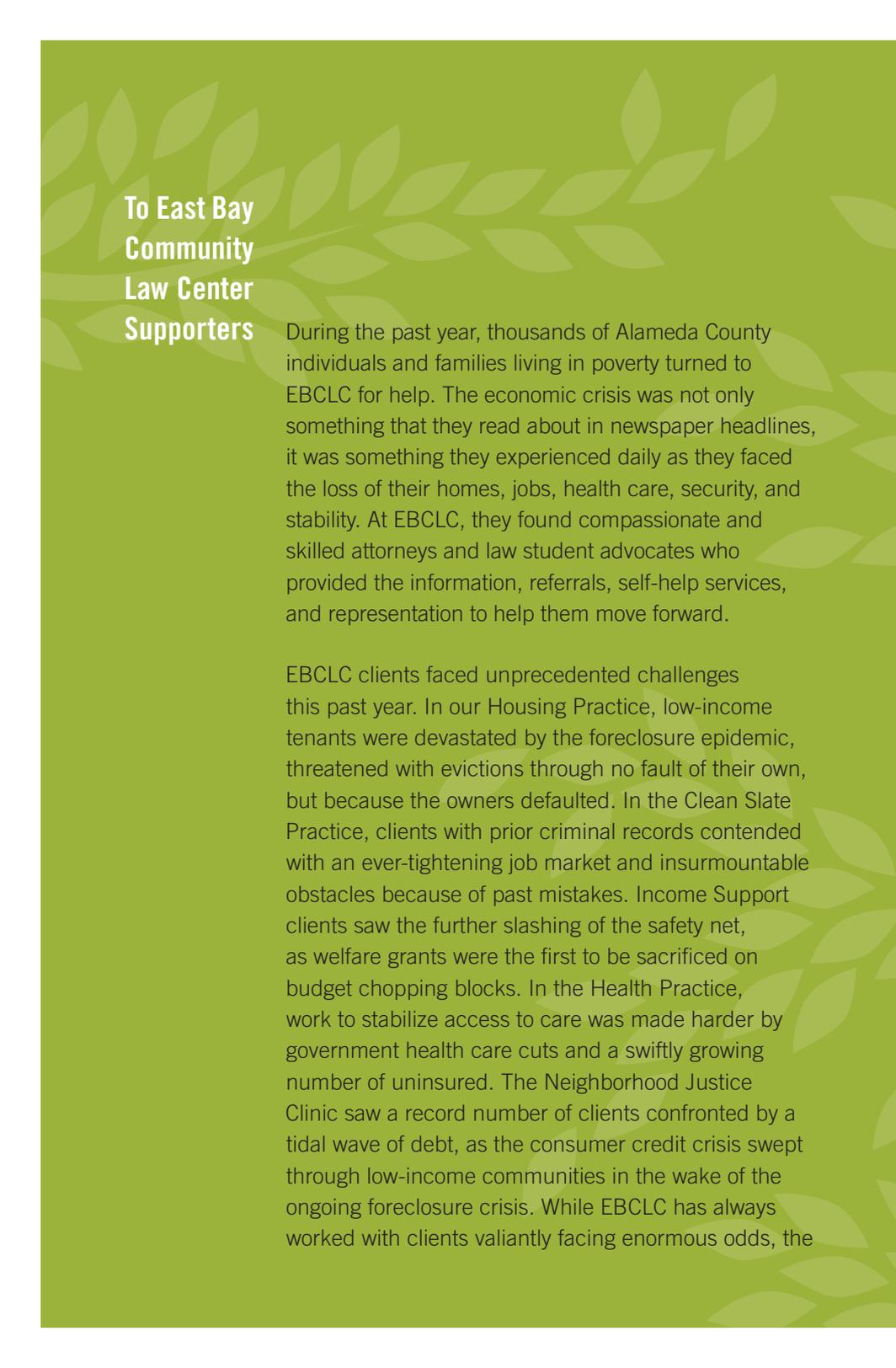


**East Bay
Community Law
Center**
Annual Report
2008-09





To East Bay Community Law Center Supporters

During the past year, thousands of Alameda County individuals and families living in poverty turned to EBCLC for help. The economic crisis was not only something that they read about in newspaper headlines, it was something they experienced daily as they faced the loss of their homes, jobs, health care, security, and stability. At EBCLC, they found compassionate and skilled attorneys and law student advocates who provided the information, referrals, self-help services, and representation to help them move forward.

