

WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION

2016
ANNUAL REPORT



WBIF

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for supporting the Women's Bar Foundation (WBF) in its work to provide access to justice for the most vulnerable residents of our great Commonwealth. 2016 was a challenging year for poor people, people of color, and women. With the threat of shrinking social services and civil rights, our clients—the majority of whom are low-income women of color—find themselves at heightened risk of violence, homelessness, health crises, and financial insecurity. We are proud that in this challenging environment, the WBF was able to serve nearly 2,000 clients this year because of your generosity. The volunteer attorneys who assisted our clients this year logged more than 6,500 hours for a *pro bono* contribution of more than \$1,300,000.00. Our work together ended the cycle of domestic abuse, prevented homelessness, provided counsel to incarcerated women and secured end-of-life documents for seniors.

In anticipation of the WBF's 25th anniversary (this milestone birthday will be celebrated in 2018), we launched a three-year capacity building initiative designed to strengthen our services and increase our impact in the community. Through a new staffing model, we intend to increase full service representation to our domestic violence survivor clients by 20%. This will allow our Family Law Project to achieve three new goals: (1) Provide an attorney for every eligible client seeking safety through a restraining order; (2) Offer limited assistance representation to clients in emergencies and (3) Ensure clients with the most challenging cases receive full representation. In addition, the WBF will invest further in language translation services. These services are so critical in light of the

current political climate affecting many of our immigrant clients. And finally, the WBF will establish a litigation expense fund to assist clients who otherwise would not be able to pay for a deposition or expert witness critical to their case. In our 2018 Annual Report, we expect to be able to report back on the successful implementation of this three-year initiative.

In these challenging times, we appreciate your ongoing commitment to our mission more than ever. Because of your steadfast support, the WBF—with a full-time equivalent staff of less than four – is able to impact the lives of nearly 2,000 low-income clients each year. Thank you for making this work possible.



Robin A. Walker



Patricia E. Comfort, Executive Director

THANK YOU

The Women's Bar Foundation is supported by grants from:

Anonymous
Boston Bar Foundation
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Massachusetts Bar Foundation
The Miriam Fund

SUPPORT US!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Participating as a volunteer attorney or volunteer mentor in one of the WBF's *pro bono* projects is rewarding, challenging, educational and inspiring. As a volunteer attorney, you will receive comprehensive training in an area of law you may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn and you will also provide critical services to low-income individuals and their families who have nowhere else to turn. As a volunteer mentor, you will provide invaluable guidance for the volunteer attorneys which, in turn, has a positive impact on the outcome for our clients. To volunteer, please contact **Rachel Biscardi** via email at rbiscardi@womensbar.org or by telephone at **617.973.6666**.

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

The Women's Bar Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization, dedicated to providing *pro bono* legal services to low-income individuals, primarily women and children. We are funded exclusively through the generosity of foundation grants, law firms, corporations and individual donors. Every donation makes a measurable and lasting difference in the lives of our clients. All contributions to the Women's Bar Foundation are fully tax deductible. To make a contribution, visit us online at www.womensbar.org/WBF, or send a check to:

**Women's Bar Foundation, 27 School Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

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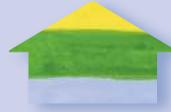




FLP client Kristin Ruggiero (left) with her attorney, Laura Burnett (right).

The Family Law Project for Battered Women (FLP) fielded 1715 calls to its intake line; conducted an intake evaluation with **393** of those callers; referred **109** clients for full representation by a volunteer attorney and provided brief service and counsel to **284** clients.

1715
Family Law
Project Intake
Requests



“Thank you for writing my will. A great burden has been lifted knowing this important business has been taken care of. You made me feel happy.”

Excerpts from a thank-you note received from Margaret, an ELP client.

330
Intake Requests



The Elder Law Project (ELP) fielded 330 calls to its intake line and matched **45** clients with an ELP volunteer attorney who drafted their end-of-life documents. The ELP staff conducted **5** senior site visits this year and trained **60** volunteer attorneys.



ELP client Juanita Lewis (left) with her attorney, Julie Gallup.

Special Thanks
To All Of Our
Donors and
Volunteers Who
Make Our
Accomplishments
Possible.

