



Providing Equal Justice
In Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren Counties
www.lsnwj.org

Michael L. Wojcik, Esq., Chief Executive Officer

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Our mission is to enable equal access to justice to people who cannot afford an attorney, ensuring that all individuals have the legal support they need to protect their essential needs and achieve self-sufficiency.

DATE: December 2025

PRESENTED BY: Michael L. Wojcik, Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Last year was a year of growth for LSNWJ. New team members joined us, including some highly experienced attorneys.



CEO Michael Wojcik, at our Karaoke Fundraiser, with attorneys Jeremy Silberman and Craig Sashihara.

Developing Leaders

We created new support professional positions, adding our Social Worker, Megan Berg, MSW and our Interpreter/Translator, Carolina Chia, who previously served as a linguist in the US Army military intelligence, among other nonprofit ESL work experience.

We strengthened our organization now and for the future, by extending new opportunities for staff to further develop leadership experience:

- In our summer intern program, we employed three Poritz fellow law students, and staff attorneys Yvonne Larsen from the Morris office and Erin Connolly from the Hunterdon office took on responsibility for their mentorship. As a result of their success, we formalized the structure, and Yvonne and Erin were promoted to Co-Coordiators for Law Student Involvement effective January 1, 2025. They will recruit summer interns, plan the interns' work during their tenure with LSNWJ, and coordinate the interns' activities.
- We created a Veterans Team, splitting the veterans work from the Community Health Team. Attorney Claire Corsey from the Somerville office was promoted to the Veterans Team Leader effective December 1.



Megan Berg, MSW and Claire Corsey, Esq.

As Team Leader, Claire's role working on the federal Veterans Administration grant expands, to add overseeing our veterans work with our partners Veterans Haven North in Hunterdon County and Community Hope in Somerset County.

Community Support



LSNWJ ventured into new fundraising and community building events, with our Karaoke Night. This fundraiser featuring talented staff, volunteers, and supporters performing with voice, piano, and saxophone on October 18 at the Mount Tabor fire house in Morris County.



Karaoke Night!

Finance Leadership

LSC (Legal Services Corporation) updated its accounting guidelines in 2023. Among the revisions were changes to cost allocation. LSC requires recipients to maintain accounting systems sufficient to demonstrate the proper allocation of costs to each of LSNWJ's funding sources.

LSNWJ formerly allocated costs based on the percentage of revenue from each of our funders. Under the new guidelines, an allocation base must be cost-driven, rather than by percentage of revenue approach.

Our CEO, COO and CFO continued their work on studying and transitioning to the new cost allocation accounting in 2024, by exploring best practices used by colleague programs and with the aid of expert consulting.

Our Finance Department added a necessary support position.



CFO Kevin Morrissey successfully implemented the new method by midyear, well in advance of the LSC deadline.

CFO Kevin Morrissey, with Housing Team Leader, David Saltzman, Esq.

Onward

All of this exciting growth and development is for the purpose of extending and improving the legal services offered by our staff and pro bono professionals, to help more northwest New Jersey residents access equal justice and protect their and their family's essential needs.

Our Year in Numbers

Financials

2024 Support and Revenue

Grants and Contracts	\$ 7,120,529
Contributions, Awards, Interest	\$ 4,517
Special events	\$ 4,587
Donated Services & Space	\$ 21,020
Total	\$ 7,213,653

2024 Expenses

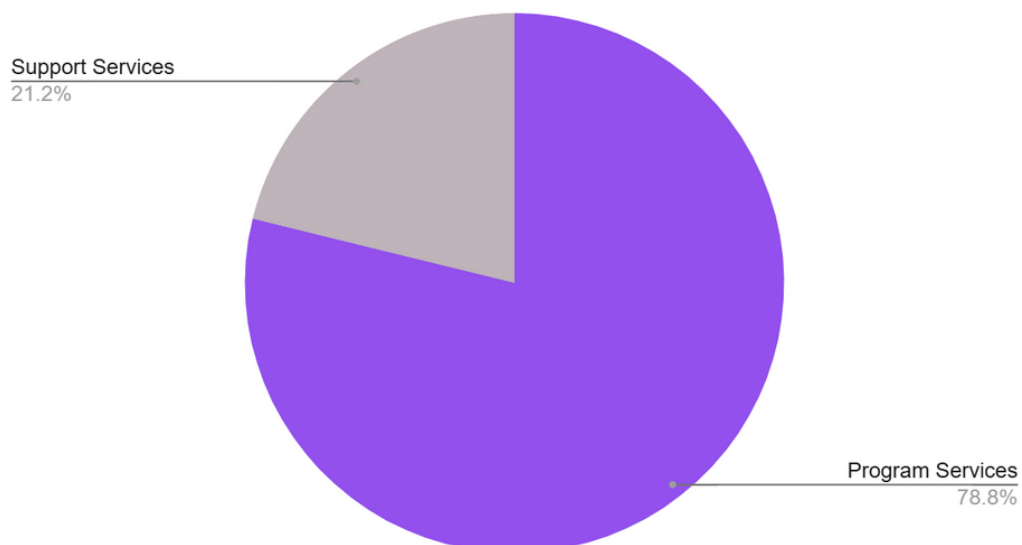
Program Services Compared with Support Services

