

WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY

2017 Annual Report







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WESTERN CENTER LEADS THE FIGHT IN THE COURTS, COUNTIES AND CAPITAL TO SECURE HOUSING, HEALTH CARE AND A STRONG SAFETY NET FOR LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS.

WHAT WE DO

- Protect and help California's most vulnerable residents
- Transform public policy systems that touch the lives of low-income Californians
- Stand up to injustice
- Challenge racism
- Make government agencies "do the right thing"

TOOLS

- Legislative and Budget Advocacy
- Impact Litigation
- Administrative Advocacy
- Technical Assistance for Legal Services and Community-Based Organizations
- Public Education

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Health Care
- Affordable Housing
- Public Benefits
- Racial Justice
- Economic Empowerment
- Access to Justice

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIRS:

THE DAY FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 2016 ELECTION,
WESTERN CENTER'S ADVOCATES WROTE: "WE HAVE
ALWAYS USED CREATIVE TACTICS TO FIGHT INJUSTICE.
TODAY, WE MUST FIGHT HARDER, SMARTER AND
STRONGER. AND WE WILL."

In these uncertain times, Western Center on Law & Poverty continues to lead the fight in the courts, counties and capital to protect and defend low-income people.

Western Center has been effectively using and sharpening its litigation and advocacy skills for five decades. Our 50th anniversary in 2017 provided us with an opportunity to reflect on past lessons and victories, and inspired us to meet and beat the new host of threats facing poor families, immigrants, children, homeless men and women, and communities of color. We are especially grateful to our longtime friends and new supporters who share our vision and work.

PAUL TEPPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GRACE CARTER AND DAVE ELSON, CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD





OUR WORK

WESTERN CENTER EDUCATES POLICYMAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS, BRINGS CLASS ACTION AND OTHER IMPACT LITIGATION, SPONSORS LEGISLATION, CONDUCTS BUDGET ADVOCACY, PROMOTES BETTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, AND PROVIDES CONSULTATION AND TRAINING TO LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.

With offices in Los Angeles, Oakland and Sacramento, Western Center focuses on the issues of health care, housing, racial and economic justice, public benefits and access to justice for poor Californians.

Our 31 attorneys, advocates and staff tackle complex issues by combining stakeholder education, impact litigation and legislative advocacy. Western Center also serves as the “go-to” training and education resource for hundreds of community-based advocacy and legal services organizations.

WHO WE SERVE

Western Center works on behalf of low-income Californians, especially the most vulnerable residents in our communities, urban and rural. This includes:

- Immigrants
- People of color
- Children
- People with disabilities
- People who are homeless
- Women and girls
- All poor Californians



We help government
“do the right thing” by
enforcing existing laws,
creating new ones and
helping to build needed
public programs.





LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ADVOCACY

EXPANDED WELFARE BENEFITS TO 130,000 KIDS (2016)

Western Center co-sponsored SB 23 (Mitchell), which repealed the Maximum Family Grant rule that prohibited people from receiving increased welfare income if they have more children while receiving public assistance. As a result, 130,000 low-income children are now receiving CalWORKs.

GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNED AN UNPRECEDENTED PACKAGE OF BILLS AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS (2017)

Western Center played a critical role in the effort and directly sponsored six of these bills.

REDIRECTED JUVENILE OFFENDERS FROM THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE (2016)

Western Center co-sponsored SB 882 (Hertzberg), which eliminated the penal code violation for young people failing to pay a transit fare.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED TO \$15 PER HOUR (2016)

Western Center was a sponsor of SB 3 (Leno), which gave six million Californians a raise.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY VICTORIES

2016

STRENGTHENED THE TRAFFIC FINE AMNESTY PROGRAM

SB 881 (Hertzberg) requires courts to process all timely filed applications for traffic fine amnesty within 90 days.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO FOOD FOR STRUGGLING COLLEGE STUDENTS

AB 1747 (Weber) requires public colleges to participate in the CalFresh restaurant meals program.

IMPROVED PROTECTIONS FOR WELFARE APPLICANTS

SB 1232 (Leno) requires that counties get permission from welfare recipients before using credit reports to verify income, and provides welfare recipients with the right to challenge information in the credit report.

PROTECTED TENANTS LOOKING FOR HOUSING

AB 2819 (Chiu) keeps court records private in eviction lawsuits unless the landlord prevails within 60 days of filing or at trial.

