

East Los Angeles Office Capital Campaign

Securing Our Permanent Home
in East Los Angeles for
Generations to Come



**LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION**
OF LOS ANGELES

Justice • Equity • Hope



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Fighting for Justice for Nearly a Century

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is a nonprofit law firm that protects and advances the rights of Angelenos living in poverty – leveling the playing field and ensuring that equal justice is a reality for everyone.

For more than 90 years, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles has provided the poor with access to fundamental services: food, housing, employment, safety, and security. Since its founding in 1929, LAFLA has been a force for change for the conditions that cause or aggravate poverty. LAFLA’s public interest law experts help individuals and families obtain legal immigration status, stay housed, escape domestic violence, obtain food and health care benefits, and move out of poverty — serving more than 100,000 people each year at our five community offices (Westlake/Pico-Union, South Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Long Beach), three courthouse-based domestic violence clinics (Downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Santa Monica), and four self-help legal access centers (Inglewood, Long Beach, Torrance, Santa Monica courthouses), as well as community clinics with partner organizations, and in several hospitals and clinics through our Medical-Legal Partnerships.

What We Do



EVICTIION DEFENSE

Provide housing rights information and direct representation for individuals facing eviction

Prevent housing-subsidy residents and Section 8 voucher holders from losing their housing/subsidies

Help clients living in uninhabitable conditions get repairs or reductions in rent

Preserve Rent Stabilized Ordinance (RSO) tenancies and prevent RSO violations

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Prevent unfair displacement; preserve and expand affordable housing

Defend rights of unhoused individuals and families

Provide legal services to households facing homelessness and/or imminent eviction in LA County



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/FAMILY LAW

Assist and represent survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in obtaining restraining orders, and orders for custody, dissolution, visitation, and support

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Help people obtain benefits to fulfill basic needs (food, shelter, medical care, and services to attain self-sufficiency)

EMPLOYMENT

Fight wage theft, denial of unemployment insurance benefits

Advise on wrongful terminations and discriminatory employment practices

IMMIGRATION

Assist and represent undocumented survivors of domestic violence, torture, human trafficking, and other serious abuse in removal proceedings and before USCIS

Assist and represent individuals before USCIS to become U.S. Citizens

EXPUNGEMENT

Clear past criminal convictions so people can have access to better work and housing opportunities

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

Provide patients with access to legal services (only available through health care providers that partner with LAFLA)

STUDENT LOAN ISSUES

Assist people who cannot afford to repay their student loans due to disability or who have attended for-profit colleges that engaged in predatory, deceptive, or illegal practices

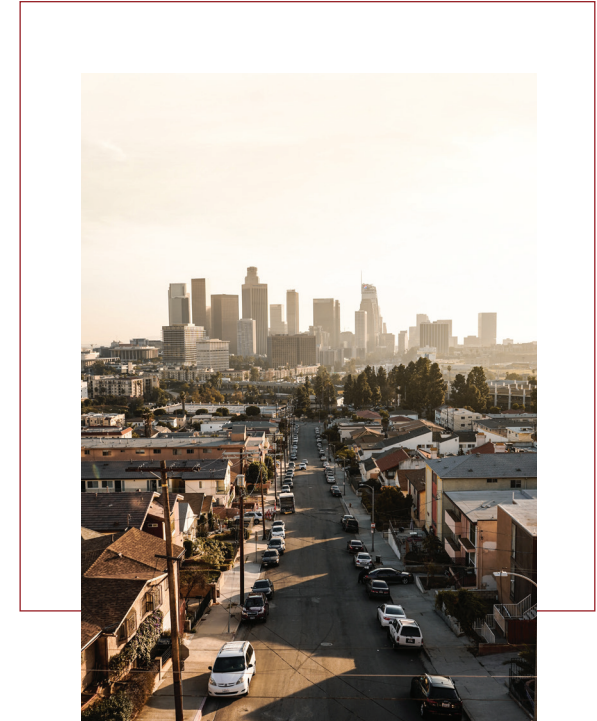
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Provide linguistically accessible, culturally intelligent, trauma-informed help to API clients in their preferred language, with access to all LAFLA services



Why Rebuild in East Los Angeles?

Built in 1954, our East Los Angeles office is located at 5228 Whittier Boulevard in the County of Los Angeles. It has been our home in East L.A. since 1974. The clients and communities we are humbled to serve on the Eastside have come to rely on our services to address the challenges they face at difficult moments in their lives. It is critical we remain easily accessible for our clients who need legal assistance. The current building is an 8,700-square-foot, two-story building, housing approximately 26 staff with no parking. Due to its age and degree of dilapidation, the building needs significant repair. After assessments by multiple contractors, our only feasible option is to demolish the building and construct a new facility. Access to LAFLA means access to justice.

