



LAF

年 度 報 告 書

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



P R O F E S S I O N A L · E F F I C I E N T · F L E X I B L E · A P P R O A C H A B L E

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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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), ensuring that underprivileged individuals can access justice through an institutionalized legal aid system. This embodies the spirit of making justice accessible to all.

In accordance with the Legal Aid Act, the LAF is mandated to provide necessary legal assistance to individuals who lack financial means or otherwise cannot access adequate legal protection. Thereupon, every year, the LAF adjust its financial eligibility standards based on the income thresholds for middle-low-income households as defined by the Public Assistance Act, to ensure that the LAF's services remain responsive to evolving socioeconomic conditions. In 2024, the LAF received over 220,000 applications for legal aid, and approved assistance in more than 184,000 cases (including legal consultations and commissioned cases). This reflects the significant societal demand for legal aid services.

Since the implementation of the Citizen Judges Act on 1 January 2023, the LAF assisted 155 parties (including defendants and complainants) involved in citizen judge proceedings in 2024, representing an increase of approximately 57% compared to the 99 persons assisted in 2023. In collaboration with the Taipei Bar Association and other organizations, we published a defense handbook for capital cases in the citizen judge system, *A Pin a Day Is a Groat a Year - Advocating for the Abolition of the Death Penalty*, in January 2024. Using the handbook as a foundation, the LAF held four in-person training sessions across northern, central, southern, and eastern Taiwan that same year to encourage greater participation by legal aid attorneys and strengthen their practical defense skills. Looking ahead to 2025, the LAF plans to produce a 12-hour recorded training series and organize thematic practical workshops. Together with the establishment of the Criminal Defense Center, these efforts aim to expand our capacity to handle legal aid cases. This need is particularly pressing in light of the forthcoming

implementation of Article 5, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 1 of the Citizen Judges Act in 2026, which will broaden the Act's application to encompass all offenses carrying a minimum statutory sentence of ten years' imprisonment, thereby leading to a continued rise in the number of citizen judge cases.

In response to the call for housing justice, and to improve the legal framework governing residential leases and strengthen legal protections for the large population of tenants in Taiwan, the LAF was commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior in 2024, through an administrative contract, to implement the Legal Aid Project for Residential Lease Disputes. This project provides telephone consultations for disputes arising from residential leases or related legal issues. From 1 August to 31 December 2024, the LAF handled 2,145 consultation cases, the majority involving security deposit disputes, early termination of leases by tenants, property repairs, and early lease termination by landlords. In October 2024, the LAF agreed to continue implementing this project in 2025 under the commission of the Ministry of the Interior. In addition to continuing to provide legal consultation by phone, the LAF plans to begin accepting legal aid applications for attorney representation and legal document preparation in the third quarter of 2025. To reduce barriers for residential tenants in accessing legal aid, this project accepts the Ministry of the Interior's rent subsidy approval letter as proof of financial eligibility. Where case reviews determine a genuine need for assistance, legal aid under this project may be granted, thereby helping to safeguard the rights of disadvantaged tenants in residential tenancy relationships.

To safeguard the rights of crime victims, the LAF continued its collaboration with the Association for Victims Support (AVS) in 2024, operating a single-point 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 psychological counseling and other social support).

The LAF also continues to integrate resources from various sectors to organize victim-related training programs. On 23 July 2024, it co-hosted the Workshop on the Protection of Crime Victims' Rights with the AVS and bar associations, addressing topics such as victim impact statements and policies for the prevention and handling of digital sexual violence. Experts and scholars from Taiwan and abroad were invited to share their experiences and insights.

In recognition of the cultural conflicts encountered by Indigenous peoples in contemporary society, and with the objective of enhancing the quality of legal aid services and ensuring the provision of appropriate legal assistance to Indigenous individuals, particularly through the development of multicultural and legal education programs, the LAF in 2024 revised the definition of Indigenous cultural conflict cases within its case management system. It also obtained authorization to access the legal and cultural course video platform developed by National Dong Hwa University, in order to deepen the understanding of Indigenous cultures among LAF staff, legal aid attorneys, and review committee members. On 4 September 2024, the LAF hosted the International Forum on Indigenous Peoples Legal Aid, addressing topics such as Utilization of Natural Resources, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), Indigenous Special Proceedings and Legal Aid, and Transitional Justice Implications of Indigenous Court Reform Proposals.

Following the 14 December 2022 amendments to the Mental Health Act, provisions concerning expert-participation courts are scheduled to come into effect in 2025. Since 2023, the LAF has been gradually developing related legal aid procedures and collaborating closely with relevant agencies, including the courts and the Ministry of Health and Welfare. In 2024, the LAF continued to host training sessions on court proceedings involving involuntary hospitalization of individuals with severe mental illness. A key event was the Mental Health Act Empowerment Training for Expert Participation Courts, co-organized in mid-October with the Judicial Yuan's Judges Academy, bar associations, and Covenants Watch, with the aim of training lead trainers. Also in 2024, the Department of Mental Health under the Ministry of Health and Welfare, acting pursuant to Article 62 of the Mental Health Act as amended on 14 December 2022, entered into consultations with the LAF concerning the delegation of responsibilities for providing legal aid and carrying out reporting functions during the emergency placement period for individuals with severe mental illness. The LAF and the Department are currently engaged in active preparations to implement this arrangement.

In response to the newly added Articles 18-1 to 18-8 of the Juvenile Justice Act, which set out procedures prior to the transfer of a juvenile case to the juvenile court, including investigation, notification, accompaniment, escort, and transfer, the LAF, at its 31st meeting of the 7th Board of Directors on 27 September 2024, resolved to launch the Pre-Transfer Legal Accompaniment

Service for Juvenile Cases. Starting from 1 January 2025, when a juvenile is subject to procedures such as notification, questioning, accompaniment, immediate accompaniment, arrest, escort, or transfer by judicial police officers or judicial polices, or is placed under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the juvenile, their family or friends, social workers, or judicial authorities may apply to the LAF for a lawyer to be present and provide accompaniment.

The LAF has also taken proactive measures to address misleading practices involving so-called "fake legal aid organizations". In one notable case, a former LAF legal aid attorney (who also served as a review committee member) established and participated in an association that falsely operated under the name of "legal aid". The association published misleading advertisements online, attracting individuals facing legal difficulties who mistakenly believed the association was the LAF. The association then referred these individuals to the attorney in question. In response, the LAF, together with the reporting organizations (i.e. the Judicial Reform Foundation and the Victims of Credit Card Debt Self-Help Association) held a joint press conference on 4 March 2022 to clarify that the association was entirely unrelated to the LAF and to inform the public about the official LAF website and the proper procedures for applying for legal aid. Following a thorough investigation, the attorney was found by both the LAF's Legal Aid Attorney Evaluation Committee and Legal Aid Attorney Review Committee to have violated the Attorney Regulation Act, the Code of Ethics for Attorneys, the Regulations on the Promotion of Attorney Services, and the Legal Aid Act. As a result, the LAF terminated the attorney's eligibility to provide legal aid services and referred the matter to the Attorney Disciplinary Committee. The Taipei Bar Association also found the attorney engaged in unethical client solicitation and likewise referred the matter for disciplinary action. In January 2025, the Attorney Disciplinary Committee imposed a three-month suspension from legal practice on the attorney and further required him to complete 12 hours of continuing education in legal ethics at his own expense within one year from the date the decision became final.

As of the end of 2024, 4,790 legal aid attorneys were engaged in the LAF's work. The LAF has adopted several mechanisms to assure its service quality, such as reasonable adjustment of attorney remuneration, regular training for lawyers (such as the training courses in response to the implementation of 2023 amendments to the Constitutional Court Procedure Act), attorney specialization, review on case closure, complaint management, and attorney evaluation.

Public demand for legal aid remains strong. Despite budgetary constraints and growing workloads, the LAF continues to uphold its commitment to serve the underprivileged and to refine the delivery of legal aid.

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

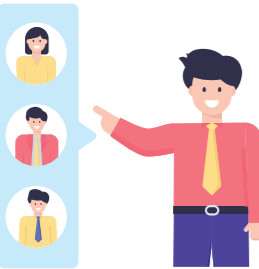
To engage in self-reflection, innovation, and advancement of legal aid system
To make legal aid available throughout Taiwan
To promote the awareness of legal aid
To enhance accessibility to legal aid for the public
To advance the quality of legal aid services
To encourage the participation of lawyers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

Annual Statistics

Total of Legal Aid Cases
(incl. commissioned cases)

65,141

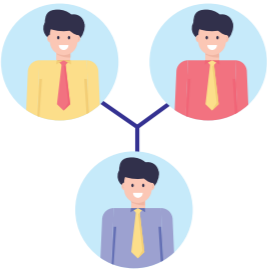
+1,282 vs 2023



Total of Legal Consultation
Applications

119,547

+4,996 vs 2023



Total of Outreach Services and
Dissemination Events

1,826

same as 2023



Total of Legal Aid Attorneys

4,790

+40 vs 2023



Facebook Fan Page Followers

86,091

+4,285 vs 2023



Annual Website Visits

672,534

Annual Website Page Views

3,379,300



* The LAF official website underwent a layout redesign and was relaunched on 26 April 2024. Due to changes in the website structure and the underlying basis for data tracking, comparisons with 2023 data are not applicable.

Average Expense Per Capita

68.2
to sustain the LAF's operations



Annual Expenditures

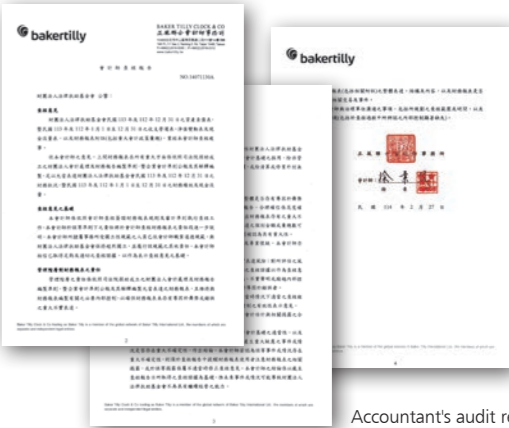
2024 / TWD 1,596,652,567
2023 / TWD 1,534,693,760

+TWD 61,958,807 vs 2023

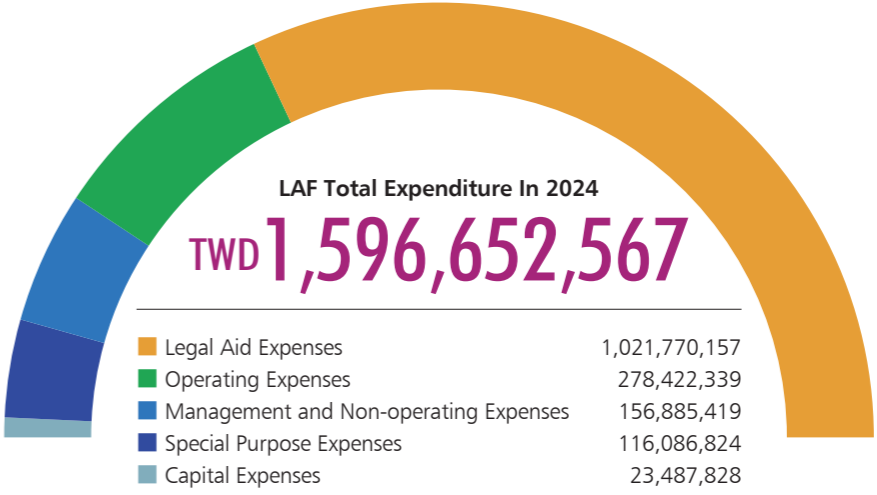
Annual Financial Statistics

The accounting system of the LAF observes the calendar year. The 2024 financial report was audited by an independent local CPA firm, which issued a report without any reservation attached.

In 2024, the LAF's total income was TWD 1,574,124,059; the total expenditure excluding capital expenses was TWD 1,573,164,739, and the capital expenses were TWD 23,487,828.

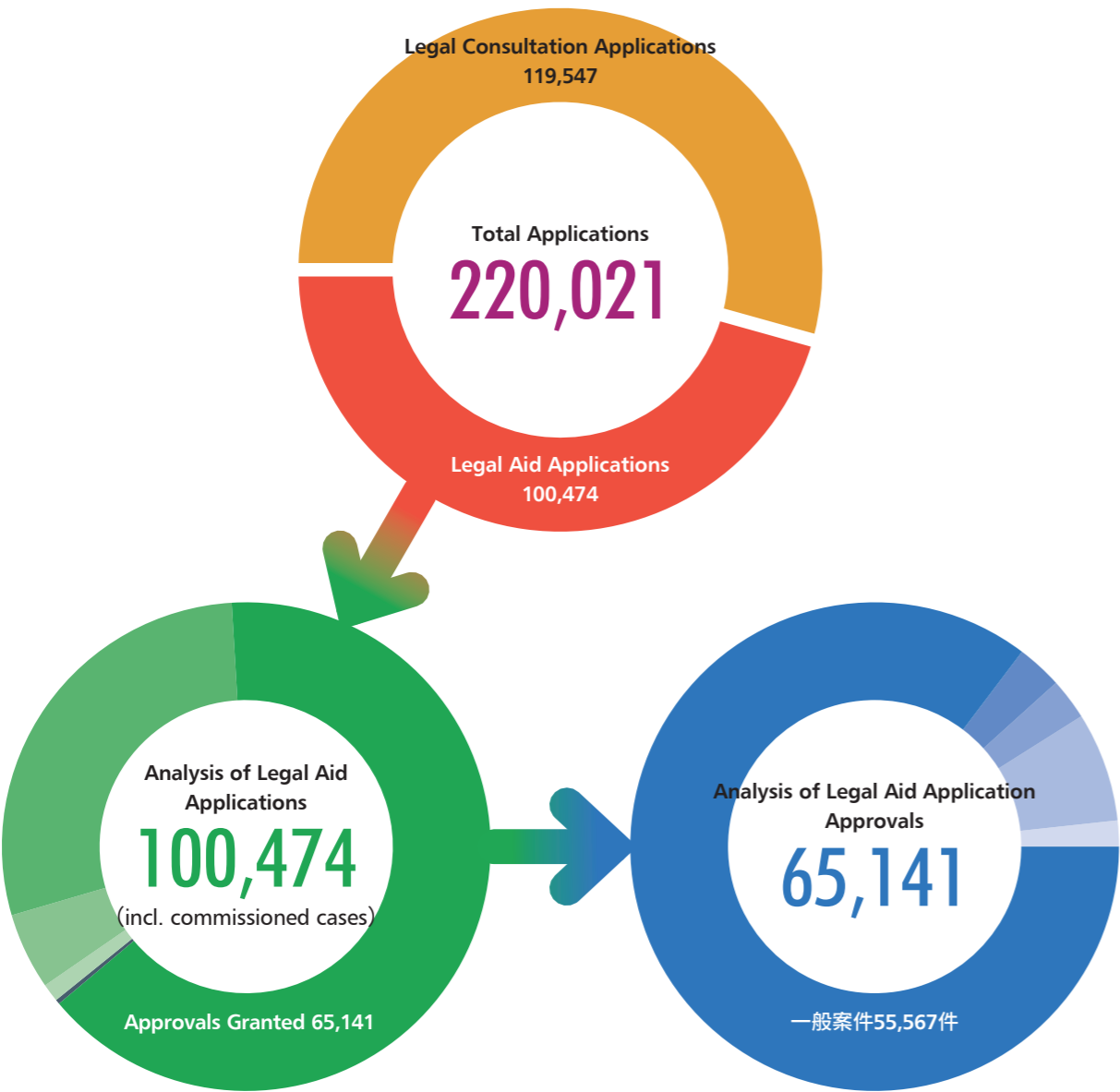


Accountant's audit report



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



In 2024, there were 100,474 applications for legal aid (incl. commissioned cases).

