



2020 Annual Report



LASC

The Legal Aid Society of Columbus

matter

godsend

record time

great

understanding

respect

jobs

listen

legal aid

help

voice

attorney

service

amazing

lawyer

experience

relief

Our Mission

LASC provides civil legal aid and advocacy to combat unfairness and injustice and to help people rise out of poverty.

Cover photos:

Education Client Phuorever Reed (top left)

Reed's mother, Shanntina Wilson, (at left) confers with LASC attorney Karin Nordstrom. (top right)

Wage Garnishment Client Cindy Kimbler (bottom left)

While 2020 was a tough year, we have never been prouder of our staff and the work they do on behalf of central Ohio low-income families and individuals. When the pandemic hit, LASC continued serving our clients without interruption despite the shift to more remote work. We were able to get materials online quickly, share with community partners, and stay current regarding the many changes to programs and laws regarding COVID-19.

Despite COVID-19 safety risks, our Tenant Advocacy Project staff and volunteers continued to appear in person throughout the year providing representation to many of the 100 families and individuals scheduled for eviction hearings daily. That representation yielded incredible results: 50% kept their existing housing, and 99% avoided a judgment entry. We saved an average of \$463 per household, and added an average time of 12.5 days for those who had to move to find housing and avoid homelessness.

We shifted staff to address the 597% increase in unemployment compensation issues. We worked on individual cases, but also systemically addressed barriers to access including for those who have Limited English Proficiency.

LASC remained proactive in its advocacy as well as providing legal support for local low-income businesses; using nuisance abatements to increase the stock of affordable quality housing; and litigating systemic issues such as the improper use of affidavits in evictions and the failure to provide appointed counsel in adoption cases.

While much of 2020 was uncertain, our representation and advocacy remained strong in large part because of your support – and for that – we are incredibly grateful.

Sincerely,

Janica Pierce Tucker
LASC Board Chair

Kathleen C. McGarvey
Executive Director



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22,593 PEOPLE HELPED IN 2020



10,011

Children

10,786

Adults

1,796

Seniors

"My experience with Legal Aid was amazing."

—LASC client

9,681

total cases



17% increase

in the number of clients
with no income between
2019 and 2020.



15% decrease

in the number of clients
with income over \$50,000
between 2019 and 2020.

PANDEMIC EXACERBATES FRANKLIN COUNTY HOUSING CRISIS

LASC Housing Team Stops Evictions with On-site Help

In a city where rising housing costs leave many people on the verge of missing a rent payment in normal times, the COVID-19 pandemic severely worsened Columbus' eviction crisis. Thousands of tenants suddenly lost jobs, and without savings, were forced to make unimaginable choices about whether to buy groceries, pay utility bills or pay rent. While Franklin County Municipal Court paused eviction hearings from mid-March through May 31, it continued to accept eviction filings. When the court re-opened for hearings at the Columbus Convention Center on June 1, officials faced a backlog of more than 1,000 cases, each representing a tenant who would now face the loss of their housing during a global health crisis. The building, which had initially been outfitted as a field hospital to help COVID-19 patients, was repurposed to hold socially distanced hearings to determine whether landlords could evict their tenants. Since its re-opening, eviction court has processed about 100 cases every single day.

With its court-based legal clinic, the Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP), LASC was well-positioned to address this crisis and prevent hundreds of families from being thrown out of their homes. TAP moved its operations to the Convention Center, allowing LASC attorneys and volunteers to represent clients in their eviction cases the same day they signed up for services. Recognizing the importance of this work, the city of Columbus funded five new temporary attorneys to work at the clinic.

LASC attorneys were quick to utilize new legal developments, including the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) eviction moratorium, to prevent families from losing their homes and risking their health by doubling up with family members or moving into a shelter during the pandemic.

Despite the CDC's "eviction moratorium," evictions did not stop.

In Franklin County, renters – including families, people with health conditions and senior citizens – received court orders to leave their homes. Tenants must proactively invoke the moratorium in order to benefit from it—and many are unaware of its protections. Some tenants who apply the moratorium still lose their case, meaning they will be put out of their home as soon as the moratorium expires.

"The moratorium has been implemented poorly," said Marcus Roth, communications and development director at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. "People have to know about it. They have to apply for it. The damage evictions have on families and children can be really long term."

Nonetheless, through community education and outreach efforts and its daily presence advocating for tenants, LASC has remained on the front lines of the effort to keep low-income tenants safely housed during this unprecedented time of risk and uncertainty.

At right: Franklin County Eviction Court at the Columbus Convention Center.



TAP Helps Single Mother Keep Home

When Umu Conteh contracted COVID-19, it upended her life. The single mother of two daughters aged 1 and 4 lost her job and income. Conteh, who immigrated to the U.S. from Sierra Leone, supported her girls by working nights as a nursing assistant. Although she cut back on food and other expenses, she fell behind on rent. In September, she opened her door and discovered an eviction notice.



Unsure and afraid, she sought help from TAP. Attorney Patsy Thomas assisted her in getting rental assistance. Her landlord accepted the back rent and withdrew the eviction case. Conteh, who recently renewed her lease with help from Thomas, has found another job and feels confident in her ability to support her family. She's grateful that LASC helped keep her family safe. "I really appreciate you," she said. "You put joy in my heart."

Between September and December, more than 4,000
evictions were filed in Franklin County Municipal Court.

Fewer than 20 were halted by the CDC moratorium.

Above: Umu Conteh with her daughter

Social Worker Helps Address Root Cause of Housing Issues

LASC social worker Chris Kelly, who joined the housing team in late 2019, plays a critical role at eviction court. He refers tenants to agencies that can help with rent, assists those who are evicted in finding new homes, and intercedes in cases where clients may have mental health conditions or other barriers that make it difficult for them to secure stable housing. Many people who come to court need additional help navigating the system, said Robby Southers, managing attorney for the Franklin County Municipal Court Self Help Resource Center.

"Social work services are essential," he said. "Many people who we refer to a social worker have fallen behind on rent because there are other things going on. Chris does a fantastic job making sure everyone gets the services they need. Addressing these other issues makes it possible for attorneys to better represent the client."

