

2023

Annual REPORT



*Celebrating
our 20th YEAR!*

LEGALCORPS

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🌐 www.legalcorps.org

MESSAGE FROM THE E.D.

POSITIVELY IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

As Minnesota and the nation experience ongoing recovery from the pandemic, more people are joining the labor market. Much of our net increase in jobs over the past few years has been contributions from small businesses. As a matter of fact, between March 2021 and March 2022, of the net increase of 70,954 jobs in Minnesota, small businesses contributed 91.5 percent. To help these small businesses succeed, it is imperative that our community continue to provide the necessary legal services so many of our hardworking clients need to succeed.

As LegalCORPS moves forward into our 20th year, we look back at 2023 and the accomplishments of our team, volunteers, partners, and sponsors. Their commitment to providing innovative and inclusive assistance in transactional matters to low-income entrepreneurs, small business owners, inventors, and small low-revenue nonprofit organizations continues to have a positive impact on our community.

LegalCORPS contributes with pro bono attorneys and our staff attorney, who have provided 3930 hours of service to 3681 clients; representing a financial value of over \$1.5 million to small businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and inventors. Once again, our small nonprofit is having a big impact on the future of Minnesota.

We offer sincere gratitude to our clients, partners, and supporters for believing in the important work we do to support economic equity. As we begin our 20th year, we look forward to continued growth and positive impacts on our community.

Nicole Deters, MPA, PACC
Executive Director



LEGALCORPS NOTABLE OUTCOMES



**3,930 Hours
of Service to
1,807 Clients**

LegalCORPS staff and volunteers provided 3,930 hours of service to 1,807 clients.

**100th Patent
in March
2023**

LegalCORPS Inventor Assistance Program reached its 100th Patent in March.

**Over \$1.5
Million Value
Invested**

LegalCORPS invested over \$1.5 million in value to small businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and inventors.



**66% of clients
served were
female.**

**60% of clients
served were
non-white.**

**80% of clients
served fell
below 200%
poverty level.**



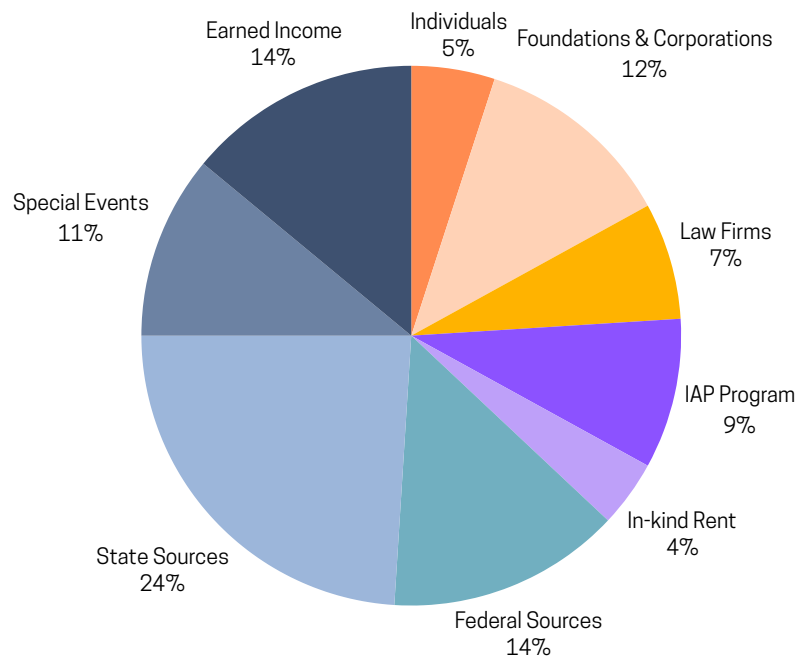
LEGALCORPS 2023 FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FY 2023-24

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24		FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Bank Accounts	\$182,388	\$101,708	Total Current Liabilities	\$10,883	\$8,431
Accounts Receivable	\$69,502	\$62,301	Loans Payable	\$71,377	\$67,297
Other Assets	\$4,655	\$2,759	Total Equity	\$174,285	\$91,040
Total Assets	\$256,545	\$166,768	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$256,545	\$166,768

FUNDING DIVERSIFICATION



LEGALCORPS VALUES



Mission Statement

LegalCORPS expands access to business law services for low-income individuals and organizations to promote economic development and strengthen communities. As Minnesota's only business law legal aid organization, LegalCORPS programs empower individuals and families to build noble legacies for generations to come.

