

---

we stand with



2018 Annual Report

---

# Our Mission

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) is a nonprofit that stands with low-income Atlantans as they demand safe and stable housing, insist on fair pay, and break free from intimate partner abuse. We are the largest provider of pro bono legal services in Atlanta, and we leverage the collective power of our professional community to provide free legal and social services to our clients when they need it most.

With teams at Fulton County Courthouse and deeply embedded in Atlanta's under-served communities, we meet our clients where they are, geographically and emotionally, and address not just their legal needs, but whatever else they need to thrive.

For over 40 years, Atlanta's brightest legal talents have volunteered their time to help our clients in their fight for justice—and have found that they get a great deal back in return. As these lawyers lift the community, their personal and professional lives—and the lives of our clients—are enriched in equal measure. Together, we're working to create safer and more stable families, homes and communities, and a more fair and equitable Atlanta.

# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| From the Executive Director: Marty Ellin                   | 4  |
| Who We Serve: AVLF At-A-Glance                             | 5  |
| We Stand Together: A Cohesive Unit                         | 8  |
| We Stand with Tenants: Safe and Stable Homes               | 11 |
| Letter from Safe and Stable Homes Director: Cole Thaler    | 12 |
| Volunteer Story: Jeffrey Tompkins                          | 14 |
| She Walked into Court with an AVLF Army                    | 16 |
| Safe and Stable Homes Project by the Numbers               | 18 |
| We Stand with Survivors: Safe and Stable Families          | 19 |
| Letter from Safe and Stable Families Director: Jamie Perez | 20 |
| Volunteer Story: Laura Smithman and Margaret Flatt         | 22 |
| A Message of Hope: Safe and Stable Families Client Story   | 24 |
| Safe and Stable Families Project by the Numbers            | 26 |
| We Stand with Our Volunteers                               | 29 |
| Volunteer Story: Christen Morgan                           | 30 |
| Atlanta Bar Association Celebrating Service Awards         | 31 |
| We Stand with Our Community                                | 34 |
| Collaboration: Our Partners                                | 36 |
| We Stand with Our Funders                                  | 40 |
| Events: A Year of Festivities                              | 44 |
| Thank You to Our 2018 Donors                               | 48 |
| Board of Directors and AVLF Staff                          | 53 |
| What's Next  | 55 |

# From the **Executive Director**

With pride, we present the **2018 AVLF Annual Report.**

The successes of AVLF's many pro bono programs depend on partnership. Our work integrates the time and talent of lawyers, grant managers, accountants, social workers, court officials, philanthropic officers, and many, many others to help AVLF create safe and stable homes and families by inspiring lawyers to fight for justice.

In 2018, AVLF began our 39th year of operation. There is no wrong time for careful reflection, but especially in anticipation of such a milestone, I spent much of the year asking a two-part question.

How did we get here? At AVLF, we have been curious, honest, intentional, and capable listeners. After asking, widely and frequently, "How may we help our city?", our active listening made people want to tell us, "Here is what it is like to be me".

And with the information that has come from clients sharing the stories of their existence and their need for legal help, and lawyers speaking to their desire to have a meaningful pro bono experience, we have formed programmatic responses that lifted—and saved—lives.

This Annual Report makes it clear that we are still asking, still listening, and still shaping pro bono legal responses to what we continue to learn about the evolving needs of our rather large neighborhood.

What comes next? We know that the future always comes toward us in exactly the spirit in which we approach it. At AVLF we approach the future with optimism, with insistence, with commitment, and with hands and hearts wide open.

As we approach our next forty years of service, we step forward with humanity, dignity, and integrity. We'll stand with the smart, dedicated citizens of Atlanta to make a priority of lifting those in our community who need it most. We'll find ways to bring top-notch legal services to any Atlantan who needs it. And we'll do it with the help of our partners.

We are ready! Enjoy reading the 2018 Annual Report, and then please consider standing with us in 2019 as we add to the common good in innovative and consequential ways.

Sincerely,



Marty Ellin



# Who We **Serve**

Most of AVLF's clients are Fulton County residents who have an aggregate household income at 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or less. The majority of clients (84%) served last year were female. Of those who identified their race, 77% were Black/African-American, 13% were white, and the remainder identified as other, Native American, Latino, multi-racial, and Asian.

These clients are served through the following programs:

## **Safe and Stable Homes Project:**

### • **Saturday Lawyer Program**

Unscrupulous landlords who rent to low-income tenants too often disregard their legal duty to make repairs because they think they will not be held accountable. The **Saturday Lawyer Program** pairs tenants with volunteer attorneys to address circumstances in which the landlord is not honoring the law's requirements of them. AVLF's volunteer

attorneys stand up to those landlords to demand repairs, to address conditions that are making children sick, to extricate tenants from bad leases, or to fight back in eviction cases. AVLF volunteers also help tenants recover money when their personal belongings are destroyed by mold, leaks, or infestations, or lost in illegal evictions.

### • **Eviction Defense Program**

About 40,000 evictions are filed in Fulton County every year, and less than 2% of tenants served with an eviction Complaint have legal representation at their hearing; the vast majority of those tenants facing near-immediate dislocation are low-income and unrepresented. AVLF's **Eviction Defense Program** provides those tenants – sometimes

in a matter of hours – with trained, highly-skilled eviction defense attorneys to represent them in court in their critical time of need. AVLF secures a positive outcome for nearly 100% of all eviction clients our volunteers represent. We seek to increase dramatically the number of tenants who are well-informed and represented by counsel.

---

## Safe and Stable Homes Project (continued):

### • Housing Court Assistance Center

Established in partnership with Fulton County, the **Housing Court Assistance Center** provides free legal advice to Fulton County tenants whose landlords have filed for an eviction in an attempt to remove a tenant from a dwelling.

Volunteer attorneys and law students under the supervision of an attorney meet with tenants to explain their options under Georgia law and provide limited advice.

### • Standing with Our Neighbors Program

This effort focuses AVLF's considerable volunteer resources on housing conditions and stability issues plaguing specific neighborhoods. Drawing on poverty, public health, and school-system data, AVLF identified initial zones of focus and has embedded three teams. The first, in partnership with Purpose Built Schools, began in Thomasville Heights and has expanded through the Carver Cluster of schools. The second, with support from the Annie E. Casey Civic Site, serves Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU)-V (Mechanicsville, Pittsburgh, Adair Park, Summerhill, Capitol

View, and Peoplestown). The most recent team launched at Hollis Innovation Academy on the Westside – in partnership with the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and the Westside Future Fund. Each zone has been “adopted” by multiple law firm partners whose lawyers perform the legal work under AVLF's intensive training and supervision. The goal is to leverage volunteer legal work and partnerships to make a measurable impact on the health and stability of the housing stock and, in turn, on the community and the families therein.

---

## Safe and Stable Families Project:

### • Safe Families Office

When a person who has been victimized by intimate partner violence seeks assistance to obtain a temporary protective order in Fulton County, they are referred to the **Safe Families Office** (SFO). The SFO is Fulton County's courthouse-based, lawyer-staffed domestic violence legal services clinic (operated

in conjunction with Partnership Against Domestic Violence) and was named a national Best Practices model by the American Bar Association's Domestic Violence Commission. Volunteer attorneys and staff walk victims through the process of obtaining a protective order and represent them in court if necessary.

### • Family Law Program

The **Family Law Program** provides deeper legal services for intimate partner violence survivors (e.g., 12-month protective orders, legitimation, custody disputes, and/or divorce). Volunteer

family law attorneys advise and represent clients as needed, and a SFO-based AVLF-staff social worker helps address barriers to obtaining true safety and independence.

---

## Legacy Pro Bono Programs

AVLF has several smaller programs that fill critical needs in the community. Our Saturday Lawyer Program volunteer attorneys primarily assist tenants, but also help the working poor whose employers wrongfully withhold or reduce paychecks. The **Guardian ad Litem Program** provides trained Guardians to help the Court determine the best interest of a child in a high-conflict custody battle. The **Probate Information Center** provides a free

legal consultation with an expert in probate matters for individuals who have lost a family member. Our **Bankruptcy Program** aids those seeking to file a Chapter 7 petition. The **Dollars for Judgments Program** helps our clients collect on judgments they have won, while our **Low Income Creditor Assistance Program** provides free legal assistance when the defendant/debtor runs to bankruptcy court to evade justice.

## We Stand Together

Thanks to AVLF's teamwork, Ms. Davis was able to move to a new location - away from her abuser

Ms. Davis\* had been to the Safe Families Office (SFO) several times, starting in 2013, and in 2016, social worker Camille Millar connected her with partner support groups - Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Cascade United Methodist Church, Shalom Bayit, and Grady Nia Project. Her latest visit was in October 2018. The intern who conducted her intake asked our social worker to sit down with her while she was filing and discuss additional support and services.

Ms. Davis shared that, in addition to her worries about her personal safety, she also had concerns about her housing, stating that her apartment had cockroaches and a rat problem that the landlord refused to address. She identified that her living situation wasn't safe or clean - especially for her two young children. After complaining to the landlord about the problems, she found a notice of non-renewal on her door and learned that she was being charged with lease violation fees. She was unsure of the reason; she was worried the landlord might try to evict her; and she was confused about whether they had already begun eviction process.

Due to the safety concerns and unlivable conditions, she wanted to move, so she and an AVLF social worker explored finding a new place to live. Ms. Davis ran into some barriers due to prior evictions and credit issues, so the social worker discovered and shared resources such as transitional housing/rapid rehousing programs, and also discussed with Ms. Davis how to search online for homes that don't require a credit check.

The social worker referred Ms. Davis to the AVLF Safe and Stable Homes Project for help regarding the eviction and lease violation fees. The Standing with Our Neighbors program opened a case for her, and they were able to connect her with volunteer attorney Andrew Rosenzweig, who negotiated with the property manager on Ms. Davis' behalf. Ultimately the property manager agreed to dismiss the eviction it had filed and agreed not to pursue collections for back rent/fees.

Thanks to AVLF's teamwork, Ms. Davis was able to move to a new location - away from her abuser. She was not charged back rent or fees, and avoided having an additional eviction on her record.

*\*Name changed to protect safety*



## We Stand with Tenants: Safe and Stable Homes

"I'm ready to defend my clients against anyone not living up to their end of the landlord-tenant bargain, and as an AVLF volunteer and now a Staff Attorney, I'm committed to following a case through to justice."

