



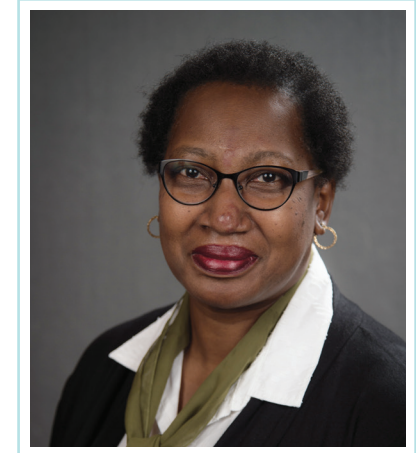


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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear GBLS community and supporters,



I am pleased to be able to present you with Greater Boston Legal Services' 2022-2023 annual report, highlighting a variety of our staff's achievements and accomplishments from the past year and showcasing some interesting new developments afoot at GBLS. After a difficult few years for all of us, we find ourselves – by virtue of both circumstance and intention – in a period of change. For instance, remote work in the pandemic demonstrated the potential for a hybrid work environment. And, banding together with many of our community partners to address emergency issues has ignited new levels of collaboration and resource sharing for our clients and community. We are coming together in more ways than one and emerging from this transitory period stronger than ever together.

Consider this report as a snapshot of the work that is underway and outcomes that have been accomplished in the past twelve months at GBLS, and a promise that more changes are coming. As of publication, we are in the middle of a strategic planning process to help guide our 123-year-old organization into the future. We are also reimagining and redesigning our client intake system to be as responsive as possible to community needs. Our legal practice areas are converging and collaborating in new and creative ways, and our team is pushing forward legal precedents and proactive efforts to ensure that the systems we work within continue to change for the better.

It's an exciting time for GBLS and we are grateful to have your partnership in this work.

Jacqueline J. Bowman • Executive Director

GBLS at a Glance

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

CASES & CLIENTS

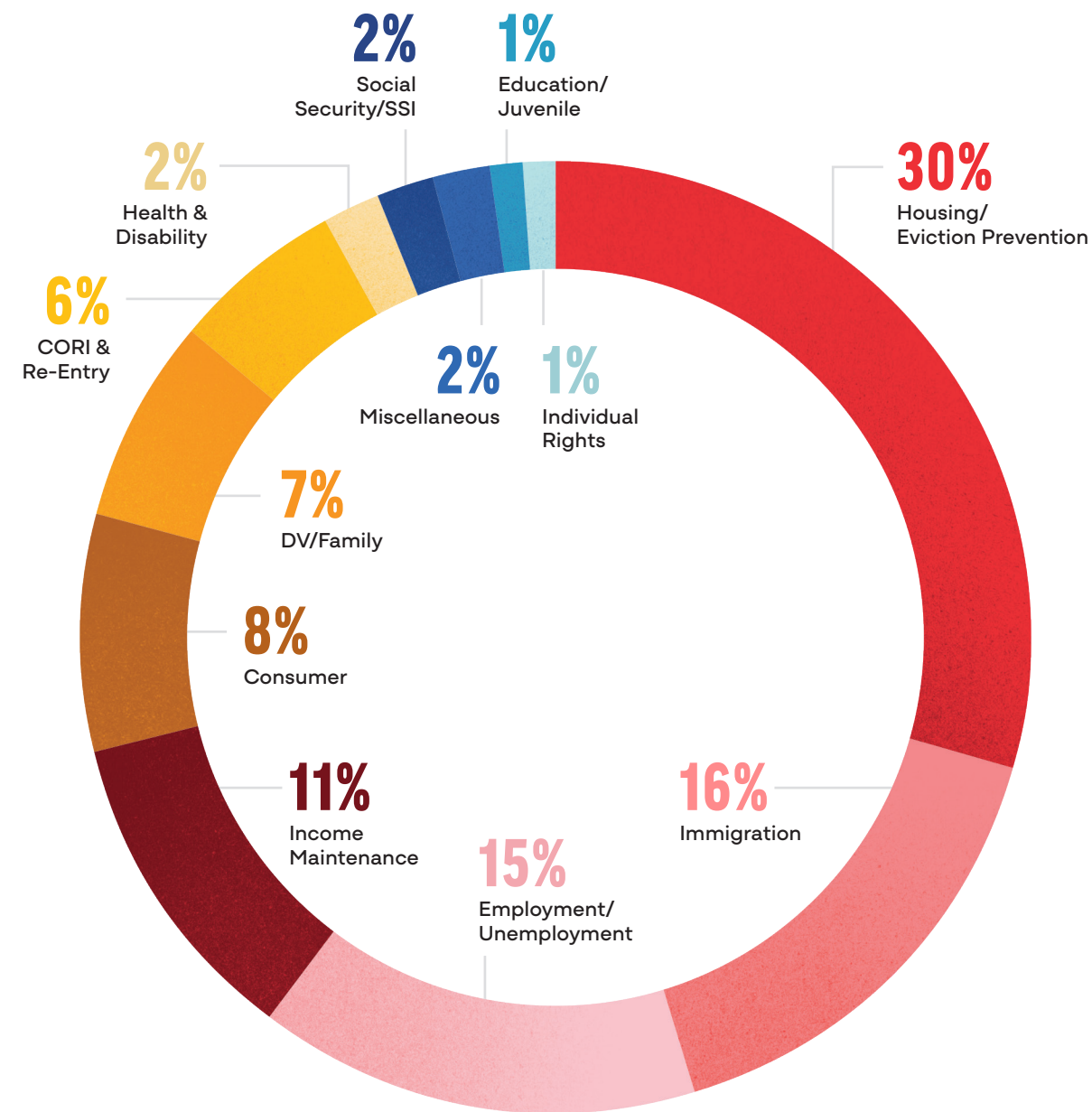
13,487

LEGAL MATTERS HANDLED

10,874

FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

CASES BY ISSUE



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

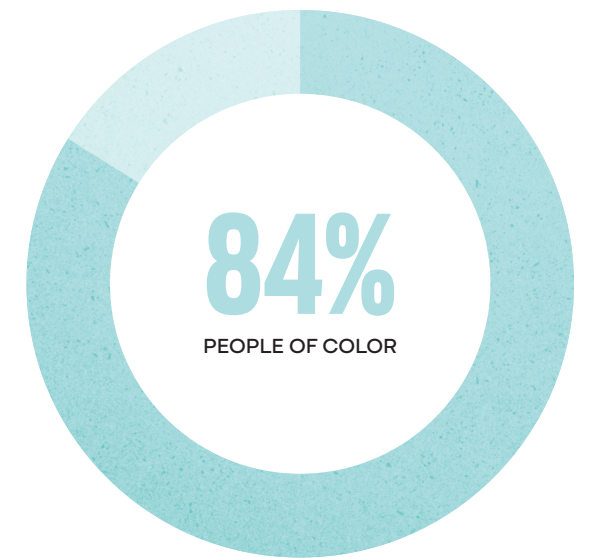
1% NON-BINARY OR NOT STATED

36% MALE-IDENTIFIED

63% FEMALE-IDENTIFIED

26%
ELDERS (60 & OVER)

28%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT



ABOUT GBLS

Mission

GBLS' mission is to provide free civil legal aid to help individuals and families who are living in poverty to achieve justice and meet their basic needs, such as food, security, safety, and adequate shelter. GBLS helps vulnerable individuals and families retain affordable housing, gain protection from domestic violence, obtain subsistence income for food and necessities, access health care, seek immigration relief, and recover earned wages.

History

Greater Boston Legal Services was formed in 1900 as the Boston Legal Aid Society, the third oldest civil legal aid organization in the United States. Today, GBLS is the largest legal aid provider in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, serving Boston and the 31 surrounding cities and towns, plus an additional 15 municipalities through our elder law work.

Services

GBLS serves clients and community members through individual representation, impact advocacy, community legal education, and outreach, working closely with a wide network of organizational partners to seek justice, stability, and fairness for everyone in our community.

