

**MJF**  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
**2018**



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



During this past year, our 37th, MJF continued to partner with 130 legal services providers across the state. We are honored to be part of helping close the justice gap in Minnesota. During the 2017-2018 school year law students filled 1,100 placements and provided 22,000 hours of service to 8,000 clients.

In addition to working with legal aid staff attorneys, about one third of our positions are with volunteer pro bono attorneys who are doing their part to close the justice gap. We increased the number of self-represented litigant clinics to 50 around the state. Students help clients prepare documents for dissolutions, wills and criminal/housing expungements, and when complete, volunteer attorneys review the paperwork and give advice on next steps.

Street Law celebrated 20 years of service to Twin Cities high schools this past year. We trained 56 law students and placed them in 27 low-income classrooms to teach rights and responsibilities under the law.

Rounding out the list of programs is our long-standing Summer Clerkship Program. Last summer's 17 clerks brought the total to 655 summer clerks since the program started in 1983.

As we move into the next year we remain committed to our mission of increasing access to justice and instilling an ethic of pro bono service in the law student community. We are very grateful to the law firms, law schools, individuals and foundations that support our work.

We could not do it without you.

Thank you,  
Janine Laird

# MJF SUMMER CLERKSHIPS

The Summer Clerkship Program is MJF's oldest program. Each year, MJF raises funds which are used to pay the stipends of law students who work full time at a legal service agency for the summer. During the summer of 2018, MJF funded twelve student clerkships in the metro area, and four in greater Minnesota:

Katie Arndt (UST): Legal Assistance of Dakota County, Ltd.

Maggie Blaisdell (UMN): Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Becky Bradish (UMN): JustUs Health

Hannah Camilleri Hughes (UMN): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Minnesota Disability Law Center

Cindy Chooraman (UST): Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights

Lucas Curtis (UMN): Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc.

Thomas Godfrey (UST): Office of the Public Defender: 10th Judicial District

Graciela Hernandez (MHSL): Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

Eden Iwu (MHSL): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Family Law Unit

Kaylynn Johnson (MHSL): Central Minnesota Legal Services

Rachel Lochner (UMN): Housing Justice Center

Maren Magill (UMN): Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota

Emilee Meyer (UST): Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota

Adriana Orman (MHSL): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Youth Law Project

Megan Pierce-Campbell (UST): Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Southwest Region

Kelli Thiel (MHSL): Anishinabe Legal Services

Aleena Wilson (MHSL): Tubman

## STUDENT-FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS

MJF student chapters at each law school also raise funds for students to fill summer clerk positions in public interest: the Public Interest Law Fellowships (PILF) at Mitchell Hamline and the University of St. Thomas and the Public Interest Clerkships (PIC) at the University of Minnesota. Each of the law school student chapters have unique processes for selecting which PILF/PIC applications are funded, and they raise money in various ways, including silent auctions and chili cookoffs. During the Summer of 2018, eight full-time and two part-time fellowships were funded:

Kim Boche (UST): Catholic Legal Immigration Network (half-PILF)

Laura Kvasnicka (UST) Children's Law Center (half-PILF);

Alicia Linzmeier (UMN): Tenth Judicial District Public Defender's Office

Anneliese McCahery (MHSL): Ramsey County Public Defender's Office

Hanna Alick (UMN): Center for Constitutional Rights

James Rasmussen (UST) Wisconsin Public Defender's Office

Megan Square (UMN): Mid-Minnesota legal Assistance

Kayla Taggart (MHSL); Neighborhood Justice Center

Hannah Young (MHSL): Innocence Project of Minnesota

"This summer, I served as a Minnesota Justice Foundation certified student attorney with Tubman in the Minneapolis office. I was privileged to work for the Safety Project at Tubman which worked primarily with orders for protection and also the family law program.

"Working with Tubman was a hands-on experience serving clients who lived through a traumatic experience and had emotionally charged legal endeavors ahead of them. The opportunity to work for a non-profit this summer has not only allowed me to gain invaluable courtroom experience but also pushed me to be more creative in problem solving as I work with clients from diverse backgrounds.

"I am grateful to have been part of such a welcoming and committed team at Tubman. I learned so much about myself and the legal world. Nonprofit work is truly admirable and I will always remember this experience."

"This summer I had the privilege of working as a Minnesota Justice Foundation clerk at Anishinabe Legal Services on the Leech Lake Reservation. Working at Anishinabe Legal Services provided me with an opportunity to apply my legal knowledge and test the skills I have been developing in my first two years as a law student. Reading legal textbooks and taking exams can only get you so far. I think that the best way to learn anything, is to actually do it and this clerkship gave me an opportunity to do just that. I never would have learned the finer procedural aspects of practicing law or the best way to interact with clients if I hadn't had this clerkship."

# STREET LAW

Street Law is a program of MJF in which law student volunteers teach legal rights, responsibilities and resources to middle school and high school students. Many of the classrooms where the students teach are in alternative learning centers and charter schools. Some of the high school students have been court involved and/or have not been successful in traditional school settings. During the spring of 2018, 59 law student volunteers participated in the program, teaching in 25 classrooms (at 15 schools in the metro area) where they taught teens their rights and responsibilities in our society. The number of teenage students in each classroom averaged 15.

Prior to teaching, the law students attend an intensive two-day training covering substantive areas of law, guidance about how to create a lesson plan, and how to teach in an interactive and engaging way. After training, the law students are given access to an online collection of resources and lesson plan examples to prepare for teaching.

MJF and the students have been fortunate to have the assistance of volunteer attorneys to assist with teaching. The attorneys provided insight into areas of law that are very technical, such as immigration. It was also exciting for the classroom students to meet attorneys and learn about their career path.

