



**Learning
Rights**

Law Center

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Creating Positive Impact One Community at a Time

WE WELCOME YOU TO LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 - Letter from Executive Director, Board Chair,
and Vice Chair

2 - Who We Are

4 - Programs Positively Impacting Our Communities

6 - Who We Serve

12 - Impact on Students

14 - Advocating in Our Communities

17 - Our Team

18 - Our Supporters

22 - Volunteers

24 - Our Clients

25 - Financial Statement 2018

DEAR FRIENDS OF LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER,

With your support, Learning Rights had another landmark year. We positively impacted more than 9,000 students, their families, and other stakeholders in communities across Los Angeles and surrounding counties. Because of you, students in these communities received equitable access to a public education and a pathway to attaining economic self-sufficiency later in life.

Your support enabled us to expand our work in areas where we are having the most impact and launch new efforts to address emerging challenges in our communities. One of the communities we especially impacted last year was Oxnard in Ventura County, where hundreds of parents desperately sought our help for their children with disabilities. The Oxnard School District used illegal practices to neglect these students for years, resulting in catastrophic outcomes for many of them. Some of these students were approaching middle school and could not write their own name. Only six months after our intervention, they were proudly signing their drawings for us. The sheer number of students who were subjected to negligence and discrimination by their schools was so overwhelming that we set up a mobile office in Oxnard, and served more than 100 students. Thanks to our staff, volunteers, and supporters like you, these students receive adequate services and the supports they need to succeed in school.

This past year, we connected with more than 4,600 students, their families, and other stakeholders through our outreach activities at more than 90 community events. Over 2,200 of them were positively impacted through our award-winning TIGER (Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform) program. We assisted more than 2,000 students and families through our Education Rights Clinic. Additionally, we helped families enforce their right to communicate violations of education law to key school administrators, as well as state and federal government agencies. Thanks to you, these students accessed additional school-based programs and services.

Our programs can make a huge difference in students' lives and none of our efforts would have been possible without the generosity of our devoted community of donors. We hope you will find the following descriptions of our work and accomplishments – and the personal stories that drive them – as inspiring as we have. They are proof of how much we can achieve when we work together to reach our common goal: Creating Positive Impact One Community at a Time.

Thank you for your support.



Janeen Steel

Executive Director, Founder and
Litigation and Advocacy Director



Lily Corzo

Board Chair



Erika White

Vice Chair

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Learning Rights Law Center seeks to achieve education equity for low-income and disadvantaged students in the public education system in Los Angeles and surrounding counties. We change the lives of at-risk students who have disabilities, face discrimination, or are involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems by providing free legal services, education advocacy, and community training.

VISION

We believe that every child has a right to learn. Since 2005, Learning Rights Law Center has been promoting and protecting the individual right to education for children in Southern California. The focus of our direct legal representation and education advocacy is to secure for low-income and disabled children the education services and support they need to succeed in school. The purpose of our education training and community outreach programs is to empower families and provide a basis for true grassroots education reform. Our vision is a world in which all children may pursue a meaningful and equitable education that provides them with a brighter future and the means to become successful adults.

TIGER child, photo by Aaron Bicart.





CREATING POSITIVE IMPACT ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME



Learning Rights' **OUTREACH** activities connect families of students with education access issues to the necessary programs and services. In 2018, we attended more than 60 community fairs and events, reaching thousands of individuals, students, parents, and stakeholders throughout Southern California.

*Learning Rights staff at the annual Town Hall Conference, on May 5, 2018.
Photo by Learning Rights Law Center staff.*



Learning Rights' chief training and organizing program - **TIGER (Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform)** - is a year-long program that helps low-income parents and other caretakers advocate for their children with disabilities, while also bringing about social change within the education system. Last year, we helped 2,205 students and family members through this award-winning program with 242 parents graduating.

*TIGER graduates, Loyola Marymount University, December 1, 2018.
Photo by Aaron Bicart.*



Through the **EDUCATION RIGHTS CLINIC** Learning Rights counsels and advises parents and develops individualized action plans that parents can use to address their child's education issues. Last year, we helped more than 2,000 low-income parents, children with education access issues, and other family members via this program.

Young students at Learning Rights' Education Rights Clinic. Photo by Azra Variscic.



Through the **ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM** program Learning Rights offers counsel, advice, and direct representation to students with autism. In 2018, 38% of Learning Rights' clients had autism.

Frank, a Learning Rights client. Photo by David Hinden.



LAMCE (Los Angeles Medical-Legal Collaborative for Education) is Learning Rights' partnership with Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), which assists young patients with education-access issues and trains health care providers to identify and connect them to the services they need to return to school safely. In 2018, we helped 93 children with life-long and life-threatening illnesses get equal access to public education.

