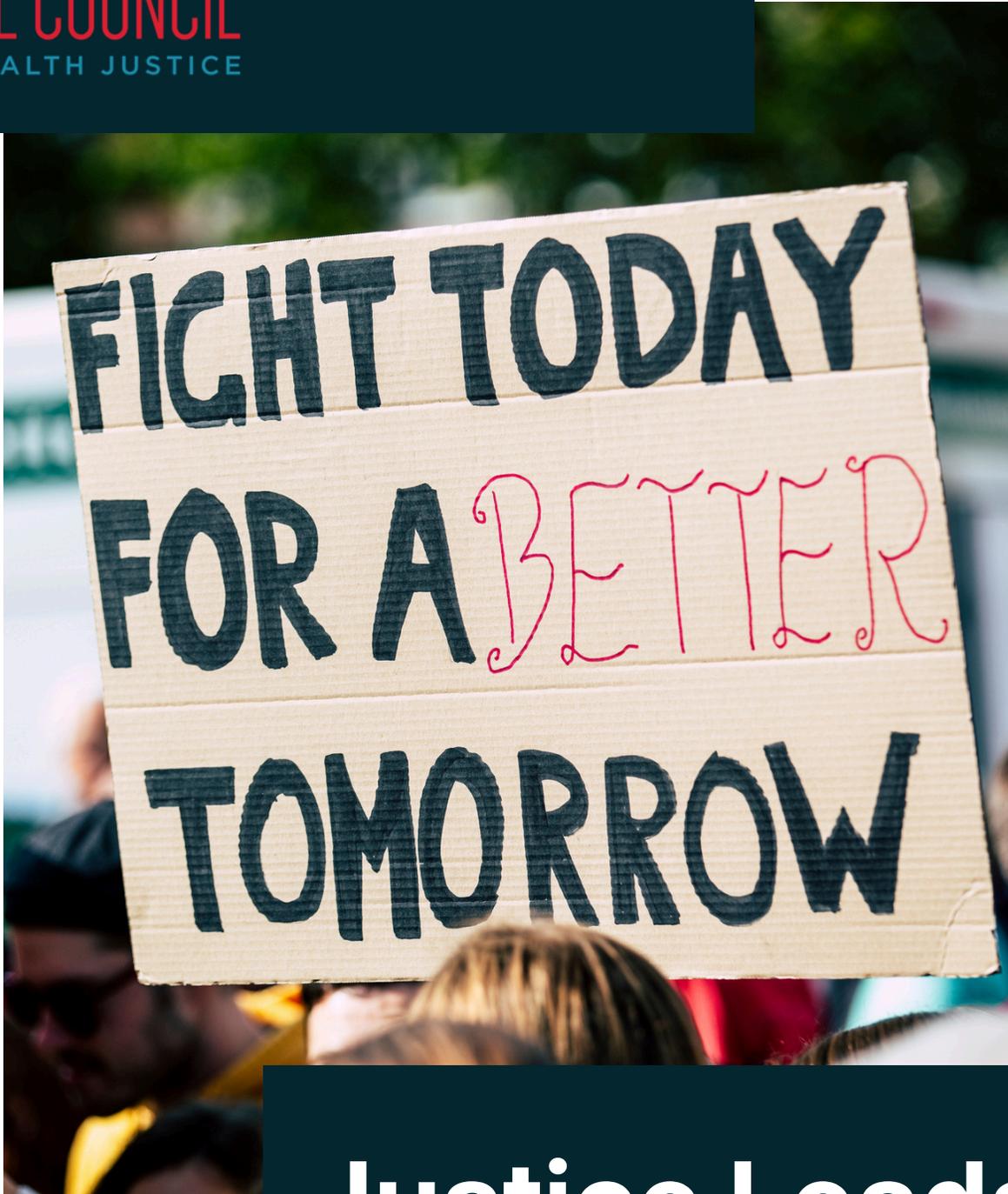


2025 Annual Report

LEGAL COUNCIL
FOR HEALTH JUSTICE



Justice Leads

*BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE HEALTH
JUSTICE IS A REALITY FOR ALL*

To Our Partners in Justice

This past year tested our resolve and revealed our strength.

