

DO YOU BELIEVE IN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CHANCES?
WE DO.



ANNUAL REPORT



20
23



**OUR STRENGTH COMES
FROM OUR PASSION
FOR CHANGING LIVES.**

Alex Saiz, Esq.

Director of Legal Services, Florida Justice Center

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stepping Up: Why I Joined Florida Justice Center

I recently joined the Florida Justice Center (FLJC) team with the goal of taking what is unique and special about the organization and applying that to new projects and services.

FLJC excels in providing high-quality, free and low-cost legal services to justice-impacted populations. I believe we are the best in Florida at what we do, but that isn't what makes us special. As our Director of Legal Services, Alex Saiz, says "our strength comes from our passion for changing lives." I wholeheartedly agree.

I have been involved with FLJC as a volunteer since 2021 and have watched it grow. When the founding executive director stepped down, I gladly stepped up to fill his shoes. Florida Justice Center is making a tremendous impact in the community we serve and I'm proud to lead this extraordinary team.

Jessica



Dr. Jessica Younts, JD, Ph.D.
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

2023 was a banner year including rapid expansion, strategic partnerships, and increased service offerings.

1

Geographic Expansion

We not only moved from our outdated, flood damaged office in Oakland Park to a beautiful new office in Fort Lauderdale, we also opened a second office in Miami.

2

Strategic Partnerships

Forging partnerships is one of our key priorities to multiply our impact. New funding and strategic partners include the Carrie Meek Foundation, Miami-Dade County, a variety of voting rights groups, REFORM Alliance, and the Veterans Administration.

3

New Legal Services

As the state leader in sealing and expungement and clemency, we applied our legal and operational knowledge to internet mugshot removal, DNA database removal, and probation assistance to help people get a second chance at success.

4

Staffing Growth

Due to new funding opportunities, we were able to double the size of our staff. This has allowed us to not only provide faster response times to our clients, but also to explore and implement new programs and projects.

WHAT WE DO



Sealing and Expungement

We help people get a fresh start by removing an arrest from their record, if they qualify under current laws. This leads to better housing and job opportunities.

People helped in 2023: 960



Internet Mugshot Removal

85% of employers search applicants before offering a job. We can remove those photographs from the internet, helping people earn a living wage.

People helped in 2023: 569



DNA Database Removal

When a case is dismissed, people are entitled to have their genetic profile removed from government databases.

People helped in 2023: 64



Rights Restoration (Clemency)

With a felony conviction comes the loss of many rights. We assist with restoration of civil, firearm, and voting rights eligibility.

People helped in 2023: 610



Probation Assistance

Many people on probation will go back to jail or prison. Our lawyers represent people succeeding on probation for early termination and modification of terms of supervision.

People helped in 2023: 179



Other Legal Services

Through our legal clinics, we are able to assist community members with services FLJC does not normally provide.

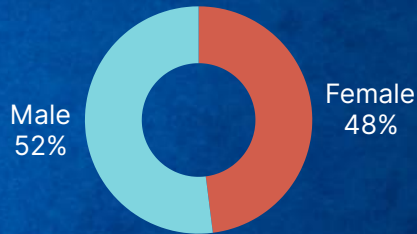
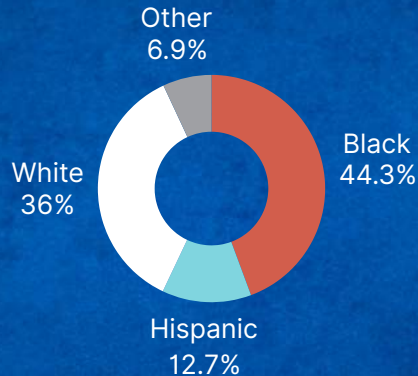
People helped in 2023: 389

2023 CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

1,488
PEOPLE HELPED

WITH

2,771
LEGAL ISSUES



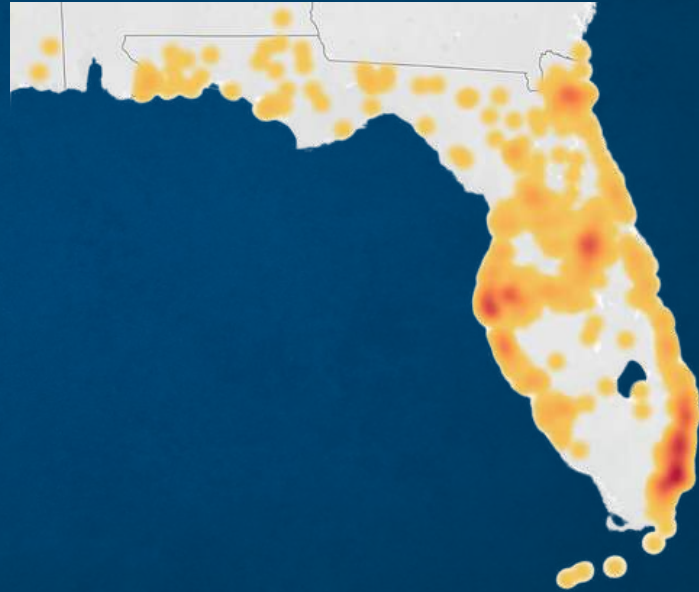
\$10,300
MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME



WHERE WE HELP

TOP COUNTIES:

- MIAMI-DADE
- BROWARD
- PALM BEACH
- HILLSBOROUGH
- PASCO
- ORANGE
- DUVAL
- PINELLAS
- OSCEOLA





Alex Saiz

FLORIDA JUSTICE CENTER ATTORNEY

6:08 88°



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FL
JC
STAFF



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Introducing the executive team of Florida Justice Center. They drive impact through leadership and innovation.



JACQUELINE HALL
Chairperson



BRIAN PIERCE, JD
Vice-Chair



TRETHA HARRIS, MSCJ
Secretary



JESSICA YOUNTS, JD, PH.D.
Executive Director



ALEX SAIZ, ESQ.
Director of Legal Services



JONATHAN BLEIWEISS, MBA
Director of Programs, Founder

THE YEAR AHEAD

2024 is shaping up to be a year of unparalleled growth and change.

1

Veteran Services

In 2023, Florida Justice Center was certified by the VA to represent veterans in benefits hearings. That program will be rolled out in late-2024.

2

Child Support Modification

Incarcerated people rack up thousands in child support debt that they can't pay. This affects their ability to obtain licensure upon their release. We will be helping people lower their obligations starting in late-2024.

3

Clothing Closet

In partnership with Miami-Dade's Chief Judge and Dress for Success, we're opening a clothing closet in the main courthouse in mid-2024 for people who can't afford proper court attire.





JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Florida Justice Center

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**LEARN MORE:
WWW.FLJC.ORG**
