






PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Cody Nelson | Anishinabe Legal Services 
Jean Lastine | Central MN Legal Services 
Floyd Pnewski | Judicare of Anoka County
Dori Streit | Legal Aid Service of Northeastern MN 



PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Anne Hoefgen | Legal Services of Northwest MN 
Drew Schaffer | Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Jessie Nicholson | Southern MN Regional Legal Services 

March 15, 2021

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Chair Jamie Becker-Finn
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: The Work of Civil Legal Services to Represent Minnesotans Victimized by Criminal Conduct

Dear Chair Becker-Finn:

We write as the executive leaders of the civil legal aid law firms that comprise the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition (“the Coalition”).¹ We represent families and individuals in every county in Minnesota, protecting their most basic civil legal rights and needs. We write this letter to provide information requested during our January 14th overview presentation in the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee.

During the January 14th Civil Legal Services overview, we were asked about the number of cases in which we provided legal services to survivors and victims of crime. The Coalition conservatively estimates that, in 2020, we provided legal services to families and individuals who were survivors and victims of crimes in a minimum of 1,800 civil legal cases related to crimes perpetrated against them.

These matters include a variety of family law cases involving domestic abuse and family violence, senior law cases involving exploitation of elderly Minnesotans, extra-judicial evictions and self-help lockouts of renters, and immigration cases where clients sought safety from crime and exploitation.

Thank you, again, for your consideration of funding for Civil Legal Services in Minnesota. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

¹ The Coalition we lead includes seven regional civil legal aid organizations – Anishinabe Legal Services (ALS), Central Minnesota Legal Services (CMLS), Judicare of Anoka County (JAC), Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota (LASNEM), Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota (LSNM), Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (MMLA), and Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS).

Sincerely,

/s/ Minnesota Legal Services Coalition

Anne Hoefgen, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota

Jean Lastine, Central Minnesota Legal Services

Cody Nelson, Anishinabe Legal Services

Jessie Nicholson, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

Floyd Pnewski, Judicare of Anoka County

Drew Schaffer, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

Dori Streit, Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota