

CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017



CENTRO LEGAL ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

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WHO WE ARE

Centro Legal is a legal services agency protecting and advancing the rights of low-income, immigrant, and Latino communities through bilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. By combining quality legal services with know-your-rights education and youth development, Centro Legal ensures access to justice for thousands of individuals throughout Northern and Central California.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

IMMIGRATION	Eleni Wolfe-Roubatis
TENANTS'	Leah Simon-Weisberg
WORKERS'	Derek Schoonmaker
LITIGATION	Jesse Newmark
YOUTH LAW ACADEMY	Raymundo Jacquez III

WHAT WE DO

We have four primary programs: Immigration, Tenants' Rights, Workers' Rights, and Youth Law Academy. Our legal programs provide direct services to our clients and work with our Litigation Director, when appropriate, to pursue appropriate action in state and federal courts. Our Youth Law Academy and Diversity Legal Pipeline work to inspire the next generation of leaders and promote diversity in the field.

YEAR FOUNDED	1969
FOUNDERS	UC Berkeley Law Students
NUMBER OF STAFF	48 staff members
ANNUAL BUDGET	\$5,320,012.56
FUNDING SOURCES	58.57% Government Grants
	25.27% Foundation Grants
	7.85% Donations
	4.53% Fellowship Grants
	3.76% Total Fee for Service

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Access to Equity & Justice

Centro Legal provides direct legal-services to low-income, immigrant and Latino communities in the areas of housing, employment and immigration, and works with low-income youth of color to help them build their confidence and understand the path to college. In 2016/17 Centro Legal served more than 7,000 individuals.



Immigration

Centro Legal's Immigration Program is a local, regional and national leader in responding to the ever more critical need for immigration legal services. Given the anti-immigrant rhetoric and increased detention and deportation policies of the Trump administration, immigrants need experienced and qualified attorneys to fight against the ongoing surge of deportation and detention. Over the past year, our immigration team has provided representation in over 3,000 cases, with the vast majority of our clients being in detained and non-detained removal proceedings.



Centro Legal's Immigration program is the largest provider of removal defense in California and is nationally recognized as a model for non-profit detained and non-detained removal defense. During 2016/2017 we secured immigration status for over 450 clients and helped an additional 100 past asylum clients obtain lawful permanent residency. We assisted in the representation and safe release of over 250 detainees. We continue to represent a large number of children and families seeking asylum in the state of California.

Centro Legal launched and is the lead agency in the Alameda County Immigrant Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP). Centro Legal, the Alameda Public Defender Office and 10 community-based organizations serve immigrants and families throughout Alameda County, providing critical legal and support services to Alameda families facing separation due to deportation. We provide legal services, rapid response coordination, community responders and "Know Your Rights" education to protect those impacted by Executive Orders and/or actions or policies that infringe on due process rights, divide communities, increase the use of detention, and/or result in the disparate treatment of individuals based on factors that include nationality, religion, country of origin, and sexual orientation.

Centro Legal advocates for increased access to counsel for all immigrants and is at the forefront of efforts to secure universal representation by the state of California. We have formal partnerships with both Oakland and Hayward Unified School Districts to specifically serve unaccompanied minors and recently arrived families seeking protection. Through our partnerships we conduct legal clinics at middle, elementary and high schools, and also have specific in-house clinics.

Centro Legal attorneys conduct regular presentations and "Know Your Rights" trainings at Hayward, Oakland, Livermore, Dublin/Pleasanton, Newark and Union City schools to reach additional children and families. Additionally, we led a coalition of advocates and direct service providers challenging ICE's use of the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) on the recent wave of Central American and Mexican refugees. In May 2016 (updated in November 2016) Centro Legal filed a civil rights complaint with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties on behalf of 15 asylum seekers, detailing how the GPS-enabled electronic monitoring devices — also known as ankle shackles — are negatively impacting their mental and physical health.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS FOR 2016/17

- 2,293 receiving full representation (open cases for which we are the full immigration attorney in this period)
- 203 clients granted asylum
- 109 clients granted lawful permanent residency

