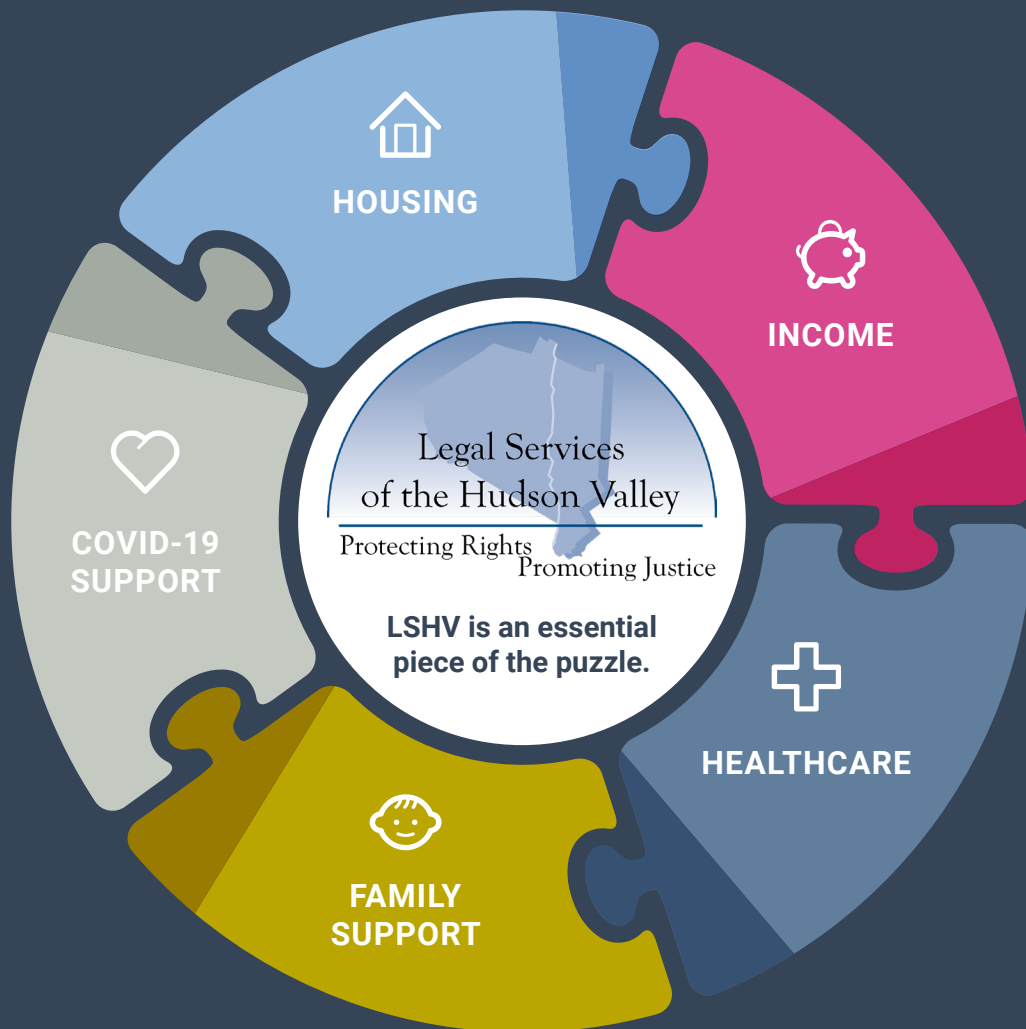


Year in Review

Summer 2020



The mission of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is to provide high quality counsel in civil matters for poor and low-income individuals and families and other vulnerable persons who do not have access to the legal representation needed to meet their basic needs. Pursuit of this mission includes a commitment to principles and practices of diversity and inclusion to ensure justice for all persons regardless of their economic or social conditions.

A Message From Our CEO



This report highlights the successes of 2019, the challenges brought on by COVID-19, and our hope for a future where justice is accessible to everyone.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) has been committed to providing our clients free civil legal representation throughout the Hudson Valley since 1967. We wouldn't be successful without the support of the community we serve, our government partners who administer most of the financial assistance we require to serve our clients, our local foundations who contribute additional revenue for special projects and to fill the gap left by our government partners, and all of you – our donors who support us by offering your time, talent and donations!

Thank you to our Board for their guidance and governance, the staff for their hard work and expertise, the volunteers who have given their time, and the community for their

friendship and understanding. And thank you to all our donors who provide much needed financial support so that we can make a difference in the lives of our clients and the community we live in.

You have entrusted your confidence, hopes, and beliefs in LSHV's leadership and staff working in the trenches. Knowing that we have your trust enables us to achieve success, family by family, individual by individual. It gives us the foundation to plan for the future, seek the opportunities that present themselves, and create additional opportunities of our own design. We look forward to a productive and fruitful future as your support enables us to achieve so much more in the years ahead.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LSHV's essential services have been a lifeline to those who have been affected by the crisis and have nowhere else to turn. LSHV swiftly implemented technology at the start of the crisis that enabled us to continue to seamlessly serve clients, while ensuring the safety and well-being of our clients and staff.

I want to thank our staff who have proven their dedication to those we serve during this crisis and as we slowly return to our offices.

As we move toward an uncertain future, I continue to be shocked by the daily violations of humanity. As a legal services provider, we strive for a world where justice is equally available to everyone. LSHV is committed to racial, social and economic justice and equity across all our services and fighting to ensure that all people are treated fairly. We have some struggles facing us but all of us at LSHV are certain that with your support we can meet these challenges and emerge stronger as a community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Finkelstein, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

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LSHV in COVID-19



Remote technologies enabled staff to work from home while serving clients.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LSHV's essential services have been a lifeline to those who have been affected by the crisis and have nowhere else to turn. LSHV swiftly implemented technology at the start of the crisis that enabled us to continue to seamlessly serve clients, even while our offices were closed. Thanks to the following Foundations for supporting our efforts in this area: The Westchester Community Foundation, The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley – Dutchess Responds, Dyson Foundation, and Legal Services Corporation – Teleworks Grant.

We created an internal COVID Working Group to stay current on legal & policy developments and provided information and training to staff, clients, and partners.

The 2020 Equal Access to Justice Dinner transformed to an online-only event on April 2nd. Thanks to our three deserving honorees, **Alfred E. Donnellan, Esq.** LSHV's outgoing Board President and Managing Partner of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, **Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP**, and the **PepsiCo Law Department** for working with us to create our first-ever online experience. While nothing can take the place of in-person interaction, we are grateful to everyone who participated and joined us through social media. And particularly those who supported our fund-a-need the night of.

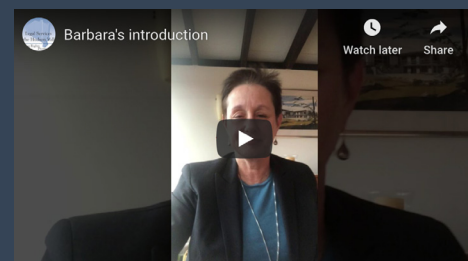
Know Your Rights Videos

Our staff are creating Know Your Rights videos, many of which are COVID-19 related, that can be found on our YouTube channel, at <https://lshv.org/covid-19-resources-legal-forms/>, or at <https://www.lawhelpny.org/lshv-covid>. More to come!



COVID-19 has highlighted long-standing inequalities faced by low-income individuals and families who were already struggling to get by.

Since the start of the pandemic, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has pivoted our services to focus on the most pressing needs brought on by COVID-19 including unemployment, domestic violence, and housing. The courts remained open for emergency cases and LSHV has been on the frontlines addressing those emergencies! We have helped domestic violence victims obtain orders of protection to keep them and their children safe. We prevented tenants' unlawful eviction by landlords who illegally locked tenants out or turned off essential services like water and heat.