Approvals Granted	65,141
Rejections	28,723
Withdrawals	5,101
Review decisions pending	1,204
Reconsideration decisions pending	305

A total of 65,141 applications were granted approval.

General Cases	55,567
Cases commissioned by the Council of Indigenous Peoples	1,957
Cases commissioned by the Ministry of Labor	1,780
Attorney attendance at interrogation	4,716
Cases commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare	1,107
Cases under Habeas Corpus Act	14

Total of Annual Applications
(incl. legal consultation applications)

220,021



Total of Legal Consultation Applications

119,547



Total of Approvals
(incl. projects and commissions)

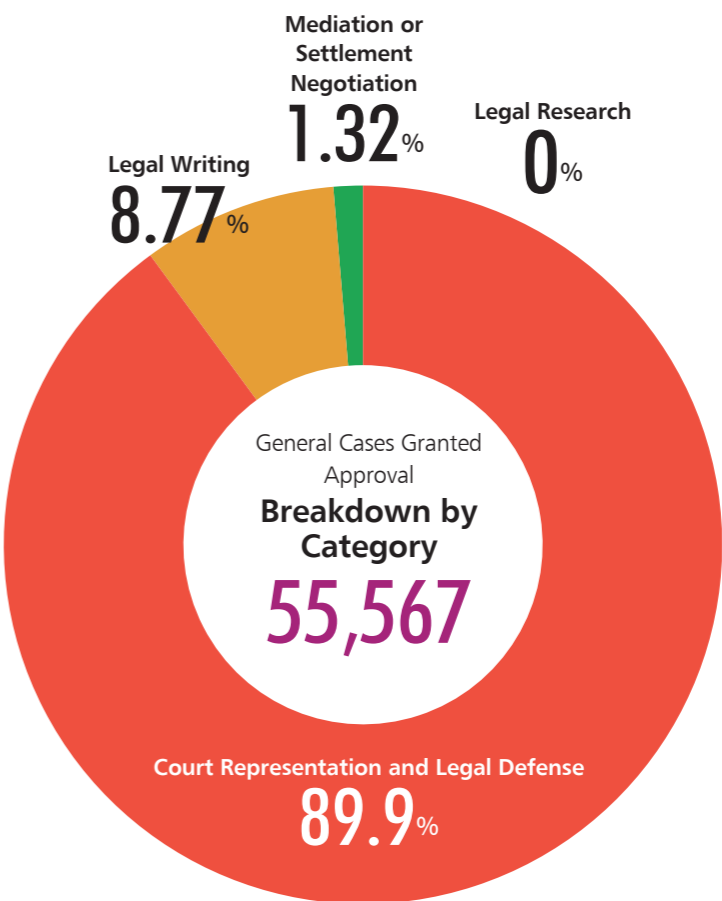
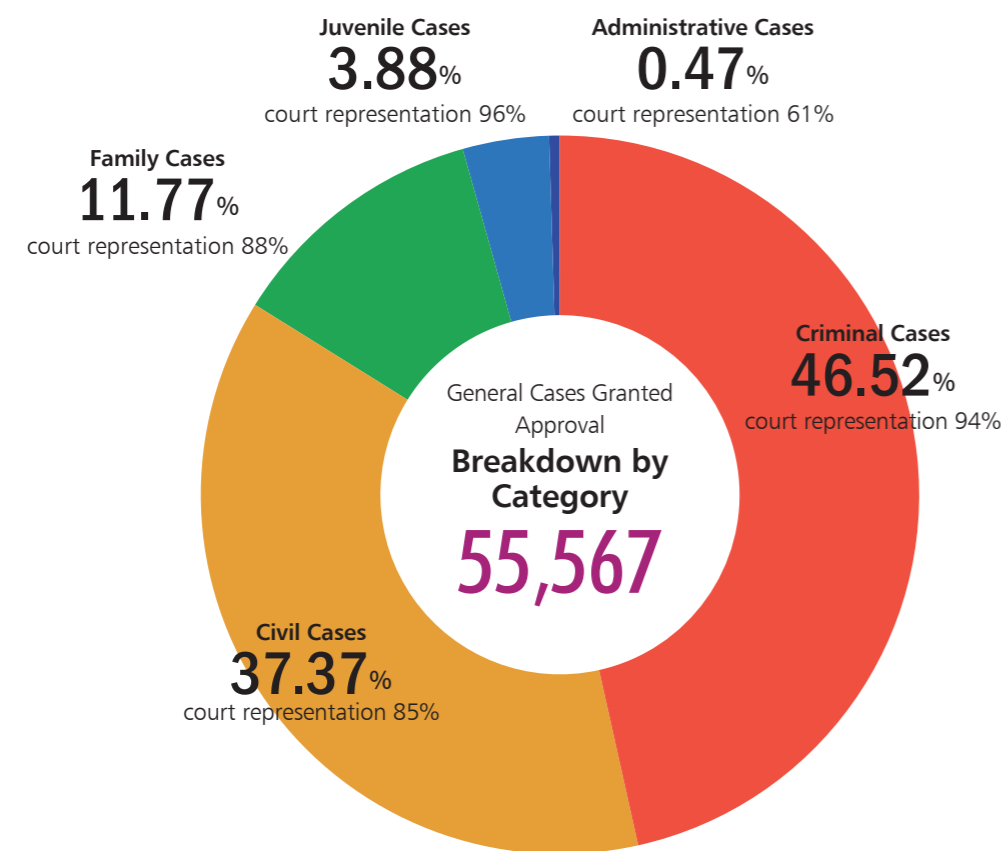
65,141



Comparison of Key Business Indicators Over the Past Three Years

	2022	2023	2024
Total of Annual Applications	189,809	212,600 (+22,791)	220,021(+7,421)
Total of Legal Consultations	93,000	114,551 (+21,551)	119,547(+4,996)
Total of Approvals (incl. projects and commissions)	65,693	63,859 (-1,834)	65,141(+1282)
Total of General Cases	56,718	55,890 (-828)	55,567(-323)

Analysis of Legal Aid Cases by Category



General Cases Granted Approval

Top Five Causes of Action (Arrow symbols↑↓ indicate changes in the ranking of causes of action, compared to 2023.)

Criminal Cases		Civil Cases		Family Cases		Juvenile Cases		Administrative Cases	
Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury	5,917	The Consumer Debt Clearance Statute	12,220	Maintenance Payment	3,082	Offenses Against Sexual Autonomy	662	Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act	26
Assault Causing Bodily Harm	3,632	Tort	4,632	Divorce	897	Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act	↑290	Public Assistance Act	↑15
Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act	3,256	Loans for Consumption	833	Parental Rights	579	Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury	259	The Indigenous Peoples Basic Law	↑15
Money Laundering Control Act	↑2,106	Ownership	367	Child Custody	424	Assault Causing Bodily Harm	256	Prison Act	↓12
Offenses of Larceny	↓1,853	Salary Dispute	347	Guardianship/ Assistance Order	↑351	Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act	↓201	Labor Insurance Act	↑11



4,127 letters of guarantee issued to aid recipients guarantee bonds over TWD 26 billion as of 31 December 2024

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 2024, has issued a total of 4,127 letters of guarantee, with a total of over TWD 2.6 billion. Among them, 3,661 letters of guarantee were retrievable and 3,518 of which have been retrieved, with a retrieval rate at 96.09%.



Multiple Access to Legal Consultation

Expanding Video Consultation Access
Broadening Telephone Legal Services

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 2024, the LAF received 119,547 applications for legal consultation.

	2022	2023	2024
In-Person Legal Consultation	63,633 visits	67,950 visits	66,944 visits
Legal Consultation Helpline <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Helpline for General Consultation● Helpline for Supporters● Helpline for Crime Victims● Helpline for People with Disabilities (Program Commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare)● Helpline for Tenant (program commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior – launched in August 2024)	26,998 calls	41,828 calls	46,717 calls
Video Legal Consultation	260 stations 2,369 calls	295 stations 4,773 calls	327 stations 5,886 calls



Top Five Types of Civil, Family, and Criminal Case Inquiries by the General Public via Telephone Legal Consultation in 2024 (Arrow symbols↑↓indicate changes in the ranking of case types within each category, compared to 2023.)

	Civil Cases	Family Cases	Criminal Cases	Administrative cases	Juvenile Cases
Case Categories by Percentage	54.10%	22.97%	20.46%	1.95%	0.52%
Most Frequently Inquired	The Consumer Debt Clearance Statute	Inheritance	Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury	Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act	Offenses of Fraudulence, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury↑
2 nd Most Frequently Inquired	Tort	Divorce	Assault Causing Bodily Harm	Labor Standards Act	Child and Youth Sexual Exploitation Prevention Act↓
3 rd Most Frequently Inquired	Loans	Maintenance	Offenses Against Reputation and Credit	Public Assistance Act↑	Offenses Against Sexual Autonomy ↑
4 th Most Frequently Inquired	Leasing	Guardianship/ Assistance Order	Larceny	Prison Act ↑	Assault Causing Bodily Harm↓
5 th Most Frequently Inquired	Ownership	Parental Rights	Offense of Illegal Detention↑	Household Registration Act	The Protection of Children and Youths Welfare and Rights Act↓



Attorney Attendance at interrogation

Interrogated For the First Time?
No Fear, A Lawyer Will Be with You!

Whom We Serve

A suspect accused of a crime punishable for not less than three years of imprisonment can apply to the LAF for the assignment of an attorney to attend the first interrogation with them. This service is provided free of charge. (Applications can be made through the police or by directly contacting the LAF’s dedicated helpline at 02-2559-2119, available year-round.)

Whereas the aforementioned service shall not be limited to felonies, should the defendant or criminal suspect have one of the following conditions:

- is not able to make a full statement due to physical or mental disabilities;
- has indigenous status.

If they have not assigned a defense attorney during the investigation, the prosecutorial or police authorities must, by law, notify the LAF to assign an attorney to be present during the interrogation.

Statistical Breakdown of Attorney Presence During Interrogation

Of the 4,974 applications for this service in 2024, 197 did not meet the eligibility criteria, and 61 were withdrawn after submission. A total of 4,716 cases qualified for attorney assignment. Out of these, 4,639 cases were successfully assigned an attorney by the LAF, resulting in a success rate of 98.37% for case assignments.

Attorney Presence During Interrogation Over the Past Three Years

Year	Caseload	Success Rate of Case Assignment
2022	3,720	99.07%
2023	4,007	98.57%
2024	4,639	98.37%

In 2024, a total of 24,181 cases involved individuals who declined legal representation during police interrogation at the time of initial contact. Of these, 20,752 cases (85.82%) related to misdemeanors punishable for less than three years of imprisonment; the top three offence categories in these cases

were fraudulence, public safety violations (e.g., drunk driving, unsafe driving, and hit-and-run offences), and offenses of larceny.

Timely Review of the Services Scope in Response to Regulatory Amendments

In response to the Constitutional Court Judgment No. 8 of 2024 (hereafter referred to as “Judgment No. 8”), and to ensure that criminal procedures listed under Paragraph 1 of the Judgment adhere to the Constitution’s strictest standards of due process, the LAF will adjust its legal aid policy accordingly. Effective 1 January 2025, for defendants or criminal suspects involved in cases covered under Paragraph 1 of Judgment No. 8, if no defence counsel has been retained during the investigation stage, they may apply for the LAF to assign an attorney to accompany them during police interrogations—not limited to the first interrogation.

Revising the Procedure for Confirming Voluntary Waiver and Collaborating with Relevant Authorities in Dissemination Activities

In practice, many individuals decline LAF legal representation during police interrogation for various reasons—such as having retained private counsel, believing their case to be straightforward and manageable without legal assistance, or being reluctant to wait for an attorney to be present. These individuals often choose to waive their right to legal representation at the outset. To ensure that such waivers are made voluntarily and with full understanding, the LAF has revised its standard operating procedures for client service personnel. Under the new procedures, the LAF requests that prosecutorial and police authorities facilitate direct phone communication between the suspect and our client service staff. During these calls, not only is the suspect’s intention to waive legal representation reconfirmed, but they are also provided with key information about their rights—such as the right not to make statements against their will.

The LAF will continue to carry out public education campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of having legal counsel present during interrogations. Additionally, formal communications will be issued to the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency, urging them to actively remind their respective agencies of the duty to inform defendants and criminal suspects of their right to request LAF legal representation prior to any police questioning or interrogation, thereby safeguarding the rights of the public.

Reviewing Attorney Remuneration to Support Recruitment for Attorney Attendance at Interrogation

Under the current system of operations, the coordination of legal representation during interrogation is managed through a contracted call center. When a request for such representation arises, the center contacts attorneys listed in the LAF’s regularly updated roster to confirm their availability. In 2024, the success rate of case assignment reached 98.37%. In addition to ongoing efforts to recruit more attorneys who may provide this service in regions where legal resources are scarce, the LAF has begun reviewing the overall remuneration scheme for such representation. It is hoped that, once the revised remuneration plan is approved in 2025, it will lead to a meaningful increase in attorneys’ willingness to join the on-call rotation system.

Legal Aid Project: Consumer Debt Clearance

Specialist Attorneys Provide Professional Assistance in Consumer Debt Clearance Cases!



