

Legal Aid Foundation ANNUAL REPORT 2 0 2 2





法律扶助基金會
Legal Aid Foundation



Legal Aid Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PROFESSIONAL

EFFICIENT

FLEXIBLE

APPROACHABLE

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To Friends of the Legal Aid Foundation



Chairperson／

Su Chen Beyue

CEO／

Han-Wei Chou

The Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) was established to safeguard the right to litigation and equal access to justice under the Constitution of the Republic of China (Taiwan). This is an institutional approach adopted to secure equal access of the disadvantaged to justice and to ensure the spirit of “justice for all”. According to the Legal Aid Act, the LAF shall provide necessary legal aid to those who are unable to receive proper legal protection due to their financial ineligibility or other reasons. Thereupon, the LAF’s criteria of financial ineligibility is brought into line with the income standard of middle-to-low-income households provided in the Public Assistance Act on an annual basis. This is done to ensure that the scope of legal aid is aligned with the social and economic development. In 2022, the LAF received over 187,000 legal aid applications, and over 155,000 applications were approved (both legal consultation and commissioned cases included). Clearly, legal aid is in great demand. For being in line with the Citizen Judges Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2023, the LAF amended the

Regulations for Legal Aid Remuneration at the end of 2021. On the remuneration scale, for a defense lawyer who takes a case involving citizen participation in the court of first instance in accordance with the Citizen Judges Act, the value of one pay point is increased from NT\$1,000 to NT\$1,500. A remuneration adjustment may also be made to reflect the lawyer’s commitment to the case. A lawyer’s remuneration can be up to NT\$75,000 per case; up to three lawyers can be appointed to handle one case. In order to improve the service quality regarding legal defense, the LAF held a total of nine online and video-recorded counselor courses and seminars in 2022, in which speeches were given and case studies were carried out. Nearly 500 lawyers have registered with the LAF branch offices to server as defense counsels. For protecting the rights of crime victims, the LAF continued to collaborate with the Association for Victims Support (AVS) in 2022, establishing a single point of contact and a service referral mechanism (that is, crime victims who do not meet LAF requirements for legal aid shall be referred to the AVS for assistance; those who meet the requirements but have needs beyond legal aid may also be referred to the AVS for social support, e.g., psychological counseling). The LAF and the AVS also co-organized two training sessions on legal representation for crime victims, one training session on restorative justice, and four sessions on communication in good faith, aiming to improve quality of legal aid services provided by these two organizations and to ensure the protection of victims’ rights. Furthermore, the LAF will launch the legal consultation helpline for crime victims in the first quarter of 2023, with a view to providing legal consultation services for victims in a timely manner. As of 31 December 2022, there has been 4,678 legal aid attorneys working for the LAF. The LAF has adopted several mechanisms to assure its service quality, such as reasonable adjustment of lawyer remuneration, regular training for lawyers (e.g., the training courses on implementation of amendments to the Constitutional Court Procedure Act in 2022, and also that of other regulations), attorney specialization, review on case closure, complaint management system, and attorney evaluation system. Legal aid has always been in great demand. Despite limited budget and increasing workload, the LAF will continue to uphold the ethos to serve the disadvantaged and improve legal aid services.

Philosophy

- ✔ Equality – to protect the right to litigation and equal access to justice pursuant to the constitution, and to facilitate the improvement of economic status of citizens
- ✔ Human Rights – to protect the human rights of the disadvantaged
- ✔ The Rule of Law – to complement the system of the rule of law

Service Principles

- ✔ Be approachable
- ✔ Be efficient
- ✔ Be flexible
- ✔ Be professional

Mission Statement

- ✔ To engage in self-reflection, innovation, and advancement of legal aid system
- ✔ To make legal aid available throughout Taiwan
- ✔ To promote the awareness of legal aid
- ✔ To enhance accessibility to legal aid for the public
- ✔ To advance the quality of legal aid services
- ✔ To encourage the participation of lawyers in legal aid and social reform
- ✔ To further promote legal education for the disadvantaged

Annual Statistics

Total of legal aid case
(incl. commissioned cases)

65,693



6,146 more than in 2021

Total of legal consultation
applications

93,000

* Including 2,175 calls of services provided
by LAF Helpline supporters.



6,046 more than in 2021

Total of outreach services
and dissemination events

1,783



630 more than in 2021

Total of Legal Aid Attorneys

4,678



118 more than in 2021

Total of Facebook friends
("Likes" number)

67,688



5,672 more than in 2021

Total of pageviews on
official website

6,682,636



2,187,084 more than in 2021

Total expenses

NT\$1,481,538,929



NT\$32,693,946 less than in 2021

Average expense per capita

NT\$64.4

to sustain the LAF's operations



Annual Financial Statistics

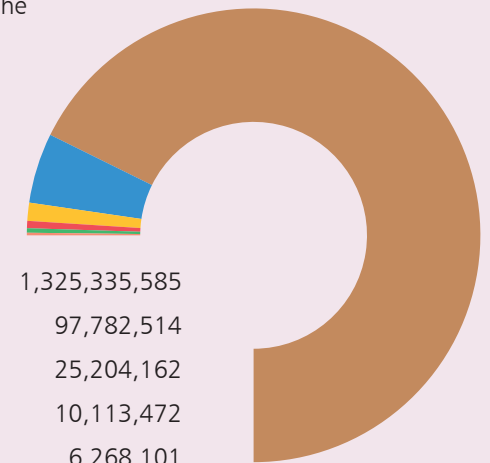
The accounting system of the LAF observes the calendar year. The 2022 financial report was audited by an independent local CPA firm, which issued a report without any reservation attached.

In 2022, the LAF's total income was NT\$1,468,252,142; the total expenditure excluding capital expenses was NT\$1,465,638,354, and the capital expenses were NT\$15,900,575.

2022 LAF Total Income

1,468,252,142

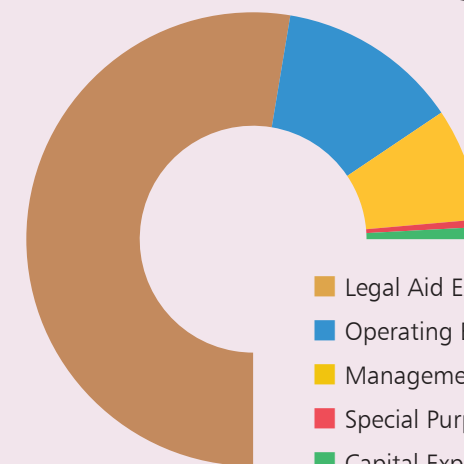
Government Endowment Income	1,325,335,585
Government Special Program Income	97,782,514
Nonbusiness Income (interest and others)	25,204,162
Repayment and Recovery Income	10,113,472
Other Business Income	6,268,101
Income from Private Donations and Project Plans	3,548,308



2022 LAF Total Expenditure

1,481,538,929

Legal Aid Expenses	983,352,590
Operating Expenses	242,093,624
Management and Non-operating Expenses	149,949,133
Special Purpose Expenses	90,243,007
Capital Expenses	15,900,575



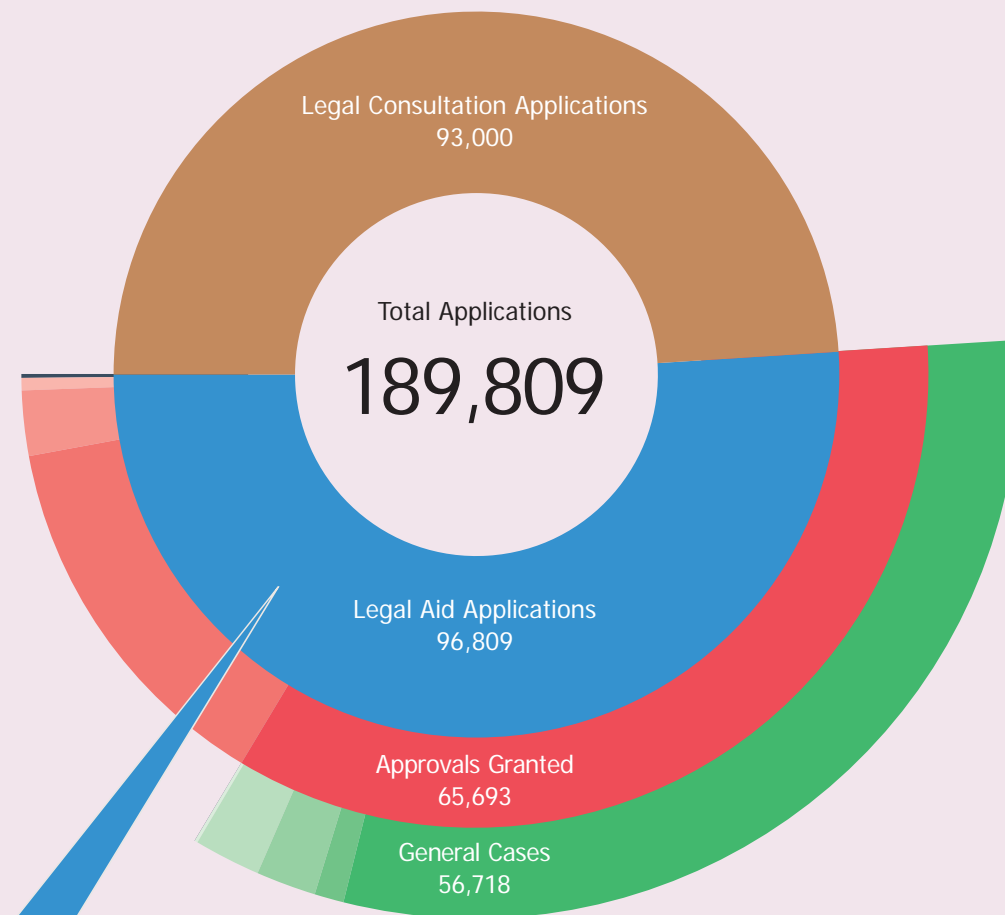
Legal aid expenses: including attorney remuneration, litigation expenses, and fees for Assessment and Review Committee members.

Operating expenses: including costs for providing services, and personnel costs for hiring staff attorneys and LAF staff.

Management expenses and non-operating expenses: including costs for personnel management, administrative expenses, and dissemination expenses.

Special purpose expenses: costs of programs commissioned by the Ministry of Labor, the Council of Indigenous Peoples, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Annual Business Data



Analysis of Legal Aid Applications (incl. commissioned cases)

In 2022, there were 96,809 applications for legal aid (incl. commissioned cases).

Approvals Granted	65,693
Rejections	25,615
Withdrawals	4,402
Review decisions pending	837
Reconsideration decisions pending	262

Analysis of Approvals by Case Category

A total of 65,693 cases were granted approval.

General Cases	56,718
Cases commissioned by the Council of Indigenous Peoples	1,654
Cases commissioned by the Ministry of Labor	3,382
Attorney attendance at interrogation	3,755
Cases commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare	169
Cases under Habeas Corpus Act	15

Total of Annual Applications
(incl. legal consultation applications)

189,809



Total of Legal Consultation Applications

93,000



Total of Approvals
(incl. projects and commissions)

65,693



Comparison of key business indicators over the past three years

Total of Annual Applications

2020	210,478
2021	172,476 (-38,002)
2022	189,809 (+17,333)

Total of Legal Consultations (incl. 2,175 calls of services provided by LAF Helpline supporters)

2020	111,112
2021	86,954 (-24,158)
2022	93,000 (+6,046)

Total of Approvals (incl. projects and commissions)

2020	69,654
2021	59,547 (-10,107)
2022	65,693 (+6,146)

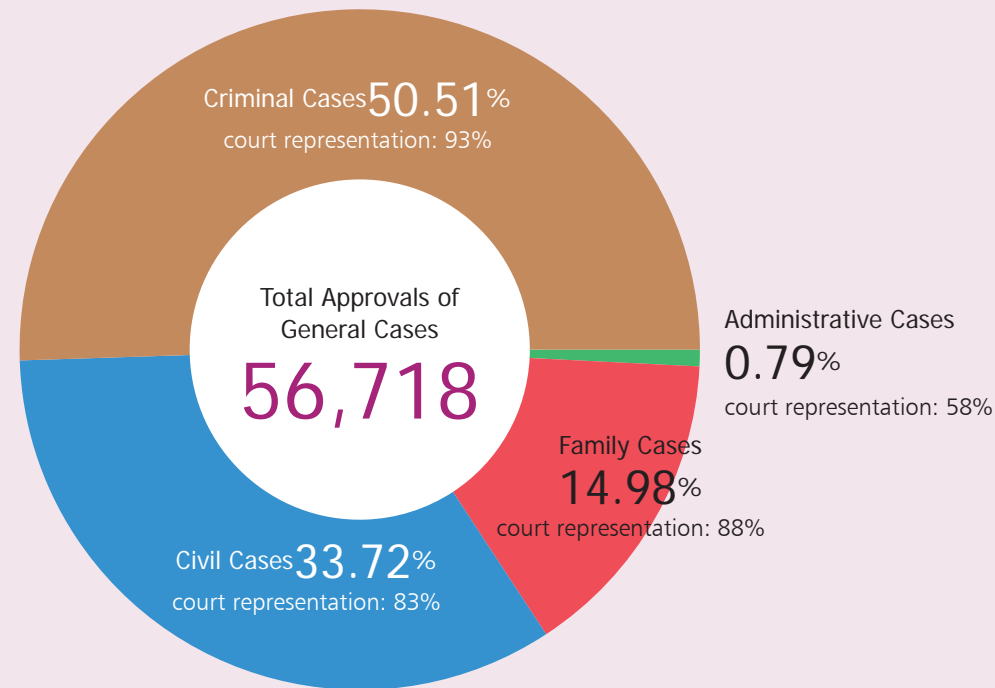
Total of General Cases

2020	57,304
2021	51,424 (-5,880)
2022	56,718 (+5,294)

Analysis of Legal Aid Cases by Category

General Cases Granted Approval

Breakdown by Category



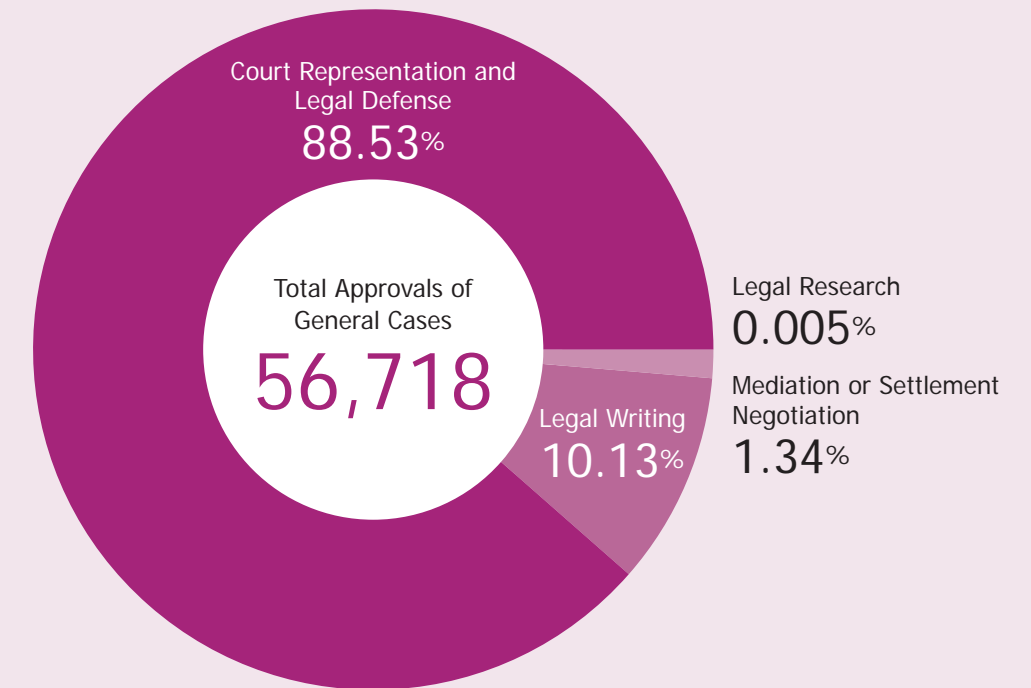
General Cases Granted Approval

Top Five Causes of Action (arrow symbols ↑↓ indicate the change in the ranking of causes of action in contrast with 2021)

Criminal Cases	Civil Cases	Family Cases	Administrative Cases
Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury ↑ 5,797	The Consumer Debt Clearance Statute 8,807	Maintenance Payment 3,640	Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act ↑ 41
Assault Causing Bodily Harm ↑ 4,443	Tort 5,444	Divorce 1,283	Public Assistance Act ↑ 31
Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act ↓ 4,356	Loans for Consumption 965	Parental Rights ↑ 777	Labor Insurance Act ↓ 24
Offenses Against Sexual Autonomy 1,992	Ownership 593	Child Custody ↓ 642	Employment Service Act ↑ 19
Offenses of Larceny 1,878	Salary Dispute 460	Protection Order 501	Immigration Act ↑ 15

General Cases Granted Approval

Breakdown by Assistance Type



issued to aid recipients
4,041 letters of guarantee
 guarantee bonds for over
NT\$2.5 billion
 as of 31 December 2022



Issuance of letter of guarantee

Should the LAF, in accordance with Article 67 of the Legal Aid Act, deem that the legal aid recipient has a clear chance of winning the lawsuit, the LAF may submit a letter of guarantee which can substitute the deposit necessary for the aforesaid recipient to apply for a court injunctive relief. In order to prevent that a legal aid recipient, after winning the lawsuit, has no way to claim the compensation due to the counterparty's disposal of property with malicious intent, the LAF, as of 31 December 2022, has issued a total of 4,041 letters of guarantee, with a total of over NT\$2.5 billion. Among them, 3,556 letters of guarantee were retrievable and 3,266 of which have been retrieved, with a retrieval rate at 91.84%.



