



LAA | NEW HAVEN
LEGAL
ASSISTANCE
ASSOCIATION, INC.

2023 Annual Report

A Letter from Alexis

Dear Supporters,

This year at New Haven Legal Assistance Association, we've covered even more ground on the mission to secure justice for and to protect the rights of Greater New Haven's residents than ever before.

Across the country, we have seen fundamental rights be stripped from the most vulnerable groups among us. Access to abortion in parts of the country is near impossible, gender affirming care is under constant attack, and the end of affirmative action will disproportionately affect the futures' of Black and Brown students. The fabric of our democracy is threatened by these ongoing injustices.

But here in New Haven, NHLAA has repeatedly stood up for our clients' rights. We've ensured that immigration policies equally apply to every resident; we've built a deeper understanding of parents' rights in the education system; we have helped countless tenants avoid eviction; we continue to protect access to social services and so much more.

For decades, we have been honored to serve the people of Greater New Haven and we know our work isn't done.

NHLAA was one of the first legal services programs established, incorporated on April 7, 1964, and the federal government used it as a model for similar programs throughout the country. We are an office of attorneys, paralegals, and legal secretaries committed to protecting the rights and improving the lives of our client communities. Many of our staff have been with NHLAA for more than twenty years.

As we enter our 60th year, we remain committed to our mission and to every resident who may be unable to engage legal counsel on their own. Whether dealing with housing and eviction issues or seeking accessible and easy-to-understand legal aid, we know our work is rooted in our long-standing dedication to this community.

To our clients, supporters, friends, and community, we are grateful to have your unwavering support for the work we do. Without you, none of it would be possible.

As we begin our year-long celebration of 60 years of service to you, we look back on our history as a badge of honor and we look ahead to even more meaningful work.

Thank you,



Alexis Smith
Executive Director

A Letter from our Board Chair

As 2023 comes to a close, we reflect on a year during which we were able to re-establish our connection with the community and with one another. With the worst of the COVID 19 pandemic in our rear-view mirror, courts and schools re-opening, and the housing moratorium coming to an end, it has been a busy year at New Haven Legal Assistance. I want to first acknowledge the grit, tenacity and relentless pursuit of justice by our staff. Their hard work and sacrifice for the sake of our mission and for the community we represent deserve the highest praise. On behalf of the Board and those whom we serve, thank you to our Executive Director, Alexis Smith, and LAA's entire staff who stand on the front lines of justice every day.

Before Connecticut's Housing Right to Counsel Program over eighty percent of tenants went to Housing Court without the benefit of a lawyer. Increased state funding, combined with generous contributions from our donors have enabled LAA to add more housing lawyers to assert tenant protections and keep families in their homes. As a result, our clients can fight for better housing conditions, negotiate with landlords, and assert their legal defenses. This "Civil Gideon" is a huge win for those we serve. Hopefully, it can be extended into other areas of need.

The failure of employers to pay workers legally mandated minimum wages is an on-going problem, particularly among those whose immigration status makes it difficult for them to speak up. LAA lawyers continue to litigate and negotiate to make sure that our clients are rightfully compensated for their hard work; their families depend on those paychecks.

With the return to school, our attorneys and staff assist students with special needs and their families work through the bureaucratic web to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled. Our immigration lawyers are at work to assure that those who have recently entered the country receive due process in determining their legal status. Our community workers make sure that those facing legal problems know of their rights and that LAA is available to support them.

