working towards this long-range goal.

NLCHP'S MISSION TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) is the legal arm of the movement to end and prevent homelessness. Through a combination of impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education, NLCHP works for systemic reform that addresses the root causes of homelessness and seeks to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of homeless and poor people. Through outreach, training, and support, NLCHP also enhances the ability of local homeless advocacy groups around the country to become more effective voices for the needs and rights of homeless people.

NLCHP's work has made a difference in the lives of millions of men, women, and children. Our attorneys go into courtrooms and into the halls of Congress to speak out on behalf of society's most vulnerable members.

NLCHP focuses on a wide range of issues that affect homeless and at-risk persons. Our work promotes the civil and human rights of homeless persons; facilitates their access to essential resources, including housing, income, food, and health care; protects the education rights of homeless children; helps domestic violence survivors find and maintain safe housing; holds all levels of government accountable for the way homeless and poor people are treated; and promotes new policies and programs to end homelessness.

NLCHP works to make a difference today in the lives of homeless Americans, and to create a future where housing is considered a human right for all.

History of NLCHP

NLCHP was founded in 1989 by Maria Foscarinis. For over two decades, Maria has been a leader in the movement to end homelessness by combining legal expertise with a passion to address America's housing crisis.

Prior to her work on homelessness, Maria was a litigation associate at the Wall Street law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell. There, she represented homeless families *pro bono* and witnessed the growing shortage of safe and affordable housing in America. She represented people living in cars, in single rooms, in homes without proper doors, and doubled- or tripled-up in precarious conditions with family or friends. After seeing the positive impact that legal advocacy could have on the lives of homeless individuals and families, Maria left the law firm and dedicated herself full-time to working on behalf of homeless people.

Maria moved to Washington, D.C. to organize the legal and housing rights communities to press for a federal response to the nation's escalating homelessness crisis. Her advocacy helped spur the 1987 passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first—and still only—major federal legislation addressing homelessness.

In 1989, Maria founded NLCHP to build on that success, developing a skilled staff that has made a measurable difference in the lives of millions of men, women, and children by expanding rights and increasing resources available to homeless and at-risk Americans.

Since our founding, NLCHP has made a consistent and significant impact on the lives of homeless persons in the United States. We have passed laws and provided assistance to help service providers obtain surplus federal property, property which now serves hundreds of thousands of homeless clients each year. We have removed barriers preventing homeless persons from obtaining disability benefits, and protected the civil and voting rights of homeless people. We have fought in courtrooms across the country for homeless children's right to a free public education, working to break the cycle of poverty. We have fought to ensure women and children escaping domestic violence do not then fall into homelessness.

And, we have pushed at the local, state, and federal level for increased funding and the political will to increase affordable housing and provide effective, long-term solutions to this national crisis.

Homelessness in America: The Facts

- Federal funding for low-income housing fell **56%** from 1976 to 2007.
 - In 1976, federal housing funding was \$87 billion, and 435,362 new affordable units were built.
 - In 2007, funding had fallen to \$38 billion, and zero new housing units were built.
- Nationally, only about **25%** of Americans who are poor enough to qualify for federal housing assistance actually receive it.
- In 2006, **29%** of shelter requests by homeless families went unmet, an increase of 5% from the previous year.
- **40%** of homeless people went without food in the last 30 days.
- On any given night, there are approximately **840,000 homeless people** in the United States.
- Over the course of a year, between **2.3 and 3.5 million** individuals, including over **1.35 million children**, will experience homelessness.
- Almost **37 million** people in the US are living in poverty.
- **42%** of the homeless population is African American; **39%** is white; **13%** is Hispanic; **4%** is Native American; and **2%** is Asian.
- **26%** of homeless adults are veterans.
- Each month, **44%** of homeless adults work, yet still do not make enough to afford housing.
- **37%** of homeless single adults and **10%** of homeless adults in households with children have substance abuse issues, while **22%** of homeless single adults and **8%** of homeless adults in households with children have mental health issues.
- The average life expectancy for a homeless adult is **42-52** years, compared to 73-76 years for the general population.



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: A Bittersweet 20th Anniversary

After a dramatic and rapid rise in homelessness during the 1980s, advocate pressure forced Congress to act. Calling homelessness a "a national crisis," Congress passed the landmark Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, now known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, on July 22, 1987. While the Act provided much-needed emergency aid, Congress recognized that this was only a first step and promised additional, long-term solutions. Unfortunately, Congress has not made good on that promise and the crisis continues.