Our Attorneys

We accomplish our mission through the services of primarily volunteer business and intellectual property law attorneys. We have one part-time staff attorney. LegalCORPS has over 550 volunteer attorneys on our roster, and we serve over 1800 clients annually. Attorneys volunteer for various personal and professional reasons – but a unifying motivation is Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which expresses the legal profession's aspiration to serve those in the community who cannot afford legal services on their own.

Pro bono legal assistance is the kind of volunteer community service only attorneys can provide.

Positive Impact on Communities

Sound guidance on business law matters is essential to the success of any venture, both for-profit and nonprofit entities. This is preventative legal support, and while receiving front-end guidance won't guarantee freedom from legal concerns down the line, we aim to reduce the likelihood. The success of the small businesses and nonprofit organizations that our clients start is essential to not only their personal financial stability but also to the economic vitality of all of Minnesota. LegalCORPS programs are designed to help make all of Minnesota's communities great places to live, raise families, do business, and serve others.



LEGALCORPS PROGRAMS

ENTREPRENEURS OF COLOR PROGRAM

The Entrepreneurs of Color Program is a LegalCORPS initiative to make business law services more accessible to recent immigrants and Black/Indigenous/People of Color.



Partnerships

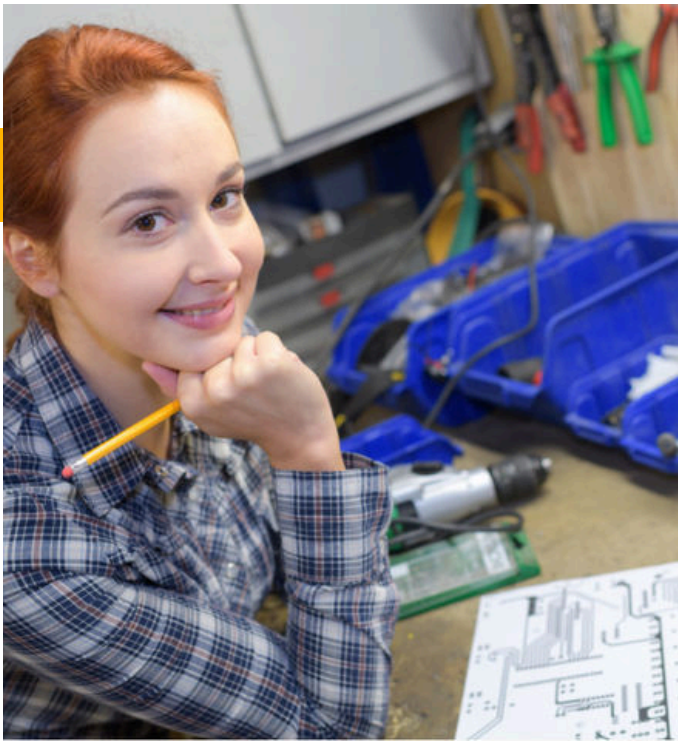
We partner with community-based organizations that have built trusting relationships with historically marginalized populations who then refer these clients to LegalCORPS when appropriate.



Legal Advice

Immigrants are 14% more likely to start a business than native-born Minnesotans. Yet, in addition to economic barriers in low-income immigrant communities, we recognize that business owners need to learn the impactful role that legal advice and representation play in starting, growing and protecting their business interests and flourishing cultural corridors.





LEGALCORPS PROGRAMS

INVENTOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The LegalCORPS Inventor Assistance Program allows inventors with great ideas to overcome one of the financial roadblocks to bringing innovations to market.

