To our supporters and all who are passionate about justice:

In June 2019 I joined New Mexico Legal Aid, arriving with a long background in delivery of legal services to people in need. I am proud to be part of the leadership of NMLA.

NMLA has a strong tradition of almost 70 years’ hard work on behalf of impoverished New Mexicans. NMLA has been a state-wide organization for 16 years and has worked diligently to deliver services to all corners of the state: fighting predatory lenders, protecting victims of domestic violence, keeping families in their homes, and working with people of all ages that have food and income insecurity or other pressing legal issues. In recent years we have added protections to LGBTQ+ people who suffer discrimination and violence, and we have added low-income taxpayer assistance. These services are essential to the welfare of the state and the well-being of our clients.

Lewis G. Creekmore
Investing your dollars or volunteer time in NMLA is a powerful way to help tackle some of our communities’ most pressing issues.
The advocates at NMLA apply their great expertise every day to the legal issues that cause such stress to our clients. They perform admirably and with alacrity. In 2018 they closed more than 5,000 cases, improving the lives of over 15,000 New Mexicans — and we expect 2019 outcomes will exceed those from 2018.

I look forward to working with the staff, Board, and you — to strengthen our ability to improve the lives of our clients. Thank you for all you do to support our mission.

Lewis G. Creekmore, Executive Director
What We Do

- **Family Law**, including interpersonal violence assistance and custody
- **Housing**, including evictions and foreclosures
- **Economic Security**, including accessing public benefits and insurances, debt and tax relief
- **Consumer Protection**, including auto repossession, payday loans, and predatory lending

Services We Provide

New Mexico Legal Aid provides free legal services to low-income New Mexicans and to victims regardless of their income. Help can come in many forms:

- Brief advice and council
- Negotiation assistance
- Providing legal information to those representing themselves
- Full representation, including appearance in court and administrative hearings.
NMLA also has special programs and projects that focus on particular needs of New Mexicans:

**Native American Program**, helping clients with Indian Law issues

**Farmworker Program**, providing legal services to migrant and seasonal workers, especially migrant farmworkers

**Veterans’ Advocacy Project**, assisting veterans access benefits they are entitled to

**Land and Water Rights Project**, helping acequias and historic land grant communities protect their communal water and land rights

**Low Income Taxpayer Clinic**, serving low-income people who have disputes with or are in debt to the IRS

**Safe To Be You Project**, focusing on the legal needs of LGBTQ+ survivors of interpersonal violence

**Volunteer Attorney Program**, helping individuals with legal needs connect to pro bono volunteer attorneys at legal fairs and clinics across the state, in coordination with the State Bar and Judicial District Pro Bono Committees

**Medical-Legal Partnerships**, where legal aid attorneys work on site in a health clinic or hospital, helping patients with legal issues
COORDINATED INTAKE SERVICES

When partner legal services provider Law Access New Mexico closed in August 2018, New Mexico Legal Aid stepped in to assure that New Mexico residents can reach help by telephone regardless of where they live. We established the Intake Unit staffed by intake specialists and attorneys who qualify clients’ income eligibility, check for any conflicts of interest, offer brief advice and counsel, or refer individuals to other agencies. When legal issues are more complex, clients may be referred within New Mexico Legal Aid to attorneys in a practice group or special program matching the clients’ needs.

To reach the Intake Unit, call weekdays at 833-LGL-HELP (833-545-4357) or go to the New Mexico Legal Aid website and click on the Together for Justice logo to access the online portal.

Because there is no guaranteed right to counsel in civil cases, legal aid is the ONLY alternative for this who cannot afford a lawyer.
**SPECIAL HELPLINES**

With funding from the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission, New Mexico Legal Aid runs a free telephone helpline dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Callers speak confidentially with an experienced, trauma-informed attorney. Language translation services are available.

**DV Helpline: 877-974-3400**

With funding from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and in partnership with the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Equality New Mexico Foundation, NMLA’s Safe To Be You project serves LGBTQ+ victims.

**Safe To Be You Helpline: 877-545-7270**

**Email: Safe2BU@nmlegalaid.org**
NEW MEXICO LEGAL AID MAKING AN IMPACT—2018 BY THE NUMBERS

1,965 Families & victims helped
1,382 Homelessness prevented
763 Economic security improved
507 Consumer rights protected
429 Pro bono services provided
291 Cultural heritages and rights preserved
NMLA Handled 5,337 Cases Across the State

- Albuquerque
- Clovis
- Gallup
- Hobbs
- Las Cruces
- Las Vegas
- Roswell
- Santa Ana
- Santa Fe
- Silver City
- Taos

2018 Population Estimate

- 12K
- 39K
- 76K
- 217K
2018 OUTCOMES - CLIENT IMPACT STORIES

Sara and Valerie* are sisters who co-own their home in Las Vegas, NM. They are well-known in the community for their delicious New Mexican cooking and generosity in helping others. Together, they have fostered over 60 children and adopted 5.

