10 years ago during the subprime mortgage crisis, I was a clinical supervisor in East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)’s Neighborhood Justice Clinic. A majority of my work was focused on supporting African American seniors who had become homeowners despite the challenges of redlining, Jim Crow, and legal employment discrimination. It was an honor to be able to ensure that their final years were not marked by the threat of homelessness.

A decade later, I returned to EBCLC as Executive Director and found myself working within another economic recession — this time, with detrimental health implications and police violence devastating African Americans. COVID-19 has disproportionately devastated Black, Indigenous and other communities of color and fundamentally disrupted the US legal system. In this time of crisis, I am deeply grateful to be leading an organization that values collective wellbeing and heals whole people and whole communities.

While this year has presented many challenges, I am encouraged by the opportunities for change it has created. At the highest level of the US government, a direct and clear approach to ending systemic racism has been named as a top priority. Although we couldn’t quite overturn California’s racist affirmative action ban at the ballot box this year, our state’s large and growing population of Black, Latinx, and other voters of color gives me hope for our future. “Black Lives Matter” and “Trust Black Women” have become mainstream strategies that unify and hold us accountable to our ideals.

As I look to 2021, I know that the work ahead is urgent. We have a window of time to heal and keep the momentum of the national racial justice awakening. I am energized by the new partnerships that have emerged, the long-standing relationships that have evolved, and the incredible investments that have been made to sustain these efforts. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Onward!

Zoë Melissa Polk,
Executive Director
EBCLC’s racial justice work was featured in the Fall 2020 issue of Berkeley Law’s Transcript magazine.

Photography by Brittany Hosea-Small and Bethanie Hines
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THE PROBLEM
Justice has never been race neutral. Our legal system was designed to uphold structural racism. It does so at the expense of our health, our families and our communities. This must end.
VISION
We envision a California where Black and Indigenous communities, and those at the intersection of multiple oppressions, are positioned to realize thriving, healthy, and dignified lives.

MISSION
At East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), we advance racial justice through direct service, education and advocacy.

Direct Service: With 8 distinct practice areas driven by leading experts in housing, health, immigration, and more, EBCLC’s legal team is trained to resolve intersecting legal challenges caused by poverty and racial injustice.

Education: In partnership with Berkeley Law School, EBCLC boasts a robust clinical education program with 150 + law students annually.

Advocacy: Thanks to statewide policies written and championed by EBCLC advocates, Californians have won millions of dollars in discharged court debt, rock-solid consumer protections, and transformative civil rights for children, workers, and whole communities.

SANDRA JOHNSON
New Board Member
“I proudly joined EBCLC’s board this year because, as a former client, I believe in the ability of this organization to help system-impacted people enjoy the healthy, stable futures they deserve.”
“For over 30 years, EBCLC has centered the racial justice value that our collective wellbeing is interdependent on each other. In the midst of all of the challenges of this incredibly difficult year, we have witnessed our value become global reality. Now more than ever, I am grateful for legal services that uplift whole communities, and that ensure housing stability, immigration relief, educational equity, health and welfare, and economic empowerment for our clients. I know that with Zoë’s bold leadership, the brilliance and compassion of the staff, and the commitment of our new and longtime board members, we will make transformational social and political shifts in the years ahead. Your support for EBCLC is an investment in this vision.”

MICHAEL K. NG
Chair, Board of Directors
OUR IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

2,285
Families Protected from Eviction and Displacement

$4+ BILLION
Money Kept Safe from Debt Collectors and in Clients’ Bank Accounts for Food, Rent, and Basic Needs

36,000
Oakland Students No Longer Policed at School Thanks to Mobilizing In Partnership with Black Organizing Project

$16 BILLION
Criminal Justice System Debt Erased through the Families Over Fees Act

72
IDENTITY DOCUMENTS UPDATED TO REFLECT CLIENTS’ CORRECT NAME AND GENDER

359
DACA Applications Filed

149
Law Students Trained as Racial Justice Advocates
Our three-pronged strategy to impact lasting, systemic change proved even more crucial in the face of this devastating pandemic:

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

Alameda County Eviction Moratorium Ordinance: Keeps approx. **800,000 East Bay residents** housed and represents the nation’s longest and strongest COVID-19-related eviction ban.

**STATEWIDE LEGISLATION**

Families Over Fees Act/AB 1869: Brings widespread economic relief to **39 million Californians**, especially Black and brown people targeted by mass incarceration by eliminating criminal justice system fees.