In 2025, as health care, dignity, and fundamental rights faced renewed political and cultural headwinds, our community did not retreat. We organized. We advocated. We litigated. We protected. **Together, we moved forward.**

Because of you, Legal Council for Health Justice drove consequential victories that protected and strengthened rights across Illinois. We connected people experiencing homelessness to the income they need. We advanced legislation that expands access to healthcare and protects those too often pushed to the margins. Through IL Pride Connect, we built a statewide resource hub connecting LGBTQIA+ Illinoisans to affirming care and trusted legal support. As part of Protect Our Care-Illinois, we worked alongside partners to defend Medicaid and the healthcare infrastructure millions rely upon. Philanthropic leaders stepped forward decisively to help protect Medicaid and health access across our state.

We cannot go backward. Not on HIV. Not on immigrant access to benefits. Not on LGBTQIA+ rights. Not on the public programs that keep families healthy and stable.



The progress in HIV treatment and prevention reflects decades of science and advocacy, undergirded by community courage. What was once a fatal diagnosis is now a manageable condition for many. We will not allow stigma or neglect to undo that progress. Immigrant families deserve stability and access to care. LGBTQIA+ young people deserve affirmation and protection. People with disabilities deserve opportunity and full participation in community life.

This report reflects real impact. Clients secured life-saving benefits. Families accessed care. Children got services in school. Policies changed. Behind every outcome stands a person whose health and future look different because this community acted.

Our staff bring skill and heart to this work every day. Our board provides steady and engaged leadership. Our partners and funders invest boldly in justice. Together, we are protecting hard-won gains and building a stronger future.

Health justice remains an ongoing promise. So, we will continue to defend Medicaid, expand access to care, protect immigrant and LGBTQIA+ communities, and ensure that progress in HIV care never reverses.

Stand with us. Invest in this work. Raise your voice. **Together, we will protect progress and build a future where health justice is a reality for all.**

With gratitude and determination,

Julie Justicz (she/her)

Executive Director

Matt Herek (he/him)

Board President



Mission

Legal Council for Health Justice is dedicated to advancing health equity and improving access to justice for vulnerable populations in Illinois. Through innovative legal services, community partnerships, and policy advocacy, we tackle barriers that impact health and well-being, particularly for low-income individuals and families facing complex medical and social challenges.

Vision

We envision a world where everyone has a fair and real chance to be healthy and to thrive. Our work is rooted in the conviction that health is not a privilege, but a right. We must challenge unjust laws, policies, and systems that limit access and care. Through legal services, community partnership, and policy advocacy, we push for lasting change so that everyone can live with dignity, security, and hope.

Focus

Our mission is driven by a deep commitment to advancing health equity for vulnerable populations. We seek to do this by focusing on:

- Addressing Systemic Inequities
- Improving Access to Healthcare and Support Services
- Empowering Individuals and Families
- Promoting Health as a Human Right
- Combating Stigma and Discrimination
- Building Stronger Communities
- Creating Lasting Impact



Our Advocacy

Guided by our clients' lived experiences, and shaped by community input, we engage in policy and advocacy to dismantle systemic barriers that disproportionately harm low-income communities of color, LGBTQIA+ folks, and people with disabilities.

Working at local, state, and federal levels, we advance policies that increase access to healthcare, enhance income security, reduce medical debt, promote educational equity, and protect immigrant communities.

POC-IL and Immigrant Health Academy

Through the **Immigrant Health Academy**, we helped leaders in the Chicago suburbs provide training on healthcare rights and advocacy skills, significantly increasing awareness and understanding of services and protections.