EMPOWERED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

AB 2057 (Stone) entitles survivors of domestic abuse to expedited CalFresh and waives all work requirements in order to help survivors leave an abusive situation.

HELPED MOBILE HOME OWNERS KEEP THEIR HOMES

AB 587 (Chau) permits mobile home owners who do not have proper title to their home to obtain title without paying back taxes and protects them from eviction.

PRESERVED AND CREATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AB 2501 (Bloom and Low) strengthens local government compliance with the State Density Bonus law.

STREAMLINED WELFARE APPLICATION PROCEDURES

SB 947 (Pan) removes the requirement that interviews for CalWORKs eligibility must be conducted face to face.

COORDINATED AND STREAMLINED WELFARE PROGRAMS

SB 1399 (Monning) Improves the intercounty transfer process for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh.

ADDRESSED BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

AB 551 (Nazarian) Begins to establish basic rights and responsibilities in connection with bedbug infestations in residential rental property.

EXPANDED MEDI-CAL COVERAGE

AB 2394 (E. Garcia) clarifies that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit.

HOMELESS, MIGRANT AND FOSTER CHILDREN RECEIVED PRIORITY ACCESS AND FEE WAIVERS FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

AB 1567 (Campos) provides free program services to children living in poverty.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY VICTORIES (CONT.)

2017

HELD LOCAL JURISDICTIONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT MANDATES

AB 72 (Santiago) improves enforcement of housing element and zoning laws by allowing the state to revoke approval of local housing elements based on inconsistencies with their adopted housing plan, and permits the Attorney General to conduct enforcement actions.

PROTECTED IMMIGRANT TENANTS

AB 291 (Chiu) prohibits landlords from reporting or threatening to report the suspected immigration status of a tenant who complains about habitability issues or to use threats to compel a tenant to move out. It also provides for attorney discipline for lawyers who threaten to report suspected immigration status of a witness or party in landlord-tenant matters.

STOPPED SHAM AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITES IN LOCAL HOUSING PLANS

AB 1397 (Low) prevents local governments from using sites in their state-mandated housing plans that do not have a realistic capacity for housing development, including those that are too small, too large, or not served by water and wastewater.

RESTORED LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER TO REQUIRE AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

AB 1505 (Bloom) overturns the Palmer decision and restores the ability of local governments to require multi-unit housing developers to include affordable rental units.

NONPROFITS ATTAINED FIRST SHOT AT BUYING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTIES ABOUT TO LOSE SUBSIDIES

AB 1521 (Bloom) requires that rental housing with expiring affordability restrictions be offered for sale first to an entity that would preserve the units as affordable.

"NO NET LOSS" ZONING LAW STRENGTHENED

SB 166 (Skinner) requires jurisdictions to maintain an ongoing supply of sites to meet the affordable housing need when sites previously identified for affordable housing are developed at a higher income level.

LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS SECURED ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS

SB 575 (Leyva) provides low-income Californians with free access to their medical records when applying for certain public benefit programs.

"SHAME SANDWICH" POLICIES ENDED FOR ALL CALIFORNIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SB 250 (Hertzberg) ends the practice of shaming school children by giving them no food, limited food, stamping their hands, or other practices when their parents owe unpaid school meal debt.

PUNITIVE COLLECTION OF CALFRESH OVERPAYMENTS STOPPED

SB 278 (Weiner) requires the state to establish a cost-effective threshold for its collection of no-fault CalFresh overissuances and requires reporting when the mass overissuances resulted from county error.

FOOD STAMPS EXPANDED FOR ELDERLY, DISABLED AND HOMELESS PEOPLE IN RESTAURANTS

SB 282 (Wiener) codifies the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program for elderly, disabled or homeless recipients in state law.

REDUCED COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER

AB 214 (Weber) requires schools that operate on-campus restaurants to accept students' CalFresh and requires schools to help students meet CalFresh work requirements.

POOR PARENTS NO LONGER CHARGED FEES WHEN CHILDREN ARE ON PROBATION

SB 190 (Mitchell) stops probation departments from collecting administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation.

