



# Legal Services

of NORTH FLORIDA

HOPE. JUSTICE. FOR ALL.



## 2009 Annual Report

### Hope. Justice. For All.

Legal Services of North Florida has been working for over 30 years to help individuals and families caught in the cycle of poverty by providing no cost civil legal representation. Part of the America dream is that no one in our society should be shut out of the judicial system just because they cannot pay for an attorney. It is in large measure due to our donors and volunteers, working hand in hand with LSNF, that we have been able to provide hope and justice to those in our community who are most vulnerable.

2009 was a challenging year for many in our community. The economic climate kept families from realizing their dream of owning a home as the housing market crashed and many lost jobs. Others lost the opportunity for a higher education or the dignity so many seniors deserved in their final years. But for others, there was hope, because



Legal Services of North Florida was present and ready to help. Our legal staff and dedicated volunteers helped 7,755 families with everything from domestic violence issues and keeping victims' children in school, to social security disability and other government benefits. LSNF

staff went to court to fight for families to stay together and seniors to stay in their homes. Volunteer attorneys helped abused children find a safe family to live with and helped working families keep their cars so they could get to work. Expanding client services for domestic violence victims was realized in Pensacola, and now more victims can live in safety.

While many agencies cut back on programs and services, LSNF found a way to help over 300 more families than last year. Staff worked harder and longer, volunteers took on more cases, and our endowment fund continued to grow. Our motto, Hope and Justice for All, means more than just hope for our clients. It is also our hope for continued financial and volunteer support for LSNF. It is our hope for continued awareness for all that LSNF does to make this a safer and better community. It is our hope for the coming year to maintain and expand services for an ever growing client base. Yes, more and more people are coming through our doors. Regardless, LSNF has been here for over 30 years, and will continue to be a ray of hope to those with nowhere else to turn. We continue to be humbled by all you do, our supporters, to maintain Hope and Justice For



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**Tallahassee Office**

**Counties Served**

Franklin  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Wakulla

**Quincy Office**

Calhoun  
Gadsden  
Jackson  
Liberty

**Panama City Office**

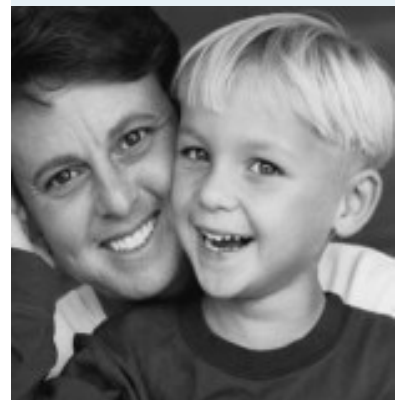
Bay  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Washington

**Ft. Walton Beach Office**

Okaloosa  
Walton

**Pensacola Office**

Escambia  
Santa Rosa





## LSNF Leadership

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. is guided by a 21 member Board of Directors. Seven board members represent low-income client groups and are eligible for services themselves. The other members are volunteer attorneys recommended by local bar associations and the Dean of the FSU law school.

### 2009 LSNF Board of Directors

#### OFFICERS

Wendy Loquasto, Esq. - President  
Joanne Battle - Vice-President  
Joan Anderson, Esq. - Secretary/  
Treasurer

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Mark A. Bednar, Esq.  
Nathan Boyles, Esq.  
Ben Crump, Esq.  
Carolyn Cummings, Esq.  
Martin R. Dix, Esq.  
Michael Guttman, Esq.  
Sally Gertz, Esq.  
Barry Gray  
Oliver Hill, Sr.  
Monique Hrabak  
Angelique DeJesus Knox, Esq.  
M. Catherine Lannon, Esq.  
Theodore Mack, Esq.  
Joel Margules, Esq.  
Michelle Scheuermann  
Derek Sims  
Phil Smith, Esq.  
Stella Ward

## A Word from our Board President - Wendy Loquasto

Many of our LSNF Board members have served for years and travel across Florida's Panhandle to meetings, take time away from their work and families to provide leadership, and reach into their own pockets to help support LSNF and its programs. This year the Board has assumed added duties with the formation of a Governance Committee and Resource Development Committee. LSNF and the community greatly benefit from the active involvement and tireless support of all the Board members.

