



wbf

THE
WOMEN'S BAR
FOUNDATION



2017 ANNUAL
REPORT

Dear Friends,

Low-income residents in Massachusetts continue to face many challenges in accessing legal services in matters related to domestic violence, homelessness, end-of-life decision making, and other critical legal issues. Fortunately, due to your consistent and generous support in 2017, the Women's Bar Foundation (WBF) provided essential, effective representation that made a difference. We have great news to share.

Our tireless attorneys and mentors volunteered more than 7,200 hours representing low-income clients, increasing the number of full representation clients served.

In 2018, the WBF turned 25! We are excited to report that the second year of our three-year capacity building initiative continues to strengthen and expand the reach of our work.

Excellent advocacy is a hallmark of WBF representation, and this past year, the WBF's Family Law Project (FLP) co-sponsored an additional attorney training program involving immigration and family law, and presented a cutting edge program on the new child support guidelines. We expanded our litigation expense fund, to assist low-income clients with fees associated with litigation, and set aside funds for language translation services. Of course, we continue to expand our roster of volunteer attorneys through our comprehensive Family Law Project training for attorneys, offered twice a year.

Thank you for your strong support this past year. Your support has made a lasting difference in the lives of so many of our state's most vulnerable residents. We appreciate your continued commitment to our mission, and look forward to an exciting year ahead.



Robin A. Walker,
President



Patricia E. Comfort,
Executive Director

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 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 has a positive impact on the outcome for our clients. To volunteer, please contact Rachel Biscardi at rbiscardi@womensbar.org or 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 lasting difference in the lives of our clients. All donations are fully tax deductible. To contribute, visit us online at www.womensbar.org, or send a check to:

Women's Bar Foundation

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The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors

The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors (FLP)'s volunteer attorneys and mentors spent **7,205** hours representing clients in **131** full representation cases and **207** brief service cases. **237** attorneys participated in comprehensive training as well as new specialized trainings both in Boston and on Cape Cod.



The Elder Law Project

The Elder Law Project (ELP) fielded **125** calls, referred **30** clients, and trained **25** volunteer attorneys to prepare end-of-life documents for low-income seniors. ELP staff conducted **3** senior site visits this year.



Women's Prison and Reentry Project

The Women's Prison and Reentry Project (WPRP) held **5** educational seminars on legal topics at Suffolk County House of Correction, Office of Community Corrections and McGrath House to prepare **29** women to reenter the community. WPRP developed new seminars on specific subject matters requested by the women, and compiled additional resource materials.



The Hampden County Housing Court Project

Volunteer attorneys assisted low-income tenants and landlords in the Springfield Housing Court each Thursday. This project's goal is to prevent homelessness by preserving tenancies.

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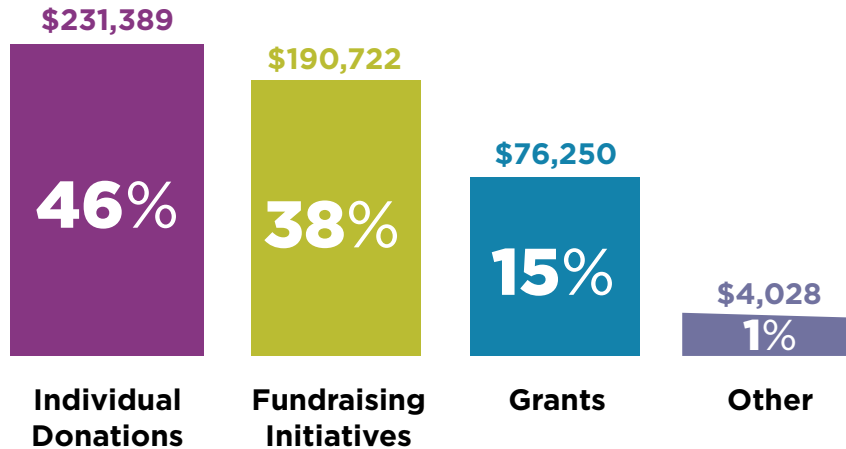
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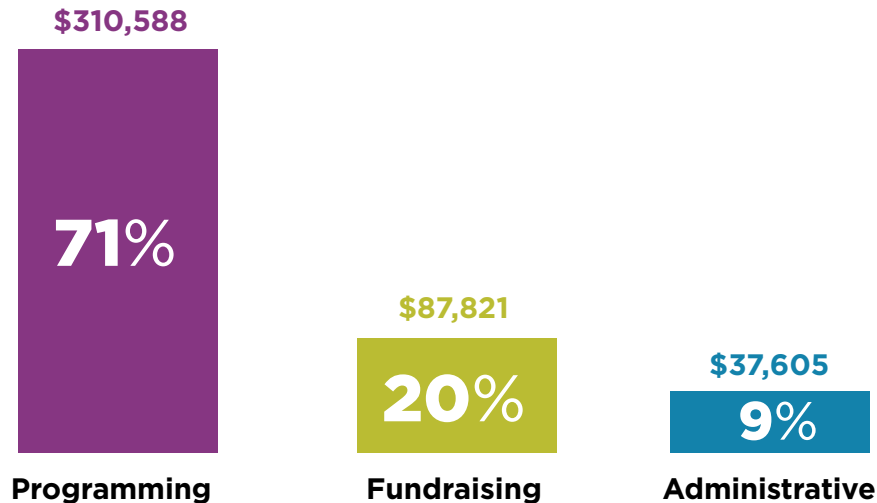
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