

East Bay Community Law Center 2022

BUILDING OUR POWER



MISSION

To promote justice and build a community that is more secure, productive, healthy, and hopeful by providing:

- Legal services and policy advocacy that are responsive to the needs of low-income communities, and
- Law training that prepares future attorneys to be skilled and principled advocates who are committed to addressing the causes and conditions of racial and economic injustice and poverty.

CONTACT

www.ebclc.org

(510) 548-4040

info@ebclc.org

1950 University Ave. Suite 200

Berkeley CA 94704

2921 Adeline St.

Berkeley CA 94703

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Director Letter	2
Board Chair Letter	3
Women of Color-Centered Platform	4
Our Impact	5
Our Programs	6
Featured Client Stories	8
Key Victories and Policy Wins	10
Clinical Education and Alumni Engagement	11
Organizational Investments	12
Financials	14
Board of Directors	16
Donors	16

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Over the last 12 months, the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) has witnessed returns on our commitment to building collective power.

The President's recent act of large-scale clemency for people ensnared in the War on Drugs is directly linked to the decades of work by our Clean Slate clients, staff, and partners. Through robust litigation and advocacy, we kept our clients, and all tenants in Alameda County housed in spite of the ongoing regional housing crisis. While politicians and judges volley over the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we have steadily assisted hundreds of clients apply for the program through our "kindergarten-to-college" school-based immigration clinics. Many of these clients have built their own power and are the position to directly influence immigration policies at the state and federal levels.

As we lean deeper into our Women of Color-Centered Platform and legal strategy, we also made significant changes inside our organization to reflect our vision. After a decade of service on our Board, Tiffany Thomas arose as our first African American and first woman Board Chair. Read her origin story with EBCLC on the following page. I am also grateful to Taima Beyah, who joined our executive team as EBCLC's first Chief People and Culture Officer. With her leadership, we are more meaningfully integrating racial equity into staff retention, recruitment, and relationships. We have also revised the curriculum of our seminars and trainings to ensure our 131 law students and social work interns actively engage in critical thinking about women of color centered legal services. We aim to be a racial justice organization that understands and implements the work needed to align our identity and values.

Next year, EBCLC will celebrate its 35th anniversary. I am honored to remain in partnership with UC Berkeley Law School and all of the supporters that have sustained us along this impressive journey. I am also incredibly grateful for the new relationships we are forging. I look forward to continuing to grow our power together.

Onward!

ZOË MELISSA POLK

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



I vividly remember one of my first days in EBCLC’s welfare program. I was in my cubicle, when Ms. Gracie Jones, Housing Program Manager, notified me that my client was waiting for me in the reception area.

When I approached the client, a senior African American woman, she was nervously looking around and didn’t make eye contact with me when I said hello. I addressed her by her name, and she advised me that she was here to see her “student attorney—Tiffany Thomas.” When I took her hand and told her that I was Tiffany, she looked confused and shocked. And then she gave me the most memorable smile that stayed on her face for our entire meeting. While I do not remember the particulars of her case, I’ll never forget how elated she was that I—someone who looked just like her—was her legal counsel.

When I became EBCLC’s first African American and first woman Board Chair this year, I thought about that client. And I thought about all of the clients who are affirmed by EBCLC’s leadership being reflective of our majority client base. I also thought about Ms. Gracie Jones, who is now celebrating her 20th year of providing legal services at EBCLC. I am deeply honored to steward an organization that values women of color.

As Board Chair, it has been wonderful to reconnect with fellow EBCLC alumni. Their partnership, including as donors, staff members, and advocates for EBCLC makes our organization special and sustainable. This year, we launched our second annual alumni survey. We learned that our graduates are holding EBCLC values—integrity, justice, and racial equity—close and are excited to re-engage with us. We are looking forward to strengthening our alumni network.

Thank you to my fellow Board Members for your continued leadership of EBCLC. And thank you to our powerful staff for making EBCLC such an impactful organization.