**HIGH-IMPACT COURT CASES**

Sanchez v. Caltrans: Wins **$5.5 million** for people living in homeless encampments whose property was destroyed and protects them from future sweeps.
OUT OF EBCLC’S 81 FULL-TIME STAFF:

- 66% are renters
- 70% live in the communities EBCLC serves
- 65% are people of color
- 35% are caregivers for family members
- 26% are LGBTQIA
- 100% took advantage of EBCLC Wellness Days to rest, restore, and spend time with family

WHO WE ARE

MICHELLE NATIVIDAD RODRIGUEZ
New Board Member

“If we’re going to have success in stabilizing our communities, we have to uplift the efforts of Black-led organizations such as EBCLC that are on the ground doing the work. I’m proud to join the board at this moment as we lean into and prioritize our racial justice roots.”
While most courts closed this year in response to COVID-19, immigration courts have remained open, and despite the danger, our staff and students have shown up to make the case for our clients’ humanity in deportation proceedings, affirmative asylum interviews, defensive asylum hearings, and other interactions with the Department of Homeland Security.

THEO CUISON
Director, Immigration Practice

Now that COVID-19 has moved us to remote services, our phone lines are our clients’ lifelines, and the fact that people going through the toughest times in their lives have entrusted EBCLC with their issues means so much to me and the rest of the administrative team.

TANYA LOFTIN
Administrative Assistant
“The urgent problems of policing and police funding go hand in hand with racist systems of court and municipal debt. EBCLC’s Clean Slate Clinic has given me skills to advocate for racial justice and the decriminalization of poverty.”

ALEX FAY
Student, Clean Slate Clinic

“My real-world experience from EBCLC was one of the reasons I got my clerkship, and now I see why: More than just technical lawyering expertise, I gained communication, management, and community-building skills that I apply every day. Knowing first-hand how the outcomes of cases can affect people takes my work from intellectual stimulation to an avenue for meaningful change.”

ANYA KU
Law Clerk at U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
WHO WE ARE: Our Student Board Members

KENNEDY ROSE
Student Board Member
“In my work fighting displacement and protecting the health and dignity of transgender clients, I’ve so admired the unique connectedness between EBCLC and the surrounding community.”

ELLEN IVENS-DURAN
Student Board Member
“My work with EBCLC’s Health & Welfare Clinic and the Education, Defense, & Justice for Youth team has cemented my desire to pursue a career in public defense.”

STEPHANIE TILDEN
Student Board Member
“I have found it deeply motivating to join the board this year and to give back to an organization that does so much to train the next generation of public interest lawyers.”
CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

With your help, EBCLC opened its digital doors this year to keep our community empowered and informed, hold elected officials accountable, amplify our policy solutions and celebrate our brilliant students.

6,885 of you engaged with us on digital platforms this year.

JESSICA BUENDIA
New Board Member

“By investing in EBCLC, our partners in philanthropy, government, and the corporate sector have an opportunity to advance real innovation at a moment when the status quo model of service delivery just won’t cut it anymore.”
IN THE NEWS

EBCLC’s innovative racial justice lawyering strategies were featured in major publications all over the country this year. Thanks to your support, our message has reached thousands of readers, our ideas have influenced key decision-makers, and our movement for change is growing.

“After interning at EBCLC as a student, I’m proud to now leverage my position as a board member to ensure that today’s Berkeley Law students are equipped with the crucial skills I gained, and that racial and social justice continue to be prioritized by the law school.”

EASHA ANAND
New Board Member
Our work is possible because of your investment. We extend deep appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, law firms, and businesses who contributed to EBCLC between July 1, 2019 and October 15, 2020.

**LEADERSHIP**

Akonadi Foundation  
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Caroline D. Avery  
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative  
Crankstart  
East Bay Community Foundation  
Firedoll Foundation  
Gilead Sciences, Inc  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Hedco Foundation  
Henry L. Hecht  
Kaiser Permanente  
Kazan McClain Partners’ Foundation  
Kelson Foundation  
Left Tilt Fund  
Loud Hound Foundation  
San Francisco Foundation  
Y & H Soda Foundation  
Sunlight Giving

**CHAMPIONS**

Denise Abrams and David Harrington  
Ancestry  
Anonymous (1)  
Anonymous (2)  
Anonymous (3)  
Bigglesworth Family Foundation  
Elizabeth J. Cabraser and Marguerite Longtin  
Quinn Delaney and Wayne Jordan  
Robert Deutsch and Donna Terazawa  
Edelson PC  
Fish Arm Fund

