

MJF
ANNUAL
REPORT
2021



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings from MJF!

MJF's mission is to strive for justice by creating opportunities for law students to perform public interest and pro bono legal services. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, approaching our 40th year in operation, MJF aimed to identify opportunities for law students to be involved in remote and hybrid work to support our partner agencies in continuing to serve their clients and advance access to justice for all. We adapted our Street Law program for remote delivery and added a special voting curriculum for Fall 2020 designed by Street Law volunteers Yemaya Hanna (UMN '22), Hannah Stephan (UMN '22), Brooke Trottier (UST '22) and Alexandria Yakes (UMN '22). If you'd like to get involved with the Street Law program, please find more information [here](#).

Summer 2021 was the second year of operating the Summer Fellowship Program in a remote/hybrid manner. We appreciate the flexibility and adaptability of the fellows and host agencies. This program is MJF's longest-running program and continues to be a great benefit to the host agencies, the fellows, and the clients they assist across Minnesota. Thank you to the many supporters of this program around the state who made funding 19 fellows possible. Applications to host fellows through this program open in the fall of each year and more information can be found [here](#). If you are a former summer fellow reading this, please visit [this form](#) to share a story about how your summer fellowship experience has impacted your career.

If you would like a law student volunteer to help with a public interest or pro bono project this coming year, please fill out [this form](#).

Thank you to Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Natalie Hudson for serving as the keynote speaker at our 2021 Annual Awards Celebration. Please save the date for our upcoming 40th Anniversary Awards Celebration on Wednesday, September 28th, featuring Robin Maher as the keynote speaker. This event will have a remote attendance option. For tickets, visit [here](#). In celebration of MJF's 40th anniversary, we invite our community to share memories of MJF from over the years via [this form](#).

Sincerely,
Anna Beadle
Executive Director

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

The Summer Fellowship Program (formerly 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 2021, MJF funded fourteen student clerkships in the metro area, and five in greater Minnesota:

Ben Swankier at Anishinabe Legal Services
Lily-Ann Hastings at Council on American-Islamic Relations
Hannah Burton at Central Minnesota Legal Services
Zachary Bueltel at Children's Law Center of Minnesota
Benjamin Gleekel at Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota
Claire Paulsen at Legal Assistance of Dakota County, Ltd
Yastril Nañez at Legal Rights Center
Lanie Krause at Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
Kevin Swanberg at Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Rachel Glissmann at Rainbow Health
Anika Reza at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Economic Justice
Chris Hinze at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Housing
Madison Barber at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Mankato
Victoria Blakeborough at Standpoint
Katherine Santamaria Mendez at Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Abdiasis Hirsi at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Immigration
Kendall Prior at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Disability Law Center
Wesley Cao at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Housing Discrimination Law Project
Kelly Carlson at White Earth Tribal Court

STUDENT-FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS

MJF student chapters at each law school also raise money to provide funds for students with unpaid summer positions in public interest through 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.

During the Summer of 2021, the student chapters funded six fellowships:

Brien Drake, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, full-time at the First Judicial District Public Defender's Office
Ashley Fischer, University of St. Thomas School of Law, full-time at MacArthur Justice Center
Andrea Meitler, University of St. Thomas School of Law, full-time at U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico
Dylan Saul, University of Minnesota Law School, full-time at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
Monica Shaffer, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, part-time at Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Alida Weidensee, University of Minnesota Law School, full-time at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Immigration Law Project

LAW SCHOOL PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

The Law School Public Service Program (LSPSP) is a collaborative effort of MJF, the Minnesota law schools, the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA), and legal service providers throughout Minnesota, to promote an ethic of public service in Minnesota law students and to increase access to justice for all Minnesotans.

MJF matches interested law students with volunteer opportunities in the Twin Cities metro area and in Greater Minnesota. Volunteer opportunities are available with varying time commitments, in a variety of legal subject areas. Students may also create their own volunteer placements at organizations within or beyond Minnesota, provided their volunteer work is: 1) law-related in subject matter; 2) public service or public interest-related; 3) unpaid; and 4) not for academic credit.

Volunteering through MJF introduces students to the real practice of law and gives them valuable experience and knowledge that helps them to become better lawyers. Volunteering also introduces students to practitioners in their fields of interest who can provide references, advice, and career guidance.

