



Children's Law Center
Annual Report 2013

Table of Contents

Our Work.....	2
Pro Bono	4
Policy.....	6
Staff	8
Boards.....	10
Donors	12
Financials	20

We are problem solvers.



If you stopped by Children's Law Center, you would quickly learn what the children of DC know: we are problem solvers.

On any given day, we are helping hundreds of children solve problems that no child should face. No child should have to wonder who to live with when his parents can no longer safely care for him. No child should have to fight for the special education services she needs so she can learn. No child should have to go to court to ensure his landlord fixes the heat and water in his basement apartment during the frigid winter months.

In 2013, we helped more than 5,000 children and their families tackle seemingly insurmountable problems – including 1 of every 8 of the poorest children in the city's poorest neighborhoods. We multiplied this impact by partnering with hundreds of pro bono lawyers, pediatricians and city leaders. As a result of our advocacy both in and out of the courtroom, more District children are on the path to a better education, good health and a stable, loving family.

I am also honored to report that the professionals who are responsible for children's well-being turned to Children's Law Center over and over again during 2013 to ensure the best outcomes for District children:

- The judges of DC Superior Court appointed us to represent many hundreds of children who were abused and neglected or caught in bitter custody battles – a big vote of confidence in our tenacious attorneys who fight every day for these vulnerable children.
- Pediatricians, nurses and social workers in five community health centers turned to us to help them identify and resolve the root causes of more than 850 children's health problems.
- The DC Council's Committee on Education asked Children's Law Center to develop recommendations that resulted in three major bills that have been introduced to reform the District's special education system.
- The Bingham McCutchen law firm chose us from among many area nonprofits to partner with them on a signature project to prevent child abuse and neglect – and about 100 law firms continue to expand their pro bono partnerships with us.

I hope you will read on to learn more about how we tackle the big problems facing the District's children – and to meet the children who are the reason we do what we do.

Our donors, supporters and partners are the reason we can do what we do. It is because of you that we are making progress on behalf of DC's most vulnerable kids. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Judith Sandalow
Executive Director

Our Work

Why does an 8-year-old need a lawyer?

What if you've been shuffled from one foster family to another, when all you want is to be reunited with your sisters? Or, you have severe asthma triggered by mold in your bedroom wall that your landlord says isn't his problem to fix? Or, your school refuses to test you for a learning disability even though you still can't say your ABCs in the third grade?

Too many of the District's most vulnerable children are not getting a fair start. Children's Law Center is the voice for these kids. No matter how we meet a child – whether we are appointed by a judge, referred by a pediatrician, or get a call on our legal helpline – we don't give up until that child is on the road to a better future.

In 2013, Children's Law Center helped over 5,000 at-risk children and families attain a quality education, good health and a permanent, loving home.

Meet some of the amazing young people we helped in 2013.



4-year old Journey

was diagnosed just before starting pre-K with a chronic brain disorder that left her tired and weak. In preschool, it became clear that Journey needed special services to get through her day. But, her mother's requests for extra support were stonewalled, and the school even suggested that Journey should transfer if her needs weren't being met. Finally, Journey's mom

met with Children's Law Center. Once our lawyer was involved, school officials suddenly offered forms and questionnaires they had never provided before. We secured several evaluations to help doctors and teachers understand how best to help Journey. And, when Journey's mom decided to switch her daughter to a different school, we helped find one that would better meet Journey's needs. Journey's mom says "my daughter would not be able to go to school safely today if not for one lawyer from Children's Law Center who never gave up."

A good education is a child's building block for future success. But too often a school system fails to provide special services needed to help children with physical, learning or emotional disabilities learn. In 2013, our lawyers helped open educational doors for over 1,500 DC children—just like Journey.





The Cohills, with their Children's Law Center attorney **Jess Sucherman** and Magistrate Judge **Elizabeth Mullin**, celebrate after receiving their signed adoption decree at DC Superior Court in November 2013.

9-year old Rafael*

is one of the many District children who was in and out of emergency rooms due to severe asthma. The trigger? Severe mold. Rafael's pediatrician was concerned about the terrible mold in his apartment, which his mother said was due to a sewage leak that the landlord hadn't fixed for over a year. When we visited, the apartment was even worse than his mother described – the carpet was wet and rotting, it smelled of sewage, and the family had to use a screwdriver to turn the bathroom water on and off. Children's Law Center arranged for a housing inspection, which found levels of airborne mold spores that were literally off the charts and noticeable growth of fecal bacteria in one of the family's bedrooms. After we threatened legal action, the landlord moved the family to a safe unit within just 10 days. And, just a week after the move, Rafael's mom reported that her son's asthma symptoms were almost completely gone.

