

NEVADA SUPREME COURT



ACCESS TO JUSTICE
COMMISSION

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEVADA

All Rise
for Nevada
Civil Justice

Daniel's story

Life-Saving Medical Treatment

Daniel was a preteen when he was diagnosed with a rare medical condition. Nevada Medicaid denied him coverage for a medical procedure because they deemed it experimental. Legal Aid took the case to appeal the denial of medical services. Staff attorneys learned from the doctors that the medical treatment is not considered experimental in the field - it was merely offered by a limited number of hospitals. Legal Aid appealed the denial, scheduled the administrative hearing, and paid substantial fees for two doctors to travel to Nevada and testify at Daniel's hearing. The doctors' testimony made all the difference and the Administrative Law Judge overturned the denial. Daniel was able to get treatment, including three surgeries and a transplant. Daniel is alive and well today. Without treatment, he likely would have died after a few years spent in terrible pain. Legal Aid attorneys can literally say they saved a life that day - achieving an enormous, life-altering outcome for Daniel and his family¹.

*Daniel is alive and well today because
Legal Aid fought when he could not.*



Return on Investment of Legal Aid is High

Starting with \$18 million in combined funding from court filing fees, Federal and state grants, Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), and events and donations, Legal Aid generates \$128 million in economic impact -

a seven to one return.

Services delivered through Legal Aid win cases for Nevadans that generate \$25 million in income from Federal sources such as Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance payments in meritorious cases, saving significant dollars for Nevada and local communities. Successful case closures through Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and child support are produced, totaling \$15 million. Then there are the cost savings. Simple Legal Aid actions like advanced directives which eliminate unwanted medical treatment save \$18 million. Foreclosure and eviction prevention which avoid government spending and emergency housing save \$16 million. Preventing domestic violence, reducing law enforcement and medical treatments save \$4 million.

There is a multiplier impact. Recipients of Legal Aid spend income on groceries, rent, utilities, clothing, transportation and more. It is estimated that a \$50 million multiplier impact* and 376 jobs are created by Legal Aid helping people, achieving a \$128 million return on investment - the seven dollar return for every one dollar invested.

Two of the biggest, unseen financial and social impacts of Legal Aid are keeping employees on the job and kids in school.

* Source: The Resource for Great Programs, U.S. Department of Commerce Regional Input-Output Multipliers (RIMS II), and Nevada data.



Maria's story

From At-Risk to Protected

“ I wanted to thank Legal Aid for connecting me with great legal help when my significant other assaulted our children. This has been a long journey for me and I am not sure how things would have ended without help. I was having a very difficult time on my own in family court. I was feeling ignored and overwhelmed by the whole process. I was told at a free Ask-A-Lawyer session that I would need an attorney to help me with my case. Even though I “lived” in the Family Law Self-Help Center, I knew I needed an attorney. Not having much experience in family law, I needed someone who was knowledgeable, strong, detail oriented; who would hear my voice, my concerns and be willing to help me, not just tell me what I needed.

Legal Aid heard my plea and saw that I needed help! I got my concerns heard and children protected. Things that would have been a barrier and an obstacle for me, they did with ease. I am so happy that through that stressful and anxious time that Legal Aid was there for me and my family. ² ”

- Maria, Legal Aid client

Maria and her children are safe. Guidance from Legal Aid speeds court dockets, benefitting all court customers.

147,000

Civil legal problems

- 35,000

Legal problems solved by Legal Aid

112,000

Legal problems with NO HELP



76%

Legal needs going unmet

*This is the **Justice Barrier***

Legal Aid helped **35,000 Nevadans** struggling to make ends meet by...

- ✓ Saving a family home from foreclosure due to a job layoff or medical catastrophe
- ✓ Protecting a woman and child against domestic violence
- ✓ Offering an abused or neglected child a voice in their future
- ✓ Defending against consumer fraud or the financial abuse of a senior
- ✓ Assisting a loving adult with a minor guardianship or adopting a child
- ✓ Winning hard-earned benefits for a veteran

With more resources we can protect more Nevadans in need.



\$7 ROI
(Return on Investment)

For every dollar
spent on **Legal Aid**

Legal Aid solves problems and saves money by...

- ✓ Obtaining Federal income for qualifying residents who otherwise are likely to lose their case and need to rely on State or local taxpayer-subsidized services
- ✓ Reducing domestic violence emergency law enforcement and medical costs
- ✓ Avoiding foreclosure costs to local governments and stabilizing neighborhood values
- ✓ Preventing eviction and the costs of emergency shelter
- ✓ Providing advanced directives avoiding unwanted medical treatments
- ✓ Increasing local spending through qualified income subsidies

*Access to justice means **everybody** has an equal opportunity to seek a fair remedy*

LEGAL AID

is how

JUSTICE FOR ALL

gets delivered

regardless of

ability to pay

The Nevada Statewide Study of Legal Needs and Economic Impacts was commissioned by the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission through a generous grant from the Nevada Bar Foundation.

*Learn more at **www.nvbar.org**, search "statewide study".*

*More about the Commission at **www.nvbar.org/atj***

Help Legal Aid tear down the **Justice Barrier**...

- ✓ The reality is that 76% of all civil legal needs of struggling Nevadans go unmet
- ✓ Many lose in court, not because they did something wrong, but simply because they didn't get the legal help they needed
- ✓ 84% of voters believe it is important for democracy to ensure everyone has access to the civil justice system
- ✓ You can support the cause of Legal Aid assistance...

Share what you learned with colleagues, friends and family

Encourage the law firm you work with to take civil pro bono cases

Vote for officials and measures you believe will help

Partner with legal aid, sponsor an event, or make a donation