Sophia, Learning Rights' client, and her mother. Photo by David Hinden.



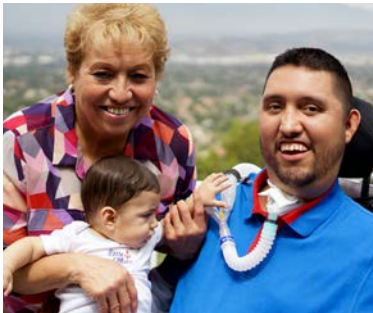
COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH program ensures that youth who are in the foster-care or juvenile-justice systems are provided with equal access to a public education through advocacy and direct representation. More than 5% of the children we represented in 2018 were court-involved.

More than 45% of children from the foster care system will end up in jail if not helped. Photo via Open Society Foundation.



SCHOOL ACCESS program ensures that children who face discrimination due to language barriers, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, homelessness or other special physical or mental health needs receive equal access to a public education. In 2018, we provided legal consultations and advice to many children who did not have adequate access to school-based services.

Janice and Christian, Learning Rights' clients, pictured with their mother Connie. Photo by David Hinden.



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY helps families enforce their right to directly communicate violations of education law to key school district administrators or to state and federal government agencies. In 2018, Learning Rights filed a total of 105 Requests for Administrative Hearings resulting in \$4.7 million worth of education services being granted to students.

Hector, a Learning Rights client. Photo by David Hinden.



Learning Rights employs **CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION** as a strategy when issues are systemic or cannot be solved locally.

Janeen Steel, pictured with Learning Rights' families and other stakeholders, before the hearing at the U.S. Federal Courthouse, Los Angeles, on January 29, 2018. Photo by Aaron Bicar.

ISRAEL



WHO WE SERVE

Israel, age 11, has had school-based and social anxiety since first grade. His anxiety led to insomnia and, as a result, extensive absences from school. His absences had a significant impact on his academic performance. Israel's mother, Maribel, communicated these issues to the school, asking that her son be referred for special education assessments, even showing notes from Israel's doctor, which clearly stated her son's diagnosis. But the school officials ignored Maribel's pleas year after year.

Without tools to address his school-related anxiety and insomnia, Israel's fear of attending school grew. His insomnia persisted resulting in more absences and increasing his discomfort at school. Often, his panic attacks would get so intense that he would hide under his school desk, unable to leave.

Even with prescribed medication, Israel would not sleep more than four to five hours a night. He was up every day at four in the morning and could not go back to sleep. Israel's insomnia continued to worsen his anxiety and even caused him to fall asleep in the middle of the school playground. As Israel's absences increased and his anxiety worsened – he fell further behind in critical academic areas and continued to lack the fundamental coping mechanisms he needed to make it through a school day.

To ease his anxiety, Israel's mother would come to school every day and take him for a walk. Some days

the walk would work and some days it would not. It did not help that the other students in school bullied Israel, calling him "stupid" and "fatty," often throwing food at him. Israel was also bullied by his teachers who would comment, "Are you going to eat the whole cafeteria? You are so big you can eat a whole cow," in front of the whole class. Maribel continually addressed all these issues with the school with no appropriate response.

Maribel was growing desperate to help her highly intelligent and capable son. She heard about Learning Rights and our work from one of the school volunteers, and did not hesitate to contact us. Learning Rights and our co-counsel, Shawna Parks, advocated on behalf of Israel's educational rights, requesting that the school stop neglecting Israel and provide him with the special education services he was entitled to by law.

As a result of our advocacy, Israel's disability was finally recognized by his school. Now he is receiving a number of school-based accommodations and services, including tutoring and mental health counseling. His mother reports that he is already feeling better and less anxious. She comments: "The ugliest feeling is when your child is being bullied and anxious and you can't help them. Janeen and Shawna made a great impact on my family because they listened to me and empowered me and my son. For the first time in our lives, someone was listening and we knew right then and there that we were not alone and that there's hope."

Israel, photo by Aaron Bicar.

ALBERTO



WHO WE SERVE

Alberto, a sixth-grader, has always struggled with learning. When he started arriving at home without homework to do three years ago, his mother, Cleopatra, was surprised. When she asked Alberto's teacher about her son's homework, he told her, "Don't worry, Alberto already did his homework in the classroom." As Alberto continued to come home without homework, his mother's concern kept growing. Alberto was unable to answer basic questions that most third graders could and this made his mom worry more about his future.

Cleopatra knew that her kind and thoughtful son was capable of doing much better. When Alberto's school continued to ignore her pleas for help, she spent most of her hard-earned money on hiring Alberto a tutor. Alberto was able to get through fourth grade. However, he was still behind in all of his subjects.

