

## SHAREL'S STORY

Sharel and her abuser met online. Shortly after becoming acquainted, she moved to Washington with her three teenage children to continue their relationship. She quickly realized that her abuser would become jealous and monitor her phone calls, and the violence in the relationship escalated. The first incident took place after just three months of living together, when he raised his hand and threatened to hit her.

Around the holidays Sharel and her abuser were sitting in bed when he saw her looking through her phone. He became very jealous and they began to argue. He attempted to take the phone away from her but she refused to give it to him. He pushed her off the bed, then climbed on top of her and put pressure on her chest, preventing her from being able to breathe. Sharel yelled at him to stop, but he didn't.

When she was able to get out from under him, he grabbed her phone and shattered it into pieces, then threw a heavy book at the back of her head, hitting her. He then grabbed the rifle he kept in the room and pointed it at her chest and threatened her.

Sharel was terrified and thought she was going to die. Even though she knew that it was an air pellet rifle, her abuser had previously told her and her children that the gun would kill her if he shot her with it. The children who were sleeping upstairs, heard their mother screaming and fled with their mother to the neighbor's house, where they called 911. They were taken by ambulance to the hospital to investigate her head injury.

The police were able to apprehend her abuser and he was charged with a variety of crimes. However, his family helped him post bond and he was quickly released. After this incident, Sharel and her children immediately went to the courthouse and filed for a DVPO. She was terrified of the legal system and her abuser. At the first meeting with an ELAP Staff Attorney, she was shaking when discussing her case. The Staff Attorney agreed to represent her at the return hearing. At the hearing Sharel's abuser did not show up and the court entered a full 10-year order protecting Sharel and her kids from her abuser. She was so grateful for ELAP's assistance and relieved about the outcome.



“Making equal access to justice a reality – one client at a time.”

## 2017 IMPACT REPORT



## ABOUT ELAP

Since 1989, Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) has been quietly helping improve social outcomes for thousands of vulnerable residents of our region by providing free legal services.

Today, with our team of volunteer attorneys and four full-time staff attorneys, we provide hundreds of hours of free civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals who live in Northeast, East, and Southeast King County and to survivors of domestic violence throughout King County.

425.747.7274 • [info@elap.org](mailto:info@elap.org) • [www.elap.org](http://www.elap.org)

### GETTING ENGAGED

There are several ways individuals and businesses can support ELAP's mission. Among them:

- Make a financial contribution
- Be an event sponsor
- Mentor an ELAP Fellow
- Join the Board or a Committee
- Present a CLE

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Advice Clinics:** ELAP operates 27 free community-based advice clinics each month for low-income residents. Every month approximately 90 individuals received one-on-one appointments with pro-bono attorneys who assist with a comprehensive array of civil legal issues including family law, domestic violence, immigration, and bankruptcy issues.

**Wills Project:** Volunteer attorneys prepare wills, powers of attorney, and advanced healthcare directives for clients. ELAP provides witnesses and notary public services at the time of signing.

**Domestic Violence Legal Project:** Volunteer and staff attorneys provide legal assistance, limited representation, and safety planning for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Attorneys work closely with other community agencies to ensure survivors receive coordinated services.

**Community Education:** ELAP provides public workshops at local libraries, schools, churches, and other community gathering places. Topics include Veterans benefits, wills, probate, consumer fraud, immigration, and other current events. As a response to recent events, ELAP recently added Know Your Rights and DACA workshops.

**Project Safety:** ELAP partners with the King County Prosecutor's Office to assist victims of crime. Two full-time Legal Navigators based out of the King County Superior Courthouse in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent serve as liaisons between recent victims of crime and area legal aid and social service agencies.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

Emily Schlesinger – President, Microsoft • Dale Schomer – Vice President, Attorney  
• Dan Menser – Treasurer, T-Mobile USA • Neeta Saran – Secretary, Microsoft

### Directors:

Brandy Andersson, Eastside Family Law PLLC • Susan Brye, T-Mobile USA • Courtney Cohen, Avalara • Catherine Gannon, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP • Judy Jennison, Perkins Coie • Sarah Jordan, Jordan Law Firm, PLLC • Tom McDade, T-Mobile USA • Marcus Montana, The Boeing Company • Matthew Loftin, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP • Mary Sakaguchi, Sakaguchi & Reese PLLC • Neeta Saran, Microsoft • Natasha Willson, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office • Gerald Kroon – ex officio

## FAMILY LAW FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY BOARD

Carry Porter, Reed Longyear Malnati & Ahrens PLLC • Loretta Story, Story Law • Ken Davidson, Davidson, Kilpatrick & Krislock PLLC • Leslie Blankman, Blankman Law PLLC • Terry Lukens, Retired King County Superior Court • Amy Bullard, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office • Colleen McIngalls, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office • Brandy Andersson, Eastside Family Law PLLC • Natasha Willson, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office



# OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Bellevue Rotary Foundation  
 City of Bellevue  
 City of Issaquah  
 City of Kirkland  
 City of Mercer Island  
 City of Redmond  
 City of Sammamish  
 City of Woodinville  
 Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence  
 Costco Wholesale  
 Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
 Domestic Abuse Womens Network (DAWN)  
 East King County Bar Association  
 Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop  
 Fortin Group Asset Management  
 Foster Pepper PLLC  
 Grace Lutheran Church  
 Hopelink  
 Horizons Foundation  
 HUB Insurance  
 Insee, Best, Doezie & Ryder PS  
 King County & King County Council  
 King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
 Legal Foundation of Washington  
 LifeWire  
 Lorenzo Romar Foundation  
 M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
 Microsoft Corporation  
 New Beginnings  
 The Norcliffe Foundation  
 Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation  
 Perkins Coie LLP  
 Peterson Russell Kelly PLLC  
 Price Philanthropies Foundation  
 Robert Half Legal  
 The Seattle Foundation  
 Seattle University School of Law  
 Sophia Way  
 St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
 St. Louise Parish  
 T-Mobile USA  
 Washington Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel  
 Washington Office of Civil Legal Aid  
 Washington State Bar Association  
 Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation  
 YWCA Sexual Violence Legal Services  
 Generous Individual Donors

## LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Hearing about the work ELAP's dedicated pro-bono attorneys do to ensure legal assistance for countless individuals who struggle financially, I'm often reminded of the following quote from former Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell Jr.

*Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists... It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.*



In these challenging times, Justice Powell's words motivate me to push even harder to find new ways to expand access to legal services for people here in ELAP's own backyard who so desperately need our help.

Communities in ELAP's service territory have become markedly diverse in the last decade, both economically and socially. As much as we embrace that diversity, we know it brings to light additional legal concerns – discrimination and immigrant rights among them.

Pursuing social justice for all has been ELAP's mission since its inception in 1989, and our resolve has never been stronger.

- That's why in 2017, we provided 27 specialty legal advice clinics each month throughout Northeast, East and South King County to help people understand their rights and have their legal concerns addressed.
- That's why in 2017, we provided free legal services to 1,809 low-income clients and survivors of domestic violence and our volunteer attorneys donated 2,013 hours of their time.
- That's why in 2017, we teamed with the King County Prosecutor's Office to launch "Project Safety", a program which provides support for low-income victims of crime dealing with cases at the King County Courthouse in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent.

And that's why this year, we're committed to ensuring even more people in need have access to justice, empowerment and hope.

Emily Schlesinger  
 ELAP Board President  
 Microsoft Senior Attorney, Privacy & Regulatory Affairs

**175+ VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS**  
**2,013 PRO-BONO HOURS**  
**60+ NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS**  
**1,716 NON-ATTORNEY VOLUNTEER HOURS**

## FINANCIALS – 1/1/17 THROUGH 12/31/2017

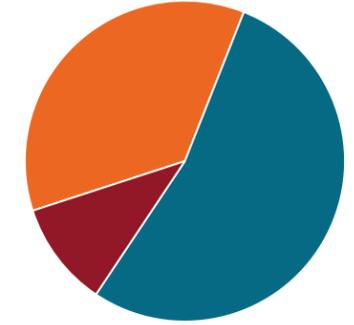
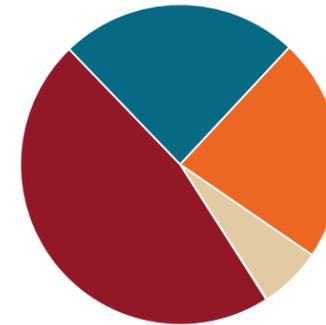
We began 2017 in our strongest financial position to date. As a result, we were able to invest in expanded programing, as well as inspire new and innovative solutions to reach more clients.

### Income

Public Sector Support	\$432,703
Private Donations and Grants	\$404,254
Special Events	\$113,388
Other Income	\$856
In-Kind Contributions	\$838,153
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$1,797,450</b>

### Expenses

Personnel	\$565,418
In-Kind Expense	\$838,156
Other	\$166,735
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,632,376</b>



## MARIO'S STORY

Mario contacted ELAP because he had been swindled by a used car dealer. He sold his truck to the dealer, who issued a check, and the check bounced. When he contacted the dealer, he was told that his truck had already been sold.



He contacted the Department of Licensing and was told that he should file a claim against the dealer's insurance. Mario did not know how to do that until he met with an ELAP attorney.

The volunteer attorney made himself familiar with the situation and informed Mario that the dealer had violated Washington law engaging in the purchase and subsequent sale of third party property. He advised Mario to pursue a claim against the dealer's \$30,000 bond and walked him through the process to help him understand how to do this. Mario was happy that he now had the information he needed to get either his money or his truck back.

**876 CLINIC APPOINTMENTS WITH PRO-BONO ATTORNEYS**

**801 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS HELPED**

**301 PEOPLE ATTENDED KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES**