



2017

Legal Aid Foundation (Taiwan)

ANNUAL REPORT



PROFESSIONAL

EFFICIENT

FLEXIBLE

APPROACHABLE

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To Friends of the Legal Aid Foundation

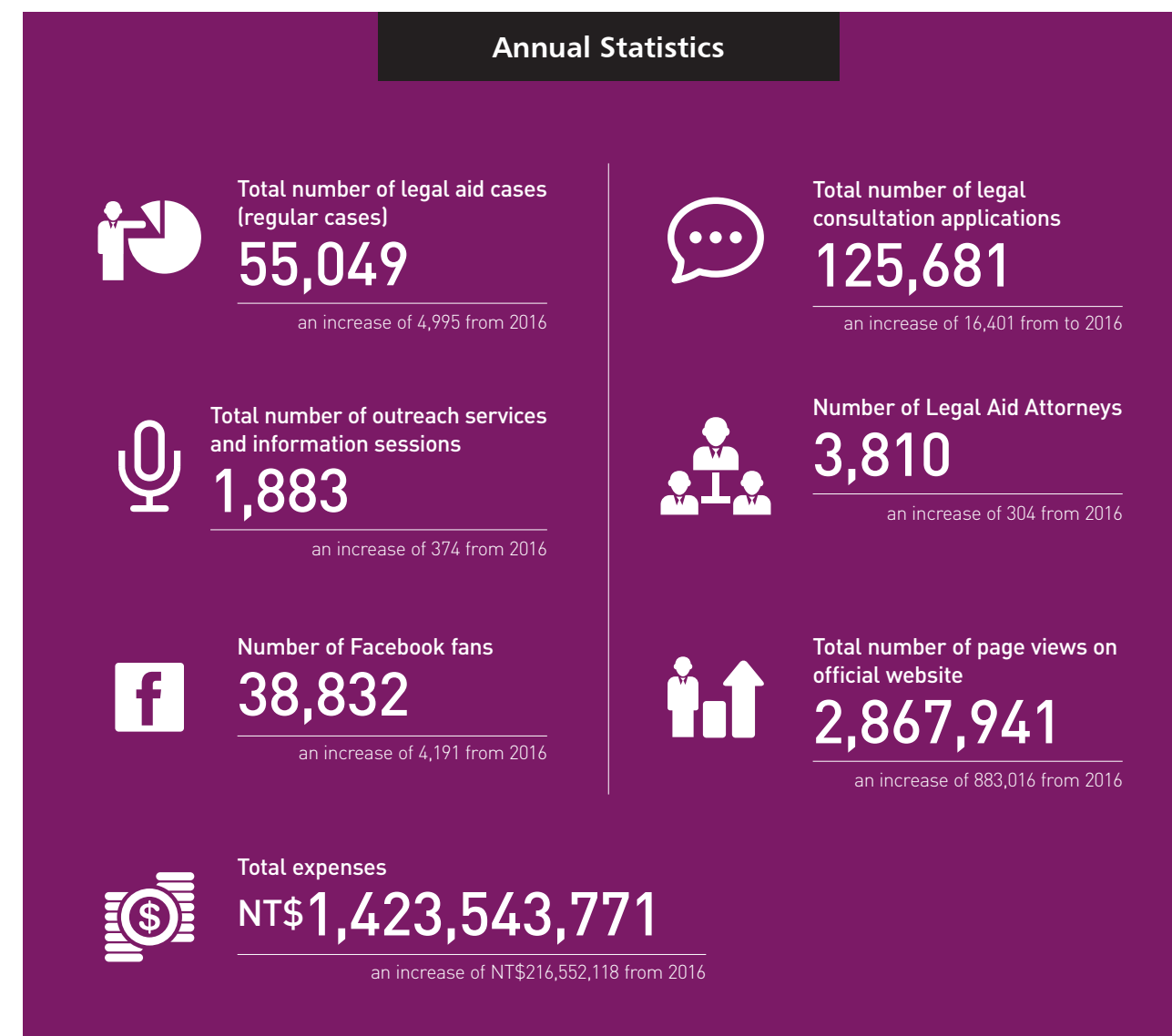
The Legal Aid Foundation has been providing legal aid services to the general public since July 1, 2004. Taiwan has faced a number of drastic social issues over the past 13 years, including the offshoring of domestic industries, escalating unemployment rates, low salaries, and low birth rates. In light of these issues, LAF has worked tirelessly to protect the rights and interests of countless vulnerable residents, including low-income citizens, foreign workers, foreign spouses, indigenous peoples, women in hardship, victims of human trafficking, and credit card debtors.

Taiwan is also currently in an important phase of pension policy reform. Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights proclaims that everyone has the right to social security, meaning the State must ensure all individuals and families have access to essential medical services, basic housing, water and sanitation, foodstuffs, and basic education (General Comment No.19). In the face of the global prevalence of low salaries and poverty, the Legal Aid Foundation remains committed to assisting the disadvantaged and protecting human rights by uniting the government, legal community, and other social welfare institutions to provide integrated services and information to Taiwan's most vulnerable residents. Only then can human rights issues encountered during the process of providing legal aid be resolved. This is the only way to truly care for and satisfy the needs of the disadvantaged, and to substantially improve their circumstances.

These tasks are not easy. The Legal Aid Foundation, which is currently in a transition phase, needs the collective efforts and participation of every staff member, lawyer, and volunteer to satisfy these needs and to reaffirm its original mission of serving the disadvantaged.

LAF received more than 210,000 applications for legal aid or consultation in 2017, and approved more than 60,000 of them, including applications under commissioned programs. LAF's caseload has increased every year since its inception, which reflects the fact that the need for legal aid not only exists in Taiwan, but is also constantly growing. The combination of a rapidly increasing caseload, a limited government-mandated budget, and an extremely heavy workload for LAF employees is a challenge that we must continue to overcome in order to satisfy the needs of society and improve LAF.

After 13 years, LAF has firmly established itself thanks to the leadership of the chairmen, directors, and CEO, the hard work of our employees, and the support and contributions of our attorneys and members of the Review Committee and the Examining Committee. Let us continue to uphold the spirit of legal aid and eliminate bureaucracy, pursue excellence, and provide friendly quality legal aid services. Let us also continue to work with government agencies and social welfare organizations in combining and sharing resources to maximize the benefit of legal aid.



Philosophy

- ◎Equality - to fulfill the constitutional right of equal access to the legal system, and to facilitate improvement of economic status.
- ◎Human Rights - to protect the human rights of the disadvantaged.
- ◎The Rule of Law - to complement the system of the rule of law.

Principles of Service

- ◎To be approachable.
- ◎To adopt efficient procedure.
- ◎To be flexible.
- ◎To provide professional services.

Mission Statement

- ◎To engage in self-reflection, seek reforms and enhance the soundness of the legal aid system.
- ◎To make legal aid available throughout Taiwan.
- ◎To actively publicize legal aid information.
- ◎To allow convenient access to legal aid.
- ◎To advance the quality of legal aid services.
- ◎To encourage the participation of lawyers in legal aid and social reform.
- ◎To strengthen the promotion of legal education for disadvantaged people.

Key Tasks of the Year

Providing Easy Access to Legal Consultation Services

In 2017, LAF handled 51,476 cases through our telephone consultation services; a sharp increase of 21,916 (74.14%) from 2016. Meanwhile, both the number of face-to-face service cases and video conferencing service cases fell. The number of face-to-face service cases decreased by 3,109 and the number of video conferencing service cases decreased by 2,406 from the previous year.

Since LAF launched the legal consultation phone service in 2015, the relative ease of using a telephone leaves fewer people opting for video conferencing or face-to-face consultation service.

The LAF legal consultation staff will reassess the unique circumstances of different users (e.g., special needs of users with mental or physical disabilities) and make adjustments accordingly. The video conferencing and telephone consultation service models will be combined to provide quality legal consultation services that are easier to use.



Maintaining High Quality Service while Dealing with a Growing Need

The total expenses in 2017 increased by NT\$216,552,118 from 2016. As mentioned above, the number of applications for legal aid (or legal consultation) reached 210,000, and the number of approved applications (including applications under commissioned programs) was over 60,000, indicating that the need for legal aid not only exists in Taiwan, but is constantly growing. LAF has continued to provide the disadvantaged with high quality and professional legal aid services even in the face of this constantly growing need.



The LAF opened its 22nd branch, the Qiaotou Branch, on August 8, 2017

Looking In and Reaching Out

Going forward, the LAF will continue to engage social welfare organizations and examine internal service statistics and resource allocation. The Foundation will also take inventory of legal aid regulations in international conventions and follow up on and assist in the implementation of resolutions of the National Affairs Conference on Judicial Reform. The aim is to provide comprehensive legal aid services—from long processes to individual steps—in order to satisfy the needs of different groups and to meet professional standards.

RCA Taiwan Pollution Class Action Suit

The electronics company Radio Corporation of America (RCA) used 31 organic solvents, including trichlorethylene and tetrachlorethylene, in their manufacturing process for 22 years until its plants in Taiwan were closed in 1992. The plants in Taoyuan, Zhubei, and Yilan manufactured computer selectors for television sets and other electronic products. During this time, RCA's use of trichlorethylene and other solvents resulted in cancer or illness in more than a thousand employees and at least 221 deaths. Moreover, the solvents contaminated the land and underground water of the surrounding areas.

LAF staff attorneys formed an attorney group to represent 529 victims and their families and filed a class action suit against RCA, demanding more than NT\$2.7 billion in damages. On April 17, 2015, after almost a decade of litigation, the Taipei District Court ordered RCA and Thomson Consumer Electronics, who had acquired RCA, to be jointly and severally liable for paying more than NT\$560 million in damages to 445 of the plaintiffs. The verdict represented the largest damages award for a class action in



history and broke the court record for the largest number of damage recipients related to occupational diseases. The case was appealed, and on October 27, 2017, the Taiwan High Court ordered RCA, its parent company Technicolor, Thomson, and General Electric to be jointly and severally liable for paying a total of more than NT\$710 million in damages to 486, instead of 445, members of the class action suit. The case is currently being heard by the Supreme Court.



Truku People's Land-Rights Dispute with Asia Cement

The Asia Cement Corporation ("Asia Cement") started setting up a mine and cement plant on the Truku people's land in Fushi, Xiulin Township, Hualien County in 1973. The local Truku people, led by Ms. Chun-chou Tien (Igung Shibani), started the protest, and adopted the slogan, "No to Asia Cement, give us back our land," in the 1990s. Protesters have been fighting for close to 30 years, lobbying the authorities and elected representatives in various areas. They have made a number of petitions and protests and taken legal actions in the hope of reclaiming the Truku people's land from the government and from Asia Cement. The LAF began providing assistance to the Truku people in initiating administrative litigation to revoke the extension of Asia Cement's mining rights. The case is currently being heard by the Taipei High Administrative Court. In addition to judicial remedies, LAF staff attorneys take action in various ways to continue to fight for the rights and interests of the people.