Since Alberto was not making any progress, his mother asked the school to evaluate her son for a learning disability, which could determine his eligibility for an array of special education services. The school replied that the "list" was too long. Instead of evaluating Alberto, as required by law, the school suggested Alberto's problems may be physical. They said he might have a problem with his sight and told them to see a doctor. When the results from Alberto's doctor came up negative for any physical problems, Cleopatra informed the school, but nobody ever replied to her.

As Alberto continued to struggle, Cleopatra kept pleading with the school to find out why he was not progressing. During this time, Alberto was also bullied by both teachers and peers alike. The teachers would humiliate Alberto in front of other students, telling him that he did not belong in the classroom and to sit in the corner and

look at an iPad. Alberto would often come home crying while recalling all the hurtful things his classmates would tell him, growing more and more anxious each day. Instead of evaluating Alberto for a potential disability, the school used illegal practices to avoid taking responsibility for Alberto's education. Once she heard about Learning Rights, Cleopatra contacted us for help.

Learning Rights and our co-counsel, Shawna Parks, advocated on Alberto's behalf, requesting that his school stop discriminating against him and provide him with the special education services he was entitled to by law. As a result of our advocacy, Alberto's auditory processing hearing disorder was finally recognized by his school, which allowed him to access a range of services previously denied to him. Auditory processing hearing disorder is a condition that makes it hard for an individual to recognize subtle differences between sounds in words. It affects their ability to process what other people are saying, but it is not a visible disability. Children with this disability can get training to learn how to "hear", which is what Alberto is finally receiving. He now uses assistive technology (HEAR Builder), which is helping him immensely.

Thanks to our advocacy efforts, Alberto is doing better in school today. His grades have gone up and he is a much happier child. Cleopatra could not hide her excitement about these new developments. She told us that "Meeting Learning Rights, Janeen and Shawna, was a miracle for me. Before I met them, Alberto's esteem was very low. He came home from school very sad and said that the kid in school called him 'dummy'. All this changed dramatically once we received help. He is a different child today. He is happy and learning."

SYLVIA AND PARISS



YOUNGBLOOD
TRUSTEE

WHO WE SERVE

Sylvia has been an advocate for her four children since the day they were born. Kirsten, now 28, had comprehension and speech delays; Pariss (pictured here), 23, has autism and ADHD; and both Sebastian, 18, and Aramiss, 16, have autism and specific learning disabilities.

Even though Sylvia had to fight to get her firstborn, Kirsten, back into the special education system, she says that advocating on behalf of Pariss was the most challenging. Pariss did not speak until he was eight years old and was expelled from pre-school. At the time, school officials told Sylvia that she should seek another school to enroll him in as they could not help “children like Pariss.” Teachers would also tell Sylvia and her husband that “Pariss was on his way to jail.” In elementary school Pariss was sent home every day, adding up to a year of lost classroom time. Pariss’ ADHD and autism caused his hyper behavior, but his school refused to provide any services to remedy these behaviors. Instead of trying to help Pariss, his teachers taped him to the desk so that he could not move. After this, Pariss’ parents lost all faith in the school’s ability to simply keep their son safe. Pariss’ father spent two years serving as his aide in school, while working a full-time overnight job and getting by on a few of hours of sleep.

Once Sylvia found out about Learning Right’s Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform (TIGER) program, things changed for her and her family. TIGER is a hands-on, self-advocacy program that Learning Rights designed, which teaches the parents to advocate successfully

for their children within the special education system. Sylvia learned more about her children’s rights and obtained the transfer of Pariss to a non-public school, Frostig School. Pariss recently graduated from Frostig and is currently attending a community college. He is on his school’s swim team and tutors other children in math. The boy who did not speak until he was eight is now on the board of trustees for his college. Thanks to the knowledge Sylvia acquired via TIGER, her two younger children, Sebastian and Aramiss, are also doing well today.

Says Sylvia: “TIGER puts things in perspective. It was very informative and very good for my kids. Through TIGER, I met other parents and we shared resources. Being able to share these resources may have saved me. Prior to TIGER, I did not have anyone to talk to. I had to call different agencies to get an answer. Some would have an advocate ‘hotline’, but TIGER rounded things up for me. I had the knowledge, but I still had plenty of questions. When I was in TIGER, I was able to get all the questions answered. And, in addition, I learned new things. Now, when I go into an IEP (Individualized Education Program, a meeting where parents and the school district decide on the services that a student needs), the tone changes when the school officials know I am a well-informed parent. I am a much more effective advocate now as I take the emotional component out of the advocacy and concentrate on what my children’s rights are. I try to bring the school official to our level and let them know that this isn’t “my child’s IEP’, it’s everyone’s – it is yours as much as mine.”

