



VOLS

VOLUNTEERS of LEGAL SERVICE



VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE 2021 - 2022 IMPACT REPORT

Volunteers of Legal Service was founded in 1984 to harness the power of New York City's legal community and community-based organizations to provide free, civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers. Today, through six legal projects powered by our staff and pro bono partners, we serve seniors, veterans, incarcerated mothers, immigrant youth, unemployed workers, children and their families. Our work is inclusive of age, race, LGBTQ+ and gender identity, veteran and immigration status.

While this year has been a time of revitalization for many, it presented unique challenges for VOLS' clients. As an organization, our services benefited nearly 6,800 New Yorkers, helping keep small businesses open, roofs over heads, kids enrolled in school, families together and seniors in their communities. We engaged our network of 70 law firms/corporate law departments in pro bono work and 150 community-based organizations to serve immigrant children who need humanitarian and other forms of relief; businesses in underserved neighborhoods who need to rebound post-pandemic; families whose children need legal intervention; grandparents who need to protect their assets to avoid fraud and homelessness; incarcerated mothers who need plans for reunification with their children; and workers who need to put food on the table but have been unfairly denied unemployment benefit. Our work embodied the theme of our annual gala: New York, Together.

Representation matters to all of VOLS' stakeholders, and diversity, equity, and inclusion is a priority for the organization. When Abja began as VOLS Executive Director in February 2021, she was the first Woman of Color to lead VOLS. As of this writing, over 50% of our staff identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and our Leadership Team is 50% BIPOC women, a significant difference from only a few years before. Forty percent of our staff is bilingual.

VOLS' impact is impossible without the generosity of our supporters, the diligence of our Board of Directors, the dedication of our Pro Bono Advocates Council, and the skill and compassion of the VOLS' team and our pro bono attorney corps. We hope you enjoy learning about the past year at VOLS. These pages are filled with numbers, names, stories, and headlines that only begin to touch on the impact that VOLS - and all of you - have made.

With gratitude,
The VOLS Team

Volunteers of Legal Service

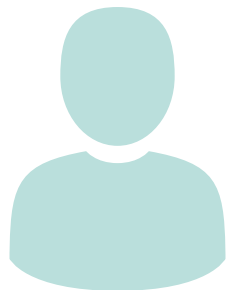
Our Model

VOLS' model is to first identify legal issues facing low-income New Yorkers through our relationships with community-based organizations and then to organize programming, staffing, and pro bono support to address the need. This provides us with extensive opportunity for feedback and guidance from our partners and their constituencies.

VOLS staff provide free direct civil legal services; recruit, train & mentor pro bono volunteers; provide community education, training & Know Your Rights materials in multiple languages.

VOLS works with 70 law firms and companies. We connect and support a network of nearly 1,800 active pro bono volunteer attorneys to provide legal services to low-income New Yorkers.

VOLS works with 150 schools, hospitals, older adult centers, service provider coalitions, and other organizations to identify and support clients. We provide community legal education, identify emerging legal trends impacting communities and identify community members in need of support.



One VOLS legal team member

- Performs client intake & manages a **caseload** of direct legal services
- Supports pro bono volunteers on matters, significantly **multiplying** impact and number of clients served
- **Presents** community legal education, continuing legal education, know-your-rights and other trainings.

Volunteers of Legal Service Our Projects

Microenterprise Project (MEP)

assists underrepresented entrepreneurs by providing legal education, advice and representation on business formation, contracts, taxes, intellectual property, human resources or commercial leasing. In one instance this year, we partnered with the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute housed at the City University of New York. Their Informal Family Care Project helps home-based childcare providers successfully care for young children in their communities by providing a comprehensive array of professional development opportunities. As part of their efforts to become certified by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, VOLS conducted a “business essentials” workshop for program participants to help them select the right type of entity for their small business formation. After the workshop, we conducted follow-up intakes in order to place these inspiring entrepreneurs with our pro bono partners for assistance in entity selection. We are inspired by these caregivers who, in starting a small business, are not only achieving their dreams but also bringing crucial services to their communities.



Senior Law Project (SLP)

assists low-income seniors with legal documents to make key decisions for incapacitation, end-of-life, and posthumous care, with specific initiatives for veteran, women, LGBTQ+, and Latinx/Spanish-speaking seniors. In addition to holding wills and advanced directives clinics for thousands of seniors this year, the SLP also provided testimony at several hearings. One hearing was at the New York City Council’s Committees on Aging and Women and Gender Equality about challenges facing LGBTQ+ older adults. The current laws and protocols for end of life and incapacity planning heavily operates based on heteronormative relationships and norms. VOLS’ testimony addressed these problems and supported the creation of a commission that would identify specific challenges to LGBTQ+ older adults and develop equitable recommendations.