OUR IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS ATTENDED

- 558 immigration court hearings, resulting in
 - 226 clients released from detention
 - 843 clients received work authorization
 - 280 clients granted DACA
 - 341 clients placed with pro bono attorneys mentored by Centro Legal
 - 91 "Know Your Rights" presentations at schools, clinics, community centers, places of worship, etc throughout Northern and Central CA
 - 30 detention center "Know Your Rights" and legal intake visits at immigration detention centers in Northern and Central CA

FIRMS DONATING PRO BONO SERVICES

Facebook Legal, Winston & Strawn, Morrison & Foerster, K&L Gates, Jones Day, Cooley, Pillsbury, Hanson Bridgett, Marten Law, Kirkland & Ellis, Ropes & Gray, Gross & Klein, Leonard Carder, Munger Tolles & Olson LLP, Downey Brand LLP, Farella Braun + Martel LLP, Gibson Dunn, Fenwick, Bean & Lloyd, Baker Botts, Covington, Goodwin Procter, Kazan McClain, Keker Van Nest, Orrick, Sheppard Mullin, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, Holland Knight

Tenants' Rights

During this period, the Tenants' Rights team has become a leader in county-wide and regional anti-displacement efforts. Through our advocacy efforts, we have been instrumental in securing \$3.7 million from the City of Oakland for anti-displacement efforts over the next two years, and an additional \$3.5 million for anti-displacement efforts from Alameda County.

Centro Legal has become a thought-leader in establishing policies and mechanisms in the anti-displacement battle, regularly advising elected officials on legislation and other policy initiatives that will keep people in their homes.



WE HAVE BEGUN A TARGETED CAMPAIGN TO

- 1. Defend Oakland and Hayward tenants from displacement through the strengthening of tenant protection.
- 2. Defend tenants against building-wide evictions.
- 3. Preserve the rent-control protected housing stock in Oakland, representing entire buildings in owner petitions for permanent exemption from Oakland's Rent Adjustment Ordinance, thereby securing renter protections for our next generation of renters.

TENANTS' RIGHTS STATISTICS FOR 2016/17

- \$199k in back awards and lump sum settlements
- \$46k in reduction/elimination claimed amounts
- 872 clients served
- 1650+ legal consultations
- 84 clients receiving legal representation
- 4 cases where legal precedent was created

TENANTS' RIGHTS

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Workers' Rights

Centro Legal's Workers' Rights program provided legal services to over 500 low-wage workers during this period. Through legal representation, we collected \$600,00 for 94 workers in cases challenging wage theft, discrimination and retaliation.



Centro Legal has served as the lead organization in a new coalition of seven Bay Area non-profits working together to make sure that all workers in Oakland receive the local minimum wage and sick leave. Protections were adopted by Oakland voters in 2015 (Measure FF).

This year, Centro Legal has seen many more of our clients confront retaliatory immigration-related threats from employers and landlords emboldened by Trump's election and agenda. In response, we launched a new Communities Against Hate Project to provide rapid legal support to clients facing such bigotry and hatred. We have provided urgent legal services to dozens of clients through this project, and are currently representing several workers and tenants in their cases.

WORKERS' RIGHTS STATISTICS FOR 2016/17

\$600,000	collected for workers
516	one-on-one legal consults
212	receiving extensive services
170	receiving full scope legal representation
94	collecting on a claim

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Litigation Program

Centro Legal's Litigation Director works with our Tenants' Rights, Workers' Rights, and Immigration programs to represent low-income and immigrant clients in affirmative individual and class action lawsuits, to protect our clients' rights and improve conditions more broadly.

In the 2016/2017 fiscal year alone, Centro Legal collected over \$1.16 million for our low-income clients through litigation in state and federal court. Thus, for every \$1 Centro Legal spent on these cases, we put almost \$9 in our clients' pockets and back into the community.

Centro Legal had a 100% success rate in these lawsuits, representing thousands of victims of abusive immigrant bond practices, wage theft and sexual assault in the workplace, and illegal evictions and substandard housing.