REDUCED PENALTIES FOR MINOR TRANSIT VIOLATIONS

SB 614 (Hertzberg) reduces administrative penalties for transit fare evasion to a reasonable amount and requires transit agencies to offer community service for youth under 18 years of age or for individuals who are unable to pay the monetary penalty.

CALWORKS BENEFITS CALCULATION FIXED

SB 380 (Bradford) allows a family where a step-sibling gets child support to accept it in full if it is greater than the value of the child's CalWORKs grant.

BENEFITS RECIPIENTS PROTECTED

SB 360 (Skinner) prohibits prosecution for overpayments in CalFresh and CalWORKs if the county had information about the overpayment, but did not act in a timely fashion.

SUNSET PROVISION ON COLA ADJUSTMENTS ENDED

SB 469 (Skinner) ends the sunset on the low-income cost-of-living adjustment for child support payment calculations.

IMPROVED HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

AB 236 (Maienschein) makes improvements to the CalWORKs Temporary Homeless Assistance Program.

PROVIDED NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AB 415 (Chiu) permits welfare departments to directly contract with a social enterprise for CalFresh Employment and Training job opportunities.

IMPROVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CALWORKS POLICIES

AB 557 (Rubio) requires counties to waive CalWORKs rules that were unfair to a survivor of domestic abuse or would make it more difficult for them to avoid violence.

HUMANE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN ENACTED

AB 910 (Ridley-Thomas) limits work requirements for pregnant women to 20 hours and two-parent households with one parent who is disabled to 30 hours.

PARKING TICKETS CAPPED

AB 503 (Lackey) requires cities to have ability-to-pay plans for parking tickets and caps payments at \$25 a month for low-income Californians.

SUBSIDIZED DIAPERS PROVIDED

AB 480 (Gonzalez Fletcher) provides an allowance of \$30 per month to CalWORKs families to pay for the cost of diapers at child care.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY VICTORIES (CONT.)

IMPROVED AVAILABILITY OF MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES

AB 10 (Garcia) requires that school bathrooms for grades 6 - 12 offer free menstrual supplies.

WELFARE RECIPIENTS ALLOWED TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

AB 1604 (Nazarian) allows a Welfare to Work participant to postpone job search until they finish their high school degree or equivalent.

FINES AND FEES ENDED

SB 190 (Mitchell) eliminates ability of counties to impose fines and fees on juveniles who are in the juvenile justice system.

BUDGET ADVOCACY VICTORIES

2016

PROTECTED SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OF MEDI-CAL RECIPIENTS AND REMOVED AN ENROLLMENT BARRIER limiting Medi-Cal estate recovery to long-term care costs.

DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEWLY QUALIFIED IMMIGRANT WRAP PROGRAM designed to move recent immigrants from full-scope Medi-Cal to Covered California, often increasing confusion around enrollment, potential loss of coverage, gaps in care, and potential tax liabilities.

SECURED \$43 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE HOUSING AND DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM to expedite Supplemental Security Income applications for the homeless.

2017

200,000 CALIFORNIANS RECLAIMED THEIR DRIVER LICENSES

California's traffic fines amnesty program permitted 192,452 Californians to reclaim their driver licenses and more than \$35.5 million was collected through the amnesty program, which reduced fines for unpaid tickets that might otherwise have led to license suspensions.

COURTS PREVENTED FROM SUSPENDING A PERSON'S DRIVER LICENSE because they failed to make payments on a traffic violation.

EXPANDED CALIFORNIA EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT eligibility to the self-employed and increased the cutoff point for families with children.

ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS AND EYEGLOSS COVERAGE RESTORED

IMPLEMENTED SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANT when a CalWORKs recipient receives their GED or enrolls in an employment certification program.

MEDI-CAL PROVIDER RATE INCREASED up to \$800 million in 2018.

IMPROVED CALFRESH for students, the unemployed and homeless people.

CREATED THE NEW CALWORKS OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SYSTEM to set and measure CalWORKs outcome benchmarks for counties and require county improvement plans.

REPEALED THE STATEWIDE FINGER IMAGING SYSTEM FOR CALWORKS

INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE EQUAL ACCESS FUND BY \$10 MILLION



LITIGATION



COURT STOPS CITY OF PALO ALTO'S PLAN TO CLOSE ITS ONLY MOBILE HOME PARK

Four hundred low-income families, 90% of whom are Latino, will keep their mobile homes in a Palo Alto park. Following a litigation victory, the Santa Clara county's housing authority purchased the park from a private owner, seeking to evict all the residents.