LAF Publication Series 005: Border Drifters

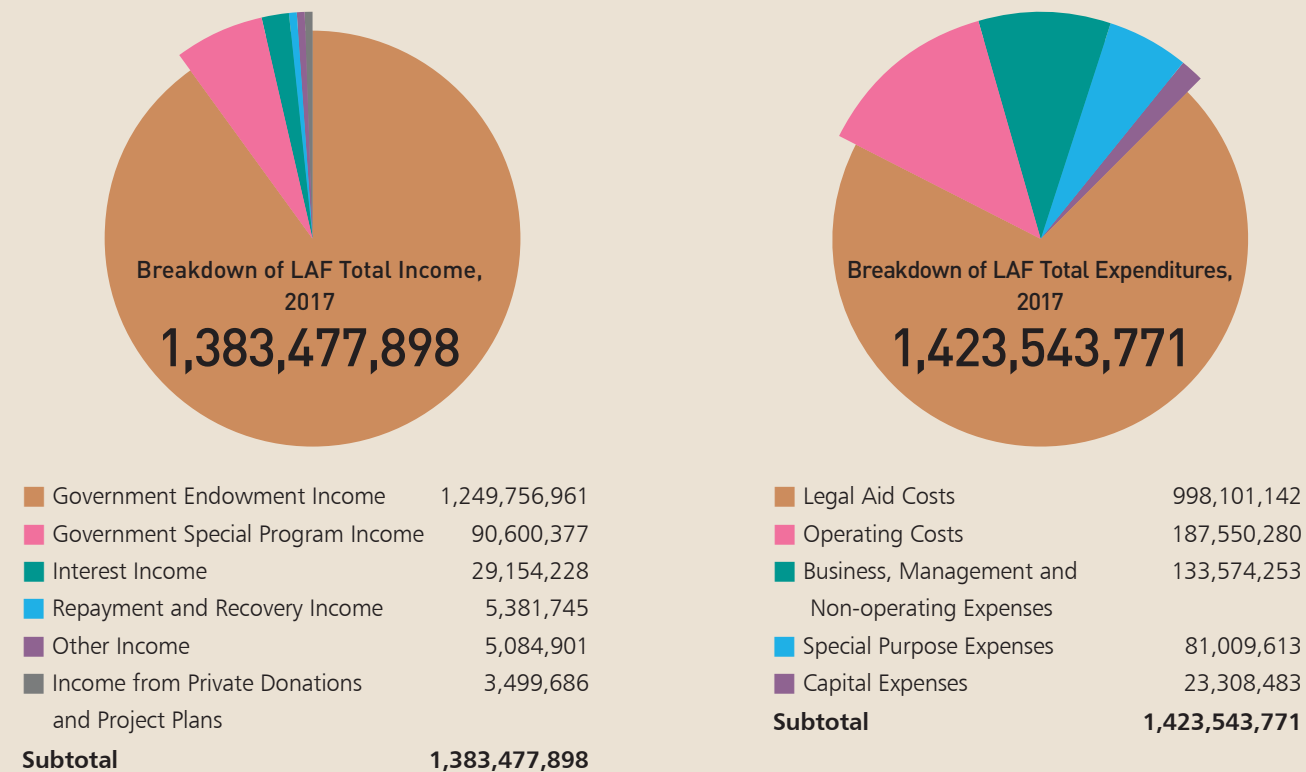
In 2017, the Foundation and the Taiwan Association for Human Rights teamed up to publish a collection of 10 stories about refugees who were without a country, titled "Border Drifters." The series details the difficult living conditions these refugees face in Taiwan through stories and photographs. The book is intended to raise public awareness on the existence of these stateless people, and to compel readers to reflect on the difficulties they face. It also introduces the theories and practices in determination of nationality in Hong Kong so that readers may join the effort to design an optimal and humane identification program.



Annual Financial Statements

The accounting system of LAF observes the fiscal calendar year system. The 2017 financial report was audited by an independent local CPA firm with unreserved opinion reported.

The total expenditure of the LAF for 2017 was NT\$1,423,543,771 (including capital expenses). The total income was NT\$1,383,477,898.



Legal Aid Costs

Including attorney remuneration, litigation expenses, and fees for Assessment and Review Committees.

Operating Costs

Including costs of providing public services, hiring staff attorneys, and costs of hiring LAF staff.

Business, Business Management and Non-operating Expenses

Including management, administrative hiring expenses, administration, and campaign expenses.

Special Purpose Expenses

Costs of special programs entrusted by the Ministry of Labor and the Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Legal aid costs totaled NT\$998,101,142 in 2017. This exceeded the allotted budget of NT\$885,627,000, mainly due to the increased caseload following the 2015 amendment to the Legal Aid Act, which relaxed the previous eligibility requirements. In 2017, the actual case volume exceeded the budget in all aid categories. The largest cost increase was for general cases (96%), as LAF handled 55,051 of these cases (including 2 submissions for review) in 2017 but was budgeted for 43,631 cases. The implementation rate was 126%, and expense implementation will remain higher than the budget in 2017.



Total Expenses

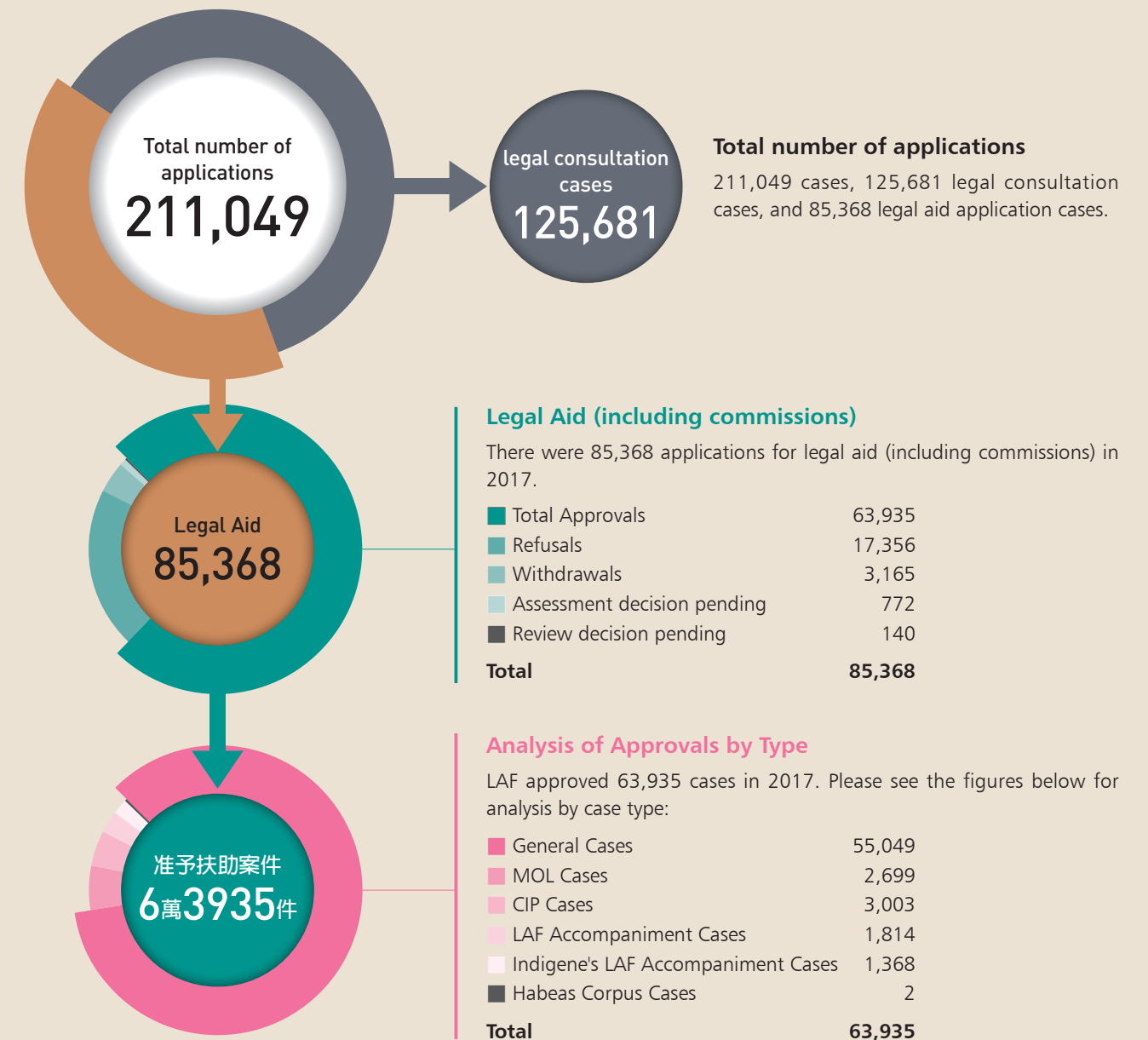
NT\$1,423,543,771



Per Capita Expenses

A donation of NT\$62 per person would cover LAF's annual expenses

Annual Business Data



Total number of applications including legal consultation applications

211,049



Total number of legal consultation applications

125,681



Total number of approvals including projects and commissions

63,935

Comparison of key business indicators in last three years

Total number of applications

including legal consultation applications

168,989 186,178 (+17,189) 211,049 (+24,871)

Total number of legal consultation applications

90,641 109,280 (+18,639) 125,681 (+16,401)

Total number of approvals including projects and commissions

46,368 58,812 (+12,444) 63,935 (+5,123)

Total number of legal aid cases

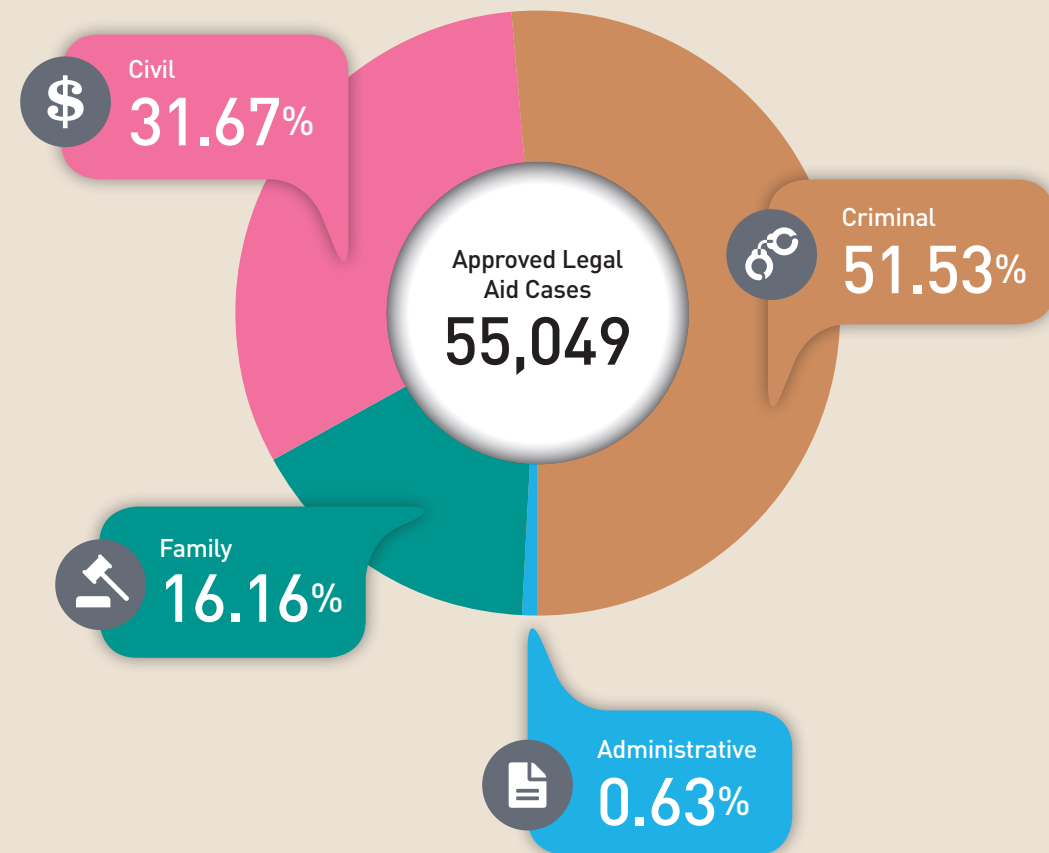
39,026 50,054 (+11,028) 55,049 (+4,995)

2015 2016 2017

Analysis of Legal Aid Cases by Type

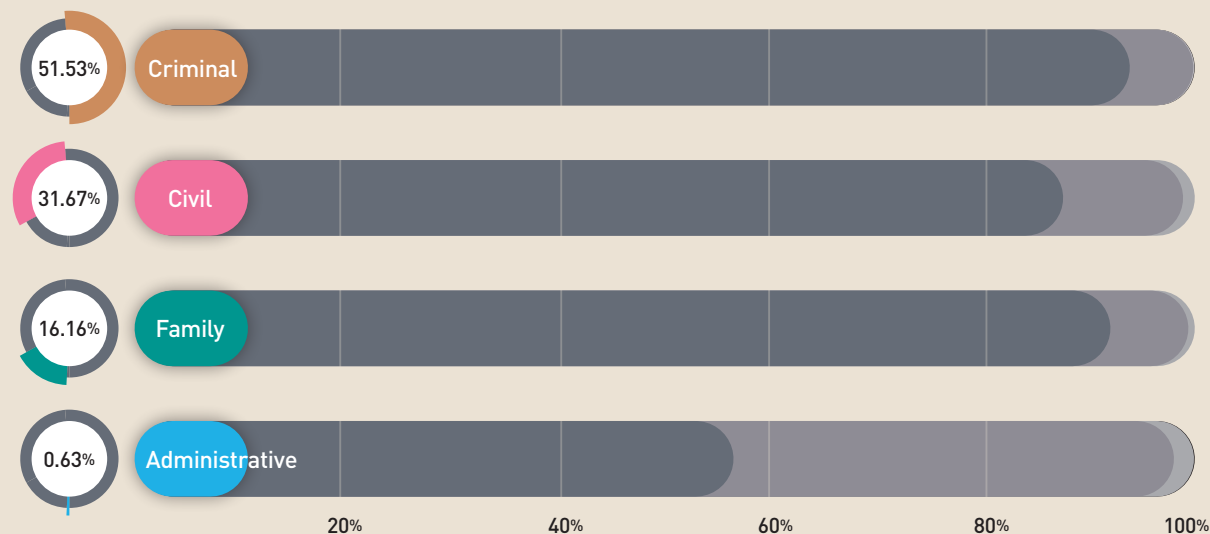
Approved Legal Aid Cases - Analysis by Category

General cases accounted for 55,049 of the approved cases. An analysis of the percentages of criminal, civil, family, and administrative cases is shown in the figure below:



Analysis of Approvals of General Cases — By Types

■ Court Representation
 ■ Mediation or Settlement Negotiation
■ Legal Document Drafting
 ■ Analytical Legal Consultation



Approved General Legal Aid Cases - 5 Most Common Types

Criminal		Civil		Family		Administrative	
Drug Offenses	5,464	Consumer Debt Clearance Act	6,328	Maintenance	3,164	Labor Insurance Act	54
Offenses of Causing Bodily Harm	4,723	Tort	4,794	Divorce	1,919	Public Assistance Act	53
Offenses of Fraud, Breach of Trust, Taking, and Usury	3,525	Consumption Loans	1,127	Child Custody	1,057	Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act	35
Offenses of Larceny	2,036	Ownership	587	Parental Rights	555	Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area	14
Offenses Against Sexual Autonomy	1,967	Illegal Profit	529	Protection Order	483	Vehicle License Tax Act	11

※"Maintenance" accounts for the largest number of family cases, mainly because when the municipal government cannot effectively determine the dependency in a parent-child relationship under the Public Assistance Act, they refer the case to the LAF.

Issuance of Certificates of Guarantee

To fulfill the concept that legal aid also needs to protect the future exercise of rights of the recipient, so as to not lose access to compensation due to debtor's conveyance, based on Article 67 of the Legal Aid Act, when a legal aid case is deemed to have an apparent possibility of victory, the LAF may agree to submit a certificate of guarantee on the recipient's behalf.

As of December 31, 2017, the LAF provided legal aid recipients with 3,523 certificates; or the equivalent of over NT\$2.2 billion in guarantees. In addition to the 1,018 certificates in ongoing cases which have not yet reached the stage of retrieval, a cumulative total of 2,306 certificates were retrieved by the end of 2017, and the percentage of retrieved certificates out of the total (i.e. retrieval percentage) was 92.06%.



Provided
3,523 certificates
The equivalent of
over NT\$ 2.2 billion in
guarantees
As of 12/31/17

LAF: Untangling Knots in the Law

One of the most important services LAF offers is providing people with early access to professional information so that they can evaluate litigation risks beforehand, thereby minimizing disputes and obtaining legal aid in a timely manner.

The LAF received more than 120,000 applications for legal consultation services in 2017, and thus proved that there did indeed exist a need for legal consultation services. 48.84% of the applications were civil cases, 25% were criminal cases, and 21.39% were family cases.



LAF lawyers providing free legal advice at outreach events



1

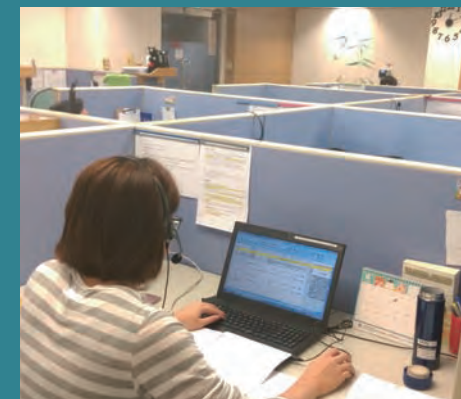
Face-to-face Legal Consultation

There are 123 LAF offices across the country. Anyone who wishes to schedule a face-to-face session may make an appointment on the LAF website or by calling 412-8518 to reach the nearest branch.



Face-to-face Legal Consultation

72,473 cases



2

Telephone Legal Consultation

On May 1, 2015, the LAF launched the legal consultation phone service for labor cases, debt cases, and cases involving legal issues faced by indigenous people. The hotline is 412-8518. A legal consultation phone service for family cases was also made available on November 1, 2017. There were 51,476 phone service cases as of the end of 2017.



Telephone Legal Consultation

51,476 cases



3

Video Conferencing Legal Consultation

There are 397 legal consultation stations across the country. Anyone may make an appointment and then proceed to have a consultation session with an attorney via video conferencing on a computer at the specified time. The opening hours of the stations and information on how to make an appointment are available on the LAF website under the list of video conferencing stations.



Video Conferencing Legal Consultation

1732 cases

Appointment page on the LAF website for legal consultation and aid application

<http://legal-advice.laf.org.tw>



General Legal Aid Cases

Attorney Accompaniment During Interrogation Program

Do Not Be Afraid! A Lawyer Will Accompany You

Target Audience

Suspects of felonies punishable by a minimum sentence of at least three years' imprisonment who are going to be interrogated for the first time may apply for the service.

Where a defendant or accused is unable to make full statements due to damage or impairment of the structures of the nervous system or of psychological or mental functions, or is of indigenous identity and has not been appointed a defense attorney for interrogation, regardless of the defendant or accused having been involved in a felony or not, the police unit and the prosecutor shall comply with Article 31 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and notify the LAF to appoint an accompanying attorney for the interrogation.

Service Hours Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

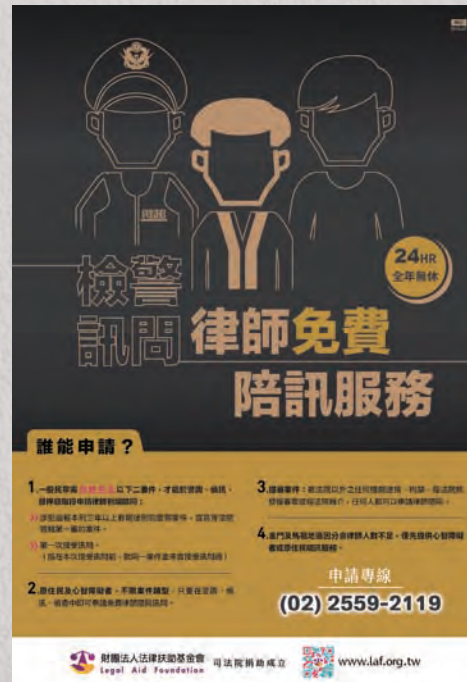
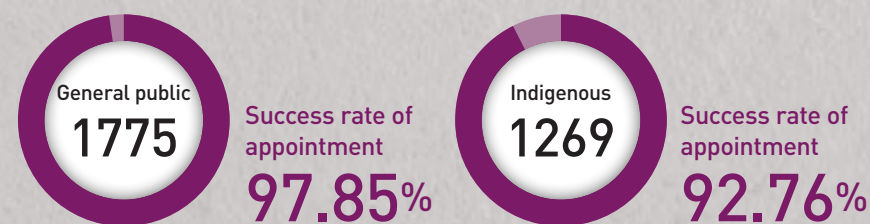
Legal Aid Case

Mingqiang, a schizophrenic patient, was suspected of theft, and the LAF promptly sent a lawyer to accompany him during his interrogation. Mingqiang admitted to the crime, but explained that stopping his medication made him psychologically unstable. He denied any intention to steal. The District Prosecutors Office investigated the case and applied for summary judgment. The District Court heard the case and sentenced Mingqiang to five days in detention, convertible to a fine. However, Mingqiang told the LAF he could not afford the fine. The case was appealed at the court of second instance. The LAF continued to appoint an attorney to provide legal aid in the criminal lawsuit in the second instance court.

Service Outcomes

In 2017, there were 1,814 cases where members of the public were eligible to apply for accompaniment during interrogation and 1,368 cases eligible under the Indigenous Interrogation Program.

Eligible and Applied for an Accompanying Attorney



Please visit the LAF website for more details Attorney Accompaniment During Interrogation Program



Note: The prosecutors and police will record that "attorney presence during interrogation has been declined" and notify the LAF when presence of own or appointed attorney during interrogation has been declined in prosecutor and police interrogation in attorney presence cases (including indigene interrogation). This report counts these cases under involved parties that declined accompaniment during interrogation (4,169 police interrogation cases and 16,736 indigene interrogation cases). They are not counted under applications.

General Legal Aid Cases

Legal Aid for Consumer Debt Clearance Program

How to Apply for Legal Aid to Deal with Debt

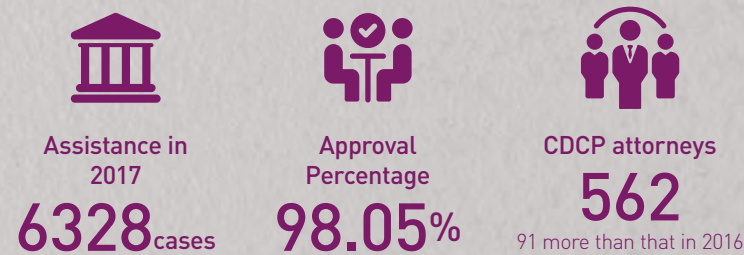
Service Introduction

Regarding legal aid for consumers' debt clearance, the Judicial Yuan announced the Consumer Debt Clearance Act (CDC Act) on July 11, 2007. The CDC Act came into effect on April 11, 2008, and LAF has been providing legal aid and consultation services through its Consumer Debt Clearance Program ever since.

