

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



To all our 2014
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 x330

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

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

List of 2015 Events:

ALRP at
Academy of Friends Gala
FEBRUARY 22

To Our ALRP Family & Friends,

Welcome to the ALRP 2014 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 70,000 legal matters for people with HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area
- ALRP helped 1,536 clients with a record 2,257 legal matters in 2014 - a 50% increase over the last decade
- Last year's caseload included 738 housing cases, 357 insurance-related cases, 167 wills and durable powers of attorney, 125 bankruptcy and credit cases, and 205 immigration cases (particularly asylum and permanent residency)
- Almost one-half of our clients were people of color; over 80% were gay/bisexual men
- Over 84% 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.

2014 Highlights:

- Leveraged more than \$1 million in donated legal services
- Added a fourth staff housing attorney, handled a record 738 housing cases (a 21% increase over the last three years), and expanded our commitment to providing clients with in-house representation at court hearings for evictions and other housing-related matters
- Expanded our immigration work with the addition of a legal fellow who connects HIV+ immigrants in detention centers with ALRP's services
- Launched the *ALRP HIV50+ Project*, which provides legal representation and education to clients over age 50 in the areas of housing, insurance, and estate planning
- Conducted 91 outreach presentations with our community partners, including the AIDS Project of the East Bay, Larkin Street Youth Services, Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Native American Health Center, and Project Open Hand
- Presented 23 MCLE trainings to 288 attorneys and added 35 new Panel attorneys
- Actively participated in *Getting to Zero*, a community campaign aimed at reducing HIV transmissions, AIDS deaths and HIV/AIDS stigma to zero; and the *HIV & Aging Action Collaborative* (HAAC), a community effort

ALRP Volunteer
Appreciation Party
APRIL 16

ALRP Major Donor
Party
May 20

AIDS Walk
JULY 19

ALRP
From the Heart
32nd Annual Reception
OCTOBER 14

to help the growing number of people with HIV/AIDS over age 50

Helping People with HIV/AIDS - the Heart of ALRP

In 2014, 94% 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:

Our client, a very active LGBT and HIV rights activist, was in danger of losing his housing. He had lost his federal rental subsidy through a program for formerly homeless people because his unit failed an annual inspection; he has a mental illness that manifests in his hoarding behaviors. Following the termination of his subsidy, he fell behind on his rent, and his landlord initiated eviction proceedings. With the assistance of an ALRP Housing Attorney, we were able to reach a settlement with the management company and save the client's housing. We were also able to help him clean his unit with the assistance of In-Home Supportive Services (the Housing Attorney even pitched in) and get assistance with back rent from another agency.

For more stories and to read what clients are saying about ALRP, [click here](#).

Prudent Stewardship of Your Investment

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

- For 32 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

2015: Another Year of Challenges

The single biggest challenge ALRP faces is the continued reduction of government funding of services to people with HIV/AIDS. During the last 10 years, San Francisco's CARE Act funding has been slashed by over 50%, going from over \$40 million to just under \$15 million. ALRP has taken a leadership role in advocating for local funds to supplant the lost federal funds, and has helped secure the commitment of the City and County of San Francisco to back fill all reductions in federal HIV health services (Ryan White) funding. This concerted effort took a great deal of work, and a similar coordinated effort will be needed in 2015.

Another challenge ALRP faces is the growing, and changing, needs of ALRP clients. With the advent of new drugs to slow the progression of HIV, ALRP anticipated a steady reduction in the number of clients needing legal assistance. However, last year we experienced yet another increase in the number of clients coming to us for legal assistance. Additionally, ALRP is seeing a change in need. As people with HIV/AIDS live longer (55% of clients in San Francisco are over 50), they find themselves facing scores of new issues, from lapsing insurance policies to changing health needs to lack of retirement savings. Consequently, this aging client population is contributing significantly to the increase in the number of folks coming to us for help.

It is clear ALRP needs to continue to develop programs like our **AIDS Housing Advocacy Project (AHAP)** and **HIV50+ Project**, and participate in initiatives such as the *Homeless Prevention Collaborative*, *HIV & Aging Action Collaborative*, and *Getting to Zero* to address our clients' changing needs. ALRP must continue to grow our donor base if we are to continue to meet the ever-growing number of clients with HIV/AIDS seeking legal assistance.

You're the One

As we begin another year of service, we know there will continue to be an urgent need for legal help as long as HIV continues to affect our community, including the people we hold most dear: our partners, friends, relatives, and co-workers. With YOUR continued partnership and support, ALRP is committed to being there for these clients. Thank you.

From the heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Hirsh".

Bill Hirsh, Esq.
Executive Director

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