The Ma family were able to stay in their home after GBLS intervened with the bank, that had begun unlawful eviction proceedings against them.
Dear Friends,

Greater Boston Legal Services has been dealing with a severe financial crisis since July 2008. Our annual funding from the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) was cut because of the sharp decline in Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA), MLAC’s principal source of revenue. Over the course of a few months, GBLS’ MLAC funding was cut by $2 million.

We immediately began cost-cutting measures. We reduced non-personnel expenses, adopted health insurance changes, froze most hiring and offered voluntary layoffs. Our staff agreed to forego badly-needed raises. We elected to participate in the Commonwealth’s WorkSharing Program, by which we reduced the salaries and work schedules of our employees by 10% for a period of six months. Producing this very basic 2008 Annual Report in-house is another cost-cutting measure.

The economic downturn hurts those who are poor and forces more people into poverty. More people than ever need our services to obtain basic human needs. The Legal Advocacy and Resource Center (LARC), which does our screening, has 25 to 30 callers already in the telephone queue when it opens each morning and is seeing increasing numbers of clients walking in because they cannot get through on the telephone. We are trying to help homeowners facing foreclosure, tenants in no-fault evictions because their building has been foreclosed, and workers laid off then wrongfully denied unemployment benefits. Domestic violence appears to be increasing.

The news isn’t all bad. Despite the downturn, Boston’s legal community rose to the challenge and raised $2.8 million for GBLS in 2008. In addition, we began an emergency fundraising campaign which so far has brought in more than $500,000. As we write this letter, we are hopeful that we will receive some federal stimulus funding and that the state will not cut the MLAC appropriation.

Our staff has continued its extraordinary work. We’re proud to report some of the staff’s noteworthy 2008 achievements that you’ll read about on pages 4 and 5.

We are grateful to everyone who has invested in GBLS. We ask that you continue to support us so we may continue helping the neediest in our communities improve their lives, and minimize the loss of services and staff in these very hard times.

Julia Huston, President of the Board

Bob Sable, Executive Director
**2008 Major Achievements**

- **BHA v. Bridgewaters/Rights for tenants with disabilities:** Housing Unit attorneys Ann Jochnick, Mac McCreight, and Dick Bauer won a significant Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court case on behalf of tenants with mental disabilities. The SJC determined that a federally-assisted public housing authority’s obligation to consider reasonable accommodations of a disabled tenant “is not optional”, even when the tenant is perceived to pose a threat to others. A housing authority must consider whether a requested accommodation will sufficiently mitigate any alleged risk, before proceeding with an eviction. BHA v. Bridgewaters establishes important rights for tenants with disabilities and will probably have national impact, because it is based on federal law.

- **Guardianship reform:** As a result of years of advocacy, vulnerable elders have significantly increased protections against unwarranted guardianships. GBLS Elder Law Unit Managing Attorney Wynn Gerhard and attorneys Betsey Crimmins and Alex Munevar, along with other elder advocates, successfully lobbied for the passage of the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC) bill. In January 2009 Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill. The MUPC provides extensive, long-needed changes to the laws on guardianship and conservatorship and other areas of probate law. It will give strong due process protections to the elderly and disabled including a right to counsel.

- **MassHealth Equality Bill:** Nearly four years after GBLS staff and fellow advocates started working to bring the MassHealth Equality bill to the attention of the Massachusetts Legislature, Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill into law in July 2008. Elder Law Unit attorney Betsy Crimmins and GBLS Cambridge and Somerville office attorney Deborah Filler represented the Public Policy Committee of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Aging Project, joining efforts with other elder advocates, to get this legislation passed.

  The new law will ensure that same-sex married couples are eligible for spousal benefits under MassHealth, the state/federal Medicaid program. It will significantly impact couples who are facing nursing home care as they will be eligible for benefits and protections that allow the “community spouse” to retain the family home and enough assets to live independently, without jeopardizing the other spouse's eligibility for Medicaid coverage of nursing home care.

