



SILICON VALLEY  
CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES

# ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 — DECEMBER 31, 2008





**William F. Abrams**



**Denis R. Salmon**

Co-Chairs 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We are pleased to provide you with this 2008 Annual Report, reflecting our results and activities during this past year. Last fall brought new challenges for the Campaign, and for the agencies and the population we serve. However, our Campaign still achieved many successes in a difficult economy: 30,000 low-income individuals receiving civil legal assistance – with your invaluable help.

Within these pages you will find examples of life-affecting circumstances experienced by clients, and accounts describing how those challenges were resolved. All of us can be proud that, person by person, we are significantly improving the lives of our neighbors. Our collective effort also provides the opportunity for greater systemic change, as our legal services partners alert government agencies, foundations, and other organizations that problems experienced by one individual can be endemic to many – thus warranting a change in procedure or, in some cases, the law.

This year, our report highlights information about the efforts underway to redefine and adopt new standards for poverty that will account for regional differences and cost of living factors. We feel that it is a subject of worth and importance, and hope you'll find this article informative.

We are particularly gratified that the Campaign received two awards this year for its leadership in the delivery of legal services. The San Francisco 49ers Foundation's Community Quarterback Award recognized SVCLS founding board member, Phil Hammer, for his stalwart leadership of our organization. And the Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center's 2008 Community Award cited our sustained dedication to addressing the needs of low-income clients.

We worked together in 2008 to accomplish much during a challenging time. Together, we can remain strong in this time of economic uncertainty and continue to assure our low-income neighbors access to the legal services help that they require and deserve.

Thank you again for your continued support.

*William F. Abrams*      *Denis R. Salmon*

— William F. Abrams  
BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP

— Denis R. Salmon  
GIBSON DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

“ The SVCLS  
was born from  
a desire, on the part  
of the Valley’s leading firms  
and businesses,  
not just to contribute  
collectively to the  
community’s legal safety net,  
but to create a culture  
and tradition of giving.”

— **Ramón Arias**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BAY AREA LEGAL AID





SILICON VALLEY

## CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES

### CAMPAIGN MISSION

The **SILICON VALLEY CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES** (SVCLS) provides funds to increase the effectiveness and ability of non-profit legal services agencies to assist men, women, and children, of all ages, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds. The organization supports individuals who cannot afford to hire an attorney in civil cases, and whose legal rights would otherwise go unrecognized or unenforced. In addition, SVCLS also works to encourage the legal community to become more involved in the provision of pro bono legal assistance. Funds raised in the Silicon Valley community are distributed to agencies that provide civil legal services directly to the poor. The Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services is a recipient of the American Bar Association's prestigious Harrison Tweed award in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Bar Association, for leadership in expanding and developing support for the provision of free legal services to the poor.



### CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT

Nearly 500,000 people in Silicon Valley – 25 percent of the population – qualify for special help due to income, age, or disability. These individuals' critical legal issues are primarily related to:

- health care
- the ability to secure and preserve affordable and fair housing
- family law issues, such as domestic violence, child custody, and divorce
- economic instability
- special problems of the elderly
- consumer fraud, debt collection abuses, and other unfair practices
- immigration
- employment

The people who receive SVCLS assistance have poverty-level incomes far below the amount actually needed to live in Silicon Valley. Many of these individuals are the working poor.

Silicon Valley-based legal services agencies lack the financial resources required to meet the legal needs of our community's poorest residents. The legal community's pro bono actions and financial support are therefore not only welcome but needed. We count upon the participation of our friends in the greater community who believe, as we do, that access to civil legal counsel is a fundamental tenet of our society, rather than a benefit for the privileged few.

## REDEFINING POVERTY AND THE SILICON VALLEY SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD

The federal government's method of measuring poverty is considered by many – including economists, policy analysts, social scientists, and mayors – to be an outdated and inaccurate picture of a person's or family's true economic circumstances. Individuals and organizations are now calling for an overhaul of the nation's poverty measurement statistics, in order to reflect regional variations and other economic factors.

The current method was designed in the early 1960s as part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. This threshold measure of severe deprivation – the minimum amount of money needed for subsistence – is based primarily on how much of an individual's or household's pretax income is spent on food. This threshold varies by family size, but not by geography. The same dollar amounts officially define poverty in both low-cost-of-living rural areas and high-cost urban areas. Poverty thresholds are adjusted periodically using the Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a policy at its 2007 Annual Meeting urging the federal government to revise this formula so that it would better reflect the actual wages families must earn to meet basic needs, and also that the formula would reflect costs such as housing, transportation, health care, and child care, in addition to food.<sup>1</sup>

In July 2008, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's administration adopted a new poverty measurement that takes into account a household's spending on food, clothing, shelter, transportation, utilities, and out-of-pocket medical expenses, as well as tax credits and government subsidies received. The city's new formula is based on recommendations developed in 1995 by the National Academy of Sciences' panel on poverty and family assistance, but never implemented.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent to New York City's poverty guideline change, a subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the issue. Congressman Charles Rangel, chair of the Committee called New York City's efforts a "useful start."

