



LEGAL SERVICES  
of North Dakota



*Equal Justice for All*



**Legal Services of  
North Dakota  
Annual Report 2018**



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Legal Services of North Dakota is a non-profit organization, providing legal assistance in a variety of matters to low income and elderly North Dakotans. Help is available by calling these toll free numbers.

- **Under age 60** call toll-free **1-800-634-5263**  
Monday - Thursday between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST.
- **Age 60+** call toll-free **1-866-621-9886**  
Monday - Friday



Advocates Corner



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*Disclaimer: Legal Services of North Dakota does not accept new applications via e-mail, fax, or voice mail directly to a staff person.*

**LSND Website located at <http://www.legalassist.org>**

# Executive Director's Message

By Richard R. LeMay

I am often surprised when someone applies for our services and tells us they have never heard of legal services before. Legal Services has existed within the state since 1976. The two separate programs, Legal Assistance of North Dakota and North Dakota Legal Services, merged in 2004 to form Legal Service of North Dakota (LSND). Best estimates would place the number of residents that have applied for legal services since 1976 at nearly 300,000. It is very likely that at least one member of every family in North Dakota has received services from Legal Services at one point or another.

In 2018 LSND took applications from nearly 6,500 individuals. That number equates to taking 3.125 applications per hour. Given LSND's current funding, or lack thereof, it is not possible to help everyone who would qualify for our services. Consequently, LSND places a lot of emphasis on community education. The more knowledge we share, the fewer problems there will be to fix.

In 2018 LSND gave twenty-three presentations to groups across the state of North Dakota. Each year LSND creates and distributes thousands of information brochures on more than fifty topics.

Legal Services of North Dakota was fortunate to be selected as one of the NDANO non profit members to share exhibit tables in Memorial Hall of the State Capitol on February 5, 2019. Executive Director Richard LeMay and Bismarck LSND Attorney Brad Peterson were on hand to meet and greet the members of the 66th ND Legislative Assembly to showcase the diversity and impact of Legal Services of North Dakota on the citizens of North Dakota.

LSND continues with limited resources along with experiencing a growing need to provide high quality civil legal services to low-income and senior North Dakotans. Our areas of priority include those that impact all of us: domestic violence and family stability, housing and public benefits, children, income maintenance and consumer issues.

Despite limited resources, LSND continues to innovate. We are integral partners in North Dakota's first Medical Legal Partnership. Our attorneys provide essential legal services to victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

We innovate by thinking outside the box and partnering with key stakeholders. Our Grand Forks Office is imbedded in the law school, allowing us to mentor law students and transmit the ideals of equal justice with real life experiences. We partner with CAWS and SBAND. We collaborate with Youthworks and our government agencies. The list goes on.

We look forward to more opportunities in 2019. We hope to grow our program and provide more services to our population.



# Board of Directors 2019

## *Executive Board*

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**Laurel Forsberg**, Vice President,  
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**Rob Manly**, Fargo

**Paul Murphy**, Carrington

**Gary Ramsey**, Dickinson

**Lisa Tomlinson**, Benedict

**James Wang**, Minnewaukan

**Bob Woods**, Fargo

## **LSND Mission Statement**

Legal Services of North Dakota strives to provide high quality advice, education and representation to low-income North Dakotans, as well as disadvantaged elderly, in areas of civil law.

# How Can I Help LSND?

- 1) Referrals—Spread the word to those who need legal assistance
- 2) Donate funds through our website [www.legalassist.org](http://www.legalassist.org) or send checks to:

Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND)  
418 E Broadway #25  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Consider making charitable gifts to assist a nonprofit organization such as Legal Services of North Dakota, while also receiving income and estate tax savings.

Monetary donations provide in-kind match for current grants requirements.



As a nonprofit organization, Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND) relies on contributions to continue providing free legal services to low-income persons and our many advocacy projects. Any donation, large or small, supports the vital role we play in the struggle for equal justice.