Setting the Agenda

In 2007, NLCHP marked the Anniversary by leading a major effort to urge Congress to reauthorize the HUD McKinney-Vento Act Programs — which have not been reauthorized since 1992 — and take federal responsibility for ending homelessness in America. Spearheading a coalition of over 20 national organizations, NLCHP developed 10 concrete steps Congress could take to prevent and end homelessness (see opposite).

Housing Veterans

In December 2007, **Step #4 was signed into law**, providing funding for 7,500-10,000 new housing vouchers for homeless veterans with mental health or substance abuse disorders.

A Pledge From Congress

On July 23, 2007 the House of Representatives passed a resolution promising to fulfill the promise of the McKinney-Vento Act and end homelessness. NLCHP will continue working to hold them to that promise.

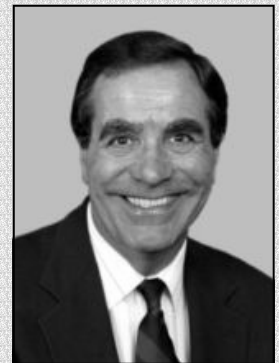
Stewart B. McKinney



"This is only our preliminary response and an emergency one at that...We must act on a long-term basis...to address the housing needs of our Nation."

"Do you want an America that abandons 10 million of its people? Do you want an America where Americans are sleeping on cement in 20 degree weather and colder? I do not think so. I think you all care very deeply about the United States of America."

Bruce Vento



"None of us here today believe that this bill will eliminate homelessness ... The legislation we are considering today is a modest response to an urgent problem."

"What is before us today is a bill to protect human dignity and provide for the most basic of human needs. Each of us...must recognize the magnitude of this national tragedy."

On July 19, 2007, advocates, members of Congress, and formerly homeless persons held a Capitol Hill press conference marking the Act's 20th anniversary. After remarks from national advocates and members of Congress, advocates from 16 groups delivered a "bittersweet" chocolate bar and "recipe" to help end and prevent homelessness to every member of Congress to remind them of the sweet promise of ending homelessness, and the bitter reality of life on the streets.



10 Steps to Help Prevent and End Homelessness Right Now

- 1.** Assist currently homeless people by reauthorizing and doubling funds for HUD McKinney-Vento programs.
- 2.** Create housing for low-income households by enacting a National Housing Trust Fund.
- 3.** Protect, preserve, and expand existing federal housing programs that serve the lowest-income people.
- 4.** Appropriate funds for at least 5,000 Section 8 housing vouchers for homeless veterans through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program.
- 5.** Expand access to addiction and mental health services for people experiencing homelessness through reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- 6.** Increase homeless and low-income persons' access to healthcare by reauthorizing and expanding the Consolidated Health Centers program.
- 7.** Increase homeless persons' access to mainstream disability income, temporary assistance, and workforce investment services.
- 8.** Provide homeless children and youth with increased services and support by reauthorizing the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.
- 9.** Require the Administration to develop and publish a coordinated federal plan to end homelessness.
- 10.** Require jurisdictions receiving federal housing funds to protect the civil rights of homeless persons.

Expanding Housing, Income, and Services

Income Matters



Recently, “Bill,” a 57-year old disabled man in West Virginia, who had lived in shelters continuously since 1999, was finally approved for Social Security Income benefits.

With this long-awaited approval, his life was transformed. Like Bill, thousands of other homeless people are unable to work—for them, SSI benefits can make the difference between affording housing and living on the streets.

While up to half of homeless people may qualify, only 11% receive SSI. Additionally, approval rates for homeless applicants are well below the national average.

Homeless applicants face steep barriers, from the lack of a mailing address to difficulty finding necessary medical documents to the lack of a state-issued ID, without which applicants cannot even enter SSI offices in federal buildings.

A SOAR program site enabled Bill to submit a successful SSI benefits application. NLCHP advocates for expanding SOAR to all 50 states and fights to remove barriers and provide permanent income to keep disabled Americans in stable housing.

The lack of affordable housing is the leading cause of homelessness. The Housing Program works to increase funding for permanent housing and resources for homeless people in urban and rural communities. We also advocate for expanded and improved programs to provide income assistance.

Winning Access to Disability Benefits

In 2007, NLCHP successfully advocated for **\$150 million** to improve the Social Security Income appeals system, giving thousands of homeless people a chance to afford housing. Many homeless people who qualify for SSI are initially denied but succeed on appeal. The \$150 million will begin to address a **notoriously long, backlogged process**.