Legal Aid Case

Zhilong owed close to NT\$3 million. His debt exceeded NT\$7 million after interest and penalties. Zhilong currently makes NT\$20,000 a month and his mother is dependent on him. With LAF legal aid services, Zhilong, accompanied by an LAF attorney, negotiated with the creditors but failed, and proceeded to ask the court to initiate the liquidation procedure under the Consumer Debt Clearance Act. Given that Zhilong had only NT\$4 to his name, the court ruled to initiate the liquidation procedure, and at the same time declared the end of the procedure. In the end, Zhilong received a final ruling from the court granting exemption from liability and restoration of his rights. The ruling released him from years of debt and gave him a chance to return to society and begin a normal life.

Service Outcomes



In 2017, 3,549 closed cases were reported. 487 cases were withdrawn by the applicants and, of the remaining 3,062 cases, 1,205 were successfully negotiated or mediated, 1,293 were approved for restructuring, and 190 were written off. 87.79% of the results were in favor of the debtors.

Please visit the LAF website for more details Legal Aid for Consumer Debt Clearance Program



LAF holding training sessions for volunteers and seminars for debtors

General Legal Aid Cases

Legal Aid for Labor Litigation Program

Stand with the Workers!



Service Introduction

LAF started working with the Ministry of Labor to offer the Labor Litigation Program on March 2, 2009. The two parties hope to provide strong legal aid to disadvantaged laborers through the combination of resources so that laborers gain a sense of security while fighting for their rights. Most applications received through the program were civil matters, comprising 97.96%. Most were granted aid in court representation and defense. The three largest categories were severance pay, pension payments, and illegal layoffs.

Legal Aid Case

Zhaoqiang is a truck driver for a shipping company and makes an average of NT\$60,000 a month. The shipping company stopped paying Zhaoqiang one day, and several months later announced that it was closing without warning. It owed Zhaoqiang NT\$120,000 in back pay and more than NT\$700,000 in severance pay. Moreover, the company failed to make the 6% contribution to the Labor Pension Fund for Zhaoqiang, and did not provide him with proof of involuntary termination of employment. With the aid of the LAF attorney, Zhaoqiang won the lawsuit and got back his dignity as a hard working employee.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid for Labor Litigation Program



Service Outcomes



3,276 applications
Approval Rate
82.39%

LAF received and approved about 500 fewer labor litigation cases in 2017 than it did in 2016. The slight decrease was attributed to a smaller number of group applications.



Labor Law Attorneys
274

General Legal Aid Cases

Legal Aid for Indigenous Peoples Program

Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples!



Service Introduction

LAF and the Council of Indigenous Peoples (CIP) signed an entrustment contract on Thursday, March 21, 2013 and launched the Legal Aid for Indigenous Peoples Program on April 1 of the same year.

The largest number of applications received through the Indigenous Peoples Program concerned civil matters, comprising 56.38%, followed by family cases, comprising 20.45%. The three largest categories were torts, ownership disputes, and loans.

Legal Aid Case

The Happy Mountain community in Ruifang, New Taipei City started as a settlement for Amis tribesmen who came to Taipei & New Taipei from Hualien and Taitung looking for work more than twenty years ago. The lack of stable employment made it difficult for the tribesmen to afford living in the cities, and drove them to a place with conditions similar to their hometowns. As a result, tribesmen cleared land and set up simple dwellings on the outskirts of the city. They pass on their culture by living in a close community and gathering together. The government had started helping the tribesmen complete the procedure to lease state land. However, the Northern Region Branch of the National Property Administration of the Ministry of Finance and the Forestry Bureau of the Council of Agriculture of the Executive Yuan received reports that the tribesmen had violated the Soil and Water Conservation Act. The Taiwan Keelung District Prosecutors Office investigated the case and prosecuted more than 40 tribesmen for violating the Act.

The LAF assigned staff attorneys and legal aid attorneys to handle the case. The Social Welfare Section of the Indigenous Peoples Department of the New Taipei City Government provided assistance for the Happy Mountain Community in completing the appropriate procedures. The LAF has discussed the matter with the relevant agencies and will help the tribesmen in the Happy Mountain Community obtain the right to use the land by completing the legal procedures to lease state land. Most rulings on the criminal cases involved have been delivered by the district courts and the Taiwan High Court. Most tribesmen were granted probation. However, it remains an open question on whether the works on the land should be confiscated. There are still inconsistencies in the court rulings, and the cases are still being heard by different levels of courts.



- LAF campaigning to raise awareness of indigenous issues in
- ① Nantou
 - ② Smangus
 - ③ Chiayi

Service Outcomes



3,443 applications
Approval Rate
87.25%

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid for Indigenous People Program



Legal Aid Program for Victims of the Formosa Fun Coast Powder Explosion

On June 27, 2015, a powder explosion at the "Color Play Asia" party at Formosa Fun Coast water park resulted in 15 deaths and 484 injuries and burns (ranging from moderate to severe). The explosion was caused by the organizer's negligence.

LAF, with the approval of the Board of Directors, assembled an attorney group to provide legal aid services. The LAF also appointed staff attorneys to file criminal charges as well as applications for and execution of civil provisional attachment. The defendant, Chung-Chi Lu, was sentenced to four years and ten months in prison by the court of the first instance. Both parties filed appeals and the case is currently being reviewed by the Taiwan High Court. The attorney group also filed supplementary civil claims, which have been moved from the criminal court to the civil court. The attorney group also followed the will of the victims and helped 407 of them transfer their documents to the Consumers' Foundation of Chinese Taipei to handle the subsequent civil class action lawsuit.

In regards to whether Formosa Fun Coast and the relevant parties should face criminal liability, LAF was able to get the High Prosecutors Office to remand the case to the district prosecutor's office twice to continue the investigation, despite that office having decided not to prosecute twice. The case is currently being investigated by the Taiwan Shilin District Prosecutors Office. The attorney group asked each victim whether he/she would be willing to initiate the restorative justice process against the defendant. 200 victims indicated agreement, and the attorney group gave 131 of the applications/assessment forms to the Taiwan Shilin District Prosecutors Office. The attorney group will continue to collect information and stay in communication with the parties involved.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid in Formosa Fun Coast Powder Explosion



RCA Taiwan Pollution Class Action Suit

Background

The electronics company Radio Corporation of America (RCA) used 31 organic solvents, including trichlorethylene and tetrachlorethylene, in their manufacturing process for 22 years until its plants in Taiwan were closed in 1992. During this period, RCA failed to fulfill its environmental protection obligations and allowed organic solvents to be carelessly dumped on the ground and underground, contaminating the soil and groundwater of the surrounding area. RCA also failed to provide employee protection measures, local air exhaust mechanisms inside the plants, and overall ventilation systems as required by law. Moreover, RCA used groundwater contaminated with organic solvents as the source of cafeteria drinking water and shower water in staff quarters for the production line staff. These failures exposed the plaintiffs and members of their families to high concentrations of hazardous organic solvents absorbed through dietary ingestion, skin-to-skin contact, and the respiratory system. Throughout the period between the closing of the plants and the filing of the tort action, over 1,300 former RCA employees developed cancer; among those afflicted, 221 have already died and the number of deaths continues to increase.



RCA press conference - Academics support health justice



RCA press conference - Announcement of second instance decision

Status

LAF staff attorneys and external legal aid attorneys formed an attorney group to act on behalf of 529 employees to claim NT\$2.7 billion in compensation for occupational injuries from companies including RCA. The argument phase of the case in the first instance concluded on December 12, 2014. The Taiwan Taipei District Court ordered the three defendants, RCA, its parent company Technicolor, and Thomson Consumer Electronics (Bermuda) Ltd., to be jointly and severally liable for paying more than NT\$500 million in damages on April 17, 2015. Both parties filed an appeal. The second instance took more than two years to conclude. RCA paid significant sums to fly in four expert witnesses from the United States and China. On October 27, 2017, the Taiwan High Court ordered RCA, its parent company Technicolor, Thomson Consumer Electronics (Bermuda) Ltd., and General Electric Company to be jointly and severally liable for paying a total of more than NT\$710 million in damages to 486, instead of 445, members of the class action suit. Both parties filed an appeal by December 4, 2017. The case is currently being heard by the Supreme Court.

In addition to the more than 500 employees mentioned above, the attorney group attempted to add 1,200 victims and their families to the proceedings, but the application was rejected by the court. Therefore, the LAF helped 1,200 other employees wishing to exercise their rights file a separate lawsuit in the Taiwan Taipei District Court in May 2016. The first court session began on December 21, 2017.



RCA press conference - Upcoming closure of oral arguments in second instance

Please visit the LAF website for more details
RCA Pollution Case





Press conference on the second instance ruling at the Tainan branch

CPDC Dioxin Pollution Case

Background

The Tainan Anshun Plant of China Petrochemical Development Corporation (CPDC) manufactured alkali-chlorine, pentachlorophenol, and sodium pentachlorophenate. The processes generated dioxin and mercury, causing serious pollution of the soil, rivers, underground water bodies, and bottom sediment at the factory and its surroundings. Local residents unknowingly consumed fish contaminated with dioxin resulting in abnormally high concentrations of dioxin in their blood, causing severe damage to their health.

Status

In 2007, staff attorneys from LAF's Tainan Branch began representing local residents in their claims for damages. Restrictions imposed by the prevailing Legal Aid Act at the time meant that cases involving residents who did not meet the LAF's financial hardship threshold had to be handled by civic-minded attorneys gathered by the Tainan Bar Association. The Taiwan Tainan District Court ruled, on December 7, 2015, that the defendant, CPDC, or the Ministry of Economic Affairs, should pay the plaintiff more than NT\$168 million.

Several plaintiffs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the CPDC all filed appeals after the first instance ruling. The LAF had the same attorney group continue to handle the case and provide special legal aid without the financial eligibility requirement pursuant to Article 5, Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 6 of the Legal Aid Act. Two years later, the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court ordered the defendant CPDC to pay the plaintiff more than NT\$191 million. Several plaintiffs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and the CPDC again filed appeals after the second instance ruling. The LAF had the same attorney group continue to handle the case and provided the same special legal aid without the financial eligibility requirement. The case is currently being heard by the Supreme Court.

Some of the residents who were not included in the earlier case were included in a separate lawsuit initiated with the assistance of the LAF staff attorneys. The case is being heard by the Taiwan Tainan District Court. The goal is to ensure that all victims are adequately compensated.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid in CPDC Dioxin Pollution Case



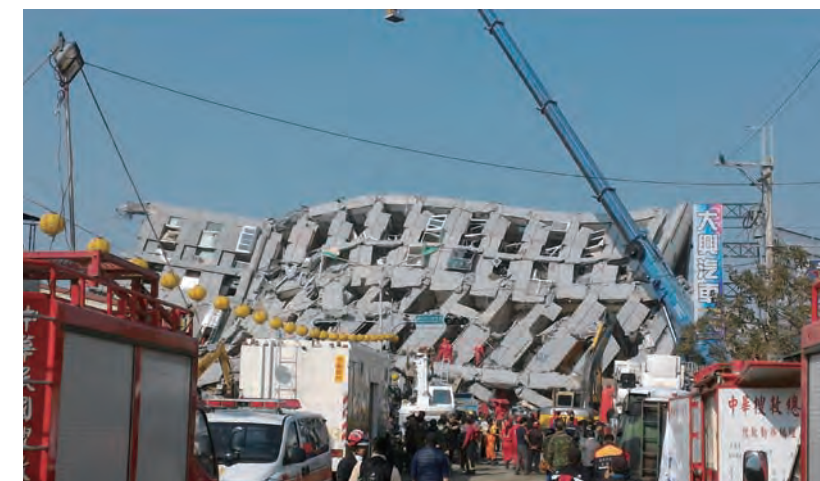
Weiguan Case

Background

On February 6, 2016, the day before Chinese New Year's Eve, an earthquake struck Meinong District of Kaohsiung. The Weiguan Jinlong Building in Tainan collapsed, resulting in 115 deaths and hundreds of injuries. The construction company and the architect, suspected of wrongdoing and collaborating to supply false evidence, were ordered to be retained by the Taiwan Tainan District Court. The LAF Tainan Branch promptly initiated the legal aid services for civil provisional attachment. Special legal aid services have since been granted by the Legal Aid Board pursuant to Article 5, Paragraph 4, Subparagraph 6 of the Legal Aid Act.

