

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Inspire. Innovate. Invest.

*Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's
45 Year Commitment to Our Community*



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A MILESTONE YEAR FOR JUSTICE IN ATLANTA

This past year marked a defining moment for AVLF. As we celebrated 45 years of standing with tenants and survivors of intimate partner abuse, we also witnessed the incredible strength of our community. We launched a comprehensive strategic plan that reaffirms our commitment to our volunteers and to our clients. We are re-examining what it means to volunteer at AVLF and creating new opportunities and experiences. We are also renewing our commitment to be a community-focused organization by opening new offices in the communities we serve. By deepening our community presence, we will continue to build trust and reach those individuals who need our help the most.

As we reflect on this milestone year, we embrace what has always guided our work: the drive to inspire change, innovate solutions, and invest in reaching those who wouldn't otherwise obtain justice, giving them a level playing field. This commitment took shape in meaningful ways—expanding access to legal support through the opening of the Westside Office, commemorating 15 years of the Safe Families Office as a refuge for survivors, and deepening our place-based and preventative legal advocacy to break cycles of housing instability and violence before they begin.

Together, we reached new heights—raising a record-breaking **\$1.5 million** for our annual campaign, a resounding testament to the power of collective action.

We are grateful for the many foundations, corporations, and law firms that invested in our work, as well as the hundreds of individual donors and volunteers whose support is critical to our work.

These moments underscore the progress we've made—but more importantly, they reinforce the path forward. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission: to stand with those who need us most, to strengthen communities through advocacy and legal representation, and to build a future where justice is accessible to all.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We are just getting started.

With gratitude,


Michael Lucas
Executive Director


Lawrence J. Bracken
President, Board of Directors

Executive Message

45TH ANNIVERSARY & AVL F BY THE NUMBERS

For 45 years, AVL F has been a civic problem solver, an innovator, and a trusted partner in the fight for justice.

In 1979, John Chandler and Robbie Dokson along with then-State Legislators Charlie Carnes and Sidney Marcus, Jim Martin, Atlanta Bar President Neil Batson, members of the Gate City Bar Association and numerous other supporters created AVL F as a stand alone non-profit organization. Atlanta Legal Aid needed a collective effort to support those seeking legal assistance. AVL F was founded to inspire Atlanta attorneys to volunteer their time and expertise, ensuring legal help for those who couldn't afford representation.

This began our Saturday Law Program. Tenants met with volunteer attorneys to review their case and determine how best to move forward. Sometimes it was a letter to the landlord about conditions or asking for an eviction to be dismissed, and sometimes it was standing beside the person in court to advocate on their behalf. Saturday Lawyer is where many

young attorneys gained courtroom experience as well as an understanding of how they can make a difference in someone's life in just one day.

AVL F's Guardian ad Litem program launched in 1990, and the very first Winetasting was held in 1991. The Safe Families Office (with Partnership Against Domestic Violence) opened in 2009. The office saw more than 2900 survivors of abuse in its first year. The following year, the Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence named the Safe Families Office a national "Best Practices" model.

The nationally recognized Standing with Our Neighbors program launched in 2016. In its first year, the program reduced student turnover at Thomasville Heights Elementary School by 36%. This was also AVL F's first step into place-based work demonstrating that by embedding staff in a school and leveraging volunteers, you can effect real change in a community.

In 2017, the Family Law Program launched as an extension of the Safe Families Office. Also, the Housing Court Assistance Center was established (in partnership

with Lawyers for Equal Justice, Georgia Law Center for the Homeless, and Georgia State University College of Law's Center for Access to Justice). In 2018, the Community Support & Prevention Program was established and was a frontline resource to countless residents of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County when COVID-19 shut down our lives in 2020.



In 2019, AVL F launched the Standing with Survivors Program to serve as a rapid response team for intimate partner abuse survivors. In 2022, AVL F, with support from Mercedes Benz of Buckhead and Live More Campervans, created a one of a kind mobile response van to meet clients where they are - grocery store parking lots, library parking lots, etc. Survivors meet

with a social worker in the van to begin the process of securing a protective order and meet remotely with a Judge.

In 2022, AVL F teamed up with the City of Atlanta to create an Access to Counsel Pilot Program. Utilizing data from the Fulton County Courts, the team provides proactive outreach to tenants who are facing eviction.

