HER JUSTICE

FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Her Justice stands with women living in poverty in New York City by recruiting and mentoring volunteer lawyers to provide free legal help to address individual and systemic legal barriers.

Working Toward a More Equitable New York City

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Civil legal services are essential for women like our clients—obtaining vital child support, getting work authorization, freeing themselves from debts they did not accrue, and receiving green cards. Yet the need for civil legal services always outpaces supply, and that justice gap was especially wide this year. Court and administrative processes have been longer and more complicated than ever before, with many of the massive delays part of the remaining fallout from the pandemic. Every day, working together, we see real life examples of the powerful impact an experienced lawyer, a trusted advocate, and a caring community can have for women like our clients who otherwise would be trying to bridge this gap on their own. **At Her Justice, we stand with our clients no matter how long it takes.**

This year, we worked with 5,313 women and children across all five boroughs of the city. All of our clients live in poverty, 92% are women of color, 83% are survivors of gender-based violence, 48% need an interpreter to access the courts, and many are raising children on their own. When our clients achieve the legal outcomes they deserve, it can affect all aspects of their lives—helping them to live, work, and parent freely and safely. A right everyone deserves.

As New Yorkers, we know that we are stronger together.

This year, we leveraged the power of the legal profession in New York City by training and mentoring over 2,000 volunteer attorneys, delivering over $35M of free legal help and advocacy to those who need it most. In remarkable ways, this year also affirmed the generosity of our extraordinary community of over 1,275 individuals and institutions who support our work. These are unsettled times for us all, yet we continue to be joined by advocates, leading law firms and other businesses, donors and volunteers, to empower women to assert their rights and live with autonomy. Together, we can make sure that in this city of many resources, our clients receive what they deserve.

As New Yorkers, we know that we are stronger together. Together on the subway, at the coffee cart, or in the courtroom—our communities thrive when all New Yorkers are safe and empowered.

Togetherness has been redefined these days, and we were thrilled to be able to raise a glass in person at the 2022 Her Justice Annual Photography Auction and Benefit in May. The energizing evening was a testament to our network's commitment to our mission, our clients, and to advancing real change together.

This report is a mere snapshot of all we accomplished this past fiscal year. We are proud of our work and our commitment to creating a more equitable New York City for all. Thank you for working to advance that goal with us.