Multiple Access to Legal Consultation

Merging video conferencing help desks Improving consulting services provided by supporters

A key of legal advice is to provide the public with early access to professional information, so they can evaluate litigation risks beforehand. In turn, disputes could be minimized and assistance in legal proceedings could be provided to them in time.

In 2022, the LAF received 93,000 applications for legal consultation.

		2020	2021	2022
In-Person Legal Consultation		82,480 visits	50,622 visits	63,633 visits
Legal Consultation Helpline	the public	22,717 calls	28,139 calls	24,823 calls
	the supporters	2,770 calls	2,031 calls	2,175 calls
Video Conferencing Legal Consultation		288 help desks 1,482 calls	185 help desks 1,543 calls	260 help desks 2,369 calls



In 2022, regarding the public consulting the LAF through the helpline, the proportions of inquirers who subsequently made applications to the LAF branches and of application approval were 12.83% and 70.02%, respectively. In 2022, the top five telephone inquiries into civil, family, and criminal cases are shown in the following table (arrow symbols ↑↓ indicate the change in the ranking of case types in each category of law in contrast with 2021)



	Civil Cases	Family Cases	Criminal Cases	Administrative Cases
Case Percentage	53.35%	28.22%	16.58%	1.86%
Most frequently inquired	Compensation for damages caused by torts↑	Inheritance↑	Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury	Road Traffic Management↑
Second most frequently inquired	Loans↑	Divorce	Assault Causing Bodily Harm↑	Road Traffic Safety↑
Third most frequently inquired	Consumer Debt Clearance Act↓	Maintenance	Offenses Against Reputation and Credit↑	Land Act↑
Fourth most frequently inquired	Ownership	Guardianship/ Assistance Order	Offenses of Forging Instruments or Seals	Building Act
Fifth most frequently inquired	Leasing	Parental Rights↓	Offenses of Embezzlement	Labor Standards Act

Attorney Attendance at Interrogation

Interrogated for the first time? No fear, a lawyer will be with you!

Whom we serve

For the suspect of offense punishable for not less than three years of imprisonment, the party can apply to the LAF for the assignment of an attorney to attend the first interrogation free of charge. For this service, please make the application through the police or call the helpline 02-2559-2119 (accessible all year round).

Whereas the aforementioned service shall not be limited to felonies, should the defendant or suspect:

◎ is not able to make a full statement due to neurological or mental disorders;

◎ holds the indigenous status. °

When the defendant or suspect does not have the assistance of counsel for his defense during interrogation, the police or prosecutor should inform the LAF of the need to assign a defense attorney for the party in accordance with legal procedures.

In 2022, there were 23,530 cases in which the parties expressed their wish to waive their rights to counsel at interrogation in their contacts with the LAF. Among these cases, a total of 20,621 cases involved misdemeanors punishable for less than three years of imprisonment – the top three charges being public safety violations (e.g., drunk driving, unsafe driving, and hit-and-run offences), fraudulence, and offenses of larceny – accounting for 87.64% of the waiver cases.

Statistical breakdown of attorney attendance at the interrogation

Among the 4,031 applications for this service in 2022, 171 cases did not meet the application requirements; 105 cases were withdrawn after the application being made. Among the 3,755 eligible applications, 3,720 cases were assisted by the LAF legal aid attorneys – that is, 99.07% of the eligible applications.

Attorney attendance at the interrogation over the past three years

	Caseload	Case Assignment
2020	3,984	96.68%
2021	3,562	98.40%
2022	3,720	99.07%

To increase publicity and to collaborate with related agencies in dissemination activities

In 2022, the LAF made written requests to the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency, asking them to disseminate information to their affiliated units on their duty to inform the right to counsel – that is, prior to the police inquiry or interrogation, the defendant or criminal suspect should be informed of the right to apply to the LAF for an attorney to attend the interrogation. This is to encourage public awareness of attorney attendance at interrogation, and to ensure the procedural justice in interrogations.

Continuous recruitment of interrogation lawyers and refinement of the assignment approach

The LAF continuously recruits interrogation lawyers. Moreover, for ensuring that the suspect's waiver of his or her right to counsel is genuine, the LAF's standard operating procedures (SOP) of customer service specifically require that the customer service staff should request police or prosecutor assistance for speaking with the party in person. The purpose is to reconfirm the suspect's consent. Furthermore, the LAF staff would also help the suspect to understand his or her rights during the interrogation – for example, not to make a statement against his or her own will, and attorney assigned by the LAF being free of charge.



Legal Aid Project: Consumer Debt Clearance

Specialist lawyers provide professional assistance in consumer debt clearance cases!

In terms of the data of cases closed in 2022, the LAF dealt with 5,251 cases concerning consumer debt clearance, among which 507 were withdrawn. A breakdown of the remaining 4,744 cases is as follows:

negotiation or mediation concluded	1,384	29.17%
rehabilitation approved by the court	1,894	39.92%
court ruling that liquidation is exempted and has been restored	819	17.26%
percentage of favorable results		86%

Caseload of legal aid in consumer debt clearance over the past three years

	Caseload
2020	9,516
2021	8,033
2022	8,809



Assistance in 2022
8,809 cases



Approval percentage
97.29%

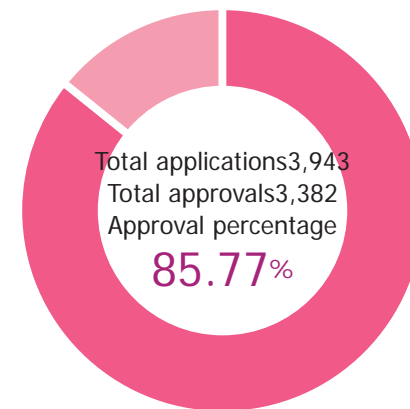


Specialist lawyers in consumer debt clearance
812 lawyers

Cases Commissioned by the Ministry of Labor Legal Aid Project: Labor Litigation

The LAF has been collaborating with the Ministry of Labor in the “Legal Aid Project: Labor Litigation” since 2 March 2009. With resource integration of these two organizations, it is hoped that the economically disadvantaged workers can be provided with strong legal support and reassured on their rights.

The cases commissioned by the Ministry of Labor mostly concerned civil affairs, which accounted for 98.34% of the application total. Most of these applications were granted aid in court representation and legal defense. The disputes mostly involved the Occupational Safety and Health Act, severance pay, and wage payment.



Caseload of the labor project over the past three years

	Caseload
2020	3,340
2021	1,923
2022	3,382

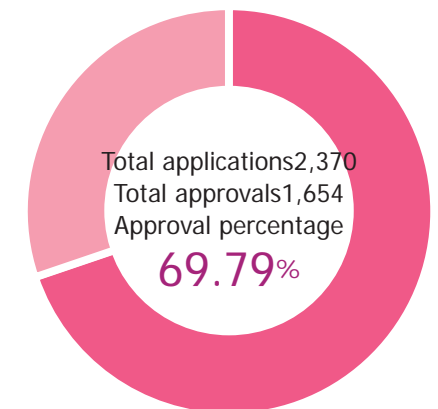


18 May 2022, participation in “Dissemination Plan for Employment Support” at Gangshan Training and Employment Center to disseminate information on legal aid services (Qiaotou Branch)



Cases Commissioned by the Council of Indigenous Peoples Legal Aid Project: Services for Indigenous Peoples

On 21 March 2013, the LAF signed an entrustment agreement with the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP). The LAF has been managing the “Legal Aid Project: Services for Indigenous Peoples” since 1 April 2013. The aim is to improve the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and provide them with better and more comprehensive legal aid services. The cases commissioned by the Council of Indigenous Peoples mostly concerned civil cases, which accounted for 59.49% of the application total; and secondly family cases, accounted for 21.52%. Most of these applications were granted aid in court representation and legal defense. The top three types of cases granted legal aid were torts, ownership disputes, and assault causing bodily harm.



Caseload of the indigenous project over the past three years

	Caseload
2020	4,703
2021	2,402
2022	1,654

* Note: from 30 December 2020 onwards, the Council of Indigenous Peoples requires legal aid to the indigenous peoples to meet qualification requirements and certain specifications; this has effects on the caseload.



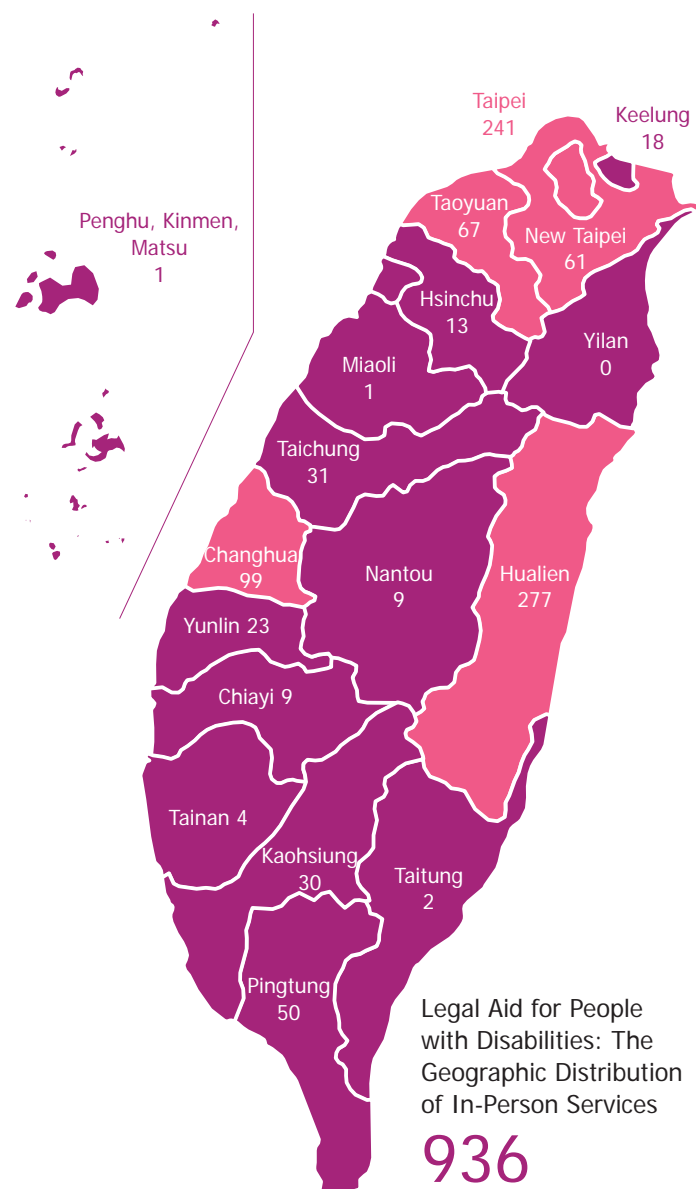
- ① 4 October 2022, dissemination of information on legal aid for indigenous peoples: lecture given by Director of Yilan Branch, Te-Hai Yang, at Dongyue Culture & Health Station (Yilan Branch)
- ② 30 September 2022, dissemination of information on legal aid for indigenous peoples: lecture given by Mr. Da-Kai Gao at Hanxi Culture & Health Station (Yilan Branch)
- ③ 30 October 2022, indigenous cultural festival in New Taipei City (New Taipei Branch)
- ④ 21 April 2022, dissemination event for indigenous project at Gidaku ecological park, Mudan village (Pingtung Branch)

Cases Commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare Legal Aid Project: Assistance for People with Disabilities

Commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the LAF has taken charge of the “Legal Aid Project: Assistance for People with Disabilities” since 2018. This project was launched on 15 October 2018, and until the end of November 2019 only legal consulting service was provided, which was available through the helpline, video conferencing, in-person visit, and home visit. From 1 December 2019 onwards, the LAF has also been entrusted to provide services in court representation, legal defense, and legal writing.

Legal Consulting Services

- ◎ **Service Helpline:** 5,835 consultations made through the helpline
Helpline: 412-8518 (After connected, press “2” for “telephone consultation”, and then press “2” again for “legal consultation for persons with disabilities”.)
- ◎ **In-Person Service:** 936 consultations in total
By 2022, the LAF has set up 48 help desks with accessibility facilities in 22 counties/cities (except Matsu and Penghu) across the country. Accessible communications, such as sign language translation and communication access real-time translation (advance booking required), are also available at these help desks. Therefore, people with disabilities can easily access legal aid in person.
- ◎ **Home Visit Service:** Home visit service is provided to those who cannot access LAF consulting services through the helpline or video conferencing, and they cannot or are obviously unable to visit the LAF help desks in person due to their disabilities.
This service is not limited to the residence of the client. In the case that the client cannot, or is obviously unable to,



access aforementioned consulting services while in a psychiatric ward, the LAF legal aid attorneys would then make a home visit to provide consulting service.

In 2022, there were 57 applications of home visit service, among which 29 applications were eligible for the service. Among the eligible applications, 21 consultation cases were made at medical institutions and 8 cases at the applicant's residence.

- ◎ **Video Conferencing Service:** The LAF has set up 45 stations across the country to provide video conferencing service. In this way, where the LAF cannot set up service centers for in-person visit, technology can facilitate people to get connected to lawyers serving at the LAF call center for legal advice. Due to the lack of transportation, remote towns are often badly served with legal support nearby. The video conferencing service can remedy this shortcoming. In 2022, a total of 126 persons with disabilities benefited from the video conferencing service; most of the inquiries came from Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu (28 in total), followed by Yilan and Taitung (20 each).

Other Services: Legal Representation, Defense and Writing

In 2022, there were 825 applications of those services, among which 169 approvals and 656 refusals. The approval percentage is 20.48%.

Currently, the financial threshold set in this project is capped at 1.5 times of LAF standard. The LAF and the Ministry of Health and Welfare have drawn up a plan to adjust the threshold in 2023, allowing those who receive living allowances for their disabilities to meet the financial requirements for these services.

In addition, the LAF will continue to provide education programs for the review committee members and the legal aid attorneys to better understand the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and in turn further comprehensive legal aid which meets demands can be provided.

In terms of the case categories involved in this project, civil cases accounted for 58.58% (which is the most), followed by criminal cases for 28.40%. The main crimes are torts, assault causing bodily harm, and offenses of fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury.

