



Mission // To promote justice through legal representation and education for our low-income neighbors as a way of demonstrating Christ's love.

Vision // Justice for the vulnerable so that all may flourish.

Theme Verses // *Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4*

In 2016, the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic helped more than **10,000 people**. You made this possible with your generosity, and our work continues because of you.

This year, we're on our way to serving just as many of our low-income neighbors!

We look forward to continuing to partner with you for the sake of justice throughout the state of Indiana. *We are so grateful for you!*

In 2017, the Clinic

- assisted **2,329** people with criminal records learn about their options for expungement at our Expungement Help Desk,
- assisted **60** veterans through our Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation Partnership,
- saved taxpayers **\$236,319** in corrected tax liabilities and dollars refunded,
- filed **94** applications to help our immigrant neighbors become citizens of the United States,
- provided immigration assistance to **229** victims of violent crimes, and
- helped **231** families avoid foreclosure.

Date range: 2017 Mid-Year and 10.26.17 YTD Statistics

Our offices are in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, but we also provide services to Hoosiers statewide.
Indianapolis Office: 3333 N. Meridian Street, Suite 201, Indianapolis, IN 46208 phone 317.429.4131
Fort Wayne Office: 347 W Berry Street, Suite 101, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 phone 260.456.8972

Civil Legal Advice Line: 1.877.230.7521
www.nclegalclinic.org



Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic // HVAF Partnership

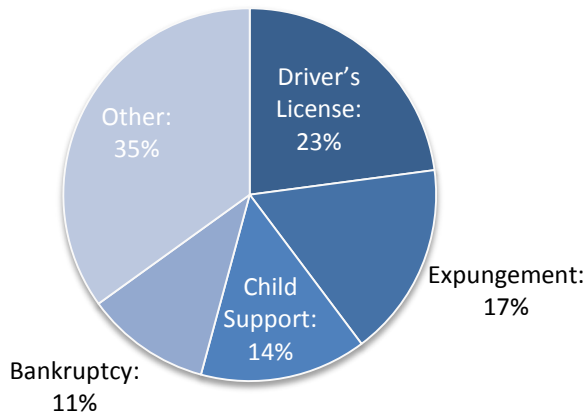


The Clinic is proud to partner with the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indiana (HVAF) to provide legal services to homeless veterans in our community. This targeted partnership allows the Clinic to assist veterans with a variety of legal issues—including expungement, bankruptcy, family law issues, and more—to ensure that those who have faithfully served our country have the help they need.

Date Range: 2017 YTD

// TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: 60 individuals, 83 issues

// TYPES OF CASES



// STORIES

Roger* lost his home because of a foreclosure. This also led to a loss of employment. Eventually, he became homeless. During his period of homelessness, bills began piling up. Later, Roger found employment with the help of Hoosier Veteran's Assistance Foundation (HVAF). The problem, however, was his old bills. Creditors began to sue him. Then, a creditor began to garnish his wages. Roger was struggling losing approximately 25% of his wage to the garnishment. Attorney Matthew Gaudin helped Roger file bankruptcy to stop this garnishment order and to discharge his debt. This allowed Roger to have the fresh start that he needs.

Indiana suspended Arnold's* driver's license for various reasons. The state gave him a reinstatement date. However, in order for his license to be reinstated, Arnold had to pay \$975 in reinstatement fees and obtain car insurance. Arnold could not afford the car insurance, as he had a job. However, he could not afford to pay the \$975 reinstatement fee. Arnold needed a driver's license. He needed one for work and for running errands. Plus, Arnold has a car loan. He was paying on a car that he could not drive. Attorney Matthew Gaudin was able to file a petition to waive the \$975 reinstatement fee, which the court granted. Arnold is now able to get his license reinstated. This will help Arnold keep his job.

*Name changed for confidentiality

// CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES
for our services and our low-income clients

The biggest challenges we see when working with HVAF clients are gathering necessary documents and communication. HVAF clients were homeless before coming to HVAF. Thus, they do not have many of their financial documents like old paystubs, letters from creditors, tax returns, and W-2s. This makes the process of filing bankruptcy difficult, as these documents are necessary for the attorney to have. Also, when helping an HVAF client with expungement or child-support matters, the clients rarely have the court documents that are essential for the attorney to understand the case. So, the attorney often has to go to the courthouse to pull the relevant court files.

