

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

LEGAL SERVICES
of
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Summer law clerks during their orientation in Sacramento.

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Valentine Run/Walk



LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

Sacramento Office Managing Attorney, Sarah Ropelato, and former Regional Counsel, Liza Thantrannon, receive 2025 Woman of Distinction recognition from the City of Sacramento.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



Bob Stalker
Board President



Julie Aguilar Rogado, Executive Director,
with the LSNC Management Team

In 2025, rapidly changing policies at the national level threatened to turn LSNC's clients' lives upside down. Programs and initiatives advancing education, employment, healthcare, housing and nutrition that had allowed individuals, families and communities to thrive were slashed or slated for elimination. In addition to real policy changes that caused actual harm, the anticipation and fear of what might come next caused individuals and families to retreat from engagement with important community programs and opportunities.

But LSNC did not retreat. With each new threat to the safety and security of our low-income neighbors, LSNC prepared, planned and acted, relying on the safeguards of state and federal law to protect our clients' rights. With partners in state and local government, and in the broader advocacy community, LSNC engaged in an effective variety of legal advocacy and education strategies to combat misapplication and misinterpretation of the law that had the potential to harm client communities. Our patience, persistence and faith in the legal system was not misplaced. While difficult times lay ahead, LSNC and its clients are well prepared.



“ While difficult times lay ahead, LSNC and its clients are well prepared. ”

While our communities now face new obstacles to prosperity and new hurdles in the way of opportunity and well-being, LSNC persists in its work as a guide and advocate to help them navigate these new challenges, providing quality legal services that empower them to strive for a more secure future.

We are grateful to our supporters who also believe that upholding the rule of law, particularly as it is applied to the most vulnerable, is not just an aspiration but a necessity in times of crisis. Together, we weather the storm.



Bob Stalker
Board President



Julie Aguilar Rogado
Executive Director

ABOUT US

MISSION

The mission of Legal Services of Northern California is to provide quality legal services that empower the poor to identify and defeat the causes and effects of poverty within their communities, efficiently utilizing all available resources.



OUR WORK

Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) fights for the civil rights of our clients. LSNC is the strong voice that continues to speak out on behalf of our clients living in our communities, even as the state and local "safety nets" for the poor continue to crumble.

Most of the legal aid offices that make up Legal Services of Northern California began as an offshoot of a volunteer program or a special grant project. The oldest program began in Sacramento County in 1956. For a number of years the Sacramento, Auburn, Woodland, Solano

Chico, Redding, Eureka and Ukiah offices were independent organizations created solely to benefit the low-income residents in their particular communities. Today, all these disparate legal aid programs are now integrated as a whole into one organization.

Our services are provided to residents of 23 northern California counties, with our largest office and administrative offices located in Sacramento.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Robert Stalker

President
Attorney
Solano County

Josie Porras Corporon

Executive Member
Attorney
Butte County

Jane B. Kroesche

Vice President
Attorney
Mendocino County

Robin Thomas

Executive Member
Community Member
Mendocino County

Claudia Covarrubias

Secretary
Community Member
Yolo County

Mary K. DuBose

Attorney
Sacramento County

Mary U. Akens

Treasurer
Attorney
Sacramento County

Devera Ayres

Community Member
Shasta County

Stacey Wittorff

Attorney
Sacramento County

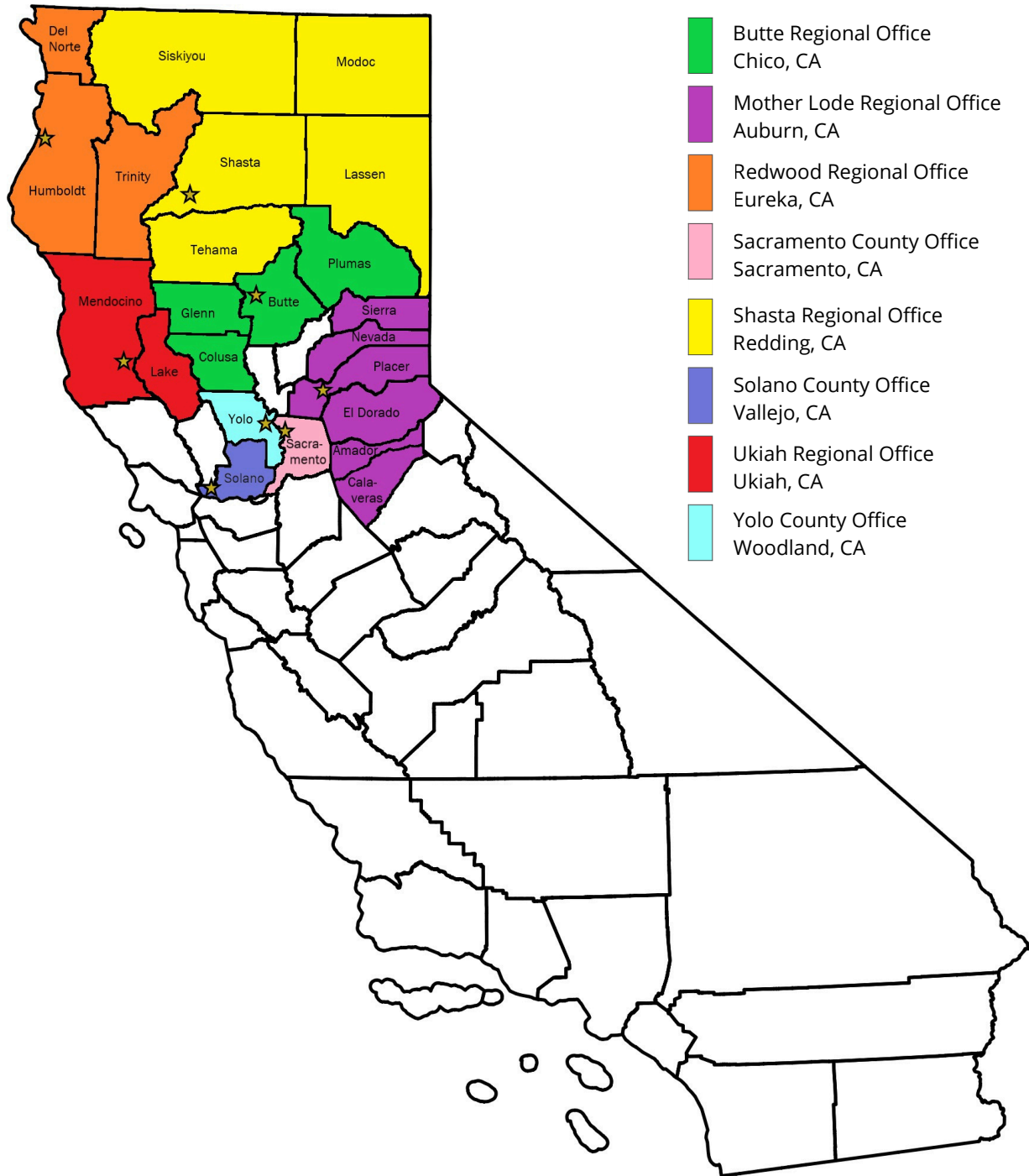
“ In this incredibly consequential time for nonprofit organizations and the clients they serve, LSNC’s mission could not be more critical. Having gained so much legal experience and knowledge during my time as a LSNC attorney, it is a privilege to now serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

”



Stacey Wittorff
Board Member

OFFICE LOCATIONS



OFFICES

LSNC Executive Office

517 12th Street Sacramento,
CA 95814
916-551-2150

Sacramento County Office

515 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-551-2150

Solano County Office

1810 Capitol Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-643-0054

Ukiah Regional Office

421 North Oak Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
877-529-7700
Serving Lake and Mendocino
counties.

Butte Regional Office

541 Normal Avenue
Chico, CA 95928
530-345-9491
Serving Butte, Colusa, Glenn,
and Plumas counties.

Shasta Regional Office

1370 West Street
Redding, CA 96001
530-241-3565
Serving Lassen, Modoc,
Shasta, Siskiyou, and
Tehama counties.

Yolo County Office

619 North Street
Woodland, CA 95695
530-662-1065

Mother Lode Regional Office

190 Reamer Street
Auburn, CA 95603
530-823-7560
Serving Amador, Calaveras, El
Dorado, Nevada, Placer and
Sierra counties.

Redwood Regional Office

123 Third Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-0866
Serving Del Norte, Humboldt,
and Trinity counties.

LSNC Health

501 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
888-354-4474

Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP)

505 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-376-8915
Information and counseling
services for Medicare
beneficiaries.