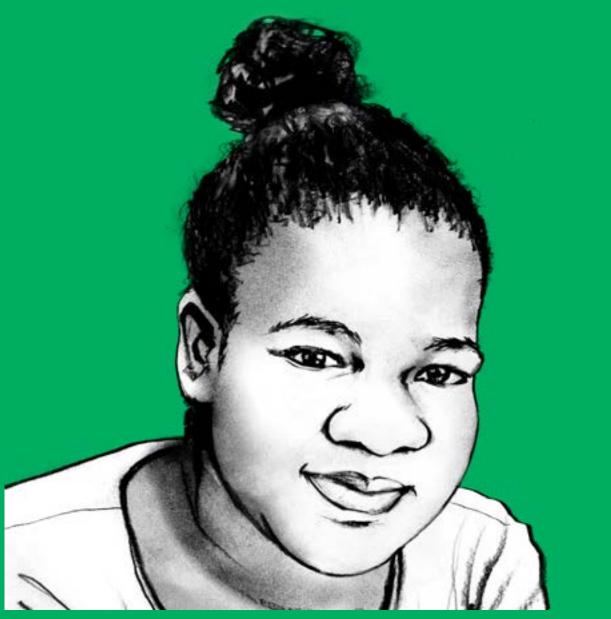
For instance, Centro Legal filed a nationwide class action in federal court on behalf of tens of thousands of immigrant detainees unlawfully charged excessive fees and forced to wear ankle monitors by a private bond company.

In state court, Centro Legal represented hundreds of low-income tenants and their children living in two apartment complexes in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood, facing mold-induced asthma, lead poisoning, insect bites, and other egregiously substandard housing conditions.

Centro Legal also represented immigrant workers sexually harassed and assaulted by supervisors, and collected \$775,000 for 30 factory workers not paid properly for their long hours in dangerous conditions.

Youth Law Academy

Since its inception, Centro Legal's mission has been to ensure access to justice for those who otherwise may not have a voice in the forging and implementation of the very laws they are expected to abide by. Centro Legal fosters leadership in the next generation of attorneys and judges of color through its Diversity Legal Pipeline (DLP) boot camp and the Youth Law Academy (YLA). The YLA and DLP seek to ensure access to justice by helping low-income youth of color succeed in college, explore careers in law, and transition into law school.



YOUTH LAW ACADEMY

The Youth Law Academy is a three-year program for Oakland high school students to help them build their confidence and understanding of the path to college and beyond. Recognizing the need for more diversity in the legal profession, we ultimately hope to inspire our students to seek a career in the law to improve our community.

Over the course of three years in high school students come to classes once a week at Centro Legal's office to learn how the legal system works, take classes on ethnic studies and the law, and receive SAT preparation and pre-college advising. Students also participate in summer internships, field trips to law firms and courthouses, and are paired with attorney mentors.

DIVERSITY LEGAL PIPELINE

The Diversity Legal Pipeline is an intensive, week-long, pre-law boot camp that introduces undergraduate students to the law school application process and puts them face-to-face with law students, lawyers, and judges who help inspire them to know that a legal education is within their reach.

YLA STATISTICS FOR 2016/17

35 YLA high school students

- 42 YLA college students
- 15 DLP students served in July 2017
- 5 DLP alumni attending law school

YLA alumnus admitted to law school: Lilian Lopez, attending UC Davis in the fall

YLA CLASS OF 2018 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Ursinus College, Mills College, Brown University, UC Berkeley, SFSU, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Riverside

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Our Finances: July 1 – June 30 2016/17

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$1,720,902

Prepaid Expenses	\$34,402
Grants & Pledges Receivable	\$316,449
Fixed Assets	\$71,576
Cash	\$1,298,475
SUPPORT: \$2,542,195	
Individual Contributions	\$141,559
Government Contracts	\$1,589,885
Cy Pres Funds	\$7,447
Grants	\$803,304
REVENUE: \$2,024,990	
In-kind Contributions	\$1,730,600
Grants	\$803,304
Annual Gala	\$147,414
EXPENSES: \$4,010,585	
Non-personnel Costs	\$2,079,297
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,383,276
Payroll Taxes	\$103,413
Contract Labor	\$444,599

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