



# 2020



# ANNUAL REPORT



**LSSM**  
PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL AID

LEGAL SERVICES OF  
SOUTHERN MISSOURI



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Legal Services of Southern Missouri's (LSSM) Board composition is regulated by 45 CFR §1607. Our governing body must reasonably reflect the interests of eligible clients and be made up of members who are supportive of the Legal Services Corporation Act. They must have an interest in, and knowledge of, the delivery of quality legal services to the poor. The Board must have at least 60 percent attorney members. A majority of the Board are appointed by The Missouri Bar. At least one-third of the Board must be client members. These individuals must be eligible to be LSSM clients and are appointed by a variety of groups designated by LSSM.

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## OUR MISSION

*"To provide quality legal representation and advice to low-income individuals and families to ensure equal access to justice in civil matters."*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was a year like no other. As the coronavirus moved quickly across southern Missouri, Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) was forced to quickly adapt to this fast-changing reality.

The move from closing offices to working remotely also meant a suspension of walk-in traffic and a shift to Zoom, telephone and web-based work. It also meant that LSSM's community education and outreach programs were put on hold. In a matter of weeks, it became apparent that our client community was growing quickly. Calls for our legal help would not just be from families long involved in poverty; we saw many more southern Missouri families needing our help and would be eligible for our services for the first time.

While I saw unprecedented demand and enormous challenges, I saw our staff and volunteers rise to meet the demand for services. I saw our staff transform and learn how to have thousands of phone calls ring from house to house so we could continue providing services from home. When courts closed except for emergency matters, our staff shifted its work and stepped up to handle those emergency cases to ensure access to justice. We learned how to practice law virtually, checking on and communicating with our clients through every remote platform available.

The impact of COVID-19 on LSSM and its staff rolled through our organization like a spring tornado. Fortunately, LSSM's experienced and talented staff were more than up to the task. Our funders remained faithful, and our partners remained true. As COVID-19 challenged us, we worked hard providing quality legal aid to many clients, making positive and meaningful differences in their lives.

To our friends and supporters, thank you! By contributing this past year, you allowed us to do what we do. By volunteering, you helped us expand our services. By collaborating with us you helped change our community for the good. Together we are making a difference!

Thank you for supporting LSSM!  
Sincerely,

Daniel R. Wichmer  
Executive Director



## CLIENT STORIES

**S**arah is a breast cancer survivor with reconstructive surgery with implants who Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) assisted in obtaining Medicaid benefits. A few years after her cancer, she started becoming ill, being fatigued, gaining weight and losing hair until she could no longer work. Her cancer had not returned, and doctors could not find out what was wrong. They suspected breast implants, but Sarah did not have insurance to pay for specialists. Sarah had been denied Medicaid several times before. LSSM assisted Sarah with a new Medicaid application working with her medical providers at Jordan Valley in obtaining additional medical records and letters explaining her need for Medicaid. Finally, she was approved and is starting to receive the care she needs.



**M**aria's eight-year-old autistic son was found to be disabled by the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 2014. Years later, the SSA notified Maria that the disability benefits would terminate because of the child's medical improvement. Maria contacted Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) for help because the child's autism and ADHD greatly limited his abilities. LSSM helped Maria gather the necessary evidence to convince SSA that her son's disability benefits should continue.

# CLIENT STORIES



Tom was referred to Legal Services of Southern Missouri (LSSM) by Career Services at the Missouri Career Center. Tom had a suspended driver's license for a period of ten years from a 2012 DUI Felony conviction. Tom had been living with a suspended driver's license for five years and thought nothing could be done. Tom had served his time, had been sober for several years and wanted to work and contribute to society. He took care of his parents who drove but were very elderly. LSSM assisted Tom in obtaining limited driving privileges. Tom was required to have an ignition interlock installed and obtained limited driving privileges which included driving for employment/education purposes, medical/recovery reasons and to drive his elderly parents to medical appointments and to shop for their daily necessities.



Kathryn had been in a very controlling and physically abusive marriage. Throughout the marriage, her husband had strangled her on more than one occasion, beat her, and threw objects at her. He also threatened to kill her. The abuse sent Kathryn to the hospital and law enforcement referred her to LSSM. LSSM helped Kathryn obtain a Full Order of Protection against her husband, and represented her in an Adult Order of Protection action filed in retaliation by her husband against Kathryn, which was ultimately dismissed. LSSM also provided Kathryn an attorney to represent her in a Dissolution of Marriage action, so she can be free of her husband for good.



# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

*Legal Services of Southern Missouri's (LSSM) Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) worked towards fulfilling the goals and objectives as set forth in LSSM's Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) Plan. The VLP focused on recruitment and retention of volunteer lawyers and at the end of 2020, there were 354 southern Missouri lawyers available for volunteer legal services.*

## **BARRY**

Donald Cupps  
Marc Edmondson  
James Randall  
Chris Weber

## **BUTLER**

John Beaton  
Janet Brown  
Rebecca Burns  
Scott Dale  
Wallace Duncan  
Matthew Edmondson  
Keith French  
William Gresham  
Luke Henson  
Ralph Innes  
Mark Kennedy  
Carl Miller  
Scott Robbins  
Joe Scott  
John Scott  
Kendra Scott  
Robert Smith  
Kyle Warren  
Christopher Yarbro

## **CAMDEN**

Christopher Rohrer

## **CAPE GIRARDEAU**

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Lynne Chambers  
Donald Cobb  
Brandon Cooper  
Lesley Dormeyer  
Phillip Dormeyer

Stephen Fair

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Michael Jackson

Deidre Jewel

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Susan Layton Tomlin

John Loesel

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David Newell

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Stephen Southard

Daniel Statler

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Andrea Zimmerman

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Ronald Cleek

Camille Fletcher

Dianne Hansen

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Amanda Burdick-Brown

Leland Bussell

Matthew Button

Lloyd Carmichael

John Carnahan

Shay Cash

Neil Chanter

Martin Chmielik

Donna June Clark

Jason Clough

Holly Clouse

Sam Coring

Michael Cosby

Chad Courtney

Charles Cowherd

Amy Crites

Michael Cully

Robert Curran

Jeff Davis

Jonathan Davis

Michael DeArmon

Deborah Dodge

Sarah Donelan

Arthur Duncan

Joseph Easter

Edward Eckelkamp

Haley Ethridge

Douglas Evans

Angela Ferguson-  
Allard

Doug Fredrick

Dwayne Fulk

Curtis Garner

# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT



Steven Garner  
Jon Gold  
Ginger Gooch  
Teresa Grantham-Fiester  
Brent Green  
Glenn Green  
Laura Greene  
Allison Greenwade  
Kaiti Greenwade  
J. Chandler Gregg  
Brian Hamburg  
Reidar Hammond  
Elyse Hartley  
Arthur Haseltine  
Mark Haseltine  
Mike Held  
Andy Hodges  
Crista Hogan  
Christiaan Horton  
Craig Hosmer  
Robert Ingold  
Janice Irwin  
Marsha Jackson  
George Johnson  
Kenneth Johnson  
Danielle Kincaid  
Ray Lampert  
Robert Lewis  
Andrew Lipscomb  
Ann Littell Mills  
Rodney Loomer  
Kimberly Lowry  
Aaron Lyons  
Anne Mason  
Heather McBride  
Lisa McKay  
Mike Mergen  
Michael Merrigan  
J. Matthew Miller  
James Miller  
Jeffrey Mitchell  
M. Scott Montgomery  
Bryan Musgrave  
Melanie Myears

Angela Myers  
Eric Nau  
Danny Nelson  
Arthur Olson  
Betty Pace  
Daniel Parmele  
Adam Pihana  
Jonathan Pitts  
Larry Pitts  
Jenifer Placzek  
Amy Poe  
James Poe  
Gary Powell  
Lisha Prater Seery  
Brennan Pratt  
John Pratt  
J. Craig Preston  
Kevin Rapp  
Catherine Reade  
Shelly Reece  
Randy Reichard  
Danielle Reid  
Kyle Reinert  
Kenneth Reynolds  
Brian Risley  
William Robb  
Joshua Roberts  
Laura Robinson  
Lori Rook  
Shelly Rosenfelder  
Brett Roubal  
E. Justin Rouse  
J. Rick Royce  
Jean Ryan  
Robert Schaeffer  
Margaret Schlachter  
Matthew Schmidt  
Brett Schneider  
Joseph Sheppard  
Lisa Sims  
Jason Smith  
Scott Smith  
Mike Textor  
Linda Thomas

Terry Tolbert  
Jacob Uhler  
Richard VanPelt  
David Vaughn  
Nick Venute  
Lee Viorel  
Jim Wei  
Christopher Weiss  
Larissa Whittingham  
David Wieland  
Amanda Wolf  
Daniel Wooten  
Jacqueline Wright  
Kathryn Yates  
Laura Young

## HOWELL

Larry Burton  
Rickey Farrow  
Chrys Fisher  
Lynsie Gabel-Upton  
Jacob Garrett  
Justin Nelson  
Zane Privette  
Todd Thorn  
Kenneth Wagoner  
Raymond Williams  
Roy Williams  
D. Colin Young

## JACKSON

Michele Buschart

## JASPER

Charles Genisio  
Bryan Stevenson

## LACLEDE

Lynne Brand  
Christine Hutson

## LAWRENCE

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Darlene Parrigon

David Payne  
Ryan Ricketts  
Joseph Woodcock

## MADISON

Nathaniel Bollinger  
Dwight Robbins

## MARION

James Wallace

## MISSISSIPPI

Claire Poley  
Tabatha Thurman

## NEW MADRID

Chance Hunter  
Brandon Sanchez  
Susan R. Warren

## OREGON

Jeri Leigh Caskey  
W. Swain Perkins

## PEMISCOT

Daniel Cornacchione  
Joshua Tomlin

## PERRY

Wade Schuster

## PHELPS

Carolyn Buschjost  
Matthew Butcher  
James Crump  
Carrie Gerischer  
Edward Hoertel  
Ginger Joyner  
Richard Skouby  
Robyn Strange  
Emily Woodward-  
Guffy



# VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

## **POLK**

Jeffrey Anderson  
Kevin Fick  
Craig Heidemann  
Jessica Lightfoot

## **PULASKI**

Ronda Cortesini  
John Farris  
David Lowe

## **RIPLEY**

Devin Kirby  
Siegrid Maness  
Beth Moutrie  
Dale Nunnery  
Samantha Evans  
Monte Phillips  
Edward Thompson

## **SCOTT**

Alan Beussink  
Joseph Blanton  
David Edwards  
Cory Fitzgerald  
Kim Heckemeyer  
Charles Leible  
Frank Marshall  
James McClellan  
John Moore  
David Potashnick  
Rebecca Reed  
Thomas Robison  
E. Sue Schuerenberg  
Francis Siebert  
Stephen Taylor  
Fred Thornton  
Richard Whiffen

## **ST. FRANCOIS**

Kathleen Aubuchon  
Jill Colson

Blake Dudley  
James Joyce  
Holly Joyce  
Lenzie Leftridge  
Sara Marler  
Gary Matheny  
David Mayhugh  
Renee Murphy  
Joseph Murray  
Seth Pegram  
James Willis

## **ST. LOUIS**

Keri Smith

## **STE. GENEVIEVE**

Jacquelyn Gonz  
Robert Huelskamp

## **STODDARD**

William Butler  
Justin Kelley  
Yewell Lawrence  
Joel Mitchell  
Michael Moroni  
Robin Northern  
Donald Rhodes  
James Tweedy  
Briney Welborn

## **TANEY**

Rudy Arambulo  
Debra Hilton  
Don Ingrum  
William McCullah  
Teresa Olson  
Matthew Trokey  
Raye Tucker  
Hannah Versemann  
Brandi Ward

## **TEXAS**

Jaired Hall

## **WARREN**

Lauren Hopkins

## **WASHINGTON**

Bradley Van Zee

## **WAYNE**

Joy Ferguson  
Michael Hackworth  
Jennifer Thompson  
Hannah Westmoreland

## **WEBSTER**

Cynthia Black  
Kara Hofman-Johnson  
Teresa Housholder  
Luther Kemp  
Kristin Krebs  
David Replogle



# JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS



All contributions to the Justice For All Campaign are used to provide civil legal services to low-income Missourians in our 43-county service area. We appreciate and recognize the support of the following donors:

## **Benefactor (\$40,000 and above)**

Baylard, Billington,  
Dempsey & Jensen, P.C.  
Price Cutter Charity  
Championship  
Strong-Garner-Bauer, P.C.

