

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL REPORT

2020

*act*  
justly

*love*  
mercy

*walk*  
humbly



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A MESSAGE FROM  
**DAVID NAMMO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

We are so grateful at Christian Legal Society (CLS) for a blessed and successful year during a challenging time for all. As always, we are so thankful for God's amazing provision and grace!

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2020 Annual Report. CLS continues to be the salt and light of Jesus Christ in the legal profession as we seek to glorify God in all we do and to make an impact for His Kingdom.

Our attorney and law student chapters across the country met virtually in 2020, and we began holding a national online gathering for those desiring fellowship and community who were not already part of a local chapter. We had another incredible CLS Law School Fellows program, albeit virtually this year, where the best and brightest Christ-following law students from over 30 campuses gathered over Zoom for training, fellowship, and learning.

Our Center for Law & Religious Freedom was actively engaged in defending religious freedom for all Americans in 2020, through litigation and other means, helping individuals, campus ministry groups, churches, nonprofit organizations, and religious schools. The work of Christian Legal Aid, which seeks to bring justice to the poor and the needy and to defend the widow and the orphan, continued to expand, adding new legal aid clinics to our nationwide network, and to provide resources to all networked clinics.

Prior to the pandemic, CLS lawyers, law students, and families gathered at regional retreats in the Southwest, Northeast, and the Midwest for fellowship, learning, and fun. Our 2020 National Conference went virtual, and our speakers and workshops were incredible and well attended. We cannot wait to return to San Antonio, in person, for the 2021 CLS National Conference!

Thank you for your support of and engagement with CLS. We pray you will continue to partner with CLS as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ in the legal profession.

Gratefully,





*Founded in 1961,  
Christian Legal Society seeks to fulfill  
God's command found in Micah 6:8, bringing glory to God  
by inspiring, encouraging, and equipping Christian lawyers and law students,  
both individually and in community, to proclaim, love, and serve Jesus Christ through  
the practice and study of law, by providing legal assistance to the poor and the needy,  
and by defending the inalienable rights of all to life and religious freedom.*

2020



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

CHRISTIAN  
LEGAL AID

*CLS' Christian Legal Aid (CLA) program is a critical ministry that increases access to legal aid services for the poor, the marginalized, and the victims of injustice in America. CLA equips Christian legal aid clinics, trains legal aid staff and volunteers, establishes new clinics nationwide, and provides clinics access to volunteer lawyers through the CLS attorney network.*

In 2020, CLA provided valuable resources and support to our network of 60 Christian Legal Aid programs serving in 135 communities. The pandemic effectively shuttered all of the clinics nationwide; however, when the courts reopened, nearly all of the clinics found ways to utilize technology to continue to provide services. Counseling, advice, and representation continued “online.”

Two new clinics joined the CLS Christian Legal Aid network in 2020. We continued to work with lawyers and others in seven cities who were praying and considering opening a Christian Legal Aid clinic in their community. CLA worked closely with five Christian Legal Aid clinics that hired new executive directors or legal directors in 2020. We provided resources and personal coaching to these new leaders as they transitioned into their new roles.

In April, we hosted a virtual CLA Retreat after canceling the Midwest CLA Spring Retreat because of the pandemic. It was the first virtual CLS event of the year. As a result, we were able to offer the retreat to the entire CLA network, instead of just those in the Midwest, and attracted clinic leaders and volunteers from across the country. In October, we held our annual Christian Legal Aid Summit, which occurs each year as part of the CLS National Conference, with a record number of 280 participants.

- “Protecting Indigent Tenants in a Time of COVID”
- “Providing Spiritual Care and Helping Clients Reduce Anxiety in Times of Trouble”
- “Legal Aid Operations During COVID”
- “Elder Law Basics”
- “Apologies and Forgiveness in Resolving Disputes”
- “Where Family Law, Domestic Violence, and Immigration

*“The Christian Legal Aid newsletter is one of the only mass emails I read regularly. The messages are inspirational and the news and resources are so helpful. We often use information from it for our clinic grant applications. Thanks so much for the work you do!”*

- CLA clinic leader, Cleveland OH

## CHANGING LIVES ONE CLINIC AT A TIME



Throughout the pandemic of 2020, many low-income Americans lost their jobs and could not afford to pay rent. Fortunately, many state and local governments, as well as the U.S. Center for Disease Control, issued orders protecting tenants from mass evictions. Nevertheless, many landlords ignored the moratoriums and resorted to illegal tactics to force tenants out.

One client of New Covenant Legal Services, a Christian Legal Aid clinic in St. Louis, Missouri, was a victim of such unfair landlords. Sally (not her real name) was laid off because of the COVID-19 pandemic and received unemployment benefits as she searched for another job. Sally was able to move herself and her three children into an apartment in July 2020 and explained to the landlord that she might be late on rent because her unemployment benefits did not fully cover her lost income. The property manager told her that would not be a problem.

Unfortunately, her unemployment check was unexpectedly and drastically cut. Sally immediately informed the property manager of this circumstance. Once again, Sally was assured that the apartment complex would work with her as

long as she was seeking employment. This grace, however, was short lived, and the landlord filed suit against her. Through a local CARES relief agency, Sally managed to obtain a grant for 80% of the past due rent. Adding this to her own funds, Sally was able to pay nearly 100% of the past due rent, but, astonishingly, the attorney for the landlord refused to accept the money and instead sued Sally for late rent, late fees, and attorney's fees. Sally was forced to try her case, without an attorney, via a virtual Zoom trial. Despite the eviction moratorium, Sally lost and the judge ordered her to pay over \$7,000. It was at that point that Sally came to New Covenant Legal Services, who then filed an appeal to fight the ruling.