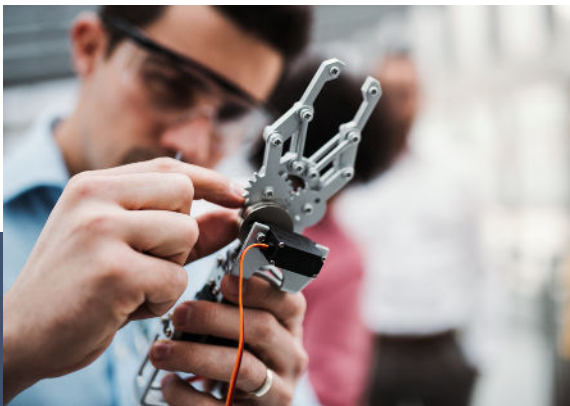
Leadership

LegalCORPS started the Inventor Assistance Program, the first and longest-running patent pro bono program in the United States. Based on our model, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) created a nationwide patent pro bono program.



Legal Advice

We provide free legal representation to qualifying low-income inventors in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota who are seeking to patent their inventions. We help inventors through the process by providing an array of services for people who are just beginning to those who are further along in their journey to filing.





LEGALCORPS PROGRAMS

NONPROFIT SUPPORT

A nonprofit organization's mission and programs can be at risk without sound legal advice that can help avoid future difficulties. LegalCORPS provides free transactional assistance to nonprofit start-ups and small, established nonprofits to set them up for success and stay on sound legal ground.

Ways We Help

Limited Scope Representation
Startup Assistance
Brief Advice Clinics



Legal Advice

Nonprofits can encounter legal issues like those faced by for profit entities, including:

- Contracts, agreements, and leases
 - Human resources and employment law
 - Real estate
 - Intellectual property
 - Drafting of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
 - Reporting requirements
- Filing for and maintenance of federal tax-exempt status
 - Operating and governance issues, conflicts of interest
 - Tax-related issues around unrelated business income tax (UBIT)



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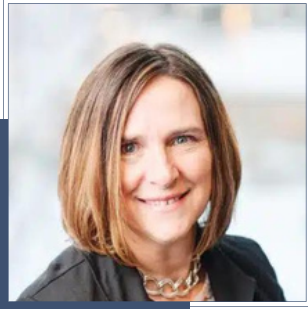
Michael Nolan
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University of St. Thomas

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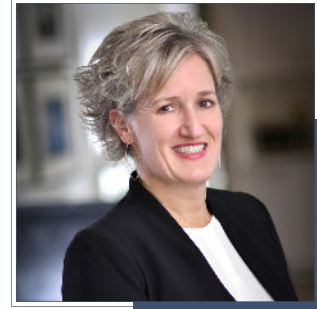
Tom Triplett
Triplett Consulting, LLC



LEGALCORPS TEAM



Nicole Deters, MPA, PACC
Executive Director



Sarah Lewis
Small Business and Nonprofit
Programs Manager



Tiko Lieou
Inventor Assistance
Program Manager



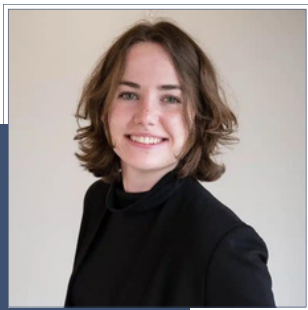
Kwame Osafo-Addo
Staff Attorney and Entrepreneurs
of Color Program Manager



Ben Hackett
Business and Nonprofit
Programs Coordinator



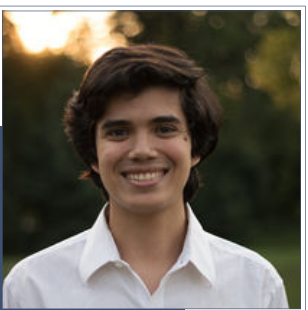
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Eduardo Escobar
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Program Coordinator



Jessica Irwin
Managing Staff Attorney





Building Noble Legacies

LegalCORPS programs empower individuals and families to build noble legacies for generations to come.

MORE ABOUT LEGALCORPS

LegalCORPS expands access to business law services for low-income individuals and organization to promote economic development and strengthen communities.



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