



# ANNUAL REPORT

**KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES**

# 2023



**Matthew D. Keenan**  
Executive Director

[kansaslegalservices.org](https://kansaslegalservices.org)

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Cover photo of Wichita by Michele Davis, KLS Central Intake Unit Coordinator

# Letter from the E.D.

## Matthew Keenan Executive Director



I would like to begin by posing a question -- how do you measure a life?

That question is often asked rhetorically, and it seems to be a frequent topic with podcasters and speechwriters these days. Amazon lists 5,000 books on the topic of living a fulfilling life. It is certainly a question that comes into my head more often these day, as the funerals eclipse the baptisms and I begin my 40th year practicing law.

I wonder if a life can ultimately be measured not by how long you lived, or how we lived, but what we lived for. So permit me to ask you -- what do you live for?

Some might answer that question by saying they lived a life full of happiness, love, friendship, and family. Yes, those are certainly worthy priorities. But some may believe that devoting one's life to uplifting others is what we should strive for. The mere fact that you are reading our Annual Report tells me you value living for others.

Simply put, the mission of KLS is a mission for others. This includes mothers, fathers, teens, toddlers, the weak, the poor, the elderly, and the vulnerable. It encompasses victims of domestic violence and victims of slumlords. I'm describing families who represent the lifeblood of our communities, stretching from Elkart to Ellinwood, Baxter Springs to Bird City. In all 105 counties of Kansas, you will find families who depend on the skills of a KLS attorney or paralegal working to level the playing field.

With your support, the impact of KLS advocacy is growing. We have expanded our family of supporters, donors, volunteers, and advocates.

Last year we tripled the number of individual donors, and doubled the total amount of money raised to \$250,000. 50 different law firms joined the We Are Legal Aid campaign, and 25 plaintiff lawyers joined the Equal Justice Project. Three new charitable foundations saw the value in our mission and contributed. The number of volunteer attorneys doubled, and continues to grow.

*Continued*

## Letter from the E.D.

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Yet in so many ways, the playing field is not level. There is not equal justice under law. Kansas has far too many residents who go without counsel. 95% of tenants have no attorney. 60% of domestic violence victims have no counsel.

Part of this problem is simply a reduction in the number of attorneys across the state. Today there are two Kansas counties with no attorneys, five counties with one attorney, eleven counties with just two, and ten counties with three. Experts predict that in five years, one-third of Kansas counties will have fewer than two attorneys.

And the simple reality is that those attorneys still practicing will be taking the clients who can pay.

Still, we are doing a lot. Consider the following:

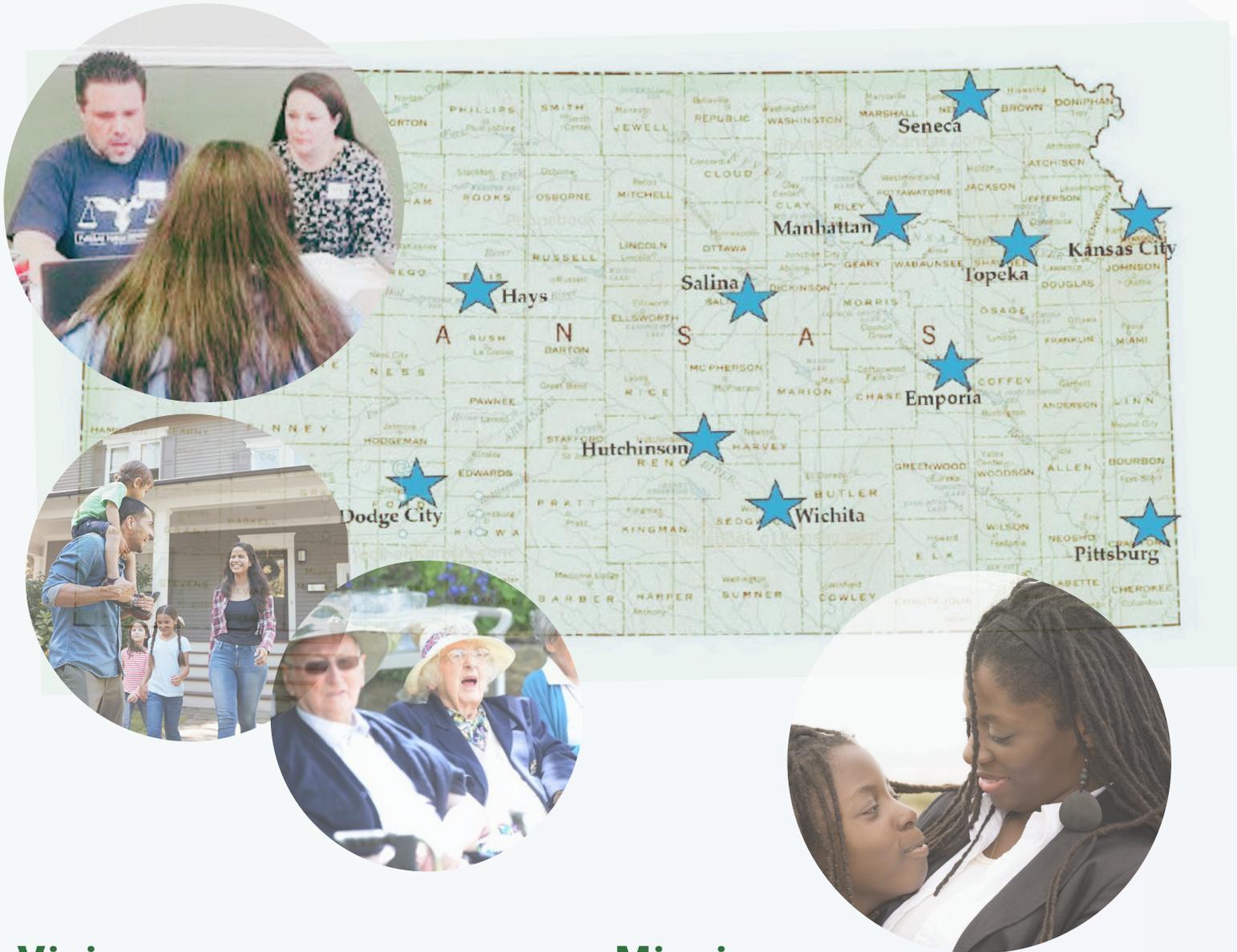
- **1,044 victims of domestic violence** obtained a Final Protection from Abuse order, through the representation of a KLS advocate.
- **237 adults and children** received steady monthly income from Social Security or SSI disability benefits, putting over \$3.5 million into the Kansas economy.
- **1,421 veterans and/or their families** received legal advice or representation.
- **1,357 clients received legal assistance** for expungement of criminal conviction or arrest. 150 of these clients were served by pro bono volunteers at KLS-organized expungement clinics.
- **835 adults received assistance** to restore their driving rights, allowing these Kansans to legally drive to work, school, and medical appointments.
- **323 Kansas families received specialized assistance** with keeping children out of foster care through the KLS' Kids2Kin program, to promote permanency for Kansas kids.