Pariss, photo by his mother, Sylvia.

In 2018, Learning Rights' advocacy resulted in thousands of hours of compensatory education services and therapies to low-income and disabled students valued at over
\$4.7 MILLION

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

3,971

**hours of behavior services in
the school and home**

6,225

**hours of compensatory intensive
academic remediation services**

235

assessments

2,163

**hours of compensatory speech
and language services**

24

one-on-one aides

535

**hours of compensatory
occupational therapy services**

5,640

hours of transition services



ADVOCATING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Learning Rights' Community Support Groups

One of the ways Learning Rights transforms the educational landscape in Los Angeles and surrounding counties is by engaging the public via our "Community Support Groups" formed as a result of our award winning Training Individuals for Grassroots Education Reform (TIGER) program. Established in 2005, the year-long TIGER program educates parents of children with disabilities about their children's rights. The parents share the knowledge they learn in classes with other parents through Community Support Groups and end up playing an integral role in their communities – supporting one another, sharing resources, and mentoring future community leaders. Last year alone, Learning Rights positively impacted 1,170 Community Support Group attendees in Fontana, Highland Park, Culver City, Downey, and Long Beach.

Community Support Groups are often the first time parents meet other parents who are struggling with the same issues and can be the first time they hear about resources that exist to help themselves or their child. By participating in this program, parents increase their knowledge of their children's rights and, as a result, their children receive the services and supports they deserve, paving the way to a brighter future.

The Community Support Group leaders are the heart of the Support Groups. They function much like *promotoras*, who are Latino community members who receive specialized training to provide basic health education in the community without being a professional health care worker. These parents work to effect change for their own children with disabilities and for others in their community who may not know where to get help for their child.

A typical Community Support Group meeting includes an introduction from new members, a sharing of community resources (upcoming local health fairs, public library events, enrollment deadlines), a training session on a topic of the community's choosing, and concludes with each family sharing their ongoing challenges. All of the group leaders receive specific training and support from Learning Rights' staff. More than one-third of the TIGER parents - who make up a majority of the Community Support Group attendees - have an elementary education only, but with the support of Learning Rights, many of these parents are leading members of their community, ensuring that children get access to the services they need.

Thanks to the grant from the Department of Developmental Services, Learning Rights expanded Community Support Groups to include additional training regarding Regional Centers' services and one-on-one meetings with parents to do a needs assessment for issues that require Regional Center services. With a better understanding of what programs are available to their children at the Centers, parents will be more successful in getting the right services for their children with special needs.

Community Support Group leaders are very active in their communities and play an integral role in spreading the word about TIGER. By utilizing these leaders and the *promotoras* approach to advocacy, Learning Rights is able to reach far more students in need and multiply its impact. Last year alone, Community Support Group leaders and our staff reached out to more than 4,600 students, their families, and other stakeholders at more than 90 events in Los Angeles and its surrounding counties.



OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LILY CORZO
Chair
Capital Research, Senior Counsel

ERIKA KRUGER WHITE
Vice Chair
Education Advocate

DR. JILL BICKETT
Secretary
Loyola Marymount University
Professor

MARC PUGSLEY
Treasurer
Golden Bear Consulting Group

ALICIA MIÑANA LOVELACE
Founding Chair
Law Offices of Alicia Miñana
Attorney

MATT CAVE
King, Holmes, Paterno &
Soriano, LLP, Attorney

WENDY HARPER
Ernst & Young LLP
Assistant General Counsel

GARY ROBERTS
Dentons US LLP
Partner

JASON RUDOLPH
Attorney

ERIC E. SAGERMAN
Winston & Strawn
Managing Partner

MARYSOL SANCHEZ VELAMOR
Attorney

JOSEPH TELTNER
Coronal Group LLC
Attorney

MARIBETH TOWERS
Major League Soccer
SVP, Consumer Products

ADVISORY COUNCIL

HEATHER ZAKSON
Chair
REZ Law Group APC, Partner

ALISON CHIU
Attorney

JILL GORDON
Nixon Peabody, LLP, Partner

SYDNEY HOLLAND
Sydney D. Holland Foundation
Founder

DORI KENNEALLY
Attorney

JANE LORD
Attorney

LORALIE OGDEN
CBRE

TINA STECK
Attorney

JEAN TREBEK
Education Advocate

IRMA VAZQUEZ
Education Advocate
Teacher

STAFF

JANEEN STEEL
Executive Director, Founder and
Litigation and Advocacy Director

CAROL JUNG
Los Angeles Medical-Legal
Collaborative for Education
Director

KYRA CLIPPER
Advocacy for Children with
Autism Program Director

SAMANTHA COCHRAN
Education Rights Clinic Director

RODOLFO ESTRADA
Community Engagement and
Policy Director

PATRICIA VAN DYKE
Impact Litigation Attorney

QIONGYUE HU
Staff Attorney

NANCY SHEA
Staff Attorney

VIVIAN WONG
Skadden Law Fellow

STEVEN CATRON
Special Education Law Fellow

PATRICIA REYES
Office / Accounts Manager

MARISOL CHIANELLO
Pro Bono Manager

AZRA VARISCIC
Development Manager

ARACELY ORTEZ WHITE
Paralegal

LETICIA MEJIA
Education Rights Clinic Advocate

CARMEN REYNAGA
TIGER Coordinator

AARON BICART
Development Associate

SERGEI HASENECZ
Legal File Clerk

GABRIELA GARCIA
Administrative Assistant

VANESSA DE LA CRUZ
Receptionist / Administrative Support

JOSH MORALES
Data Clerk

OUR SUPPORTERS

Together, we raised more than \$2,000,000 which helped more than 9,000 students, their families and other stakeholders.

THANK YOU!



LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER IS GRATEFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS

Partners - \$100,000 - \$500,000

The State Bar of California

Benefactors - \$25,000 - \$99,999

The California Wellness Foundation

The Capital Group Companies
Charitable Foundation

Department of Developmental Services

JL Foundation

Skadden Foundation

The Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation

Walton Family Foundation

Patrons - \$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous

Mark Challed

Lily Corzo

Harvard Law School

Impact Fund

Lillian Lovelace

Alicia Miñana and Rob Lovelace

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation

Anonymous

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Jean and Alex Trebek

Winston & Strawn LLP

Champions - \$5,000 - \$9,999

Jack and Hilary Angelo

Autism Speaks

California Community Foundation

Jill Gordon

David and Lucie Hinden

Tina Steck and Steve Young

Maribeth Towers

Marysol Velamoor

Wells Fargo

Paul and Erika White

Defenders - \$1,000 - \$4,999

Joel Aaronson

Anonymous

Antonieta Monaldi Arango

Kim Archer

Cordelia Bacher Sweetland

JoAnna Barnes

Jill Bickett and Robert Hubbell

Burnham Benefits

Matt Cave

Chevron Products Company

The Eisner Foundation

David Enzminger

Rachelle and Mike Guerin

David and Cindy Hoag

David Hughes

Benjamin Ives

The John Gogian Family Foundation

Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling
and Learning Center

Cynthia Landes

Sonia Mercado

Marci Miller

National Joint Committee on

Learning Disabilities

Nixon Peabody LLP

Orange Law Offices

Shawna Parks

Daniel Passage

Gary Roberts

Seth and Eve Rodsky

Ellen Rosenberg

Eric Sagerman

Eugenia Castruccio Salamon

Larry and Carole Scherzer

Joel and Sherri Siegel

Fred Simmons

John and Cindy Smet

Joseph Teltser

Michael Tomasulo

Valerie Vanaman

Venable Foundation

Heather Zakson

Advocates- \$500 - \$999

David Antion

David Aronoff

Claire and Martin Burns

Lauren Carney

Alexis Casillas

Michael Chamberlin

Alison Chiu

George Crook

Eva Herbst Davis

Nancy Derian

Steve Glenn

Anne Kelly

Dori Kenneally

Christopher Knauf

Ilana Koch

Diana Leiden

Warren Loui

Elisa Nicholas

Steven Nissen

Adrian Ojeda

Greg Patterson

Michael and Karen Patton
Chet and Jan Pipkin
Annie Potts
Marc Pugsley
Mark Racunas
Justin Rawlins
Jeff Riffer
Sylvia Rivera
Laurae Rossi
Clara Sandler
John Schreiber
David and Natalie Shaby
Stephen Smerek
Patrick Stack
Janeen Steel
Rebecca Torrey
Elizabeth Ulmer
David Vanaman
Vectis Strategies LLC
Tim and Nancy Wheeler
Mark Woodsmall
Robert Yoshitomi

Friends \$100 - \$499

Camille Alick
John Allen
Allstate
Jesus Almodovar
Heidi Ambrose
Teri Anderson
Rand April
Alexandra Arad Bland
Helen Bendix
David and Florence Bernstein
Jon Bettinger
Sophia Bliziotis
Aviva Bobb
Jonathan Bobb
John Bridge
Shirley Brown
Diana Brueggmann
Richard Buckley
Jodi Bynder
Jodi and David Bynder
Robyn Bytheway
Andrew Caine
Jason Campbell
Rekha Chiruvolu
Audrey Chui
Saba Corzo
Dennis Cremin
Elizabeth Crepps
Nacisse Demeksa
Robert Dugdale
Terri Dunn
Erica Felsenthal

Christina Garcia
George Mhlsten and
Nola Geffner-Mhlsten
Isabel Goldenberg
Ross Gonzalez
Vivian Grafstein
Darryn Gum
Nicole Gutierrez
Jason Hamilton
Carlos Haro
Wilmer Harris
Sheldon and Barbara Helfing
Karol Howard
Marilyn Howard
Nicole Howell
Leanne and Kyle Huebner
Ray Ivey
Gayle Jenkins
Evan Kass
Benjamin Kim
Howard and Lisa King
Shaya Kirkpatrick
Christine Kolosov
Ann Kono
Zachary Kousnetz
Glenn Kubota
David Kung
Ines Kuperschmit
Barry Lee
Margaret Lenihan
Amy Lerner-Hill
CJ Levin
Seth Levy
Bob and Marlene Madrid
Adnen and Lenora Marouani
Mike and Karen Melideo
Laurie Menyuk
Ilona Moldavon
Dan Moretti
Mary Mullenhoff
Lisa Neitzel
Lisa Nelson
Shawn Obi
David and Melissa Odrich
Loralie Ogden
Tracy Orloff
Cecilia Ortiz
Peter Paterno
Ann Paul
Ellen Pearlman
Lucy Pliskin
Jack and Marilyn Poe
Leah Porter
Laura Probst
Cliff Rader
Erin Ranahan

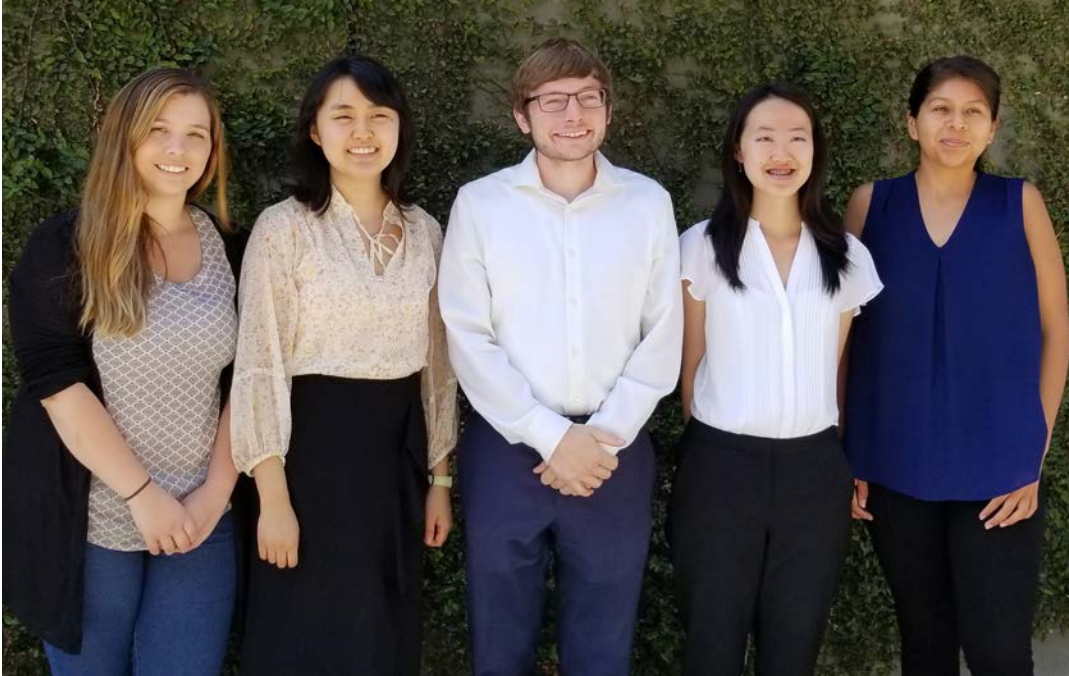
Maya Rangel
 Patricia Gerner Schwartz
 Matthew Seipel
 Tritia Setoguchi
 Jessica Shpall Rosen
 Aban Siraj
 Crystal Smith
 Sherri Sobel
 Luis Ricardo and Mariana Solar
 Laurie Soriano
 Jill Sprankell
 Rose Marie Steel
 Felice and Donald Steier
 Susannah Strunk
 Bonnie Sun
 Karen Tandy
 Gabriela Teissier
 Nancy Thomas
 Caitlin Tran
 Lev Tsukerman
 Patsy Van Dyke
 Ida Vander Poorte
 Azra Variscic
 Kelly Viklund
 Maria Villa
 Miriam Vogel
 Lori Waldinger
 Chris Ward
 William Wardlaw Jr.
 Patricia Waters
 Bobbie and Kief Westil-Adler
 Nimalka Wickramasekera
 Andrew Woods
 Sue Zabloudil
 Jennifer Zembrzusi
 Gail Zirkelbach
 Claire Zrimc
 Julian and Nathalie Zugazagoitia

