

February 6, 2023

Dear Friends:

As I begin this brief review of our activities in 2022, let us remember that the ministry of CLA-LA is based on scriptures that call us to work for the cause of justice. Consider the mandate of Isaiah 1:17, ...*Learn to live right, See that justice is done. Defend widows and orphans and help those in need.* Our board members, our staff, and our volunteer attorneys take these words to heart. This clarion call and the grace of the Spirit of God in our hearts inspires and motivates us to a renewed commitment to serve those who cannot afford legal services for their legal matters.

The core of our ministry is the in-house counsel provided to clients in our Legal Aid Clinics. In 2022 more than 197 clients were served by 232 volunteer attorneys, who contributed 620 hours of pro bono services. Examples of the comments from our clients who received services include:

- *CLA-LA helped me a lot and made me feel more calm in my legal issue.*
- *If we had not come, we would have been disadvantaged in court.*
- *The legal team showed me all the options available to me and most importantly, they prayed for me.*

The most requested assistance was in family, domestic violence, and landlord-tenant law, although we have assisted clients in over 30 different areas of law.

Our Summer Internship Program, under the direction of Carolyn Jefferson, our Director of Legal Programs, hosted a new group of 9 law students from the following law schools, Trinity, Southwestern, Loyola, Pepperdine, UC Irvine, and USC. Interns were mentored by volunteer attorneys, they listened to presentations by guest speakers, and they learned about specific practice areas such as family law, immigration, and expungement. The interns were assigned to attorney teams that dealt with individual client needs in our Legal Aid Clinics. In this way, interns gained first-hand experience with client interviews, assessments, and discernment of the best legal remedies for individual cases.

Our 16th Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on November 5th at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Robert Cochran, Esq., Professor Emeritus & Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law at Pepperdine Law School, was our keynote speaker. He gave an excellent presentation on the topic, *Agape Love, Clients, Attorneys, and the Law*. At the Prayer Breakfast we honored our Volunteer Attorney of the Year, Tamara Dillingham, Esq. and our Intern of the Year, Christopher Hanson. The Prayer Breakfast event was recorded and can be viewed on our website at www.cla-la.org by scrolling to the section entitled 2022 Annual Prayer Breakfast for the video links.

As we begin 2023, we are eager to expand our legal services to better serve additional clients. In particular, we are seeking Christian attorneys who are willing to give their time to help clients in our Legal Aid Clinics. If you sense a calling to serve in this capacity and desire more information, please call our office at (323) 319-3559.

Now we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who offer their prayers for us, who support us financially, and who offer their time, services, and love to our clients. Would you consider faithfully supporting our ministry efforts in 2023?

Blessings,

Charles G. Suhayda

Charles G. Suhayda, Ph.D.
Board Chairperson, CLA-LA

Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles 333 W. Florence Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301 <http://www.cla-la.org>

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