Appellate Court Rules Landlords Must Give Testimony in Eviction Trials

For more than 30 years, Franklin County landlords were able to evict tenants by simply slipping an affidavit into the court file rather than presenting a live witness at trial. In September, a ruling by the Tenth District Court of Appeals halted the decades-long practice that no other courts in a major Ohio city allowed. Requiring landlords to appear makes the eviction process more equitable for tenants and also increases opportunities for the parties to reach a mutually beneficial settlement. The decision in *T&R Properties v. Wimberly* overrides a long-standing policy in eviction court that allowed landlords or property managers to plead their case via affidavit while tenants were required to be present for the trial.

The ruling follows an appeal filed by LASC in August 2019 on behalf of Traci Wimberly. LASC represented Wimberly, a single mother of two, who was evicted from her Canal Winchester apartment during a court hearing where neither she nor her landlord were present. LASC argued that landlords have to present live witness testimony at trial just like any other plaintiff involved in a court proceeding.

Nine social service agencies, the city of Columbus, and the Columbus Women's Commission filed amicus briefs in support of Wimberly, arguing that parties should be treated fairly and equally, which includes requiring both parties to call witnesses to prove their case at trial.

In its decision, the Tenth District Court of Appeals found that the rules of court requiring live testimony apply to eviction cases. Eviction judgments can no longer be issued based on affidavit alone.

"I had lost hope," Wimberly said. "Just the simple experience with Legal Aid alone gave me the motivation I needed to finish the race I started. Thanks for supporting families you don't know a thing about. What you guys do there makes a difference."

"When a family loses stable housing, everything is thrown into chaos," said Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther.

"This decision represents real and tangible change to a system that disproportionately impacts single women, especially women of color. I am grateful to the Columbus Women's Commission and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus for their diligent work on an issue that has become even more critical in the time of COVID-19."

COVID-19 RELATED JOB LOSSES OVERWHELM UNEMPLOYMENT SYSTEM, INCREASE LASC BENEFITS WORK

Pregnant Woman Moves Out of Homeless Shelter with LASC Help

Tunisia Powell was referred to LASC by her healthcare provider in July following a prenatal appointment where she shared that she was having an issue collecting unemployment. At the time of her referral, she was nearing her due date and living in a homeless shelter. The mother of five lost her job in April. Although she had applied for unemployment compensation, she had not received any money.

LASC Attorney Kristy Michel reviewed the case and determined that Powell was one of more than 270,000 people whose application was erroneously flagged as a potential fraud case in July 2020. The misidentification barred eligible applicants like Powell from receiving benefits they were entitled to from the federal unemployment compensation program. To resolve the issue, Powell needed to submit a variety of documents to prove her identity and employment history.

Michel paired up with paralegal Ashlie Sefchick and volunteer law clerk Sam DeWitt to gather the required paperwork and forward it to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. A little over a week later, LASC received an update that Powell's case was resolved. Within a few days she began receiving a weekly benefit of \$189, as well as back-pay, totaling more than \$13,000.



Tunisia Powell

Unemployment cases
increased **600%**.

Our effort resulted in:

- Payouts of \$450,169 in back benefits
- The distribution of \$1,369,179.60 in weekly benefits
- ODJFS writing off \$11,444 in overpaid benefits due to ODJFS error

COVID-19 Causes Record Unemployment Numbers

When COVID-19 related restrictions on business operations and social gatherings began in March, LASC saw an immediate increase in requests for assistance with unemployment compensation cases. Attorneys experienced in unemployment law quickly put together resources to train other staff attorneys and volunteers to handle the cases.

Requests for help continued as the pandemic stretched into summer and fall and Ohio's unemployment rate hit record numbers. Laid-off workers sought help navigating the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) unemployment system, which was not up to the task of processing the surge of applications. Online applicants routinely had difficulty resetting their PIN in order to access the system, which delayed payments. Those without internet access struggled to reach ODJFS representatives by phone. Callers routinely reported getting disconnected after waiting on hold for hours.

Clients also needed help accessing new programs created to address hardships caused by the pandemic. In addition to traditional unemployment compensation benefits, federal COVID-19 relief bills created Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for individuals who were directly impacted by COVID-19 and who would otherwise not be eligible for benefits – self-employed individuals, contract workers, or those with insufficient work histories.

By year's end, 12 LASC attorneys were handling unemployment cases in some capacity and a total of 33 volunteers participated in the unemployment pro bono program. Together they handled nearly 600 unemployment cases, helping clients obtain more than \$450,000 in backdated benefits and more than \$1.3 million in weekly benefits.



LASC Connects Barber to Needed Benefits After Pandemic Shuts Shop

Anthony Kelso, owner of Kelso's Barber Shop, was forced to shut down his business because of pandemic restrictions against personal services. He filed for unemployment, but after three months of trying to contact ODJFS, he never received any money. Worried he would be evicted, he put his belongings in storage and moved in with family.

Finally, he reached out to LASC. The public benefits team alerted ODJFS to Kelso's situation and worked with them to resolve the issue. After months of waiting, he received nearly \$20,000 in back benefits.

"If it weren't for your legal team stepping up and helping, I don't know how long I would have waited," said Kelso, who recently started a business selling t-shirts. "I don't know how much longer I could have held on. I'm just glad you guys were there to help."

LEGAL AID EXPANDS OUTREACH DURING PANDEMIC

COVID-19 Response Includes Virtual Clinics, Videos, Social Media Campaigns

When Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued the state's first stay-at-home order in March, LASC immediately looked for innovative ways to connect with low-income Ohioans and help them access the critical services to keep a roof overhead and food on the table. We knew our individual clients as well as our many partner agencies would turn to us for help understanding the impact of the pandemic, accessing much-needed benefits and navigating new programs intended to help. LASC quickly identified an alternative to in-person clinics, launched a COVID-19 page on our website and developed numerous informational social media and video campaigns.

In mid-March, LASC and our sister organization, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, became the first legal aid programs in the state to convert all clinics to a virtual model. Volunteer attorneys consulted with clients during scheduled phone calls. They fielded questions from individuals who had lost jobs and were worried about making rent and mortgage payments, and counseled essential workers trying to feed their families and keep their utilities on while enduring a wage garnishment. Other callers had concerns about divorces, wills and custody agreements.