## **Sustaining (\$10,000 - \$19,999)**

Empower Others,  
Raymond James Charitable  
Endowment Fund

## **Contributing (\$1,000 - \$4,999)**

The Bar Plan  
Daisy  
Sarah Donelan  
Hotel Vandivort  
MDock  
Ozark Outdoor Lighting  
PCnet, Inc.  
Rick's Automotive  
State Bank of Southwest  
Missouri  
Turner, Reid, Duncan,  
Loomer & Patton, P.C.

## **Friend of Legal Services (0 - \$999)**

Amazon Smile  
Amycakes  
Anonymous  
Archie's Italian Eaterie  
Arkansas & Missouri

Railway  
Arsenic and Old Lace Bed &  
Breakfast  
Clate Baker  
Darin Banner  
The Honorable Bob Barney  
Scott Bellm  
Beth's Photography  
Big Air Trampoline  
The Big Biscuit  
Big Time Results  
Branson Hills Golf Club  
Branson's Dinosaur Museum  
The Honorable Jason Brown  
Burger King  
Robin Carlock  
Carnahan, Evans, Cantwell &  
Brown, P.C.  
Casey's  
Charity Fent Cake Design  
Civil Kitchen  
The Clever Barn  
Jeff Coffey  
Creava Studio  
Dalton, Mowrer &  
Chidister, LLP  
Viola Davis  
Mike DeArmon  
Bryan Delleville  
Delta Document Shredding  
Dickerson Park Zoo  
Druff's  
Kevin Dunaway  
Dye Seed Service  
Edge Supply Company  
The Elder Law Group

Fetch Pet Supplies  
Kevin Fick  
5 Elements Studio  
Fitness 4U  
Focus Bank  
4 By 4 Brewing Company  
417 Brews  
Michael Gibson  
Danny R. Golden  
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Grand Country Music Hall  
Marcus Grisham  
Hall Ansley PC  
Hamra Enterprises  
Harley Davidson  
Elyse Hartley  
Horrmann Meats  
Tommy Hawks  
Haden, Cowherd &  
Bullock, LLC  
Highway 125 Marina  
Holden Law Office  
Hollywood Wax Museum  
Christiaan Horton  
Curtis Horton  
Hy Vee  
Itty Bitty City  
Jazzercise  
Ted L. Johnson  
Jones Musgrave LLC  
The Jungle Gym  
Kansas City Zoo  
Lawrence & Alison Kasten  
Jared Keeling  
Jeff Keeling  
Steve Kellogg

*All funds received by Legal Services of Southern Missouri are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act or Public Law 104-134.*



## JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Justus  
Kennedy, Kennedy, Robbins  
& Yarbro, LC  
Keeter Center  
Law Office of Yewell G.  
Lawrence, Jr.  
Chip Lee  
The Limbaugh Firm, PC  
Rod Loomer  
The Magic House  
Law Offices of Mary Lou  
Martin  
McDonald's  
Meike Aton Art  
Mike Mergen  
Mochas and Meows  
The Honorable Kerry  
Montgomery  
Charla Moore  
Mother's Brewing Company  
Tom Motley  
Brady Musgrave  
Jeremy Myers  
National WWI Museum and  
Memorial  
Neale & Newman  
David Olive  
Ozark Mountain Popcorn  
Ozarks Elder Law  
Painting With A Twist  
Panera Bread  
Persimmon Hill Farm  
Bob Phillips  
Scott Pierson  
Adam Pihana  
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Pink & White Nail Studio  
Pizza House  
Plaza Tire Service