EBCLC clients faced unprecedented challenges this past year. In our Housing Practice, low-income tenants were devastated by the foreclosure epidemic, threatened with evictions through no fault of their own, but because the owners defaulted. In the Clean Slate Practice, clients with prior criminal records contended with an ever-tightening job market and insurmountable obstacles because of past mistakes. Income Support clients saw the further slashing of the safety net, as welfare grants were the first to be sacrificed on budget chopping blocks. In the Health Practice, work to stabilize access to care was made harder by government health care cuts and a swiftly growing number of uninsured. The Neighborhood Justice Clinic saw a record number of clients confronted by a tidal wave of debt, as the consumer credit crisis swept through low-income communities in the wake of the ongoing foreclosure crisis. While EBCLC has always worked with clients valiantly facing enormous odds, the

current recession has placed unparalleled stress on the communities that we serve.

EBCLC is grateful to the students, staff, volunteers, and members of the Board of Directors who dedicated enormous amounts of their time to help provide the assistance clients desperately needed. Despite significant resource constraints, EBCLC provided a record number of client services: 8,575 from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. In a time of great challenge, EBCLC folks rose to the occasion and worked long hours to serve clients, but also to make sure that EBCLC itself would still be here for the community. Years of successful fund raising and prudent financial planning provided reserves to cushion the blow of the economic crisis and minimize the detrimental impact to programs.

You — our supporter and champion — are a key partner in EBCLC's ability to meet the challenges we have faced and those ahead. While politicians and pundits proclaim the end to the recession, the impacts will be felt by our clients for months — years — to come. Without the support of individuals, firms, companies, foundations, and governments, EBCLC would not be able to do the work that is crucial to our clients' survival. Thank you for supporting our work to bring security, productivity, health, and hope to EBCLC clients.

Like a trunk joining the branches of a tree to its roots, EBCLC connects our clients and community to those who make the laws that shape our daily lives.

“I now have a chance to go back into the job field feeling secure and confident. I wish there were more programs like this throughout the U.S.”

— CLIENT OF THE CLEAN SLATE PRACTICE



GOALS: Clean Slate provides assistance to people seeking to clean up their criminal records. In collaboration with

the courts, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Probation Department, and community-based organizations, the goal of the practice is to foster community reentry and reduce recidivism by helping clients overcome barriers to employment, housing, education, and civic participation.

STAFF: River Abeje, Eliza Hersh, Jesse Hsieh, Velma Serena Rankins, and Jessie Warner (Director).

DIRECT SERVICES: 2,328 client services were delivered to help access criminal record remedies and reduce long-term barriers to stability.

POLICY ADVOCACY: Informed by the direct service work, Clean Slate staff members engaged in policy change work in collaboration with National Employment Law Project, All of Us or None, ACLU Northern California, and Boalt Center for Criminal Justice, funded by the Rosenberg Foundation.

GOALS: Community Economic Justice (CEJ) works alongside labor, neighborhood and community groups, organizers, and politicians to bring meaningful, sustainable, and community-centered progressive change to Oakland's diverse working class communities.

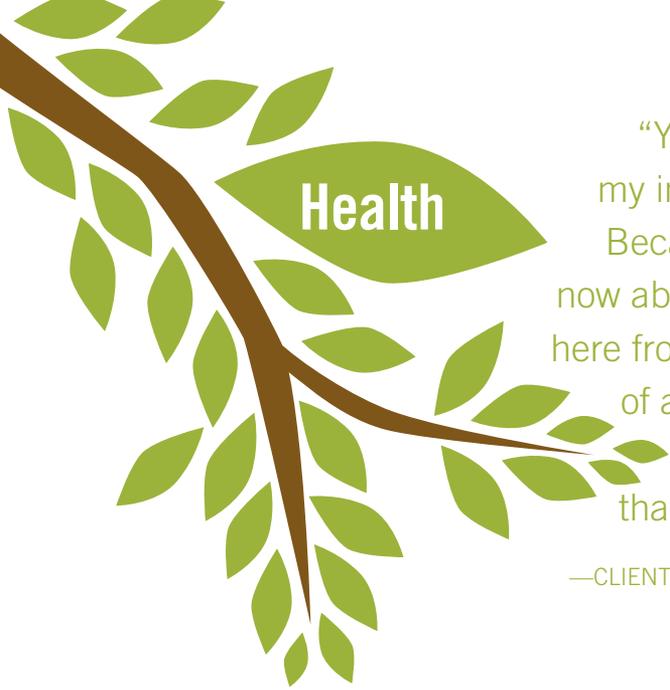
STAFF: John Engstrom and Margaretta Lin (director).