This year, we saw the impact of that decades-long commitment.

The work we do prevents homelessness before it happens. It protects survivors before violence escalates. It ensures communities that have long been underserved receive the advocacy and support they deserve.

And after 45 years, we're still not slowing down. We will continue to innovate bold solutions, inspire meaningful change, and invest in a brighter future for Atlanta.

414 volunteers gave of their time

\$273,569 provided to those needing financial assistance

5,475 individuals assisted by team members

Our Impact

AVLF STAFF

Safe & Stable Homes Project

SATURDAY LAWYER & EVICTION DEFENSE

Alexandria Arnold, Staff Attorney
Sarah Babcock, Managing Attorney,
Saturday Lawyer Program
Angel Caldwell, Paralegal
Kenisha Carson, Senior Paralegal
Susan Leonard, Volunteer Engagement
Manager
Ayanna Jones-Lightsy, Senior Litigation
Counsel
Crystal Redd, Director
LeRoya Scott, Administrative Assistant
Erica Taylor, Advice Attorney
Cole Thaler, Managing Attorney,
Saturday Lawyer Program

HOUSING COURT ASSISTANCE CENTER

Cassandre Damas, Managing Attorney
Angela Skeete, Paralegal
Jepera Hvidberg, Staff Attorney

EVICTION DEFENSE – ACCESS TO COUNSEL PILOT

Katie Herring, Managing Attorney,
Access to Counsel Pilot
Ethan Grossman, Staff Attorney
Tatiana Lima, Staff Attorney
Kelsie Matthews, Eviction Navigator
Christan Rozzell, Paralegal

STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

Brooke Askew, Community Advocate
Tiffany Carr, Community Advocate
Jared Casto, Staff Attorney
Nikkiangela Cauthen, Sr.
Community Advocate
Vani Gnanam, Staff Attorney
Pierce Hand, Director
Shameka Love, Intake Coordinator
Quentin Page, Community Advocate
Stefanie Ramirez Sparks, Director
Charmaine Sanders, Community Advocate
Gino Turner, Community Advocate
Shamyia Wyatt, Managing
Community Advocate

MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP+

Courtney Shelley, Program Manager

Safe & Stable Families Project

FAMILY LAW PROGRAM

Daysha Brown, Managing Attorney
Sharlena Foster, Legal Assistant
Courtney Johnson, Managing Attorney
Jennifer Leaks, Senior Paralegal
Sirica McIntosh, Law Clerk
Andrea Taps, Senior Paralegal
Madison Taylor, Legal Assistant

SAFE FAMILIES OFFICE

Lilli Crowe, Volunteer Engagement Manager
Brianna Daniels, Program Administrator
Cristina Dumitrescu, Director, Legal Services
Anajah McNish, Staff Attorney
Grace Power, Managing Attorney
Kayla Thompson, Administrator
Charlette Woodall, Paralegal

STANDING WITH SURVIVORS

Cori Bishop, Community Legal Advocate
Kenya Gould, Director, Social Services
Alexe Lopez, Community Legal Advocate
Mary Koenig, Program Manager
Melissa Olive, Social Worker
Jasmine Partridge, Housing Support
Social Worker
Mia Smith, Social Worker

Community Support & Prevention

La’Nette Holloman, Program Manager
Sonya Humphries, Director,
Community Support & Prevention
Amber Shannon, Community Advocate

Administration

OPERATIONS

Juan Figueroa, Deputy Director
Karen Frazier, Finance Manager
Takoya Frazier, Human Resources Manager
Matthew Goeke, Information Technology
Manager
Nicole Irvine, Executive Assistant
Jason Levister, Controller
Kizzy Lewis, Director of Human Resources
Michael Lucas, Executive Director
Melissa Moody, Sr. Program Data &
Evaluation Manager
Terri Valentine, Office Manager

DEVELOPMENT

Dave Bruce, Grant Writer
Morgan Mathis, Grants Coordinator
Kyle Newman, Sr. Manager of Donor
Relations & Annual Giving
Libby Rother, Development Director
Ebonie Sanders, Sr. Manager of Grants
Ferrin Tinter, Annual Campaign Coordinator

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Araba Dowell, Director of Marketing &
Communications
Kimberly Duncan, Sr. Marketing Manager
Dedrick Leonard, Marketing Manager

Our People



AVLF team members after a 2024 All-Team Meeting.