Judson Poppen  
Lee Poppen  
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Pure Hot Yoga  
Ransin Injury Law  
David Ransin  
Lynn Ransin  
Red Lobster  
Jake Reinbold  
Reuna Fitness  
Revive Juice & Coffee Bar  
Rice, Spaeth, Summers &  
Heisserer, L.C.  
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Tim Ricker  
Brad Risby  
Roberts, McKenzie, Mangan  
& Cummings  
Daren Robertson  
Stacy Robertson  
Lori Rook  
Kaleb Roy  
Marcia Schempe-Carlock  
John H. Schmidt  
Chip Sheppard  
Nick Sheppard  
Soap Refill Store  
Springfield Music  
Star Cakes  
Still Waters Lakefront Resort  
Bradley Stoops  
The Honorable J. Edward  
Sweeney  
Tanger Outlet  
37 North Expeditions  
Turpentine Creek Wildlife  
Refuge  
Tweedy Law Office, LLC  
Jeff Upp

The Urban Cup  
Veteran's Memorial Museum  
Walsh Law Firm  
Brianna Warner  
Emily Weil  
Wendy's-Sam, June & Mike  
Hamra  
Wheeler Gardens  
Dan Wichmer  
Scott Wichmer  
Wild Animal Safari  
Rodney Witt  
Amanda Wolf  
Wonderworks

### **In Memory of Jerry Redfearn**

Sharon & Mark Alexander  
Grier & Bettrys Huffman  
Marilyn S. Huffman  
Sherry Huffman  
The Roy W. Slusher  
Foundation  
Hilary Lyndon Sommer

### **Special Funding or Grants**

Cape Girardeau County, MO  
Care Connection, Inc.  
Greene County, MO  
Interest on Lawyers Trust  
Accounts Foundation  
Legal Services Corporation  
MARCH  
Missouri Department  
of Social Services  
Southeast Missouri  
Area Agency on Aging  
Southwest Missouri  
Area Agency on Aging  
State of Missouri

# JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS



STOP (VAWA)  
The Missouri Bar  
The Missouri Bar  
Foundation  
Victims of Crime Act  
(Violence Against Women  
Act)  
Webster County, MO





**Legal Services of Southern Missouri  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020**

<u>Support and Revenue</u>	
Grant and Contracts	5,647,606
Donated Services	11,875
Other Support	81,146
Interest Income	20,722
Gain(Loss) on sale of property & equipment	<u>                    </u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 5,761,349</b>
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Staff salaries	2,936,140
Staff benefits	1,097,133
Building space/rent	195,713
Equipment rental/maintenance	33,560
Office supplies and postage	73,250
Office equipment	49,729
Telephone	60,711
Travel	6,106
Training	29,674
Library expenses	26,687
Insurance	35,605
Dues and fees	26,460
Audit	16,640
Litigation expenses	106,216
Attorney fees for client cases	394,016
Donated attorney fees for client cases	11,875
Contract services	327,115
Miscellaneous	9,639
Depreciation	<u>47,470</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,483,739</b>
 <b>Change in net assets</b>	 <b>\$ <u>277,610</u></b>
 <b>Net assets beginning of year</b>	 <b>\$ <u>4,604,762</u></b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ <u>4,882,372</u></b>

**Legal Services of Southern Missouri  
Statement of Financial Position  
on December 31, 2020**

<u>Assets</u>	
Total Current Assets	4,876,101
Property and Equipment (net of depreciation)	<u>1,175,128</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,051,229</b>
 <u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	
Total Current Liabilities	516,745
Long-Term Debt	652,112
Net Assets - Unrestricted	3,082,667
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	<u>1,799,705</u>
	<b>\$ 6,051,229</b>