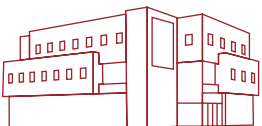


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We will construct a **three-story building**, with the first story housing a **parking garage** for nine cars and a vestibule on Whittier Boulevard for the public to enter the building. The second and third floors will comprise approximately **10,000 square feet of office space**, which will include **private interview rooms** for clients and a **children's play area**, room for more than 32 staff members, a **kitchen, outdoor eating area, library**, and **three conference rooms**. This will allow us to see more clients in confidential settings and schedule more

clinics where we can assist clients with the help of pro bono attorneys – all of which will be more convenient for clients who live, work and play in our community.

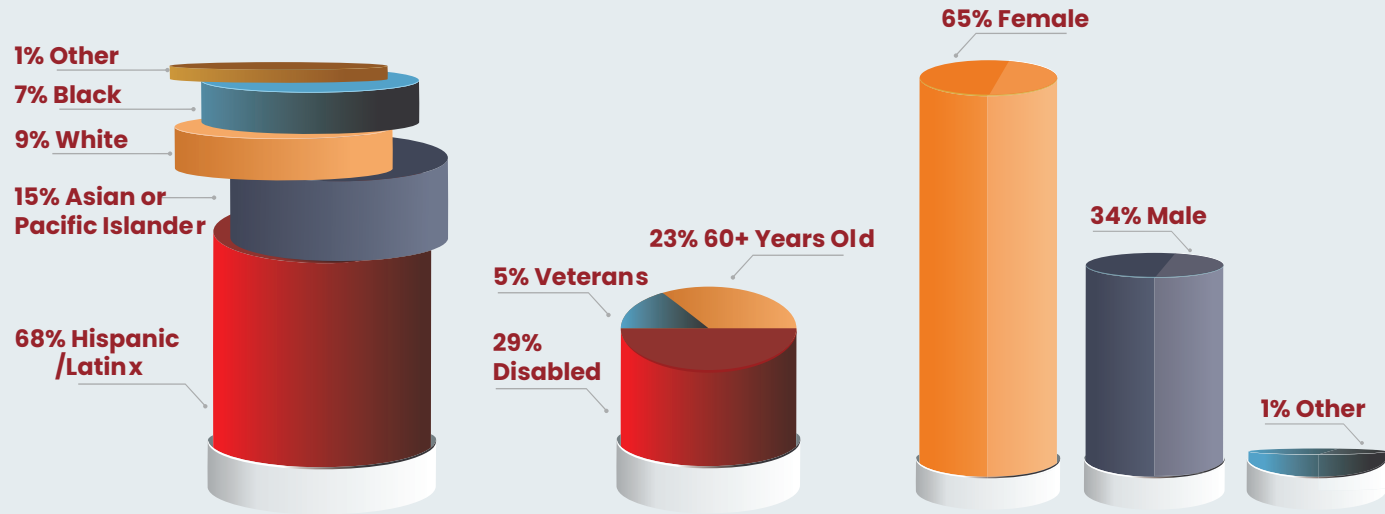
As with the construction of our headquarters and our South L.A. and Long Beach remodels, the new facility will **enhance the delivery of services to our clients**. An **increase in services** will be significant to the community given that the East L.A. community office handles approximately 20% of LAFLA's caseload.



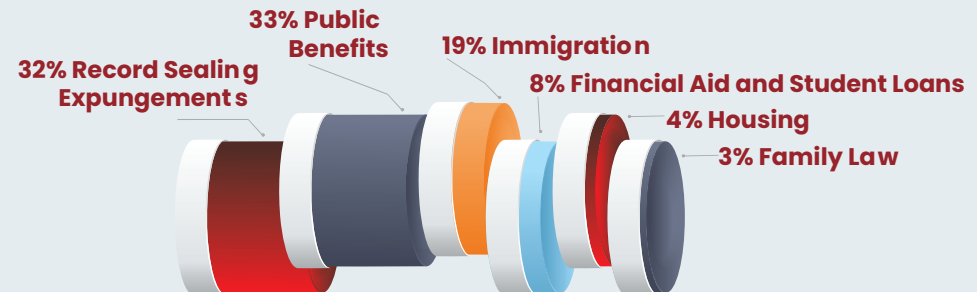
East Los Angeles Clients

Just as a home gives a family security, our new community office will give our clients and community a sense of stability. LAFLA has maintained a presence in the East Los Angeles community for nearly 50 years, and we intend to continue our presence and services for decades to come. LAFLA is a part of the community and a recognized partner to many East Los Angeles-based organizations.

Our clients constitute a vastly diverse constituency:



Although LAFLA clients can access the full range of our services at each office, our East L.A. office helps clients the most in the following areas:



The Legacy Continues

The iconic mural of Joaquin Murieta Carrillo, a legendary Mexican figure in California during the 1850s Gold Rush, has adorned the front of our East L.A. office building for 50 years. Chicano artist Willie Herrón III painted the mural with Murieta's legacy in mind: "Murieta had come to this country searching for opportunity only to have his pride stripped from him by discrimination."