BOARD & LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lawrence J. Bracken, *President*,
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Paul Murphy, *Vice President*,
King & Spalding (Ret.)
Virginia Adams, *Treasurer / Finance*
Committee Chair, EY LLP
Emily Johnson, *Secretary*, UPS
Adria Perez, *Immediate Past President*,
Kilpatrick Townsend
Irv Marchand, *Epiq*, *Executive Committee*
At-Large
Kristy Weathers, *Executive Committee*
At-Large, Eversheds Sutherland
Chelton Tanger, *Executive Committee*
At-Large, The Tanger Consulting
Group LLC

STANDING DIRECTORS

Hon. Ural Glanville, Fulton County
Superior Court
Hon. Eric Richardson, Fulton County
State Court
Emily Ward, Atlanta Bar Association
Ken Franklin, AVLF Leadership Council
Kimberly Charles, Atlanta Legal Aid Society
John Bey, Gate City Bar Association

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Ben Hunter, *Investment Committee Chair*,
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Steven Wolfe, *Development Committee*
Chair, Wolfe Resolutions
Tom Best, *Strategic Planning Committee*
Chair, The Home Depot U.S.A.
John Horn, *Nominating Committee Chair*,
King & Spalding
Matthew Bozzelli, Southern Company
Jason Esteves, Hudson Cooke LLP
Christa Freeman, Invest Atlanta
Elizabeth Finn Johnson, The Coca-Cola
Company (Ret.)
Jennifer Fease, Acuity Brands
Kamal Ghali, Chaiken Ghali LLP
Lennon Haas, Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Cameron Hawkins, Law Office of
Cameron Hawkins, LLC
Ashley Heintz, Jones Day
Rebecca Kaj, GE Power
Kathryn Lawler, St. Joseph's/Mercy Care
Shaney Lokken, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Petrina McDaniel, Squire Patton Boggs
Jim McGinnis, Warner Bates
Jeff Nix, Taylor English LLP
Jonathan Olinger, Global Payments
Jason Outlaw, Alston & Bird
Andrew Rosenzweig, Bendin Sumrall &
Ladner, LLC
Dave Stainback, PwC

Our People

Brian Watt, Troutman Pepper Locke
Rachel Weitz, Delta Airlines

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ken Franklin, *President*, Honeywell
International Inc.
Tyler Wright, *President-Elect*, Moore Colson
Adam Koetter, *Secretary*,
Veritext Legal Solutions
Bethany Rupert, *Immediate Past President*,
US Attorneys Office, NDGA
Timothy "TJ" Graves, *Engagement*
Committee Chair, Eversheds Sutherland
Jessica Fagan, *Development Committee*
Chair, Fagan Law Group LLC
Ross Andre, *Nominating Committee Chair*,
Southern Company
Kimberly Averett, Kaiser Permanente
Andrea Clark, Delta Airlines
Desmond Dennis, Koch Industries
Lee Deneen, The Home Depot

Leah Feinman, Coca-Cola
Loretta Freeman, Barnes & Thornburg
Anna Griest, Deloitte
Morgan Harrison, Arnall Golden Gregory
Kasia Hebda, Troutman Pepper
Jack Heron, Jones Day
Lauren Macon, Truist
Stacy Myers, EY
Paul Nam, Bluefin Payment Systems
Jay Repko, Alston & Bird
Amy Saul Mollengarden, Connell
Cummings, LLC
Matthew Sellers, Bondurant Mixson &
Elmore
Shaniqua Singleton, Nelson Mullins
Brittany Slicker, Greenberg Traurig
Drew Stevens, Parker, Hudson,
Rainer & Dobbs
Jacqueline Van De Velde, King & Spalding
Michelle Wilco, Kilpatrick Townsend



A 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.



AVLF Board of Directors members meet the Safe and Stable Families team while exploring the Mobile Advocacy van.

SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROJECT (SSF)

AVLF’s Safe and Stable Families Project stands unwaveringly beside survivors of intimate partner abuse, providing essential legal and social services to help them escape cycles of violence and rebuild their lives. The program is a beacon of hope and stability, with compassionate and trusted AVLF team members supporting and guiding survivors toward safety and self-sufficiency.

How We Help

Standing with Survivors Mobile Advocacy (SWS) brings essential legal and social services directly to survivors of intimate partner abuse through a mobile van, offering a safe, discreet space for consultations and virtual court access.

