

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As you read this 2019 Annual Report from Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS), it goes without saying that the world is a very different place today than it was at the end of 2019 or even early 2020. COVID-19 has created a global health crisis, altering the very structure of everyday life. Even more poignantly, the pandemic has exacerbated and laid bare existing inequalities rooted in generations of structural racism in housing, employment, healthcare, and many other arenas. At the same time, newly invigorated struggles for racial justice have been fueled by violent reminders that racism remains part of the fabric of the nation's judicial system, eroding confidence in the legal process and making headlines across the nation and globe.

Of course, no one organization can solve all of these problems. However, at NNJLS, what we can do—and will continue to do—is focus on our mission of providing equal justice in an uncertain world. We strive to be accessible, reliable, and diligent in fighting for the rights of those who are most in need of representation and advice in these particularly trying times. In reviewing our work from 2019, certain themes emerged as core to NNJLS, and they provide the roadmap to this Annual Report. They are:

COMMUNITY NNJLS is in, and of, the communities it serves. We are caring, dedicated neighbors and advocates; committed allies with local organizations supporting those most in need; and partners in justice with the local legal community—always seeking ways to reach those who might otherwise fall through the cracks of the justice system.

RESOLVE NNJLS is steadfast in its efforts to achieve its mission—offering legal specializations and programming that coalesce to meet the needs of our clients. The foundation of these offerings is our staff, who work tirelessly because they are dedicated to seeing justice served.

EQUITY NNJLS achieves equity for its clients by empathetically listening to their legal problems, advocating for them when no one else will, and enabling them to benefit from the justice system that only their low-income status would have prevented them from accessing. Case numbers and client stories reveal just some of the ways we help balance the scales and make equitable justice a reality for the underserved.

As the multilingual cover of this report represents, we openly share these values with each and every client and all of those in our service area. While we cannot know whether a COVID-19 vaccine will be developed soon or whether racial justice protests will continue to dominate headlines when you read this, one thing of which we can be certain is that NNJLS will continue to provide legal services and equal justice to those most in need. Periods of uncertainty, after all, are opportunities to recommit to the core principles that make us who we are.



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OUR MISSION

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services's (NNJLS) mission is to ensure equal access to justice for low-income residents of Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, New Jersey. No one should be denied a meaningful opportunity to have their day in court simply because they cannot afford a lawyer.



"I believe the concept and the idea of the services being provided are a wonderful give-back to the community. It created hope for me. The assigned attorney took his time and was very helpful. Things were explained to me in layman terms and this was the hope I was struggling for."

- NNJLS Client

COMMUNITY

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

"I am very grateful and hope that this service will continue to help the community more and more."

"Thank you so very much for the services you provide. Your office has helped me with a landlord/tenant issue, pro se divorce, and now bankruptcy. Your services are greatly needed in our community."

"I like that I can communicate in my language."

In the Community



Diana Griffin, (left) and Erica Hernandez DeLuna, (right), both staff attorneys with the NNJLS Family Law and Domestic Violence Unit, recently undertook office hours at **WomenRising**, during which they met with and provided legal help to WomenRising clients. WomenRising, based in Jersey City, helps women and their families achieve self-sufficiency and live safe, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Leah Ashe (Deputy Director), and Lisa Fennell (Public Benefits Supervising Attorney), represented NNJLS at the **Greater Bergen Community Action (GBCA) Head Start's fall resource fair** in Jersey City, where they shared information about NNJLS's services and programs with Head Start families and GBCA staff.



At an October **"Know Your Rights" seminar**, Leah Ashe (Deputy Director), Lisa Fennell (Supervising Attorney, NNJLS Public Benefits Unit), and Edgar Espinosa (Managing Attorney) discussed the Public Charge rule change and its possible impact on low-income immigrants receiving public assistance. The seminar was hosted in partnership with the City of Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs.



Eric Hughes (Community Engagement Manager), Anna Navatta (Director of Community Relations), and Kirsten Svane (Grants Coordinator) represented NNJLS at the September 26 **HealingSPACE "Clothesline on the Green"** in Hackensack. The annual event raises community awareness of violence against women, men, and children and reminds survivors that they are not alone.