- **Unemployment Insurance notices translated:** In September 2008 Employment Unit attorneys Brian Flynn and Sherley Cruz secured a preliminary injunction motion that required the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to translate into 9 languages all notices DUA sends out to alert people about federal extended unemployment insurance benefits. This victory is part of the attorneys’ pending case to compel DUA to translate all notices into 9 languages.
• **Unpaid Overtime and Wages Class Action Lawsuit Settlement:** In November 2008, Michael Bianco, Inc., agreed to pay $850,000 in unpaid overtime and other wages to settle a federal class action lawsuit brought by GBLS Employment Law attorneys Audrey Richardson and Ingrid Nava, South Coastal Counties Legal Services, and attorney Philip Gordon of the Gordon Law Group. This former New Bedford factory manufactured military gear for the U.S. Department of Defense and was the target of a March 2007 federal immigration raid that was broadly criticized for its inhumane treatment of the workers and their families. The case was filed after interviews with detained workers and others exposed a range of labor violations in the factory. The lawsuit included allegations that Michael Bianco systematically and intentionally violated the laws requiring time-and-a-half for overtime work and made illegal deductions from workers’ wages.

For this victim of domestic violence, GBLS attorneys secured wrongfully-denied unemployment benefits, food stamps, and a green card. GBLS also was successful in upgrading her Medicaid from basic to standard due to the abuse she suffered.

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR CLIENT SERVICES.** Make a donation online.

Visit us at [www.gbls.org](http://www.gbls.org), and click on Donate.
2008 STATISTICS: 16,743 CLIENTS SERVED

Case Types:

- Consumer: 3%
- Education: less than 1%
- Employment: 12%
- Family: 16%
- Juvenile: less than 1%
- Health: 16%
- Housing: 24%
- Income Maintenance: 11%
- Immigration: 14%
- Miscellaneous: 4%

Age:
- 0-17: 2%
- 18-59: 75%
- 60+: 23%

Gender:
- Male: 28%
- Female: 72%

Race:
- African/American: 24%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 11%
- Hispanic: 28%
- Other: 12%
- White: 25%
## 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation</td>
<td>7,140,387</td>
<td>7,080,518</td>
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<td>3,020,349</td>
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<td>Other Government Grants</td>
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<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Elder Services</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Attorney Fees</td>
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<td>4,868</td>
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<td><strong>15,201,297</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,331,258</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DONATED SERVICES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18,823,270</strong></td>
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### EXPENSES

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Non-Lawyers</td>
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<td>Operating:</td>
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<td>Space &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Office &amp; Related</td>
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<td>Client Litigation Expenses</td>
<td>169,217</td>
<td>116,836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Training</td>
<td>146,702</td>
<td>141,818</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>238,653</td>
<td>231,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer To Capital Or Endowment</td>
<td>53,282</td>
<td>2,248,874</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES BEFORE DONATED SERVICES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DONATED SERVICES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,482,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,596,529</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OPERATING SURPLUS**                       | 568,597   | 1,226,741 |
**CUMULATIVE OPERATING NET ASSETS**         | 6,083,378 | 5,514,781 |

*2007—$1.5 million invested to endow an attorney position & $650,000 for office expansion*
LEGAL COMMUNITY DONORS

LAW FIRM FELLOWSHIPS

In addition to their 2008 Lawyers Fund Drive contribution, the following firms provided funding to support the salaries of GBLS attorneys.

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- Ropes & Gray
- Skadden
- WilmerHale

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- Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
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- Hemenway & Barnes
- MacDonald, Rothweiler & Eisenberg LLP
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- Ropes & Gray
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- Skadden
- The Law Offices of James Sokolove
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- Dechert LLP

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- Day Pitney LLP
- Klein Hornig LLP
- Mintz Levin
- Sullivan & Worcester LLP

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Anne Bandes
Bruce & Katie Barnett
Dinah K. Bodkin
Bowman Selig Families Charitable Trust
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Angela Brooks
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Philip C. Curtis
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Roslyn G. Daum
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Joseph R. Fleming
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Paula W. Gold
Joanne Goldstein
Stanley N. Griffith & Ann Schaufler
David Halstead
Eben Hansel
Kirk G. Hanson
Kurt W. Hemr
Charlotte Hemr
Christopher Hurld
Safranz Ishmael
Robert Kanapka
Laura M. Kaplan
Jennifer A. Karnakis
Leena Karttunen
Lawrence K. Kolodney
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Brooke E. Lieman
Kevin Littman & Liisa Nogelo
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Aaron & Marilyn Miller
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Meyer Potashman
Eileen S. Pott
William G. Potter
Christopher J. Powell
Thomas J. Provost
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Peter S. Rice
Stephen Rickard
Bella Rosner
James I. Rubens
Mary K. Ryan
Robert Sanoff
Jeffrey R. Scalzi
Rebecca L. Schuster
Adam Small
Robert H. & Elizabeth Smith
Edwin Smith
Robert W. Sparkes, III
Gary A. Spiess
Charles Steenburg
Alyson B. Stewart
Caroline E. Strickland
Edward M. Swartz
Tim Syrett
Alisa M. Tenenholtz
Mark S. Thurber
Laura Topper
Maria A. Trevisan
Michael H. Turk
Detlev F. Vagts
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Wolfman Charitable Foundation
Douglas Wolfson
B. Andrew Zelermyer

