

Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.

150 SE 2nd Avenue,
Suite 200,
Miami, FL 33131

Annual Report

January 1 — December 31, 2008

OUR

MISSION



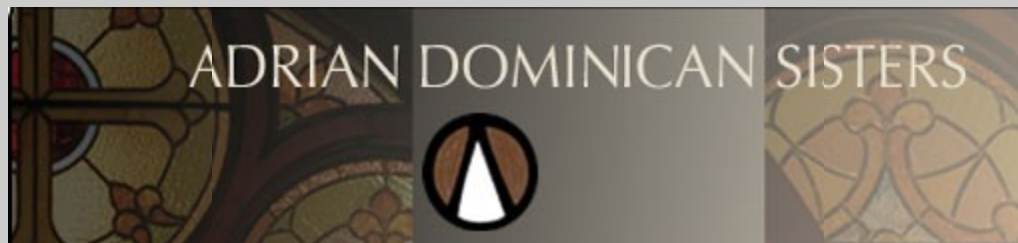
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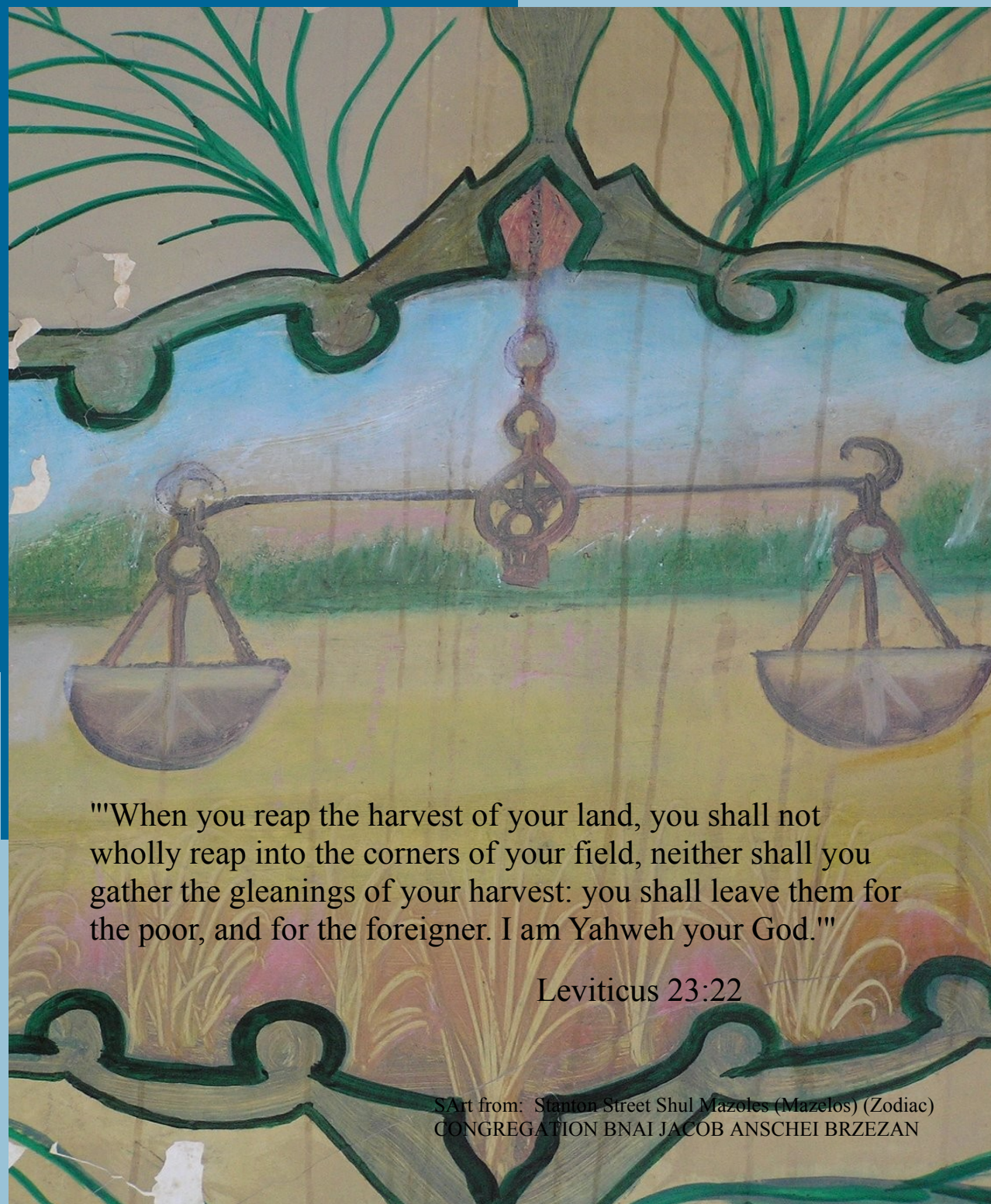
Legal Services for those who come to South Florida from foreign lands.

