



Northwest Justice Project

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2024

BUILDING BRIDGES TO JUSTICE

Building Bridges to Justice: 2024 Annual Impact Report

When justice seems out of reach, your support enables Northwest Justice Project to span the divide. In 2024, together we helped families stay housed, protected survivors from abuse, secured benefits for veterans and persons with disabilities, and fought inequities across Washington State.

Every legal victory creates pathways to stability that can change lives for generations.

Look inside to see your full impact.



Northwest Justice Project

Our Mission

-  **Combating Injustice**
-  **Strengthening Communities**
-  **Protecting Human Dignity**

LEGAL ADVOCACY BUILDS BRIDGES TO JUSTICE

With your support, in 2024 Northwest Justice Project protected survivors from abuse; prevented evictions, foreclosures and homelessness; secured public benefits; and fought for the dignity of our most vulnerable neighbors across Washington.

Our legal teams are **relentless in the pursuit of justice.** As a result: 30,050 people (clients and their families) benefited from direct legal advocacy and 1.3 million accessed legal resources through Washington Law Help. Legal advocacy provided greater financial security: preventing foreclosures, we protected \$50.12m in home equity; we eliminated \$2.4m in unfair debt and secured \$1.54m in veteran's benefits. Two-thirds of our clients were women. NJP served 3,935 persons who reported having a disability and 565 clients received services in a language other than English.

Our reach extends beyond individual cases. Our statewide teams of nearly 300 professionals broadly influence the legal system, including through precedent-setting cases. Behind each legal victory is a person who, with remarkable courage and tenacity, stood up for their rights and dignity with a lawyer by their side.

Together, we build bridges to justice.

Voices of Change

When NJP clients choose to share their stories, a common refrain often emerges: "With NJP, I finally was heard."

LUCI: I FINALLY GOT MY VETERAN'S BENEFITS

After facing sexual assault and subsequent betrayal from my command in the Marine Corps, I left the service in 2022 feeling lost. I later hit a wall trying to navigate the VA's convoluted disability claims system. That's when my NJP attorney Marcos stepped in, treating me with the dignity I'd been denied for so long. They helped secure me an 80% disability rating with over \$40,000 in back pay, finally giving me financial breathing room and a shot at my dreams.

Luci was one of 1,410 veterans served by NJP in 2024. These cases secured benefits, kept veterans housed, obtained a reasonable accommodation for their disabilities, and more.



CHAD: WITH A CLEAN SLATE, I CAN REBUILD MY LIFE

After landing in jail for drug possession in 2010, I grabbed a lifeline from Pioneer Human Services – first as a resident, then as staff helping others find stability. But my record kept blocking job opportunities in social work until I discovered the State vs. Blake ruling – which meant my drug charges could be vacated and my court fees reimbursed. NJP attorney Therese Norton helped with both and I won back over \$7,000 in court fees. Now, I'm free to take my passion for helping others to the next level.

Chad was one of 388 clients that NJP assisted to vacate debt and to refund prior court-ordered fees and interest.



**Thank you! Your support is a lifeline
for people like Luci and Chad.**

Find more client stories [here](#).



www.nwjustice.org



www.WashingtonLawHelp.org



[nwjusticeproject](https://www.facebook.com/nwjusticeproject)



HOUSING LAW SNAPSHOT: 6,751 CASES

NJP's Eviction Prevention Unit, Foreclosure Prevention Unit, and attorneys in offices statewide are building bridges to housing justice. Some of their cases are precedent setting – including one that recognizes the civil right of survivors of domestic violence to sue their landlord for violations under the Violence Against Women Act.

TENANT Representation:

1,611

Tenants represented
in evictions proceedings courts

193

Clients involving protection of
federal rent subsidies

27

Precedent-setting appeals in
higher courts

31

Cases defending the rights and dignity
of people living in their vehicles

HOMEOWNER Representation:

222

Foreclosures
prevented

\$50.12M

Equity preserved for homeowners
in foreclosure proceedings



FAMILY LAW SNAPSHOT: 2,426 CASES

Nearly all family law cases involved representation and assistance in domestic violence situations, especially where children were present. Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) procured by NJP deterred violence that can sometimes turn deadly.

