




A Message from the Executive Director

Dearest Supporters,

Looking back on this year, I feel deeply honored to be a part of such a passionate team of attorneys, legal advocates, social workers, law fellows, Board members, and other volunteers. It has been a joy to watch the organization grow over the past twelve months, and we could not be more thrilled to have welcomed an additional Staff Attorney and ALWAYS' first Bilingual Social Worker. In FY 21-22, with just an Executive Director, Managing Attorney, Staff Attorney, and Office Manager, ALWAYS served 139 immigration law, family law, and criminal history repair cases. The organization enjoyed the support of six Law Fellows over the course of the year, and also benefitted from Undergraduate Interns who aspire to become attorneys one day. Here is a brief look at ALWAYS and what we have accomplished over the last year with the support of government funds, grants from foundations, and contributions from people like you. Proud of the year behind us and looking forward to the one ahead.

Thank you for all of the positive encouragement and continued partnership.

In solidarity,

Valentina



ALWAYS STAFF

Valentina Restrepo Montoya
Executive Director & CEO

Emily Steiner
Managing Attorney

Valerie Domingo Ruiz
Staff Attorney

Laurie Kalivas
Staff Attorney

Graciela Gomez Cruz
Bilingual Social Worker

Maria Virginia Ferrero
Bilingual Office Manager
& Legal Advocate



ALWAYS BOARD MEMBERS

Mary O'Grady, Board Chair
Mary Mitchell, Vice Board Chair
Leslie Kyman Cooper, Board Secretary
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Nancy Baldwin
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IMMIGRATION LAW

Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services handles immigration cases before US Citizenship and Immigration Services. The organization's attorneys represent clients in their applications for T-Visas, U-Visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile status, protection under the Violence Against Women Act, and more. They also help with DACA renewals, Employment Authorization documents, Lawful Permanent Residence, and naturalization to US Citizen.

FAMILY LAW

ALWAYS' attorneys offer both representation and intensive pro se assistance in family law matters including orders of protection, divorces, annulments, child support, and legal decision making and parenting time.

CRIMINAL HISTORY REPAIR

The organization's attorneys, legal advocates, and law fellows are all able to help with criminal history repair in the form of seeking good cause exceptions for fingerprint clearance cards, resolving outstanding warrants, and dropping down undesigned felonies.





Between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, ALWAYS represented and offered intensive pro se assistance in 139 cases. Some of ALWAYS' clients have more than one case with the organization.

48.2% of clients have come into contact with the foster care system.

77.6% of clients are survivors of crime.

21% of clients are survivors of trafficking.



Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS) is a nonprofit community legal center committed to opening the doors to justice for Arizona's vulnerable young people and trafficking survivors of all ages as they seek to eliminate legal obstacles that stand in the way of safety, stability, and opportunity.



70.5% of clients are women and girls. 23.7% are men and boys. 3.2% are trans or gender nonconforming.

69% of clients are under the age of 25. 33% are under the age of 18.

68.3% of clients are Hispanic or Latino/a. More than 75% of clients are people of color.

Just over 60% of ALWAYS' cases are immigration cases.



ALWAYS staff have represented Lucy* for many years, in both immigration and family law cases. In 2022, Lucy was finally able to visit her family in Mexico after acquiring her green card with ALWAYS' help. When she reunited with her grandfather across the border, she texted her ALWAYS attorney to say, "Thanks to ALWAYS and the amazing attorneys that mean the world to me, I finally got to see my older brother & my only grandfather that is still alive!" Lucy was our 2021 Heart of Justice client speaker and has begun a career as a paralegal at a local law firm.

**Name changed for confidentiality.*

Not only are ALWAYS' services entirely free, the organization and its funders pay for sizable immigration filing fees and medical exams, service of process in divorce cases, interpreters for languages that are not English and Spanish, and more, making the processes possible for clients.

ALWAYS

Arizona Legal Women And Youth Services



2022 Community Impact Report

Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services is able to provide free legal and social services to vulnerable youth and trafficking survivors because of the dedication of the following sponsors.



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