Momentum is building to redefine "poverty," but there are political and financial barriers. First, a redefinition would increase the number of Americans classified as poor. In New York City alone, this act resulted in a nearly five percent increase. Second, there are perceived financial barriers. Expenditures for many federal programs are tied to the official poverty rate – the more poverty, the more the federal government would have to pay into these programs.<sup>3</sup>

In January 2009, the annual federal poverty level for a family of four (two adults and two children) was \$22,050. Consider the federal poverty threshold within the context of The California Self-Sufficiency Standard, which measures how much income working individuals and families need to pay for their basic needs – including housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation and other basic needs. The Standard varies in every county in California by providing localized information. A person working two full-time minimum wage jobs still does not earn enough to support a family in any county of California, even with California's minimum wage of \$8.00 an hour.<sup>4</sup> The Santa Clara County/Silicon Valley Self-Sufficiency Standard in 2008 for a family of four was \$68,430.

We live in one of the most affluent areas in the country, yet one in four county residents can't make ends meet. We need a poverty measure that shows us who the poor really are. When one-quarter of the people living in a community are poor by current federal standards, or are living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard, increased access to civil legal counsel should be considered a priority. It is a basic 'safety net' issue when our most vulnerable residents require help to address an array of life-affecting circumstances.

<sup>1</sup> "Third Stop: Villaraigosa Poverty Forum," *U.S. Mayor Newspaper*, The United States Conference of Mayors, September 29, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> "Bloomberg Attempts To Redefine Poverty," *The New York Sun*, July 14, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> "Economists Question 'Official' Poverty Statistics Used for US Mayor's Report," *City Mayors Society*, April 1, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> "How Much is Enough In Your County? The 2008 California Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard," *Insight Center for Community Economic Development*, May 2008.



## GRANT AWARDS HELP MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE

In 2008, more of our low-income neighbors benefited from legal assistance in life-affecting circumstances than ever before – 30,000 in all. Yet despite this good news, we still have a long way to go in order to meet the needs of those people with meritorious cases requiring assistance – nearly 90,000 annually.

Our umbrella fundraising effort this year resulted in \$358,000 in grants awarded to the eight Silicon Valley-based agencies in the SVCLS consortium, some of which received increased grant awards above prior years' levels. These awards reflect SVCLS' commitment to assuring a strong and diverse community of legal services providers that collectively serve all demographic groups and also address a broad range of civil legal issues.

We recognize, clearly, that no single group can do it all. Furthermore, many of the organizations that benefit from SVCLS still do not have the internal capacity to seek private philanthropic funding effectively. These circumstances underscore the continuing value of your support of SVCLS' efforts to offer avenues that can create positive outcomes for our low-income neighbors.

Each beneficiary agency's board of directors determines the best and most effective use of the awarded grant monies, thus ensuring support for the most urgent client needs and program priorities. Organizations receive a proportional share of the funds raised.

## DONORS CELEBRATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Supporters gathered to celebrate SVCLS' ninth annual Donor Celebration and distribution of funds event on November 18, 2008. Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP graciously hosted.

Keynote speaker Stanford University Law Professor and sociologist Michele Landis Dauber addressed the implications of the collapsing credit, housing, and job markets for legal services in Santa Clara County. She posited that "as advocates for the poor, we are challenged by the national housing and credit calamity to communicate that many low income people have been unfairly taken advantage of by unscrupulous lenders and profiteers. We should, as Roosevelt urged, 'take a lesson' from history, by arguing that those facing foreclosure and bankruptcy are victims of a disaster in need, through no fault of their own, and by coming to their aid."



Christopher and Elizabeth Cobey.



Keynote speaker, Michele Landis Dauber, and William F. Abrams.



Denis Salmon, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Chris Compton, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati LLP and Michael Shpizner, Fujitsu America, Inc.

“ The Campaign's  
unrestricted, annual support  
is so very important.  
You continue to make  
a difference by helping us  
create positive outcomes  
for countless seniors.  
Thank you  
for giving generously  
to the Campaign! ”  
— Georgia Bacil  
DIRECTING ATTORNEY  
SENIOR ADULT LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
OF SILICON VALLEY



## CASES INSPIRE OUR ACTION

Clients shared their moving and meaningful personal stories – including relating the circumstances that led each of them to seek legal assistance and also acknowledging the impact of the legal assistance that they received due to SVCLS funding. Here are excerpts from several of the compelling cases that we heard this year:



### **Protecting a mother and child from harm**

Norma, a victim of domestic violence, became homeless because of financial retaliation by her battering husband. Your support helped preserve her child custody rights and helped her find temporary safe shelter, job training, and childcare assistance. She is now on her way to a new life.