Our best days lie ahead.

So I go back to how I started this conversation. What do you live for? I believe that answer is helping those who need a helping hand.

As one pro bono attorney told me, in summarizing her work for the poor: "To the world you may be one person. But to one person, you might be the world."

# Kansas Legal Services Overview



## Vision

Since 1977, KLS has progressively focused efforts on persons with special needs, domestic violence victims, crime victims, the homeless, children in foster care, consumers with debt disputes, the elderly, those with disabling conditions, individuals with barriers to jobs and housing, and those seeking mediation services.

## Mission

Kansas Legal Services is legal aid in Kansas, providing equal access to justice for the most vulnerable Kansans.

KLS provides legal services to alleviate low income Kansans' poverty burdens. KLS has eleven legal services field offices and two mediation offices located across Kansas.

# Programs

Kansas Legal Services is one of the 132 independent non-profit legal aid programs that receives funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low income Americans in the nation. KLS is one of 23 statewide legal aid programs that receives funding from LSC, while other grantees serve parts of states.



## Family Law

KLS represents thousands of low income persons each year in domestic matters through many funding sources, including: Access to Justice (ATJ), Legal Services Corporation, United Way, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

Funding specific to family law increased the number of family law clients KLS has been able to serve. Even with increased funding, the demand for direct representation in family law matters continues to exceed KLS' capacity. Priority is placed on cases of spousal or child abuse and protection from abuse orders.

## Kids2Kin

The Kids2Kin program aims at reducing the number of children entering foster care, and preventing foster care placements for those at-risk by helping relatives or caregivers of the kids with guardianships and other legal issues.



KLS was the first legal service organization in the country awarded a grant from the federal Family First program in 2019.

## Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Other Crimes

Every year, KLS provides assistance to thousands of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes. KLS uses funds from a number of resources, including Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) funding, to ensure that the legal needs of survivors and their families are addressed. In addition to needed legal assistance, KLS looks at the other needs of the survivors such as affordable, safe housing and income maintenance that will help them feel safe and stable.

Funders for this important work for survivors range from federal, state, county and local funds from across the state.

## Parent Advocate Program

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) contracts with KLS to provide case management and legal services to families in 10 counties. The mission of the Parent Advocate Program is to keep families together and prevent children from going into the foster care system. We do this through education, advocacy (personal and legal), and collaboration. Working with parents and caregivers, Parent Advocates provide resources, support, and guidance to strengthen families.

# Resolving Barriers to Employment and Housing

KLS' expanded funding base helps us to mitigate the effects of poverty to help Kansans obtain better jobs, housing, and access other opportunities to support their families. This includes assisting in clearing criminal records, resolving debt disputes, resolving housing disputes, assisting in reinstatement of suspended driver's and professional licenses, and promoting access to self-help legal resources

## Expungements

KLS conducts expungement clinics across the state through funding from the Kansas Bar Foundation, state funding, and in partnership with local bar associations. We rely on volunteer attorneys to help with these clinics. Several corporations and local courts have partnered with us on the clinics and the legal staff from Koch Industries has held monthly clinics in Wichita.