(Buena Vista Mobile Home Park Residents v. City of Palo Alto)

Co-counsel: Law Foundation of Silicon Valley; Sidley Austin LLP.

RULING WITH NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS FINDS FEDERAL REGULATION DENYING FOOD STAMPS TO AGED, BLIND AND DISABLED PERSONS ILLEGAL

A federal district court invalidated a 37-year-old federal regulation that prevented people with Supplemental Security Income benefits from receiving food stamps. *(Riojas v. Vilsak)* Co-counsel: Legal Services of Northern California.

DMV SUED OVER IMPROPERLY SUSPENDED DRIVER LICENSES FOR THOSE TOO POOR TO PAY FINES

This northern California suit seeks to stop the Department of Motor Vehicles from suspending the driver licenses of thousands of Californians. *(Hernandez v. CA Department of Motor Vehicles)* Co-counsel: ACLU-NC; Lawyer's Committee; Bay Area Legal Aid; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Gould School of Law Clinic.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO SAFE HOUSING

Fullerton agreed to make it easier to build homeless shelters in the city and commits \$1M for affordable housing. *(Gamble v. Fullerton/York v. Fullerton)* Co-counsel: Legal Aid Society of Orange County; Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP; Keller/Anderle.

COSTA MESA TENANTS WIN RELOCATION BENEFITS

The city of Costa Mesa was stopped from issuing approvals to replace a residential motel with luxury housing until the city provided relocation benefits to the low-income tenants of the motel. The court also ruled that the city had improperly granted the developer permission to increase the number of units in the project without including affordable units. (*Kennedy Commission v. City of Costa Mesa*) Co-counsel: Bird Marella; Public Law Center; Legal Aid Society of Orange County.

ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL RELIEF ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED BY 889%

This class action lawsuit, filed on behalf of extremely poor county residents, was settled in 2012. In May 2011, before the suit was filed, there were just 619 people receiving General Relief. By December 2016 there were 5,502. (*Mankinen v. County of Orange*) Co-counsel: Public Interest Law Project; Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

STATE MUST TRANSLATE MEDI-CAL FORMS INTO 11 LANGUAGES

The CA Department of Health Care Services has agreed to translate forms and notices into all of the Medi-Cal threshold languages (Korean, Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Spanish, Armenian, Russian, Arabic and Farsi) and will ensure

that termination notices tell people about their right to get back on Medi-Cal if they provide the required information within 90 days. (*KCCEB v. DHCS*) Co-counsel: Neighborhood Legal Services; Advancing Justice; Bay Area Legal Aid; Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles; Kirkland & Ellis LLP and NHeLP.

WESTERN CENTER HELPS SANTA MONICA DEFEND ORDINANCE BANNING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS

An L.A. Superior Court judge, granting our summary judgment motion, has rejected a challenge to Santa Monica's ordinance prohibiting discrimination against applicants for rental housing based on their receipt of Section 8 benefits. (*Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles v. City of Santa Monica*) Co-counsel: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

MEDI-CAL PATIENTS NO LONGER HAVE TO "TRY AND FAIL" TO GET THE RIGHT MEDICINE

San Francisco has eliminated its "try and fail" rule that forced patients to try the generic drug until it "failed," even when a doctor prescribed a brand-name medication because the generic version would be harmful or ineffective. (*Lichtenberger v. DHCS*) Co-counsel: Bay Area Legal Aid.

GO BROKE, FOREGO MEDICAL SERVICES, OR INVOLUNTARILY GO INTO AN INSTITUTION - SPOUSES FACED WITH THREE BAD CHOICES WHEN A BETTER ONE WAS REQUIRED BY LAW

California agreed to adopt and implement the federally mandated "spousal impoverishment" rule that financially protects married Medi-Cal beneficiaries when one spouse needs intensive noninstitutional Medi-Cal services. Previously, the household was forced to become impoverished by paying for the home-based services, forego medical care, or institutionalize the ill spouse. (*Kelley v. Kent*) Co-counsel: Bet Tzedek; Disability Rights CA; Justice in Aging; McDermott Will & Emery.

