

**From:** AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
**To:** [Jim McBride](#)  
**Subject:** ALRP 2016 Year-In-Review  
**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2017 1:00:54 PM



# AIDS Legal Referral Panel

## 2016 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ALRP Logo



To all our 2016  
donors,  
Panel attorneys  
& volunteers

THANK YOU

For information  
about ALRP programs  
and services, visit  
[www.ALRP.org](http://www.ALRP.org)

To make an appointment  
for services,  
(415) 701-1100 x330

To volunteer, contact  
[Hannah Center](#)  
at  
(415) 701-1200 x303

To make an online donation,  
[CLICK HERE](#)

[List of 2017 Events:](#)

ALRP at  
Academy of Friends Gala

Dear Jim,

WELCOME TO THE ALRP 2016 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 enable ALRP to continue to provide essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

- ALRP has now handled more than 74,000 legal matters for people with HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area since our founding in 1983
- ALRP helped 1,527 clients with **2,207 legal matters in 2016** - a 27% increase since 2006
- More than one-half of our clients in 2016 were people of color; 73% were LGBT
- Last year over 86% 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, reduced people's stress, and improved clients' health while assuring their personal dignity.

### 2016 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Leveraged over \$1 million in donated legal services through ALRP volunteer attorneys
- Handled **771 housing cases** - a 32% increase over the last ten years; 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
- Handled **291 insurance-related cases** and **229 immigration cases**
- Presented **19 MCLE trainings** to 146 attorneys and added 112 new Panel attorneys
- Helped secure funding for almost 20 new eviction defense attorneys at legal services agencies in San Francisco, including two for ALRP, through our budget advocacy with the *Homeless Emergency Services Providers Association* (HESPA)
- Helped secure \$3.1 million in new funding from the City for the *Getting To Zero* initiative through our budget advocacy with the *HIV/AIDS Provider Network* (HAPN)

FEBRUARY 26

ALRP Volunteer  
Appreciation Party  
APRIL 19

ALRP Major Donor  
Party  
MAY 3

AIDS Walk  
JULY 16

Up Your Alley Fair  
JULY 30

Folsom Street Fair  
SEPTEMBER 24

ALRP  
*From the Heart*  
34th Annual Reception  
OCTOBER 18

Check out our 2016  
[PHOTO GALLERIES](#)

- Worked with Supervisor Scott Wiener to eliminate disparate treatment under the San Francisco Rent Ordinance for tenants with HIV/AIDS who receive federal rent subsidies
- Conducted **88 outreach presentations** with our community partners, including *Face To Face*, *Kaiser Permanente*, *Open House*, *Positive Resource Center*, *San Francisco AIDS Foundation*, and *San Francisco General Hospital Ward 86*

#### HELPING PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS - THE HEART OF ALRP

In 2016, 89% of ALRP clients reported that they were satisfied with the outcome of their case. Most clients call ALRP 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 in 2016:

A client from Nigeria came to ALRP for legal help. Nigeria has over 3.5 million people living with HIV, only 20% of whom have access to anti-retroviral treatment. Last year over 200,000 people in Nigeria died from AIDS. Nigeria's laws for LGBT individuals are terrible: there is either the death penalty (in Northern Nigeria) or 14 years of imprisonment for being gay. Our client was an HIV-positive advocate for the LGBT community in Nigeria who had to leave his home after his older brother threatened to report him to the police for being gay. He came to the U.S. and sought out ALRP for help with his immigration status. One of the first things we did was refer him to a San Francisco Department of Public Health clinic where he started anti-retroviral medication and medical treatment that he would not have had access to as a gay man in Nigeria. At the same time, we referred the client to ALRP Panel attorney Okan Sengun, who expedited his asylum case. Throughout the asylum interview, the client was in tears as he re-lived his experiences as a gay man in Nigeria. Shortly thereafter, our client's asylum claim was approved.

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.* - Samuel Turrano
- *I can trust ALRP - help is here. I am thankful.* - Peter Abbott
- *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

The State Bar of California praised ALRP in a recent monitoring report:

*"In spite of what some would consider daunting challenges, ALRP has always maintained high standards for professionalism and we applaud the success of the program's efforts to consistently provide excellent services."*

#### PRUDENT STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR INVESTMENT

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

- For 34 years ALRP has remained an excellent example of a fiscally well-managed agency
- 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 \$107,000, and raised more than \$153,000 in sponsorships for ALRP's Annual Reception

### 2017: A YEAR OF CHANGE

While change is inevitable, last year's election has created great uncertainty. If, as threatened, sanctuary cities like San Francisco lose all federal funding, then San Francisco is at risk of losing \$1 billion in federal funds. Even if that threat is not realized, the new federal budget may include dramatic reductions in funding for discretionary programs such as the *Ryan White CARE Act*, the *Affordable Care Act*, and the *Community Development Block Grant*, which could hit San Francisco - and ALRP - hard. San Francisco's federal CARE Act funding has already been slashed by over 50%, going from over \$40 million to under \$15 million over the last several years, and a further cut could decimate services. ALRP receives nearly \$400,000 annually in federal CARE Act funds, representing about a quarter of ALRP's budget.

ALRP's legal services help safeguard the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups, many of whom are rightly concerned about potential threats to their civil liberties as well as disruptions to their access to housing and health care. Our daily work advocates for the least powerful among us.

If we are to continue to meet the legal needs of our clients, **we will need the entire ALRP family - staff, volunteers and supporters - to sustain ALRP's work** and ensure that we can continue to serve clients effectively in all civil legal matters.

From the heart,



Bill Hirsh, Esq.  
Executive Director

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