



THE POWER OF PRO BONO

SALSA 
San Antonio Legal Services Association

**2020
Impact Report**

Who We Are

The San Antonio Legal Services Association (SALSA), formerly known as the Community Justice Program (CJP), started almost twenty years ago. In August 2019, after more than 15 years as part of the San Antonio Bar Association, SALSA re-launched as a separate entity with a new Board of Directors.

SALSA staff and volunteers enable access to justice for the most vulnerable and at-risk members of our community through targeted pro bono legal clinics and programs.

HOW WE SERVE

2020 By the Numbers

\$468,450  Value of Civil Legal Services Provided

434  Pro Bono Cases Closed

2,082  Pro Bono Hours Worked

291  Number of Volunteer Attorneys

25  Number of Clinics



PRO BONO MADE EASY

SALSA understands the demanding schedules and other constraints most attorneys experience and, in the midst of the most significant public health crisis of our generation, SALSA launched remote volunteer opportunities that made pro bono work more accessible and easy. Our Veterans Legal Advice Clinic, previously held onsite at the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, transitioned to a remote platform. Attorneys simply sign up to be available to give legal advice via telephone or Zoom on the second and fourth Friday of the month.

SALSA facilitated a large-scale Wills for Healthcare Workers Program that paired frontline healthcare workers with trained volunteers from throughout the country so that they could receive end of life documents and return their focus to their life-saving efforts. SALSA also stood up a remote Tenants Rights Program to assist tenants facing eviction for non-payment of rent during the economic downturn. Volunteers can sign up to remotely negotiate with landlords to stave off eviction and avoid homelessness. SALSA's volunteers continue to provide critical community services despite the unprecedented changes brought on by COVID-19.

Providing Veterans a New Lease on Life

"Mary", a veteran, came to SALSA seeking help with Chapter 7 bankruptcy. She had endured a divorce that left her destitute. Her ex-husband removed all of her belongings from her home, emptied her bank accounts, and left. To make matters worse, her ex-husband began stalking her and hacking into her email and phone. Because her ex-husband had left her with nothing, and she had no income, she put all of her expenses on credit cards just to survive. The debt was suffocating.

SALSA was able to place Mary with John Absher, an experienced bankruptcy attorney, who in the matter of a few short months, was able to help Mary obtain bankruptcy protection, including filing the necessary paperwork, attending hearing(s), and eventually having her debt discharged. Through the process, Mary began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, she felt confident enough to get a job, and she began making positive steps forward. Once the case was finished, she felt that she was finally free from her ex-husband, her divorce, and all the traumatic events from her past that haunted her.



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