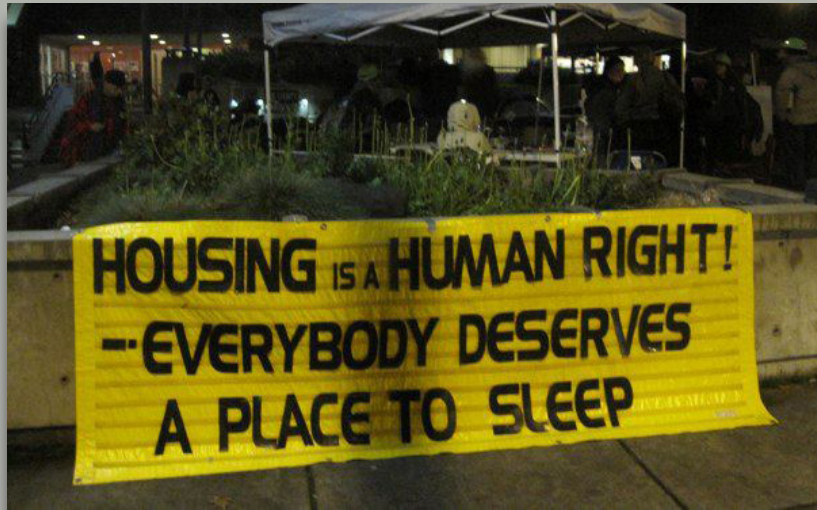


2013 ANNUAL REPORT

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY



OUR VISION

We envision an end to homelessness in America. A home for every family and individual will be the norm and not the exception—a right and not a privilege.

OUR MISSION

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) uses the power of the law to address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we work towards strengthening the social safety net through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education. The Law Center is the only national legal advocacy organization dedicated solely to ending and preventing homelessness.

OUR HISTORY

The Law Center founder and executive director Maria Foscarnis began her legal career at Sullivan & Cromwell. During her time there, she volunteered to take a pro bono case representing homeless families in a federal court class action suit. She witnessed first-hand both the growing national crisis and the impact first rate legal advocacy can make. In 1985, Maria left Sullivan & Cromwell to fully devote herself to the fight to end homelessness.

In 1987, Maria led the campaign to pass the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first major federal legislation to address the problem.

In 1989, she founded the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty to use the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness.

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2013, the Law Center scored major victories, some of which were years in the making.

In one landmark decision, a federal court barred the City of Dallas from enforcing a law that prevents religious groups from offering food to poor persons living outdoors. We were fortunate to have the passionate and committed support of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in bringing the case to trial and securing that victory.

We secured a federal court ruling to ensure that unused government properties can be used for homeless services. This victory built on our long-standing advocacy to enforce Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Led by Board member and firm partner Georgia Kazakis, a remarkable legal team from Covington & Burling provided pro bono support to secure this victory.

Finally, in a year that saw little action by Congress, the Law Center scored a major legislative victory with passage of the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which expanded housing rights for domestic violence survivors to protect over 4 million additional households—addressing a leading cause of homelessness for women.

These victories—and our many others—go to the heart of the Law Center's mission: to use the power of the law to protect the rights and dignity of homeless people and to advance solutions to homelessness.

We could not have accomplished them without our many supporters. This year's victories belong to all of us and, most of all, to the men, women and children who experience homelessness in our country.

Sincerely,

Maria Foscarinis
Founder and Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear Friends of the Law Center,

2013 has been an exceptional time for the Law Center's continuing work to convince others to move past fearful exclusion and appreciate that a respect for each of us demands that none of us lack basic shelter. No other organization has been as systematic and effective in raising the voice of homeless people before the courts, on Capitol Hill, before executive agencies, and with key international bodies.

The Law Center's unique policy experience gives it a voice that is respected both in the US and internationally as calling for pragmatic reforms that help to put us on the road to recognition of the human right to housing. Ultimately, when we succeed in pushing back the barriers to shelter, we succeed in improving the lives of homeless people today and in making America a better place to pass onto our children.

The tremendous staff at the Law Center work tirelessly, and they provide the hands that help to bend the arc of history to the full inclusion of homeless people into the broader society. The attorneys at the Law Center, and each of you who care about the people we help, are a continual source of inspiration. This work is not possible without you, and we thank you for your support and partnership in our work.

Sincerely,

Edward McNicholas
Chair of the Board of Directors

RIGHT TO HOUSING



BRINGING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING HOME

Safe, affordable housing is a fundamental human right. But with over 3.5 million people homeless each year, and over 7 million more doubled-up due to economic necessity, the United States has a long way to go to realize this right.

The Law Center is working to change the way policymakers and the American people think about housing, with one goal in mind: creating an enforceable right to safe, affordable housing. In 2013, on International Human Rights Day, December 10, the Law Center published its annual *Report Card on the Human Right to Housing*, which assesses U.S. compliance with the seven elements of the human right to housing defined in international law. **The U.S. received an overall grade of D+,** reflecting the lack of priority and resources devoted to meeting the human right to housing. The report serves as a key framework for advocacy to make the human right to housing real for all Americans.



STRENGTHENING HOUSING RIGHTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness, especially for women and their children, and for unaccompanied youth. One in every four homeless women reports domestic violence as the cause of her homelessness. A 2012 Law Center report, *Alone without a Home*, notes that 43% of homeless youth left home after enduring abuse by a caretaker.

Building on a 2006 legislative victory that protected housing rights for survivors living in public and federally subsidized housing, in 2013 the Law Center won a major expansion of these rights, **extending protections to over 4 million additional households.** This tremendous victory helps protect survivors from having to choose between staying with their abuser and becoming homeless.

Over 2 million homeless and poor Americans benefit from Title V each year.

STRENGTHENING HOUSING RIGHTS FOR RENTERS AT FORECLOSURE

Research indicates that an estimated 20 percent of all foreclosures are rental properties, while 40 percent of families facing eviction due to foreclosure are renters, and 37 percent of all children affected by foreclosure live in rental housing. Caught in the crossfire of the foreclosure crisis, these renters are vulnerable to homelessness through no fault of their own.

In 2013, as a result of Law Center advocacy, the Permanently Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2013 was introduced to extend, strengthen, and make permanent the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act, first enacted in 2009 following advocacy by the Law Center.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Like many renters, Judy Curtis faced homelessness when her landlord entered foreclosure. Undeterred by the banks' immediate eviction notice, she learned of her rights as a renter under PTFA. With the support of the Law Center, Curtis fought back and won a groundbreaking appeal that demonstrated the courage ordinary Americans have to find to secure what should be a protected right — safe housing.

CREATING HOMES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH UNUSED GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

“The court finds troubling indications of widespread noncompliance...Landholding agencies appear to be hiding potentially eligible properties from the Title V process.” – Judge Royce Lamberth, March 21, 2013.

In a major victory, Judge Lamberth, then-Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ruled in favor of the Law Center and against the U.S. Department of Justice in a case involving Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which makes vacant federal properties available at no cost to non-profits for use as facilities to assist homeless people.



Children at Our House in Little Rock, Arkansas: the organization provides transitional housing, job

training and childcare in formerly unused Veterans Administration buildings. The Law Center helped secure the property under Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



Volunteers building a house for Esperanza en Escalante in Tuscon, Arizona: the organization places homeless veterans and their families in

safe and secure transitional housing, using formerly vacant property on Davis Monthan Air Force Base.

CIVIL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Being homeless is not a crime—nor is it a reason for disenfranchisement. We fight to make sure homeless persons are not punished for their misfortune, and that they can retain their dignity and rights.

FIGHTING CRIMINALIZATION

Of 234 U.S. cities surveyed by the Law Center, 40% make it a crime to sleep in public spaces, while 56% prohibit loitering in public places and 53% prohibit begging and panhandling in public places. When cities target homeless people for innocent conduct necessary to their survival, the impact is felt far and wide. While such laws affect people experiencing homelessness most profoundly, they also burden the criminal justice system, affect service providers' ability to do their work, and cost taxpayers money. **Laws that criminalize homelessness take a toll on entire communities.** In 2013, the Law Center won important victories in the fight to end the criminalization of homelessness:

- Won an important federal court ruling barring the City of Dallas from enforcing a law preventing religious groups from offering food and support to the nearly 3,000 impoverished city residents living outdoors.
- Won a court order against Boise, Idaho, enjoining the City from enforcing its Anti-Solicitation Ordinance, which targeted homeless and poor people.
- Advocated with the U.N. Human Rights Committee in Geneva to condemn the criminalization of homelessness in the United States as a violation of international human rights treaty obligations. As a result, the Committee adopted the Law Center's recommendations for corrective action.



STORIES OF IMPACT

Boise's anti-solicitation ordinance would have made it impossible for people to buy essentials like food. "The truth is, I don't like to panhandle, but it's something I have to do in between jobs to survive," said Troy Minton. Panhandling is not a long-term solution to homelessness, but it is a part of the stark reality for many Americans without steady employment. The Law Center and the ACLU of Idaho protected people from damaging arrest records as they weather the economic crisis. Larry Shanks, another Boise resident, said of the victory, "I am relieved for my family and the common citizens as their rights were also in trouble."

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Voter identification laws are proliferating across the country. Often lacking necessary identification—sometimes confiscated during police "sweeps" under criminalization laws—and the funds to obtain them, homeless and poor people are denied the right to vote. In 2011, the Law Center filed a federal court challenge to Wisconsin's voter ID law, one of the most restrictive in the country. It would have disenfranchised 300,000 homeless, poor, and other voters, including seniors, veterans, and students; the ten day trial concluded in November 2013.

YOUTH & EDUCATION RIGHTS



STORIES OF IMPACT

Cara Vasquez, an associate with DLA Piper, was trained by the Law Center as part of Project LEARN. As a result of our support, she was able to advocate successfully on behalf of the daughters of a homeless family, ensuring that the girls could finish the year in the school they were in before they became homeless.

Research shows that children with two or more school changes in a year—often the case for homeless children—are 50% less likely to graduate high school than their peers who do not change schools.

Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act protect homeless children's rights to a stable education, free school meals, basic health care, and other services—but the law is regularly violated, often simply due to lack of information.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP

Through the Homeless Advocates Group (HAG), the Law Center brought together national organizations working across numerous issues—including housing, health care, and education—that share the common goal of preventing and ending homelessness, and worked to craft a common agenda. In 2013, HAG members advocated jointly for increased funding for low income housing, federal policies to counter criminalization, implementation of the new Affordable Care Act, support for homeless families and children, and access to food.

PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS

Pro bono legal partnerships are a cornerstone of the Law Center's work. Lawyers Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP), the Law Center's premier pro bono network, provides crucial support through both in-kind

In 2013, **the Law Center trained almost 200 key state and local education officials across the country on the rights of homeless families and their children** under Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act, empowering them to put their improved knowledge of the law and best practices to work on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of homeless children they serve across the country.

In addition, through its innovative Project LEARN, the Law Center trained a cadre of pro bono attorneys on the law, and then worked with these trained volunteers to directly help 24 families and over 70 children assert their education rights.

contributions of donated legal services and direct financial support annually.

In 2013, 17 law firms worked with the Law Center on 42 pro bono matters; of these firms, 11 were LEAP members. Their in-kind contributions amounted to approximately \$4 million in donated legal services, which greatly augmented the capacity of the Law Center's small staff and the impact of its modest budget.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

In 2013, the Taproot Foundation helped us develop a strategic scorecard that we implemented to measure our organizational performance. The scorecard is an invaluable tool for tracking our measurable program and operational successes. You can view a copy on our website: www.nlchp.org



ABC7/WJLA-TV News reporter and Washington Business Report anchor Rebecca Cooper served as event emcee.



Senator Al Franken accepts the Stewart B. McKinney Award from Host Committee Chair Steve Judge



Congresswoman Gwen Moore accepts the Bruce F. Vento Award from Sue Vento, widow of the late Congressman

15th ANNUAL McKINNEY -VENTO AWARDS

The 15th Annual McKinney-Vento Awards event was the most successful yet, raising nearly \$250,000 toward the Law Center's work on behalf of homeless and vulnerable Americans.



Partner Steven Schulman accepts the Pro Bono Counsel Award on behalf of Akin Gump and presented by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson



Board member G.W. Rolle presents the Personal Achievement Award to Judy Curtis



The Law Center staff: Selam Aberra, Louise Weissman, Eric Tars, Maria Foscarinis, Janelle Fernandez, Jeremy Rosen, Tristia Bauman