Assistance for those who lack sufficient means to obtain legal help.

Professional services provided without regard to race, religion, or ethnic origin.

ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING GRANT SUPPORT





"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap into the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest: you shall leave them for the poor, and for the foreigner. I am Yahweh your God."

Leviticus 23:22

SArt from: Stanton Street Shul Mazoles (Mazelos) (Zodiac)
CONGREGATION BNAI JACOB ANSCHEI BRZEZAN



Dear Friends:

Our Church is an immigrant Church, carried to this country in the faithful hearts of our parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends as they journeyed to a new home in America. Our nation is a land of immigrants, built by the hard work and perseverance of untold millions from every region of the world.

We in the Archdiocese of Miami know this simple fact more than most. Daily, we benefit from the vital contributions of South Florida's immigrant and refugee communities. They strengthen and diversify our community. However, today many newcomers to our country face rising anti-immigrant bigotry, complex immigration laws and a confusing bureaucracy. Many have unhealed wounds from a painful past. Many encounter unexpected barriers as they adjust to a new culture and a new way of life. They face an uncertain future and often come first to the Catholic Church for spiritual and pastoral care.

It mission of the Catholic Church to serve these brothers and sisters in need. As such, the work of Catholic Charities Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, Inc. represents an essential ministry of the Archdiocese by providing legal representation and professional immigration services to South Florida's immigrant and refugee communities. With the help of CCLS deserving immigrants and refugees persevere and realize their dreams for a bright and secure future in the United States of America.

As you review the good work of CCLS in this annual report, I ask that you keep our agency, our mission, and our clients in your thoughts and prayers.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly. With personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,


Archbishop of Miami



WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to provide professional immigration services to South Florida's refugee and immigrant communities, both application assistance and attorney representation before the Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Over 1,000 individuals seek the services of CCLS each month; currently, we only have the resources to serve less than a third. They include: individuals seeking to reunite with their families; political and religious refugees seeking safety and security; essential religious workers seeking to minister to U.S. religious communities; battered spouses and their children. These individuals confront a complex immigration law and a confusing bureaucracy. Many have unhealed wounds from a painful past. Many encounter unexpected bigotry and barriers as they adjust to a new culture and a new way of life. They face an uncertain future.

Without CCLS assistance, too many deserving immigrants and refugees lose the opportunity to avail themselves of the laws enacted for their protection. Others fall prey to schemes of unscrupulous and unlicensed immigration hucksters capitalizing on the naiveté, poverty, and desperation of the newcomer. However, with our help, many deserving immigrants and refugees persevere and realize their dreams for a bright and secure future in the United States. Proper immigration status increases economic opportunities, allows for access to social services and dissipates the threat of deportation. As their personal and economic situation improves, immigrants can become contributing members of the community and better care for their families.

