Legal Services Alabama serves low-income people by providing civil legal aid and by promoting collaboration to find solutions to problems of poverty.

Dear LSA Friends and Supporters:

Although 2019 marked the 15-year anniversary of Legal Services Alabama (LSA), the legal aid work of its three preceding organizations spanned over 50 years. LSA came into existence in 2004 with the merger of the three legal services organizations in Alabama – the Montgomery based Legal Services Corporation of Alabama, the Metro Birmingham Legal Services and the Huntsville based Legal Services of North-Central Alabama. Building on the great advocacy of these three organizations, LSA continued its legacy in 2019 by providing high-quality advocacy to over 10,000 low-income Alabamians.

As a result, I look back on our 15th anniversary with pride in the transformative work LSA accomplished. The LSA Board and staff worked with many community partners and funders to respond to the diverse needs of our clients across all 67 counties of the state. Although Alabama remains one of only two states to have never provided funding for legal services, LSA has managed to increase its non-LSC funding to 20% of its total budget.

In December 2018, the LSA Board adopted the 2019-2021 LSA Strategic Work Plan that highlighted new ways to meet the LSA Board’s objective of addressing geographical inequity. To meet this challenge, LSA applied for and received funding to reach underserved populations, including:

REIP a multi-year grant from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation for a Rural Economic Improvement Project to provide economic stability and improvement to the rural counties in our service delivery area

LAEP one of only six multi-year grants in the country to expand the provision of legal assistance to the elderly in partnership with the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program; and

REAL a LSA Re-entry Alabama project working with SPLC on court fees and fines.

This work cannot be done without you—our donors, funders, and pro bono volunteers. As much as this report is a look back on LSA’s achievements, it also provides the opportunity to say thank you to the many individuals and organizations whose generosity helps make this possible.

In 2020, LSA will continue the 15th anniversary celebration by uniting as a community to work toward the ideal that everyone in Alabama is entitled to equal protection with Justice, Fairness & Hope for all.

Thank you.

Guy E. Lescault
Executive Director

GUY E. LESCAULT
Executive Director
Advocacy Report

AS DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY, I’m very proud of all the things LSA achieved in 2019. It is not easy being the only statewide full-service law firm for Alabama’s low-income residents, but last year LSA made great strides in serving clients all around the state. Across Alabama, LSA increased the number of extended service cases we handled and continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients.

In 2019, LSA continued to file appeals and amicus briefs on a wide range of topics from garnishments and foreclosures to domestic violence. For the first time in the history of the program, this included arguing before an en banc panel of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to the large number of individual cases taken on by LSA, we continued pursuing cases and strategies aimed at the larger issues affecting our low-income clients.

WHY DO WE DO IT? LSA’s mission is to help and elevate the underserved, most vulnerable segments of Alabama’s population. We do this by keeping our clients’ money in their pockets, families in their homes and victims safe from violence. LSA helps our clients maintain household stability. This stability provides them the opportunity to find and keep employment. It means their children can receive a decent education. It keeps alive the hope for a better tomorrow.

The lawyers and support staff of LSA work tirelessly to make Alabama and the world a better place. This year and every year, I feel honored to be part of a team ushering in the change they want to see in the world.
IN 2019, Felecia Pettway, the Managing Attorney of the LSA Selma Office was appointed Director of Development. Under her leadership, LSA has continued to increase its non-LSC funding to a record $1.5 million dollars in grants and foundation awards. These grants have allowed LSA to recruit staff advocates to help meet the Board’s priorities of geographical equity and increased delivery to vulnerable and underserved populations such as the elderly and veterans.

Although the federally funded Legal Services Corporation provides 81% of LSA’s funding revenue, LSA is committed to working with our local, state and private partners to increase our non-LSC funding to 25% of our total revenue. To accomplish this objective the LSA Development team is focused on three goals:

FUNDRAISING remains the core of our development efforts. In 2019, LSA expanded our outreach and increased our partnerships and community donations. It is our goal in 2020 to maintain this momentum in our funding streams by implementing three new fundraising initiatives.

Alabama remains one of only two states in the country that has never appropriated funding for legal aid. LSA is dedicated to working with stakeholders and legislators to secure funding to enable LSA to provide services in all 67 counties of Alabama.

LSC provided funding to purchase a building in downtown Montgomery that will house the LSA Montgomery Office, Central Office and Statewide Call Center. In early 2020, LSA will launch a Capital Campaign to raise over $1.2 million dollars for the renovation of our new home.

LSA will host the 1st Annual Justice, Fairness and Hope Dinner in the fall of 2020. This awards dinner will serve as our signature fundraiser. Congressman John Lewis will be honored with the first LSA Hope Award and Congresswoman Terri Sewell with the LSA Tommy Wells Justice Award. Mobile Attorney Mary Margaret Bailey will be recognized with the LSA Fairness Award for her commitment to Pro Bono in Alabama.

COMMUNICATIONS continues to play a viable role in supporting LSA’s branding, delivering our message to the public, and supporting the overall goals of the organization. In 2019, Legal Services Alabama’s Facebook page reached a total of 57,501 people—an increase of 10% from 2018. LSA continues to increase its followers, having a total of more than 5,000 across Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The website continues to get hits, with more than 9,800-page views a month and 75 percent new users. As LSA continues to engage its social media audience and maintain visibility in the community, we will maintain our recognizable name in the fight for equal access to justice for Alabamians facing poverty every day!
In 2019, LSA secured funding from LSC to purchase a building in downtown Montgomery. Our new home will provide better access to our clients with better proximity to the courts and transportation.

Our Montgomery Regional Office, Statewide Call Center, and Central offices will be located in the new LSA home.

### Pledge Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HOPE $1,000</th>
<th>FAIRNESS $10,000</th>
<th>JUSTICE $100,000</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Funding For Our New Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSC Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural Design &amp; Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
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</table>

### Remaining Funds To Generate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery Regional Office</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Call Center</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phase III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Montgomery Office

428 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama

### Rural Economic Improvement Project

In 2018, Legal Services Alabama received a grant from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation (ACJF) to fund the Rural Economic Improvement Project (REIP), aimed at improving the delivery of legal services to rural counties throughout Alabama.

The REIP Coordinating Project Attorney, Farah Majid, is based out of the Central Office and coordinates projects in rural counties statewide. In 2019, she developed a legal information guide which was distributed to over 200 service provider agencies statewide, as well as approximately 200 public libraries. This will allow these agencies to provide information to people in rural counties who may not be able to access a lawyer. She has also used technology to deliver legal information available on LSA’s website www.AlabamaLegalHelp.org. REIP also conducted clinics, outreach, and listening sessions in rural areas throughout Alabama.

REIP is also staffed by a full-time Staff Attorney and Paralegal in the Selma Office, Donavon McGuire and Iris Portis. In 2019, the Selma Office staff completed 80 community outreach events and reached over 2000 people. They implemented “Lawyer for a Day” clinics in every county in the Black Belt, providing representation to anyone who wants it during certain civil dockets. As a result of these and other efforts, case closings increased in Black Belt counties by 30% from 2018 to 2019.

In 2020, REIP will continue to expand upon the projects started in 2019, with more outreach, cases and innovative ways to serve rural populations.

In 2020, REIP will continue to expand upon the projects started in 2019, with more outreach, cases and innovative ways to serve rural populations.
Information Technology Report

In 2018, LSA received an LSC/Technology Innovation Grant to assess our IT operations and develop a three-year roadmap for increasing our capacity for using the tools of technology to better deliver client services. LSA issued an RFP and selected from the half dozen proposals received to work with the Atlanta based firm Techbridge. Their report detailed several structural changes that needed to be implemented and received LSA Board approval. Because IT is integral to every facet of management, LSA created a new position of IT Director who would be part of the LSA Executive Team. As a result, Christopher Jones, the LSA IT Director reports to the Executive Director and the LSA Executive Committee who receive a quarterly report of any and all tech issues.

Techbridge recommended that LSA move from its reliance on contract servers located in Mississippi to a cloud-based operation. LSA migrated its e-mail to Office 365 and is on the process of implementing a new cloud-based accounting system. All LSA staff now have Dell laptop computers with Windows 10 software. By the end of 2019, LSA had a new phone service with RingCentral. The IT staff has increased to three positions with complimentary computer science interns from Troy University.

As a result of LSA’s IT accomplishments, LSC invited the LSA IT Director and Executive Director to serve on panels at the January Innovations Technology Conference in Portland, OR.