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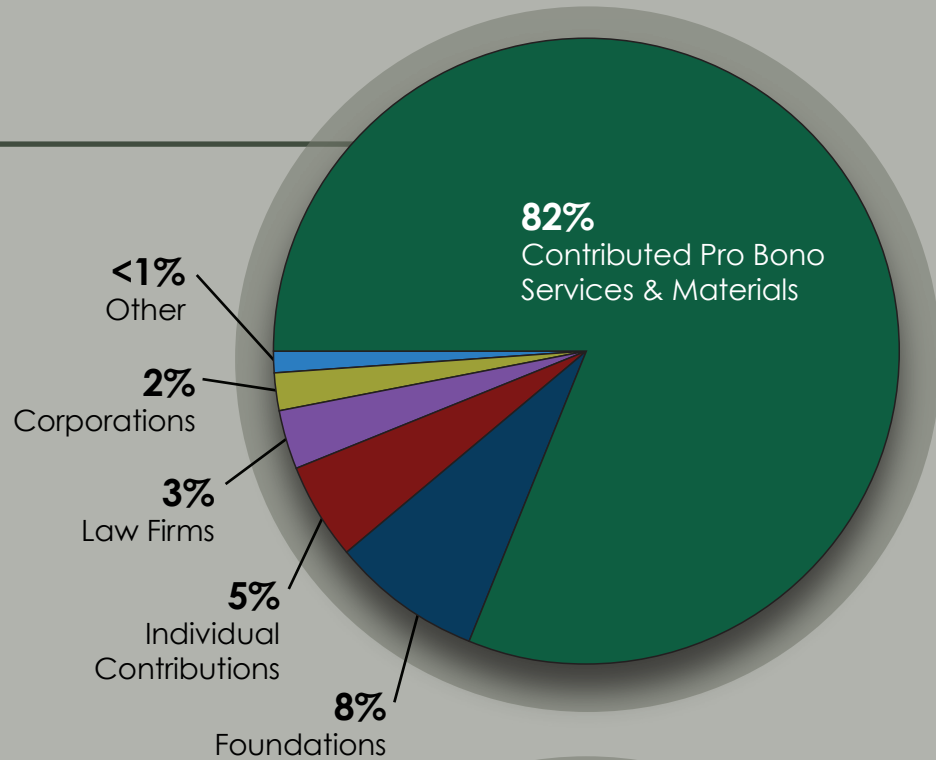


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Law Center's Board of Directors

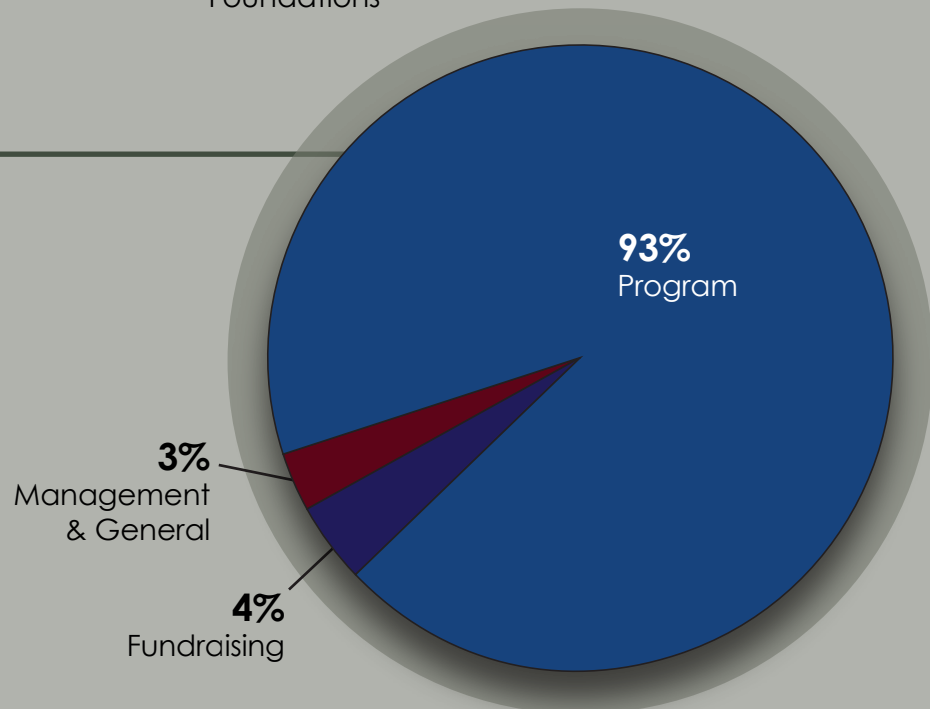
2013 FINANCIALS

In 2013 the National Law Center raised \$889,866 in cash revenue and spent \$954,505. The Law Center also leveraged nearly \$4 million in donated legal services. Major sources of support, excluding donated services, include Foundations (46%), Corporations (9%), Law Firms (17%), and Individual contributions (26%). The full audited financials are available online at: www.nlchp.org

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EXPENSES



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