In late 2017, they were shocked when they were served with court papers that said their home was in foreclosure. They thought it must be some mistake, since they had been wiring the payments every month to the mortgage company by Moneygram. They later learned that the mortgage company claimed it had never received one of the payments, even after the sisters produced confirmation from Moneygram that the money was transferred. The mortgage company had then rejected their next four payments without notifying them.

With the help of New Mexico Legal Aid, they filed counterclaims against the mortgage company based on the wrongful foreclosure. They recently settled their case with the foreclosure being dismissed, their loan brought current, and with compensation for their expenses.

* Actual names not used
Jose*, an elderly, wheelchair-bound gentleman with declining mobility had his stepson move into his home to act as his caregiver. Instead, the stepson became abusive, and out of desperation Jose contacted New Mexico Legal Aid. His attorney was able to get Jose a 14-year Order of Protection and the stepson was removed from his home.

A western New Mexico woman, recently widowed, was shopping for a vehicle after her old car broke down. She found one she liked at an auto sales business and paid $4,824 to buy the car. While she was in the dealership, the dealer asked to borrow her debit card to “test” its card reader, and he ran her card for $2,500 but lied when told her the charge didn’t go through. The dealer never transferred the car title to the woman, never refunded the car purchase money, and never refunded the $2,500 from “testing” the debit card reader. The woman’s New Mexico Legal Aid attorney sued the dealership and its owner, and the client was awarded a $42,000 judgment.
The Volunteer Attorney Program, working in coordination with the State Bar of New Mexico and the Judicial Districts’ Pro Bono Committees, connects volunteers with people who need their help.

Whether providing brief counsel at legal fairs and clinics across the state, or taking on cases pro bono, volunteer attorneys are an invaluable resource to New Mexicans in need. More than 700 lawyers participate in the program each year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer of the Year</td>
<td>Ron Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Firm of the Year</td>
<td>Couture Law, LLC</td>
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<td>Pro Bono Committee of the Year</td>
<td>11th Judicial District</td>
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<td>Rising Star of the Year</td>
<td>Beckham Rivera</td>
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<td>Spotlight of the Year</td>
<td>Karlos Ulibarri</td>
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<td>Spotlight of the Year</td>
<td>Kate Rubi</td>
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<td>Shining Star of the Year</td>
<td>Torri Jacobus</td>
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<td>Shining Star of the Year</td>
<td>Carol Skiba</td>
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<td>Judicial Commitment to Access to</td>
<td>Honorable Shannon C. Bacon</td>
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<td>Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial Commitment to Access to</td>
<td>Honorable Allan M. Malott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
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We gratefully acknowledge the private, corporate and government funding that made our work in 2018-2019 possible.

City of Albuquerque
Corporation for National & Community Service, AmeriCorps
Equal Access to Justice
New Mexico Acequia Association
New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission
New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Dept.
New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission
New Mexico Commission for the Blind
New Mexico Land Grant Council
State Bar of New Mexico, Access to Justice Fund
Tribal Civil & Criminal Legal Assistance Program (TCCLA)
U.S. Department of Justice, Native American Rights Fund
U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of the Treasury, Taxpayer Advocate Service

To help make the future safer and more secure for New Mexico’s most vulnerable, please mail a check to NMLA today, or donate online at www.NewMexicoLegalAid.org

Acequia Nortenas
Albuquerque Friends Meeting
B2B Bistronomy
Corinne Wolfe Fellowship
Cow Creek Basin Acequia
First Nations
Goodwill
Greenwald Davidson Radbil
J.F. Maddox Foundation
McCune Charitable Foundation
Nusenda CU Foundation
Rodey Law Firm
Roehl Law Firm, PC
Sandia Foundation
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Taos Community Foundation
United Way
Veterans Integration Centers
And many generous individuals
THANK YOU
# From the Audit: 2018

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue, unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue, restricted</td>
<td>3,636,923</td>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>675,761</td>
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<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>1,024,786</td>
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New Mexico’s Statewide Civil Legal Services Provider

The mission of New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc. is to be the voice, defender and advocate for poor people who are seeking justice in all forums, particularly in the communities in which they live. New Mexico Legal Aid is committed to helping poor people in their struggle to access food, shelter, security, and to preserve their unique cultural heritages.

Statewide Toll-free Intake: 833-LGL-HELP (833-545-4357)
www.NewMexicoLegalAid.org
P.O. Box 25486
Albuquerque, NM 87125-5486