Assistance in 2024

12,220cases



Approval Rate

87.7%



Specialist Attorneys in Consumer Debt Clearance

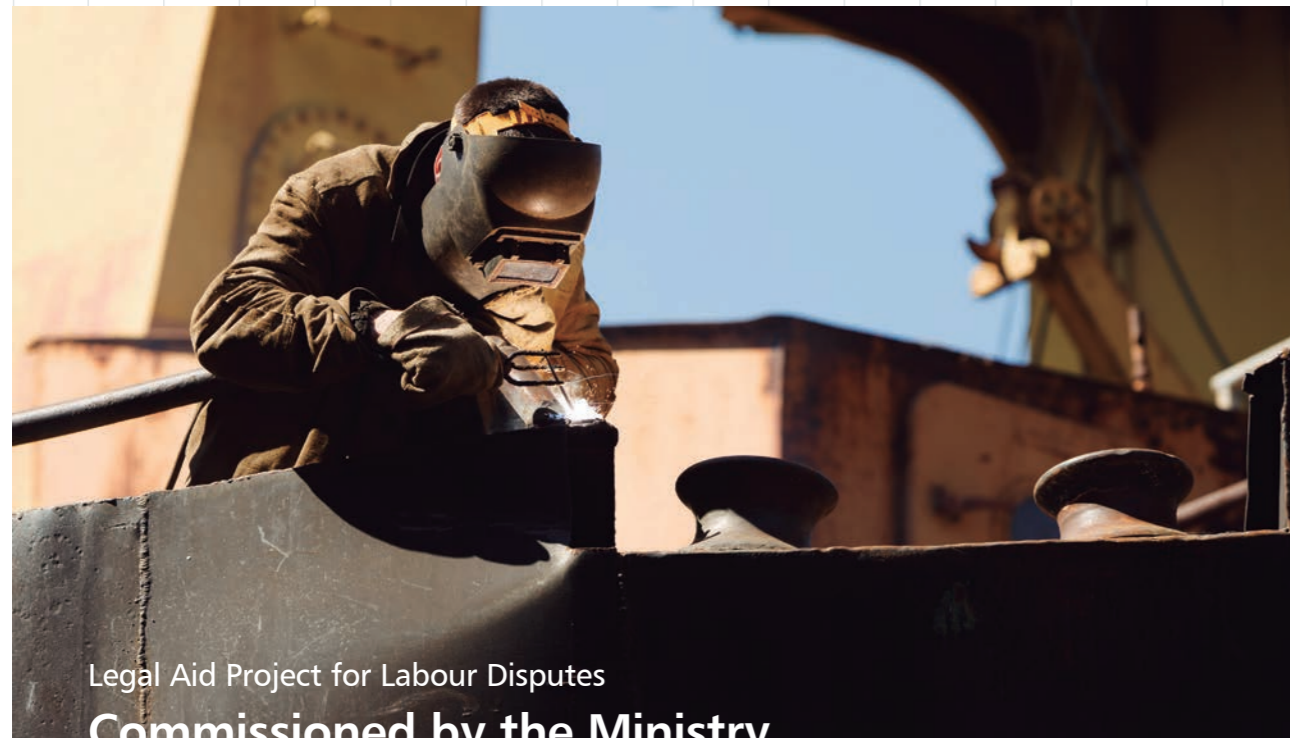
851attorneys

In terms of case closure statistics, the LAF resolved a total of 5,677 consumer debt clearance cases in 2024. Among these:

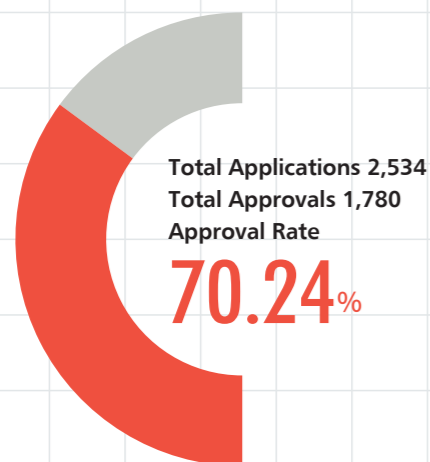
Case Resolution Type	Number of Cases	Resolution Rate
mediation or negotiation	1,754	30.9%
court-approved rehabilitation plan	1,849	32.57%
court-decreed exoneration of liquidation, and rights been restored	652	11.48%
favorable outcome	4,255	74.95%

Caseload of Legal Aid in Consumer Debt Clearance Over the Past Three Years

Year	Caseload
2022	8,809
2023	10,142
2024	12,220



Legal Aid Project for Labour Disputes Commissioned by the Ministry of Labor



The LAF has been collaborating with the Ministry of Labor in the Legal Aid Project for Labour Disputes 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 predominantly concerned civil affairs, accounting for 97.87% of the application total.

Most of these applications were granted aid in legal representation and defense, with the main issues involving severance pay, wage payment, unlawful dismissal, occupational accidents, and labor-management insurance disputes.

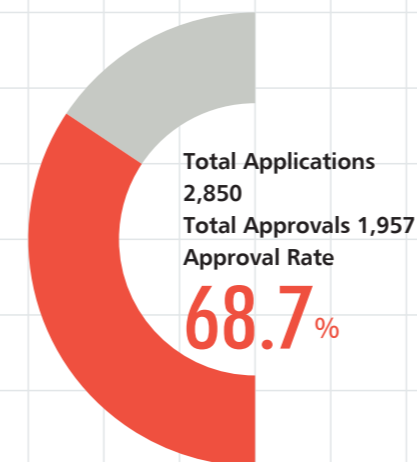
Caseload of The Labor Project Over the Past Three Years

Year	Caseload
2022	3,382
2023	1,740
2024	1,780



- ① September 4, 2024 International Forum on Legal Aid for Indigenous Peoples
- ② August 31, 2024 Setting up a stall for legal consultation at the 113th Xizhou Tribe Harvest Festival (Taipei Branch)
- ③ June 22, 2024 Participating in the Metropolitan Indigenous Peoples Games Booth Promotion Activities (Kaohsiung Branch)
- ④ April 28, 2024 Nanshan Cultural and Construction Station - Legal Education Promotion (Yilan Branch)
- ⑤ June 14, 2024 Meiyuan Tribe Life Law Lecture in Xinsheng Village, Ren'ai Township - Lawyer He Xiangru (Nantou Branch)

Commissioned by the Council of Indigenous Peoples Legal Services Project 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 Services Project 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 CIP predominantly concerned civil cases, accounting for 59.38% of the application total; and secondly family cases, accounting for 24.63%.

Most of these applications were granted aid in legal representation and defense.

The top three types of cases granted legal aid were torts, ownership disputes, and maintenance payment.

In November 2024, the LAF signed an agreement with National Dong Hwa University to obtain authorization for access to its video platform featuring legal and cultural courses on Indigenous issues. These resources are available to legal aid attorneys, review committee members, and staff, with the aim of deepening understanding through real-life case studies that highlight the cultural conflicts Indigenous peoples face in contemporary society. This initiative is intended to further improve the quality of legal aid services.

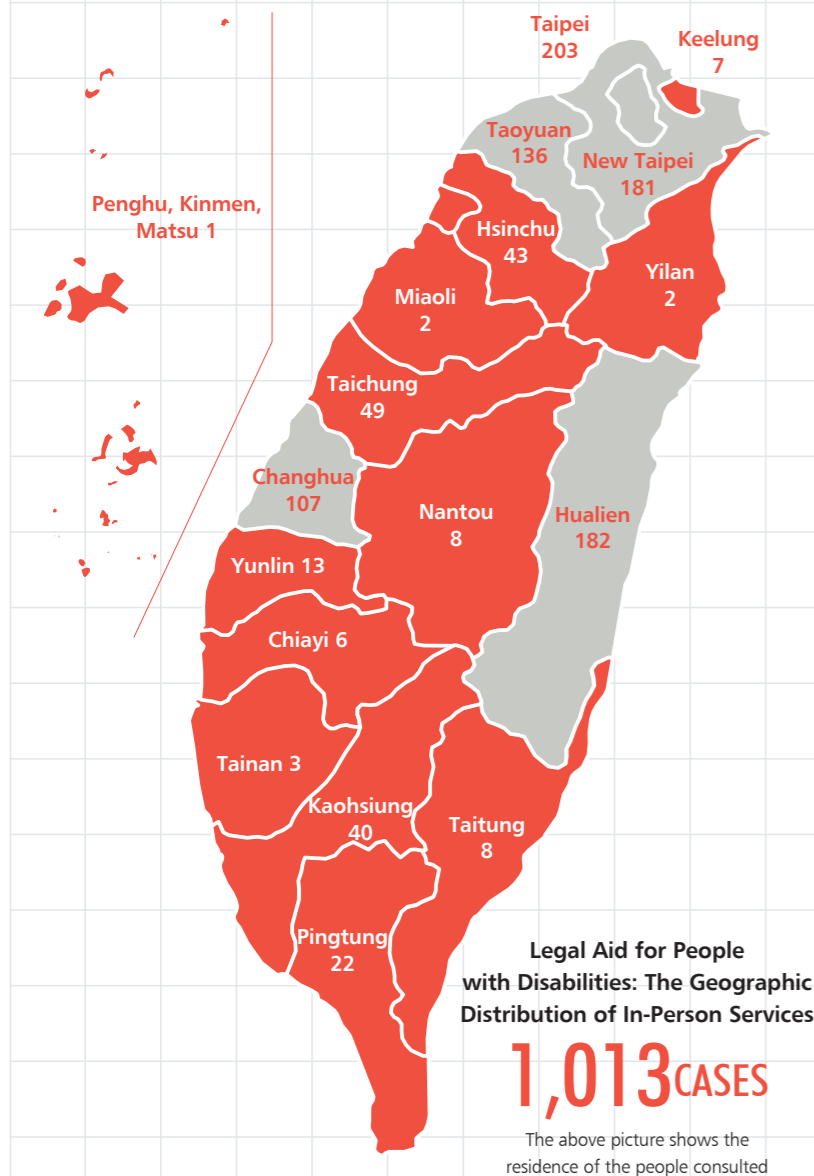
The LAF has also enhanced the review function within its case management system. As of 28 June 2024, when an applicant is identified as Indigenous and the case falls within one of 85 designated case types involving Indigenous cultural conflict, the system will automatically classify the matter as involving Indigenous cultural issues.

Caseload of The Indigenous Project Over the Past Three Years

Year	Caseload
2022	1,654
2023	1,752
2024	1,957



Commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare Legal Aid Project for Persons with Disabilities



Commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the LAF has taken charge of the Legal Aid Project for Persons 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.

The LAF actively improves both software and hardware facilities, including its website and promotional materials, and upgrade of branch accessibility facilities. For the deaf community, LINE@ service is provided. When applying for lawyer assistance or legal consultation, users can use LINE to book sign language interpreters or transcription services, enhancing the accessibility of legal aid for people with disabilities.

Legal Consulting Services

- Service Helpline:** 7,320 consultations made through the helpline. Helpline: 412-8518 (After connected, press “2” for Telephone Consultation, and then press “2” again for Legal Consultation for People with Disabilities.)
- In-Person Service:** 1,113 consultations in total
 By 2024, the LAF has set up 44 help desks with accessibility facilities across the country (except Yilan and Matsu). Accessible communications, such as sign language interpretation 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:** 針 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 2024, there were 85 applications of home visit service, of which 38 applications were eligible for the service. Of the eligible applications, 32 consultation cases were made at medical institutions and 6 cases at the applicant’s residence.

- Video Conferencing Service:** 本 The LAF has established 292 video consultation stations nationwide and provides online appointment-based video consultation services. These services allow individuals with mobility challenges and those living in remote areas to connect with the lawyers serving at the LAF’s telephone legal consultation center for real-time legal advice. This helps bridge the gap in legal resource accessibility caused by transportation barriers in rural and remote regions.

In 2024, a total of 355 persons with disabilities used the video legal consultation service. The highest number of consultations took place in Yilan (80 cases), followed by Taitung and Taoyuan (52 cases each).

Representation in Litigation, Defence, and Legal Document Preparation

In 2024, a total of 2,424 applications were submitted for these services. Of these, 1,107 cases were approved for legal aid, representing an approval rate of 45.67%, a significant increase of 16 percentage points compared to the previous year’s rate of 29.08%.

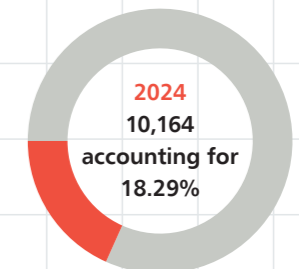
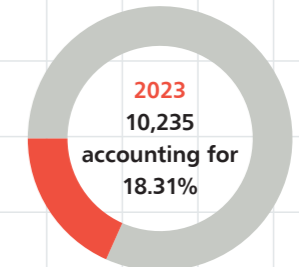
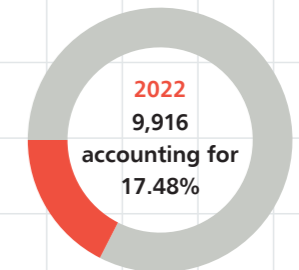
By case type, civil cases comprised the largest share at 42.55%, followed by criminal cases at 38.93%. The most common issues involved tort claims, assault causing bodily harm, and offenses of fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury.

Caseload of LAF Assistance in Legal Representation, Defense and Writing for Persons with Disabilities Over the Past Three Years

Year	Caseload
2022	169
2023	401
2024	1,107

Caseload of Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Over the Past Three Years

(excl. the commissioned cases)





Commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior
Legal Aid Project for Residential Lease Disputes

In view of the fact that tenants in current residential leasing relationships are often at a disadvantage during contract negotiations—due to their limited financial resources and immediate housing needs—and further recognizing that when leasing disputes arise, tenants are often constrained by unfavorable lease terms and may be unable to seek timely legal assistance, resulting in the infringement of their rights, the Ministry of the Interior commissioned the LAF to implement the Legal Aid Project for Residential Lease Disputes (hereinafter referred to as the “MOI Project”). This project aims to provide legal aid for common residential leasing disputes—such as early termination of leases, improper deductions from security deposits or wrongful imposition of penalties, disputes arising from property repairs, and other legal conflicts related to residential leases. It specifically assists tenants unable to resolve their disputes through administrative mediation by supporting them in court mediation, litigation, provisional remedies, payment orders, enforcement proceedings, or arbitration processes to protect their lawful leasing rights.

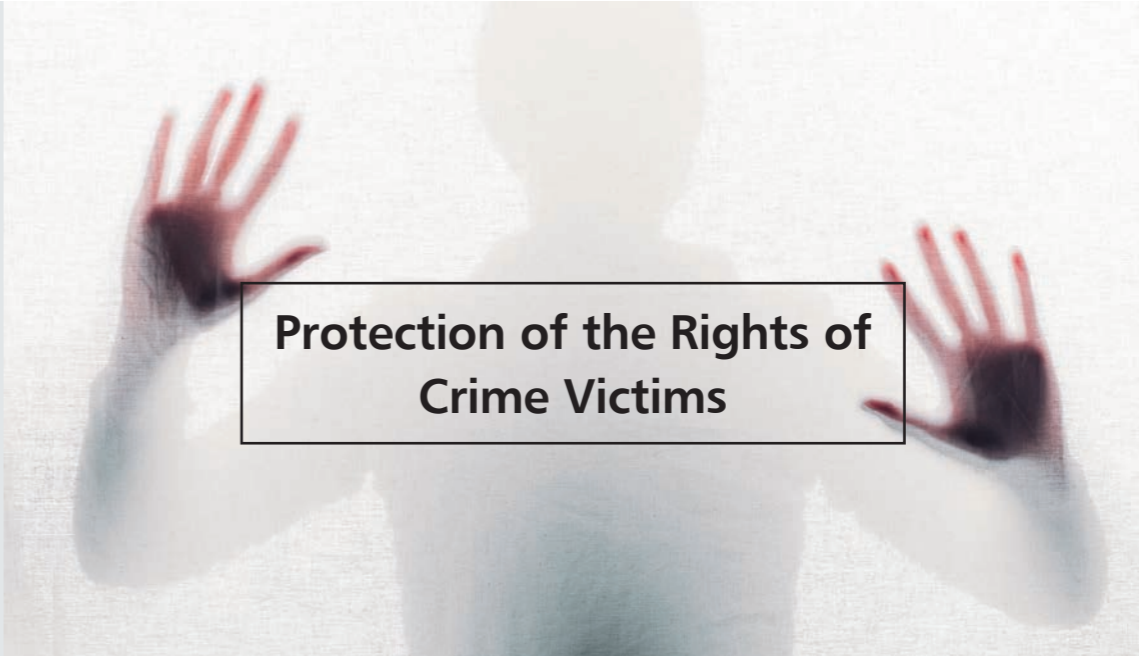
The MOI Project delivers legal aid through two primary services: legal consultations, and representation in legal proceedings as well as the drafting of legal documents. Implementation is divided into two phases: beginning on 1 August 2024, the LAF launched the Tenant Helpline for Lease Disputes through its Telephone Legal Consultation Center, where consulting attorneys provide real-time legal advice via telephone; beginning in the third quarter of 2025, it is scheduled to include attorney representation and legal document drafting services.

Tenant Helpline for Lease Disputes

Operated by LAF’s Telephone Legal Consultation Center, this helpline offered specialized legal aid services through telephone consultations. Between 1 August and 31 December 2024, a total of 2,145 consultations were provided. The most common issues addressed included disputes over security deposits, early lease termination by tenants, property repairs, and early lease termination by landlords.

Future Outlook

In 2025, the LAF will continue to implement the Legal Aid Project for Residential Lease Disputes commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior. In addition to maintaining the telephone consultation services, the LAF plans to start accepting applications for attorney representation and legal document drafting in the third quarter of 2025 (the precise launch date will be finalized through discussions with the Ministry of the Interior). To reduce barriers to accessing legal aid, tenants holding an official rent subsidy approval letter issued by the competent authority will be exempt from submitting additional financial documentation for means testing. If the case is deemed eligible, legal aid will be granted according to the project’s specific standards. Through these efforts, the LAF aims to strengthen the protection of tenants’ rights within residential leasing relationships and enhance equitable access to legal aid services.



Protection of the Rights of Crime Victims

To implement the resolutions of the National Conference on Judicial Reform regarding the Establishment of a Criminal Justice System that Upholds the Dignity of Victims and to provide victims with compassionate and practical protection, the LAF’s efforts to assist crime victims in 2024 are outlined as follows:

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’s 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. Under the revised regulations, victims of crimes listed in Article 455-38(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure may be granted assistance for legal representation in court proceedings. Furthermore, the LAF continues to require that legal aid attorneys providing representation during trial proceedings must, based on the victim’s wishes, assist in applying for victim participation in the proceedings, thereby strengthening the standing of crime victims in court and providing them with more comprehensive protection.

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 the LAF’s eligibility criteria for legal aid are referred to the AVS for assistance; those who qualify for legal aid but have needs beyond legal support (such as financial or psychological support) are also be referred to the AVS for further help. In 2024, the AVS referred a total of 84 legal aid applications to the LAF, while the LAF referred 35 cases to the AVS.

3. The LAF and the AVS jointly planned and organized international conferences and training programs, including:

(1) On 23 July 2024, the LAF, together with the AVS and the Bar Association, co-hosted the Workshop on the Protection of Crime Victims’ Rights. The event invited

international experts as well as Taiwanese lawyers, professors, and prosecutors to serve as speakers, sharing their research findings and practical experiences.

(2) To enhance legal aid attorneys’ understanding and application of restorative justice, the LAF, in collaboration with the Bar Association, local district prosecutors’ offices, and the AVS, co-organized a restorative justice training session for lawyers.

(3) In preparation for the implementation of the citizen judge system, the LAF co-hosted two training sessions with the AVS for attorneys on legal representation in cases with citizen participation. This training aimed to equip legal aid attorneys with the skills necessary to assist plaintiffs in participating in trial proceedings and effectively express their opinions. Prosecutors, judges and lawyers were invited as instructors to share their practical experiences and case-handling techniques, enabling legal aid attorneys to quickly grasp key aspects of the proceedings and effectively safeguard the litigation rights of victims in citizen judge cases.

(4) In response to amendments to the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act, and in order to enhance the understanding of legal aid attorneys regarding the revised victim rights, three introductory courses on the amendments to the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act were held, along with one hands-on session on victim participation in legal proceedings.

4. The LAF launched a new service on 1 February 2023 - the Legal Consultation Helpline for Crime Victims. This service is available to victims of crimes and their families, regardless of their status or background, to provide legal consultations. The aim is to help alleviate the legal difficulties they face through these consultations. In 2024, the helpline handled 3,562 cases.

Cases of High Social Profile: The Status in 2024

Workers Group Class Action Against RCA Taiwan for Pollution

Status in 2024

Regarding the Taiwan High Court’s judgment rendered on 1 March 2020, awarding compensation of TWD 54.7 million to 24 plaintiffs and dismissing the claims of the remaining 222 plaintiffs, both parties filed appeals to the Supreme Court on the unfavorable parts of the ruling. The Supreme Court held oral arguments on 27 January 2022, and issued its judgment on 11 March 2022. The Supreme Court found that a general causal relationship between exposure and the development of certain diseases should not be limited to studies or reports from agencies such as IARC. If victims experience fear or anxiety about potential future illnesses that constitute a reasonable and normal psychological reaction from an objective perspective, it is deemed a violation of their mental health rights. Furthermore, even if the impact does not reach the threshold of harming physical or mental health, it may still constitute an infringement on bodily autonomy. On these grounds, the Supreme Court overturned the unfavorable part of the retrial judgment that dismissed the RCA Care Association’s claims and remanded the case to the Taiwan High Court for further proceedings. With the assistance of LAF staff attorneys, the designated plaintiffs in the aforementioned judgment of 1 March 2020 have successfully received compensation through the RCA Care Association.

Following the remand, the Taiwan High Court summoned expert witnesses nominated by both parties to testify. Oral arguments concluded on 25 September 2024, and the court scheduled judgment for 15 January 2025.

Separately, regarding other former RCA workers who were unable to file lawsuits before 2004, the LAF has assisted approximately 1,200 individuals in initiating litigation. On 27 December 2019, the Taiwan Taipei District Court issued a judgment awarding TWD 2.303 billion in total compensation to the RCA Care Association. Both sides appealed the unfavorable portions of the ruling. On 21 April 2022, the Taiwan High Court ordered RCA and three other companies to jointly compensate the RCA Care Association a total amount exceeding TWD 1.667 billion. Dissatisfied with parts of the second-instance judgment, both parties again filed appeals. On 15 November 2024, the Supreme Court rendered its decision, dismissing the plaintiffs’ appeal. The Supreme Court remanded the case, finding that the lower court must further clarify whether the RCA Care Association’s claims were time-barred and whether the claims for damages were made within a reasonable period after the cessation of the obstructive facts. The LAF attorneys and consulting team will continue their dedicated efforts to protect the rights and interests of the RCA Care Association members.

CPDC Dioxin Pollution Case

Status in 2024

Some aid recipients and the defendant, 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 presiding judge encouraged a settlement. With the assistance of LAF staff attorneys, the majority of aid recipients reached a litigation settlement with CPDC on 15 March 2023, and received settlement payments. Only five aided recipients declined the settlement and continued the second-instance litigation. Subsequently, on 6 June 2024, the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court rendered a judgment dismissing the appeals of the five aided recipients. Following the judgment, the staff attorneys individually explained the ruling, the reasoning, and the appeals process to the five aided recipients. They all indicated that they would not pursue further appeals, thereby concluding the case.

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

Status in 2024

The LAF represented 68 aid recipients in a civil lawsuit seeking compensation for damages from Formosa Plastics. On 29 November 2024, the Taiwan Yunlin District Court rendered its decision in Civil Case No. 104-Gong-Zi-1, dismissing the plaintiffs’ claims. The legal team has since assisted the aid recipients in filing an appeal. In a separate case involving two individuals who filed suit independently, the Taiwan Yunlin District Court dismissed the claims on 30 October 2020, in Civil Case No. 107-Gong-Zi-1. The legal team has also filed an appeal on their behalf. This case is currently pending before the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court as Case No. 109-Gong-Shang-Zi-2, where the court has commissioned an expert evaluation by the Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University. Additionally, 43 aid recipients whose motion to join as co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 107-Gong-Zi-1 at the Taiwan Yunlin District Court was previously denied have now had their motion for an additional claim filed by the legal team. This matter is currently pending before the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court as Case No. 111-Gong-Shang-Zi-2. The court has also commissioned the Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University for expert evaluation in this case.

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

Status in 2024

Preliminary proceedings for the second-instance criminal trial were held in October 2023, February 2024, and July 2024. LAF staff

attorneys will continue to assist the victims in the litigation process, presenting arguments against portions of the original verdict to protect the victims’ rights and interests. In addition, regarding defendants for whom motions to reconsider non-prosecution decisions were filed, the Hualien Branch of Taiwan High Prosecutors Office has remanded the cases for further investigation by the Taiwan Hualien District Prosecutors Office. LAF will continue to assist the victims in filing formal complaints to facilitate the prosecutors’ initiation of public prosecution against the relevant defendants. For the civil compensation claims, all parties assisted by the LAF have reached settlements with Taiwan Railway and have received compensation.

Citizen Judge Case: Mr. Huang’s Trial in a Long-Term Care-Related Fatality

Case Summary

Since 2018, Mr. Huang had been suffering from major depressive disorder due to estranged family relationships, difficulty coping with work-related stress, and the burden of long-term care for his mother, who had suffered a stroke. In 2023, believing himself unable to continue providing care for his mother, he began experiencing suicidal thoughts and made two suicide attempts. Prior to the incident, he had been hospitalized for three weeks to receive treatment for depression. On the morning of 25 August 2023—the day after his discharge—Mr. Huang, affected by his mother’s non-compliance with daily care and long-standing emotional distress over his efforts being unrecognized, fatally assaulted his mother while experiencing the effects of severe depression. She was found by family members and taken to the hospital, but did not survive.

The case was prosecuted by the Taiwan New Taipei District Prosecutors’ Office, and because it is subject to citizen participation in the trial process, it was referred to the LAF by the Taiwan New Taipei District Court for the assignment of attorneys to assist the aid recipient. Recognizing that the case raised important public concerns around long-term care burdens, the LAF appointed two staff attorneys to assist Mr. Huang in his first-instance criminal trial under the citizen participation system.

Status of Legal Aid

The main point of contention between the prosecution and the defense in this case centered on the appropriate sentence and whether a custodial protection order should be imposed. The defense attorneys conducted extensive interviews with Mr. Huang’s relatives, community leader, and supervisors from his workplace to gain a deeper understanding of his personal background and life circumstances. They also petitioned the court to order a pre-sentencing social investigation by a designated agency, both to assess the necessity of a guardianship order and to present Mr. Huang’s life history in a comprehensive manner to the citizen judges, aiming to secure a proportionate sentence.

Additionally, considering that the victim’s family members were also Mr. Huang’s close relatives and likely future support system upon reintegration into society, the defense applied to the court for referral to restorative justice and mediation procedures, with the aim of facilitating emotional reconciliation through dialogue. In the end, both restorative justice and mediation were successfully achieved.

Following trial by the tribunal with citizen judges, Mr. Huang was found to have met the conditions under Article 19, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code at the time of the offense, allowing for a reduced

sentence. The tribunal further considered that Mr. Huang had developed major depressive disorder due to long-term exposure to multiple external factors beyond his control, that the offense was an isolated incident committed during a moment of emotional breakdown, and that he had received forgiveness from the victim’s family, with emotional reconciliation subsequently achieved. In addition, the tribunal recognized that Mr. Huang’s family support system remained capable of effectively overseeing his continued treatment. Taking all these factors into account, the tribunal sentenced Mr. Huang to six years’ imprisonment and did not impose a custodial protection order.

Human Trafficking: The Case of Ugandan Students

Case Summary

In 2019, a staff member of Chung Chou University of Science and Technology and a Taiwanese businessman operating in Uganda colluded to recruit 16 Ugandan students to Taiwan under false pretenses. Through deceptive means, they lured the students with promises of generous scholarships, English-taught programs, and internships in high-tech industries that would supposedly cover all living expenses.

Status of Legal Aid

Following the indictment, the Taiwan Changhua District Court referred the case to the LAF. The LAF assigned three staff attorneys to assist with criminal representation as attorneys *ad litem* and to support the victims’ participation in the litigation process. Civil legal aid was also granted for damage compensation claims and provisional attachment proceedings. With the exception of one student who has left Taiwan, all others completed in-court testimony. On 20 June 2024, the Taiwan Changhua District Court convicted most defendants of human trafficking-related offenses. The prosecutor and the defendants have filed appeals, and the case is currently pending before the Taiwan High Court Taichung Branch Court.