Status

The case is being handled by an attorney group consisting of LAF staff attorneys and legal aid attorneys. The attorney group provides assistance for the victims in filing criminal charges, applications for and executions of civil provisional attachment, and supplementary civil claims to hold the defendants jointly and severally liable for more than NT\$6.2 billion in damages. With respect to the criminal case, the Taiwan High Court Tainan Branch Court sentenced each of the five defendants to five years in prison in conjunction with a fine of NT\$90,000 on July 28, 2017. Four defendants, not including the construction company, filed appeals to the court of third instance. The case is being heard by the Supreme Court. The supplementary civil claims have been moved from the criminal to the civil court at the Taiwan Tainan District Court.



Please visit the LAF website
for more details
Legal Aid for Victims of
Weiguan Building Collapse



Special Legal Aid Program for Civil Disobedience Litigation

Background

In order to protect human rights, LAF passed a resolution at the 17th meeting of the 4th Board of Directors on Thursday, July 25, 2013, that authorized attorneys to accompany residents being interrogated in regard to civil disobedience litigation. The program mainly assists in protecting the people's rights to attract public attention and start movements for the purpose of changing government laws or policies.

Status

Since the program was initiated in 2014, the LAF has appointed attorneys to accompany interrogations in cases including the protest against the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, the student movement against the lack of transparency in the national curriculum, the relocation of Sanmin market in Kaohsiung, and the protest against the one fixed day off and one flexible day off each week policy. In 2017, the program was used to appoint attorneys to residents interrogated in regard to the campaign for trees at Songshan Cultural Park, the protest against the demolition

of the Banqiao Daguang Community, and the protest against an unfavorable amendment of the Labor Standards Act.

Furthermore, the LAF accepted a donation of NT\$1.5 million from the Economic Democracy Union in 2016. The donation was the remaining sum from the 318 Movement, and would be used exclusively to fund the program. In addition to making plans to allocate the sum to the budget for lawsuits arising from civil disobedience-related demonstrations, the Foundation also plans to organize civil disobedience seminars, publications and translations of civil disobedience-related books, and education and training sessions to help train more attorneys.

The Legal Aid Board passed the Special Legal Aid Program for Civil Disobedience Litigation. The program provides legal aid services and attorney accompaniment in civil disobedience cases. LAF has provided legal aid services in six cases so far, including the relocation of Kaohsiung Sanmin market, the protest against demolition of the Banqiao Daguang Community, and the removal of the Chiang Kai-shek statue in Fu Jen Catholic University.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid in Civil Disobedience Cases



Legal Aid for Filipino Migrants Exploited by Excessive Interest Rates

Background

A Filipino recruitment agency violated the law in the Philippines by charging excessive brokerage and other fees. The agency exploited the workers eager to come and work in Taiwan and introduced them to certain financing companies to take out loans to pay for the aforementioned fees. Although claiming the interest rate would be 2% per month, the agency used a variety of excuses to deceive the workers, and made illegal gains in the process. The workers were effectively paying 4% or more in interest per month. When a worker failed to repay the loan, the loan company would take the promissory note signed by the worker and add penalties and interest to it before acquiring grounds for execution and initiating the compulsory enforcement process against the worker's pay, at a nominal cost to the company (e.g. NT\$500 in court charges). There were hundreds of victims all over the country.

Legal Aid Status

LAF has had staff and legal aid attorneys work together to help the workers who have been exploited by excessive interest rates and illegal brokerage fees by arguing that the creditor's rights as stated on the promissory notes are invalid, and by asserting objections on behalf of the debtors. In 2017, 279 cases were approved for legal aid, and most are being heard by the district courts. Only a handful of cases had the first instance ruling delivered at the time of this writing. There have been wins, losses, and settlements thus far.



LAF Taoyuan Branch provided legal consultation for Filipino migrants exploited by excessive interest rates and sent representatives to collect applications on site



The LAF held a press conference for Indonesian caretaker victims in the Chiji Group scam on July 31, 2017

Indonesian Caretakers' Civil Damages Claim Against the Chiji Group

Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Membantu Anda! (LAF is here to help!)

Case

The Chiji Group scam took place in 2009. 14 recruitment agencies, led by Lin, one of the persons in charge, charged Indonesian caretakers excessive brokerage fees and deducted their pay without just cause. The scam was estimated to have taken more than NT\$210 million from 5,282 victims. Regarding the criminal proceedings, the Taiwan High Court Taichung Branch Court delivered a final criminal judgment (2010 Jin-Shang-Su-Zi No. 255) that sentenced the defendants to five years in prison, not commutable to a fine.. The defendants started serving their sentences in 2014, and were released on parole in 2016. In July 2016, the Taiwan Miaoli District Court sent a letter asking the LAF to find the Indonesian caretakers who were the victims involved in the criminal proceedings and provide them with the appropriate legal aid services to initiate civil proceedings. The National Immigration Agency of the Ministry of the Interior helped by filtering out 1,405 Indonesian caretakers still working in Taiwan

and provided the list of caretakers for the LAF to mail legal aid application packages to.

Service Outcomes

As of December 31, 2017, the LAF had provided legal aid services in all cases where all the necessary documents were present. LAF also appointed staff attorneys to handle the cases. Civil lawsuits were filed with the Taiwan Ciaotou District Court under some of the cases in June 2017. The remaining cases were added to ongoing lawsuits or filed under separate lawsuits. The defendants made settlement offers after the LAF filed the aforementioned lawsuits and showed willingness to pay damages to the victims. The settlement is currently under review by the Civil Court of the Taiwan Miaoli District Court. The parties went through the mediation process once in December 2017. The LAF also contacted the victims who applied for legal aid by telephone and in writing, and confirmed their willingness to participate in the mediation process.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
Legal Aid for Victims of Chiji Group Scam



Quality Improvement in 3 Steps

To improve the quality of our legal aid services, the LAF starting investing more effort in three areas in 2017. The three areas were: managing the quality of attorneys (legal aid attorneys and staff attorneys), enhancing service attitude, and improving the case management process.

1 Improving Attorney Training and Upholding Standards of Aid

Given that attorneys are the actual service providers, the quality of service provided by legal aid attorneys is the most important part of the legal aid operation. LAF has a number of control measures in place to maintain the quality of legal aid attorneys.

Legal Aid Attorney Eligibility

LAF generally requires its attorneys to have at least two years of practice experience before they can provide legal aid services. Attorneys who have fewer than two years of practice cannot join the LAF without passing a document review. In 2017, a total of 39 attorneys were qualified through the review.

Before a Case is Opened: Case Assignment Management

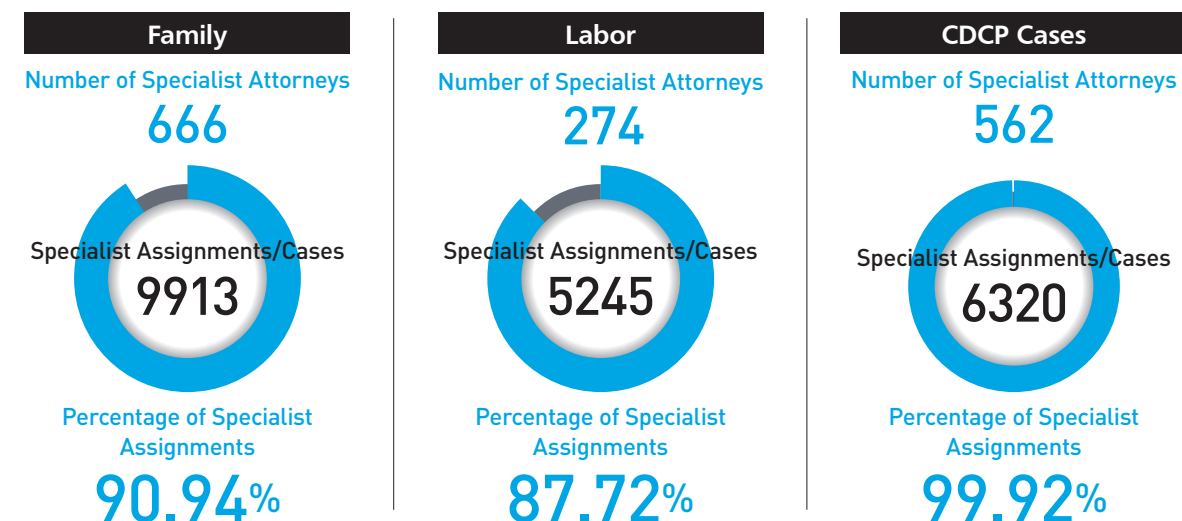
● Fair Assignment Policy

The LAF has been following a fair assignment policy for a number of years. The policy limits attorneys to 24 legal aid cases per year so that they are free to handle their own additional cases. To ensure the quality of legal aid services, legal aid attorneys, except for those in Taitung and Hualien, where fewer attorneys are available, usually handle no more than 24 cases each per year.

● Specialist Assignment System

The Legal Aid Board approved the "Specialist Case Assignment Trial Program" in 2014 and chose labor cases, family cases, and CDCP cases as the three categories for the trials. Two years of trials have produced indicators that all suggest specialist case assignment results in higher quality legal aid. To make the process more rigorous, the Legal Aid Board decided to change the trial program in 2017. The trial program is expected to be extended for another year.

LAF Specialist Attorney Assignments in 2017



LAF branches organized various attorney training courses



LAF holding attorney training courses in

- Tainan
- Taipei
- Pingtung



After a Case Closes: Attorney Performance Evaluation System

Based on the LAF Guidelines Governing Complaint Handling Procedures, any applicant, related party, or LAF employee may file a complaint against a private lawyer (including LAF employees, Assessment Committee members, and other staff members) for illegal or inappropriate actions. The LAF immediately investigates complaints and takes disciplinary actions accordingly. In addition, the LAF follows up and replies to any petition filed by the general public on the assessment standards or legal aid system.

There were 91 complaints in 2017. One is still under investigation, and 90 were closed after investigation. 11 complaints were not accepted as they were either withdrawn or did not meet the complaint requirements. The results in 79 remaining complaints were as follows:

- No punishment in 46 cases;
- Disciplinary actions, including coordination, guidance, warning, and improvement notice, in 25 cases;
- Barred assignments in 5 cases;
- And barred assignments and referral to the Attorney Evaluation Committee in 3 cases.

