

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### DEAR ONEJUSTICE SUPPORTERS,

As another year ends, I am reflecting on how fortunate we are to count you as a part of our community – a community that has continued to demonstrate its dedication to our mission despite the ongoing difficulties we collectively faced in 2021.



Because of you, we have the resources to sustain our work to bring much-needed legal help to record numbers of Californians in need. Your incredible generosity and compassion for those who face heartbreaking realities fill us with gratitude and hope.

We look forward to expanding upon our work this year to strengthen access to legal aid for low-income individuals and families and to increase the impact of the legal aid sector in communities across the state. Thank you for your commitment to OneJustice and all of the communities we serve.

With our deepest gratitude,

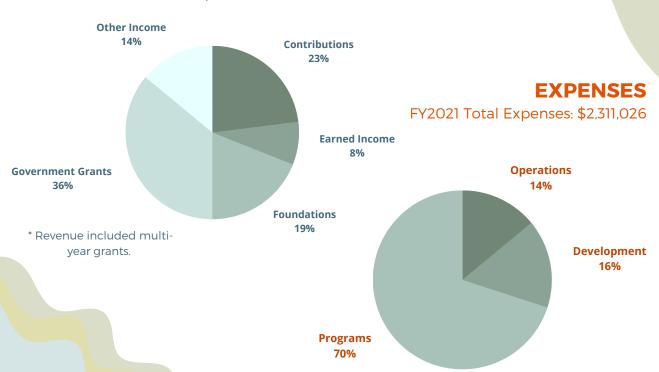
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Phil Hwang, Chief Executive Officer

#### **FINANCIALS**

#### **REVENUE**

FY2021 Total Revenue: \$2,666,252



#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW | HEALTHY NONPROFITS

On November 1st, 2021, families and individuals who were unable to pay their rent during COVID became susceptible to lawsuits that could leave them vulnerable to the financial challenges of the pandemic.

#### OneJustice responded to this need by:

- Leading a statewide working group of legal services organizations and members of the California Judicial Council to address the growing needs of low-income tenants facing back rent claims;
- Producing the Small Claims Back Rent Toolkit in collaboration with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles that has been downloaded by more than 70 organizations throughout the state and presented to over 60 California Superior Court self-help attorneys; and
- Creating the Small Claims CourtWatch project, which utilizes pro bono attorneys, law students and legal aid attorneys to gather information that will be used to better prepare tenants representing themselves and will assist legal aid organizations in determining how best to deploy their resources.

"We know that legal representation helps low-income tenants avoid homelessness, so we need to do everything within our power to provide legal assistance to every Californian who needs it."

–Jay Lee, OneJustice Healthy Nonprofits Director



#### **EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The Executive Fellowship program started its 11th year with a cohort of 32 Fellows from California, the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast, and the South, representing the increasingly national impact of the program, and 50% of whom identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and/or LGBTQ+, our most diverse cohort ever.

In response to last year's challenging legal aid environment, the program emphasized management skills to help Fellows successfully lead their organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic, the national reckoning regarding racial injustice, and an evolving labor market sometimes called the Great Resignation, including topics such as:

- Legal Aid Innovation and Managing Change at Your Organization
- Inclusive Leadership, Building Belonging, and Busting Bias
- How to be a Great Supervisor during the Great Resignation

"I feel like I never want it to end. It was such a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn – both about nonprofit management and about myself as a leader. It truly is invaluable."

Leigh Ferrin, Director of Litigation and Pro Bono,
 Public Law Center and 2021 Executive Fellow



**Executive Fellowship Class of 2021** 

We are grateful to The Bigglesworth Family Foundation and the California Judicial Council for their generous support of the Executive Fellowship Program.

#### **HEALTHY NONPROFITS WORKSHOP SERIES**

In 2021, in response to needs expressed by legal aid organizations, OneJustice staff led four interactive workshops attended by hundreds of organizations from over 15 different states on essential topics for nonprofit management, including; creating budgets for legal aid programs, advancing equity in board leadership, program evaluation and succession planning.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE ACCELERATORS**

The Organizational Change Accelerator series coaches legal aid program leaders in areas of organizational development. In 2021, a statewide cohort of pro bono coordinators new to their positions of leadership participated in a five-month Pro Bono Program Design and Management track. Participants attended virtual interactive training workshops and completed Capstone Projects to apply their learnings.

#### **CONVENINGS OF IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Over a three-month period in Spring 2021, a learning community of 34 organizations that provide essential legal services to immigrants participated in a series of capacity-building convenings. These nonprofit leaders strategized, shared their insights, and emerged with new ideas on how to tackle challenges on: remote team-building and project management; recruitment, retention, and burn-out prevention; and finance, revenue models, and fundraising.