Protecting Katrina Survivors

In 2007, NLCHP won a court order **stopping FEMA from unlawfully terminating housing assistance** to tens of thousands of low-income individuals made homeless by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Reauthorizing McKinney-Vento

In October, executive director Maria Foscarinis testified to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunities of the House Committee on Financial Services. The testimony was part of a year-long effort to mobilize Congress and unite homeless advocates behind a strong McKinney-Vento reauthorization bill.

The Facts

- There is **no jurisdiction** in the U.S. in which a person with a **full-time minimum-wage job can afford a one-bedroom apartment** at the region’s fair market rent.
- Only **33%** of the homeless population receives **Medicaid**, and only **37%** of the homeless population receives **food stamps**.

Protecting Survivors of Domestic Violence and their Families

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness. Too often, a lack of affordable housing forces women and children in violent relationships to choose between life with an abuser and life on the streets. The Domestic Violence Program works to ensure that domestic violence survivors can find and maintain safe housing.

Pushing Forward: Washington, DC

In 2006, NLCHP passed DC legislation protecting domestic violence victims in **public or private** housing from eviction and discrimination. In 2007, NLCHP and a **diverse coalition** of local groups created an implementation strategy that included a cutting-edge fair housing testing report released in 2008 and training of stakeholders.

Training and Education: Know Your Rights

In 2007, NLCHP launched a national effort to bring together and educate key allies on the protections we passed as part of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005. By cross-training housing and domestic violence advocates, and by bringing together new partners such as American Indian housing advocates and homeless service providers, NLCHP is working to protect the housing rights of survivors.

NLCHP is now working to implement these best practices nationwide.

The Facts

- Domestic violence was cited as a primary cause of family homelessness in **42%** of U.S. cities that were surveyed in 2007.
- Over **80%** of surveyed homeless women have been victims of physical or sexual assault.

VAWA Works!



Sally lived in a project-based Section 8 complex in a rural area. Her ex-boyfriend, who did not live with her, had repeatedly been violent towards her and continued to stalk and threaten her after they broke up.

One day, he broke down the door to her apartment and did significant damage to the apartment. The owner of the complex served Sally with a 30-day eviction notice, and Sally sought legal assistance.

Her lawyer was aware that the Violence Against Women Act existed, but did not know much about it. When they approached the Project-Based Section 8 program and the local housing authority about VAWA, neither had any information about it.

The attorney contacted NLCHP for assistance, and the Domestic Violence Staff Attorney guided her through the law.

With NLCHP support, Sally's attorney was able to halt all eviction proceedings against Sally.

Improving Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Personal Story



Last spring, NLCHP got a call about two youths in Pittsburgh, PA who were living in transitional shelter foster care. Due to protections in the McKinney-Vento Act, they had been able to remain – and thrive – in their old school despite their unstable housing.

But, that spring, the district changed its mind and told the children that they were not eligible to stay, threatening to un-enroll them by the middle of the week.

The children’s attorney immediately called NLCHP, who advised local advocates on strategies and explained to regional- and state-level school officials why the children had a right to stay in their school.

The children were allowed to remain in school, and the state has now directed all local officials to apply a more appropriate definition of the law, helping to guarantee that **other children will not face the same problems.**

For homeless children shuttling between shelters and couches, school can provide their one source of stability – but too often, schools illegally kick out or keep out these most vulnerable youth. The Children & Youth Program works to ensure that homeless and at-risk children have access to school, transportation, tutoring, and meals.

Helping Homeless Preschoolers

Due to advocacy by NLCHP and allies, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 gives priority Head Start access to homeless children. In many cities, mobile homeless children never make it to the top of long waiting lists before they move again. This legislation will give homeless kids a chance to succeed in school.

Education and Enforcement

Many schools are still unaware of homeless children’s rights and their own obligations to help homeless children. In 2007, NLCHP trained over 700 educators, attorneys, and advocates on best practices for implementing homeless students’ rights.

Protecting Disabled Homeless Children

In 2007, NLCHP submitted comments and recommendations on proposed regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), ensuring a consistent focus on the critical special education needs of homeless children.

The Facts

- Each year, over **1.35 million** children are homeless.
- Of those 1.35 million, **42%** are **under 5 years** of age.
- **47%** of homeless children and youth **do not attend a full year of school.**

Converting Vacant Federal Property to Help Homeless People

Two federal laws — Title V of the McKinney-Vento Act and the 1994 Base Realignment and Closure Act — give homeless service providers access to free surplus federal and military property. NLCHP’s Housing Program has worked since the law’s passage to help service providers obtain property and has unique expertise on navigating the complex process.