### **A young woman gains permanent resident status and benefits from a college scholarship**

Etivise had lived in the U.S. since she was 8, when her family entered the country legally. She thought she was a U.S. citizen until she applied for a college scholarship and a social security card in her senior year of high school – and found that her citizenship was suspect. Upon entry into the U.S., her parents had been unaware that separate legal status was required for their children. With the help of a legal advocate Etivise is now a naturalized U.S. citizen with a brighter future because of assistance you helped make possible. She won her college scholarship and is now working toward completing her education.



### Helping a family live in a healthy environment

The four-member Watson family was served an eviction notice by their landlord after they complained about severe plumbing problems. The ceiling of the children's room was soft with water, mold covered the walls, and the mother routinely picked snails out of the bedroom closets. With your help, an attorney arranged a Santa Clara County inspection. The landlord was compelled to make repairs, and the eviction notice was rescinded.

### Insuring a stable home for young children after their parents' violent deaths

Nick and his younger brother and sisters have faced far more tragedy than any child should. Just months after their mother was killed by a drunk driver and their father was left to care for the children, Nick and his father were victims of a stabbing. Nick was seriously injured and his father was killed. With your help, a legal services attorney established guardianship for all of the children with their aunt and uncle, as well as arranging successor guardianships in the home of close family friends. Legal services attorneys also helped the family manage issues surrounding payments for victim-witnesses of crime, mental health services, and a name change. Finally, assistance was provided to minimize the disruption to the children's education, helping them to stay in the same schools.

### Aiding a victim of housing fraud

Kim received a credit report stating that she owned five houses. She was rightfully shocked, because she had only recently bought her first and only home. Kim realized that the Loan Agent had used her Social Security number and her credit to purchase the other four houses. With your help, a legal services attorney was able to work with the District Attorney and credit companies in order to consider the situation and resolve the matter in Kim's favor.



“ As the economy  
has gotten worse  
we have seen client needs grow.  
Our clients are having  
financial problems which means  
more foreclosures, more evictions,  
more bankruptcy, more consumer

problems and more family  
problems that end in divorce  
or domestic violence.

Government and foundations  
are reducing their support  
for Silicon Valley

legal services organizations.

Continued support by  
the Silicon Valley Campaign

for Legal Services is  
allowing us to find ways of  
meeting our client needs.”

— John Hedges  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PRO BONO SILICON VALLEY





## 2008 MIX & MATCH: MAKING PRO BONO CONNECTIONS

*2008 Mix & Match: Making Pro Bono Connections* offered area attorneys an opportunity to hear about the value of legal services to the courts and to pro bono civil litigants in Silicon Valley. This year's distinguished panel included the Hon. Richard G. Seeborg, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; the Hon. Erica R. Yew, Santa Clara County Superior Court; and the Hon. Robert Baines (Ret.), JAMS. Attendees heard their perspectives on how *pro bono* supports the legal profession, as well as information about issues and trends that are affecting the pro bono involvement of lawyers. They also gained insight into the various ways that attorneys can get personally involved. Panel discussion attendees earned MCLE credit, and the event offered a networking opportunity for attendees to meet firm and in-house counsel from companies throughout the region.

Amicus Committee members greeted attendees and provided additional support for the June 3, 2008 event, hosted by Bingham McCutchen LLP. *The Daily Journal* and *The Recorder* provided pro bono advertising space to help publicize the event.

## HUDDLE AT THE 49ERS TRAINING CAMP: GENERAL COUNSEL COMMITTEE NEWS

The General Counsel Committee and invited legal community leaders had a rare opportunity to meet members of the San Francisco 49ers organization when they met for a Huddle at the 49ers Training Camp in May 2008. Guests received a behind-the-scenes tour, as well as hearing about the draft and expectations for the 2008 season. The capacity event also was an opportunity for the General Counsel community to learn more about the Campaign's goals and aspirations and to find out how they could become more actively involved. We are grateful to the 49ers organization for their generous support of the Campaign and this event.

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ER COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK AWARD HONORS PHIL HAMMER

Philip Hammer was one of five finalists honored by The San Francisco 49ers Community Quarterback program. He was acknowledged for his demonstrated leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services, as well as for his work toward bettering our community. The program, which is part of the NFL Charities Community Quarterback efforts, recognizes dedicated local individuals who devote their time to improving the lives of Bay Area residents. The honorees were recognized at a team luncheon hosted by former 49ers quarterback Steve Bono.

## FURNITURE DONATION FACILITATED BY SVCLS BENEFITS AGENCIES

First Franklin, a subsidiary of Merrill Lynch, approached the Campaign with a furniture donation offer benefiting the agencies in our consortium. As a result, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto's conference room now presents a more professional environment.