Additionally, many HVAF clients are transient. Some leave HVAF properties almost as quickly as they entered. This makes contacting clients sometimes difficult.

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Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic // Project GRACE



Project GRACE (Guided Re-entry and Community Education) works with ex-offenders, helping to remove barriers to successful re-entry. Services include limiting access to criminal histories, restoring driving privileges, and assistance with child support and visitation issues.

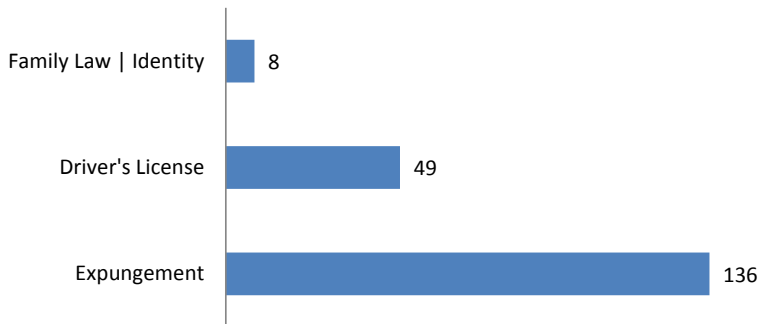
Date Range: 2017 YTD

// TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: 193 issues

// TOTAL NUMBER OF EXPUNGEMENT HELP DESK VISITORS: 2,329

expungement petitions filed: 546 | total number of petitions: 771

// TYPES OF CASES



// STORIES

In 2014, a client came to the Clinic for help with an expungement. In his youth he began to gain a criminal history, and now that he was older he wanted the chance to build a normal life with better job prospects. After becoming time eligible for all convictions in Hamilton and Marion County, the Clinic filed his petitions for expungement. We received granted orders for all three petitions. This client had 10 convictions, and 10 arrests that did not lead to a conviction on his record. On today, all 10 arrests and 9 convictions are sealed, and 1 conviction is expunged.

// CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES

for our services and our low-income clients

Expungement: Inability to pay fees in criminal cases as well as difficulty gathering information on entire criminal history.

License: Many clients have Failure to Pays (Tickets) and do not have the means to pay them, and there is currently no legal recourse. House Bill 1268 (Traffic Amnesty Program), a study to permit certain persons owing unpaid traffic fines to obtain a reduction in the amount owed or amount payable, may be a breakthrough for these clients.

Help Desk: Maintaining steady volunteers and the time involved in training new volunteers.

In 1986, a client received a lifetime suspension of his driving privileges and went to prison for continuously driving without a license. Upon his release, he chose to turn his life around and become active in his community by volunteering with Re-Entry Court and starting an organization called Beyond the Bridges Ministry to reduce the rates of recidivism for young men. In 2015, he came to the Clinic for help with obtaining Specialized Driving Privileges (SDP). In 2016, we filed the Petition for SDP and received a granted order for him. We are currently seeking a Recession of the Lifetime Suspension.

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic //Victim Justice Program

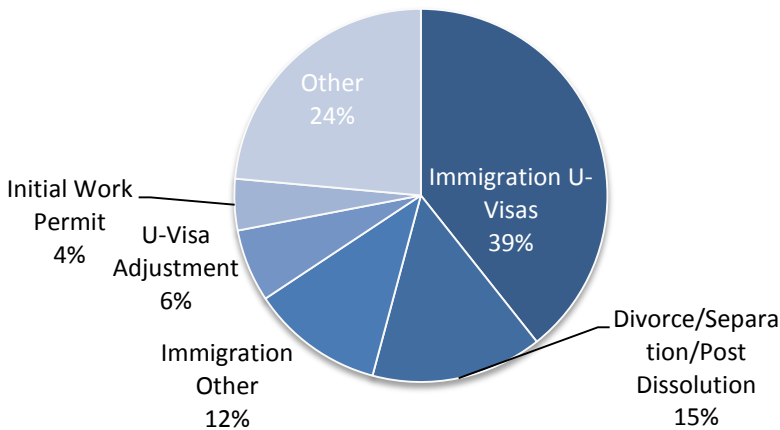


Partnering with agencies such as The Julian Center and Families First, we provide critically needed legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes that will help victims secure immediate safety and long-term well-being.