Supporters - Under \$100

Kathleen Abraham
 Brigitte and Bob Ammons
 Alicia Anderson
 Brian and Maria Austin
 Kimm Baersch
 Julia Balas
 Charles Barquist
 Marvin and Ruth Bauch
 Aaron Bicart
 Bryan Blumenkopf
 Jeff and Tami Brothers
 Giselle Bustos
 Max Casillas
 Daisy Chen
 Aurora Clark
 Alana Crow

Linda da Silva
 Erika Drous
 Jane DuBovy
 Clifford Eisner
 Allison Escobedo
 Rodolfo Estrada
 Curtis Etheredge
 Sarita Freedman
 Antoinette Galvan
 Gabriela Garcia
 Amanda Garrigus
 Karen Godoy
 Robert Gonzalez
 Sybil and Andrew Haagan
 Kim Hammond
 Jennifer Hawks
 Tracey Higgins
 John Hunt
 Jean Jewell
 Merrily Jones
 Carol Jung
 Kia Kamran
 Kathleen Kelly Borisoff
 Audrey Kraus
 Tony Kwok
 Kathryn Louyse
 Aracely Manzo
 Sharon Marquez
 Leticia Mejia
 Melissa Mendoza
 Dawn Millner
 Mara Ann Monoski
 Saul Moreno
 Katherine Murray
 Amanda Myers
 Alexandra Porreca
 Blanca Ramos
 Bruce Ready
 Stephen Reil
 Steven Riley
 Lucia Rodriguez-Babb
 Ruth Ruiz
 Louise Samaniego
 Cynthia Sanchez
 Wendy Seiden
 Philip and Glenda Sharp
 Annette Shreibati
 Thaddeus Stauber
 Sarah Stevens
 Matthew Taylor and Glenn Torrey
 Neil Tyler
 Michele Ward
 Tracey Waters
 John Williams
 Nikki Wolontis
 Jennifer Zheng

OUR VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to the 183 volunteers who in 2018 contributed
over **\$940,000** worth of free legal and
administrative services to Learning Rights families!

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

Lindsay DiMaggio has a BA in philosophy from UCLA and is finishing up her final year at the USC Gould School of Law. Lindsay came to Learning Rights because she is passionate about advocating for the rights of students in the education system. In the summer, she volunteered 320 hours assisting with direct representation of families. Notably, she wrote an excellent due process complaint involving a student with autism under the supervision of our staff attorney Kyra Clipper.

Julia Choi is a senior at Brown University. Julia has a passion for working with youth and their families and promoting education equity, including tutoring children to support their academic achievements. While volunteering 350 hours in the summer, she conducted intake interviews, researched for the development department, and analyzed data for the TIGER Program.

Originally from Michigan, John Oltean came to LA via Hawaii four years ago. He is a law student at the USC Gould School of Law and is a regular participant at many local legal clinics. He volunteered 350 hours at Learning Rights in the summer, using his prior experience as a special education teacher to help protect the rights of students with disabilities. He worked with our staff attorney Patsy Van Dyke on cases involving civil rights litigation.

Angela Zeng is a senior at UC Berkeley, pursuing a double major in English and Sociology. For two years, she facilitated groups of Berkeley students to tutor underprivileged elementary school children. Angela was excited to volunteer 360 hours in the summer, mostly with the development department.

Flor Parra is a junior from UC Irvine majoring in Political Science. She volunteered 340 hours in the summer. She helped prepare community educational workshops and assisted with the translation of

materials for TIGER parent training classes. Her eye for detail helped us review and improve the resources we distribute to TIGER participants and outreach to more community members.

FALL VOLUNTEERS

Ivan Rodriguez is a senior at Cal State-Dominguez Hills. He volunteered over 125 hours in the fall, mostly with our Education Rights Clinic. His excellent Spanish and composure helped him excel in client interactions. Always eager to pick up new tasks, he helped with our annual gala, A Cause for Celebration.

Karen Garcia-Miranda is an experienced lawyer in her native Nicaragua, but was looking for a new area of law to learn about after moving to the U.S. Her nephew has an Individualized Education Plan and so she thought education law would be something to pursue. She excelled at working with our clients in the Education Rights Clinic. After volunteering over 200 hours in the fall, she accepted a position at a private special education law firm.