In the midst of widespread confusion about unemployment compensation and tenant rights in May, members of the public benefits and housing teams participated in a call-in television show hosted by an NBC affiliate to answer questions from viewers.

Staff created informational brochures highlighting everything from obtaining emergency food benefits and preventing utility shut-offs to avoiding scams and following custody rules. Renters, laid-off workers, students, parents and other individuals – as well as community groups and the media – utilized this information, which we continuously posted and updated on a COVID-19 information page on the website.

Our COVID-19 work group used these documents to develop social media posts highlighting the most critical information. The team also recorded videos through a branded “Helping from Home” effort to clearly explain the complicated steps to protect a mortgage, invoke the Centers for Disease Control moratorium and resolve other common issues with landlords.

LASC and SEOLS also partnered with other Ohio legal aids in two statewide social media campaigns. In September, the legal aids launched the #LostInTheSystem campaign designed to draw attention to ongoing issues with the state's unemployment compensation system and inform struggling Ohioans that free help was available. In October, during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Ohio legal aids again joined forces to raise awareness of the dangers of lead poisoning and a concerning decrease in the number of children undergoing lead testing during the pandemic.

Having problems getting through to ODJFS about unemployment?

According to ODJFS, wait times are shorter on weekends. Their extended weekend hours are:

Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday 9 AM – 1 PM

For regular unemployment, call 1-877-644-6562.

For PUA, call 1-833-604-0774.

If you are #lostinthetystem and can't resolve your issues, you can call your local legal aid for help.



Helping from Home

Throughout the pandemic, staff from LASC and SEOLS worked side by side on outreach and communication efforts to maximize their limited resources while responding to the needs of a large and diverse audience. The partnership allowed us to quickly share general updates with the entire region while still maintaining a local focus, and when necessary, compile detailed information for individual communities with more specific concerns.



Brian* lost his job at the start of the pandemic. The 21-year-old applied for unemployment, but the system never recorded the weeks for which he requested benefits. He tried to address the system by visiting an ODJFS location that was closed. He also tried to phone the agency on multiple occasions but was never able to get through to a person who could help. He contacted Legal Aid. We investigated his case and made an argument for ODJFS to honor the claims that he was unable to file, including those which would be considered too late. An employee there was able to correct his application and he began receiving benefits, including the claims that he was unable to file before.

*name changed to protect privacy

Don't stay #LOSTINTHESYSTEM. CALL LEGAL AID FOR HELP.





Work Continues to Assist Other Nonprofits Focused on Helping Low-income Families Thrive

LASC expanded its work empowering other organizations committed to serving low-income individuals. Through an Ohio Access to Justice Foundation grant, we provided legal support to nonprofits and small businesses that are addressing community needs and working to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods.

Attorneys provided legal assistance to EJ's Warrior Karate Academy in Columbus. In addition to teaching martial arts, the studio, which is located in a low-income neighborhood, helps stabilize families. Students receive lessons on developing self-confidence, building relationships and maintaining healthy lifestyles, said program founder Ellis "EJ" Jennings. To assist families during the pandemic, Jennings provided workspace and Wi-Fi access for children whose parents could not oversee their schooling because of work or whose household was not connected to the Internet. Jennings worked with local schools to provide breakfast and lunch.

Applying martial arts principles to schoolwork had a positive impact on many of the program participants. Several students who previously struggled with academics made the honor roll or received awards for perfect attendance. "It's created hope for the kids," Jennings said. "It expands their mind and makes them think about the future. They think, 'Maybe I can do this.'"

*At left: Children completing schoolwork at EJ's Warrior Karate Academy
At right: Ellis "EJ" Jennings*



Study Finds Racial Discrimination Rarely Addressed In Military Discharge Upgrades

A study by LASC attorney Karin Nordstrom found that the military boards charged with addressing veterans' discharge upgrade requests grant claims on the basis of racial discrimination at a lower rate than their overall grant rate. Aware of the systemic and cultural racism that is an evident component of the military's history, Nordstrom sought to dive into how such unjust practices have impacted Black veterans. Her study, *No Justice, No Peace: The Military's Failure to Repair Racial Trauma of Black Veterans*, shines a light on trends that desperately warrant modification and the need for greater accountability throughout the military. It was conducted in partnership with Horace Walker, National Association of Minority Veterans, Chapter Commander and Tziporah Tiller, Ohio State University student.



The study, which looks at discharge upgrade decisions between 2010 and 2020, reveals that upgrades based on racial trauma occur in less than 17 percent of the cases—with most rates far lower. Each branch of the military has two boards that decide discharge upgrade requests. Discharge Review Boards (DRB) handle petitions from Veterans within 15 years of their discharge. Veterans with an older discharge or who were denied by the DRB apply to a Board for Correction of Military Records.

"Unlike most administrative and civil courts that place statutes of limitation on a victim's ability to seek redress from employee discrimination or harassment, members of the military have an almost unlimited time frame to request a remedy. The military is in a unique position in that it could use its lenient time frame policy to make amends for a long history of racial discrimination in the armed forces," Nordstrom explained. "Hopefully, this is the start of an ongoing conversation about the role of the corrections boards and their handling of racial trauma claims."

Report Findings | Percentage Grant Rate for Racial Trauma Claim

Army	Navy & Marines	Air Force
Discharge Review Boards:	Discharge Review Boards:	Discharge Review Boards:
11.54	0	5
Board for Correction of Military Records:	Board for Correction of Naval Records:	Board for Correction of Military Records:
6.73	0	16.67

Ohio High Court Finds in Favor of LASC: Indigent Parents Must Have Counsel in Adoption Proceedings



The Supreme Court of Ohio ruled in December that indigent parents facing the loss of their parental rights in adoption proceedings in probate court are entitled to appointed counsel just like indigent parents facing the termination of their parental rights in juvenile court.

The case of *In re Adoption of Y.E.F.*, Slip Opinion No. 2020-Ohio-6785 involves Erica Starkey, the mother of twin boys born

in 2014. When their father emptied the family's bank account and fled the area in April 2015 to avoid being arrested for a federal crime, Starkey asked the father's sister and her husband to care for the children. Although Starkey intended that the arrangement be temporary, the aunt and uncle sought custody of the twins. Even though she was awarded visitation rights, the aunt and uncle denied her requests.