AGENCY PARTNERS

Advocates for Human Rights
American Civil Liberties Union- Minnesota Chapter
Asylum Law Project
Central Minnesota Legal Services- St. Cloud
Central Minnesota Legal Services- Willmar
Children's Dental Services
Children's Law Center of Minnesota
City of St Paul Human Rights Division
CloseKnit: Loving youth out of homelessness
Collaborative Community Law Initiative
Community Mediation and Restorative Services
Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Enivar

Foster Advocates
Fox Rothschild LLP
Great North Innocence Project
Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem Program
HOME Line
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
International Leadership Institute
Judicare of Anoka County
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: National
Anti-Eviction Project
Legal Assistance of Olmsted County
Legal Rights Center
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Legal Services State Support

AGENCY PARTNERS

Legal Services State Support
Maslon
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Minneapolis City Attorney's Office
Minneapolis Police Conduct Oversight Commission
Minnesota Alliance for Sustainable Pension Investment
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Elder Justice Center
Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee
Minnesota Justice Foundation
Minnesota State Bar Association
Minnesota Urban Debate League
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
National Lawyers Guild
Neighborhood Justice Center
North High School
Office of the Federal Defender- District of Minnesota
Pipeline Legal Action Network
Prepare + Prosper
Public Defender- 10th District (Anoka)
Public Defender- 10th District (Stillwater)
Public Defender- 1st District (Carver/Scott)
Public Defender- 4th District (Hennepin County)
Public Defender- 6th District (Duluth) Restorative Justice Community Action
SCOTUS Notes Project
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services- Austin
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services- Ramsey County Volunteer Attorney Program
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services- St. Paul
St. Croix Legal Services
Standpoint
Strong & Starlike Consulting, Inc.
Taft
The Historyapolis Project
Trellis Pension and Retirement Rights
Tubman
Tubman- East
Twin Cities Housing Justice Research Collective
University of Minnesota Law School
University of Minnesota Student Legal Services
University of St. Thomas School of Law
Violence Free Minnesota
Volunteer Lawyers Network
Washington County Attorney's Office
Washington County Community Circles

STREET LAW

During the Fall semester of 2020, MJF partnered with four incredibly dedicated law students to plan and train other law students to implement a special Street Law “Get Out the Vote” Project. MJF and the four planning students recruited other law students who volunteered in two different ways: either synchronous teaching via virtual platforms or pre-recording sessions for teachers to use with their students to teach the following curriculum:

Session One: Voting in Minnesota

Session Two: Learning about Candidates and Policies

Session Three: Modern Issues in Voting

Lake Nokomis Community School, Keewaydin Campus

Washington Technology Magnet School

Sanford Middle School AVID Classroom

Burnsville Alternative High School

Sanford Middle School AVID Classroom

This project was well-received by classroom teachers and their students. It was truly inspiring to see the creativity, engaging sessions, and enthusiasm about voting that the law students naturally brought to these community classrooms.

Know the Law / Know Your Rights

S - Stay aware

T - Tell them you want an attorney and remain silent

A - Ask if you are free to leave

N - Never consent to a search

D - Do what it takes to get home safely

STREET LAW CLASSROOMS 2021

Alliance Education Center

Augsburg Fairview Academy

Brooklyn Center Secondary

Downtown School- St. Paul

Epsilon High School

Franklin Middle School

Lake Nokomis Community School,

Keewaydin Campus

Sanford Middle School

Transition Plus Services

Washington Technology Magnet

School

VIRTUAL ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

For the second year in a row, MJF hosted an online version of our Annual Awards Celebration! Our guests joined us on October 27, 2021 to watch keynote speaker **Justice Natalie Hudson** and to hear from the winners of our 2020 Outstanding Service Awards.

Justice Natalie Hudson joined the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2015 by appointment of Governor Mark Dayton. She was elected in 2016 and her current term expires January 2023. Justice Hudson served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals from 2002-2015.

Justice Hudson was a staff attorney with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (1982-1986); an associate attorney at Robins, Kaplan, Miller, and Ciresi (1986-1988); Assistant Dean of Students at Hamline University School of Law (1989-1992); St. Paul City Attorney (1992-1994); and an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of Minnesota Attorney General, Criminal Appellate Division (1994-2004). Justice Hudson received her B.A. from Arizona State University and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.



Keynote speaker Justice Natalie Hudson

Justice Hudson is a member of American Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, Ramsey County Bar Association, Minnesota Women Lawyers, Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, Minnesota Association of Black Women Lawyers, and Warren E. Burger Inn of Court. She also serves on the Board of Advisors for the University of Minnesota Law School.

