

HER JUSTICE

2025

FY ANNUAL REPORT



Through the power of pro bono, Her Justice advocates for and with women and gender diverse New Yorkers seeking autonomy and safety through our civil justice system.



We see a community pulling together and pushing ahead

*A letter from our
Executive Director and Board Chair*

Any reflection on the past year must begin with the remarkable grit and resolve our community has shown. For 32 years, Her Justice has stood with women who are braving impossible decisions. And yet, there is a real sense from our clients and among our experts that it is more difficult than ever before for survivors of gender-based violence living in precarity at the margins.

At Her Justice, we are clear-eyed about the challenges these remarkable women are up against: in their homes, in the streets, in the check-out line, and in our courts. **But we also see a community that's showing up alongside them: partners, supporters, volunteers, and staff who refuse to look away—and who insist that, if we keep working together, our city can be better and our neighbors safer.**

In FY 2025 Her Justice served nearly 4,000 women and children across the five boroughs who came to New York City from more than 100 countries. 93% of our clients were women of color, 87% were survivors of intimate partner violence, and 70% were mothers. We trained and mentored 1,642 volunteer attorneys, unlocking nearly \$55 million of free legal services from the private sector and investing it into the civil justice system.

That's powerful. Because, in this moment, Her Justice's work is critically important. In a year defined by turmoil, we've seen how quickly the ground can shift beneath our neighbors who are already on unsteady footing. Rapidly rising cost of living, shrinking safety nets, and legal processes thrown into chaos all make it harder for women to

leave abuse. But we know that our work—divorce settlements, child support, work authorization, and more—are tools that offer a layer of financial protection to survivors in this uncertain time. In this report, we'll share stories of clients who secured hard-earned wins this year, in the courtroom and beyond, thanks to the tireless work of their attorneys.

This year we're also proud to have launched Report From Court, a first-of-its-kind, real-time data collection project capturing how Family Court works—and fails to work—so that we can use this information to advocate for smart, practical reform. Driven by a simple question—*what was it like in court today?*—the insights we gather are designed to illuminate systemic patterns and point toward achievable change.

All of this work is only possible because of you. This was a year marked by extraordinary partnership and agility. And for that, we say thank you. To our community of firms, attorneys, partner organizations, and donors: your generosity is the reason our clients don't have to face their abusers, or an unjust system, alone. Together, we're pushing forward.

Lex Korberg
Executive Director

Kelley A. Cornish
Chair, Her Justice Board of Directors

What We Do

At Her Justice, we see a powerful role for the private sector in the pursuit of a city where New Yorkers can rely on the civil justice system to deliver fair outcomes in deeply intimate matters affecting their safety, livelihoods, and dignity—providing a foundation to grow strong families and healthy communities.

That's why we connect volunteer lawyers from top firms with women and gender-diverse New Yorkers living in poverty—almost all of them survivors of abuse or trafficking, many of them immigrants, and the vast majority mothers with complicated, interconnected legal needs—who have turned to the courts for safety and freedom. We have their back every step of the way.

Our team of in-house legal experts partner closely with pro bono attorneys, training them in a trauma-informed approach and mentoring them through each stage of a complex civil matter. And together, we see life-changing outcomes that ripple through generations. Thanks to our work, clients are freed from coerced debt as part of divorce proceedings. They're granted orders of protection and custody of their children. They receive work permits that allow them to provide for their families as they await final determinations of their legal status in the U.S. And so much more.

As times become harder and ever more precarious for survivors, every legal win matters. Each one reflects a community pulling together and pushing ahead. Our work gives our clients the footing they need to rebuild. To attain financial independence through steady employment, secure safe housing for their children, or pursue an education that was once out of reach—our work empowers women to create the fresh start they've fought for.



“From day one, my lawyer has been so good to me. She knows exactly what she is doing and fights hard for me. Her Justice is the best thing that has ever happened—and I pray they are around forever.”
Chaneva | *Her Justice Client*

How We Do It

Her Justice creates a more fair and functional civil justice system in two ways:

1 Direct Services
Providing free civil legal services in family, matrimonial, and immigration cases so women have the power of an excellent attorney at their side.