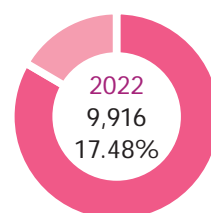
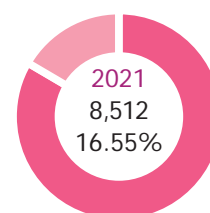
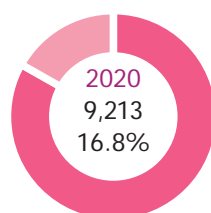
Caseload of LAF assistance in legal representation, defense and writing for persons with disabilities over the past three years

	Caseload
2020	152
2021	154
2022	169



- 27 August 2022, dissemination plan of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (Penghu Branch)
- 29 March 2022, an event on resource networking for people with disabilities held in Yilan County: Yan-Jun Guo introduced legal aid at the symposium on legal aid for people with disabilities (Yilan Branch)
- 11 May 2022, project of the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the legal issues concerning property trust of Pingtung Xiang-Yang Association of Enabling People with Disabilities (Pingtung Branch)
- 18 May 2022, service case of adult guardianship/assistance for people with disabilities | Children Are Us Foundation | Ms. Li-Fei Qiu (Kaohsiung Branch)

Caseload of the assistance for persons with disabilities over the past three years
(excl. the commissioned cases)



Cases of High Social Profile: The Status in 2022



●3 March 2022, the press conference on the RCA Care Association donating NT\$5 million to the LAF

●11 April 2022, the RCA case: the second team on the day of second-instance verdict announcement

Workers Group Class Action Against RCA Taiwan for Pollution

Case Progress

The Supreme Court heard the oral argument on 27 January 2022, and announced the verdict on 11 March of the same year. The Supreme Court reversed the part of judgment unfavoring the appeal of the RCA Care Association, which was rendered in the first remand, and remanded the case to the Taiwan High Court on the following grounds: the general causation between the exposure and specific diseases shall not be confined to studies of the three institutions, including the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); for the ordinary people, if a victim's fear of getting sick is objectively deemed as a reasonable doubt or normal psychological reaction, it should have constituted the violation of the victim's right to mental health; even if it has not harmed the victim's physical or mental health, it may also constitute a violation of bodily autonomy. In response to the Supreme Court's opinions, the Taiwan High Court is currently preparing the preliminary proceedings and has completed the points of dispute (Taiwan High Court case number 111-Zhong-Lao-Shang-Geng II-Zi-4). Furthermore, with the assistance of LAF staff attorneys, the

nominees in the aforementioned binding ruling have received the full compensation through the RCA Care Association.

As to the RCA workers not filing the lawsuits in 2004, the LAF has assisted about 1,200 of them to file the lawsuits. On 27 December 2019, the Taiwan Taipei District Court ruled that the RCA Care Association shall be compensated with a total payment of NT\$2.303 billion. The two parties respectively filed appeals against the judgments unfavorable to oneself. On 21 April 2022, the Taiwan High Court ruled that the four companies (including the RCA) shall jointly compensate the RCA Care Association of over NT\$1.667 billion. Regarding the second-instance judgment, the two parties once again respectively filed appeals against the judgments unfavorable to oneself. The case is currently pending before the Supreme Court (case number 111-Tai-Shang-Zi-1828).

The RCA Care Association adheres to the philosophy of "taking from society, giving back to society" (a Chinese proverb that conveys the concept of acquiring resources from society and utilizing them for the betterment of society). According to the resolution of RCA Care Association Congress, the nominees shall reward 25% of the compensation payment to the RCA Care Association. On 2 March 2022, the RCA Care Association held a press conference and donated NT\$5 million to the LAF for supporting legal aid services.

CPDC Dioxin Pollution Case

Case Progress

Some of the legal aid recipients and the China Petrochemical Development Corporation (CPDC) filed appeals to the court of second instance. This case is currently pending before the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court (case number 110-Zhong-Shang-Guo-Zi-3). The trial judge exhorted the parties to seek some reconciliation. The LAF staff attorneys hold regular discussions with the aid recipients, and discuss with the defendant (i.e., CPDC) to seek a settlement. The Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court scheduled the preliminary proceedings for 12 January 2023.

Program Dedicated to the Case of Air Pollution Caused by No. 6 Naphtha Cracking Complex of Formosa Plastics Corp.

Case Progress

The LAF represents 68 aid recipients to claim compensation for civil damages from Formosa Plastics. The case is currently pending before the Taiwan Yunlin District Court, under case number 104-Gong-Zi-1. Regarding the civil case that two plaintiffs represented themselves in court and filed a lawsuit without an attorney, the Taiwan Yunlin District Court dismissed their petition on 30 October 2020, under case number 107-Gong-Zi-1. The LAF legal team have assisted these two plaintiffs to appeal. This case is currently pending before the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court, undergoing the preliminary proceedings, under case number 109-Gong-Shang-Zi-2. Besides, regarding the civil case where the petition for adding plaintiffs filed by 43 aid recipients was dismissed by Taiwan Yunlin District Court under case number 107-Gong-Zi-1, the legal team have petitioned the court to adjudicate this petition in accordance with the law. The case is currently pending before Taiwan Yunlin District Court, under case number 110-Gong-Zi-1.

Railway Accident: The Derailment of Taiwan Railway's Taroko Express

Case Progress

The LAF has so far granted legal aid to 98 persons – 69 of them are family members of the killed and 36 are the injured; among the injured, 7 persons also lost their family members. The LAF assigned staff attorneys to actively assist the victims in filing criminal complaints and petition for participation in the court proceedings, and petitioned for reconsidering the non-prosecution decision rendered by the Taiwan Hualien District Prosecutors Office. Striving for the best interests for the victims, the LAF also assisted the victims to negotiate settlements with the Taiwan Railway, and assisted the unreconciled victims in filing the Ancillary Civil Action and claiming compensation.

Cases Before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court

Motion of Objection and *ne bis in idem*

LAF Assistance

Upon receiving a letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF formed a team of its staff attorneys and lawyers from other practices. The legal team studied relevant legal literature, and applied for the appointment of experts to provide legal opinions in accordance with Article 51-8(4) of the Court Organization Act. Furthermore,

they filed a pleading, arguing that from the perspectives of the core content of the right of action, the meaning of the principle of *ne bis in idem*, and due process of law, the principle of *ne bis in idem* does not apply to the Motion of Objection which concerns the punishments to be executed. The Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court heard an oral argument on 19 January 2022, and Professor Ying-Chieh Lu was invited to express her opinions on the legal issues in this case. The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated that "the principle of *ne bis in idem* does not apply to the court ruling on the Motion of Objection, which was made in accordance with Articles 484 and 486 of the Code of Criminal Procedure". On 17 February 2022, the original ruling was revoked and the case was remanded to the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court, under case number 110-Tai-Kang-Zi-1314.

Interpretation and Application of Article 9 of The Criminal Speedy Trial Act After the Abolition of the Precedent System

Case Summary

The legal aid recipient was involved in a fraud syndicate and repeatedly withdrew funds from a certain nominee account held by the syndicate in May 2018. These funds were fraudulently obtained from the crime victim and handed over to other members of the syndicate. In both the first-instance verdict and the original judgment, it was found that the general money laundering offense under Article 14(1) of the existing Money Laundering Control Act was not established, stating that the accused should not be acquitted separately. The prosecutor argued that the aid recipient "should be found guilty of the general money laundering offense", which is a position recently expressed by the Supreme Court. Therefore, an appeal was filed under the provision of Article 9(1)(3) of The Criminal Speedy Trial Act, which allows for an appeal when the judgment contradicts the precedent.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving a letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF formed a team of its staff attorneys and lawyers from other practices to address the three important legal disputes in this case. They studied relevant legal literature and submitted a written pleading to the court to present their arguments. The Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court heard an oral argument on 26 January 2022, and requested opinions from Professor Yun-Tsai Chen and Professor Yun-Hua Yang on the legal dispute concerning "how to interpret Article 9(1)(3) of The Criminal Speedy Trial Act regarding the violation of 'precedents' by lower court judgments after the abolition of the precedent system". The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated that "the member responsible for withdrawing funds on behalf of the fraud syndicate and obtaining funds from the nominee account controlled by the syndicate, thereby committing the general money laundering offense under Article 14(1) of the Money Laundering Control Act. The appellate court upheld the acquittal verdict of the first instance, which violated the decision made by this Court through the consulting court or the court submitting the case in accordance with the Grand Chamber consensus procedures as stipulated in the Court Organization Act or the ruling of the Grand Chamber, and thus falls under the judgment contradicting precedent as defined in Article 9(1)(3) of The Criminal Speedy Trial Act. The aforementioned judgment of this Court is limited to those declared or announced at the time of the appellate court's judgment." The prosecutor's appeal was overruled on 24 February 2022, under case number 110-Tai-Shang-Zi-1797.

Reporting Obligations and Evidence Exclusion Criteria in The Communication Security and Surveillance Act

Case Summary

Due to the legal aid recipient's violation of the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act, the prosecutor applied to the trial court for communication surveillance on the aid recipient's mobile phone. Finding it in compliance with Article 5(1) of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act, the court of first instance issued an interception warrant (with duration for surveillance from 10:00 AM on 11 January 2019 to 10:00 AM on 9 February 2019) and instructed the responsible law enforcement agency to submit a surveillance report by 24 January of the same year. The law enforcement agency produced the surveillance report on 24 January 2019 and submitted it to the court of first instance on the following day (the aforementioned interception warrant was not revoked by the court). The appellate court held that although the law enforcement agency failed to submit the report as scheduled, thus violating Article 5(4) of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act, the execution of surveillance during the period from 11 to 24 January 2019 was lawful and had evidentiary value. Therefore, the content of surveillance recording during this period was translated and the testimonies of the drug purchasers were used to serve as supplementary evidence for the prosecution of the aid recipient for the offense of trafficking Category one narcotics. However, the content obtained from the surveillance between 25 January and 9 February were deemed inadmissible under Article 18-1(3) of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act. After deliberation by the collegiate bench of the Supreme Court, the case was referred to the Criminal Grand Chamber in accordance with Article 51-2 of the Court Organization Act, and the LAF was requested to appoint a legal aid attorney as the defense counsel.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving the letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF assigned both its staff attorneys and legal aid lawyers from other practices to deal with the case. They studied relevant legal literature and legislative history concerning the two proposed legal issues in this case, as well as the four related legal issues on which both parties were instructed to present their arguments in the preliminary proceedings. A pleading was submitted to the Grand Chamber, explaining the arguments from the perspective of constitutional protection of secrecy of correspondence and rights to privacy, as well as the legislative concerns of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act. On 27 April 2022, an oral argument was heard before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court, and Professor Rong-Geng Li and Professor Shih-Fan Wang were invited to express their opinions on the legal issues in this case. The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated that "when the enforcement agency submits the mid-term report on the execution of communication surveillance to the court in charge, exceeding the statutory deadline of fifteen days or the date specified by the judge, it constitutes a violation of the reporting obligation under Article 5(4) of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act. Evidence obtained through lawful surveillance before the violation of the mid-term reporting obligation retains its evidentiary value. However, evidence obtained after the violation and before the expiration of the communication surveillance period is inadmissible under Article 18-1(3) of The Communication Security and Surveillance Act. Nevertheless, if the enforcement agency has produced the mid-term report during the communication surveillance period but only exceeded the deadline for submission

to the court in charge, the balance between safeguarding human rights and public interest shall be considered in accordance with Article 158-4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure." In judgment number 110-Tai-Shang-Zi-2943, issued on 26 May 2022, the defendant's appeal was overruled.

Whether the Court Can Ascertain the Sentence Execution Regarding Each Offense Subject to Combined Punishment for Multiple Offenses During the Trial

Case Summary

The legal aid recipient was previously convicted of aggravated fraud in a case heard by the Taiwan New Taipei District Court. The Court sentenced this recipient to imprisonment for a total of 21 counts of fraud committed through the internet to obtain illicit gains, with a finalized term of one year and eight months. The Prosecutor General argued that the finalized judgment was in violation of the law as it did not correctly apply Article 50(2) of the Criminal Code, and subsequently filed an extraordinary appeal against the said finalized judgment. The Supreme Court, after deliberation by the collegiate bench responsible for hearing this case, proposed it to the Criminal Grand Chamber for adjudication and requested the LAF to appoint a legal aid attorney as the defense counsel.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving the letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF assigned both its staff attorneys and legal aid lawyers from other practices to deal with the case. They studied relevant legal literature and case precedents concerning the two proposed legal issues in this case. A pleading was submitted to the Grand Chamber, explaining the arguments put forth by the legal aid recipient from the perspective of safeguarding litigation rights, the status of individuals in legal proceedings, and the principles of due process. An oral argument was heard before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court on 3 August 2022.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated that "in cases where multiple offenses are subject to combined punishment and fall under the circumstances specified in Article 50(1) of the Criminal Code, the defendant may not request the court to ascertain the sentence execution during the trial. Should a combined punishment be determined by the court during the trial, this judgment becomes final, and the Prosecutor General files an extraordinary appeal, this Court shall revoke the part of the original judgment regarding the determination to ascertain the sentence execution". In judgment number 111-Tai-Fei-Zi-43, issued on 24 August 2022, the part of the original judgment regarding the determination to ascertain the sentence execution was reversed.

Application of the Amended Criminal Code: the "Recidivist" Involved in A Previous Military Case

Case Summary

The legal aid recipient was previously involved in a case under the military justice system, which was adjudicated by a military court, and the execution of the sentence was completed 2005 (hereinafter the "previous military case"). Subsequently, in 2007, this recipient violated the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act and was convicted by a civilian court for the crime of engaging in the joint sale of Category two narcotics as a recidivist (hereinafter the "subsequent case"). The Prosecutor General, in accordance with the amended Article 49 of the Criminal Code as published on 2 February 2005, and enforced on 1 July 2006 (hereinafter the "amended Article

49"), in which the provision excluding individuals previously convicted under military law from the application of recidivism rules has been deleted, argued that the defendant, who was convicted in the previous military case before the amending of Article 49 of the Criminal Code, should not be subject to recidivism based on the non-retroactivity principle and in consideration of the defendant's rights and interests. Therefore, an extraordinary appeal has been filed against the final judgment of the subsequent case, which treated the defendant as a recidivist under the amended Article 49 of the Criminal Code.

The Supreme Court, after deliberation by the collegiate bench responsible for hearing this case, proposed it to the Criminal Grand Chamber for adjudication and requested the LAF to appoint a legal aid attorney as the defense counsel.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving the letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF assigned both its staff attorneys and legal aid lawyers from other practices to deal with the case. They studied relevant legal literature and case precedents, with attention paid to the legal issues raised in this case. They presented arguments to the Grand Chamber, explaining the position of the legal aid recipient from the perspective of non-retroactivity principle, the principle of proportionality, and the purpose of recidivism provisions. On 14 September 2022, an oral argument was heard before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court, and Professor San-Chin Lin was invited to express opinions on the legal issues in this case. The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber (document number 111-Tai-Fei-Da-Zi-34), stated that "as the defendant's previous offense was adjudicated under the military law and the execution of the imprisonment was completed prior to the enforcement of the amendment to Article 49 of the Criminal Code on 1 July 2006, and the subsequent offense of intentional recidivism with a minimum punishment of fixed-term imprisonment was committed within five years after the enforcement of the amended Article 49, the provision on recidivism does not apply". In judgment number 111-Tai-Fei-Zi-34, issued on 5 October 2022, the part of the original judgment regarding the punishment was reversed.

When to Determine the Sentencing Judgment in Accordance with the Bargaining Procedure

Case Summary

The legal aid recipient violated the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act with four offenses, and was sentenced to one year and eight months of imprisonment by the Taiwan Kaohsiung District Court. Subsequently, the Prosecutor General of the Supreme Prosecutors Office argued that the crimes indicated in Appendix 3 and 4 to the aforementioned judgment, which were committed after the judgment of the crimes indicated in Appendix 1 and 2, cannot be merged for the purpose of executing the sentence. The Supreme Court, after deliberation by the collegiate bench responsible for hearing this case, proposed it to the Criminal Grand Chamber for adjudication and requested the LAF to appoint a legal aid attorney as the defense counsel.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving a letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF formed a team of its staff attorneys and lawyers from other practices to address the significant legal issues in this case. They studied relevant legal literature, visited experts and scholars in relevant fields, and applied for the appointment of experts to provide legal opinions in writing, or make statements during oral arguments. Furthermore,

they submitted pleadings to the court explaining the assertion that the legal issues in this case involve the protection of the right to litigation under Article 16 of the Constitution and the minimum human rights standards provided by international conventions. It is argued that individuals, when their rights are violated, have the right to request immediate relief from the court through proper legal procedures, and that the defendant should have at least one opportunity for appeal after being initially convicted. The legal team interpreted the legal issues in this case from the perspectives of constitutional interpretation, legal stability, legal consistency, and interpretations favorable to the defendant. On 25 October 2022, an oral argument was heard before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court, and Professor Jau-Yih Huang was invited to express opinions on the legal issues in this case.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated that "the sentencing judgment of the first instance in accordance with the bargaining procedure shall be determined when the judgment is pronounced". In judgment number 111-Tai-Fei-Zi-15, issued on 10 November 2022, the part of the original judgment regarding the violation of laws and regulations was reversed.