Safe Families Office (SFO), with Partnership Against Domestic Violence, provides court-based legal assistance and support to survivors of intimate partner abuse, ensuring expedited access to protection and resources.

Family Law Program (FLP) & Guardian ad Litem (GAL) offer critical legal representation in custody, divorce, and child support cases, with Guardians ad Litem advocating for children’s best interests in court.



AVLF Standing with Survivors team at a 2024 outreach event.



Members of the AVLF Standing with Survivors team.

577

Individuals assisted by
Standing with Survivors

1508

Temporary
Protective Orders
secured

84

individuals received
Family Law Services

Our
Impact

FILING FOR FREEDOM

When Maria* and her children fled the state of Georgia to escape intimate partner abuse. While she found safety, she was no longer in the legal jurisdiction she needed to file for divorce. She needed to start the legal process in Georgia; however, navigating it from a distance felt overwhelming for her. That’s when she turned to AVLF’s Family Law Program (FLP) for help.

Over several months, the FLP team became her guide, assisting with paperwork, providing legal advice, and offering steady encouragement. Even from another state, Maria felt supported and empowered to take the next step. When she was finally able to return to Georgia, she was prepared—filing for divorce on her own and reclaiming her future. Through guidance and advocacy, FLP helped Maria not only navigate a complicated legal system but also gain the confidence to take control of her life, establishing a safer and more stable future for her family.

**name changed for privacy*

SAFE AND STABLE HOMES PROJECT (SSH)

AVLF’s Safe and Stable Homes Project is a lifeline for low-income families facing housing insecurity. By providing direct legal intervention and community-based support, the program utilizes innovative tactics to address landlord-tenant abuse – fortifying families against the devastating ripple effects of housing loss and fostering stable, resilient communities.

How We Help

Standing with Our Neighbors (SWON) embeds AVLF staff in communities and schools to provide legal education, advocacy, and direct support, helping tenants navigate housing challenges and fostering neighborhood stability.

Housing Court Assistance Center (HCAC) offers walk-in legal aid at the courthouse for tenants facing eviction or landlord disputes, providing immediate representation and resources to protect their rights.

Saturday Lawyer Program mobilizes volunteer attorneys to help low-income tenants fight illegal evictions, withheld deposits, and unsafe housing, providing free legal assistance every Saturday.

Eviction Defense Program and Access to Counsel Pilot Program provide in-court representation and advocacy to prevent unjust evictions and serve as a safeguard for families, breaking cycles of housing instability.



Members of the AVLF Standing with Survivors team.

Our Impact

MLP+ connected 185 CareSource clients to community resources, provided over \$30,000 in rental assistance, and helped over 60 families prevent evictions through legal assistance.

SWON served 218 families, including 356 children, conducted 22 mold tests, prevented 57 evictions through legal assistance, and provided over \$92,836.69 in rental assistance.

Access to Counsel Pilot accepted 159 cases and provided full representation to 44 of those cases. They provide \$79,652 in rental assistance to 39 households.

403 clients met with a volunteer attorney to discuss their landlord-tenant issues through the Saturday Lawyer Program. Over half of those clients were dealing with significant conditions issues in their housing.



A TENANT’S TRIUMPH

Janna* signed a year lease in April 2023, and began having floods and pest issues in August 2023. She complained and not much was done. When she came to AVLF, she did not want the staff attorney to talk to her landlord out of fear that she would get an eviction notice if a lawyer requested repairs for her home. The attorney instructed her how to request repairs. When she did request repairs on the morning of November 28, she received an eviction filing that same afternoon. The staff attorney helped her draft a counterclaim for failure to repair, retaliation, and property damage.

On the eve of trial, the landlord caved and dismissed their baseless eviction. AVLF proudly stood with the client, who decided she still wanted to pursue her counterclaims based on how poorly she was treated and the damages she sustained. The landlord’s attorney did not appear, and thus they defaulted and we proved our damages.

The client obtained a judgment for \$1,243, plus interest, for the retaliation by her landlord and she can remain a tenant in the property. The complex is notorious for retaliatory evictions and regularly intimidates tenants into silence. Wins like this help build trust amongst residents and demonstrates that their speaking up makes a difference little by little.

