LSPC 2016

LEGAL SERVICES FOR PRISONERS WITH CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT
Message from the Executive Director and President of the Board

We are honored to have the opportunity to do such meaningful work—to wake up excited to serve our community and create real change with and for our fellow formerly incarcerated comrades, family members, and allies. We are especially proud of the attorneys on our legal team, whose legislative, litigative, and policy work is responsible for much of our success at the local, state, and national level.

LSPC began 2016 with a Victory Gala to celebrate all of the successes we had in 2015, including: settling the Pelican Bay Prison / solitary confinement lawsuit, repealing bans on CalFresh and CalWORKS, restoring voting rights for people in jail or on probation, hosting the Western Regional Conference of the Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People & Families Movement (FICPFM), and training winners to President Obama Banning the Box for federal jobs.

All of those victories laid the groundwork for all we accomplished in 2016: organizing and transporting over 200 people to Sacramento for our Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day, codifying and expanding the voting rights victory, presenting the Re-Envisioning Re-Entry Conference, fighting against video-only jail visitation, and hosting over 650 activists at the First FICPFM National Conference in Oakland, California—possibly the largest gathering of formerly incarcerated people, family members, and allies in history.

But if you see only independent acts and events, you miss the massiveness of the Movement. How do formerly incarcerated people participate in democracy? Not only by engaging in specific legislative or policy issues, but also by organizing and training our communities to fight for themselves. We’re proud that LSPC staff continues to develop intellectually and emotionally as we continue to build the tools and the Movement.

Our sound financial footing allows us to create more opportunities for 2017, such as hiring two inaugural Ronald “Elder” Freeman Policy Fellows to develop formerly incarcerated leadership, and expanding Quest for Democracy to bus, train, and lodge over 300 formerly incarcerated people, family, and allies in Sacramento. 2017 will also present a new challenge: finding a new home. Moving is never easy—especially for a non-profit in the current Bay Area real estate market—but we are excited to invest in a place of our own, and in the communities we serve. We thank you for continuing to support us as we grow!

We are at the point where our dreams are turning into realities, and we are proud and honored to share everything with you.

Our Projects

LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights and to reunify families and communities. We build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts and prison system and we advance racial and gender justice in all our work.

Our strategies include legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization and developing community partnerships.

Family Unity Project recognizes every person in prison as a family member, protects the rights of pregnant and parenting prisoners, and works to have prisoners released and reunified with their loved ones.

All of Us or None is an organizing initiative started by people who have been in prison that aims to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.

Advocacy Project builds a strong core of formerly incarcerated leaders, family advocates and allies to work for systemic change through litigation, community organizing and legislative advocacy.

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All of Us or None

Transforming Activists Into Leaders

All of Us or None is a national grassroots movement that organizes, trains, and supports formerly incarcerated people and family members to advocate for legislation and policies by speaking in our own voices directly to legislators.

As originators of the Ban the Box campaign, All of Us or None has led the work to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education for formerly incarcerated people at the local, state, and national level.

Community Giveback Keeps Families Connected

All of Us or None’s Community Giveback strengthens family connections by giving bicycles and teddy bears to children in the name of their incarcerated parent. The annual event, held in East Palo Alto, brings hundreds of families together for a day of food and festivities, as well as the opportunity for kids to write to their incarcerated parent.
Family Unity Project

The Family Unity Project’s purpose is to maintain and strengthen family relationships during and after incarceration. Mass incarceration has the collateral consequence of separating hundreds of thousands of California’s children from their parents, many of them losing their parents and extended families entirely through adoption. All of our work is based on the idea that people in prison have a human right to family—to make informed decisions about their children, have contact with them and have a say on who those children live with.

Disability Rights Settlement

In April, LSPC settled our lawsuit against Alameda County, forcing Santa Rita Jail to make major structural and policy changes to improve both the visiting and the housing of people with mobility disabilities. Changes include increasing the number of accessible cells, showers, restrooms, dining facilities, recreational areas, and visiting areas, all without increasing the number of people it can incarcerate. The County will also provide interpreters and videophones for people who use American Sign Language. LSPC was represented by Disability Rights Advocates and Disability Rights Legal Center.

Reentry Conference

LSPC staff teamed up with the San José State University Record Clearance Project to offer the “Re-Envisioning Re-Entry” Conference on the SJSU campus on October 7, 2016. Over a hundred lawyers, service providers, and activists attended the all-day conference—with CLE credits available—which presented trainings on issues specific to formerly incarcerated people, such as employment and housing rights, as well as cultural issues specific to representing members in our community.

Fines & Fees

Staff Attorney Brittany Stonefifer co-authored Stopped, Fined, Arrested, the Back on the Road CA report. It demonstrates that people of color and poor people are disproportionately affected by police stops, driver’s license suspensions, and related arrests. LSPC also co-sponsored SB 881, strengthening the Traffic Court Amnesty Program.

Policy Advocacy

Those Closest To The Problem Are Closest To The Solution

In conjunction with legislation that supports formerly incarcerated people and our families, LSPC creates outreach and educational materials to inform people of their rights. Pocket guides, such as the “Visiting Rights In California Prisons”, are distributed at conferences and street fairs, in jails and prisons during our Lifelines classes, as well as mailed to currently incarcerated people and family members on request.
In April, LSPC held a Victory Celebration to share—with fellow activists, supporters, and allies—all of our 2015 successes, including: Prop 47 rights and resentencing trainings, settling the Pelican Bay lawsuit to halt the use of Solitary Confinement, repealing bans on CalFresh and CalWorks for people with certain felony convictions, presenting the Tipping Point Re-Entry Conference, the conclusion of the LSPC fiscally-sponsored Three Strikes Justice Center, Record Clearance Clinics, Voting Rights for people realigned under Prop 47, President Obama implementing Ban the Box, hosting the Western Regional Conference for the Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People & Families Movement, and the 2015 Community Giveback.