# Client Stories Reflecting Our Accomplishments

## **Immigration**

Client contacted LSND for services after she was denied Medicaid benefits. This client was a lawful permanent resident who had been in the United States for nearly 30 years after civil war broke out in her home country. After working for decades here in the U.S., the client became severely disabled. Due to her long tenure in the country and work history, she received healthcare through Medicaid in her previous state.

Upon moving to North Dakota, she immediately applied for Medicaid benefits here and was unexpectedly denied. Thus, she was unable to access critical medical care.

The LSND attorney analyzed the relevant law and determined that the denial was erroneous, probably due to some confusing language in the North Dakota regulations, which did not precisely track the intricacies of immigration law.

The LSND attorney was able to explain this to the administrative law judge in a series of briefs. The ALJ agreed that the client was eligible and ordered immediate reinstatement of her benefits.

## **SSI Cessation**

Client came to us for help in an SSI cessation case. He was deemed a “fugitive felon” and his benefits for SSI, Medicaid, housing and food stamps were stopped, leaving him homeless and without the medical attention he needed for his impairments. We assisted him in re-applying for SSI and proving he was not a fugitive felon.

The Social Security Administration agreed, which allowed for him to obtain his monthly benefit, and back pay, which resulted in securing the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care and clothing.

## **Vulnerable Adult**

Client is an 18 year old vulnerable adult that never handled money. Client wanted a car. Client visited Used Car Dealer (“Dealer”) and looked at a used car. Client wanted the car but had no money. Client told Dealer she had no money. Dealer told client to open a bank account and give him a check. Client was told by the bank she needed \$50 to open a checking account. Client told Dealer she was going to pass on the car. Dealer told Client to come back to the dealership and he would “loan” her the \$50. Client borrowed the \$50, opened a checking account, and gave Dealer post-dated checks for the car. Client drove the car away and found it malfunctioned. Client returned the \$50 and the car to the lot. Dealer sued Client for the cost of the contract. With LSND’s help Client defended in Court that the contract was unconscionable. The Court ruled that the contract was unconscionable due to the unequal bargain power of the parties and Client’s apparent vulnerability.