**name changed for privacy*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & PREVENTION PROGRAM (CSP)

The CSP Program provides one-time financial aid to Fulton County residents, primarily for rent and utility payments. Believing in an integrated approach, AVL F complements legal services with a needs assessment for each client.

Funds cover moving and storage costs, temporary hotel stays, food, hygiene essentials, diapers, clothing, transportation, and furniture. AVL F also collaborates with an extensive network of partners to ensure smooth transitions for clients, addressing their broader needs beyond legal support.

In 2022, CSP launched a rapid response to assist residents of Forest Cove affected by the diaspora. As AVL F’s “supportive services” work came to a close in early 2024, AVL F’s Forest Cove support team pivoted to partnering with AVL F’s legal team and the National Housing Law Project,

a national legal advocacy organization, to ensure that none of these over 200 families were deprived of their rights and the stable housing they needed to thrive.

Additionally, CSP led the way in launching a new AVL F location in the heart of NPU-V. As AVL F moves from a central office to neighborhood based offices, Pittsburgh Yards seemed to be a natural fit. The office and event space was developed in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and allows team members to work from there as well as meet with clients.



AVL F team members gather at Pittsburgh Yards.



193

Fulton County residents served

579

Individuals referred to holistic services including Forest Cove residents working on self-sufficiency plans and receiving their housing vouchers

\$273,569

Clients assistance provided in partnership with SWON, MLP+, and Access to Counsel programs.

Our Impact

HEALING THROUGH LEGAL ADVOCACY

Medical Legal Partnership Plus (MLP+) is an innovative new program connecting healthcare with legal and social services to address the root causes of health and housing instability, providing wraparound support for low-income individuals, intimate partner abuse survivors, and those with chronic health issues. By linking legal advocacy directly with the healthcare ecosystem, MLP+ treats housing and safety not just as legal crises, but as critical social determinants of health.

Through deep partnerships with Medicaid health plans like Kaiser and CareSource, MLP+ deploys Community Legal Health Workers (CLHWs) who act as trusted connectors between clients, medical providers, and legal advocates. These CLHWs help identify legal threats to a patient’s well-being — such as uninhabitable housing or ongoing abuse — and ensure coordinated, community-based interventions. By embedding legal care within the broader health context, AVL F is pioneering a new model that improves health outcomes while creating long-term housing and family stability.

With MLP+, AVL F is not only redefining what legal services can look like — it’s setting a national example for how cross-sector partnerships can lead to more just, healthy, and resilient communities.

VOLUNTEERISM

At AVL F, volunteers power our mission, offering their time and legal expertise to ensure more Atlantans get the representation they deserve.

This year, our volunteers logged thousands of hours defending tenants and standing with survivors. Their support meant that legal support reaches those who need it most. Many did not just take on one case—they returned, time and time again, because they saw firsthand how their work changed lives.

The law is meant to serve everyone. Our volunteers make sure that promise is kept.



Representative from Eversheds Sutherland and the AVL F Saturday Lawyer Program team at a 2024 Lunch and Learn.

Thank you to the following volunteers from these firms and organizations who made our work possible:

Alston & Bird	GA Assn of Black Women Attorneys	Rubin Family Law
Koch Legal	GA Assn of Women Lawyers	Shakhan & Wilkerson Law
Greenberg Traurig	DLA Piper	Portnoy, Garner & Nail
Kilpatrick Townsend	Taylor English	Edwards Family Law
Holland & Knight	Smith Gambrell Russell	Hames Law Firm
Dentons	Ballard Spahr	Kaye, Lembeck, Hitt & French
Seyfarth	Seyfarth	Fish & Richardson
Huff, Powell & Bailey	AVLF Leadership Council	Duane Morris
Bradley Arant	Miller & Martin	Cayton Legal
Eversheds Sutherland	King & Spalding	The Alexander Firm
Fed Gov Pro Bono Committee	Arnall Golden Gregory	Piraino Law
Nelson Mullins	Troutman Pepper Locke	Chisolm Trimble & Associates
Squire Patton Boggs	Eversheds Sutherland	Zachary & Segraves
Jones Day	Thompson Hine	The Law Office of Vanessa Kosky
GA Hispanic Bar Association	Honeywell	
	Shewmaker & Lewis	

414
Total unique volunteers

5,434
Total volunteer hours

\$1,630,200
Value (based on \$300 per hour)

SFO 15TH ANNIVERSARY & WESTSIDE OFFICE GRAND OPENING

15 Years of Safety and Support: Celebrating the Safe Families Office



AVLF team members celebrate the Safe Families Office's 15th Anniversary.