Without the LSNF staff, however, our work could not be accomplished. These talented, dedicated people are the heart and soul of LSNF. They are always willing to go the extra mile to accomplish our goals and the Board is grateful for and proud of all that they do.

Volunteers also stepped forward to take legal cases, greet guests at Law Week celebrations, make presentations for community funding, and ask for contributions. And the volunteers are not just attorneys. They are teachers, business owners, state employees, and consultants, all of whom understand that without Legal Services of North Florida so many in our community would face lives without hope or access to justice.

Several of our volunteers received special recognition this year for their devoted service. At Jazz for Justice, we presented Dr. John K.

McKay with the *Jack McLean Champion for Legal Services Award* for his work in providing free mental health assessments for LSNF clients. We were all thrilled to be at the Florida Supreme Court to watch volunteers Todd C. Brister, Shari Thieman Greene, and Twyla Sketchley receive the 2009 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards. We were inspired at the 2009 Law Day Celebration to honor Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince, recipient of the *Parks & Crump Thurgood Marshall Award* for excellence in the judiciary and dedication to the needs of LSNF clients. Last, but certainly not least, Judge Janet Ferris was presented with the *2009 Joy Aukema Taps Children's Advocate Award* for her efforts on behalf of children caught in the juvenile justice system.

These few are just the tip of the iceberg of volunteers that help LSNF. From musicians who brave the weather to perform at Jazz for Justice, to attorneys who volunteer time away from their offices to help on the hotline, and those who open their homes and offices for LSNF, we cannot say thank you enough. You honor us with your generosity and caring natures.

*"As this nation has allowed a great separation in the economic fortunes of its citizens, I realize that, without access to legal services, there is very real risk that more people will slip into poverty."*

- Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte, President Emeritus, Florida State University

## Our Mission

Legal Services of North Florida is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) agency providing civil legal assistance. Our core mission is:

*To provide An Opportunity for Justice for eligible residents through representation conducted efficiently and comparable in quality to that of the private bar, and through other forms of legal assistance designed to provide a full range of civil legal services to those in need.*

LSNF provides free civil legal services to persons whose income falls below 125% of the federal poverty level and to specified vulnerable populations who experience problems in the following priority areas:

- Preservation of the home and promotion of home ownership
- Support for families and children
- Promotion of employment, economic security and health
- Promotion of safety and stability



## Our Mission (continued)

During 2009 LSNF substantially expanded services available to its clients by:

- Mastering the process to represent victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking who have immigration related needs;
- Providing and participating in enhanced efforts to effectively and efficiently address the low-income housing crisis throughout the Florida Panhandle; and,
- Reorganizing and expanding our intake services in one of our most rural counties (Wakulla) by implementing a volunteer attorney legal advice clinic. The clinic: a) increased the opportunity for low-income rural residents to access program services; b) enabled the local clerk's office to take a more active role in the clinic process by assisting with clinic intake and docketing procedures; and, c) allowed LSNF staff to conserve time travelling to the county to participate in a new monthly clinic requested by county staff.



## Our Executive Director - Kris Knab

2009 was a challenging year for Legal Services of North Florida and our clients here in North Florida. While continuing to help our existing clients weather the economic challenges, we found many more people in our community now eligible for our services. It would take at least five times the funding we currently have to meet all the civil legal needs of eligible clients: domestic violence victims, children, the elderly and those in danger of losing their homes. We found ourselves unable to keep up with services to those facing personal danger or loss of their homes

(much less other services with less extreme, but important, consequences) and were forced to turn away two thirds of the people who came in our doors. [\(continued on next page\)](#)

## Community Leaders

In celebration of 30 years of service to the community LSNF established the 30th Anniversary Council, the members of which were asked to participate because of their long-standing support of LSNF and their commitment to raising \$2 million dollars for the 30th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

### 30th Anniversary Council

#### CHAIRMEN

Benjamin Crump  
Talbot 'Sandy' D'Alemberte

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nina Ashenafi  
C. DuBose 'Duby' Ausley  
Mark Bednar  
Alan Bookman  
Craig J. Brown  
Scott Carruthers  
David Fonvielle  
Justice Major Harding  
Justice Joseph Hatchett  
M. Catherine Lannon  
Anneli Magee  
Jack L. McLean, Jr.  
Liza Park  
John Radey  
Glenda Thornton  
Steven J. Uhlfelder  
Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda  
Frank Williams  
Elizabeth "Bib" Willis  
Gary Yordon

For up-to-date information about the campaign go to:  
[www.hopejusticeforall.org](http://www.hopejusticeforall.org)

To leave a lasting legacy, place LSNF in your will. For more information on planned giving, contact Mary Dekle at 850-701-3313 or by email at [mary@lsnf.org](mailto:mary@lsnf.org).