20-year-old David*

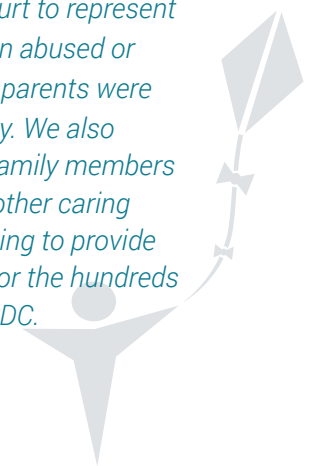
helped to care for his younger siblings Teyvon and Teresa for years because his mother suffered from severe epilepsy. When his mother died, he was determined to keep the family together. David and his grandmother were awarded joint custody of his siblings. Then, in 2013, his father returned after many years of being absent and sued for custody. The case went all the way to the DC Court of Appeals. Our lawyers worked with David, his brother and sister, and his grandmother to keep them together. With our appellate team on the case, we helped educate David and his family about the court process and what would be asked of them, put together the arguments necessary to defend the custody ruling, and demonstrated the legal skills necessary to win. As a result, Teyvon and Teresa are at home with David and their grandmother, growing up in a familiar, loving home.

All parents want their children to be healthy.

Through our medical-legal partnerships with Children's National Health System and Mary's Center, our lawyers work side-by-side with pediatricians to find and fix the root causes of a child's health problem. In 2013, we helped over 1,400 children and families solve health problems. As a result, fewer children lived in apartments with toxic mold, fewer Medicaid services were denied to low-income children, and more mental health services were available to children recovering from trauma.

Family is the center of a child's life.

In 2013, Children's Law Center helped over 2,500 children and caregivers through our work to create more stable families. Often, we were appointed by the court to represent a child who had been abused or neglected or whose parents were fighting over custody. We also worked with many family members like David and with other caring adults who are seeking to provide permanent homes for the hundreds of foster children in DC.



*Client names have been changed to protect their confidentiality.



Pro Bono

Why do hundreds of DC's most talented lawyers partner with us?

Though Children's Law Center is the largest non-profit legal provider in DC, many more children come to us than we can help. Pro bono attorneys from the area's top law firms, in-house legal departments, government agencies, and solo practitioners help fill the gap. In 2013, more than 500 lawyers volunteered with us to help vulnerable children and their families navigate special education, guardianship and other cases.

Why? We've heard our world class mentorship, training and written materials help attorneys feel more comfortable as they navigate new areas of law. But at the end of the day, we know it's about the children themselves. Every pro bono attorney we've mentored talks about how deeply touched they are by their experience. Whether it's helping a vulnerable child find the best home to support his recovery from trauma or ensuring a loving mother can finally get her son the special education services he deserves – our cases are life changing.

2013 Pro Bono Partners

Because of these pro bono volunteers, at-risk children and their families had the best legal advocates at their side. These pro bono partners also provided Children's Law Center with counsel and advice.

We thank them.

Aceves & Associates	Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Ackerman Brown PLLC	Dechert LLP
The Advisory Board Company	Deetza Benno
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP	Deloitte
Allison Bauer	Dickstein Shapiro LLP
Althea Holford	DLA Piper
Arent Fox LLP	Evelyn Becker
Arnold & Porter LLP	Federal Government Pro Bono Program
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Ballard Spahr LLP	Garvy Schubert Barer
Bingham McCutchen LLP*	General Electric Company
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Carlton Fields Jordan Burt	Harry Valcourt
Cisco Systems Inc.	Hogan Lovells US LLP
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Clifford Chance US LLP	Hollingsworth LLP
Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America	Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
Cooley LLP	Hunton & Williams LLP
Covington & Burling LLP	Ifrah Law PLLC
Cozen O'Connor P.C.	Irene Price
Crowell & Moring LLP	Isler Dare Ray Radcliffe & Connolly P.C.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	The Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics at George Washington University



Former Michigan Governor **Jim Blanchard** and DLA Piper hosted a special discussion in June with University of Michigan Law School alumni and friends.