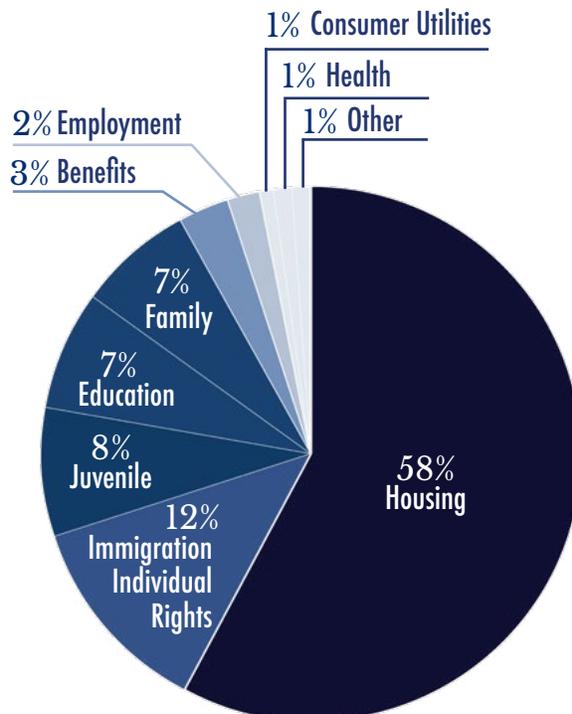
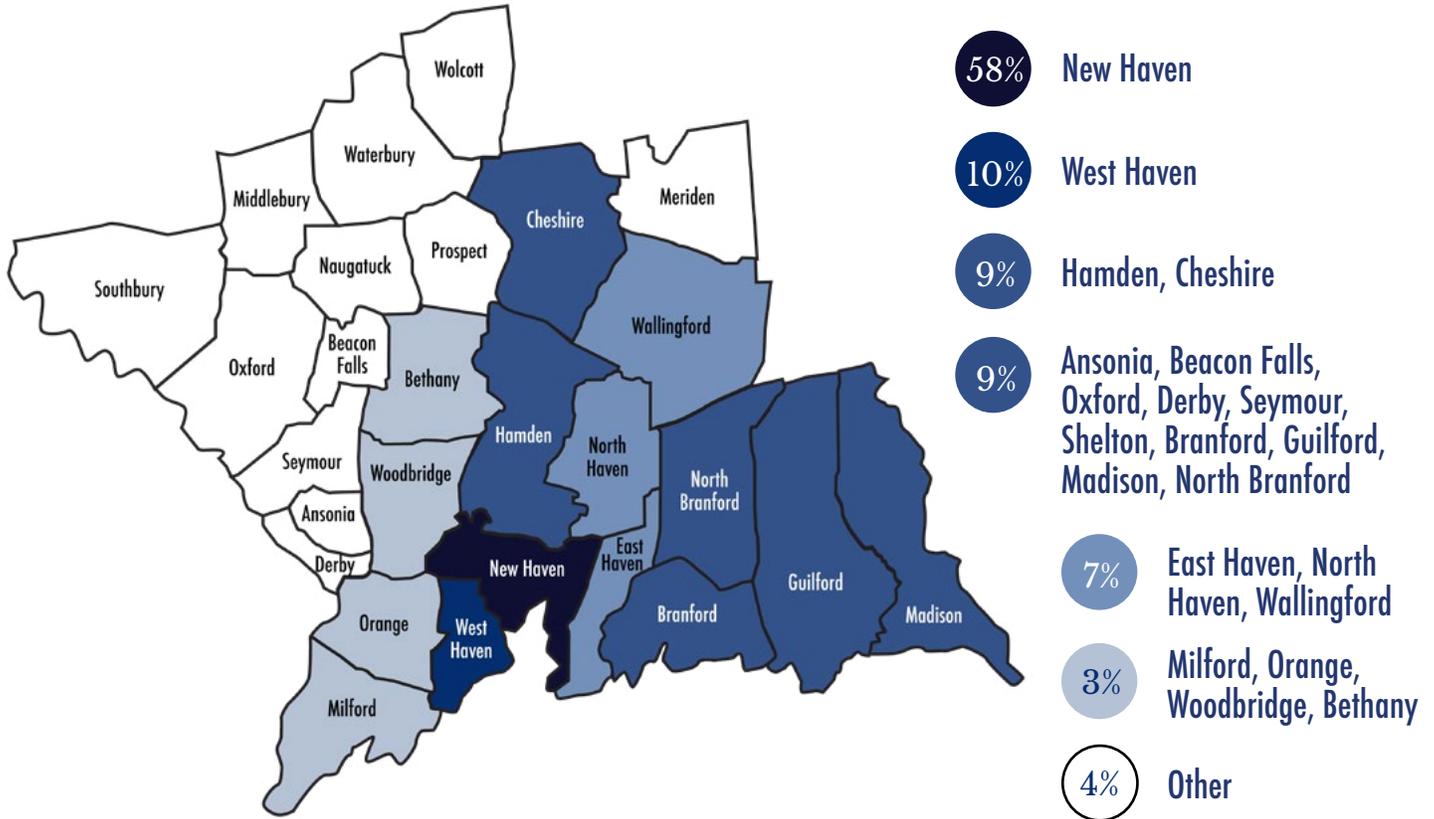
Founded almost sixty years ago during the Civil Rights Movement, LAA was a radical concept based on the principle that everyone, regardless of race or income, should have access to the justice system. Our founders, in the face of significant opposition, ushered in a new era where those who previously were voiceless had lawyers who could fight for the justice they deserve. As we approach our 60th anniversary, LAA is involved in a rigorous strategic planning process to make sure that we continue to effectively fulfill the mission of expanding justice.

Finally, thank you to all those who give LAA their financial support. Your generosity enables LAA to keep people in their homes; to help families to stay together; and to give support to those struggling to navigate a system that they may not understand and which, in turn, may not understand their problems. Thank you on behalf of those for whom you provide a voice.

