

ANNUAL REPORT

LAST
PRISONER
PROJECT



FIGHTING CRIMINAL INJUSTICE
AND REIMAGINING DRUG POLICY

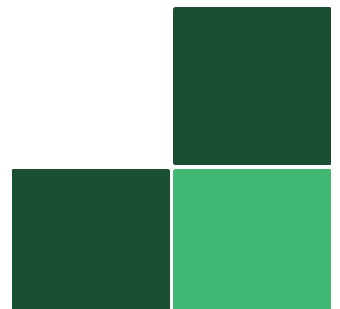


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**Stephanie
Shepard**

Executive Director

A Letter from our Executive Director

2025 was a year of steady and determined progress at Last Prisoner Project.

Behind every headline about legalization, there are still people waiting, waiting for a second look at their sentence, waiting for clemency, waiting for the chance to come home. This year, we stayed grounded in that reality. We advanced individual clemency and sentence review cases in state and federal systems, supported families navigating complex parole processes, and challenged excessive supervision that keeps people tethered to punishment long after release.

We also strengthened our policy work, advocating for retroactive relief, fairer sentencing structures, and reforms that make second chances real, not rhetorical. And internally, we invested in building a stronger foundation so our work is thoughtful, measurable, and built to last.

What I carry most from 2025 are the human moments, the calls with families, the partnerships formed, the quiet milestones that mean everything to the people living them. This work is complex, but it is deeply personal. I am profoundly grateful to our staff, Board, pro bono partners, and especially our donors. Your belief in this mission sustains it. You make it possible for us to keep showing up, case by case, policy by policy.

As we look toward 2026, our commitment only deepens. We will continue accelerating sentence relief, advancing durable reforms, and strengthening pathways home for those who have waited far too long. There is more to do, but together, we are moving justice forward.

SIX YEARS OF IMPACT

POLICY

250K+

SENTENCES DISMISSED,
MODIFIED, OR CLEARED

10

BILLS
PASSED

24

STATES
ENGAGED

LEGAL

14,376

PRO BONO HOURS
WORKED ON CASES

22

PRESIDENTIAL
PARDONS GRANTED

\$9.1M

VALUE OF PRO BONO
LEGAL WORK

DIRECT SUPPORT

\$3.7M

ALL-TIME TOTAL DISTRIBUTED TO
CONSTITUENT SUPPORT INITIATIVES

550+

LPP CONSTITUENTS WHO HAVE
RECEIVED A REENTRY GRANT



2025 Legal Overview



Mariah Daly
CJI Director

The Cannabis Justice Initiative (CJI) operates at the heart of LPP's mission, **providing direct pro bono legal services to over 300 constituents. LPP has recruited, trained, and supported 379 attorneys and 73 law firms** to secure freedom for non-violent cannabis offenders through legal intervention via clemency, compassionate release (CR), resentencing, pardon, and early termination of supervised release (ETSR).

Most notably, in January of 2025, **President Biden granted clemency to 9 LPP constituents--Albert Madrid, Claudio Martinez, John Newton, Jose Sepulveda, Leonel Villasenor, Kerry Collier, Daniel Gallegos, Melvin Garland, and Robert Thomas-- eliminating a total of 53 years and 2 life terms** from their sentences. As President Trump's presidential term began, LPP continued to advocate for commutations with the Office of Pardon Attorney and Pardon Czar Alice Johnson.

Additionally, **CR was granted to 5 constituents in our legal program:** Artis Slade, Michael Masecchia, Veronica Morales, Shannon Williams, and Harold Klump. **ETSR was granted to 7 constituents:** Ariel Pena, Andy Cox, Clyde Baer, Lesli Kennedy, John Knock, Alex Campbell, and Daverne Foy. At the end of 2025, **LPP won pardon for Steven Kadonsky under New Jersey Governor Murphy, eliminating his life sentence of parole.**

At the close of 2025, **LPP has provided over 14K hours of pro bono legal representation, valued at over \$9.1 million dollars.** These efforts have led to **over 200 legal filings, with LPP submitting over 500 letters in support.** Collectively, **LPP's legal wins have resulted in the elimination of 358.78 years and 9 life terms** from our constituents' sentences.

In 2024, LPP partnered with Maryland Governor Wes Moore to design the largest single-day pardon proclamation in American history. It was the first pardon proclamation ever to include paraphernalia in addition to simple possession of cannabis offenses. In 2025, Governor Moore pardoned an additional 6,938 convictions, bringing the total number of pardons to over 175,000. During the legislative session, LPP collaborated with in-state partners and the Moore Administration to pass SB 432, a law that further refined the expungement process and reduced access to criminal records for cannabis-related charges, ensuring that individuals who received a pardon are shielded from the collateral consequences.

In Hawai'i, following the creation of the state's first-ever automatic expungement law, designed by LPP, the legislature further streamlined the process by passing HB 132, which ensures that all eligible records are identified and cleared. Together, the pair of laws has resulted in over 1,321 expungement orders. In the four years leading up to the pair of bills, only two people had cleared their criminal records. LPP also continues to serve on the Clean Slate Task Force, created by legislation championed by LPP, to inform the design and implementation of broader criminal record relief.

Lastly, LPP Policy Director Adrian Rocha was a featured speaker at this year's Psychedelic Science Conference in Denver, Colorado. With more than 5,000 attendees, LPP seized the moment to remind people that as the science around the therapeutic benefits of psychedelics evolves, we cannot lose sight of the individuals who have been and continue to be punished criminally for seeking access to these substances.

2025 Policy Overview



Adrian Rocha
Policy Director

2025 Direct Support Overview



Mary Bailey
Managing Director

REENTRY SUPPORT

At Last Prisoner Project, one of our objectives is to ease the challenges of life after incarceration. **We provide reentry grants to constituents who have recently been released, helping cover essentials like housing, transportation, food, and clothing,** as well as job training and other supportive services. By addressing immediate needs and creating pathways to stability, these grants empower our constituents to rebuild their lives, reconnect with their communities, and help lower recidivism.

LETTER WRITING PROGRAM

LPP's letter-writing program makes it easy for supporters to connect with people incarcerated for cannabis, offering a powerful reminder that they have not been forgotten. Through this deeply impactful program, **we have facilitated tens of thousands of heartfelt letters from individuals across the country, fostering hope, strengthening human connection,** and bridging the gap between communities and those harmed by unjust cannabis laws.

CONSTITUENT VOICES

“

I will forever be a part of the Last Prisoner Project because they truly make a positive impact by their actions and their support for our families. They are always present for us and they always show up for us.

”

MICHAEL LUJAN

HAS SERVED OVER 12 YEARS OF A 15+
YEAR SENTENCE FOR CANNABIS

“

Harold got help with commissary funding and reentry support and we were so elated that somebody cared and that we were not walking this walk alone.

”

VICKIE THOMAS

HUSBAND, HAROLD, SERVED 8+
YEARS FOR CANNABIS

“

Thank you, Last Prisoner Project! You were my voice when I had none, carried my case when it seemed too heavy, and answered decades of prayers for freedom. I feel reborn and a changed man, ready to live for the second chance you fought for.

”

JOSE SEPULVEDA

LIFE SENTENCE COMMUTED AFTER
SERVING 28 YEARS

“

I appreciate everything Last Prisoner Project has done to support me financially and emotionally. The LPP team really looks out for all of us cannabis prisoners. I'm so grateful to be free and able to step outside and breathe fresh air after spending almost 22 years in prison.

”

LEONEL VILLASEÑOR

LIFE SENTENCE COMMUTED AFTER
SERVING 22 YEARS

UNITY WEEK 2025

LPP led the Cannabis Week of Unity for a 2nd year in a row, bringing our constituents to capitol hill to give them the opportunity to speak their truth directly to Congress and the White House. LPP along with hundreds of participants from 20+ allied organizations from the political left, right and industry contacted all 535 members of congress, and held a rally for cannabis prisoner justice in front of the White House.



2025 Advocacy Highlights



Jason Ortiz
Director of Strategic
Initiatives



RESTORING FREEDOM AND FINDING BALANCE VETERANS CAMPAIGN

LPP Partnered with the Balanced Veterans Network to host a coordinated lobby day to push for legislation to eliminate penalties for veterans who use cannabis, with a specific push to hold meetings with Republican members of congress.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Last year, Last Prisoner Project received national and international accolades for our unwavering commitment to ending cannabis incarceration and advancing justice.



CANNES GLASS LION: LION OF CHANGE

LPP's "Pen to Right History" campaign was honored with a Silver Glass Lion at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, spotlighting initiatives that foster lasting cultural change and equity through creativity.



ADCOLOR AWARDS: CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

At the 19th Annual ADCOLOR Awards, LPP's "Pen to Right History" campaign was named Campaign of the Year, showcasing our relentless focus on vacating cannabis-related convictions and advocating for justice.