Rosie Frihart is a second year student at the USC Gould School of Law. She came to Los Angeles after growing up in Kansas and graduating from the University of Tulsa. She volunteered 25 hours in the fall conducting legal research and helped us set up for A Cause for Celebration.

Esther Kwak is a licensed attorney with a JD from Columbia University. She volunteered over 75 hours in the fall, mostly conducting research for our TIGER Program.

Tarah Perkins is a third year student at Loyola Law School and the editor of its Law Review. While volunteering 20 hours in the fall, she conducted intakes and conducted research for our Special Education Toolkit.

Summer volunteers: Lindsay, Julia, John, Angela, and Flor.

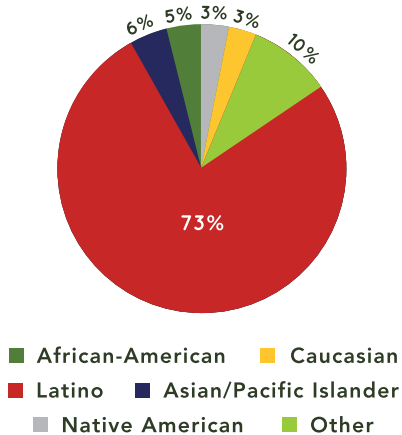
Fall volunteers: Esther, Rosie, Ivan, Tarah, and Karen. Photos by Marisol Chianello.

LEARNING RIGHTS CLIENTS

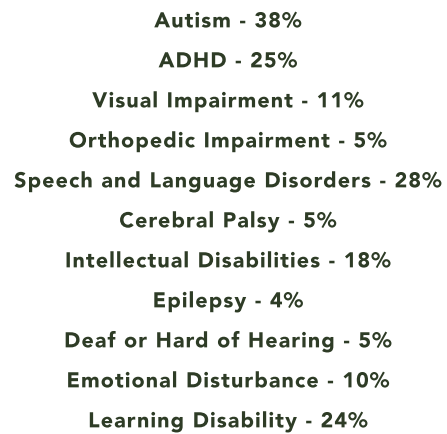
Learning Rights clients come from low-income families in Los Angeles and surrounding counties.

The majority of our clients have more than one disability. We support our clients and their families from the time of intake through obtaining the services they need from the schools.

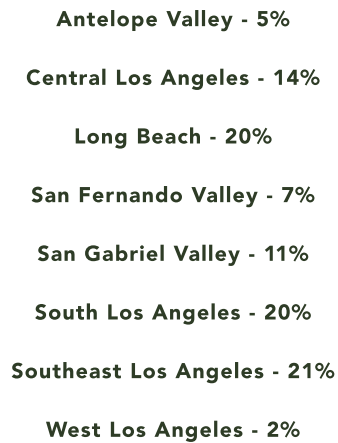
**LEARNING RIGHTS CLIENTS
ETHNICITY 2018**



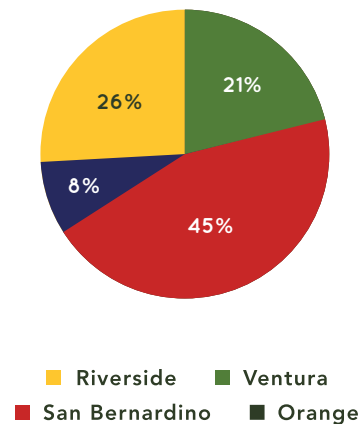
**LEARNING RIGHTS CLIENTS
DISABILITIES 2018**



**LEARNING RIGHTS STUDENTS SERVED
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN 2018**



**STUDENTS SERVED OUTSIDE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN 2018**



LEARNING RIGHTS LAW CENTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018

\$2,089,986 IN REVENUES

Foundation Grants - \$382,679

Government Grants - \$439,704

Special Events (Net) and Business Income - \$159,746

Individual Contributions - \$45,894

Attorney Fees - \$966,521

Other/Miscellaneous Income - \$95,442

\$2,094,970 IN EXPENSES

Programs - \$1,778,063

Administrative costs - \$115,881

Fundraising - \$201,026

Debt - \$0

PROJECT TEAM

Lily Corzo, Project Director

Aaron Bicart, Project Manager

Kristen Gara, Project Graphic Designer

Printing, Americas Printer

2018 Learning Rights Law Center. All rights reserved

**CREATING
POSITIVE IMPACT
ONE COMMUNITY
AT A TIME**



**1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 500
Los Angeles, California 90015**

213.489.4030
www.learningrights.org