Protect Our Care - Illinois (POC-IL) is a statewide coalition of health care advocates, providers, and consumers joining together to protect and defend Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. With our Steering Committee partners, we led efforts to protect access to essential healthcare services for vulnerable communities.



Advocating for Educational Equity

Big wins for Illinois students and families! Last spring, the education bills we championed **passed unanimously in both chambers** of the Illinois General Assembly. These new laws strengthen literacy instruction, increase transparency, and ensure families of students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) have the information they need.

HB 1312

In December 2025, Governor JB Pritzker signed HB1312 — **marking a historic advancement for immigrant rights and community safety in Illinois**. HB1312 delivers significant protections, including prohibiting ICE arrests at courthouses, safeguarding student data at colleges and universities, limiting the disclosure of immigration status at day care facilities, and enacting the Health Care Sanctity and Privacy Law. Our colleagues at the **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)** led the advocacy work. Legal Council proudly played a key role in crafting the provisions that equips hospitals and health care providers with clear guidance for responding to ICE presence and data requests.



About Our Clients

47%

HAVE ZERO INCOME

44%

ARE LIVING WITH AIDS
OR ARE HIV+

12%

ARE TRANS OR
GENDER-DIVERSE



Advocacy Highlight: *Grants Pass* Award

Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness (CCH) recognized Legal Council for our work on the *Grants Pass* amicus brief, an effort led by CCH and the law firm Much Shelist. Although the Supreme Court's decision on this topic did not go the way we urged, we are proud to stand in solidarity with and fight for the rights and dignity of people experiencing homelessness.

SSA Abandons Restrictive Disability Cuts

In 2025, under coordinated pressure from advocates, the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) abandoned planned rule changes that would have made it **significantly harder for people with disabilities – particularly older adults – to qualify for Social Security Disability insurance**. The rule would have lessened the impact of age as a factor in disability determinations, potentially forcing many into taking early Social Security retirement benefits which would reduce their monthly benefit level by up to 30% for life.

Our sustained advocacy and meaningful collaboration with partners helped secure this victory. Legal Council continues to work alongside national partners, advocates, and impacted communities to protect the essential benefits that millions of people with disabilities rely on.

Direct Legal Services & MLPs

Our work is grounded in the **Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) model**, which integrates legal services directly into health care settings to create a seamless connection between health care and legal support. This ensures clients receive **comprehensive, coordinated assistance** that addresses the full scope of their needs.

Types of Legal Work

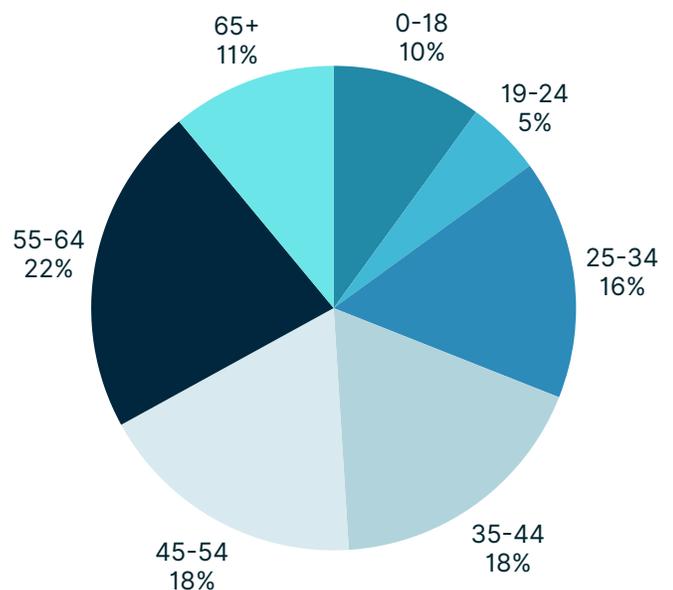
Our client-centered approach ensures that we provide comprehensive, trauma-informed support by embedding attorneys and legal advocates right where they're needed—within hospitals, community health clinics, and homeless services agencies.

