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... Your lifeline to legal help

Mission Statement: The Legal Project believes that all people, regardless of income, gender, disability, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity should have access to legal services. This belief reflects a deep commitment to fairness and equal justice under

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2014
Annual Report

the law.

Based upon these beliefs, the mission of The Legal Project is to make the law more accessible to those in need, to increase the legal community's involvement in *pro bono* work, and to serve as a resource on legal issues and *pro bono* work. Further, we feel a special responsibility to women and others who may have difficulty obtaining legal services.

Projects and Services

The Legal Project addresses the need for non-criminal legal assistance by providing innovative, cost effective services that are collaborative in nature and that focus on unmet needs in the community. In 2014, in addition to our staff and over 225 *pro bono* attorneys we served a total of 3,503 clients.

Legal Representation:

- ◆ **The Domestic Violence Legal Connection** provides *pro bono* and reduced fee civil legal representation and free legal consultations both onsite and at domestic violence shelters. In 2014, 1,254 victims of domestic violence were served.
- ◆ **Homeowner Protection Project** provides *pro bono* legal representation to homeowners who are facing foreclosure. In 2014, 543 homeowners were provided with legal consultations and/or representation.
- ◆ **Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance (AHAA)** provides free and low cost legal representation to low income home purchasers. In 2014, 13 individuals and families were served.
- ◆ **Wills Project** provides legal representation to low income persons in need of end of life legal assistance. 30 individuals were helped through this program in 2014.
- ◆ **Bankruptcy and Credit Program** provides free legal consultations and free and low cost legal representation to individuals and families struggling with debt. This program served 168 individuals in 2014.

Legal Advice and Information:

- ◆ **The Legal Clinic Program, which also includes specialized legal clinics focusing on veteran's issues and small business owners,** provided free, private, and confidential consultations

with experienced attorneys at local community agencies to 429 people in 2014.

- ◆ **Uncontested Divorce Clinics** provide assistance with the preparation and filing of the necessary documents to low income individuals who are representing themselves in divorce matters. In 2014, 61 individuals were assisted.
- ◆ **Legally Speaking Workshops** offer free, custom designed education programs to community groups and organizations about any legal topic. In 2014, 892 individuals participated in legal workshops.
- ◆ **Immigration Legal Network** offers free, private, and confidential legal consultations with *pro bono* attorneys and educational programs on various immigration issues. In 2014, 96 individuals were served.
- ◆ **Law Reach** is a collaborative program with Rural Law Center of New York to reach clients living in rural areas. In 2014, 18 referrals were made.

Services to Professionals:

- ◆ **Attorney Training** of local attorneys, in exchange for *pro bono* work, increases the availability of legal assistance with domestic violence, affordable housing, wills and bankruptcy matters.

Annual Financial Report 2014

Income:

Foundations & Corporations	11%
Government Grants	80%
Fundraising	9%
Other	>1 %

Expenses:

Personnel	71%
Program Direct Costs	13%
Administrative	16%