



2026 Impact Report: Still in the fight

How CLSEPA turns legal support into stability, dignity, and self-determination for working-class families across the Peninsula.

**Based on calendar year 2025 data.*

In 2025, CLSEPA turned legal support into stability, dignity, and power for working-class families across East Palo Alto and the broader Peninsula. **We stood with tenants fight displacement, kept immigrant families together, recovered stolen wages for workers, and removed barriers to employment and housing for people with records.**

But our work did not stop at individual cases. Through community education, pro bono training, policy advocacy, rapid response, and deep partnerships, we moved legal knowledge outward, building a stronger regional justice ecosystem where more people are equipped to protect one another.



4,746

household
members reached



1,386

people received
legal services



1,494

children reached



1,904

legal cases closed

Pro Bono in Numbers

17

immigration clinics serving 200+ individuals
and their family members

150

record dismissal applications filed with
assistance of volunteers. 122 granted to date

50

eviction defense clinics, with attorneys
taking 172 cases

12,200

total volunteer hours logged in 2025

In 2025, CLSEPA served families across the Peninsula, with deep roots in East Palo Alto and the broader San Mateo and Santa Clara County communities.

70%
of clients were in San Mateo County

25%
were in Santa Clara County

51%
of households included children

61%
of clients had limited English proficiency

80%
of clients lived below 30% of Area Median Income

\$2,534 average monthly household income

Pro Bono in Action



CLSEPA receives OneJustice 2026 Champion of Justice Award
with Co-Awardee Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

A real win is not only a court order, work permit, green card, eviction settlement, or wage recovery. A real win is when a parent can keep working, a child can stay in school, a tenant can remain housed, a worker can recover stolen wages, or a family can stop living in fear long enough to plan for the future.

Our communities have always fought for themselves. In 2025, CLSEPA brought legal tools, staying power, and institutional support to this fight—helping families stay housed, stay together, recover income, access work, understand their rights, and build more secure futures.

What legal support made possible

CLSEPA is the community-rooted legal team that helps working-class families remain safe, housed, together, working, and self-determined in the face of systems that too often turn complexity into a barrier.

Founded by and for the community, CLSEPA provides free legal services in Housing, Immigration, and Economic Advancement, helping families fight displacement, keep loved ones together, recover wages earned, remove barriers to work, and build more secure futures.

We helped families stay housed.

CLSEPA helped tenants fight displacement, reduce rent debt, enforce housing rights, and remain rooted in their communities.

\$612,489 in rent debt waived

108 households prevented from losing housing

123 soft-landing moveouts negotiated

\$155,555 in Rescue Housing Fund assistance distributed

We helped immigrant families stay together and move toward security.

CLSEPA defended immigrant families from detention and deportation while helping clients access work, stability, belonging, and long-term protection.

431 immigration consultations **7** asylum wins

188 work permits secured or renewed **5** citizenship outcomes

22 deportations prevented **4** people released from custody

29 lawful permanent residency outcomes

We helped workers and people with records access economic stability.

CLSEPA stood with workers challenging exploitation and supported people with past convictions in removing barriers to work, housing, and opportunity.

\$47,557 recovered in unpaid wages and damages

49 workers' rights cases handled **26** wage and hour matters

150 record dismissal petitions filed through pro bono-supported clinics

122 petitions granted to date

Sharing the Wealth of Legal Knowledge

CLSEPA does not believe legal power should sit inside one organization. Through pro bono clinics, Know Your Rights outreach, community partnerships, and legal training, we help more attorneys, advocates, organizers, and community members recognize harm, respond earlier, and protect one another.

1000+ community members reached through Know Your Rights presentations, volunteer trainings, and outreach

300 volunteers and pro bono attorneys provided legal training

182+ petitions for immigration relief filed through pro bono clinics

65 volunteers participated in eviction defense settlement clinics

50 eviction defense clinics held

172+ tenants supported by pro bono attorneys

One worker's question became justice for 25 people.

Sandra came to CLSEPA with a question many workers are afraid to ask: Was she being paid what she was owed?

She noticed that she and several coworkers were earning below minimum wage. For many workers, speaking up can feel risky—especially when rent is due, bills are piling up, and losing a job could destabilize an entire household. But Sandra was determined to act. She organized several coworkers to join her, and with legal support from CLSEPA, they filed a wage complaint with the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement and sent a demand letter to their employer.

Sandra's decision created a ripple effect. The employer did not only settle with her group; it paid back wages to all 25 employees.

"The money I received helped me and my family," Sandra said. "I was behind on bills and rent, and I used it towards rent and food."

Sandra's case shows what a real win can look like: not only one worker recovering stolen wages, but an entire workplace asserting its right to fair pay.

Thank you Supporters!

Go to: clsepa.org/joindonate or scan the QR code below for a list of our 2025 supporters who invested in the fight!



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650-326-6440

Everyone deserves access to justice, not just those who can afford it.

We are not neutral when families are being separated, tenants are being forced from their homes, workers are being denied wages, or people are being punished for poverty, migration, or past mistakes. CLSEPA takes sides.

We stand with the communities that have been targeted, excluded, displaced, and ignored and **we will not stop showing up.**