Western States Pension Assistance Program

505 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
866-413-4911
Free pension counseling to
anyone, regardless of age or
income, who live(d) or
work(ed) in Arizona,
California, Hawaii, and/or
Nevada.

Expanded Access Project (EAP)

517 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-551-2194
After-hours legal assistance.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

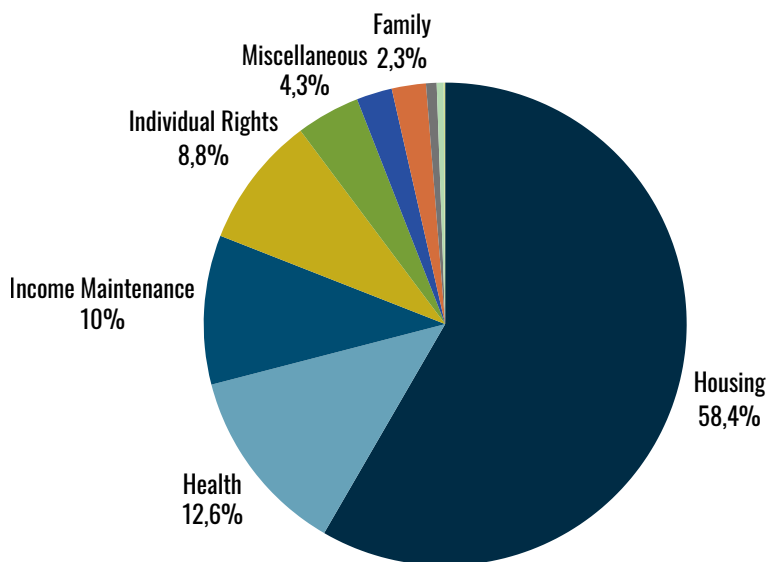


CASE INFORMATION

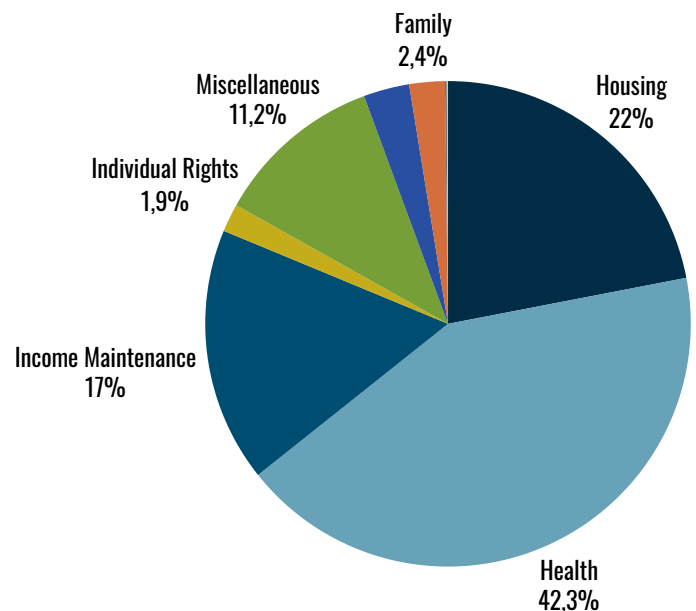
LSNC staff at CalAIM clinic, which operated daily from January to July 2025 to help clients navigate this complex Medi-Cal program.

CASE STATISTICS

CASE TYPE	LSC FUNDED	NON-LSC CASES	2025 TOTAL
CONSUMER	216	75	291
EDUCATION	64	3	67
EMPLOYMENT	42	2	44
FAMILY	207	58	265
JUVENILE	9	0	9
HEALTH	1,141	1,039	2,180
HOUSING	5,280	539	5,819
INCOME MAINTENANCE	904	416	1,320
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS	798	46	844
MISC	387	276	663
TOTAL CASES	9,048	2,454	11,502



LSC CASES
9,048



NON-LSC CASES
2,454

TOP ISSUES



Housing



Income
Maintenance

Healthcare
Access



SENIORS

4,998

Cases benefiting older adults (age 60+)

CHILDREN

6,927

Children benefiting from case services

VETERANS

688

Cases benefiting a veteran

PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

6,222

Clients with disabilities

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

860

Cases benefiting survivors of domestic violence

SERVICE AREA

23

LSNC has a service area that spans 23 counties

TOTAL CASES

11,502

Total cases closed in 2025

FIELD
OFFICES

8

LSNC serves clients from 8 field office and several special projects

LEGAL
EDUCATION

14,245

Number of people reached through education and outreach efforts



JUSTICE IN ACTION

LSNC'S KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Alternative Spring Break student volunteers from UC Law San Francisco and LSNC staff at the Redding office. Students supported estate planning clinics to assist clients from Shasta and Tehama Counties.