Setting Case for Trial and Judicial Recusal

Case Summary

The legal aid recipient is involved in a case of forgery of documents. After the prosecutor of the Taiwan Kaohsiung District Prosecutors Office decided not to prosecute, the complainant filed a request for reconsideration. The request for reconsideration was subsequently overruled by the Taiwan High Prosecutors Office. The complainant then applied to the Taiwan Kaohsiung District Court for setting the case for trial. After the review, the Court deemed the application for setting the case for trial to be justified and ruled to grant the application. After the assignment of court cases, this case was still heard by the same collegiate bench before the same court, and the defendant was convicted of the crime of forging private documents. After an appeal, the appellate court upheld the sentencing judgment of the first instance. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, after deliberation by the collegiate bench responsible for hearing this case, proposed it to the Criminal Grand Chamber for adjudication and requested the LAF to appoint a legal aid attorney as the defense counsel.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

Upon receiving a letter from the Supreme Court, the LAF formed a team of its staff attorneys and lawyers from other practices. To address the significant legal issues in this case, the legal team applied for the appointment of expert scholars to provide legal opinions in accordance with Article 51-8(4) of the Court Organization Act, and also studied relevant legal literature, foreign precedents, and historical legislative materials. A pleading was submitted to the Grand Chamber, explaining the arguments from the perspective of safeguarding due process and principles of fair trial, separation of powers and accusatorial principle, presumption of innocence and prohibition of pre-judgment, protection of the defendant's interests and rights in the appellate process, and the purpose to set case for trial. On 30 November 2022, an oral argument was heard before the Criminal Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court, and Professor Juan-Yih Wu and Assistant Professor Jung Yan were invited to express their opinions on the legal issues in this case.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling by the Grand Chamber, stated

that “a judge who has participated in the ruling allowing to set the case for trial shall, in subsequent proceedings of the same case, apply Article 17(7) of the Code of Criminal Procedure by analogy to recuse himself/herself from this case, and shall not perform his/her duties.” In judgment number 111-Tai-Shang-Zi-1924, issued on 12 January 2023, the parts concerning the legal aid recipient, as stated in the original and first-instance judgments, were all reversed, and the case was remanded to the Taiwan Kaohsiung District Court.

The Case of Vessel De Yun: The Shipowner Delinquent in Paying the Seafarers’ Salaries

Case Summary

In July 2021, it was reported in the media that eight Myanmar and Chinese seafarers aboard the Belizean-flagged cargo vessel De Yun were abandoned at the Port of Taipei. The Maritime Port Bureau (MBP) of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, in a letter to the LAF, stated that the Vessel had been anchored in the Port of Taipei since 10 October 2019, awaiting cargo loading for outbound shipment. Due to the shipowner’s failure to pay the seafarers’ salaries for over 20 months and the inability to contact the foreign shipowner through the shipping agent, the MBP requested the LAF’s assistance in recovering the seafarers’ salaries and addressing related legal matters. Given that seafarers aboard the disputed vessel are not of Taiwanese nationality, the Vessel is not registered in Taiwan, the shipowner is of foreign nationality, and several seafarers are involved in this dispute, the litigation in this case is complex, challenging, and requires expertise. In addition, the LAF has been dealing with other similar cases that can provide valuable insights and guidance in this matter. Therefore, the LAF has assigned a staff attorney to undertake this case.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

After the LAF staff attorney took over the case, video conferences were conducted with the seafarers in August 2021. Subsequently, with the assistance of the MBP’s North Taiwan Maritime Affairs Center, a meeting was arranged at the Port of Taipei to discuss the case with the seafarers. Furthermore, the attorney accepted the appointment of six Myanmar seafarers and two Chinese seafarers, with one Chinese seafarer’s assistance terminated due to unforeseen circumstances. In September 2021, a meeting was held between the MBP’s North Taiwan Maritime Affairs Center and a friend of the shipowner. The shipowner’s friend agreed to make partial salary payments for the Myanmar seafarers covering a period of four months, provided that the seafarers agreed to stay on the vessel until the Taiwanese government granted permission for the foreign seafarers to enter the country, and that the remaining portion of the salary was to be determined based on the operational status in October and November 2021. The LAF staff attorney advised the seafarers not to agree to these terms and suggested initiating interim relief, civil proceedings, and criminal proceedings upon receiving the partial salary payment covering a period of four months. However, due to urgent financial needs of the families of the Myanmar seafarers, they eventually signed the agreement. Regarding the Chinese seafarers, the shipowner’s friend refused to pay the salary of one Chinese seafarer who was assisted by the LAF. Due to extreme homesickness and concerns for personal safety, the Chinese seafarer expressed a strong desire to return to China. Nevertheless, this Chinese seafarer’s interests conflicted with the Myanmar seafarers’ expectation that the shipowner’s friend would fulfill his promise and pay the remaining salary by December 2021. To avoid any delay in protecting the interests of this Chinese seafarer, the LAF, after careful consideration, terminated to act as this Chinese seafarer’s legal representative; the LAF assigned

a lawyer from another practice to assist, and to initiate legal proceedings for, this Chinese seafarer. In December 2021, the shipowner’s friend made another partial salary payment for two months to the Myanmar seafarers. The six Myanmar seafarers continued negotiations with the shipowner’s friend regarding the remaining salary payment, and held intensive meetings with the LAF staff attorney. Eventually, an agreement was reached between the Myanmar seafarers and the shipowner’s friend. On 16 January 2022, the Myanmar seafarers returned to Myanmar, receiving nearly 50% of their total salary.

The Project of Prisoners’ Voting Rights

Case Summary

Due to the fact that seven aid recipients, including Xu, are individuals under correctional supervision and their freedom of movement is restricted by national laws, the LAF made a request to the Central Election Commission (CEC) to establish polling stations within the correctional facilities or allow the aid recipients, under the supervision of security personnel, to vote at nearby polling stations for the exercise of their right to referendum on the Constitutional Amendment Referendum No. 1. The CEC rejected the request on grounds of lack of explicit legal provisions, as stated in the CEC’s letter with reference number Zhong-Xuan-Wu-Zi-1113150391 (original administrative action), dated 26 October 2022.

LAF Assistance and Outcomes

A team of staff attorneys from the LAF has taken the following actions by applying to the Taipei High Administrative Court for an administrative injunction maintaining a temporary status quo and lodging an appeal for imposing an obligation with the Executive Yuan. A brief description is provided below:

1. Application of the Administrative Injunction
 - ◎The applicants filed a preliminary request seeking permission to temporarily establish polling stations at the Taipei Detention Center and Taipei Prison. In the alternative, they requested permission to temporarily allow the applicants to exercise their voting rights at the polling stations assigned to them, under the supervision of security personnel.
 - ◎Following the court’s hearing, the Taipei High Administrative Court issued its ruling with case number 111-Quan-Zi-70, overruled the petition. In this ruling, the Court determined that the establishment of polling stations falls under the jurisdiction of local election commissions, not the CEC.
2. Appeal for Imposing an Obligation
 - ◎The appellants submitted a preliminary request to the Executive Yuan seeking to revoke the original disposition and requesting the establishment of polling stations at the Taipei Detention Center and Taipei Prison. In the alternative, they requested the revocation of the original disposition and the issuance of a directive allowing the appellants to vote at nearby polling stations, under the supervision of security personnel.
 - ◎This appeal is still under review by the Executive Yuan.

Although the referendum on the Constitutional Amendment Referendum No. 1 has already taken place, the upcoming 2024 elections for the President and Members of the Legislative Yuan will pose a situation where prisoners’ voting rights and other political rights may be unconstitutionally and unlawfully restricted without explicit legal provisions. Therefore, further in-depth studies will be conducted, taking into account the legal systems and experiences regarding prisoners’ voting rights in other countries, in order to continue assisting prisoners in advocating for their constitutionally protected rights to vote and participate in politics.

Major Achievements of Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples

On 12 March 2018, the LAF established the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples in Hualien. Staffed by staff attorneys who specialize in cases related to indigenous culture, traditional customs, and traditional domains, the Center provides legal aid that combines sensitivity and expertise in the field of law. Starting from 1 January 2021, the West Office of the Center, located in Hsinchu, also began providing services to the public. In 2022, the major achievements of the Center are as follows:

The Case of Katratripulr Photovoltaic

On 12 March 2018, the LAF established the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples in Hualien. Staffed by staff attorneys who specialize in cases related to indigenous culture, traditional customs, and traditional domains, the Center provides legal aid that combines sensitivity and expertise in the field of law. Starting from 1 January 2021, the West Office of the Center, located in Hsinchu, also began providing services to the public. In 2022, the major achievements of the Center are as follows:

The Case of Tamazuan Tribe’s Fight against Mining

The Taitung County Government planned to build a “Solar Power Facility and Education Zone” in Jiankang area of Chihpen, Taitung City (known as the north bank of the Chihpen River), with a total area of 161 hectares. Since 10 July 2019, the LAF has been dealing with this legal aid case, which was applied by Pinuyumayan (also known as Beinan) people from the Katratripulr tribe. The LAF staff attorneys, together with lawyers from other practices, have formed a legal team to assist the tribe members in filing civil lawsuits to confirm the invalidity of tribal assembly resolutions, appeals and administrative lawsuits to revoke the permit for building the power plant, and administrative lawsuits to suspend the execution of the permit for building the power plant. Regarding the validity of the tribal assembly resolutions, the Taiwan Taitung District Court ruled on 30 September 2021, in case number 109-Yuan-Su-4, that the case shall be transferred to Kaohsiung High Administrative Court for further review. The Taiwan High Court Hualien Branch Court ruled to dismiss the appeal on 21 February 2022. The case is currently pending before the Supreme Court.

As to the litigations to revoke the permit for building the power plant, with the joint efforts of the legal team and the tribe members, the Taipei High Administrative Court ruled on 8 September 2022, in case number 109-Su-Zi-1509, acknowledging numerous legal flaws in the permit decision made by the Ministry of Economic Affairs; the Katratripulr tribe prevailed in this judgment. It is the final and binding ruling of this case, as no further appeals were made.

The Case of Shih Fong Hydropower Project

Shih Fong Power, in its Fengping River Hydropower Project, planned to construct river barrages in the upper reaches of Fengping River, from where water would be diverted through a 3000-meter water tunnel to an open-air power plant located

around Taiping Bridge area. The power plant received conditional approval for its environmental impact assessment from the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) in August 1999, with construction scheduled to commence in 2002. However, due to delays in construction, the project was found by the EPA to be in violation of Article 16-1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act. Accordingly, the EPA requested Shih Fong Power to submit an environmental impact analysis and mitigation report. Although the environmental impact analysis report of the power plan was completed in 2009, subsequent interruptions in funding by the developer and a change in ownership in 2019 have led to the project remaining incomplete to date. Despite this, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has continued to issue construction permits, leaving the tribal people exposed to ongoing risks to their lives and property.

As a result, the tribal people from Tausa and Tavila tribes applied to the LAF for legal aid. The LAF legal team, in the first instance, filed an appeal with the Executive Yuan regarding the construction permits issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Concurrently, during the appeal period, the LAF sought an injunction from the Taipei High Administrative Court to halt the execution of the project, citing the urgent and irreparable harm it could cause to the tribes and their members. The Taipei High Administrative Court, taking into account the ruling in the Asia Cement case, recognized the possibility of implementing the required consultation process and concluded that this case does not appear to be clearly devoid of the possibility of winning. Furthermore, the Taipei High Administrative Court acknowledged that the construction of the power plant would result in irreversible damage to the cultural and self-governance rights of the tribal people. Therefore, the injunction to halt the execution of the project was granted.

Although the initial ruling was subsequently reversed by the Supreme Administrative Court, it merely acknowledged that the construction permits had automatically expired due to their expiration date and thus did not necessitate the halting of the project. The Supreme Administrative Court did not overturn the determination regarding the requirement to implement the consultation and consent process. Furthermore, the latter decision of administrative appeal cited the Asia Cement case, determining that Shih Fong Power had obtained the construction permits without following the required consultation and consent procedures. The construction permits issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs were deemed illegal and invalid, and was ordered to be revoked. Shih Fong Power was also instructed to promptly rectify the consultation and consent process. Additionally, the tribal people argued that the environmental conditions have changed significantly since the preparation of the environmental

impact analysis report in 2009, with continuous natural disasters occurring in Fengping River, necessitating a reassessment of the environmental impact. Thereupon, the LAF is also assisting the tribal people in filing a civil litigation under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act. The case is currently pending before the Taipei High Administrative Court.

Following the decision of administrative appeal, Shih Fong Power expeditiously initiated the consultation and consent process, in which six stakeholder tribes participated, with five tribes providing consent and one tribe withholding consent. With the approval of the resolution, Shih Fong Power can now apply to the Ministry of Economic Affairs for the reissuance of the construction permit. Nevertheless, the LAF legal team will continue to accompany the tribal people and oversee the progress of the legal procedures. We also demand that the government and developers, in large-scale development projects with lengthy timelines, respect the rights of indigenous peoples as the owners of the land. Furthermore, we urge strict supervision of the impact of development projects on the local natural and cultural environment, and to avoid sacrificing the rights of indigenous peoples in the pursuit of energy policies.

The Case of Wanli Hydropower Project

Taiwan Power Company intends to implement the Wanli Hydropower Project in Wanrong Township of Hualien County. The project involves hydroelectric development utilizing the Wanli River in Wanrong Township, which is located within the traditional territory of the Taroko people. However, throughout the consultation process to obtain consent from the indigenous people, numerous flaws have been identified during the period between the date of determining which tribes are considered the stakeholders and 22 February 2020, when the tribal meeting resolutions were passed. In order to safeguard the rights of the Murisaka tribe and its people, Yang, a member of the tribe, applied for legal aid from the LAF. The LAF assists the tribe in filing an appeal and a litigation to revoke the determination of stakeholder tribes, and a litigation against the validity of the tribal meeting resolutions.

Regarding the determination of stakeholder tribes, the case is currently pending before the Taipei High Administrative Court. As to the validity of the tribal meeting resolutions, the Taiwan Hualien District Court overruled the appeal, under case number 110-Yuan-Su-Zi-9. The tribal members were dissatisfied with this judgment and, with the LAF's assistance, filed an appeal. On 14 April 2022, the Taiwan High Court Hualien Branch Court reversed the original judgment and transferred the case for further review by the Taipei High Administrative Court, under case number 110-Yuan-Shang-Zi-5. The case is currently pending before the Taipei High Administrative Court.

This case involves four tribes in two villages in Hualien County and concerns the second stage of the environmental impact assessment, which may give rise to issues related to environmental assessment legislation. In addition, it is the first case in Taiwan where a dispute has arisen regarding the consultation and consent procedures for a significant development project involving multiple stakeholder tribes. Clearly, the development of this case would have significant implications for indigenous rights and future related cases. The LAF will continue to assist the tribes in clarifying the issues in dispute, with the aim to uphold the spirit of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as indicated in Article 21 of The

Indigenous Peoples Basic Law through the current consultation and consent practices.

The Case of Asia Cement's Mineral Rights Extension and Consultation in the Consent Process

This case concerns the Ministry of Economic Affairs' approval of the mineral rights extension for Asia Cement Corporation at the Mt. Xincheng quarry. The Supreme Administrative Court, in its judgment number 108-Shang-Zi-894, determined that the decision to extend the mineral rights was in violation of the law as it failed to undergo consultation and participation procedures. Accordingly, the decision to extend the mineral rights was revoked. This case is the first in Taiwan where an administrative decision was revoked pursuant to the requirements of consultation in consent process under Article 21 of The Indigenous Peoples Basic Law.

To fulfill the requirements of consultation and consent procedures, Asia Cement held a meeting to present an explanatory report on 11 April 2021, in accordance with Article 16 of the Regulations for Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Consultation in Consent Process and Participation. On 21 December 2021, Asia Cement sent a letter requesting Sioulin Township Office to arrange a tribal meeting with the Bsgan tribe. Upon receiving the letter from Sioulin Township Office, the Bsgan tribe promptly scheduled a tribal meeting on 12 February 2022, to deliberate on the consultation and consent regarding Asia Cement's mineral rights extension. A total of 374 indigenous households (out of 555 households) sent representatives to attended the meeting. The voting results were as follows: 294 in favor, 45 against, and 14 invalid votes. In the tribal meeting resolution, it was concluded that the consultation and consent procedures concerning Asia Cement's mineral rights were in compliance with Article 19(1) of the Regulations for Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Consultation in Consent Process and Participation; with the approval of the majority of household representatives, the consent was obtained. However, the tribal meeting was characterized by several violations of the Regulations for Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Consultation in Consent Process and Participation, as well Article 21(1) of The Indigenous Peoples Basic Law, which provides the FPIC principle.