In 2020, LSA will continue to grow and further develop its IT department with the goal of becoming a for profit center for all legal public interest entities in Alabama.
An elder law client living in rural Cherokee County had a man boarding with her for some years. After the relationship soured, he left the residence, leaving behind some old car parts and other items. The client attempted to have him remove these things, but he refused.

Our client came to Legal Services Alabama’s Anniston office after he sued her for not only his items, but also for thousands of dollars, most of her personal belongings, and her house and land. If he had been successful, this elderly client living on minimum Social Security and SSI would have essentially been homeless and stripped of almost all her personal assets.

Our Anniston attorney defended her in a day long circuit court trial. The man who sued our client for almost everything she owned, was forced to admit under cross examination that he previously lied under oath to the Social Security administration in reporting his assets—a key moment in the trial. The circuit judge gave this admission of lying under oath a prominent place in his 10-page opinion, ruling for our client.

This is only one of the “white hat” moments our lawyers have experienced this past year while representing many who would otherwise have no defender. Every supporter of Legal Services Alabama should take pride in knowing that they have a part in fighting for what are often life’s essentials for many of our clients.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry came to Legal Services Alabama in October 2014 regarding a land dispute with their neighbor. The Henrys had lived in the same spot since the early 1980s. A new purchaser of the land adjacent to theirs claimed to own the backyard containing the Henrys’ well, chicken coop and shed. The adjacent landowner argued the Henrys built their home on land they did not own and filed suit against them for a quiet title action and trespass claims. He asked that the Henrys be ejected from the land on which they had built their well, chicken coop and shed. He also asked for attorneys’ fees. The Henrys claimed the defense of adverse possession. The controversy spanned several years, as the adjoining landowner had also joined an heir property to his action to quiet title, leading to multiple defendants in the case. Our Dothan office advocates assisted with the Henry case over its five-year span.

Initially, the court ruled in the adjoining landowner’s favor, but declined to award attorneys’ fees. However, LSA advocates filed a motion to alter, amend, or vacate that decision and successfully argued to the judge that the Henrys were entitled to their backyard by virtue of adverse possession.

In December 2019, the judge awarded the Henrys their backyard, and indicated a survey must be conducted for the Henrys to register a new deed that encompasses the land awarded.

The court is currently trying to fashion that order, as successful adverse possession actions are quite rare in this particular jurisdiction.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard filed for Chapter 7 relief due to crushing medical debt. Mr. Richard is facing a third bout with cancer with a poor prognosis. The couple wanted to ensure that his joint debts with his wife would not cost their family their meager income or belongings. Their bankruptcy was discharged in 2020. The Richards shared a tearful thank you with our LSA advocate

They now have peace of mind knowing that their income will support their teenage daughters and they can focus on building good memories during the time they have left together.

LSA represented a client in an action to redeem property she lost due to a tax sale. We filed a motion to redeem the client’s property in probate court. The tax purchaser initially refused the affidavit to redeem her property. After filing the action to redeem the property in probate court, the tax purchaser agreed to sign an affidavit to let the client redeem her property. The client is disabled and unable to walk, having suffered several strokes. Our LSA Advocates were able to get the property redeemed and a deed in the client’s name. The client was pleased with the results; otherwise, she would have been homeless.

Our Montgomery advocate defended a senior citizen who was being kicked out of his senior housing by negotiating with the housing complex to allow him to stay.

Our advocate’s work resulted in the housing center implementing a new policy that was applicable to all residents going forward. The policy protected our immediate client along with all other senior residents in the facility.

Our advocate worked with the center’s director’s, empowering them to be on-going agents of change in the lives of their residents.

Mobile Office

LSA’s Statewide Call Center
A senior attending high school in the Black Belt was suspended for possessing pepper spray at school. Our client had pepper spray in her book bag that accidentally released inside the bag and spread throughout the classroom, causing students to be evacuated.

Our client was told to take the spray to the resource officer, which she did. When she asked for the return of the pepper spray at the end of the day, our client was told her mother needed to come for a meeting to discuss her violation of the policy against having it. The principal of the school recommended 45 days at the alternative learning school, in addition to five days suspension. The client’s mother appealed this harsh punishment and requested a meeting in front of the school board.