"I liked the kindness of the people who give the information and receive the customers, as well as the patience of lawyer Edgar Espinosa. He explains clearly and kindly what is the process and the documents to be carried."

- NNJLS Client



The NNJLS 2019 Pro Bono Celebration

Volunteers are vital to many non-profits, yet they often fail to receive the recognition they deserve. That's why NNJLS was proud to honor its volunteers on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at the 2019 Pro Bono Celebration at Biagio's Paramus.

The event honored all pro bono volunteers who generously contributed their time and expertise to help those in need. NNJLS was also thrilled to recognize some of its outstanding volunteers:



The event also boasted a well-known and inspiring guest speaker, **Carrie Goldberg, Esq.** Goldberg is a high-profile advocate for internet privacy, survivors of domestic violence, and sexual consent law. She is the subject of a CBS drama series in development, and her book, *Nobody's Victim: Fighting Psychos, Stalkers, Pervs, and Trolls*, was released last spring to acclaim from critics and readers alike. She shared her inspiring journey and connected with the audience both personally and professionally, reiterating the power of the law and attorneys' potential as changemakers in the community. Several *pro bono* attorneys in attendance spoke to her afterward to tell her how her words energized them and motivated them to do more in the pursuit of justice.

Cynthia Cappell, Esq. received the Excellence in Public Service Award for her dedicated work as member of the Board of Directors at NNJLS since 2003. She is also an active leader and member of numerous national, state, and local legal and non-profit organizations.

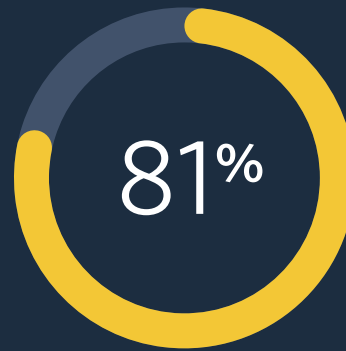
Andrew Wolf, Esq. received a Champion of Justice award for his help securing NNJLS *cy pres* awards to support NNJLS's mission of providing legal services to the disadvantaged. He has also actively shared his expertise during consumer protection law trainings for legal services staff.

Yongmoon "Elijah" Kim, Esq. received a Champion of Justice award for his advocacy for NNJLS's *pro bono* program and the assistance he provided to NNJLS clients on numerous bankruptcy cases. He has also worked to help secure *cy pres* awards for NNJLS.

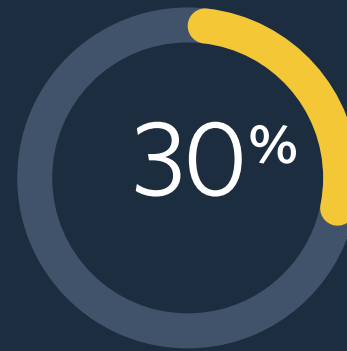
Carolina Curbelo, Esq. received the NNJLS Commitment Award for her tremendous dedication to *pro bono* at NNJLS, particularly in assisting permanent legal residents in a wide variety of immigration law matters. She has also supervised NNJLS Naturalization Clinics and conducted regular Immigration Law "Know Your Rights" events.

JP Morgan Chase & Co. was honored at the event with the NNJLS Outstanding Corporate Partner Award for the valuable legal assistance provided by its attorneys at NNJLS Naturalization Clinics to permanent legal residents seeking to become United States citizens.

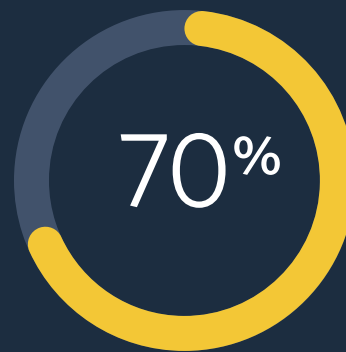
Our Clients



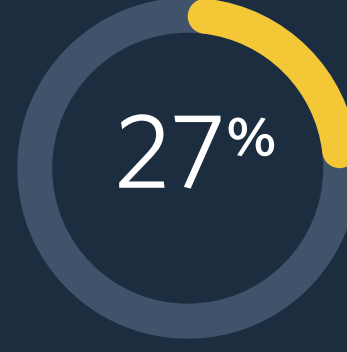
are below
200% the
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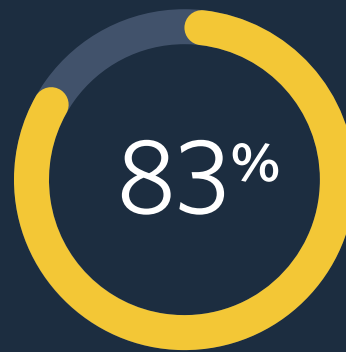
are non-
English
speakers