## Housing Law

KLS helps Kansans with many aspects of housing that tenants and homeowners face, including confronting discriminatory practices by landlords and lenders, and resolving unsafe rental housing conditions.

KLS also provides foreclosure prevention legal assistance through a grant from the Kansas Bar Foundation. Hundreds of Kansas families have been helped to prevent or resolve foreclosure actions.

## Suspended Driver's License Reinstatement

In 2023, over 200,000 Kansans had a suspended or revoked driver's license. Kansas was 4th in the nation with the number of persons with suspended licenses. This is the result of failing to pay a ticket, not showing up for a hearing, being in an uninsured wreck or not paying child support. The road to get a driver's license back is often hard to navigate.

In 2023, KLS worked with the City of Wichita to staff a driver's license reinstatement program for Sedgwick County citizens with suspended licenses. KLS also supported an attorney for Wyandotte County's Suspended License Intervention Project (SLIP).

Both of these projects were phenomenally successful at helping get Kansans out of the spiral of unaffordable fines and fees that can keep them from driving legally.

In the fall, 2023, KLS was awarded a two-year special grant from LSC to partner with local bar associations, private attorneys and courts to conduct driver's license clinics around the state, staffed with volunteer attorneys.



## Elder Law

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KLS coordinates with local Area Agencies on Aging and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services as a legal service provider in the state aging network. Older Americans Act, county Mill Levy funds, and other private funds address this growing area of need. Senior Citizens Law Project (SCLP) provides services in a wide range of civil legal issues to persons age 60 and older. SCLP's objective is to target the more vulnerable elderly population who are in the greatest social and economic need.

KLS also operates the KLS Elder Rights Project which provides assistance for seniors who are victims of financial fraud, exploitation, domestic abuse and other crimes.

### **Kansas Elder Law Hotline 316-267-3975**

The Kansas Elder Law Hotline links KLS staff and private attorneys to provide the broadest possible range of legal advice and information.

## **Kansas Legal Services Website**

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<https://kansaslegalservices.org>

In 2022-2023, KLS was the leader of a project to upgrade and update the KLS website to an up-to-date version of the Drupal content management system, Drupal 9. This conversion made the website more user-friendly, and better formatted for use on mobile devices. This work was enabled by a generous grant from the Legal Services Corporation, and benefited 17 other LSC-funded legal services websites as well, with upgrades of their sites at no cost.

In 2023, **kansaslegalservices.org** had

740,2166 unique visitors who viewed 1,223,650 pages.

The website received 63% of its traffic from mobile devices.



### **Top three most popular pages in 2023:**

Homepage – 146,833 views  
Tenant Issues and Rights for Kansas Renters– 98,070 views  
Online Application – 58,723 views

# Midland Mediation and Settlement Services

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## Program Overview

The KLS mediation program has two approved mediators on staff and one contract mediator providing civil rights, employment, domestic, juvenile permanency, insurance and other mediation services throughout the state.

Mediation services complement the work of KLS by providing a non-adversarial dispute resolution method for appropriate cases.

Since 2021, the Director of Mediation has been Randy Hoerschgen.

Access to Justice (ATJ) Mediations are funded by the Office of Judicial Administration under the direction of the Kansas Supreme Court.

ATJ funding enables parties' access to KLS offices for mediation services at no cost to participants who qualify.

Most ATJ mediations involve post-divorce custody and parenting time issues.

Human Rights Mediations offer voluntary mediation to individuals involved in employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination claims filed with the Kansas Human Rights Commission.

For-Fee Mediations are offered to parties in domestic matters on a sliding fee basis when neither party is ATJ-eligible, and is available to parties in some civil matters at a reasonable hourly rate.

**For More Information,  
Please Call 785-232-5348**



# KANSAS LEGAL SERVICES

[www.kansaslegalservices.org](http://www.kansaslegalservices.org)

## AT A GLANCE

OVER 20,000 SERVED IN 2023

Cases include:

- Clients receive legal assistance for expungement of criminal conviction or arrest.
- Kansas families receive specialized assistance with keeping children out of foster care.
- Parents receive child support orders in divorce and paternity cases.
- Kansans are helped with many aspects of housing that tenants and homeowners face.
- And more . . .



## KLS PROVIDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO 1,044 SURVIVORS

*“My attorney for my case helped me feel safe and confident when I was very scared and frightened during giving my testimony. She was very professional.”*

*Survivor helped by KLS*

**Two thirds of women in domestic violence cases in Kansas have no counsel.**



**MATTHEW KEENAN**

Executive Director,  
Kansas Legal Services

“For over 47 years, KLS has been providing services to two out of three applicants from over 35,000 applications we get per year. We have to turn many away because of limited staff and time.”

## BENEFITS OF COUNSEL

- Improves the likelihood that women will be able to obtain protective orders from courts, which reduces the rates of further violence.
- Gives survivors stability and a path to safety.

KLS attorneys and paralegals provide legal assistance through representation and advice, as well as providing education and referrals to help survivors access needed services such as health and medical care, transportation, housing and resolution of legal barriers to security.

## **In 2023, Kansas Legal Services returned almost 74 million dollars of economic impact to the state.**

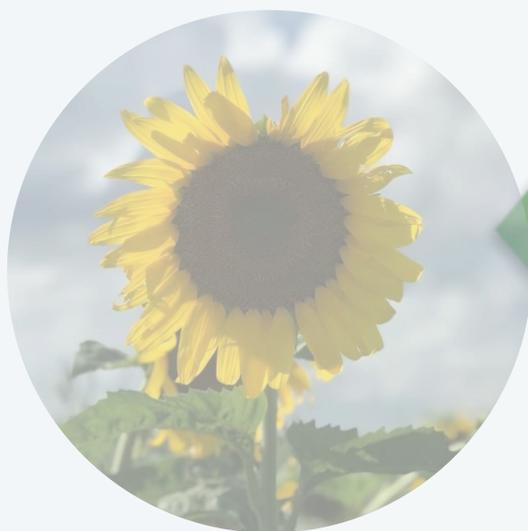
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In 2023, KLS returned an estimated total net economic impact of services totaling \$73,989,000 dollars to the state of Kansas. The study, performed by an independent consultant, Community Services Analysis (CSA), determined that for every \$1 invested in Kansas Legal Services in 2023, the state of Kansas received an estimated \$7.49 of immediate and long-term financial benefits.

According to CSA, return on investment measures the financial value created by the organization through delivery of services to the community. These include both short-term direct economic impacts (employment, immediate cost savings or increased revenues, etc.) and longer-term economic impacts from educational benefits, economic growth, community support cost savings, legal and law enforcement cost savings, public benefits changes, and others.

***In Sedgwick County, with over 4,000 legal services provided, the net economic impact was \$16,610,000.***

This study evaluated the financial impact of KLS advocacy in several counties, including Riley County, where Manhattan is located and where KLS has an office. In Riley County, KLS advocacy provided a net economic impact of services totaling \$2,350,000. In Saline County, the impact was \$594,000. In Sedgwick County, with over 4,000 legal services provided, the net economic impact was **\$16,610,000.**



# Client Success Stories

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## Casey

I came into a clinic on Saturday with Kansas Legal Services and they were incredibly helpful with my driver's license. I had a bunch of outstanding traffic matters. And they were able to help me get them resolved. It's been well over ten years now, and it's been quite a headache. I've been trying to move forward with my life and get my license issues resolved, and they've just been so helpful to me.

I work at a construction company. I've been there for over five years now and I have full custody of my daughter. She's two and a half. I've had her ever since she was three weeks old. Her mom kind of took off, so I've had to deal with that, too. And not having a driver's license, it's been pretty rocky.

But I've made it work. So what these attorneys are doing, it's awesome, man.

## Tiffany

Kansas Legal Services was instrumental this year in helping me with my safety. I filed for a protection order from abuse in spring and was connected with Kansas Legal Services at the PFA hearing and they helped connect me with law staff and with advocates and with Catholic Charities advocates for my domestic violence case. I'm new to all of this and I didn't know what to expect, but their guidance and advocacy changed my life. They really care.



# Employee Spotlight

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## Glenda Leonard

KLS - Wichita - Executive Secretary

I started at KLS in 1975 as a summer job when I was in college at WSU and was promoted to Executive Secretary a few years later. At that time the Wichita office was an entity by itself so I was responsible for payroll and other scary tasks. I've worked with a lot of wonderful, caring people and have seen often how the work we do makes a difference in the lives of our clients, whether it be obtaining Social Security disability benefits for them, stopping an eviction or removing them from domestic violence. I remember a couple of clients whose lives of poverty and abuse led them to give up and commit suicide even as we worked on their cases to help them. We don't ever want that to happen again.

KLS is a family and our staff work every day to make our clients' lives better. It is very rewarding, on a personal level, to work in this kind of place, that changes lives for the better. That, in itself, is my reward.

## Dorothy Burgess

Lead Paralegal - Kids2Kin Program

I started in approximately May, 1978 as a receptionist. I was promoted to Secretary (primarily family law), and then promoted to Paralegal. As a paralegal I have been on the ground floor of a number of projects: Hospital Advocate - advocating for patients that are uninsured, Social Security Project - obtaining SSI disability benefits for children in foster care, Lead Paralegal Detention Advocate Program - working with Juvenile Offenders, and now Lead Paralegal for Kids2Kin Program - providing legal services for caregivers.

KLS is like my home; it feels good to see how our services can change a life by one little act. As a side note I ran into a guy assisting his daughters in selling Girl Scout cookies. He recognized me and said "I want you to know that you changed my life" gave me a hug and thanked me. He was a juvenile offender that I had worked with years ago, it took me a minute to remember him but it left me feeling great!

# Elizabeth Ferguson Award

The Elizabeth Ferguson award is given annually to a KLS staff member in recognition of "Outstanding achievement(s) by Kansas Legal Services staff members providing substantial direct benefit to a client or the client community."