CIVIL RIGHTS

LSNC's civil rights work in 2025 focused on individuals and groups impacted by rapid policy changes at the federal level, especially immigrants. LSNC observed a surge in interest in naturalization services and partnered with other legal aid organizations who are able to serve immigrants LSNC is not permitted to assist. With its community partners, LSNC expanded its community legal education and direct client services related to naturalization.



LSNC's client had been a lawful permanent resident for almost twenty years, having gained residency through her U.S. citizen husband with whom she had one child. Her husband left the home, leaving her to support herself. Our client started working as an In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provider and was interested in pursuing U.S. citizenship, but was concerned about costs, her limited-English proficiency, and how new federal policies could impact her eligibility for naturalization. A friend referred her to LSNC's Ukiah office and LSNC represented her through the naturalization process. Our client won her case and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen at the end of 2025.

HEALTH

LSNC's health advocacy work in 2025 focused on helping client communities understand and respond to major federal and state policy changes affecting healthcare coverage and access to care. Early in the year, LSNC responded to significant concern within the transgender community regarding changes affecting access to gender-affirming care. LSNC worked closely with community partners to provide outreach, education, and individualized guidance during this period of uncertainty.

Mid-year, LSNC's healthcare advocacy work shifted to H.R. 1, changes in the California state budget, the expiration of enhanced Covered California subsidies, and new federal marketplace regulations. These policies made significant changes to healthcare eligibility and access for low-income communities. LSNC quickly developed community education materials to translate complex updates into clear guidance for clients and community partners. By the end of the year, LSNC began seeing early impacts, including increased calls from seniors concerned about losing Medi-Cal coverage and Covered California enrollees facing substantial premium increases.

LSNC also continued to provide direct advocacy for clients facing ongoing healthcare access barriers outside of these policy changes, including children experiencing delays or denials in accessing specialty mental health services through Medi-Cal, and individuals seeking access to CalAIM benefits and services.

HOUSING

In 2025, LSNC advocates leveraged every area of housing law, from land use law to unlawful detainer defense, to improve housing access for thousands of low income Californians. Advocates across LSNC's service areas enforced fair housing protections for renters, including bringing and successfully settling multiple complaints against a large affordable housing provider for discrimination based on source of income, and securing reasonable accommodations for tenants with disabilities. Lawyers in LSNC's Butte Regional Office defended multiple attempts by the City of Chico to exit a settlement, which secures rights for unhoused people in Chico to a notice and offer of shelter before law enforcement action, preserving access to shelter and due process rights. As limited supply and economic conditions continued to lift the cost of housing, LSNC advocates challenged the trend of landlords charging excessive and frivolous junk fees on top of rents in violation of the law.

LSNC advocates represented 30 families in defeating a 100% rent increase that would have displaced many families. In early 2025, a group of tenants contacted LSNC after their long-time landlord retired and sold their apartment building. Many of the immigrant family tenants had lived at the apartment complex for decades and had a close-knit community.



The apartment complex is located in a jurisdiction with a rent stabilization ordinance that allows landlords to raise rents and petition the City for a higher rent increase. The new owner immediately raised rents to the maximum allowed amount and then petitioned the City for another increase to 100% of the recently increased rents. After thorough investigation, LSNC determined the landlord's petition failed to show a basis for a 100% rent increase and successfully represented the families in opposing the increase, allowing the families to stay in their homes with rent they can afford.

PRO BONO

In 2025, 74 attorneys and 92 non-attorney volunteers, including 70 law students and graduates, volunteered with LSNC. LSNC's volunteers included 32 in-house volunteer attorneys who provided consistent support to our team by volunteering at least four hours per week over a minimum of three months. Volunteers worked on a wide range of projects, including legal clinics. From January to July 2025, LSNC operated a daily CalAIM clinic which helped 125 vulnerable individuals navigate this complex Medi-Cal program. LSNC also hosted seven estate planning clinics to help low-income seniors draft wills, powers of attorney, and/or advance healthcare directives.