Immigration Project (IP)

partners with educators and social workers at high schools, higher education institutions, and community organizations to assist immigrant youth and young adults with immigration related legal issues. The IP has navigated changes in immigration law this year, particularly with respect to DACA, which remains in peril after a Fifth Circuit federal legal review, leaving immigrant youth in desperate need of accurate information about the law and their due process rights. We've also expanded our work with Special Immigration Juvenile Status cases, helping some of the most vulnerable immigrant youth in New York City.



Volunteers of Legal Service Our Projects



Unemployed Workers Project (UWP)

provides unemployed workers with assistance on federal and state unemployment insurance, advising on eligibility, applications, claims, waivers and requests for hearings. This year, the UWP focused outreach to community-organizations serving immigrant communities in order to identify the specific challenges facing unemployed immigrant workers. To help in this effort, the UWP completed an Unemployment Insurance Hearings toolkit translated into Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Russian, Bengali, Haitian Creole, Korean, Arabic, Urdu, French, & Polish. This toolkit will be instrumental in assisting those without a legal background during a UI hearing.

Incarcerated Mothers Law Project (IMLP)

provides legal advice on parental rights and family law matters to mothers in prison or jail. This project was forced to go on hiatus given the lack of access to prisons and jails during COVID-19, and we were thrilled to announce the relaunch of the IMLP last spring. The IMLP offers a wide range of education and advice to incarcerated mothers on issues such as child abuse and neglect, custody, visitation, foster care, reunification, termination of parental rights, drafting family court documents, and adoption. With the help of our community and pro bono partners, the IMLP is again providing regular legal advice, now remotely, and information on these critical issues.



Children's Project (CP)

works with schools and hospitals to help low-income families resolve legal problems that may impact a child's health and ability to succeed in school. This year the project included six partnerships between schools and/or hospitals and law firms offering pro bono support. Parents and students can access free, high-quality legal assistance by attending legal clinics or by contacting a point person at the school or hospital who can make a referral to a participating law firm.

Volunteers of Legal Service New in 2021-2022

New Initiatives

La Extensión Comunitaria Para Adultos Mayores

VOLS provee asistencia legal gratuita para obtener testamentos, poderes y otros documentos legales para establecer instrucciones anticipadas. VOLS provides free legal assistance to obtain Wills, Powers of Attorney and other legal documents for end-of-life planning. This initiative, formally launched after a successful pilot program, serves our Latinx/Spanish-speaking seniors.

Unemployed Workers Immigrant Initiative

After the depletion and closing of the historic Excluded Workers Fund, VOLS identified a number of challenges that immigrants who are eligible for unemployment benefits experience due to their immigration status and language needs. This initiative provides know-your-rights trainings and legal services to fill the gap.

Microenterprise Brooklyn Initiative

Identifies and serves Black-owned businesses based in Brooklyn in order to empower existing and new entrepreneurs to stimulate economic development in communities struggling with historically high levels of poverty.

VOLS 2022 New York, Together Gala

VOLS' first in-person gala, our 2022 New York, Together Gala, was a success! We raised over \$635,000 for VOLS' programs and services. Guests joined us for cocktails, dinner, and a compelling conversation on corporate pro bono, moderated by Cynthia Bookhart Adams (Jefferies), and featuring Erica Blau (AIG), Yuliana Kletsun (Bloomberg LP), and Maryana Zubok (Pfizer, Inc.).

We are enormously grateful to our Board of Directors, sponsors, host committee, and to our Gala Chair and Honoree, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, for their leadership.



“We can all be very proud of the part VOLS played and continues to play in trying to make our community a better and more survivable place for so many.

Karen Artz Ash, Chair,
Board of Directors
VOLS New York, Together 2022 Gala



Volunteers of Legal Service Our Impact

nearly **6,800** low-income New Yorkers served

\$1.5+ MILLION in benefits to clients obtained

1,800+ pro bono attorneys in our network

7,500 pro bono hours for New Yorkers in need

VOLS' self-help legal educational materials were downloaded or viewed **7,257** times

VOLS' Clients

73% Identify as
People of Color

43% Identify as
Immigrants

64% Identify as
Women

Dear Ms. Tustian, Sept. 2011
Sorry for the delay of Acknowledging
your letter of Aug. 30th.
S K and I are very app-
riative of the help you have afforded
us and have already utilized all of the
documents. We shall always speak with
praise when mentioning VOLS and of course
its representatives such as your self.
I don't know how but if ever we
can assist your organization please contact
us at the below numbers.

Volunteers of Legal Service

Our Pro Bono

Case Study: In 2020, three pro bono attorneys worked with the Immigration Project team for a group of siblings to help them obtain legal permanent residency via Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, available to some of the most vulnerable immigrant children and one of the few humanitarian forms of relief that grants a pathway to legal permanent residency. The young adults became legal permanent residents in September of 2022, the dedicated trio has continued to work with their extended family as additional immigration law-related challenges arise.