SOLANO COURT AGREES TO PROTECT TRAFFIC DEFENDANTS UNABLE TO PAY FINES

County traffic defendants no longer face license suspensions for failure to pay fines or failure to appear in court, and the court will consider alternatives to fines when a traffic defendant is receiving public assistance or has income below 250% of the federal poverty line. (*Rubicon Programs v. Solano County Superior Court*) Co-counsel: ACLU-NC; Bay Area Legal Aid; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

A black and white photograph of a young girl with dark hair, looking out of a window. Her hand is pressed against the glass, with her fingers near her mouth. The background outside the window is blurred, showing what appears to be a brick wall.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY

**EXPANDED HEALTH CARE SERVICES
FOR UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN.**

**QUIETLY AND COLLABORATIVELY,
ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY IS THE
UNSUNG HERO OF IMPROVEMENTS
IN SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME
CALIFORNIANS. WESTERN CENTER'S
NEGOTIATIONS WITH STATE AND
COUNTY AGENCIES OFTEN YIELD
DRAMATIC VICTORIES.**

**PROTECTED INNOCENT TENANTS THREATENED
WITH EVICTION WHEN THEIR LANDLORD FACES
FORECLOSURE.**

**INCREASED ACCESS TO HOT MEALS FOR ELDERLY,
DISABLED OR HOMELESS CALIFORNIANS THROUGH
EXPANSION OF THE CALFRESH RESTAURANT
MEALS PROGRAM.**

-
- Protected working poor Californians from employer retaliation if they report that they don't receive health coverage from their work.
 - Reduced CalWORKs work requirements for pregnant women.
 - Expanded CalFresh Employment and Training opportunities through community colleges and employment social enterprises, and implemented new laws increasing access to CalFresh for low-income Californians attending college.
 - Led national advocacy to halt collections of tens of millions of dollars from former CalFresh recipients who received an overissuance as a result of county negligence.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND LEGAL SUPPORT CENTER ACTIVITIES

ASSISTANCE TO OVER 1,200 LEGAL SERVICES ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES

THREE-CITY 2016 ADVOCATES' TRAINING DAY

Over 130 attorneys and advocates from 32 organizations around California gathered in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Oakland for Western Center's statewide, in-person and webinar advocates' training.

UNITS OF SERVICE TO LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS

| | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|
| Brief Service | 635 | 647 |
| In-Depth Consultation including Short of Co-Counsel | 194 | 259 |
| Trainings | 96 | 85 |
| Advocacy | 106 | 35 |
| Research | 41 | 56 |
| Publications | 20 | 3 |
| Other Support | 16 | 19 |



TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

HOUSING POLICY SUMMIT

Western Center and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's annual housing policy summit brought together 100 of our partners over two days to discuss policy priorities.

HEALTH POLICY SUMMIT

Under the theme "Coverage to Care: Ensuring Access for a Healthier California," Western Center's two-day summit united over 50 legal services and health consumer policy advocates to review significant 2016 policy changes and plans for 2017.

- Public Law Institute webinars
- CalFresh webinars in partnership with California Alliance to Transform CalFresh
- Trainings with community college CalWORKs programs
- Regional taskforce trainings in northern, central and southern California



PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

DRAMATIC RACIAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN DRIVER LICENSE SUSPENSIONS AND ARRESTS RELATED TO UNPAID TRAFFIC FINES AND FEES DETAILED

Stopped, Fined, Arrested - Racial Bias in Policing and Traffic Courts in California, authored by Western Center and colleagues.

STATEWIDE FAILURE TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO 580,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN REVEALED

Failing Grade: How California's School Districts Have Abandoned Children with Disabilities, authored by Western Center and colleagues. The report details how 580,000 children with mental disabilities have been left without help, and have, in some cases, been sent to juvenile hall rather than getting the school-based mental health services to which they are legally entitled.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE GUIDE FOR FIELD ADVOCATES

Getting and Keeping Healthcare Coverage for Low-Income Californians: A Guide for Advocates, Western Center's 362-page manual provides California advocates, legal services attorneys, enrollment counselors, healthcare workers, community organizers and others with the relevant statutes, regulations and guidance needed to help their clients access and retain healthcare coverage.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

What is at Stake for Medi-Cal Under a Trump Presidency?