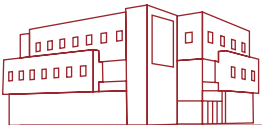
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Born in Los Angeles in 1951, Herrón is an internationally renowned artist whose work — especially his murals — reflect his upbringing and experiences in East Los Angeles and the surrounding areas. Herrón is known as one of the premiere artists and musicians to emerge out of the Chicano arts movement during the 1970s. Herrón exhibits his artwork in films, music performances, and museums throughout the U.S. and in Europe, and remains closely tied to the art scene in Los Angeles.



Mural Preservation

We are proud to provide a home for the mural, and we are dedicated to preserving it for future generations of Angelenos — reserving a place for it on the facade of the new East L.A. office building. We are working closely with Herrón to realize this goal. Additionally, the mural will be under review for historical designation this year.





1. Can I make a pledge? Yes, we will happily accept pledges for up to five years.

2. Will there be naming opportunities available to donors? Yes, there are naming opportunities for donors for spaces including the conference rooms, lobby, vestibule and office spaces. For a list of naming opportunities, please contact Lynn Etkins at letkins@lafla.org.

3. Why not renovate the current structure? The current building needs significant repair due to its age and degree of dilapidation. Necessary repairs include a new air conditioning system, new elevator and new plumbing. After assessments by

multiple contractors, our only feasible option is to demolish the building and construct a new facility.

4. Will you preserve the mural? Yes! The mural is an integral part of the East Los Angeles community, and we will make every effort to preserve it. We have been in contact with the muralist, Willie Herrón III, and it will be reviewed for historic designation sometime in 2022.

5. Doesn't LAFLA already have other offices it owns? If so, why does it need an additional office? Yes, LAFLA does have four other offices in Los Angeles County. LAFLA owns its headquarters in the

Pico-Union district, its South Los Angeles office, in addition to its East Los Angeles office. LAFLA leases our office space in Santa Monica. The attorneys in the East Los Angeles office provide access to vital legal services for Eastside residents and apply their expertise to assist residents throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. It is necessary to maintain this office space for our staff, clients, and community members.

6. How much money do you need to raise? Costs are estimated at \$8 million, and we have raised \$5.2 million with a balance of \$2.8 million left to raise.



Your Support for the East Los Angeles Community

**Please join us in supporting our continued, long-term presence in East Los Angeles.
Help us create a new permanent home that will allow LAFLA to serve this historic
neighborhood for generations to come.**

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Brianne Wiese

Liat Yamini



Making the Quest for Equal Justice Possible

Place matters — and the East Los Angeles Community Office is home to our clients where we are able to see equal justice come to life in the crucial work that we do. The communities we serve are important to us because those who live around us deserve a place where they will be treated with respect and dignity when facing life’s challenges. A beautiful new building must have a rock-solid foundation. LAFLA’s foundation is built on our values — justice, equality, tolerance, and diversity. Our vision is for our clients to rise out of poverty and to live prosperous futures that will transform them and enhance our communities. Our new East L.A. office will be a transformational cornerstone of justice that will serve the community, staff, volunteers and partners as we seek to make equal access to justice a reality.

Silvia R. Argueta
Executive Director,
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles



Supporting the East L.A. Community

I have a particular affinity for the East L.A. office because it is not far from where I was raised. The East L.A. community is vibrant, hard-working and diverse. I agreed to chair the committee dedicated to ensuring LAFLA’s presence in East L.A. because I believe we need to attract lawyers who live close to that community, and we need to ensure that people in East L.A. have access to LAFLA so they can have access to justice.

Jim Burgess
Partner, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter &
Hampton LLP

Board Member and Chair of Capital
Campaign, Legal Aid Foundation of
Los Angeles

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Over the last 50 years, the residents of East L.A. and the surrounding neighborhoods have come to depend on our services as a lifeline when attention to a legal problem is needed and a source of hope when seeking justice. LAFLA’s East office has been described as a legal emergency room by community members because of our expertise and ability to quickly assess issues and provide information, counsel and advice or representation.

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Yolanda Arias,
Managing Attorney,
East Los Angeles
Community Office,
Legal Aid Foundation of
Los Angeles

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Project Partners

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URBAN DESIGN CENTER

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Make a difference at LAFLA.org/EastCampaign

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For more information on this project, please contact:

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Silvia Argueta, Executive Director
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Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles is a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. All donations to Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles will be expended in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act and 45 CFR Part 1610. For a copy of these laws or for any other information or clarifications, please call the Development Office at 323-801-7903. Tax ID# 95-1684067.