This year's recipient, Vicki Lindemberger (right), has been the one consistent person in the KLS - Hutchinson office for 32 years. Vicki wears many hats: such as receptionist, secretary, managing secretary and paralegal. Vicki is responsible for database administration, general accounting and bookkeeping, funding source allocation, training new staff on KLS procedures and policies, calendaring, goals and objectives, pro bono and retainer program coordination.

In a small office an employee does many things, if they are successful. Vicki is a stellar example of that. Vicki's supervisor, Candace Bridgess, Managing Attorney, says to Vicki: "I have to say you are always positive; you greet everyone in the morning with a 'good morning' and it starts the day, as it should. . . It is just such a pleasant experience to come through the door in the morning."

## Vicki Lindemberger



Picture, left, KLS staff and volunteers at the expungement and driver's license clinic in Great Bend, July 2023

# Volunteer Spotlight

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## Scott Stockwell



KLS attorneys turn away over half of the clients who otherwise qualify for assistance, due to a lack of resources. But we are working to change this reality. One important way we are doing this is by creating partnerships with outside lawyers, law firms, corporations and other 501(c)3 organizations who share our vision for equal justice.

One of those partners is KC Digital Drive, (KCDD) a non-profit whose mission is to make Kansas City a digital leader and to improve the quality of life for all people in the region.

KCDD created a software program that makes it easier for volunteer attorneys to prepare the necessary pleadings for each applicant.

Scott Stockwell (pictured above), KU, 1984, has been at the center of this change. Scott coordinates the collaboration of KLS and KCDD. In this role, Stockwell has attended thirteen expungement clinics from as far west as Dodge City to as far east as Kansas City, Kansas, and all cities in between and is available to answer questions and ensure ease of access to the software capabilities.

In his early years of practicing, Scott saw the potential for technology to eliminate barriers to a more efficient way of practicing law. While working at the Kansas Corporation Commission, Scott was a computer nerd, and helped make early use of computer technology a reality for his co-workers.

Today he practices in Lawrence, while devoting significant time to the KLS expungement initiatives.

“Working with Kansas Legal Services on new technology provides the opportunity to touch the lives of so many people. KLS is a great development partner. The software we create together makes it possible for KLS to reach many more people. The guided interview format allows for attorneys without previous experience in a specific area to serve clients quickly and with consistently good results. We hope to work with KLS staff to bring the benefits of technology to other areas of the law.”

# Pro Bono Program

## Expungements

KLS conducts expungement clinics across the state through funding from the Kansas Bar Foundation, Kansas Office of Judicial Administration and in partnership with local bar associations, law firms and corporations. We rely on volunteer attorneys to help with these clinics. Several corporations, public defenders' offices, law firms and local district courts have partnered with us on the clinics. The legal staff from Koch Industries and T-Mobile have helped us hold expungement and drug registry relief clinics throughout Kansas. Further, in 2024, Cargill, Intrust Bank, Foulston Siefkin LLP and Stinson LLP are joining Koch Industries and T-Mobile in helping Kansans expunge their records for a new start.

*Expungement clinics are a major focus of KLS advocacy.*

Expungement provides individuals with the opportunity for redemption and a fresh start by sealing their criminal record. It's about empowerment and opening doors that have been closed. With a clean record, they can pursue educational, employment, and personal goals without the fear of past mistakes holding them back.

"Everyone, at some point in their life, has been young and stupid. I certainly was. If you live in the right zip code, you can hire an attorney and get a diversion. If you are less fortunate, you get a blemish on your record that might never go away," said KLS Executive Director Matthew Keenan. "But Project Second Chance changes that."

Studies have shown shedding past mistakes can help individuals see themselves in a more positive light, fostering feelings of self-acceptance, pride, and optimism about their future prospects.

## Project Second Chance conducted 18 clinics over two years.

Over a two-year period – 2022-2023 – KLS held 18 clinics across the state, providing a wide range of legal services to those in need. (Barton County, Crawford County, Ford County, Geary County, Johnson County, Leavenworth County, Lyon County, McPherson County, Neosho County, Reno County, Riley County, Sedgwick County, and Wyandotte County).



# Pro Bono Program *continued*

Our services reached a diverse clientele, showcasing our dedication to serving all Kansans. Of the 314 individuals served at these clinics, 148 were persons of color and 113 of them were women. The average age of the client was 43 years old. Among the offenses expunged, traffic charges were most common, but misdemeanor and/or felony offenses averaged around two per individual.

Left: Kansas Legal Services Statewide Pro Bono Director, Joy Springfield.

One of the biggest challenges facing KLS clients is getting relief from outstanding court fines and fees. Depending on the individual situation, courts may grant a waiver of the fines and fees, reduce portions of court and filing costs, or, prior to filing an expungement, institute a payment plan for outstanding balances.

“We love the clinics. We go to where the clients live. We lift them up. It’s very satisfying for everyone involved, even the court personnel” said Statewide Pro Bono Director Joy Springfield.