Beyond Lockdown

We all look forward to getting back to our normal routine, with kids back in school or back in their own apartments, parents back at their workplace, and everyone being able to go out to dinner or visit their loved ones. As New York reopens, we see a glimmer of hope for this future. However, we also see a future where demand for legal help will most likely overwhelm the existing civil legal services infrastructure.

Pre-pandemic, over 500,000 individuals were eligible for our services, which meant that we could not serve everyone who needed our help. In 2019, we assisted 11,427 individuals and impacted over 33,500 household members, a small percentage of the numbers needing assistance. In some cases, we were only able to offer advice and unfortunately our limited resources meant we had to turn some people away.

Civil legal problems will spike in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, especially for those already struggling to make ends meet. The economic hardship caused by business closures and illness will create conflicts only the civil justice system can resolve.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is preparing for this influx. We are ready to move on behalf of our clients when the courts fully reopen, and we will be here to help low-income individuals and families identify and obtain the benefits available to help them weather the crisis. When the temporary moratoria on evictions and foreclosures are lifted, our attorneys will be there to fight against the massive wave of filings that will follow. When those in lockdown with their abusers can get to a safe space to report the abuse and seek safe shelter, we will be ready to help obtain protective orders against abusers, custody and support orders, and other forms of relief.

Our events will resume either live or virtually or some combination of both. We will continue to reach out via postal mail, e-mail, and through social media.

We are enthusiastic about getting back to a normal routine, but until we can safely do so we will persist in seeking justice for our clients.

Anonymous in Mt. Vernon said:

My lawyer is the best attorney you could ever come across. She is very nice, patient and very understanding. She really helped me win my case and prevented eviction. God bless her and she should keep helping people like me who almost got evicted. I really appreciate her effort and work plus time she took. Best communication was a plus.

Tahisha's Story

Tahisha is a single mother living in Westchester whose affordable apartment was subsidized by a Section 8 housing voucher. She lost her voucher in 2017, which meant that she was unable to afford her rent. After that, she was either homeless or staying with a friend while she waited for the resolution of her case, and she was unable to hold steady employment because of the instability in her housing. Her children were moved into the custody of her mother and Tahisha came to LSHV for assistance in getting the voucher restored. An LSHV attorney was successful in getting Tahisha's voucher restored, but the Section 8 voucher administrator moved to terminate her voucher again in 2018, while Tahisha was trying to lease a new apartment. LSHV represented Tahisha at the hearing to challenge the 2018 decision and then passed her case to our Pro Bono partner, Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP.

Through LSHV's Pro Bono Unit, individual attorneys and private law firms volunteer their time to handle cases that LSHV would otherwise be unable to handle. Three Patterson Belknap attorneys represented Tahisha throughout the appeal of the decision that was made at her hearing. The attorneys argued that in addition to not having legal grounds to terminate Tahisha's voucher, the decision was fundamentally unfair. In December of 2019, they reached a successful settlement with the Section 8 voucher administrator and Tahisha's voucher was restored. Thanks to LSHV's representation and our partnership with Patterson Belknap, Tahisha now has stable, affordable housing, and is working on her employment and getting custody of her children restored.

[Watch Tahisha's story](#)

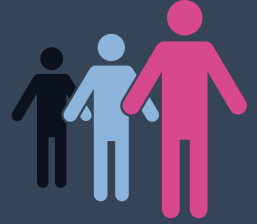


2019 By the Numbers

approximately

535,078

Hudson Valley residents
eligible for our assistance



165

staff members including

including

100 attorneys

and

30 paralegals

in **10 offices** across
the Hudson Valley



14,643

cases handled

33,523

individuals impacted in all households served including



4,062

seniors



12,848

children

11,427

clients served, including

1,823

domestic violence survivors

4,498

persons with disabilities



70%

of our
clients are
women

Government Grants and Community Funding

Our Community and Government Partners play an important role in the services we provide to the community. Without their support, much of what we do would not be possible.