Kenya Human Trafficking Case

Case Overview

Four Kenyan aid recipients claimed that they, together with an individual surnamed Chu, were invited to Taiwan in June 2022 as members of a performance troupe. However, they were not paid the statutory minimum wage, and were also denied legally mandated overtime compensation. They applied for both civil and criminal legal aid through the LAF’s Taoyuan Branch, which assigned three staff attorneys to handle the case.

Status of Legal Aid

In the civil proceedings, the assigned attorneys filed wage claims on behalf of three of the recipients with the Taiwan Taoyuan District Court. These cases were settled through mediation on 30 October 2024. As the workplace of the fourth aid recipient differed from the others, a separate civil lawsuit was filed. This case is currently pending before the Taiwan Taoyuan District Court.

Regarding the criminal complaint, the case remains under investigation by the Taiwan Taoyuan District Prosecutors Office. In light of a potential conflict of interest among the aid recipients, the LAF assigned a contract legal aid attorney to assist the recipient who worked at a different location.

Major Achievements of Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples

On 12 March 2018, the LAF established its Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples in Hualien. The Center’s staff attorneys provide culturally sensitive and professionally sound legal aid in cases involving Indigenous cultures, customs, and traditional territories. Beginning 1 January 2021, the Center’s Western Office in Hsinchu also officially opened to the public. In 2024, the major achievements of the Center are as follows.

The Case of Tamazuan Tribe’s Fight against Mining

Status of Legal Aid

Since July 2019, the LAF has provided assistance to members of the Tamaluan Indigenous community. A legal team composed of in-house and external attorneys was formed to support the community in filing a petition and subsequent litigation to revoke the extension of a mining right. After the Executive Yuan rejected the appeal, the case proceeded to litigation, with a lawsuit filed before the Taipei High Administrative Court seeking to revoke the extension of the mining right. Following five preliminary proceedings and oral arguments, the Taipei High Administrative Court, citing the Supreme Administrative Court’s reasoning in the Asia Cement case, found that the mining right extension had been approved without complying with the consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures, and therefore revoked the extension. Dissatisfied with the aforementioned judgment, Qingju Mining Company filed an appeal. On 11 January 2024, the Supreme Administrative Court rejected the appeal in Judgement No. 111-Shang-Zi-572, affirming that the extension of the mining right was invalid due to the failure to comply with Indigenous consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures.

This case marks the second time—following the Asia Cement case—that a court has annulled a mining right extension for failing to observe the consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures. The Supreme Administrative Court reiterated that Indigenous peoples are co-managers of land and natural resources (including minerals) with the state. Therefore, any development activities on Indigenous lands must respect their will and protect their cultural rights to prevent violations of their rights to survival and cultural preservation. This case also spurred the amendment of the Mining Act, which now explicitly requires that mining right holders observe Indigenous consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures before beginning extraction activities—further safeguarding Indigenous rights.

The Hydropower Development Project Located in the Fengping River and Its Tributaries

Status of Legal Aid

In 2024, the Ministry of Economic Affairs again approved the extension of the construction permit, allowing Shih Fong Power to continue construction activities on Indigenous land. As a result, the consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing rights, and the right to self-determination of the Shanli and Taiping

Indigenous communities continued to be violated. The affected community members once again sought legal assistance from the LAF for relevant administrative remedy. The LAF’s staff attorneys formed a legal team to assist the aid recipients in filing appeals and administrative litigation against the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The cases, which challenge the issuance of the 2023 and 2024 construction permits on the grounds that the required Indigenous consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures were not properly conducted, are currently ongoing.

Since the issuance of a construction permit enables Shih Fong Power to immediately begin excavation on Indigenous land—posing direct and potentially irreversible harm to the communities’ consultation consent, participation, and benefit-sharing rights, right to survival, and right to self-determination—particularly affecting the Taiping community, which opposes the Project, the legal team also filed motions for injunctive relief with both the Executive Yuan and the Taipei High Administrative Court. These motions are currently under review.

Tama Talum Hunting Case

Status of Legal Aid

Constitutional Litigation:

The legal team argued that Judicial Yuan Interpretation No. 803 had declared unconstitutional the application of certain provisions of the Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives Control Act and the Act on Wildlife Conservation, as they pertain to Indigenous persons using self-made hunting rifles to hunt protected wildlife. However, as the interpretation left some legal questions regarding these two statutes unresolved, a further constitutional interpretation was requested. The Constitutional Court ultimately dismissed the petition in Ruling No. 112-Xian-Cai-Zi-30, stating that the contested judgment and relevant legal provisions did not reflect any fundamental misinterpretation or significant omission concerning the petitioner’s asserted constitutional rights.

Extraordinary Appeal Procedure:

Following nearly two years of proceedings and three hearings, the extraordinary appeal concluded on 14 March 2024 with Judgment No. 111-Tai-Fei-Zi-111, which reversed the final judgment rendered by the Taiwan Hight Court Hualien Branch Court. The legal aid recipient was acquitted of all charges under the Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives Control Act and the Act on Wildlife Conservation. After nearly eleven years of judicial remedy proceedings, the aid recipient was finally exonerated and freed from the stigma of criminal conviction.

In this ruling, the Supreme Court affirmed the following:

(1) The term “self-made hunting rifle” under Article 20, Paragraph 1 of the Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives Control Act does not require that the rifle be made by the Indigenous person themselves using traditional cultural methods. It may include a rifle made by someone else but used by the individual for hunting. The Court held that the aid recipient’s use of a found rifle met the requirement of being “used as a tool for subsistence,” thus not subject to criminal liability. The type of ammunition used (e.g., standard bullets) is not the determining factor in assessing whether a gun qualifies as a “self-made hunting rifle.”

(2) The aid recipient hunted protected wildlife for non-commercial, personal subsistence purposes, which falls under the decriminalization clause in Article 21-1, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Wildlife Conservation. Even though the recipient had not

obtained prior approval to hunt, criminal penalties were deemed inappropriate. The Court also clarified that Paragraph 40 of the reasoning in Interpretation No. 803 did not apply to the current version of the law.

Accordingly, the Court ruled that the original final judgment had been flawed due to insufficient reasoning and improper application of the law, and therefore overturned it and rendered a not-guilty verdict.

Campaign for the Recognition of Indigenous Names

Status of Legal Aid

In June 2021, the LAF’s staff attorneys assisted in filing appeals. Of the two related administrative lawsuits, one was adjudicated on 2 November 2023. The court recognized that Indigenous peoples’ right to determine their names is protected by both the Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Applying the principle of constitutional interpretation, the court held that the term “Chinese name” under the Name Act should be interpreted more broadly to mean “name in national languages”, in line with the current national language policies. Accordingly, the court granted the petitioner the right to register his Indigenous name alone in his household registration. As the defendant authority did not appeal, the petitioner successfully registered his Indigenous name alone on 17 November 2023. This marks a significant milestone in the protection of Indigenous peoples’ right to self-identify and in the broader movement for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in Taiwan. The second case, involving a joint lawsuit by seven Indigenous persons, was adjudicated on 11 January 2024. Once again, the court affirmed the constitutional protection of Indigenous cultural rights and name autonomy. Through expansive interpretation, it ruled that Indigenous individuals may register their “traditional names” using their native languages. The court ordered the household registration office to process the registration of Indigenous names alone, in accordance with the applications submitted by the six plaintiffs.

In the second case, the court invoked the restriction under the Name Act concerning the number of times one may revert to a traditional name and ruled that one of the seven plaintiffs was not permitted to restore their traditional name or register their Indigenous name alone. The LAF’s staff attorneys have since assisted this individual in filing an appeal, which is currently pending before the Supreme Administrative Court. Following the two court rulings affirming Indigenous peoples’ cultural rights and their right to determine their traditional names, the Legislative Yuan passed an amendment to the Name Act in its third reading in May 2024, allowing all Indigenous people in Taiwan to register names solely in their Indigenous languages. The litigation process in this case has become a landmark in Taiwan’s Indigenous language revitalization and name restoration movement. In recognition of this work, the LAF’s Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples received the “Outstanding Public Interest Legal Team of the Year” award from the Taiwan Bar Association and the Taipei Bar Association.

Yuandun Tribe Consultation and Consent Case

Case Overview

Tai’an Shanhejing Co., Ltd. (hereinafter “Tai’an Shanhejing Company”) and WenShui Spring Development Co. Ltd. (hereinafter “WenShui Spring”) submitted applications on 27 November 2019

and 7 July 2020, respectively, to the Miaoli County Government for the development of recreational facility zones (i.e. hotel complexes) on 95 parcels of land located in Hui’an Section, Tai’an Township, Miaoli County and for the development of recreational facility zones (i.e. hotel complexes) land located in Henglongshan, Tai’an Township, Miaoli County. As the proposed development sites are adjacent to the Indigenous communities of Yuandun (Tabilas), Shapulu (Quwis awi’), and Swasiq, a tribal assembly was held by the Swasiq Tribe on 29 August 2017, approving the development by WenShui Spring, and another assembly was held by the Shapulu Tribe on 16 February 2019, approving Tai’an Shanhejing Company’s project. Based on these two tribal meetings, the Miaoli County Government deemed that the consultation, consent, participation, and benefit-sharing procedures had been completed for both developments and accordingly approved Tai’an Shanhejing Company’s application on 9 March 2022 and WenShui Spring’s on 5 August 2022. The legal aid recipients contend that the proposed development sites fall within the traditional territory of the Yuandun Tribe and are in proximity to the Yuandun community, and therefore the development should not proceed without the Yuandun Tribe’s consent. They sought assistance from the staff attorneys at LAF Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples.

The central legal issues in this case include: whether the Yuandun Tribe constitutes an affected Indigenous community under the two development projects and, consequently, whether its consent was required under Article 21, Paragraph 1 of The Indigenous Peoples Basic Law; whether the consultation and consent procedures for the two projects were procedurally flawed; and whether the original administrative approvals were lawful.

Status of Legal Aid

Before filing the appeals and administrative lawsuits, the LAF’s staff attorneys participated in research conducted by the Tayal Knowledge Center at National Chengchi University regarding the Yuandun Tribe’s traditional territorial activities, and consulted relevant historical documents. Upon review of migration histories involving Yuandun, Shapulu, and Swasiq Tribes, the attorneys found support for the Yuandun Tribe’s claim that the development sites lie within their traditional territory. They also discovered significant procedural flaws in the public records of the consultation and consent processes. Accordingly, the attorneys filed appeals and administrative lawsuits with the aim of revoking the development permits issued by the Miaoli County Government, and submitted a petition to the Control Yuan.

Currently, the administrative revocation lawsuits for these two development projects are both under review by the Taichung High Administrative Court. The parties are in fierce dispute over whether the plaintiffs have standing, whether the development sites are within Yuandun’s traditional territory, and whether the consultation and consent procedures were flawed. The court has also encouraged both parties to explore settlement.

Following discussions between the staff attorneys and the legal aid recipients, the possibility of settlement could not be ruled out. However, beyond negotiations with the administrative authorities, it would also require the participation and consent of the two developers, Tai’an Shanhejing Company and WenShui Spring. The court has since ruled that both developers must join the litigation. The staff attorney continues to serve as a liaison and facilitator of dialogue between the Yuandun Tribe and the developers. Whether a final settlement can be reached remains at the discretion of the Yuandun community.



Regulatory Amendments

In 2024, the LAF amended or repealed a total of eleven internal regulations. These amendments primarily focused on four key areas: improving the quality of legal aid services provided by attorneys, adjusting the LAF’s review procedures, modifying the LAF’s personnel management system, and refining the LAF’s administrative operations. A brief summary is as follows.

1. Improving the Quality of Legal Aid Services Provided by Attorneys

Pursuant to a resolution passed by the Board of Directors on 29 March 2024, the Regulations Governing Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration were amended and subsequently ratified by the Judicial Yuan on 1 May 2024. Key amendments include the following:

- (1) In light of the more intensive litigation schedules in cases under the Citizen Judges Act (hereafter “CJA cases”), which require legal aid attorneys to invest substantial time and effort within tight timeframes, and to encourage attorneys to accept such appointments while ensuring service quality, the value of one pay point on the remuneration scale for first-instance criminal defense in CJA cases has been raised from TWD 1,500 to TWD 2,000. The amendments also explicitly allow for up to three attorneys to be appointed jointly during the investigation and appellate stages of CJA cases. Furthermore, where a legal aid attorney discloses evidence to the prosecutor, requests disclosure of evidence from the prosecutor, or files two or more requests to access case files with the court, they may apply for discretionary allowance.
- (2) In line with the amendment to Article 258-1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, references to “the procedures for setting the case for trial” have been revised to “the procedures for

permission to initiate private prosecution”, with corresponding adjustments to pay point values and reasonable work hours for attorneys serving in such cases.

- (3) Pay point values and reasonable work hours have been newly established for attorneys acting as procedural agents in cases involving victim participation in criminal proceedings.
- (4) Grounds have been added for discretionary remuneration increases in complex criminal cases involving attorneys acting as complainant representatives or procedural agents for victim participation.
- (5) Grounds have been added for discretionary remuneration increases in CJA cases involving attorneys acting as complainant representatives or procedural agents for victim participation.

2. Adjusting the LAF’s Review Procedures

On 29 March 2024, the Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Regulations for the Scope of Legal Aid Implementation, which was subsequently ratified by the Judicial Yuan on 1 May 2024. This revision was made in response to the amendments to Articles 258-1 through 258-4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Specifically, Article 3, Paragraph 1, Subparagraph 4 of the Regulations was revised by replacing the original reference to “representation in petitions for setting the case for trial” with “representation in petitions for permission to initiate private prosecution,” to ensure consistency with the updated legal framework.

3. Modifying the LAF’s Personnel Management System

- (1) Amendments to LAF Regulations for Personnel Management and LAF Regulations for the Appointment and Evaluation of Staff Attorneys

Approved by the Board of Directors on 25 August 2023 and



July 23, 2024 Legal Aid Foundation 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Tea Party



ratified by the Judicial Yuan on 26 January 2024, to take effect on 1 January 2024, the amendments were primarily based on the Executive Yuan’s 2024 Adjustment Measures for Compensation of Military, Civil, and Teaching Personnel, and considered factors such as recent economic growth and increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Accordingly, adjustments were made to the pay points for full-time staff and staff attorneys.