2 Policy & Advocacy
Advocating for policies that improve the system for women like our clients and all New Yorkers.

A Virtuous Cycle

How Our Areas of Work Elevate Each Other

Based on the lived experiences of our clients, we **identify systemic barriers** built into the civil justice system.



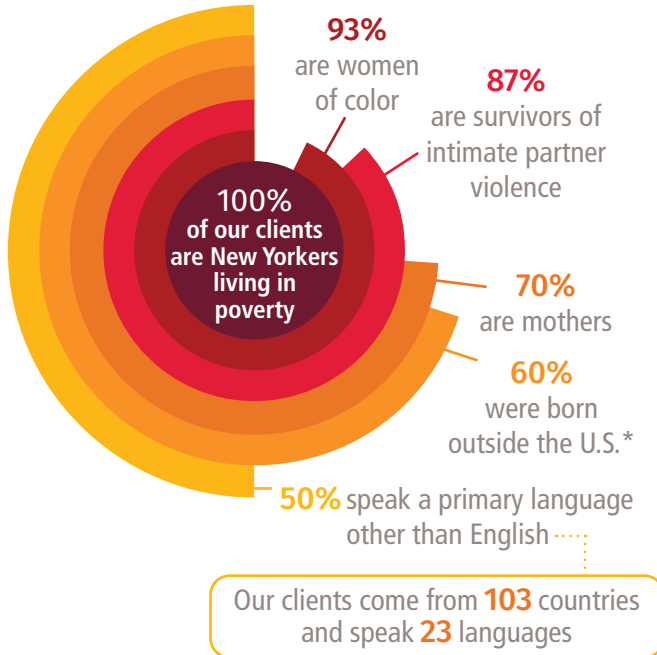
Issue Areas

We work with clients to address their high-stakes legal needs and pursue strategic policy reform, in areas such as:

- Legal status, work authorization, and other protections for undocumented New Yorkers
- Child support and spousal support
- Divorce
- Orders of protection
- Coerced debt and credit repair
- Labor and sex trafficking

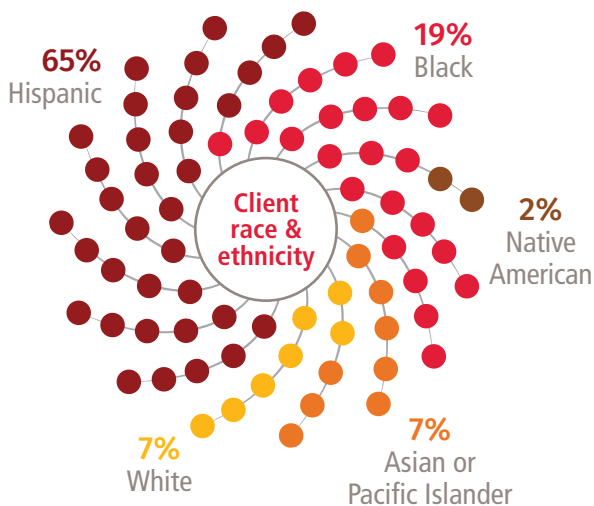
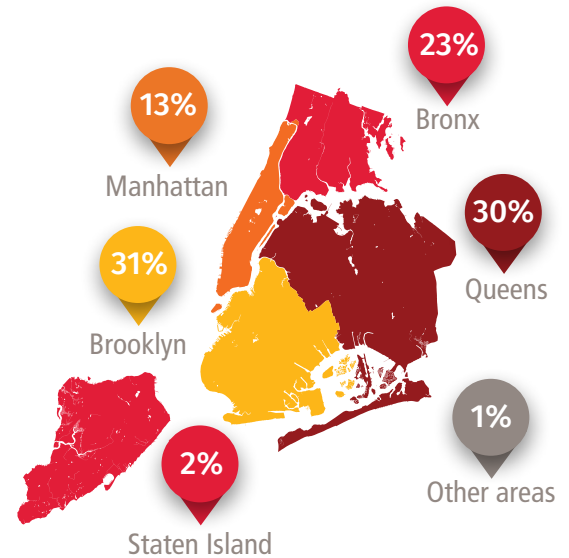
Who We Serve

A snapshot of FY 2025 Her Justice clients



**Last year, 74% of our clients across practice areas self-reported being born outside the U.S. This year's drop to 60% reflects that many clients declined to share this information for non-immigration matters for personal protection in the current climate.*