TIFFANY RENEE THOMAS

WOMEN OF COLOR-CENTERED PLATFORM

EBCLC centers women of color as catalysts to transform and uplift entire families and communities. We will continue to invest in strategies and solutions for women of color through our platform, which underpins our services.

A LIVING WAGE:

Compensation for essential workers and their families must be commensurate to their value.

AN ENFORCEABLE RIGHT TO HOUSING:

All back rent must be waived and the eviction moratorium extended until the structural changes are made by the state and local government to address redlining.

RELIEF AND FREEDOM FOR OUR UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

who kept our economy afloat during COVID-19. This must include expansion of DACA.

RELEASE AND REPARATIONS FOR ALL ENSNARED IN THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS:

Universal recognition that drug laws and enforcement must be accompanied by meaningful action to address the harm.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL INCARCERATED YOUTH:

Investments must be made in families not the school-to-prison pipeline.

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL:

Healthcare facilities address racial disparities in health outcomes. They ensure that their providers do not discriminate against their staff or patients.

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME:

Meaningful cash disbursements that allow communities of color to compete with generational and historically white wealth.

CANCELLATION OF STUDENT DEBT:

Student loan forgiveness will ensure that historic unemployment and a slow economy will not impoverish primarily Black borrowers.



OUR IMPACT

In the last year, EBCLC made the following impact:

5,400

critical legal services provided

\$1,000,000

in public benefits secured for clients and their families

250

tenants enabled to fight back against unlawful landlord harassment

42

clients received in-depth support from EBCLC's social workers and social work students

150

clients supported to navigate municipal fines and fees

640

applications filed for DACA Renewals and other immigration relief

131

students trained alongside our attorneys and social workers to provide holistic services to our clients

50

free refurbished computers and hotspots distributed to clients in partnership with PCs for People and Indeed



OUR PROGRAMS

THE CLEAN SLATE CLINIC provides legal services at the intersection of criminal and employment law. It represents clients on post-conviction record remedies in criminal court and engages in local and statewide criminal justice reform, particularly related to court debt and the criminalization of homelessness.

THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC JUSTICE CLINIC provides legal, technical assistance to organizers in building community resources such as land trusts, cooperatives, and credit unions. It also advances community benefits and policies that build long-term solutions to poverty.

THE CONSUMER JUSTICE CLINIC provides hands-on assistance and representation on various consumer issues, including debt-collection defense, student loans, car fraud, predatory lending, and consumer scams.

THE EDUCATION DEFENSE AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH (EDJY) PROGRAM provides representation to youth ensnared at the intersection of the juvenile legal and education systems. EDJY is comprised of two clinics: the Youth Defender Clinic and the Education Justice Clinic. EDJY attorneys and advocates in both clinics work together to provide support and representation in delinquency, school expulsion, and special education matters.

THE HEALTH AND WELFARE CLINIC provides critical legal services to individuals through medical-legal partnerships with local healthcare providers. The team works to provide stability for their clients at risk of poor health outcomes due to poverty, unsafe housing conditions, discrimination, homelessness, and/or inadequate health coverage.

THE HOUSING CLINIC is a high-volume, fast-paced litigation practice designed to protect and promote safe, healthy, and affordable housing for low-income tenants through eviction defense and local policy advocacy.

THE IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC provides holistic immigration legal services focusing on the most vulnerable

populations—people with disabilities and chronic illness, LGBTQ+ community members, and youth through its 'kindergarten-to-college' school-based immigration clinics.

THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM uniquely integrates social workers and social work students as part of EBCLC's legal teams. Social workers and students collaborate with EBCLC attorneys and other staff to provide holistic representation to individuals experiencing a broad range of legal problems in the EDJY Program, and Immigration Law and Housing Clinics. This model helps address the underlying causes that bring clients into contact with the legal system and provides wraparound support for those individuals and their families.



FEATURED CLIENT STORIES



“[I am] beyond grateful for all the services me and my family had received from EBCLC. Every time I go to the Social Security office, I feel desperate because I do not speak English and they treat me badly. EBCLC makes me feel seen and important.”

MARIA'S STORY

Maria is a long-time client and beneficiary of EBCLC's integrated services. At the start of the school year, her child's disability benefits were terminated abruptly.

The notices were in English and Maria is a monolingual Spanish speaker, so she was unable to take action until it was too late. This impacted the family's finances, since the benefits were a significant part of their income. The Health and Welfare Clinic worked with Maria to file an appeal along with a statement of good cause for late filing due to the inadequate notice. The Health and Welfare team also contacted the local Social Security Administration field office to reinstate her son's disability benefits while the appeal was pending.

With the sudden loss of income, Maria faced financial instability and was concerned about her family's ability to pay rent. Staff advised her that with Alameda County's eviction moratorium, which EBCLC advocated for, she could not be evicted for nonpayment of rent. Maria's children also received a free refurbished computer which EBCLC distributed to clients in partnership with PCs for People and Indeed.



S' STORY

S is a 20-year-old immigrant from Mexico. Earlier this year, her mother passed away and left S as the sole caretaker of her three younger siblings.

The Immigration Law Clinic previously represented S in a U visa* derivative case connected to her mother. In response to her mother's passing, the Clinic pivoted their approach to seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for S by filing for successor guardianship with another family member.

Around the time of her mother's passing, her mother's abuser moved back into the home claiming that he was a lawful tenant, threatening the safety of S and her sisters. On top of this, the family was many months behind on rent and was facing eviction. S was having trouble connecting with the various housing programs to get advice and rental assistance without support.

EBCLC's social workers began working with S to help her navigate multiple stressors. The Housing and Immigration teams collaborated to learn more about possible resources in the area and to resolve her eviction threat. Ultimately, S was approved for a housing voucher. She is now receiving a stipend of \$1800 per month to cover the entire rent of her family's new apartment for a year. She has also stabilized financially – S is now working as receptionist and receiving Calworks for the care of her sisters.

** U visa, or U nonimmigrant status, is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation of criminal activity.*



KEY VICTORIES AND POLICY WINS

EXAMPLES OF OUR POLICY WORK IN THE PAST YEAR INCLUDE:

- Continuing the Eviction Moratorium.** With the longest and strongest eviction moratorium still in place, our Housing team has been advocating for clients experiencing landlord harassment. In addition to direct client services, EBCLC is advocating for the Board of Supervisors to phase out the lifting of eviction moratoria in several stages to ensure that the most at-risk residents receive ongoing protection from eviction. EBCLC also advocated for just cause provisions to be extended to unincorporated cities in Alameda County.
- Protecting Youth from Surveillance.** AB 2658 will require probation to track data regarding the use of electronic (GPS) monitoring on youth, and cross-reference this data with information about the youth's age, race, and gender. Probation will also be prohibited from using GPS ankle monitors as recording or eavesdropping devices.
- Limiting Criminal Background Checks.** AB 1720 will remove barriers from the criminal background check process for people, particularly women of color, applying to work at care facilities.
- Protecting Consumers.** SB633 requires businesses to provide translations of notices to co-signers on all consumer credit transactions. It gives the state's monolingual residents stronger consumer protections and rights by informing a co-signors and warning of their obligations if the primary borrower defaults.
- Reforming Civil Assessments.** With AB 199, California has significantly changed its traffic court late fees or 'civil assessments.' All civil assessments on or after July 1, 2022, must be set at no more than \$100. Debt from any civil assessment late fees before July 1, 2022, have now been eliminated.
- Reforming Immigration.** Advocated for expansion of DACA and relief and freedom for all undocumented community members. Despite judicial attacks, EBCLC continues to legal consultation and renewals of DACA applications, through our "kindergarten to college" school-based immigration clinics.