- (2) Adoption of LAF Directions on Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention, Complaint, and Disciplinary Measures and LAF Directions on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Handling; repeal of LAF Directions on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Complaint Handling

In accordance with amendments passed by the Legislative Yuan on 16 August 2023 and effective as of 8 March 2024 to the Gender Equality in Employment Act (formerly titled the Act of Gender Equality in Employment), the Gender Equity Education Act, and the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, the Board of Directors resolved on 26 April 2024 to adopt LAF Directions on Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention, Complaint, and Disciplinary Measures and LAF Directions on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Handling.

- (3) Amendments to LAF Regulations for Organizational Framework and LAF Regulations for the Appointment and Evaluation of Staff Attorneys

The amendments were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 July 2024 and ratified by the Judicial Yuan on 20 September 2024. They were driven by several considerations: the growing demand for professional legal assistance among various disadvantaged groups; the fact that certain case types—such as compulsory hospitalization of individuals with severe mental illness under the Mental Health Act, and juvenile investigation and adjudication proceedings—are not adequately addressed through market mechanisms; and the urgent need to address the severe shortage of legal resources in outlying islands. Additional factors included the need to reflect the actual increase in legal aid applications, the rising complexity and labor demands of staff responsibilities, and staffing requirements for the planned Staff Attorney Criminal Defense Center in response to the implementation of the Citizen Judges Act. In light of these considerations, the authorized staffing levels for staff attorneys, attorney assistants, and overall personnel were increased, along with the upper limit on head office personnel.



The actual expansion in staffing remains subject to the Judicial Yuan’s approval of corresponding personnel budgets.

4. Refining the LAF’s Administrative Operations

- (1) Amendments to LAF Directions of Personal Data Protection

The amendments were approved by the Chairperson on 19 January 2024. Given that the term “personal data” as used in the Directions encompasses not only physical documents but also digital files, the revision aims to ensure comprehensive protection. Drawing on the standards published by the National Archives Administration of the National Development Council (namely, the Fee-charging Standard for Viewing, Hand-copying or Duplicating of Records) and by the Civil Department of the Judicial Yuan (namely, the Fee-Charging Standards for the Provision of Government Information by the Judicial Yuan and Its Subordinate Agencies), Item 4 was amended to replace “photocopying” with “reproduction,” thereby extending applicability to digital files. Additionally, a new appendix was added to stipulate fee-charging standards for digital file reproduction.

- (2) Amendments to LAF Interpreter Qualifications and Payment Policy

The amendments were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 September 2024, with effect on 1 January 2025. Referring to the Regulations on Contract-Based Court Interpreters, a new Item 2 was added to establish per diem rates for interpreter services. It was also specified that interpreters will be entitled to receive a basic fee for each appearance even if the applicant who applies for the interpretation services fails to appear, provided the absence is due to circumstances beyond the interpreter’s control. These amendments aim to support and maintain the quality of the LAF’s case review procedures.

Continuous Improvement of Service Quality

1. Measures to Improve Service Staff Attitudes

1.1. Promoting Customer-Oriented Philosophy and Flexible Service Delivery

Since 2018, the LAF has conducted annual mystery shopper inspections to assess service quality. These inspections cover two main areas: in-person services (including the physical setup inside and outside branch offices, service procedures, value-added services, and facilities) and telephone services. In 2024, the average score for in-person services was 92.64 out of 100, showing improvement from 90.5 in 2023. However, the average score for telephone services decreased from 93.2 in 2023 to 85.35 in 2024. This decline was due to the LAF raising its standards and expectations in 2024. To this end, the LAF has continued to provide guidance and oversight to its departments and branches to ensure implementation of the revised standards, with the aim of delivering comprehensive services to disadvantaged individuals.

1.2. Disclosure of Satisfaction Survey Results

Starting in July 2024, the LAF began a trial run of sending satisfaction survey forms via text messages to legal aid applicants' mobile phones. Applicants were invited to complete the survey by clicking on a link provided in the message. In addition to surveys for applicants who visited the office in person to apply for legal aid, the scope of the survey was expanded to include those who submitted written applications. The LAF has been actively tracking the delivery of the text messages and the response rate of valid surveys, with initial observations showing positive results.

Survey results from 2024 show that all regional branches scored above 82.8 across all evaluated categories, with minimal variation between reporting periods, indicating stable performance. The LAF will continue to review and refine survey items to ensure the effectiveness and value of the satisfaction survey process.

1.3. Interpretation Services and Multilingual Documents for Application Review

Since 2018, the LAF has provided interpretation services during the legal aid application review process, including assistance at the stages of application intake, case review, and reconsideration. Interpreters are arranged by the LAF, which also covers the service fees. These services include communication access real-time translation (CART) for applicants with hearing or speech impairments. As of the end of 2024, the LAF's interpreter roster includes 148 interpreters in Southeast Asian languages, 20 Indigenous language interpreters, 59 sign language interpreters, and 43 CART captioner. A list of interpreters who have consented to the publication of their contact information is available on the LAF's official website.

2. Refinement of Case Management Process

2.1. Coordination and Communication Between the Head Office and Branch Offices

To strengthen communication and coordination between the Head Office and branch offices regarding operational issues, designated Head Office staff serve as contact points for each branch and are also responsible for oversight. In addition, the LAF continues to develop and revise standard operating procedures for the application of regulations and regularly convenes nationwide operations meetings to discuss and address common or complex issues. These efforts aim to reduce discrepancies and errors in how branch offices handle cases and to ensure consistent resolution of similar issues. The Head Office also supports effective case management across all branches by regularly publishing operational bulletins, data reports, and performance statistics.

2.2. Strengthening Case Follow-Up and Management Mechanisms

The LAF requires legal aid attorneys to report on the progress of their cases within two months of being assigned. After taking on a case, the attorney must meet with the aid recipient, determine whether applications for litigation aid or preservation procedures are necessary, and explain any important deadlines related to the case. The attorney and the aid recipient must then sign and submit a case status report to the branch office. Additionally, if a case remains open one and a half years after assignment, the system will automatically send a notification email to follow up on its status. Since the launch of the Legal Aid Attorney Portal in 2019, attorneys have been able to log in and submit updates or respond to follow-up requests online. The LAF can also use the portal to monitor case progress and track management outcomes in real time.

2.3. Case Closure Management for Legal Aid Attorneys

The LAF has amended Point 35 of the Guidelines on the Handling of Legal Aid Cases by Attorneys, which governs the timeframe for attorneys to report case closures. Legal aid attorneys are required to submit all pleadings and closure documents (e.g. mediation records, judgments, or rulings), in accordance with the LAF's reporting procedures. When an attorney's submission is incomplete, the branch office will issue a system-generated notice requesting the attorney to supplement the missing materials within a specified period. If the attorney fails to comply or does not report the case closure in a timely manner, the branch may refer the case to the Review Committee to reassess or reduce the remuneration. In addition, the LAF has incorporated case closure management into its annual branch office performance evaluation. Random audits are conducted to assess practices, including timely file uploads by attorneys, adherence to closure deadlines, and the accuracy of case closure information.

2.4. Establishing an Information Security Environment in Compliance with Cybersecurity Policy

To fulfill the obligations required of specific non-governmental entities classified under Level B of the Cybersecurity Responsibility Grading System, the LAF adopted its Directions

for Information Security Management in September 2019, thereby establishing internal cybersecurity standards. All of the LAF's core information systems—including the Online Legal Aid Appointment System, Case Management System, Attorney Billing System, and Online Legal Aid Attorney Portal—have since been integrated with the ISO 27001 Information Security Management System standard. These systems have undergone impartial third-party audits, received certification, and continue to maintain their certified status. In addition, the LAF regularly conducts cybersecurity assessments covering its systems, network architecture, user-end computers, and server hosts. These assessments include penetration testing (simulating real-world attacks to identify vulnerabilities), vulnerability scanning (to detect and patch potential security flaws), and comprehensive security audits to evaluate the overall safety of the information environment.

2.5. Understanding Applicants' Help-Seeking Behaviors and Technology Use to Optimize Legal Aid Service Processes

To gain deeper insights into the experiences of LAF aid recipients when facing legal issues, the LAF launched a qualitative study in 2024 to explore how individuals encounter legal problems, seek assistance, and engage with the LAF's services—ranging from legal consultations and legal aid applications to litigation support provided by legal aid attorneys. Recognizing the diverse trajectories across legal issue types, the study began with a focus on consumer debt clearance and labor disputes, which represent a significant portion of the LAF's caseload. The study emphasizes recipients' experiences both prior to contacting the LAF and after utilizing its services. It aims to understand how individuals seek advice, interact with service providers and legal professionals, and access available resources. By mapping the steps taken by legal aid recipients, the study identifies key touchpoints that shape user experience and highlights any systemic barriers encountered throughout the process. The study also extends its focus to include aid recipients' digital literacy and preferences, emotional dynamics, and their perceptions of legal aid and the justice system.

3. Quality Assurance Mechanism for Legal Aid Attorney Services

3.1. Policy Planning for Maintaining the Quality of Legal Aid Attorney Services

Eligibility Criteria and Exceptions for Legal Aid Attorneys

The LAF requires attorneys to have at least two years of professional experience before applying to serve as legal aid attorneys. Attorneys with less than two years of practice may still apply but must submit legal documents for review by the Reconsideration Committee, which evaluates whether the quality of their submissions meets the required standard. In 2024, 12 attorneys were approved through this review process.

In light of the shortage of legal aid attorneys for consumer debt clearance cases and police/prosecutorial interrogations with attorney accompaniment, the LAF has relaxed the experience requirement, allowing attorneys with less than two years of practice to apply to provide legal aid services in these specific types of cases.

Optimization of Case Assignment Policy

Since 2012, to ensure the quality of legal aid services and prevent any single attorney from being overburdened to the detriment of case handling, the LAF has implemented a fair case assignment policy, setting a general annual cap of 24 legal aid cases per attorney. In 2018, the LAF adopted the Regulations on the Selection and Case Assignment of Legal Aid Attorneys, introducing an upper limit of 48 cases per attorney per year in exceptional circumstances where assignments exceed the 24-case guideline.

To better serve various disadvantaged groups and case types, the LAF has continued to assess and refine its case assignment practices. For example, cases involving persons with disabilities are prioritized for attorneys who have completed training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Similarly, cases involving Indigenous cultural conflicts are preferentially assigned to attorneys who have participated in relevant training programs.

Specialist Attorney Assignment System

The LAF formally implemented the specialist attorney assignment system on 11 June 2021.

As of the end of 2024, the number of certified specialist attorneys in each category, compared with the previous two years, is shown in the table below.

Specialist Lawyer Count	2022	2023	2024
Labor Specialist Lawyers	388	404	405
Family Specialist Lawyers	1,004	1,041	1,041
Consumer Debt Clearance Cases	812	852	851

Specialization-Based Assignment Rates in the Past Three Years

Case Type	2022	2023	2024
Labor Cases	97.22%	95.88%	97.62%
Family Cases	93.85%	93.62%	94.59%
Consumer Debt Clearance Cases	100%	99.99%	99.92%

Enhancing the Quality of Legal Aid in Citizen Judge Cases

In response to the implementation of the Citizen Judges Act, the LAF has taken proactive measures to ensure the quality of legal aid services in relevant cases. Since 2021, several full-time attorneys have been assigned to participate in mock trials organized by courts to gain in-depth understanding of the new system. The LAF has also continued to co-organize attorney training sessions and related activities in collaboration with courts and local bar associations, helping legal aid attorneys improve their expertise in handling cases under the citizen participation system, thereby safeguarding the litigation rights of both victims and defendants. In the meantime, the LAF has made necessary updates to its case management system to support the new framework. On 29 November 2022, it

amended the Regulations Governing Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration to include compensation standards for first-instance citizen participation trials, with payments ranging from a minimum of TWD 30,000 to a maximum of TWD 75,000, based on the complexity of the case and the effort invested by the attorney. However, due to the high workload and the relatively low willingness among attorneys to take on such cases, the LAF revised the Regulations Governing Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration again, raising the compensation range to TWD 40,000–100,000 per case, effective 19 July 2024.

In addition, for criminal defense cases during the investigation stage that are likely to proceed to citizen participation trials in accordance with the law, branch offices are required to prioritize the assignment of attorneys qualified to handle citizen judge cases. This aims to ensure continuity between the investigation and trial stages and prevent disruptions such as reassignment after indictment, which could result in attorneys needing to re-familiarize themselves with the case or inconsistencies in litigation strategy. To support this, on 19 July 2024, the LAF further revised its Regulations Governing Payment of Legal Aid Remuneration to allow the assignment of multiple attorneys to citizen judge cases at the investigation, first-instance, and appellate stages.

The LAF has actively developed a series of training programs related to the Citizen Judges Act, using a progressive approach that includes foundational courses, case study seminars, and hands-on workshops to gradually build attorneys’ expertise in handling such cases, encourage greater participation, and expand the pool of legal aid attorneys qualified to take on these cases. In 2024, in addition to offering pre-recorded, online-accessible case study courses on the Citizen Judges Act, the LAF also collaborated with the Keelung, Changhua, Yunlin, Hualien, and Kaohsiung branch offices to conduct a series of traveling training workshops on the Citizen Judges Act.

In 2024, the LAF established a dedicated task force of staff attorneys to handle citizen judge cases, operating under a team-based defense model. Furthermore, the Staff Attorney Criminal Defense Center will be launched in 2025 to take on criminal legal aid cases for marginalized individuals, including citizen judge cases. The Center will provide support starting from the investigation stage to ensure continuity and effective defense throughout trial proceedings. To enhance the overall service quality and integrate local defense resources, the Center’s staff attorneys will also collaborate with experienced legal aid attorneys and law firms outside the LAF to serve as lead trainers. The efforts will focus on planning attorney education programs, developing expertise in citizen judge cases, and cultivating a pool of committed and capable attorneys qualified to take on such cases—ultimately building a robust talent pool.

3.2. Complaint Management System

In 2024, a total of 217 complaint cases were filed. Of these, 18 cases are still under investigation, and 199 cases have been concluded.

Among the concluded cases, 23 cases were closed without further action due to being inadmissible, merged with other cases, or withdrawn.

The remaining 176 cases underwent substantive investigation and were accepted for review. The outcomes are as follows:

Disciplinary Action	Number of Cases
Yes	63
No	113
Subtotal	176

Among the 63 cases that resulted in disciplinary action, Review Committee members were the subjects of complaints in 3 cases, and LAF full-time project personnel in 2 cases. In the remaining 58 cases, legal aid attorneys (including consultation lawyers) are the subjects of complaints, and the measures imposed are as follows:

Disciplinary Measures	Number of Cases
suspension of case assignments and referral to the disciplinary committee	6
suspension of case assignments	25
to give guidance notices, to mediate, or to urge for improvement	27
temporary suspension from legal consultation work	0
subtotal	58

With regard to violations of LAF regulations by legal aid attorneys, the LAF has established separate performance indicators to evaluate whether branch offices conduct investigations through the complaint procedure or refer cases for attorney performance review, as well as to assess the implementation of attorney training. These measures aim to enhance the overall quality of the LAF’s services.