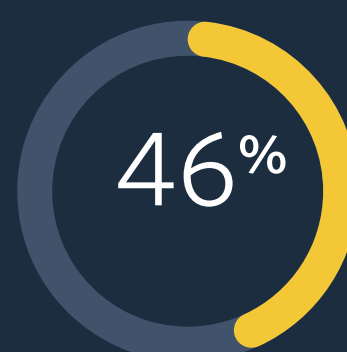
are women



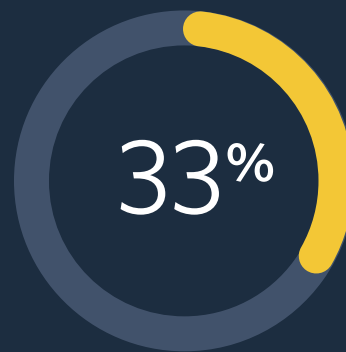
are seniors



are from racial
and/or ethnic
minorities



of the
households
we helped
have children



live with
mental and/
or physical
disabilities

Board Spotlight



CLARICE MOSES-ROLLIESON

NNJLS Board Member, Bergen County

"[Being on the board at NNJLS] is wonderful, enlightening to know who is doing what in the community and who is responsible for it."

By welcoming community members and former NNJLS clients onto its Board of Directors, NNJLS seeks to gain breadth and depth of experience it would not otherwise have. NNJLS certainly has had much to learn from Community Board Member Clarice Moses-Rollieson—a 98 year old, four-time cancer survivor who was born in New York City and spent her youth living in Guyana (formerly British Guiana). After retiring from her professional career as a nurse in 1987, Clarice has been active on the boards of NNJLS and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Hackensack. Reflecting on her time in Guyana, Clarice says that it was only later in life that she came to appreciate her time there, helping her realize how blessed she really is.



LINDA FOSTER

NNJLS Board Member, Hudson County

On more than one occasion, a judge has inadvertently called Linda Foster "Linda Carter" (alluding to actress Lynda Carter's portrayal of "Wonder Woman"). One only has to glimpse her achievements to figure out why: currently an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Newark, N.J., where she has represented indigent clients charged with federal offenses since 2003, she is also President of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, in addition to serving on the NNJLS Board since 1999. Last February, her hard work and confidence were recognized by the Seton Hall School of Law with the Woman of Substance Award, which is given to "women attorneys who exemplify what it means to be a successful, empowered, and strong Seton Hall lawyer." Ms. Foster has relished the opportunity to be a leader: for her clients, for other women lawyers, and for herself.

NNJLS Programs and Practice Areas

Housing

Unlawful evictions, landlord-tenant disputes, foreclosures, discrimination, and other legal issues that threaten housing stability.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Restraining orders and other civil legal matters that affect survivors' safety and security.

Consumer Protection

Bankruptcy, deceptive lending and sales practices, and identity theft.

Reentry

Expungement of criminal records and driver's license restoration.

Tax

Legal assistance to resolve unpaid tax and other IRS issues.

Family Law

Custody, child support, and other family law matters.

Income Maintenance & Public Benefits

Unfair denial of Social Security and other benefits that support basic needs.

Immigration

U.S. Citizenship, renewal of permanent residency, and other issues related to immigration status for legal permanent residents.

Elder Justice

Legal representation and advice to address civil legal issues that arise from elder abuse, neglect, and/or financial exploitation.

Ryan White (HIV/AIDS)

Legal services addressing the needs of persons living with HIV or AIDS.

Education

School registration, special education, and disability accommodations.

Seniors

Legal issues that affect seniors' ability to safely age-in-place such as housing, consumer, Social Security and Medicaid matters, and powers of attorney.



Staff Spotlight



"Low-income communities need us more now than ever, and NNJLS must continue to assist underserved populations that are harder to reach."



"There is no better motivation than when a client walks away from our office feeling heard, supported, and empowered."

LEAH ASHE

Deputy Director, Jersey City

Leah Ashe has spent the last 22 years at NNJLS doing what she's always wanted to do: advocating for the rights of low-income clients. She still recalls the moment she first faced that realization: soon after she began, she was out on a home visit to a senior client, when an elderly woman asked if she was a nurse. When Leah responded that she was an attorney, the woman stood in disbelief and told her she looked too young to be in that position. "I felt very proud at that moment knowing the hard work it took for me to get to that point, and that I was doing a job I had always wanted to do." With that early sense of achievement in mind, Leah continues to be a mentor to new attorneys, advising them to be prepared for their cases by conducting thorough research and taking the time to communicate with their clients.

SARAH HUR

Consumer Law Attorney, Paterson

Joining NNJLS in early 2019, Sarah Hur is one of the newer additions to NNJLS's team of staff attorneys. Nonetheless, she already has shared valuable insights, emphasizing the need to focus on individual clients' goals and the importance of thinking outside the box to achieve them, particularly when it comes to cases that are complex or present unique issues. She was encouraged by the organization's agility in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff working remotely while supporting existing and new clients. This confirms for her what she describes as NNJLS's goal of providing excellent and competent legal representation to those who need it most. Meeting individual goals is of utmost importance to Sarah, as her most prized memory reveals: a sincere thank you she received from a client she helped.



"Have compassion. Sometimes we are our clients' last hope for help."

LILLIAN "LILY" OCASIO

Secretary, Paterson

In 1980, Lily Ocasio started her career at the Passaic County Legal Aid Society, which ultimately merged with NNJLS. Reflecting on some of her favorite memories, Lily recalls the appreciation she felt at being taken out on Secretary's Day and the bond of sharing birthdays and baby showers with colleagues over the years. Her favorite memory, however, was receiving the Extra Mile Award from the Paterson Alliance just this past year because she was able to share the moment with office friends (and laugh together when her award bio included her love for Dancing with the Stars). The Award "highlights the achievements and efforts of staff and volunteers within the non-profit sector... who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and who exude commitment and passion for their work, their organization and the community we serve."



"It really is a blessing that we can take cases to help clients who would otherwise have nowhere to turn for help."

LAWRENCE "LARRY" SINDONI

Managing Attorney, Housing, Hackensack

For Larry Sindoni, it all began on the hot summer day when he arrived for his interview, meeting with housing unit attorneys and taking a Spanish quiz. All clearly went well, for he is now celebrating 23 years at NNJLS, where he is proud to be part of a firm that takes a holistic approach to serving clients' needs; it is common for a client to request help with one narrow problem, and then walk away having received assistance with three others. The high level of expertise of NNJLS attorneys is also notable to Larry, who recalls his favorite memory watching NNJLS's Director of Litigation Gregory Diebold argue before the US Supreme Court. The opposing counsel was from a large Washington firm that regularly appeared before the Court, Larry recalls. "It was definitely a David v. Goliath moment, which has pretty much been the story of Legal Services."



"NNJLS sticks together. Encourages each other. It's always been a little family."

ADA ZAPATA

Housing Paralegal, Jersey City

During her 32 years at NNJLS, Ada Zapata has served in many capacities. Her first role was an Investigator/Process Server in Jersey City—also the place of her birth—before serving as a receptionist and eventually assisting the Intake Department in Paterson. After taking evening classes and earning a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies from Berkeley College, Ada began her current role as a paralegal in the NNJLS Housing Unit, returning to the Jersey City office in 2019. One thing that remains constant since the day she started: Ada's dedication to her community. Whether working at NNJLS or volunteering with her church, Ada is a zealous advocate for and supporter of fairness, respect, and equal justice.