Our Outstanding Service Award winners for 2021 are:

Legal Services: **Kathy Klos**, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

Private Practice Pro Bono: **Jerry Blackwell**, Blackwell Burke P.A., **Steven Schleicher**, Maslon LLP, and **Lola Velazquez-Aguilu**, Medtronic, for their pro bono work on the prosecution team for the trial of Derek Chauvin

Advocate: **Gregg Trautwein**, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota

Law Student awards:

Samantha Prins (University of St. Thomas School of Law)

Brigid Kelly (University of Minnesota Law School)

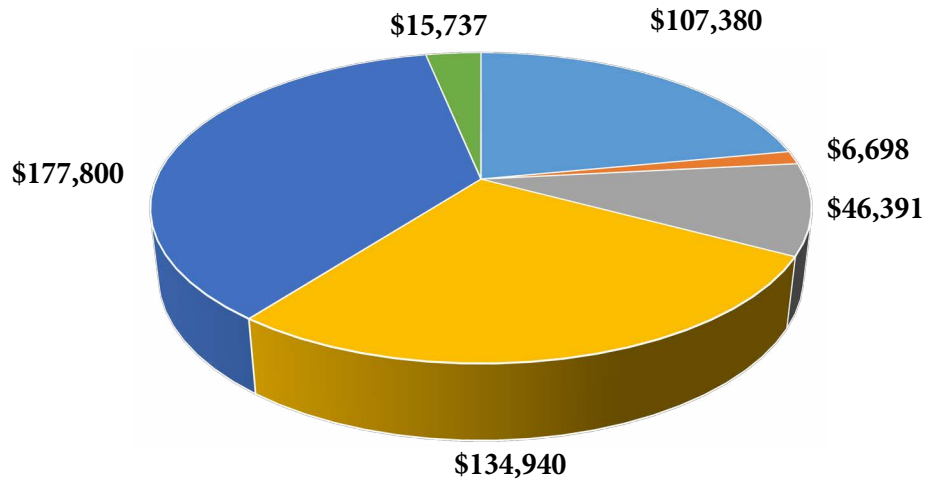
Brenda Pfahnl (Mitchell Hamline School of Law)

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS 2020-2021



FINANCIALS

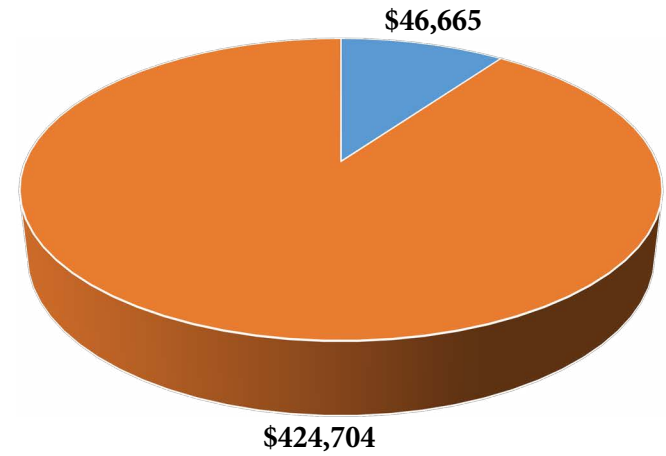
FY 2020-2021 OPERATING INCOME



Total = \$488,946

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

FY 2020-2021 OPERATING EXPENSES



Total = \$471,369

- Management & Fundraising
- Program Expenses

ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

1st District Bar Association
3rd District Bar Association
5th District Bar Association
6th District Bar Association
7th District Bar Association
9th District Bar Association
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Minnesota State Bar Foundation
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SDK CPAs
Stinson LLP
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Thomson Reuters
University of Minnesota Law School
University of St. Thomas School of Law
Van Lengerich Family Foundation
Vanguard Charitable
Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason LLP

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Our Mission

MJF strives for justice by creating opportunities for law students to perform public interest and pro bono legal services.

Our Core Values

Social Justice

We recognize that many people in our society are unable to protect their rights and to obtain justice due to their inability to afford legal services.

Professional Responsibility

We believe that it is a privilege to be trained in the law, and that it is the duty of law students and lawyers to exercise the privilege in service to the community.

Inspiration

We seek to instill in law students, and in all lawyers, an ethic of providing high quality public interest and pro bono legal services.

Integrity

We uphold high ethical standards and vigilantly protect MJF's role as an honest broker of public interest and pro bono opportunities among law students, law schools, public interest agencies, and law firms.

Autonomy

MJF was founded by law students and derives its energy and direction from students. We value MJF's autonomy from any particular law school, its administration, and its faculty and from any particular public interest agency.

Diversity

Diversity is central to MJF's strength. A diverse board of directors brings a broad range of personal, professional, and cultural perspectives to bear on decisions. A diverse staff reflects the diversity among the law students and service providers whom MJF serves. Diversity among volunteers ensures that service opportunities are available to all interested students, chosen only by ability, interest, and performance.

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Minneapolis, MN 55403
651-962-4859

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875 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-290-8658

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229 19th Avenue South
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612-625-1584