



CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID OF LOS ANGELES

17th Annual *Prayer* Breakfast

Keynote by **Andy Bales**

President and CEO of the Union Rescue Mission Skid Row in Downtown, Los Angeles

"The Journey of My Life: Following Christ to Skid Row"

Saturday, November 4, 2023 • 9:30 am (PDT)

First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
Los Angeles, California



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Program: “Following Christ”

Welcome and Prayer for the Food

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

Opening Hymn - *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

Tim Ketenjian

Introduction of Christian Legal Aid of LA

Alex Kim, Esq.

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Jeffrey Koenig, Esq.
Vice President, CLA-LA

Volunteer Attorney of the Year and
Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

Ellen Reinig, Esq.
Legal Aid Clinic Director, CLA-LA

Legal Intern of the Year

Chrystal Hicks
Office Administrator, CLA-LA

How to Volunteer

Ellen Reinig, Esq.

Volunteer Testimony

John Chou, Esq.
360 Attorney

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Jeffrey Koenig, Esq.

Keynote Speaker – *“The Journey of My Life:
Following Christ to Skid Row”*

Andy Bales
President and CEO, Union Rescue Mission

Donor Testimony

Tim Burgett, Esq.
General Counsel, World Vision International

Prayer for the Ministry

Jeffrey Koenig, Esq.

Closing Hymn - *“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”*

Tim Ketenjian

Thank You and Benediction

Gary Maeder
Chief Financial Officer, CLA-LA

Keynote Speaker

Andy Bales - President and CEO of the
Union Rescue Mission on Skid Row in Downtown, Los Angeles



Andy Bales has been raising money to assist his friends devastated by homelessness for the last 38 years.

Andy was born to Carl and Joanie Bales in 1958. Both parents grew up and met in Des Moines' southeast bottoms, still known as the "poor side of town" and the "wrong side of the tracks." Though Carl had experienced homelessness throughout his childhood, from ages 4-17, Carl (deceased) and Joanie (present today) dedicated their own lives to God, and while Andy was in his mom's womb, they also dedicated Andy's life to God.

One week in the Winter of 1985, Andy preached a message about the importance of feeding hungry people and never turning your back on a hurting person among us to students in his classroom six times on a Friday, only to not practice what he preached, when a hungry man asked him for his sandwich while Andy worked a second job on the weekend. Since then, Andy has been haunted by the thought of leaving one precious human being on the streets. He used to look through people digging out of dumpsters or living in the streets, but immediately, that "haunting" turned into action. Andy has led four Non-Profits addressing homelessness in Des Moines, Iowa, Pasadena, and now at Union Rescue Mission of Los Angeles, and has helped raise an estimated \$400 million over the years.

Under Andy's leadership, Union Rescue Mission secured the largest ever in URM history pledge of \$30 million and the recent largest ever local Foundation Grant of \$7.5 million. During Andy's time, URM has completed a Capital Campaign to open the magnificent Hope Gardens Family Center for moms, children, and senior leaders and is nearing completion of a \$50 million Capital Campaign to open a URM satellite for 86 families devastated by homelessness in South Los Angeles County.

Andy and his wife Bonnie have six children, eight grandchildren and have helped parent 25 foster children through the years. Thousands of other parents and other "children," along with their children and grandchildren, give thanks to Andy and his wife Bonnie for working so passionately to better their lives and the lives of others.

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.

Terran Steinhart Awards

Volunteer Attorney of the Year - Aisha Oyareknu



Aisha has been volunteering with CLA-LA since 2013. Her life can be summed up in one sentence—she loves God, she loves people, and she loves justice. She is passionate about access to justice for the less privileged and spends a lot of time volunteering to protect the rights of the poor because she believes that providing access to basic legal services to the less privileged is an essential aspect of loving her neighbor. Aisha is a Justice Ambassador for Prison Fellowship International, a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in foster care, and also the Vice President of the Christian Legal Society of Los Angeles. Aisha has worked extensively in matters involving civil rights, education rights, workers' rights, tenants' rights, and rehabilitation of offenders.

Pro Bono Attorney of the Year - Troy Werner



Troy Werner is the owner of The Werner Law Firm, an estate planning and probate firm based in Santa Clarita. He is married to his wife, Brittany. They have a son, Luke (4 years old), and a pug, Chuck (15 years old). He has been volunteering with CLA-LA since 2014. He regularly helps clients in his firm navigate through legal matters, and has found CLA-LA to be a practical and rewarding way to serve with the legal knowledge gained through our profession.