Our clients live, work, and parent in all five boroughs of New York City

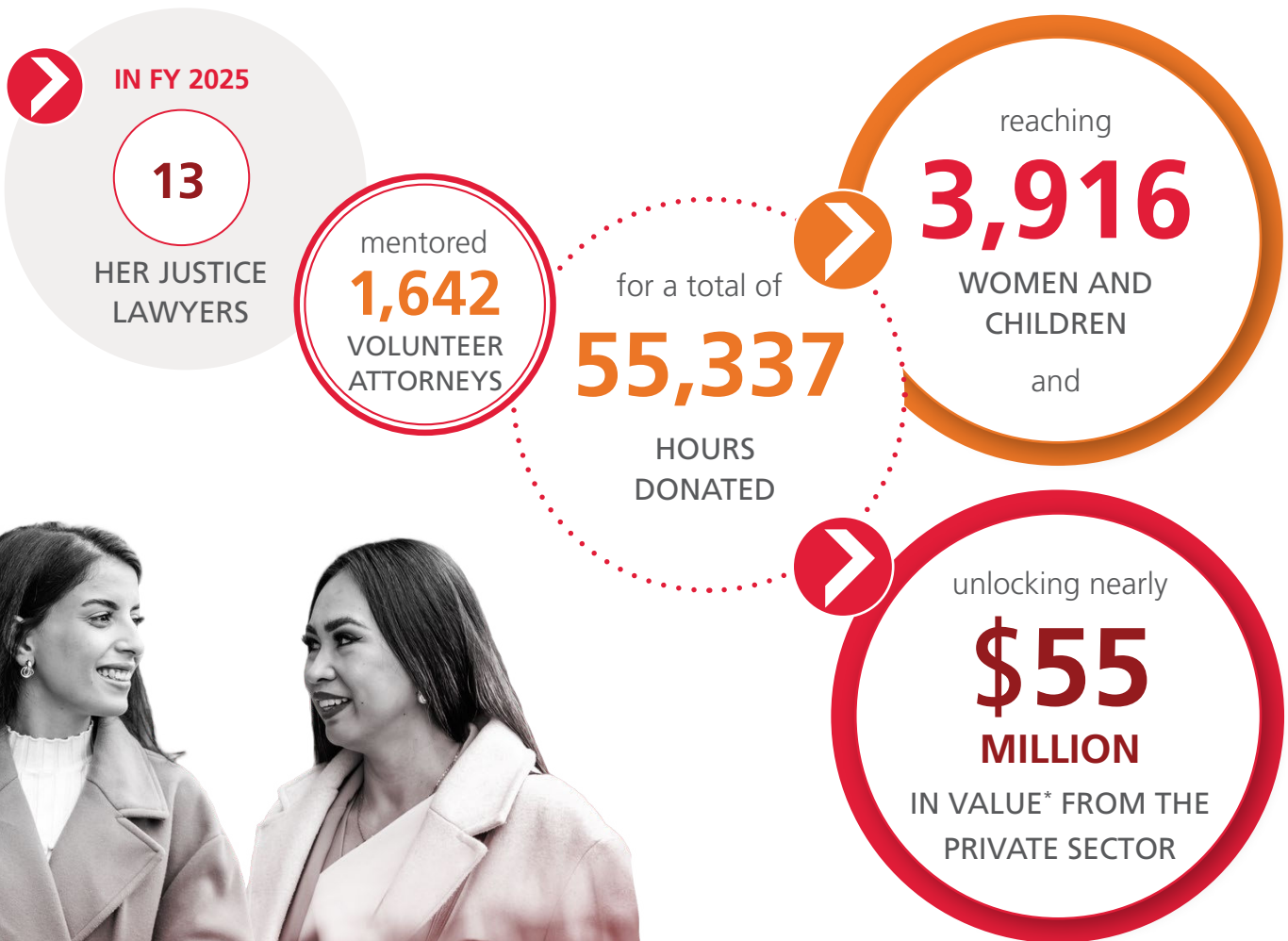


“I want to express how profoundly grateful I am for the immense amount of work Her Justice did for my T-Visa application. My attorneys were compassionate, considerate, and meticulous. I saw how much effort was made to make it easy for me, from your offer for me to write the most traumatic details of my experience rather than share them on a group call, to offering to speak with a female team member if I would be more comfortable. **There is a long road ahead, but this was a major milestone for me. Thank you for making it possible!”**