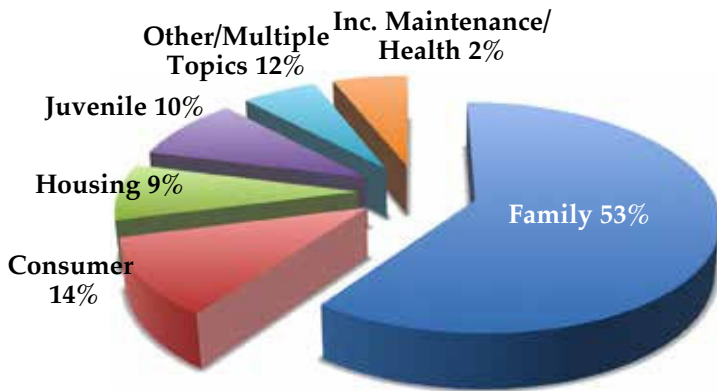




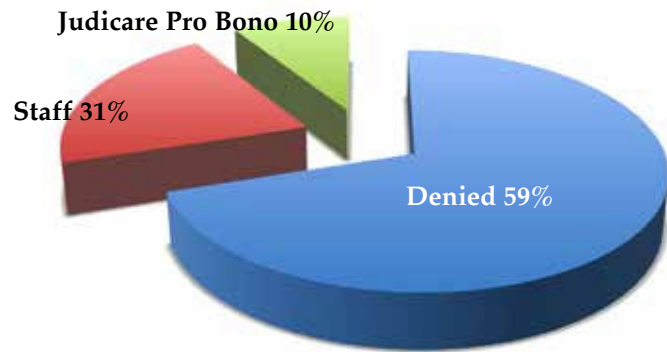
# VALUE OF JUSTICE: LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI BY THE NUMBERS

Legal Services of Southern Missouri places a high value on supporting families, protecting children, securing economic opportunity, and preserving health and home. These are the values supported by the civil legal aid work across southern Missouri. The following tables express the Value of Justice for those who were fortunate to obtain legal aid.

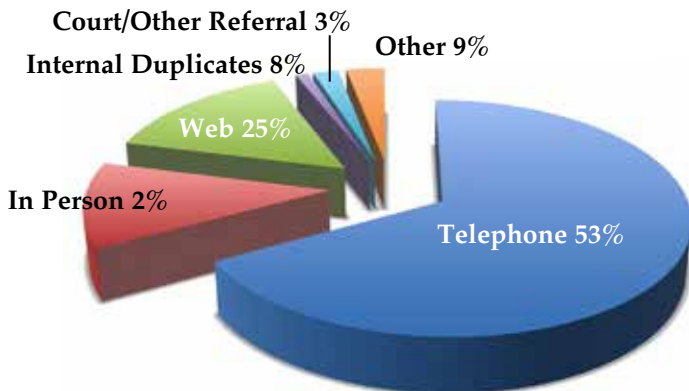
## CASES OPENED BY PERCENTAGE



## DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS



## APPLICATION BY METHOD



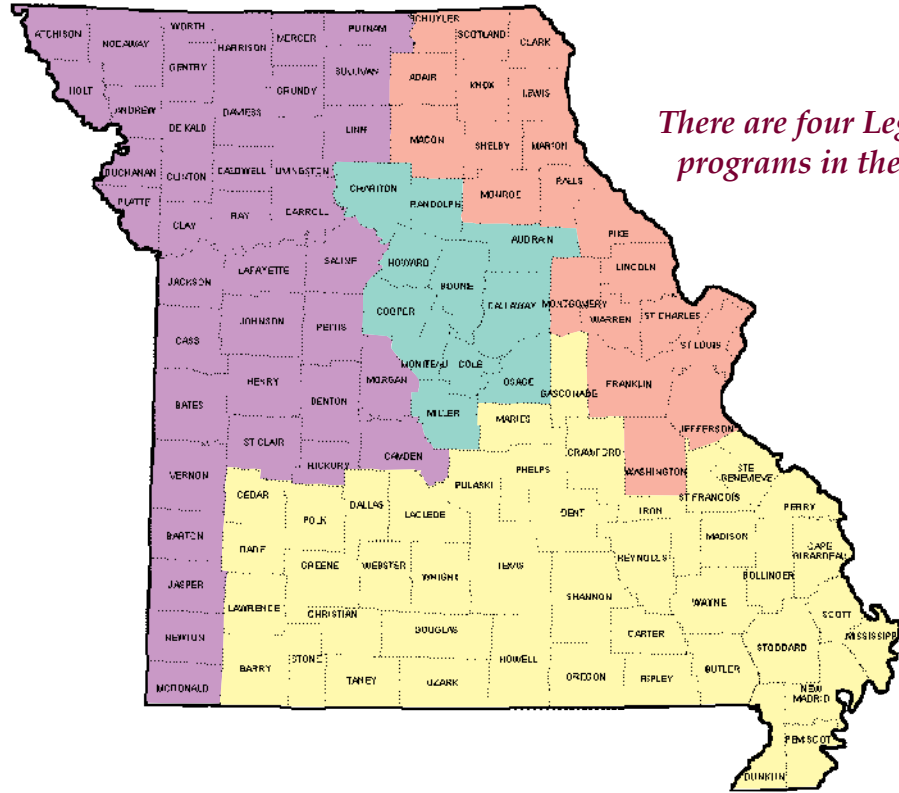
LSSM processed 6,119 applications in 2020.