216

DVPOs and protective
parenting plans

405

Children
protected

616

Divorce
cases

12

Precedent-setting appeals in
higher courts



CONSUMER LAW SNAPSHOT: 1,200 CASES

As low-income people struggled with inflation, medical bills, and predatory lending practices, NJP support to consumers proved crucial.

158

Households represented in debt collection matters

\$2.41M

Debt relief secured

130

Blake/LFO court debt relief cases

NJP helped thousands of clients assert their legal rights in employment, education, guardianship, homelessness, and individual rights.

We referred 4,869 cases to Volunteer Lawyer Programs and other community partners.



INCOME MAINTAINED AND MONEY SAVED BY LOW-INCOME CLIENTS

\$172K

Secured
in ongoing yearly
public benefits

\$1.54M

In life-changing benefits
awarded to U.S.
veterans

\$130K

In ongoing yearly
education benefits secured
for public school students



WASHINGTON LAW HELP: MORE THAN 1.3M VISITS

A core part of NJP's work is legal education and self-help support provided through the online resource [Washington Law Help](#). It is a library of free "know your rights" articles, videos, court forms and do-it-yourself packets addressing the full range of civil legal issues faced by low-income people in Washington state. **In 2024:**

1.3M

people visited
Washington
Law Help

39,856

people completed court
forms through its Washington
Forms Online resource

88

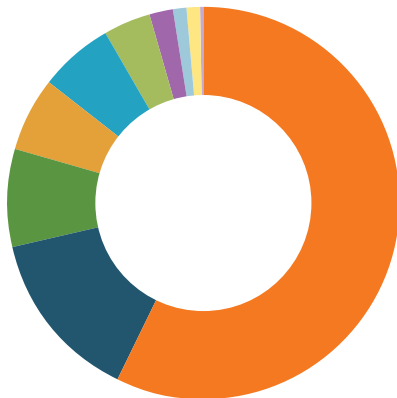
new and updated
translations were
added to the library

128

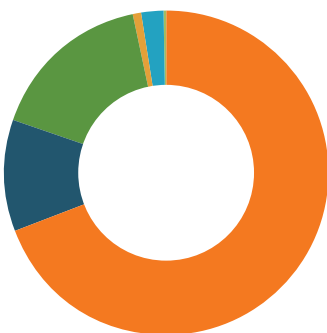
new and updated
English-language
resources were added

NJP **delivered 73 educational presentations** to community groups and agency partners about legal issues facing low-income people.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF NJP CLIENTS



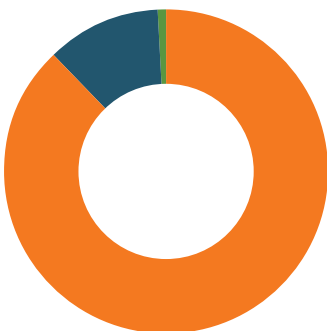
White	57%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	14%
Black or African American	8%
More than one race or ethnicity/multiracial	6%
Unknown / Prefer Not to Answer	6%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or First Nation	4%
Asian	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%
Another race, ethnicity, or origin	1%
Slavic/Eastern European	<1%



2024 SUPPORT

Office of Civil Legal Aid – General Operating	\$37,572,513
Community Grants and Contracts	\$5,977,910
Legal Services Corporation – Basic Field Grants	\$8,829,793
Donations	\$542,436
Other	\$1,071,859
Volunteer Services	\$135,443

Total Support **\$54,129,953**



2024 EXPENSES

Programs & Services	\$47,090,732
Management & General	\$6,128,216
Fundraising	\$308,466

Total Expenses **\$53,527,414**

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Washington State Office of
Civil Legal Aid