In 2005, the military announced an unprecedented 200 base closures, creating a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many communities to develop or expand homeless services.

Drawing a Roadmap

In 2007, NLCHP released a new, step-by-step toolkit for local organizations applying for surplus property. Distributed to over 4,000 groups in communities with property currently available, it gives detailed directions on building strong proposals, working with local governments and communities, and managing the multi-year process.

Leading the Way

NLCHP conducted strong outreach to communities where property was available and held a series of audio- and in-person trainings for over 200 groups applying for base property.

NLCHP also gave technical assistance to 16 groups who were applying for property, including securing pro bono legal assistance.

The Facts

- Since 1994, 53 of 90 approved base closure plans have included homeless services.
- These properties now serve hundreds of thousands of people a year through programs including permanent housing, food, daycare, job training, and emergency shelter.

It pays off.



In late 2007, NLCHP received great news. Shelter Partnership, a Los Angeles service provider, was moving its highly successful Resource Bank to its new home—a 108,000 square foot warehouse on the former Cheli Air Force Base.

The Base is one of over 100 properties nonprofits have acquired through Title V of the McKinney-Vento Act.

NLCHP, the leading national expert on Title V, has worked with dozens of groups over the years to help them apply. NLCHP has been to court—repeatedly and successfully—to ensure the law is being implemented fully.

Shelter Partnership submitted their application for the property in 2003, and in 2007 the new location had its grand opening. Leveraging its resources, the Resource Bank has distributed more than \$135 million in donated goods to more than 350 service providers.

Twenty years after Title V was first passed, the law is still providing shelter, services, and housing to those who need it most.

Protecting Civil Rights for Homeless Persons

Feeding Intolerance



For years, cities have criminalized begging, sleeping in public, or other critical activities, using the laws to push homeless people out of downtown and out of sight.

2007 saw the rise of a disturbing new trend: criminalizing the very act of sharing food.

Until early 2006, over 200 groups shared food regularly with Dallas' estimated 10,000 homeless residents. Then, Dallas passed an ordinance prohibiting many groups from sharing food in their usual locations, threatening arrest and fines up to \$2000.

With pro bono assistance from Howrey LLP, NLCHP filed a lawsuit in 2007 challenging the law on behalf of two of the service providers, Big Heart Ministries and the Rip Parker Memorial Homeless Ministry.

The suit argues the ordinance infringes on rights to freedom of religion, freedom of association, and freedom to travel as recognized by the U.S. Constitution and Texas state law.

While the lawsuit is pending, the City has allowed groups to continue sharing food with homeless people.

Cities often treat homeless people as second-class citizens. The Civil Rights Program advocates nationwide against the criminalization of homelessness and presses for constructive alternatives that meet people's needs for housing, food, and services. We also work for homeless voting rights and to stop the rising incidence of violence against homeless people.

Overcoming Criminalization

Rushing to "revitalize" downtowns, cities are increasingly pushing homelessness out of sight and into jail. In 2007, NLCHP successfully fought local laws around the country:

- In **Las Vegas**, we were part of an effort that successfully **challenged** a law **prohibiting the sharing of food** with "**indigent**" people in public.
- **Dallas** has **allowed local groups to continue feeding homeless people** while an NLCHP lawsuit challenging the city's food-sharing restrictions is pending.
- **Fort Meyers, Fla. rejected an anti-food-sharing ordinance** and **Lexington, Ky. repealed part of its anti-panhandling ordinance** following NLCHP advocacy.

Protecting Voting Rights

In 2007, NLCHP filed an **amicus brief in a U.S. Supreme Court** case against an Indiana voting law that could **disenfranchise thousands of homeless citizens**. The law requires voters to show photo IDs at the poll – an ID that many homeless people lack and cannot afford.

The Facts

- During 2007, at least **160** homeless people were violently attacked, **28** fatally.
- Arrests for "offenses" like sleeping in public or panhandling made it difficult or impossible for homeless people to secure permanent employment or housing.

Promoting the Human Right to Housing in the United States

Despite signing multiple treaties guaranteeing the human right to housing, the U.S. has failed to act on its obligations. By integrating human rights strategies into all program areas, NLCHP educates advocates, empowers homeless people, and fights for the inherent human dignity of all.

New State Coalitions

In 2007, NLCHP trainings in Florida and Minnesota led to new local coalitions using human rights strategies. Each training attracted over 200 participants in states without previous right-to-housing work.

