



Dear Friends of justice, equality AND Legal Voice

The more things change, the more they remain the same, goes the old saying. That has been especially true for us over the last year. We experienced big changes in 2009, yet we continued to advance women's legal rights, we're still the same rabble-rousers we always were, and as usual, we had some great victories.



Lisa M. Stone
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Your response to the adoption of our Women's Bill of Rights in 2008 inspired us and gave us confidence. Going into the new year we stepped up our work in all areas, and also took a big **leap of faith** in our community and in the power of our organization. We know that with determination, stellar legal work, the help of our great allies and partners, and your support, we **can** make it a reality that all women and girls in the Northwest enjoy the rights to be free from discrimination, to be safe wherever they are, to decide how and when to form and maintain their families, to economic equality, and to be healthy and active. Those aren't just pretty words on a page: they are our commitment to you and to all women, girls, families, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in our region.



Barbara Jung Hwa Gangwer
PRESIDENT

Thanks to you, we have some fabulous accomplishments to report for 2009! Keeping in mind the audacious, challenging, and necessary goal of eventually making the Women's Bill of Rights a reality, and with your support, in 2009 we **filed** lawsuits and briefs and advanced women's rights to:

Give birth free from shackles: In *Brawley v. Department of Corrections*, we represent a woman who was shackled while in labor, and freed from restraints only when a doctor insisted the shackles come off during her emergency Caesarian section surgery, after which they were clapped back on. This violates the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, and we're determined to eradicate the practice.

Retain their jobs even when they have family responsibilities: Norma Maxwell was treated unfairly during her pregnancy (instructed to tell her co-workers she was happy to be pregnant, admonished for being 'grumpy') and after returning from her maternity leave, was fired.

Live in their rental homes without being subjected to sexual harassment: As part of our effort to eliminate barriers to women's safety, we've brought suit on behalf of two women, who were unlawfully harassed and sexually assaulted, respectively, by their landlords and retaliated against/threatened with eviction when they complained. (*Moore v. London*, *Russell v. Schluter*)

Retain ties to their children when their same-sex relationship ends: In *Kulstad v. Maniaci* we partnered with the ACLU of Montana to establish that a non-biological lesbian parent should be treated as a parent under Montana law, and also that the parents' or partners' property should be divided equitably.

Be free from abusive litigation by their battering ex-spouses: Even when a woman escapes from her batterer and gets a divorce, he continues to abuse her by bringing repeated motions and often, new lawsuits in an effort to retain or reestablish his control. This disturbingly common phenomenon is complex and difficult to deal with, as it implicates important issues of access to justice, constitutional rights, and, of course, keeping women safe. (*Webster v. Webster*)

Our wonderful volunteers and staff **answered** thousands of calls from women and men with legal problems on our free legal Information & Referral telephone line, dealing with a sharp increase in calls about bankruptcy, creditor/debtor, and housing issues, along with the perennial leader, family law.

Our ace legal team **protected** patients' rights by persuading a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel to overturn the trial judge in our pharmacy refusal case, setting the stage for trial in 2010 and ensuring the availability of emergency contraception for all women in Washington.

CONTENTS

- 2 LETTER (CONTINUED)
- 2 STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS
- 3 2009 DONORS
- 8 2009 VOLUNTEERS
- 10 2009 FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 11 2009 INFORMATION & REFERRAL STATISTICS

LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS CONTINUED



As always, we **stood up** for LGBT families by helping to pass the final piece of Domestic Partner legislation in Washington and defending it at the ballot box, including leading the Referendum 71 legal team that dealt with four separate lawsuits during the campaign.

Continuing our work to help make women safe wherever they are, we drafted and **helped pass** legislation to protect tenants from sexual assault, harassment and stalking by their landlords.

With a nod to our very first lawsuit and our decades-long work for girls' and women's athletic opportunities, we **advocated** successfully to outlaw gender discrimination in community athletics programs through new legislation passed in Washington.

That big leap of faith occurred in March, when we **launched** our new brand and new name, while recommitting to our mission and our work. The response from our community has been terrific.

Like virtually every organization we know, both non-profit and in the private sector, we **weathered** the most difficult economic year in decades with our staff intact. We couldn't have done it without the hard work and dedication of our great Board of Directors, who guided us as we implemented prudent budget cuts, and helped ensure careful management of our resources.

And, in a welcome acknowledgement of our valued commitment to working with our allies, we were **awarded** both the Seattle Distinguished Resident Award for Human Rights and the Greater Seattle Business Association Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Yes, it was quite a year. And we're proud of what we accomplished, **thanks to your support** and encouragement. 2010 promises to be both challenging and inspiring as well, so hang on for the ride!