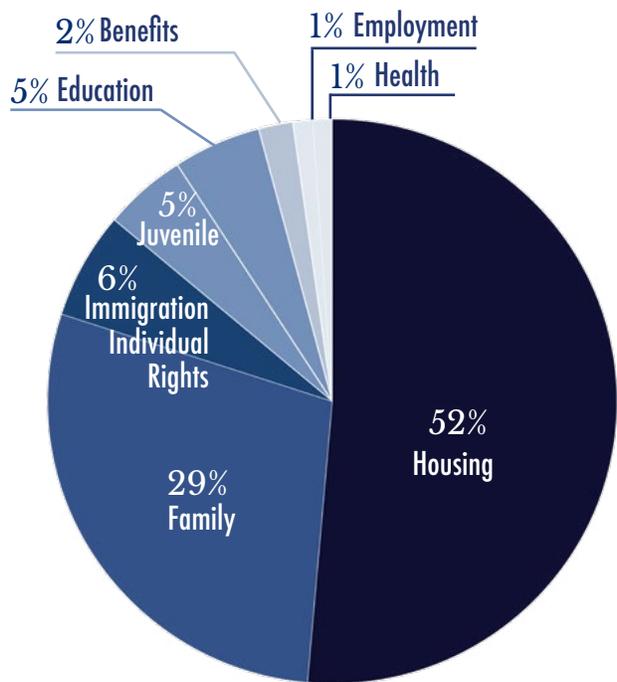
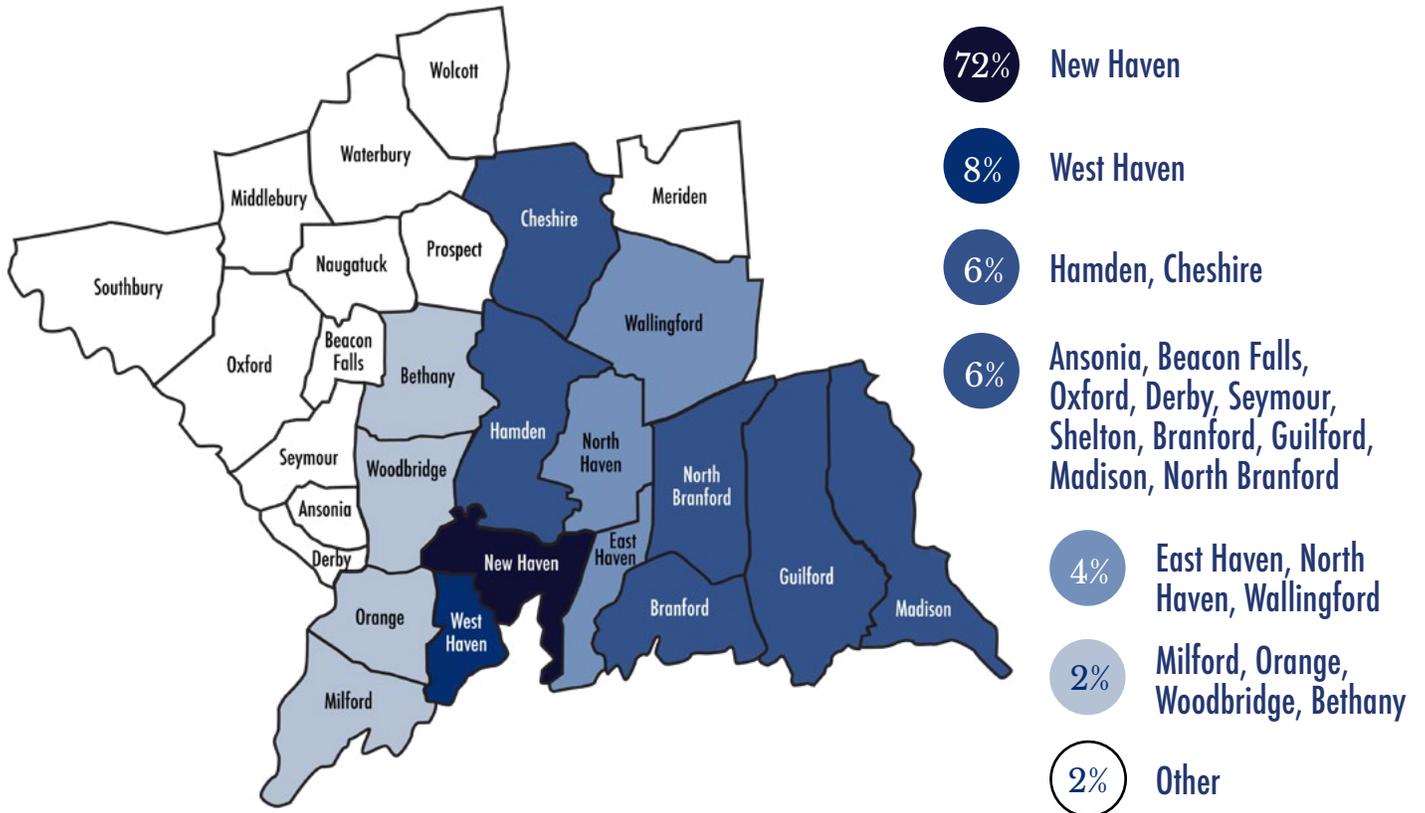