Erik Provitt, Standing with Our Neighbors Westside Staff Attorney

# Letter From **Safe and Stable Homes Director**

If you trace your finger diagonally across a map of Atlanta, loosely following the CSX rail line and Interstate 20, you will slice the city in half. In neighborhoods like Midtown and Buckhead, incomes are double what they are below that line. In neighborhoods like Vine City and Thomasville Heights, poverty rates are triple what they are above the line.

Below the line – in West and South Atlanta – housing stock is heavily blighted. That’s where eviction rates are sky-high. And it’s where AVLF has focused our Standing with Our Neighbors program, placing staff in eight schools with the vision of stabilizing neighborhoods and helping children succeed.

In 2018, Standing with Our Neighbors™ deepened its relationships with community partners. We held an Asthma Fair in Mechanicsville, met with homeless veterans in Adair Park, and shared job leads with parents in Historic South Atlanta. We helped Westside tenants vacate units teeming with sewage floods while we pursued their landlord in court. We drove our client’s children to daycare while we argued with her landlord about the bogus rent charges. We trained rooms full of attorneys, paralegals, law students, and tenants on Georgia’s housing laws. We visited countless dilapidated apartments, attended dozens of community meetings, and – on the best days – accepted our clients’ hugs of gratitude.

Also in 2018, the Saturday Lawyer Program and Eviction Defense Program continued to grow and thrive. New volunteer attorneys came to our office early on Saturday mornings, fortified with muffins and coffee, ready to meet face-to-face with struggling tenants and hear their stories. Hundreds of Saturday Lawyer clients came through our office doors, and most of those received legal representation. Many other clients received representation in Fulton County’s dispossessory court, fighting back against evictions. And when our clients prevailed in court, winning money judgments, our Dollars for Judgments program gave them collections attorneys to help them recover in full.

In 2018, because of the concerted efforts of our 14-person Safe and Stable Homes team, more tenants received help through AVLF than in any previous year. That team features five staff attorneys, five community advocates, and two hard-working paralegals. And in 2018, we hired our first Volunteer Engagement Manager. It is my privilege to serve as the director of this outstanding team.

In 2019, we look forward to continuing this trajectory. Although our city’s luxury housing boom continues and income inequality is worsening, there is reason to be optimistic. Our city leaders have made an unprecedented commitment to creating and preserving affordable housing. The House ATL coalition

is pursuing an innovative agenda that will help tenants keep their homes. And AVLF’s volunteer attorneys are rooting out the slumlords, demanding justice for their clients.

Not long ago, I received an email from a former client. AVLF helped this woman defeat an eviction and escape a mold-filled apartment. She emailed me to say hello and tell me about her new grandchild. She wrote, “I think of you and the priceless work your organization does all the time!”

It’s praise like hers that motivates the Safe and Stable Homes team, and that lets us know we’re on the right path.



Cole Thaler

Director, Safe and Stable Homes Project



# Volunteer Story

**Jeffrey Tompkins**, a volunteer, supporter, and long-time friend of AVLF, recalls his very first Saturday Lawyer experience – with a surprising twist.

*I will start with a little history.*

*Tom Sampson, one of the founders of my firm, got involved early in his career in a number of efforts to assist low-income citizens of Atlanta obtain legal services. He was involved with AVLF, Atlanta Legal Aid, and the Neighborhood Justice Center. Helping the under-served has always been important to him.*

*When I started with the firm fresh out of Emory Law School, it was made clear to me from the outset that pro bono work was expected. (While expecting—and indeed, requiring—pro bono work of young associates is fairly common now, I do not know how common it was back in the late 1980's.)*

*Tom always stressed helping the under-served and underprivileged with their legal needs.*

*“If you are too big for the little man, you are too little for the big man,” he would often say.*

*The young lawyers in the firm took Tom’s conviction about pro bono work to heart – at least to some degree, but perhaps not to the degree Tom would have liked. So, Tom took it upon himself to make sure that we all got the message.*

*At the time, I quite frankly did not know anything about AVLF. But that was about to change.*

*One Thursday afternoon, Tom walked into my*

*office and asked about my plans for the weekend. I told him I did not have anything planned.*

*“Good,” he said. “I need you to go to the Saturday Lawyer Program.”*

*He explained generally what it was, but not in any great detail. “People who can’t afford to pay lawyers will come in for help with their legal needs,” he said, “and we help them.”*

*“...Saturday?” I asked.*

*Had it been Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday or even Friday, it would have been fine with me. But it was Saturday. And of all the things I might have done on a Saturday, they would not have included anything like that.*

*But when the senior partner says, “this is what I need you to do,” that’s what you do.*

*Saturday morning rolled around, and I was not all that enthusiastic about my weekend assignment. To whom would I be assigned? What kind of legal problem would they have? Would I be able to help them? I pondered all of these things as I made my way to the office. When I arrived, a staff person walked me through the process, and I was soon off to see my first client.*

*And that’s when things – mainly my attitude – changed. I walked into the meeting room and lo*

*and behold, my first client is a young lady who was in my high school class at Atlanta’s Frederick Douglass High School.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Now, let me tell you a little bit about Douglass High School. Back then, Douglass was the largest high school in Atlanta, and I would dare say the best high school in the city. The students, all of whom were African American, came from every socio-economic segment of the African American population in Atlanta.*

*Certainly, most of the students came from a working-class background. But the school served the largest housing development—what was then called a housing project in those days—in Atlanta, so you had a host of kids from that community. There also were the children of many of the city’s politicians, doctors, lawyers, ministers, and business people – all these students from various socioeconomic backgrounds were together under one roof. And it was great.*

*So, my client and I had known one another for years, but I had not seen her since the day we graduated.*

*When I walked into the room, it was readily apparent my classmate’s path had been quite different than mine.*

*While I had gone from Douglass to Morehouse and then on to Emory, she had entered the workforce after high school and had experienced some level of financial difficulty. But none of that mattered now. The moment I saw her, I felt relieved. My first Saturday Lawyer Program client was not a stranger, but someone I had known for nearly a decade.*

*I could tell instantly that the feeling was mutual. I suspect the joy and pleasure of seeing a familiar face meant the world to her. It certainly meant the world to me. But perhaps what meant the most to me was that I was getting to help someone I knew*

*personally—whose luck had been a lot different than mine, and who had had some challenges in life. This was an opportunity to do something that was real, something that was important—to represent someone who had a face that I knew well.*

*The matter involved a rental issue with a landlord who was not treating her fairly. Once the landlord got a letter from a lawyer, his attitude changed. When the landlord realized that the young lady had a lawyer stepping in, his position changed, and the matter was resolved successfully. My classmate and now client was very happy with the outcome. And I was happy that I had helped someone in need.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Growing up in northwest Atlanta, my friends and I would often engage in philosophical discussions about all sorts of things. Once we discussed what gives a person the most joy and happiness.*

*I believed then—and believe now—that the greatest joy and happiness comes from being able to help someone else. Pro bono work—particularly the Saturday Lawyer Program—allows young lawyers to use their newly acquired talents to help those who cannot help themselves.*

*I do not think there is a better feeling in the world.*

**Jeffrey Tompkins, Partner, Thomas Kennedy Sampson & Tompkins LLP**



Jeff Tompkins has volunteered with the Saturday Lawyer Program since the 1980's. Most recently, he served on the inaugural Steering Committee for AVLF's annual campaign.



# She Walked into Court with an AVLF Army

In late October 2017, community activist Stacey Hopkins reached out to our Standing with Our Neighbors Westside staff attorney, Erik Provitt with news of a family who needed legal assistance – and quickly.

The Cochrans are a family of four: a grandmother, her daughter, and the daughter's two young children – a school-aged son and infant baby girl. They were living in an 18-unit building in Atlanta's English Avenue neighborhood, owned by an inexcusably negligent landlord who had, before attempting to evict the Cochran family, allowed the apartment to fall into complete disrepair. The conditions were abysmal and in clear violation of housing codes.

Erik immediately met with Robin and Alfreda Cochran.

The apartment had no gas, due to a leak. And no water, either – the main water pipe had been stolen. There were no locks on the front or back door. Mold flourished on the walls – enough to labor one's breath after only a few minutes inside. There was no electricity in the bedroom, only an extension cord that snaked along the wall, feebly taped. An open area in the front of the building was backed up with leaking sewage.

For this family, home was anything but safe and stable.

On November 1, Jeff Nix, a partner at Taylor English Duma, enthusiastically agreed to represent Robin and Alfreda in their pursuit of justice.

In court on November 7, the landlord, who was unrepresented, saw that Ms. Cochran had an attorney standing with her and chose not to pursue any further action, continuing the case to a later date.

Mr. Nix had time to mount an offensive.

While the landlord's abusive neglect was blatant, AVLF's team of defenders started gathering concrete evidence for their claims. By November 14, Cole Thaler, director of our Safe and Stable Homes Project, asked PwC to help us quantify damages at the apartment.

AVLF's impact is created by more than just volunteer attorneys: a network of people work behind-the-scenes to win a case.

PwC's Forensic Services Director Michelle Davis and Manager Davida Jones jumped on the case. Within days, they went to the apartment to assess the damages, collecting as much information as possible.

Ms. Cochran compiled an exhaustive list of everything she had to throw away for Michelle and Davida due to the decrepit conditions. AVLF also ordered a comprehensive mold test from Air Allergen & Mold Testing, who conducts tests for AVLF at a reduced rate, provides a detailed report for our records, and offers an expert witness to testify in court.

On December 19, it was time to go to court – and we were ready.

Weeks before, the Cochran family was facing imminent eviction and had no one to defend them. Their home was uninhabitable. The conditions were nothing short of inhumane, and they couldn't afford help.

But on December 19, Ms. Cochran didn't have to face the court alone: flanked by two attorneys, two damages experts, a mold expert, two witnesses from the apartment building, and an officer with the Atlanta Police Department's Code Enforcement Section, Ms. Cochran walked into the courtroom with an army.

The trial lasted four hours.

On January 5, 2018, in an eight-page decision, Hon. Linda Borsky ruled in favor of the Cochrans, denying the Plaintiff's request for past due rent and possession of the home.

She awarded the Cochrans more than \$3,000 in actual damages and \$15,000 in punitive damages.

Judge Borsky cited "willful misconduct, malice, fraud, wantonness, oppression, entire want of care, and conscious indifference for the consequences of its actions." She went on to say that the Plaintiff was "well aware of the Defendants' financial vulnerability and that they were in no position to extricate themselves from the deplorable conditions that the Plaintiff subjected them to."

No family should have to make a home of such horrific conditions, no matter their income. No one should have to withstand such deliberate neglect.

But when it happens, AVLF has a network of passionate, devoted, and determined volunteers and allies to make sure that our neighbors have access to the justice they deserve. In January, these dedicated individuals in our community were able to balance the scales of justice for the Cochran family—and for this, we couldn't be prouder.



Volunteer accountants Davida Jones, Michelle Davis, and attorney Jeff Nix pose with Ms. Cochran after her hearing.

# Safe and Stable Homes Project



**1,176**  
cases opened



**438**  
total cases referred to attorneys



**389**  
number of health and safety items provided to clients



**\$83,259**  
financial assistance provided to clients (rent, security deposits, utility bills)



**11,906 total** value of donated attorney hours  
hours valued at  
**\$2,976,500**  
(\$250/hour)



**\$442,225**  
total money collected and debt avoided

## We Stand with Survivors: Safe and Stable Families

"We are so very grateful for this new beginning and have Safe Families to thank for getting everything started!"

AVLF Client

# Letter From **Safe and Stable Families Director**

Intimate partner abuse (IPA) is domestic violence by someone in an intimate relationship. This violence isn't always just physical: it can also be verbal, emotional, sexual, and economic violence. As the Director of the Safe and Stable Families (SSF) Project Director for AVLF, my staff and I provide a continuum of services for survivors of IPA, beginning with the Safe Families Office (SFO) and continuing to our Family Law and Guardian ad Litem Programs.

The SFO is an innovative collaboration between AVLF, Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV), and the Fulton County Superior and State Courts, and serves survivors of intimate partner abuse seeking civil temporary protective orders (TPOs) against their abusers. However, the SFO is not just a place to file for a TPO. The office is staffed by lawyers, law students, social workers, legal advocates, and a mental health advocate. This team collectively provides legal advice and representation (both in house and through our network of volunteer attorneys), counseling, safety planning, access to shelter, emergency financial assistance, and a multitude of other resources to ensure survivors are able to maintain their safety and independence during and after their quest for a protective order.

In 2009, when the SFO first opened, and again in 2018, this extraordinary partnership was named a "best practices model" for its service to survivors of intimate partner abuse by Vivian

Huelgo, General Counsel for the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence.

While not housed in the SFO, our Family Law Program is a direct corollary to the work done there, and survivors are encouraged to apply to the program for their related family law legal needs, such as filing for divorce, child and spousal support, custody and support modifications, contempt, and legitimation. Legal representation is provided by our partners from the private family law bar and supported by our staff attorney and paralegal, and their services provide clients with long-term relief which supplements the protection provided by the TPO.

The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program serves both the Fulton County Superior Court and the best interests of children in contested custody disputes brought there. AVLF trains, mentors, and supports volunteer attorneys to represent the best interests of children in these cases. GALs conduct investigations and make recommendations to the Court as to what custody arrangement would serve the best interests of those children, as the Judges themselves do not have the ability to investigate each case in this manner. In 2018, we expanded our 8-hour training into a two-day, 15-hour training for attorneys, providing more comprehensive expertise and ensuring GALs are as prepared as possible to tackle this work.

It is not uncommon for a client to utilize all three of these programs, as they navigate their way through obtaining a TPO and a divorce, with the benefit of a volunteer GAL appointed to their case.

In 2019, we look forward to expanding our IPA Program in a new way: by engaging in mobile advocacy. We plan to hire a Legal Education and Outreach Coordinator to go out into the communities we serve to assist survivors of IPA who have not been able to make their way to the courthouse to obtain legal services. We are excited to continue to grow this vital program!



Jamie Perez

Director, Safe and Stable Families Project



# Volunteer Story

## Two Attorneys Faced Her Abuser

Jade was walking on her college campus when her child's father appeared. He shot at her and broke her car window with the handle of the gun. She wasn't hurt, but she knew that his anger was escalating, as he had been texting her all the time and threatening to murder her after she tried to cut off all communication a month before. The police officers who responded to the gunshot incident recommended that Jade pursue a Temporary Protective Order.

When Jade arrived to the Safe Families Office, AVLF's Safe and Stable Families team rushed to ensure that she could walk out of the Courthouse with a TPO protecting her and her infant daughter. When her abuser was served with the TPO, AVLF turned to volunteers Laura Smithman and Margaret Flatt with Eversheds Sutherland to represent Jade.

Laura and Margaret stood with Jade in her evidentiary hearing, and were able to skillfully negotiate a consent with her abuser. The Consent Order forbids him from having any contact with Jade and their daughter, orders him to pay monthly child support, requires him to reimburse her for the damage to her car window, and orders him to attend a series of Family Violence Intervention Program courses.

Thanks to Laura and Margaret, Jade didn't have to face her fear of testifying in open court about the abuse that she endured, and she and her daughter can rest easier knowing that there are attorneys who are passionate and willing to fight for their right to live peacefully.





## A Message of Hope: Safe and Stable Families Client Story

*At the time, I didn't know where to begin to pick up the pieces of my life and find the happiness that seemed to seep out the door, not only for myself but....for my children. It was such a dark time in my life, and at a certain point, I was adamant that each day going forward would not be as dark as the last. The only question that remained was....where do I start?*

*I walked into the Fulton County Courthouse looking for help and protection against my ex with whom I share a child. I have to admit I had little to no faith due to everything that led to this point, but I would soon find out that the angels of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation were ready to restore my faith and be the advocates that I desperately needed.*

*From the beginning, I experienced nothing less than patience, understanding, positivity, guidance, and most of all, empathy. I felt someone was by my side every step of the way. They were always there providing support in different ways.*

*After being granted a temporary 30-Day Protective Order, the following day I moved out of state to be with my family. However, that never stopped anyone at AVLF from picking up the phone to check up on us or to see if there were any services we needed.*

*I had a court date coming up, and I was so nervous about speaking in a courtroom - especially in front of my ex. Lilli Crowe said she would find someone to help. Not too long after, I was indeed contacted by Elizabeth Johnson who has guided me through this stressful ordeal and was determined to keep me and children protected. I will NEVER forget after I spoke to her on the phone, she said to me*

*"The first thing I want you to know is that I am sorry that you went through that and know that it is not your fault."*

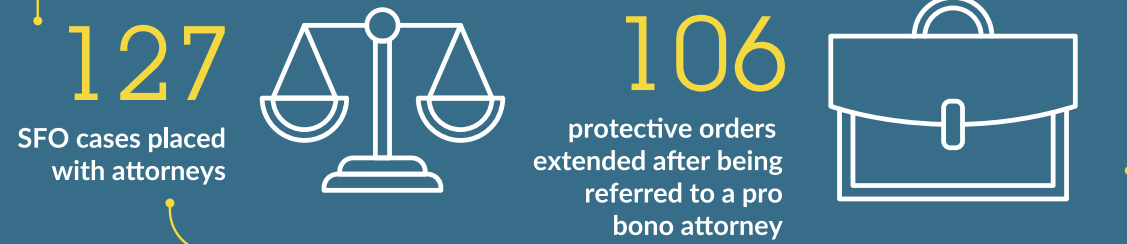
*From there on out with the help of Elizabeth, Cynthia Pearson, Joel Correa, and Camille Millar, I was given assistance with services not limited to therapy (which was within a mile of where I was living at the time), a financial counselor, and child support. There was always a resolution or a referral for anything I asked for. As the expiration of my 12 month Protective Order grew closer, I received a call from AVLF advising me that it would soon expire and wanting to know if the children and I were safe and if there was anything else they could help me with. I will always be grateful for everything that they have done and continue to do for my children and me.*

*To date....my daughter now talks, sings, rides the school bus, hugs her friends before she leaves daycare everyday, loves to color, and is so affectionate. My other daughter has been doing better after receiving counseling for the past 5 months in her school, communicates more and does not find herself holding things inside, and is all about making her mom proud. We succeeded in all these things by focusing on our goals, establishing a routine, and providing a healthy environment for them to thrive in.*

*As for me....I have a job that I love, a car, my own place, my health, my family, my supporters, my faith and my endurance. And I will soon graduate with an Associate's Degree in medical coding and health information management. There are not enough words to express the gratitude I feel for everyone at Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.*

# Safe & Stable Families Project

## Safe Families Office



## Guardian ad Litem Program



# Family Law Program



## What types of cases were handled? \*\*



\*Family Law Program clients are only referred from the Safe Families Office  
 \*\*Family Law clients may have one or more of these issues.



# We Stand with Our Volunteers



**"That was a truly wonderful experience. I got my feet wet in a trial court setting AND I got to single-handedly save a disabled couple from homelessness. Kinda can't beat it."**

**AVLF Volunteer**

# Volunteer Story

*My volunteer experience with AVLF has gone above and beyond anything I could ever expect. Growing up in Kingston, Jamaica, I witnessed firsthand how the selflessness and boundless service of others helped to shape the lives of people who experienced the travails of third world living. As I grew older and became involved in different service organizations, I learned that volunteers can be the one touch difference between an individual's starvation and satisfaction.*

*I saw that volunteers are oftentimes the only glimmer of hope for a community stripped of opportunities, and as a new attorney, I recognized that I've been given a platform of advocacy that I must use towards the benefit of others.*

*Many of the clients I've had through AVLF's Saturday Lawyer Program are people who have turned to many doors only to witness them closed*

*in their faces. They've been told "no" on numerous occasions and sometimes walk into AVLF with that expectation. Having attorneys selflessly lend their time to this service gives these people a chance to finally hear "yes" - and to ultimately receive the justice they've been fighting for.*

*This past year, I got to experience this success firsthand with one of my clients. I represented him on a breach of employment contract issue, which stripped him of receiving his just wages. By the time I received his file he had already been trying to fight this issue for several months to no avail. However, through partnering with another AVLF attorney, we were able to successfully secure his wages through trial. My client was immensely overjoyed by this victory and the handwritten thank you note I received from him completely fulfilled my soul. That's why I volunteer, and I implore others to do the same.*

**Christen Morgan, Esq.**  
Saturday Lawyer Program Volunteer



# Atlanta Bar Association Celebrating Service Awards

Annually, the Atlanta Bar Association partners AVLF to recognize those volunteers and firms that who have provided exceptional service to our clients.