## CLIENT STATISTICS

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. is grateful to the many individuals and organizations that enabled us to provide representation to 7,755 clients during 2009.

Area of Law	Clients Served
Consumer	1,064
Education	27
Employment	296
Family	3,463
Juvenile	527
Health	16
Housing	1,362
Income	
Maintenance	311
Individual Rights	47
Miscellaneous	642
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,755</b>

## Knab (continued)

Volunteer attorneys working on our team helped to bridge the gap through an expanded hotline and volunteer commitment. Without these unsung heroes we could not help so many. One of our volunteer staff members said it so well, "We hold the keys to the courthouse". Without the combination of dedicated and tireless LSNF staff attorneys and community volunteer lawyers, many would go without access to justice just because they cannot afford to pay an attorney. Justice should never come with a price tag, and those most vulnerable certainly were appreciative of our help.

Help also came in the form of increased funding to help domestic violence victims in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. LSNF was able to expand the staff in our Pensacola office dedicated to this new service, and we know lives have been saved through our efforts.

Despite the challenges and grateful for the help, LSNF served over 7,700 families. Our legal staff and volunteers increased their case-loads and worked evenings and weekends to

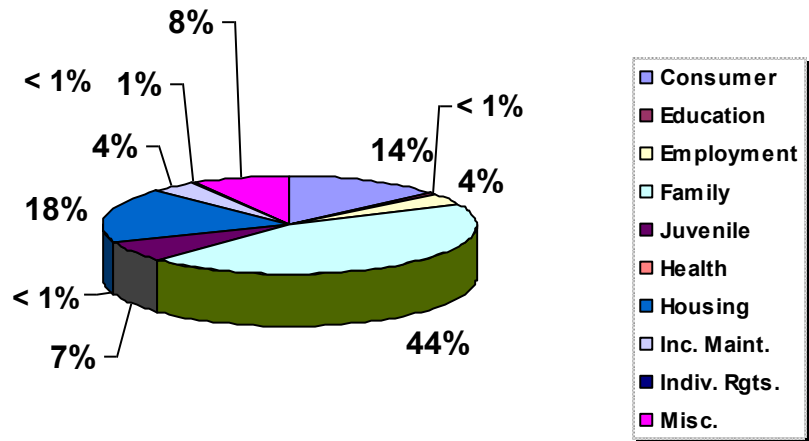
help those in need. I am in awe of their dedication and commitment to serving the public interest. We dedicate this issue of the 2009 Annual Report to our paid and volunteer staff. Without the kind voice of a hotline attorney helping a working mom figure out her lease, her children might have to sleep in the car. Without Stephanie Johnson guiding eighteen year olds aging out of foster care through the maze of applying to colleges and finding apartments, they may end up without an education and in jail. Without Marc Taps helping an elderly couple keep their home, they face a life without dignity. And without Mia Adams fighting for an injunction for a battered woman, she may end up back with her abuser, endangering herself and her children.

Working together we have saved lives and given hope and justice to so many. With your continued help, we can continue to make sure that justice is not only for the wealthy, but for everyone in our community.

*Kristine E. Knab*

## Giving Hope Through Services

Clients receiving services are 71 percent female, 29 percent male, 55 percent white, 39 percent African-American, and 3 percent Hispanic. Below are the types of cases handled by LSNF.