Eliana | Her Justice Client

Our Pro Bono Model at Work

Our clients are forced to navigate the courts to meet their most basic material and safety needs. Her Justice brings together talented private-sector lawyers and our own matrimonial, family, and immigration experts—so that women and families aren't left to face a complicated court system alone. Pro bono is a powerful tool to ensure our clients have resources, skill, and strategy in their corner to get better outcomes at every stage of their case.



*IN FY 2025, \$54,978,918

“Whether it’s a divorce from an abusive spouse or finally getting a work permit, you see a sense of relief from clients that **they can move forward with their lives.**”

Christine A. Okike, PC | Kirkland & Ellis LLP

The Her Justice Ripple Effect

Extending our Impact

Her Justice's impact extends far beyond individual cases—our work reverberates throughout New York.

Clients interrupt cycles of abuse and poverty through civil justice wins, altering the course of their families' futures.

Pro bono attorneys grow as practitioners and community members, gaining skills, perspective, and a deep sense of purpose through their work.

The systems we work within become fairer and more responsive to millions of New Yorkers who might one day need to turn to them.*

Our legal, judicial, and nonprofit communities benefit from Her Justice's three decades of expertise.

“Our clients create a path for themselves that wasn't there before. And that experience is transformative for them, their children, their community—and for our pro bono attorneys, too. The ones who come back case after case, client after client, because they've experienced something transformative, too.

José Rodarte-Canales
Manager, Pro Bono Firm Relationships

***Interested in learning more?**
Read more on pages 8–9 about
OUR RECENT POLICY WINS

We equip professionals across sectors to better serve New Yorkers seeking civil justice.

In FY 2025, we trained an additional 2,903 attorneys on topics such as trauma-informed lawyering, coercive control within intimate partner violence and how it shows up in courtrooms, and ethics and professional responsibility for new attorneys. We also reached 459 other professionals through 34 capacity-building events, working to ensure our systems run more smoothly and better serve clients.



Justice In Action

Stories Of Our Impact

Her Justice helped New Yorkers achieve life-changing outcomes in thousands of complex civil justice matters this year. Behind every legal win is a story of resilience, courage, and transformation. Here are just a few stories illustrating the power of what our community achieved together for clients.

For Julie, who came to New York for a clinical fellowship in speech pathology and lost her status while enduring years of abuse from her children's father, Her Justice navigated a complex, years-long immigration process to secure her work permit, green card, and ultimately U.S. citizenship.

For Adela, whose ex-partner lied to evade his child support obligations, Her Justice pursued relentless financial discovery. We ultimately convinced the court to rule that Adela's ex-partner had grossly under-reported his income and award her \$1,645 a month in child support—more than 65x the \$25 statutory default she would have otherwise gotten.

For Ximena, who was brought to the U.S. without documents and forced into sex work, Her Justice worked with the government to ensure her abuser was sentenced to 17+ years in prison and ordered to pay her \$3+ million in restitution for wages he stole and medical bills for the harm he inflicted.



“Her Justice changed, completely, my whole life. Not just for me, but for the future of my family. To see a future without hurt, without pain. I feel safe. Her Justice is there for you. They're going to speak up for you. **You are not alone in this.**”

Julie | *Her Justice Client*

Advancing Our Policy Agenda

From Lived Experience to Lasting Change

Our policy agenda is fueled by the lived experience of our clients. In FY 2025, Her Justice pursued 42 policy initiatives at the city, state, and federal levels to put power in the hands of women like our clients and create a civil justice system that works better for all of us. Here are just a few highlights from our work this year:

Coerced Debt Reform

New York shouldn't make survivors pay for their abuse—that's why we worked in coalition to draft and pass the Coerced Debt Bill (S.1353-B/A.3038-B) through both houses of State legislature, and in December 2025, **Governor Hochul signed our bill!** This critical new law will allow survivors to get free from coerced debt, a common form of financial abuse, and let creditors pursue payment from the right person—abusers who accrued debt as a way of controlling their victims—so that survivors aren't left carrying the bill for their abuse.