Project Pink!

Last year, thanks to the support from Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JLBCA) we created “Project Pink” to provide critical civil legal services to those battling breast cancer or who have survived breast cancer. JLBCA is fiercely committed to alleviating breast cancer, and funds legal initiatives to assist people in crisis following a diagnosis of breast cancer. We are proud to be one of the designated partners in this effort.

The effect of a significant illness such as breast cancer can have unforeseen consequences on a person’s life, including access to justice. Project Pink is designed to assist these individuals in asserting their rights- whether it be obtaining needed disability or public benefits; securing accommodations in employment; planning for the care of children; access to medically necessary treatment and medication; or preserving housing and other critical services.

Kinship Care

Through the new **Kinship Care Project**, LSHV will partner with Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY) to provide legal education, direct legal assistance, and referrals to kinship caregivers in Westchester, where an estimated 16,400 children live under the care of kin. FSSY is the administrator for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) Kinship Caregiver Program in Westchester County.

The first priority of the project is to stabilize housing. Secondary focuses include securing public benefits and supports for caregivers and developing succession planning to ensure continued care. In addition to addressing the needs of kinship caregivers, the project ultimately aims to increase the number of family placements and lessen the number of foster placements by strengthening kinship care in Westchester.

This new project is funded in part by the **NYS OCFS** and the **New York State Senate**, secured by the **Westchester Delegation** and led by **Speaker Andrea Stewart-Cousins**.

New Staff and Staff Promotions

Maureen Fox hired as CDO



Maureen A. Fox joined the Legal Services team in December 2019 as the Chief Development Officer. She has spent her career dedicated to improving the

communities in which she lived and worked through raising funds and awareness for many important causes. As Chief Development Officer she is responsible for the strategic fundraising and communications avenues of the organization in order to further the mission of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

Having begun her career as a paralegal in the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, she decided to devote the remainder to the non-profit sector after graduate school. Maureen has over 25 years of experience as a non-profit executive and communications professional with a demonstrated history of working in the social service sector.

Her previous role was Vice President of External Relations and Communications at Little Flower Children and Family Services of NY where she was responsible for building partnerships and collaborations with local government, schools, community members and individuals. Prior to this she was the Director of Development where she built a strong fundraising and communications department to meet the needs of the organization.

Maureen earned her BS from St. John's University and an MPA from Baruch College. In addition, she is a Certified Fundraising Executive.

Marcie Kobak promoted to Director of Litigation



Marcie Kobak is the first Litigation Director at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, reflecting the agency's increased commitment to improving outcomes

for our client population through affirmative and systemic litigation. Marcie's role includes collaborating with leaders in every office to identify wide-spread wrongs and develop strategies to address them through the judicial system. She also assists attorneys in every stage of complicated cases and coordinates keeping staff up to date on critical changes in the law. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has helped the agency navigate emergency court systems and other changes in court procedure while providing feedback and input to the courts on how to most equitably and safely serve the public. Marcie had previously been a housing attorney with LSHV. She is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Vassar College.

Antonio Iglesias hired as Westchester County Bar Foundation Law Fellow



In 2019, LSHV was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Westchester County Bar Foundation to fund a Law Fellow position in LSHV's Yonkers Enhanced

Access Project. Antonio Iglesias is the Westchester County Bar Foundation Law Fellow for 2019-2021. He graduated from Villanova University with a B.A. in Economics and earned his J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. During law school, Antonio interned with both Mobilization for Justice and Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and was a student attorney at Cardozo's Immigration Justice Clinic.

