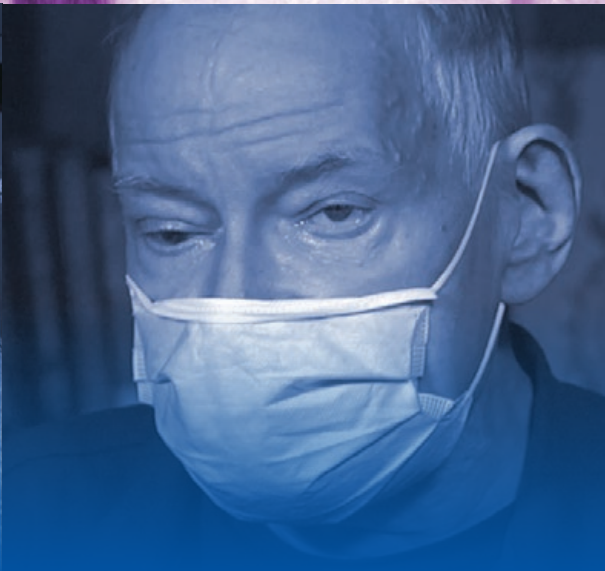


2022

LEGAL SERVICES OF NEW JERSEY

# Campaign for Justice

*ADVANCING JUSTICE*



HEAR WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY AT [LSNJ.ORG/CLIENTSVIDEOSSTORIES](https://lsnj.org/clientsvideostories).

# Each of Us Must Do Our Part

In the words of the esteemed and extraordinary civil rights leader and activist John R. Lewis, the fight for justice “is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year,” but “the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes.” His words compel us to take sustained action; make a lifelong commitment to justice; and, as we commemorate 55 years of providing civil legal aid in New Jersey, reflect on both our progress and the path ahead.

While for some the effects of the pandemic may finally feel as if they are waning, for Legal Services’ clients and low-income New Jerseyans, the pandemic continues to disproportionately exacerbate health crises, employment and income challenges, and housing, custody, and other issues. Moreover, many pandemic-related moratoriums, assistance programs, and other protections designed to help keep New Jersey’s most vulnerable afloat have since expired, creating a new wave of hardship in bankruptcy, debt collection, and foreclosure.

But while the need for Legal Services is great, I believe there is cause for even greater hope.

Across the state, Legal Services advocates and volunteers stepped up to meet unprecedented increases in the need for our services, assisting more clients in more cases every year since 2019.

As our communities confronted urgent and unknown challenges, we responded with innovation, collaboration, and powerful advocacy. When the pandemic disrupted in-person operations of the court and other services, we pressed for more accessible reforms moving forward. And, although many pandemic-related programs have now ended, we can leverage existing infrastructure, data, and public sentiment to build on these programs and their demonstrated successes.

So, as we commemorate the 55th anniversary of Legal Services in New Jersey, I thank you for your continued support; look forward to new pro bono and community partnerships; and ask that we all recommit to the struggle for economic, social, and racial justice. Though we may not see the end of this struggle in our own lifetimes, I believe the pandemic has helped us all to envision new, needed, and more hopeful paths forward. Will you do your part?

Sincerely,

*Dawn K. Miller, Esq.*  
*President*

“Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part.”

— John Robert Lewis  
Civil Rights Leader

# A Brighter Future for Victims of Crime

*"In the beginning, it was just really bad. I just wanted to stay home. I didn't want to do anything. I didn't want even to go for a walk outside because I thought he would be waiting for me or, you know, watching me. ... [Now] I just try to move on every day and I try to enjoy as much as I can."*

– Tamires  
Legal Services Client  
**Watch Tamires' video on [www.lsnj.org/cfi](http://www.lsnj.org/cfi)**



As a child in Brazil, Tamires dreamed of becoming a flight attendant, but could not afford the classes or exchange program necessary to master a second language. Instead, she applied for an au pair position, which went so well that she extended her one-year contract for a second year; then remained through the first six months of COVID-19.

As the end of her contract drew near, Tamires was offered a job by a local storeowner, who lured her with the promise of a high salary and the chance to become his business partner. He even offered to help her become a U.S. citizen. Tamires was leery of his aggressive pitch, but did not want to miss an exciting opportunity.