Child Support Reform

We continued to advance an innovative Her Justice bill (S.245/Persaud, A.3531/Reyes) that would create an expedited settlement process for parents who agree on child support—reducing Family Court backlogs and helping parents reach support orders faster. We amplified this advocacy through our participation in the Family Justice Initiative. We were thrilled when the New York Family Courts began piloting a triage process for parents at the early stages of child support litigation, reflecting growing momentum toward more efficient, family-centered approaches to child support.

The Impact of Retaliatory Lawsuits

We joined the national conversation on the disturbing trend of attorneys bringing abusive DARVO (“Deny”, “Attack”, “Reverse Victim and Offender”) tactics into their litigation strategy via retaliatory lawsuits against survivors who have turned to the justice system. Most recently, we contributed to an amicus brief in the *Lively V. Wayfarer Studios LLC* lawsuit, which has garnered national coverage.

“Her Justice provides clients with much-needed support during some of the most difficult times of their lives.”

Elena Prieto

Her Justice Extern,

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP



Investments in Legal Services

Immigration has always been core to New York City's story, economy, and culture. That's why we joined the coalition calling for stronger investments in legal services supporting immigrant New Yorkers in our 2026 State Budget, including \$165 million in total funding to immigration legal services and enactment of both the Access to Representation Act and the Building Up Immigrant Legal Defense Act, which would fund and expand representation for immigrants facing deportation.

Endorsing the WISE Act

We joined the coalition advocating for the **Working for Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (WISE) Act**, a federal law which would ensure that immigrant survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and gender-based violence have access to protections intended by the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act; the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; and other federal and state laws. The bill would also help ensure survivors pursuing relief are not detained or deported before their applications are fully adjudicated.

Interested in learning more?

Go online:

POLICY BULLETIN

The latest updates on Her Justice's most recent policy actions.

POLICY AGENDA

An outline of the policy strategy for Her Justice's core areas of focus: immigration, child support, divorce, and intimate partner violence.



“There is nothing like Her Justice anywhere else. They are uniquely set up for advocacy work because of their direct involvement with the community. **They are the ones on the front lines—collecting data, representing and advising people, and showing up when it matters.** Her Justice does this all so well because they have created a team of dedicated members who care deeply about the issues they tackle each and every day and who know the ins and outs of what they are advocating for.”

Paige Kennett | *Her Justice Extern, White & Case LLP*



Report From Court: Data tells a story

What can data tell us about New York City Family Court?

There are approximately 125,000 filings each year in New York City Family Court. But most of us have no idea what goes on inside the courtroom. We do know that the system is under-resourced and overburdened—and there isn't enough publicly available data about what happens in court. That's where Report From Court comes in.

ABOUT THE REPORT

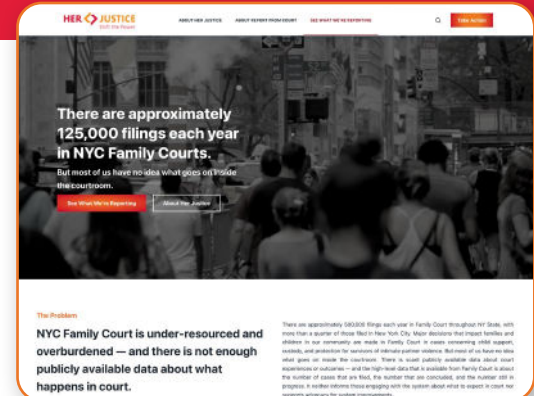
In November 2024, Her Justice launched Report From Court—a data collection collaboration between our organization and the pro bono attorneys who represent Her Justice clients—guided by a single question: *What was it like in court today?*

That's because, at Her Justice, we see the impact that being in court has on women's lives, even outside of the ultimate outcome of the case. It matters if a woman has to take off time from work and arrange childcare only to have her case heard hours late or not at all. It matters if the judge has read the documents and asks questions. Family Court makes major decisions that impact families and children in our community. And while a chaotic appearance weighs heavily on a client's time and finances, a smooth one can make a night-and-day difference to her trust in the system and her path through it.