## Family Law Program Volunteer of the Year

Rebecca A. Hoelting (Hoelting & McCormack, LLC)



Rebecca Hoelting has been a volunteer with AVLF's Family Law Program since its inception. This core group of founding volunteers made the launch of this program possible. Since then, Rebecca has remained indispensable. Rebecca was one of the first volunteers to accept a pro bono family law case from the program. In the two years since the program launched, Rebecca has accepted three referrals for pro bono family law cases, which is no small matter for these types of cases. Rebecca represented a Family Law Program client in a case that went all the way to trial, and this client said of Rebecca, "under [Rebecca's] guidance... I am now able to piece my life back together for me and for my children.... [T]here are no words that I can find to properly express my gratitude."

Volunteer attorneys donated over

**13,400**

hours to AVLF

The value of their service is over

**\$3,495,500**

(based on \$250/hour  
for attorney volunteers).



## Safe Families Office Volunteer of the Year

Jennifer Fairbairn Deal (Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP)



Jenn Deal, a senior associate with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, has been a dedicated volunteer of the Safe Families Office for nearly 7 years, taking her first Protective Order case with AVLF in 2011 and representing over 20 clients and counting. Jenn has not only been fierce and committed in her work to fight for survivors of domestic violence, but she has also taken it upon herself to build AVLF's volunteer base. Jenn has worked within her firm to get more attorneys involved, and has also dedicated herself to helping first-time volunteers have a seasoned veteran in the second chair. She has shown empathy, advocacy, and fervent passion for survivors of domestic violence over the years.

## Safe and Stable Homes Project Volunteer of the Year

Darryl Davis, Esq.



Darryl Davis is a stalwart volunteer attorney. In the past year alone, he has accepted six cases from AVLF's Saturday Lawyer and Eviction Defense programs. Since 2015, he has attended eleven Saturday Lawyer Day events and has spent over 400 hours on his AVLF cases, including multiple last minute eviction cases. Darryl's clients consistently praise him for his diligence, his passionate advocacy, and his sense of humor. He has also taken the time to speak to new attorneys about the importance of pro bono work, and to mentor the legal assistants who work on his cases.

## Guardian ad Litem of the Year

Vanessa Kosky (The Law Office of Vanessa Kosky, PC)

Vanessa Kosky, a solo practitioner with her own firm based out of Tucker, Georgia, has proven herself to be a key asset to the Guardian ad Litem program. She and her entire office staff speak Spanish, which is a rarity for Guardians. She has been instrumental in AVLF's ability to quickly pair an enthusiastic, caring Guardian with Spanish-speaking families. She cares deeply about the children she serves, and recognizes – and meets – the frequently unmet need for a bilingual Guardian in contested custody disputes.



## Safe and Stable Homes Project Firm of the Year

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Kilpatrick sponsors multiple Saturday Lawyer Days every year, including two in 2018. The firm is also a founding partner of our Standing with Our Neighbors (SWON) program, working closely with our NPU-V team to support Barack & Michelle Obama Academy students and their families.



# We Stand with Our Community



“ From Shameka Love, Westside Community Advocate: “It is so important to the people that we are going out into communities where they may not have the transportation to come to the office, and we are providing information about our organization that they may have not known about. Through our outreach, we are providing knowledge in order for them to advocate for themselves.” ”

“ From LaKeta Whittaker, NPU-V Community Advocate: “I have attended many events for all three schools (Dunbar Elementary, Barack and Michelle Obama Academy, and Gideons Elementary). Fall festivals, parent empowerment fairs, honor days, partner breakfast, and muffins with moms. I enjoy being able to attend outreach events. Meeting the families and hearing their stories allows me to have a better understanding of what their needs are. Many families have more than just a housing issue. Some have situations with their jobs, childcare issues, issues with the knowing how to communicate with their child’s school and so many more.” ”



“ From Nekesha Whitaker, Carver Cluster Community Advocate: “About a quarter of my clients learn about our services through outreach. For example, last July I tabled at a community Back to School Bash. I met a single mother with a toddler. She had no AC since April 2017 and a leaking hot water heater. Management ignored her request. AVLF purchased client fans and was able to get her an attorney and the problem is now fixed.” ”

“ From Nekesha Whitaker, Carver Cluster Community Advocate: “Community outreach is important because you won’t find people in need by sitting behind a desk. It’s important to make an effort to meet those in need where they are because they may not have access to our information through other outlets.” ”



“ From LaKeta Whittaker, NPU-V Community Advocate: “We had a client that came to us in an abusive relationship. She was working full time with a kindergartner and being abused by her son’s father. She talked to Lauren Washington and me for about an hour or so. She cried and wanted to give up. We referred her to the Safe Families Office and she received a Protective Order. She’s now working and living in her own place. She advocated on her own to get a new place to call home.” ”



# Collaboration

In order to best serve our city, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation works with many community partners to make sure the clients get the help they need. Here are a few of our community partners.

## Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)

“AVLF has been a vital partner to PADV assisting our clients with Temporary Protective Orders. The representation that survivors of domestic violence receive from AVLF has allowed so many to **achieve a greater level of safety and to feel empowered to move forward.**”

Sarah Scroggins, MSW | Fulton Supportive Housing Advocate  
**Partnership Against Domestic Violence**

You may know that AVLF partners with Partnership Against Domestic Violence in the Safe Families Office to serve the legal and social needs of survivors of domestic violence. But did you know that AVLF and PADV partner together beyond assisting clients seeking TPOs?

When AVLF identifies a survivor who is having trouble maintaining housing or moving into a new residence to escape abuse, we partner with PADV, who helps provide emergency financial support for survivors in need of housing.

“PADV’s housing assistance staff are quick to respond and dedicated to meeting our clients’ needs,” says Safe and Stable Families Social Worker Camille Millar. “They go above and beyond – if you ask them to expedite something, they will, and they work hard to get the answer and/or services the client needs.”

## Georgia Heirs Property Law Center

“AVLF is a great partner for the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center through referring heirs property owners for title clearing services and title searches, as well as coordinating outreach opportunities in the Atlanta communities we jointly serve.”

Skipper G. StipeMaas | Executive Director  
**Georgia Heirs Property Law Center**

When AVLF community advocates meet neighborhood residents who are not renters but rather live in inherited property with a fractured title, we refer them to the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center for help clearing their title.

Most homeowners don’t realize that there is an organization that exists to help them with this problem – and they may not even realize they have a problem!

Georgia Heirs Property Law Center helps clients transfer wealth to the next generation through title clearing, estate planning, and other services. The Georgia Heirs Property Law Center also helps AVLF with occasional title questions that come up for our clients. Between our assistance to renters and the Heirs Property Law Center’s assistance to homeowners, there is legal help for Atlantans with all kinds of property issues.

## Helping Mamas

“

I have not worked with Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers very long, but in the short amount of time, I have met some amazing people. **I believe in everything they do** and will continue to support them.

”

Aundrea Hickson | Community & Special Events Coordinator  
Helping Mamas

Helping Mamas provides extraordinary service and meets a tangible need. They offer baby supplies for our Safe Families Office clients, and allow survivors to continue to make requests as long as supplies are needed.

Helping Mamas has a really accessible online portal for requests for clients, and they pay attention to detail. If someone states they have a 0-6 month old, but requests clothing for a 12 month old, they reach out to clarify, which is an incredibly helpful aspect of their service.

They are staffed in large part by volunteers, and it's a testament to the quality of their organization that each and every one of their volunteers is courteous, helpful, and friendly to our staff and clients.

## CHRIS180

“

AVLF's domestic violence program for our families presented **hope and freedom** from experiencing trauma and homelessness. Our families have returned to CHRIS180/ @Promise Center with a sense of **hope, promise, gratitude and appreciation for the partnership** between the two agencies and our willingness to serve a community.

”

James Tomlin | Housing Coordinator  
CHRIS180

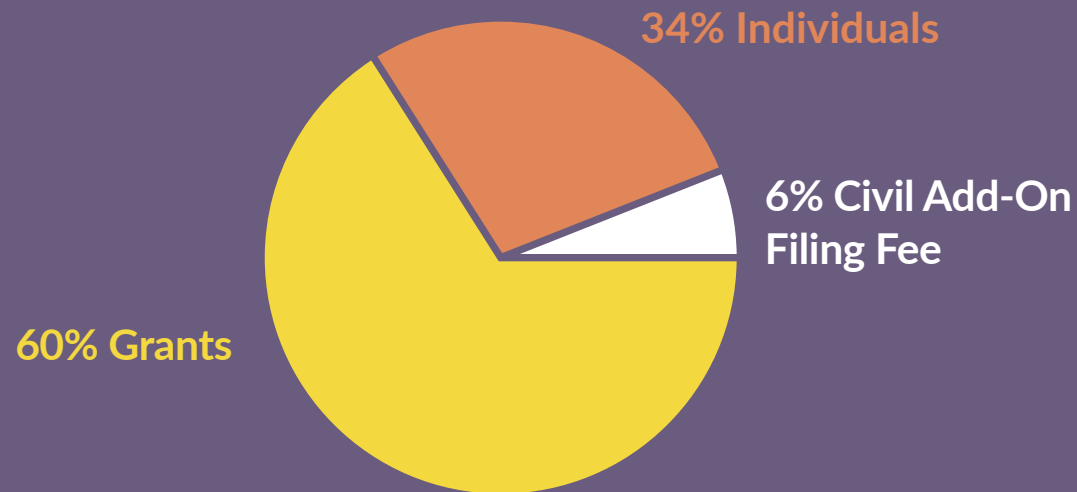
AVLF believes that holistic services – services that cover all aspects of wellness – are essential to serving our clients' needs. AVLF's programs focus specifically on legal services related to housing and domestic violence, but community partners like CHRIS180 are able to provide comprehensive services to our clients beyond the courtroom.

CHRIS180 refers clients who have legal needs related to intimate partner abuse or housing issues to AVLF. In turn, AVLF identifies clients who could benefit from counseling, therapy, and other services provided by CHRIS180.

