PROGRESS REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO

MARÍA BLANCO
UC IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2017
BACKGROUND

This report summarizes our services for Academic Year 2016-2017 and examines the future trajectory of the Center over the next two years. This report also discusses the way in which the Center continues to respond to changes in federal immigration policy since January 2017 and the impact of the changes on the students and families we serve.

The UC Immigrant Legal Services Center (UC Center, or UCIMM) was founded in January 2015 by UC President, Janet Napolitano, and exists to provide quality immigration legal services to undocumented UC students and undocumented family members of UC students, as well as students and family members who are United States citizens and lawful permanent residents. Based at UC Davis School of Law, the UC Center currently provides free immigration legal services at all UC campuses, other than UC Berkeley: UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Francisco, and UC Santa Barbara.

The Center began with an Executive Director, two law fellows, and a paralegal. By Fall 2015, the UC Center doubled its staff. This staffing allowed us to quickly offer immigration legal services to all the target campuses for the full 2015-2016 academic year.

In the 2016-2017 Academic Year with additional support from the UC Office of the President, the UC Center continued to grow and it now has eight (8) full time attorneys. The growth also was made possible through full support by UCLA for a staff attorney at its campus, and partial funding and office space by UC Riverside and UC Irvine for onsite legal staff. In January 2018, UCSD will provide full support for a Center attorney who will be housed at UCSD. With the personnel and geographic expansion has come a more formal management structure that includes two supervising attorneys and sophisticated cloud based conference and case management technology.

The expansion has led to a dramatic increase in our services. In Academic Year 2015-2016 we served 311 clients. In Academic Year 2016-2017, the number of inquiries nearly quadrupled to 1,127, and we opened 800 new legal cases. In addition, our attorneys have provided critical updated information about the changes in immigration law and immigration enforcement on an ongoing and regular basis to the general campus communities they serve.
STAFF

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

During the 2016-2017 Academic Year the Center was staffed by an Executive Director, two Managing Attorneys, four Attorney Fellows, two Staff Attorneys, and one Paralegal to cover nine campuses. Two of the Center’s attorneys staffed more than one campus, with staff geographically split between UC Davis School of Law and various campuses in Southern California.

UCLA houses a full-time staff attorney and also provides office space and support for our Southern California managing attorney who is employed through UC Davis School of Law. In addition to supervising the attorneys who provide services at UCLA, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, and at UC Irvine, this managing attorney is also responsible for providing legal services at UCLA and UC Santa Barbara.

In April 2017, we hired a full-time staff attorney for UC Irvine, who has significant experience in removal defense and complex cases that has been invaluable to all our legal staff. UC Irvine has committed funds to fund a portion of the UC Irvine Staff Attorney position, and the UCI School of Law has provided a dedicated office space for the UC Irvine Staff Attorney. UC Irvine is also building a dedicated office area for all of its student organizations, and we have an agreement that the UC Irvine Staff Attorney will have a dedicated office space there starting in September 2017.

Finally, we have been able to hire a full-time onsite UC Davis legal fellow through the generosity of the UC Davis Law School’s Public Interest Law Fellowship.

Our continued goal over the next two years is to move to a model where the campuses agree to absorb the attorney costs as part of their student affairs budget. We currently have three campuses in Southern California that have absorbed all or some of the attorney costs, and as of this writing, UC San Diego is planning to fund a full-time attorney beginning in January 2018. Furthermore, UC Santa Cruz is discussing this as an option as well, though UC San Diego is substantially further in its discussions with the Center.

NUMBER OF INQUIRIES BY CAMPUS, 2016-2017 (1,179 TOTAL)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
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STAFF CONTINUED

ATTORNEY EXPERIENCE

All our attorneys and our paralegal have significant immigration law experience in precisely the areas of immigration law that we see most often. Notably, our two supervisors have 12 years of combined experience. This strong base of experience has greatly increased our efficiency and ability to take more cases, provide quality services. Except for our new graduate fellows, all of our attorneys, including the Executive Director, are members of the California Bar.
KEY DATA POINTS FOR 2016-2017

In the academic year of 2016-2017, the UC Undocumented Legal Services Center handled 1,179 inquiries and opened 800 matters. This represents a growth of 238% from AY 2015-2016 when we handled 311 inquiries and opened 257 cases.

NUMBER OF MATTERS & INQUIRIES FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 15-16 & 16-17

Most Common Case Types for Academic Year 2016-2017

- **DACA**: 34% of total inquiries (This reflects more than 100% growth for DACA related inquiries, as compared to AY 2015-2016.)
- **General Immigration Screening**: 23% of total inquiries
- **Family Petitions**: 18% of total inquiries
- **U Visas**: 6% of total inquiries
- **Advance Parole**: 6% of total inquiries
Below is a chart that splits up the types of cases by Campus, and as seen, the bulk on each campus is DACA or DACA-related, followed by General Immigration Screening.
**DACA 2016-2017**

The majority of our work relates to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), at 34% of total inquiries. This is natural because the vast majorities of our clients are either DACA eligible or have already received DACA. The UC Center assists these students to apply for or renew their DACA. In addition, the UC Center assists undocumented siblings of UC students eligible to apply for DACA. This year, we also assisted clients with delays in the receipt of DACA. Center attorneys handled 396 DACA related inquiries, which constitutes 34% of all inquiries in AY 2016-2017. This reflects more than 100% growth for DACA related inquiries, as compared to AY 2015-2016.

UC students or their siblings who are DACA eligible but have not applied in the period after the program’s inception in 2012 typically present more complex DACA cases. These students or their family members may have held off from applying because they have difficulty proving one or more of DACAs threshold requirements. In the case of older siblings without DACA, the application often is more challenging because the sibling must prove continuous presence for a longer period of time than the UC student. This can be a problem when the sibling has not enrolled in school after high school or worked continuously. For others, there might be a problem finding evidence of their initial entry into the United States before June 15, 2007 or concern about a criminal issue. In this Academic Year, we saw more complex cases involving DACA recipients with criminal issues or other complex matters. Furthermore, with the change in the administration, additional concerns came to our attention due to the possibility of information-sharing between USCIS and ICE. These cases require more hours and strategic thinking that the Center provides free of charge.

Of the DACA-related inquiries, 84.3% related to DACA renewals, 11.11% related to DACA initial applications, and 4.55% related to DACA EAD issues, including delays of EAD approvals.

**DACA-RELATED INQUIRIES IN 2016-2017**

- **84.3%** - DACA Renewal
- **11.1%** - DACA Initial
- **4.5%** - DACA EAD
GENERAL IMMIGRATION SCREENING AND FORMS OF RELIEF

After DACA the next largest type of inquiry we received, at 23% of total inquiries, is requests for general screenings for immigration relief. Though we provide general screenings to all who interface with the Center in order to identify every possible form of legal immigration relief for undocumented students and their family members, after the November election we received more inquiries for this very specific purpose. Examples of relief we have identified include numerous family-based petitions, U Visas, SIJS, possible other forms of relief. Often the students and their families were not aware of these possibilities before speaking with us.

U-VISA RELIEF

During AY 2016-2017, the UC Center received 73 inquiries about obtaining a U visa. During AY 2015-2016, we received 31 such inquiries. Though U visa inquiries constituted a relatively low percentage of our overall total inquiries, such cases require a significant amount of work and can allow for immigration relief when no other option is viable because of unlawful entries or other issues. The wait time for a U visa is now close to 10 years, and so these cases will likely remain pending and with the UC Center for that period of time.

ADVANCE PAROLE

The UC Center usually assists UC students with DACA in applying for permission to travel abroad with Advance Parole, but this Academic Year we advised individuals not to travel on Advance Parole unless absolutely necessary. Only 6% of total inquiries were with regards to Advance Parole. In line with many other non-profit organizations, we deferred many decisions on whether a client should apply for Advance Parole until we learned the results of the November 2016 election. Prior to this, we worked with UC Study Abroad offices to ensure there was a unified message about Advance Parole, that those offices would refer their students to us, and we would advise them on the risks involved with Advance Parole. Should a student still want to proceed with Advance Parole, we advised them that we would be unable to complete their application. However, we did assist some individuals with emergency Advance Parole for short trips to visit family members that had an emergency medical issue or other similarly emergent issue.
REMOVAL DEFENSE
As a result of the change in Federal administration and related increase in enforcement strategies, the Center began representing immigrant detainees with their bond hearings. In Academic Year 2016-2017, we assisted 16 clients (or 1.36% of individuals served) their removal-related issues, and represented two individuals faced with a threat of removal, or with removal. While we do not have the full capacity to represent people in their underlying removal proceedings, we provide referrals to reputable attorneys or non-profit organizations. With the introduction of the Los Angeles Justice Fund and other sources of funding in California for removal defense, we are able to more confidently make referrals to non-profit organizations in at least the Southern California area.

POST-ELECTION 2017 OUTREACH WORK
With the new Presidential Administration came numerous challenges and our Center became an important resource to students, staff and faculty at the various UC campuses and nationally. Immediately after the results of the November 8, 2016 election, students at nearly all campuses contacted their respective Undocumented Student and AB540 Center coordinators with legal questions and concerns. All UC Center attorneys conducted Know Your Rights workshops for students and fielded questions, in addition to individual consultations with clients. This high level of anxiety has continued into 2017. After DHS began increased enforcement activities, Center attorneys received increased calls for guidance and provided additional Know Your Rights workshops. Most recently, in the Summer of 2017, we have gotten increased inquiries regarding the potential repeal of DACA from numerous students, who are rightly concerned about the status of the program that has permitted them to work and flourish as students.

UCIMM attorneys organized and conducted more than 77 presentations and workshops across the nine UC campuses served by the UCIMM. We are considered a national leader in legal services for undocumented students and their families; Executive Director Maria Blanco has been invited to speak about the Center across the country.
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF OUR CLIENTS

UCIMM is a driver of immigrant integration in California. Our clients hail from 44 different countries including: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, England, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Uganda, United States, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

CLIENTS’ TOP 7 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:

- Mexico: 73%
- South Korea: 6%
- United States: 3%
- Guatemala: 3%
- Philippines: 2%
- El Salvador: 2%
- Peru: 2%

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF CLIENTS, 2016-17

- 73.2% - Mexico
- 6% - South Korea
- 2.8% - U.S.A.
- 2.5% - Guatemala
- 2.2% - Philippines
- 1.9% - El Salvador
- 1.6% - Peru
- 9.8% - Other Countries

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF CLIENTS, 2016-17

[Map showing the distribution of clients by country of origin.]
In AY 2016-17, UCIMM served immigrants currently residing in **34 counties** across the Golden State (compared to 18 counties in AY 2015-16). **Los Angeles** has the highest proportion of clients compared to other California counties. In fact, Southern California is home to the highest concentration of the home counties of students and their family members. UCIMM has also represented clients living outside California.

**COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF CLIENTS, 2016-17**

- Alameda: 18
- Contra Costa: 20
- El Dorado: 2
- Fresno: 7
- Kern: 10
- Lassen: 1
- Los Angeles: 296
- Merced: 4
- Mono: 2
- Mendocino: 1
- Montery: 12
- Madera: 10
- San Diego: 51
- San Bernardino: 73
- San Joaquin: 61
- San Luis Obispo: 20
- San Francisco: 31
- San Gabriel: 14
- Santa Barbara: 11
- Santa Clara: 4
- Santa Cruz: 13
- Solano: 25
- Stanislaus: 8
- Siskiyou: 1
- Tulare: 2
- Ventura: 2
- Yolo: 1

(Summary bar chart showing the distribution of clients by county.)
UCIMM serves clients with varying legal statuses. The vast majority of the clients we serve are undocumented, at 89%. The highlights for Academic Year 2016-17 are:

- 66% of our clients have DACA
- 23% are undocumented
- 4% are Legal Permanent Residents

Our clients include both UC students and their family members. In AY 2016-17:

- 62% of our clients were students
- 21% were family members of students
- 18% included both students and their family members
- 21% of our clients were transfer students.

**CASE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Detained mother of U.S. citizens released on bond**
In January 2017, a UC Irvine’s student’s mother was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) despite being the mother of two U.S. Citizen children, both of whom had attended UCI. Our team quickly mobilized and successfully argued for bond for the client. With the bond release we were able to refer the case out to a local practitioner.

**U Visa for rape survivor**
The Center assisted a rape survivor who was sexually abused and raped multiple times during her childhood. She bravely decided to report the crimes and assisted in the investigation as an adult after suffering years of psychological trauma. The client had signed up for legal services to assist her with an application to replace her stolen work permit and during the screening, our attorney learned that she had been the victim of rape. As no other forms of relief were available to her, the client submitted her U Visa petition, as well as her replacement work permit application, which is currently pending.
CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Last minute Special Immigrant Juvenile petition and AB900 guardianship

The Center assisted a UC Santa Barbara undocumented student whose only recourse for relief was Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (“SIJS”). She was 20 years old, and fortunately she had a family friend with whom she was very close and agreed to serve as her guardian. Upon filing the guardianship papers, her guardianship hearing was scheduled mere days prior to her 21st birthday in Santa Barbara. The judge took the case off calendar, and with the assistance of a local practitioner, Center attorneys were able to obtain the relevant orders from the Court to make a timely SIJS filing. The matter is still pending.

Long-shot Motion to Reopen

The Center is fighting the deportation of a promising undergraduate student with dreams of becoming a genetic researcher. The student received a removal order when she arrived in the U.S. as an unaccompanied child. On a yearly basis she checked in and was granted a stay of deportation without work authorization. On her last visit we were advised that the stay would probably not be renewed. Recently, we successfully petitioned the immigration court to reopen the student’s removal case because she demonstrates eligibility for asylum. As a result, the student no longer has a deportation order and she now has work authorization she currently works in a genetic research laboratory. This case is still before the immigration court.

DACA AP allows for spousal Adjustment of Status

In Spring 2015, shortly after the UC Center launched our attorneys assisted a UC Santa Cruz student in obtaining advance parole to conduct field research on transnational mining organizations in Mexico. Two years later, the student married a US citizen and again contacted the UC Center attorneys to assist with her application for permanent residency through her spouse. The student and her spouse recently interviewed with immigration officials and the Center attorneys expect that she will receive her approval for residency very soon.

Chaperoning DACA Student Across US-Mexico Border

In the Summer of 2017, we assisted a DACA UC Riverside graduate student who had an expired Advance Parole document. The student had mistakenly read that his AP document was valid and was not able to return from his research trip to Latin America. Two Center attorneys and the student’s Ph.D. advisor went to Mexico and were successfully able to chaperon him through the U.S. Border with an extra copy of his AP documents. This allowed the student to return to UC Riverside to complete his dissertation and be with his U.S. Citizen spouse.
ATTORNEY HOURS SPENT PER CASE TYPE AND APPROXIMATE ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF SERVICES PROVIDED SINCE OPENING OUR DOORS

- Our DACA cases, the majority of which are DACA renewals, require an average of about four hours of preparation, while initial DACA applications average about eight hours.

- Advance Parole cases are fairly straightforward until we run into a difficult timing issue that requires an in-person appearance at a local USCIS Field Office. These cases average approximately six hours.