POLICY ADVOCACY: CEJ worked on a number of local policy campaigns, including the Wood Street Train Station and the Children's Health Justice Advocacy Project. The CEJ Director, Margaretta Lin, was offered the opportunity to use her skills to develop and implement stimulus-funding policy for the City of Oakland this year. Therefore, the work of CEJ has temporarily been taken up by other practice groups and community partners. EBCLC hopes to have the support to resume a CEJ policy practice in fall 2010.

“Interacting with public health experts, understanding health care policy, and working with other interns to research children’s health issues are just a few ways EBCLC has taught me to be an effective advocate. I would not have had the same chance to work on legal issues and grassroots-organizing without this amazing clinic.”

—REBECCA LIU, BERKELEY LAW, '10





Health

“You helped me with my immigration papers. Because of you all, I’m now able to join my family here from Africa. Because of all of you I have my “Green card”, thank you very much!”

—CLIENT OF THE HEALTH PRACTICE

GOAL: Health uses a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the complex and varied health-related legal needs of low-income people. Staff and students assist clients in a wide range of legal matters including housing, benefits, estate planning, debt relief, and other basic civil legal services.

STAFF: Liam Galbreth, Sheila Hall (director), Linda Tam, and Yvonne Troya.

DIRECT SERVICES: Health now consists of three distinct projects that share the core mission of stabilizing and improving health: 1) the HIV/AIDS Law Project that is the primary legal service provider for low-income HIV+ Alameda county residents; 2) a Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) with Children’s Hospital and Research Center Oakland to collaboratively serve children and their families at CHRCO’s outpatient clinic; and 3) an Immigration & Health program that bridges both projects and works with families to stabilize their immigration status as a component of enhancing health. The practice provided 392 client services during the year ending June 30, 2009.

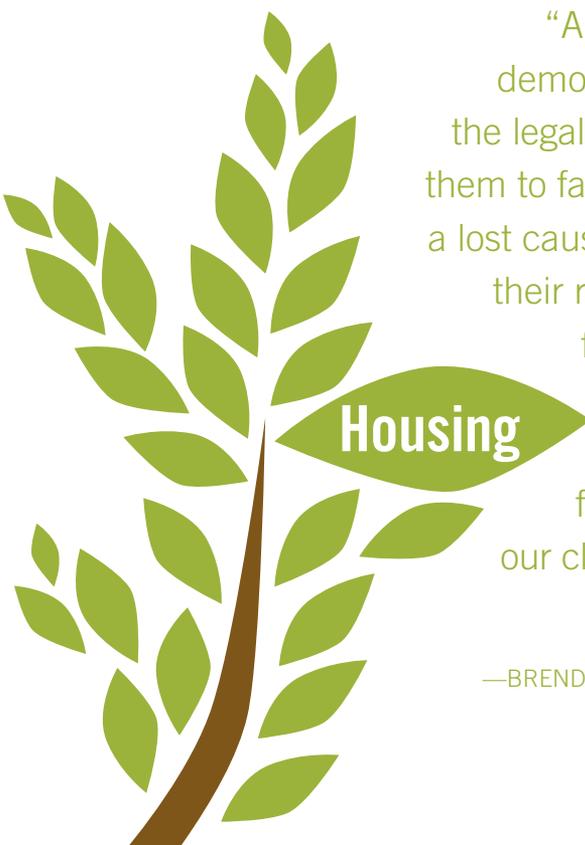
POLICY ADVOCACY: The practice collaborates with MLPs from around the state to advocate for improvements in laws and enforcement that will benefit children’s health. For example, MLP staff worked to propose legislation to reduce indoor asthma-triggers (like mold) in low-income housing.