Housing for All: Western Center on Law & Poverty's Affordable Housing Manual

Threats to Housing Under the New Administration

The Remaining Uninsured in California's Rural and Smaller Counties: CMSP's Pilot Projects and Where to Go from Here

Deep Poverty, Unmet Diaper Need and You

Connecting the Dots: Reducing Child Hunger in California by Connecting the Programs That Serve Them

Students & CalWORKs: Know Your Rights Handbook

OUR HISTORY

50 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY



1967 >

Western Center
founded

1970 >

1971

The CA Supreme Court rules a school finance system may not discriminate against children from low-wealth school districts (*Serrano v. Priest*)

1972

Western Center opens its Sacramento office

1979

150,000 tenants in the nation receive \$59 million in rent refunds; largest U.S. class action settlement on behalf of indigent individuals (*Underwood v. Pierce*)

1980 >

1985

The CA Supreme Court holds that requiring indigent adults to live in a county "poorhouse" violates their constitutional right to privacy (*Robbins v. County of Sacramento*)

1987

Court of Appeal holds that homeless children may not be denied emergency shelter, leading to our sponsored homeless assistance legislation (*Hansen v. Dept. of Social Services*)

1987

A county may not deny General Assistance benefits to homeless people who lack a fixed residence (*Nelson v. Board of Supervisors*)

1990 >

1991

Hundreds of thousands of women win improved prenatal care and 4 million people gain greater rights to dental care (*Clark v. Kizer*)

1994

\$600 million in public assistance benefits preserved for millions of Californians (*Beno v. Shalala*)

1999

CA Supreme Court holds a county must provide last resort medical care to those who can't afford it (*Hunt v. Superior Court*)

TOP PHOTO LEFT L TO R: Doug Ring and Mary Burdick

TOP PHOTO RIGHT L TO R: Staff attorney John Calmore with Deputy Director Bill Flanagan

BOTTOM PHOTO LEFT BACK ROW, L TO R: Jonathan Lehrer-Graiwer, Bill Powers, Rudy Arias, Peter Schilla, Bob Newman, Melinda Bird, Rosemary French, Mary Lee, Casey McKeever, Mark Greenberg, Dick Rothschild. **FRONT ROW**, L TO R: Mary Burdick, Carmen Estrada **BOTTOM PHOTO RIGHT** L TO R: Doug Ring, Allen Cranston, Louise and John Brinsley

FOUNDERS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alicia Armendariz | Martin Levine |
| Derrick Bell | Stan Levy |
| Gary Bellow | Paul McKaskle |
| David Binder | Honorable Dorothy Nelson |
| Honorable Paul Boland | Stanton Price |
| Honorable Terry Hatter | Bill Rintala |
| Hal Horowitz | Stan Saunders |
| Barbara Johnson | Ralph Segura |
| Honorable Earl Johnson Jr. | Michael Shapiro |
| Honorable Charles Jones | Honorable Abby Soven |
| Stan Keller | Valerie Vanaman |
| Jerry Levine | Vernon White |

BOARD PRESIDENTS

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Martin Levine | 1968 – 1971 |
| Earl Johnson, Jr. | 1971 – 1973 |
| Martin Levine | 1973 – 1974 |
| Armando Morales | 1974 – 1976 |
| Lola McAlpin-Grant | 1977 – 1984 |
| Douglas Ring | 1984 – 1988 |
| John Brinsley | 1989 – 1990 |
| John Spiegel | 1991 – 1992 |
| Michael Ryan | 1993 – 1996 |
| Jeffrey B. Valle | 1997 – 2002 |
| Jeff Davidson | 2002 – 2006 |
| Douglas B. Adler | 2006 – 2010 |
| Diana Torres | 2010 – 2012 |
| Grace Carter | 2012 – present |
| Dave Elson | 2012 – present |

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Martin Levine | 1967 – 1968 |
| Derrick Bell | 1968 – 1969 |
| Stanley Levy | 1969 |
| Terry Hatter | 1970 – 1973 |
| Daniel Luevano | 1973 – 1977 |
| John McDermott | 1977 – 1981 |
| Alan Rader | 1981 – 1984 |
| Mary Burdick | 1984 – 1999 |
| Deborah Cantrell | 1999 – 2001 |
| Pegine Grayson | 2001 – 2006 |
| Syd Whalley | 2006 – 2009 |
| Paul Tepper | 2009 – present |