Inner Sunset Community Advocates  
Michael S. Kwun and Sigrid Anderson-Kwun  
Leonard Carder LLP  
Felicia and Marc Lewinstein  
Lief Pezner Heimann & Bernstein, LLP  
Michael Loeb  
Daven G. and Karen K. Lowhurst  
Craig Martin and Karen Scarr  
Tim and Camilla McCalmont  
David McClain and Merilyn Wong

James R. and Elena Meehan  
Samuel R. Miller and Maude Pevere  
Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
Michael Ng and Mikal Condon  
pH Foundation  
Sisouvanh Phouthavong  
Harry L. and Helen M. Rust Charitable Foundation  
Salinas Law Group  
Joel Sanders and Carol Bieri  
Andrew Z. Shagrin and Segolene Finet

Shartsis Friese LLP  
Maureen Sheehy and Steve Catton  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Craig Silverstein and Mary Obelnicki  
Tycko & Zavareei  
vonLöbenSels/RembeRock Foundation  
Kathy and Bob Vizas  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation  
Steve Zieff and Elaine Leitner

**THANK YOU**

SNEH RAO  
New Board Member

“In a year of unprecedented challenge, EBCLC staff have delivered significant policy victories that will benefit marginalized Californians for generations to come.”
As a former attorney in EBCLC’s Health & Welfare Clinic, I was thrilled to return to EBCLC as a board member this year. There is no limit to the systemic impact we can achieve by centering the voices of our clients in progressive policy change advocacy.
EBCLC’s educational model instills in its graduates a deep commitment to social justice advocacy, and provides us with a powerful community of partners, our fellow alums, to help us mobilize change in our respective legal fields.”
Lisa Hirsch
Cameron L. Holland
Joan and David Hollinger
Art B. and Edna Hom
Chris Hoofnagle
Grant E. Huebner
Cesar J. Icasiano
Polly and Greg Ikonen
Jessica Intrator
Thomas and Barbara Job
Kathleen and Mark Jones
Eli Khan
Manel Kappagoda and
Wallace Whittier
Mary Kappagoda
Amanda M. Karl
Kareem M. Kazkaz
Kevin Khurana
Shelley Klop
Jeffrey Kosbie
Jennifer Kuenster and
George Miers
Nicholas M. Lampros
Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams
LLP
Wendy Lilliedoll
Measue Liotta
Niall and Eve Lynch
John Marsland
Susan Mayer
Derek T. McDonald
Sabrina McGraw
Ted Mermin and Claudia Polsky
David Mitchell
Hezla and Pareed Mohamed
Noel and Penny Nelligan
Ann O’Leary
Zachary Palchick
Tom Peckham
Lester Pedrazzini
Mike and Suzanne Pietrykowski
Linda and Ewan Purkiss
Roey Rahmil
Yocelin Ramirez Fernandez
Nani Ratnawati
Bernida Reagan and James Head
Alex Reese
Amy Resner and William Lee
William C. Reuter and Ruth S. Major
Tom and Rebecca Riley
Margot A. Rosenberg
David A. Rosenfeld and
Shirley A. Woo
Daniel Rossi
Andrea Roth
Shannon Ryan
Daniel Schneider
Daniel Schulman
Barry Schwartz
J. Sepulveda
Scott and Karen Shorr
Marjorie and Jim Shultz
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
Eric Siegel and Suzy Logan
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
Adam Slote
Christina Spaulding and
Jonathan Simon
Karen Stevenson and Bill McClave
Steyer Lowenthal
Boodrookas Alvarez & Smith LLP
Lisa Stockholm
Nicholas A. Stratton
Joshua Su
Stephen D. Sugarman and
Karen I. Carlson
Ryan Sun
Eleanor Swift
David Tian
Hon. John M. True, III and
Hon. Claudia A. Wilken
Jennifer Tsai
Michael Tubach and Amrita Singhal
Vincent Vadot
Pamela Van Heut
Villegas Carrera, Inc.
Deborah Wald
Kate Weisburd
Mark Whatley and Danuta Zaroda
Susan Whitman and Mark Gergen
Spencer Witte
Jason C. Wright
Anders Yang
Chauniqua Young

Altshuler Berzon LLP
Bailey & Glasser LLP
Crosner Legal
Gibbs Law Group
Girard Sharp LLP
JND Legal Administration
Leonard Carder LLP
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky LLP
Sears Consumer Protection and Education Fund
Andrew H. Wolff
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<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY2020</th>
<th>FY2019</th>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Cash Held in Trust</td>
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<td>Accrued Vacation</td>
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<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
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## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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