GOALS: Housing is a litigation practice designed to prevent homelessness and maintain affordable housing in north Alameda County.

STAFF: Sharon Djemal, Marc Janowitz, Gracie Jones, Laura Lane (director), and Jaimee Modica.

DIRECT SERVICES: Staff and students represent clients in civil eviction defense proceedings and in administrative matters with Berkeley, Oakland, and Emeryville housing authority, assist pro per clients at the county courthouse, conduct outreach and education workshops for tenants, and develop affirmative lawsuits to enforce habitability standards and other applicable housing laws. This past year 3,397 client services were delivered from the Housing Practice.

POLICY ADVOCACY: The Housing Practice participated in a number of local advocacy efforts, including many related to the devastating impact on low-income tenants from the foreclosure crisis.



“A lot of our clients arrive demoralized, convinced that the legal system is designed for them to fail and that their case is a lost cause. We not only explain their rights, but actually fight for them. Being able to show them that the system, for all its flaws, does in fact value our clients as human beings, is truly gratifying.”

—BRENDAN DARROW, BERKELEY LAW, '10

GOALS: Income Support is an administrative law practice that seeks to insure and increase the minimum income and support services for low-income individuals and families.

STAFF: Ed Barnes (director) and Luan Huynh

DIRECT SERVICES: Staff and students provide extensive wrap-around services for clients with legal needs related to welfare-to-work requirements. The practice provided 744 client services to families this year.

POLICY ADVOCACY: Income Support worked with dozens of partners locally and statewide on many issues related to welfare policy, such as efforts to end the punitive practice of excluding new children from CalWORKS grants and preventing the drastic reduction of General Assistance grants for Alameda County.



Income

Support

“Without these types of programs, people like myself would be at a total loss. There are not too many outlets for low-income families who can’t afford lawyers. I hope that your office is able to continue offering services through grants and generous donations. I am one that truly appreciates it, and can’t say it enough.”

—CLIENT OF THE INCOME SUPPORT PRACTICE

“It was incredible, because we can’t speak well, but you always understand us. You used some interpreters ... someone that speaks our language. We appreciate it.”

—CLIENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD JUSTICE CLINIC



GOALS: Neighborhood Justice Clinic (NJC) operates out of EBCLC’s original office on Shattuck Avenue and provides extensive self-help assistance to unrepresented litigants facing a range of legal issues.

STAFF: Katelyn Cherney, Elisa Della-Piana (director), Osha Neumann, Megan Ryan, Owen Thompson

DIRECT SERVICES: NJC specializes in consumer debt issues and homeless rights at its day-time clinics and evening workshop. NJC provided 1,714 client services during the year.

POLICY ADVOCACY: NJC also participated in broader impact efforts to curb the criminalization of homeless people, as well as providing support to policy change in the areas of consumer law and debt relief.

Executive Director

Tirien Angela Steinbach

Administration

Martha Brown, Director of Finance & Administration

Victoria Flores, Contracts Manager
Ayana Muhammad, Office Manager

Tamura Saxton, Administrative Assistant

Peggy Woodruff, Receptionist
Carolina Zanni, Administrative Assistant

Development

Jonathon Marley, Director of Development & Planning

Ana Maria Murillo, Deputy Director of Development

www.ebclc.org

We invite you to go to www.ebclc.org to see a complete listing of EBCLC staff members, Board of Directors, clinical students who interned at EBCLC from Fall 2008 – Summer 2009, pro bono attorneys and other volunteers who donated their time during the last year, and our unaudited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2008 – 09.

Thank You!

EBCLC would like to thank the following **individuals** for their major donor gifts, made since June 30, 2008:

Denise Abrams & David Harrington

Anonymous Donors

Quinn Delaney & Wayne Jordan

Dianna C. Lyons

David McClain & Marilyn Wong

Jessica & Jason Moment

Peter Rukin & Sharon Djemal

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The Partnership Foundation

The San Francisco Foundation

Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP

van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation

We also want to recognize the incredible support of the following **law firms** and **foundations**:

For a complete listing of all the individuals, law firms, corporations, foundations, and governmental entities that made generous donations and grants to EBCLC over the past year, please go to: www.ebclc.org/supporters.php



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