THE EMJAYS: ORG OF THE YEAR

In December 2025, LPP was named Activist Organization of the Year for the third consecutive year, recognizing consistent leadership and impact in advancing cannabis justice across the industry.



Happy Valley

GTI

Partnerships

Our partners' commitment powered our work for justice in 2025. Because of them, more people have come home, more families have received reentry support, and more stories have been lifted up to challenge the harm of outdated drug laws.

Partners for Freedom

Champion

Dutchie

RAW

GTI

iAnthus

Reformers

Apotheca

Native Roots

Cheba Hut

Wana Brands

Advocates

Stash Ventures

Delisoso

Beyond / Hello

Good Day Farm

Uncle Ike's

Goodwin

A Shop of Things

Ethos Cannabis

Supporters

Pleasantrees

Potency

Aura Advisors

Last Podcast on the Left

Nature's Grace

K Savage

Activist

Canopy Growth

The Peach Fuzz

REVERB

Skyworld

Justice Grown

Releaf Botanicals

Nature's Care and Wellness

Treehouse (CA)

General Hydroponics

Sweed

Garden Remedies

Potency

Nova Farms

Vlasic Labs

Roll it Up for Justice

Roll It Up For Justice is a nationwide campaign that empowers cannabis businesses to educate customers, spread awareness of our mission, and offer the option to donate to Last Prisoner Project at checkout. Small change adds up, and every cent raised moves us closer to freeing every last drug war prisoner.

[See a full list of participating dispensaries on our Roll it Up for Justice website.](#)

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

The Last Prisoner Project has achieved a Four-Star Charity designation from Charity Navigator and a Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating on Candid, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. These ratings put us in the top 0.1% of charities nationally in terms of transparency.

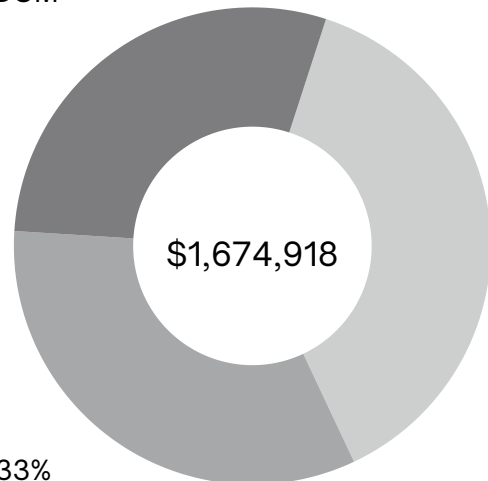


SUPPORT & REVENUE

GENERAL DONATIONS: \$642,823
PARTNERS FOR FREEDOM: \$482,447
ROLL IT UP FOR JUSTICE: \$549,648
TOTAL: \$1,674,918

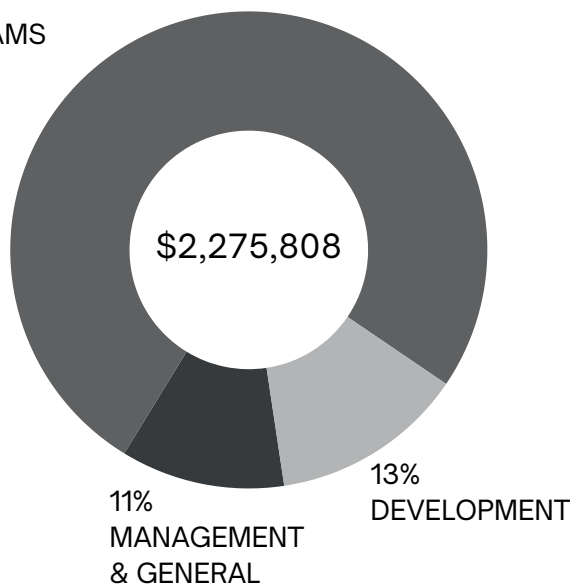
29%
PARTNERS FOR
FREEDOM

38%
GENERAL
DONATIONS



33%
ROLL IT UP
FOR JUSTICE

76%
PROGRAMS



EXPENSES

PROGRAMS: \$1,710,918
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$251,600
DEVELOPMENT: \$313,290
TOTAL: \$2,275,808

*Partners for Freedom is our corporate sponsorship program.

*Roll It Up For Justice is a program that enables consumers to donate their spare change to LPP at retail stores. 990 forms are posted to our website as they become available.



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