We believe that a family's security shouldn't depend on the idiosyncrasies of how a particular judge runs their court on any given day. And that's why we're tracking our clients' experiences through their lawyers' perspectives—so we can work towards improvements to our system hand-in-hand with the courts themselves.

OUR GOAL?

To fill the data gap so we can support solutions for reform through policy actions.



**CURIOUS TO KNOW
WHAT'S BEING REPORTED?**

reportfromcourt.org

What was it like in court today?



“It was a very frustrating experience. Our case was adjourned after thirty minutes. The judge refused to give my client a temporary child support order because we were out of time. **Our next court date isn't for two months.** My client was understandably furious.”

“It was a productive, efficient appearance. **The referee made reasonable decisions** given challenging circumstances between the parties. It was also helpful for our client not to have to be in the same room as the adverse party.”



Our lawyers answered.



“We were scheduled for a two-hour trial to determine a final order of child support, but the Support Magistrate scheduled another case at the same time. **We ended up getting twenty minutes before the court.** We will return in six months for another court appearance.”

This project is generously supported by The New York Community Trust.

HER JUSTICE IN THE NEWS

Through a generous pro bono partnership with strategic communications firm Infinite Global, Her Justice has expanded our media presence to bring our clients' lived experiences and our own expertise into the public conversation—building understanding and empathy on issues that shape our clients' lives.

We conducted interviews with industry, national, state, and local publications to help journalists better understand the issues they're reporting on—and translate that understanding into more informed, human, and impactful coverage for readers.

CBS NEWS

She married for love. After she alleged abuse, he threatened deportation.

In this moment—when long-standing immigration protections are being gutted and due process routinely denied—a particular kind of danger looms larger than ever for survivors of domestic violence and trafficking. Our Her Justice client shared with CBS News how leaving her abusive husband brought her face-to-face with the threat of deportation. **Immigration Practice Director Esther Limb** explains how abusers exploit immigration status to exert power and control—and how we're seeing a rise in this type of threat, fueled by anti-immigrant rhetoric and enforcement practices.

*"By pointing to immigration enforcements happening in their communities, **the threat of deportation by abusive spouses is louder than ever** and allows abusers to wield greater power and control over their victims."*

Esther Limb | *Director, Immigration Practice*

 [READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

LAW360®

\$25 Child Support Minimum A Symbol Of 'Broken' NY System

New York's child support system is in serious need of updating. Her Justice spoke with Law 360 to paint a picture of the hurdles embedded into the system and to share key parts of the solution. **Director of Policy Rachel Braunstein** provided data on the odds parents go up against when filing in Family Court—odds that could be improved if courts allowed for more accessible options for resolving child support.

*"You have a huge volume in an under-resourced court. **And it doesn't make sense for what people need.**"*

Rachel Braunstein | *Director, Policy*

 [READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



HER JUSTICE IN THE NEWS



Women's Rights Groups Celebrate New York ERA Passage—but fear “bodily autonomy under threat”

New Yorkers voted for Proposition 1, also known as the Equal Right Amendment (ERA), to protect abortion in their city in a victory for reproductive rights. amNewYork tapped local reproductive and women's rights experts, including **Her Justice Executive Director Lex Korberg**.

“Her Justice knows all too well what studies show: that pregnancy is a particularly vulnerable period for women in abusive relationships, with markedly increased risk of violence. And we have seen time and again how abusers exploit pregnancy to control their partners—through financial dependence, coercion, or isolation—**and the devastating consequences for women who become legally tethered to their abusers through childbirth.** These risks are even more acute for people of color and those living in poverty, who face compounding barriers to safety and healthcare due to systemic inequities.”

Lex Korberg | *Executive Director*

 [READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Between July 2024–June 2025, we gave interviews to the following publications:

amNY

Bloomberg

CBS NEWS

HELL
GATE

LAW360

npr

The New York Times

NYN MEDIA

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



The Power of our Community

United for the Promise of New Beginnings

THE 2025 HER JUSTICE ANNUAL BENEFIT

Honoring **ALICE BELISLE EATON, ESQ.** of Paul, Weiss and **STEVE ZELIN** of PJT Partners

Our community continues to deliver on its promise to Her Justice clients that they won't have to navigate our complex civil justice system alone. For the fifth year running, **our Annual Benefit broke records, raising an historic \$3.4 million!** Together, we're making real, lasting change for women in our community who are writing their next chapter.