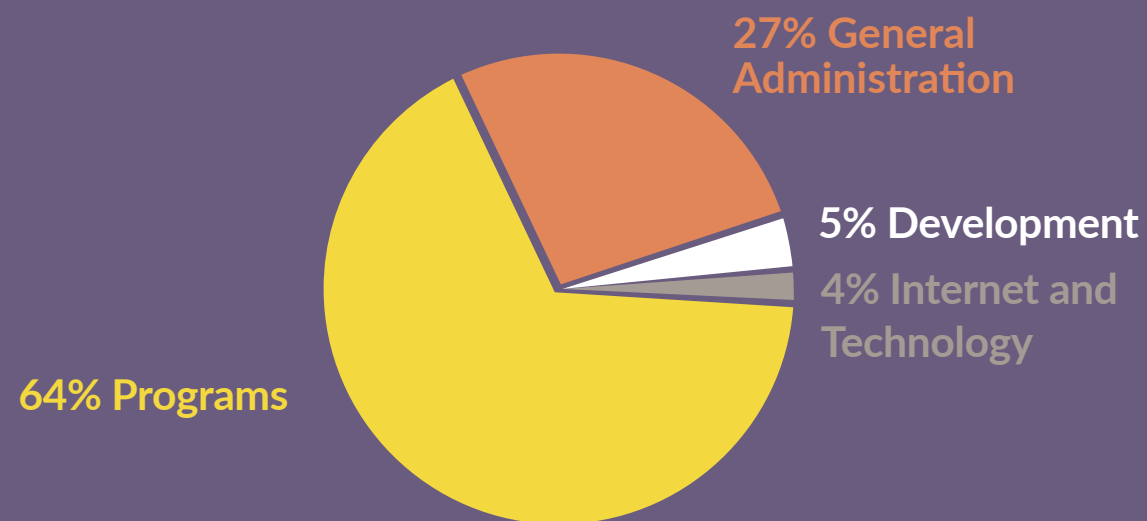
CHRIS180 offers their space to meet with intimate partner abuse clients and quickly responds to our referrals for counseling services. CHRIS180 was open and enthusiastic about partnering to better serve survivors of intimate partner abuse by meeting both their social and legal needs.

# We Stand with Our Funders

## 2018 Revenue Sources



## 2018 Expenses



## Grant Highlights

In September, the Georgia Bar Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant to Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Funds were used to support the Safe and Stable Families Project – particularly, the Family Law Program.

The Georgia Bar Foundation was created for charitable, religious, and educational purposes in 1967. It is a 501(c)(3) organization named by the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1983 to receive IOLTA funds to support legal services for the poor, to improve the administration of justice, to promote professionalism in law practice in order best to serve the public, to aid children involved in the justice system, and to advance the legal system through historical study.



“A special thank you to Executive Director Len Horton and all of our steadfast friends at the Georgia Bar Foundation,” said Marty Ellin, AVLF Executive Director. “The Georgia Bar Foundation was an early champion of AVLF’s Family Law Program as they truly understood the need for continued legal services for domestic violence survivors. Our work would not be possible without their support.”



Launched in 2016, the Family Law Program was established so that survivors of domestic violence who had secured a Protective Order through the Safe Families Office, and who thereafter needed a modification in an existing custody or child support decree, or even a divorce from their abuser, would have legal help to secure that change. Led by Staff Attorney Audrey Bergeson, this program provided legal advice, assistance, and/or representation to over 102 survivors in 2018.

The Jesse Parker Williams Foundation made a \$100,000 commitment to Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and Standing with Our Neighbors in January. Over the next two years, AVLF will use the funds to continue ensuring that our clients are living in healthy homes.

The Jesse Parker Williams Foundation works to support highly effective organizations that specialize in preventative health. They seek out nonprofits comprehensively providing access to health services for women and children.



“AVLF’s work is challenging the imbalance of power between landlords and tenants in some of Atlanta’s most under-resourced local communities,” Bonnie Hardage, executive director of the Jesse Parker Williams Foundation said. “For families and children, this injustice plays a critical role in safety, stability and healthy living conditions that promote well-being. Jesse Parker Williams Foundation supports highly effective organizations who prioritize improved health access through programs with priorities set to address the social determinants of health. We are proud to partner with AVLF to expand the Standing With Our Neighbors Initiative to relieve suffering and distress and promote health and well-being.”



While AVLF is a legal services organization, our work across programs seeks to create healthy living conditions for families. This is especially true with our newest program, Standing with Our Neighbors, which places lawyers and community advocates in under-performing schools to locate and assist with housing issues. All too often, the work AVLF does centers around mold, rats, and other infestations which can cause serious long-term health effects.

The Jesse Parker Williams Foundation traces its origins to Cora Best Taylor Williams’s bequest in 1924 establishing the Jesse Parker Williams Hospital to honor her late husband. Her intention was to relieve human suffering and distress, and her specific direction was to assist women and children with medical care.

## We are proud to receive support from and partner with these Foundations:

- Abreu Charitable Trust
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
- Atlanta Bar Foundation
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society/Administrative Office of the Courts
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta Donor-Advised Fund
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Delta Community Credit Union
- Equal Justice Works Georgia Housing Corps
- Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority
- Georgia Bar Foundation
- Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- Georgia Power Foundation
- Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation
- HomeFirst/Partners for Home and Atlanta Continuum of Care
- Ida Alice Ryan Foundation
- Jones Day Foundation
- Jesse Parker Williams Foundation
- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia, Inc.
- Kendeda Fund
- Kresge Foundation
- Mary Allen Lindsey Brannan Foundation
- PurposeBuilt Schools Atlanta
- RentPath Gives Back Foundation, Inc.
- Rich Foundation
- Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
- Southern Company Charitable Foundation
- Spelman College/Office on Violence Against Women
- Thalia & Michael C. Carlos Foundation
- Thomas H. Pitts Trust
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- W.G. Raoul Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Westside Future Fund

# Events

## PurSHOEing Justice 2018

Every three seconds, someone is physically abused by an intimate partner. Each year, over 3,000 survivors walk into Safe Families Office seeking legal protection from their abusers.

PurSHOEing Justice was created to increase awareness around intimate partner abuse and raise money for AVLF's Safe and Stable Families Project. The brainchild of AVLF board members Elizabeth Finn Johnson and Jennifer Jackson, PurSHOEing Justice not only provides the Safe and Stable Families project with crucial funding each year, but also provides a space in which the legal community can celebrate the strength and resilience of survivors.

This year, like others past, was a delight. It was a night of great shopping, food, and socializing with AVLF staff, volunteers, and friends. In addition to the traditional silent auction – which included jewelry, gift cards, dozens of pairs of shoes, and even a mountain bike – guests had the opportunity to bid on several live auction items, including a trip to Argentina and a 10-person dinner party.

Among the shopping and dining, however, was a more serious theme: that intimate partner abuse affects everyone in our community, and that those of us with the resources to help must do so. Attendees heard a humbling testimony from one of AVLF's clients. We are proud to announce that PurSHOEing Justice, held on February 28th, raised a total of over \$96,000 for our Safe and Stable Families Project.



## Beer Tasting 2018

At the annual Beer Tasting event held on June 14th, the annual Beer Tasting raised over \$80,000 for Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and Atlanta Legal Aid. The Beer Tasting has become a summer staple for the legal community. Over 800 Atlantans were on the roster.

United Distributors provided over 50 different types of beers to sample, and three local barbecue restaurants – Grand Champion, Taylor'd, and American Cut – brought their finest samples for the crowd. Both the Judges' and People's Choice Awards went to Grand Champion BBQ.



## Guardian Ad Litem 2018

The Guardian ad Litem Benefit, hosted at Warner Bates on September 13th, was a successful night of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and important fundraising for a program most crucial to the Fulton County courts - in high-conflict custody cases, a judge may need to appoint a Guardian to investigate the circumstances and advocate in the best interest of the child(ren). AVLF trains and supervises Guardians for cases in Fulton County where the families cannot afford to hire a Guardian on their own.

Fulton Superior Court Family Division Judge Christopher Brasher offered his remarks at the event. There were over 100 attendees, including many members of the Family Law Section of the Atlanta Bar. Catering was provided by Taco Cowboy. The event raised nearly \$30,000.



## Winetasting 2018

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's annual Winetasting serves as a celebration of giving, to honor the 1000+ friends of AVLF for their commitment to pro bono legal service. Now in its 27th year, the event is one of the biggest nights of the year for Atlanta's legal community and kick-off to the holiday season.

On the Sunday before the event, top supporters gathered at the home of John Chandler and Beth Tanis for AVLF's Presidents Dinner. This annual occasion, recognizes all former AVLF Board Presidents and top donors to the Annual Campaign. Guests heard from three former Presidents who reminisced about their service to AVLF. Debby Ebel remarked on the beginnings of the Guardian ad Litem program. Mark VanderBroek (Nelson Mullins) shared a brochure highlighting the growth of AVLF and his appreciation that Rita Sheffey followed him as President. Jeff Cashdan (King & Spalding) shared a letter from a client in 2003 lauding the work of his partner, David Tetrick.

On Thursday, November 1st, the much anticipated Winetasting commenced at the Biltmore Ballrooms in downtown Atlanta. The 1100 attendees tasted over 12 signature wines and spirits, that perfectly complemented the mouth-watering selections from Atlanta's top restaurants - La Tavola, Ecco, and South City Kitchen - courtesy of Bold American Catering and Design. Gregg Gibbs of United Distributors described the wines as chosen from the Old World (think Tuscany and the Italian Countryside) and the New World (think California). Guests also participated in drawings for select wine give-a-ways from the private cellars of a few generous collectors. Each guest left with a complimentary, AVLF-branded wine glass to memorialize the evening and toast to another successful year. We want to thank United Distributors for donating the wine for the occasion.





