



*Standing Together*

2017 LAAC Report to Members

# To all our incredible members -



*Photo: Christine Baker-Parrish*

2017 - We made it. We made it to the end of the year. And **you** stepped up, time and time again, to **protect your clients**. At the beginning of the year, you **rushed to the airports** to create pop-up pro bono clinics for immigrants entering the country facing a travel ban. **You provided legal advice to the chants of “Let the lawyers in!”**

You increased your know-your-rights outreach so that all communities were aware of federal policy changes. You responded to threats of federal funding cuts by securing other critical funding to serve your clients. You reported your client outcomes to the State Bar so that, **for the first time ever, we can talk about the statewide impact of 1,200 lawyers, fighting for good.**

And as we close this year, you are holding FEMA clinics, helping victims of price-gouging as landlords hold out for the highest bidders in fire-affected regions. You coordinated with others throughout the state to learn how best to serve people **traumatized by losing everything in wildfires.**

**LAAC was here for you**, cheering you on, convening calls, sharing resources, recording emergency trainings for the wildfires, connecting you with each other. We knew this year would be tough, but we didn't know how tough it would be.

We fought hard for the Equal Access Fund increase. Legislators finally understand how important your work is to the safety net **because you told them**. They heard “Let the lawyers in!” and knew our community needs to grow to meet the growing needs of Californians.

Next year may not be easier, but we have your back. **We all have each others' backs.** And if we stand together, like trees in a forest, we'll be stronger.

Salena Copeland  
Executive Director

# Recognizing Excellence

Every year, LAAC proudly recognizes members of the legal services community who make a difference in the lives of low-income Californians.

In 2017, LAAC held three awards ceremonies (**Family Law Awards, Awards of Merit, and the Champion of Justice Award**), and offered one fellowship (the **Dan Bradley Fellowship**).



Top to bottom, left to right:  
Family Law Award honorees  
**Grace Mitsuata,**  
**Kimberly Aston-**  
**Young, Courtney Black;**  
Champion of Justice Award  
recipient **Senator Nancy**  
**Skinner** with  
Salena Copeland; and  
Awards of Merit honorees  
**Anna Moore-Goodwin,**  
**Martha Tamayo,**  
**Christine Lin,** and **Leticia**  
**Toledo.** Not pictured:  
Dan Bradley Fellow  
**Gabrielle Gee**



# Advocacy

*LAAC is your unified voice in Sacramento*

This year LAAC successfully advocated for more legal aid funding! We are thrilled to report that California's budget now includes **more than \$20 million in funding for civil legal aid**. This is an all time high and it's \$10 million over the \$10 million base funding for the next two years.

**We couldn't be more excited for your organization to receive this additional support when you need it most!**



Copeland with Lorena Slomanson (Legal Aid Society of San Diego), State Senator Ricardo Lara, and Jose Padilla (CRLA) in Sacramento during the state budget process.



Copeland testifying at California Assembly hearing on access to justice concerns related to changing California's bar exam pass score.

LAAC also engages in administrative advocacy at the the State Bar, the Judicial Council, and other agencies. Here are some of this year's highlights:

**Online collection of Bar Dues** - The State Bar of California announced it would begin allowing "bulk billing" for attorney dues online. Concerned that legal aid would lose significant voluntary contributions as a result, LAAC spoke up loudly for legal aid and worked with the Bar to reconfigure the online system, avoiding a funding shortfall.

**Fingerprinting of all attorneys** - The State Bar proposed a plan for fingerprinting all active attorneys. Seeing that the plan does not include any waiver of fees for legal aid attorneys, LAAC submitted comments calling for legal aid fees to be covered. We will continue to raise this concern as the process moves forward.

# Amicus Advocacy

---

LAAC voices the interests of the legal aid community in litigation by getting involved as *amicus curiae*. Here are some highlights of this year's efforts:

**Jameson v. Desta** - The California Supreme Court took up the issue of whether indigent litigants have a right to a court reporter. LAAC joined with several members to urge the Court against letting court reporter fees be a barrier to appellate court access.

**EasySaver Rewards Litigation** - In this latest case to address whether legal services organizations are appropriate *cy pres* recipients, LAAC joined with others to file an amicus brief in support of legal aid's eligibility for *cy pres*. LAAC also coordinated a 9th Circuit-wide sign-on effort including legal services organizations in several states.



On September 27, 2017, LAAC relaunched LawHelpCA.org, the official statewide resource for free legal information and referrals. The site, funded by the State Bar of California, now has information available in seven languages. Since the relaunch, 42,426 people have visited the site. Currently, ten law student volunteers help staff the site.

*“Volunteering for LAAC as a Korean translator has been both interesting and challenging, as I got a chance to test and expand both my Korean abilities and legal knowledge.”*

**Jaemin Cho**

*UC Berkeley Student, 2020 and  
LawHelpCA.org Volunteer*

# Financials

---

## Revenue

Contract Revenue:	\$208,574
Interest Income:	\$43
Conference/Training Income:	33,540
Membership Dues:	\$153,017
Donations:	\$5,431
Other Income:	\$1,850

**TOTAL: \$429,887**

## Expenses

Personnel:	\$292,495
Dan Bradley Fellowships:	\$3,000
Program and Operating:	\$124,442
Trainings and Conference:	\$20,622

**TOTAL: \$440,559**

**Reserves as of 6/30/2017 \$204,378**

# Trainings



Adam Poe from Bay Area Legal Aid leads a training at Civil Rights for People and Families Impacted by Incarceration, January, 2017.