MaryDilyss Anderson
Daryl D. Andrews
Matt & Julia Andrus
Anonymous (49)
Yael D. Aufgang
Lisa J. Avery-Peck
Thomas R. Ayres
Ceyda N. Azakli
Shalanda Baker
Heather E. Balmat
David M. Banash
John R. Baraniak, Jr.
James Barri
Stacy H. Barrow
David A. Barry
Brian C. Barry
Edward J. Barshak
Ilan Barzilay
Kevin D. Batt
Eoin Beirne
Victoria E. Bembenista
Daniel J. Bennett
Eric Benson
William F. Benson
Jennifer L. Berylson
John E. Besser
David E. Blau
Michelle Blauner
Scott Bleier
Edward M. Bloom
Thomas J. Bone
Jennifer Bonetti
Jean Bowe
Amy E. Boyd
Meghan Boyle
Joel J. Brickman
Thomas W. Bridge
John Brooks
Amy Brosius
Thomas A. Brown
Clarence H. Brown
Cynthia A. Brown
Rachel M. Brown
Ellen A. Bruce
Caroline H. Bullerjahn
Kathleen Burgener

Stephen M. Burrington
Steven Buttacavoli
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Jay P. Calhoun
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Naoka Carey
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Robert M. Carney
Karen Carp
James R. Carroll & M.
Claire Masinton
Anthony J. Carroll
Larry Carsman
Edmund C. Case
Elizabeth A. Castellani
Alyssa Chandler
Anonymous
David Chavous
Olivia S. Choe
Eric P. Christofferson
David S. Clancy
Sherrill P. Cline
Sarah Clinton
John & Catherine Coburn
Kent A. Coit
E. Michael Collins
Sandra Szela Congdon
Bryan S. Conley
Bryan Connolly
Patti Connor-O'Hara
David L. Coombs
Zachary Coseglia
Nancy M. Cremins
Paula G. Curry

Lou Ann David
Andy Dean
Megan Delehanty
Elisabeth DeLisle
Jay Kugler DeYoung
David Dineen
Peter W. Dini
James DiTullio
Anthony M. Doniger
Alison Douglass
Hilary B. Dudley

$250-$499

Paul Abbott
Nancy Adams
Jennifer M. Adams
Michelle Addison
Christopher D. Agnew
Meredith Ainbinder
Susan H. Alexander
Melissa C. Allison
Scott Altonian
Brooks A. Ames
Jay Mitchell
David Mollo-Christensen
Tom Montgomery
Andrew Moosmann
Elizabeth Mulcahy
Sarah Mullen
Katherine A.K. Mumma
Siobhan Murphy
Mary B. Murrane
Jean A. Musiker
Jennifer Neilsson
Cara J. Nelson
Matt Nevin
Kevin K. Nolan
Patrick Noonan
Andrew T. O'Connor
Sheila O'Leary
Kavita Padiyar
Nicole A. Palmer
Lila A. Palmer
Roger Pao
Faith Park
Nicole D. Park
Marc Parsons
Anita Patel
Colleen & Brian Patten
Mark Pearlstein
Christopher S. Pearsall
Ellen Causey Peckham
Bianca Keyfetz Peskin
Shirin Philipp & John M. Higgins
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Jason P. Pogorelec
Karla Portocarrero
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Brian R. Price, II
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Adam L. Sisitsky
Shaun Skeya
Ericka Snyder
Ednaria D. Souza
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Lawrence T. Stanley, Jr.
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“Rosa” was a teenage trafficking victim whom U.S. Immigration authorities sought to remove to her home country. GBLS and a private law firm partnered to save her from removal, and with their help Rosa received a “green card”.

Credit: Laura Westerling
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