## Financial Benefits for LSNF Clients and Service Area

Benefits	Back Awards	Monthly	Annual Monthly Benefits	Total Annual
Social Security:	\$145,067	\$8,220	\$98,640	\$243,707
Child Support:	\$35,678	\$18,472	\$221,659	\$257,337
Alimony:	\$112,081	\$760	\$9,120	\$121,201
Reduced Tax Liability:	\$163,000			\$163,000
Tax Award:	\$38,502			\$38,502
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$310,459</b>	<b>\$27,452</b>	<b>\$329,419</b>	<b>\$639,878</b>

## Director of Litigation - Scott Manion

Our clients come to us with a variety of problems both large and small. They not only seek immediate resolution of their legal trouble, but hope for a better future. Whether we are saving their homes or rebuilding broken families, each client's case is as important as the next. A look at some of our work sheds light on what we are all about and pays tribute to our talented and dedicated legal staff and volunteers. In 2009 LSNF served 7,755 people – these are a few of their stories:

### HOPE - Preventing Homelessness

**HOUSING ISSUES** Mattie was an elderly widow whose husband died from a tragic electrical accident. There was no life insurance, nor was there any potential lawsuit to file against anyone involving the electrocution. The loss of Mattie's husband was the beginning of the end of life as she and her husband once lived, simple but comfortable. Shortly after her husband's death, Mattie faced the loss of her mobile home because she could no longer make the scheduled payments. Her pleas to the lender to work out a settlement in her case fell on deaf ears. The lender soon filed a replevin action against her in court in Leon County alleging she was behind thousands of dollars in loan payments. Mattie, still grieving from the death of her husband, did not know where to turn until someone from her church mentioned she should try to get help from Legal Services of North Florida. The only problem was Mattie's court date was only four days after contacting LSNF. Mattie had no defense. She admitted she owed the money and could not continue to make the scheduled payments. Her biggest fear was facing the possibility of becoming homeless. LSNF attorneys had to quickly devise a legal strategy to buy Mattie enough time so she could make arrangements to sort out her living situation. That is exactly what LSNF did. LSNF recognized and asserted that the lender (plaintiff) in the action did not match the original lender of the loan and could not prove they owed the debt upon which the case was based. As a result, LSNF was able to temporarily stop any action in the case, providing time for Mattie to grieve and to take the steps necessary to locate alternative housing. As luck would have it, Mattie was able to find another mobile home for payments she could afford. Mattie is grateful LSNF helped prevent her from becoming homeless.

### JUSTICE - Protecting Consumers

**CONSUMER ISSUES:** Although Gladys was retired, the Social Security income she received was not enough to cover her basic expenses after paying a long list of co-payments for medicine and doctor visits each month. Gladys found that the part-time job she loved at a local Publix grocery store supplied just enough income to help her get by. One day she received a notice in the mail that she owed \$12,000 on a judgment from a credit card she never owned. The law firm attempting to collect on the judgment threatened to garnish what little wages Gladys earned. Gladys' health began to falter once again at this time. Her case was referred to Legal Services

of North Florida by a volunteer attorney at a Tallahassee Senior Center legal clinic. After meeting with Gladys, LSNF staff quickly determined she was a victim of identity theft. It was soon discovered that a close relative was the perpetrator. With the help of a local pro bono attorney LSNF filed documents with the court requesting the judgment be set aside. The pro bono attorney was also able to convince the law firm trying to collect on the judgment to dismiss the lawsuit against her. Gladys' health soon improved and she was happy to be back at Publix without all the worry about losing her pay.

### FOR ALL - Protecting Families

**FAMILY ISSUES:** Doris was a single mother who contracted Multiple Sclerosis and consequently lost her full-time job as a result of the disability. At the same time she was forced to endure protracted divorce proceedings involving an abusive husband. She finally won alimony and child support in her case. Just as there seemed to be some light at the end of the tunnel, the ex-husband appealed the case and got the judge to stay (put a hold on) both the alimony and child support. Doris could not afford the mortgage payments on her home without the support. She came to Legal Services of North Florida to see if there was anything she could do to save her home from foreclosure. LSNF staff immediately sought to have the stay on the support removed, but the judge in the case refused. In a rarely used legal strategy LSNF appealed the denial to the First District Court of Appeal on an emergency basis. The Court agreed with LSNF and removed the stay on the support. LSNF was able to go back into court and get Doris child support and alimony on a temporary basis. Doris was able to save her home and begin much needed physical therapy to deal with her M.S. The granting of a stay in dissolution of marriage can have devastating effects on our clients financially. This case is being used to help others in a similar situation.



*Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity. Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice.*

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn



## BRANCH OFFICES



Fort Walton Beach



Panama City



Pensacola



Quincy

## Hope. Justice. For All.

**FOSTER CARE ISSUES:** In Pensacola, Steven was on LSNF's radar at the early age of 16. He was being raised through Florida's Foster Care system as a result of a house fire that took the lives of both his parents. While Steven quickly adapted to his new life, it was not long before he started thinking about how he could begin living a life on his own. By this time, LSNF had already begun identifying and tracking children "aging out" of foster care for the purposes of providing assistance to teens in need of legal help. For Steven and others in his situation, the transition from depending on the state for everything one day and becoming totally self-reliant the next is a frightening prospect. In Steven's case, he had several thousand dollars in Social Security benefits accumulated in a trust account controlled by the State of Florida. It was the policy of the State to return the funds to the Social Security Administration and the money would eventually be routed back to the owner months later. It was Steven's plan to enroll at the local community college to attend school and locate an apartment to rent., It was apparent that without immediate access to the funds in

his trust account, it was going to be difficult for Steven to implement his plan. LSNF reviewed Steven's case and quickly petitioned the court to permit Steven access to the funds available in his trust account. The court subsequently ordered the waiver granting Steven full access to his trust funds just in



time for him to put a deposit on an apartment he was ready to sign a lease on. Today, Steven is maintaining good grades at Pensacola Community College and continues to stay in touch with his LSNF lawyer to let her know how he is doing.

*The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**DISABILITY ISSUES:** Ericka was a fifty-three year old Hispanic woman of Mexican origin who began working as a seasonal farm worker in and around Houston, Texas at the age of thirteen. She was married and moved to Gadsden County twenty years ago, continuing her farm work on mushroom farms and at a tomato packing plant in Quincy. She had not seen her husband for many years and received no financial or other support from him. What support she did receive came from her two adult daughters. She had no health insurance and was unable to work. She had limited ability to speak or understand English. Ericka had a marginal education (sixth grade or less). She had no further education or vocational training.



When Ericka was in an automobile accident in 1994 she sustained significant fractures of both ankles and several toes. Surgery was performed. However, in spite of the placement of steel rods as well as skin grafts, healing of her fractures was delayed. She was faced with the options of surgery (below-the-knee amputation), fusion, or continuing with severe deformity of the left ankle. All the while, healing of her ankle continued to deteriorate. It became increasingly difficult for her to move about without assistance. With no health insurance, surgery had to be put off. Ericka found it difficult to walk, with frequent falls, and with an uncertain future, developed anxiety, hypertension and depression.

Ericka was desperate for help and filed a disability claim in 2006, but was denied. In 2008 she sought help from LSNF for legal assistance with her appeal. The Social Security Administration insisted that, at age fifty-three and with a marginal education she could return to full-time (agricultural) or other work. Finally, a hearing was held in December 2009. After LSNF presented its case, the Administrative Law Judge granted Ericka a fully favorable decision with retroactive benefits. After over a decade without income, Erika is thankful she no longer has to rely on her family to provide for her.



LSNF board member Ben Crump presents the Thurgood Marshall Award to Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince



LSNF senior attorney Marc Taps presents the Children's Advocate of the Year Award to Judge Janet Ferris.

## Successes (continued)

**RIGHTS TO PRIVACY:** In March 2009 LSNF was contacted by Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) attorneys in an attempt to carry out an order issued by the trial judge to secure counsel for a newly admitted patient. The order also required the patient, a pregnant 29-year-old mother of two, to stay in the hospital on bed rest for the remainder of her pregnancy. The order was issued after the patient argued her case alone, without an attorney, on a telephone conference call from her hospital bed. Under Florida law, the judge said, the welfare of a child overrides that of its parent. The order also barred the patient from seeing another doctor. The court stepped in when the patient wished to leave the hospital after being admitted during a routine pre-natal doctor's visit when it was discovered the patient had a ruptured membrane and had started contractions 25 weeks into her pregnancy. Enters Tallahassee attorney, David Abram, who took up the pro bono case referred by LSNF. Soon after, the patient had an emergency cesarean, but the baby had already died. The patient was allowed to go home. "She (the patient) wound up basically nothing more than an incubator for the state," said Abrams who immediately filed an appeal with the First District Court of Appeal. Of Judge Cooper's order, Abram said, "The court order made only the fetus a patient." Abram contended no pregnant woman should have to argue her right to make her own medical decisions from a hospital bed, without legal counsel, absent a second opinion or other evidence showing that the recommended care and forced confinement was the least restrictive option available. Abram's client prevailed when the appellate court finally rendered its opinion.