VOLS 2022 Pro Bono Dean's List

Matthew Battaglia

Associate,
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Jillian Berman

Pro Bono Attorney, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Monica De Martin

Director – Counsel, Société Générale

Stella Drevina

Pro Bono Coordinator,
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

Lauren Fairman

Associate, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Avigail Goldglanz

Associate, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Michael Harris

Associate, Haug Partners LLP

Pauline Morgan

Associate, Cadwalader,
Wickersham & Taft LLP

Allison Semaya

Associate, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Dara Sheinfeld

Counsel, Head of Pro Bono Litigation,
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

VOLS Pro Bono Dean's List is dedicated to the memory of William J. Dean, VOLS' former executive director of 25 years, and recognizes ten hardworking and dedicated individuals who have made a tremendous impact in helping VOLS' clients

Our Partner Law Firms & Companies

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Allen & Overy LLP

Alston & Bird LLP

American Express

American International Group (AIG)

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Baker Botts LLP

Bank of America

Bank of New York Mellon

Bloomberg

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Covington & Burling LLP

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Cyrus D. Mehta & Associates PLLC

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

Day Pitney LLP

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Dechert LLP

DLA Piper LLP

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Duval & Stachenfeld LLP

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Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher LLP

Goldman Sachs

Goodwin Procter LLP

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Haug Partners LLP

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Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

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Latham & Watkins LLP

Linklaters LLP

Mayer Brown LLP

McDermott Will & Emery

McGuireWoods LLP

MetLife

Milbank LLP

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Morgan Stanley

Morrison & Foerster LLP

Murtha Cullina LLP

Norton Rose Fulbright

O'Melveny & Myers LLP;

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,

Wharton & Garrison LLP

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Proskauer Rose LLP

Ropes & Gray LLP

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Seward & Kissel LLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Shearman & Sterling LLP

