

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



To all of our
2015 donors,
Panel attorneys
& volunteers

THANK YOU

For information about ALRP
programs and services, visit
www.ALRP.org

To make an appointment
for services, call
(415) 701-1100 x 330

To volunteer, contact
Alex Taylor at
(415) 701-1200 x 303

To make an online
donation, visit
www.alrp.org/donate

List of 2016 Events:

ALRP at
Academy of Friends Gala
FEBRUARY 28

To Our ALRP Family & Friends,

Welcome to the ALRP 2015 Year-in-Review

Thank you for your support of ALRP and our efforts to help people with HIV/AIDS maintain or improve their health by resolving their legal issues. Your leadership, volunteerism and contributions are what enable ALRP to continue to provide essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

- Since our founding in 1983, **ALRP has handled more than 72,000 legal matters** for people with HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area
- ALRP helped 1,597 clients with a **record 2,350 legal matters in 2015 - a 50% increase** over the last decade
- Almost one-half of our clients were people of color; over 80% were gay/bisexual men
- Over **83% of our clients were very low-income**

With your help, ALRP's staff and Panel attorneys prevented unlawful evictions, preserved employment, secured health and disability insurance, protected people's assets (and their children's future), reduced people's stress, and improved clients' health while assuring their personal dignity.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Over 1 million dollars in donated legal services was leveraged through ALRP volunteer attorneys
- ALRP handled a **record 781 housing cases - a 6% increase in just one year**; ALRP's increasingly zealous housing representation is keeping people with HIV housed in San Francisco, where they can continue to access the services they need to manage their health
- ALRP handled a **record 247 immigration cases**
- Presented 23 MCLE trainings to 288 attorneys and added 35 new Panel attorneys

ALRP Volunteer
Appreciation Party
APRIL 21

ALRP Major
Donor Party
MAY 25

AIDS Walk
JULY 17

REAF Gala
AUGUST 21

ALRP
From the Heart
33rd Annual Reception
OCTOBER 19

- The ALRP HIV50+ Project **expanded legal representation and educational trainings to clients over age 50** in the areas of housing, insurance, and estate planning
- ALRP participated in the Getting to Zero Consortium, a community-led campaign aimed at reducing HIV transmissions, AIDS deaths and HIV/AIDS stigma to zero
- ALRP conducted a **record 106 outreach presentations** with our community partners, including the AIDS Project of the East Bay, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Positive Resource Center, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, and Project Open Hand

HELPING PEOPLE with HIV/AIDS - The HEART of ALRP

In 2015, 92% of ALRP clients reported that they were satisfied with their case's outcome. Most ALRP clients call us when they have reached a moment of crisis that threatens their health and peace of mind: an eviction notice pinned to their door, or a letter in the mail that says their disability claim is under review. They count on us to provide them with an attorney who will stand up for them. Here is the story of one client we helped recently:

Juan came to ALRP after receiving notice that his landlord intended to evict him from his home of over 36 years. Juan had survived cancer in addition to living with HIV. He had a Section 8 housing voucher that covered part of his rent, and diligently paid his own share of the rent on time every month. But the landlord accused him of non-payment of rent over the course of almost a year. Juan, who has limited English skills and didn't fully understand the situation, was terrified and unsure what was happening. He came to ALRP for help. One of our attorneys performed extensive discovery and learned that the non-payment alleged was almost entirely for Section 8's share of the rent. The attorney further researched the issue and found that evicting a tenant for Section 8's non-payment was illegal under federal law. She wrote and served the landlord with summary judgment papers, and the landlord immediately folded and agreed to settle the case. Under the settlement, the landlord also agreed to take care of all of the needed repairs in Juan's apartment. Juan is extremely grateful for ALRP's help and now is secure in his home of almost four decades.

Here are comments from other ALRP clients:

- *I was overwhelmed and very stressed, but ALRP solved every issue I had...The staff is amazing - attentive, caring, and knowledgeable. – Sam*
- *I can trust ALRP - help is here. I am thankful. - Peter Abbott*
- *I feel better knowing ALRP is there to help me in the future. The staff was prompt in returning my calls and gave me great advice. - Anil Sukhram*

- *ALRP has always been very helpful to me and my late husband. You took a lot of stress out of our lives. I've only had wonderful experiences with ALRP...* - Karen
- *Relief, security, peace of mind, and less stress are words to describe ALRP. I don't live in San Francisco, but ALRP let me know that they will still help me.* - Thomas Ellerby

PRUDENT STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR INVESTMENT

Despite a challenging fundraising environment, ALRP continues to be an efficient and well-managed steward of your contributions:

- For 33 years, ALRP has remained an excellent example of a fiscally well-managed agency
- We continue to maintain a six-month operating reserve and a Board Designated Fund designed to cover operating shortfalls in tough times
- Last year over **80% of every dollar raised went directly to support client services**; more than 92% of every dollar when Panel attorney donated legal services are included
- We surpassed our individual major donor campaign goal by raising over \$100,000, and we raised over \$150,00 in sponsorships for ALRP's Annual Reception

2016: A YEAR OF HOPE

ALRP continues to expand funding for its services from other government funders and through increased success in nongovernmental funding, including individual donors and special events. While the organization has worked diligently to develop other revenue streams and to increase its financial reserves, ALRP is still greatly reliant on Ryan White funds. But for the first time in a long time, it seems that the City is committed to not only backfilling the federal cuts, but expanding the capacity of the HIV service delivery system to fight the epidemic.

We have known for a long time that the legal needs of our clients are changing as the epidemic changes. We also know that many "needs assessments" focused on people living with HIV do not prioritize legal services. We suspect that this may be due to the fact that, in most cases, people do not anticipate the need for an attorney.

A 2015 study documenting the need for legal services among people living with HIV indicates that 98% of respondents had at least one legal need in the past year, but only 16% received help from a lawyer. If we are **to continue to meet the legal needs of our clients, we must make sure that ALRP has the capacity** to serve them, whether through our amazing Panel of volunteer attorneys or through our dedicated staff attorneys. Your support makes all the difference.

From the heart,



Bill Hirsh, Esq.
Executive Director