



2024 Vision: Celebrating Milestones and Expanding Impact at CLC by Rachel Barrett

Reflecting on the achievements of 2024 thus far, the Children's Law Center of Minnesota has much to celebrate. Throughout CLC's decades of service, our commitment to children in need has been unwavering, and this year has been no exception. CLC continues to represent hundreds of clients per year—even amid a trend of increasingly serious cases, CLC has provided excellent representation without decreasing capacity. From this work, members of CLC's legal team have earned statewide recognition as experts in youth protection, now holding seats on numerous youth advocacy boards, advisory committees, and task forces throughout Minnesota. In the past year, we have renewed and invigorated our relationships with our municipal and community partners, and we welcomed a new development director, Billy Soden, to further CLC's efforts. CLC enshrined the continuation of these efforts with the adoption of a 2024 – 2026 strategic plan, which will drive progress for the coming years. CLC's commitment to making the smallest voice in the courtroom the loudest is as steadfast today as ever.

Looking ahead, CLC will continue to capitalize on a sturdy foundation of expertise in zealous youth representation to achieve strategic growth. The members of CLC's legal team have become increasingly valuable resources for the youth representation community, and CLC anticipates expanding its educational reach through county and state-wide topical organizations. Under the leadership of our stalwart Executive Director, Susan Dioury, and the stewardship of our experienced team, the CLC board sees the year ahead as one of determined advocacy and expanded impact—a year where the ripple effect of CLC's efforts creates lasting waves of change in the legal community and in the lives of the children we champion.



Rachel Barrett is Chair of the CLC Board of Directors and has dedicated her practice to advocating for people dealing with pain, suffering, and loss. At Minneapolis firm Ciresi Conlin, Barrett represents plaintiffs in medical malpractice lawsuits.

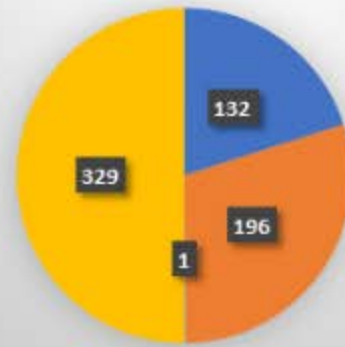
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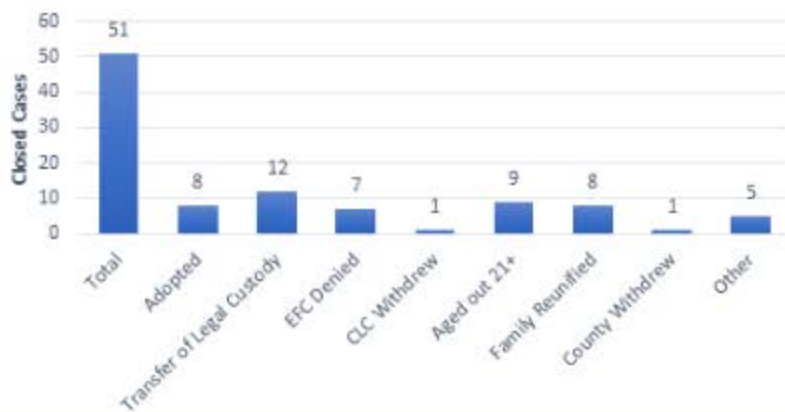
Children's Law Center of Minnesota By The Numbers

In the second quarter of 2024, CLC provided legal representation to 329 Minnesota youth in foster care (new and continued representation). Of these youth, 59.6% (196) of the cases are within Ramsey County, 40.1% (132) are in Hennepin County, and one case is currently open in Washington County (.3%).

Number of CLC Clients Served April - June 2024



Q2 Closed Cases



CLC closed 51 client cases in Q2 2024 with the outcomes shown here.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total year-to-date income was lower than projected in CLC's 2024 Budget. CLC will continue our efforts to overcome this revenue gap in the final two quarters of 2024. Expenses were lower than budgeted.