In February, AVL F and our partners commemorated 15 years of the Safe Families Office (SFO), a vital collaboration with Partnership Against Domestic Violence and the Fulton County State and Superior Courts. Over the years, SFO has been a lifeline for survivors of intimate partner abuse and stalking, providing immediate legal and social support in a safe, accessible setting.

To honor this milestone, we gathered with leaders across metro Atlanta to celebrate the program's impact and recognize key supporters whose dedication has shaped SFO's success. Four exceptional advocates received awards for their commitment: Judge Alex Manning, Jamie Perez, Mandy

Sandifer, and Elizabeth Finn Johnson. The anniversary was more than a celebration—it was a reaffirmation of our commitment to survivors and their safe futures.

Expanding Access to Justice on the Westside

In May, AVL F marked a significant milestone in its commitment to community-based legal advocacy with the grand opening of its Westside Office. Rooted in AVL F's mission to embed services where they are needed most, this new location strengthens our ability to stand with tenants and survivors of intimate partner abuse.

The Westside Office, shared with CHRIS180, represents AVL F's growing investment in place-based services—meeting clients where they are and fostering long-term community trust. At the grand opening, Michael Lucas and CHRIS180 CEO, Kathy Colbenson along with Atlanta City Councilmembers Byron Amos and Jason Dozier and the State of Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Director Jay Neal joined community advocates and partners to celebrate this expansion,

underscoring the critical role of innovative, neighborhood-centered solutions in addressing housing instability and intimate partner abuse.

By deepening our presence on the Westside, AVL F is making justice more accessible, strengthening community ties, and building a foundation for lasting impact.



Executive Director Michael Lucas speaks at the 2024 Westside Office Grand Opening.

Your Support

AVLF CUP

Honoring the Champions of Justice: The 2024 AVLF Cup

Each year, Atlanta’s top law firms, accounting firms, and corporations rally together to compete for something much bigger than a trophy: to make a lasting impact in the lives of Atlanta’s residents in their time of greatest need.

Each participating firm/company is assigned to a competition group based on the size of the firm or company’s Atlanta office. Participants can win in three ways:

- 1. Raising the most money for the AVLF Annual Campaign;
- 2. Having the most points in the competition (points are gained through individual donations and hosting AVLF Cup events)
- 3. Volunteering the most hours towards AVLF matters in a given calendar year. Over 20 Atlanta area law firms and companies participated in the 2023 AVLF Cup, and the following AVLF Cup teams were recognized as champions.



Celebrating the 2024 AVLF Cup Award Winners.

Join us in congratulating our 2024 AVLF Cup Champions:

CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK GROUP

- Volunteer Champions: Eversheds Sutherland
- Fundraising & Point Total Champions: Nelson Mullins

ADAIR PARK GROUP

- Total Point Champions: Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
- Fundraising Champions: Team Jones Day & Southern Company
- Volunteer Champions: Seyfarth



Kristy Weathers, AVLF Board of Directors, and Ken Franklin, AVLF Leadership Council present the AVLF Cup Awards.

WOODRUFF PARK GROUP

- Total Point & Volunteer Champions: Fish & Richardson P.C.
- Fundraising Champions: Hunton Andrews Kurth

HURT PARK GROUP

- Overall Champions: Squire Patton Boggs

HARDY IVY PARK GROUP

- Overall Champions: Moore Colson

PERKERSON PARK GROUP

- Overall Champions: Rubin Family Law

AVLF ALL STAR AWARDS

Celebrating Service: The 2024 AVLF All Star Awards

In April, AVLF hosted the 4th Annual All-Star Awards at the Fox Theater’s Egyptian Ballroom. The All-Star Awards recognizes AVLF’s outstanding volunteers along with firms and partner organizations that helped make our community more safe and stable. The awards are determined by AVLF team members and presented by Board Members, Leadership Council Members, and Team Members. AVLF’s Safe and Stable Homes Project Co-Director Pierce Seitz and AVLF Board of Directors Member Steve Wolfe served as emcees.