Street Law is a “win-win” program. The young people earn practical knowledge; at the same time, law students learn more about the law by teaching it to others.



## 2018 Street Law schools

Augsburg Fairview Academy	Journeys
Boys Totem Town	Lake Nokomis Community School —
Brooklyn Center Secondary	Keewaydin Campus
Burnsville Alternative	Minnesota Internship Center —
Career Pathways	Downtown
Community Learning Project	Minnesota Internship Center — Rondo
Epsilon	Minnesota Internship Center — Unity
Field Community School	Omegon District 287
Franklin Middle School	Sanford Middle School
High School for the Recording Arts	Transition Plus Services
Hubert Humphrey Job Corps	Washington Technology Magnet

# ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

At our Annual Awards Celebration, held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, MJF honored outstanding individuals in the Minnesota legal community.

The winners of the 2018 Outstanding Service Awards were:

Advocate Award: **Imani Jaafar**,  
City of Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights  
Direct Legal Service Award: **Elizabeth Sauer**,  
Central Minnesota Legal Services  
Private Practice Lawyer Award: **Timothy McLarnan**,  
McLarnan & Skatvold, Moorhead, MN  
Law Student Awards:  
**Royzetta Evans**, Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
**Susan Craig, M.D.**, University of Minnesota Law School  
**Jonathan Snyder**, University of St. Thomas School of Law



*Judge David Stras (center).  
Photos by George Byron Griffiths*



*Executive Director Janine Laird and MJF board President Jack Sullivan present the Outstanding Service Award to Imani Jaafar.*

Our keynote speaker at the Annual Awards Celebration was **Judge David Stras**, who spoke on the topic of “The Rule of Law and Family History.” Judge Stras received his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1999. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Melvin Brunetti of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the Honorable J. Michael Luttig of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Honorable Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States. He was a member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota Law School from 2004 through 2010 and is the co-author of a casebook, *Federal Courts: Cases and Materials on Judicial Federalism and the Lawyering Process*, published by Carolina Academic Press. He has been a judge for eight years, first as an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court and then as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He joined the Eighth Circuit on January 31, 2018.

The Annual Awards Celebration was attended by over 200 people, representing over twenty Minnesota law firms, schools and other organizations. The event raised over \$54,000 for MJF’s work serving low-income populations.

# VOLUNTEER STATISTICS 2017-2018

1,200+  
Volunteer  
Placements

A white silhouette of a person standing and holding a briefcase, positioned to the right of the text.

22,000+  
Volunteer  
Hours

A white silhouette of a person holding a globe above their head, positioned to the right of the text.

130  
Organizational  
Partners

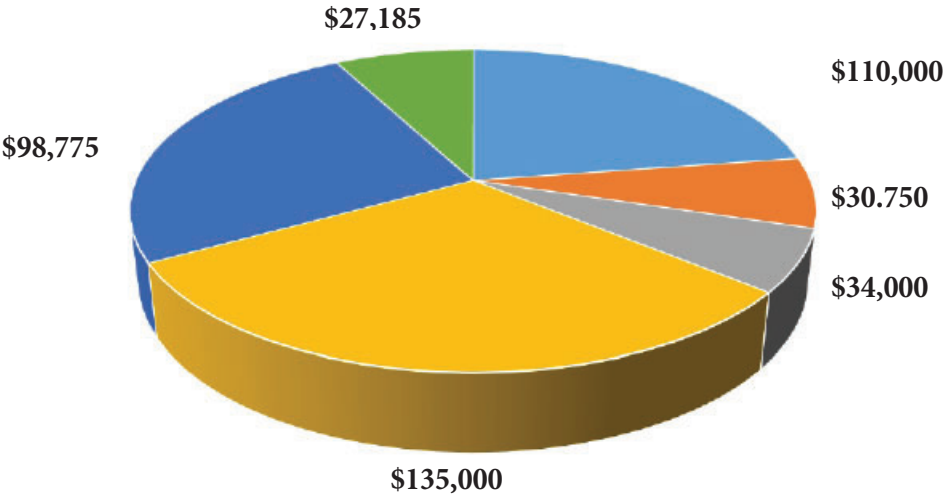
A white silhouette of a tree with many leaves, positioned to the left of the text.

7,100+  
Clients  
Served

A white silhouette of two people high-fiving, positioned to the left of the text.

# MJF FINANCIALS

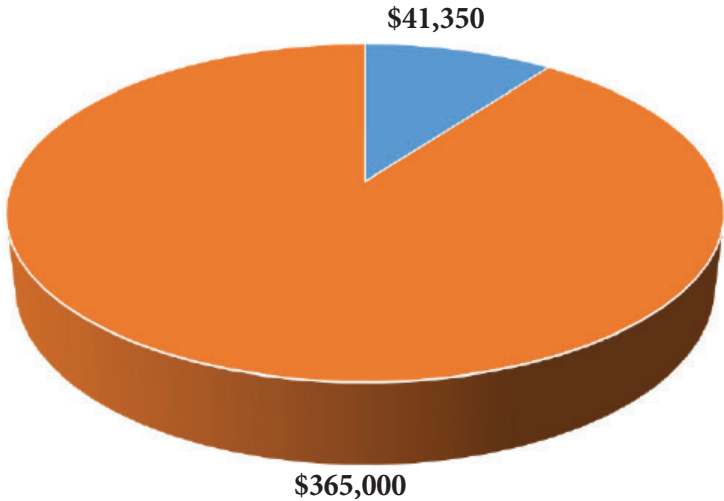
FY 2018 OPERATING INCOME



Total = \$435,710

- Law Firms
- Foundations
- Individuals
- Law Schools
- Government Grants
- Other Income

FY 2018 OPERATING EXPENSES



Total = \$406,350

- Management & Fundraising
- Program Expenses



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