New Strategies & Community Solidarity

On November 5th, NLCHP held the **4th Annual Human Right to Housing Forum**, connecting 200 advocates via a nationwide videoconference in five cities: **Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and Washington, DC**. The ground-breaking training allowed advocates to trade strategies and collaborate. Following the Forum, NLCHP supported follow-up activities including:

- Rallies in five cities to oppose the destruction of 3,000 units of public housing in **New Orleans**.
- Advocacy in **Los Angeles** to integrate the human right to housing into public planning documents like the L.A. Housing Element.
- Advocacy in **Minneapolis** to rescind a "lurking" ordinance that violates human rights.
- **Chicago** advocacy to cut poverty in Illinois in half by 2015 to meet UN Development Goals.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood...."

- Article 25 of the UDHR

Fighting Racism



In 2007, NLCHP put an international spotlight on housing rights in the U.S.

On June 7, executive director Maria Foscarinis testified at an invitation-only briefing with the U.N. High Commissioner on Human Rights, detailing U.S. cities' restrictions on sharing food with homeless people.

The High Commissioner was visibly shocked at the callousness of the restrictions, and NLCHP is using human rights strategies in our domestic advocacy on behalf of food-sharing programs.

Later that year, for the 2008 review of U.S. by the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), NLCHP helped coordinate hundreds of groups across issue areas in their advocacy, and led over 60 organizations to submit a "shadow report" to CERD highlighting U.S. housing rights violations.

Committee members said that they had never seen such a successful coordination and that it made holding the U.S. government accountable much more effective.

Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners To Prevent and End Homelessness



Since its inception, NLCHP has relied on *pro bono* partnerships to amplify the work of its small staff. In 2004, NLCHP initiated the Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) program to formalize and strengthen its relationships with key partner firms.

Sidley Austin & REAL ID

Sidley Austin, the 2006-8 LEAP Chair, has also been one of our most active *pro bono* partners.

In 2007, NLCHP needed assistance researching the effects the REAL ID Act would have on homeless persons.

Without REAL ID compliant ID cards, homeless persons face difficulty accessing public benefits and other necessities located in federal buildings.

With the assistance of Sidley Austin, NLCHP submitted comments to the Department of Homeland Security highlighting the difficulties homeless persons face in obtaining ID's and arguing that narrowing the exceptions process would contribute to the economic and physical insecurity of those most in need.

In response, DHS made important accommodations that recognize homeless people, including allowing shelter addresses to serve as proof of residency. NLCHP is currently working to address other regulations that remain inflexible.

Sidley Austin also put together a fact sheet for advocates, service providers, and homeless people summarizing the REAL ID regulations.

LEAP is a unique national philanthropic effort to help homeless and poor Americans achieve self-sufficiency. LEAP member firms work to reduce homelessness by providing NLCHP with vital financial support as well as *pro bono* legal services.

The members form a network of influential leaders that realize significant and positive social change. In return for these efforts, LEAP members enjoy strong community ties and opportunities to do rewarding *pro bono* work.

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 : **Thank you to our 2007 LEAP Members!**

: **Honorary LEAP Chairperson**

: John Grisham, *Author*

: **LEAP Chair**

: Sidley Austin LLP — Carter Phillips & Ed McNicholas

: **LEAP Member Firms**

: Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP — Vas Tsaganos

: Goodwin Procter LLP — Thomas Mikula

: Hogan & Hartson LLP — Patricia Brannan

: Jenner & Block LLP — Paul Smith

: Jones Day — Donald Ayer

: Latham & Watkins LLP — Roger Goldman

: Morrison & Foerster Foundation — W. Stephen Smith

: O'Melveny & Myers LLP — John Beisner

: Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP — Danny Greenberg

: Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP — Peter Thomas

: Sullivan & Cromwell LLP — Margaret Pfeiffer

: WilmerHale — Chris Herrling

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Leveraging Pro Bono Power to Fight Homelessness

Many of NLCHP's most important legal victories would not have been possible without extensive *pro bono* assistance from the private bar, from litigation and legislation to research and technical assistance.

In 2007, 14 firms worked with NLCHP on a total of 30 projects. A sampling of projects is listed below.

Research

- **Greenberg Traurig, LLP** is working with NLCHP on a continuing research project to ensure District of Columbia police treat homeless persons fairly.
- **DLA Piper LLP** updated a Know-Your-Rights pamphlet widely used by domestic violence advocates.
- **Goodwin Procter LLP** conducted legal research to help prevent the separation of homeless families.

Litigation

- **Baker Hostetler LLP** is working with an NLCHP partner in Baltimore to protect homeless people there from the illegal confiscation and destruction of their property by the city during “sweeps” of homeless camps.
- **Sidley Austin LLP** researched and submitted an *amicus* brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case reviewing Indiana voter photo ID requirements.