Client Praise for Our Staff

*"I found the office very attentive and lawyers on staff are excellent. I was extremely satisfied with **MR. WELSH**. He put all his interest into solving my case. I felt he cared. I found him to be very professional and his communication skills are excellent."*

*"The attorney **ANNA NAVATTA** was an extraordinary person and perfect in every way: intelligence, warmth, clarity of my situation, and made me feel completely satisfied our two times together."*

*"Everyone was courteous and helpful. **MYRA METZGER** is fabulous - so highly intelligent, so smart, diligent, interested in seriously helping. She's brilliant. I love her!"*

*"The lawyer **AGGIE PAPIS** was professional, efficient, followed through from beginning to end, answered all my questions, always kept me informed, and most importantly demonstrated a genuine concern and care about my case. Through her skillful assistance, my case was resolved favorably and for that I am most grateful."*

Education Representation Project



In 2019, NNJLS was proud to re-launch its Education Representation Project to provide free civil legal help to low-income students and families residing in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties. Recognizing the educational and legal issues that create barriers for low-income students with disabilities in particular, the Education Representation Project provides free legal help to these students and their families by filing petitions for claims of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying;

attending Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings (an IEP is a legal document that lays out the program of special education instruction, supports, and services a student with a disability requires and should receive to progress and succeed in school); challenging inappropriate placements; advocating for more student services and accommodations in the office of administrative law and in court; and defending against short and long-term suspensions.

The connection between education and the law may not be readily apparent, but some alarming statistics paint an unsettling picture for students with disabilities, especially for those from low-income households, who face significant barriers to their education. Students with learning and developmental disabilities are not a rare occurrence. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children insured by Medicaid have a nearly two-fold higher prevalence of any developmental disability compared to those children with private insurance. Additionally, children from families with income below the Federal Poverty Level have a higher prevalence of developmental disabilities. Further, the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), writes that dyslexia, which is the most common learning

disability, increases the risk of emotional issues including anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. If the social emotional implications of a disability were not enough, students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended compared to students without disabilities. According to the NCLD, out of the nearly three million K-12 students who received out-of-school suspensions, over 700,000 had an IEP.

NNJLS is proud to represent the families facing these challenges, providing them access to the representation and advice they deserve. Giving children the opportunities to which they are entitled under the law should always be a priority, and NNJLS hopes to further expand this essential program in the years to come.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children insured by Medicaid have a nearly two-fold higher prevalence of any developmental disability compared to those children with private insurance.”

SOURCES

- National Center for Learning Disabilities. Social, Emotional and Behavioral Challenges. Accessed online at <https://www.nclld.org/social-emotional-and-behavioral-challenges>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Key Findings: Trends in the Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities in U.S. Children, 1997-2008. Accessed online at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/features/birthdefects-dd-keyfindings.html>

Serving Immigrant Communities with JPMorgan Chase & Co.

In 2019, JPMorgan Chase & Co. continued to be a standout supporter of NNJLS's Pro Bono Program. The firm's attorneys and legal professionals have enthusiastically participated in NNJLS's pro bono Naturalization Clinics since 2017. At the clinics, experienced attorneys provide participating pro bono attorneys with a legal overview of naturalizations, then giving the newly educated volunteers opportunities to work directly with clients on that very issue. Since the program's inception, JPMorgan Chase attorneys have assisted more than 42 clients with their naturalization applications. Clinics like these are invaluable to NNJLS's mission of providing quality legal services to our clients, all while growing the community of qualified experts who can help them.

This relationship has not only benefited our clients, but has also expanded the horizons of our volunteers. One transactional, corporate attorney from JP Morgan Chase shared how excited he was to see how he had transferred his aptitude for helping clients complete their paperwork to the skills required to help with naturalization applications. He hadn't realized that his corporate training could potentially transform the lives of underrepresented individuals, and he is eager to be a more active volunteer.

JPMorgan Chase's continued partnership and enthusiasm for our work demonstrates their commitment to the principle of equal justice for all. We look forward to deepening this collaboration in the coming years.



The New Pro Bono at NNJLS

Volunteers are part of the fabric of NNJLS. Whether a volunteer attorney, law firm or corporation, dozens of volunteers stepped up last year to contribute vital and rewarding work. NNJLS engages volunteers from all backgrounds including attorneys, paralegals, office assistants, law students, law graduates, college interns, and interpreters.

Formerly known as Private Attorney Involvement, we've updated our name to the Pro Bono Partnerships Project (PBP) to reflect

our ever-growing involvement in the wider legal community.