2022-2023 Impact Advocacy Highlights

GBLS' attorneys and advocates leverage the information gained through our high volume of direct service cases to tackle the repeated and systemic problems that keep families and individuals in poverty. By working closely with community partners, client groups, and other advocates, we achieve significant positive outcomes through policy, legislative, and other legal advocacy. In 2022-2023, GBLS' impact advocacy included:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- ▶ GBLS submitted a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to improve access of domestic violence survivors to subsidized childcare. The letter was co-signed by more than 15 other agencies across the state and was well received; positive changes appear to be forthcoming.
- ▶ GBLS collected case examples from legal services staff statewide evidencing a growing concern that, in some divisions of the Probate and Family Court, judges are entering child support orders with downward deviations from the Massachusetts Child Support Guidelines without adequate findings to support the deviation. GBLS shared the case examples in a memorandum to the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court who responded immediately and substantively.

CONSUMER RIGHTS

- ▶ Leveraging the May 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Tyler v. Hennepin County* deeming the practice of withholding remaining equity in tax lien foreclosures unconstitutional, GBLS is fighting for bills in the Massachusetts legislature that would ensure homeowners receive the surplus value of their home after a tax foreclosure and for bills that would prevent tax foreclosures by helping homeowners resolve tax arrears. GBLS is simultaneously fighting for

reform in a lawsuit filed with co-counsel Pioneer Public Interest Law Center and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP against the City of Worcester and tax lien buyer Tallage Davis, LLC. GBLS' client is a low-income, elderly mother who was foreclosed on and Tallage Davis attempted to evict her after she fell ill and got behind on \$2,600 in real estate taxes on a property worth over \$250,000.

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Justice and attorneys at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development filed a "Statement of Interest" in the lawsuit GBLS, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, National Consumer Law Center, and plaintiffs filed in 2022 against national tenant screening provider SafeRent Solutions and a local management company that uses their services to screen clients and other low-income tenants that have credit card debt. The screening services' algorithm disproportionately gives low scores to Black and Hispanic rental applicants who use federally-funded housing vouchers to pay the majority of their rent, causing them to be denied housing. GBLS and partners are also representing an institutional client in the lawsuit, Community Action Agency of Somerville, that assists tenants with vouchers to secure apartments.

CORI EXPUNGEMENT & SEALING

- ▶ GBLS achieved a tremendous Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) victory in *Commonwealth v. K.W.*, in September 2022. This decision will make

reason-based expungement more accessible for people with a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) record. In the past, many clients had expungement petitions denied by judges, even when the District Attorney did not object to the expungement. The decision puts new muscle behind a 2018 reform law that allows former defendants to expunge decriminalized conduct, cases of misuse of identity or mistaken identity, or "demonstrable errors" by police, prosecutors, and court staff.

- ▶ GBLS drafted and secured the passage of legislation effective November 2022, that removes judicial discretion to deny expungement of decriminalized cannabis charges. The new law also expands cannabis case expungement to include distribution charges that arose out of the same decriminalized possession offense, because so many people were overcharged for these offenses when cannabis possession was illegal.

EDUCATION

- ▶ GBLS jointly with Massachusetts Advocates for Children represented five families of Boston Public Schools (BPS) students with disabilities to ensure reliable, legally mandated transportation services, and joined by the BPS' Special Education Parent Advisory Council filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Problem Resolution System Office to push for systemic changes to the school transportation system. The complaint asserted that BPS had violated students' educational rights by routinely failing to provide transportation to students with disabilities. DESE sided with plaintiffs and in February 2023 ordered BPS to remedy the problem, specifying plans and systems BPS must develop and execute to remedy the issues.
- ▶ GBLS' Asian Outreach Center continues to represent students and community organizations as intervenors in a federal lawsuit now in appeal to uphold BPS' interim admission policy for three highly-selective exam schools during the pandemic.

ELDER & DISABILITY RIGHTS

- ▶ In October 2022, GBLS attorneys as part of a legal team including Center for Public Representation, Justice in Aging, and Foley Hoag LLP, filed a federal court class action lawsuit on behalf of older adults, people with serious mental illness, and people with physical disabilities who are unnecessarily segregated in nursing home institutional settings, and who could be discharged to integrated community-based residential services with all needed wrap-around services if the state provided these integrated opportunities. The lawsuit seeks an appropriate systemic remedy on behalf of these categories of nursing facility residents. GBLS' organizational plaintiff is Massachusetts Senior Action Council.



Asian Outreach Center 50th Anniversary

This year, GBLS is celebrating the Asian Outreach Center's 50th anniversary, recognizing the program's commitment to community lawyering and deep collaborations with grassroots organizations to build community power since its founding in 1972. We appreciate the support of all the sponsors and donors who helped make our anniversary kickoff event a success in September, and we are grateful for the continued and generous support of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts and the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund.

After 50 years of impressive legal work and community victories, to more accurately reflect the role that the Asian Outreach Program plays in the community as a hub for legal assistance and advocacy, this special GBLS program was also re-named the Asian Outreach Center. The new name reflects GBLS' new partnership with Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), positioning the Asian Outreach Center as a hub and a model for Asian American legal issues and solutions even beyond the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



HEALTH ACCESS

- ▶ GBLS advocates worked closely with other health advocacy groups and MassHealth representatives to address and prepare for the termination of the Public Health Emergency (effective April 1, 2023) and the issue of MassHealth redeterminations, advocating for changes to ensure members don't lose their MassHealth coverage due to eligibility problems, confusion, and the complexity of the form they need to complete to continue coverage. A moratorium on terminations had been in effect due to the pandemic. GBLS and other health care advocates persuaded MassHealth to reduce from 45 pages to three pages the form for members under 65 to reapply or renew their coverage.

HOUSING

- ▶ GBLS, with the Somerville Office of Housing Stability and others, designed a municipal voucher program and budget to assist Somerville tenants who are not immigration eligible for federal housing programs. The program was approved in February 2023 and funded for five years. GBLS also worked with Somerville agencies and departments

Community Lawyering for Housing Rights

In the face of rising rents and decreasing housing availability, GBLS' Housing Unit has been working closely with community organizers, tenant associations, and other legal service providers to protect tenants' rights and preserve affordable housing in what has been dubbed a "sword, shield, and offer" model of community lawyering, a strategic term coined by City Life/Vida Urbana and community lawyer David Grossman. In this model, legal aid and community organizers work together to create a community offense and a legal defense for tenants at risk of eviction and/or homelessness to reach the best offer for the tenant resisting displacement. Working in partnership with City Life/Vida Urbana and La Colaborativa, as well

as individual tenants' groups, GBLS provides the "shield" to prevent harmful consequences in housing court, while organizers act as the "sword" to rally tenants and community members, create publicity and public pressure around unjust evictions to push for a better offer for the affected tenant, and advocate for systemic legislative changes. This teamwork has had numerous successes throughout metro Boston, including in housing developments in Mattapan, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, and Chelsea – neighborhoods and towns where once affordable housing is rapidly disappearing due to gentrification and lack of tenant protection laws. Settlements have included multi-year contracts to keep tenants housed and protected from no-fault evictions, keeping rent increases within the levels covered by housing subsidies or below market, and ensuring needed building repairs.

"City Life's partnership with GBLS is vital to supporting our members resisting evictions, rent increases, and inhumane bad conditions. Our collective bargaining victories wouldn't be possible without tenant leaders who use the sword and shield. Together, we advance the housing justice movement forward and keep people stably housed for years to come."

— City Life/Vida Urbana

to advocate for a variety of homeless prevention funds to stabilize tenants in their current homes or to transition into affordable housing. Almost \$5 million was approved for a two-year period.

- ▶ GBLS, with co-counsel Ropes & Gray, resolved the class action lawsuit *García v. DHCD*, a challenge to many elements of the design and administration of the Massachusetts shelter system for homeless families with children. After years of negotiation, the parties filed a tentative settlement agreement that was approved in April 2023. The agency will be required to enact a number of reforms to improve the Emergency Assistance shelter system. Among other major changes, the agreement obligates the Commonwealth to make significant improvements to its policies, practices, and procedures around keeping families in shelter near their home communities and children's schools and meeting families' disability-related needs. (See page 15 for more details on this significant case.)
- ▶ GBLS represented several older and disabled residents of Our Lady's Guild House (OLGH) in age and disability discrimination claims before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. OLGH is a 140-unit rooming house for women in Boston's Fenway neighborhood. The discrimination claims were settled under the auspices of the Attorney General's Office in March 2023, providing lifetime tenancies, monetary compensation, and other protections. GBLS worked with residents to build support for preserving this historic property and its charitable mission of providing affordable housing for women. The religious order that owns OLGH decided to sell the property, and GBLS advocated with the Charities Division of the Attorney General's Office to have the property transferred rather than sold, so as to retain its charitable mission.