Legislation

- Attorneys from **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP** worked to identify possible changes in Social Security Administration policies and practices that would improve homeless persons’ access to SSI benefits.

Technical Assistance

- **Covington & Burling LLP** worked with a service provider in New York City to fight NIMBY opposition to new homeless services.
- **Dickson Wright LLP** worked with a Michigan service provider to help them benefit from the availability of surplus federal property for homeless services.

Donating Resources

- **Holland & Knight LLP** hosted two videoconferences on the Human Right to Housing involving a total of 400 activists.

Wilmer Hale: Stopping Hate Crimes



In 2007, NLCHP joined with the National Coalition for the Homeless to produce a new report documenting and condemning rising violence against homeless people.

In recent years, homeless people have been increasingly attacked without cause by youths and even boys as young as 10 years old. The attacks have been brutal, including beatings and burnings that have sometimes led to death.

For the report, long-time NLCHP supporter and charter LEAP member firm **Wilmer-Hale** researched and drafted a section on federal and state hate crimes laws. The research is now being used to push for laws protecting homeless people in several states.

When the report was released in April 2008, it put a national media spotlight on the violence homeless people face, jump-starting a discussion about what must be done to stop it.

NLCHP is grateful to WilmerHale for the firm's continuing pro bono assistance and support!

The 2008 McKinney-Vento Awards

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: Reflecting on twenty years of the McKinney-Vento Act

On October 24, 2007, over 150 NLCHP supporters and staff gathered at the Hotel Monaco in Washington, DC for the 9th annual McKinney-Vento Awards Ceremony. The event celebrated the work and achievements of organizations, leaders, and individuals who have made a significant impact in the lives of homeless people in America.

The 2007 Awards, which raised a record-breaking \$167,000, also marked the 20th Anniversary of the McKinney-Vento Act, taking the opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of the past two decades but also to look forward to the day when homelessness in America is ended.

The 2007 Children’s Artwork Contest

In 2007, NLCHP began a new tradition with the Children’s Artwork Wall. Sponsored by law firm **Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP**, the Wall featured drawings and paintings by homeless and low-income children in the Washington, DC area.

The winning artwork, shown below with the artist, was used on the awards, and the winning artist received a gift certificate to Target for art and school supplies.

Tonight, after we finish our dinners and celebrate the work of some true visionaries, we will all go home. Not just to visit, but to live full lives free from the worry of losing the roof over our head. The millions of children who will experience homelessness this year, deserve the same sense of security. They deserve a home.

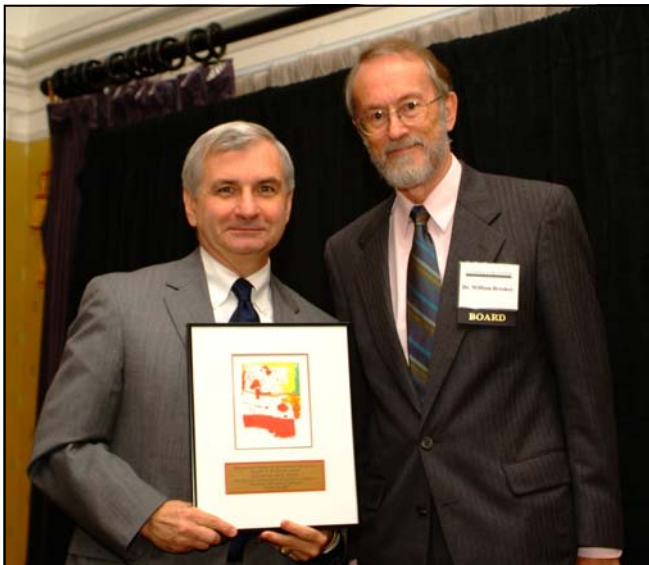
- Bill Breakey, NLCHP Board Chair



NLCHP Board member Howie Godnick conspires with artwork contest winner Christina.



Vento Award recipients Rickie Slaughter (left) and Judge Jay Zainey.



NLCHP Chair Bill Breakey (right) presents Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) with the Stewart B. McKinney Award.

Executive Director Maria Foscarinis with Board member and Covington & Burling partner Rod DeArment (left) and Covington partner Alan Pemberton.

The Awardees

Stewart B. McKinney Award

Senator Jack Reed has been a long-time advocate on behalf of low-income and homeless Americans. Because of his role in supporting the McKinney-Vento Act, the 20th anniversary year of that landmark legislation was an especially appropriate time to recognize his commitment to ending and preventing homelessness.