Tamires' experience became indicative of the plight of far too many victims of human trafficking: Hours worked—dubbed "training"—went unpaid; her new "boss" acquired her identification and visa documents under the pretext that he needed to make copies, and then claimed he did not have them; he harassed her with texts, pressured her to end friendships, and demanded she meet him at the store—threatening to come after her if she did not show. When her host family learned of these threats and contacted the police, he accused Tamires of stealing tens of thousands of dollars and tried to have her arrested.

After being referred to LSNJ's PROTECT program, advocates helped Tamires share her story with law enforcement in an effort to prevent this man from victimizing others in the future. She was referred to an anti-trafficking program for counseling and assisted by Legal Services with a humanitarian immigration application for lawful status.

Tamires has a new dream now of a future in computer coding. She is stronger than ever and looking forward to a brighter future.



**INVEST IN JUSTICE**  
Donate to the 2022 Campaign

*LSNJ PROTECT ASSISTS CLIENTS WITH LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING. EXAMPLES INCLUDE REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, APPLYING FOR CUSTODY, SECURING PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED, APPLYING FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS, AND OBTAINING LAWFUL IMMIGRATION STATUS THROUGH HUMANITARIAN APPLICATIONS.*

# Helping Seniors Fend Off Foreclosure

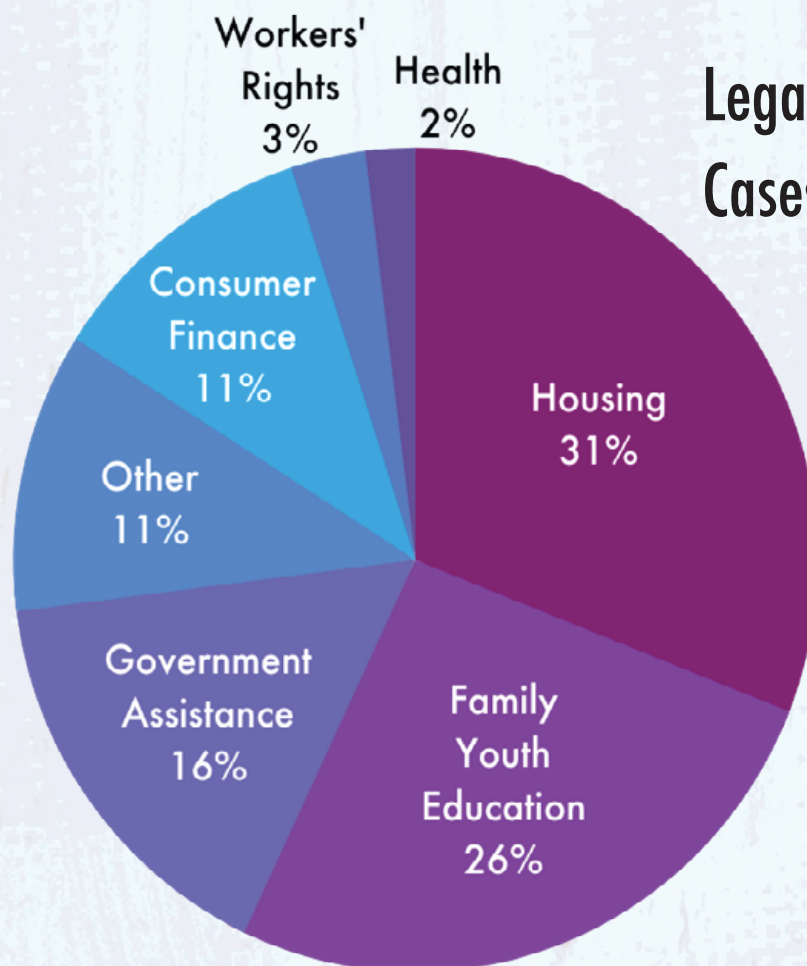
*“They said, ‘You’re at the right place. We deal with these issues all the time. We may have somebody who can give you some suggestions to be able to make things a little bit better.’ And they made things miraculously better. ... Now, I feel like I can sort of keep my head above water and work to stabilize things.”*