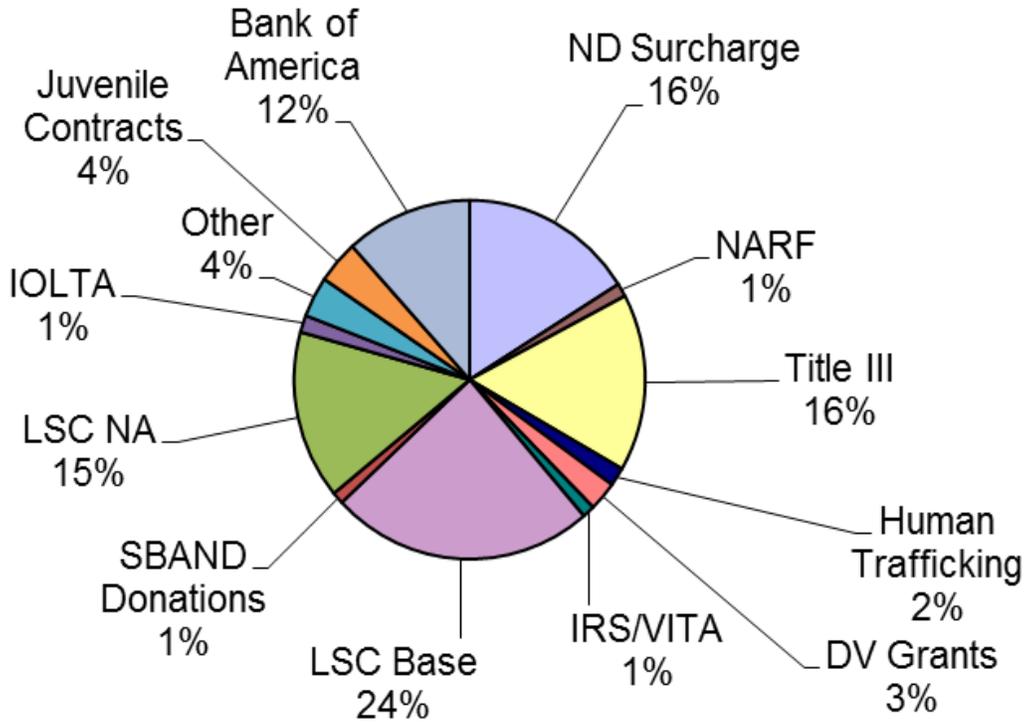
## **SSDI**

Client came to us for help with an SSDI case. This was his fourth time through the process, with the prior three cases being represented by attorneys outside of our organization. He had recently been eligible for early retirement.

Obtaining a favorable decision would mean he was eligible for Medicare benefits two years sooner, and would give him an extra \$300 per month to add to his benefits. Since he was raising his grandson who was also experiencing severe impairments, it would benefit him as well if he was found disabled.

We received a favorable decision at the hearing and were able to achieve peace of mind and better financial stability for our client allowing our client to easier care for his grandson.

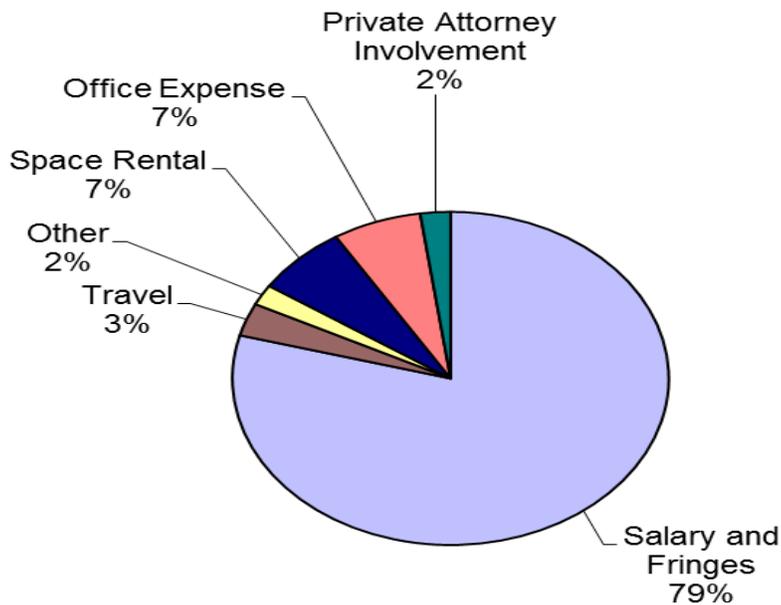
## 2018 Revenue by Source



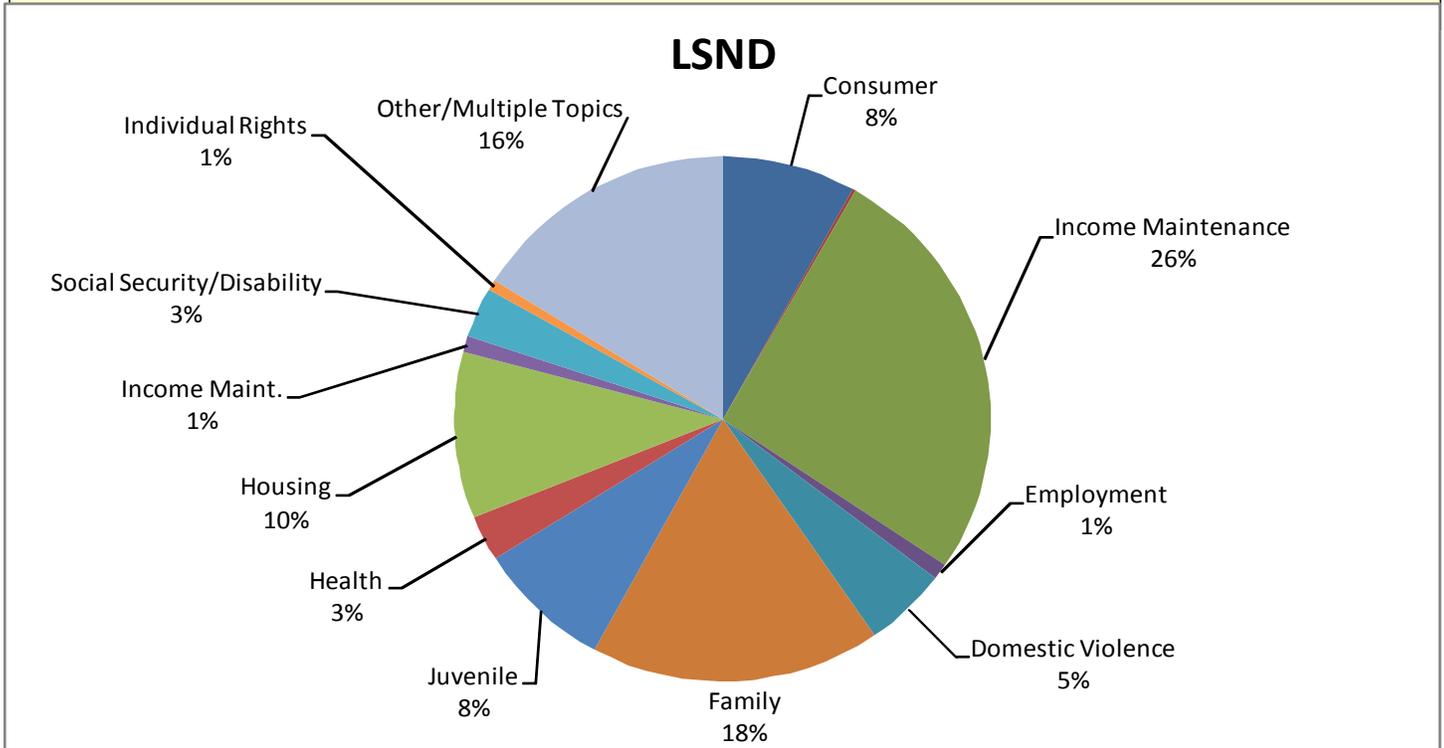
LSC Base -Legal Services Corporation  
 LSC - NA - LSC - Native American

IOLTA - Interest on Lawyer Trust Account  
 IRS and VITA -Taxes

## 2018 Expenses by Major Category



## Closed Cases by Subject Matter 2018



## Closed Cases by Race and Age 2018

Race	Age			
	Total	Under 18	18-59	60 and Over
Asian-P.I.	38	0	31	7
Black	168	5	144	18
Hispanic	72	0	63	9
Native American	1693	97	1007	589
White	2161	28	1110	1023
Unidentified	73	4	58	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4205</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>2413</b>	<b>1657</b>

# Closed Cases by County 2018

County	Closed 2018
Adams	5
Barnes	48
Benson	175
Billings	0
Bottineau	26
Bowman	3
Burke	6
Burleigh	535
Cass	562
Cavalier	6
Dickey	7
Divide	7
Dunn	35
Eddy	8
Emmons	11
Foster	7
Golden Valley	3
Grand Forks	248
Grant	7
Griggs	4
Hettinger	3
Kidder	6
LaMoure	12
Logan	4
McHenry	14
McIntosh	3
McKenzie	79
McLean	70
Mercer	26
Morton	245
Mountrail	274
Nelson	10
Oliver	3
Pembina	12
Pierce	3
Ramsey	80
Ransom	7
Renville	4

County	Closed 2018
Richland	54
Rolette	779
Sargent	6
Sheridan	2
Sioux	7
Slope	0
Stark	76
Steele	3
Stutsman	110
Towner	10
Traill	13
Walsh	24
Ward	329
Wells	14
Williams	89
Other	130
TOTALS	4205