Bruce F. Vento Award

Etan Thomas, of the Washington Wizards, and **Judge Jay Zainey**, U.S. District Court Judge, both received the 2007 Bruce F. Vento Award. Mr. Thomas is a relentless advocate for the rights of homeless and low-income men, women, and children and raised significant resources for Hurricane Katrina relief. Judge Zainey organizes the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (H.E.L.P.) Program, in which attorneys provide legal consultation and notary services at homeless centers in New Orleans and other cities across the country. He is now working with NLCHP to set up a national network working with existing local programs.

Pro Bono Counsel Award

The 2007 Pro Bono Counsel Award went to **Covington & Burling LLP** for the firm's role in securing enactment of the McKinney-Vento Act in 1987, and for its two decades of commitment to ending homelessness in the United States. Two Covington partners, Alan Pemberton and NLCHP Board member Rod DeArment, accepted the award on behalf of the firm.

Personal Achievement Award

Rickie Slaughter began using drugs as a soldier during the Vietnam War as a relief from the stress of combat. After returning from the war, he fell into a two-decade struggle with drugs and homelessness. He eventually found his way to New Directions, Inc., a rehabilitation facility in Los Angeles that specifically targets homeless veterans. Mr. Slaughter not only graduated from their program but became a New Directions staff member and a certified Drug Addictions Recovery Specialist.

NLCHP in Print: Selected 2007 Publications

Legal Documents

- Supreme Court Amicus Brief: William Crawford et al. v. Marion County Election Board et al. 12/07.
- Ridgely Vs. FEMA Court Documents.
- Supreme Court of Washington State Amicus/Affadavit In re Dependency of C.C.R. And A.W.R., Washington Dept. of Social & Health Services v. C.R. 10/07.
- Amicus Brief: First Vagabonds Church v. City of Orlando.

Reports & Manuals

- Feeding Intolerance: Prohibitions on Sharing Food With People Experiencing Homelessness.
- Housing and School Stability for Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children.
- Housing Rights for All: Promoting and Defending Housing Rights in the U.S.
- Utilizing the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act: A Toolkit for Nonprofits. 7/07.
- Educating Homeless Children and Youth: The 2007 Guide to Their Rights.
- Lost Housing, Lost Safety: Survivors of Domestic Violence Experience Housing Denials and Evictions Across the Country.

Testimony & Legislative Documents

- A Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Homelessness and Affordable Housing in the United States.
- Testimony About McKinney Act Reauthorization Before the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunities House Committee on Financial Services.
- Comments for Proposed Regulations Implementing Part C of IDEA: The Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities.
- Homelessness and United States Compliance with Human Rights Obligations: Submitted to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights.
- Testimony for the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights: Human Right to Housing in the U.S.
- Reauthorizing No Child Left Behind: The Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
- Legislative Status Report: Funding for Homeless Children and Youth Programs (Fiscal Year 2008).
- Legislative Status Report: Reauthorizing the Education Provision of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Letter to St. Petersburg City Council Members re: Proposed Ordinances 815-G, 816-G, and 817-G 3/07.
- Letter to Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Miloon Kothari on Destruction of Public Housing in New Orleans.
- Testimony to the Maryland State House supporting HB 528, a bill to add homeless persons as a protected class under the Maryland hate crimes statute.

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- The Growth of a Movement for a Human Right to Housing in the United States. From the Harvard Human Rights Journal.
- Targeting the Homeless: Constructive Alternatives to Criminalizations Measures in U.S. Cities. In July-August 2007 Clearinghouse Review.

Other

- 2007 Forum on the Human Right to Housing Follow-Up Report.
- A Model for the U.S.?: France Proclaims Legal Right to Housing, & The Scotland Homeless Act: A Model for All.
- FERPA and Homeless Students: Understanding and Applying the Law.