# Cases - By the Numbers

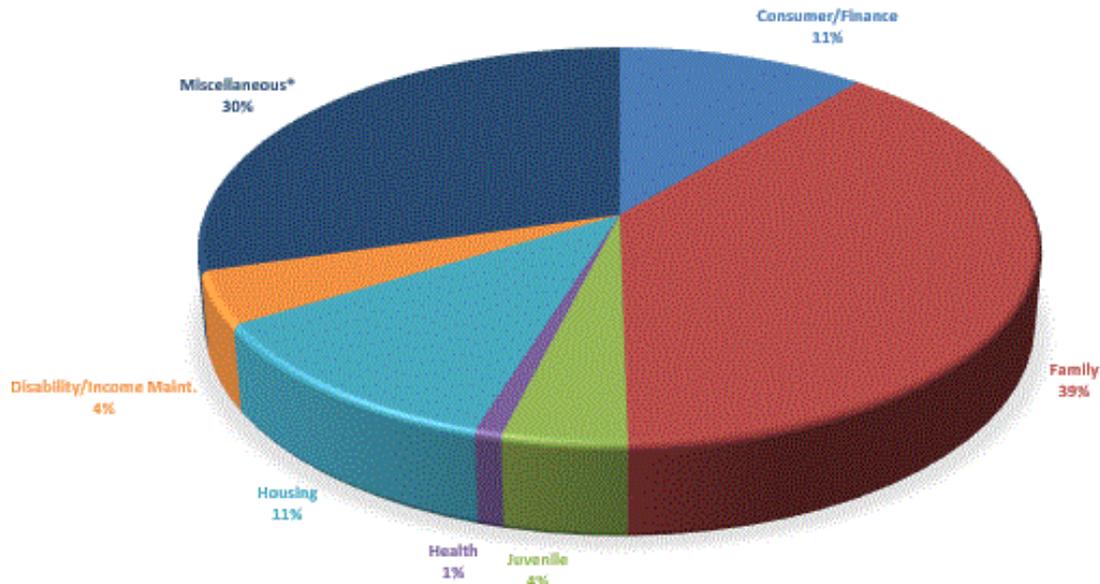
## CASE TOTALS

		2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Consumer/Finance</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	1,759	1,650	1,299	1,240	1,480	1,301
	<b>Representation</b>	99	106	132	120	144	226
	<b>Other Service</b>	660	479	446	476	730	790
	<b>Mediation</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>2,317</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	4,871	4,429	4,638	4,625	5,213	3,921
	<b>Representation</b>	1,802	2,229	2,280	2,162	2,734	3,224
	<b>Other Service</b>	1,993	1,917	1,881	1,928	2,756	3,323
	<b>Mediation</b>	105	93	135	131	134	138
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>8,668</b>	<b>8,934</b>	<b>8,846</b>	<b>10,837</b>	<b>10,606</b>
<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	305	369	375	326	360	240
	<b>Representation</b>	400	481	699	917	1,085	1,089
	<b>Other Service</b>	239	210	199	174	407	458
	<b>Mediation</b>	3	3	135	6	4	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>1,798</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	159	175	154	153	907	154
	<b>Representation</b>	6	7	14	12	62	31
	<b>Other Service</b>	44	24	21	16	26	40
	<b>Mediation</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	1,864	1,904	1,626	1,025	1,410	1,021
	<b>Representation</b>	362	180	195	118	109	351
	<b>Other Service</b>	355	333	232	234	223	220
	<b>Mediation</b>	7	7	10	4	1	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,595</b>
<b>Disability/Income Maintenance</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	408	447	444	288	240	159
	<b>Representation</b>	399	457	437	399	613	724
	<b>Other Service</b>	167	142	90	118	193	313
	<b>Mediation</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,196</b>
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>	<b>Advice &amp; Brief Service</b>	2,024	3,146	2,801	2,229	1,804	1,427
	<b>Representation</b>	3,112	1,130	1,161	1,266	1,399	2,152
	<b>Other Service</b>	1,048	739	594	477	649	700
	<b>Mediation</b>	509	441	318	327	158	150
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>5,456</b>	<b>4,874</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>4,429</b>
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>		<b>22,700</b>	<b>21,098</b>	<b>20,316</b>	<b>18,771</b>	<b>22,841</b>	<b>22,166</b>

\*includes education, employment, individual rights, Indian/Tribal law, wills, criminal/juvenile defense, driver's license reinstatement and expungements.

# Cases - By the Numbers

## CASE DISTRIBUTION



\*Includes education, employment, individual rights, Indian/Tribal law, wills, criminal/juvenile defense, driver's license reinstatement and expungements.