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

- ▶ Partnering with the Asian American Resource Workshop, Revolutionizing Asian Immigrant Stories on the East Coast (RAISE), and a coalition of immigrant rights groups, GBLS successfully advocated for the Work and Family Mobility Act, which allows all qualified MA residents to apply for a standard driver's license, regardless of immigration status. The new law went into effect in July 2023.

▶ GBLS advocates, along with the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Clinic, filed appellate litigation at the Board of Immigration Appeals and First Circuit Court of Appeals challenging erroneous agency interpretations involving such issues as gender persecution, the proper use and assessment of evidence, and the incorporation of the best interests of the child doctrine into immigration jurisprudence. GBLS also collaborated with other members of the First Circuit Working Group, created and hosted by the New Hampshire ACLU, in developing and refining litigation strategy for critical issues affecting the rights of asylum seekers.

- ▶ To protect asylum seekers' rights, GBLS, on behalf of the Immigration Coalition/Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), formulated the Coalition's response in opposition to the negative rule proposed by the Biden administration in March, which barred asylum seekers from applying for asylum if they crossed the border without authorization. This rule imperils the due process rights of asylum seekers and their ability to seek protection in the United States.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- ▶ GBLS continued to co-lead with MLRI the Lift Our Kids Coalition's legislative campaign to increase cash grant levels in the Transitional Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) programs. The campaign succeeded in increasing TAFDC and EAEDC cash assistance by 10% starting October 2022, and the legislature also increased the annual cash clothing allowance to \$400 for each child receiving TAFDC.
- ▶ After the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) published proposed regulations affecting subsidized childcare, GBLS advocated for improvements, including organizing more than twenty community partners to participate in the public comment process, and EEC adopted nearly all of the improvements. One of several key improvements is eliminating long-standing restrictions that resulted in denial of the right to childcare for families that have transitioned off the TAFDC program in the prior 24 months. The result is a more streamlined childcare program that improves access for families.

TAXPAYER ADVOCACY

- ▶ GBLS conducted policy advocacy with the national Automatic Benefits for Children Coalition, working to create a guaranteed income for children in the U.S. GBLS helped form the Coalition's Access Working Group, which successfully advocated that IRS issue letters in October 2022 to more than 9 million potentially eligible families who had not yet claimed COVID 2020 and 2021 stimulus payments, the 2021 Child Tax Credit, and/or the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), informing them they could still file. The Access Working Group also advocated for the IRS to create a direct, free file tool for returns for very low-income workers and people who otherwise would be non-filers but are eligible for credits like the COVID benefits. The first iteration of the tool will be implemented at the start of the 2024 tax filing season.
- ▶ GBLS engaged with national and local advocacy groups and immigration bars to expand awareness of how the disparate treatment of immigrants under current tax laws is discriminatory and has resulted in thousands of such households being blocked from pandemic credits despite their children being eligible under ARPA. GBLS' Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic was the only LITC invited to participate in a small working group organized by Unidos-US meeting monthly with the IRS to examine how they can better serve immigrant taxpayers.

VOTING RIGHTS

- ▶ Following strong advocacy efforts from GBLS, Malden-based community groups, and Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the City of Malden committed to providing language access to Chinese voters in accordance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. As part of the agreement, GBLS worked with community partners, the City of Malden, and state legislators to successfully push for the passage of the Malden bilingual ballots legislation in October 2022, allowing the City to finally be able to provide Chinese transliteration of candidates' names on the ballots and ensuring that Chinese voters have full access to voting.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

- ▶ Advocacy by GBLS in coalition with other legal aid organizations across Massachusetts led the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to secure a federal "blanket" overpayment waiver from the U.S. Department of Labor and to promulgate expansive emergency regulations that together waived repayment of hundreds of millions of dollars in federally funded unemployment insurance benefits (UI) for Massachusetts claimants. DUA agreed not to intercept the tax refunds of 59,000 UI claimants who were unable to access DUA's expanded waiver relief in 2022.
- ▶ Advocacy with the Department of Family and Medical Leave led to all benefit appeal hearings having an option to participate by phone. Previously, appeals hearings were solely provided by video using Webex, excluding low-tech and limited-English applicants. GBLS also secured a commitment to advertise the new state Paid Family Medical Leave benefit using grant funding from the Department of Public Health, with a focus on low-wage and immigrant communities.



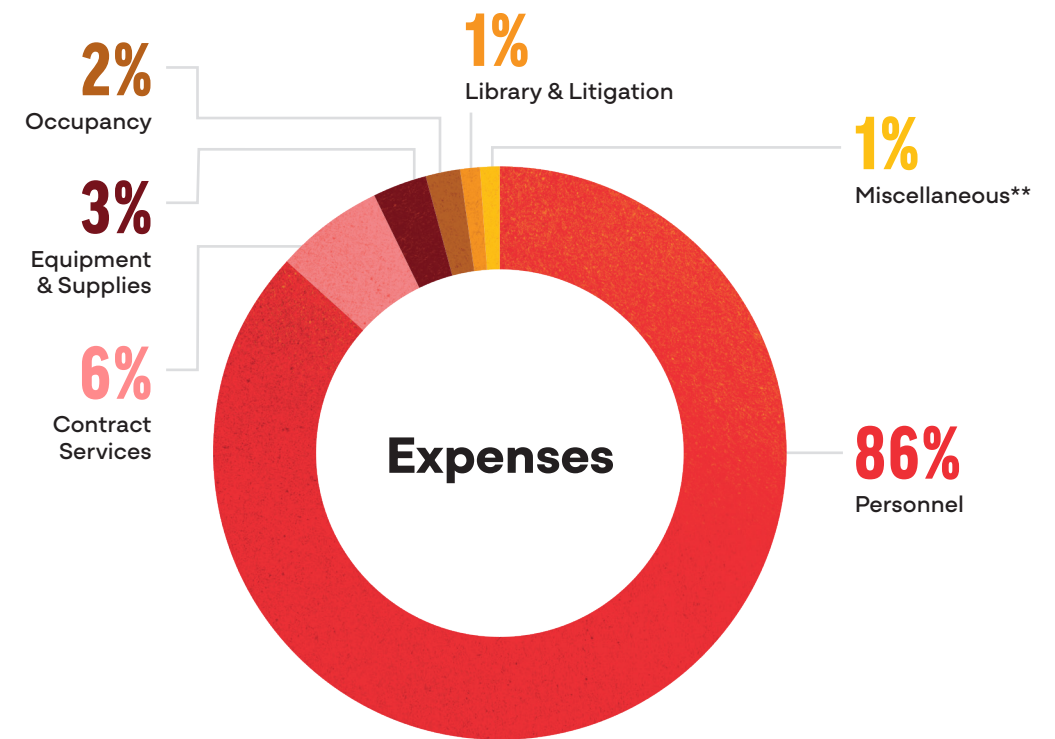
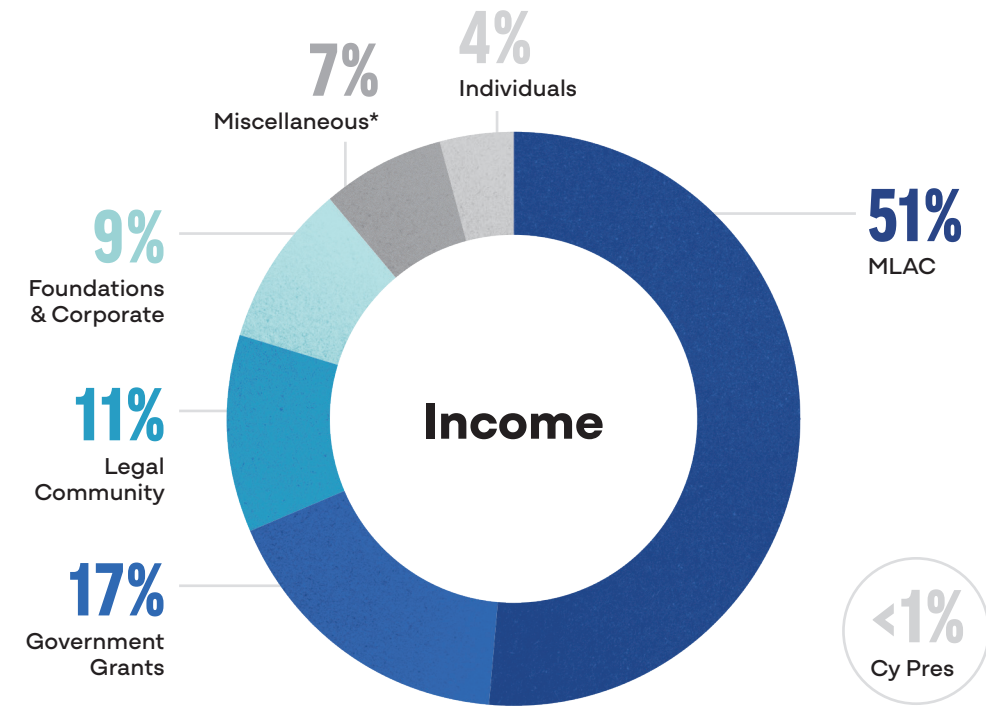
CLIENT PROFILE

Unfairly-Treated Worker Gets Justice

"Rosie" was referred to GBLS by the Brazilian Worker Center after she had her hours cut and was fired from her painting job during cancer treatment. Rosie was not paid overtime or sick time, despite being eligible for both. GBLS reached a \$20,000 settlement with the employer based on retaliation, termination for disability accommodations, and sick time use. The settlement was paid in 14 installments of \$1,400. Rosie was thrilled with the outcome and was grateful to both the Brazilian Worker Center and GBLS for our help.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Data From FY2023 Is Preliminary and Un-Audited



*incl. Attorney's Fees, Investments, and Law School Contributions **Incl. Capital

Children's Practice Group

Many of GBLS' clients have multiple, overlapping legal issues. When a household is in crisis, one issue can trigger or exacerbate even more difficulties. Recognizing this trend, as well as the particular vulnerabilities of families with children, GBLS launched the Children's Practice Group, a multi-disciplinary team of advocates from throughout GBLS who gather monthly to do case consults, seek resources or ideas for helping clients, refer cases internally, and learn about children's welfare and child development issues. The group, often referred to as "CPG", has a mission to lift children and their families out of poverty and improve the trajectory of their lives through holistic, trauma-informed legal representation, as well as serve as a model for interdisciplinary collaboration within GBLS.

"Wei" is one of the clients that CPG has helped this year, and her story illustrates the value of an interdisciplinary approach to resolving a family's safety and stability issues in tandem. From providing help with domestic violence, financial stability, healthcare, immigration, and more, GBLS' attorneys and paralegals collaborated to ensure that Wei and her children are on the path to a better, safer, more stable life together.

Wei moved to the United States with her then-husband several years ago with their young daughter. A successful entrepreneur in China, Wei's husband opened a restaurant in the Boston area and the couple had another child – a son. Things quickly soured at home, though, and Wei's husband began physically, verbally, and sexually abusing her, threatening to have her deported or have their children taken away from her if she spoke up or even attempted to make friends or venture out of the home. During one particularly violent incident, Wei's daughter called the police out of fear for her mother's life. The abuser was arrested but the young girl was tormented by him and his family members for having "betrayed" her father. Wei, who had been forbidden from working outside of the home, could not afford their rent while her abuser was in jail and so moved with her children to an emergency shelter.

Wei connected to services through a community partner, who referred her to GBLS for help. Wei's GBLS welfare law advocate leapt into action, helping Wei secure cash benefits and food stamps for her U.S. citizen son, who qualified for assistance. Another community partner helped Wei get a restraining order against her abuser but couldn't help her with her divorce due to a variety of complex legal factors. Calling upon the resources of the Children's Practice Group, Wei's GBLS advocate made sure that she also got family law help from GBLS, not only with the dissolution of marriage but also to protect Wei

from having her children removed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) due to the past abuse she had received and the traumatic responses that her daughter displayed as a result.

Wei's daughter – having been first shunned and then bribed by her abusive father and his family members – was severely traumatized and often refused to go to school or even leave the safety of her bedroom in their emergency shelter unit. DCF threatened to remove both children if Wei's daughter didn't go to school regularly or if the children's father was given access to them, both issues that Wei herself also felt strongly about. Wei's GBLS family law attorney was able to get mental health support for the daughter and parenting support for Wei through another community partner to defuse DCF's concerns, as well as deftly handling the divorce and child custody issues. The judge not only denied the abuser to have unsupervised access to the children, he also held him in contempt for not paying owed child support and demanded \$2,500 on the spot to be handed to Wei to help her care for the children. Through their involvement in the Children's Practice Group, Wei's GBLS advocates worked together to strategize how to get the best outcome for Wei and her kids without jeopardizing their existing resources, a strategy that has since been called upon by other legal aid providers to help low-income families with split immigration status. In addition to her benefits and family law issues, GBLS also helped Wei with her childcare voucher so that she can take classes, her tax filings (and thus, eligibility for the Child Tax Credit) through our Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, her MassHealth status, and is currently working with her on her immigration status through U-visa eligibility for survivors of crime. Wei is out of emergency shelter now and in public housing in a nearby town, still getting help for her daughter's mental health, and her son is thriving in pre-school. Wei herself is excelling in her English classes and hopes to become fluent enough to work outside the home soon.

GBLS' Children's Practice Group works collaboratively to help families with children when they need it the most – in the midst of a crisis that could have long-lasting harmful effects on both children and parents. For clients like Wei and her kids, this holistic approach to legal assistance is an invaluable tool to achieve meaningful outcomes for generations to come.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Women's Lunch Place

This year, GBLS began a new partnership with Women's Lunch Place (WLP), a daytime shelter for women, to further GBLS' goals of equitable legal service for all. Every week, a dedicated GBLS lawyer holds a legal clinic for guests at WLP to provide case consultation and representation, as appropriate. Attorney Nayab Ajaz spends every Wednesday meeting with guests on-site at the shelter. For the rest of the week, she takes a deep dive into each client's case to resolve their legal issues. If a more complex case needs extra service, this partnership allows us to quickly refer the case to other units within GBLS, providing more holistic services to women in need.

"Working alongside the team at WLP allows me to better understand the individual situations each client is facing and informs my legal advice as my legal advice can in turn inform the help that WLP provides each guest. It's my hope that through this partnership, the guests at WLP can have the access to legal help that unhoused and low-income women desperately need."

— GBLS Attorney Nayab Ajaz



Legal Community Support

The Greater Boston legal community demonstrates a special commitment to GBLS and ensuring equal access to civil justice for all. Every year, generous individual attorneys, law firms, and corporate legal departments demonstrate the extent to which they respect and value the legal assistance that GBLS provides to impoverished members of our community by investing in our work. Their support is provided in a variety of ways – including the annual Law Firm Drive, Associates Fund Drive, Corporate Fund Drive, In-House Counsel Drive, legal fellowships, and more. We are grateful for their support.

