

# DAY ONE

2022-2023



# OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Day One’s Legal Services Program provides serves young survivors of dating, domestic, and sexual violence, aged 24 and under. Many of the young people we assist are low-income, students, people of color, immigrants, workers, parents of young children, and/or those who identify as LGBTQIA+ who have experienced harm in their intimate and familial relationships. While most of our legal clients identify as female, we also serve male-identifying and gender-non-conforming survivors.

This past year, we provided services on cases on matters relating to orders of protection, visitation, custody, child support, paternity, divorce, criminal justice, and other areas; 344 individuals benefited from these services. Our legal team provided in-depth consultations to young service-seekers who were referred to us by partner agencies or other Day One staff, or who contacted us via our Helpline, text line, or web form. During our consultations, our staff gave service-seekers information and advice about their legal questions and options, reviewed paperwork with them, and helped draft pro se petitions. For our long-term clients we drafted and argued petitions and motions, attended court appearances, and conducted hearings and trials. Whenever appropriate we referred clients to other New York City-based legal services agencies, court-appointed counsel, and/or counseling services for assistance.

Throughout FY23 the New York Family City courts continued to operate in a hybrid capacity. Day One also offered clients the option of virtual or in-person services, with the vast majority of clients selecting virtual appointments. We have noticed that clients can more easily keep, and be on time for, electronic meetings because they do not need to secure child care or take public transportation. The court’s Electronic Document Delivery System enabled us to upload client documents without having to travel to the courthouses.



**Population Served: Low Income Populations**

**Total Funding: \$637,877**

**Total IOLA Grant: \$60,000**

**Staffing Full Time Equivalent:**

- Total Staff: 5
- Paralegals: 1
- Lawyers: 4

# DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES: CASES

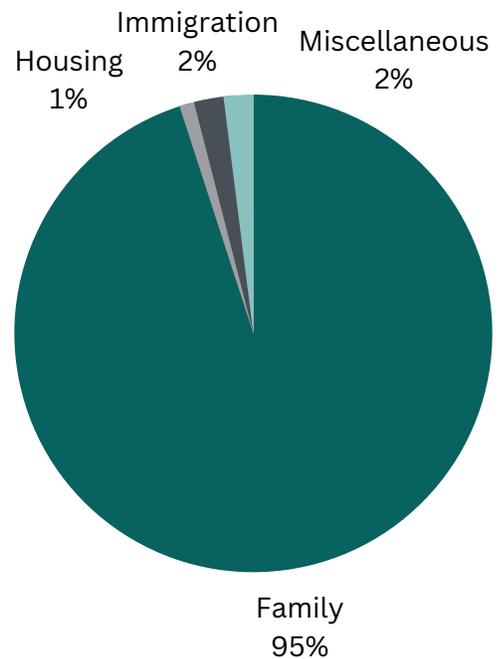
## Family:

In early Spring 2022, 20-year-old “Lana\*” reached out to Day One for a consultation. She had recently broken up with her physically and mentally abusive ex-boyfriend, Michael\*. When she went back to his apartment for her belongings, Michael became physically violent, pushing her down several flights of stairs and punching her. Through partnering with Day One staff attorney Bianca Hernandez Lana decided that she wanted to pursue an order of protection in Family Court.

As Bianca met with Lana to draft a family offense petition a more detailed history of his violence toward her came to light. Michael had a history of being physically violent toward former pets and had actually killed a pet that Lana gifted him. Lana was fearful that Michael was capable of hurting her dog. When Bianca and Lana appeared in Family Court in front of a judge, Bianca successfully argued that Lana should have a temporary stay-away order of protection against Michael that also said he could not communicate with her, track her electronically, or harm or kill her dog. Despite Michael being served, he did not appear at the next scheduled family court appearance, so the Judge issued a notice of inquest.

Bianca extensively prepared for the inquest, practicing questions and obtaining other evidence to introduce during the proceeding. In September 2022, on the day of the scheduled inquest, Michael again did not appear in court. During the inquest, Bianca asked Lana questions about her relationship with Michael and the harm he had caused.

**360 people benefitted from 344 legal cases closed**



**Cases by Legal Problem Area**

Lana answered each question and explained to the judge that there were several instances of violence in her relationship with Michael. Bianca argued that because there were several aggravating circumstances in Lana's relationship, not only was it necessary for Lana's dog to be included in the final order, but also that Lana needed a final order that lasted 5 years. The Judge agreed and issued her a final 5-year stay-away order of protection that included her dog.

**Family:**

Supervising attorney Lisa Alexander has been working with "Tayna" since the summer of 2021. Tayna's ex-partner and father of her child, Gregory\*, was physically, mentally, and verbally abusive throughout their relationship. Gregory made false allegations against Tayna with the police and Child Protective Services during the pandemic. As a result, he was able to keep their young child, Mateo\*, in his care while severely curtailing Tayna's access to him. By filing petitions and conducting a multi-day trial, Lisa was able to obtain a final five-year stay away order of protection for Tayna.