– Paul  
Legal Services Client

Paul is 61 years old, disabled, and lives alone in South Jersey. When his medical expenses skyrocketed, he fell behind on his taxes, and a tax sale certificate was sold on his property. In an effort to get around the required two-year waiting period before a tax foreclosure case can be filed, the certificate holder claimed the home was abandoned. On advice from the Foreclosure Defense Project, Paul wrote a letter to the court explaining that he did, in fact, still reside in the home, and the case was dismissed. Advocates then advised Paul to make use of a small home equity line of credit to pay off the tax lien. At first, the mortgage company declined on the basis that he had already maxed out the line of credit; the taxes owed exceeded the balance on his loan; and he had poor credit. When the certificate holder filed a second foreclosure case, Legal Services assisted Paul with a request to increase his credit limit, pay off the taxes, and come up with a more manageable payment plan for the line of credit. He remains housed and current on his loan payments.

*THE FORECLOSURE DEFENSE PROJECT (FDP) HELPS CLIENTS THROUGH PROCESSES SUCH AS BANKRUPTCY FILINGS, TAX COMPROMISE PLANS, REVERSE MORTGAGES, AND DEFENDING AGAINST PREDATORY LENDING PRACTICES, ULTIMATELY FENDING OFF FORECLOSURE AND POSSIBLE HOMELESSNESS.*

## Legal Services Cases by Type



# Addressing Complex Needs Through Client-Centered Services



From New Jersey True Poverty Tracker 2022  
Read more at <https://lsnj.pub/TPtracker22>

Like many Legal Services clients, Sandra faced not just one legal issue, but several intersecting problems that were exacerbated by the overarching struggles of living in poverty. The Family Stability and Preservation Project worked with Sandra to help her regain custody of her two young children from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. She had battled homelessness in the past and one of the conditions for regaining custody was to secure stable housing. When a spot opened up in an affordable housing complex, she was hopeful—completing the application quickly and providing all the necessary supporting documents, only to be denied when a background check revealed an alleged criminal conviction. Despite her insistence that the alleged matter had been dismissed, the apartment complex did not revoke its denial until the Reentry Project intervened. Advocates contacted the investment corporation that owns the apartment complex, asserting that the denial of Sandra’s application violated the newly-enacted New Jersey Fair Chance Housing Act. Not only did they relent, they also subsequently modified their application to reflect the change in FCHA’s protective provisions. Sandra has since moved into her new apartment with her two children back in her care.

“When I tried to move into the apartment, I wasn’t getting anywhere. They didn’t take me seriously, until you [Legal Services] stepped in. ... They kept giving me the runaround.”

–Sandra  
Legal Services Client

LSNJ’s REENTRY PROJECT ASSISTS CLIENTS WITH EXPUNGEMENTS AND CHALLENGES DISCRIMINATION BASED ON INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE FAMILY STABILITY AND PRESERVATION PROJECT (FSPP) WORKS TO PREVENT CHILD REMOVAL AND FACILITATE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.



**INVEST IN JUSTICE**

**Donate to the 2022 Campaign**

# Celebrating Our Volunteers and Heroes



*“Our rule of law is fundamentally dependent upon the premise that courts and the law will be fair for everyone; that poor and rich alike will be treated equally. And yet, in most cases, access to our courts and to justice is dependent upon having access to a lawyer.”*

– Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq.  
2022 NJEJLA Circle of Honor Inductee