Asia Cement argued that with the approval for the consent, it is entitled to request the Ministry of Economic Affairs to grant the mineral rights extension. However, since the extension period can be up to 20 years, it would significantly impact the life, property safety, land use rights, the rights to consultation in consent process, self-determination rights, and cultural rights of the tribal members. Consequently, the tribal members sought assistance from the LAF. After reviewing the legal aid application, the LAF decided to provide assistance in perpetuating evidences regarding the tribal meeting resolution and filing administrative litigations to determine the invalidity or non-establishment of the resolution. The Taiwan Hualien District Court has granted the perpetuation of materials including the tribal meeting ballots and meeting records. The case is pending before the Taipei High Administrative Court to determine the invalidity or non-establishment of the meeting resolution.

Regulatory Amendments

In 2022, the focuses of amendments to LAF regulations included adjustment of investigation procedures, improvement of legal aid service quality, adjustments in personnel management system, and adjustment of accounting system. The following are the details of the amendments:

1. Adjustment in investigation procedures

(1) Amendment to the Directions for Recusal of Members of the Evaluation Committee and Members of the Review Committee

In order to ensure the impartial performance of duties by the members of LAF evaluation committee and the members of LAF review committee, and to enhance public trust in evaluation as well as review decisions, the Board of Directors passed a resolution to approve the following amendments on 27 October 2022: the addition providing the circumstances under which evaluation or review committee members should recuse themselves, and allowing applicants to request recusal; the addition stipulating that evaluation or review decisions requiring the approvals of the Chairperson and the CEO should be recused by both the Chairperson and the CEO; and the provision specifying that the same regulations shall apply where the individual authorized by the CEO or the Executive Secretary, according to the implementation guidelines of LAF hierarchy and responsibility, can exercise the power of approval on behalf of the CEO or the director of a branch office.

(2) Amendment to the Implementation Regulations on the Scope of Legal Aid
● According to the Legal Aid Act, circumstances specified in Article 5(4)(1-5) of the Act are deemed to require legal aid, regardless of whether the case shows no legitimate reasons for granting legal aid or the benefit amount from winning the case is affected. The previous provision in Article 7 of the Implementation Regulations on the Scope of Legal Aid, which restricts the provision of legal aid in such circumstances based on the approval of the Chairperson, was found to be inconsistent with the intent of the Legal Aid Act. Therefore, an amendment was made to Article 7 of the Implementation Regulations.

● When the review committee deems it necessary to grant legal aid in such circumstances, there should be a corresponding mechanism similar to the authority of branch office directors. Therefore, the requirement for CEO approval was added to Article 8 of the Implementation Regulations on the Scope of Legal Aid.

● The above-mentioned amendments were approved through a resolution of LAF Board of Directors on 29 July 2022, and were approved by the Judicial Yuan in a letter with reference number Yuan-Tai-Ting-Si-Si-Zi-1110028604 on September 26 of the same year.

2. Improvement of legal aid service quality

(1) Amendment to the Regulations for Legal Aid Remuneration

● Taking account of the highly specialized and complex nature of constitutional litigation, which has a nationwide impact, and the high level of expertise and complexity involved in the Grand Chamber, where interpretations of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court can be brought into uniformity, it may be necessary to assign more than one lawyer to deal with legal aid cases of significant complexity and importance related to "petitions for constitutional court rulings with oral argumentation procedures" and "hearings before the Grand Chamber regarding final court decisions". Such assignment shall be subject to the approval of the CEO and a maximum of three legal aid attorneys.

● In order to encourage legal aid attorneys to uphold the spirit of protecting the rights of the underprivileged and actively assist the aid recipients (as stated in the Legal Aid Act), thereby ensuring the comprehensive protection of their rights, while reducing the administrative costs incurred by the LAF in reapplying, reviewing, and closing such cases, and reflecting the efforts of attorneys in drafting pleadings in the amount of legal aid fees appropriately, the LAF proposed to include legal aid attorneys for criminal defense cases. These cases involve attorneys who receive notifications to attend "detention" hearings or "temporary placement" hearings upon the acceptance of court judgments to handle criminal defense cases at the first instance, and prepare appeal statements upon request by the court or aid recipients; to handle civil cases, file appeals and/or re-appeals against the rulings that dismissed the aid recipients' petitions for litigation aid, and to deal with consumer debt clearance cases; and to prepare objection statements against compulsory execution in other cases for the aid recipients. In those cases, the legal aid attorneys may apply to the branch offices for discretionary increase in remuneration.

● The aforementioned amendments were approved by the LAF on 17 June 2022, approved through a resolution of the Board of Directors on 30 September of the same year, and approved by the Judicial Yuan in a letter with reference number Yuan-Tai-Ting-Si-Si-Zi-1110034905 on 29 November of the same year.

(2) Amendment to the Regulations for Selection of Legal Aid Attorneys and Case Assignment

To be in line with the amendments to the Attorney Regulation Act announced on 15 January 2020, concerning the qualification as a lawyer (that is, those who have successfully passed the Bar Examination and completed the Pre-

Service Training for Attorneys may apply for and receive an attorney license, as specified in Article 3 of the Attorney Regulation Act) and the requirements for joining a bar association and a legal practice (that is, those who have received their attorney license and been admitted to a local bar association and the National Bar Association may practice law in the territory of the Republic of China in accordance with the Attorney Regulation Act, as stated in Article 19 of the Attorney Regulation Act), the selection and exit mechanisms for LAF legal aid attorneys shall be adjusted accordingly. The amendments to the Regulations for Selection of Legal Aid Attorneys and Case Assignment were approved through a resolution of the Board of Directors on 30 December 2022.

3. Adjustment in personnel management system

(1) Amendment to the salary grade tables provided in the Regulations for Personnel Management and in the Appointment and Evaluation Regulations for Staff Attorneys

To align with the recent economic growth and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) growth, taking into account the salary adjustment range for government officials in 2022, the Board of Directors approved a resolution on 29 April 2022, to revise the salary scales for LAF full-time staff and staff attorneys, which are provided in the Regulations for Personnel Management and in the Appointment and Evaluation Regulations for Staff Attorneys. The legal basis for the salary adjustment of the CEO and Deputy CEO was also revised. These amendments were subsequently approved by the Judicial Yuan in letters with reference numbers Yuan-Tai-Ting-Si-Si-Zi-1110015449 and Yuan-Tai-Ting-Si-Si-Zi-1110015450 on 19 May of the same year.

(2) Amendment to various regulations regarding the members of personnel management committees

To prevent potential vacancies between terms for members of personnel management committees (such as members of the Appeals Committee for Merits and Disciplinary Cases, members of the Appeals Investigation Team for Performance Evaluations, and members of the Investigation Team for the Appointment and Evaluation of Staff Attorneys and Candidate Staff Attorneys), the election methods and the specified term limits for committee members were adjusted. These adjustments were made in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Board of Directors on 27 October 2022, which amended the Disposal Directions for Merits and Penalty, the Operation Directions for Performance Evaluation, and the Appointment and Evaluation Regulations for Staff Attorneys.

(3) Amendment to the Operation Directions for Volunteer Services

To comply with the adjustments made by the Ministry of Health and Welfare regarding the basic and special training hours for volunteer workers, the LAF referred to the Operation Directions for Recruiting Volunteer Workers to Serve at the Consolidated Service Desk (which is implemented by the courts) and amended the provisions regarding the total hours for basic and special training as well as course information for LAF volunteer workers. These amendments were approved by the LAF on 29 July 2022, and approved through a resolution of the Board of Directors on 30 December of the same year.

4. Adjustment in accounting system

(1) Amendment to the accounting regulations

The main purpose of this amendment is to align LAF accounting regulations with the current regulations under the Foundations Act and the accounting systems of government agencies. Additionally, provisions regarding document destruction were modified to reduce printing and storage costs. Other aspects of the LAF's accounting system were also reviewed for further improvements. On 29 July 2022, the Board of Directors passed resolutions to amend relevant LAF accounting regulations; these amendments were approved by the Judicial Yuan in a letter with reference number Yuan-Tai-Ting-Si-Si-Zi-1110028603 on 26 September of the same year.

(2) Amendment to the Regulations for Document Management

Since the procedures for destroying financial and accounting documents provided in Article 19(2) of the current Regulations for Document Management have been stipulated in the LAF's accounting regulations, it was determined that the destruction of such documents should follow the provisions of the LAF's accounting system. On 29 July 2022, the Board of Directors passed a resolution to amend the Regulations for Document Management.

(3) Amendment to the Payment of Fees for Part-time Works, Attendance at LAF Meetings/Conferences, Manuscripts, and Minute-taking

On 27 May 2022, the Board of Directors decided to reference the regulations for part-time work payment provided to military and civil servants and adjusted the nature of expenses incurred by directors (excluding the Chairperson) and supervisors attending board meetings or supervisor meetings to be considered part-time fees, amounting to NT\$2,500. The fee for attending LAF meetings/conferences were also adjusted to NT\$2,500, which is in line with the guidelines for attendance fees and manuscript fees provided by the central government agencies and schools.

Continuous Improvement of Service Quality

1 Measures to Improve Service Staff Attitudes

Encouraging customer-oriented philosophy and flexible service delivery

Since 2018, the LAF has been conducting regular undercover inspections, including the evaluation of on-site services (e.g., office environment of a branch, service procedures, value-added service, facilities, etc.) and the review of telephone services. The inspection results for 2022 showed an average score of 89.6 out of 100 points on the quality of on-site services, a considerable improvement in comparison with 86 points in 2021; the average score for the performance of telephone services was 92, also a significant improvement in comparison with 85 points in 2021.

Disclosure of satisfaction surveys

In the past, the surveys of client satisfaction with branch office services were conducted on a quarterly basis and were outsourced. This was changed in 2016; since then, such surveys have been conducted by LAF head office. In view of the fact that client satisfaction has increased year by year and been relatively steady at a high level, and that undercover inspections has been introduced, some adjustments were made in October 2020. The monthly sample size was adjusted. The survey frequency was changed from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis. The survey results and any anomalies are provided to the branches on a quarterly basis,

so that timely improvement measures can be taken based on the survey results to maintain service quality.

The survey results in 2022 showed that with the highest level of satisfaction for each survey item set at 100%, all LAF branches were scored above 90.00% for each item.

Foreign language services and multilingual documents

The LAF launched Foreign Language Services in 2018, in which interpreters will provide assistance in communication and translation in the application, review and evaluation process. The services are sponsored by the LAF. Communication access real-time translation is also available to applicants with hearing or speech disabilities. As of the end of 2022, the LAF's roster of interpreters covers 137 interpreters working in Southeast Asian languages, 20 in the languages of indigenous peoples, 58 in sign language and 38 in communication access real-time translation. In addition, for facilitating other persons or organizations to get in touch with the interpreters recruited by the LAF, since 2022 the LAF has been contacting every interpreter on the roster to ask whether he/she agrees to disclose his/her contact information on the LAF's official website. This task is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

Among the legal aid cases involving foreign nationals, a large number of them are Vietnamese, Indonesian, Filipinos and Burmese. With the intention to give further support to foreign nationals, the LAF also provides many documents in these languages, such as the application form for legal aid and notification forms for various review decisions.

Since 2016, the LAF has introduced a number of measures to streamline different stages of the operations, including: legal consultation, appointment-making and application processes (simplification of case registration for legal consultations and of applicant's document signing), review process (process adjustments for cases where missing documents have not been supplemented or errors have not been corrected within the deadline), case tracking and inspection process (initiation of the confirmation process and automatic inspection function), simplification of case closure process, inter-branch business transfer replaced with the MAILTO function, and revision of business management system regarding review and remuneration review.

The "Online Operating System for Legal Aid Attorneys" was launched in September 2019. The legal aid attorneys can fill out and upload various reports through this system, including requests for withdrawal of legal aid by the recipients, requests for attorney replacement or termination of legal aid due to poor communication with the recipients, applications for necessary expenses, and case closure reports. The LAF staff can process case changes or closure online based on the reports of the attorneys and proceed with subsequent review committee or supervisory review processes. Legal aid lawyers can also use the reporting system to update their law firm's address, contact number, or leave requests. In 2022, the LAF continued to promote and optimize the functions of this system, and over 99.8% of the legal aid attorneys serving at LAF branches utilized this system to report case progress.

Improving the case tracking and management mechanism

The LAF requires legal aid lawyers to complete the matters specified in Point 7 of LAF Guidelines for Legal Aid Attorneys within 2 months of taking a case, and to report on the progress of the case. If a legal aid attorney fails to claim the advance fee within 2 months after the case is assigned, the branch office should conduct an audit of the case to assess the progress. Furthermore, if there is a failure to report within the specified timeframe, unless there are specific reasons, the branch office should suspend the case assignment until the legal aid attorney submits the report.

To verify attorney case opening, the LAF has revised the report form for case acceptance. It is imperative that the legal aid attorney conducts a face-to-face meeting with the aid recipient after taking the case, confirming the necessity of filing for litigation aid or provisional remedies, as well as providing important information regarding case-related deadlines. Both parties should sign the report and submit it to the branch office. Currently, all kinds of case tracking and management can be reported and processed through the "Online Operating System for Legal Aid Attorneys". With this system, legal aid attorneys can provide updates on case progress online; the LAF can monitor case progress and track management results.

Case closure management

The LAF has amended point 35 of the Guidelines for Legal Aid Attorneys. The amendment sets the time limit for legal aid attorneys to report case closure and requires the attorneys to submit all legal writings and case closure documents (e.g., the mediation transcripts, judgments or rulings). In the case that the submitted documents are incomplete, the branch office shall notify the attorney through the online operating system to make corrections and resubmission within the specified deadline. If this

attorney fails to make the necessary corrections or fails to report on the case closure for an extended period, the branch office may refer the case to the review committee for discretionary reduction of remuneration or reassessment of remuneration. Additionally, the branch offices will be subject to annual inspections to assess their handling of cases, which will be included as one of the evaluation criteria.

Establishing an information security environment in compliance with ICT policies

Since the LAF's business involves the maintenance and operation of information and communication technology (ICT) system to provide public services at local and regional levels, a large volume of personal data is stored in-house. Thereupon, the LAF was approved by the Judicial Yuan as a specific non-governmental organization with a security responsibility level of Grade B.

Following the aforementioned approval, the LAF has implemented system classification and protection measures, introduced an information security management system, and conducted ICT security inspections, as required in the Regulations on Classification of Cyber Security Responsibility Levels.

The LAF approved its Directions for Cyber Security Management in September 2019, setting out the internal ICT security regulations. The LAF has gradually implemented ISO 27001 Information Security Management System standards and obtained third-party certifications for all of its core ICT systems, including the online appointment system for legal aid, the business management system, the billing system for lawyers, and online operating system for attorneys. The LAF also continuously maintains the validity of these certifications. Additionally, regular ICT security check-ups are conducted for network architecture, user devices, and server hosts to enhance and ensure the security protection capabilities of the LAF's network and ICT systems.

2 Refinement of Case Management Process

Business communication and position harmonization among the head office and branch offices

In order to enhance business communication and harmonize various positions among the head office and branch offices, the contact point for business inquiries from the branches is served by the business management personnel based at the head office; these personnel also take the responsibility of supervision. In addition, an internal information platform (e.g., flow charts with control points, SOP for relevant new or revised regulations, etc.) is established to facilitate online access and queries by the branches. This could reduce discrepancies or errors in branch business operations and address similar or related issues. Furthermore, the head office also regularly publishes various business inventories, business data, and performance statistics to assist all branches across the country in effectively managing cases.

Requirement to assign attorneys promptly

For protecting a recipient's rights, Article 12 of LAF Regulations for Selection of Legal Aid Attorneys and Case Assignment provides that in principle an LAF branch shall assign a legal aid attorney within three working days upon the application approval; exceptions shall be within one working day.

Streamlining the operating procedure

3 Mechanism to Assure the Service Quality of Legal Aid Attorneys

Policy planning to maintain the service quality of legal aid attorneys

Restrictions and relaxation of lawyer qualifications

The LAF imposes a requirement of at least 2 years of experience for lawyers applying to serve as legal aid attorneys. If a lawyer with less than 2 years of practice wishes to apply to become a legal aid attorney, he/she is required to submit his/her legal writing to LAF review committee for qualification review. In 2022, after the review by the committee, a total of 19 lawyers met the qualification requirements.

In order to address the shortage of lawyers in dealing with cases of consumer debt clearance and attorney attendance at interrogation, the LAF relaxes the aforementioned requirement of two-year practice. These lawyers, after completing the LAF's education and training programs, may apply to serve as legal aid attorneys in such cases.

Optimization of case assignment policy

Since 2012, the LAF has been promoting a fair case assignment policy to ensure the quality of legal aid services and avoid overburdening the legal aid attorneys, which could affect the service quality. The LAF has established a principle of limiting an

attorney's annual caseload to a maximum of 24 cases.

In 2018, the LAF approved the Regulations for Selection of Legal Aid Attorneys and Case Assignment, which introduced a provision to set the total case assignment limit at 48 cases for exceptional situations exceeding 24 cases per year. Furthermore, between 2019 and 2020, the assignment function of the business management system was added following the regulation revisions. With this function, case assignment can be adjusted to meet true needs, and in turn both service quality and fairness in the assignment can be ensured. This additional function was launched on 1st January 2021.

To better understand the assignment practices of each branch, in 2019, the LAF collaborated with professors from the Department of Statistics at Taipei University to conduct research. During the first stage, the assignment data of the LAF from 2015 to 2017 were analyzed, and the quantitative study, "The Practices of LAF Case Assignment in Legal Aid: Analysis One", was completed. At the second stage, qualitative study was conducted through interviews with branch staff, and the analysis was completed in 2021. With first-hand information collected through in-depth interviews, the second report was also completed in 2021. This report has been presented at the board meeting. In the follow-up, based on the findings and suggestions of the aforementioned empirical study, as well as the effects of the online assignment function in 2021, the LAF will invite stakeholders from various sectors to engage in joint discussions and plan the third-generation logic architecture of the case assignment system.

The aim is to optimize the LAF's assignment policies and maintain its service quality.

Specialist lawyer assignment system

In 2015, the LAF implemented a pilot program for case assignments where lawyers with specific expertise are needed, approving specialist lawyers in family affairs, labor affairs, and consumer debt clearance. During the trial period, there was a noticeable decrease in the proportion of aid recipients requesting lawyer changes, as well as filing complaints or grievances against lawyers. This indicates that this system indeed improves the LAF's service quality and safeguards the rights of the aid recipients. The overall participation of specialist lawyers remains favorable, with a high rate of assignment for specialized cases. This also demonstrates that this system is feasible. Accordingly, the LAF Directions for Attorney Specialization entered into force on 11 June 2021, marking the end of the pilot program and the start of specialist lawyer assignment system in full operation. As of the end of 2022, all categories of specialist lawyers have shown significant growth compared to 2021.

numbers of specialist lawyers	2020	2021	2022
labor affairs	321	337	388
family affairs	852	943	1,004
consumer debt clearance	744	762	812

Assignment of specialist lawyers over the past three years (in percentage)

assignment of specialist lawyers	2020	2021	2022
labor cases	95.03%	96.16%	97.22%
family cases	94.28%	94.10%	93.85%
consumer debt clearance cases	99.98%	100%	100%

Complaint management system

In 2022, a total of 356 complaints cases were received; 36 of which are still under investigation, while 320 cases have been concluded after investigation.

Among the completed cases, 54 cases were not accepted for resolution (as being withdrawn, merged with another case, or beyond the scope of the complaint management system).

A total of 266 cases were accepted for resolution, with the following outcomes:

Disciplinary Action	Caseload
Yes	126
No	140
Subtotal	266

Among the 126 cases where disciplinary action was to be taken, review committee members were the subjects of complaints in two cases, the LAF staff (including staff attorneys) in seven cases, and other personnel (e.g., volunteers) in one case. For these ten cases, the disciplinary measures imposed are to give guidance notices, to mediate, or to urge for improvement. In the remaining 116 cases, legal aid attorneys (including those who provide consulting services) are the subjects of complaints; the measures imposed are as follows:

Disciplinary Measures	Caseload
assignment suspended and referral to the disciplinary committee	11
assignment suspended	52
to give guidance notices, to mediate, or to urge for improvement	51
suspended from participating in legal consultation work	2
subtotal	116

Legal Aid Case Notification Form (for Courts and Prosecutors only)

The LAF created the Legal Aid Case Notification Form (for Courts and Prosecutors only) specifically for assessing the performance of legal aid attorneys in legal process. Where a court or prosecutors office is of the view that a legal aid attorney, while handling a legal aid case, is suspected of contravening the Attorney Regulation Act or that his/her litigation services cause concern, the court or prosecutors office can download the Notification Form from the LAF website (under "Legal Aid – Document Download" in Chinese webpage), fill in the specific details, and send it to the LAF.

In 2022, two positive evaluations were reported through this notification channel. There were twelve negative evaluations reported, of which eleven have been concluded after investigation, while one case is still under investigation. Among the concluded cases, there were eight cases where negligence or error on the part of the lawyers was found, and three cases where no negligence or error was found.

Attorney performance evaluation

The review results

Since 2007, the LAF has been conducting attorney performance evaluation in accordance with the Directions for Evaluating Performance of Legal Aid Attorneys (revised as the "Regulations for Evaluating Performance of Legal Aid Attorneys and Improving the Service Quality"). Over the past three years, the number of lawyers subjected to disciplinary action as determined by the Legal Aid Attorney Evaluation Committee and the Legal Aid Attorney Review Committee is as follows:

Year	2020	2021	2022
written notice requesting improvement	7	4	3
assignments reduced	0	0	0
assignment suspended	11	21	22
dismissal from legal aid service	9	8	3
referral to the Attorney Disciplinary Board	6	8	4 two of them with disciplinary action pending

The patterns of behavior that result in disciplinary action primarily include: doubts regarding the quality of legal aid services, such as failure to submit required legal writings, insufficiently prepared legal writings, failure to attend court hearings, or uncooperative attitude during communication; violations of the code of professional ethics for lawyers, such as failure to observe appeal deadlines, to provide grounds for appeal, or to observe the deadlines provided in rulings; violations of LAF Guidelines for Legal Aid Attorneys, such as appointing

non-lawyers as subagents, failure to provide legal advice, and failure to inform about provisional remedies; non-compliance with requests to provide case files and documents for the attorney performance review; engaging in activities such as using a name similar to the LAF's or publishing false advertisements to solicit clients, intercepting and depriving vulnerable individuals of their rights to access free legal aid resources, leading them to believe that the organization is affiliated with the LAF, and charging them for legal representation.

Lawyers who repeatedly have their remunerations reduced due to attributable reasons may be subject to the attorney performance evaluation

If the Evaluation Committee or the Review Committee finds that a legal aid attorney has violated his/her obligations or LAF regulations,

4 Staff Attorneys

The LAF employs staff attorneys and has established a dedicated staff attorney center to deal with cases that require specialized expertise, concern with public interest, or are of high profile. These cases often involve issues that general practice attorneys less often encounter in their daily practices, such as environmental litigation, death penalty defense cases, and class action lawsuits.

As of the end of 2022, the LAF has employed a total of 18 staff attorneys, who are stationed at:

Taipei Branch	1
New Taipei Branch	3
Tainan Branch	3
North Center of Staff Attorneys	6
Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples	5

5 Professional Training

Staff Development

In order to support the LAF staff in providing legal aid services, maintaining good service quality and further improving the quality, the LAF actively conducts professional and service training courses for our colleagues. In 2022, the training program encompassed four categories: professional skills, laws and regulations, general courses, and indigenous courses. To integrate educational and training resources, the course content is tailored to the regional context, and training sessions are conducted in different regions. A total of 65 training sessions were organized by the head office and branch offices in 2022.

Attorney Training

In 2022, the education and training for attorneys were conducted through various formats, including online, on-site, and recorded sessions, covering diverse topics. There was a total of 77 training sessions, including the following topics: labor laws (4 sessions), family laws (14 sessions), rights of persons with disabilities (7 sessions), communication skills and empathy (8 sessions), criminal defense-related issues (17 sessions, including 1 session each on drug and money laundering defense practices, and 9 sessions on the Citizen Judges Act), juvenile case handling practices (3 sessions), practices

resulting in attributable circumstances, his/her remunerations may be reduced accordingly. If the violations by the legal aid attorney reach a certain proportion and frequency, the LAF may refer the case for attorney performance evaluation in accordance with the Regulations for Evaluating Performance of Legal Aid Attorneys and Improving the Service Quality.

Upon study of the concluded cases in the second half of 2021, it was found that a small number of lawyers had attributable reasons for their case handling, which resulted in a reduction of their remunerations. Nevertheless, the violations did not reach the level which required the attorney performance evaluation. The LAF sent letters to these lawyers, urging them to make improvements, and a total of six lawyers were addressed in this regard.



- 3 November 2022, speech given by Mr. Da-Kai Gao at lawyer symposium "Experience Sharing on Legal Aid to Criminal Defendants with Disabilities (the Ministry of Health and Welfare)" (Yilan Branch)
- 28 December 2022, training session for legal aid attorneys (Hualien Branch)
- 29 December 2022, Mr. Wei-Hao Wu as the panelist at lawyer symposium "Experience Sharing on Family Mediation" (Yilan Branch)
- 15 January 2022, training course for lawyers on claiming rights *in rem* at Taichung Branch (Taichung Branch)



of representing crime victims (2 sessions), restorative justice series (1 session), experience sharing on consumer debt clearance practices (1 session), Constitutional Court Procedure Act (1 session), Prison Act (1 session), and Detention Act (1 session).

Furthermore, the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples continued to organize education and training on topics related to improving cultural sensitivity and important indigenous cultural issues. Tribal classrooms activities were also held.



Organizing and Co-hosting Campaign Activities

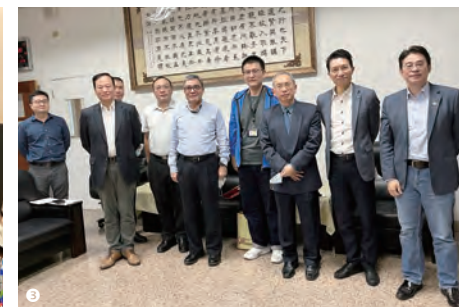
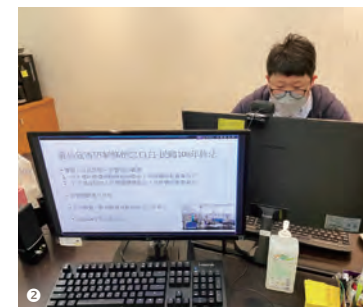
In 2022, there was a total of 1,783 events (including prison outreach events) either organized by the LAF branches or co-hosted by the LAF and its partner organizations.



- ❶ 29 July 2022, dissemination of information on legal aid in Tai-Chang, Ji-an (Hualien Branch)
- ❷ 28 August 2022, dissemination event at Hualien Social Welfare Center (Hualien Branch)
- ❸ 5 November, dissemination activity at an event held at Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (Hualien Branch)
- ❹ 1 August 2022, dissemination of the rule of law at Zenlight School (Hualien Branch)
- ❺ 16 July 2022, dissemination activity at an event held at World Vision Taiwan (Hualien Branch)
- ❻ 27 September 2022, symposium and dissemination event on legal aid at Taiwan Penghu District Court (Hualien Branch)

Dissemination of The Rule of Law at Prison

Since 2016, the LAF has been upgrading its prison service through the branch offices (including the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples) across the country, disseminating that the LAF has been fully opened to the prison inmates to apply for assistance in writing, and all types of cases are accepted, not limited to criminal cases. During the COVID-19 outbreak, controls on visiting prisons are stricter than many other places, so as to reduce risks to health at mass gathering. Consequently, very limited visits to detention centers and prisons were allowed. In 2022, the LAF made a total of 315 visits to detention centers and prisons to receive applications for legal aid, to disseminate information about the rule of law and legal aid services, and to provide legal advice on-site.



- ❶ 27 September 2022, dissemination of the rule of law at Kaohsiung Second Prison (Qiaotou Branch)
- ❷ 27 May 2022, dissemination of the rule of law at Hualien Detention Center (Hualien Branch)
- ❸ 20 October 2022, visit to Yilan Prison (Yilan Branch)
- ❹ 8 July 2022, dissemination of the rule of law at Zihciang Minimum-Security Prison (Hualien Branch)
- ❺ 24 June 2022, dissemination of the rule of law at Hualien Detention Center (Hualien Branch)

A Symposium at LAF's 18th Anniversary "The Practices of Litigation Under the Citizen Judges Act"

It has been eighteen years since the establishment of the LAF. For acknowledging all the support to the LAF and also the need to get ready for the citizen judges system commencing in 2023, the LAF held a symposium on "The Practices of Litigation Under the Citizen Judges Act" to celebrate its 18th anniversary. Experts and scholars from the judiciary and academia were invited to discuss trial practices involving the Citizen Judges Act; the Judicial Yuan president Tzong-Li Hsu and the justice minister Ching-Hsiang Tsai delivered remarks at the symposium. The topics covered "The Rules of Evidence and Evidence Investigations in Cases Under the Citizen Judges Act", "The Disclosure of Evidence in Cases Under the Citizen Judges Act", and "The Appellate Proceedings in Cases Under the Citizen Judges Act: The Second and Third Instances".





❶ 4 August 2022, Interdisciplinary Seminar Series “Beyond the Law”, Lecture 83: Discrimination in the Workplace – Attention Please! What You Don’t Know About the Employment Service Act and the Act of Gender Equality in Employment
❷ 25 November 2022, lecture on the rights of indigenous peoples, “Who Are the Indigenous Peoples?” (Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples)

2022 Legal Aid Day

The theme of 2022 Legal Aid Day is “JUMP! Life is an Obstacle Course Racing – The Dissemination Events for Legal Aid for People with Disabilities”. Seminars and activities were held by LAF branch offices (including the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples) in collaboration with social welfare groups. The aims were: to help the LAF frontline workers and legal aid attorneys to be more empathetic with people with disabilities, and to learn how to communicate with people with disabilities; to make available legal resources more accessible for people with disabilities, and for them to gain insights into legal aid; and to make legal aid closer to people with disabilities, thus safeguarding equal access to justice.

❶ 26 August 2022, one-day community service by lawyers, social workers and LAF staff (New Taipei Branch)
❷ 6 September 2022, lecture given by Mr. Xin-Yang Wu at the dissemination event for legal aid for people with disabilities, “JUMP! Life is an Obstacle Course Racing”, on 2022 Legal Aid Day (Yilan Branch)
❸ 26 August 2022, one-day community service by lawyers, social workers and LAF staff (New Taipei Branch)



Interdisciplinary Seminar Series, “Beyond the Law”

Lectures 75 to 87 of “Beyond the Law” seminar series were held in 2022, making a total of 13 sessions. Four sessions were given as podcasts; as to the remaining nine live sessions, podcasts were also recorded. Entitled “FAFU – Beyond the Law”, the podcast recordings were uploaded to popular hosting sites to reach a wider audience. In average, about 522 downloads were reached for every podcast episode.



Hope Is Just Around the Corner: A Video Exhibition of Legal Aid Cases

At the invitation of Taiwan Tainan District Court, the LAF has held a video exhibition of its legal aid cases, “Hope Is Just Around the Corner”, at Tainan Judicial Museum from 16 January 2020 onwards. The exhibition covered cases concerning discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace, and the indigenous people’s fight for land rights. It is hoped that learning from various case stories, people encountering legal issues could get courage to face them. The information about LAF services was also disseminated at the exhibition.



Films, Internets and Publications

Media Relations

In 2022, the ways taken by the LAF to get media exposure included media interviews and press releases. The total of LAF appearance on national news reached 56 times.



❶ Kaohsiung Broadcasting Station: Law in Our Daily Life – Marriage, Family and Inheritance, by Ms. Ping-Ping Xu
❷ Kaohsiung Broadcasting Station: Law in Our Daily Life – Renting Accommodation, by Ms. Li-Fei Qiu
❸ Kaohsiung Broadcasting Station: Law in Our Daily Life – Occupational Safety and Protection of Personal Rights, by Ms. Xin-Yin Chen



Academic Journal: Legal Aid and Society Review

The LAF publishes half-yearly academic journal, *Legal Aid and Society Review*. The aims are to raise academia awareness of the rights of the disadvantaged, and to provide academic reference for the optimization of LAF services and decision-making. This journal, attaching great importance to both theory and practice, embraces not only the study of law but also interdisciplinary research on law, social science, and ethnology (the indigenous peoples). In 2022, the issues of No. 8 and No. 9 were published.



Documentary Film

The 2022 documentary film covers not only general cases, consumer debt clearance cases, and cases concerning people with disabilities, but also the legal issues concerning the indigenous people’s rights to be consulted and to give consent in the case of Shih Fong Hydropower Project. The film is still being shot. It will be advertised on social medias and YouTube.

2021 Annual Report

The works of the LAF in 2021 are recorded in the annual report. The report is issued in Chinese and English, whereas the English version is only available in electronic form, which can be downloaded online.



The LAF Publication

In collaboration with the Covenants Watch, the LAF published the legal aid book series 009, *JUMP! Life is an Obstacle Course Racing*, in April 2002. This book is given as an appreciation gift to the donor (through the link on the LAF website). Besides, the paperback, distributed by the publisher, is available in both physical and online bookstores. An e-book version is available for purchase as well.

e-Newsletter: Give You a Hug

Any person can subscribe the e-newsletter, “Give You a Hug”. The coverage includes feature articles, LAF news, and event news; there is also a column for feature articles published on the LAF website. Thirty articles were published in 2022. Currently, there are 3,122 active subscribers.

Official Website: www.LAF.org.tw

According to Google Analytics, the LAF website received 640,036 visits and 6,682,636 pageviews in 2022.

The LAF on Facebook

As of the end of 2022, the LAF’s Facebook page has received 67,688 “likes”, attracted 72,383 followers, and received 1,000,242 visits.



The LAF on Instagram

The LAF’s Instagram account was created on 16 October 2020. It is hoped that through popular social media sites in Taiwan, the LAF can get closer to the public. As of the end of 2022, the LAF had 1,935 Instagram followers, among them, 53% female and 47% male.

The LAF on YouTube

TV viewing habits of the younger generation have gradually shifted from TV stations to streaming platforms. For adding newer methods of dissemination which could attract wider publicity, the LAF created its YouTube channel in 2010, where promotional videos can be viewed. It is hoped that through YouTube, the public can learn about the LAF’s works and services. In 2022, the LAF’s YouTube channels attracted 385,596 views and 2,346,000 impressions, and there were 11,065 subscribers.



Invitation to participate in the 8th World Congress Against the Death Penalty

At the invitation of Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP), the LAF assigned Ms. Ai-Lun Li, Director of the Staff Attorney’s Office, as its representative to attend the 8th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Berlin in November 2022. Ms. Li’s attendance at the Congress provides an opportunity to gain insight into the latest trends in the international movement to abolish the death penalty, to bring the abolition issues discussed at international level to the attention of people in Taiwan, and to articulate Taiwan’s position on the issue of the death penalty to the world.

This event was held for four days, from 15 to 18 November, covering a range of issues, including the death penalty as a

political tool, the roles and risks of lawyers and journalists in the abolition movement, sexual violence and the death penalty, death row prisoners with mental disabilities, and the relationship between death row prisoners and their lawyers. These discussions provide important insights for the LAF’s future work concerning the judicial procedures for the execution of death sentences.



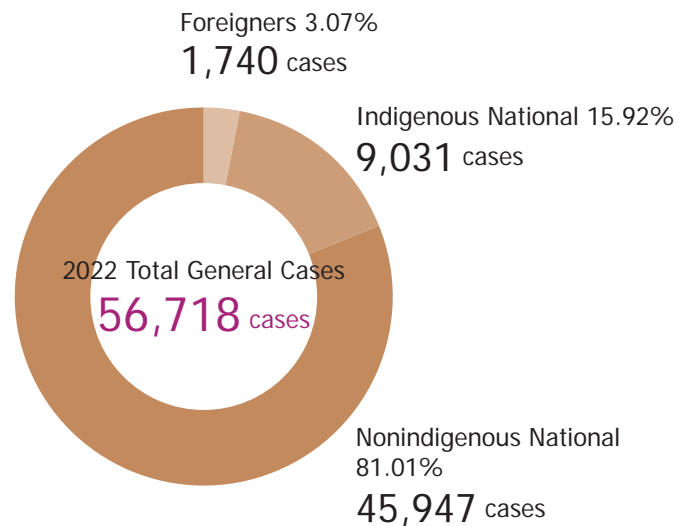
Other international conferences

Due to the pandemic, the conferences planned for 2022, such as the International Forum on Legal Aid, UCL International Conference, and the International Forum on Consumer Debts in East Asia and Meeting of the Victims, were either canceled or postponed.

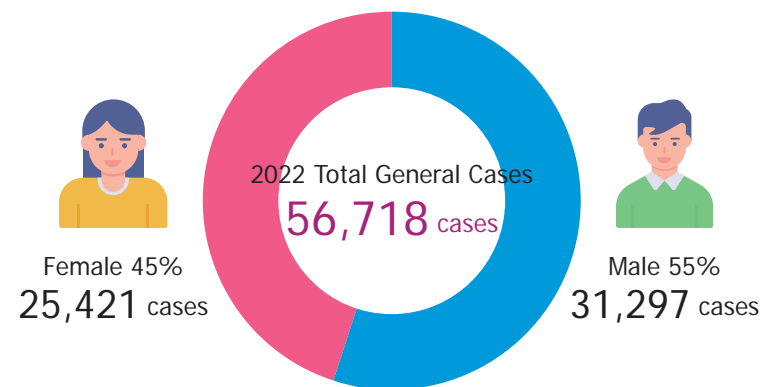
Analysis of Recipients

Analysis by Identity of Recipients

Presented as a percentage of the number of aid recipients in 56,718 general cases in 2022:



Analysis by Gender and Causes of Action



In terms of the four categories of general cases (i.e., criminal, civil, family, and administrative cases): in family cases, female recipients account for 64%, whereas male recipients only 36%; in criminal cases, male recipients account for 66%, whereas female recipients only 34%.

The Ranking of Top Five Causes of Action

	Male	Female
①	Civil – Consumer Debt Clearance Act	Civil – Consumer Debt Clearance Act
②	Criminal – Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act	Civil – tort
③	Criminal – fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury	Criminal – fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury
④	Criminal – assault causing bodily harm	Family – maintenance payments
⑤	Civil – tort	Criminal – assault causing bodily harm

Analysis of Legal Aid to Recipients with Disabilities

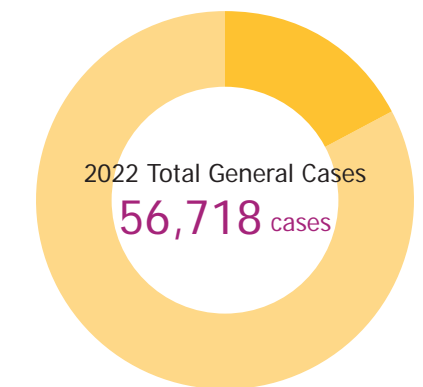
In 2022, among the general cases (excluding legal consultation, attorney attendance at interrogation and commissioned cases), 9,916 cases involved recipients with disabilities, accounting for 17.48%.

Top five types of cases involved recipients with disabilities

①	Criminal – fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury
②	Criminal – theft
③	Civil – tort
④	Criminal – assault causing bodily harm
⑤	Family – maintenance payments

Recipients with Disabilities 17.48%

9,916 cases



Analysis of Legal Aid to Children and Juveniles

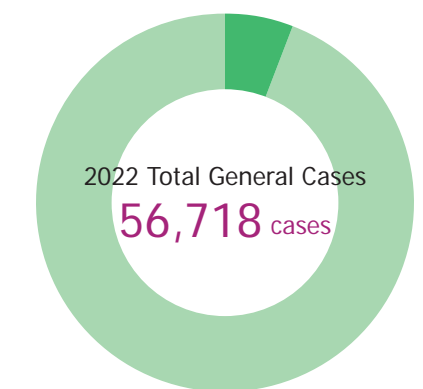
In 2022, among the general cases, 3,340 cases involved child or juvenile recipients, accounting for 5.89%.

Top five types of cases involved children and juveniles

①	Family – maintenance payments
②	Criminal – offenses against sexual autonomy
③	Civil – torts
④	Criminal – assault causing bodily harm
⑤	Criminal – Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act

Child and Juvenile Recipients 5.89%

3,340 cases



Analysis of Legal Aid to Foreign Nationals

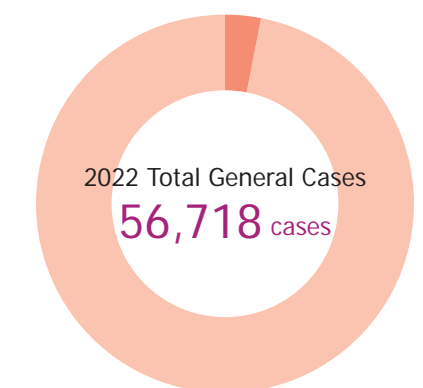
Among the general cases in 2022, 1,740 applications made by foreign nationals were granted for legal representation and defense. In terms of nationality, the majority were Vietnamese (29.71%), Filipino (23.91%), Indonesian (16.49%), Chinese (10.29%), and Thai (6.67%), accounting for 87.07% of the foreign nationals assisted by the LAF.

Top six types of cases involved foreign nationals granted for legal representation and defense

①	Civil – tort
②	Civil – salary dispute
③	Criminal – assault causing bodily harm
④	Criminal – fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury
⑤	Criminal – Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act
⑥	Family – divorce

Recipients of Foreign Nationals 3.07%

1,740 cases



Protection of the Rights of Crime Victims

In order to implement the resolution of the National Conference on Judicial Reform on “Constructing a Criminal Justice System that Upholds the Dignity of Crime Victims” and to provide warm and practical protection to crime victims, the LAF has endeavored to provide assistance to crime victims. The works in 2022 include the following:

1. For being in line with the amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure – namely, ‘Part VII-III. Participation in Proceedings by the Victim’ – the LAF 6th Board of Directors approved the resolution amending Article 3 of LAF Regulations for the Implementation of Legal Aid in its 12th Meeting on 26 February 2020. According to this LAF amendment, crime victims as provided in Article 455-38(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure may be granted assistance from attorneys *ad litem* in court proceedings; the LAF shall persistently request the attorneys *ad litem* to apply for the Participation in Proceedings by the Victim on behalf of the victims, should the victims so wish. Thereupon, the status of crime victims in court proceedings can be improved, and they can be better protected.
2. The LAF has worked in close collaboration with the AVS since 2021. They established a single point of contact and a service referral mechanism. Crime victims who do not meet LAF requirements for legal aid shall be referred to the AVS for assistance; those who meet the requirements but have needs beyond legal aid (e.g., financial or psychological support) will also be referred to the AVS.
3. Collaboration with the AVS to plan and conduct educational as well as training programs, including:
 - ◎ one training session on restorative justice co-organized with a Bar Association, a District Prosecutors Office and the AVS for attorneys to better understand this approach and learn how to practice it;
 - ◎ four sessions on communication in good faith, with the aim to improve the communication skills of legal aid attorneys and to guide the attorneys how to avoid secondary victimization;
 - ◎ two training sessions on legal representation in major criminal cases co-organized with the AVS and the Taipei Bar Association, which is to be in line with the amending of LAF Regulations for the Implementation of Legal Aid. Attorneys and counseling psychologists were invited to share their expertise in how agents *ad litem*, when taking major criminal cases, could assist victims or their families to participate in court proceedings or citizen participation in trials; how to deal with crisis in major criminal cases; and how to improve communication skills, so as to avoid secondary victimization. The aim was to improve the abilities of LAF legal aid attorneys to deal with major criminal cases and their awareness as well as professionalism in protecting the rights of crime victims.
4. The legal consultation helpline for crime victims will be launched in the first quarter of 2023. It is hoped that crime victims can be provided with timely legal consultation services.

Analysis by Financial Eligibility for Legal Aid Application in the General Cases

cases reviewed under LAF criteria of financial ineligibility	19,021	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – low-income household	6,463	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – lower-middle income household	4,709	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – families with specific circumstances	503	Economically Disadvantaged
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – migrant workers	795	52.66%
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – disadvantaged foreign spouses	128	31,619
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – consumer debt clearance	8,864	Specific Projects
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – cases of high social profile	3	14.77%
		8,867
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for people with disabilities	4,068	
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for indigenous peoples	5,686	Specific Groups
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated assistance for juveniles	991	21.52%
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – referred by presiding judge	2,175	12,920
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for felony	6,635	Felony Defense
		11.05%
		6,635

Note: since more than one ground listed in the table can be selected, the sum in the table may exceed the actual total cases (which is 56,718).

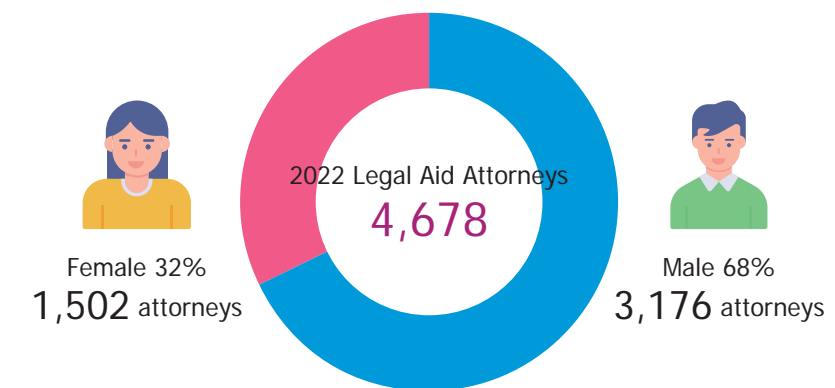
Analysis of Providers

Analysis by Legal Aid Attorneys Taking Cases

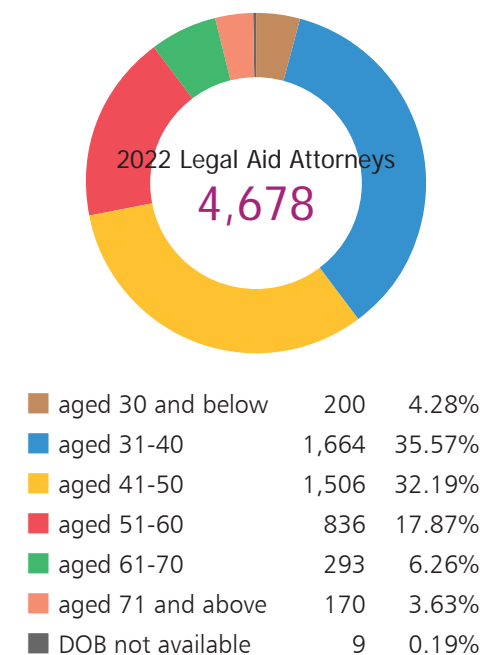
A total of 4,678 lawyers nationwide have served as the LAF legal aid attorneys by 31 December 2022.

	LAF legal aid attorneys	LAF legal aid attorneys who took cases
2020	4,382	3,614
2021	4,560	3,709
2022	4,678	3,850

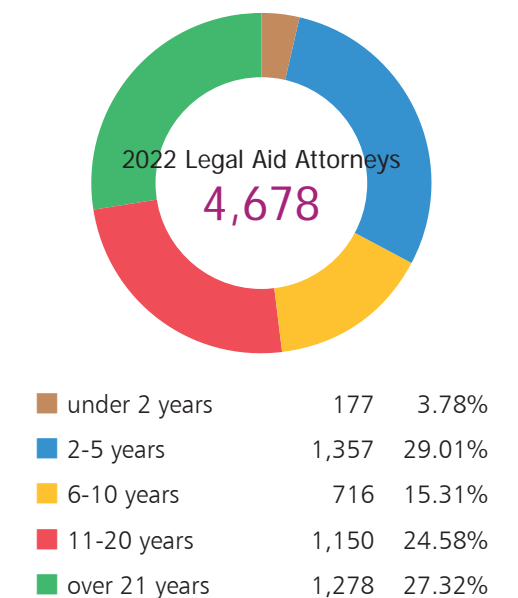
Analysis by Gender



Analysis by Age

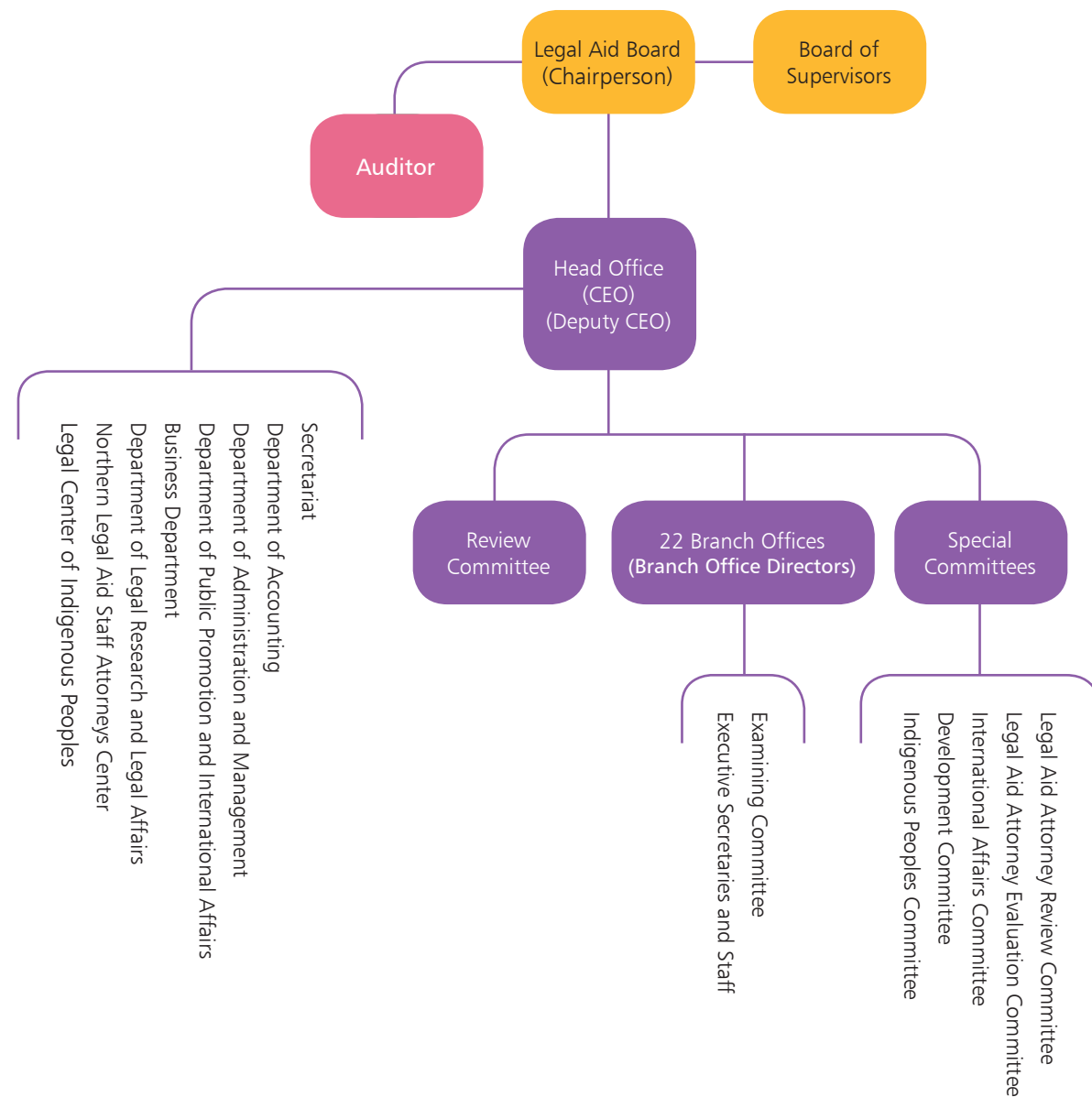


Analysis by Years of Practice



Organization Structure

As of 31 December 2022, LAF employs 287 staff members (including 18 staff attorneys), 33 project personnel, 6 hourly project personnel, and 538 volunteers.



20 April 2022, Handover Ceremony of the Chairmanship



21 October 2022, environmental education and training courses at Taichung Branch (Taichung Branch)



Fire drill at Shilin Branch (Shilin Branch)

LAF Team

Board of Directors

Su Chen Beyue (Chairperson)
Siou-Mei Lyu
Lin-Lin Li
Zhe-Hui Lin
Da-Wei Guan
Yu-Shun Gao
You-Lian Sun
Nai-Yi Sun
Guo-Xun Zhang
Yi-Qing Guo
Zhi-Peng Liu
Qin-Feng Xue
Zhao-Ru Su

Board of Supervisors

Shih-Chin Lu (Managing Supervisors)
Xiu-Rui Tu
Shu-Hua Guo
Chung-Yueh Chang
Shun-Cheng Yang

Special Committees

Development Committee

Ciou-Lan Wang
Shu-Fen Wang
Xi Wang
Wen-Xiang He
Wun-Syong Ruan
Yu-Sheng Lin
Jyun-Jie Lin
Yi-Huei Lin
Wei-Ting Lin
Yi-Ting Hu
Ze-Fang Sun
Hong-Yi Guo
Yapasuyongu Akuyana
Sheng-Bin Chen
Jing-Ning Chen
Si-Hua Teng
Zhu-Ling Zheng
Siou-Ling Siao
Bo-Cang Xie
Shih-Siang Luo

International Affairs Committee

Chih-Kuang Wu
Zong-Sheng Wu
Zhi-Yi Lin
Yong-Song Lin
Yu-Fan Qiu
Yi-Xiang Shi
Bo Tedards
Yi-Sin Sun
Yi-Cing Guo
Yu-Jie Chen
I-Ku Chen
Wei-Hsiang Chen
Chuang-Yueh Chen
Sung-Li Huang
Anthony Carlisle
Li-Chuan Liu Huang
Ching-Yi Liu
Awi Mona
Wen-Lung Chen
Ze-Fang Sun

Legal Aid Attorney Evaluation Committee

Yong-Seng Wang
Han-Wei Chou
Ruei-Hua Fan
Wen-Jia Zhang
Xiu-Qing Chen
Feng-Ling Zeng
Zhu-Ting Yang
Ya-Ying Cai
Ren-Shou Jheng

Legal Aid Attorney Review Committee

Chun-Rong Lin
Guo-Tai Lin
Yu-Shun Lin
Bing-Huei Shih
Jiang-Zhe Zhang
Ya-Fen Xu
Jie-Ru Chen
Wei-Lian Chen
Shi-Tin Liu
Jian-Xing Zhao
Wen-Qi Zeng

Indigenous Peoples Committee

Apu'u Kaaviana
Ciwang Teyra
Kui Kasirisir
Malihan Lhkahihihan
Qidis•Azangiljan
Si Manpang
Sifo Lakaw
Yapit Tali
Hong-Yu Rih
Zhi-Xue Tian
Yi-Fu Wang
San-Yuan Lin
Ting-Huei Hong Jian
Ze-Fang Sun
Cheng-Hao Ma
Jheng-Cih Syu
Ji-Ding Guo
Sa-Yun Du Gu
Zhen-Xiang Pan
Awi Mona

Branch Office Directors

Zhi-Yang Wang (Hsinchu Branch)
Bang-Chao He (Miaoli Branch)
Chao-Biao Shen (Taoyuan Branch)
Yuan-Pei Chou (Qiaotou Branch)
Chun-Hung Lin (Taipei Branch, also serving for Kinmen and Matsu Branches)
Chung-Jen Lin (Yunlin Branch)
Chung-Hung Lin (Keelung Branch)
I-Hui Lin (Nantou Branch)
Guo-Tai Lin (Hualien Branch)
Te-Sheng Lin (Chiayi Branch)
Fen-Ling Chiu (Pingtung Branch)
Wei-Chun Hsu (New Taipei Branch)
Ren-Hao Xu (Taitung Branch)
Zhong-Yi Chen (Changhua Branch)
Ya-Ping Huang (Tainan Branch)
Da-De Yang (Taichung Branch)
Te-Hai Yang (Yilan Branch)
Chung-Cheng Liu (Shilin Branch)
Chun-Cheng Su (Kaohsiung Branch, also serving for Penghu Branch)

Director of Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples

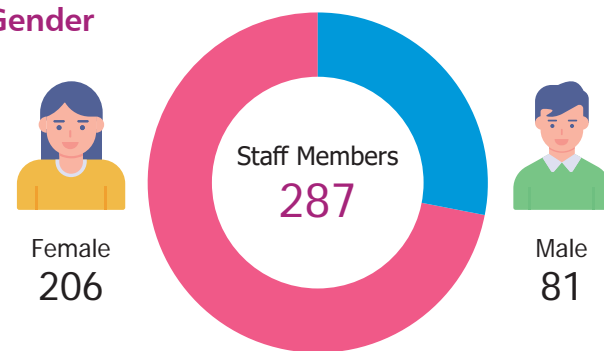
Awi Mona

© The list contains those who were in office on 31 December 31 2022.

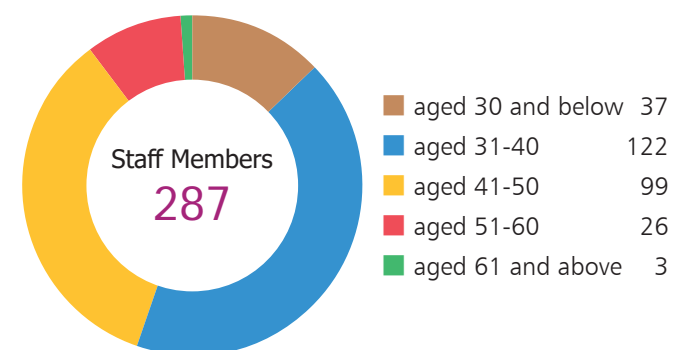
LAF Staff

As of 31 December 2022, LAF employs 287 staff members (including staff attorneys).

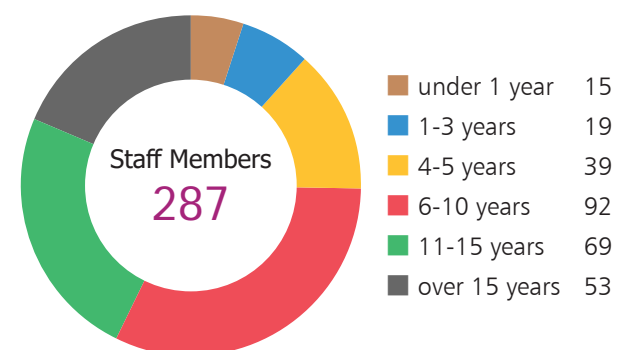
Analysis by Gender



Age Distribution



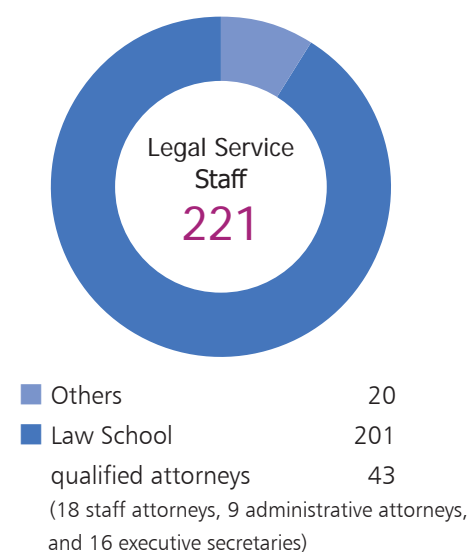
Length of Service



Job Role



Legal Service Staff Backgrounds



LAF Branches	Address	Tel. / Fax / E-mail
Keelung Branch	11F, No. 14, Zhong 1st Road, Ren'ai District, Keelung City 200001, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (02) 2423-1631 / Fax: (02) 2423-1632 E-mail: keelung@laf.org.tw
Taipei Branch	6F, No. 200, Sec. 2, Jinshan S. Road, Da'an District, Taipei City 106406, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (02) 2322-5151 / Fax: (02) 2322-2051 E-mail: taipei@laf.org.tw
Shilin Branch	7-2 F, No. 338, Wenlin Road, Shilin District, Taipei City 111011, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (02) 2882-5266 / Fax: (02) 2882-1200 E-mail: shilin@laf.org.tw
New Taipei Branch	5F., No.12, Sec. 4, Chongxin Road, Sanchong District, New Taipei City 241524, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (02) 2973-7778 / Fax: (02) 2973-7771 E-mail: ntp@laf.org.tw
Taoyuan Branch	12F, No. 110, Fuxing Road, Taoyuan District, Taoyuan City 330046, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (03) 334-6500 / Fax: (03) 334-4451 E-mail: taoyuan@laf.org.tw
Hsinchu Branch	1F, No. 105, Xianzheng 2nd Road, Zhubei City, Hsinchu County 302099, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (03) 525-9882 / Fax: (03) 525-9897 E-mail: hsinchu@laf.org.tw
Miaoli Branch	1F, No. 1097-1, Zhongzheng Road, Miaoli City, Miaoli County 360012, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (037) 368-001 / Fax: (037) 368-007 E-mail: miaoli@laf.org.tw
Taichung Branch	7-A F, No. 497, Zhongming S. Road, West District, Taichung City 403608, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (04) 2372-0091 / Fax: (04) 2372-0582 E-mail: taichung@laf.org.tw
Changhua Branch	2F, No. 36, Zhongzheng Road, Yuanlin City, Changhua County 510005, Taiwan, R.O.C. (Yuanlin Summary Court Building)	Tel.: (04) 837-5882 / Fax: (04) 837-5883 E-mail: changhua@laf.org.tw
Nantou Branch	No. 76, Fuxing Road, Nantou City, Nantou County 540024, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (049) 224-8110 / Fax: (049) 224-6226 E-mail: nantou@laf.org.tw
Yunlin Branch	6F, No. 116, Xinxing Road, Huwei Township, Yunlin County 632004, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (05) 636-4400 / Fax: (05) 636-3850 E-mail: yunlin@laf.org.tw
Chiayi Branch	2F, No. 107, Zhongshan Road, Chiayi City 600008, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (05) 276-3488 / Fax: (05) 276-3400 E-mail: chiayi@laf.org.tw
Tainan Branch	8F, No. 14, Sec. 2, Zhongyi Road, West Central District, Tainan City 700005, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (06) 228-5550 / Fax: (06) 228-2540 E-mail: tainan@laf.org.tw
Kaohsiung Branch	6F., No.25, Zhongzheng 3rd Road, Xinxing District, Kaohsiung City 800301, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (07) 222-2360 / Fax: (07) 222-5230 E-mail: kaohsiung@laf.org.tw
Qiaotou Branch	2F., No.911, Jingwu Road, Qiaotou Dist., Kaohsiung City 825203, Taiwan, R.O.C. (Taiwan Ciaotou District Court)	Tel.: (07) 612-1137 / Fax: (07) 612-1157 E-mail: ciaotou@laf.org.tw
Pingtung Branch	2F, No. 57-1, Bangqiu Road, Pingtung City, Pingtung County 900044, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (08) 751-6798 / Fax: (08) 751-6587 E-mail: pingtung@laf.org.tw
Yilan Branch	No. 351, Erjie Road, Zhenan Village, Wujie Township, Yilan County 268021, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (03) 965-3531 / Fax: (03) 965-3541 E-mail: yilan@laf.org.tw
Hualien Branch	No. 12-1, Shunxing Road, Hualien City 970020, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (03) 822-2128 / Fax: (03) 823-3068 E-mail: hualien@laf.org.tw
Taitung Branch	7F., No. 3, Zhengzhou Street, Taitung City, Taitung County 950234, Taiwan, R.O.C. (Ginza Building, press 8F button for elevator)	Tel.: (089) 361-363 / Fax: (089) 361-153 E-mail: taitung@laf.org.tw
Penghu Branch	No. 100, Zhonghua Road, Magong City, Penghu County 880008, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (06) 927-9952 / Fax: (06) 927-8495 E-mail: penghu@laf.org.tw
Kinmen Branch	No. 174, Minquan Road, Jincheng Township, Kinmen County 893013, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (082) 375-220 / Fax: (082) 375-210 E-mail: kinmen@laf.org.tw
Matsu Branch	No. 14-2, Jieshou Village, Nangan Township, Lienchiang County 209001, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (0836) 26881 / Fax: (0836) 26601 E-mail: matsu@laf.org.tw

Legal Centers of Indigenous Peoples	Address	Tel. / Fax / E-mail
Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples	No. 123, Huaxi Road, Hualien City, Hualien County 970304, Taiwan, R.O.C. (4F, Library of National Dong Hwa University)	Tel.: (03) 850-9917 / Fax: (03) 822-0509 E-mail: indigenous@laf.org.tw
Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples West Office	1F, No. 105, Xianzheng 2nd Road, Zhubei City, Hsinchu County 302099, Taiwan, R.O.C.	Tel.: (03) 525-9882 / Fax: (03) 525-9897 E-mail: hsinchu@laf.org.tw



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Legal Aid Foundation

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