In April 2018, the aunt and uncle filed petitions in Delaware County Probate Court to adopt the twins. Prior to the hearing, Starkey filed a request for appointed counsel and included a letter from LASC raising the question of why indigent parents defending their rights are treated differently depending on whether the action occurs in a probate or juvenile court. The court denied the mother's request and scheduled an adoption hearing.

During the hearing, Starkey again asserted her desire for an attorney. She told the court: "I didn't know that this would be a whole cross-examination ... maybe I should get an attorney." When testimony in the case ran long,

the judge continued it to a later date. Before the hearing could be restarted, Starkey, with the help of LASC and its sister organization, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, began a legal challenge claiming that indigent parents facing the loss of their parental rights in probate court should receive the same right to counsel provided to indigent parents in juvenile court.

In December, the Supreme Court of Ohio agreed, saying: "We conclude that R.C. 2152.352 is unconstitutionally underinclusive as applied to indigent parents facing the loss of their parental rights in probate court ... we declare that indigent parents are entitled to counsel in adoption proceedings in probate court as a matter of equal protection under the law of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution."

Starkey, who thought she was doing what was best for her children during a bad time, wept when she learned of the decision. "This is the most joy I have felt in years," she said. "It's been a long time since I cried tears of happiness. I hope this will help other mothers and fathers. No parent should have to endure the pain of not seeing their children."

At left: LASC assisted Navy Veteran Jenkins Smith in his efforts to obtain a discharge upgrade.

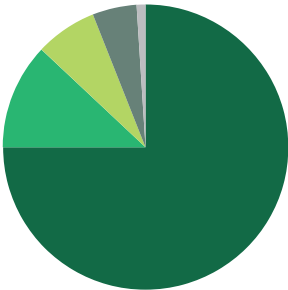
At right: Erica Starkey



Financials

2020 Revenue

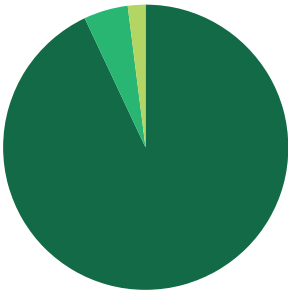
\$8,260,000



Grants	75.1%
Contributions	7%
PPP Loan Forgiven	12.1%
Investment Income	5.2%
Attorney Fees/Other	0.6%
	<hr/> 100.0%

2020 Expenses

\$6,630,000



Legal Program	90.6%
General & Administrative	7.3%
Fundraising	2.1%
	<hr/> 100.0%

Donors

\$2 Million - \$3 Million

Legal Services Corporation
Ohio Access to Justice Foundation

\$200,000 - \$500,000

City of Columbus
Columbus Foundation

\$100,000 - \$199,999

ADAMH Board of Franklin County
Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging – Title III
Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services – Title XX
Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Ohioans for Better Birth Outcomes
United States Department of Justice – Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act
United States Internal Revenue Service Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

United Way of Central Ohio
\$50,000 - \$99,999
Franklin County Office on Aging – Senior Options
GUND Foundation

\$20,000 - \$49,999
Alvis House
American Electric Power
Patricia R. Forman
Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs
National Health Law Foundation
Nationwide Foundation
Ohio State Bar Foundation
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP
Supreme Court of Ohio
United Way of North Central Ohio

\$10,000 - \$19,999
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
American College of Bankruptcy
Julia Backoff
Bricker & Eckler
John Gilligan
Harry C. Moores Foundation
Ice Miller, LLP
Jones Day
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP
Stanley R. Ross
United Way of Union County

\$5,000-\$9,999
Area Agency on Aging, Ohio District 5
Larry Babich
Bailey Cavalieri
BakerHostetler
Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff
Dinsmore & Shohl

Dr. Michael and Brenda Drake
Hexion, Inc. - Racial Justice Work
James E. Arnold & Associates, LP
Marion County Foundation
Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services
SourcePoint
United Way of Delaware County
\$2,500-\$4,999
David Alexander
Anonymous
Rhodes and Lisa Baker
Battelle - Corporate Match
Stephen Buchenroth
Cardinal Health
Steven L. and Sandra P. Faulkner
Catriona R. Itani, Honor of Stuart Itani
Patrick Jarvis
Kathleen Lawrence
Nationwide

Zane Neilsen	IFF	Shalom Grants Jewish Columbus	Mina and Jam Khorrami
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Weiler	Kevin and Allie Irwin	Melissa Trusken,	Brandon J. Lester
Mark Whitt	JP Morgan Chase	Peter and Jane Welin	Richard Louke
Adam Winter	Judge Preisse Re-Election	Matthew White	Alexander Main
	Jeffrey J. Jurca	Lisa Yerrace	Annie Mathews
\$1,000-\$2,400	Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter		Christina McIntyre
Allen Stovall Neuman Fisher & Ashton LLP	George Knight	\$500-\$999	Shannon Mitchell
Alliance Data - Corporate Match	Melodee S. Kornacker	Ameriprise Financial	Philip Moots
Alliance Data - Anonymous	LBrands	Carlile Patchen	Vivian Opelt
James Barnes	Kee Lee, Honor of Sophia Chang	Carrillo Law, LLC	Angela Phelps-White
Lawrence Baum	Jan Legg	Steve Chappellear	Janica Pierce Tucker
Sally Bloomfield	Andrew Marvie	Deborah Crawford	Victoria Powers
John Boyer	McDonald Hopkins	Credit Education Coalition	Kristina Redgrave
John and Susan Boylan, Honor of David J. Boylan and Kara Herrnstein	Susan McGarvey	Dr. Beverly S. Darwin, MD	Ronald and Barbara Rowland
	Laura Nichols	Sharon Hanrahan	Schneider Downs
JC Cangilla	Shawn and Beth Organ	William Harter	Anne Marie Sferra, Memory of Kurt Tunnell
Molly Crabtree	Lisa Pierce Reisz	John and Lisa Hartranft	
Chris Banvard and Paula Deming	PricewaterhouseCoopers - Corporate Match	Elizabeth and Jay Heiser	Sandra Smith, CNN report on TAP
Kevin Duffy		The Honorable John and Lisa Hoffman	Jed Sonstroem
Pamela J. Grandon	Anne Marie Sferra	Key Bank	Megan Stafford