“Our clients, these fiercely loyal women who are fighters, have all the optimism to see a better path forward and the fortitude to defend themselves, but they don't have the necessary resources.

That's where we all come in.

I thank all of you who gave so generously.

Each of your firms has my gratitude.”

Alice Belisle Eaton | 2025 Honoree
Partner and Deputy Chair of the Restructuring Department, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP





“What we do in our industry is fix things that are broken.

And that is why Her Justice is a natural organization for our community to support. To the team at Her Justice, we will continue to do our part as you continue to do yours: fix something that is broken, make the wishes of those deserving of a second chance come true, do things the value of which are not always fully recognized, and **do it one client at a time.”**

Steve Zelin | *2025 Honoree*
Partner and Global Head
of the Restructuring and Special
Situations Group, PJT Partners,
2025 Honoree



“Hope is most difficult to conjure in the darkest times. And the client who walks through our door comes to us in the midst of unfathomable danger, precarity, and chaos. How brave she is to not just dream a new beginning is possible, but to risk everything to fight for it. She isn't simply looking for legal help. **She is daring to believe that her life can be different. Safer. Freer. Hers.”**

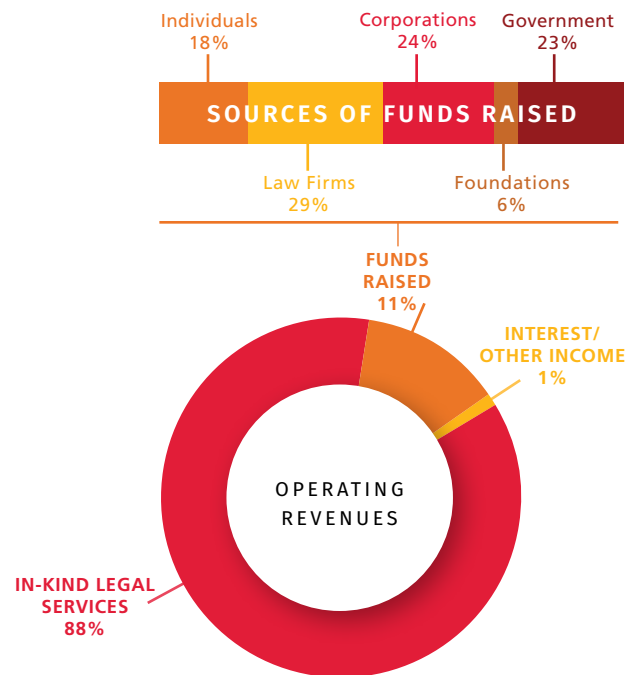
Lex Korberg | *Executive Director, Her Justice*

FY 2025 Financials

JULY 1, 2024–JUNE 30, 2025

OPERATING REVENUES

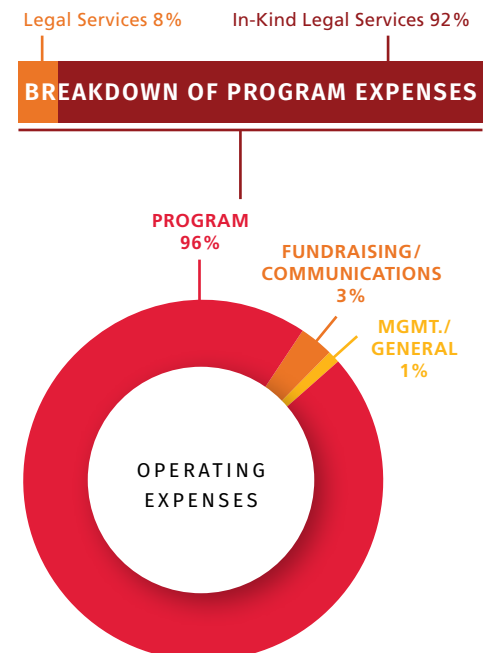
Funds Raised	\$ 7,054,316
Individuals	\$ 1,257,148
Law Firms	\$ 2,056,654
Corporations	\$ 1,659,914
Foundations	\$ 451,846
Government	\$ 1,628,754
Interest/Other Income	\$ 749,489
In-Kind Legal Services	\$ 54,978,918
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 62,782,723



OPERATING EXPENSES

Program	\$ 59,804,846
Legal Services	\$ 4,825,928
In-Kind Legal Services	\$ 54,978,918
Fundraising/Communications	\$ 1,634,812
Management/General	\$ 931,317
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 62,370,975

NET INCOME	\$ 411,748
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 15,457,499
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 6,155,668
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 9,301,831



In FY 2025 **196** institutions and **841** individuals, including **297** new supporters, contributed more than **\$7 MILLION**—enabling Her Justice to deliver almost **\$55 MILLION** of in-kind legal services to our community.