Thousands of poor tenants like Sally suffer twice over – once in losing their jobs and then again when landlords skirt the legal protections designed to help tenants. Although many landlords are working reasonably with individuals in challenging circumstances during the pandemic, many others take advantage of the opportunity to exploit and abuse low-income individuals.

# CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID CLINICS

## ARIZONA

### Phoenix Metro Area

Christian Legal Aid of Arizona

### Tucson

Christian Legal Society of Tucson  
Christian Legal Aid Program

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

Pepperdine University Legal Aid  
Clinic

### Los Angeles Metro Area

Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles

### Oakland

Pope Francis Legal Clinic

### Orange County

Christian Legal Aid Office Orange  
County

### Sacramento

Law and Wisdom (LAW) Clinic

### San Diego Metro Area

San Diego Christian Legal Aid (SDCLA)

### San Jose

Silicon Valley Christian Legal Aid

### Santa Ana

Trinity Mobile Legal Clinic  
Christian Legal Aid of Orange County

### Tustin

Trinity Law Clinic at the Orange  
County Rescue Mission

## COLORADO

### Denver

Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic

### Denver Metro

Christian Legal Clinic of Metro  
Denver Triage Legal Clinics

- The Rising Church
- Broomfield FISH
- Samaritan House
- Salvation Army
- Providence Network
- More Life Community Center
- Life Center
- SECOR Clinic
- Dry Bones
- Greater Metro Ministerial Alliance

### Fort Collins

Serve 6.8 Legal Clinic

## DELAWARE

### Wilmington

Mission Legal Aid Clinic

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### Washington, DC

Christian Legal Aid of the District of  
Columbia (CLADC)

- Central Union Mission
- DC Dream Center

## FLORIDA

### Jacksonville

CLS Pro Bono Project

### Jacksonville Metro Area

Jericho Road Legal Service Ministry

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

### Chicago Metro Area

Administer Justice

## INDIANA

### Indianapolis Metro Area

Neighborhood Christian Legal  
Clinic

## MINNESOTA

### Minneapolis

Park Avenue Walk-in Legal Clinic

### Twin Cities

Twin Cities Christian Legal Aid (TCCLA)

## KANSAS

### Wichita

Wichita Christian Legal Aid

## KENTUCKY

### Georgetown

Merciful Justice Legal Clinic

### Louisville

Metro Christian Legal Aid

## MARYLAND

### Gaithersburg

Good Samaritan Advocates at  
Covenant Life Church

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit Metro Area

Christian Legal Aid of Southeast  
Michigan

### Grand Rapids Metro Area

West Michigan Christian Legal Aid



## **Kalamazoo**

Christian Legal Aid of Southwest  
Michigan

## **Lansing**

Christian Legal Aid of Lansing

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### **Jackson**

Mission First Legal Aid Office

## **MISSOURI**

### **St. Louis Metro Area**

New Covenant Legal Services

## **NEW JERSEY**

### **Newark Metro Area**

Immigrant Hope

## **NEW MEXICO**

### **Albuquerque**

New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

### **Las Cruces**

Catholic Charities of Southern  
New Mexico

## **NEW YORK**

### **New York City**

Open Hands Legal Services, Inc.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **Durham**

Justice Matters

### **Raleigh**

Campbell Community Law Clinic

## **OHIO**

### **Cleveland**

Scranton Road Legal Clinic

### **Columbus**

Vineyard Immigration Counseling  
Service

### **Toledo**

Christian Legal Collaborative

## **OKLAHOMA**

### **Oklahoma City Metro Area**

- Trinity Legal
- Crossings Community Center
  - Cross and Crown Mission
  - City Rescue Mission
  - Living Faith Ministry
  - Salvation Army – Norman

### **Tulsa**

Tulsa Dream Center – Legal Assistance

### **Tulsa**

Tulsa University College of Law CLS  
Christian Legal Aid Clinic

## **OREGON**

### **Portland**

Union Gospel Mission of Portland  
Christian Legal Aid Clinic \*

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Philadelphia**

- Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia
- West Philadelphia Legal Clinic
  - Hunting Park Legal Clinic
  - Carroll Park Legal Clinic
  - South Philadelphia Legal Clinic
  - Chester Legal Clinic
  - Germantown Legal Clinic
  - Kensington Legal Clinic
  - Chosen 300 Legal Clinic
  - North Philadelphia Legal Clinic

### **Pittsburgh**

Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

## **TENNESSEE**

### **Murfreesboro**

Murfreesboro Christian Legal Clinic

### **Nashville Metro Area**

Compassionate Counsel

## **TEXAS**

### **Houston**

Community Christian Legal Aid  
Houston Legal Aid Center

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Arlington**

Restoration Immigration Legal Aid

### **Northern Virginia**

- Good Samaritan Advocates
- Columbia Baptist Church
  - Cornerstone Chapel
  - Reston Bible Church
  - The Lamb Center

### **Roanoke**

Roanoke Rescue Mission

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Seattle**

Open Door Legal Services

### **Spokane**

Union Gospel Mission Christian  
Legal Aid

## **WISCONSIN**

### **Milwaukee**

JC Legal Resources Center Inc.\*

*\*New Clinic*



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY  
CENTER FOR LAW AND  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

*The Center for Law & Religious Freedom, the advocacy ministry of Christian Legal Society, advances all Americans' religious freedom in the courts, Congress, and the public square. Founded in 1975, the Center is America's original Christian ministry dedicated to pursuing a vision of a free civil society that promotes all Americans' religious freedom and free speech, while also nurturing a profound respect for the sanctity of human life.*

In 2020, the Center's work included representing clients and defending their religious rights in a variety of settings from the church to the workplace, supporting a federal regulation to protect religious student groups facing exclusion from college campuses because they require their leaders to be religious, and fighting threats to the ability of Christian lawyers to practice law consistently with their religious beliefs.