Our Rural Economic Improvement Project (REIP) attorney represented the student at the meeting in mid-September. Our advocate explained that the client obtained the pepper spray prior to beginning the school year for her safety and kept it on her key chain. She was accustomed to having it on her key chain, not realizing it was a violation. The client read her written statement of apology. Our advocate reminded the board that the student is on the honor roll with no record of unruly behavior. Additionally, our advocate noted the student’s volunteer work—helping teachers and the principal at school and working with a youth organization at her church—as evidence that leniency be granted. After closed discussion, the board accepted the superintendent’s recommendation that our client be allowed to return to school with only the five-day suspension.

Our office helped a client seeking representation after the Tuscaloosa housing authority filed an eviction action for lease violations that included criminal activity and disturbing quiet enjoyment. All the claimed lease violations stemmed from a verbal argument between our client and another tenant. Our client stated the argument was unilaterally escalated by the other tenant when she used mace against our client without warning. Advocate filed and answer with affirmative defenses. Our Tuscaloosa advocate also conducted discovery of clients housing file for witness statements and spoke with the witnesses. At trial, our advocate elicited witness testimony showing that our client had not acted criminally. The Housing Authority then claimed that the minor lease violations were sufficient to warrant eviction by themselves. The Tuscaloosa office advocate argued that under federal regulations, lease terms, and state law minor violations must be repeated, and the client is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court ordered both parties to brief their arguments.

After the court reviewed the briefs, the judge found for our client. Ultimately, our client was able to retain housing for herself and her three children, as well as her housing subsidy with a fair market value of $9,336 per year.
On behalf of the LSA Board, staff and clients, thank you to our grantors, partners and volunteers who have joined us in our effort to provide equal access to justice for all Alabamians.

Non-LSC Grant Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non-LSC Grant Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$695,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$962,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$1,305,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$1,370,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grantors

- Alabama Area Agency on Aging
- Alabama Civil Justice Foundation
- Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)
- Alabama Law Foundation
- Central Alabama Aging Consortium
- City of Birmingham CDBG
- City of Huntsville
- City of Mobile CDBG
- City of Mobile Down Payment Assistance Program
- City of Tuscaloosa
- The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
- East Alabama Regional AAA
- HHS/Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- HUD/ West Tennessee Legal Services
- Jefferson County United Way
- Legal Services Corporation
- Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Mobile Bar Foundation
- Mobile County CDBG
- Mobile County Commission
- Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)
LAST YEAR, I had the honor of serving as President of the Board of Directors of Legal Services Alabama as we celebrated our Fifteen-year Anniversary. Throughout 2019, LSA held four open house receptions to allow board, staff, and supporters throughout the state to join in our anniversary celebration.

In the first quarter of the year, an open-house reception was held in the new LSA Huntsville office and we dedicated the training center to long-standing LSA Board member Norman Bradley, Esq., and the reception area to long-term LSA client Board member Willie Hereford. A second reception was held in May at the LSA Birmingham office where the training center was dedicated to former LSA Board Chair LaVeeda Battle, Esq. and reception area to LSA client Board member Lizzie Pullom. The third reception was held in conjunction with the LSA Annual Statewide Conference in Montgomery and recognized LSA Board member Yvonne Saxon, Esq. and client Board member Doris Smith. We concluded the anniversary celebrations in December in Mobile where the Frazer Greene law firm hosted the reception recognizing former LSA Board member Merceria Ludgood, Esq., and LSA Board Secretary Rev. Bennie Richardson, II.

LSA is now the 12th largest law firm in Alabama. While we celebrated our 15th Anniversary last year, the LSA board was also planning for our future continued growth and expansion to meet the legal needs of our clients. Because of our commitment to client access to services, LSA purchased a building in downtown Montgomery in proximity to the courts that will increase our clients’ ability to access our Montgomery Office. The new permanent home of LSA will also house our Statewide Call Center and Central Administrative staff. In 2020, LSA will be launching a statewide Capital Campaign to raise funds for the renovation of our new home.

LSA’s strength and continued growth reflect not only our dedicated staff and board, but also the many partner agencies across the state that provide critical legal services to individuals and families who cannot afford an attorney. LSA will continue to build a network of support for nearly 1/3 of Alabamians who are eligible for legal aid.