Of this number, we are only able to:

1. Help 2,499 or less than 1% of the 260,653 poor persons in the service area; and
2. Help less than 1 out of 4 applicants.



# SERVICE AREAS



*There are four Legal Aid programs in the state*

# THE LSSM SERVICE AREA



# CURRENT LSSM STAFF



## HEADQUARTERS

809 North Campbell Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone: (417) 881-0533  
Fax: (417) 881-2159  
Toll Free: (800) 444-4863

### Executive Director

Daniel R. Wichmer

### Director of Development

Sharon A. Alexander

### Director of Finance

Connie Gardner  
Cody Schroeder

### Deputy Director

Amanda Pearl

### Managing Attorney Intake, Advice & Referral Services

Joe Hills

### Managing Attorney, Juvenile Unit

Rina Edge

### Managing Attorney, Family Unit

Robert Asperger

### Staff Attorneys

Charlton Chastain  
Cameron Casad  
Brooke Downing  
Andrew Smith  
Megan Tunget  
Jerald Wallut  
Bri Warner  
Barbara Wilkey

### Executive Assistant

Anita Fonner

### Accounts Payable

### Clerk-Help Desk

Mildred Foote

### Administrative Assistant

Sarah Villines

### Paralegals

Jeanne Crawford  
Kellye Fleming  
Teresa Gammon

Gabrianna Gardner

Jori Linton  
Charla Moore  
Megan Van Natta  
Renea Vaughn (West Plains  
Satellite Office)

### Caseworker

Melissa Keys

### Intake Specialists/Receptionist

Lori Carleton  
Kimberly North  
Shelley Rhoads (West Plains)  
Tarah White (West Plains)  
Knial Piper

### CAPE GIRARDEAU OFFICE

1704 Broadway, #102  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Fax: (417) 881-2159  
Toll Free: (800) 444-4863

### Managing Attorney

Ken O'Neal

### Staff Attorneys

Tamara Carlson  
Trevor Wieprecht

### Support Staff

Angel Watkins  
Alayna Wood

### FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

1418 East Pythian Street  
Springfield, MO 65802  
Phone: (417) 351-6176  
Fax: (417) 881-2159

### Staff Attorney

Brook Demm

### Paralegal

Carrie Farmer

### Social Worker

Ashley Hamp

### O'Reilly Center for Hope

1581 East Dale Street  
Springfield, MO 65803

### Staff Attorney

Antonio Hansberry  
(417) 225-7499

### ROLLA OFFICE

1000 North Pine, Suite B  
Rolla, MO 65401  
Fax: (417) 881-2159  
Toll Free: (800) 444-4863

### Managing Attorney

Ken Leiser

### Paralegals

Amber Freeman  
Sheryl Wilburn

### SIKESTON OFFICE

Fax: (417) 881-2159  
Toll Free: (800) 444-4863

### Deputy Director

Lew Polivick

### Staff Attorneys

Mike Cato  
Carol Tanksley  
Keith Lewis  
Carrie Lape

### Support Staff

Lisa Cogdill  
Jessica Harville

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

2900 East Sunshine Street  
Springfield, MO 65804  
Phone: (417) 841-3323  
Fax: (417) 881-2159

### Staff Attorney

Mark Fels



Legal Services of Southern Missouri  
Sam F. Hamra Center for Justice  
809 North Campbell Avenue • Springfield, MO 65802  
417.881.1397 • 1.800.444.4863  
[www.lsosm.org](http://www.lsosm.org)