- We estimate that our family petitions average about twenty five hours, although some take much longer because it is difficult to reach family members and obtain all the required documents. In addition, attorneys almost always submit several Freedom of Information Act requests to the various immigration agencies and state and federal Departments of Justice when preparing a family petition to ensure that the client will not run into any trouble when applying for Adjustment of Status.

- At an average of 35 hours, U Visa cases take the most attorney time. Each U Visa petition involves requests to law enforcement to certify that our clients have cooperated, lengthy declarations, and working with closely and delicately with clients given the often sensitive nature of the subject matter.

If we counted only these cases, which make up the majority of our work, our attorneys have logged about 3,334 hours. If we billed at $200 per hour (much less than most private practitioners), we have provided $666,800 worth of services to UC students and their families with an expense budget of $701,479.70 (this includes UCOP funding, one external grant that will not be renewed, and the indirect costs paid to UC Davis). We are proud to be an important addition to California’s non-profits community when it comes to immigration services.
CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

With the support of UC Davis Sociology Professor Caitlin Patler we conducted a survey of our client and also obtained qualitative testimonials. Some samples include:

The services were better than anything I expected or could have ever imagined. Everyone I interacted with always made me feel very comfortable but still provided direct and honest advice. David was always very quick to respond and super accessible. The thoroughness, professionalism, kindness, and efficiency provided was phenomenal. I would not be where I am today (with my green card) without the help of the UCIMM Services. All nerves and anxiousness felt by my family and I throughout the case were put to ease with the amazing services we were given.”

I loved having an attorney at UCSB whom I could connect with and build a personal relations[hip with] so that I can trust them. It helped to know that anything we said was confidential and under attorney-client privilege.”

I greatly appreciated the timeliness, mindfulness, and sensitivity with which my case was handled. I appreciated being involved and feeling heard.”

[She] was very informative and helpful. She also cared about me and my case and made sure that I was aware of what I was supposed to be doing, always checked up on me.”

Everyone was really car[ing], professional, and they made us feel very comfortable. Having dealt with other lawyers we were surprised that we could receive such service from attorneys.”

I am eternally grateful for having this service. If it had not been for the center, I would not have been able to submit my application as fast as I did. I really appreciate the fact that the attorney went out of their way to help me with my case. Also, I was not expecting to have the attorney available to come with me to my appointment […]. Having an attorney in my appointment was extremely beneficial as it helped me calmed down.”
CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

I was able to establish a connection with lawyers that eased me into the tensions of navigating the legal system.”

I appreciate being updated by my attorney regarding every step we are taking and the patience they have in explaining what each document means.”

My attorney was extremely responsive, careful, thorough, and patient. I had a great experience working with my attorney!”

The attorney was very professional. Most importantly, they created a welcoming environment.”

[Even though] it was a simple case of DACA renewal for someone who traveled with advance parole, the attorney made me feel like my case mattered and that it was important.”

The attorney staff is very professional and very accessible and trustful. I feel very comfortable with my case being handle by the UCIMM.”

I appreciated the patience that I was met with. My attorney fellow went the extra mile to [give] me accurate and helpful information, and was always patient with my case.”

The attorney took the time to ask questions and give legal advice based on my personal needs. Also, the way she articulated herself showed her strong legal and community understanding of the community she serves.”

I appreciate that they are always willing to help you. If they are too busy they always find time for you. They help you in the best way possible.”
In addition to our client satisfaction, we are building a positive working environment, and providing opportunities for lawyers and law students, as well as undergraduate interns, to learn about immigration law and grow as professionals.

My two-year fellowship with the Center was a wonderful professional experience, and one that helped me develop into a knowledgeable immigration attorney. On the most complex cases that I encountered, where the threat of deportation loomed, I received invaluable support not only from the UC Center staff, but from the clinicians at the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic. I feel that I could have gotten such in-depth guidance and expertise only at UC Davis, and for that reason I am thankful for the location of this fellowship and the network that the school provided me.”

- Desiree Fairly, 2015-2017 Attorney Fellow (UC Davis School of Law Class of 2015)

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a pioneering attorney-fellow for the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center. It has been rewarding both professionally and personally to serve immigrant UC students and their families. Finally, it has been a constant reminder that I chose to study here because of King Hall’s sincere dedication to public interest law.”

- David G. Gomez, 2015-2017 Attorney Fellow (UC Davis School of Law Class of 2015)

My externship position at the UC Center was a great way to learn about and contribute to an area of law that I care deeply about. I enjoyed the opportunities to participate in know your rights trainings because I was able meet and assist UC students. My tasks as an extern also had a direct positive impact on my understanding of immigration law because I had a chance to apply what I learned in class at the Center. Likewise, I was better prepared in my immigration law classes because of the research work I completed at the Center. As one of my first externships, my assignments at the Center greatly improved my legal research and writing skills that I continue to use and build on as a rising third year student.”

- Damian Caravez, Fall 2016 Legal Extern (UC Davis School of Law Class of 2018)
Over the course of my time as a legal intern for UCIMM, I have had many different kinds of opportunities to learn. I have been able to interact and directly assist clients, conduct research in a wide variety of topics, and observe different styles from various attorneys. UCIMM is not only a great resource for UC students and their families, but has also allowed me to work and learn within my own academic community. I look forward to being able to use the skills and information I’ve acquired over the past weeks throughout the remainder of my time at King Hall, as well as after graduation.”

- Manuela Boucher-De La Cadena, Summer 2017 Legal Intern (UC Davis School of Law Class of 2019)

Interning at the UC Center has been a great experience and due to the exposure of various tasks, I have further developed my skills and gained confidence in my abilities. I have been handed a variety of assignments, which have taught me important skills ranging from translating legal documents to filling out immigration forms. Although I had never been exposed to certain tasks the UC Center staff always took the time to explain the complex immigration laws and answer my questions. They also shared lots of great advice regarding law school. I’m grateful for this internship opportunity for allowing me to observe the work that goes in to representing clients while gaining experience. This internship has further inspired me to pursue law school.”

- Claudia Cuesta Garibay, 2016-2017 Undergraduate Intern (UC Davis Class of 2018)
DATA FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-17

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 - 2017

As illustrated in the chart below, the UC Center served 1,179 people between August 2016 and June 2017 during Academic Year 2016-2017. The chart below combines matters opened and inquiries made to the UC Undocumented Legal Services Center. An inquiry arises when a request for services is made to the UC Center, but we do not or cannot take on the case. For example, the prospective client may attend a CSU school and not a UC, or they may be a UC faculty member and not a student. Finally, they may inquire about a non-immigration issue like employment. These individuals or issues are beyond the scope of the legal services the UC Center provides to undocumented students and their families. UC Center attorneys will at the very least provide the inquirer with general advice and a referral to another service provider.

As seen below, both the number of matters and inquiries has increased significantly since Academic Year 2015-2016.

ALL INQUIRIES

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ALL MATTERS OPENED

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Overall, in comparison, we handled more inquiries, matters, presentations, and workshops, and served nearly 4 times as many students and family members as AY 2015-2016.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>823</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Undocumented and DACA-mented students and family members that we served</strong></td>
<td>334</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>216*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

The Center is well positioned to serve all UC campuses in the upcoming Academic Year. We have worked to build excellent partnerships with student organizations as well as administrators and staff at each campus who see the value of our services for their students.

We anticipate even greater demand for our services in the next couple of years as the number of undocumented students in the UC system continues to rise with the availability of Cal Grants and the ability to work provided by DACA. We will be able to meet the need because of our additional and more experienced staff.

Along with obtaining greater financial buy-in from the local campuses, our financial sustainability over the next year involves raising outside dollars for our work. While it is difficult to find foundations and/or donors willing to fund direct legal services, the innovative, successful nature of this initiative will serve to distinguish us.

We look forward to another year of growth, service, and success.