Melody J. Stewart	Laura Attack	Kelly Blake	John Cannizzaro
Strip Hoppers Leithart McGrath & Terlecky	Erick Aunderung	Alice Blankenship	Caitlin Canton
Myron and Karen Terlecky	Tonya M. Bailey	Christine Blend	Rosina Caponi
Susan Thompson	BalletMet	Michele Bogden, Honor of Dennis Bogden	Matthew Carberry
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Weisberg	Jo Elle and Dam Barath, Memory of Scott Benson	Katrina J. Bong	Cardinal Health
Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co.	Barcelona	Carlie J. Boos	Robert Carpenter
Joseph Winner	Thierno Barry	Norma Boyer	Jill Casey
G. Thomas Worley and Dr. Nancy J. Loy	Ann Bartek, Memory of Scott Benson	Marc Bragin	Lisa Catlett
Heidi Yurkiw	Robert A. Bauchmire	Brassica	Todd Celmar
\$1-\$499	Carrie Beare, Honor of Jamie Shier & Dianna Parker	BrewDog	Chiller
Christy Abdella	Becker & Lilly	Nancy Brooks, Memory of Scott Benson	Pearl Chin
Mr. and Mrs. Alan S. Acker	Tyler Bender	Beryl Brown	Susan Choe
Matthew Adair	Benefactor Group Fund for the Common	Jill Brownfield	Mara Christine
Amazon Smiles	Good - 3543, Honor of Steve Beshuk	Leah Brudno	Abigail Clark
Sandra Anderson	Steve Beshuk	Christopher Brunner	Chauntice Clark
Elizabeth Anderson	Adam Biehl	Diane Brusnighan	Clay Café
Marty Anderson	Sarah Biehl	CaJacob Law Group	Thomas Clemens
Darrell Anthony	Frances Blachman	Peggy Calestro	Michelle Click
Joanne Arnold, Memory of Scott Benson	Bonnie Blackwell, Title III - Marion	Sandra Cammer	Irene Cohen
		Sarah Campbell	Donald M. Collins

Columbus Bar Association	Dill's Greenhouse	Jessica Flanders	Margaret Greisberger, Honor of Andrea Zollett
Columbus Blue Jackets	David Dokko	Cesar Flores	Melissa Griest
Columbus Crew	Donatos	Annie Foertmeyer	Nicole Grimm
Columbus Museum of Art	Christine Donovan, Honor of Dianna Parker	Craig Foster	Jessica Gualtieri
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium	Theodora Dragostinova	Lisa Frazier	Danielle Gugliemotto
Combined Federal Campaign - Corporate Match	James Dubois	Gigi Fried	Hairpinlegs
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park & James A. Garfield Alliance, Memory of Scott Benson	Janice Dunham	Friends of Rob Dorans	Ashley Hall
Conservatory of Piano, Inc.	Melissa Dutton	The Honorable Richard A. Frye	Casey Hammond
Cosi	Geoffrey Dutton, Honor of Melissa Dutton	Nathan Fulton	Elaine Hanson
Joel Crider	Joyce Edelman, Memory of Thomas J. Gerken	Funny Bone	Stephanie Harless
Leigh Cristales	Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards	Gahanna Lanes	Stephanie W. Harris
Crossfit Scioto	Samuel Ehret	Nova Gallicchio	Jo-Anne Harris
Stewart Davis	Brandon D. Elias	Peg Garrity	Cathrine Harshman
Davis Polk - Corporate Match	Susan Ellman, Honor of Rachel Tanur Ellman	Janice George	Harvest Pizzeria
Sietske J. DeFijter	Lisa Eschleman	Marilyn Taylor Gerken, Memory of Thomas J. Gerken	Henry Heitman
Thomas E. Denune and Teresa Long, M.D.	Anne Evans	William and Karen Glenn	Joanna Helon
Diamond Hill Capital Management Inc. - Corporate Match	Lex Fannin	Glow Putt Mini Golf	Jan Hensel
Alexandria Digby	Roy Fish	Lynnette and Daniel Goldberg	Jennifer Hershner
		Timothy Grady	Kari Hertel
		Grandview Theater/Studio 35	Anna Hofmann

Graham Horn, Honor of Victoria Powers	M. Amanda Kennedy	Robin Lampkin	Connie Long
Kristina Hsu	Kara Kieller	Michael Lampl	Tanya Long
Katherine Hunter, Memory of Thomas J. Gerken	Daniel Kim	Hope Lane	Henry Longley
Andrew Hutter	Kinder	Cindi Lane	David Lynch
Linda Huxel, Memory of Scott Benson	Tom and Karen King	Glee Lane, Honor of Hidden Victims	Samantha Macchia
Kellie Huxel Bliven, Memory of Scott Benson	Janet King	Rebecca Larsen	Motaz Mandili
Athena Inembolidis	Gwynn Kinsel	Mary Laskey Murphy, Memory of Scott Benson	Mike Mangino
Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls	Francine Klakos	Lorraine Latek	Manley Deas Kochalski LLC
Rachel Jackson	Judith Kleen	Bernadette Laughlin	William J. Martin
Susan Jagers	Rachel G. Kleit	Sheila Laverty	Jane Marx
Damon E. Jaggars	Liz Koehler	Sherri Lazear	Richard Mathes
Eileen M. Jewett	Colleen Koehler	Natalia Lee Soy	Janice Matteucci
Kimberly Jordan	Amy B. Koorn	Alex Leuchtag	Stephanie Matushoneck
Roberta Jupin, Memory of Scott Benson	Kathryn Kram, Memory of Bert Kram	Mark Levy	Andrew May
Laura Jurcevic	Nathaniel A. Kramer	Ellen Levy	Kerry McAllester, Memory of Scott Benson
Dylan Jutagir	Michael Krippendorf	Larry Lin	Pamela McCarthy
Thomas Keller	Constance Kuns	David Lincove	Tina McCloud
J. Todd Kennard	Mary Kurth	Lisbeth Lipari	Amy L. McCrory
Amanda Kennedy	Stella Lai	William Little	Robert McDonald
	Jill Lammi	William and Christina Logan	Kathleen McGarvey