LAAC continues to offer extensive **free** and **low-cost** trainings for the California legal services community. This year's offerings included:

- “***Next Steps for Legal Aid Under the New Administration,***” a webinar series
- A half-day, ***in-person training on civil liberties for people impacted by incarceration***
- Our ***2nd Annual Tech Summit*** that focused on client data security

In 2017, we also offered more than 60 hours of MCLE training with over 30 webinars and nine in-person trainings, including:

- The national ***Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) Conference***, in partnership with SRLN and the Judicial Council
- The ***Family Law and Self-Help Conference*** in Los Angeles
- Annual ***Traveling Training*** in Fresno

*“Really great conference - good atmosphere, friendly people, inspiring speakers and comfortable environment for newcomers. . . . would definitely go again.”*

-Peter James, SRLN Conference Attendee

# Disaster Relief

LAAC is a proud member of the Bay Area Resilience Collaborative (BARC). In 2017 LAAC worked with other BARC members to coordinate and respond to legal problems in the aftermath of devastating California wildfires.

*“BARC support has been invaluable to CRLA and other legal services providers, from the inception of the wildfire disasters throughout recovery, providing organization, coordination of resources, back up, volunteers, materials, training, regular communication and follow up on critical disaster issues.”*

Ilene J. Jacobs  
Director of Litigation, Advocacy &  
Training  
California Rural Legal  
Assistance, Inc.



## 2017 Board Members

Hilary Armstrong  
Marisol Barrientos  
Nancy Muñoz-Bigelow, *Treasurer*  
Denny Chan  
Connie Chu  
Amy Fitzpatrick  
Jenni Gomez  
Lauren Hansen, *Board Chair*  
Nick Levenhagen  
Jith Meganathan  
Creighton Mendivil  
Kellie Morgantini  
Jessica Redditt  
Sarah Reisman, *Secretary*  
Eliza Schafler  
Victoria Snyder  
Marcus Tang  
Deborah Thrope  
Jimena Vasquez, *Vice-Chair*



From left to right: (back) Jenni Gomez, Nick Levenhagen, Jessica Redditt, Marcus Tang, Creighton Mendivil, Amy Fitzpatrick, Connie Chu, Salena Copeland, (front) Victoria Snyder, Lauren Hansen, Deborah Thrope, Hilary Armstrong. Not pictured: Denny Chan, Jimena Vasquez, Sarah Reisman, Kellie Morgantini, and Nancy Muñoz-Bigelow.

## LAAC Staff

Salena Copeland, *Executive Director*  
Lorin Kline, *Program Attorney*  
Harmony King, *Membership & Administration*  
David Latt, *LawHelp Program*  
Tim Ng, *Law Help Program*  
Jasmine Schwab-Doyle,  
*Communications and Trainings*  
Amanda Young, *Advocacy*  
Liliana Ibanez, *Intern*  
Reann Pacheco, *Intern*

*“I am proud to serve on the Board of LAAC, an organization that provides critical support to the legal services community in California. Though small, LAAC is a powerful force in Sacramento, giving a voice to legal aid attorneys and the low-income families they serve.”*

-Deborah Thrope, National Housing Law Project  
& LAAC Board Member

*The LAAC Board, staff, and member programs thank the **Judicial Council** and the **State Bar of California** for their generous financial support that makes LAAC’s work possible and for the many collaborations and joint efforts to serve the California legal services community.*

# 2017 Member Organizations

*We are so thankful for your support and proud to work for you*



Affordable Housing Advocates  
AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
Alameda County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Corporation  
Alameda County Homeless Action Center  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
Asian Law Alliance  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Bet Tzedek  
Butte County Law Library\*  
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform  
California Indian Legal Services  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.  
California Women's Law Center  
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California  
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law  
Center for Justice and Accountability\*  
Central California Legal Services  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
Child Care Law Center  
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Elder Law & Advocacy  
Family Violence Appellate Project  
Family Violence Law Center

FreeFrom\*  
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.  
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Impact Fund  
Inland Counties Legal Services  
Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association  
Inner City Law Center  
Justice and Diversity Center  
Justice in Aging  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
Learning Rights Law Center  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County  
Legal Aid of Marin  
Legal Aid of Sonoma County  
Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.  
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County  
Legal Aid at Work  
Legal Assistance for Seniors  
Legal Assistance to the Elderly  
Legal Services for Children  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
Legal Services for Seniors  
Legal Services of Northern California  
Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center\*  
Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice  
McGeorge Community Legal Services

National Center for Youth Law  
National Health Law Program  
National Housing Law Project  
National Immigration Law Center  
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County  
OneJustice  
Open Door Legal\*  
Positive Resource Center  
Prison Law Office  
Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley  
Public Advocates, Inc.  
Public Counsel  
Public Interest Law Project  
Public Law Center  
Riverside Legal Aid  
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program  
San Luis Obispo Legal Aid Foundation\*  
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center  
Senior Adults Legal Assistance  
Senior Citizens Legal Services  
Step Forward Foundation\*  
University of San Diego Legal Clinic  
Voluntary Legal Services Program of Northern California  
Wage Justice  
Watsonville Law Center  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
Worksafe, Inc.  
Youth Law Center  
Yuba Sutter Legal Center for Seniors

*\*Denotes associate membership*