



SCLC Staff Members from Left to Right: Chelsea Manella, Madeleine Harnois, Marly Moil Lazenby, Daniel Parker, Shannon Wong, Marcos Zuñiga, Peter Grieser, Becca Maloney, Alex Doolittle

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“Your assistance helped me get my status back in society. It made me believe in myself. It's really indescribable.”
-SCLC Client, Darren

2018 Board of Directors

Chad Beck
Kelly Berg
Ross Buchanan, *Secretary*
Tom Charlesworth
Nathan Craft
Abigail Daquiz
Jay Doran
Tim Moran, *Treasurer*
Maryann Nelson, *President*
Jay Stansell
Cristy Stone

Staff

Alex Doolittle
Executive Director

Madeleine Harnois
SSAP Directing Attorney

Marly Moil-Lazenby
Paralegal

Daniel Parker
Mobile Attorney

Marcos Zuñiga
DHAP Directing Attorney

Shannon Wong
Development Coordinator

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Community,

In 2018, some long-term strategies that SCLC staff and board have been working toward for several years were successfully completed. We are grateful to have secured financial support to grow our service delivery by sixty-six percent. This growth commenced at the beginning of 2019 with the hiring of two additional attorneys and an additional paralegal. This expansion of program staff will create a more powerful program, with which we will be better able to support and help clients who are fighting for income security and housing stability.

Another milestone achieved was the purchase of our Justice Bus. We were able to break ground on this important element of our service delivery in 2018, while taking the time to carefully consider the design that best fits the needs of our clients. Thanks to the support of our donors and grantors, as well as the team of architects and builders, we are realizing our vision of a mobile legal unit. We look forward to including all of you in the Justice Bus in the weeks to come. We anticipate that the Justice Bus will begin carrying our services to communities who are currently out of reach this summer.



SCLC Executive Director, Alex KF Doolittle



Benefits Law Center
Social Security advocacy

Finally, we are proud to announce that SCLC is becoming the Benefits Law Center. We have been working toward changing the name of our organization for about ten years so that clients who need help with their benefits can find us more easily. We have grown over the years to serve all of King County. While we still serve the Seattle area from our home office and at community partner locations, we are achieving the growth we have set out to create so that we can better meet the needs of those trying to fight for economic stability in areas across King County and beyond.

We appreciate the steadfast support and increased interest from you for our clients to receive the advocacy they need. Over 1200 community members engaged with SCLC

services in 2018. Without your support, our clients and their families would not only be without Social Security benefits, but would also lose access to state benefits to which they are eligible and experience housing instability. The legal representation that clients seek at SCLC supports them in building financial and medical stability into their lives so that they may reach their goals.

As we move through 2019, we will be firmly announcing and settling into our name change. Additionally, the Benefits Law Center has several strategies that we intend to carry out over the coming months and years: 1) continue to advance our commitment to race equity and inclusion through ongoing trainings for staff and board, evaluation of policies and procedures, and ongoing evaluation of our program service delivery; 2) continue to raise capital to grow our services; 3) build guidelines for delivering on systems advocacy; and 4) continue to work to build our relationships with volunteers and community partners.

We look forward to partnering with you and our clients on these important strategies in the coming months and years. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Alex KF Doolittle
Executive Director

Program Outputs -- Your Dollars at Work

**Number of Clients
Served in 2018**

1,247



**Benefits Awarded to
Clients in 2018**

\$713,000



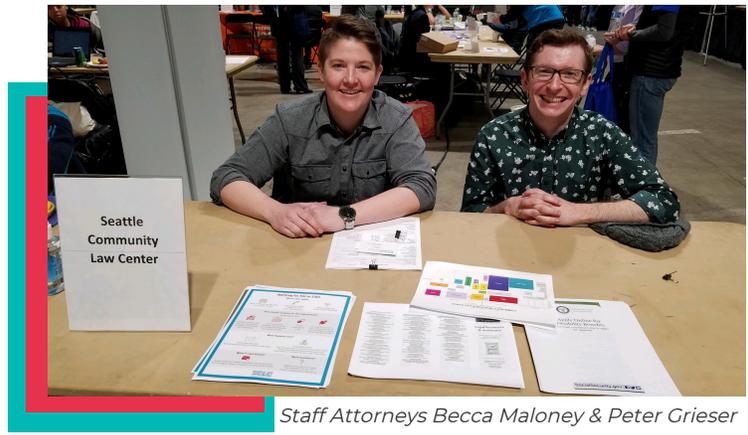
**Back Pay & Debt Relief
Secured for Clients**

\$358,000



Expanding Capacity

In 2018, SCLC engaged with over 1200 people in Social Security advocacy in King County. The growing number of people who seek our services demands the expansion of our programs so that we can continue to provide high quality services to folks as we work to meet the growing demand. Our strategies for growth are grounded in what we have learned in community with our clients. Much like when we built our Disabled Homeless Advocacy Project in 2006, this round of growth needs to be narrowly tailored to overcome particular barriers faced by low-income people who are trying to navigate the systems of legal aid and Social Security.



Staff Attorneys Becca Maloney & Peter Grieser

Increased Staffing

In 2018, the Alliance for Equal Justice secured increased funding to try and fill the gaps in civil legal for low-income people. Through this effort, SCLC was able to add a paralegal and two staff attorneys to our offices making us a team of nine people total. This expansion will allow us to better deliver services across King County with a particular focus on seniors, youth, and individuals living in South and East King County.

Supporting the Community

In addition to having more staff to deliver services to more individuals, we have also had the opportunity to increase the number of community partner or outreach locations at which we deliver services. Our four outreach locations is expanding to 7 outreach locations. The community service locations that we are partnering with include Chief Seattle Club, DESC, Mary's Place (downtown and Burien), the Multi-Service centers in Federal Way and Kent, and Open Door for Multicultural Families. We have also started working with several youth services organizations. We are very grateful to our partner organizations for providing excellent wrap-around services, and allowing us to be part of their work.

The Justice Bus

We also broke ground on the Justice Bus. Through our creation of our Mobile Legal Unit in 2017, we were able to launch a program that addresses the need for civil legal aid in South King County. This has allowed us to make stronger and more lasting relationships with clients who live in King County because we are able to easily overcome barriers like transportation and communication, and it allows us to prioritize person-to-person meetings for people who live with severe mental health impairments.

As one SCLC client stated, "SCLC ha absolutely made a difference in my life. I'm now getting benefits. Before, I had nothing." This client primarily received services from an SCLC mobile attorney in a public library. We can't wait to be able to bring our office to our clients.

The Justice Bus is going to allow our Mobile Legal Unit to be mobile. We will be able to meet people in locations that are easily accessible to them and also operate out of a fully-equipped law office. Follow our journey on Instagram at @justicebus as we work to complete this capitol project.

Thank you Community Partners

- Chief Seattle Club
- DESC
- Mary's Place
- KCBA Mentorship Program
- Multiservice Center of Kent & Federal Way

In the community in 2018:



We led a mentorship program with the King County Bar Association to teach attorneys on how to take Social Security cases that do not generate fees.



We held twelve community information trainings for human services staff.



We created volunteer attorney trainings to help extend the knowledge base of navigating the Social Security Administration.



The Justice Bus Becomes a Reality

Follow along on the journey!



[instagram.com/justicebus](https://www.instagram.com/justicebus)

Did you know?

A person is
3x as likely

to be approved for benefits if they have attorney representation



In King County,
1 in 3
homeless people live with severe mental or physical disabilities



If denied benefits upon initial application it can take

14 months

for a hearing to be scheduled at Social Security's Seattle office



Allen's Story

After being attacked by several men, Allen was hospitalized and faced permanent adverse changes to his mental capabilities. Since then, Allen has experienced significant difficulties with short-term memory, attention, and cognitive abilities to the point that his mental impairments have prevented him from being able to keep a steady job.

After ten years without any work, Allen secured a series of jobs from employers who were willing to accommodate his disabilities. Allen understood that Social Security encouraged and incentivized his work. But he did not have cognitive capacity to understand the strict rules around returning to work.

He was surprised, confused, and scared when he received a letter from Social Security telling him that they had paid him over \$74,000 too much in benefits and that he needed to repay that money immediately. He was shocked, and he contacted SCLC for help.

After appealing SSA's decision and being denied two times, SCLC stuck with Allen and helped him request a hearing on the issue. Although Allen was working, his employers were providing him with appropriate accommodations, and Social Security failed to categorize his employment as a "subsidized work environment." SCLC's advocacy resulted in the correction of this error, and the elimination of the overpayment under the rule of law.

The judge found that Allen did his best to comply with all of the rules required by Social Security, and that due to his limited mental capacity he did not have the ability to fully understand the technical nature of the rules independently.

Allen won his case.



Photo by Daniel Behrman Photo

“ You guys are my angels, I don't know what I would do without you. ”

-SCLC Client, Stephanie

Volunteer of the Year

Abigail Daquiz

Abigail (Abby) Daquiz has served on the Board of Directors for SCLC for three years. Through her work as an attorney at the US Department of Labor, and as an experienced leader in the community, Abby has a well-developed understanding of the Washington State civil legal aid delivery system. Abby joined the board in September of 2016 after witnessing the barriers SCLC clients face while trying to gain access to the Social Security system. "I am constantly amazed and energized by the level of expertise and compassion that come from the staff and volunteers at SCLC. It's now so much more clear to me about what it means to truly be a community lawyer."