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Special thanks to Heather Andersen for all her help with our strategic planning.

COOPERATING ATTORNEYS

Baxter v. Montana:

Protecting the privacy rights of terminally ill persons
Karen Boxx, *University of Washington School of Law*

Brawley v. DOC:

Prohibiting shackling of pregnant incarcerated women
Michael Wampold, Ann Rosato, Ana Popp, Felix Luna, *Peterson Young Putra*

In re Dependency of B.R. and T.V.:

Protecting the parental rights of battered women
Rima Alaily, *Microsoft Corporation*; Molly Terwilliger, *Summit Law Group*

In re Parentage of M.F.:

Advocating for the rights of step parents as de facto parents
Janet Helson, *Skellenger Bender*

Kulstad v. Maniaci:

Establishing parental rights of lesbian non-biological mother
Jessica Andrade, Jennifer Berry, Dan Semmens, *Dorsey & Whitney*

Maxwell v. VESi:

Establishing the right to be free from gender stereotyping and family responsibilities discrimination
Kammi Mencke Smith, *Winston & Cashatt*

Meredith v. Muriel:

Preventing abusers from using immigration status against their victims
Steve DiJulio, Jay Donovan, *Foster Pepper*

Moore v. London:

Protecting the rights of tenants against sex discrimination by their landlords
Cynthia Jones, *Rafel Law Group*

Russell v. Schluter:

Protecting tenants from sexual assault by their landlords
Brian Buckley, Kit Roth, *Fenwick & West*
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Salas v. Hi-Tech Erectors:

Advocating against the use of immigration status in civil cases
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Stormans v. Selecky:

Protecting patients' access to healthcare and ensuring reproductive freedom
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Webster v. Webster:

Stopping abusers from using the court system to continue their abuse
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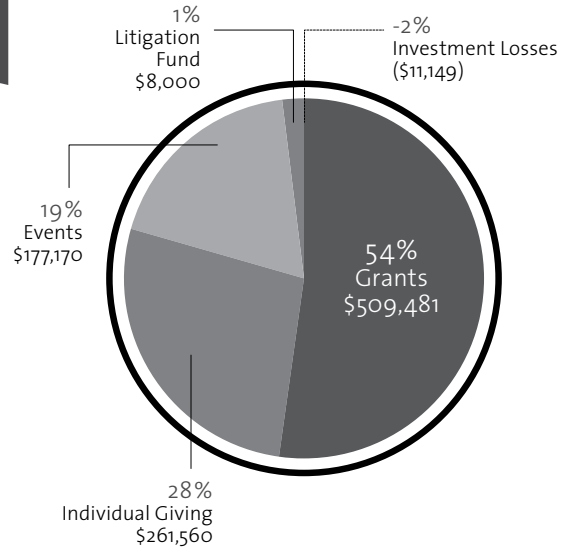