The Center's work to defend the rights of religious student groups to meet in K-12 schools and on college campuses remained a top priority in 2020, even through the pandemic. The Center also educated both the public and legislators regarding legislation and regulations that would protect religious students' right to gather on their college campuses and provided expertise to state and federal legislators regarding how best to protect religious students.

The Center remains the Nation's leader in fighting ABA Model Rule 8.4(g). This invaluable work continued in 2020 as the Center provided resources to lawyers in over a dozen states from Hawaii and Alaska to South Dakota, Connecticut, and North Carolina. The Center's work enabled lawyers to explain to their colleagues the danger ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) poses for lawyers who value freedom of speech, religious freedom, and ideological diversity in the profession.

We are pleased to provide additional details of the Center's work in 2020 on the following pages.

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND LIFE ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND STATE LEGISLATURES

## **Department of Education's Regulation to Protect Religious Student Groups**

The Center has invested long years of work in Congress and the Executive Branch to protect religious students' speech and beliefs from discriminatory treatment on their campuses. In January 2020, the Department of Education announced a proposed regulation that would protect religious student groups' speech, beliefs, policies, practices, and leadership and membership standards. That rule was adopted as final on September 23, 2020. As Center Director Kim Colby stated, "Religious students are a positive force for good on their campuses and should not be threatened with exclusion from campus because of their deeply-held, life-affirming beliefs and speech."

## **Securing Religious Freedom Protections Regarding COVID-19**

With the onset of COVID-19, the Center pivoted to work closely with a coalition of religious freedom groups to advise the Administration as to the needs of religious nonprofits when participating in the Payroll Protection Program. Congress included religious nonprofit employers in the Paycheck Protection Program; however, some pre-existing regulations posed special obstacles for religious nonprofits. The Center worked with the coalition to ensure that the Small Business Administration administered the program in a way that allowed religious nonprofits to participate while maintaining their religious freedom.

## **Federal Regulations Restoring Religious Freedom in Education**

Center Director Kim Colby served on the Faith-Based Entities Subcommittee that met in 2019 to advise the Department of Education on the revision of various regulations affecting religious freedom in higher education. In 2020, the Department adopted several final rules ending its past discrimination against students who belong to religious orders or who choose to work for religious nonprofits after graduation. Another rule protects the ability of religious colleges to define their religious missions as they see fit for purposes of accreditation.

## **Protecting Refugees from Religious Persecution**

The Center initiated a comment letter on behalf of itself and others urging the Department of Justice to refrain from adopting a proposed rule that would not credit brief detentions for one's faith as a basis for a credible fear of persecution. Being put in jail even for a few days should be considered as evidence of religious persecution for those fleeing repressive regimes.

## **Speaking for Religious Students in Georgia and Missouri**

The Center provided a written statement to legislators in Georgia and Missouri to support legislation in those states that would protect the right of religious student groups to have religious leadership standards.

## IN THE COURTS DEFENDING FREEDOM THROUGH LITIGATION AND REPRESENTATION

### **Defending the Rights of California Religious Students**

The Center represents the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and religious students who had met at several high schools as recognized student organizations for many years. High school officials revoked recognition for the Christian groups because they require their leaders to agree with the religious values of the group they lead. Yet the Satanic Temple Club remained a recognized student group. The religious students endured harassment from faculty and other students because of their religious beliefs. (*Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District*)

### **Fighting Religious Discrimination in Maine**

*The Center represented a Christian woman who was fired for “bringing her personal religious beliefs into the workplace” after the woman and two coworkers had mutually discussed their religious beliefs and worldviews over lunch. The Center filed an employment discrimination complaint alleging the employer illegally fired the woman because of her religious beliefs in violation of federal and state laws. (Nelthropp v. Port Resources)*

### **Advocating for the Rights of Patients in California**

The Center sent a letter to a hospital that wanted to remove a patient’s feeding tube over the objections of her daughter. The letter explained California law and helped in securing treatment for the mother at a different hospital.

### **Defending the Right to Share the Gospel in North Carolina**

The Center represented a mother who engaged in religious speech on public sidewalks in a North Carolina town. She was accompanied by her daughter who requires supervision because of her special needs. The police told the mother that she needed a permit because, by having her daughter with her, they were a “group demonstration,” which required a permit under the town code. After receiving letters from the Center explaining her free speech rights, the town council agreed that a permit was not required.

### **Defending the Religious Rights of Patients in Indiana**

The pandemic created many sad situations as the ability of families and clergy to minister to hospitalized loved ones and parishioners was restricted. An Indiana man who was hospitalized and battling cancer was nearing death when his family called their Orthodox priest to administer the Holy Unction. The hospital, however, refused to allow the priest to enter the patient’s room even though the attending physician said it would be fine. The Center represents the priest and man’s family in pursuing administrative remedies.

### **Protecting a Church’s Right to Determine its Ministers in Virginia**

The Center represents New Life in Christ Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, which was denied a parsonage tax exemption for its college minister’s home. The City asserted that college ministers are not ministers under the Presbyterian Book of Church Order. The First Amendment gives religious congregations, not government officials, the authority to determine their ministers, as long as the congregations’ decisions are sincere. (*Trustees of New Life in Christ Church v. City of Fredricksburg*)

*“We thank the Lord for Christian Legal Society being there when we needed help. And especially thank you for your service to Christ. May the Lord bless you richly in this world and in the one to come.”*

*- Mary*

### **Defending Child Evangelism Fellowship's Right to Gather in Maryland**

The Center also represented Maryland Child Evangelism Fellowship in its efforts to regain access to several elementary schools. The group, which meets with children after the school day for Bible lessons, songs, and games, had met at three schools in a Maryland school district for several years but were denied access for the 2019-2020 school year. The Center sent a demand letter to the Maryland school district, which quickly renewed access to one of the schools.