Throughout the order of protection litigation Lisa successfully argued for Tayna's visitation with Mateo to be expanded from a few hours once a week to alternating weekends for four nights. Despite the judge finding that Gregory committed family offenses against Tayna, he continued to be incredibly disrespectful of Tayna in front of their son. Gregory routinely failed to answer Tayna's court-ordered telephone calls with Mateo and spoke disparagingly about her and her parenting in front of Mateo. As a result, Lisa filed an emergency motion requesting that temporary custody be changed from Gregory to Tayna.

Lisa worked closely with Tayna to prepare for the emergency hearing. She drafted questions, reviewed and compiled evidence, and wrote a closing argument. The emergency hearing lasted for several days. Once it concluded the judge agreed with Lisa's argument that Gregory's behavior was at risk of severely impacting Tanya's relationship with Mateo and awarded Tayna temporary custody. Lisa then worked with Tayna to prepare for the custody and visitation hearing; written closing arguments were recently submitted to the court. Tayna is extremely grateful for Lisa's help and for the return of Mateo to her. She is eagerly awaiting the court's final decision.

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# OTHER SERVICES: OVERVIEW

To prevent and address intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking among youth in New York City, Day One continues to implement and refine our multi-part strategy. We provide a full spectrum of legal services, ranging from one-hour legal consultations to brief services to multi-year representation for young survivors of IPV throughout the five boroughs. Since Day One also prioritizes conducting outreach about and raising awareness of dating violence-related issues we also utilize both community education and Know Your Rights Guides materials.

Through our community education program, Day One’s educators speak directly to young people in middle schools and high schools in all five boroughs. Over the course of the year Day One’s attorneys train advocates, law enforcement professionals, social workers, and other attorneys about the dynamics of dating abuse, the use of technology as a form of power and control, and the legal rights of young survivors. These trainings are supplemented by the distribution of “Know Your Rights” guides that address areas including Custody and Visitation, Stalking, Consent, Orders of Protection, Technology Abuse, and LGBTQ Dating Violence. Each of these trainings and guides includes elements of legal education and information. Pre-pandemic Day One distributed tens of thousands of physical “Know Your Rights” guides. However, demand for physical guides (and our ability to distribute them) decreased dramatically. To adapt to the evolving needs of the community, we created and increased the distribution of our downloadable guides. We have received 200 downloads during this reporting period. Day One is conservatively estimating that each downloaded guide will reach approximately 25 individuals. We estimate that approximately 5000 individuals have received guides during FY23.

**7,563 People Benefitted from Services Other Than Direct Legal Services**

**Number of People Benefitted from Other Services**



## OTHER SERVICES: TECHNOLOGY

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Keeping up to date with Technology is a critical part of Day One's Legal service practice. Each Staff member is provided with their own laptop with a range of programs from Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite to communications platforms such as Zoom and Slack. Day One continues to utilize Slack as a primary system for internal communications. Slack has helped our program communicate about issues that affect our practice and community among onsite and offsite staff members. Day One's legal team uses Slack to share relevant news articles, meeting agendas, published court decisions, policy updates, and legislative developments. While it is expressly not used for client matters, integrating Slack into our practice has increased our efficiency as a whole by cutting down on emails and creating opportunities for more effective communication beyond face-to-face meetings.

Additionally, we have utilized Zoom for team meetings, individual supervision, virtual retreats, and client meetings. For example, we use Zoom's video conference features for a weekly team check-in which includes team building and discussion of ongoing client matters. While Zoom has some limitations for developing attorney-client relationships, we have used it to prepare for virtual hearings and court appearances and to talk with clients who prefer to see us when we meet. In some cases, the platform has saved time for clients who would otherwise need childcare or have difficulty traveling to our offices.

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## OTHER SERVICES: TRAININGS

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Day One invests in the onboarding and professional development of staff. In addition to a thorough onboarding process for all new staff and volunteers, which includes overviews from other departments (training, development, and social services), Day One seeks to fully integrate new staff members into the organization as a whole. Day One explores topics of professional development through our regularly scheduled staff meetings. From learning about diversity, equity and inclusion across the organization, to understanding the rights of minors, to understanding a nonprofit's financial story, Day One builds the knowledge and skills of our employees.

To supplement our organization-wide trainings, Day One's legal team regularly participates in training delivered by the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, the City Bar, the Practising Law Institute (PLI), Empire Justice Center, and co-grantee partners, such as ASISTA. When a new attorney starts they closely shadow other attorneys in client meetings and court and assist in document preparation and editing.

They second seat more senior staff, and when they first seat cases the more senior staff second seat them. This practice helps new attorneys develop their skills and build confidence and sharpens the practice of our more seasoned staff.

Additionally, Day One's board of directors meets bimonthly, and at every meeting one or more staff members attend and conduct a 30-minute training or case presentation. Periodically that presentation is conducted by a member of the legal team. Board members are also required to attend a Day One workshop as part of their recruitment and orientation to the board.