Law students supported LSNC year-round during spring and fall externships, its summer internship program, and the Alternative Spring Break Program. In 2025, LSNC coordinated its third Alternative Spring Break Program, placing 19 students from three law schools with four LSNC offices to serve clients with estate planning, criminal records expungement, and disaster relief matters. In 2025, LSNC launched an internal ticketing system to streamline the process for staff advocates to request help from volunteers. To identify external support, LSNC continues to post opportunities to the California Pro Bono Portal, through which LSNC can reach volunteers across the state, posting 28 opportunities to the portal in 2025.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

DISASTER RELIEF

No strangers to disasters, LSNC advocates have been at the forefront of disaster legal services for many years. LSNC prioritizes disaster advocacy and commits to engagement year-round, not just following disasters. LSNC staff are often called upon to consult with others, including fellow legal aid programs, about disaster legal services. LSNC remains a leader in the statewide Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative, which ensured that LSNC attorneys were well positioned to provide support to legal aid colleagues in Los Angeles in the aftermath of the January 2025 wildfires.

LSNC advocates also helped clients who were impacted by an array of past disasters in LSNC's service area, including fires and winter storms. LSNC maintains a dedicated disaster line and conducts routine training on disaster-related legal issues to ensure preparedness and remain vigilant and available to our communities in the event of emergencies.

EXPANDED ACCESS PROJECT

LSNC's Expanded Access Project exists to ensure that clients unable to access LSNC services during regular business hours and at usual locations can still get the help they need, particularly when they are seeking assistance to improve their access to economic opportunity. In 2025, EAP continued to expand its regular clean slate clinics, which help remove barriers to employment and housing for people who were formerly incarcerated, and provided support to field offices expanding their outreach to communities seeking naturalization services. EAP served more than 650 individuals during 2025.



LSNC successfully represented a young child with several mental disabilities and secured them In Home Supportive Services (IHSS). The client's mother had applied for IHSS Protective Supervision – the program's most expansive category that provides the maximum allowable hours of assistance. Due to the client's very young age and restrictive program rules the county denied Protective Supervision benefits. The attorney gathered extensive evidence and argued that the client's behavior and needs were distinct from others of their age, and requested reversal of the denial of benefits. The attorney also

argued that the county did not follow required procedures and that the county should have evaluated the client on an individual basis, regardless of age. After reviewing the attorney's argument, the county agreed to conduct a reassessment. The attorney attended the social worker's home visit with the client and helped provide necessary documents to ensure proper reassessment. Ultimately, the county granted Protective Supervision, ensuring the financial support necessary for the client's parents to provide the specialized care he needs to stay safe.



HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING & ADVOCACY PROJECT (HICAP)

LSNC's nine-county Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Project (HICAP) counseled nearly 4,100 Medicare beneficiaries during 2025. HICAP's 34 highly trained volunteers and staff members offered advice on issues ranging from prescription drug plan selections to ambulance bill payment denials, providing services locally at senior centers and other provider locations in our clients' neighborhoods. HICAP delivered services via phone and virtual meetings post-pandemic, and slowly reentered community sites throughout the service area in 2025. In 2025, the HICAP program helped secure savings of \$1,421,593 for Medicare beneficiaries.



In 2025, Demi*, an Original Medicare enrollee also enrolled in Medi-Cal, received a bone density scan as prescribed by her primary care provider. Medicare refused to cover the scan, and Medi-Cal would not pay for it either. HICAP counselors and staff advised Demi on filing her appeal. Ultimately, Medicare reversed its decision and covered the prescribed scan.

SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES

LSNC receives dedicated funding to provide targeted legal services, education, and outreach to older adults (ages 60+) across its service area. LSNC's elder law practice focuses on older adults with legal problems that may interfere with their ability to achieve or maintain security with housing, health, finances and personal rights. In 2025, LSNC provided legal services to nearly 5,000 older adults on an array of issues. Some matters were brief yet valuable advice cases, while others involved extensive representation in government benefit or housing cases.

LSNC facilitated an elder law task force training and staff members had opportunities to attend outside training events or webinars on topics that commonly arise in LSNC's elder law practice, such as elder abuse restraining orders, preservation of homeownership, and estate planning basics. LSNC staff and the pro bono unit continued to offer and explore ways to meaningfully expand estate planning clinics, designed to empower clients with decisionmaking tools and support the transfer and creation of intergenerational wealth.