2022 Law Firm Drive

Leadership League (\$850 or more per Boston attorney)

Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Goodwin Procter LLP
Goulston & Storrs PC
Hemenway & Barnes LLP
McNeill Baur PLLC
Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow, P.C.
Ropes & Gray LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates
Sugarman and Sugarman, P.C.
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Reginald Heber Smith League (\$550 - \$699 per Boston attorney)

Fish & Richardson P.C.
Foley Hoag LLP
Sullivan & Worcester

President's League (\$400 - \$549 per Boston attorney)

Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, P.C.
Dwyer LLC
Gilmore Rees & Carlson PC
Klein Hornig LLP
Landay Leblang Stern
Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Supporter League (\$250 - \$399 per Boston attorney)

Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Brown Rudnick LLP
Burns & Levinson LLP
Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, P.C.
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
Lathrop GPM LLP
Locke Lord LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Proskauer Rose LLP

Friends League (up to \$249 per Boston attorney)

Adler, Cohen, Harvey, Wakeman & Guekgezian, LLP
Barton Gilman LLP
Bernkopf Goodman LLP
Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, LLP
Cushing & Dolan, P.C.
Dain, Torpy, Le Ray, Wiest & Garner, P.C.
Dechert LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Donnelly, Conroy & Gelhaar, LLP
HealyFiske LLP
Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Hirsch Law LLC
Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, LLP
Krems, Jackowitz & Carman, LLP
Krokidas & Bluestein LLP
Laredo & Smith, LLP
Lawson & Weitzen, LLP

Lee and Rivers LLP
Messing, Rudavsky & Weliky, P.C.
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
Morse, Barnes-Brown & Pendleton, PC
Murtha Cullina LLP
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP
Peabody & Arnold LLP
Pierce Atwood LLP
Robinson+Cole LLP
Segal Roitman, LLP
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Stoneman, Chandler, Miller LLP
Swartz & Swartz, P.C.
Tarlow, Breed, Hart & Rodgers, P.C.
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
Womble Bond Dickinson

2022 Law Firm Fellowships

The following firms provided funding to support the salaries of GBLS attorneys and fellows.

Goodwin Procter LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Cy Pres and Other Awards

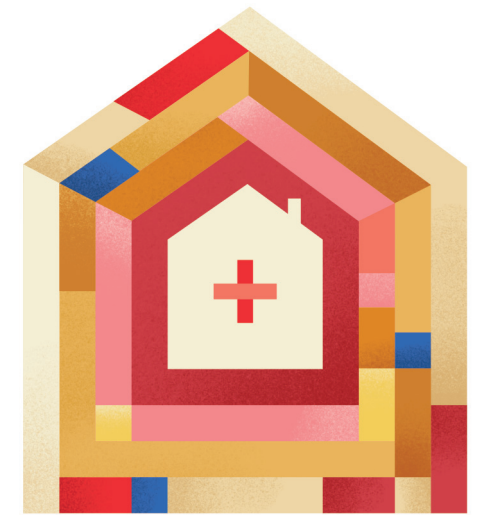
We wish to acknowledge the following law firms who facilitated the award of class action lawsuit residuals received by GBLS.

Fair Work PC
Lichten & Liss-Riordan PC

MAJOR CASE HIGHLIGHT:

GARCIA v. DHCD

This past year, GBLS, with co-counsel Ropes & Gray, continued work on the class action lawsuit *Garcia v. DHCD*, a challenge to the design and administration of the Massachusetts shelter system for homeless families with children. After two years of negotiation, the parties filed a settlement agreement, which was approved in April 2023. Under the settlement, DHCD (recently renamed the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, or EOHL) will undertake a number of sweeping reforms to improve the Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter system. These include changes to the application process to ensure that eligible families are able to access shelter promptly when they need it; improvements to make it easier and faster for families to get disability-related needs addressed; and changes to the procedures for assigning shelter placements, so that families are more likely to get shelter placements close to their home communities and their children's schools. The agreement also requires EOHL to review data regarding unmet needs in the shelter system and take steps to obtain a greater number of appropriate shelter placements for those who need EA shelter. GBLS will remain deeply involved in the process of implementing the settlement agreement, including monitoring EOHL's compliance.



CLIENT PROFILE: Helping a Family Avoid Eviction

GBLS first began working with "Joan" and her family, who were threatened with eviction, in 2021 when she was pregnant with her sixth child. GBLS helped Joan by obtaining Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding, preventing the eviction and obtaining a small waiver of rent. Over time, Joan's apartment also had many serious conditions issues — including loss of heat and hot water — that GBLS worked to ameliorate. The landlord followed up with a no-cause case, which GBLS delayed in various ways until Joan obtained a four-unit apartment from the Weymouth Housing Authority, which is both more affordable and sustainable. Joan's attorney negotiated a move-out agreement that waived approximately \$20,000 in back rent and dismissed the eviction. Joan and her family have moved and are doing well in their new unit.



CLIENT PROFILE: A Single Mother Gets Needed Support

GBLS twice prevented the termination of Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) cash benefits to "Lana" and her 4-year-old child. In Lana's first case, her GBLS advocate established that the child's other parent was fraudulently receiving benefits for the child in another state. In the second case, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) had automatically initiated termination of Lana's benefits for a missed phone appointment. The advocate established that the DTA worker had failed to call Lana. DTA approved TAFDC cash benefits and paid them retroactively to Lana, who is caring for three very young children, including an infant.

Corporate Fund Drive

In 2022, Boston-area corporations donated over \$145,000 to the Corporate Fund Drive to support access to justice for all. Thank you to the participating companies for their generosity.

Agios Pharmaceuticals	Copyright Clearance Center	John Hancock Financial Services	Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
Analog Devices	Fenway Sports Group/ Boston Red Sox	Liberty Mutual Insurance	Wellington Management Company
Arbella Insurance Foundation	Fiduciary Trust Company	LPL Financial	
Blue Jay Botanicals, Inc. d/b/a The Boston Garden Dispensary	Floyd Advisory	MFS Investment Management	
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Attorneys from the following corporate legal departments participated in the 2022 In-House Counsel Drive.

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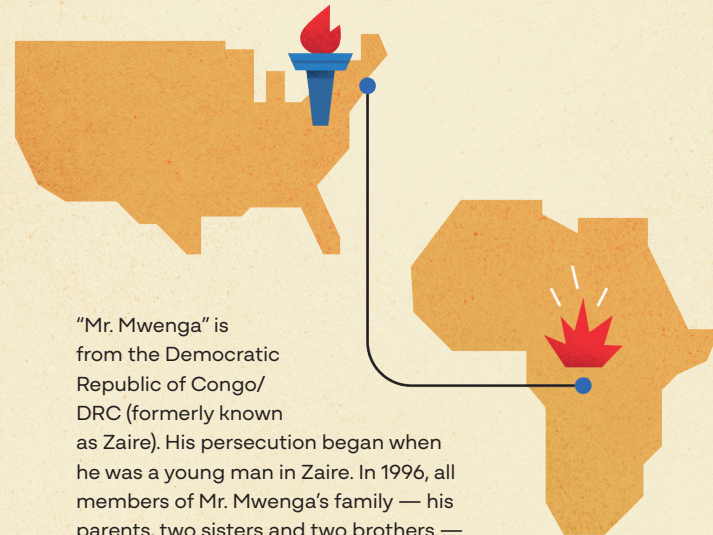
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CLIENT PROFILE:

The Resilience of a Refugee Family



"Mr. Mwenga" is from the Democratic Republic of Congo/DRC (formerly known as Zaire). His persecution began when he was a young man in Zaire. In 1996, all members of Mr. Mwenga's family — his parents, two sisters and two brothers — were brutally attacked, beaten and gang raped in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide because of their race and perceived nationality. Mr. Mwenga's father did not survive the attack. Surviving family members first fled to Burundi but were forced to split up for safety and some fled to Uganda, others to South Africa, and Mr. Mwenga fled to the Ivory Coast. In 2004, he left the Ivory Coast believing it safe to return home, a new government having been installed.

Back home, he worked hard to set up a successful business. He married and had children and brought his mother and two sisters back to the DRC. In 2010, however, the family was again brutally attacked, beaten and sexually assaulted for the same reasons — their race and perceived nationality. Mr. Mwenga did not give up. He relocated, but he and his family were violently attacked twice more. His mother ultimately died after one of those attacks and, heartbroken, Mr. Mwenga fled to safety in the U.S. in 2011.