After a Case Closes: Attorney Performance Evaluation System

LAF started conducting biennial attorney evaluations in 2007. As of December 31, 2017, a total of 24 excellent legal aid attorneys had been selected and commended, while sanctions were approved by the Attorney Evaluation Committee and the Attorney Review Committee and imposed on 114 poor-quality or faulty legal aid attorneys. The results are as follows:

- Dismissal from legal aid service for 48 attorneys;
- Barred assignments for 27 attorneys;
- Reduced assignments for 8 attorneys;
- Written notices of improvement to 30 attorneys;
- And a warning to 1 attorney.

Among the aforementioned sanctioned attorneys, 23 attorneys in violation of attorney ethics were referred to the Attorney Discipline Committee.

Attorney Training Courses

Over the years, LAF has been providing education and training for attorneys in order to help them continue to improve at handling cases involving disadvantaged groups.

In 2017, in response to the amendment of many laws and regulations, the LAF focused on certain issues and related cases and organized a number of attorney training courses and information sessions. The topics included:

- Labor issues (5 sessions around the country)
- Domestic issues (7 sessions around the country)
- Legal aid for indigenous peoples (4 sessions around the country)
- Prevention of human trafficking in practice (3 sessions)
- CDCP cases (4 sessions)
- Refugee issues (2 sessions)
- Forced evictions and the right to adequate housing (5 sessions)
- Effective communication with parties involved (training for attorneys) (6 sessions)
- Other attorney training courses on subjects such as multi-level marketing and practical training on the Juvenile Delinquency Act.

Furthermore, to give legal aid attorneys a better understanding of the indigenous cultures, the LAF hosted tribal camps in July and December of 2017, and led legal aid attorneys on visits to the Zhenxibao village in Hsinchu and Ruixiang village in Hualien to learn more about the habits and traditions of the indigenous peoples. The events were intended to enable LAF legal aid attorneys to see things from the respective aid recipients' view and find it easier to better understand the recipients' needs.

2 Legal Aid Staff Attorney Center



Group Photo of the North Legal Aid Staff Attorney Center

Legal aid cases, as a rule, are handled by external legal aid attorneys. Nevertheless, the LAF has set up a legal aid staff attorney center and employs staff attorneys to handle cases that involve special expertise, public interest, and major significance, to which the average attorney might not be so frequently exposed, such as environmental litigation, death penalty defense, and class action.

The branches send applications with special requirements (and recipients with urgent and special needs) by email and cloud registration to the North Legal Aid Staff Attorney Center. The Center assembles the cases and send them to the CEO to be assigned to staff attorneys at the center or the branches. Upon completing a case, staff attorneys submit the files and case closure documents to the CEO for review. The same files and documents are returned to the respective staff attorneys after the review. There is a system in place to help staff attorneys manage individual cases.

The LAF currently employs 17 staff attorneys. Three are stationed at the Taipei Branch, two at the New Taipei Branch, three at the Tainan Branch, and nine at the North Legal Aid Staff Attorneys Center. (These figures are correct as of December 31, 2017).

In addition to the RCA case, the National Remedy for Typhoon Morakot case, and the CPDC case, cases of major social concern handled by staff attorneys also include:

Tama Talum's Extraordinary Appeal and Application for Constitutional Interpretation

Tama Talum, a Bunun tribesman, went hunting for an endangered animal and was arrested by the police for violating the Controlling Guns, Ammunition and Knives Act and the Wildlife Conservation Act. He was brought to the Taitung District Prosecutors Office and later sentenced by the court to three years and ten months in prison. The LAF applied for an

extraordinary appeal on his behalf, and enforcement was stayed after the prosecutor general filed an extraordinary appeal with the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court held a court of survey for an extraordinary appeal for the first time. Expert opinions were heard, and the session was streamed live. It was the first time that the Supreme Court live-streamed the proceedings. The court granted a stay of proceedings on September 28, 2017. The collegial panel applied to the Grand Justices of the Judicial Yuan for constitutional interpretation on grounds of the Controlling Guns, Ammunition and Knives Act and the Wildlife Conservation Act containing unconstitutional provisions. The case has been moved to the council of Grand Justices.

Truku People's Land-Rights Dispute with Asia Cement Project

The Asia Cement Corporation (Asia Cement) started setting up a mine and cement plant on the Truku people's land in Fushi, Xiulin Township, Hualien County in 1973. The Truku people have been forced to live away from their homes since then. Local Truku people, led by Ms. Chun-chou Tien (Igung Shibab), started the protest, "No to Asia Cement, Give us Back our Land," in the 1990s. Protesters have been fighting for close to 30 years and lobbying the authorities and elected representatives in various areas. They have made a number of petitions and protests and taken legal actions in the hope of one day reclaiming the Truku people's land from the government and from Asia Cement.

LAF started providing assistance in 2017 for the Truku people in initiating administrative litigation to revoke extension of the mining rights. The case is currently being heard by the Taipei High Administrative Court. In addition to judicial remedies, LAF staff attorneys fought for the rights of the people in a variety of ways, such as:

1.drafting an amendment of the Mining Act and lobbying

legislators in support of the amendment;

2.holding press conferences with partner groups to urge the government to pay attention to the rights of indigenous peoples;

3.helping tribesmen complete the registration procedures to transfer ownership of indigenous reserves;

4.supporting President Tsai's call on the tribe, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Asia Cement to initiate a negotiation process on equal ground by providing assistance for the tribesmen in gathering comments and analyzing legal opinions; and

5.attending seminars on mining rights of indigenous peoples in different countries and participating as speakers and panelists. The "No to Asia Cement, Give us Back our Land" campaign by the Truku people has been one of the landmark cases in the indigenous movements in Taiwan. The LAF will uphold its professional integrity and the protection of rights of the indigenous peoples under the Constitution, the Indigenous

Peoples Basic Law, and the two international covenants, and continue to fight for the rights of the tribesmen as part of its effort to create a friendlier environment for the indigenous peoples.



Mining Act press conference

3 Improvement in Quality Driven by Service and Processes

Enhancing Service Attitude

● Emphasizing the Spirit of Service

The LAF established the Code of Conduct for Branch Services in 2016. A service checklist was created in 2017, and the branches were arranged to undergo service training. Survey companies conducted interviews and presented reports to provide a basis for improvement for the branches. The reports guided LAF staff in reconsidering their roles and improving their communication skills.

● Branch Service Satisfaction Survey

Branch satisfaction surveys are conducted on a monthly basis at present. The overall satisfaction with branch services was 92% in 2017. Satisfaction survey results are included in the annual performance evaluation criteria for branches. In 2017, for example, branch satisfaction survey results are given a weight of 35% in the service quality evaluation.

● Translation Services for the Review Process

To help non-Chinese speaking applicants apply for legal aid, the LAF passed the Legal Aid Foundation Guidelines for Eligibility and Expenses for Translation Services in the 19th meeting of the 5th Legal Aid Board on September 29, 2017, and hired 87 interpreters. The application for review interpretation was made available shortly thereafter.

Improving the Case Management Process

● Communication Between the Head Office and Branches

To reduce discrepancies or errors in the way individual branches handle cases and accelerate the problem solving process, the head office appoints case managers to act as contacts and supervisor for the branches. A platform has also been created for

the branches to view information and make inquiries online.

● Requirement of Timely Case Assignment

In Article 11 of the Operation Guidelines of Assignment of Legal Aid Attorneys, the LAF specifies a time frame for assigning cases to legal aid attorneys, which is within three days after a case is approved or one day under extraordinary circumstances.

In practice, though caseloads vary by branch, aid recipients are able to find out information on assigned legal aid attorneys within 1 day of confirmation on average.

● Simplified Procedures

Caseloads have risen dramatically for all branches since the Legal Aid Act was amended in 2015. Since the administrative and case staff cannot be expanded by the same proportion, the LAF has simplified the processes at different stages.

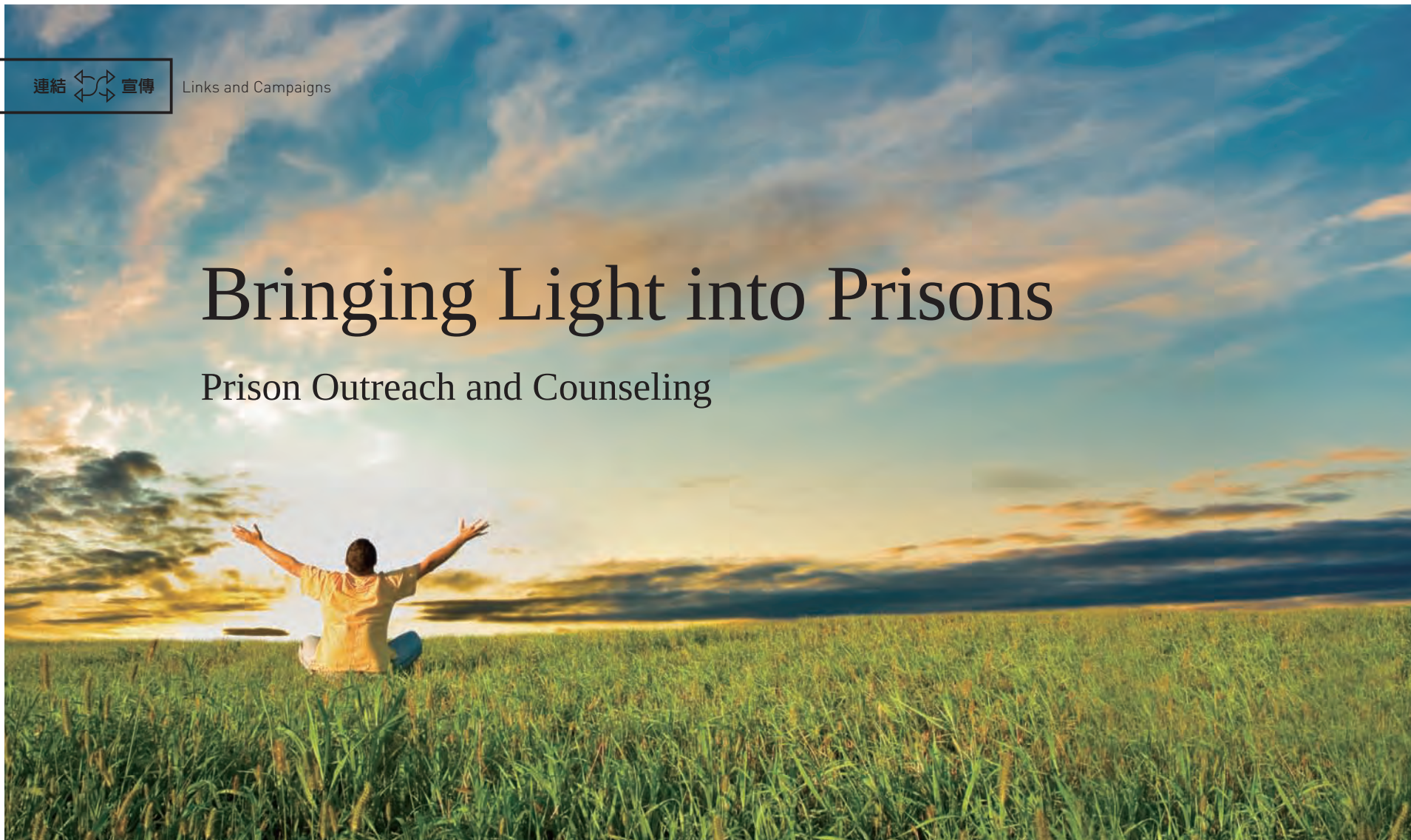
The legal consultation and review scheduling systems were combined in 2017. The system was then made available to the public to reduce demand on LAF staff. The case closure form was made to require less information, which also helped reduce workload.

● Well-Constructed System for Tracking and Following Up on Cases

Most cases at the LAF are assigned to external legal aid attorneys. The legal aid attorneys are currently required to start processing their assignments within two months after accepting them and to give progress reports. The current control indicator is a legal aid attorney's failure to apply for pay in advance in two months after a case is assigned. The LAF also requires that a legal aid attorney not to be assigned a case until the appropriate progress report is made.

Bringing Light into Prisons

Prison Outreach and Counseling



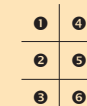
LAF holding a lecture at a prison in Hualien

To ensure that prison inmates can receive sufficient legal resources and to call for protection of inmates' rights, the LAF began to invest efforts in services through 22 branches across the country. The LAF also stepped up efforts to advertise that it had started accepting legal aid applications by mail from prison inmates and that all types of applications, for criminal cases and otherwise, would be considered.

The LAF visited 42 correctional facilities across the country to collect applications from inmates 96 times. We also held 376 legal education and legal aid services awareness sessions and 325 legal consultation sessions in 2017. LAF conducted a total of 797 sessions in 2017, close to 300 more than the previous year when it conducted 468 sessions. However, two correctional facilities with constraints on available correctional personnel or existing partnerships with other organizations (e.g. Taiwan After-care Association or local bar associations) declined LAF's services. Furthermore, some branches, being smaller and equipped with less manpower and fewer local attorneys, found it difficult to provide regular prison services.



LAF lawyers discussing legal education and related topics and providing consultation at detention centers and prisons in



- ① Chiayi
- ② Penghu
- ③ Keelung
- ④ Hualien
- ⑤ Hualien
- ⑥ Kaohsiung



Provided services at
42 correctional facilities
across the country



Held **797** sessions of consultation,
application collection, or legal education
information at correctional facilities

Amicable Interactions with Partners in Different Fields

Promotional Events and Legal Education

"Suspect at Large" Seminars

The LAF continued to organize "Suspect at Large" Legal Aid Cross-industry Seminars this year. The topics focused mainly on the disadvantaged and human rights issues. Experts in various fields were invited to the discussions. The subjects were wide-ranging and included: literature and psychology, theater and image, philosophy, working conditions, anti-forced evictions and housing for the disadvantaged, environmental pollution and right to health, documentary seminars, drunk driving issues, judicial reform, prison outreach, and voices of the homeless. In addition to Taipei, the LAF also chose cities in central and southern Taiwan to hold seminars. A total of 14 sessions took place in the year, and all were well received.



Organization of Promotion

To raise awareness of legal aid services and make such services known and available to the disadvantaged, the LAF, given a limited amount of manpower, organized more than 1,800 events by itself or in partnership with other organizations this year. In addition to 797 prison outreach events, there were:



681 independent promotional and legal education events



405 promotional events hosted by local groups in which LAF participated



LAF hosted several seminars and invited experts to speak on a variety of subjects in 2017



LAF events in
① Hualien
② Penghu



Please visit the LAF website for more details
Best of past events on LAF website



Please visit the LAF website for more details
"Suspect at Large" Legal Aid Cross-industry Seminars



LAF Turns 13!

13th Anniversary Celebration



13th Anniversary Celebration

The LAF chose the New Taipei Branch as the venue for its 13th Anniversary Tea Party. The theme was "Make Legal Aid Accessible to All." The LAF invited legal aid supporters from various fields to join the celebration. A case involving physical/mental disability was shared at the event and received much feedback. An award ceremony was arranged to recognize LAF volunteers to show appreciation for their dedication.



2017 Legal Aid Day

25 film appreciation sessions at the LAF branches took place on Legal Aid Day in 2017. Two movies, "See You, Lovable Strangers" and "Hang in There, Kids," were shown, and the directors, aid recipients, and attorneys explored the challenges and issues faced by immigrants and indigenous peoples.



LAF increased awareness of the issues faced by immigrants and indigenous peoples through several movie forums in 2017

Legal Aid in Pictures

Multimedia and Advertisements

Image Ads

As part of the effort to gain media exposure with a limited advertising budget, the LAF continues to deploy promotional films shown for public service, partnerships with media, and press conferences to secure media coverage. The LAF appeared in the media more than 350 times in 2017. To expand its image database, the LAF produced a new image ad, "LAF - Ant," and a cross-industry Peking opera-themed commercial, "Xianglian Chin's Love Story (Here for You)". The LAF also purchased online advertisement with good results.



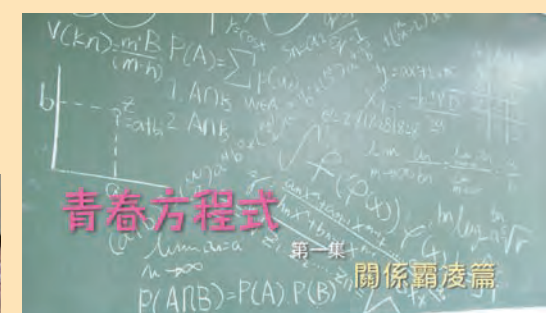
Xianglian's Love
Story (here for you)



LAF - Ants

Production of Campus Campaign Film

Following the success of its popular 2016 campus film, "Ordinary Girls," LAF continued to extend its reach on campuses and raise awareness of legal education by producing the film, "Deconstructing Youth" in 2017. The film touched on subjects such as school bullying, money mules and scams, and illegal justice. The aim is to help the audience learn through play, thereby effectively teaching the concept of law in school while raising awareness of legal aid among school children.



Deconstructing Youth

LAF in Print

出版品與網路宣傳



LAF Publication: "Border Drifters"

Following the publication of "Their Stories" in 2016, the LAF worked with the Taiwan Association for Human Rights to publish "Border Drifters," a collection of 10 stories about refugees without a country, in 2017. The book was intended to attract attention to issues in and outside of Taiwan.

Please visit the LAF website for more details
"Border Drifters" and purchase details



- ① 香港書展
- ② 公民書展開展記者會
- ③ 公民書展
- ④ 「國界上的漂流者」新書發表會
- ⑤ 國際書展講座

Online Promotion

The LAF, in addition to working on its website, is investing more in Facebook advertisements. The campaign builds useful snippets around everyday law trivia to attract the attention of fans. In 2017, the LAF website had 723,227 visitors and 2,867,941 page views. The number of Facebook fans reached 38,832.



LAF Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/legalaidtw>



LAF website

<http://www.laf.org.tw>



Elevating Legal Aid to International Standards

Reaching Out to and Collaborating With Other Countries



Visit to Japan

The LAF sent a delegation to Japan in early 2017 to learn about the trial system being promoted there and thus facilitate preparations for the trial system proposed in the National Affairs Conference on Judicial Reform in Taiwan. The delegation brought back a large amount of valuable information and experience.

International Conferences

Regarding its participation in international conferences in 2017, the LAF was invited to the 6th ILAG conference as well as the LAWASIA Conference in Japan, the roundtable talk hosted by Japan Legal Support Center, and the academic conference hosted by Korea Legal Aid Corporation to celebrate its 30th anniversary. The LAF is increasingly more involved in the international community.



LAWASIA 2017



International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) Conference

8th East Asia Financial Victims Conference

The conference is organized in turn by Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea. Now in its 8th year, the East Asia Financial Victims Conference (also known as Taiwan-Japan-Korea Consumer Debt Clearance Seminar) was hosted by Taiwan in 2017. The theme was "Poverty and Debt," and the topics included:

- (1) Diffusion effect of debt - impact of debt on everyday life, health, and work
- (2) Integration of social resources - links to and integration of resources in support of debt clearance
- (3) Poverty study - Poverty in different countries and potential solutions

The LAF invited academic experts, interest group representatives, and attorneys to explore issues of debt from various perspectives. The event was also attended by 14 Japanese representatives and 24 South Korean representatives.

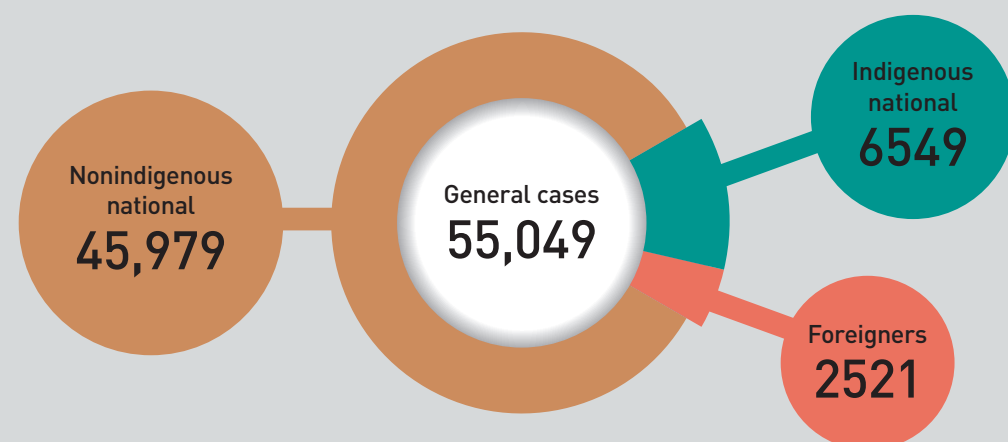
Please visit the LAF website for more details
8th East Aia Financial Victims Conference



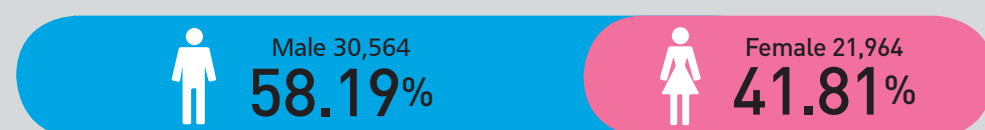
Taiwan-Japan-Korea Consumer Debt Clearance Seminar 2017



Analysis of Identity of Recipients | A total of 55,049 cases in 2017



Analysis of Gender of Nationals and Case Type | 52,528 of the recipients in 2017 were nationals



Largest case type/ percentage	Criminal Drug Cases	Consumer Debt Clearance Act (civil cases)
Second largest	Consumer Debt Clearance Act (civil cases)	Civil Tort Cases
Third largest	Criminal Injury Cases	Family Maintenance Cases
Fourth largest	Civil Tort Cases	Criminal Injury Cases
Fifth largest	Criminal Fraud Cases	Criminal Fraud Cases

Analysis of Legal Aid for Disabled Recipients

13.96% (7,686 cases) of the recipients in the general cases in 2017 had mental or physical disabilities.



Disabled Recipients
7686

Percentage of Legal Aid for Non-Nationals

2,521 cases in 2017 involved recipients who were foreign nationals. The top three categories by nationality would be the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam, together accounting for 70.84% of the cases involving foreign nationals.



Non-Nationals
2521

Analysis of Approvals by Financial Eligibility |

An analysis of the approved general cases in 2017 showed that applicants in 60% of the cases were either economically or socially disadvantaged as defined by government agencies or had to be provided with legal aid as required by law. The LAF, therefore, did not review financial eligibility in these cases. Including: qualified low or lower-middle income households, families with special circumstances, immigrants from disadvantaged countries, and blue collar foreign workers in labor intensive jobs in Taiwan together accounted for 20% of the cases; cases related to major social concern or the Consumer Debt Clearance Act, which were considered special projects and therefore did not have financial eligibility requirements, accounted for 13% of the cases; and 16% of the cases involved recipients who are indigenous people, teenagers, mentally or physically disabled, or individuals who by the judge's order require assistance in defending themselves for extraordinary circumstances, such as being unable to express him/herself. In fact, only 15% of the cases involved compulsory defense for felony offenders without financial eligibility requirements. Regarding the almost 40% of remaining cases, the LAF completed the review of financial eligibility requirements and confirmed the applicants to be economically disadvantaged.