Date Range: 2017 YTD

// TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: 539

// TYPES OF CASES



// CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES
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Currently, the Clinic has a limited capacity to assist with all of the legal issues our clients face. We assist with family law and immigration matters, and unfortunately, we still have to turn away many clients seeking assistance with family law because we do not have the resources to serve them .

Furthermore, recent national policy changes have left our immigrant and victim/survivor clients more vulnerable.

// STORIES

Sofia* came to the Clinic desperate to escape abuse that she suffered at the hands of her U.S. citizen husband. They have been married since 1995, since then she has repeatedly physically and emotionally abused her and their three children. Like many victims of domestic violence, Sofia was reluctant about leaving her husband due to the financial support her family received from him, the sole provider. Sofia was undocumented and he threatened to call immigration on her if she told anyone about the abuse. It took immense courage for Sophia to call the police on two separate occasions, but her husband was never given a jail sentence due to her fear of cooperating with the police. The Clinic was able to file a VAWA application. Through this immigration benefit, she was able to get a work permit and her social security card. She is in school and is working on getting her driver's license. Sofia was shadowed by the powerlessness, hopelessness, shame and pain that abuse drowns victims in. Through the light of Christ she was able to understand that she no longer had to walk in darkness. She became a survivor.

Sofia was able to start counseling with our partner organization, the Julian Center. Sofia's VAWA case was approved and now she is on the path to American citizenship. She can get a work permit, social security number, and driver's license. As our staff member states, "for a victim of domestic violence, this is only but a dream."

*Name changed for confidentiality

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic // Immigrant Justice Program

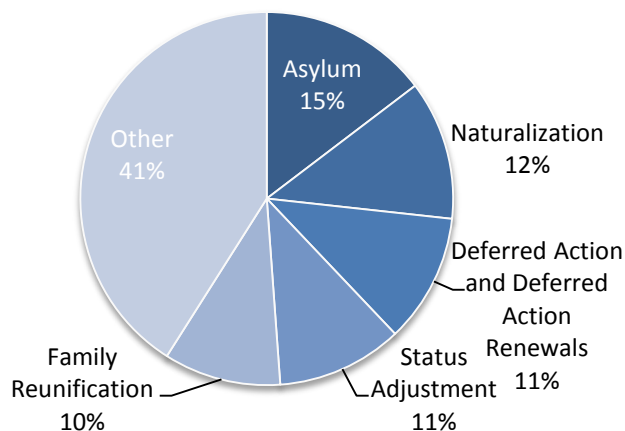


Clients served in our Immigrant Justice Program include asylees fleeing brutal regimes, refugees seeking to start a new life here, and children who were brought to the U.S. at a young age. We seek to help our immigrant clients fully integrate into the U.S., which includes seeking the authority to work.

Date Range: 2017 YTD

// TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: 778

// TYPES OF CASES



// CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES
for our services and our low-income clients

Challenges for staff: This year IJP has faced the unique challenge of responding to subsequent, drastic changes in immigration policy. From the fluctuating execution of a travel ban to the elimination of priority categories for deportation to the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, these changes have stretched our team, rejuvenating our commitment to be faithfully alert and compassionately responsive to the shifting needs of our immigrant neighbors.

Challenges for clients: Changes in immigration policy have unsettled many immigrant communities, which exacerbates the ongoing difficulties they already face. As resilient as they continually prove themselves to be, many of our clients daily struggle to navigate systems and social structures foreign to them, language and cultural cues that confound them, a shallow support network that demands of them, estrangement from the familiarities and faces of "home" which isolates them, and horrific trauma that seeps into all areas of life.

// STORIES

We represented a client who was the national basketball coach of Uganda. The current president of Uganda has been the President for 30 years and regularly tortures and kills people who opposed him, so our client, who supported an opposition candidate, feared for his life. The client was under surveillance and in extreme danger because the government was threatened by his popularity and influence as a basketball coach. He was detained and tortured. This client fled Uganda and after a long journey, came to Indianapolis. On February 13, 2017, because of the work of the Immigrant Justice Program, the client was granted asylum in the United States where he now lives without fear of persecution.

We are currently assisting a husband and wife in their naturalization applications. The clients and their two children were admitted as refugees from Syria on November 19, 2012, and arrived in Indiana on November 20th. They had an additional child while in the U.S. In the five years they have lived in Indianapolis, this generous family has given back to the community by helping other newly arrived refugees navigate the language and cultural barriers faced every day. The husband serves as an interpreter for many service agencies in the city, helping to build bridges between the Syrian and American communities. We are honored to have helped this family apply for green cards back in 2013, and are now excited to stand with them when they take the Oath of Allegiance to become U.S. citizens.

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Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic // LITC



The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) assists taxpayers who have a dispute with the IRS and offers educational outreach programs to inform low-income and immigrant taxpayers of their tax rights and responsibilities.

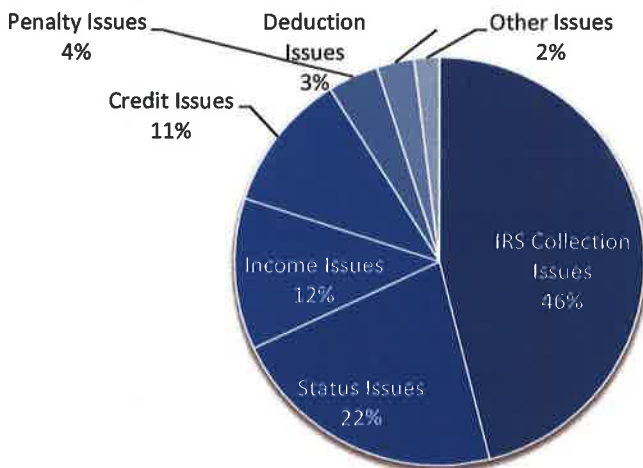
Date Range: Jan. 1, 2017-June 30, 2017

// TOTAL NUMBER OF INTAKES: 302 individuals
EDUCATION OUTREACH: 83 workshops | 2,165 attendees

// STORIES

An elderly woman came into one of our walk-in intake sessions with an IRS Notice of Deficiency letter giving her 90 days to file a petition in Tax Court regarding the taxability of a check issued in her name and cashed. However, she never saw the check. Our client suspected that her husband, whom she had since separated from, forged her name and cashed the check. Our client was able to get a copy of the cashed check, as well as numerous samples of her real signature. She also was able to get samples of her estranged husband's signature. The signature on the cashed check did not match the samples of our client's signature but looked oddly similar to the samples of her estranged husband's signature. We filed a petition in Tax Court and the Appeals Officer agreed with us. The check was not treated as income to our client, and her tax liability was reduced to zero. Our elderly client was relieved not to have to pay taxes on a check stolen, forged and cashed by her estranged husband.

// TYPES OF CASES



// CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES for our services and our low-income clients

One challenge the Clinic is currently facing is the use of private debt collectors, first by the state. This had a huge impact on clients, with some bank accounts being wiped out if clients could not pay half the tax liability immediately. No payment arrangements were available until they paid half upfront. Clients were coming in devastated, and there was nothing we could do. The IRS has just started using debt collectors. We expect the process to be very different than it was with the state, but we are waiting to see.

A 55-year old woman with large tax liabilities from her ex-husband's janitorial business sought assistance from our LITC. Her ex-husband became incarcerated when they were still married and she was left to run his business. She did not have the requisite business or tax knowledge to accurately make estimated tax payments. Large tax liabilities quickly accumulated. Now she was battling cancer and undergoing difficult chemotherapy treatments. Our LITC staff attorney prepared and submitted an Offer in Compromise. The IRS accepted our offer of \$1 and discharged over \$15,000 in tax liabilities. This woman is now able to focus on her battle with cancer, without the burden of huge tax liability she would never be able to pay!

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