LSNC staff also engaged in an array of outreach events that target older adults in order to expand their familiarity with LSNC and the ways that legal aid may assist in promoting independence and stability for older adults.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

CONTINUED

SHRIVER PROJECT

In collaboration with Yolo County and the Yolo County Superior Court, LSNC has provided full representation and unbundled legal services to eligible litigants in unlawful detainer cases since February 2012. LSNC also provides self-help assistance and mediation at the courthouse.



LSNC's Yolo County office successfully represented a mobile home owner in an unlawful detainer trial and preserved her ownership. Sara* is a monolingual Spanish speaker, owns her mobile home, and rents the space her mobile home sits on from a mobile home park. The mobile home park served Sara with a 3 Day Notice to Pay or 60 Day Notice to Quit, which overstated the amount of rent she owed. Sara did not pay the overstated amount and was sued in unlawful detainer. Through the unlawful detainer process, she could have lost both possession of the space that she rented and ownership of her mobile home. Her ownership was at risk because there are several expedited processes for mobile home parks to quickly obtain title of a mobile home when they obtain an unlawful detainer judgment in their favor. To avoid this, LSNC represented Sara at trial and prevailed because the notice underlying the lawsuit overstated the amount of rent owed. Sara then paid the correct amount of rent owed and preserved her space tenancy and ownership.

WESTERN STATES PENSION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Since 2007, LSNC's Western States Pension Assistance Project has recovered more than \$42 million in retirement benefits for LSNC clients, including more than \$3.9 million in 2025 alone. LSNC's pension project is one of six national regional pension counseling projects. Project attorneys are often called upon for their expertise in pension law.

Project attorneys and volunteers provide legal advice and assistance to hundreds of clients each year, many of whom tried but were unable to resolve their pension issue on their own. For many clients, this extra income is all they will have to supplement their Social Security during retirement years, this includes extra income for former or surviving spouses and sometimes for other designated loved ones. The pension project prevents poverty by ensuring the availability, access and accuracy of hard-earned retirement benefits for employees, retirees, and their families.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

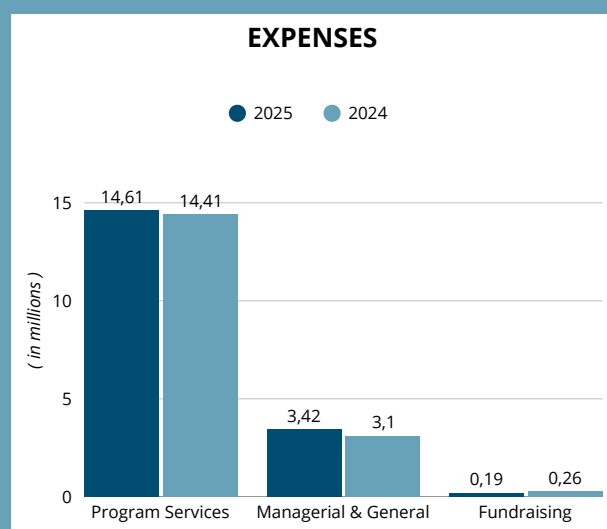
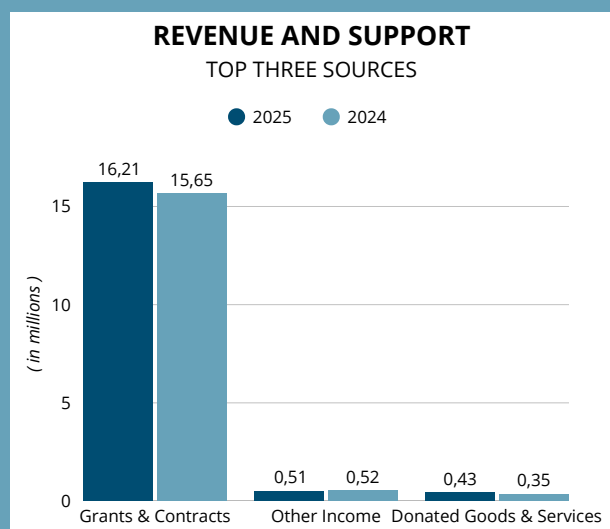
Deputy Director, Amy Williams, accepting the Community Impact Award, on behalf of LSNC, from Asian Resources Inc.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	CURRENT ASSETS			2025	2024
	Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	4,418,605	\$	600,855
	Client Trust Funds		19,114		5,239
	Grants Receivables		888,385		1,526,636
	Other Receivables		28,826		15,961
	Prepaid Expenses		279,932		264,633
	Investments		7,075,601		6,524,341
	Other Assets - Defined Benefit Plan Assets		783,918		--
	<i>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</i>		<i>13,494,381</i>		<i>8,937,665</i>
	NONCURRENT ASSETS			2025	2024
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	Right-of-Use Asset		443,892		669,022
	Property, Plant and Equipment, Net		2,195,580		2,191,921
	<i>TOTAL NONCURRENT ASSETS</i>		<i>2,639,472</i>		<i>2,860,943</i>
	TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 16,133,853		\$ 11,798,608
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			2025	2024
	Accounts Payable	\$	243,432	\$	188,015
	Accrued Payroll Liabilities and Related Liabilities		311,794		987,622
	Other Accrued Liabilities		936,762		117,875
	Other Liabilities - Defined Benefit Plan Liabilities		783,918		---
	Client Trust Deposits		19,114		5,239
	Deferred Revenue, LSC		352,415		2,279,888
	Deferred Revenue		8,274,205		2,661,100
	Lease Liability, Current Portion		220,513		248,563
	<i>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</i>		<i>11,142,153</i>		<i>6,488,302</i>
	LONG TERM LIABILITIES			2025	2024
	<i>TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</i>		<i>248,216</i>		<i>443,845</i>
	TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 11,390,369		\$ 6,932,147
	NET ASSETS			2025	2024
	Without Donor Restrictions		3,092,631		3,186,412
	With Donor Restrictions		1,650,853		1,680,049
	<i>TOTAL NET ASSETS</i>		<i>4,743,484</i>		<i>4,866,461</i>
	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$ 16,133,853		\$ 11,798,608

