



CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID OF LOS ANGELES

16TH ANNUAL Prayer Breakfast

Keynote by Robert (Bob) Cochran-Professor Emeritus and Louis D. Brandeis
Professor of Law at the Caruso School of Law at Pepperdine University

Saturday, November 5, 2022
10:00 am (PDT)
In-Person Event
First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
Los Angeles, California



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PROGRAM

Theme: “Gathering for a Renewed Journey”

Welcome and Prayer for the Food

Alex Kim, Esq.
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

Opening Hymn

Introduction of CLA-LA

Alex Kim, Esq.

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Jeff Koenig, Esq.
Vice President, CLA-LA

Intern of the Year

Carolyn Jefferson, Esq.
Director of Legal Programs, CLA-LA

Attorney of the Year

Carolyn Jefferson, Esq.

How to Volunteer

Carolyn Jefferson, Esq.

Volunteer Testimony

Sam Sadeghi, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Jeffrey Koenig, Esq.

Keynote Speaker

Robert Cochran, Professor Emeritus and
Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law
Caruso School of Law at Pepperdine University

Donor Testimony

Patricia Oliver, Esq.
PARRIS Law Firm

Closing Hymn

Thank You and Benediction

Rev. Charles Suhayda, Ph.D.
Chairperson, CLA-LA

Keynote Speaker:

Robert (Bob) Cochran - Professor Emeritus and Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law at the Caruso School of Law at Pepperdine University



Robert (Bob) Cochran is currently Professor Emeritus and Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law at the Caruso School of Law at Pepperdine University. Bob is also a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia's Institute for the Advanced Studies of Culture. Bob's extensive and productive career has covered nearly four decades of teaching, research and scholarly contributions in numerous areas of law. Professor Cochran has taught Torts, Legal Ethics, Religion and Law, and Family Law. His stated purpose he says: "I teach because I think that truth is important. My hope is that, in interaction with my students, we will discover the truth."

Bob is the founder and former director of the Nootbaar Institute at the Caruso School of Law. The Institute's mission is to explore and develop greater understanding of the relationship between religion and law from an ecumenical perspective. He was the founder and faculty advisor to the Union Rescue Mission/Pepperdine Legal Clinic at 545 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles.

Bob is also the co-founder of the Global Justice Program. He has traveled to Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand with Pepperdine's Global Justice Program, assisting human rights groups, supervising students, consulting with governments on religious freedom issues, and speaking on religion and law.

Bob has published more than 10 books and 60 scholarly articles. His most recent book was published in 2020 entitled: "Agape, Justice, and Law: How Might Christian Love Shape Law." Bob was the co-editor with Zachary R. Calo (Cambridge University Press). Bob is currently writing a new book and is looking forward to conversations with participants at our 2022 Prayer Breakfast.

Bob obtained his J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law. He was a law clerk with the Honorable John A. Field, Jr., at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in Richmond, VA.

Angela C. Carmella, Professor of Law at Seton Hall University School of Law, sums up the essence of Bob Cochran's contributions for the understanding of the inter-relationship between Christian love and law. It challenges those in the active practice of law, as well as those studying to become future attorneys. She writes:

"The life and work of Robert Cochran can be summed up in one word: discipleship. Professor Cochran's work reflects deeply on Jesus's words and ministry--His agapic love for all humanity--as they relate to the substance of law and its administration. Professor Cochran's work establishes two important principles: the need to focus on Jesus's love as the starting place for analysis and the need to reclaim justice as a central Christian concept. His many volumes help us to understand how it is possible to comprehend lawmaking as an act of agapic love. Further, they provide a roadmap for the Christian's journey, helping to navigate the interrelation of love, ethics, law, and justice." --- Angela C. Carmella, "Agape" and the Life and Work of Robert F. Cochran, Jr., 47 Pepp. L. Rev. 287 (2020)

Our Mission

To share the love of Jesus Christ by cultivating a passion for justice in our community and providing free legal services and hope to those in need in Los Angeles County.

Our Approach

The need for legal assistance is staggering: in Los Angeles County, there are 6,136 potential clients for every one legal aid attorney working full-time to offer free legal services. This is especially urgent because crime, discrimination and many other injustices disproportionately affect the poor – those least able to afford legal help. To help meet this vast need, CLA-LA recruits and equips volunteers to meet the critical needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. This year alone we've empowered more than 232 attorneys and non-attorneys to assist those who cannot afford to hire a lawyer.