With your continued support, Legal Services Alabama will seek to accomplish its mission of providing civil legal aid and promoting collaborations to find solutions to problems of poverty in Alabama for years to come.

ALEXANDER M. SMITH, Board President

2019 LSA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Alex M. Smith, Oneonta

VICE PRESIDENT
Tazewell Shepard, III, Huntsville

BOARD MEMBERS
LaVeeda Morgan Battle, Birmingham
Norman Bradley, Huntsville
Katy Campbell, Tuskegee
Hon. George T. Craig, Athens
Richard T. Dorman, Birmingham
Howell Thomas Heflin, Jr., Tuscaloosa
Linda Henderson, Tuskegee
Edward A. Hosp, Montgomery
Mary Jackson, Phoenix City
Karen Jones, Montgomery
Marcia Kelly, Dothan

SECRETARY
Rev. Bennie L. Richardson, Daphne

TREASURER
William Broome, Anniston

BOARD MEMBERS
Merceria Ludgood, Mobile
Phil D. Mitchell, Decatur
Anil A. Mujumdar, Birmingham
Ashley Penhale, Montgomery
Lizzie Pullom, Tuscaloosa
Avery Qahhaar, Huntsville
John D. Saxon, Birmingham
Yvonne Saxon, Wetumpka
Saintless Sims, Billingsley
Doris Smith, Pine Apple
Charles Tatum, Jasper

SYLVIA MASON
Executive Assistant & Board of Directors Liaison
## Pro Bono Report

**LSA REMAINS COMMITTED** to our long-term vision of enhancing client access and closing the civil justice gap. Our robust network of pro bono opportunities serves diverse client communities across Alabama. By increasing access to high quality civil legal services for low-income clients, LSA knows that we can interrupt the cycle of poverty, prevent families from falling into poverty and improve our clients’ ability to access future success.

In 2019, LSA launched a nationwide search for a Managing Attorney of Client Access that lead us to Nell Brimmer. Brimmer joined the Central Office in November and started managing statewide access to civil justice endeavors. She is increasing our client access through strengthening and streamlining pro bono efforts.

Together with the Volunteer Lawyers Programs and our dedicated volunteer attorneys, LSA transforms the lives of our neighbors, one client at a time.

### Volunteer Lawyer Program

**CLIENTS ASSISTED BY PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Clients</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALABAMA STATE BAR VLP</td>
<td>892</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM VLP</td>
<td>6,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>MADISON COUNTY VLP</td>
<td>1,047</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY COUNTY VLP</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH ALABAMA VLP</td>
<td>720</td>
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</table>

LSA provides grants to each of the VLPs in order to increase their capacity to serve LSA eligible clients; these numbers reflect those clients.

## Operations Report

**LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA’S STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS** are our most important assets in obtaining justice for vulnerable people in Alabama.

We celebrated 15 years as one program at the statewide conference in September. LSA’s statewide conference committee worked hard to provide a comprehensive agenda. Our staff, pro bono lawyers, volunteers, and board gathered from all over the state to join in training, participate in a diversity and inclusion interaction and enjoy recognition.

LSA honored Robert D. Segall with the 2019 Thomas H. Wells, Jr. Award in appreciation of his work for the low income citizens of Alabama.

Our staff grew in 2019 and were welcomed at our New Employee Orientations.
Partners for Justice