Legal Intern of the Year - Theresa Asare



Theresa Asare is from Ghana. Since she was a child, she has always been passionate about giving back to the community, especially in seeking justice for the marginalized and vulnerable. In 2021, Theresa relocated to the US to pursue an LLM in Criminal Justice at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, CA. As a criminal justice professional, with ten years working experience in her country's justice system, Theresa aspired to be an international criminal justice lawyer/social justice advocate. Theresa's goal is to have her own international law firm with branches in different countries to help in the building of an effective criminal justice system that protects society, advocates for victim's rights, frees the innocent, prevents wrongful convictions, seeks restorative justice and rehabilitation of criminals. The biblical verse that guides Theresa in her career can be found in Luke 4:18.

CLA-LA Staff

LEGAL AID CLINIC DIRECTOR-*Ellen Reinig, Esq.*

Info@cla-la.org

Ellen left a lucrative career in Aerospace at the age of 50 to follow God's call to go to law school where she graduated summa cum laude. Ellen loves the Lord and serving His people. She has been pursuing justice for those who cannot speak for themselves for the last two decades. She served as Director of Legal Programs for CLA-LA from 2019 to 2020 before moving to Tennessee and beginning her solo practice. Ellen currently recruits and manages volunteers who provide free legal services to the underserved community in Los Angeles at CLA-LA legal aid clinics and coordinates volunteers who offer Pro Bono services for clients between clinics. All for the glory of God.



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 19 years and they have one daughter together---Chrystyn. In addition, Chrystal has 5 "bonus" children, 9 "bonus" grandchildren, and 2 "bonus" great granddaughters. Her interests include traveling, cooking, shopping, reading, and doing needlepoint. She also enjoys volunteering at her daughter's school, going to Dodger games, spending time with family and serving in the Kingdom of God.



BOOKKEEPER-*Gail Heinrich*

Info@cla-la.org

Gail Heinrich has worked as a bookkeeper and small business manager for over 30 years. She has a B.A. in Mathematics from UCLA and is a certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor. Her other bookkeeping clients, current and past, have included law firms, a theatre design firm, contractors, architects, an interior designer, and an agricultural firm.

Gail has loved serving the Lord as an Elder, in the choir, on the finance committee, and in other capacities at the same church for over 40 years. In her spare time, she enjoys competitive water skiing (2021 Western Region Jump Champion), playing with her grandson, square dancing, reading, and solving number puzzles.



Our Clients

The California State Bar Association 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. CLA-LA partners 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.

53%

of our clients are referred by partner organizations

38%

of our clients receive immediate help with forms and documents

50%

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 and hold office hours. 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. Our summer internship program has provided 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. We anticipate continuing this great opportunity in the very near future.

133+

**Volunteer Hours (November
2022-October 2023)**

145+

**Volunteers with Diverse
Expertise & Experience
(November 2022-October 2023)**

385+

**Volunteer Hours (November
2022-October 2023)**

Partnering Churches and Organizations

- 211 Local Services
- Adult Protective Services
- Bread of Life Church
- Cornerstone West LA
- The Dream Center
- Desert Vineyard Church
- El Monte Wesleyan Church
- Faith Inspirational MBC
- Faithful Central Bible Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
- Hale Morris Lewis Manor
- Homeboy Industries
- King's Church
- Kingdom Reality LA
- LA Law Library
- Legal Aid Foundation
- Long Beach Rescue Mission
- Loyola Law Center
- Missionary Baptist Church
- Morningside Church of Christ
- New City Church
- Valley Vineyard Church
- Whittier Senior Center

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, but we are now also having in-person clinics. Each of these services is valued at \$750-\$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.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	1/1-9/30/2023
Revenue	\$157,909	\$151,354*	\$143,915**	\$127,601***	\$42,217
Expenses	\$180,558	\$148,674	\$128,315	\$139,791	\$78,996
Income (Loss)	(\$22,649)	\$2,680	\$15,600	(\$12,190)	(\$36,779)

*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

***Not including federal employee retention credits totaling \$22,015

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.

Special Thanks:

- ❖ First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
- ❖ Truxton's American Bistro
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- ❖ Tim Ketenjian-Music

**To our Guest Speaker, Sponsors, and Everyone who made this day
possible. To God Be The Glory!**

Notes:

Scriptures:

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalms 82: 3-4 (NIV)

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”

Psalms 89:14 (NIV)