Last year, we helped over **1,600 individual clients**, all of whom fell within one of our priority areas of service:

- Unhoused individuals with severe physical and/or mental health challenges;
- People living with HIV or at risk of HIV infection, including a significant transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming population;
- Children with disabilities and chronic health conditions and their families.

About Our Clients

Age Range



We are deeply grateful to the health care organizations and service providers who collaborate with us through our Medical-Legal Partnerships.



IL Pride Connect

Why

Across Illinois and the nation, LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly transgender youth, immigrants, people of color, and those living in rural areas, are facing a coordinated wave of legal and policy attacks. In this environment, misinformation spreads quickly, and fear becomes a barrier to accessing care, education, and legal protection.

Launched in August 2025, IL Pride Connect meets the moment.

How

IL Pride Connect is a statewide access point for LGBTQIA+ Illinoisans, offering an online **Resource Hub** and a free **Legal Hotline**. The Resource Hub provides clear legal information and referrals to affirming services, while the Hotline offers confidential help with issues like name and gender marker changes, discrimination, health care access and public benefits. **Together, these tools expand access to accurate information and legal support across the state, regardless of income or location.**

Who

Legal Council leads IL Pride Connect, with support from the Illinois Department of Human Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, ALMA Chicago, Brave Space Alliance, Central Illinois Friends, Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, Life is Work, and Youth Outlook.

How We Help

One recent caller to our IL Pride Connect Hotline was the parent of a confident transgender adolescent preparing for international travel. The parent needed clear, current guidance on complex and changing federal rules about travel documents. Our staff provided up-to-date information on passport and Social Security gender marker changes, as well as relevant federal litigation, giving the parent confidence to protect her child and move forward.

This support reflects IL Pride Connect's goal of empowering LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families to **navigate systems** and **assert their rights with clarity and confidence**.

20+

NEWS ARTICLES ON IL
PRIDE CONNECT

10,000+

VISITS TO THE RESOURCE
HUB

400+

HOURS SPENT STAFFING
THE HOTLINE

Our Events



Trivia Night

Legal Council's second annual Trivia Night was a big success!

We are always grateful for opportunities that enable us to build deeper community and connection with our supporters.

AIDS Run & Walk

Each year, Legal Council participates with our team—the Legal Beagles—in the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's annual AIDS Run & Walk. The 2025 theme, **Resist. Restore. Renew.**, speaks directly to our mission: pushing back against injustice, restoring dignity, and renewing the fight for equitable access to health care and income supports.



350+

EVENT ATTENDEES

\$190,000+

RAISED FROM LEGAL COUNCIL EVENTS

Summer Soirée

The 2025 Summer Soirée on August 21 brought together supporters, partners, and community leaders to raise critical support for our mission.

At the event we were proud to honor **Stephanie Altman**, **Governor JB Pritzker**, and **ACCESS Community Health Network** for their leadership and lasting contributions to health justice in Illinois. The evening also served as the public launch of IL Pride Connect, a new initiative designed to strengthen access to affirming health care and resources for LGBTQIA+ communities across the state.