With Gratitude

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$50,000–\$99,999

Catherine J. Douglass and
Bruce P. Dohrenwend
Susan Cook and Drew Fine
Lauren and Dan Krueger
Arlene McKay
Joy and Steven Zelin

\$25,000–\$49,999

Anonymous
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Greg and Alice Eaton
Jen and Brian Fox
Izumi Hara and David Koschik
Carolyn and Jim Millstein
Anne E. and Ray C. Schrock

\$15,000–\$24,999

Julie and Daniel Aronson
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Mindy and Karn Chopra
Theanne and Matthew
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\$10,000–\$14,999

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Tara L. Torrents
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\$5,000–\$9,999

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James Capra, Jr.
Shelley and Paul Chapman
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Family Foundation
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William J. Borner
Ji-Yeun Lee
Ivan Lehon and Tal Kastner
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Roopesh K. Shah
Emily Farber and
Adam Shpeen
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John Singh
Sarah Stasny
Joshua A. Sussberg
Amanda Lin and
Nathan Thomas
Harriet and Myron Trepper

\$1,000–\$4,999

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and Bruce C. Bennett
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Michael Emblar
Edmond Esses
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Dave Hendrickson
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Jeffrey Finger
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Steven D. Germain
Genna Ghaul and
Conrad Johnson
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Heath Gray
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Harold J. Koda
Erin and Mark Laber
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Ralph M. Levene
Heidi Levine
Barrett Lingle
Rebecca Visgaitis and
Stuart R. Lombardi
Andrew Longstreth and
Amy M. Thomas
Lucy C. Malcolm and
Jason R. Saxe
Cynthia Marshall

Jeremy Matican
Mary Elizabeth McGarry
Erin E. McLeod
Helen T. Meates
Ron E. Meisler
Eli N. Miller
Robin L. Miller
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Kimberly Short and
Richard W. Morgner
Sharan K. Mundi
Edward E. Neiger
Naomi Nie
Laurie and David Pauker
Cynthia Smith and
Gregory Petrick
Gary Polkowitz
David W. Prager
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Isolda Ramirez
Jeff J. Recher
Briana Richards
Karen and John Rigney
Eric M. Rosof
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Betty Robbins
Spencer Simon
Christine Song and Phil Lee
Lydia and Parry Sorensen
Joseph Sorkin
Jane and Lloyd A. Sprung
Steelberg Family Foundation
Aidan Synnott
Leon Szlezinger
George N. Tepe
Colin Underwood
Nellwyn Voorhies-Kantak
Robert White
W. Lance Wickel
Jenn Wild
Anupama Yerramalli and
Michael Caine
David Y. Ying
Stephen D. Zide
Beth and Scott Zucker

“ In the current state of the country, it was important to me to support an organization that I know is doing really meaningful and critical work to support marginalized communities. The work that Her Justice does to support women, immigrants, and survivors of gender-based violence is so important, especially now, as the rights of these communities are endlessly attacked. **As a donor, it's also great to know that any amount of money can go a long way given their pro bono leverage model.**”

Anonymous | Her Justice Donor

With Gratitude

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

\$150,000+

Evercore
IOLA Fund of the
State of New York
New York City Council
Oversight Board, New York
State Unified Court System

\$75,000–\$149,999

Akin
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
The Leonard & Robert
Weintraub Family Foundation
The New York
Community Trust
New York State Legislature
PJT Partners
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton
& Garrison LLP
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen &
Katz

\$50,000–\$74,999

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“Volunteering with Her Justice has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. The impact they make in NYC is nothing short of extraordinary.”
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Lists reflective of the year between July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

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