Erin Burud promoted to Attorney in Charge, Kingston



Erin C. Burud is the Attorney in Charge of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley's Kingston Office where she oversees a staff of 12 attorneys, paralegals and support

personnel. Prior to Attorney in Charge, Erin was a Supervising Attorney in Legal Services' Foreclosure Prevention Unit for Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan and Orange counties and a Staff Attorney in Ulster County where she assisted homeowners seeking to avoid mortgage and tax foreclosure through bankruptcy, litigation, and Pro Se assistance.










She obtained her J.D. from Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, a B.A. in History from Catholic University of America and is admitted to practice law in New York.


Financials

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley & Affiliate

Revenue & Expense

Year Ending December 2019

Revenue		% of Total	
IOLA	1,870,597	9%	
LSC	2,021,507	10%	
City & County	3,394,554	16%	
NYS Grants	3,583,677	17%	
OCA	5,098,301	25%	
Other Fed Funding	1,862,644	9%	
Private Funding	1,213,392	6%	
Donated Services	1,357,519	7%	
Investment Return & Other	376,701	2%	
Total	20,778,892	100%	

Expenses			
Program	17,857,059	86%	
Core Mission Support	2,798,449	14%	
Total	20,655,508		

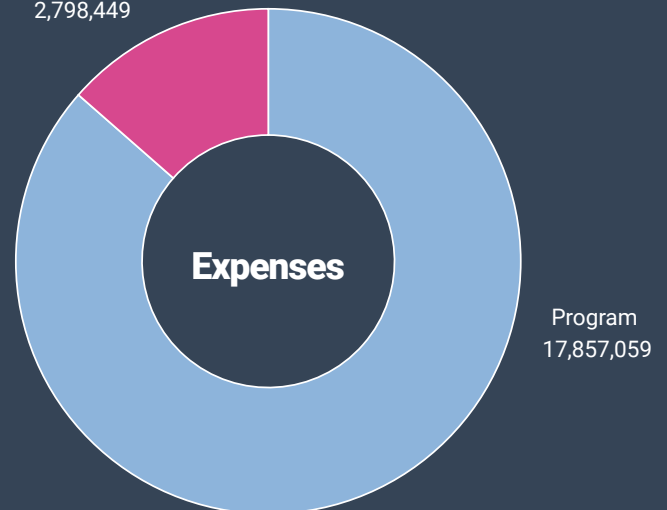
Note: investment return includes the unrealized stock loss and expenses

This statement covers both Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and its affiliate, Hudson Valley Justice Center.

For a copy of our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019, please visit our website or contact us at 914-949-1305 ext 174.

*Management, General Admin, and Fundraising

Core Mission Support *
2,798,449



Thank You to Our 2019 Supporters!

Thank you! Legal Services of the Hudson Valley relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations, and our local community partners to fulfill our mission of equal access to justice for everyone. The following list includes those who have supported us during the calendar year 2019. Names have been listed alphabetically in categories by cumulative giving for the year. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and the integrity of this list, but we may have missed something. We apologize for any mistakes that may be present – please let us know if you see something is amiss by emailing kdunston@lshv.org.



Equal Access to Justice Dinner, April 9, 2019. (L-R): Timothy Murphy, Mastercard International Incorporated; Julie Kinch, HEINEKEN USA; Russell Yankwitt, Yankwitt LLP; Vanessa Kaye Watson, Mastercard International Incorporated; Barbara Finkelstein, LSHV's CEO; Emcee and Auctioneer Bobby Valentine; Christopher Cabanillas, Cabanillas & Associates, P.C.; John M. Flannery, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP; and Paul Adler, Rand Commercial



Ulster Partners in Justice Reception, November 13, 2019. (L-R): back row: Alexander E. Mainetti, Esq., Alfred Mainetti, Esq., Michael Hein, Michael A. Mainetti, Esq., John Huleatt, Esq., General Counsel, The Bruderhof Communities; front row: LSHV's Erin Burud, Attorney in Charge, Kingston Office and Chief Program Officer, Rachel Halperin

\$95,000 or more

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\$50,000 to \$94,999

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