Amy Barasch
Executive Director

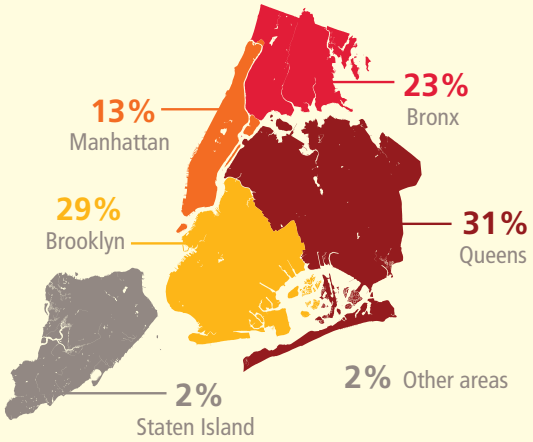
Steven M. Zelin
Board Chair

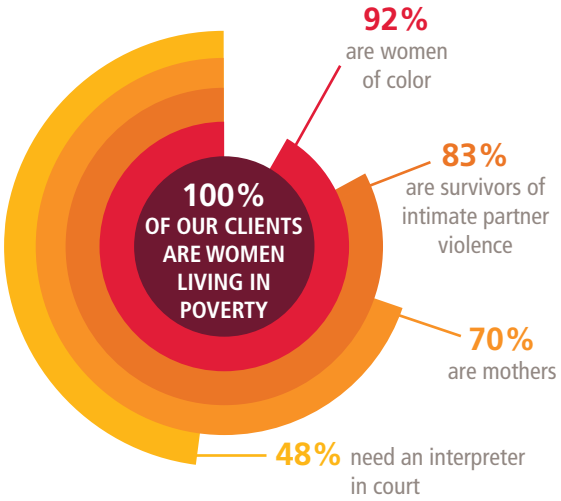
Who We Serve

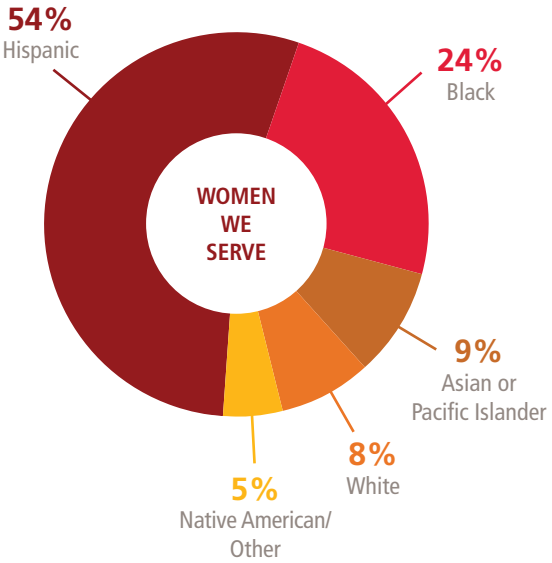
We work with our clients to address their high-stakes legal needs, such as:

- Legal Status and Work Authorization
- Divorce
- Child Support
- Orders of Protection
- Financial Advocacy in the areas of Coerced Debt and Credit Repair
- Sex and Labor Trafficking

We exist to serve women in all five boroughs of New York City:







"Working with Her Justice, I learned you don't have to have money for somebody to care about you."

Marjer, Her Justice client

Our Pro Bono Model at Work

Each year, we train and mentor thousands of volunteer attorneys and insert them into the civil justice system. It is the dedication of our pro bono partners that makes the transformative work we do possible.

Together, we stand with women living in poverty by:

Providing critical free legal services to women who couldn't otherwise afford them—women who must go through the civil justice system to access basic rights, like financial autonomy and freedom from abuse

Advocating for important reform at the policy level to address inequities and inefficiencies within the system that negatively impact women like our clients

Learn more about the Her Justice Policy Agenda here.

IN FY 2022

14

HER JUSTICE LAWYERS

mentored

2,162

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

reaching

5,313

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

for a total of

46,092

HOURS DONATED,

representing

$35,958,719

IN VALUE.

Advancing Our Policy Agenda

Based on the lived experience of our clients, we advanced our Policy Agenda by advocating for a more equitable civil justice system through 41 policy actions in FY22.

Examples of the kinds of policy actions we took are:

- **Signing on to letters** to federal and New York State policymakers supporting changes in policy to benefit immigrant survivors of gender-based violence and other immigrants
- **Supporting State and City legislation**, including around gender equity, the rights of survivors of intimate partner violence, and the rights of immigrants to fair legal process and public benefits
- **Partnering with law firms on amicus briefs** in support of legal cases concerning the rights of survivors of intimate partner violence
- **Testifying and submitting written testimony** for State and City hearings relating to gender equity, the need for robust legal services for those living in poverty, and the modernization of New York courts to provide full access to justice
- **Participating in meetings with policymakers** to elevate issues affecting Her Justice clients and women living in poverty, including issues around child support and consumer protection for survivors of intimate partner violence

For our latest policy developments, view the Her Justice Policy Bulletin.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Trafficking Survivors Resiliency Project

The Her Justice Immigration Practice provides free legal assistance to clients who have experienced sex and labor trafficking, most of which includes gender-based violence, as they seek to stabilize their immigration status in the United States.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City's undocumented survivors of sex and labor trafficking faced a crisis within a crisis. The confluence of poverty, immigration status, race, and limited language access, combined with increasing instability and violence against women brought by COVID-19, has led to especially acute conditions for women living in poverty and a desperate need for culturally competent legal services. For women and girls who have been trafficked, racially motivated arrests for "prostitution" have led to criminal records that impede stable employment and healing, as survivors must bear the constant stigma of a criminal record and relive their trauma every time they seek new employment. Those who are still being abused and trafficked are now much less likely to leave their traffickers or abusers, especially if they lack access to legal and social services. All the while, ICE deportations continue unabated.

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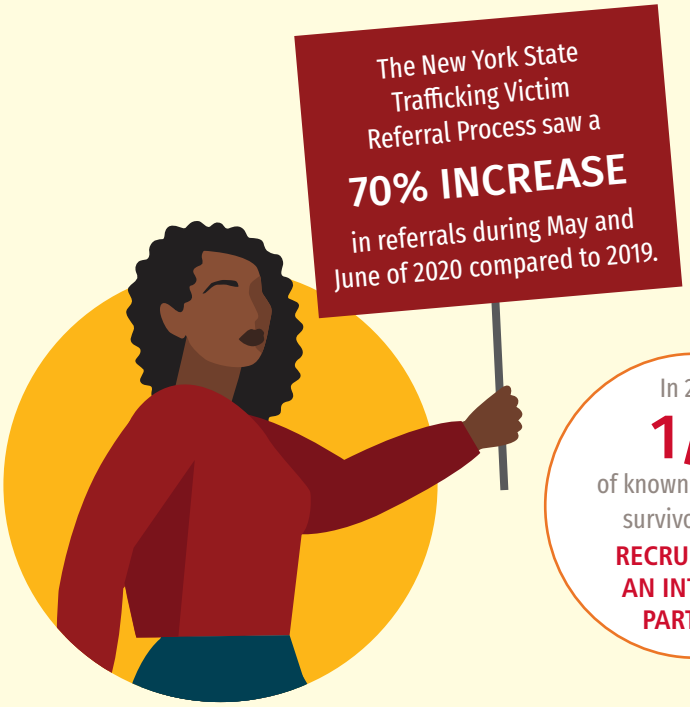
The pandemic led to an acute urgency for culturally competent legal services for trafficking victims.



In 2020
1/3
of known trafficking survivors were
RECRUITED BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER.

THE TRAFFICKING CRISIS

The need for services, both social and legal, are similar for survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking. Much like victims of domestic violence, trafficking victims face misinformation about their status as crime victims. Traffickers use violence in the same way that abusive partners do, exploiting a survivor's lack of status as a powerful way to exercise control.

While victims of domestic violence frequently suffer from feelings of humiliation and shame, these emotions can be even more intense for victims subjected to prostitution. International sex trafficking victims not only face the language and cultural barriers foreign-born domestic violence victims encounter, but they are unlikely to have any family or community support in the United States. The complicated intersection of partner violence and trafficking makes this a particularly vulnerable population, and one in critical need of humanitarian immigration relief.

(Continued from previous page)

With support from The Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation and a Kirkland & Ellis Fellow, Her Justice launched the Trafficking Survivors Resiliency Project in fall of 2021, building our capacity to provide trafficking survivors with a clear pathway to access the transformative legal services that ensure safety, financial stability, and freedom for women and their families. This Project aims to increase protection for trafficking survivors through legal status and benefits, educate survivors about their legal rights, prevent conditions that allow trafficking, and remove barriers to access to justice for immigrants. The two-year pilot project began with a focus on meeting the needs of undocumented Mandarin-speaking survivors, women who are particularly vulnerable and underserved following an increase in anti-Asian violence in recent years.

At the close of Year One, the Immigration Team is serving over 25 trafficking survivor clients, 11 of which were already existing cases with continued need for services and 14 of which are new clients this year, more than doubling the number of trafficking survivors we are serving.

At the close of Year One, the Immigration Team is serving over 25 trafficking survivor clients.

Additional support for the Trafficking Survivors Resiliency Project has been provided by The New York Bar Foundation and The Venable Foundation.

Learn more and find resources for clients here.

THE NEED FOR REPRESENTATION

More than 500,000 New Yorkers identify as Chinese—7% of the City's population. Many are survivors of domestic violence or trafficking and face the fear of anti-Asian violence and hostility, complaints of which have increased 92% since 2019. However, despite the increased need for support services and legal representation for Chinese immigrants, there are very few Mandarin-speaking attorneys in NYC who routinely provide affordable legal services to survivors of trafficking or domestic violence, creating a profound gap in legal services capable of addressing urgent needs.

"I am so thankful for my attorney for giving me the chance and opportunity to raise my voice for things that matter to me."