2009 FINANCIALS



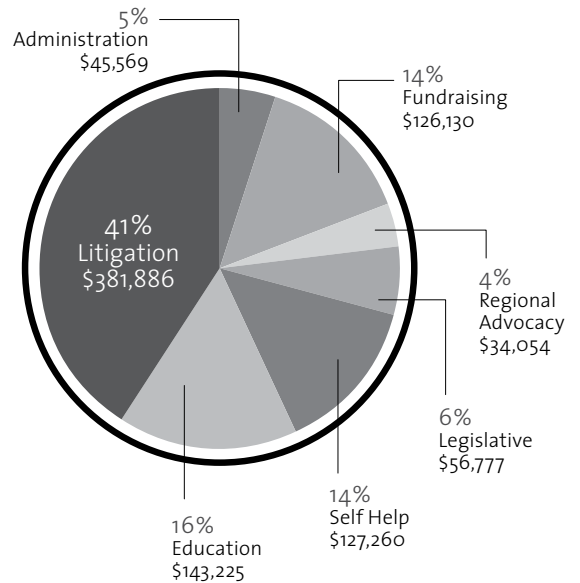
REVENUE

Total:
\$945,062



EXPENSES

Total:
\$914,901

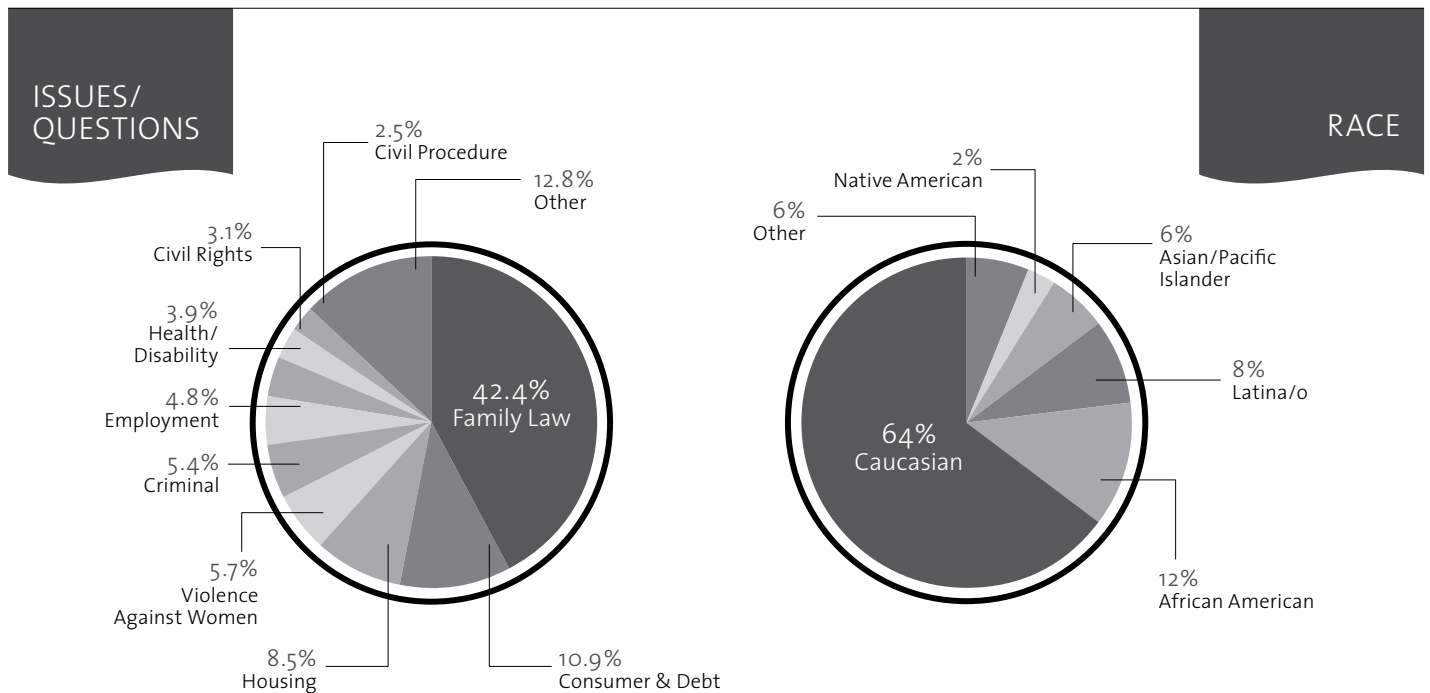


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2009 SELF HELP PROGRAM

Our Self Help Program offers free legal and practical information to help women and men in Washington who do not know where to turn to solve legal problems that threaten their health, safety, and security and the well-being of their families. We provide services through a Legal Information and Referral (I&R) telephone line staffed by volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students, and through self help materials. In 2009, 90% of our callers found the information helpful.

While family law issues continued to constitute the largest segment of our calls in 2009, housing and debt-related calls increased to new highs. We produced new publications on stalking and on landlord-tenant law for survivors of violence and a new translation of *Know Your Rights: Domestic Workers*. We also devoted significant efforts to drafting our legal handbook for seniors, to be published in 2010, and established a Language Access Workgroup.



LANGUAGES IN WHICH WE ASSISTED CALLERS

Albanian, Amharic, Aramaic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Mongolian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese

COMING SOON: SENIOR LEGAL WELLNESS HANDBOOK AND PROJECT

The Self Help Committee is establishing a Senior Legal Wellness Project to assist seniors statewide. We are writing a Handbook of Legal Rights and Resources for Washington Seniors — a quick reference guide to laws and programs for seniors, to be published in English and Spanish. When this is complete, we will launch a multi-faceted Senior Legal Wellness Project that will include legal wellness trainings and workshops for seniors, family members, caregivers and service providers; self help legal assistance services; a senior legal wellness webpage; technical assistance for service providers who serve seniors with legal issues; and advocacy to improve laws and services for Washington seniors. As of 2009, our Senior Legal Wellness Project included:

- 47 topics
- 7 Senior Workgroup members
- 21 volunteer attorney writers
- 20 community reviewers

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