CLINICAL EDUCATION

EBCLC maintains a dynamic collaboration between clinical supervising attorneys and law students. Over the past year, 131 law and social work students received training as community lawyers and client-centered advocates.

“The work I did in Housing Clinic was perfectly reinforced by the discussions we had as clinical students during our weekly seminars. We discussed the underpinnings of community lawyering - empathy, trust-building..., and leveling the playing field in a legal realm that is often anything but equal. These were values embraced by everyone at EBCLC, staff and students alike, and it was amazing to be exposed to ideas seldom broached in my doctrinal classes. Even when nothing else about law school, the future, or my career seemed certain, I came back to these values. I knew they represented the type of lawyer I wanted to become.”

— **HADLEY ROOD, CLASS OF 2022, HOUSING CLINIC**

“The work at the EBCLC never felt disconnected from the realities of the world around us. I felt that I was truly helpful, working to protect my clients against the harshness of uncaring bureaucracies...I am eternally grateful to have been surrounded by so many brilliant, radical people and to have had the opportunity to learn from them in such a pivotal summer.”

— **KARNIK HAJJAR, CLASS OF 2022, HEALTH & WELFARE AND CLEAN SLATE CLINICS**

“As EDJY advocates, we have the privilege of being invited in by our youth and their families to hear their stories, their strengths, and their struggles...Being EDJY advocates, we walk alongside our youth during some of the darkest times of their lives. We advocate for and with them. We utilize the healing power that storytelling and positive relationships have. Many of our youth are taught to believe that they are voiceless and that their story is not worth telling. They then internalize the dominant, and harmful, beliefs this society has about them. EDJY strives to liberate our youth from these constraints by helping them recognize that they are not the problem and allowing them to re-author their story.”

— **VANESSA SORIA, EDUCATION DEFENSE AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH PROGRAM SOCIAL WORK INTERN**

ORGANIZATIONAL INVESTMENTS

**WHO ARE
EBCLC
STAFF?**

52%
ARE CAREGIVERS



64%
ARE WOMEN
OF COLOR

14%
IDENTIFY AS
TRANSGENDER OR
NON-BINARY

80%
IDENTIFY
AS BIPOC

82%
IDENTIFY
AS WOMEN



66%
OF PROGRAM STAFF
USE MULTIPLE
LANGUAGES IN THEIR
WORK AT EBCLC



33%
IDENTIFY AS
LGBTQIA+

AS WE ADVANCE OUR WOMEN OF COLOR-CENTERED LEGAL STRATEGY, OUR ORGANIZATION IS CHANGING TO REFLECT OUR VISION. HERE'S HOW STAFF ARE RESPONDING:



“I was excited to join an organization that unapologetically centers the dreams and demands of women of color. This platform is visible not just in our community-facing work but also inside EBCLC, in conversations about wellness, personal boundaries and professional advancement. I feel valued and celebrated for both my skills and my personal journey.”

— ATASI UPPAL, CO-DIRECTOR, EDUCATION DEFENSE AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH PROGRAM



“I joined EBCLC because the organization’s central mission is tightly aligned with my beliefs and the platform would allow me to provide a greater reach. After more than a year into my role, I’m seeing the unconsidered benefits of working at EBCLC—my own needs as a woman of color and primary caretaker are fostered by a supportive leadership team that understands me on a holistic level.”

— DESIREE NGUYEN ORTH, DIRECTOR, CONSUMER JUSTICE CLINIC



“There is real world understanding embedded in women of color leadership that embodies authenticity. The distorted thinking created by White patriarchy and White supremacy is disrupted, creating space for affirmation and empowerment.”

— TAIMA BEYAH, CHIEF PEOPLE AND CULTURE OFFICER



“I’ve worked for organizations focused on addressing economic inequality and poverty for over 20 years. This experience has taught me these problems are rooted in systems of oppression and marginalization. I’m proud to work for EBCLC because being led by women of color and centering women of color in its work ensures EBCLC is creating solutions that strike at the heart of these systems of oppression.”