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW | PRO BONO JUSTICE

#### CALIFORNIA JOINT PRO BONO MANAGER FORUM

In 2021, OneJustice continued programming for the California Joint Pro Bono Manager Forum, a quarterly convening bringing together pro bono managers from nonprofit legal services organizations and the private sector to discuss issues relevant to the community. Topics included:

- Promoting language justice during a pandemic
- Supporting Anti-Asian Discrimination Project through pro bono
- Afghan Resources Project
- Return to in-person pro bono

#### **PRO BONO TRAINING INSTITUTE (PBTI)**

Since its inception in 2015, PBTI has:

- Published 163 training modules spanning 28 topics; and
- 10,000+ attorneys, law school students, other volunteers, and legal aid staff have viewed at least one.

#### In 2021:

- **256** law firms and legal aid organizations and **124** law schools and universities from across California and the nation accessed PBTI training modules
- **88**% of survey respondents (volunteers) reported that the materials helped them better prepare for a pro bono clinic.

In response to last year's devastating disasters, OneJustice worked with **Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative** to create 16 training modules covering 11 disaster relief topics. These will aid pro bono attorneys and other volunteers statewide as they assist people affected by fires and other disasters. Through this work, OneJustice helped legal aid organizations throughout California establish their own new pro bono clinics or pivot their existing clinics to address community needs.

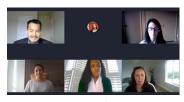
#### PRO BONO CLINICS

Despite the ongoing pandemic, One Justice continued to run virtual pro bono clinics while helping our legal aid partners iterate their own clinics to better serve their communities. These clinics, which spanned from the Inland Empire all the way to Sonoma, focused on pressing and emerging issues including immigration, clean slate assistance, small business legal assistance, and wrap-around services for domestic violence survivors. This past year, One Justice continued the work of the Justice Bus Network, Rural Justice Collaborative, Access to Asylum, Impact LA, and the Inland Empire Community Redevelopment Project.

"OneJustice treated me with respect, consideration, and really how human beings should be treated, regardless of my legal status in this country. They also provided me with a lawyer who listened in detail to the complexity of my case, the challenges I have faced in this country as an immigrant and what I am going through at this time." - Community member who benefitted from OneJustice clinic

#### **2021 PRO BONO CONFERENCE**

OneJustice's 2021 Pro Bono Conference was held virtually for the first time, convening all stakeholders within the pro bono community - legal services nonprofits, law firms, law schools, inhouse counsel, bar associations, courts and more - to connect.



collaborate, learn from each other and build community. 156 participants engaged in sessions including pro bono strategic planning and design, remote legal services, remote digital services, mental health action planning, and a Pro Bono Opportunity Fair.

Thank you to our 2021 Conference sponsors for making this program possible:











#### **POLICY AND ADVOCACY**

OneJustice's policy team advocated on a number of state and federal bills that will impact immigrant and low-income Californians who have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, increasing natural disasters, and ongoing quality of life concerns raised by both. In partnership with Legal Aid Association of California, the California Immigrant Policy Center and the American Bar Association, we lobbied virtually with legislators and advocated for the importance of legal aid. Separately, through our work with the California Project





**Directors Association** (the 11 California legal aid organizations receiving funding from the federal Legal Services Corporation) we were able to assist these leaders in their statewide efforts to protect our most vulnerable communities. Our work helped them to convene virtually to discuss best practices and policies to keep their staff and clients safe during these continually challenging times.

#### **OPENING DOORS TO JUSTICE 2021**

Though COVID-19 again prevented our network from coming together in person to honor our Champions of Justice, our virtual livestream included awards to Lawyaw, Morrison & Foerster LLP, and Social Justice Collaborative, as well as a VIP Reception featuring breakout rooms with special guests and entertainment. Associate Justice Goodwin Liu and Stanford Law School's Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tirien Steinbach led a timely discussion on racial issues within the legal profession, moderated by longtime OneJustice Strategy Council

member **Anand Upadhye**, Host of The Modern Lawyer Podcast.

Thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors and donors, we were thrilled to exceed our fundraising goal.







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OneJustice is the glue in many ways that holds the legal aid system together; bringing pro bono volunteers to legal aid organizations in need, providing training and coordination among California's legal aid organizations, and constantly innovating to make the system as a whole stronger and better."– Matthew Werdegar, OneJustice Board Chair

# Interested in learning more and/or supporting our work? Scan this code with your phone!





433 California Street · Suite 815 · San Francisco · CA · 94104 1055 Wilshire Blvd · Suite 1996 · Los Angeles · CA · 90017 www.onejustice.org development@one-justice.org