*"Given the deprivation of her physical liberty and violation of her privacy interests, the trial court violated [the client's] constitutional right to appointed counsel in this case..."*  
-1st DCA Judge William Van Nortwick concurring

## Private Attorney Involvement—PAI

LSNF works closely with private attorneys throughout its sixteen county service area to provide legal assistance to low-income individuals. Through the Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Program this cooperation takes several forms, coordinating volunteer attorney resources of time and/or financial support. Over 800 attorneys make up LSNF's support pool. Four hundred and sixty-four of these lawyers (464) contributed nearly \$135,000. In addition, pro bono attorneys provided over 4,496 hours of service in 2009. This is the equivalent of nearly \$900,000 worth of legal services.

A large part of client assistance came from volunteers at our telephone legal advice hotline. We are grateful to our partners at the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Tallahassee Attorney's office for encouraging their attorneys to participate in this important program for so many years.

## Volunteer Recognition

The work of volunteers is a vital part of Legal Services' effort to succeed in its mission. Each year LSNF recognizes its volunteers by publishing in area newspapers all the names of lawyers who contributed time and other resources. Additionally, in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, LSNF holds a Law Week Celebration reception each May in honor of all volunteer attorneys.

*Congressional appropriations for legal services have not kept pace with inflation. In real dollars, the current federal investment in Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which funds a major portion of LSNF's budget, is roughly half of the 1980 funding level.*

## Our Challenges

Our staff is one of Legal Services of North Florida's most valuable resources and each day it costs \$ 6,300 to provide an access to justice for the people of North Florida. To maintain consistently high quality client services, it is imperative to keep well-qualified and dedicated attorneys, paralegals and support staff that are committed to making a difference in people's lives. Another on-going challenge is to expand community support by helping the business and private community understand the role of legal services in the quality of life for all. We must continue to educate and inform our leaders, philanthropists, politicians, business people and residents of our community about how integral LSNF is to a safe and healthy community.

## Volunteer Attorney Successes

**SAVING HOMES:** Panama City attorney Todd Brister went to the aid of an elderly Bonifay woman who was attempting to defend herself against a foreclosure action even though she was current on her monthly mortgage payments. The plaintiff was attempting to collect on a judgment against the woman's husband from many years ago. Mr. Brister notified the plaintiff's counsel that under the Florida Constitution the property upon which his client resided was homestead property and was exempt from the forced sale court process. Further, the plaintiff's counsel was also served a motion for sanctions. The plaintiff's attorneys soon dismissed their complaint and the action for foreclosure against the Bonifay senior was ended. Mr. Brister's client was grateful he came along when he did, because she was about ready to give up all together and move in with her children living in another state.

## Common Questions about Legal Services of North Florida

### LSNF FUNDING PARTNERS

Archibald Family Foundation  
 Area Agency on Aging of North Florida  
 Bay County Commission  
 Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida  
 Calhoun County Commission  
 Capital City Bank Group Foundation  
 Department of Juvenile Justice  
 Florida Attorney General's Office  
 Florida Bar Foundation  
 Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
 Florida Coalition Against Sexual Violence  
 Franklin County Commission  
 Gadsden County Commission  
 Gulf County Commission  
 Holmes County Commission  
 Housing and Urban Development  
 Internal Revenue Service  
 Jackson County Commission  
 Jefferson County Commission  
 Judicial Administration Commission  
 Legal Services Corporation  
 Leon County Commission  
 Liberty County Commission  
 Okaloosa County Commission  
 State Attorney's Office  
 U. S. Department of Agriculture  
 United Way of the Big Bend  
 Wakulla County Commission  
 Walton County Commission  
 Washington County Commission

### Where does your money come from?

LSNF is funded from a variety of public and private sources. Our largest funder is the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) which is funded by Congress. Additionally we receive funds from the Florida Bar Foundation and its Interest on Trust Accounts funding. We also have a variety of governmental grants which help fund our domestic violence programs, low-income housing efforts and taxpayer clinics. We receive funds from 14 of our counties derived from ordinances in accord with a legislative mandate. The remainder of our funding comes from other governmental and private grants, the United Way, private contributions and fundraising events.