### **Defending Law Students on Campus in Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Virginia**

The Center assisted a CLS student chapter in remaining recognized at Arizona State University. The Center provided a comment letter for the CLS chapter at Duquesne University School of Law regarding a free speech policy. The Center also sent a letter to members of the University of Virginia Student Council when it considered a resolution to seek repeal of a Virginia law protecting religious and political student groups' right to choose their members and leaders according to their beliefs.

## SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THROUGH AMICUS BRIEFS

### U.S. SUPREME COURT

#### **Defending Parents' Right to Religious Education for Their Children**

The only amicus brief mentioned by any U.S. Supreme Court justice during oral argument was the Center's brief. An impressive coalition of religious and educational organizations, including Catholic, Jewish, Baptist, Lutheran, Seventh-day Adventist, and Evangelical Christian groups, joined the Center's brief urging the Court to protect Montana parents from discriminatory exclusion from their state's tuition tax credit program. The Court ruled in favor of the parents, who had been excluded from the program solely because they chose to send their children to religious schools. (*Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*)

#### **Preserving Religious Ministries' Freedom to Serve Children in Foster Care**

(*Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*)

#### **Safeguarding Religious Ministries' Freedom to Serve the Elderly**

(*Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania*)

#### **Securing Religious Schools' Right to Determine Their Teachers**

(*Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*)

#### **Protecting Religious Employees' Sabbath Observance**

(*Dalberiste v. GLE; Small v. Memphis Light, Gas & Electric*)

#### **Strengthening the Religious Freedom Restoration Act** (*Tanzin v. Tanvir*)

#### **Fighting for Commonsense Protections for Life**

(*June Medical Services, Inc. v. Gee*)

#### **Reinforcing Religious Freedom of Speech for Students Nationwide**

(*Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*)

### SEVENTH CIRCUIT

#### **Protecting Churches' Employment Requirements**

(*Demkovich v. St. Andrews Parish*)

### EIGHTH CIRCUIT

#### **Fighting for Religious Student Groups at the University of Iowa**

(*InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA v. University of Iowa*)

### EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

#### **Fighting for Religious Student Groups at Wayne State University**

(*InterVarsity Christian Fellowship v. Wayne State University*)

### SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

#### **Defending Churches in Missouri**

(*Doe v. Marinist Province of the United States and Chaminade College Preparatory, Inc*)

## FIGHTING FOR ATTORNEYS' FREEDOM STATE BY STATE ABA MODEL RULE 8.4(g)

The Center continues to lead the nationwide fight against ABA Model Rule 8.4(g), the deeply-flawed model rule that would chill lawyers' expression of disfavored political and religious viewpoints on controversial issues. The cancel culture's desire to cancel religious freedom highlights the importance of opposing ABA Model Rule 8.4(g).

In 2020, five states — Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, South Dakota, and Utah — held comment periods. CLS filed comment letters opposing the adoption of ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) in each of those states.

The Center also served as a resource to attorneys in Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. There was an uptick in states considering the model rule, and the Center was a resource for attorneys in those states who opposed adoption of the model rule. Despite the efforts of several states to fast-track ABA Model Rule 8.4(g), lawyers in those states rallied to raise concerns with the highly-flawed rule using the Center's resources to prepare their arguments.

The Center remains the foremost resource for equipping attorneys with reliable information about the model rule, particularly through its web resources on ABA Model Rule 8.4(g). These webpages provide general background information on the model rule, as well as detailed information of specific state activities regarding the model rule. These webpages also provide video presentations, educational webinars, written publications, and comment letters. The Center's ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) website is the only public resource available to the profession on this matter, and the Center has been recognized as providing the foremost resource for equipping attorneys about ABA Model Rule 8.4(g).

Resources to help fight ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) are available for public use via our webpages, [CLSReligiousFreedom.org](https://CLSReligiousFreedom.org) and [ChristianLegalSociety.org](https://ChristianLegalSociety.org).



## A VOICE IN THE DARKNESS

### EDUCATION EFFORTS TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND LIFE

Center Director Kim Colby and Litigation Director Reed Smith continued to write and speak on behalf of religious freedom and the sanctity of human life. The expansion of Zoom meetings significantly increased the Center's reach to nationwide audiences on a regular basis.

COVID-19 itself presented many opportunities for the Center to educate others on religious freedom. The Center held a teleforum, "Caring about CARES: What Religious Nonprofits Need to Know about Federal Emergency Relief," which focused on what religious nonprofits needed to know about the CARES act. Kim Colby also participated in a Federalist Society teleforum, "Religious Freedom in a Pandemic."

The Center continued its work to counsel churches and lay leaders when it co-hosted a webinar, "Resuming In-Person Religious Activities - Legal and Practical Considerations," with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability for over 1,800 people regarding legal standing and reopening practices related to COVID-19 nationwide.

In addition to COVID-19 issues, Kim Colby was featured on Scotusblog in a piece about the harm the Supreme Court's 1990 decision in *Employment Division v. Smith* has done to religious freedom for three decades. Kim also discussed the impact of the late Justice Ginsburg on the Breakpoint podcast and on Christianity Today's podcast, Quick to Listen. She provided commentary about the same to Christianity Today and The Washington Post. Together, Kim Colby and Reed Smith held an outstanding webinar covering the Supreme Court term ending in July 2020, in which the Court decided five cases with serious consequences for religious freedom and one case regarding state regulation of abortion clinics.

Center staff also presented the keynote address to a group of about 80 health care providers in Dallas regarding their medical conscience rights, after which many of the professionals indicated that they had been given practical solutions to dealing with medical conscience issues that arise.



CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY  
LAW STUDENT  
MINISTRIES

*Law Student Ministries (LSM) seeks to nurture and equip law students as they are formed, intellectually and spiritually, for the practice of law. LSM provides fellowship and support that will help students thrive as Christians and as lawyers. Because Christian law students need one another as they explore the important connections between their Christian faith and the study and practice of law, LSM supports communities of students as they gather on campus for fellowship, mentoring, and scholarly discussion.*

While this was difficult in 2020, LSM provided a number of “virtual” opportunities for connections, mentoring, and discussion. Even in these strange times, LSM continued to foster a desire in students to be faithful stewards of their legal gifts, springing from spiritual formation and resulting in lifelong service to others in and through the law.

LSM supports more than 400 law student fellowship leaders, who in turn lead thousands of students at more than 120 of the nation’s 200 law schools. LSM encourages and equips these leaders by inviting them to join their on-campus—or virtual—chapter community, by connecting them with local lawyers and mentors, by providing opportunities to engage Christians in the profession at the CLS National Conference and regional retreats, and by creating resources to equip and encourage them in their law school journeys. After March, these connections became more difficult, but LSM provided these opportunities and connections in creative ways.

This year, CLS law students have been exceedingly creative in ministering to one another by distance and over Zoom! At Pepperdine, for example, the leaders created a Zoom meeting protocol that involved several unique elements. First, they began their meetings with a detailed introduction of a rotating student “host,” so students could get to know one another, even

though they did not meet in person. Next, they kept the speaker’s time short so that a prayer time could always be included, and third, they invited a worship leader to choose songs, usually sung by local worship teams, to which they could listen together, as a time of collective reflection and praise. This intentional segmenting of an ordinary Zoom call helped to shape their fellowship in very significant ways.

LSM made the best of the “Zoom boom” by “sending” CLS speakers to student chapters, virtually. Even though we were unable to visit chapters in person, LSM or CLS staff spoke to student groups at campuses all over the country, including Toledo, Pepperdine, Thomas Cooley, Mississippi College, John Marshall, UC-Irvine, Cal Western, and New York Law School.

In 2020, Trinity Law School and CLS partnered again to enhance the mission of the Institute for Christian Legal Studies. In 2020, LSM also continued its shared ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), partnering through student retreats and conferences and in the training of IVCF Graduate and Faculty Ministries (GFM) staff to serve law students in CLS campus groups. More than two dozen GFM staff serve CLS chapters around the country.





CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY  
**LAW SCHOOL  
FELLOWS**

*In 2018, Law Student Ministries launched the CLS Law School Fellows program which is centered on an intense and worshipful week of training around the topics of Christian jurisprudence, vocational stewardship, and professional identity.*

In the first two summers, LSM commissioned a total of 60 Fellows. Through the Fellows program, students were “equipped to think theologically about the study and practice of law and to help others to do the same,” in the words a 2019 Fellow.

In 2020, the training could not take place in person, so we took the program online. Through Zoom calls, webinars, email, and GroupMe, 59 students received all or part of the Fellows curriculum, spread out over the course of

the summer. One student called the program a “divine provision.” Another put it this way: “The CLS sessions and fellowship were a God-send.... I will forever consider the program a significant supplement to my law school education and a stepping point into greater learning.”

Our biggest concern for students in 2020 has been loss of community. Through the Fellows program, LSM was able to provide a unique opportunity for connections.

*“I walked away from the Summer Fellow’s program with a sense of community. I attend a public, secular law school. Many times, especially in classes like criminal and constitutional law, it is polarizing to sit in a class of my peers and realize that almost none of them seem to share the same moral or Christian viewpoints on issues as I do. The Fellows program changed my perspective on this. During this time, I had the opportunity to listen to Christian lawyers and professionals and to meet other Christian law students. Realizing that there are many other individuals out there, even two at my law school, that share the same values I do was a blessing and an encouragement. I look forward to connecting with the members of CLS in the future and staying connected to this community.”*

- 2020 CLS Law School Fellow



# LAW SCHOOLS SERVED

The University of Alabama  
American University  
Appalachian School of Law  
Arizona State University  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
- Fayetteville  
University of Arkansas  
- Little Rock  
Baylor Law School  
Belmont University  
University of Buffalo  
University of California - Davis  
University of California - Irvine  
University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA)  
California Western  
Campbell University  
Capital University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Charleston (SC) School of Law  
University of Chicago  
Chicago-Kent College of Law  
University of Connecticut  
Cornell University  
Dallas Baptist University  
(Pre-Law)  
University of Dayton  
University of Denver  
DePaul University  
Drake University  
Duke University  
Duquesne University  
Emory University

University of Florida  
Florida A&M University  
Florida International University  
Florida State University  
George Mason University  
The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
University of Georgia  
Georgia State University  
Harvard University  
Hofstra University  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois  
Indiana University - Bloomington  
Indiana University - Indianapolis  
Inter American University  
(San Juan, Puerto Rico)  
University of Idaho  
University of Iowa  
John Marshall Law School (GA)  
John Marshall Law School (IL)  
University of Kansas  
University of Kentucky  
Lewis and Clark Law School  
Liberty University  
Loyola Law School - Los Angeles  
Loyola University Chicago Law  
University of Maryland  
University of Pacific McGeorge  
University of Memphis  
Mercer University  
University of Miami  
Michigan State University

University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
Mississippi College  
The University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri - Columbia  
University of Missouri  
- Kansas City  
Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
Nashville School of Law  
University of Nebraska  
University of New Hampshire  
New York Law School  
New York University  
North Carolina Central University  
University of North Carolina  
University of North Texas - Dallas  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Notre Dame  
NOVA Southeastern University  
Ohio Northern University  
(Pettit College of Law)  
The Ohio State University  
University of Oklahoma  
Pace University  
Penn State University  
Pepperdine University  
University of Pittsburgh  
Quinnipiac University  
Regent University  
Rutgers Law School - Newark  
University of St. Thomas (MN)  
University of San Diego  
San Joaquin College of Law