AVLF was proud to honor:

MARTIN LOUIS ELLIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- The Honorable Eric Richardson, State Court of Fulton County

AVLF FIRM OF THE YEAR

- Jones Day

AVLF PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- Mercedes Benz of Buckhead and Mrs. Juanita Baranco
- Live More Campervans

SUPER STARS

- Hillary Rightler, Kilpatrick
- Emily Binnie, Squire Patton Boggs
- Dominyka Plukaite, Troutman Pepper

SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES JUDICIAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- The Honorable Tamika Hrobowski-Houston, Fulton County Superior Court Family Division

FAMILY LAW PROGRAM FIRM OF THE YEAR

- Stern Edlin Graham Family Law, PC

STANDING WITH SURVIVORS/SOCIAL WORK ADVOCACY PROGRAM PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- ATL311

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Michelle Rapoport, Warner Bates

SAFE FAMILIES OFFICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Carissa Lavin, Alston & Bird

SATURDAY LAWYER PROGRAM ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

- Andres Sandoval, U.S. Department of Justice

HOUSING COURT ASSISTANCE CENTER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Kathryn Lee, Retired

SAFE AND STABLE HOMES FIRM OF THE YEAR

- Greenberg Traurig

SAFE AND STABLE HOMES PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- City of Atlanta Housing Help
- Center, Office of Mayor Andre Dickens

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

- Stadium Neighborhoods Community Trust Fund Committee

STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

- Jack Heron, Jones Day
- Frank Virgin, Taylor English
- Aditya Krishnaswamy, Georgia State University Law School Student

Your Support

SUMMER SOCIAL

Building on the Next Generation of Justice Advocates: The 2024 AVL F Summer Social



AVL F Supporters enjoy the 2024 Summer Social held at Wild Heaven Brewery (Westside).

In June 2024, AVL F’s Leadership Council Summer Social brought together more than 250 young professionals at Wild Heaven Brewery in West End. The event served as a powerful entry point for emerging legal professionals to engage with AVL F’s mission—whether through pro bono service, advocacy, or philanthropy.

Throughout the evening, attendees connected with peers, engaged with AVL F leadership, and learned firsthand how their involvement can create lasting impact. By fostering connections and mobilizing the next generation of legal advocates, the Summer Social reinforced the power of collective action and the role young professionals play in shaping a more just and equitable Atlanta.

AVL F WINETASTING

An Unforgettable Evening for Justice: The 2024 AVL F Winetasting



Members of the legal, corporate, and philanthropic communities celebrate the 2024 Wine Tasting at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

In November, AVL F hosted its 31st AVL F Winetasting at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, bringing together more than 1,100 guests—our largest attendance in history—for an unforgettable evening of celebration and community.

The event recognized the many legal professionals, corporate partners, foundations, and individual donors whose support fuels AVL F’s work in advocating for safe and stable homes and families. Guests enjoyed wine and spirits provided by Republic National Distributing Company while connecting with fellow advocates for justice.

Adding to the excitement, the South Atlanta High School “Marching Hornets” kicked off the night with an electrifying performance, and Freddie the Falcon kept the crowd entertained. The 2024 Winetasting reflected Atlanta’s deep commitment to justice and support of our community.

GRANTORS

Our grant success is built on strong community partnerships, rigorous impact measurement, and a steadfast commitment to holistic, client-centered legal services. We are profoundly grateful to the grantors who have invested in our mission, enabling us to advance our critical work in Atlanta—ensuring safe and stable homes and families for all.

2024 Grants

Annie E. Casey Foundation
American College of
Trial Lawyers
Atlanta Bar Foundation
Atlanta Foundation
Atlanta Legal Aid/
Administrative Office of
the Courts
Bank of America
Charitable Foundation
CareSource
Community Foundation for
Greater Atlanta
Criminal Justice
Coordinating Council

Frances Hollis
Brain Foundation
Fraser Parker Foundation
Georgia Bar Foundation
Jones Day Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan
Foundation
Misty Meadows Foundation
Morgens West Foundation
Norfolk Southern
PwC
United Way of Greater Atlanta
Yardi Systems



City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens with representatives from Rocket Community Mortgage and AVL F announce a partnership in 2024.

Your Support

HUD UPDATE

Since 2021, AVL F has been a recipient of U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s Eviction Protection Grant Program, expanding our ability to provide critical legal and financial support to tenants facing housing instability.