Awardees



James Monroe Smith Founder
Awardee: **Hon. JB Pritzker**,
Governor of Illinois



Kimball & Karen Anderson
Community Awardee: **ACCESS**
Community Health Network



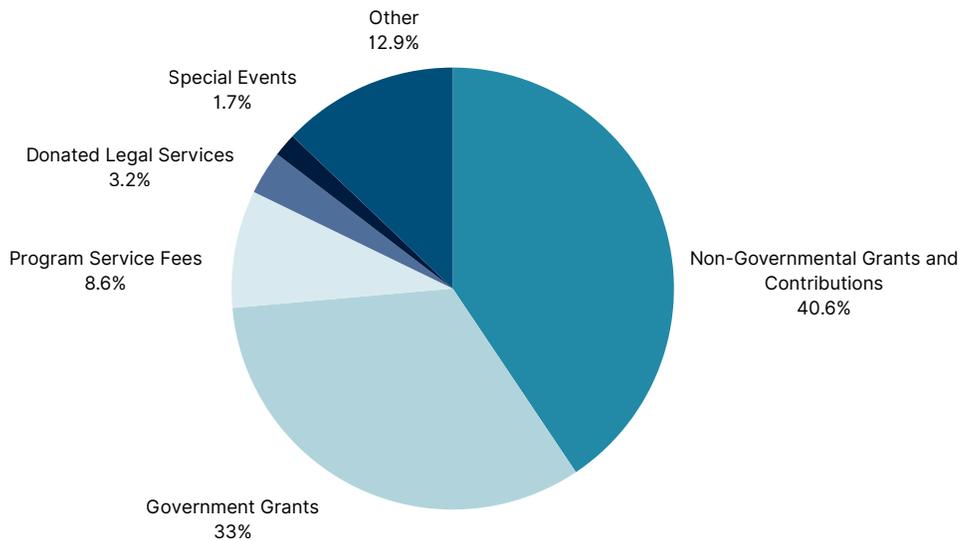
Ann Hilton Fisher Advocate
Awardee: **Stephanie Altman**



Revenue & Expenses

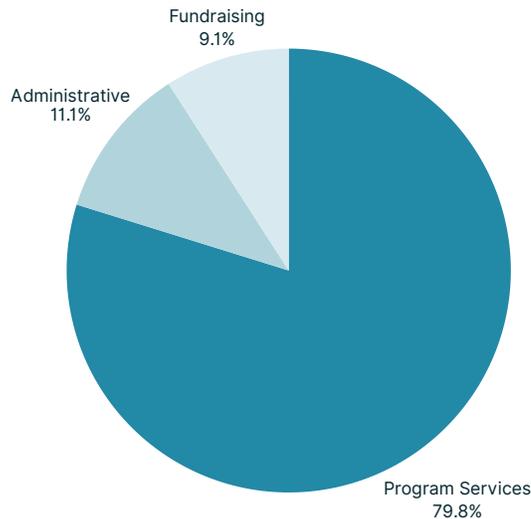
Revenue

With guidance from our Board of Directors, Legal Council is committed to responsible stewardship of our revenue and resources. Our funding comes from a diverse mix of foundations, government grants, law firms, corporate partners, and individual supporters who share our commitment to advancing health justice.



Expenses

We work hard to effectively manage funds to maximize impact while ensuring the majority of our resources are directed toward our core mission. In Fiscal Year 2025, almost 80% of every dollar raised went directly to program services.



Investors in Health Justice

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, and organizations whose generosity makes our work possible. This page honors the partners who help drive meaningful change for our client communities.

MLP Supporters

Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of
Chicago
ACCESS Community Health
Network
Christian Community
Health Center
Comer Children's Hospital
TPAN/Vivent Health
Trilogy

Government Supporters

All Chicago
Chicago Department of
Family and Support
Services
Chicago Department of
Public Health (Ryan
White Part A)
Illinois Access to Justice
Illinois Department of
Human Services

Illinois Department of
Public Health (Ryan
White Part B)
Illinois Front Door Diversion
Program

Foundation Supporters

*This list represents support
received during CY2025.*

AIDS Foundation of
Chicago
Alphawood Foundation
Anonymous (2)
Blowitz-Ridgeway
Foundation
Chicago Bar Foundation
Chicago Community Trust
Comer Family Foundation
Community Memorial
Foundation
Cushing Family Foundation
DIFFA Chicago
Field Foundation of Illinois
Gilead Sciences

Healthy Communities
Foundation
Health First Collaborative
Illinois Bar Foundation
Illinois Coalition for
Immigrant and Refugee
Rights
Illinois Equal Justice
Foundation
Illinois Immigration Funders
Collaborative
Lawyers' Trust Fund of
Illinois
Louis & Nellie Sieg Fund
McDougal Family
Foundation
Michael Reese Health Trust
Michael Reese Research &
Education Foundation
National Health Law
Program
Northern Trust Foundation
Packard Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Pritzker Traubert Family
Foundation
Reva & David Logan
Foundation