University of South Carolina  
University of South Dakota  
South Texas College of Law  
Southern Methodist University  
Stetson University  
Temple University  
University of Tennessee  
Texas A&M University  
The University of Texas  
Texas Southern (Thurgood Marshall SoL)  
Texas Tech University  
University of Toledo  
Trinity Law School  
Tulane University  
Vanderbilt University  
Villanova University  
University of Virginia  
Wake Forest School of Law  
Washburn University  
Washington University  
Washington and Lee University  
Western Michigan University  
(T. M. Cooley - Tampa Bay)  
Western State  
Wheaton College (Pre-Law)  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Wyoming





CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY

ATTORNEY  
MINISTRIES

*CLS' Attorney Ministries provides Christian attorneys the opportunity to gather with other like-minded legal professionals, and the network of CLS attorney chapters is the nexus through which Christian lawyers, professors, judges, friends, and others meet, connect, and grow in understanding their "calling," as well as gain legal training, explore vocation, mentor law students, and reach and serve their communities for Christ.*

**CLS Attorney Chapters:** While COVID-19 presented challenges to gathering in person in 2020, many of our chapters quickly adapted to the online technology and continued to meet, hosting world-class speakers and staying in touch virtually. Some even held outside events, once restrictions began to loosen. Throughout the year, CLS chapters organized and participated in numerous activities including trainings, CLEs, law student mentoring gatherings, and Bible studies. We are thankful for the community they have offered, because fellowship became even more important after everyone needed to go virtual.

**Online Gathering:** In August, CLS began a monthly Online Gathering, which is a national Zoom meeting for attorneys, law students, and others to hear from a great speaker, engage the speaker with questions, and then utilize the break-out function to spend several minutes visiting and praying with a smaller group.

**Chapter Leader Resources:** Attorney Ministries continued to host quarterly Chapter Leader Roundtables as a resource for attorney chapter leaders. These calls provide a forum for chapter leaders to share best practices and the challenges faced by balancing a family, work, and community service and to serve as an encouragement to each other as the lead CLS volunteer in their communities. The 2020 Roundtables focused on working with law students, best practices as an attorney chapter, and event ideas.

**Chapter Engagement:** CLS staff, directors, and attorneys spoke to a record number of attorney chapters this year because of the pandemic. They were able to visit virtually, either as an attendee or as a speaker. The Center lawyers spoke regularly on religious freedom topics, Supreme Court cases, and ABA Model Rule 8.4(g) updates. Brent Amato spoke about what it means to live an integrated life, and Ken Liu spoke about the need and blessing of Christian Legal Aid.





# ATTORNEY CHAPTERS

## ALABAMA

Birmingham  
Mobile

## ARIZONA

Phoenix  
Tucson

## CALIFORNIA

Inland Empire  
Los Angeles  
Orange County  
Sacramento  
San Diego  
San Fernando Valley  
San Francisco  
West LA

## COLORADO

Colorado Springs  
Denver

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## FLORIDA

Jacksonville  
Orlando  
Palm Beach (West)

## GEORGIA

Atlanta

## HAWAII

Honolulu

## ILLINOIS

Chicago

## INDIANA

Indianapolis

## KANSAS

Topeka  
Wichita

## LOUISIANA

New Orleans

## MARYLAND

Baltimore

## MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

## MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

## MISSISSIPPI

Jackson

## MISSOURI

Kansas City  
St. Louis  
Springfield

## NEBRASKA

Lincoln

## NEVADA

Las Vegas

## NEW JERSEY

Cape May

## NEW YORK

New York City

## NORTH CAROLINA

Wake County

## OHIO

Columbus  
Willoughby Hills

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City

## OREGON

Salem

## PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia/Delaware Valley  
Pittsburgh

## TENNESSEE

Memphis  
Nashville

## TEXAS

Austin  
Dallas  
Houston  
San Antonio  
Williamson County

## VIRGINIA

Leesburg  
Richmond

## WASHINGTON

Seattle

## WISCONSIN

Madison\*

\*New Chapter



# PERIODICALS & PODCASTS

## PUBLICATIONS

In 2020, CLS published two issues of *The Christian Lawyer* magazine titled “When God Calls You To Something New: Retirement, Change, and Life’s Unexpected Curve Ball” and “Living on Purpose: Wellness, Self-Care, and the Fruitful Life.” CLS also published two issues of *The Journal of Legal Thought* in which the distinguished Thaddeaus Williams and Andrew DeLoach served as guest editors.



## E-DEVOTIONALS

CLS produced and emailed devotionals specifically for Christians in the legal profession, covering topics like Christian vocation, spiritual formation, and community. Our subscribers received them every month and have expressed their appreciation for the encouragement in their walk with the Lord as lawyers and law students.

## CROSS & GAVEL PODCAST

*Cross & Gavel* published 15 episodes in 2020. The most popular episodes featured the Center’s Kim Colby discussing the many important religious freedom cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court this year, but listeners enjoyed discussions of Homer’s *Odyssey* and Oscar-nominated movies as well. The *Cross & Gavel* Podcast is available on iTunes and any podcast app.




## THE CLS BLOG

In 2020, CLS launched the *CLS Blog*. We are pleased to create a place to discuss the issues that matter most to us: fellowship, religious freedom, vocation, legal aid, student ministry, life, and a strong philosophical dialogue. Check it out, if you have not already, at [CLSBlog.org](https://CLSBlog.org).

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY BLOG HOME ALL ARTICLES [Get Updates](#)

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY  
**BLOG**



**Textualism Had a Great Fall**

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# GETTING CONNECTED IN 2020


## REGIONAL RETREATS

CLS partnered with local attorney and law student chapters to host three regional retreats in 2020 prior to the COVID-19 closures. The retreats provided lawyers, law students, and their families an opportunity to rest and recharge away from their law firms and busy schedules and to connect with one another on topics related to the life of faith in the law.