**Individuals**

AC Williams
Andar Designations
Angela J. Crosby
Ann Brown, Esq.
Aundrea Mann Snyder
Avery Qahhaar
Beverly Russ
Brenda D. and Randall Heltrick
Carl Betsch
Christy Crow, Esq.
Clifton Perry, Esq.
Cortney Avery
Danette Tipton
Darie Scott Schnetter
Debra Hansen, Esq.
Desiree Taylor
Doris Smith
Episcopal Church
Erika Berger
Ernestine S. Sapp, Esq.
Farah Majid, Esq.
Flecia Z. Pettway, Esq.
Freddi Aronov
Furlonia S. Davis
Greg Blough
Guy E. Lescaut, Esq.
Holly Ray-Blough, Esq.
Howell Heflin Jr., Esq.
Howell Thomas Heflin Jr., Esq.
Irvin Grodsky, Esq.
James L. Loeb Jr.
James Thomas
Karen Rousseau
Karl Galloway
Katy S. Campbell, Esq.
Keith Chandler
King Underwood
Kristy Kirkland, Esq.
LaVeeda Morgan Battle, Esq.
Lateefah Muhammad, Esq.
Laurie S. McFalls, Esq.
Lawrence Gardella, Esq.
Linda Lovett
Lizzie Pullom, Esq.
Lucy E. Tufts, Esq.
Lynne Windham
Marcia Kelly
Marcia Perkins
Mark W. Regan
Mary Jackson
Mary Jane Oakley, Esq.
Mary Margaret Bailey, Esq.
Merceria L. Ludgood, Esq.
Michael Camerio
Michael Forton, Esq.
Neil Brimmer, Esq.
Pamela Lang Shepard
Patrick K. Nakamura
Penny Weaver
Peter Last
Phil McCallum
Rebecca Brooks
Rebbie T. Morris
Rev. Bennie L. Richardson II
Richard T. Dorman, Esq.
Rick Freemion
Robert R. Reynolds, Esq.
Ronnie Harris
Rosetta DeYam
Saintess Sims
Sarah L. Thompson, Esq.
Sid Williams
Stephen Last, Esq.
Susanna B. Smith
Tamera Wolverton
Tazewell T. Shepard III, Esq.
Theresa Donald
Tiffanie Steele
Timothy Kingston, Esq.
Timothy Vines
Tracy Daniel

**Businesses**

Alabama Civil Justice Foundation
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)
Alabama Law Foundation
BBVA
Beasley Allen
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
CIMA World
Copeland Franco
Cunningham Bounds LLC
Frazer Greene
George Washington Carver Museum
Greene & Phillips Guardian
Hedrick & Hedrick
Martin & Helms PC
Mobile Bar Foundation
Moore Company Realty
Selma Housing Authority
Tuscaloosa Main Public Library
Watson McKinney LLP

**Volunteers**

Abigail Gillis
Annie Wilkerson
Ashley Allen
Blaine Roberts
Caleb Frey
Catherine Ruiz
Chakeira Gilbert
Charlie Horton
Ciera Berkemeyer
Colin Rust
Courtney Bobo
Deanna Breckenhridge
Drapondra Holmes
Elsbeth Bennett
Gavin Day
Ishmael Jaffree
Jessica Burrell
Jordan Berry
Joseph Jasper
Julia Simmons
Julie Vines
Katrina Anderson
Katrina Brown
Kyra Lockhart
Larry Gardella
Levi Davis
Maggie Smith
Mary Jane Oakley
Miguel Torres
Niaja Whitte
Penny Slawkowski
Sara Carter
Sarah Hill
Summer Jackson
Tom Keith
Tristan Johnson
Tyler Thull
## Our Team

**EXECUTIVE TEAM**
Guy Lescault  
Executive Director

Sylvia Mason  
Executive Assistant

Michael Forton  
Director of Advocacy

Debra Hansen  
Director of Operations

David Roberson  
Controller

Felecia Pettway  
Director of Development

Christopher Jones  
IT Director

**CENTRAL OFFICE**
Christine Davis  
Grants Manager

Nell Brimmer  
Managing Attorney of Client Access

Maxwell Brown  
IT Systems Administrator

Desiree Jones  
Accounts Specialist

Dorothy Graham  
Development Coordinator

Farah Majid  
Staff Attorney

Latresha Nelson  
Accounts Specialist

TaKenya Rogers  
Operations Administrator

Doris Pincheon  
Intake Specialist

**DOTHAN OFFICE**
Tracie Melvin  
Managing Attorney

Kristy Kirkland  
Staff Attorney

Rachelle Grezcyz*  
Staff Attorney

James Rich  
Staff Attorney

Angela Newton  
Administrative Assistant

**HUNTSVILLE OFFICE**
Holly Ray  
Managing Attorney

Pamela Jackson  
Lead Attorney

Meteasa C. Henderson  
Staff Attorney

Christine Lewis  
Administrative Assistant

**MONTGOMERY OFFICE**
Stephanie Blackburn  
Managing Attorney

Andriette Rowell  
Lead Attorney

LaRona McFall*  
Staff Attorney

**ONE PLACE OF THE SHOALS FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**
Tyler Brannon  
Staff Attorney

**MOBILE OFFICE**
Ann Brown  
Managing Attorney

Charlotte Tipton  
Lead Attorney

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ONE PLACE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**
Kintsha Matthews  
Staff Attorney

