2016 was a great year for ILS. We developed innovative programs allowing us to serve more clients. We continued to attract excellent new staff members. We expanded our services through new grant programs. And we improved our internal systems to continue our tradition of excellent, efficient service.

Here are some highlights:

• ILS served more than 10,000 clients in our core areas of family law, housing, consumer finance, income and health, and prisoner re-entry.

• We completed our strategic plan (adopted in 2017) focused on excellent client service, organizational and individual accountability, and increased public visibility and financial support.

• All ILS staff met twice in 2016, once for strategic planning, and again for an ILS-sponsored, two-day Access to Justice Conference that also included nearly 100 additional legal advocates for low-income Hoosiers.

• Our advocates received recognition, including awards for Steve Culley (McKinney Law School), Katherine Rybak (Cornell Law School), Rod Bohannan and Jay Chaudhary (Leadership in Law), and Mary Butiste-Jones (IU South Bend).

• Indianapolis hosted the National Medical Legal Partnership Conference and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) Conference, allowing ILS staff to share our successes and learn from national leaders.

• ILS intensified its focus on strategic advocacy, taking on issues that affect significant numbers of our client population. A team of national leaders from NLADA visited ILS last fall to assist in this effort.

• We received a new grant from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to expand our pro bono services, a federal grant to assist financially exploited older Americans, and several grants allowing us to establish new medical-legal partnerships. We also received a grant to work on consumer and housing issues from then-Attorney General Greg Zoeller (continued by Attorney General Curtis Hill).

• ILS participated in the Supreme Court-sponsored Coalition for Court Access, which worked on coordinating services by legal aid providers, increasing resources for self-represented litigants, and increasing legal aid funding.

You may have heard that the 2016 election put our major federal funder, LSC, in jeopardy. But I remain optimistic that ILS will flourish in 2017 and beyond due to support from people like you.
# Indiana Legal Services

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### 2016

**Revenue**

- Federal Support (Legal Services Corporation)
- Other Federal Support
- State Support
- United Way Support

**Expenses**

- Program Services
- Management, General, and Capacity Building
- Fundraising

### 2015

**Revenue**

- Federal Support (Legal Services Corporation)
- Other Federal Support
- State Support
- United Way Support

**Expenses**

- Program Services
- Management, General, and Capacity Building
- Fundraising

### Revenue Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$7,991,084</td>
<td>$8,142,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services</td>
<td>$1,541,479</td>
<td>$1,388,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$161,771</td>
<td>$104,323</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Expense Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$7,722</td>
<td>$5,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, General, and Capacity Building</td>
<td>$660,006</td>
<td>$785,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$660,006</td>
<td>$785,472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue**

- 2016: $9,714,421
- 2015: $9,516,791

**Total Expenses**

- 2016: $9,694,334
- 2015: $9,635,195
In June of 2015, Julie fled her home with only her daughter, a diaper bag, and a purse. Her husband had just threatened them with deadly weapons, and Julie realized she couldn't stay in the home any longer and keep her daughter safe.

But Julie also had a long history of addiction. Not long after she left, she began to recognize that her daughter wasn't safe with her either—not unless she could get sober. Unfortunately, she had few resources to get help. Her husband had the job, the home, the money, and security. And although Julie had an emotionally supportive family, they weren't in a position to help financially.

That’s when Julie went to her local Family Justice Center, where she met with ILS Staff Attorney Mary Butiste-Jones.

“She said to me, ‘If there’s ever a time for you to get it right with your sobriety, that time is now,’” Julie said. “Mary did for me what I could not do for myself. She gave me one chance to stand up and say that I matter, that my daughter matters, and to really act like it.”

Julie knew that the next right step was to divorce her husband and claim her rightful assets, but she couldn’t afford it on her own. To fully extricate herself from her ties to her abuser—and to beat her addictions—she needed the free legal assistance provided by ILS.

With that support, Julie was able to successfully start over, and provide a better life for herself and her daughter.

“Seeking help from Indiana Legal Services made me feel like I do have rights. I can make decisions that are in our best interests,” Julie said. “I have referred to Mary as my guardian angel with two sets of wings—one for me, and one for my daughter.”

THE NEXT RIGHT STEP

Struggling with addiction and an abusive ex-husband, a woman fights to save her daughter—and herself.
For many seniors throughout Indiana, it's not uncommon to turn to family for assistance. Unfortunately, all too often we see cases of these same seniors being taken advantage of by the people they trust. That was the case with Lee.

As he grew older, Lee began to need more help in handling his financial affairs. That's when he turned to his daughter for help. He granted her Power of Attorney, so that she could sign checks and take care of other paperwork on his behalf.

But unknown to Lee, and without his permission, his daughter had him removed from the deed to his home. And because she had Power of Attorney, there was little Lee could do to protect himself short of taking his daughter to court. That posed a real problem, since Lee lived on very limited means.

“When I went out and got estimates from a few lawyers, I realized how expensive legal assistance would be,” Lee said. “It got so I thought I'd have to sell the house in order to afford the lawyer I needed to keep it.”