Through this funding, AVL F’s Eviction Defense programs have helped thousands of households across metro Atlanta, with over 97% of clients meeting HUD’s low-income guidelines; exceptions included clients who may have visited our Housing Court Assistance Center, which provides services regardless of income level. By offering legal representation, financial assistance, and direct tenant advocacy, we continue to break down barriers to housing security and create lasting impact in the communities we serve.

- From 2022 to 2024, AVL F’s Eviction Defense programs successfully provided legal advice and counsel to over 2,806 households, which included 3,727 adults and 2,813 children.
- AVL F assisted in preserving the tenancy and preventing eviction filing for over 1,284 households.
- AVL F aided over 794 clients with drafting court documents, assisted with negotiating settlement agreements for 169 clients, obtained additional days to move out for 97 clients, reduced or waived back rent for 106 clients, and assisted over 259 clients post-trial or post-eviction.
- Throughout the life of the grant, AVL F provided over \$276,930 in emergency financial assistance and also provided over 123 mold tests at no cost to our clients.

BEYOND THE COURTROOM

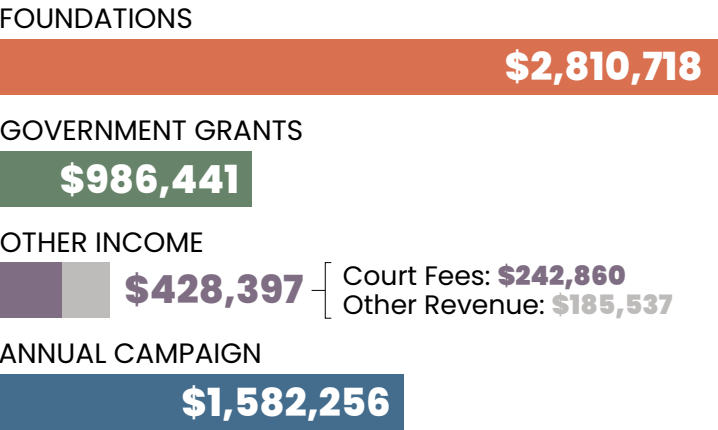
AVL F was proud to receive support and recognition from the American College of Trial Lawyers this year. The Foundation’s principal purpose is to improve the administration of justice and, in particular, access to justice for underserved communities and individuals.

With this award, AVL F brings the Tenant Empowerment and Advocacy Workshops directly into the community, making them accessible to those who are unable to visit our office. By doing so, we remove barriers and ensure that more people in need can benefit from these vital services. This new service delivery model goes beyond traditional Know Your Rights presentations and legal clinics by providing clients with concrete items, tailored advice, and specific documents relevant to their legal situations. This innovative approach empowers tenants, enabling them to take the necessary steps to seek justice and protect their rights.

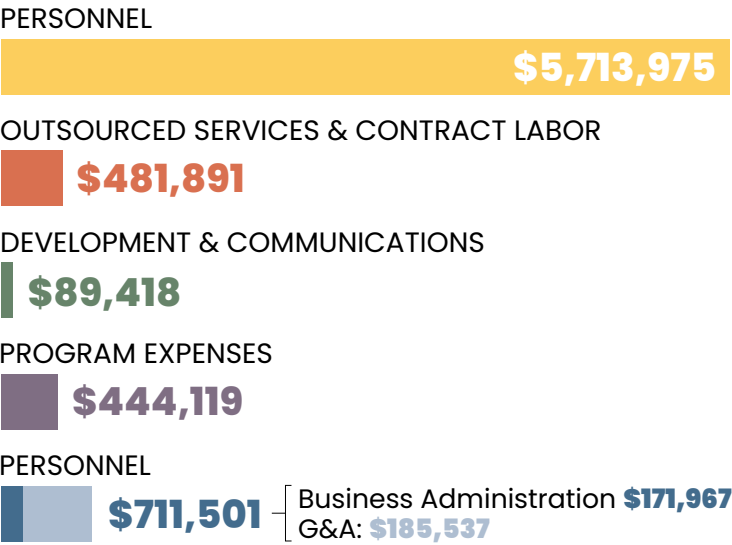
AVL F will conduct the workshops in library branches, schools, church basements, and community centers. Locations that require less travel and are familiar to clients will improve their access to services and enhance their experience. Funds were used to acquire the technology needed to present the workshops in community locations.

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