



GULFCOAST

LEGAL SERVICES

October 1st, 2024-
September 30th, 2025



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the work the Gulfcoast Legal Services team has accomplished and the lives we've touched. During fiscal year 2024-25, our communities were devastated by natural disasters while facing increasing economic stress. Even while our own team members were affected by the hurricanes, they continued to meet the growing and evolving legal needs of our community with compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment to justice.

This year, we expanded our services to reach more individuals and families facing housing insecurity, domestic violence, immigration challenges, and financial exploitation. Our attorneys, advocates, and support staff worked tirelessly to ensure that every client received the representation they deserve regardless of their ability to pay.

We deepened our partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and community leaders to strengthen our impact and broaden access to legal resources. These collaborations have been instrumental in helping us respond to urgent needs and build sustainable solutions for those we serve.

As we look ahead, we invite you to stand with us. Your continued support, whether as a pro bono attorney volunteer, or through a financial gift, makes a profound difference. Every dollar helps us provide free legal services to those who need it most and strengthens our ability to respond to crises with sensitivity and expertise. Together, we will continue to build a community where justice is not a privilege, but a right accessible to all.

If you're looking for compassionate and experienced legal representation, you'll know where to find us: In the community. In the courtroom.

With gratitude,
Theresa L. Prichard, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer
Gulfcoast Legal Services



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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College of Law



Brian Bailey
METRO Inclusive Health

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

STAFF LEADERSHIP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THERESA PRICHARD, ESQ.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MICHELLE FURAN-SULLIVAN

CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER, ALEXANDRA BUENO, ESQ.

FAMILY LAW, AIMEE TRINOSKEY, ESQ.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

HOUSING, JAMES KUSHNER, ESQ.

IMMIGRATION/HUMAN TRAFFICKING, LISA MURRAY, ESQ.

PRO BONO, JERICA JOHNSON, ESQ.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, DANIELA CAMACHO, ESQ.

ABOUT US

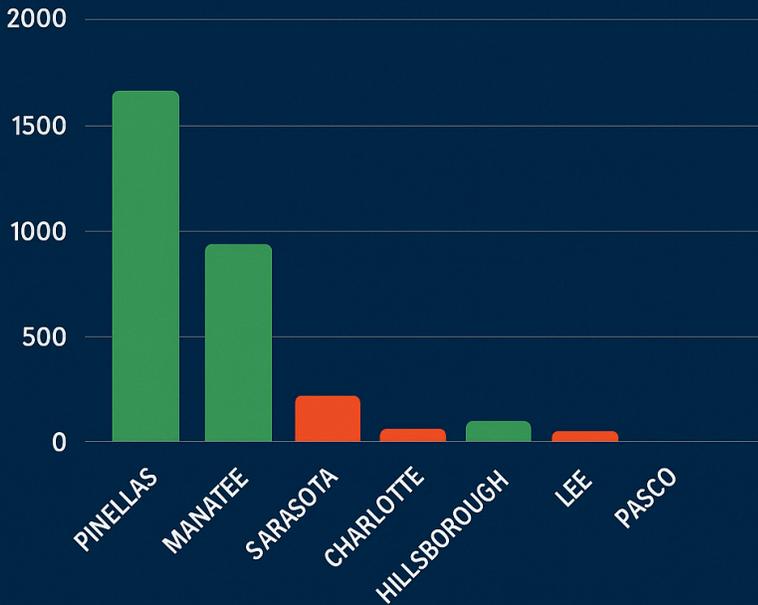
Established in 1978, Gulfcoast Legal Services (GLS) stands as a non-profit legal aid organization, dedicated to serving low-income clients unable to afford legal representation. Operating in the greater Tampa Bay area with offices in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough counties, GLS boasts a team of skilled attorneys, paralegals, and support staff. Our commitment extends to delivering high-quality legal services in civil matters, covering consultation, advice, and full representation in court or administrative proceedings. Clients do not pay attorney fees. This Annual Report serves as a testament to our ongoing dedication to providing access to justice and making a meaningful impact in our community.

MISSION

We champion justice by enhancing access to the legal system, especially for those whose race, ethnicity, income, age, disability, gender, or sexual orientation pose obstacles. We strive to provide exceptional advocacy, vigorous representation, and effective legal education for the communities we serve.