With GBLS' help, Mr. Mwenga applied for asylum in light of everything he had been through. His wife and children followed in 2014, and with GBLS' help filed their own asylum applications upon their arrival. In 2022, after Mr. Mwenga was unsuccessful in receiving asylum at the USCIS office, an immigration judge (whose grant rate for asylum applications was a meager 6.5% during the period) finally granted Mr. Mwenga's application for asylum, enabling him to immediately apply for an asylee relative petition for his wife and children, already in the U.S.

With the legal support and assistance that GBLS provided, for the first time since 1996 Mr. Mwenga and his surviving family members are living together in safety with the hope that everyone can eventually become U.S. citizens. The same GBLS immigration attorney has represented all family members during their odyssey through the U.S. asylum system in their quest for peace and recovery.

Associates Fund Drive

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GBLS is grateful to the following firms, whose associates raised over \$640,000 to support free civil legal assistance for survivors of domestic violence. Thank you!

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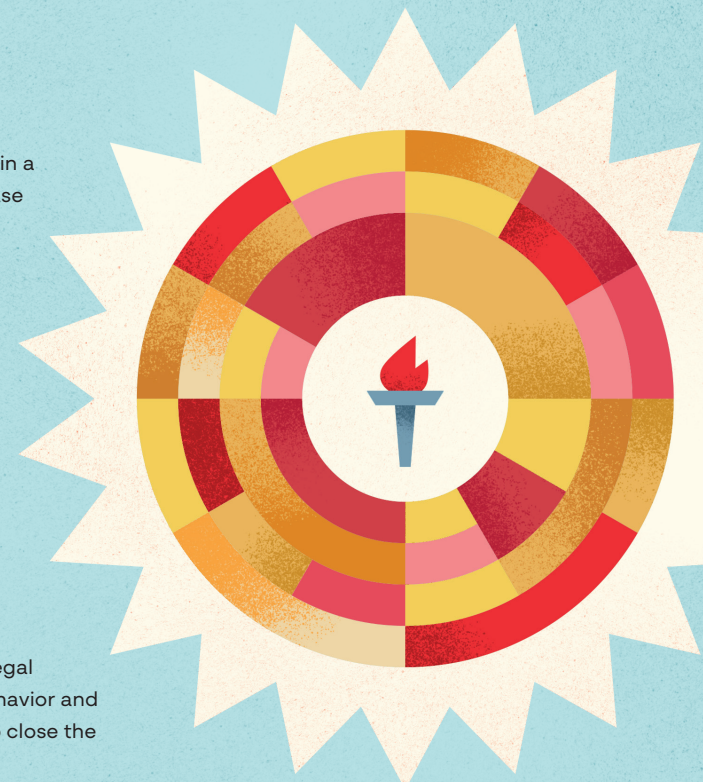
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CLIENT PROFILE:

Protecting an Abuse Survivor from Further Harm

GBLS represented a survivor of domestic violence, "Marie," in her divorce in a heavily-contested case that went to trial. Unfortunately, even after the case was over, the abuser filed a Superior Court case against Marie, seeking \$1.1 million in damages for defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and other torts. This kind of attempt at continued abuse and retaliation is not uncommon, unfortunately. In response, GBLS filed an anti-SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) motion to dismiss the abuser's case.

A SLAPP lawsuit is an action designed to punish or deter participation in the legal process. For example, an abuser may seek to censor a victim by claiming that the victim has harmed the abuser – sometimes, the claim is that the victim defamed the abuser. Usually, the abuser does not expect to win their suit; the purpose is to inconvenience the victim and force them to spend time and money defending the frivolous claim. The court granted Marie's motion to dismiss her abuser's SLAPP lawsuit, bringing closure to the issue. Though abusers can be savvy users of the legal system to perpetuate their abuse, GBLS attorneys anticipate this bad behavior and can protect their clients against these tactics, and they work hard to help close the chapter of abuse for their clients so they can have a fresh start.



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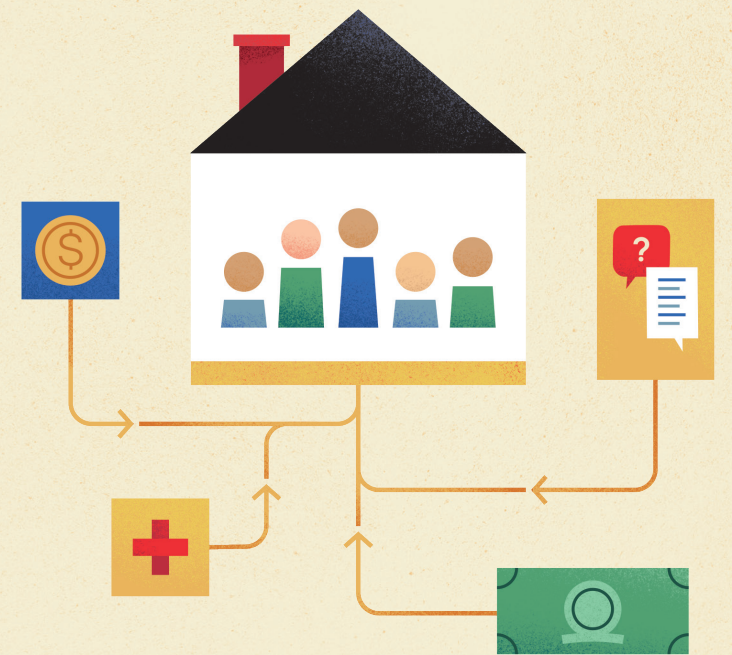
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Pandemic Recovery Efforts

In 2022, GBLS' Family Stabilization Project received Congressionally Directed Spending funds with the support of the offices of Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren. This valuable project was designed to help low-income families to obtain all pandemic-related 2021 stimulus payments and Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments and 2020 stimulus payments for which they and their children are eligible, to increase the resources available to families and the stability of their households. Through this project, GBLS has done community outreach, individualized legal advice, and direct representation of families who might not otherwise know about or access these special resources. GBLS also advises and represents clients who are lacking or at risk of losing basic needs benefits administered by state agencies. To date, project staff have handled more than 190 cases under the project.

The historic Child Tax Credit (CTC) established under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which has since expired but is still available retroactively to qualified claimants, was created to keep families living in poverty from dire financial hardships. However, an estimated 223,000 Massachusetts adults and children did not get the first stimulus payment, totaling \$232M in missed payments and money not realized by state residents. GBLS



discovered that many eligible families were unaware that their children qualify for the CTC and many households simply do not have the resources or ability file a tax return on their own. In addition to providing direct legal services to many clients, GBLS' community education and outreach has helped shine a spotlight on these resources for families in need through initiatives like FindYourFunds.org with community partners.

Pro Bono Spotlight

In the United States, debt collection is big business. One in four Americans has a debt past due and in collection; for people of color, this rate rises to one in three. Debt collection litigation pervades local court systems across the country.



Second Row: Raymond Dougan (volunteer), Charles Glerum (volunteer); **First Row:** Todd Kaplan, Matthew Brooks, Joy Sun, Joanna Plaisir (law student extern), Dhairya Bhatia (law student extern), Nadine Cohen, Jill Grossberg (volunteer), Alexandra Saylan, Sarah Perlman

Many debt collection cases in Massachusetts proceed in Small Claims Court — and small claims cases comprise 30% of the Commonwealth’s civil docket. Small Claims Court requires less rigorous evidence rules than traditional civil court, which makes it possible for debt collectors to win cases even with dubious proof. Combined with the fact that defendants seldom have legal representation and often do not even have proper notice of their court date, judgments in collectors’ favor are typical in Small Claims Court.

In 2016, GBL’s Consumer Rights Unit (CRU) launched the Lawyer for the Day debt collection clinics to give low-income defendants a fighting chance against corporate debt collectors. Now a hallmark of their advocacy, the CRU conducts ten clinics per month across the Small Claims sessions in Charlestown, East Boston, Roxbury, and Chelsea. Advocates support clients from intake until the case is resolved, typically through a magistrate hearing on the same day. When

a case calls for it, advocates may also pursue case dismissal requests for clients with protected income and negotiate settlements.

“There is no question that representation makes a difference in debt collection cases,” says Matt Brooks, the CRU Managing Attorney who developed the program with Jade Brown, now a faculty member at Boston University School of Law. “Even if people showed up [to court], . . . these cases universally ended with clerk magistrates finding defendants owed the full amount of money debt collectors asked for. Now, in about 85% of our cases, we win outright or reduce that amount.”