Our volunteer-driven approach is unique in that CLA-LA cross-trains attorneys to handle crucial legal issues facing the poor so that they can competently serve beyond their usual area of practice. In addition, CLA-LA partners with established organizations including Faithful Central Bible Church, Homeboys Industries, The Dream Center, LA Law Library, and Catholic Charities.

Terry Steinhart Award- Volunteer Attorney of the Year

Tamara Dillingham



Tamara Dillingham is a Staff Attorney for a non-profit organization, A New Way of Life Reentry Legal Project in Los Angeles. She works in the legal department representing formerly incarcerated/convicted clients in the pursuit of removing and reducing the barriers and collateral consequences they face when reentering society.

After going to Pacific Coast University School of Law at 40-years old, a few unsuccessful attempts at passing the bar exam, and her own history in the criminal justice system, almost a decade later, Tamara enduringly was admitted to the State Bar of California in October 2021.

Shortly before Tamara started volunteering for Christian Legal Aid Los Angeles (CLA-LA) in December 2020, she started questioning whether it was God's plan for her to become an attorney as she awaited the results of her fourth bar exam. In one of her lowest moments, she distinctly recalls hearing a voice inside of her saying, "you don't need a license to do what I have called you to do." She knew it was the voice of God and immediately started searching for volunteer opportunities with Christian based organizations and God led her to CLA-LA.

As a "law student" volunteer and now a volunteer attorney, Tamara mostly assists CLA-LA clients with record expungements, which is primarily the work she performs in her profession. Over the past summer, Tamara served as a mentor for the CLA-LA Summer Internship Program where she mentored a legal intern, involved the intern in her work as a practicing attorney, and was a guest speaker on "Post-Conviction Relief". She was also interviewed by another legal intern for a policy paper his group worked on. The internship program has ended, however, Tamara still connects with the legal intern and they have attended church together.

Tamara's profession and volunteer endeavors are opportunities for her to serve others the way God intended. Seeking justice and advocating for the oppressed like Isaiah 1:17 instructs, is what Tamara considers discipleship in action.

While her journey to the profession has been non-traditional, God's purpose and plan is intentional. Tamara is immensely grateful for the love and support of her family, church family, CLA-LA family, work family, and friends who have been and continue to be the heart of her encouragement.

Tamara attends Parkcrest Christian Church in Long Beach and serves regularly. She enjoys spending time with her three adult sons, family, and friends, reading, and watching/attending her favorite NBA team, the Los Angeles Clippers, who she has been a fan of since 1994.

Legal Intern of the Year

Christopher Hanson



Christopher is a second-year law student at Southwestern Law School. He was born and raised in Southern California. As a lifelong Californian and Christian, interning with CLA-LA was a great first step in his journey through the legal profession. It was an invaluable experience to learn from Christian attorneys and to meet Christian law students from other schools. Also, he is currently the treasurer for Southwestern Law School's Christian Legal Society chapter.

Director of Legal Programs

Carolyn Jefferson, Esq. *carolyn@cla-la.org*

Carolyn Jefferson is the CLA-LA Director of Legal Programs. She is a former television news reporter turned litigation attorney. Carolyn graduated from McGeorge School of Law and received a Bachelor of Arts in Radio & Television from San Francisco State University. Carolyn began her legal career as a prosecutor. She was a zealous advocate for justice and a strong voice for crime victims. Carolyn conducted numerous jury and bench trials with a conviction rate of close to 90%. Carolyn's legal career also includes work in healthcare law and juvenile dependency representing abused and neglected children in the foster care system. In her free time, Carolyn loves to travel. She's visited approximately 15 countries and counting!

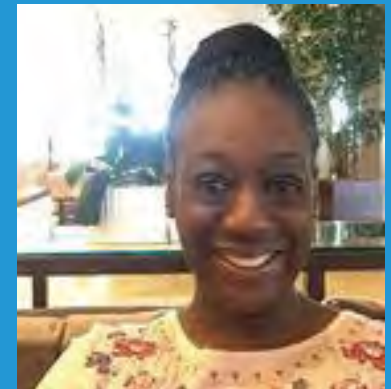


Office Administrator

Chrystal Hicks *chrystal@cla-la.org*

Chrystal Hicks joined CLA-LA in 2019. Chrystal has a B.A. in Organizational Leadership and Development from Biola University and a Ministerial License from King's University in Inglewood. Chrystal has worked in the private sector for 13 years and she has 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector.

Chrystal loves the Lord, her family, and friends. Chrystal and her husband, Lucious, have been married for 18 years and they have one daughter together—Chrystyn. In addition, Chrystal has 5 “bonus” children and 9 “bonus” grandchildren, and a “bonus” great-granddaughter. Her interests include traveling, cooking, shopping, reading, and doing needlepoint. She also enjoys volunteering at her daughter's school, going to Dodger games, and serving in the Kingdom of God.