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Jessica L. Waters
Jones Day
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2013 Pro Bono Award Winners

Pro Bono Excellence Award

Hillary Webber of McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Gary Morgans of Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Children's Pro Bono Champion Award

Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Helping Hands Award

Anita Stephen of Crowell & Moring LLP

*Bingham McCutchen selected us for its first DC-based signature pro bono project in 2013, providing two years of funding for us to train and mentor Bingham lawyers to work on Children's Law Center cases and to fund a staff attorney fellow.

Policy

How do you make more headway for all DC kids?

We learn something from every child we help. Sometimes, because we assist thousands of children each year, we discover system-wide barriers that if fixed could make a difference for all District children. This is the approach that grounds our policy work.

In 2013, we partnered with the mayor and agency leaders to offer policy solutions based on the real-life experiences of our clients. We testified before the DC Council more than 20 times to press for changes to laws that affect our children. Our policy attorneys also reviewed draft legislation to ensure proposals reflected evidence-based research and best practices. And, our budget advocacy secured resources for the children of DC.

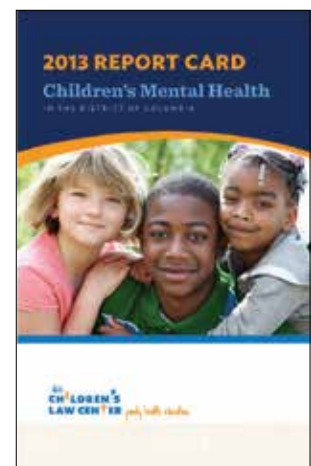
Whether it is improving special education programs within DC schools, ensuring pediatricians screen for children's mental health needs, or pressing agencies to better prepare older youth who age out of the foster care system – our policy advocacy delivers real results that improve children's lives.

Making progress on mental health.

A 2-year-old girl whose mother is shot to death while holding her. A 12-year-old so behind in school she gets depressed and drops out. A homeless 18-year-old who faces daily anxiety about where he will sleep. These are just three of the many faces of children's mental health in the District.

All DC children deserve mental health services that will allow them to learn in school, live with their families, and thrive in our community. That's why in 2013, Children's Law Center released our first report card chronicling the District's improvements and failures in meeting children's mental health needs – a follow-up to comprehensive recommendations we issued a year earlier on how to reform the city's mental health system.

The 2013 Children's Mental Health Report Card showed the District had made a promising start but much more work needs to be done. This message was reinforced by news coverage, including a Washington Post editorial that stated: "The failure to deal with the mental health consequences of exposure to crime, displacement and other issues associated with poverty can doom other reform efforts, such as initiatives to cut dropout rates or reduce the number of children in the child welfare system."



2013 News Coverage

Capital Business
The Examiner
Federal News Radio
Inside Look TV
K Street Magazine

The following top media outlets from Washington and beyond turned to Children's Law Center in 2013 for expert opinion on children's issues and public interest law:

Legal Bisnow
Legal Times
Nonprofit Times
WAMU 88.5 Radio
Washington Business Journal

Washington Life
The Washington Post
Washingtonian Magazine
WUSA Channel 9



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Marissa Gunn
Supervising Attorney

Thayer Hardwick
*Staff Attorney & Equal Justice
Works Fellow*

2013 Awards

Children's Law Center and our executive leadership were recognized in 2013 by these prestigious awards:

- Washington Council of Lawyers President's Award
- Center for Nonprofit Advancement: Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman EXCEL Award
- Nonprofit Times: Best Nonprofits to Work For in 2013