Foundation Supporters

Ronald W. Naito MD
Foundation
RRF Foundation for Aging
Telligen Community
Initiative
VNA Foundation
Walder Foundation
Woods Fund Chicago



Pro Bono Support

Hughes Socol Piers
Resnick & Dym, Ltd.
Pro Bono Network
Sidley Austin LLP
Thomas Yates

Class Action Partners

National Health Law
Program
Robert H. Farley, Jr., Ltd.

Law Firm & Corporate Support

Anonymous
Baker & McKenzie LLP
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Francis Parker School
Gilead Sciences
Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP
Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.
Illinois Health & Hospital Association
JAMS
Jenner & Block LLP
Jordan Park Group, LLC
Latham & Watkins LLP
Legend Technology Services/Trifacta Solutions
McDermott Will & Schulte LLP
Molson Coors Beverage Company
Morgan Stanley
Sidley Austin LLP
Torch Law, P.C.
Winston & Strawn LLP

Individual Support

Reflecting gifts made between November 21, 2024 and January 20, 2026.

\$5,000+

Anonymous (2)
Kimball Anderson and
Karen Gatsis Anderson
Colin Bowes-Carlson
Jennifer Butkus, CAMS and Eric Butkus
Elizabeth Farrington, Esq. and
Andrew Farrington
Dr. Glenn Arakaki and
Dr. Robert Jespersen
Holly King
Emily and Matthew Kirsch
Robert Kovats and David Lopez
Swarup Mehta, Pharm.D. and
Tom Emerick
Jonathan Motto, Esq. and
Kyle Barrett Smith
James Perry and Robert J. Horton
Bob Riesman and Rachel Kaplan
Charlie Wysong, Esq.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Geoffrey A. Anderson, Esq. and
Dennis Monteverde
Alexander J. Bandza, Esq. and
August Drilling
Michael Casner, MD, Esq.
Bryce Cooper, Esq. and Taylor Atkins
Mark and Paula DeBofsky
Howard Epstein and Gabrielle Sigel
Matt Feldhaus, Esq. and Mark Larson
Ann and Bill Fisher
Vincent J. Getzendanner, Esq.
Cynthia Hyndman
Jason Krigel
Christopher McAdam, Esq.
Daniel McCord, Esq.
Anthen Perry, Esq.
Hon. James E. Snyder and Scott Plummer
Philip J. Tortorich, Esq.



LEGAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Sherri Allen-Reeves
Dr. Braden Berkey, Psy.D. and
Robert Bartlett
Anthony Bruck
Don Budzinski and Ron Sangthong
Dr. Kenzie Cameron and Steve Dickerson
Dr. Eric Christoff and Doug Stull
Frederick J. Daley Jr. and Allison Daley
Sally and Randall Doubet-King
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Pallavi Mehta
Sarah Millar
Travis Nielsen
Sheila Pont
Dr. Susan Rogers and
Dr. Richard Stephenson
Lynn Sloan
Anthony Todd
Michael and Mary Woolever
Thomas Yates and Diane Ratekin
Sue and Larry Yellen