2024	Expenses**
Program Services	\$5,676,790
Support Services*	\$1,524,684
Total	\$7,201,474

*Support Services refers to Management/General and Development/Fundraising

**Expenses include Salaries, Payroll Taxes/Benefits, Outside Contractors/Consultants, Travel, Space and Occupancy, Contributed Space and Occupancy, Supplies and Postage, Equipment Lease and Maintenance, Training, Insurance, Communications, Legal Research, Case Expenses, Dues and Fees, Other Direct Costs, Contributed Services, and Depreciation.

Expenses



The People We Served

We share that in 2024, 9,175 individuals in 6,047 cases benefited from our legal services, positively impacting 3,139 children.



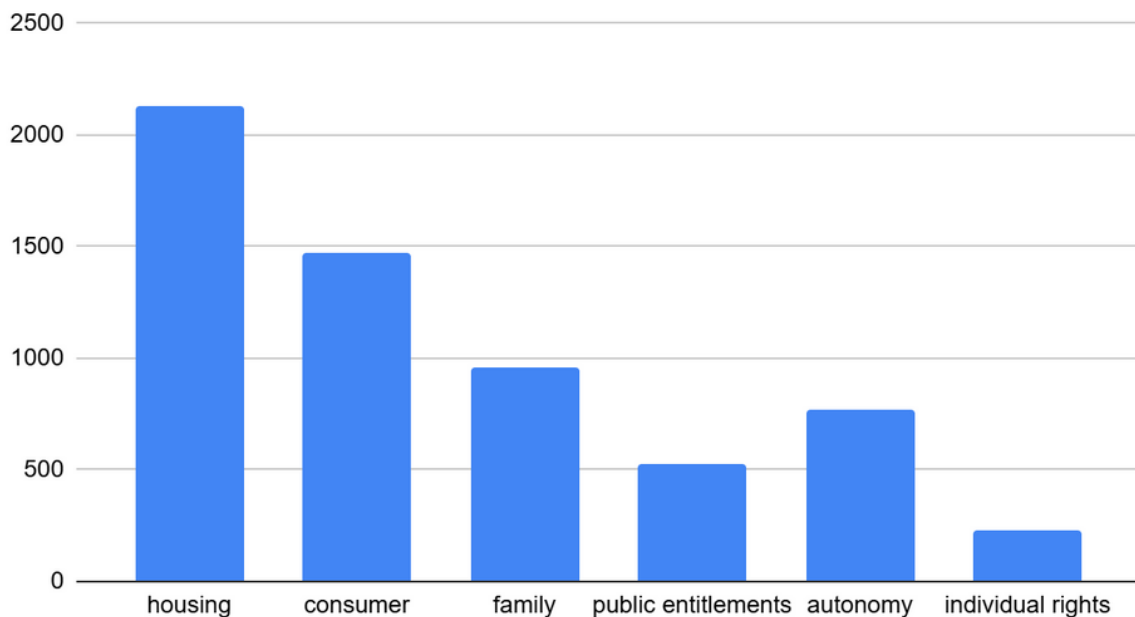
Our clients included survivors of domestic violence (18%), people of color (53%), individuals with disabilities (49%), and military members and veterans (499 individuals).

These cases included 789 cases commenced prior to 2024.

Many people in need suffer from multiple legal problems which need resolution through more than one case.

Legal Work

Cases Handled by Substantive Area 2024



Housing: includes landlord/tenant, public and Federally subsidized housing, and housing discrimination matters.

Consumer: includes bankruptcy and debtor relief, collection cases, contract and warranty matters, creditor harassment, loans, public utilities, taxes, home ownership issues, mortgage foreclosures, and a tort issue.

Family: includes custody and parenting time, divorce, domestic abuse, and support.

Public Entitlements: includes work on Medicaid, Medicare, Health care; TANF; Food Stamps; State, Local and Other Income Maintenance; Social Security, SSDI, and SSI; Unemployment Compensation; Veterans Benefits.