— JULIA STEWART, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



“I was drawn to EBCLC partially due to its Women of Color-Centered Platform. I believe that in serving women of color, entire communities benefit. Within EBCLC specifically, working amongst fellow women of color awards me a level of mentorship and visibility that is unfortunately non-existent in most predominantly white institutions.”

— MILAT GETU, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

FINANCIALS

Updated: November 14, 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

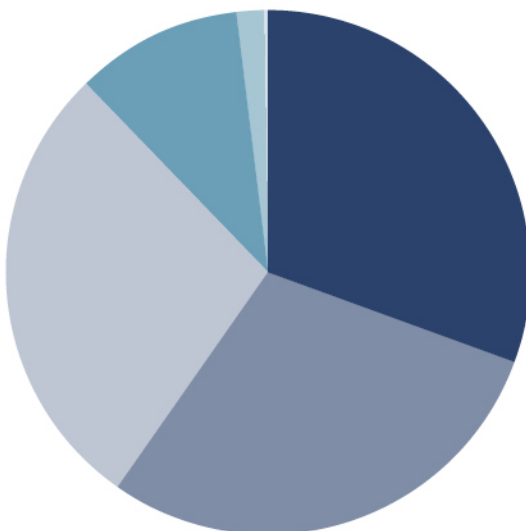
ASSETS	FY2022	FY2021
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,951,534	4,357,364
Cash held in trust	400,735	422,174
Investments	1,801,278	2,005,232
Grants, pledges and accounts receivable	1,668,065	1,643,741
Prepaid expenses	124,696	168,949
Total Current Assets	9,946,308	8,597,460
Noncurrent grants and pledges receivable	120,000	240,000
Property and equipment, net	1,487,202	1,536,694
Deposits	29,456	29,328
Total Assets	11,582,966	10,403,482
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	151,375	128,398
Accrued vacation	495,565	477,406
Deferred revenue	800,975	343,608
Client trust accounts	400,141	421,580
Total Liabilities	1,848,056	1,370,992
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	6,604,213	5,834,258
With donor restrictions	3,130,697	3,198,232
Total Net Assets	9,734,910	9,032,490
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	11,582,966	10,403,482



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Support and Revenue			
Support			
Government awards	3,248,997	-	3,248,997
Foundation and community grants	761,482	2,320,000	3,081,482
Contributions	2,323,101	622,522	2,945,623
In-kind Services	159,250	-	159,250
Total Support	6,492,830	2,942,522	9,435,352
Revenue			
Affiliation Agreement	1,104,803	-	1,104,803
Attorney fees and costs	12,726	-	12,726
Investment activity, net	(203,147)	-	(203,147)
Other	13,504	-	13,504
Total Revenue	927,886	-	927,886
Support provided by expiring time and purpose restrictions	3,010,057	(3,010,057)	-
Total Support and Revenue	10,430,773	(67,535)	10,363,238
Expenses			
Program	7,418,361	-	7,406,644
Management and General	1,429,627	-	1,442,046
Fundraising	812,830	-	812,128
Total Expenses	9,660,818	-	9,660,818
Change in Net Assets	769,955	(67,535)	702,420
Net Assets, beginning of year	5,834,258	3,198,232	9,032,490
Net Assets, end of year	6,604,213	3,130,697	9,734,910

ANNUAL REVENUE BREAKDOWN



- **Government Awards: 3,248,997 (30.7%)**
- **Foundation and Community Grants: 3,081,482 (29.2%)**
- **Contributions: 2,945,623 (27.9%)**
- **Affiliation Agreement: 1,104,803 (10.5%)**
- **In-kind Services: 159,250 (1.5%)**
- **Attorney Fees and Costs: 12,726 (0.1%)**
- **Other: 13,504 (0.1%)**

TOTAL: 10,566,385

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Our work is made possible because of your support. We extend appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, law firms, and businesses who contributed to EBCLC between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

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