### Are you a state or governmental agency?

No, we are a private not-for-profit agency.

### How many lawyers do you have?

Over the 16 counties we serve, we have 21 staff and over 300 volunteer lawyers.



LSNF Tallahassee Office

### What is the composition of your board?

Our board is comprised of representatives of the various attorney groups throughout our region and one third is comprised of client members, who represent various agencies serving the poverty community.

### Summary of Financial Information

Total support and revenue, year 2009.....	\$5,054,224
Total expenses, year 2009.....	\$4,856,145

### How do individuals get services from LSNF?

A potential client is either referred by another agency or the courts, or comes to us on their own. They apply for services and within one week are notified if we will handle their case. The cases are assigned to LSNF attorneys, paralegals or volunteer attorneys.

### What is the criteria for accepting a client?

Our primary client base is restricted to an income of 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. Several of our grant sources have varying income requirements. The domestic violence grants do not have an income criteria because so many victims are situationally poor. All cases must be civil in nature and adhere to our priorities.

### What is the difference between you and Legal Aid and Northwest Florida Legal Services?

Legal Aid provides services through volunteer attorneys who are members of the Tallahassee Bar Association, almost exclusively in Leon County. Northwest Florida Legal Services provides services through staff attorneys primarily in the areas of health, social security, juvenile and family law, almost exclusively in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Legal Services of North Florida provides services through staff and volunteer attorneys throughout 16 north Florida counties. In Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, LSNF focuses primarily on consumer, housing, domestic violence and children's issues.



# HOPE. JUSTICE. FOR ALL.

## WHO BENEFITS FROM INVESTING IN LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA?

- Vulnerable and exploited individuals, families, and veterans.
- Domestic violence victims and their children in long-term personal safety.
- Senior citizens with disabilities who have limited access to public transportation.
- Seniors who are targeted by home improvement/predatory lending scams.
- Families stabilized by maintaining affordable housing, transportation, and income.
- Individuals given assistance to secure employment and education.
- Community non-profit groups that work with special needs populations, affordable housing, job creation, and transportation.
- Rural and immigrant women who are victims of abuse.
- Non-profit community by providing free legal services.

## Everyone Benefits

*...when we stop an illegal eviction, that is one less person homeless.*

*...when we force a fly-by-night contractor to redo “shoddy” work for an elderly couple, we are discouraging contractors from preying on other victims.*

*...when we save a home from foreclosure, residents do not need to seek shelter at the community’s expense or become homeless.*

*...when we stop a cycle of domestic violence, we are saving lives, enhancing employment stability and reducing healthcare costs.*

*...when we help non-profits with their legal issues, we are helping them to allocate more revenue for their client services.*

*...when LSNF helps clients provide for themselves, other community non-profit resources are not stretched as thin.*



## FOUNDERS OF JUSTICE SOCIETY

(\$5,000 and above gifts)

Akerman Senterfitt  
Archibald Foundation, Inc.  
Curtis and Nina Ashenafi Richardson  
Ausley & McMullen, P.A.  
C. DuBose 'Duby' Ausley  
Berger Singerman, P.A.  
Alan Bookman  
Law Office of Craig J. Brown  
Brown & Brown, Attorneys at Law  
Capital City Bank Group Foundation  
Scott Carruthers  
Bob Cox  
Talbot 'Sandy' D'Alemberte and Patsy Palmer  
Nancy Daniels  
Terry Dariotis  
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M. Catherine Lannon and Stephanie A. Clapp  
Levin Papantonio Thomas et al.  
Wendy Loquasto and Terry Hansen  
Jarian and Trinetta Lyons  
Theodore E. Mack  
Linnea and Anneli Nystrand Magee  
The McConaughay Family Elder Law Fund  
James F. McKenzie  
Bernice and Jack McLean, Jr.  
Dorothy L. Miller  
Patty and Chuck Mitchell  
Mark Mustian  
Lisa Norris and Sheldon F. Berneau  
Parks & Crump, Attorneys at Law  
RB Oppenheim & Associates  
John and Kathleen Radey  
Edward M. Ricci  
Mark and Lauren Schlakman  
Walter J. Smith Justice Fund  
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## Celebrating over 30 Years of Service