Shepard Mullin

Sidley Austin LLP

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Smith Gabrell & Russell

Societe Generale

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

TD Securities

Thomson Reuters

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

White & Case LLP

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

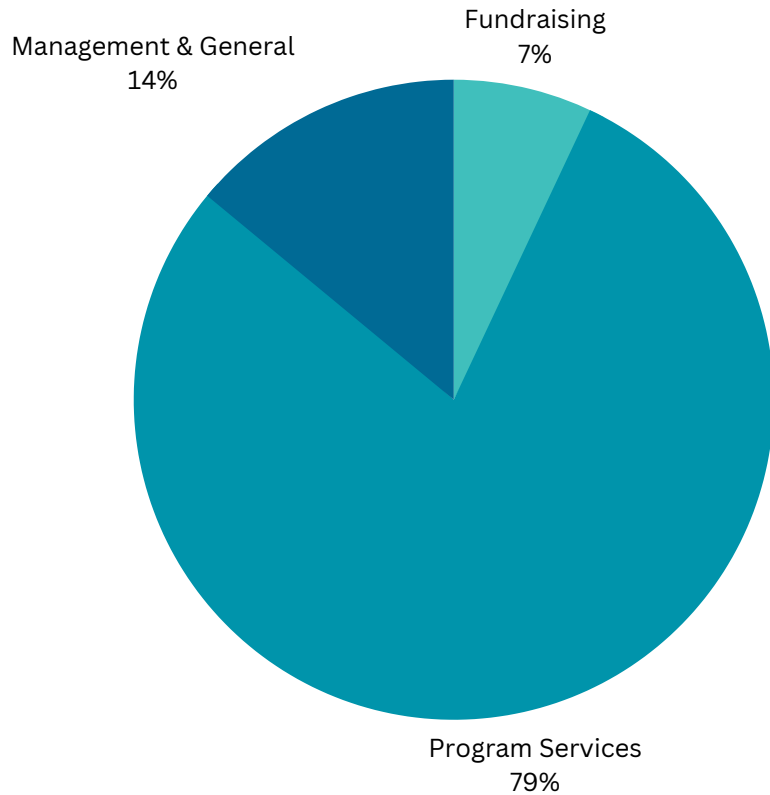
Winston & Strawn LLP

Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP

Volunteers of Legal Service Financial Information

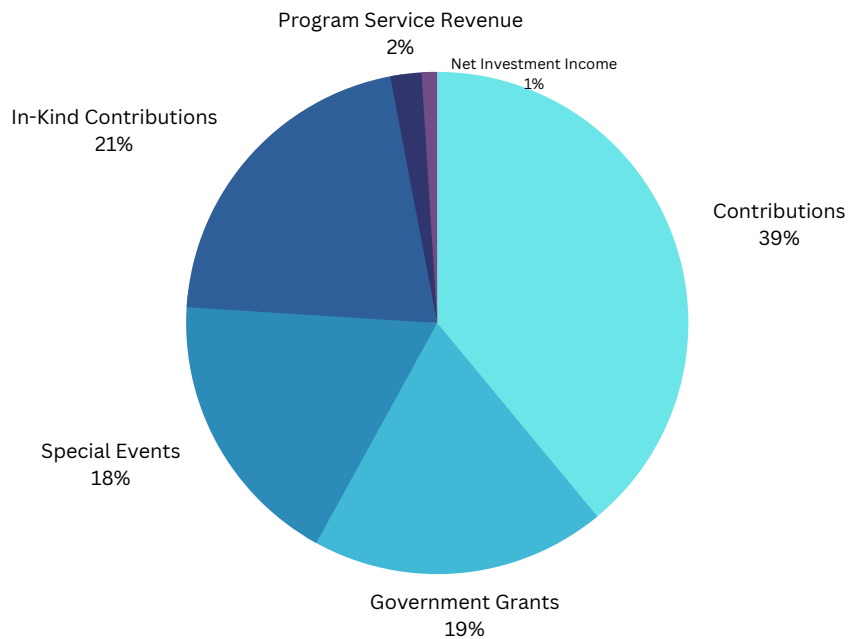
Revenues

Contributions	\$1,435,530
Government Grants	\$702,535
Special Events	\$653,967
In Kind Contributions	\$745,461
Program Service Revenue	\$63,678
Net Investment Income	\$(48,078)
Total Revenues	\$3,553,093



Expenses

Microenterprise Project	\$697,600
Immigration Project	\$583,655
Senior Law Project	\$728,462
Unemployed Workers Project	\$538,663
Other Projects	\$84,619
Program Services	\$2,632,999
Management & General	\$463,912
Fundraising	\$221,540
Total Expenses	\$3,318,451



Volunteers of Legal Service

Our Team

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Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

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Alan R. Glickman

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Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

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Of Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Parvin D. Moyne

Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Cynthia Mullock

Founding Executive Director, Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey

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Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP

Bret I. Parker

Executive Director, New York City Bar Association

Heather Ripley

Partner, Alston & Bird LLP

Alan Schoenfeld

Partner, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Jane Shvets

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Dietrich L. Snell

Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP

James H.R. Windels

Counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

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Ex-Officio

Susan Kohlmann

President, New York City Bar Association
Partner, Jenner & Block LLP

VOLS Leadership Team

Abja Midha, Executive Director

Peter Kempner, Legal Director & Director, Senior Law Project

Amy Bonderoff, Director, Development & Communications

Dorian Rojas, Director, Immigration Project

Andrea Tan, Director, Microenterprise Project

Stephanie Taylor, Director, Unemployed Workers Project & Incarcerated Mothers Law Project

VOLS Pro Bono Advocates Council (PBAC)

Deniz Gurbuz (Chair) Associate, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Anna Andreescu Legal & Compliance, Morgan Stanley

Dyllan Brown-Bramble Law Clerk, Latham & Watkins LLP

Alexandra Caleca Associate, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP

Victor Celis Associate, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Monica DeMartin Director – Counsel, Société Générale

Rita Celebrezze D'Souza Associate, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Victoria Fydrych Associate, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Michael Harris Associate, Haug Partners LLP

Christine Isaacs Associate, Dechert LLP

Alexa Kissinger Litigation Associate, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Yuliana Kletsun Enterprise Data Counsel, Bloomberg LP

Daiana Kostova Associate, Davis, Polk & Wardell LLP

Nathan Noh Associate, Ropes & Gray LLP

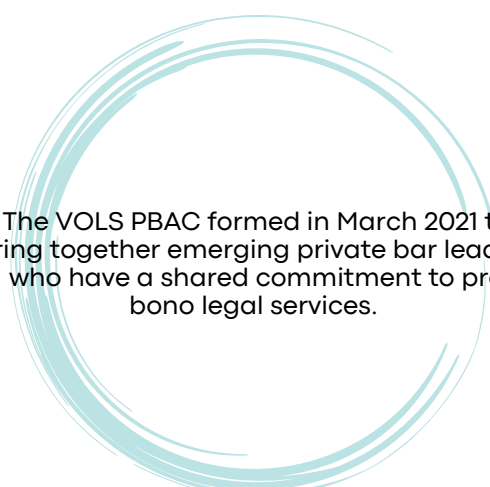
Cindy Pan Associate, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP

Gordana Vasic Assistant General Counsel, Financial Lines Insurance, AIG

Diane Xu Associate, Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP

Jeff Xu Associate, Morrison & Foerster LLP

Kevin Zhen Associate, Fried Frank, Harris, Shriver & Johnson LLP



The VOLS PBAC formed in March 2021 to bring together emerging private bar leaders who have a shared commitment to pro bono legal services.