3.3. Legal Aid Case Issue Reporting Form (For Use by Courts and Prosecutors)

To assess and address concerns regarding attorney performance in legal proceedings, the LAF has developed the Legal Aid Case Issue Reporting Form (For Use by Courts and Prosecutors). If any court or prosecutor’s office observes that a legal aid attorney may have violated the Attorney Regulation Act or demonstrated substandard performance in handling a legal aid case, they may download the form directly from the LAF’s website under “Downloads / For Courts and Prosecutors”, complete it with specific details, and submit it to the LAF.

In 2024, no forms were submitted with positive evaluations; four forms were submitted with negative evaluations, all of which have been fully investigated.

3.4. 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 attorneys subjected to disciplinary action as determined by the Legal Aid Attorney Evaluation Committee

and the Legal Aid Attorney Review Committee is as follows:

Year	2022	2023	2024
written request for improvement	3	0	4
reduction of case assignments	0	0	0
suspension of case assignments	22	22	11
dismissal from legal aid services	3	5	10 (4 dispositions pending)
referral to the Attorney Disciplinary Board	4	11	7 (7 dispositions pending)

The behaviors leading to these disciplinary actions mainly include: questionable service quality of legal aid, such as failure to submit required legal writings, insufficiently prepared legal writings, failure to attend court hearings, or failure to provide substantive defense; violations of the code of professional ethics for lawyers, such as failure to observe appeal deadlines, failure to provide grounds for appeal, failure to observe the deadlines provided in rulings, or delays in handling cases; violations of LAF Guidelines for Legal Aid Attorneys, such as appointing non-lawyers as deputy agents, failure to meet with clients, or failure to inform clients about provisional remedies; non-compliance with requests to provide case files and documents for the attorney performance review.

3.5. Peer Review of Legal Aid Attorneys

In 2024, the LAF launched its first peer review program for legal aid attorneys, drawing on models from peer review systems in the United Kingdom, including those in Scotland, England and Wales. The initial review focused on two major case types frequently handled by the LAF: serious criminal cases and consumer debt clearance cases. A total of 34 legal aid attorneys with a high caseload in these areas were selected for review, including 17 handling consumer debt clearance cases and 17 handling major criminal cases. Full case files were retrieved for review, and committees composed of experienced attorneys in these respective fields were convened, with 7 members for serious criminal cases and 8 members for consumer debt cases. These committees developed evaluation criteria, selected representative cases for trial scoring, and established unified scoring standards. The official peer review was conducted using a dual-track scoring system. Based on the results, the LAF compiled a set of practice guidelines and quality indicators for each case type.

As part of the initiative, five legal aid attorneys with outstanding performance in consumer debt cases were selected and recognized during the LAF’s 20th anniversary event.

The LAF plans to continue the peer review program in 2025, focusing on attorneys with a high volume of legal aid cases, with the goal of further strengthening its quality assurance mechanisms for legal aid services.

4. Staff Attorneys

The LAF employs staff attorneys and has established a dedicated staff attorney center to handle cases that require specialized expertise, concern with public interest, or are of high profile. These cases often involve issues with which general practitioners may have less experience, such as environmental litigation, death penalty defense, and class action.

As of the end of 2024, the LAF has employed a total of 24 staff attorneys, stationed as follows:

Taipei Branch	4 attorneys
Kinmen Branch	1 attorneys
New Taipei Branch	2 attorneys
Tainan Branch	3 attorneys
North Center of Staff Attorneys	8 attorneys
Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples	6 attorneys

5. Professional Training

Enhancing Staff Competencies

To ensure the effective implementation of legal aid services and to continuously maintain and improve service quality, the LAF actively conducts professional and service training for its staff. In 2024, training programs were categorized into four main areas: Professional Competence, Legal Regulations and Policy Requirements, General Education, and Indigenous Affairs. To better integrate training resources, courses were organized regionally according to local characteristics.

Attorney Training

In 2024, attorney training was conducted through various formats—including online sessions, in-person workshops, and recorded lectures—covering a wide range of topics. A total of 78 sessions were completed, addressing issues such as: general civil law topics (emerging debt types, The Consumer Debt Clearance Statute in practice, housing lease disputes, medical malpractice, and the Condominium Administration Act in practice), labor disputes, family law (rights of minors and the Convention on the Rights of the Child), criminal law (substantive and procedural sentencing, judicial review of compulsory measures and evidentiary standards, fraudulent bank accounts, and defense strategies in citizen judge cases), juvenile justice practice, victims’ rights (including amendments to the Crime Victim Rights Protection Act, criminal complaints in citizen judge proceedings, and restorative justice), rights of persons with disabilities (practical issues in personal assistance and reasonable accommodation, and an introduction to expert lay participation under the Mental Health Act), Indigenous cultural conflicts, legal issues arising from overstayed foreign nationals, and the human rights of prisoners (including prisoners’ voting rights and progressive treatment programs). Additionally, in November 2024, the LAF entered into a licensing agreement with National Dong Hwa University to provide legal and cultural course videos on Indigenous issues via an online platform, making the content accessible to legal aid attorneys to support ongoing professional development.

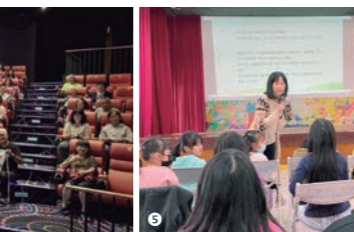
Organized Campaign Activities and Seminars



- ❶ August 31, 2024, the 113th Xizhou Tribe Harvest Festival set up a stall for legal consultation and legal advocacy.
- ❷ February 15, 2024, Attorney Zhou Shengqi gave a lecture on legal education at Deguang Middle School.
- ❸ May 24, 2024, Yilan Branch 1130524 Jiaoxi Elementary School mock trial.
- ❹ September 7, 2024, co-organized the 113th Legal Aid Day event with the Kaohsiung Branch of the Criminal

Organized and Co-Hosted Campaign Activities

In 2024, the LAF branches across the country independently organized or collaborated with other organizations in a total of 1,826 events (including those held in correctional facilities).



- ❺ March 20, 2024, the New Taipei Branch invited Li Huijun, an aid lawyer, to Jingdong Elementary School to conduct a human rights and legal aid train advocacy event.
- ❻ November 28, 2024, the Penghu Branch and the Penghu District Court of Taiwan held a tour of discussions and legal aid advocacy in Xiyu Township.

Interdisciplinary Seminar Series *Beyond the Law*

Lectures 101 to 112 of *Beyond the Law* seminar series were held in 2024, totaling 12 sessions. All 12 sessions were conducted as in-person lectures and simultaneously recorded. The recordings were later produced into episodes of the podcast *FAFU – Beyond the Law*, which were published on major podcast platforms to broaden public outreach. Each episode received an average of approximately 655 unique downloads.



- ❶ January 18, 2024, lecture 101 on "How to Get Away with Murder": My name? Call me by MY NAME - Sharing of Aboriginal Romanization Name Change Cases
- ❷ June 11, 2024, Lecture 107 on Impunity: OPEN BOOK ~ Go to "The Underground Society Built by Migrant Workers"
- ❸ Lecture 103 on "At Large" on February 23, 2024: Can't survive? The abandoned world behind Taiwan's life cases (2024 Taipei International Book Fair Reading Paradise booth)

- ❹ May 9, 2024, lecture 105 on impunity: Social finance, a hundred possibilities for improving capitalism
- ❺ September 5, 2024, Lecture 110 on Impunity: Atypical Prosecutor - I am not the HERO that people say I am
- ❻ November 21, 2024, lecture 112 on impunity: Does a democratic constitution allow the state to kill? Listen to a former judge talk about the constitutionality of Taiwan's death penalty rulings

Dissemination of The Rule of Law in Correctional Facilities

Since 2016, the LAF, through its nationwide branches (including the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples), has been actively engaged in providing services to inmates in correctional facilities. We have promoted the use of written mail by inmates to apply for various types of legal aid. In 2024, the LAF conducted a total of 534 sessions in correctional facilities, including case acceptance, rule of law education, legal aid advocacy, and legal consultation activities.



- ❶ October 24, 2024 Yilan Branch Yilan Prison Legal Aid Promotion
- ❷ On October 22, 2024, the New Taipei Branch held a promotional event for the Taipei Prison. On March 19, 2024, Attorney Hong Mingxian gave a lecture on legal education at the Tainan Mingde Detention Center.
- ❸ On March 19, 2024, Attorney Hong Mingxian gave a lecture on legal education at the Tainan Mingde Drug Treatment Center

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

At the invitation of the Taiwan Tainan District Court, the LAF has been hosting a video exhibition of its legal aid cases, "Hope Is Just Around the Corner", at Tainan Judicial Museum, a national historic site, since 16 January 2020. The exhibition features stories of individuals with disabilities facing hostile labor disputes and indigenous people fighting for land rights, among other legal issues. Through these diverse case stories, we aim to inspire people encountering legal problems to face them bravely and to continue promoting various legal aid services.



2024 Legal Aid Day

The 2024 Legal Aid Day focused on the theme of "Promoting the Protection of Crime Victims' Rights." The LAF, through its branches (including the Legal Center of Indigenous Peoples), collaborated with social welfare groups to organize a range of lectures and activities aimed at helping crime victims and their families better understand their legal rights. When those rights are violated, LAF attorneys are available to provide assistance in addressing legal challenges. The campaign also sought to raise public awareness of the emotional impact that lengthy legal proceedings can have on victims' families, encouraging society to approach victims with greater empathy and provide them with meaningful support to help them rebuild their lives and return to normalcy as soon as possible.



- ❶ On July 12, 2024, the New Taipei Branch held the National Legal Aid Day - Legal Film Appreciation Conference
- ❷ August 21, 2024 Yilan Branch Legal Aid Day - Social Work and Legal Exchange Workshop



Films, Internets and Publications

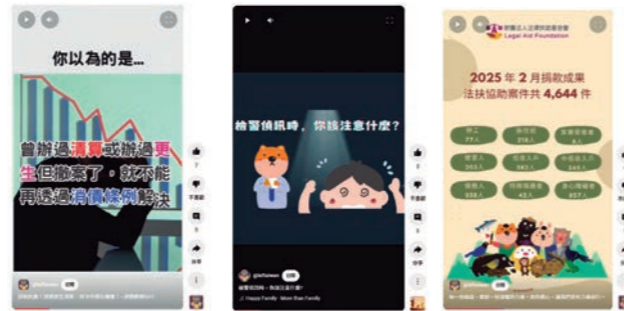
Media Relations

In 2024, the LAF engaged in media outreach through interviews and press releases. These efforts resulted in a total of 63 media appearances nationwide.



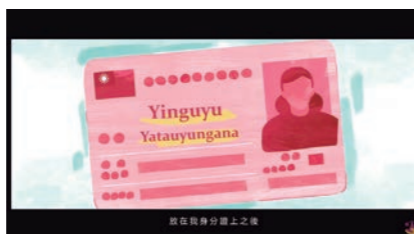
Production of Short Videos and Animations to Promote LAF Policies

To align with current media consumption trends, the LAF produced a series of short videos on legal aid-related topics. These were published on social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook to enhance public awareness and outreach.



Case Documentary

Production of this case documentary began in 2024. The featured themes include cases under The Consumer Debt Clearance Statute, cases involving persons with disabilities, and legal issues surrounding the Indigenous movement "Call Me by My Tribal Name", which advocates for the restoration of Indigenous names. This case documentary was promoted through advertising on social medias and video platforms such as YouTube.



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 2024, the issues of No. 12 and No. 13 were published.



2023 Annual Report

A record of the LAF's activities for 2023 was published in both Chinese and English. The English version was made available online only, with no printed copies issued.

Official Website: www.LAF.org.tw

According to Google Analytics, the LAF website received 672,534 visits and 3,379,300 page views in 2024.

The LAF on Facebook

As of the end of 2024, the LAF's Facebook page has attracted 86,091 followers and received 1,386,159 visits.

The LAF on Instagram

The LAF launched its official Instagram account on 16 October 2020, with the goal of connecting with the public through one of Taiwan's most popular social media platforms. As of the end of 2024, the LAF's Instagram account had 3,595 followers, with a total reach of 73,979 individuals.



e-Newsletter: *Give You a Hug*

Individuals may subscribe to the e-newsletter "Give You a Hug" by email. The coverage includes feature articles as well as updates on LAF news and activities. The e-newsletter also includes a dedicated section featuring commissioned articles, which are published on the LAF official website. In 2024, a total of 31 new articles were published. As of now, there are 2,682 active subscribers.



The LAF on YouTube

As the younger generation's viewing habits have shifted from traditional television to online streaming platforms, the LAF established its YouTube channel in 2010 to expand and modernize its promotional outreach. The channel hosts various informational videos aimed at informing the public about the LAF's services and activities. In 2024, the YouTube channel garnered 137,074 views, 1,210,545 impressions, and saw an increase in subscribers, reaching 12,583.

International Affairs

Hosting the International conference on Protection of Rights of Crime Victims and Legal Aid

To safeguard and promote the human rights of crime victims, and to ensure their participation in legal proceedings, the LAF hosted the International conference on Protection of Rights of Crime Victims and Legal Aid on 23 July 2024. The event featured Professor Edna Erez from the University of Illinois Chicago and Professor Nicola Henry from RMIT University in Melbourne, who shared their experiences from the United States and Australia. The Workshop was organized into two sessions: Session One on Victim Impact Statement and Session Two on Digital Sexual Gender-Based Violence.



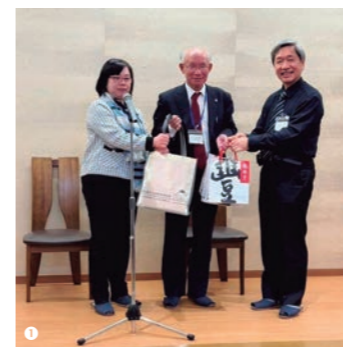
Visit from the Kanto Federation of Bar Associations

A delegation of 12 members from the Kanto Federation of Bar Associations in Japan visited the LAL on 14 November 2024. The delegation was received by CEO Han-Wei Chou, Deputy Executive Director Tse-Fang Sun, and Legal Department Director Fang-Chun Chu. At the delegation meeting, in addition to an overview of the LAF's core services, the visiting members engaged in in-depth discussions on legal aid for foreign nationals. Topics included the recruitment of interpreters and the use of interpreter services, and collaboration with other organisations. The meeting fostered meaningful dialogue and mutual learning between the two parties.