Simone, Her Justice client

Together Again: Together for Change

THE 2022 HER JUSTICE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY AUCTION + BENEFIT

Honoring Suzanne Gibbons of Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP and Alan W. Kornberg of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

It had been over two years since we came together in one room to celebrate our mission of advancing justice for women living in poverty in New York City. On May 10, 2022, that changed. At the 2022 Her Justice Annual Photography Auction and Benefit, the Her Justice community convened in person for a truly memorable celebration of the resiliency and perseverance of our clients, our organization, and our network's generosity.

Thanks to over 275 sponsors and donors, many of whom generously increased their support from previous years, we raised a record-breaking $3.25 million—critical funds that allow Her Justice to transform the lives of thousands of New York City's most vulnerable women and children each year.

Her Justice Board of Directors

We raised a record-breaking **$3.25 million** at our 2022 Annual Photography Auction + Benefit

Together Again: Together for Change

THE 2022 HER JUSTICE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY AUCTION + BENEFIT

"The work of Her Justice is difficult. Navigating the family court system in particular is frustrating. But it makes the legal aid Her Justice provides that much more critically important. **And it truly changes lives."**

2022 Honoree Suzanne Gibbons, Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP

"There is no group that has a more effective team than Her Justice… their enthusiasm for the work they do and their mission is infectious. Having seen this team in action, **it is easy to understand how Her Justice turns every dollar donated into nearly $8 worth of pro bono legal services."**

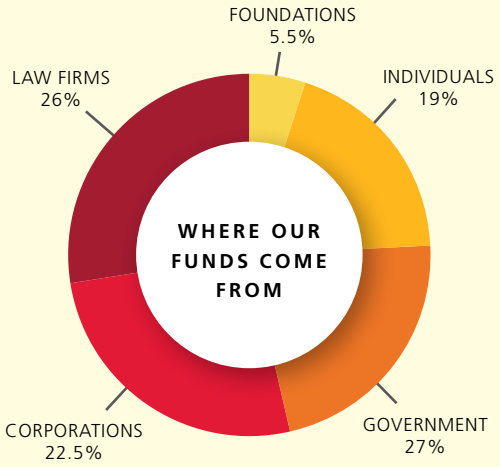
2022 Honoree Alan W. Kornberg, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

FY22 Financials

JULY 1, 2021–JUNE 30, 2022

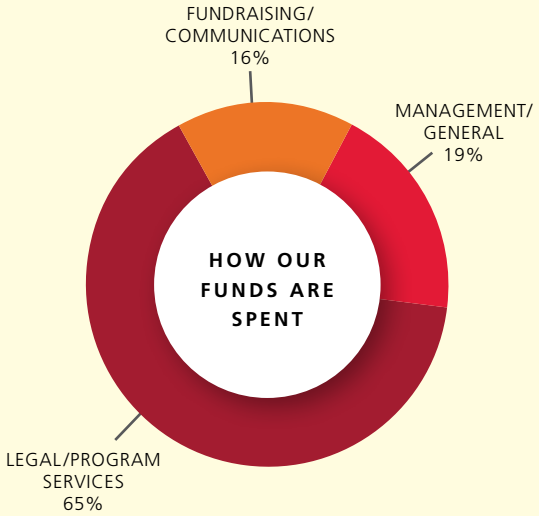
OPERATING REVENUES

Individuals	$ 1,451,989	
Law Firms	$ 2,016,308	
Corporations	$ 1,722,054	
Foundations	$ 416,308	
Government	$ 2,062,048	
Interest/Other Income	$ 6,022	
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES		**$ 7,674,729**
Donated Legal Services	$ 35,958,719	
TOTAL REVENUE		**$ 43,633,448**



OPERATING EXPENSES

Legal/Program Services	$ 3,865,271	
Fundraising/Communications	$ 970,943	
Management/General	$ 1,118,867	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		**$ 5,955,081**
Donated Legal Services	$ 35,958,719	
TOTAL EXPENSES		**$ 41,913,800**
NET INCOME		**$ 1,719,648**
TOTAL ASSETS		$ 8,201,065
TOTAL LIABILITIES		$ 167,134
TOTAL NET ASSETS		$ 8,033,931



A REMARKABLE YEAR THANKS TO OUR DEDICATED COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

247 Institutions and **1,045 Individuals**, including **525 New Supporters**, contributed over **$7.5 MILLION** in FY 2022

With Gratitude

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