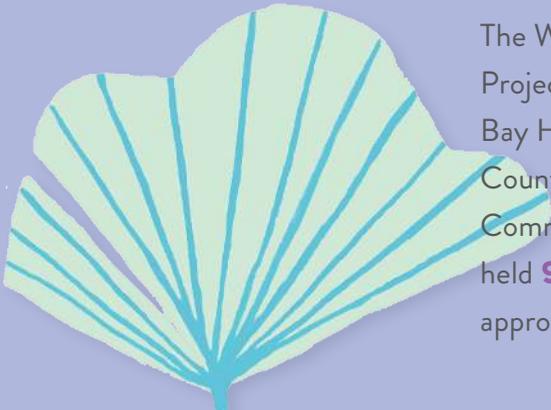


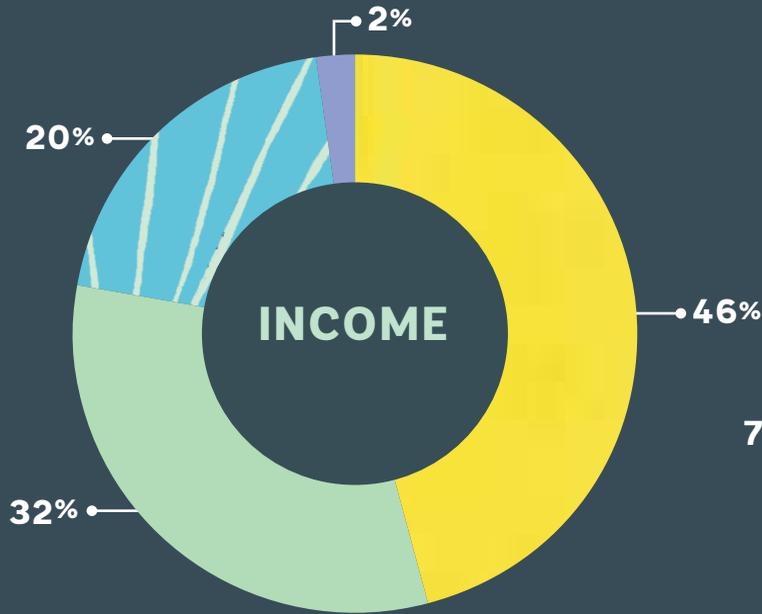
The Hampden County
Housing Court Project
Volunteer attorneys assisted
low-income tenants and land-
lords in the Springfield Housing
Court each Thursday—known
colloquially as “eviction day.”
The goal of this project is to
prevent homelessness by
preserving tenancies.

Please go to
www.womensbar.org
for a complete list of
donors and volunteers

Women’s Prison
and Reentry Project
(formerly known as
Framingham Project for
Incarcerated Women)

The Women’s Prison and Reentry
Project (WPRP) operated at South
Bay House of Correction in Suffolk
County and at the Boston office of
Community Corrections. WPRP
held **9** educational seminars reaching
approximately **40** women.



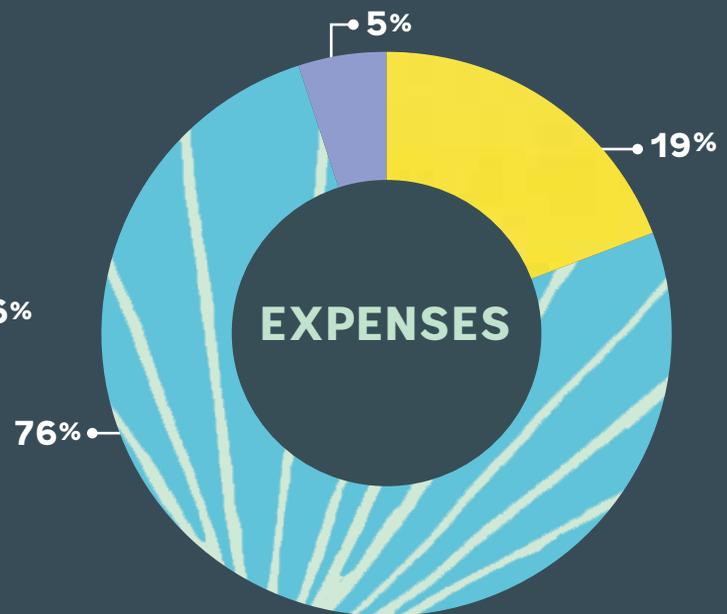


TOTAL INCOME:
\$ 393,037

**JANUARY 1 to
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

- \$179,467
FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES
- \$130,942
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

- \$77,500
GRANTS
- \$5,128
OTHER



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$ 391,966

**JANUARY 1 to
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

- \$18,744
ADMINISTRATIVE
- \$75,497
FUNDRAISING

- \$297,725
PROGRAMMING

** These numbers have not been reviewed or audited*



STAFF



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Laura F. Burnett, Family Law
Project Staff Attorney

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of Strategic Partnerships

Candice Jeon,
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Elizabeth Yows-Johnson,
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