Budget Overview YTD May 2024



FACT: Youth who have aged out of the foster care system are at a particularly high risk of becoming homeless. Studies have found that nearly one-third of youth experiencing homelessness have had experiences with foster care, 22 percent of youth in foster care experienced homelessness at least one night within the first year after they left the foster care system, and five percent had experienced homelessness for the first time within a week after leaving foster care. (*Administration for Children and Families (ACF), January 2024*)



Ways to Help Children's Law Center of Minnesota

The Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) is dedicated to advocating for the legal rights and well-being of children in foster care and the child welfare system. Your support can make a significant impact on the lives of these children. Here are several ways you can help:

1. Volunteer Your Time and Skills

Volunteers are the backbone of CLC. There are numerous ways to contribute your time and expertise:

- **Become a Volunteer Attorney:** If you are a legal professional, consider becoming a volunteer attorney. CLC provides training and support to help you represent foster children in court.
- **Non-Legal Volunteering:** Non-attorneys can also volunteer by helping with administrative tasks, special events, and other essential activities that keep the organization running smoothly.

2. Donate

Financial contributions are crucial to sustaining CLC's programs and services. Your donations help ensure that every child in foster care has a dedicated advocate.

3. Participate in Fundraising Events

CLC hosts various fundraising events throughout the year. Attending and supporting these events is a fun and engaging way to contribute.

4. Spread the Word

Raising awareness about the issues faced by children in the foster care system is vital. Follow CLC on social media, share their posts, and talk to your friends and family about their work. Increasing public awareness can lead to more support and resources for foster children.

5. Corporate Partnerships

Businesses can support CLC through corporate sponsorships, matching gift programs, and employee volunteer initiatives. Partnering with CLC not only benefits the children but also enhances your company's community involvement and social responsibility.

6. In-Kind Donations

CLC also accepts in-kind donations such as office supplies, event supplies, and other goods that can help reduce their operational costs. Check their website or contact them directly to see what items are currently needed.

7. Advocate for Policy Change

Advocacy is a powerful tool for creating systemic change. Stay informed about child welfare policies and legislation. CLC often provides information and resources on how you can help advocate for policies that protect and support foster children.

Get Involved Today

The Children's Law Center of Minnesota relies on the community's support to continue its mission. By getting involved in one or more of these ways, you can help ensure that every child in foster care has a voice and a chance for a better future. Visit CLC's website to learn more and take the first step towards making a difference.

Beyond the Courtroom

How CLC's Personal Touch Changed a Young Life

CLC was appointed to a 16-year-old youth. Prior to the initial client meeting, CLC learned the client needed some personal products since the client did not have all her items. CLC's youth resource worker and CLC attorney met the youth in person and provided some donated personal products to the client. The client and CLC attorney quickly established a professional relationship as the CLC attorney carefully explained the court process and answered all the client's questions. The client connected with her CLC attorney and felt so heard that the client said to her CLC attorney and CLC youth resource worker "where have you people been?"



CLC's Anne Gueinzus Honored with Prestigious MSBA Legacy of Excellence Award



We are honored to announce that CLC's Managing Attorney, Anne Gueinzus was awarded the Minnesota State Bar Association's (MSBA) 2023 Bernard P. Becker Legacy of Excellence Award recognizing unique and outstanding service to the legal profession and community in connection with providing legal services to low-income and vulnerable Minnesotans. The MSBA presents this award each year to honor dedicated service, outstanding achievements, and a demonstrated commitment to provision of zealous and skilled legal representation by staff employed by a private, nonprofit agency that provides legal services to low-income Minnesotans.

Anne is a zealous advocate who has devoted her career to ensuring children in Minnesota entangled in the complex child protection legal system through no fault of their own receive quality legal representation. Anne has been instrumental in helping thousands of children have their expressed wishes heard in the courtroom and obtain needed services during extremely challenging times of their lives. Thank you, Anne for your 25+ years of dedicated service to Minnesota's most vulnerable children and youth.

Famous Foster Kids

Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles was in the foster care system and eventually adopted by her grandfather and his wife. "My birth mother suffered from drug addiction, and when I was just three years old, my siblings and I were removed from her custody," Biles said. "From there, we bounced around until I was six and my grandparents made the brave move to adopt us." The 23-year-old encourages greater investment in foster care children so that they can have greater opportunities to thrive.



29th Anniversary CLC Benefit Celebration of Champions Benefit & Awards Thursday, September 19, 2024



On September 19, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at Nicollet Island Pavilion, the Children's Law Center of Minnesota will host its 29th Celebration of Champions Benefit & Awards.

The evening will feature a networking cocktail hour, a program celebrating the work of CLC, youth stories, volunteer perspectives, annual awards, a giving moment, and both live and silent/online auctions.



Justice Alan Page - Guest Speaker



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