Today, the Lawyer for the Day program serves 400-500 clients each year, saving them \$750,000 to \$1 million. It is an effort whose success relies not just on CRU advocates, but also on the dedication of volunteer law students and attorneys. Dhairya Bhatia, stayed on as a volunteer after finishing a

summer internship in the CRU. Dhairya states that as a student “there was nothing better that helped me develop my lawyering skills than Lawyer for the Day. After training with experienced attorneys, I was able to navigate the whole small claims collection process with a client.” Students like Dhairya are exceptional advocates for GBL’s debt collection clients.

Retired attorneys also contribute to Lawyer for the Day, citing it as an opportunity to use their legal experience to contribute to their communities. “Clients come to court feeling intimidated, uncomfortable, embarrassed,” notes volunteer Jill Grossberg. “I enjoy empowering clients by letting them be part of the process of representation.”

Judge Raymond Dougan helped pioneer the debt collection clinic model in Greater Boston, first as a judge who saw its potential and later as a volunteer representing clients. Discussing what has kept him invested in debt collection defense for so long,

Judge Dougan said, “This is the best legal work you can possibly do. I get to help people immediately and dramatically every day that I’m in court.”

In April 2023, CRU staff and pro bono volunteers traded oral arguments for lighthearted conversation and celebrated volunteers’ commitment to Lawyer for the Day. Together, they will continue to achieve justice for low-income consumers.

Greater Boston Legal Services relies on our pro bono partners – from private bar firms and individual practices, to students and retired legal professionals, and non-attorney volunteers. With their assistance, we can supplement staff capacity to meet a greater proportion of client need.

Pro Bono Partners

We are grateful to the following law firms and in-house legal departments who provided pro bono services to GBL and our clients in 2022-2023, and to the many individual attorneys who dedicated their time and energy to ensuring civil justice for all.

- | | | |
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Partnership Spotlights



GBLS has long partnered with **HomeStart**, an organization serving people at risk of becoming homeless by way of eviction, currently experiencing homelessness, or who have recently moved from homelessness to housing. A HomeStart attorney housed at GBLS provides dedicated wraparound services to clients of both organizations, a model that has worked well. Services include eviction prevention and housing preservation.

* “When HomeStart and GBLS partner to prevent an eviction, we provide a robust and immediate response that advocates for the tenant in housing court and works to resolve the life challenges that led to that housing crisis. When our organizations work together, we know that we’re really helping put folks back on the path to housing stability.”

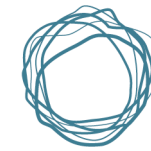
— Matt Pritchard, Executive Director, HomeStart



GBLS’ long-term working relationship with **La Colaborativa** in Chelsea and other worker organizations including the Brazilian Worker Center, Brazilian Women’s Group, MetroWest Worker Center, MassCOSH, Lynn Worker Center, and Somerville Worker Center, on both individual and systemic cases, has proved vital to some of GBLS’ broader strategic objectives. Labor-related immigration issues and wage theft continue to command much of GBLS and the workers centers’ joint attention and resources, but the organizations also collaborated on other areas including consumer debt initiatives and increasing protections for vulnerable workers. GBLS’ Housing Unit provides legal services two days per week at La Colaborativa in Chelsea, with funding from La Colaborativa. GBLS’ Employment Law Unit also conducts bimonthly, in-person outreach to La Colaborativa, enhancing services to their members.



Through the Latinas Know Your Rights project, GBLS represented immigrant survivors of domestic abuse in the catchment area of partner **REACH** Beyond Domestic Violence (Waltham, Watertown, Newton), in family law and immigration law matters.



HarborCOV
Communities Overcoming Violence

Through our Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) project, GBLS’ Family Law Unit partners with **HarborCOV** (Communities Overcoming Violence) to expand access to legal services for low-income survivors of domestic violence, including those with limited English proficiency and immigrant survivors of violence, in harbor communities in Boston and the Boston area: East Boston, Charlestown, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. HarborCOV provides free safety and support services, and housing and economic opportunities to promote long-term stability for people affected by violence and abuse. The LAV project has enabled GBLS to focus more on serving the harbor communities of the Boston area, which has a high concentration of immigrants.



GBLS collaborates with the **Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI)** on a major project assisting hundreds of Haitian families and individuals resettled in Boston and throughout Massachusetts, to overcome numerous barriers to obtaining cash and food benefits, including a lack of documents readily recognized as establishing eligibility for benefits. Project activities include coordinating with IFSI and other organizations such as the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition and social workers at Boston Medical Center who has also referred clients.

* “GBLS’ collaboration with IFSI and other organizations welcoming newly arrived migrants has enabled us to reach hundreds of Haitians clients who might not otherwise have known that legal help with public benefits is available. Thanks to the referrals from IFSI, we not only ensured that the clients got the benefits they are eligible for, but we also identified systemic problems in the administration of these benefits that we have been working with state agencies to address.”

— Naomi Meyer, Senior Attorney, GBLS’ Welfare Law Unit



GBLS partners with **Rosie’s Place**, a multi-service community center in the South End that offers poor and homeless women a spectrum of emergency, long-term and expert support. We provide virtual weekly housing clinics and a virtual monthly family law clinic to the women they serve.

* “For too many of the guests of Rosie’s Place, navigating the court system while also navigating poverty, homelessness or a foreign language can be absolutely overwhelming. We are grateful to work with GBLS in providing critical help to women and their families that can often mean the difference between being homeless or housed, living in uncertainty or in stability. GBLS is a valued longtime and like-minded friend to our community.”

— Leemarie Mosca, President/CEO, Rosie’s Place

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*Gift in support of Asian Outreach
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Additional Acknowledgments

ADDITIONAL DONORS

We appreciate the generosity and support of all our donors, including our many friends who donated up to \$249 between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Thank you to our many donors who recommended that GBLS receive a grant from the Boston Foundation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Fidelity Charitable, Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Schwab Charitable Fund, Vanguard Charitable Gift Fund, or other donor advised funds or charitable matching gift programs.

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Thank you to the many individuals, companies and firms who generously donated gifts of goods or services. Your in-kind support helps GBLS conserve resources and serve as many clients and community members as possible.

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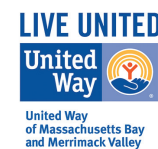
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We thank all of our funders for providing their support during these challenging times. We wish to acknowledge Liberty Mutual Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Boston Foundation, and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance for their additional COVID-19 relief funding.

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Fellows and students assisted GBLs' clients and staff through programs sponsored by the following school partners:

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 Williams College
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Congressionally Directed Spending

Under guidelines issued by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, members of Congress requested CDS funding for projects in their state for Fiscal Year 2022. CDS requests were restricted to a limited number of federal funding streams, and only state and local governments and eligible non-profit entities were permitted to receive CDS funding. GBLs applied for funding through the offices of Senator Warren and Markey and received FY2022 CDS funding to create GBLs' Family Stabilization Project. The project will help low-income families who are struggling financially in the wake of the pandemic. Project funding will expand GBLs' capacity to do outreach and assist low-income families in obtaining all available financial supports included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and the three rounds of the Economic Impact Payments.

Thank you to the additional community-based groups and social service organizations with whom GBLs partners, which are too numerous to list here. We appreciate your hard work on behalf of our mutual clients. The collaborative work we do with partners to remedy critical community needs makes a significant impact in the lives of many. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find effective solutions and approaches to addressing emerging issues in the communities we serve.

Staff & Volunteers

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Volunteer Attorneys

The following individuals, in addition to many law students, volunteered substantial commitments of time in FY2023 to GBLS and its clients. We are also very grateful to the many pro bono attorneys, too numerous to list here, who handled GBLS cases at their firms, participated in legal clinics, or provided research or other legal support.