OUR IMPACT: WHERE WE SERVE

COUNTIES SERVED



GULFCOAST

LEGAL SERVICES

“Jacquelyn did an outstanding job identifying projects best suited to my skills as a researcher.” - Pro Bono Attorney



Total individuals impacted, including household members

8,719



Clients Helped

3,940



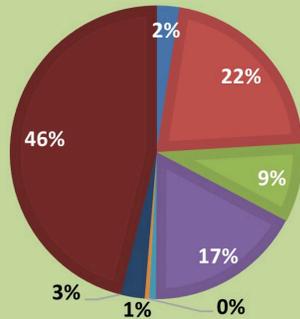
Referrals to other agencies (not including clients helped)

166

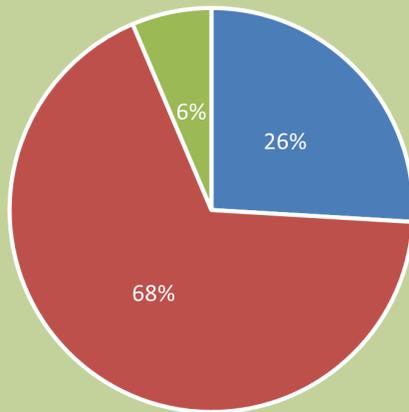
OUR IMPACT: WHO WE SERVE

RACE OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

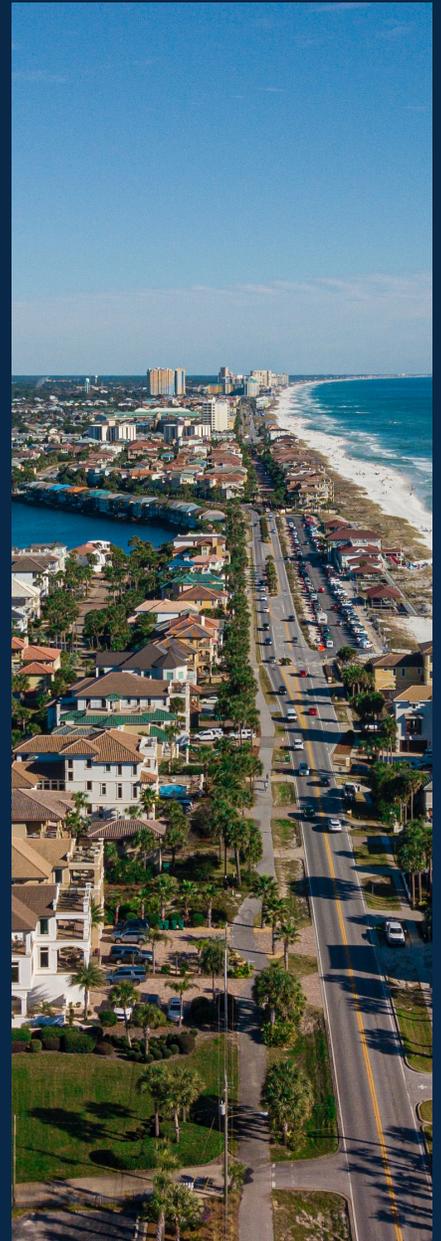
- Asian
- Black
- Choose not to respond
- Hispanic
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian Or Pacific Islander
- Other
- White



ETHNICITY OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED



- Latino/Hispanic
- Non-Latino/Hispanic
- Unknown/declined to answer



Clients Average Annual Income

\$19,509



Clients that were ages 55 and older

36%



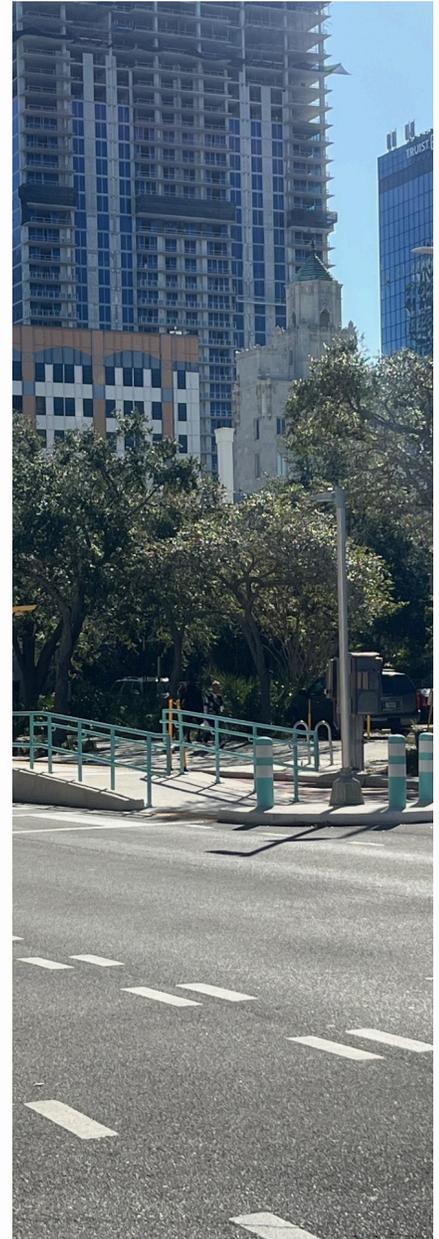
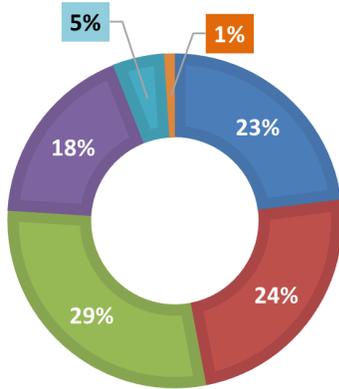
Volunteers provided more than

1,606 HOURS

OUR IMPACT: WHO WE SERVE

CASE BREAKDOWN BY UNIT

- Financial Stability
- Family Law
- Housing
- Immigration
- Special Projects
- Pro Bono



Assisted over 800 individuals who reported having a disability

807



Households with Limited English Proficiency

19%



Clients who learned about GLS from a friend, family member, or past client

16%

HOW ADVOCACY RESTORED MS. GREEN'S STABILITY

Ms. Green came to GLS in June 2025 after receiving a 7-day notice to vacate and learning that the local housing authority planned to terminate her housing voucher. She was accused of allowing teenagers involved in a neighborhood shooting into her apartment, with both her landlord and the housing authority claiming to have video evidence. Ms. Green explained that neighborhood kids often visited her home to play with her children—she saw herself as a “community mother”—but she had no connection to the teens involved in the incident. GLS represented her in both the eviction case and the housing authority appeals process. After reviewing her file and the evidence, we found no direct involvement on her part and noted that she had repeatedly reported prior shootings and safety concerns in her neighborhood. We successfully negotiated a dismissal of the eviction and the reinstatement of her housing voucher, allowing her to relocate and regain stable housing for her family.



STANDING WITH A SURVIVOR

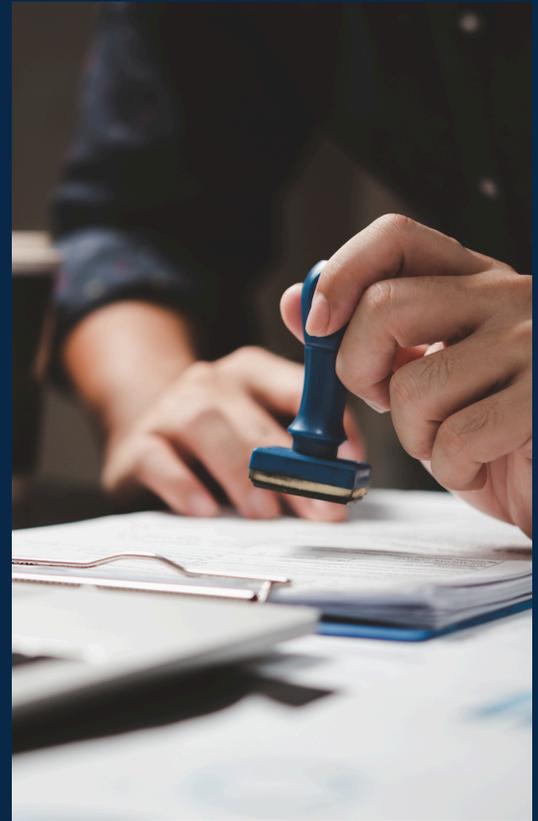
Ms. Valentina first came to GLS for help defending against an injunction filed by her in-laws. After winning that case, she was referred to the Special Projects Unit for assistance with a name change. During this process, she discovered her in-laws had filed a civil lawsuit against her for more than \$100,000. Our investigation revealed that Ms. V had been trafficked by her in-laws, and the alleged “debt” was likely debt bondage.

Although GLS does not typically handle civil litigation, the Special Projects Unit stepped in due to the direct connection to her victimization. With the support of a GLS Pro Bono Attorney, we are co-counseling to ensure she receives free legal representation and can defend herself against this retaliatory, harassing claim.

PEACE OF MIND FOR A MOTHER FACING STAGE IV CANCER

At a Gulfcoast Legal Services Estate Planning Clinic, Esther, newly diagnosed with stage IV cancer came to our team with one heartfelt goal — to ensure her children would be cared for and able to keep the family home she had worked so hard to provide.

With the support of volunteer attorneys and staff, she was able to complete all of her estate planning documents in a single visit, including her Will, Health Care Surrogate, and Living Will. She left the clinic relieved and grateful, sharing that she finally had peace of mind knowing her children's future was secure.



BREAKING FREE AND BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE

GLS represented Carla in a successful Injunction for Protection case. Despite the court order, her abusive spouse repeatedly violated the injunction—stalking her, preventing her from leaving her home, and shouting profanities at her. Law enforcement was called multiple times, and her spouse was arrested twice for these violations.

Throughout this difficult time, GLS supported Carla through the criminal process, helping her understand her rights and navigate complex legal procedures. Working alongside a local community partner, GLS also assisted Carla in applying for financial assistance through the Attorney General's Victim's Compensation Relocation Fund to help her move to safety.