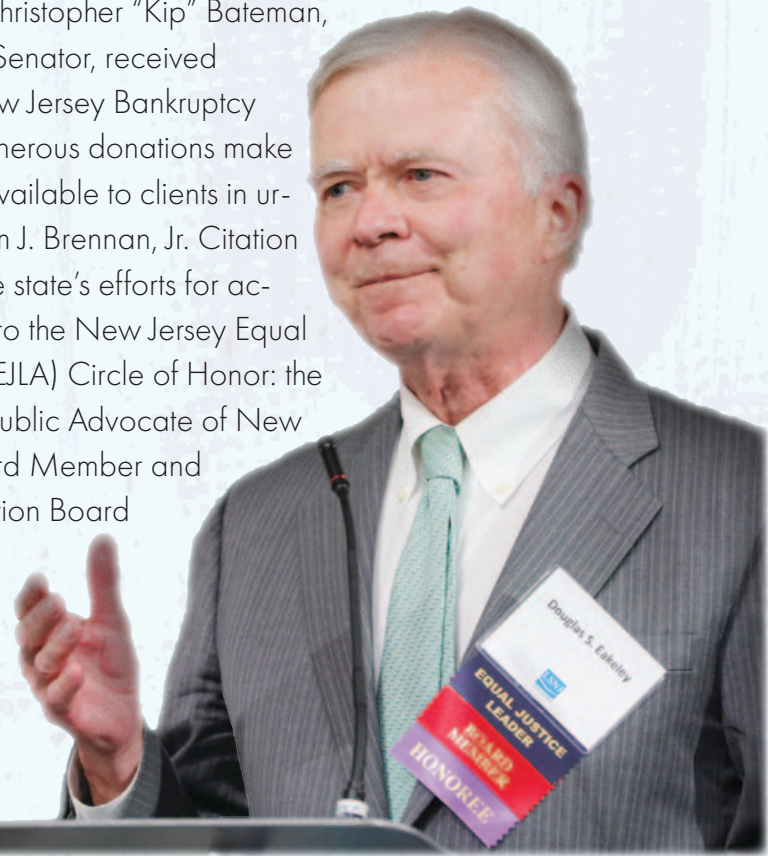
NJEJLA BIOGRAPHIES AND VIDEO TRIBUTES CAN BE VIEWED AT [WWW.NJEJLA.ORG/CIRCLEOFHONOR](http://WWW.NJEJLA.ORG/CIRCLEOFHONOR).  
PHOTOS AND A HIGHLIGHT VIDEO REEL OF THE EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS RECEPTION CAN BE VIEWED AT [WWW.LSNJ.ORG/EJA](http://WWW.LSNJ.ORG/EJA).



LSNJ Board President Cynthia M. Jacob offers remarks at the 2022 Equal Justice Awards Reception.

The 2022 Equal Justice Awards Reception returned to an in-person celebration in 2022 with more than 300 in attendance and dozens recognized for their pro bono efforts!

Exceptional and Significant contributors received special named awards. Longtime Legal Services supporters Eliana Pintor Marin, New Jersey Assemblywoman, and Christopher “Kip” Bateman, Esq., former New Jersey State Senator, received Lipman-Franks Awards. The New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation, whose generous donations make life-altering emergency funds available to clients in urgent need, received the William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice. And two pillars in the state’s efforts for access to justice were inducted into the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive (NJEJLA) Circle of Honor: the late Stanley C. Van Ness, first Public Advocate of New Jersey, and longtime LSNJ Board Member and former Legal Services Corporation Board Chair Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq.



# United in the Pursuit of Leadership Initiatives for Tomorrow (UPLIFT)



*“All of you in this room—you are going to make things better, and that’s what fuels me and keeps me doing this work.”*

– Maura Sanders (shown left)  
Chief Counsel of Housing,  
Healthcare, and  
Government Safety  
Net Programs

Legal Services continued to strengthen its support and mentorship of new attorneys this year, hosting its second annual United in the Pursuit of Leadership Initiatives for Tomorrow (UPLIFT) event. The event brings together current and former Deborah T. Poritz fellows and Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) interns, new staff attorneys and law graduates, and more experienced advocates from across the state in conversation and community.

With a common theme of commitment to public interest, access to justice, and racial equity, attendees spoke of the inspiration behind their career choices, including stories of direct interactions with the U.S. immigration system, personal experiences of poverty, racism, or homelessness, and prior experiences working with low-income, marginalized, or underserved communities.

Advocates shared their experiences as Legal Services attorneys, collectively emphasizing the value of Legal Services’ statewide system of support, mentoring, and collaboration—benefits that are also available to students, interns, and pro bono volunteers. A panel of attorneys addressed topics ranging from career planning, mentorship, and networking to effective collaboration, imposter syndrome, and work-life balance.

Organizers aspire to keep the group connected throughout the year through additional programming, social media, and a shared commitment to social justice.



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# We Need Your Support!

**The annual Campaign for Justice** raises funds for New Jersey's civil Legal Services system, which provides direct services to clients in all 21 counties. Your tax-deductible contribution will help us change lives, accept more cases, and provide the legal expertise and the access to justice our clients need. Please donate by visiting the Campaign for Justice website at [www.lsnj.org/cfj](http://www.lsnj.org/cfj). For more information, email [development@lsnj.org](mailto:development@lsnj.org). Thank you!

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Legal Services of New Jersey

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