William McGovern	Liz Mote	Jan E. Phillips	Jesse Rowe
Jamie McKenna	Jennifer Mountcastle	Amy Phillips-Gary	Rachel Rubey
McKesson - Corporate Match	Matthew Mowry	Denise Pleska	Lucas Ruffing
Jay Meglich, Memory of Grant Saale	Sheryl Munson	PNC Foundation - Corporate Match	Rusty Bucket
David Melcer	Lisa Murray	Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, Recognition of Client Cardinal Health, Inc	Laura Saale
Sheana Mershon	Kara Newbury	Susan Post	Kristin Sabgir
Corey Meyer	Newfangled Kitchen	Christy Prince	Joshua Sadvari
Meza Wine Shop	Imran Nuri	Callie Query	Ms. Susannah Sagan and Dr. Andrew Katz
Mikey's Late Night Slice	Adannaya Nzeogu	Matthew Raby, Honor of Moritz Class of 2016	Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center
Moyo Mitchell	Stephanie Ockerman	Elizabeth Ramos	Bethany Sanders
Zachery Moats	The Honorable Colleen O'Donnell	Sarah Reigel	Amelia Sanes
Modo Yoga Columbus	Ejkameuwa Okafor	Cailin Richard	Joan T. Sant, Honor of Dianna Parker
Tracy Moebius	Jara L. Oliver	Timothy Riedel	Tom Sant, Honor of Joan Sant
A. William Moesta	Vivian Opelt	Jennifer L. Robb	Barbara Sapharas, Memory of Scott Benson
Kay Molt	Kate Ormiston	Elizabeth Robbins	Bridget Schenk
Kimberlee Montgomery	Nathan Osborn	Margaret Roberts, Honor of Kate McGarvey	Samantha Scherger
Megan Mooney	Dianna Parker	Julie Roberts	Dustin Schwab
Avery Moore	PayPal Giving Fund	Root 23 Simple Syrups	Cary and Karen Seidman, Memory of Scott Benson
Darlene Morris	Debbie and John Perantoni, Memory of Scott Benson		

Shadowbox Live	Lily Steckman	Meghan Tubbs	Erica S. Wicks
Peter M. Shane	Brad Steinmetz, Memory of George Floyd	Seth Turoff	Deborah Wiedwald
Kelsey Shannahan	John Stieg	James Uanhoro	Debra Willet
Madeline Shaw	Heather Stockwell	Urban Emporium	Sue Wolfe, Honor of Phil Moots
Sean Sheehan	Hilary Stone	Zach Usmani	Jarrold Wood
Kathleen Sherer	Sara Strattan	Jon Walden	Wood & Brewer, LLC.
Marshall Shields	Bradley Strickling	Brenn Waldman-Hinderliter, Honor of Joshua Hinderliter	Scott Woodling
Adam Shirey	Stump	Christine Walkup	William Woods
Melissa Shoultz	Joseph Styborski, Memory of Thomas J. Gerken	Benjamin L. Wallace	Jonathon Wright
Angela Siefer	Sara Sukalich and Matthew Mingione	Thomas and Elizabeth Weeks	Eileen Wukusick
Jennifer Simon	Megan Sullivan	Garth S. Weitham	Elizabeth Yassenoff
Eric Skidmore	Tom Sussi	Emily Brisco Welter	Yoga on High
Skin Perfect Image Wellness Spa	Hamilton J. Teaford	Les Wendel	Shawnee Zahard
Krista Skipper	The Hershey Company - Corporate Match	Wendy's	
Kelly B. Smith	The Smithery	Heather Whaling	
Jordan Smith	Nelda Thomas-Wilhite, Title III - Marion	Roger Whitaker	
Marion Smithberger	Whitney Thompson	John White, Memory of Scott Benson	
Beatrice Sowald	Victor Thorne	Mary P. White	
Kelli M. Stammen	Throw Nation	David M. Whittaker	

2020 Pro Bono Awards



Corporate/Firm
Pro Bono
**Keesha
Warmbsy**



Expanding
Our Impact
**Hannah
Botkin-Doty**



Extraordinary Pro Bono
Service - Individual
**Kevin
Duffy**



Pro Bono
Support
**Deborah
Crawford**

Volunteers

James Abrams
Verjine Adanalian
Bentley Adkins
Kofi Agyepong
Conner Ahler
Apps Akpofure
Becca Alexander
Justine Allen
Sean Alto
Joana Amopfo
Doug Anderson
Samantha Anderson
Joseph Antel
Betty Appell
Justin Applegate
Josh Ard
Elizabeth Arentz
Jocelyn Armstrong
Veronica Armstrong
Sarah Arnold
Maggie Ash
Emily Asher
Rick Ashton
Angela Atamas
Karen Augenstein
Martin Baba

Ted Babich
Lawrence Babich
Shannon Baldwin
William Ballam
Kayli Bardy
Ghezal Barghouty
Patrick Barnacle
Abigail Barr
Julia Barragata
Steve Barsotti
Amy Bartemes
Jeff Bartolozzi
Nadia Bashir
Gillian Bateyunga
Jennifer Baughman
Howard Baumwell
Alyssa Beck
Eric Becker
Ryan Bednarczuk
Jason Beehler
Shandra Behrens
Jordan Belcastro
Ken Bellaire
Yass Benis
Melonia Bennett
James Berendsen
Katherine Berger
Robert Bergman

Ian Betts
David Bhaerman
Audrey Bidwell
Sarah Biehl
Peggy Blackmore
David Bloomfield
Sally Bloomfield
Alisa Boles
Kelley Boller
Carlie Boos
Dylan Borchers
Casteel Borsay
Arlene Boruchowitz
Hannah Botkin-Doty
Brooke Bowerman
Heidi Bowles
Carolyn Boyce
Katy Brewer
Emily Brewer
Margaret Brewer
Lily Brickman
Jennifer Brisco
Michelle Brizes
Blaine Brockman
John Brody
Christopher Brown
Ruby Brown
Christian Brown