2000 >

2002

Western Center sponsors successful \$2.1 billion affordable housing bond measure

2003

L.A. County foster care system transformed (*Katie A. v. Bonta*)

2004

Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, providing residential services for thousands of severely disabled people, kept open (*Rodde v. Bonta*)

2004

Ninth Circuit affirmed tenants' right to enforce federal relocation assistance laws and prohibit displacing residents until benefits are paid (*Price v. Stockton Redevelopment Agency*)

2005

Court of Appeal holds that county health care must be made available to working poor (*Alford v. City of San Diego*)

2009

Western Center-sponsored bill requiring 60 days' notice in no-fault evictions signed into law

2011

Sacramento mandated to provide mental health services to 10,000 chronically ill residents (*Napper v. County of Sacramento*)

2012

Halted CA's illegal practice of forcing children to repay the old welfare debts of their parents or guardians (*Hartley v. Lightbourne*)

2013

Landmark launch of Affordable Care Act brings health care to millions of Californians

2013

Western Center opens Bay Area office

2014

After 17 years of advocacy, CA's lifetime ban on receiving welfare for people with prior drug-related convictions was repealed

2015

Western Center successfully challenged racially discriminatory traffic fines and fees practices, leading to an amnesty plan, the right to challenge tickets, and the restoration of thousands of licenses

2016

The repeal of the Maximum Family Grant rule provides basic needs benefits for 130,000 low-income children previously excluded from critical programs

2016

Co-sponsored the successful Minimum Wage bill, raising basic wages to \$15 per hour by 2021

2017

Western Center played a critical role in the passage of an unprecedented package of affordable housing bills, six of which we directly sponsored.

PRO BONO AND LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERS

PRO BONO PARTNERS

Akin Gump
Arnold & Porter
Bird Marella
Blank Rome LLP
Briggs Law Corporation
Charity Kenyon
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Haynes and Boone
Horvitz and Levy
Irell & Manella
Jennison & Dodds
Kaye Scholer
Keller/Anderle
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Law Offices of Chandra Spencer
Manatt Phelps & Phillips

McDermott Will & Emery
Morrison & Foerster
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Paul Hastings
Perkins Coie
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
PwC LLP
Proskauer
Rapkin & Associates
Schonbrun, Seplow, Harris & Hoffman
Seyfarth Shaw
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan
Susman Godfrey
USC Gould School of Law Clinic
Wilson Sonsini

PRO BONO HIGHLIGHTS



KENNEDY COMMISSION V. CITY OF COSTA MESA

(Bird Marella)

“We are honored to continue Bird Marella’s 35-year tradition of public service by partnering with Western Center and representing impoverished long-term occupants of Costa Mesa’s residential motels victimized by a concerted, decades-long city campaign to shutter those motels and replace them with upscale housing complexes.”



TOP: Julian C. Burns

BOTTOM: Jeremy Matz

BIRD | MARELLA
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
BIRD • MARELLA • BOXER • WOLPERT •
NESSIM • DROOKS • LINCENBERG



Derek Milosavljevic

KOREAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE EAST BAY V. DOUGLAS

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

“Kirkland & Ellis is proud to have joined Western Center and our other legal services partners in the fight to ensure access to health care for California’s most vulnerable residents. Our firm is always honored to partner with Western Center because of the remarkable talent and dedication of its lawyers, and the invariably important issues they champion.”

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

BUENA VISTA MHP RESIDENTS V. CITY OF PALO ALTO

(Sidley Austin LLP)

“Sidley is proud to have partnered with Western Center on this important case that goes to the heart of California’s affordable housing crisis. This team effort has ensured that over 400 of Palo Alto’s most diverse and vulnerable residents will not be forced out of the Bay Area.”



L TO R: Matthew J. Dolan, Norman J. Blears, Vikram S. Shah

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HOUSING WORKS V. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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“Morrison & Foerster is extremely proud to have worked with Western Center as part of the Housing Works legal team, a reflection of our firm’s long-standing commitment to give back to the communities where we live and work. It has been particularly gratifying to work closely with the dedicated and expert members of Western Center’s legal staff. The Housing Works case has achieved several much-needed reforms to the way Los Angeles county provides subsistence benefits to the most needy and vulnerable county residents – indigent persons with mental or developmental disabilities.”