Our Clients

The California Bar Association just released a study that showed 55 percent of Californians at all income levels experienced at least one civil legal issue in their household within the past year, yet nearly 70 percent of those with these problems received no legal assistance. In 2019 and the beginning of 2020, CLA-LA partnered with local churches and parachurch organizations to fill this gap by assisting clients who needed help addressing housing concerns, their rights regarding evictions, navigating issues regarding custody of children, paying or receiving child support, becoming citizens or obtaining work authorization, seeking how to start a will or trust, understanding the process of bankruptcy, or expunging their records, allowing them to reenter the workforce and find housing.

55%

of our clients are referred by partner organizations

25%

of our clients receive immediate help with forms and documents

65%

of our clients' issues, if not resolved, would lead to homelessness

Our Clients Share

“CLA-LA helped me a lot and made me feel more calm in my legal issue. It has been a blessing finding this place.”

“The legal team showed me all the options available to me and most importantly, they prayed with me. “

“If we had not come we would have been at a disadvantage in court.”

“I felt God’s love through their service. That gave me much hope!”

Our Services

At our weekend clinics, we continue to provide free 60-90 minute consultations with volunteer legal teams led by licensed California attorneys. Our legal teams offer advice on and assistance with a wide range of legal issues. When time permits, our teams help clients review paperwork and fill out court forms. Each client is provided with a personalized Action Plan with steps to take on their own after leaving the clinic. Perhaps most importantly, volunteers and clients are encouraged to pray with each other, recognizing that true justice comes from God.

During the week, our staff members offer referrals, hold office hours, and provide educational workshops. We connect with other ministries, churches, nonprofits, and legal aid organizations to better understand and serve our community. Our legal aid manual and MCLEs help attorneys effectively learn and serve. Last but not least, our summer internship program provides an invaluable experience to students in or considering law school, giving them first-hand experience interacting with clients, performing legal research, and connecting with Christian attorneys.

197+

**Low-Income
Clients Served
(November 2021-
October 2022)**

Faithful Central Bible
Church
Desert Vineyard Church
First Presbyterian Church
of Hollywood
King's Church
Bread of Life Church

232+

**Volunteers with Diverse
Expertise & Experience**

Legal Clinics

Homeboy Industries
Cornerstone West LA
Kingdom Reality LA
New City Church
El Monte Wesleyan Church
Long Beach Rescue Mission

620+

**Volunteer Hours
(November 2021-
October 2022)**

The Dream Center
Faith Inspirational
Missionary Baptist Church
King's Church Long Beach
Hale Morris Lewis Manor
Valley Vineyard Church

Workshops & Office Hours

Faithful Central
Bible Church
Homeboy
Industries
Whittier Senior
Center
Dream Center
Bread of Life
Church
Valley Vineyard
Church

Your Support

Your individual financial support makes our work possible.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, CLA-LA is able to offer free legal services to our most vulnerable low income neighbors. CLA-LA is a stand-alone 501(c)(3) organization with no parent legal aid program providing support for the services we offer. As a result, CLA-LA relies entirely upon private contributions for the funding to provide free legal services. In recent years, more than 50% of CLA-LA's support has come from individuals, with the remainder contributed by foundations, law firms, other businesses, and local churches.

Your contributions enable CLA-LA to serve hundreds of clients every year by providing for staff salaries and operational expenses.

CLA-LA provides legal services to hundreds of clients each year through clinic visits, office appointments, and other consultations. Since March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic these services have been provided through Zoom and conference calls arranged with clients by our staff and volunteers. Each of these services is valued at \$500-\$2,000. Because our volunteers provide the overwhelming majority of our client consultations, your financial support is multiplied and our clients are able to access our volunteers' wealth of experience.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	\$164,730	\$164,518	\$157,909	\$151,354**	\$143,915***
Expenses	\$166,305	\$183,897	\$180,558	\$148,674	\$128,315
Income (Loss)	(\$1,575)	(\$19,379)	(\$22,649)	\$2,680	\$15,600

**Not including \$26,800 Paycheck Protection Program loan, which was forgiven

***Not including \$26,800 Paycheck Protection Program loan, which was forgiven, or federal employee retention credits totaling \$15,008

We need your support to continue serving those in need!