In February at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, attorneys, law students, and family members gathered for the CLS Midwest Retreat and encouraged one another as they discussed “The Equipped Saint’s Legacy.” It was a great weekend, featuring discussion sessions on legal aid, being a pastoral lawyer, being a Christian litigator, and religious freedom. A few weeks later, in (slightly sunnier) Orange County, California, CLS held its second annual Southwest Retreat, gathering nearly 50 attorneys, law students, and spouses from all over the Southwest to discuss “Striving for Faithfulness and Finding Success in the Legal Life.”

CLS also held our second CLS Cruise in mid-February, where 14 lawyers and spouses boarded the *Allure of the Seas* for a week of rest, learning, fellowship, and relaxation. Finally, in early March, at the CLS Northeast Retreat at the Tuscarora Inn in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania, Abdu Murray from RZIM led a discussion about “Saving Truth: Finding Meaning and Clarity in a Culture of Confusion” with the over 40 lawyers and law students who gathered there for a weekend of rest, learning, worship, and fellowship. All of these retreats were wonderful times of fellowship, discussion, and worship as attorneys and law students ministered to one another.





CHRISTIAN  
LEGAL SOCIETY

# 2020 | NATIONAL CONFERENCE

WALKING IN FAITH & TRUTH



Christian attorneys, judges, professors, law students, CLS Fellows, scholars, friends, and family members attended the virtual 2020 CLS National Conference. Although we were scheduled to meet in Washington, D.C., as a result of the pandemic, CLS decided to hold a live virtual national conference with our previously scheduled main speakers. Tackling “Walking in Faith & Truth,” we were blessed to have Rod Dreher, Helen Alvaré, Os Guinness, and Pastor Dexter Nutall speak throughout the four-day event. We also held a live religious freedom panel and several smaller CLE courses. Overall, nearly

1,200 people attended the conference. Also, for the 2020 conference, we were excited to welcome back, as part of the program, the General Counsel Forum and the Anglican, the Baptist, and the Orthodox Christian Lawyer gatherings.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming CLS National Conferences in San Antonio (2021) and Newport Beach (2022). More information can be found online at [CLSConference.org](https://www.clsconference.org).



**36,200+**

**Volunteer  
Attorney Hours**

supporting  
**Christian Legal Aid**



**54** **Attorney  
Chapters**



**Serving**  
**136**  
**Communities**  
through  
**Christian Legal Aid**



120

**Law Schools**

2,500+

**Student Participants**

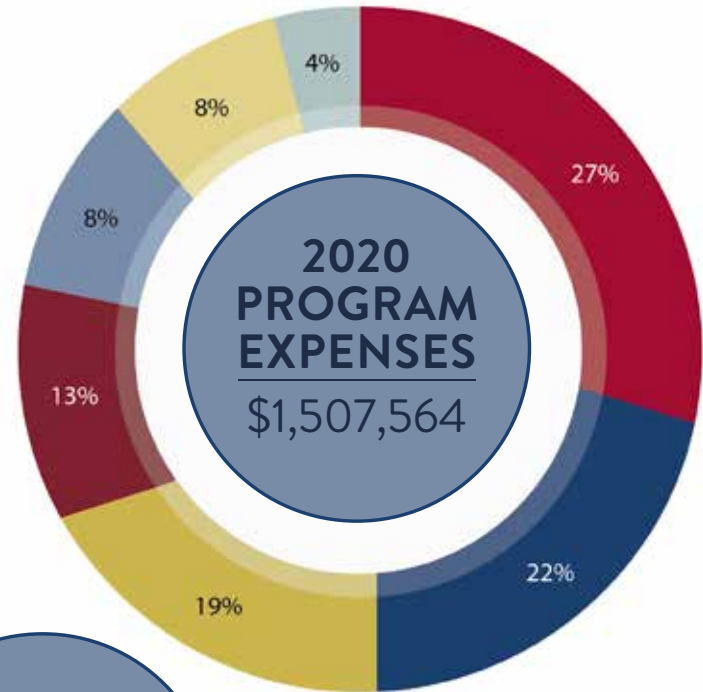
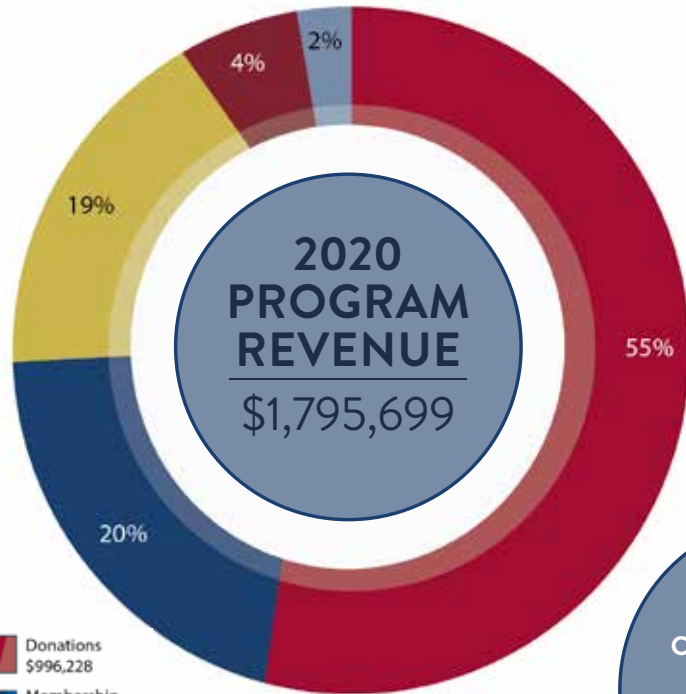
2,580

**served**  
**each month**

through  
**Christian Legal Aid**



# 2020 FINANCIALS



In 2020,  
Christian Legal Society  
invested 84 CENTS  
OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR  
in ministry programs.

