



wbpf

THE  
WOMEN'S BAR  
FOUNDATION



**2018** ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Access to justice – providing access to justice continues to be at the center of the Women’s Bar Foundation’s work. Every day, low-income residents face challenges in matters relating to domestic violence, end-of-life decision-making and other critical legal issues. Thank you for your unwavering support to ensure that these residents, our clients, receive effective legal representation. We have terrific news:

***The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors (FLP) represented clients in 203 brief service cases, and made 154 referrals for Family Law Project and the Elder Law Project clients.***

**The WBF celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018**, and we are thrilled to report that the third year of our three-year capacity building initiative positioned us to secure grant funding for an intake coordinator, to allow for more efficient delivery of critical legal services in the coming year.

**The WBF welcomed Access to Justice Fellow Paula Mangum**, a highly experienced family law attorney, who offers additional expertise to both volunteer attorneys and mentors on particularly challenging cases. In addition, she runs our new Family Law Project brown bag lunch series, providing a forum for volunteer attorneys to explore a variety of topics related to advocacy in family law cases. We continue to expand our roster of attorneys through comprehensive Family Law Project training, Elder Law Project trainings, as well as online trainings.

Together with our sister organization, the Women’s Bar Association, we marked our anniversary year with a special reception honoring Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and presented her with an Outstanding Advocate Award.

We said good-bye to our wonderful Executive Director, Patricia Comfort. Patty’s significant contributions moved the WBF forward, and we are grateful for her dedication and leadership.

**Thank you for your commitment to providing access to justice. Your generosity makes a difference** in the lives of our most vulnerable residents. We look forward to the next 25 years!



**Sharon Simpson Jones**  
President



**Margaret E. Talmers**  
Executive Director

# GET INVOLVED!

## VOLUNTEER

Looking for rewarding and inspiring ways to make a difference? Become a volunteer attorney or volunteer mentor in one of the WBF's *pro bono* projects!

- ☞ **As a volunteer attorney**, you will receive comprehensive training, gain valuable skills in client counseling, negotiation and trial advocacy, 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 Margaret Talmers at [mtalmers@womensbar.org](mailto:mtalmers@womensbar.org) or 617.973.6666.

## CONTRIBUTE

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](http://www.womensbar.org), or send a check to:

### **Women's Bar Foundation**

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## The Elder Law Project



**The Elder Law Project** (ELP) received **432** calls, and referred **41** low-income seniors to volunteer attorneys to prepare end-of-life planning documents. ELP staff conducted **2** site visits to senior centers.





## The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors

### **The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors**

(FLP)'s volunteer attorneys and mentors represented clients in **113** full representation cases and **203** brief service cases.

**135** attorneys participated in comprehensive trainings.



## Women's Prison and Reentry Project

The **Women's Prison and Reentry Project (WPRP)** held educational seminars at South Bay Suffolk County House of Correction. WPRP developed educational seminars on specific legal subject matters.

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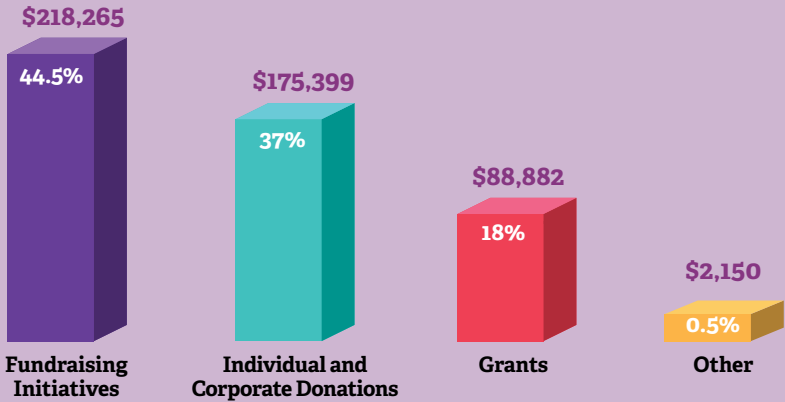
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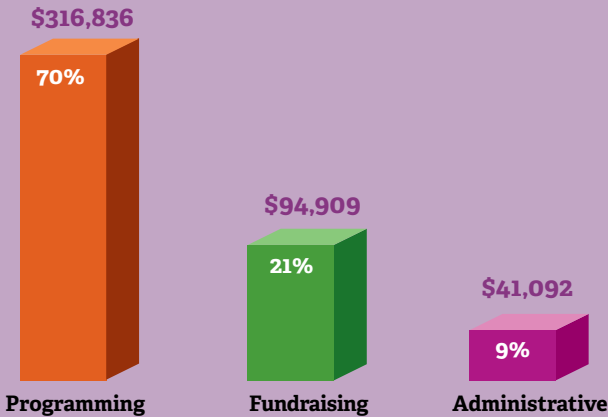
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TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$452,837**



These numbers have not been reviewed or audited.

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