Hosting the International Forum on Indigenous Peoples Legal Aid

In collaboration with the Department of Law at National Dong Hwa University, the LAF co-hosted the "Rikec's International and Cross-Disciplinary Connections: International Forum on Indigenous Peoples Legal Aid". The Forum welcomed six international experts and scholars: Judge Lore L.M. Mirwaldt from Canada, Mr. Aslak Holmberg, President of the Saami Council, barrister Mr. Tony McAvoy SC from Australia, Professor Tracey Whare from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, Judge Miharo Armstrong of the Māori Land Court in New Zealand, and attorney Mr. Morihiro Ichikawa from Japan.

The Forum featured four panel discussions, titled as follows: Panel One – Indigenous natural resources governance; Panel Two – Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples; Panel Three – Indigenous Special Proceedings and Legal Aid; Panel Four – Indigenous Peoples ad hoc Tribunal and Transitional Justice.



Participation in the 13th International Forum on Consumer Debt and Financial Victims in East Asia

The 13th International Forum on Consumer Debt and Financial Victims in East Asia, organized by Japan National Coalition for Fair Consumer Credit and Rebuilding Livelihood, was held in Kyoto, Japan, on 7 December 2024. The LAF was represented by Deputy Executive Director Tse-Fang Sun, Business Department Director Yu-Shan Chang, Attorney Ching-Pei Chang, and Staff Attorney Yi-Chun Chen. The conference addressed three major topics: one, the issue of international online fraud; two, reports on the activities of organizations supporting financial fraud victims in each country; three, the issue of housing insecurity. In addition to the main topics, delegates from participating countries also shared insights and engaged in discussions on the broader challenges faced by financial fraud victims.



① Attorney Sun Zefang, Attorney Utsunomiya, Attorney Lin Yongsong

② On December 7, 2024, the 13th (2024) East Asian Financial Victims Exchange Conference was held in Kyoto, Japan

③ Secretary-General Sun Yixin made a speech

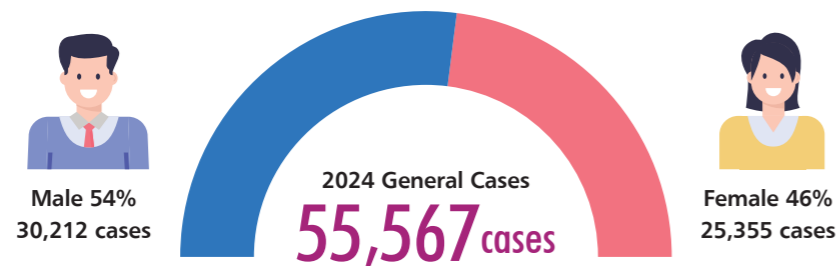
Analysis of Aid Recipients

Analysis by Identity

Analysis of aid recipients' identities based on the 55,567 general cases in 2024:



Analysis by Gender and Causes of Action



Among the general cases, when categorized into the five types, i.e. criminal, juvenile, civil, family, and administrative, the gender proportion is as follows:
 in family cases, female recipients accounting for 66%, whereas male recipients only 34%
 in criminal cases, male recipients accounting for 65%, whereas female recipients only 35%
 in juvenile cases, male recipients accounting for 69%, whereas female recipients only 31%
 in civil cases, female recipients accounting for 54%, whereas male recipients only 46%
 in administrative cases, male recipients accounting for 59%, whereas female recipients only 41%

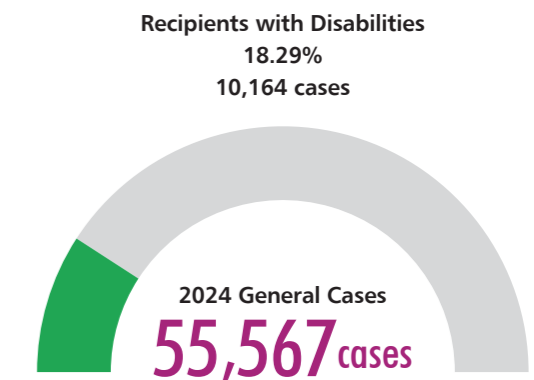
Top Five Causes of Action by Number for Nationals in the General Cases

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

Analysis of Legal Aid for Recipients with Disabilities

In 2024, among the general cases (excluding legal consultation, attorney attendance at interrogation and commissioned cases), 10,164 cases involved recipients with disabilities, accounting for 18.29%.

Top Five Types of Cases for Recipients with Disabilities	
①	Criminal – cases of fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury
②	Criminal – larceny cases
③	Criminal – cases of assault causing bodily harm
④	Civil – tort cases
⑤	Family – cases of maintenance payments



Analysis of Legal Aid for Foreign Nationals

Among the general cases in 2024, 2,010 applications made by foreign nationals were granted for legal aid. The majority of foreign nationals are Vietnamese (24.53%), Filipino (22.34%), Indonesian (20.05%), Thai (9.60%) and Chinese (9.20%), accounting for 85.72% of the foreigners assisted by the LAF.

Top Five Types of Cases for Which Legal Representation and Defense were Approved for Foreign Nationals	
①	Criminal – cases of assault causing bodily harm
②	Criminal – cases under the Narcotics Hazard Prevention Act
③	Criminal – cases of fraudulence, breach of trust, taking and usury
④	Civil – tort cases
⑤	Civil – severance pay cases



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

cases reviewed under LAF criteria of financial ineligibility	13,979	Economically Disadvantaged 24,178 43.51%
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – low-income household	5,277	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – lower-middle income household	4,529	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – assistance for family in hardship	393	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – migrant workers	914	Specific Groups 28,321 50.97%
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – disadvantaged foreign spouses	146	
lawfully obtained disadvantaged group certificate issued by the government – consumer debt clearance	12,343	
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for people with disabilities	4,997	
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for indigenous peoples	7,170	
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated assistance for juveniles	965	
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – referred by presiding judge	1,786	Felony Defense 5,849 10.53%
under statutory conditions which cannot be properly protected by law – mandated representation for felony	5,849	

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 55,567).

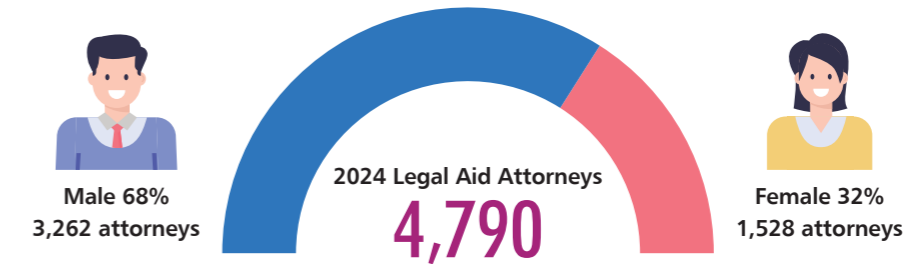
Analysis of Providers

The Number of LAF Legal Aid Attorneys Over the Past Three Years

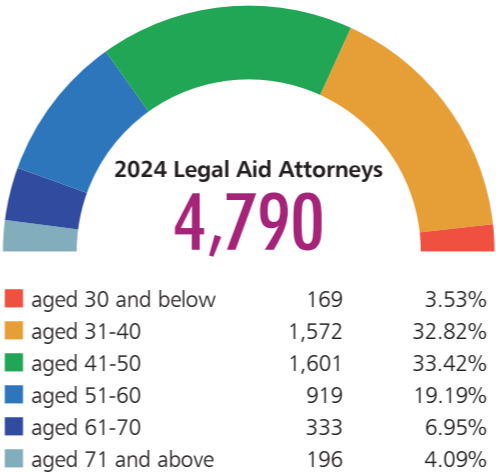
	The Attorneys	The Attorneys Who Took Cases
2022	4,678	3,850
2023	4,750	3,841
2024	4,790	3,891

As of 31 December 2024, a total of 4,790 lawyers nationwide served as LAF legal aid attorneys.

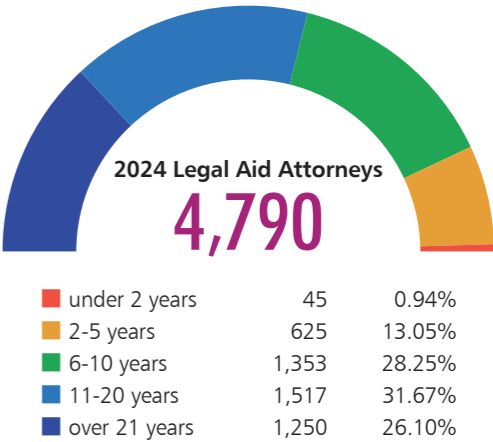
Analysis by Gender



Analysis by Age



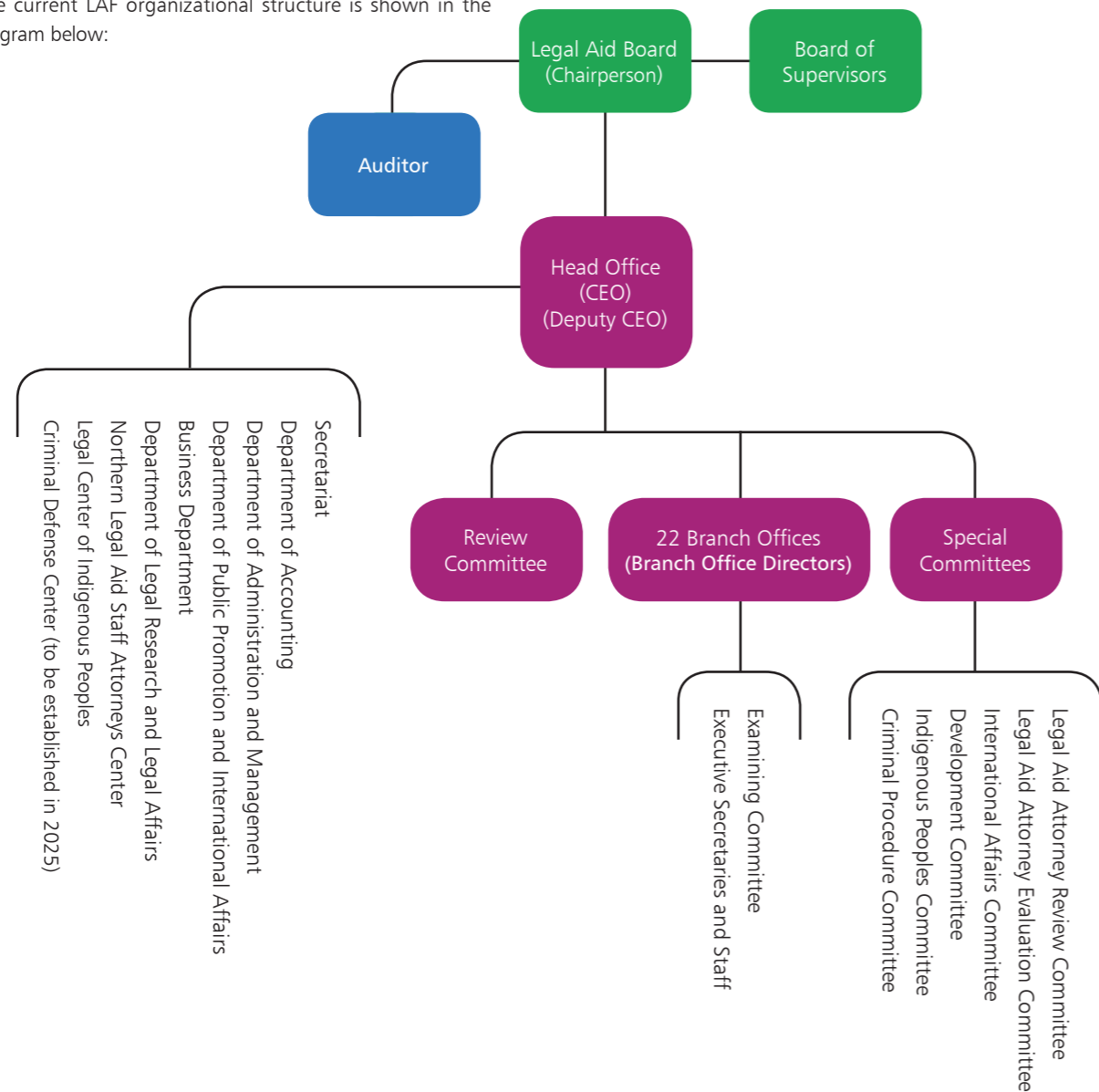
Analysis by Years of Practice



Organization Structure

As of 31 December 2024, LAF employs 295 staff members (including 24 staff attorneys), 37 project personnel, 6 hourly project personnel, and 509 volunteers.

The current LAF organizational structure is shown in the diagram below:



On August 20, 2024, a cooperation agreement was signed with Donghua University



Group photo of the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors on December 27, 2024



July 23, 2024 Legal Aid Foundation 20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Tea Party

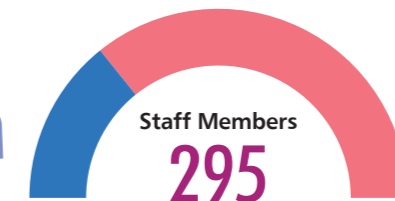
LAF Staff

As of 31 December 2024, LAF employs 295 staff members (including staff attorneys).

Analysis by Gender

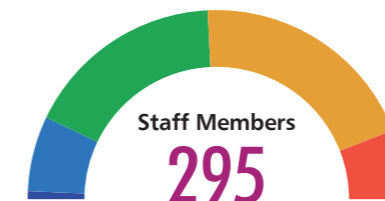


Male 84



Female 211

年齡分佈



aged 30 and below	35
aged 31-40	117
aged 41-50	101
aged 51-60	38
aged 61 and above	4

於基金會服務年資



under 1 year	18
1-3 years	30
4-5 years	17
6-10 years	95
11-15 years	55
over 15 years	80

Job Role



Legal Service Staff (management)	42
Legal Service Staff (direct handling)	187
Non-Legal Service Staff	66

Legal Service Staff Backgrounds



Law School	209
qualified attorneys	50
(24 staff attorneys, 10 administrative attorneys, and 16 executive secretaries)	
Others	20



2024 Annual Report

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