OG Picnic. a longtime annual event in East Palo Alto, brings together many formerly incarcerated community members together for food, fellowship, activism, and empowerment. For the past decade, LSPC / All of Us or None has both hosted the picnic and worked with local legal service organizations to offer Clean Slate Clinics—reviewing RAP sheets and offering expungement/resentencing advice—for all community members.

Interns & Volunteers

Every year, LSPC is proud to host undergraduate and law-school interns during the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms to assist with our community organizing, law and policy, and administrative support work. Interns provide invaluable contributions to all our programs in addition to aiding hundreds of currently incarcerated people with legal information, and LSPC would not be able to be as effective as we are without them. Formerly incarcerated people and those directly impacted by the criminal justice system encouraged to apply!
National Conference

As part of the Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People & Families Movement (FICPFM), LSPC / All of Us or None hosted the 1st National Conference on September 9-10, 2016 in Oakland, California. Over 650 formerly incarcerated people, family members, activists, and allies gathered for two days of panels, workshops, and a Justice Fair that offered, information, resources, and aid for a variety of legal issues.

The National Conference drew participants from over 35 states, with FICPFM able to offer lodging and transportation so that many formerly incarcerated activists from across the country were able to attend. The Conference was the largest known gathering of people directly impacted by the criminal justice system, and allowed activists and organizers from many groups to share strategies, empower each other, and work together to re-energize the movement to end mass incarceration and restore our rights.

After many years of working constantly as Executive Director of LSPC and Co-Founder of All of Us or None, Dorsey was able to take a three-month sabbatical following the conclusion of the FICPFM National Conference in September. The sabbatical, made possible by the O2 Foundation, gave Dorsey the opportunity to take more than a step back from fighting on the front lines of criminal justice reform. Indeed, a condition of the sabbatical was having no contact with LSPC or the allowed times of contact with UNO. This allowed Dorsey to spend much quality time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and reflect on all the amazing work accomplished over the last 30 years.
In October, LSPC Board Member and All of Us or None co-founder Arthur “Tha” League was presented with the 2016 Ronald Elder Freeman Freedom Award by Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ) “in recognition of his life-long commitment to movement building in the Black Liberation struggle and the empowerment of formerly incarcerated people.”

manuel la fontaine received the Exceptional Leadership Award from the National Employment Law Project (NELP) for his work with organizing to end the systemic discrimination that formerly imprisoned people face. All Of Us Or None has been working closely with NELP around our Ban The Box campaign, a partnership instrumental to the national momentum that has resulted in 21 states, over 100 cities and counties, 42 foundations, and many private companies reforming their hiring policies to be more inclusive of people with records.

At their 35th Anniversary Gala on November 3, the Peace Development Fund honored LSPC Administrative Director and All of Us or None member Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah for her over 25 years of work on issues facing women in prison. The Peace Development Fund was one of LSPC’s first funders, and has continued its support for many, many years. Hamdiya was honored to be the keynote speaker at PDF’s 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Senior Staff Attorney Carol Strickman and former LSPC Policy Director Jesse Stout each received a CLAY (California Lawyer Attorney of the Year) Award for successfully resolving, along with Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld, a lawsuit against the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The resolution of Sassman v. Brown opened up the Alternative Custody Program to fathers as well as mothers. ACP allows eligible state prisoners to return to their communities to complete their sentences.

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**2016 Financials**

**Balance Sheet December 31, 2016**

**ASSETS**

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<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>Other Current Assets</th>
<th>TOTAL ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
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**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

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**Net Assets**

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**Income Statement January 1 – December 31, 2016**

**REVENUE**

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**EXPENSES**

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<th>Management &amp; General</th>
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<th>TOTAL EXPENSES</th>
<th>NET INCOME</th>
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<td>210,575</td>
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<td>597,838</td>
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**Board**

Marlene Sanchez
Chief, American Civil Liberties Union of Restorative Youth Justice

Arthur League
Secretary (Retired), Community Activist

Nanette Karako
Treasurer, Nonprofit Consultant

Ellie Barry
LSPC Founding Director

Georgia Geller
Executive Director

Margaret Lorthadel
Director, Florida Frontier

Marilyn Murphy
Staff Attorney

Veronica Janon
Retired Activist

**Staff**

Dorsey E. Nunn
Executive Director

Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah
Administrative Director

Alex Berliner
Organizer, All of Us or None

Brittany Stenaker
Staff Attorney

Carol Strickman
Sr. Staff Attorney

Sandra Shorter
Communications/Media Coordinator

Dorothy Condon
Organizer, All of Us or None

Elihu Barry
Fund Development Director

Emily Robbogarten
Policy Director

Era DeLar
Staff Attorney

Harriett Davis
Family Unity Project Coordinator

Lee Weiss, Attorney
Organizer, All of Us or None

Michael Camejo
Program Manager

Mark Swartwans
Development Support/Communications

Sachin Bokha, Intern

Tina Nunn
Admin/Program Support Assistant

Thomas Lu
Administrative Assistant

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