Judge Erica R. Yew, Judge Robert Baines (Ret.), and Judge Richard Seeborg.



Barbara Beerstein, Steve Bono and Philip Hammer.

# KATHERINE AND GEORGE ALEXANDER LAW CENTER AWARD RECOGNIZES SVCLS

The Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center honored the Campaign with its 2008 Community Award last October. SVCLS was sited for its dedication to addressing the needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities. Additionally, it was noted that not only has the Campaign been a crucial bridge between legal services providers and the legal profession, but that its generous support of local agencies, including the Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center, has been invaluable. The Campaign continues to demonstrate the leadership, innovation, and foresight that are essential to advancing justice and serving communities in need.

## AMICUS COMMITTEE 2008 Mixers

A lively series of Mixers organized by the Amicus Committee brought together young lawyers in 2008 for social networking and professional exchange in informal settings. This year's sponsors included the San Francisco Legal, Lateral Link Group LLC, and Think Twice, Inc. The 2008 Mixer Committee was led by Kristen Major, Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom LLP.

## Bocce Ball Tournament

Thirty-two teams participated in the Amicus Committee's third annual Bocce Ball Tournament, which took place on June 26, 2008. The event drew together associates and summer associates from area law firms, teams from area businesses, and non-profits, for a lively evening of court play, dinner, and a silent auction. Fenwick & West LLP took home the top trophy, with team Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP walking away with the second-place finish.

The Tournament Committee was co-chaired by Sally Berens, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, and Alison Buchanan, Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel, who also served as 2008 Amicus Committee co-chairs. All proceeds benefited SVCLS.

The Amicus Committee's busy schedule also included its support for 2008 Mix & Match.

The Amicus Committee is a dynamic group of young lawyers who are dedicated to building a new generation of enthusiasm and financial support for the legal services agencies serving Silicon Valley. The committee provides visibility for and support of the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services (SVCLS) within its members' own firms, corporations, or government agencies, and also hosts fundraising and social and networking events throughout the year.

## BOARD NEWS

We express our great thanks to those board members whose terms expired at year-end 2008. Our organization has greatly benefited from their support and involvement. Thank you to: Carol Dillion and Tom Kuhnle, both of Bingham McCutchen LLP. Each contributed uniquely to SVCLS' long-term success.

In 2008, we welcomed two new board members: Neal Potischman, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP; and Mark Malovos, President, CEO and General Counsel, First Franklin.



Sally Berens, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, and Carolyn Brenner, Lateral Link.



Amicus Mixers bring attorneys together for informal exchange.



First Place Team: Fenwick & West LLP.



Second Place Team: Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP.

## THANK YOU! 2008 DONORS

Thank you for supporting our very important mission – to give low-income individuals access to civil legal counsel.

We gratefully acknowledge our 2008 donors.



**Gifts from January 1, 2008  
through December 31, 2008.**



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\* The Thurgood Marshall Society  
recognizes law firms whose gift is  
equivalent to \$300 or greater per  
attorney based in Silicon Valley.





# SILICON VALLEY CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## INCOME

### Contributions

#### Individuals

Board Members \$ 40,240

Individuals (attorneys and others) 45,833

#### *Sub-Total Individual Gifts*

\$ 86,073

#### Law Firms

297,950

#### Companies

80,750

#### Foundations

12,000

#### Special Events (gross)

25,867

#### *Sub-Total Gifts*

\$ 502,640

### Donated Services

15,899

### Interest Income

18

## Total 2008 Income

\$ 518,557

## EXPENSES

### Agency Distributions

Bay Area Legal Aid (SCC Office)

\$ 64,310

Katherine and George Alexander

Community Law Center

64,310

Community Legal Services

in East Palo Alto

18,763

Law Foundation of Silicon Valley

64,310

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

15,664

Pro Bono Project Silicon Valley

35,728

Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance

51,141

Senior Adults Legal Assistance

43,053

#### *Sub-Total Distributions to Agencies*

\$ 357,280

### Other Programs

13,974

#### Subtotal All Programs

\$ 371,254

### Administrative Expenses

Management

\$ 78,121

Fundraising

69,188

#### Sub-Total Administration and Fundraising

\$ 147,309

## Total 2008 Expenses

\$ 518,563

### Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets

(6)

### Cash, Beginning of Year

\$ 20,042

## Surplus (Deficit) Held for 2009 Operations

\$ 20,036

“Thank you so much  
for your support  
of the legal assistance  
provided by  
our organization.  
With your help  
we were able  
to protect disabled seniors  
from termination  
of essential  
government benefits,  
defend tenants  
from unlawful discrimination  
from unscrupulous landlords,  
and help immigrants  
and refugees  
become lawful citizens.”

— **Richard Konda**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
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