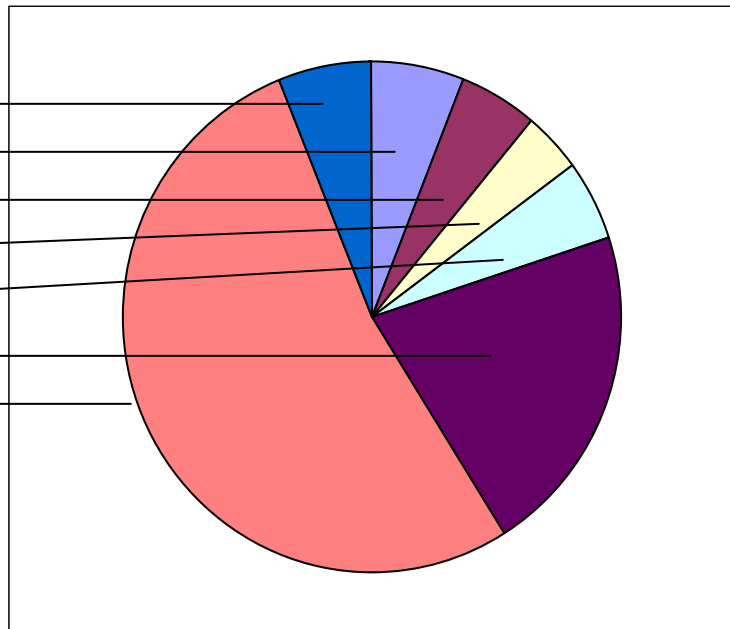
2007 Financial Statements

Below are the unaudited financials for 2007. These numbers do not include the value of donated pro bono legal services, which in 2006 represented 32% of total revenue.

January - December 2007

Revenue **\$901,291**

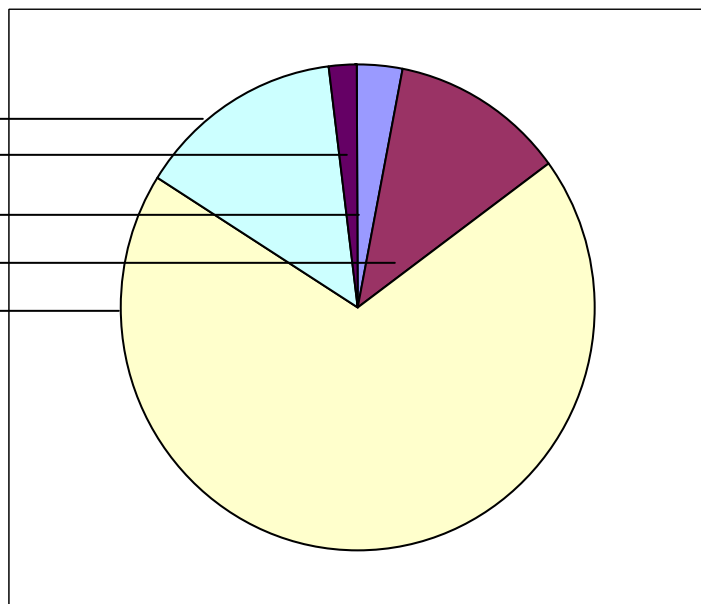
Individuals	6%
Corporate Contributions	6%
Attorneys Fees	5%
Other	4%
LEAP	5%
Events	21%
Foundations	53%



January - December 2007

Expenses **\$993,365**

Rent	14%
Travel and Meals	2%
Consultants	3%
Office Operations	12%
Personnel	69%



NLCHP 2007 Supporters

NLCHP deeply thanks all of our sponsors and donors for their commitment to ending homelessness and poverty. Throughout the year, we received contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations whose support helped us improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society.

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NLCHP in the News: Selected Coverage

- "In Orlando, law forbids feeding homeless and a debate is sparked". Associated Press. February 3, 2007.
- "In Many Cities, Panhandling Becomes a Crime". Cincinnati Post. February 11, 2007.
- "Rules to ban tent cities". St. Petersburg Times. March 16, 2007.
- "State Sends Message: No Bum-hunting allowed". Editorial. Baltimore Examiner. March 19, 2007.
- "Hate-Crime Laws 'Won't Protect Homeless Like Doors'". The New Standard. March 21, 2007.
- "Hate Crimes". Editorial. Las Vegas Review. March 23, 2007.
- "Unprovoked beatings of homeless soaring, report says: Surge in violence by young adults". Associated Press: Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times. April 9, 2007.
- "Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, Steptoe & Johnson LLP and a Coalition of Public Interest Organizations File Class Action Lawsuit Against FEMA on Behalf of Victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita". Business Wire. April 19, 2007.
- Radio interviews with Maria Foscarinis. National Public Radio. April 23, 2007, November 7, 2007.
- "McKinney Remembered in Washington, DC". Newsletter. Capitol Watch: Courant.com. July 18, 2007.
- "Bittersweet Anniversary for the Homeless". Marketplace; National Public Radio. July 19, 2007.
- Television interview with Maria Foscarinis. Al Jazeera. August 28, 2007 & November 23, 2007.
- Op-Ed: Destroying Housing in New Orleans. Washington Post. December 25, 2007.

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