

Contact Us 1033 La Posada Drive, Suite 374, Austin, Texas 78752 | 512.476.5550 | www.vlsocct.org

WE STAND
WITH YOU.



Impact Report 2016

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Since 1981, VLS has made it our mission to help individuals and families in need access the civil justice system. From providing access to critical legal assistance to supporting and training attorney volunteers, VLS is transforming Central Texas through the power of pro bono.

VLS' unique volunteer attorney model leverages the time, talent, and expertise of 1,200 attorneys to deliver legal services to thousands of low-income individuals - veterans, seniors, domestic violence survivors, children and their families - every year. 2016 was no different.

HOW WE SERVE

\$1,728,864 Value of legal costs saved or avoided | **2,688** Pro bono cases opened
2,708 Pro bono cases closed | **84** Number of evening legal advice and intake clinics



644 NUMBER OF VLS ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS



15,074 NUMBER OF HOURS DONATED BY ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS



\$3,919,240 VALUE OF CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED



26.25 NUMBER OF HOURS OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION OFFERED, INCLUDING 10.75 ETHICS



OVER
8,000
CENTRAL TEXANS
RECEIVED OUR HELP

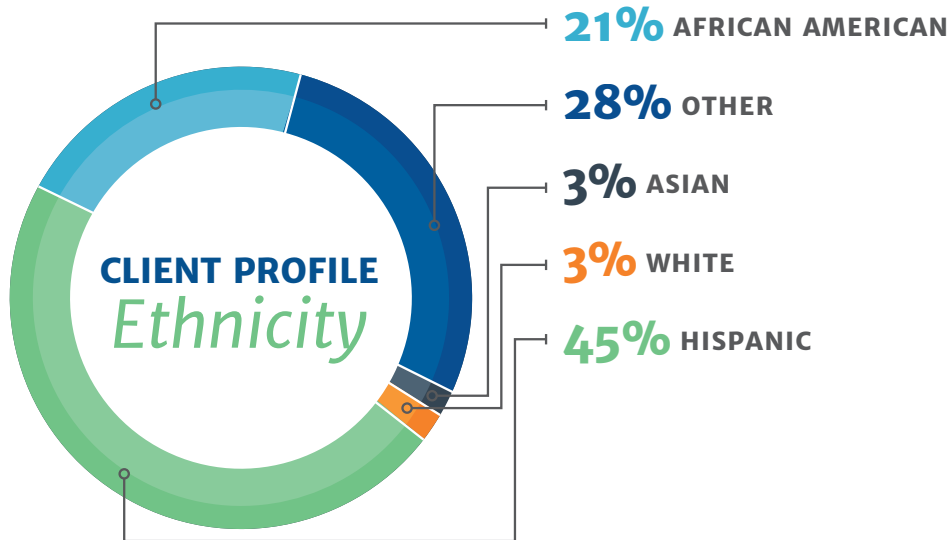


TRAVIS COUNTY:

- AUSTIN
- PFLUGERVILLE
- JONESTOWN
- MANOR
- DEL VALLE

HAYS COUNTY

BASTROP COUNTY



WHAT WE DO

Of the 2,708 cases VLS closed in 2016, approximately 33 percent involved family law; 21 percent concerned torts, wills, and estates; 19 percent related to housing matters; and 13 percent were consumer law. The remaining 14 percent of cases included a combination of employment and income matters, individual rights concerns, and health and education issues.



SAVING A HOME

The Paytons, an elderly couple living with disabilities, were facing imminent eviction from their one bedroom apartment, where they had lived for a decade. The Paytons sought help at an evening VLS/TRLA legal advice clinic. VLS paired them with a volunteer legal team from Baker Botts, Tecuan Flores and Sarah Coleman. Mr. Flores and Ms. Coleman immediately stepped in, ultimately prevailing at trial and on appeal. The Paytons were extremely grateful: “VLS brought out the best,” Mrs. Payton said with a big smile on her face. “I felt confident we would win because I knew they were fighting for us.”



Tecuan Flores, Mr. & Mrs. Payton, Sarah Coleman

SAVING A LIFE

In 2007, “Anna,” a native of Ethiopia, married “Lenny,” a United States citizen. Despite getting married, Anna did not come to live with Lenny in the U.S. until 2014. Once here, Anna and Lenny lived in New York. Unfortunately, Lenny was neglectful and abusive and Anna became critically ill while living with him. Lenny did not allow Anna access to food or healthcare and kept her locked up alone in the apartment for long periods of time. Anna’s weight dropped to a dangerous 80 pounds and she was eventually diagnosed with a chronic, serious health condition. As a result of her illness, Anna had to be hospitalized on several occasions. After one of her hospital stays, the hospital refused to release Anna to her husband. She had no family or place to go and so she went to live in a New York emergency shelter.

A half-brother living in Travis County discovered that Anna was living in a shelter and went to New York to help her and bring her to Texas. Once here, Anna was able to seek help from VLS and through the critical assistance of Joshua Coffman, a solo practitioner and VLS attorney volunteer, Anna was able to divorce her abusive husband and begin a new life.

Anna was so grateful: “Thank you for your services Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas. It was because of your help that my case was solved. Starting with finding a lawyer and advising and helping me throughout the case. Thank you so much. I’m so happy!”



FINANCIALS

Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2016, Unaudited

Revenue

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| GRANTS AND CONTRACTS | \$350,318.00 |
| <i>TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION</i> | <i>\$326,523.00</i> |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | \$309,173.56 |
| OTHER INCOME (PROGRAM/INVESTMENT/MISC.) | \$160,988.10 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$820,479.66 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL | \$163,553.58 |
| PROGRAM SERVICES | \$639,839.22 |
| FUNDRAISING | \$13,918.94 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$817,311.74 |

Balance Sheet Information

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$1,347,800.76 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|





Contact Information

1033 La Posada Drive, Suite 374, Austin, Texas 78752
Phone: 512.476.5550 | Fax: 512.322.0764 | www.vlsoct.org

Priscilla G. Cortez, *Executive Director*
Anna K. Meyers, *Deputy Director*
Jonathan Buck, *Staff Attorney*
Katie Valle, *Staff Attorney*
Martha Contreras, *Family Law Case Placement Coordinator*
Diana Villegas, *General Law Case Placement Coordinator*
Lexie Cooper, *Outreach Coordinator*
Nada Herbly, *Development Associate*
Saara Silva, *Program Assistant*