- Donations  
\$996,228
- Membership Dues  
\$358,237
- Foundation Grants  
\$340,135
- Other  
\$64,235
- Conference & Events  
\$36,804

- Attorney Ministries  
\$399,728
- The Center for Law & Religious Freedom  
\$339,311
- Law Student Ministries  
\$281,216
- Christian Legal Aid  
\$193,220
- Administration  
\$123,023
- Development  
\$166,294
- Conference & Events  
\$54,773

Note: These financial reports for 2020 are pending completion of our annual audit. All information on these pages reflects data from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. CLS' Annual Report, IRS form 990, and audited financial statements are available at [ChristianLegalSociety.org](http://ChristianLegalSociety.org).

## LEAVING A LEGACY

### CLS ENDOWMENT MATCH MET THREE YEARS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Christian Legal Society is so pleased to announce that, because of the generosity of our faithful CLS partners, through gifts and pledges, we met the CLS Endowment match of \$500,000 provided by one of CLS' founders. Upon fulfillment of the pledges, CLS will have a \$1 million endowment!

CLS will continue to accept pledges and contributions to the CLS Endowment. This endowment will give CLS the opportunity for greater financial stability and a sustained income stream.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your participation in the CLS Endowment in 2020!

CLS' five-year period to fulfill the match requirement was initiated in April 2018. CLS is thrilled to have met the match three years ahead of the deadline.

To learn more about the CLS Endowment or to consider other planned giving options, email the CLS team at [legacy@clsnet.org](mailto:legacy@clsnet.org) or visit the Legacy webpage at [ChristianLegalSociety.org/Legacy](http://ChristianLegalSociety.org/Legacy).



# WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT CLS

## PRAY

Please pray for all of CLS' ministries as we continue to impact our nation for Christ. Our work is possible because of God's provision and your faithful support. Nothing is more critical than bringing the needs of these ministries and the people we serve to the Lord in prayer. Thank you for standing in the gap as we seek to fulfill the directive of Micah 6:8 in communities across the nation.

## GIVE

Our work is supported entirely by faithful individuals and foundations, like yourself, who share our mission. As a Christian nonprofit ministry, CLS does not accept government funds. Please consider supporting CLS financially in the coming year. You can designate your gift to your favorite CLS ministry if you would like. Please also consider incorporating CLS into your will today. CLS' ability to reach more people for Christ is heavily dependent on the financial support we receive.

## GET CONNECTED

Show up and get involved with a local attorney or law student chapter. Stay connected by following Christian Legal Society on Facebook or Twitter. Read through the CLS magazine and journal. Sign up for devotionals, monthly emails, and other CLS communications.

## VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in getting involved in CLS in a volunteer capacity, we have many opportunities available including, but not limited to:

- lawyers and administrative staff working at Christian Legal Aid clinics
- coordination with state lawmakers to protect religious freedom in states nationwide
- planning and on-site assistance at the CLS regional retreats
- mentoring law students
- mentoring young lawyers
- leadership and coordination of CLS attorney and law student chapters

## SHARE

Please tell your friends, family, and colleagues about CLS. Share the CLS publications with everyone you know. We are always thankful for your positive words for our critical ministries.







CHRISTIANLEGALSOCIETY.ORG



## SAN ANTONIO 2021



## NEWPORT BEACH 2022

*“I wanted to commend everyone for an exceptional conference, conducted excellently under challenging circumstances . . . plenary speakers were awesome, way off the charts . . . They all gave me a lot to think about.”*

- 2020 virtual  
CLS National Conference  
participant

# 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



A MESSAGE FROM **CHARLES OELLERMANN**, PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

*"Christian Legal Society's board of directors is grateful for the Lord's gracious provision for CLS' ministry and for your generous support in the incredibly challenging year of 2020. Thank you!"*

**President & Chairman of the Board**

Charles M. Oellermann  
Jones Day | Columbus, OH

**President-Elect**

Jeffrey S. Fowler  
Laner Muchin, Ltd. | Chicago, IL

**Treasurer**

Joshua Grosshans  
The Grosshans Group | Winter Garden, FL

**Past President**

Sally Wagenmaker  
Wagenmaker & Oberly, LLC | Chicago, IL

**Secretary**

Stuart Lark  
Sherman & Howard LLC | Colorado Springs, CO

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Christian Legal Society | Springfield, VA

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University of Missouri School of Law | Columbia, MO

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Carson Messinger PLLC | Phoenix, AZ

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University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA

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Michael V. Hernandez  
Regent University School of Law | Virginia Beach, VA

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Law Offices of Jennifer K. Patrick | San Diego, CA

Sylvia Chen\*\*  
Google | Chicago, IL

Lina Hughes  
Yen Hughes Law PC | Sacramento, CA

Kenneth W. Starr  
Lanier Law Firm | Waco, TX

Harold Coleman\*\*  
American Arbitration Association | San Diego, CA

John L. Kea II  
The Southern Baptist Foundation | Nashville, TN

Myron S. Steeves  
Trinity Law School | Santa Ana, CA

\*Left Board of Directors during 2020  
\*\*Joined Board of Directors during 2020



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[ChristianLegalSociety.org](http://ChristianLegalSociety.org)  
[CLSReligiousFreedom.org](http://CLSReligiousFreedom.org)  
[ChristianLegalAid.org](http://ChristianLegalAid.org)  
[AttorneyMinistries.org](http://AttorneyMinistries.org)  
[ChristianLawStudents.org](http://ChristianLawStudents.org)

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