Then Lee heard about the services offered by ILS. As a provider of free legal services, we are able to provide excellent legal advice and representation to individuals who would not otherwise have access to justice. That can be critical for clients who depend on our assistance to maintain their access to safe shelter.

“What I was going through with my daughter, I couldn't afford to get it resolved,” Lee said. “But ILS didn’t cost me anything but the time it took to tell the truth.”

Hoosiers like Lee are only guaranteed access to a lawyer in criminal matters—but in non-criminal matters, they may be faced with little or no recourse. We were able to help Lee successfully resolve the matter, and keep his house.

“If I had to grade it, it would be off the charts,” Lee said. “To hire an attorney on my own, I'd have to pay hundreds of dollars a month. I couldn't do it. But thanks to ILS, I was able to stay in my own home.”
Indiana Legal Services works within our communities to help those living in poverty receive equal access to justice. But our work goes beyond individual clients—through our advocacy and community partnerships, we have the opportunity to make long-lasting impacts on the laws affecting low-income Hoosiers. We’re proud of how our work helps to promote a justice system that treats everyone fairly under the law, regardless of income.

A System of JUSTICE

Our work ultimately helps to shape how laws are written and interpreted, so that they help to create a more just and equitable society for all Hoosiers.

ILS
Fights poverty, empowers clients, and improves their access to justice.

ILS helps clients understand their rights, as well as the judicial system, in a way that courts do not.

Agencies throughout the state partner with ILS to help assist low-income Hoosiers.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
THE LAW

APPELLATE COURT IMPACT
Some of our cases create precedents that can be used in the future to help protect other low-income Hoosiers.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT
There is a learning curve for both the courts and the legal community to understand how the law affects low-income Hoosiers. We help provide education around these issues.

CASE-BY-CASE IMPACT
For most of our cases, the result impacts only the parties directly involved.

CLIENT
In non-criminal cases, clients are not guaranteed access to representation. For Hoosiers living in poverty, the cost of legal representation can be prohibitive.

THE COURTS

ILES advocates for those on the margins of society, and for clients who live in poverty.

Non-criminal cases include matters like bankruptcy, veterans affairs, domestic violence, landlord disputes, civil rights, health care, and more.

ILS provides low-income Hoosiers with the same access to justice and legal rights granted to those who can afford legal counsel.
For individuals living in poverty, the end of a marriage often requires forgoing basic protections that many of us take for granted. In the case of “Sylvia,” it meant losing her health insurance.

Up until her divorce, Sylvia’s only health coverage came as the result of her husband’s employer. But the policy ceased to extend to her when they were no longer married, and she could not afford the out-of-pocket costs of her medications.

“I have a lot of medical problems that require medication,” Sylvia said. “I also have regular appointments with a psychiatrist, my heart doctor, and my family doctor. Without insurance, I couldn’t afford any of it.”

Sylvia tried everything she could think of to protect herself. While in the emergency room, she applied through the Healthy Indiana Plan for services from a healthcare navigator. But her application was ultimately denied because she hadn’t submitted a bank statement.

Next she tried to apply for Social Security disability. In the meantime, she did anything she could to survive. That included selling all of her furniture just to make ends meet.

Finally, Sylvia came to Indiana Legal Services. We reviewed her case, and got in touch with the state as quickly as possible to help her get coverage. With the free guidance and support of our team, Sylvia was able to restore her insurance.

“If I couldn’t get insurance, I don’t know what I’d have done,” Sylvia said. “It took my lawyers all working together on my behalf. They successfully kept me on track and got me through it.”

No one should have to fear losing access to crucial medication and health care simply because they live in poverty. Although ILS was able to assist Sylvia, there are many other Hoosiers who still need help.
Here’s a snapshot of the difference your generosity made possible:

Indiana Legal Services provided extended legal services to 1,709 clients*, including...

477 whose family stability improved
196 whose access to health care was increased
295 whose household debt was eliminated or reduced
60 who did not become homeless because of our advocacy

We helped 1,090 clients with brief services like calling a landlord or filling out court forms, and we helped 7,988 clients through individually tailored legal advice.

Our advocacy led to monetary gains in public benefits, child support, court judgments, etc. totaling more than $1,955,085 and helped our clients avoid more than $3,745,245 in obligations that were otherwise legally due.

Areas of Law

FAMILY LAW | HOUSING | CONSUMER FINANCE
INCOME AND HEALTH | PRISONER RE-ENTRY

Special Projects

CONSUMER LAW CENTER | IMMIGRANTS’ AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS CENTER
HOMELESS LEGAL PROJECT | HOUSING LAW CENTER | LOW-INCOME LGBT PROJECT
MIGRANT FARMWORKERS LAW CENTER | LOW-INCOME TAXPAYERS PROJECT
MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS | MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROJECT
SENIOR LAW PROJECT
Faegre Baker Daniels congratulates Indiana Legal Services on 50 years of providing dedicated, caring and effective legal services to persons of limited means. We are proud to support ILS in furthering its mission.
We at Indiana Legal Services would like to thank our many donors and sponsors for their generous gifts of support in 2016.