Important anywhere, these services are crucial to the South Florida community. According to the US Census Bureau's 2006-2008 American Community Survey, half (1,198,370) of Miami-Dade's 2,385,876 residents are immigrants; 611,431 (51.0%) of them lack US citizenship, and 24.6% entered the US since 2000. According to "Immigrants and the Economy," a December 2009 report of the Fiscal Policy Institute, nearly half (45%) of the labor force in the Miami/





Ft. Lauderdale/Pompano Beach metropolitan area is foreign born, “making it the most heavily immigrant workforce” among the major US metropolitan areas.

In fact, according to the latest Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) statistics, CCLS represented nearly 10% of all successful Haitian asylum claims before the Immigration Courts in the entire nation. Haitians constitute about 30% of our clients. The remaining 70% come from across the Americas and around the world. the most heavily immigrant workforce of the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the United States.”

2009	<i>Community Advocacy Award</i> presented by the Legal Aid Service of Broward County.
2007	<i>Saint Vincent De Paul Award</i> for faithful and compassionate service to those who seek sanctuary, shelter, and security in their new land by the Archdiocese of Miami
2006	<i>Adalsinda Lomangino Award</i> for outstanding contributions to the field of immigration law presented by the South Florida Chapter, American Immigration Lawyers Association
2003	<i>National Award for Excellence In Advocacy</i> , US Conference of Catholic Bishops
2003	<i>Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce NOVO</i> award for innovative excellence in delivering services to the community
2000	<i>Proclamation of Catholic Charities Legal Services Day</i> by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, as one of the vital organizations whose contributions served to enrich the fabric of life in South Florida’s community
2000	<i>Commendation</i> by the Mayor of the City of Miami for its major contributions to the Miami-Dade community
1999	<i>Admitted into</i> the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition
1997	<i>Incorporated</i> as Catholic Charities Legal Services of the Archdiocese of Miami
1994	<i>Established</i> as the GWL Legal Project of the Notre Dame d’Haiti Mission, Human Services Division





CLS is a nationally recognized agency with an experienced team of attorneys and immigration professionals. In addition to its professional competencies, CLS staff reflects the diversity of the population it serves, allowing for culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services. About half of CLS clients are Cubans, the community's principal immigrant group. Of particular note, CLS maintains a strong relationship with South Florida's Haitian Community, a traditionally under-served population with a significant presence in the enumerated detention facilities. In fact, according to the latest Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) statistics, CLS represented nearly 10% of all successful Haitian asylum claims before the Immigration Courts in the entire nation. Haitians constitute about 30% of our clients. The remaining 20% come from across the Americas and around the world.

ACTIVITIES

Representation. In 2008, CCLS undertook 6,384 legal actions on behalf of its clients, ranging in complexity from filing requests and advising clients to representing them in court and at appeals. Of these cases, 4757 resulted in positive outcomes, in which relief was granted in whole or in part by the agency to which the application was made, notice was received by the agency and that information was recorded in the CCLS database. In 223 cases, the application had a negative outcome and that information was recorded. Finally 1404 cases did not record any resolution. Sometimes, the client moved out of the service area, died, or the application was withdrawn. In other cases, the agency did not learn of the resolution. In the next page you will find a table that lists the types cases undertaken in 2008, provides the success rate of each based on those for which the resolution was recorded, and briefly describes the importance of the action or relief sought.

In addition to representing individuals, CCLS assists the Archdiocese of Miami, other dioceses, religious communities, and various religious institutions including Anglican, Baptist, Episcopal, Hinduism, Jehovah Witness, and Methodist,