Finally, GLS represented Carla in her dissolution of marriage case, successfully securing full custody of her child, relocation approval, maximum alimony, and maximum child support—empowering her to build a safer and more stable future.

MS. J'S JOURNEY TO SAFETY AND STABILITY

Ms. J was referred to GLS by a local anti-human trafficking program. After multiple meetings over several months—necessary due to the trauma she endured—our attorney confirmed she was a victim of severe human trafficking and likely eligible for a T visa.

Ms. J had come to the U.S. seeking opportunity but was instead coerced into domestic servitude and forced to dance and engage in commercial sex acts to “repay” a fabricated debt. While pregnant, she disclosed her situation during a prenatal appointment, and a clinic nurse helped her safely escape to a shelter for mothers with infants.

GLS supported Ms. J in reporting her victimization to law enforcement and represented her in her T visa application. Because her shelter stay was ending soon, we requested an expedited review—and the visa was quickly approved.

Ms. J is now able to work legally, build stability, and provide a safe home for her young daughter.

A PATH TOWARD FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Marie came to our Financial Stability Unit overwhelmed by a debt of \$1,548 and payment demands she could not manage. Our team stepped in and negotiated directly with opposing counsel during a pre-trial conference, reaching a quick and positive settlement.

We secured:

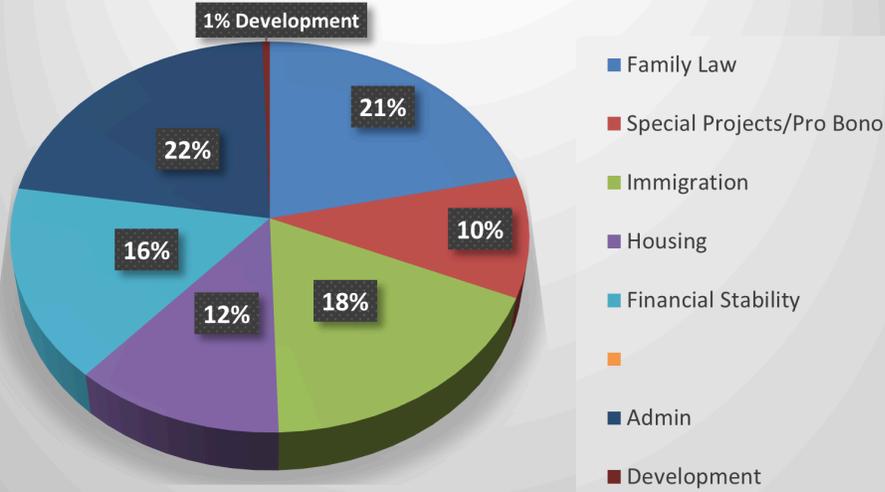
- A reduced balance from \$1,548.00 to \$1,289.40
- Lower monthly payments, from \$500.00 down to \$150.00
- Flexibility to make extra payments anytime without penalty

Marie has already begun making her payments and recently started a new job, which may allow her to pay down the debt even faster. She expressed how pleased and relieved she felt with the outcome.

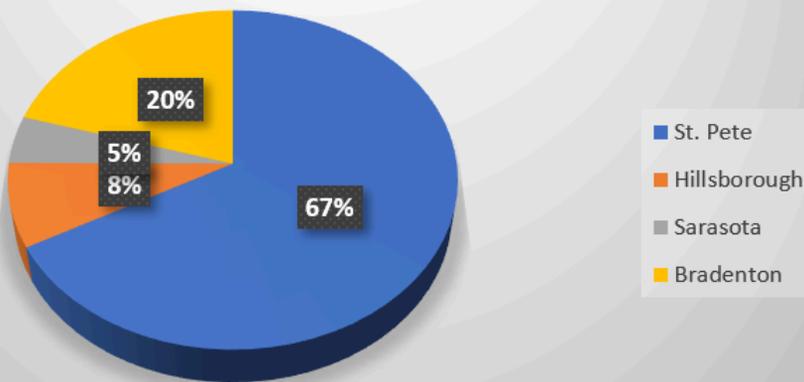
Thanks to this settlement, Marie is now on track to become debt free in the near future—a meaningful step toward financial stability.

FINANCIALS

Breakdown by Unit \$4,180,551.28



Breakdown by Office Location \$4,180,551.28



Reported domestic violence

36%



Over 100 veterans received assistance

100+



Average age of clients served

46

OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all of our individual donors and business partners for your incredible support during the 2024–2025 fiscal year. Together, you contributed \$78,657 in unrestricted funding—support that keeps our work strong, responsive, and rooted in community need.

Your generosity helps us show up for our clients every single day, providing stability, safety, and hope when it's needed most. We're grateful to have you standing with us and supporting access to justice across our community.



CONTACT US

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