\$500-\$999

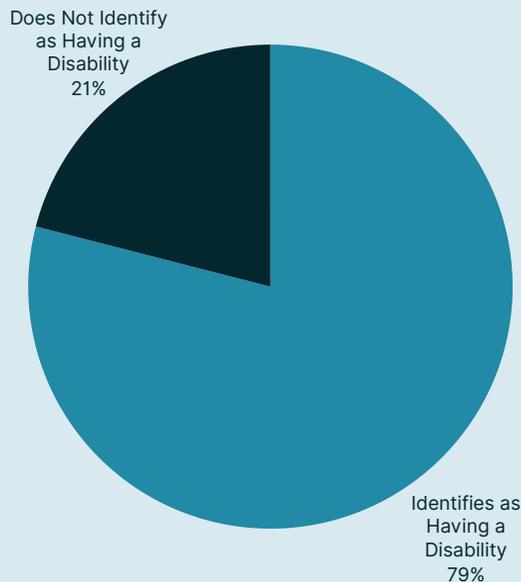
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Gustavo Bamberger and
Martha Van Haitsma
Jim Bennett
Marcia Bogolub and Phil Kaplan
Carol Brook and Thomas Corfman
N. Bryne
Steven Coursey, Esq.
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Graeme Dinwoodie and Brian Havel
Rami Fakhouri
Thomas Feie
Mark Frank
Heather Green
Mary Hess
Cindy Homan and M.K. Czerwiec
Daniel Hoppe
Julie E. Justicz
Glenn W. Kaun
Marty and Christine Kittaka
Peter Lebrun
Katherine Miller
Paul Mollica
Kevin Mork
Mark Parts and Faith Spencer
John Peller and David Jablonowski
Charlotte Rubinstein and Michael Salvati
Heather Sawyer
David Stanford
Patti and Peter Werner
Davida Yalley

\$250 - \$499

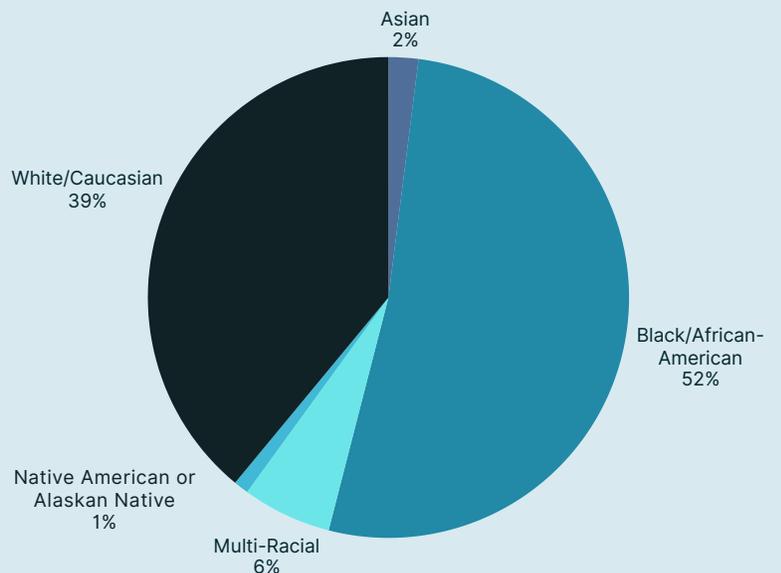
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Ann and Gordon Decker
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Amy Timm
Adriana Valencia
Pamela Vergara-Rodriguez
Daniel Vicencio, MD
Alex Warso
Joseph Weber
Anita Weinberg and Mark Miller
Richard Wetzell
Gwenan Wilbur
Richard Wozniak

Disability Status of Our Clients



Race Demographics of Our Clients



Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is composed of committed leaders who bring a wealth of expertise and a shared passion for our mission. Their guidance, vision, and strategic oversight are instrumental in shaping Legal Council's work and ensuring we continue to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

Directors

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Dennis Barrett, City of Chicago

Colin Bowes-Carlson, Esq., Baker & McKenzie LLP

Kim Dell'Angela, Ph.D., The Chicago School

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Jonnsebastian Orozco, Esq., Advancing Health Equity

Anthen Perry, Esq., Mayer Brown LLP

Hon. James E. Snyder, Circuit Court of Cook County (retired)

Philip Tortorich, Esq., Torch Law, P.C.

Charlie Wysong, Esq., Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.

This Annual Report was prepared pro bono by **Taylor Moran-Morris**.

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LEGAL COUNCIL
FOR HEALTH JUSTICE