Autonomy: includes review and preparation of basic life planning documents including Wills, Advance Directives, and Powers of Attorney.

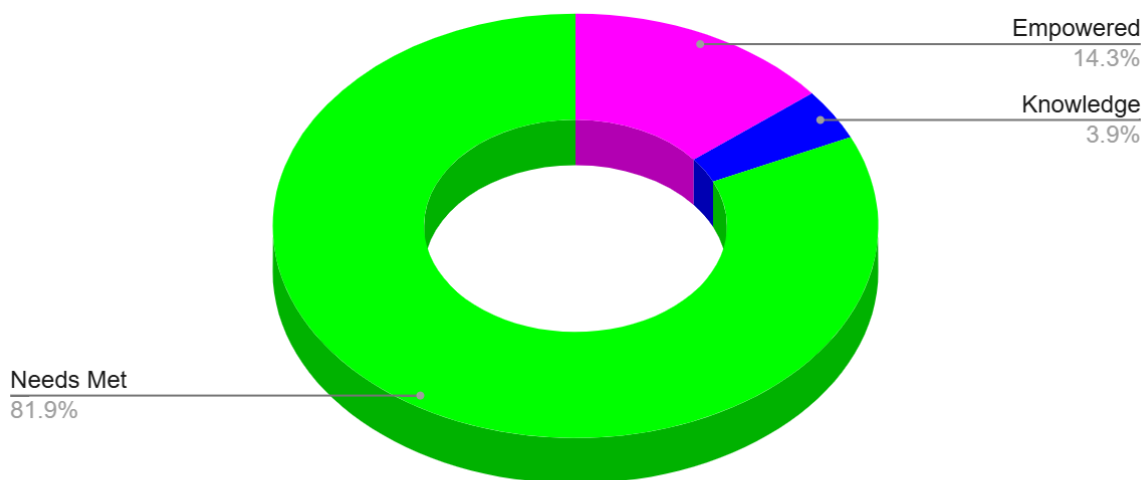
Individual Rights: cases involving expungement of criminal record, driver's license restoration, and guardianship matters.

Results

Client Benefit Outcomes of Cases completed in 2024

LSNWJ continues to meet or exceed its benchmarks for outcomes for clients who received full representation. Over 80% of clients achieved their needs met.

Outcomes for Clients with Full Representation



Teamwork

LSC 50th Anniversary, Washington, D.C.



In April, Trustees Mary Ellen Koscs-Fleming and Verne Johnson, CEO Mike Wojcik, and colleagues from across the country attended LSC's 50th Anniversary event in Washington, D.C. We met with our colleagues and leaders in Legal Services across the nation to commemorate 50 years of civil legal aid for low-income Americans,

celebrate successes and discuss challenges. Pictured: Colleagues from across the country with CEO Mike Wojcik.

Veterans Team Receives the Group Achievement Award at LSNJ's 2024 Conference



Legal Services of New Jersey recognizes special achievement of legal services staff from across the State. These outstanding achievement awards are not awarded every year but only when truly warranted. Our LSNWJ Veterans Team truly shone.

Pro Bono



Pro Bono counsel join LSNWJ staff attorneys to serve tenant clients at Somerville Landlord-Tenant Court.

Pro Bono corporate counsel from Wyndham were trained in our autonomy document practice, and pitched in to serve clients at Madison Housing Authority.



Pro Bono corporate counsel from Chubb joined our Veterans Haven North Legal Clinic to help veterans with credit repair and consumer law matters.

Pictured are intern Fellows and Staff at Veterans Haven North Legal Clinic.

Sharon Yoo with the NJSBA Pro Bono Committee, pictured. Sharon and Michael Wojcik attended the annual NJSBA Pro Bono Awards, where LSNWJ alumna Diane Smith was one of those recognized. **WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BETTER.**



Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

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LSNWJ

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ALISA GROSSMAN, Managing Attorney

GRACE E. KELLY, Managing Attorney, Family Team Leader

MELISSA KIEFER, Community Health Team Leader

RICHARD A. MASTRO, Consumer Team Leader

NANA ABENA A. OSAFO, Human Resources Director, Managing Attorney

VICTORIA A. REINERS, Managing Attorney

DAVID M. SALTZMAN, Housing Team Leader

ANDREA STRACK, Public Entitlements Team Leader

THERESA A. KIST, Access Team Leader, Office Manager

SULMA A. MARINO, Office Administrator

JENNIFER STOY, Human Resource Manager



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