David Reif
President, Board of Directors

2021 Cases Opened by Town and by Type



2022 Cases Opened by Town and by Type



NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC

2022 ANNUAL REPORT DATA

| INCOME | 2022 | 2022 Audited | 2021 | 2021 Audited |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| IOLTA/Legislative Appropriation | 11.5% | 614,628 | 12.8% | 576,572 |
| Court Filing Fees | 30.2% | 1,616,333 | 44.7% | 1,617,978 |
| Right to Counsel | 25.9% | 1,386,936 | - | - |
| Community Foundation of Gr. New Haven | 0.8% | 41,042 | 1.4% | 142,750 |
| Contribution - Cash/In-kind | 8.2% | 437,583 | 12.1% | 752,822 |
| Federal/State Grants | 8.5% | 455,825 | 11.2% | 809,211 |
| Other Grants | 12.2% | 650,926 | 14.8% | 599,052 |
| Other Income | 2.7% | 143,867 | 3% | 849,400 |
| Totals | 100% | 5,347,140 | 100% | 5,347,785 |

| EXPENSES | 2022 | 2022 Audited | 2021 | 2021 Audited |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Salaries-Cash/In-kind | 61.4% | 3,289,923 | 60.3% | 2,833,272 |
| Benefits | 21.6% | 1,160,190 | 22.8% | 983,616 |
| Contracts & Consulting | 4.6% | 245,923 | 6.9% | 220,584 |
| Office Expenses | 2.8% | 150,742 | 2.3% | 118,698 |
| Occupancy | 6.9% | 372,047 | 4.3% | 353,859 |
| Training, Travel, Membership, Professional Fees | 0.7% | 37,514 | 1.2% | 33,692 |
| Research & Litigation | 0.5% | 28,792 | 1.1% | 28,566 |
| Insurance | 0.5% | 27,842 | 0.5% | 27,006 |
| Fund Raising Expenses | 0.3% | 17,442 | 0.3% | 4,652 |
| Other Expenses | 0.3% | 10,982 | 0.2% | 7,715 |
| Depreciation | 0.4% | 19,699 | 0.1% | 7,797 |
| Totals | 100% | 5,347,140 | 100% | 5,347,785 |

NHLAA Staff List

Maureen Abell, Staff Attorney

Vicki Acker, Finance Associate

Tahlisa Brougham, Staff Attorney

Margot Kenefick Burkle, Staff Attorney

Julia Chamberlain, Development Associate

Laura Clark, Finance Director

Francis X. Dineen, Senior Counsel
(in memoriam, January 6, 1935- September 25, 2019)

Amy Eppler-Epstein, Staff Attorney

Tyrese Ford, Staff Attorney

Kate Geruntho Frank, Web and Publications Manager, CTLawHelp.org

Joanne Gibau, Staff Attorney

Carolyn Gontarski, Office Manager/
Administrative Assistant

Ben Haldeman, Staff Attorney

Richard Hine, Staff Attorney

Cat Itaya, Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Program Fellow

Amanda Klay, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow

Camille N. Lavache, Family Law Unit

Emily Leen, Herbert and Nell Singer Fellow

Caitlin Maloney, Community Organizer

Ben Martin, IT Administrator

Amy Marx, Staff Attorney

Ellen Messali, Staff Attorney

Anthony Nanni, Staff Attorney

Jeanette “Jae” Olaya, Bilingual Office Assistant

Elizabeth Rosenthal, Deputy Director

Daisy Ruiz, Paralegal

Rachel Scotch, Staff Attorney

Rachel Slajda, Staff Attorney

Alexis Smith, Executive Director

Natalie Smith, Equal Justice Works Fellow,
sponsored by Lisa Foster and Alan Bersin

Reilly Stevens, Grants Manager

Ingrid Swanson, Staff Attorney

Nhi Tran, Staff Attorney

Maria Velez, Secretary

Jamie Wallack, Secretary

Natasha White, Staff Attorney

Shelley White, Litigation and Advocacy Director

Sinclair Williams, Staff Attorney

Yonatan Zamir, Staff Attorney

Donna Aurora, Secretary

Sara Parker-McKernan, Policy Advocate

Audra Holmes-Greene, Paralegal

Alyssa Santos, Public Benefits Unit

Yolanda Vargas, Legal Assistant

Hedy Montes, Legal Assistant

Dan Burns, Staff Attorney

Barbara Rey-DeLoatch, Paralegal

Rae Dehal, Staff Attorney

Cynthia Rogers, Paralegal

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nhlaa.org/winter-appeal-23

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