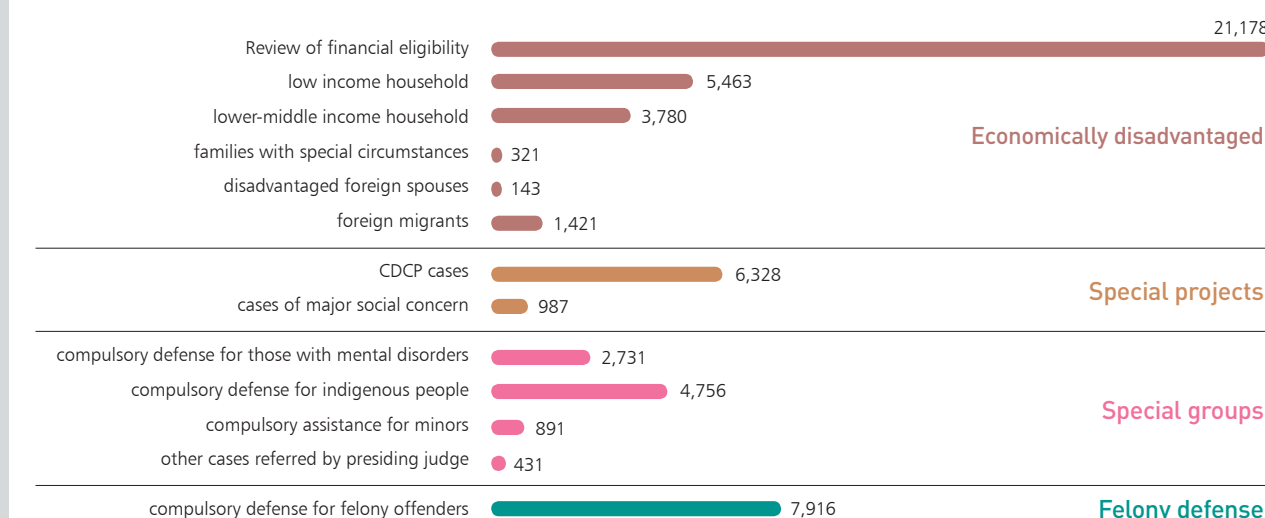
Approvals without Review of
Financial Eligibility

33,871 cases



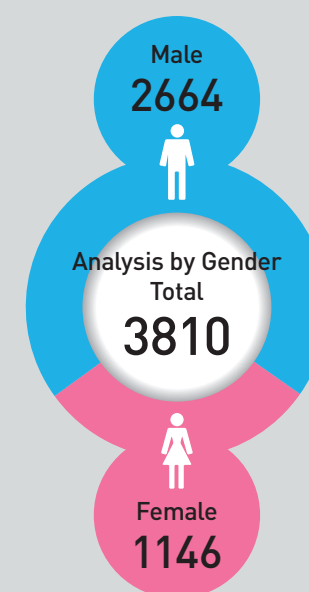
Approvals after Review of
Financial Eligibility

21,178 cases

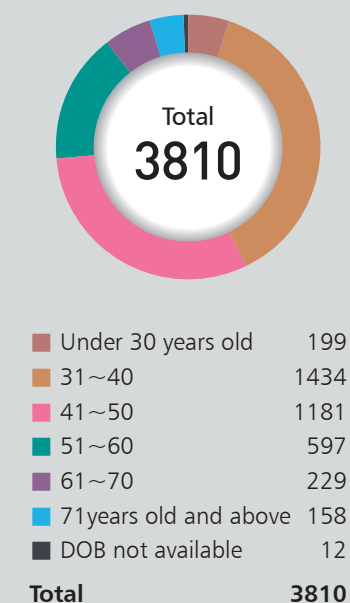


Analysis of Providers | The LAF has 3,810 lawyers serving as legal aid attorneys as of the end of 2017.

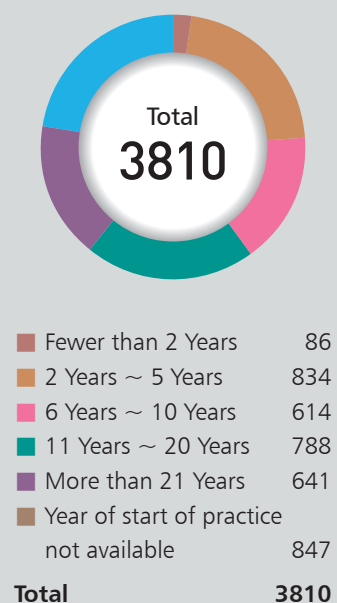
Analysis by Gender



Analysis by Age



Length of Service

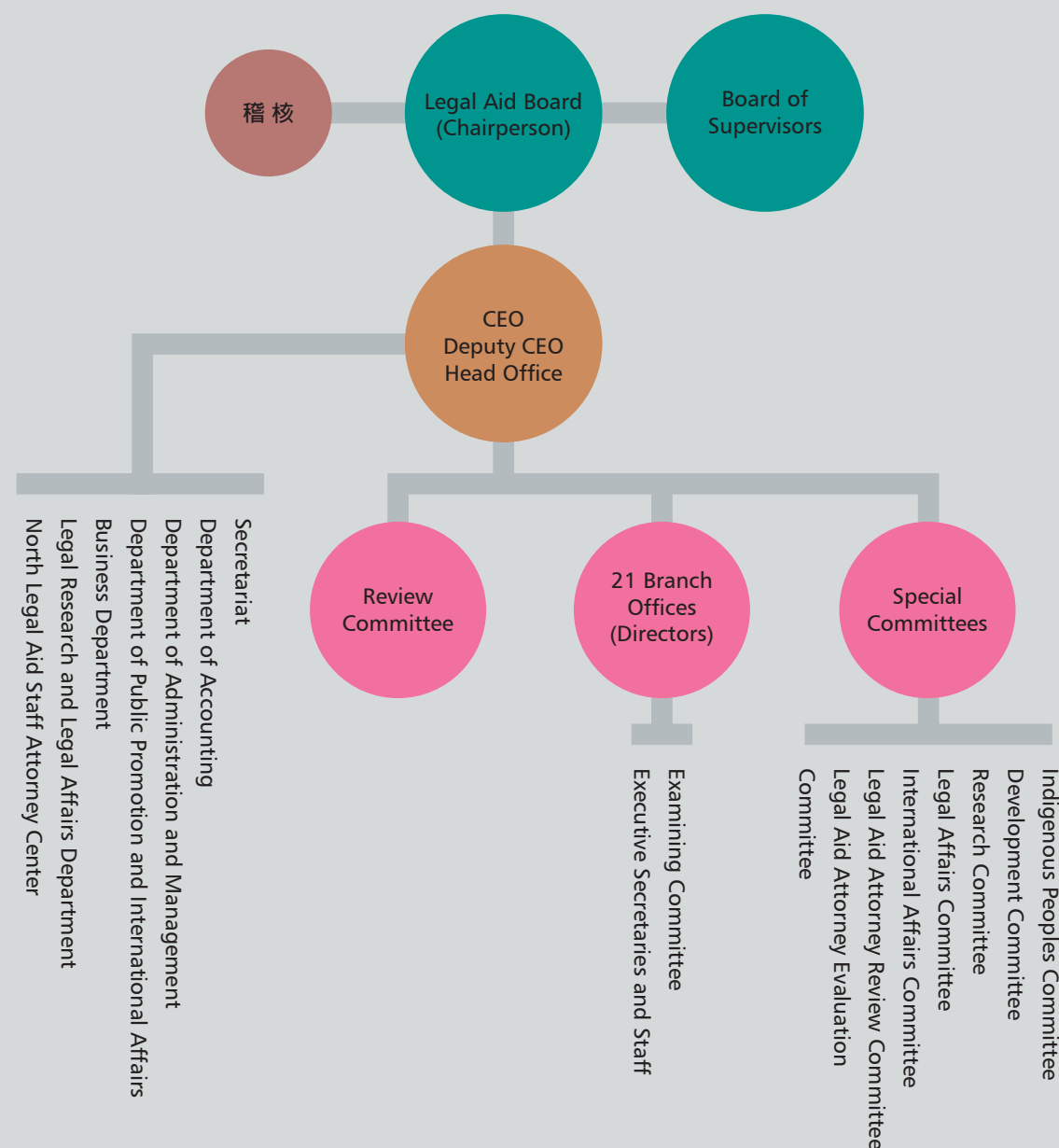


Analysis of Providers

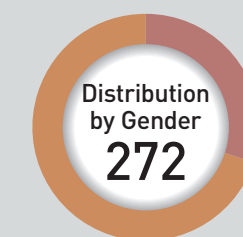
Legal Aid Organization Overview

As of December 31, 2017, the LAF employs 272 staff members, including 17 staff attorneys, 20 project personnel, and 344 volunteers.

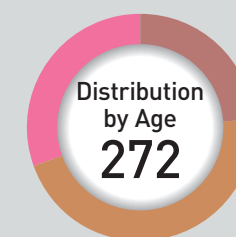
The LAF organization overview is shown in the chart below.



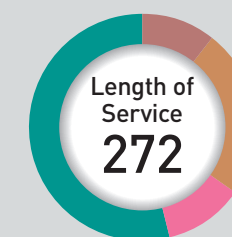
LAF Staff | As of December 31, 2017, the LAF had 272 employees on its staff. A detailed analysis is shown below.



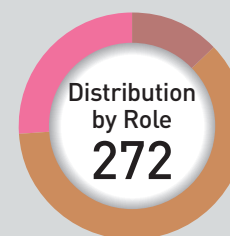
Male	82
Female	190
Total	272



Under 30 years old	65
30-40	124
40 years old and above	83
Total	272



Less than 1 Year	29
1~3 Years	66
3~5 Years	31
More than 5 Years	146
Total	272



Legal Service Staff (Management)	35
Legal Service Staff (Direct Handling)	166
Non-Legal Service Staff	71
Total	272



Law School	185
Others	16
Total	201

1. "Employees": refer to full time staff and full time attorneys employed for the LAF.

2. "Legal Service Staff": refer to person/persons directly involved in processing legal aid, including administrators and direct users.

3. The calculation date was December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your support

Your support and contributions make it possible to encourage our disadvantaged friends to pursue equal rights. We invite persons in all walks of life to get involved. Your donations contribute directly to LAF's success and help us reach more people in need of legal aid. LAF will issue receipts for the donations so you can claim tax credits in the future. (Fundraising registration: MHW-Rescue No. 1061363649, Fundraising period: September 25, 2017 - August 31, 2018)

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Online donation

You will be able to make an online donation to LAF by credit card simply by scanning the QR code below to connect to the donation page on the official LAF website or visit us at our website. <http://www.laf.org.tw/index.php?action=donate>



In-person donation

For donations by cash or check, the check should be made out to the Legal Aid Foundation and be marked non-transferable. Please visit us at 5F, No. 189, Sec. 2, Jinshan S. Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei City, Taiwan during business hours (9:00-12:30 and 13:30-18:00, Monday to Friday). Our customer representatives will be happy to assist you.

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Postal Saving Account No.:19858275
Postal Saving Account Name: Legal Aid Foundation

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