Aaron Bruggeman
Dann Bruno
Kristin Bryant
Olivia Burdette
James Burnes
Miriam Burroughs
Claire Butler
Thomas Byrne
Jennifer CaJacob
Alex Calnon
Christopher Calpin
John Cannizzaro
Rosina Caponi
Rose Carlyon
Kendra Carpenter
Sandra Carrillo
Allen Carter
Maribeth Case
Cassandra Casto
Lisa Catlett
Dennis Cauchon
Christal Caudill
Giuseppe Cespedes
Sophia Chang
Eric Cheng
Pearl Chin
LaMonica Chivers
Stephanie Chmiel

Susan Choe
Ann Marie Christ
Lynda Clark
Joseph Clark
Patrick Clark
Katherine Clark
Grace Clark
Rachel Clark
Patrick Cleary
Taylor Clewell
Holly Coats
Stefanie Coe
Marshall Cohen
Robert Cohen
Karen Cohn
Joseph Colburn
Christopher Collado
Beth Collis
John Coming
Roy Conners
Kimberly Conroy
Jon Cook
Guylynn Cook
Elizabeth Cooke
Ben Cooper
Paula Copeland
Mary Coridan
Peggy Corn

James Coutinho
Michael Cox
Caroline Cox
Molly Crabtree
Danielle Crane
Deborah Crawford
Casey Cross
Amy Crossin
Rachel Crowl
Caitlyn Cunningham
Emily Cunningham
Christopher Curley
Chris Curry
Christine Cushman
Kristina Dahmann
Alyssa Daley
Anthony Damelio
Allison Dang
Ric Daniell
Helena D'Arms
Noelle Daumeyer
Jack D'Aurora
Carolyn Davis
Logan Davis
Shannon Dawes
Helen De Almeida
Michalea Delaveris
Danielle Demming

Patrick Denier	Steve Elliot	Blake Gerstner	Bobby Handley	Tiffany Hess	Sara Jodka
Noelle DeRiso	Charles Ellis	Camille Gill	Stephanie Hanna	Kevin Hidas	Eric Johnson
Patrick Devine	Lauren Emery	Kyle Gillam	James Hanneman	Elizabeth Hill	Felicia Johnson
Samuel DeWitt	Abby Engelhart	John Gilligan	Victoria Hanohano-Hong	Josh Hinderliter	Emily Johnston
Ryan DeYoung	Lisa Eschleman	Kaitlyn Gilson	Ann Hansen	David Hodges	Somalia Jones
Matthew Diaz	Suzanne Estep	Jane Gleaves	Nita Hanson	Bradley Hoffman	Brian Jordan
Jessica Ditullio	Halle Farber	Sarina Glick	Elaine Hanson	Rodney Holaday	Kim Jordan
Lewis Dolezal	Sue Fauber	Kenneth Goldberg	Howard Harcha IV	Princess Hollingsworth	Mark Jump
Regan Donoughe	Grace Feldmiller	Andrew Good	Michael Hardesty	James Holtzmuller	Laura Jurcevich
Jessica Doogan	Mary Kay Fenlon	Kate Graham	Eryka Harper	Jim Hopple	Brighton Kahrs
Robert Dorans	Fran Figetakis	Megan Graham	Felice Harris	Chuqing Huang	Tami Kamin Meyer
Monica Dorman	Mark Fisher	Kiriaki Grammenidis	Rachel Harris	Margaret Huck	Jerry Kasai
Troy Doucet	Judith Fisher	Katharine Granger	Allison Harrison	Ahmad Huda	Alexander Keen
Brian Doyle-Wenger	James Flaherty	Hannah Grayem	Cathrine Harshman	Cynthia Hudson	Bill Kelley
Eleana Drakatos	Gabriel Fletcher	Eliza Green	Tenesha Hartgrove	Jasmin Hurley	Donna Kelley
Brian Dressel	Brian Flick	Susan Grom	Christopher Hartman	W. James Hutchins	Suzanne Kelly
Brandon Duck	Amy Flowers	Joseph Guenther	Karen Hartman	A. Robert Hutchins	John Kennedy
Kevin Duffy	James Flynn	David Guerrieri	Sam Harton	Veronica Iglesias	Dalia Khamis
Andrew Dugan	Monica Fox	John Guldin	John Hartranft	Anora Ignaci	Corey Khan
Laura Dulay	Daniel Fox	Daniel Gurtner	Keria Haugabrook	Athena Inembolidis	Mina Khorrami
Debra Dunkerley	Christine Frankart	Maria Guthrie	Brian Hazel	David Ingram	Todd D. Kilpatrick
Sean Dunn	Kirsten Fraser	Haleigh Hamad	Brian Henderson	Ashley Ingram	Agatha Kingsley-Emeh
Jack Dunn	Connie French	Orsolya Hamar-Hilt	Andrew Henricks	Brooke Isabel	Edward Kirk
Madeline Easdale	Robert Fuller	Christina Hambleton	Kristen Henry	Jeanna Jacobus	Barry Kiser
Jenna Ebersbacher	Chuck Gall	Karen Hamilton	William Hensley	Michael Jarosi	Sean Klammer
Tom Eck	Christopher Gallutia	Patrick Hamilton	Ellie Henze	Rochelle Jefferis	Michael Klamo
Zachary Eddy	Christopher Gawronski	Brookes Hammock	Kara Herrnstein	Mackenzie Jensen	Jared Klaus
Joel Elkin	Susan Gellman	Jiwon Han	Patti Heslep	Diana Jia	Ted Klecker