Maureen Japha
*Covington & Burling Loaned Associate**

Melanie Jaskolka
*Intake Coordinator**

Tate Jawdat
Investigator

Erica Kaufman
Development Associate for Corporate Giving

Damon King
Policy Attorney

Ryan Kool
Social Worker

Bridget Koza
Staff Attorney

Jonathan Krell
Staff Attorney

Jessica Kurtz
Staff Attorney

Christina Lord
Accountant

Emily Madden
Senior Staff Attorney

Kristine Maier
Social Worker

Gabrielle Mulnick Majewski
Supervising Attorney

Erika Manderscheid
*Development Associate**

Megan Mansfield
Investigator

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Staff Attorney

Nicole McConico
Staff Attorney

Megan McQuiddy
Staff Attorney

Brittany Mobley
Staff Attorney

Kelly Moffett
Legal Assistant

Tyra Moore
Senior Social Worker

Jennifer Morris
Senior Supervising Attorney

Elisabeth Mulholland
Investigator

Renee Murphy
Staff Attorney

Anna Myles-Primakoff
Staff Attorney

Lauren Onkeles-Klein
Senior Supervising Attorney

James Orr
*Knowledge Assistant**

Greg Pace
*Staff Attorney**

Alyssa Patzoldt
Supervising Attorney

Katherine Piggott-Tooke
Staff Attorney

Kristen Pisani-Jacques
Supervising Attorney

Eliza Presson
Staff Attorney

Joy Purcell
Senior Staff Attorney

Josh Richardson
*Investigator**

Elena Rubinfeld
*Investigator**

Gillian Schaps
Pro Bono and Intake Assistant

Abraham Sisson
Staff Attorney

Amy Smith
Staff Attorney

Hayden Smith
Covington & Burling Loaned Paralegal

Allen Snyder
Special Counsel

Kate Stanford
Staff Attorney

Sean Staples
Guardian ad Litem Program Director

Holly Stevens
Evaluation and Strategic Learning Specialist

Jess Sucherman
Supervising Attorney

Jani Tillery
Staff Attorney

Sarah Tomkins
Staff Attorney

Elizabeth Tossell
Senior Policy Attorney

Sophie Vick
Investigator

Karina Watts
*Covington & Burling Loaned Paralegal**

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Special Counsel

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Covington & Burling Loaned Associate

Meghan Williams
Communications Manager

Eva Stokes Wood
Office Manager

Daryl Wright
*Receptionist and Administrative Assistant**

Rhea Yo
*Supervising Attorney**

Ashley Young
Staff Attorney

Kathy Zeisel
Senior Supervising Attorney

**Indicates staff who left during 2013.*

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Pictured from left to right: Former NFL Commissioner and current Chair of the Georgetown University Board of Directors **Paul Tagliabue**, **Judith Sandalow**, Board Chair **Anthony Herman** and U.S. Congressman **John Delaney** at a Children's Law Center event in November for Georgetown University alumni, hosted by Covington & Burling LLP.



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Dr. Gloria Wilder

“Serving on the Advisory Board is a privilege and has allowed me to champion DC’s most vulnerable children by promoting pro bono service and advocating for greater giving within my firm.”

– Kathryn K. Baran
*of Skadden, Arps, Slate,
Meagher & Flom LLP*

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Fish & Richardson P.C.

Brian D. Schneider
Arent Fox LLP

Elisabeth (Lisa) Shu
McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

Hillary Webber
McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Dave M. Wharwood
Sidley Austin LLP

Donors

Children's Law Center depends on the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations to make our work possible. Thank you to everyone who helped us provide a solid foundation of family, health and education for DC's most vulnerable children.

Corporations and Law Firms

\$50,000+

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP*

\$25,000-\$49,999

Arnold & Porter LLP*
Covington & Burling LLP*
Hogan Lovells US LLP

\$15,000-\$24,999

Bloomberg BNA
CGI Technologies and Solutions, Inc.
Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP
Jones Day*

McKenna Long & Aldridge Foundation*

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP*

Sidley Austin LLP*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Steptoe & Johnson LLP*

Venable Foundation

Williams & Connolly LLP

\$10,000-\$14,999

The Advisory Board Company
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
Baker & McKenzie LLP
Children's National Health System
General Electric Company

Holland & Knight LLP

Hunton & Williams LLP

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP

Wiley Rein LLP

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Clifford Chance US LLP

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Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP

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Fragomen Del Rey Bernsen & Loewy LLP

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Kaye Scholer LLP

Kirkland & Ellis LLP*

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Mayer Brown LLP*

McGuireWoods Consulting

Merchant & Gould, P.C.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Champions for Children Award Winners

Firms represented on our Advisory Board who achieved the highest annual total giving in 2013.

1-99 attorneys: Locke Lord LLP

100-249 attorneys: McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

250+ attorneys: Latham & Watkins LLP



Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Tom Daschle**, now with DLA Piper, joined Children's Law Center in May to discuss the future of health care and our innovative medical-legal partnership with Children's National Health System and Mary's Center.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP

Walker & Dunlop

White & Case LLP

WilmerHale*

\$3,000-\$4,999

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The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation*

Park Foundation

The Rotary Foundation of Washington DC

The Share Fund

Staples Foundation

The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation

*These firms participate in the DC Access to Justice Commission's Raising the Bar in DC Campaign.