CATEGORY	CASES	% POSITIVE	SIGNIFICANCE
WORK PERMITS	2182	86	Permits legal employment for the year because the client's status is under appropriate review
PERMANENT RESIDENCY:			Authorizes the recipient and family to live and work permanently in the US
(A) WITH DHS	1048	63	Action initiated by the client
(B) WITH DOJ	105	60	Action responds to government initiated deportation
ASYLUM			Grants the individual and his/her family the right to live and work in the US because of the danger of persecution in the home country
(A) WITH DHS	73	55	Action initiated by the client
(B) WITH DOJ	105	32	Action responds to government initiated deportation
PAROLE			A temporary authorization to reside in the country (normally for 1 year) while the parolee's final status is under review
(A) NEW REQUESTS	805	94	
(B) RENEWALS	573	93	
FEE WAIVER REQUESTS	319	84	The Immigration & Naturalization Service
NATURALIZATION	115	26	Enables permanent residents to become US citizens.
DISABILITY WAIVERS	39	46	Exempts the elderly and disabled from the requirement that they master English as a condition of citizenship
MOTION TO REOPEN / RECONSIDER	17	47	
SPECIAL REQUESTS	10	40	Includes requests on behalf of religious workers and children
CHANGE OF VENUE	19	84	
OTHER	974	69	





with their immigration needs, enabling them to bring to the US foreign-born priests, religious men and women, ministers and seminarians and assisting them with immigration issues once here

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Immigration law is highly complex and evolving. CCLS provides high-quality immigration training. Each year CCLS helps hundreds of non-profit, private immigration attorneys and legal counselors expand their expertise, as well as improving the skills and expertise of its own staff. In addition to professional training, the organization conducts outreach workshops each year in poor parishes with high concentrations of immigrants. There, members of the community learn about the law and their legal rights through presentations in their own languages.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

CCLS continues to meet on a regular basis with members of Congress and their staffs and with officials of the federal government, briefing them on such issues as the: need for immigration reform, difficulties and delays in family reunification, importance of granting temporary protected status and work authorization to those who qualify, and destructive effects of detention not only on the lives of the detained immigrants but on their families.





SPECIAL PROJECTS: VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women and Children's Program. Immigration law now recognizes the special claims of abused women and children, yet they remain the most vulnerable immigrants with nowhere to turn to escape exploitation and mistreatment because they remain ignorant of their rights and without the resources to exercise them. These women represent some of the poorest members of the South Florida community and have little hope of escaping their abusive situation or of changing their economic situation without obtaining legal status in the United States.

Their irregular immigration status increases their vulnerability in that their abusers exploit their lack of immigration status and threaten deportation to prevent the victim from seeking outside help and protection. Abusers manipulate the fear and isolation of the immigrants to perpetuate the abuse. CCLS provides them with free legal assistance to obtain legal status under the Violence Against Women Act and other statutes and refers them for job assistance and social services.

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URMP). Unaccompanied minors who have been this victims of international trafficking, including sexual and/or labor exploitation , are entitled to refugee status under immigration law. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami maintains a foster care program for these child victims and provides them with psychological and social services. Catholic Charities Legal Services provides them with legal representation.





Key Administrative and Supervisory Staff
150 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 200, Miami, FL 33131 * 305-373-1073

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Ext.</i>
Randolph P. McGrorty, Esquire	Chief Executive Officer	202
Myriam Mezadieu	Chief Administrative Officer	220
Frances Dia, CPA	Accountant	222
William Kramer	Program Manager	221
Callen Garcia, Esquire	Supervising Attorney	204
George Francis, Esquire	Supervising Attorney	219
Martin Terris, Ph.D.	Director for Development & Evaluation	222





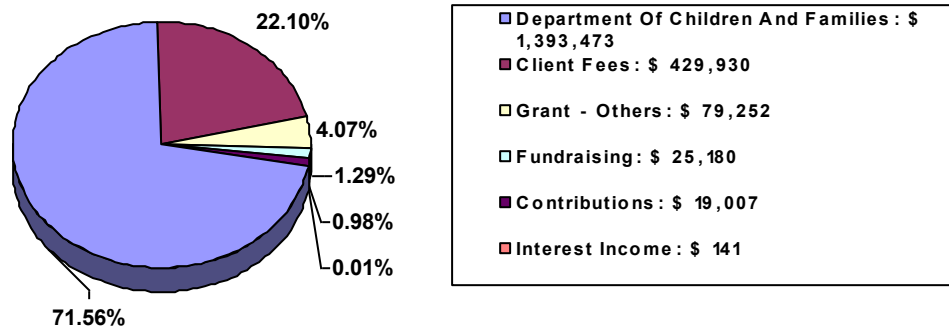
OFFICES

CCLS clients are usually poor or low income and often must rely upon public transportation. To better meet their needs, Catholic Charities Legal Services maintains four offices in different neighborhoods across the Archdiocese of Miami:

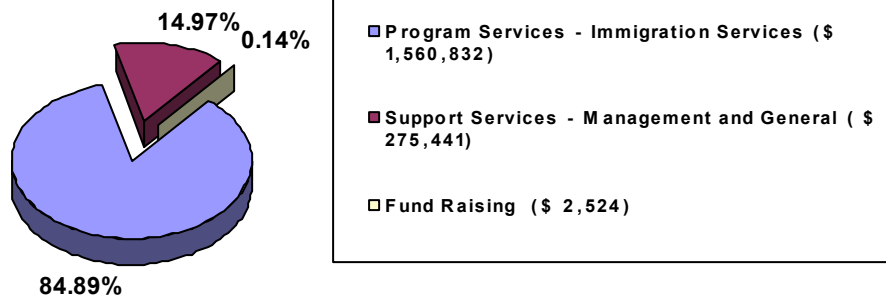
Main Office 150 SE 2 nd Avenue Suite 200 Miami, FL 33131 Telephone: 305-373-1073 FAX: 305-373-1173	Broward Office 1061 West Oakland Park Blvd. Suite 100 Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Miami Springs Office 700 S. Poinciana Blvd. Suite 800 Miami Springs, FL 33166 Telephone: 305-887-8333 FAX: 305-883-4498	Homestead Office 110 SE First Drive Homestead, FL 33030 Telephone: 305-247-4405



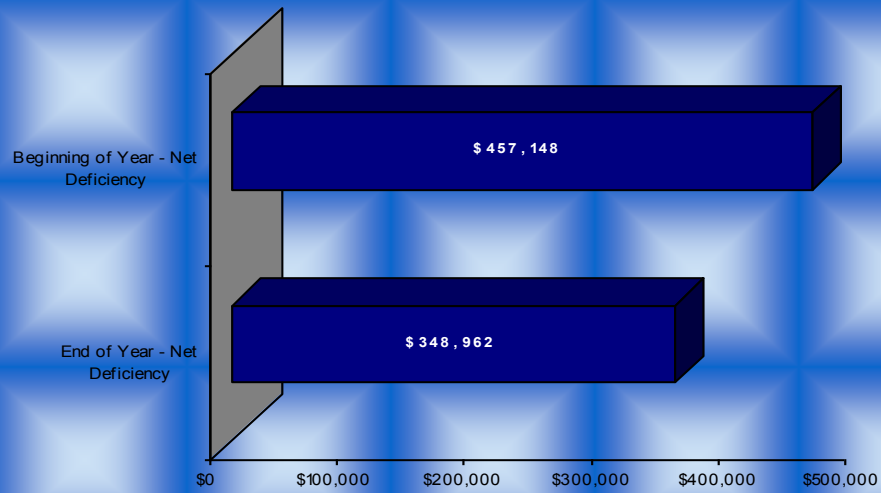
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORTS



EXPENSES



CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: + \$108,186



CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL SERVICES, ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2008

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$ 152,120
Grants Receivable	134,136
Prepaid Expenses	15,298
Security Deposit	8,675
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>310,229</u>

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and Equipment	68,812
less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(51,384)</u>
Total Property and Equipment	17,428

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 327,657

LIABILITIES AND NET DEFICIENCY

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	387,171
Notes Payable	174,585
Vacation Accrual	<u>51,530</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	613,286

LONG - TERM LIABILITIES

Notes Payable	<u>63,333</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	676,619

NET DEFICIENCY

Unrestricted	<u>(348,962)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET DEFICIENCY	<u><u>\$ 327,657</u></u>