Stephanie Klimack	Ambrosia Logsdon	Bill Mattes	JoEllen Minchak	Lindsay Oak	Sherry Phillips
Scott Kovach	Astrid Long-Kellough	Alexander Maxwell	Kelsey Mincheff	Constance Obermeyer	Kaci Philpot
Martin Samuel Krauss	Latashia Love	Hannah McCarthy	Greg Mitchell	Claire O'Hern	Joseph Pickens
Pamela Krivda	Dara Lucas	Lorie McCaughan	Amina Mohamed	Kaylee Oiler	Janica Pierce Tucker
Geoffrey Kunkler	Barbara Lucks	Larry McClatchey	Andrea Montler	Kevin Oles	Brandi Pikes
Sheree Lamendola	Daliya Ludascher	Kieran McCleese	Vincent Mora	Erica Olivares-Vincent	Elliot Ping
Cindi Lane	Sarah Lynn	Kelly McCloud	Michael Morgan	Jonathan Olivito	Tim Pivetz
Matt Langhals	Taylor MacDonald	Toure' Lumumba McCord	Dennis Morrison	Osita Onyia	Tameca Plair
Rachel Lawless	Monique Madison	Carter McCormick	Judith Moss	Vivian Opelt	Denise Pleska
Kathleen Lawrence	Pamela Maggied	Madison McDowell	Liz Mote	Shawn Organ	Lauren Pogaznik
Sherri Lazear	Jack Maib	John McGahee	E. Dennis Muchnicki	Hannah O'Rourke	William Pohlman
John Leach	Motaz Mandili	Samantha McGuire	Brittany Munn	Larissa Osborn	Sarah Pollyea
James Lee	Sergey Mangayan	Matthew McKibbin	Sheryl Munson	Jody Oster	Alex Pomerants
Irma Leon-Gonzalez	Katherine Manghillis	Elizabeth McKinley-Watkins	David Murphey	Matthew Oyster	Gerald Porter
Kristen Lepionka	Shelby Mann	William Meadows	Chris Murphy	Christopher Page	Valarie Potell
Miranda Leppla	Mathias Manner	Linda Meeks	Deborah Murray	Alyssa Painter	Renee Potts
Brandon Lester	Breeanna Marion	David Melcer	Stanley Myers	Kysten Palmore	Liddy Potts
Alyson Letsky	Bailey Markowski	Diane Menashe	Shannon Nannapaneni	Donna Parisi	Victoria Powers
Bill Levendusky	Shana Marks	Jetta Mencer	Scott Needleman	James Park	Tara Price
Kristen Lewis	Sarah Marshall	Andrew Merwine	Abigail Nelson	Devin Parram	Christy Prince
James Lewis	George Martin	Walter Messenger	Laura Nesbitt	Alexandra Parriman	Phillip Pullig
Samantha Lewis	Caitlyn Martin	Jane Messmer	David Neubauer	Nuurah Parsons	Clement Pyles
Shing Lin	Kaitlynn Martin	Toni Metcalf-Henry	Brendan Newcomb	Debra Pastorek	Callie Query
Danielle Linert	Andrew Marvin	Elizabeth Miceli	Randall Norris	Suhani Patel	Elizabeth Rader
Lathan Lipperman	Jane Marx	Alyson Miles	Josh North	Maxim Perel	Mazen Rasoul
Carlin Littles	Joseph Maskovyak	Alicia Miller	Jake Novack	Stephanie Pestello Sharf	Robert Ratchford
Davin Lloyd	Alexander Mate	Candace Milner	Nicole Novotny	Colin Peters	Lydia Reback

Constance Reinhard	Dan Sabol	Miles Sibley	Scott Sugarman	Tim Tucker	Emily White
Dean Reinhard	Laila Saleh	Erin Siegfried	David Sutton	Patricia Tweel	Jay Wilson
Michael Renne	Jeff Sanborn	Gabriel Siegle	James Sweeney	Michael Urban	Joseph Winner
Rodney Reuscher	Anthony Santana	Inna Simakovsky	Christopher Tamms	Samuel Usmani	Delanie Wiseman
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Curtis Richardson	Fred Scharf	Carly Sinclair	Eric Tarbox	Anne Valentine	Bonnie Wolf
Victoria Riley	Teresa Scharf	Philip Sineneng	Kaila Taylor	Jessica Van Ranken	Sue Wolfe
David Roark	Joseph Schick	Prarthana Singh	E. Jane Taylor	Joseph Van't Hooft	Barry Wolinetz
Elizabeth Roberto	Emma Schmiesing	Julia Sivertson	Myron Terlecky	Mary Jo Vara	Brian Wood
Terrance Roberts	Larae Schraeder	Bryan Smeenk	Ellen Terry	Vincene Verdun	Nicole Woods
Douglas Roberts	Jesse Scott	Kelsey Smith	Patsy Thomas	Jen Vessells	Jacob Worrel
Lindsey Roberts	Peter Scranton	Jennifer Smith	Rai Thompson	Cynthia Vivekanandam	Kia Wrice
Demetrius Robinson	Sam Seeds	Matthew Smith	Caleb Thompson	Anne Vogel	Angela Writesel
Rachel Robinson	James Seguin	Lydia Smith	Pamela Thurston	Benjamin Walberg	Guozhen Xie
Jill Rodman	Tad Semons	Rachel Smoot	Tziporah Tiller	Christine Walkup	Yexinyu Yang
Arsenio Rodriguez	Jacob Semus	Jonathon Snell	Jaci Tipton	Noah Walusis	Isabella Zak
Dexter Roettker	Anthony Senick	Jed Sonstroem	Andre Tirado	Greta Warmbier	Crystal Zellar
Courtlyn Roser-Jones	Colleen Settineri	Beatrice Sowald	Ben Tobias	Keesha Warmby	Ningjiao Zhang
Hannah Ross	Anne Marie Sferra	Richard Spence	Susan Tobin	Nicholas Warner	Violette Zhou
Mara Roth	Nicholas Sgroi	Jhay Spottswood	Brea Tolbert	Kristin Watson	Matthew Zofchak
Aarron Rothey	Tom Shafirstein	Kishala Srivastava	Katharine Toledo	Winifred Weaver	Michael Zuckerman
Cynthia Roy	Rena Shak	Brandi Staley	Jessica Tom	Chris Weber	Rachel Zupan
Eric Roytman	Alicia Shaw	Kassandra Stewart	Phong Trinh	Erica Wellman	
Lucas Ruffing	Derek Shaw	Herbert Strayer	Saša Trivunić	Rachel Wenning	
Katelyn Rust	Yeonsun Shin	Bradley Strickling	Madison Troyer	Molly Werhan	
Grace Saalman	Gwen Short	Austin Strohacker	Sheryl Trzaska	Kevin Werner	
Kristin Sabgir	David Shouvlin	Cassandra Struble	Carson Tucker	Larissa West	



I felt afraid and helpless. [My attorney] guided me through the negotiations and gave me a voice in ending an over 30-year-long nightmare. I feel free. For so long, I was stressed and afraid and ashamed, and now it is over.

Thank you!"

–LASC client



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