# Thank You to Our 2018 Donors

## Champion (\$25,000 and above)

John Chandler & Beth Tanis  
John Davenport  
Epiq  
Eversheds Sutherland

Georgia Power Foundation  
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP  
King & Spalding  
Paul J. Murphy & Gia M. Partain

The Nunnally Foundation  
Southern Company Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Troutman Sanders LLP

## Guardian (\$24,999 - \$10,000)

Alston & Bird  
Arnall Golden Gregory LLP  
Thalia & Michael C. Carlos  
Foundation  
Roxanne & Jeffrey Cashdan  
The Coca-Cola Company  
Deloitte Financial Advisory  
Services LLP

Dentons US LLP  
Elizabeth Finn Johnson & Stuart  
Johnson  
Walter Jospin & Hon. Wendy Shoob  
Frances & Jim Kerr  
Jones Day  
Adria Perez

PwC  
Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP  
SunTrust Private Wealth Legal  
Specialty Group  
Taylor English Duma LLP  
Walton Family Foundation

## Defender (\$9,999 - \$5,000)

ALM Media LLC  
Atlanta Bar Association – Family  
Law Section  
Atlanta Bar Association – Litigation  
Section  
Baker Donelson PC  
Balch & Bingham LLP  
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP  
Karen Borelli  
Larry & Tracy Bracken  
Debbie Segal & Randy Cadenhead

DLA Piper LLP  
EY  
FordHarrison  
Global Payments Inc.  
The Home Depot  
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP  
IAG Forensics  
Irv Marchand  
Morris Manning & Martin LLP  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP  
Mary Hopkins Nunnally

Parker, Hudson, Ranier & Dobbs LLP  
Paul Hastings LLP  
Polsinelli P.C.  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP  
Frank & Deborah W. Slover  
Southern Company Gas  
State Bar of Georgia – Corporate  
Counsel Section  
Sheryl Stephens  
Jaime Theriot & Wes Tailor  
Weissman PC

## Advocate (\$4,999 - \$2,500)

Abrams, Davis, Mason & Long LLC  
Ralph & Jennifer Alewine  
Aprio  
Association of Corporate Counsel -  
Georgia Chapter  
AT&T Legal Department  
Atlanta Bar Association -  
Bankruptcy Section  
Atlanta Bar Association - Estate  
Planning & Probate Section  
Atlanta Bar Association - Intellectual  
Property Law Section  
Atlanta Bar Association - Real  
Estate Section  
Atlanta Bar Association - Labor &  
Employment Section  
Ballard Spahr LLP  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Thomas E. Best  
Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle &  
Roddenbery LLC  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Buckley Beal LLP  
Cozen O'Connor  
Tom & Ann Curvin  
Michelle & Walt Davis  
Duane Morris, LLP  
Fellows LaBriola LLP  
Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC  
Adam R. Gaslowitz  
Greenberg Traurig LLP  
Hall, Arbery, Gilligan, Roberts &  
Shanlever LLP  
Elizabeth Helmer  
Hoelting & McCormack LLC  
The Home Depot Legal Department  
John A. Horn  
Huff, Powell & Bailey, LLC  
Jackson Spalding  
Jennifer Jackson  
KLDDiscovery  
Nancy Baughan & Kevin Kastner  
Meredith Lackey  
Ellen Brown Landers

Christin & Michael Lumpkin  
Jennifer D. Malinovsky  
Susan Kupferberg & Richard Mitchell  
Moore Colson CPAs and Advisors  
Terri & Jim McGinnis  
McGuireWoods LLP  
Jeff Nix & Tricia Nay-Nix  
Network 1 Consulting  
Ogletree Deakins  
Mary Prebula  
Richardson Bloom & Lines LLC  
Rogers & Hardin LLP  
Ron & Fredell Schwartz  
William B. Shearer III  
Brian & Leah Smith  
Dave & Jamie Stainback  
State Bar of Georgia - Family  
Law Section  
Chelton & Peggy Tanger  
Veritext Legal Solutions  
Meka & Hon. Christopher Ward  
Womble Bond Dickinson LLP

## Sustainer (\$2,499 - \$1,000)

W. Steven Allen • Atlanta Bar Association - Business & Finance Law Section • Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers  
Bruce W Baber • Katie & Adam Balthrop • Patricia T. Barmeyer • Barrett & Farahany LLP • Marshall Barton  
Rhonda Champion • Samuel S. Choy • James Cifelli • Anne M. Cox-Johnson • Jennifer & Ryan Deal  
Bettina & Geoffrey Drake • Women in eDiscovery • Wendy & Marty Ellin • Entrusted Counsel, LLC • John & Lisa Fleming  
James A. Gober • Timothy J. Goodwin • Harmann Family - Pam & Edwin Page Fund • Ashley & James Heintz • Steven J. Hewitson  
Hilltop Consultants, Inc. • Holland & Knight LLP • Bill Holley • Michael E. Hollingsworth • Ben & Rachel Hunter  
Brian K. Jammer • Davida Jones • Eric Koontz • Lawrence & Bundy LLC • Jay Lazega • L. Joseph J. Loveland Jr.  
Martenson, Hasbrouck & Simon LLP • Brandon F. Marzo • Lindsay O'Reilly • Hall Booth Smith PC • Jim Rawls  
Tom & Ann Rhodes • Hon. Rebecca Rieder & Doug Rieder • William G. Roche • Hansell & Tina Roddenbery • Louise Sams  
Paul R. Shlanta • Elizabeth Silbert • Carey & Avital Stadler • State Bank & Trust Company • Sean & Kelly Sullivan  
Bernard Taylor • Thompson Hine LLP • Mark VanderBroek • Bradley E. Wahl • Carl & Gail Washington  
Denelle Waynick • Rachel Fox Weitz & Ari Weitz • Tom & Darcy White • Courtney & Todd White • Jack & Amy Wilen W.  
Winston Briggs Law Firm • Tyler & Lisa Wright • Sally Q. Yates • David M. Zacks • Bernard Zidar Jr.

## Benefactor (\$999 - \$350)

Anisa Abdullahi • Julie Adkins • Jacob Adrian • George Akers • Gary Alembik • Elaine & Miles Alexander  
Carolyn Z. Alford • Jeffrey & Jennifer Allred • Nithya Amaraneni • Rachel Amin • Lee Ann Anand • Ellen Arnovitz  
Andrew Rosenzweig & Pearlann Arnovitz • Atlanta Bar Association Corporate Counsel Section • Paul Barsness & Allison Ashe  
Kathy & Lawrence Ashe • Teresa L. Bailey • Mike Barry • Katie Barton • Dan & Lisa Beale • Kate Helm & Charles Beans  
Cory & Alan Begner • Mary Benton • Donna & Mark Bergeson • Pierre Beuret • Aileen Bleach • Blitch Law, P.C.  
Bluesource North America • Liz Price & Rick Blumen • Lanchi & Ernesto Bombalier • James W. Boswell III • Liam Bracken  
Mary Brann • Sam L. Brannen, Jr. & Fiona C. Brannen • Hon. Christopher Brasher • Susan Bright • Gail & Frank Brown  
Bruce Maloy & Leslie Bryan • Elizabeth Buckley • Brad Burman • J. Kevin Buster • Thomas M. Byrne • Tamara & Jose Caldas  
Clark Calhoun • Paula Canaday-Daeke • June M. Carlson • Andrea Farley & Paul Carriere • Mazie Lynn Causey  
Steven Cayton • Henry R. Chalmers • Sharon Zealey & Huiling Chen • William J. Ching • Robin Clark • Sherman A.  
Cohen Kitty Cohen • Halli D. Cohn • Lauren Coleman • Ron & Laurie Coleman • Charlotte A. Combre • Philip A. Cooper  
Clint & Lisa Crosby • Frances Cullen • John & Sherry Culves • Hal & Laurie Daniel • Martel & Cindy Day • Joe Delgado  
Brad Denson • Hon. Mary Grace Diehl & Michael Jablonski • Catherine & Dan Diffley • Nikola Djuric  
Donovan Reporting & Video Conferencing • Hon. Margaret Dorsey • Robert Dow • Stephen C. Andrews & Hon. Doris L. Downs  
Scott & Tracy Drake • Driven, Inc. • Carole Powell & Dwight Duffus • Jennifer Duncan • Michael Dunham  
Deborah Ebel • EcoShredding, Inc. • Jay Strongwater & Betsy Edelman • Bob Edwards  
Committee to Re-Elect Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe • Brittany & Tucker Ely • Anne & Martin Emanuel • Sarah & Scott Ernst  
Esquire Deposition Solutions • Phil & Brenda Etheridge • FTI Consulting • Benjamin & Robin Fink • Audra Dial & Matthew Ford  
Alison & Ken Franklin • Paula Frederick • Gary Freed • Michael S. French • Charity Scott & Evans M. Harrell Family Fund  
William R. Gaines • Brian Galison • Georgia Family Law Project • Mary & Richard Gerakitis • Kevin & Marlene Getzendanner  
Sanjay Ghosh • Gibbon Financial Consulting • Michael Gibeault • David Golden • Karen Golden-Biddle • Michael Goldman  
Neil Gordon • Jerry M. Graves • Gray Eittreim Martin, LLC • Divida Gude • Shelby S. Guilbert Jr. • Justin & Carla Gunter  
Nina Gupta • Nekia Hackworth • Ashley & Flip Hager • John & Shara Harbin • Jon R. Harris, Jr. • Robert D. Hays  
Richard Hays • Holly A. Hempel • Terri Allen Hendley • Glenn & Lisa Hendrix • David Hern • Richard Herzog, Jr.  
Wayne Hillis • Phillip E. Holladay Jr. & Melinda Cooper Holladay • Richard A. Horder • Krevolin & Horst, LLC • Clay Howell  
Stephen E. Lewis & Mary Ellen Huckabee • Charles Huddleston • Amy B. Cheng & Chad A. Hume • IST Management Services  
Sarah Babcock & James Iredell • Michelle W. Johnson • Michael W. Johnston • David Katz • Mark Keenan  
Jim & Ashley Kelly • Alexandra Greene Kennelly • Josh & Hope Kenyon • Kessler & Solomiany, LLC • Libby King  
C. Suzette Ellis Hoyle & Dawn E. de Klerk • Elisa S. Kodish • Jamie & Shannon Konn • Kresky Law • Frank Landgraff  
June Lee • Cheryl Legare • Kimberly Lerman • Matthew & Marjorie Lerner • Charles T. Lester • Kate Lewis • Aaron W. Lipson  
Connell Cummings LLC • Stephen M. Lore • Russell P. Love • Peter Canfield & Laurel Lucey • Merrill Lynch • Meghan Magruder  
S. Wade Malone • Malow Mediation & Arbitration Inc. • Jeffrey L. Mapen • David Joel Marmins • Marple Law Firm  
Adrienne E. Marting • Tim & Christine Mast • Whitney D. Mauk • David McAlister  
Hon. Robert McBurney & Courtney McBurney • Letitia A. McDonald • Erin Reeves McGinnis • Marcy Millard  
Mrs. Kenneth L. Millwood • Roger Mitchell • Stacey & Walter Mohr • Laura B. Mongioi • Marilyn A. Moore  
Melinda L. Moseley • Louise Rains & Miro Moutaftchiev • Paul & Tanya Murphy • Cheryl Naja • Michael T. Nations  
Lynn Roberson & Hon. Henry Newkirk • Charlie & Judy Newton • Coby & Ansley Nixon • Bobbi & Sam Noland  
Richard North • Rebeca Ojeda • Bridgett Ortega • Briley Brisendine & Elena Parent • W. Russell Patterson, Jr.  
Steve & Susan Pepper • Elizabeth & Jeff Perry • W. Ray Persons • Scott Petty • Alex Peurach • Mindy S. Planer  
Larry Polk • Evan Pontz • Benjamin Warren Pope • Emily Prince • Pritchard & Jerden, Inc. • Allison & Alan Pryor