NNJLS also recently expanded its Pro Bono team, building our internal capacity to offer more support with the ultimate goal of serving more clients. The renewed pro bono energy is palpable at NNJLS and we're proud of the work of the past year. Our ability to increase our impact would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers—because of them we have the confidence to set our sights high.

2019 by the Numbers

*Our legal volunteers provided more than **1,936** hours of service to our clients in 2019, valued at over **\$387,200.***

399 Client Cases Closed

Types of cases handled by pro bono volunteers:

Consumer	56
Family Law	135
Housing Law	85
Immigration	78
Public Benefits	45

33 Clinics

Types of clinics:

Bankruptcy	3
Divorce	13
Expungement	1
Naturalization	7
Security Deposits	9

Total number of clients assisted at clinics: **200**

Cases handled in 2019

9,290 Cases

BERGEN COUNTY

2,737

HUDSON COUNTY

2,921

PASSAIC COUNTY

3,632

Cases Handled by Unit in 2019

Consumer	1,353
Family	1,684
Housing	2,399
Immigration	972
Other	659
Pro Bono	412
Public Benefits	1,616
Tax	195
Grand Total	9,290

“We are very pleased with the unquestionable attention and concern given to the complexity of our case as well as the professionalism, resourcefulness and genuine effort exerted in making it possible to arrive at a settlement agreement acceptable to both parties concerned.”

- NNJLS Client

Equity in Action: Stories of Justice



NNJLS has represented multiple clients seeking protective orders under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA),

which expands opportunities for survivors of sexual assault to apply for a protective order against their perpetrator, without reporting to law enforcement or filing criminal charges. “Alicia” was one of those clients. As a young teenager who was sexually abused at the hands of her brother-in-law, “John,” Alicia had been living with her mother, older sister, and John—who was ten years older than her—when the abuse began. Over the span of three years, beginning when she was just a child, John repeatedly sexually assaulted Alicia every Saturday morning while her mother and sister were at work. John manipulated Alicia and threatened her to stay silent, stating that no one would ever believe her if she reported him. After

several years of ongoing abuse, Alicia broke down and told her mother the truth.

Alicia’s mother filed a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) under SASPA on Alicia’s behalf and came to NNJLS seeking help in obtaining a Final Protective Order (FPO). A NNJLS staff attorney agreed to represent Alicia and her mother and first instructed them to amend the TPO to include all incidents of sexual contact to help build a stronger case against John. She also helped Alicia get ready for trial and went over every detail of her testimony to ensure she was prepared. At the trial, John tried to discredit Alicia by saying that since she waited so long to come forward, she must be lying. However, with the attorney’s support, Alicia remained composed throughout her testimony and the Judge granted Alicia the FPO. Alicia is now seeking therapy and on the path to recovery.

“Julia” is a tenant in a basement apartment in a multi-family house previously owned by her son.

Julia’s son lost the house in a foreclosure sheriff’s sale in January of this year. In April, the new owner filed an ejectment action against Julia. Our staff attorney filed an answer asserting that she was a bona fide tenant; and a counterclaim for damages due to the new owner’s failure to comply with the requirements of the New Jersey Fair Foreclosure Act.

At the hearing, we presented several leases signed by client and her son over the years, as well as the son’s 2017 tax returns showing that he had reported receiving rental income from client. The court found that although Julia had shown she had established a landlord-tenant relationship with her son, there was inadequate proof that client made rent payments subsequent to 2017, or the foreclosure judgment.

Thus, the court was prepared to rule that the tenancy had effectively ended in 2018 or 2019, and the new owner was therefore entitled to possession. However, before doing so, the court reserved the final ruling pending the receipt of briefs from the parties.

The NNJLS staff attorney argued that the court’s finding of a landlord-tenant relationship between client and the prior owner mandated that the matter be dismissed because the client was entitled to the protections of the Anti-Eviction Act. We argued that while nonpayment may have been a breach of the lease agreement, it did not extinguish a tenancy.

The court ultimately ruled in Julia’s favor, dismissing the ejectment matter and ordering the new owner/landlord to pay statutory damages to Julia and attorney’s fees to NNJLS.