## CLIENT PROFILES IN 2023

### GENDER

Female	10,816
Male	5,222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,038</b>

### AGE & ETHNICITY

	Under 18	18-35	36-59	60 & over	Total
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
Asian	3	58	93	27	181
Black	32	811	969	493	2,305
Hispanic	13	380	337	89	819
Multi-Racial	14	236	221	44	515
Nat Haw/Other Pac Islander	1	12	15	5	33
Native American	2	69	93	35	199
Nat American/Alaskan Native	0	3	0	1	4
Other Race	13	480	580	254	1,327
White	534	3,203	4,000	2,918	10,655
Unknown	1	16	21	41	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>5,268</b>	<b>6,329</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>16,117</b>

# Financial Statements

## FUNDING AND STAFF FIGURES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023  
WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS 2020-2022

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Legal Services Corporation	\$3,996,097	\$3,646,436	\$3,226,366	\$3,322,056
Department of DCF – State of Kansas	1,372,660	956,289	297,541	528,660
Access to Justice	788,592	800,000	799,998	800,000
Kansas Governor’s Grant Program	785,619	802,964	799,010	806,352
Kansas Housing Resource Center - KEPP	28,856	80,134	5,750	22,348
IOLTA & Bar Sponsored	117,857	102,567	164,405	201,888
Kansas Bar Foundation	259,164	325,000	290,747	287,731
Lawyer Giving	216,796	128,997	83,515	108,608
City/County/Misc. State Grants	915,975	753,518	651,569	586,430
Area Agencies on Aging	299,961	364,218	281,388	307,176
United Way	114,720	109,149	114,371	135,060
Low Income Taxpayer Clinic	22,082	32,671	44,563	34,234
Mediation Contracts & Fees	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Medical-Legal Partnerships	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Independence Charitable Trust	203,615	191,770	175,632	181,269
Court Awards	170,752	200,392	197,942	237,125
Cy Pres Awards	59,520	120,000	0	0
Interest Income	12,425	13,452	15,681	17,292
Farm Counseling	12,519	7,324	0	1,560
Kansas Office for Refugees	86,761	0	0	0
Other Miscellaneous	257,758	264,889	100,627	185,721
Investment Gain/Loss	108,888	(50,963)	0	0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$10,065,617</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,083,807</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,501,717</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,977,821</u></b>

## STAFF TOTALS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Full-time equivalent employees</b>	119.38	107.25	105.5	96.5

## EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2020-2022

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Salaries	\$6,425,623	\$5,745,516	\$4,907,076	\$4,763,388
Employee Benefits & Payroll Taxes	1,566,370	1,365,262	1,209,609	1,150,540
Rent, Parking, Utilities & Maintenance	667,451	603,235	582,896	566,887
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	71,137	69,922	58,883	66,668
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	131,124	115,208	102,747	102,261
Telephone	253,924	187,502	133,293	110,633
Travel	92,073	53,815	28,787	20,291
Training	37,335	30,218	21,821	27,543
Electronic Research & Library	110,539	105,557	87,687	71,442
Insurance	44,473	44,699	44,228	41,789
Litigation Expenses	137,702	129,543	87,291	31,586
Audit, Consulting & Contract Services	271,910	447,534	307,350	162,329
Private Bar Involvement	3,104	8,113	6,615	51,276
Depreciation	48,543	40,865	42,234	40,790
Other	144,838	95,866	97,874	60,292
Total Expenses	<u>\$10,006,146</u>	<u>\$9,042,855</u>	<u>\$7,718,391</u>	<u>\$7,267,715</u>

# Donor Spotlight

## Richard Porter

The name Richard Porter probably isn't familiar to you. A man who exudes modesty and quiet confidence, Richard's path intersected with the mission of KLS five years ago when one of his ranch hands needed assistance with an expungement.

One thing led to another and in just a couple months Richard became one of most generous benefactors to the mission of KLS.

Today, Richard's leadership is bringing other donors and other 501(c)3's to understand and support what we do at Legal Aid.

This is his story:

"I am a cattle rancher 30 miles from Topeka. A few years ago I hired a lawyer to get an expungement for a great employee that had completely turned his life around. I thought this was merely so he could get a hunting license. But it completely changed how the employee saw himself and how others saw him, because he was no longer defined by the worst aspect of his past. Then I paid for expungements for the 3 other people in my rural area in a similar situation.

"This second chance had a perceived value from 10 to 100 times the cost of hiring a lawyer for them. Wanting to help with more expungements, I was blessed to connect with Kansas Legal Services through their office in Emporia. They already connect with people statewide that would benefit from expungements. They have the experience and software to do this in a more cost-effective manner than a private lawyer, whom most potential clients could not afford anyway."



*"According to a Harvard Law School study, people with expungements are actually less likely to offend than the general public."*

*Rich Porter (in picture, second from right)*

# WE ARE LEGAL AID Drive

In 2023 KLS launched an innovative program – to create a partnership with the defense bar and the plaintiff’s bar. This collaboration shared a common, critical goal: to reduce domestic violence in Kansas by providing counsel to victims who otherwise did not have an attorney.

The collaboration was a smashing success. The Defense bar, using the initiative “We Are Legal Aid” resulted in 46 law firms contributing \$100 per attorney per law firm for a total amount raised of \$45,000. The KTLA membership recruited 19 members who donated \$39,000 for a total of \$84,000.

***In Kansas, about 70% of domestic violence victims have no attorney.***

The money is targeted to help provide counsel to victims of domestic violence. In Kansas, about 70% of domestic violence victims have no attorney.