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Diana and Stephen Goldberg
May Liang and Jim Lintott

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Joseph C. Figini and
Jason Denby
Wendy and Fred Goldberg
Rick and Ellen Rule
Page and Howard Smith

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Jessica Abrahams
John T. Bentivoglio
Elizabeth and Michael Galvin
Nina Gross and Steve Asher
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Anne Sidamon-Eristoff
Nancy and Simon
Sidamon-Eristoff
Catharine E. and Richard
Snowdon
Peter L. and Sylvia Winik

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Donald and Marcia Bisenius
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Tom and Kristy Bulleit
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Greg Crider
Michele Cross and
David Minnick
A. Patrick Doyle and
Elizabeth Downes
Vicki Scheer Foster and
Michael Foster
Melissa Galetto
Robert Grammig
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Juan Carlos Rincones
Theodore Segal and
Joyce Wasserstein
Lila and Brendan Sullivan

\$3,000 - \$4,999

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David A. Becker
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Julie Roberts and
George Giamas
Jessica Rosenbaum
Judith Sandalow
Elisabeth (Lisa) Shu

Our Helping Children Soar Benefit at the Kennedy Center in September raised nearly \$1 million for DC's most vulnerable children. This year's Benefit honored Steptoe & Johnson LLP with the Children's Pro Bono Champion award, and featured remarks from our client **Betty Washington** (pictured).





“When I think of Children’s Law Center, I think of their extensive knowledge, their generosity in sharing that knowledge with our community, and their integrity in conducting this important work.”

– Margie Chalofsky,
Foster & Adoptive
Parent Advocacy Center

\$1,500 - \$2,999

Laura and Alex Albert
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Cindy Bellefeuille Stanton
Mariella and Michael Trager
Keith and Geetha Waehrer
Hillary Webber and Eric Conn
Dave M. Wharwood
Paul F. Wight
Maryelena and Gino Zaccardelli
Robert Zelnick



“I cannot put a price tag on how valuable CLC’s help was when my family so needed it 11+ years ago when my son was born and when his adoption was in jeopardy. I will never be able to repay what you all did for us - the time, the care, the expertise that we so needed. ...And so I have decided I must afford this contribution - I need to give back and I need to invest in you as a resource for other families that I know need you.”

– Mary Beth Maxwell,
CLC Donor

Individuals

\$500 - \$1,499

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Kelly Epps Anderson

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Raanan Weintraub Baratz

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\$250 - \$499

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 Ethan Greene
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 Candida Harty and
 Matthew Herman
 Julia Hatcher
 Carla Hine

With help from hundreds of volunteer Santas from across the city, our annual **Holiday Hope Drive** brought our neediest clients toys, coats, bikes and other donations – making their Christmases a little brighter this year.





Geoffrey and Elizabeth Hobart	Ellie Mix	Gregory and Tamara Smith
Kara N. Hoffman and Jelani Lowery	Alyson Mock	Eric Sonnenschein
Howard Hogan	Bonnie Montgomery	Richard Steinwurtzel
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Michael and Elaine Jaffe	Kate Mueting	Stacy Teng and Matthew Knight
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Lenelle Merritt	Scott Sinder and Jodie Kelley	
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2013 Financial Statement

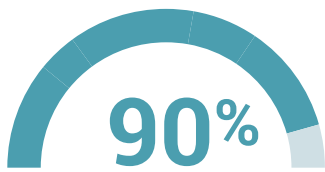
Covers FY 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012-Sept. 30, 2013)

Revenue & Support

DC Court Contractual Services	\$5,411,280
Contributions	\$1,310,810
Grants.....	\$1,061,882
Donated Goods & Services.....	\$229,049
Consortium Fees	\$15,550
Interest Income.....	\$2,065
Total Revenue & Support.....	\$8,030,636

Expenses

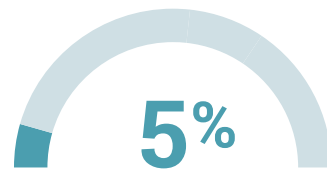
Total Legal Programs.....	\$6,545,807
General and Administrative	\$367,083
Fundraising	\$377,582
Total Expenses	\$7,290,472



Program



Administrative



Fundraising

90 cents of every dollar is spent on program services.



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