Rhonda Berkower
 Jeanne Charn
 Michael Dworman
 Ron Eskin
 Monica Halas

Simon Levenson
 R. Hardin Matthews
 Robert Sable
 Howard Silverman
 Mary Wixted

Volunteers

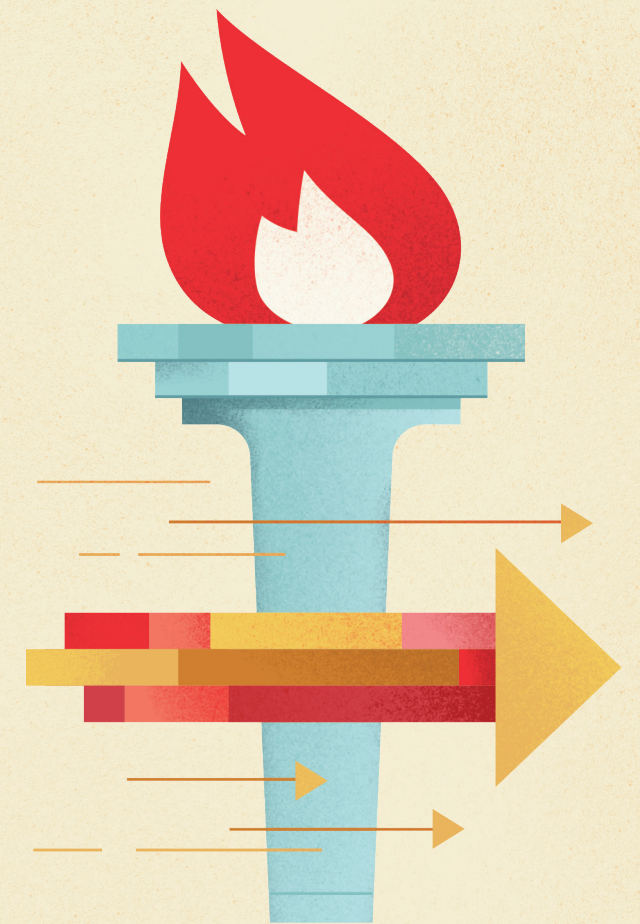
We are grateful to the following individuals who provided administrative or other services during the year.

Lisbeth Britz
 Simon Klein
 Jurett Mooltrey-Weathers
 William Rosenfeld
 Rebecca Warner

Racial Justice Institute & Shriver Center

A group of GBLS staff applied to and was selected by the Shriver Center in 2022 to join the Racial Justice Institute, to refine our capacity to successfully adopt racial justice advocacy within our daily practices, organizations, and communities, by developing tools to conduct community listening sessions and outreach. The goals are to focus on engaging more broadly and deeply with the communities GBLS serves, address community-generated needs, and continuing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work. After launching the organization-wide project, the team quickly learned that in order to fully engage with those communities, we had to take care of our internal GBLS community first and implement best practices for racial equity at GBLS.

After months of learning and coaching, listening and surveying colleagues and Board members, in February 2023 the team shared their findings with the organization. Their report distilled the recommended best practices for racial justice and envisions a navigable path forward for GBLS. Information and feedback sessions with GBLS employees on the feasibility, difficulty, and depth of the suggested actions are ongoing and the organization remains committed to this work. Moving forward, GBLS is operationalizing the racial justice roadmap stemming from the Institute through unit level training, racial justice caucusing, and inclusion in GBLS' long-term strategic plan.



Awards & Honors

GBLS' **Accounting** team, including Chief Financial Officer **Joanne Sanders**, was given special recognition at GBLS' 2022 Annual Meeting. Our Accounting team made sure funds received were processed, bills and invoices were paid, and payroll was met on time.

Luz Arévalo, Employment Law Unit Senior Attorney and director of GBLS' Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, was selected for the 2022 list of 12 American Bar Association Members Who Inspire.

Kate Barry, Family Law Unit Senior Attorney, received the 2022 Women's Bar Association Emerging Women Leaders in the Law Award, alongside GBLS board member **Emily Sy**. The award "honors women attorneys who have demonstrated professional excellence or had a significant professional achievement in approximately their first 12 years in the legal profession, and either promote the status of women in the legal profession or contribute meaningfully to the equal participation of women in a just society."

Kate Barry was also chosen for the highly-selective Boston Bar Association's 2023 Public Interest Leadership Program.

Jacquelynne Bowman, GBLS Executive Director, was one of three Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education volunteers recognized as 2023 Scholar-Mentors for their contributions to continuing legal education and service to the legal profession.

Nadine Cohen, then Consumer Rights Unit Managing Attorney (now retired), was honored with one of the 2023 Unsung Hero and Heroine Awards at the Fair Housing for Our Future, Laws & Litigation Conference.

Frank Czolpinski and **Mercer Edwards**, the members of GBLS' Operations Team, were given special recognition at GBLS' 2022 Annual Meeting. They ensured that building systems were in working order, repairs and upgrades made as needed, mail was distributed, and staff working remotely received needed supplies.

The Honorable **Raymond Dougan**, volunteer for the Consumer Rights Unit's Attorney for the Day program, was awarded the Richard W. "Archie" Southgate Volunteer Award at GBLS' 2022 Annual Meeting. This award was established in 1998 to honor "Archie" Southgate, former Managing Partner of Ropes & Gray, who upon retirement from the firm volunteered for three years as a staff attorney in GBLS' Employment Law Unit and helped to establish the Senior Lawyer Volunteer Program, which today is one of his many legacies at GBLS. This award is made annually to honor an outstanding volunteer at GBLS.

Laura Gal, Family Law Unit Managing Attorney, was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey to the new Judicial Nominating Commission.

Greater Boston Legal Services was honored by Minuteman Senior Services with a "Friend of Minuteman Senior Services" award, that "acknowledges contributors and collaborators that promote healthy aging within our 16 communities and across the Commonwealth...we have selected Greater Boston Legal Services as the recipient of this award in appreciation of your tireless work to provide legal assistance and advocacy on behalf of low-income individuals and families."

GBLS' **IT Department** was honored with a Dow-Gardiner-Landrum Award at GBLS' 2022 Annual Meeting. The Dow-Gardiner-Landrum Award was established in 1985 by the Board of Directors in memory of three late board members: Harry Dow, the first Asian attorney admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, who was extremely active on GBLS' board and the boards of various community and social services agencies; Bob Gardiner, who was an attorney with significant involvement with community agencies, especially GBLS; and Lily Landrum, a community activist and long-time client-eligible member of GBLS' board. The board created the award to honor staff and board members who demonstrate a long-term commitment to ensuring that poor people have access to justice.

Deena Zakim, Housing Unit Staff Attorney, was honored by her law school, Suffolk University Law School, as the 2023 Outstanding Clinical Alumna.

Commemorative Gifts

Gifts in Memory of:

Sarah Anderson
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GBLS Legacy Society

Members of the GBLS Legacy Society make a lasting commitment to legal services by including GBLS as a bequest in their will or through another planned giving instrument. GBLS thanks the following people for their enduring generosity.

John J. Carroll

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Julia Huston

Richard A. Marks

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Stephen H. Oleskey

David W. Rosenberg

Robert A. & Sloan K. Sable

Richard W. Southgate*

John B. Ward* & Joseph F. Miglorie

Stephen S. Young

*Deceased

Corporation Members

GBLS' Corporation is comprised of members of the community – including lawyers, clients, and interested citizens – who are elected to five-year terms. These individuals serve GBLS by electing the Board of Directors and the Officers of the Corporation and by conducting any required business.

As of June 30, 2023

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Afghan Refugee Project

The Afghan Refugee Project is a new statewide effort funded by the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and coordinated by the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project to deliver immigration-related legal aid to Afghan nationals who have been evacuated by the U.S. government and resettled in Massachusetts through the International Institute of New England, Jewish Family Services, or referred by PAIR. GBLS has two immigration attorneys dedicated to this timely project providing holistic representation to clients, including helping them access educational opportunities, healthcare and health insurance, and answer questions about other areas of need, such as their housing, employment, drivers' licenses, state benefits, or other matters. GBLS' legal representation has included submitting family reunification applications for six clients to help bring their spouses and children to the U.S. Based on GBLS' efforts this far, one client's wife and four children were evacuated and are now living safely in the U.S. as refugees.



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As of June 30, 2023

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