Take, for example, one judicial district in Kansas – the 31st Judicial District in Southeast Kansas - which includes Allen, Wilson, Woodson and Neosho counties. Of the 224 total protection orders filed in the entire district in 2022, 184 of those were *pro se*, or about 82%.

Victims of domestic violence/sexual assault need counsel. Studies show that those victims have about 18 civil legal needs/matters per person.



These legal issues affect every aspect of victims’ lives: family security, access to health care, availability of credit, debt collection lawsuits, housing dislocation, education interruption, and lack of access to essential governmental benefits and services.

This partnership is changing those statistics.

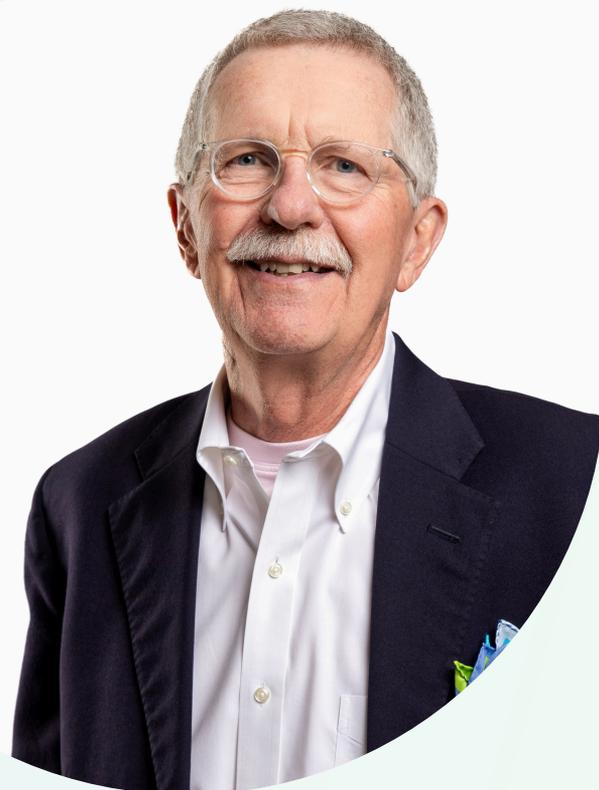
## WE ARE LEGAL AID Drive, *continued*

**Lynn Johnson**, of Shamberg, Johnson, helped organize the plaintiff's bar.

"Kansas Legal Services has, for almost 50 years, provided low income Kansans with the opportunity to be represented by excellent attorneys dedicated to protecting their legal rights through counseling, education and litigation advocacy.

"Our firm, since the early 1970s, has recognized that unless all Kansans have the opportunity to be represented by an attorney that is dedicated to protecting their individual legal rights there can be no 'Equal Justice Under the Law.'

"It is critical that all Kansans have equal opportunity to be protected by the 'Rule of Law'—an equal opportunity to defend and pursue their legal rights."



**David Rogers**, the managing partner of Foulston, Siefkin, took the lead among the defense bar.

"Foulston supports Kansas Legal Services because we believe in its mission— providing equal access to justice for the most vulnerable Kansans.

"Through the work of KLS staff and volunteer attorneys across the state, the protection of the rule of law is available without income as a barrier. We're proud to be part of the legal community helping make that possible."

KLS is deeply grateful to the leadership of Lynn and David and the rest of the Kansas attorneys who see the value of this initiative.

# Corporate Spotlight

## Koch Industries

KLS is proud to highlight one of several private/public partnerships with Kansas employers. Perhaps the best illustration is the collaboration between Koch Industries and KLS. This initiative began with Koch engaging with the Supreme Court to change the ethical rules to permit greater pro bono participation with corporate lawyers who were licensed in states other than Kansas but wanted to take pro bono matters in the Kansas courts.

Koch's role then expanded into leading the charge in the area of expungement clinics in the Wichita area to help Kansans clear their record of old and dated criminal arrests and sometimes convictions.

Matt Ellis at Koch has been a leader here. Matt is chief counsel of Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC and co-chairs the company's Pro Bono Initiative. Matt was one of three Kansas attorneys recognized by the national board of Legal Services Corporation in October, 2022, for his significant contribution to promoting access to justice through pro bono services.

One area in particular where this partnership has flourished has been in the area of expungement clinics. Beginning in 2018, the Koch Industries Pro Bono Initiative has recruited dozens of Koch volunteers to assist community members achieve their full potential and live more fulfilling lives. Koch's efforts have recruited other corporate entities to assist in these clinics, with Spirit, Cargill, among others, also taking clients in these efforts.

One of Koch's stalwart volunteers is Associate General Counsel, Sean Tarantino (pictured, right), who, year after year, takes on multiple expungement cases on behalf of clients as part of the annual Wichita Expungement Drive. In 2023, Koch expunged 50 cases for 27 clients, 8 of which Sean represented.

*"Our pro bono initiative allows me to serve the Wichita community in a deeper way, and our work with KLS is something all of us at Koch are proud of" Sean told KLS.*

Today, the Koch efforts have assisted over 300 men and women across Kansas get second chances in the job market.



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