



**BAY AREA
LEGAL SERVICES**
A NONPROFIT LAW FIRM

Creating pathways to justice®

bals.org/JusticeWorks

JUSTICE

WORKS!

More Justice = Less Poverty

THE CAMPAIGN

for Bay Area Legal Services



COMMUNITIES NEED CIVIL LEGAL AID

For over **50 years**, Bay Area Legal Services has created pathways to justice for low-income individuals and their families.



➤ When people face legal challenges that can risk their safety, quality of life, or well-being, **legal aid intervenes**—preventing them from falling deeper into poverty, and providing them with a second chance. Since 1967, Bay Area Legal Services has fulfilled this role—creating pathways to justice for low-income clients in our community.

We know that **justice works!** Our advocacy is life-changing. We tackle community problems like homelessness, child safety, domestic violence, and hunger **before it's too late**. Justice is a right—not a privilege—and when low-income individuals face legal issues without an attorney, **their rights are in jeopardy**.

Your support of the Justice Works! Campaign will enable us to sustain and expand our services to **foster a thriving community of empowered citizens**.

Justice Works to root
out the **inequities** that
keep people in **poverty**.





SHIRLEY PAUL

RELATIVE CAREGIVER CLIENT & RECEPTIONIST



WE CANNOT MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES



16K
SERVED



58K
CALLS

Each year, we provide assistance to over **16,000** individuals and families...

but our staff responds to over **58,000** callers seeking legal help.

THE COMPLEX ISSUES WE HELP SOLVE

- Protecting seniors from scam artists and abusive family members
- Advocating for the legal rights of children in foster care
- Ensuring domestic violence survivors have the legal protections they need
- Giving veterans access to mental and physical health benefits
- and much more!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BAY AREA LEGAL

JUSTICE WORKS!

More Justice = Less Poverty

4.1 million families nationwide live below the poverty level despite having at least one family member in the workforce.

The Justice Works! campaign is a comprehensive three-year effort to raise the critical funds needed to sustain and grow our programs. Support for this campaign will fund program-wide operating costs and special programs like our Veterans Medical-Legal Partnership Initiative.

Civil legal aid **removes barriers** to opportunity, **empowers individuals and families**, and **provides stability** that our clients need to enjoy greater engagement in their communities.

These individuals do not have the means to hire an attorney. **The basic civil legal issues they face risk escalating their daily struggle into a potential crisis.**

With your support, we can:

- Sustain our programs and ensure that Bay Area Legal will continue to fight injustices that face our community.
- Expand our services to low-income families with members in the workforce.
- Secure the future of equal access to justice for generations to come.



MYTHOUR SIMON
RELATIVE CAREGIVER CLIENT
& PHLEBOTOMIST

MORE JUSTICE = LESS POVERTY

Eviction Prevention

Injunctions for Protection

Health/Public Benefits

Foster Care Advocacy



Less Homelessness

Less Domestic Abuse

Less Hunger & Sickness

Fewer Temporary Placements

How Justice Works

- **SUSTAIN AND INCREASE** the funds needed to protect the legal rights of underserved populations.
- **EXPAND THE REACH** of our services to create pathways to justice for more low-income individuals seeking resolution through the legal system.
- **REMOVE BARRIERS** to opportunity, overcome unjust financial burdens, strengthen the voice of low-income individuals, and root out the inequities that keep them in poverty.
- **RESTORE INCOME** streams through social security and veterans' benefits; decrease spending on emergency government aid; and lift burdens that can keep individuals from returning to work and regaining financial stability.
- **FOSTER A THRIVING COMMUNITY** of empowered citizens. Restore confidence, independence, and dignity.

EMPOWERED CLIENTS CREATE
STRONGER COMMUNITIES



“ The timely assistance was critical. I was a very isolated disabled veteran at high risk. My attorney guided me through this stressful period and it is fair to say that her work and that of **Bay Area Legal Services** **saves lives.**”

ROB ROBINSON 
VETERAN CLIENT & PHOTOGRAPHER

THE IMPACT OF LEGAL AID FOR VETERANS

50% of the top issues that lead to homelessness among veterans **can only be solved through legal aid.**

Within the veteran population, at the intersection of mental health and poverty, we find thousands of individuals with complex needs. Many veterans are unaware that **their issues require the help of an attorney.**

Civil legal problems — from threatened evictions to unlawfully withheld benefits — are often the greatest obstacles to a veteran's health, housing, stability, and productivity.

OUR SOLUTION: Medical-Legal Partnerships

Bay Area Legal Services has established several Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) onsite at VA hospitals in our service area to meet these needs. Accessible legal assistance is shown to alleviate many of the factors that negatively impact a veteran's health and self-sufficiency — especially if the legal assistance program is tailored to veterans' needs and if its advocates work with and within the Veterans Administration.

Recognizing that these partnerships play an important role in addressing the growing crisis of veterans' health, Bay Area Legal established onsite legal aid clinics in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Manatee counties by joining forces with the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System and the James A. Haley VA.

WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

While our resources to serve these MLPs are limited, the veteran population in our area is growing rapidly, and so is the need for our services. By supporting our Veterans Team, you can help us to **serve those who have served our country.**



JESSE HUGHES
VETERAN CLIENT & MEDICAL SUPPLY TECHNICIAN



“ I consider myself a miracle and I would hope that these services can be provided to other veterans in need. **Without Bay Area Legal, I wouldn't be the success I am today.**”

WHEN JESSE HUGHES first visited the onsite MLP at the Bay Pines VA, he was homeless. He was undergoing treatment for substance abuse at the VA Domiciliary, and he wanted to know if he qualified for benefits.

Bay Area Legal attorney, Cheryl Hansen, assisted Jesse with applying for his benefits, making sure to note that he was homeless and living at the VA to expedite the claim.

Less than one month later, Jesse was awarded his pension benefit. Jesse's pension gave him the foundation he needed to transition back into the community. Today, Jesse is drug-free, has stable housing, and works full-time at the VA as a medical supply technician.

JUSTICE WORKS!

More Justice = Less Poverty

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
TO CREATE PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE**



**Legal aid helps put a stop to the cycle of poverty.
With your help, we fight:**

- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Child Abuse & Neglect
- ▶ Hunger
- ▶ Senior Exploitation
- ▶ Unemployment and more

To support the Justice Works! Campaign, visit:

▶ bals.org/JusticeWorks



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