L TO R: Charles S. Barquist, Heriberto Alvarez, Jr., Matthew L. Hofer, Ryan J. Malloy

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|------------------------|------------------|
| Grants & Contracts | 2,074,848 |
| Contributions | 744,071 |
| Attorneys' Fees | 706,523 |
| Cy Pres | 33,629 |
| Interest & Investments | 25,309 |
| Other | 19,078 |
| Carry Forward | 373,136 |
| Total Revenue | 3,976,594 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Program | 3,233,433 |
| General & Administrative | 345,000 |
| Fundraising | 398,161 |
| Total Expenses | 3,976,594 |

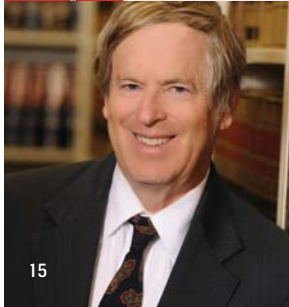
2017

REVENUE

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Grants & Contracts | 2,231,723 |
| Contributions | 1,068,294 |
| Attorneys' Fees | 855,677 |
| Cy Pres | 24,918 |
| Interest & Investments | 19,545 |
| Other | 53,227 |
| Total Revenue | 4,253,384 |

EXPENSES

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| Program | 3,353,798 |
| General & Administrative | 346,945 |
| Fundraising | 429,551 |
| Total Expenses | 4,130,294 |



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THAT SHAPES THEIR LIVES.**

To celebrate our anniversary, we hosted a number of events. At gatherings in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Oakland, current partners and longtime friends from legal services organizations joined us to toast 50 years of leadership in the fight for justice.

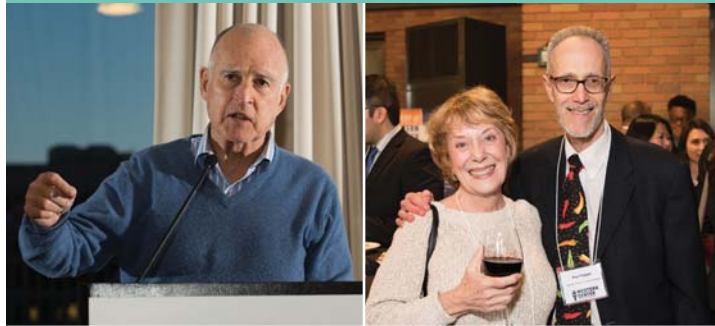
We also hosted Fair Shake, a celebration of the next generation of public interest attorneys and hosted by Western Center's Advisory Board. Our annual gala, Garden Party, was illuminated by the inspiring words of honoree Eric Holder, 82nd Attorney General of the United States.



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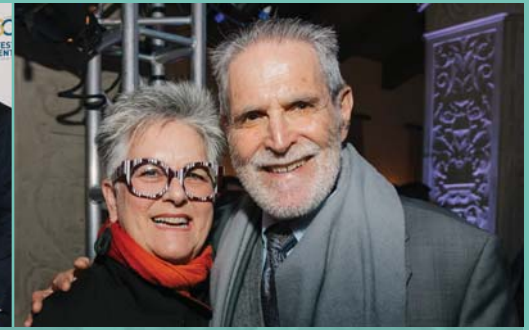




FAIR SHAKE THE LINE HOTEL, L.A.

50





GARDEN PARTY EBELL OF LOS ANGELES

50



SAVE THE DATE

FOR OUR
UPCOMING
EVENTS



FAIR SHAKE
JUNE 14, 2018



GARDEN PARTY
OCTOBER 3, 2018

FEATURED ARTIST



ERNESTO YERENA MONTEJANO

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Ernesto was born in El Centro, CA, a mid- sized farming town bordering Mexicali, BC, MX. Fueled by his cross-national upbringing, his art practice reflects his observations of the views and interactions between the Mexican communities living on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The artist shares narratives of his conflicts of identity that he feels are kindred to what many Chicanos of these communities experience. Although Ernesto identifies as Chicano, he also strongly identifies as

Native/Indigenous to this continent, which is often seen in his work. His work depicts his frustrations with the oppression in his community as well as creating work in solidarity with the community in the defense of dignity and rights. Through his brazen imagery, the artist brings political concerns to light with subject matter that depicts cultural icons, rebels and everyday people voicing their stance against oppression.

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