Legal Services of North Florida is over 30 years old! As a way to memorialize this important milestone, the LSNF board and a committed group of volunteers banded together to seek donations for our 30th anniversary endowment. We established an account at the Community Foundation of North Florida to receive donations to the campaign where proceeds from the endowment continue to grow and sustain our services long into the future. We are proud that Sandy D'Alemberte and Benjamin Crump served as our campaign co-chairs. They recruited a wonderful group of volunteers from around our region that helped the campaign to ultimately succeed. With input from a feasibility study the 30th Anniversary

Council set and reached its \$2 million dollar goal through cash and planned gifts. The LSNF board, attorneys and client members alike participated 100% in the campaign. A moving video made up of the stories of LSNF clients, staff, and the council co-chairs was used to help share LSNF's story. Naming opportunities at all five of our LSNF offices and challenge grants helped secure funding from the Government Bar Association, the Tallahassee Barristers Association and the Florida Justice Association. A campaign website was launched so all could keep up with campaign progress and learn more about the many ways to continue to support LSNF.

[www.hopejusticeforall.org](http://www.hopejusticeforall.org)

## Leaving a Legacy for Legal Services of North Florida

### What is the purpose of the endowment fund?

With over 50 different funding sources that can change or disappear, the endowment will provide a steady stream of income to assure the stability of the organization.

### Is there a minimum-sized gift that will be accepted for the endowment?

Cash gifts of \$100 or more are preferred, but any gifts for the future of LSNF are encouraged. Named endowments start at \$10,000 and naming opportunities start at \$5,000.

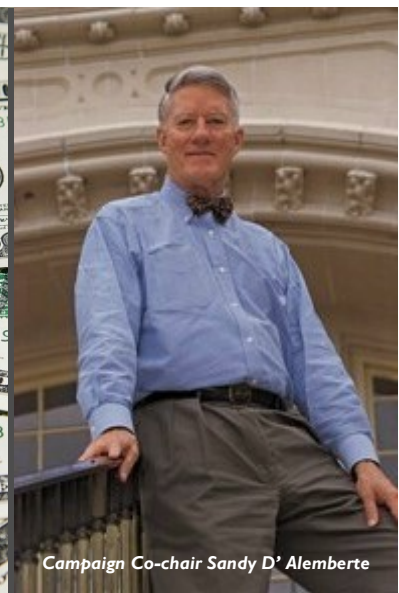
### Is an outright or planned gift preferred when directed to the endowment?

Outright gifts and planned gifts are both encouraged.

### How is a gift paid?

Gifts may be made in full or over a five year period through designated donations of appreciated securities or paid up insurance policies, appraised property, irrevocable bequests and/or sole designated insurance policies, as per the LSNF Donor Gift Policy. A signed pledge form must be made before formal acknowledgement is given.

Contributions to the campaign are intended to be new gifts to LSNF designated for the 30th Anniversary and can be for the Endowment Fund and/or Operating Expenses. They do not preclude Partners in Service or other annual contributions.



Campaign Co-chair Sandy D'Alemberte

## Endowment Fund Gift Levels

**Champions for Legal Services**  
((\$250,000 - \$1,000,000))

**Legacy Council**  
((\$100,000 - \$249,999))

**Hope Council**  
((\$50,000 - \$99,999))

**Justice Council**  
((\$25,000 - \$49,999))

**30th Anniversary Council**  
((\$10,000 - \$24,999))

**Founders of Justice Society**  
((\$5,000 and above gifts))

**Advocates**  
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(gifts from \$500 to \$999)

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Women's World/Gold's Gym  
Karen Woodall  
John Woodward

Thomas B. Woodward  
Robert 'Scheff' Wright  
Herman H. Wun  
William E. Wyrrough, Jr.  
Yes to Carrots  
David A. Yon  
David W. and Patricia Young  
Roy C. Young  
Debra Zappi-Henley  
Paul A. Zeigler  
Kenneth Zimmerman  
Jerome A. Zivan

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