Of the many reasons that Abby decided to join SCLC as a volunteer, one that was most important to her was how SCLC works so closely with the community. "It is helping people, right here, right now, find stability. Someone who will advocate for them so they can stop just surviving, and instead move on to what is next for them. And that's just really cool, to be close to the ground in that regard."

Since joining the board, Abby has worked tirelessly with the board and staff to make SCLC services accessible to everyone in our community who can benefit from them. When asked what she is most proud of about working with SCLC she stated, "how much we can do with so little money! We've talked about it in civil legal aid circles about the struggles to making services available to those who need it, and SCLC is a great example of the right way to do it. I think how SCLC prioritizes being closer to the people that need access to our services really can be a model for other civil legal aid organizations."

We are so grateful to Abby and to those who share in her belief that SCLC's advocacy is critical to supporting the community. Thank you, Abby, for making this work possible!



Abby Daquiz and SCLC Attorney, Daniel Parker

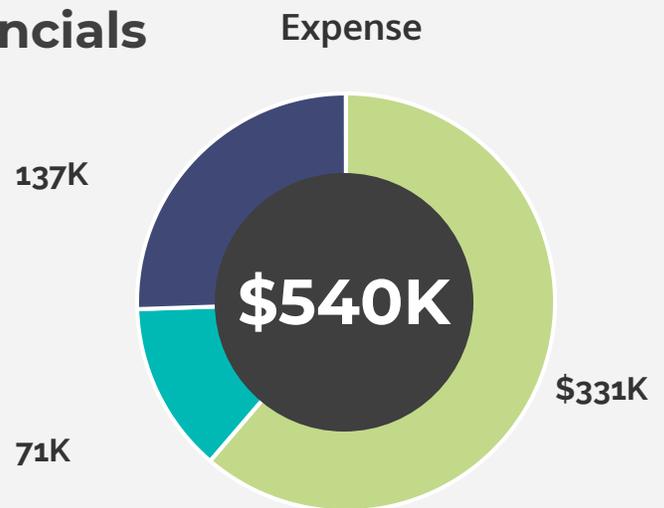
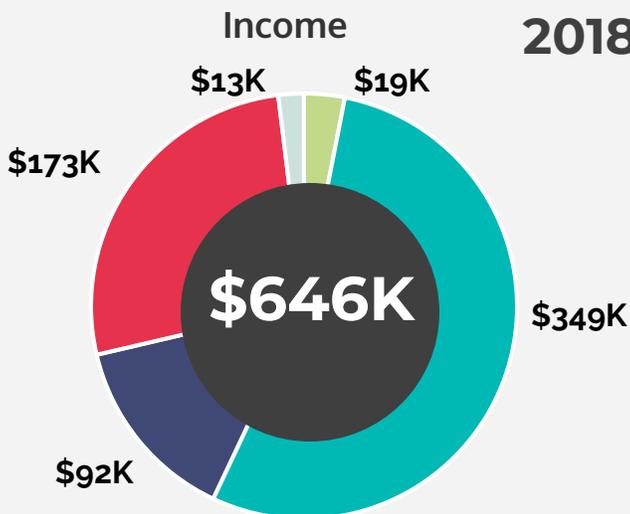
Thank you to our 2018 volunteers

- Judy Allvin
- Ellen Banner
- Daniel Berhman
- Caroline Codd
- Julia D'ambrosio
- Sydney Finlay
- Monserrat Jauregui
- Jessica Johanson-Kubin
- Brick Kawabata
- Stacey Krynsky
- James Lee
- Patricia Livingston
- Becca Maloney
- Robert Marx
- Chris Morda
- Ashley Ossman
- Cindy Parks
- Kelsey Shamrell-Harrington
- Analyn Unpingco
- Ellie White
- Lui Wong

Thank you to our Sponsors

- Silver Level**
- Barron Smith
- Daugert
- Davis Wright
- Tremaine
- Douglas Drachler
- McKee & Gilbrough
- Lehmbecker Law
- Town & Country Markets
- Bronze Level**
- Beneficial State Bank
- BECU
- Blue Level**
- Strata Law Group

2018 Financials



- Government Contracts
- Grants
- Attorneys Fees
- Fundraising
- Interest & Mis

- Program
- Management/Administrative
- Fundraising

*calculated on cash basis for this report



SAVE the DATE

SATURDAY
12 OCTOBER
2019

LOL!
A COMEDY EVENT
FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

RENAISSANCE SEATTLE HOTEL | SEATTLE, WA



FEATURING COMEDIAN

BRETT HAMIL



We have changed our name

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you, 2018 Funders!



King County



SCLC helped over
1,247 people in 2018



1,247

There are over 12,100
people in King County
who are homeless



12,100

On average, SCLC
spends \$2,366 to
help one person
navigate the Social
Security system to
achieve economic
independence



\$2,366

We estimate that
there are between
3,600 and 8,500
people in King
County that need our
help each year



3,600-8,500