ACTIVITIES REPORT

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	2025	2024
Grants and Contracts	\$ 16,206,347	\$ 15,647,581
Donated Goods and Services	425,990	357,704
Contributions	201,045	2,678,059
Attorney Fee Awards	109,529	133,180
Other Income	505,851	521,961
Interest Income	343,764	286,059
Investment Income	305,447	86,783
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$ 18,097,973	\$ 19,711,327
EXPENSES	2025	2024
Program Services	\$ 14,614,544	\$ 14,405,969
Managerial and General	3,416,467	3,095,762
Fundraising	189,939	256,617
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,220,950	\$ 17,758,348
	2025	2024
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (122,977)	\$ 1,952,979
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	4,866,461	2,913,482
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 4,743,484	\$ 4,866,461

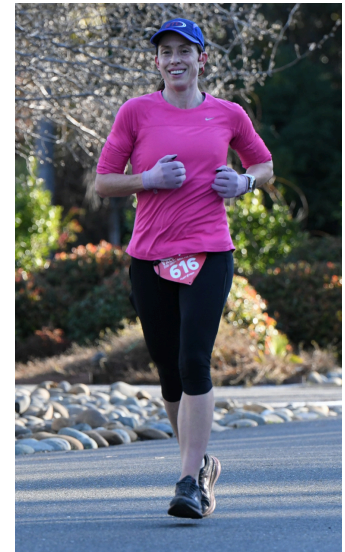
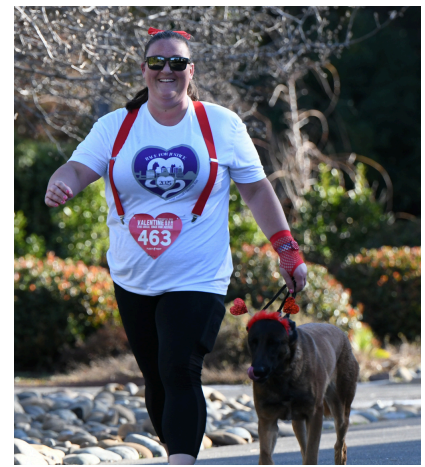




22ND ANNUAL VALENTINE RUN/WALK

LSNC'S LARGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

LSNC's former Executive Director, Gary F. Smith.





LEGAL SERVICES
of
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

LSNC Executive Office

517 12th St.

Sacramento, CA 95814

www.lsnc.net