Juliette Pryor • G. Scott Rafshoon • Marbury Rainer • John H. Rains IV • Kristen & Raman Rajagopal • Ian Ratner  
Adam Reinke • Relativity • Hon. Eric Richardson • Lee Peifer & Ellen Richter • Andrea Rimer • Nora Robb • Jason Rottner  
Michael E. Rubinger • Bethany Rupert • James & Devon Rusert • Craig & Whitney Rusert • Sam & Dawn Rutherford  
Doug Salyers • Daniel S. Sanders Jr. • Richard A. Schneider • Mary Jo Schrade • Margaret & Derek Scott • Larry W. Shackelford  
Rebecca & Mike Shanlever • Suzanne Wakefield & Michael Shapiro • Daniel Shea • Dr. Rita A. Sheffey • Scott N. Sherman  
Shewmaker & Shewmaker, LLC • Tori M. Silas • David Simmons • Richard A. Slaby Jr. • Lawrence A. Slovensky  
Alexandra Smith • Whitney Garrett Smith • Kendrick Smith • Donna & Garth Snider • Southern First Bank • Douglas R. Spear  
Ross M. Speier • Gary & Beckie Spencer • John Spinrad • Mary Frances Stirling • Sue Stoffer • Susan Russell & Bernd Sunderdiek  
TCDI • Laurie Tagliatalata • Anthony P. Tatum • Scott E. Taylor • Earle R. Taylor III • Tesser Mediation, LLC  
Anita Wallace Thomas • Jenny Mittelman & Bill Thompson • James Thompson • Bennett Thrasher • Joshua Toll  
Eric Tresh • Richard Hines V • Charles D. Vaughn • Amanda Waide • Ryan Walsh • Scott & Jill Wandstrat • Bryan Ward  
James A. Washburn • Stephen Devereaux & Jill Wasserman • Robert G. Wellon • David & Jaime Wender • Pete Werdesheim  
Lucas & Jessica Westby • Hon. Mel Westmoreland & Sally Stephens Westmoreland • Hon. Paige Whitaker • Brian A. White  
Connie White • Kelly & Allen Whitehart • Suzann M. Wilcox • Eric R. Wilensky • Tina & Jasen Williams • Rhys Wilson  
Joseph M. Winter • Angie & Bobby Woo • Bruce C. Wood & Margaret Wood • Leigh Wilco & Carolyn Wood  
Hon. Cynthia D. Wright • Scott Wright • Angela & Gilbert Yeremian • Jack & Sarah Zampell • Scott E. Zweigel

## Contributor (up to \$349)

Anonymous • Brian S. Abrams • Jaime Ackerman • Ra O. Amen • Alpa Amin • Lori Anderson • Shelly Anderson  
Christen Ansuini • Phyllis & Eliot Arnovitz Philanthropic Fund • Ken Ashley • Jeanne Aulbach • Amy Averill  
BBA Leadership Institute Inc. • Erik J. Badia • Suzanne Baker • Branden Baltich • Melissa Barber • Betty Barnard  
Hon. Jane C. Barwick • Adam Bateman • Lauren Batterby • Gordan Battle • Herbert & Betsy Baughan • Catherine Baxter  
Jason Beach • Lauren Beight • Hon. Wenona C. Belton • John Belville • Bettina O'Neal Benson • Audrey Bergeson  
Aparna Bhattacharyya • Matti Birge • Clare F. Boothe • Amy Boring • Lila Bradley • Amanda Brandenburg • Sara Brewer  
Kimberly Brock • Randy Brogdon • Kaeley Brown • Leslie J. Bryan • Andrea Barbian Buntin • Susan Buterbaugh  
Dale Capelouto • Abigail Cariker • Jake Carroll • Meria Carstarphen • Anna Carvalho • Andrew & Kim Case • Jessica Casey  
Jennifer Cavanaugh • Sarah Fai Cearley • Katey Ceccarelli • Ed Chang • Erica Chanin • Shellie Cherner • Irena Chernova  
John Chescavage • Chubb Charitable Foundation • Matthew Clarke • Katherine Clayton • Patrick Clore • Barbara Cohen  
Ricardo Corporán • Tony Coughlin • Courtroom Sciences • Brea Croteau • Lula Dawit • David Debord • Cathy Demyanek  
Shanika Dennis • Brandon Derifield • Nina Desai • Lovely Dhillon • Robert N. Dokson • Robert Donlan • Samantha Dorsey  
Hon. Sara Doyle • William M. Droze • Rebecca Drube • Greg Dufford • Rick Dusel • Heidi Eddy-Dorn • Hon. Susan Edlein  
Amber Ellingson • James Emshoff • Joseph Englert • Joseph English • Brianne Erwin • Kristina Eschenburg • Bill Ewing  
Marianna Faircloth • R. Keegan Federal • Leon Feldman • Sean Fennelly • Jennifer Findley • Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation  
Jonathon & Margaret Fligg • Elliott Foote • Michele Fox • Angela Frazier • Ann Frazier • Katelyn Fredericks • Nancy Friauf  
Eric J. Frisch • Robert Fusi • Jeffrey & Syndy Gaber • Jessica Galant • Esohe Galbreath • Robert & Susan Gallagher  
Matthew Gass • Stephanie George • Erin Gerstenzang • Deborah Gibbon • LeAnne M. Gilbert • Dave Gimbel • Julie Glasson  
Dale Glenn • Gary and Marcia Goldberg • Andrew & Karen Goldman • Ginny Gonzalez • Cynthia Goodwin • Sarah T. Gordon  
Hon. Stephen S. Goss • Ronnie Gosselin • Stephen Graves • Laurie Green • Brandy Griffin • Alison Grounds  
Raymond V. Giudice PC • Alex Guyton • Diana Guyton • James & Lupe Guyton • John & Lisa Guyton • Amber N. Hall  
Susan Hall • Meg Hamill • Rasheed Hamilton • Sara Hamilton • Neda Hanson • Steven Harkins • Jeff Harper • Jacob L. Harris  
Natasha A. Harrison • Jessica Hart • Sarah Hawk • Thomas Hay • Patricia Healy • Shawntel R. Hebert • Nell Henson

Quinette Herrington • Jake Hiers • Allison Hill • Tom Hiney • Thuy An Ho • Jordan E. Hodge • Ken Hodges  
 Matthew Hollingsworth • James Holmes • Dena Hong • Margaret P. Hooker • Alexandra Howard • Harris K. Howard  
 Michael Howell • Tamika Hrobowski-Houston • David Hsu • Amanda Hubbard • Huff and Woods, P.C. • Ruth A. Hughes  
 Hon. Frank M. Hull • Susan Hurst • Donna Jack • Hon. Phillip Jackson • Cody & Laura Jenkins • LaShana C. Jimmar  
 Charis Johnson • Jim & Florrie Johnson • Julian Johnson • Rima Johnson • Michelle Jordan • Danica Lauren Jorge  
 Stacey Kalberman • Pamela Kalista • Brent Kaufman • Nan & Joshua Kaufman • Monica Khant • Behrouz Kianian  
 Justin M. King • Mary Pat King • Wendy King • Michelle Kirk • Seth D. Kirschenbaum • Steven Kirson • Terri Kolander  
 Paula H. Krone • Nancy Kumar • Frances Kuo • Katherine Lagos • Jenna Lasseter • Bryan B. Lavine • Lawler Green Prinz, LLC  
 Amy Lea • Trish Leahy • Carolyn Leasure • HyeYun Lee • Sunny Lee • Elizabeth Lester • Lorina Lew • Mary Lewis  
 Natalie Lewis • Alice Limehouse • Catherine D. Little • Melissa L. Love • Laurie & Scott Loveless • Natalie Majeed  
 Lisa Malas • Karen Manley • Merideth Manning • Katherine E. Martin • Margaret Martin • Scott McAlpine • Janel McCurrie  
 Darrick McDuffie • Rebecca McFadyen • Mary McKay • Kate McNeely • Donald Mees • Alisa Michael • Richard Michaels  
 Elizabeth Miller • Gina Miller • Megan Miller • James Minnick • Megan Missett • Jerry Mitchell • Sandra Mitchell  
 Katrina Monroe-Pettway • Tameika Montgomery • Alana Mueller • John T. Murray • NASDAQ • Cindy Nash • Mark Nash  
 Gregory R Nevins • Cliff Newman • Christiane Nolton • Lise O'Haire • Chuck O'Melia • Old War Horse Lawyers Club, Inc.  
 Marshall & Peggy Orson • Hon. Ashley Osby • Tom Pagini • Tara Parker • Adil Pasha • Jacqueline Payne  
 Gwen & Marc Pearl • Stan Pearson II • Allison Perez • Sloane Perras • Wesley Person • Lauren Petcho • Annalise Peters  
 Jennifer Pham • Jerico Phillips • Tameka Phillips • Steven Pierce • Kristen Pipal • Alyssa Pollock • Claire Pope  
 Kurtis Powell • Spencer Preis • Hon. Jill Pryor • William Ragland • Ronald Raider • Michelle Rapoport • Steven Rapp Ed  
 Rappaport • Sarah J. Rasalam • Elizabeth Raskin • Russell B. Richards • Rion Robbins • Tina Robinson • Lisa Rose  
 Christan Rozzell • Jenna Rubin • Kevin Rubin • Anthony Rushin • Margaret Ruthenberg-Marshall • Jessica Sabbath  
 Franklin Sacha, Jr. • Rebecca & Josh Sale • Nadia Saleem • Robin Sangston • Amy Saul • Leslie Schneider • John Scott  
 Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour • Genghis Shakhan • Joann Sharpe • Leia Shermohammed • Suganthi Simon  
 Chris Sizemore • Michael Sklar • Hope Slezak • Ansley Sluss • Christina Smith • Caryl G. Smith • JoAnna Smith  
 Alvah O. Smith • Tracey Smith • Rachel Snider • Shellee Spagnoletto • Deb Spitale • Shannon Sprinkle • Barbara  
 Stahnke • Ana Stanfield • Debi Starnes • Linda Starnes • Christopher A. Steele • James Stevens • Alvina Stewart  
 Maria Stojanovic • J. Lindsay Stradley, Jr. • Laura Stram • Troy Stram • Phyllis B. Sumner • Claire Sumner  
 Rosanna Szabo • Roxana Tatman • Gregory M. Taube • Erica Taylor • James Taylor III • Tatiana Taylor • Lorrie Thomason  
 Mark Tilkin • Jennifer Toner • Hon. Amy Totenberg • Cathy Vandenberg • Ashley Vandevender • Sachin Varghese  
 Maggie Vath • Natalie Victoria • Laura Thayer Wagner • Amy Wall • Jiayu Wang • Will Ward • Jennis Warren  
 Susan Warren • Che Watkins • Benjamin Watson • Kristen Weathersby • Steve Weizenecker • Matt Westmoreland  
 Ashley Whitaker • Jordan Whitaker • Tameeka White • Kristen White-Fruth • Caitlin Whitehurst • Britt Willingham  
 David Winn • Knox Withers • Brad & Lexi Wood • Xact Data Discovery • Hon. Christopher Yokom  
 Bonnie Monique Youn • Shawn Yousif • Emily Yu • Jeanine Zanoni • Barry L. Zipperman

# Board of Directors and AVLF Staff

## 2018 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

- **Walter Davis, President**  
Jones Day
- **Nancy Baughan, Vice President**  
Parker Hudson Ranier & Dobbs
- **Adria Perez, Secretary**  
Kilpatrick Townsend
- **Jim McGinnis, Immediate Past President**  
Warner Bates
- **Paul Murphy**  
King & Spalding (Retired)
- **Chelton Tanger**  
The Tanger Consulting Group LLC

### Standing Directors

- **Clyde Mize, Gate City Bar Association President**  
Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP
- **Nicole Iannarone, Atlanta Bar Association President**  
Georgia State University
- **Honorable Robert McBurney**  
Fulton County Superior Court
- **Honorable Eric Richardson**  
Fulton State Court

- **Nora Robb, Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers Chair**  
Cox Automotive
- **Rachel Weitz, AVLF Junior Board President**  
Delta Airlines
- **Cathy Vandenberg**  
Atlanta Legal Aid Society

### At-Large Directors

- **Steve Allen**  
SunTrust Bank
- **Tom Best**  
Home Depot
- **Lawrence Bracken II**  
Hunton & Williams LLP
- **Tom Curvin**  
Eversheds Sutherland LLP
- **Elizabeth Helmer**  
Alston & Bird LLP
- **John Horn**  
King & Spalding
- **Jennifer Jackson**  
Sullivan Strickler
- **Elizabeth Finn Johnson**  
The Coca-Cola Company (Retired)

- **Trudy Kremer**  
Jackson Spalding
- **Meredith Lackey**  
Georgia Power
- **Christin Camp Lumpkin**  
Global Payments Inc.
- **Jennifer Malinovsky**  
Nelson Mullins
- **Irvin Marchand**  
Epiq
- **Jeff Nix**  
Taylor English
- **Will Shearer**  
United Distributors, Inc.
- **Brian Smith**  
Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
- **David Stainback**  
PwC
- **Jaime Theriot**  
Troutman Sanders
- **Meka Ward**  
The Home Depot
- **Denelle Waynick**  
UCB, Inc.

## 2018 Junior Board of Directors

- Rachel Weitz, President  
Delta
- James Rusert, Immediate Past President  
DLA Piper
- Ashley Heintz, President Elect  
Jones Day
- Katie Balthrop  
Troutman Sanders LLP
- Alex Bartko  
Polsinelli
- Paul R. Barsness  
Parker, Hudson, Ranier & Dobbs LLP
- Brittany Cambre  
Eversheds Sutherland
- Michelle Davis  
PwC
- Jennifer Deal  
Kilpatrick Townsend LLP
- Kenneth Franklin  
Duane Morris LLP
- Lennon B. Haas  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- Adam Koetter  
Veritext Legal Solutions
- Kristen Rajagopal  
Bequest
- Sarah Rasalam  
Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
- Andrew Rosenzweig  
Nelson Mullins
- Jason Rottner  
Alston & Bird
- Bethany Rupert  
King & Spalding
- Sean Sullivan  
Alston & Bird
- Tyler Wright  
Moore Colson

## AVLF Staff

### Safe and Stable Families Project:

- Jamie Perez, **Director**
- Audrey Bergeson, **Family Law Program Staff Attorney**
- Joel Correa, **Safe Families Office Staff Attorney**
- Lilli Crowe, **Program Coordinator**
- Mary Koenig, **Social Worker**
- Camille Millar, **Social Worker**
- Cynthia Padilla Pearson, **Legal Navigator**
- Andrea Taps, **Family Law Paralegal**

### Safe and Stable Homes Project:

- Cole Thaler, **Director**
- Crystal Redd, **Staff Attorney**
- Erica Taylor, **Saturday Lawyer Program Staff Attorney**
- Matilde Davis, **Volunteer Engagement Manager**
- Kenisha Carson, **Paralegal**
- Christan Rozzell, **Paralegal**

- Sharlena Foster, **Administrative Assistant**
- Ayanna Jones-Lightsy, **Standing with Our Neighbors Staff Attorney (Carver Cluster)**
- Nekesha Whitaker, **Standing with Our Neighbors Community Advocate (Carver Cluster)**
- Shamyia Wyatt, **Standing with Our Neighbors Community Advocate (Carver Cluster)**
- Erik Provitt, **Standing with Our Neighbors Staff Attorney (Westside)**
- Shameka Dixon, **Standing with Our Neighbors Community Advocate (Westside)**
- Lauren Washington, **Standing with Our Neighbors Staff Attorney (NPU-V)**
- Nikkiangela Cauthen, **Standing with Our Neighbors Community Advocate (NPU-V)**

- LaKeta Whittaker, **Standing with Our Neighbors Community Advocate (NPU-V)**

### Administration:

- Marty Ellin, **Executive Director**
- Michael Lucas, **Deputy Director**
- Libby King, **Development Director**
- Akshaya Garimalla, **Development Associate**
- Diana Guyton, **Grants Manager**
- Lauren Frazier, **Communications Manager**
- Sonya Humphries, **Community Assistance Manager**
- Mariah Pyrce, **Office Assistant**
- Jon Reading, **Office Manager**
- Ashleigh Starnes, **Communications Associate**

## What's Next

We are proud of our team and what we accomplished in 2018, and in 2019 we will continue to push ourselves, to innovate, to grow, and to focus on our clients.

We had over 3,000 visitors to the Safe Families Office in 2018, and in 2019 we will do more to reach all the survivors of intimate partner abuse who cannot make it to the courthouse, and our expert social workers will continue to **help all the survivors who need more than just legal services** in order to be free and safe.

We are the largest provider of legal representation to tenants in Fulton County, and in 2019 we will do more to reach all our neighbors who still cannot access our services, expanding our school-based and courthouse-based programs for tenants.

We learned that our school-based assistance to tenants can help improve schools and even help our neighbors heal, and in 2019 we will start innovative programs to see whether our services for tenants can also **reduce childhood asthma rates and the incidence of homelessness.**

Finally, our programs that address two fundamental areas of stability – intimate partner abuse and tenants' rights – are all national models, and in 2019 we will do more to bring those programs together as a unified effort to stabilize families, homes, and communities.

**Can we rise to these challenges?** We believe we can, and in 2019, we aim to prove it.

One thing, however, is clear. We cannot pull it off without community support. The essential ingredients to our growth and success in 2018 – and the heights we will reach in 2019 – are the volunteerism and financial support of our friends.

In order to be successful in our new partnership with the City of Atlanta to reduce homelessness by preventing it from happening in the first place, we need more volunteer attorneys to take on tenants' cases, and the financial support to sustain our amazing staff of thirty-five who run our programs and support those volunteers.

In order for our new Legal Education & Outreach Coordinator and team of social workers to be able to revolutionize how we address the issue of intimate partner abuse, we need more volunteer attorneys to represent survivors seeking protective orders or in family law cases, and more financial support to extend our services to survivors out into the community. Our team will be going out in to the community to **build better relationships with law enforcement, schools, and other providers**, while also leveraging more emergency assistance for survivors so that they are better equipped to see the legal process through and come

out the other side ready to thrive. We need you to be part of those efforts.

As we close out 2018, we know that all of our growth – every one of our successes – came when we decided to center our clients in all that we do. Wanting to better reach them, better serve them, and better learn from them was at the center of every programmatic decision, every hire, every partnership we pursued, and every relationship we built. We also know that we couldn't have done any of it without you.

We have learned a great deal on this journey thus far, and 2018 was a remarkable year at AVLF. We are, however, merely at the beginning of this journey to help bring stability to all Atlanta families. As we stay focused – as we push ourselves to innovate and better serve our community – please consider joining us to help make 2019 even more remarkable.



Michael Lucas

Deputy Director



---

Atlanta's largest provider of pro bono legal services, AVLF stands with low-income tenants and survivors of intimate partner violence as they fight for justice . We harness the collective power of our professional community to provide free legal and social services, ultimately creating safer, more stable families, homes and communities, and a more fair and equitable Atlanta.



**Connect with Us:**

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation  
235 Peachtree Street, Suite 1750  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 521-0790  
[www.avlf.org](http://www.avlf.org)

**f in**   | **@supportavlf**