Jim Smith  
Staff Attorney

**SELMA OFFICE**
Elizabeth Hollie  
Managing Attorney

Stephanie Haywood  
Administrative Assistant

Donavon McGuire  
Staff Attorney

Kameisha Logan  
Staff Attorney

Iris Portis*  
Paralegal

**TUSCALOOSA OFFICE**
Willie Mays Jones  
Managing Attorney

Pam Barnes*  
Administrative Assistant

Ricky T. Chambless  
Staff Attorney

Gabriel DeMoske  
Staff Attorney

**LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA**
Throughout 2019, LSA held quarterly receptions to allow board, staff and supporters to join in our 15th Anniversary celebration.

In the first quarter, LSA hosted an open house at its new Huntsville office and dedicated the training center to long-time LSA board member Norman Bradley, Esq. and the reception area to long-time client board member Willie Hereford.

In May, LSA continued its anniversary celebration at its Birmingham Office by dedicating the training center to former LSA board chair LaVeeda Battle, Esq. and the reception area to client board member Lizzie Pullom. Staff and supporters from the Anniston and Tuscaloosa offices joined in the celebration.

In conjunction with the LSA Statewide Conference in September, LSA held a reception and recognized LSA board member Yvonne A. H. Saxon, Esq. by dedicating the Central Office training center in her name and dedicating the Montgomery Regional office reception area to LSA client board member Doris Smith. LSA staff and supporters from the Call Center and Selma offices participated.

LSA concluded its anniversary year with a December reception hosted by the Mobile law firm of Fraser Green. Former LSA board member Merceria Ludgood, Esq. was recognized with the dedication of the Mobile training center in her honor and LSA board Secretary Rev Bennie L. Richardson with the dedication of the Mobile client reception area.

In honor of Alabama’s bicentennial celebration, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission showcased its traveling, interactive exhibit titled “Alabama Justice: The Cases and Faces that Changed a Nation,” that covered issues including civil rights, equal protection, city zoning and prayer in public schools. Former LSA Mobile Attorneys Ishmael Jaffree and Ronnie Williams’ landmark case “Wallace v. Jaffree” (1985), argued in the U.S. Supreme Court was featured in the exhibit.

LSA held a special justice reception and discussion in honor of the case on October 10th in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and November 13th at Tuskegee University. Students, faculty, community leaders, and dignitaries attended the events.
2019 Finance Report

Thanks to the strong support from funders LSA funding grew in 2019. Our grant revenue increased from $7.8 to $7.9 million. LSA is grateful to our partners, funders, and donors who make it possible for us to serve low-income people and families in legal need, and to expand and reach new clients.

LSA continues to expand and diversify its financial resources through new partnerships and projects around the state. One new exciting venture is LSA’s award of new funding from the Administration on Community Living, which will provide additional program revenue of $250,000 in year one, and $242,500 in each of years two and three under the 3-year project. The project will help LSA serve older constituents in Alabama’s rural areas of the Black Belt and Wiregrass regions. More projects like this are on the horizon for LSA as we continue to expand our resources with great support from our funders.

Thank you to all who support funding for legal aid!

EXPENSES BY LINE ITEM

- Direct Services & Support Staff: $5,580,561
- 8 Office Locations: $715,721
- Client Services Contracts: $536,824
- Technology & Equipment: $456,952
- Training and Travel: $382,021
- Library, License, Insurance, Supplies & Other: $362,961
- Professional Fees & Contracts: $179,362

2019 Financial Highlights

REVENUE
- Grant Revenue: $7,897,130
- Other Revenue: $196,446
- TOTAL REVENUE: $8,093,576

EXPENDITURES
- Personnel: $5,580,561
- Operations: $2,633,841
- TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $7,904,296
- Change in Net Assets: $120,826

ASSETS
- Cash & Receivables: $1,431,155
- Investments: $1,352,107
- Prepaid Expenses: $177,166
- Property and Equipment: $1,063,185
- TOTAL ASSETS: $4,023,613

LIABILITIES
- Accounts Payable: $757,193
- Client Trust: $23,990
- Other: $3,980
- TOTAL LIABILITIES: $785,163
- TOTAL NET ASSETS: $4,023,613