Until recently, “Matthew” worked as a driver for a ridesharing service. His driver’s account was deactivated when a customer made a complaint about a minor interior defect in his vehicle. Instead of giving Matthew an opportunity to dispute the complaint, the rideshare company immediately deactivated his driving account and refused to allow him to continue this line of work. When Matthew applied for unemployment benefits, he was initially approved. Nevertheless, the rideshare company appealed this decision, stating that Matthew was an independent contractor and there was no employer-employee contract that would entitle him to unemployment benefits.

Matthew met with an NNJLS attorney in the Public Benefits Unit about his case. The

attorney spoke with the company and appealed their denial of Matthew’s unemployment benefits. She also gathered emails that they sent to Matthew informing him of his account deactivation and prepared him for the hearing. At the hearing, the Appeals Examiner found that Matthew was indeed an employee of the rideshare company and not an independent contractor. Thus, Matthew was entitled to the unemployment benefits that he rightfully deserved and badly needed. Furthermore, this case set an important precedent regarding the entitlement of rideshare drivers and other “gig economy” workers to unemployment benefits, in addition to reasserting their status as company employees, rather than independent contractors.

“Ignacio” is a 47-year-old Spanish-speaking Army veteran with a family of three children.

Ignacio was struggling to support his family and was considering filing for bankruptcy. After learning the basics at one of NNJLS’s Bankruptcy Clinics, Ignacio met individually with a Spanish-speaking NNJLS attorney who helped him assemble his bankruptcy application including all required documents. However, Ignacio needed to complete his tax returns from previous years before proceeding with the bankruptcy petition. With NNJLS’s assistance, he completed all tax returns and submitted the bankruptcy petition to the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court, District of New Jersey.

Ignacio then received notification that a portion of his IRS tax refunds were being withheld

during the bankruptcy stay period to pay for his consumer debt, which included education loans and medical debt. However, during a bankruptcy automatic stay period, no creditor is permitted to collect on a debt—thus placing the U.S. Department of Treasury in violation of this law. After contacting three government creditors to no avail, NNJLS filed an adversary proceeding in the Bankruptcy Court to obtain a court order for the return of these wrongfully offset monies to Ignacio. After this filing, the U.S. Attorney General’s Office in Newark interceded and helped NNJLS negotiate a favorable settlement, with all of the monies returned to Ignacio. Without NNJLS’s critical assistance, the U.S. Treasury would have wrongfully collected thousands of dollars from a veteran.

In 2019...

We served **251** veterans.

Because of NNJLS's interventions, Jaewon, a 64 year old man living with a disability, was able to **continue residing in his rent-controlled apartment** in spite of his landlord's attempts to evict him.

Our immigration attorneys provided services to **245** abused parents, spouses, and children.

Thanks to her NNJLS attorney, Victoria was able to get a **Final Restraining Order** against her abusive ex-boyfriend while still censoring the private photos he had taken of her and was sharing widely on social media—thus fighting for her protection without further violating her privacy.

We served **1,072** survivors of domestic violence.

We assisted **618** people with their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

We helped **129** people access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to which they were entitled.

We successfully assisted **156** caregivers in obtaining custody and visitation rights, and provided advice to **302** more.

Thanks to representation from NNJLS, Diana received a **generous settlement** after a furniture store refused to refund her—and then tried to overcharge her—for the damaged items she purchased.

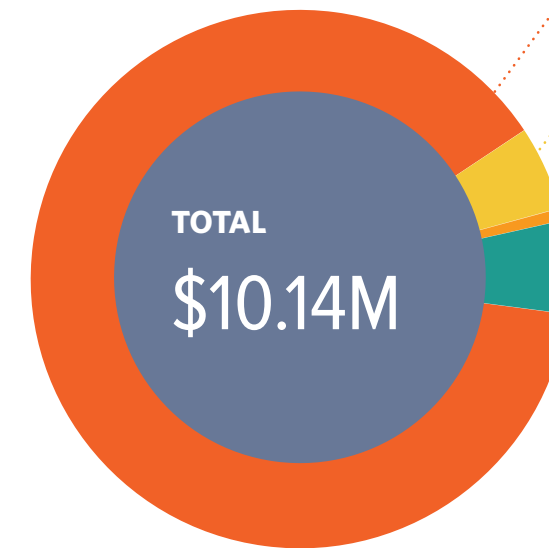
We provided **31%** of our clients with the interpreters they needed.

