



CENTROLEGAL

Annual Report 2011

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Mission Statement

To improve access to the court system and assure quality legal representation for clients regardless of income, ethnicity, or native language by providing legal education and representation to low-income clients who are in personal transition out of poverty toward safety and self-sufficiency.

Background

Founded in 1991, Centro Legal is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides legal services for low-income individuals in Milwaukee County. We serve a diverse group of clients in family law and criminal misdemeanor defense cases. As part of our family law programs, we offer specialized services for victims of domestic abuse. We also serve as court appointed counsel (guardians ad litem) for minors in family and paternity courts. We help clients successfully navigate the legal system. Our goal for our clients is that they maintain stable homes and remain employed in the face of legal difficulties. For our clients who are subject to domestic abuse or who are in a period of transition, our services empower them to achieve safety and independence.

In 2011, Centro Legal served over 1700 people. We provided representation in 801 cases. We provided 775 in-depth legal consultations during our weekly consultation program and reached 164 individuals through our family law classes.

Programs

Family Law Program:

Centro Legal provides complete representation in all matters of family law. We represent clients for the entirety of their cases, from the filing of initial paperwork through settlement or trial. Approximately half of our family law clients are survivors of domestic abuse. We provide specialized services for survivors of abuse and partner with domestic abuse advocates throughout these cases. We provided representation in 272 family law cases in 2011.

In addition to our complete representation services, we provide legal advice and information through a consultation service and a family law class. We provided 775 legal consultations and reached over 150 individuals through the family law classes in 2011. We partnered with 10 different non-profits organizations to deliver the classes.

Criminal Misdemeanor Program:

Centro Legal represents clients who do not qualify for public defender representation, but are too poor to hire private counsel. Our clients, the working poor, often have the most to lose with a misdemeanor charge. In many cases, Centro Legal represents clients in a diversion or deferred prosecution agreement, an opportunity only available to defendants represented by an attorney. In these cases the defendant enters an agreement with the district attorney to complete programming to address areas of need such as substance abuse treatment or mental health services. When a participant is successful, charges are never issued or are dismissed. We provided representation in 106 misdemeanor cases in 2012.

Guardian ad Litem Representation: The courts appoint Centro Legal to represent children and minors in family law cases and paternity cases. We served as guardians ad litem in 423 cases in 2011.

2011 Legal Services Summary

- 775 legal consultations provided
- 164 attendees at 16 family law classes
- 801 people served through direct representation
 - 13% criminal law cases
 - 34% family law cases
 - 53% guardian ad litem cases

Client Demographics

Gender

	Criminal	Family
Female	14%	86%
Male	86%	14%

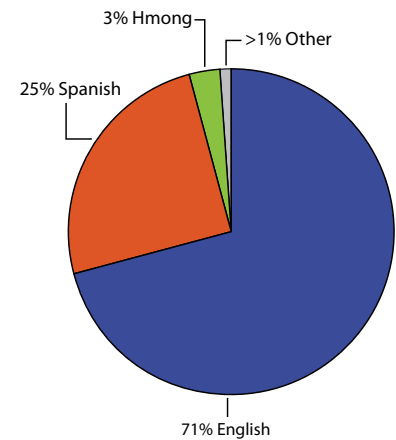
Race/Ethnicity

Asian	5%
Black or African-American	20%
Hispanic or Latino	43%
Other	3%
White	29%

Age

	Criminal	Family
Average Age	34	37
18 to 20	3%	1%
21 to 30	39%	30%
31 to 40	34%	40%
41 to 50	18%	19%
50+	6%	10%

Primary Language

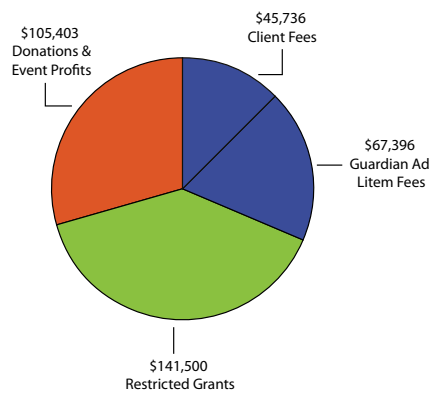


Household Income

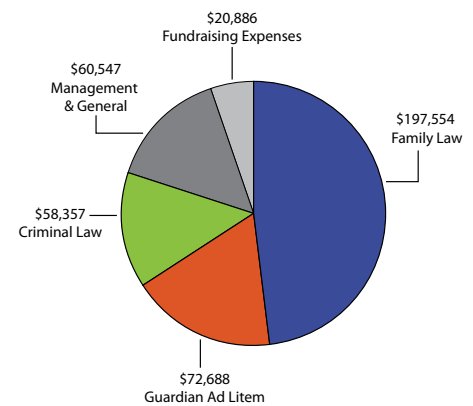
(Percent of Poverty Level)	Criminal	Family
no income to <125%	80%	84%
126 to 200%	18%	13%
>200%	2%	3%

Financials

2011 Revenues: \$360,035



2011 Expenses: \$410,032



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