We appreciate and rely on both quarterly or monthly donations and year-end contributions. None of this would be possible without your continued support, prayers, and partnership. The need for free legal services for the poor in Los Angeles County substantially increased over the past couple of years as a result of the pandemic and resulting job losses and housing and other legal issues. This has created challenges, but it also provides an opportunity for CLA-LA to "step up" and provide even more valuable services to our community in its time of greater need. We can do that through our staff and our volunteers and donors who are able to maintain and, where possible, increase their contributions of time or financial support.

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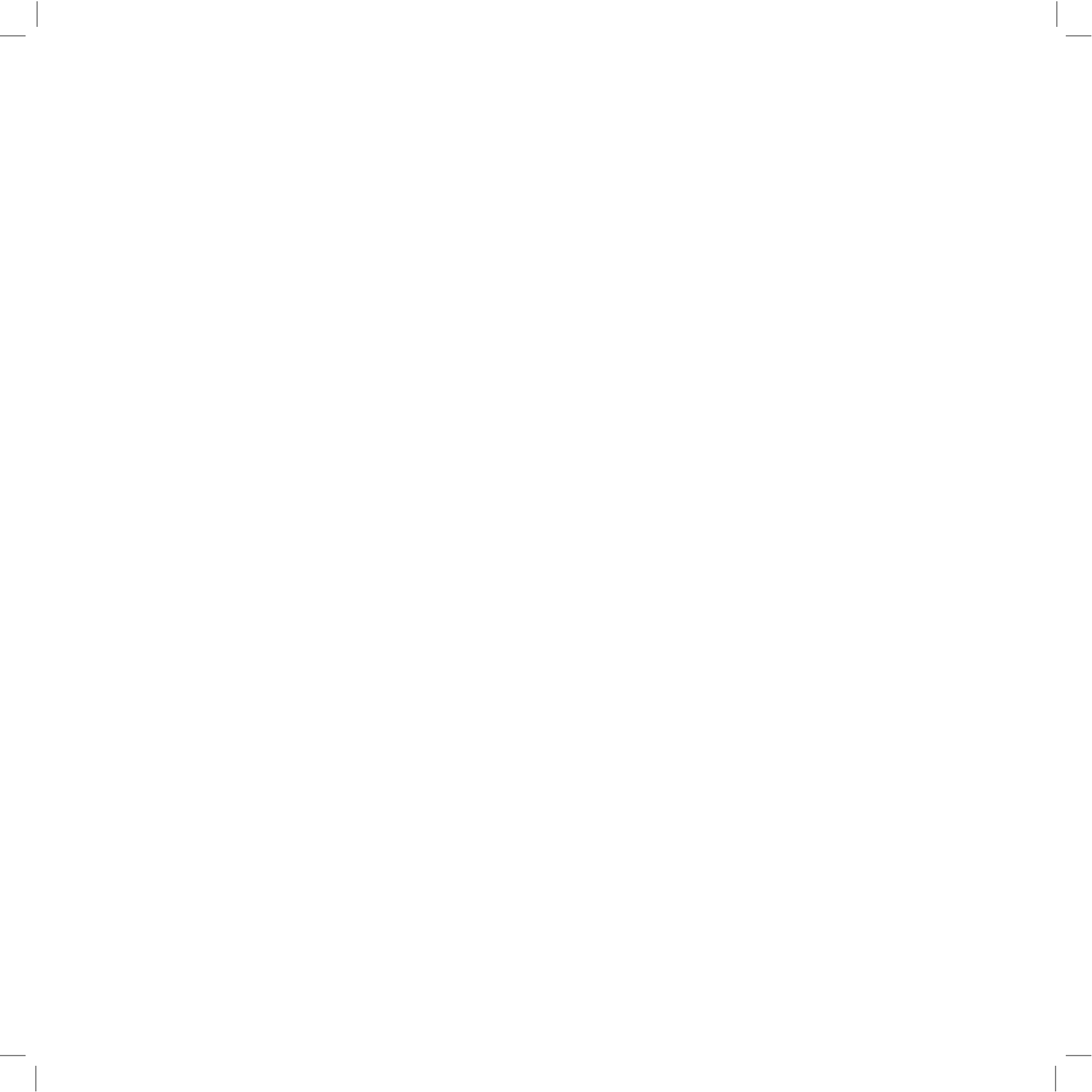
Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles thanks

**THE HUGH & HAZEL
DARLING FOUNDATION**

for their partnership that enables CLA-LA to
educate and train our interns, volunteers,
and clients to become ambassadors of justice.

We are honored by their invaluable support.





Then God said, *“Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”*

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27, NLT)

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.” (Proverbs 14:31)

Learn to do good;
seek justice,
 rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
 plead for the widow.
Come now, let us argue it out,
 says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
 they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
 they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:17–18)