Valentina, a Spanish-speaking client who received **100% Charity Care coverage** for an emergency medical procedure, nonetheless received notification that she was being sued for an unpaid medical invoice. Her NNJLS attorney provided translation services while having the case dismissed, clearing her of any payment obligations.

With the help of NNJLS attorneys, **703** individuals and their families received help avoiding eviction.

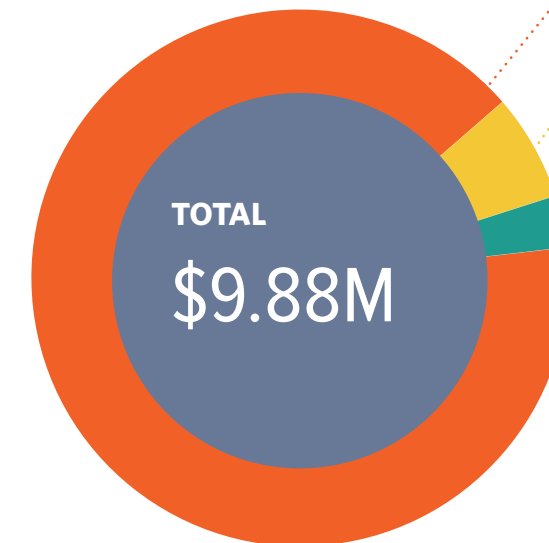
2019 Financial Statement

Revenue



88.6%	Government Grants	\$8,988,138
5.1%	Public Contributions	\$514,406
0.7%	Program Revenues	\$75,444
5.6%	Donated Services	\$565,020
>0.1%	Special Events	\$1,200

Expenses



90.4%	Program Services	\$8,931,011
6.4%	Administration/General	\$634,961
3.1%	Program Development/Fundraising	\$309,983

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for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services is proud to be a Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grantee, and we comply with all LSC conditions and prohibitions in acceptance of all funds.

A Closer Look

According to data from The COVID Tracking Project—a volunteer organization of scientists launched by *The Atlantic* that is dedicated to collecting data on testing and patient outcomes from across the nation—the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting seniors and low-income communities of color. Data shows that Black Americans are dying at a rate nearly two times greater than would be expected based on their share of the population, while Hispanic and Latinx communities too are facing a significantly disproportionate number of confirmed cases.

The virus is also having an alarming effect on senior populations, who comprise 80% of all COVID-19 fatalities nationally and make up 70% of all hospitalizations.

NNJLS has been proudly serving Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties throughout this crisis, and recognizes that the people hardest hit are also our clients, friends, families, and neighbors. Here we take a moment to highlight the numbers of individuals who are in these high risk groups throughout our service area.



PASSAIC COUNTY

Population: **672,391**

Population >60: **111,445**

Number of Black American residents: **83,215**

Number of Hispanic and Latinx residents: **288,749**

Percentage of households below 200% of FPL: **21%**

BERGEN COUNTY

Population: **932,202**

Population >60: **214,801**

Number of Black American residents: **49,361**

Number of Hispanic and Latinx residents: **180,529**

Percentage of households below 200% of FPL: **12.9%**

HUDSON COUNTY

Population: **501,826**

Population >60: **100,061**

Number of Black American residents: **57,437**

Number of Hispanic and Latinx residents: **206,100**

Percentage of households below 200% of FPL: **21%**



NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY
LEGAL SERVICES

Equal Justice for All

BERGEN COUNTY

190 Moore Street, Suite 100
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 487-2166

HUDSON COUNTY

574 Summit Avenue, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 792-6363

PASSAIC COUNTY

152 Market Street, 6th Floor
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 523-2900

NNJLS@lsnj.org

NortheastNJLegalServices.org

Help Us Expand Our Impact

Volunteer

NNJLS is looking for private attorneys, law school students, and other volunteers to help further our mission of providing equal access to justice for all.

Email us at **VolunteerNNJLS@lsnj.org**
or call **(201) 792-6363**.

Donate

To donate, please visit our website:
NortheastNJLegalServices.org/getinvolved

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