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## PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

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Day One partners with volunteer lawyers and law students who are interested in working with young survivors. Director of Law and Policy Andrew Sta. Ana also serves as an adjunct clinical professor at New York Law School. His launch of a first-of-its-kind legal clinic to assist victims of cyber-harassment serves as a referral source for appropriate cases. Throughout this reporting period, the clinic served as a referral source for clients who experienced cyber-harassment by a former intimate partner.

Each semester Day One's legal team endeavors to partner, mentor, and train law students to become the next generation of advocates with a clear understanding of the challenges facing young survivors. In the summer of 2022, we supervised two fully remote law student interns. Two new interns joined us in the Fall of 2022, one of whom continued through the Spring semester of 2023. From assisting with case research to potential client screening and legal issue spotting, legal interns have become an essential feature of our program.

Supervising Attorney Lisa Alexander has also supervised pro bono law firm attorneys on several research and writing projects. She is actively seeking cases that would be appropriate for pro bono attorneys to serve as co-counsel.

Finally, Day One's former Equal Justice Works Fellow, Lorena Jiron, continues to volunteer her time on a select number of immigration cases.



**5 Law Students volunteered**  
**994 hours**

# SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIONS

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Throughout this reporting period, Day One continued our collaborations with legal service providers, community-based organizations, and governmental resource centers. Day One is known as an expert in the field of dating violence prevention and direct services for young people.

Day One's legal team continues its presence on the Lawyer's Committee Against Domestic Violence (LCADV). The committee's current co-chair is Lisa Alexander, our Supervising Attorney. Through the LCADV Day One has helped center the unique concerns of young survivors in Family Court, mediation, and other systems and spaces. We have connected with members from other nonprofits, small firms, and government agencies, which has helped increase our referral numbers and expand the number of organizations to which we can refer clients.

Day One also has a strong presence on the New York City Cyber Abuse Taskforce, which brings together survivors, activists, attorneys, and other advocates to address technology-facilitated abuse, including online harassment, stalking, and non-consensual pornography. As this area of the law is developing rapidly, Day One's expertise in youth and technology informs the conversation and serves as a point of referral and technical assistance.

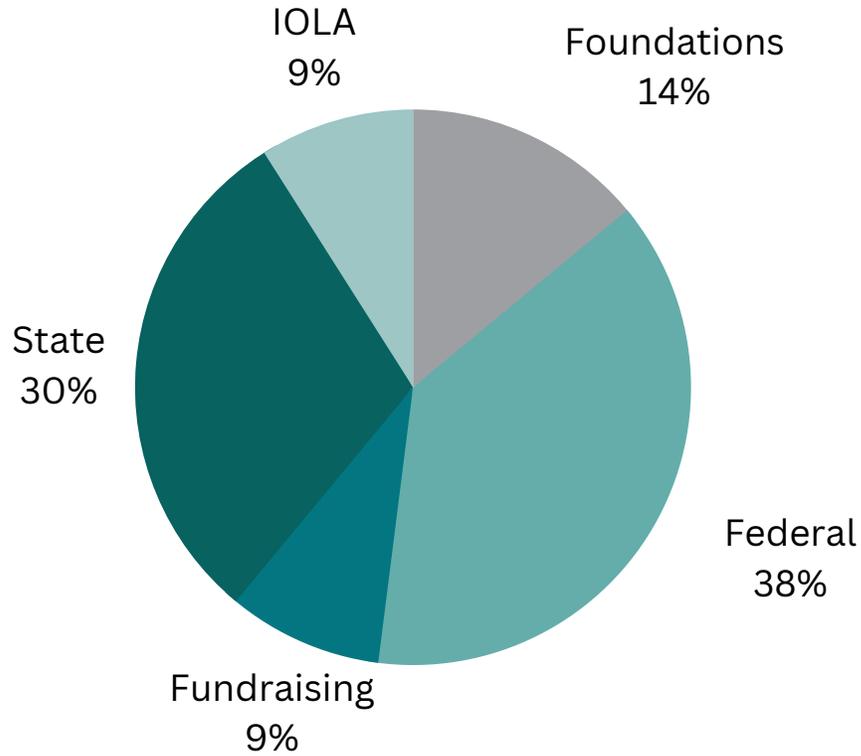
Day One Staff also maintain an active presence on New York City Bar Association's Committees.

One of our strongest, ongoing collaborations is with the Mayor's Office to End Gender Based Violence (EndGBV). As a Family Justice Center partner, we regularly receive legal referrals and provide technical assistance, training, and policy advice. Through our partnership with the FJCs we have access to law enforcement, prosecutors, counselors, case managers, and other civil legal services providers. Our clients can more easily obtain access to holistic services and advocates who can help answer their questions. Since 2018 Day One has been a partner at the Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan FJCs. Although these services have remained virtual during the pandemic, the FJCs regularly send us counseling and legal services referrals.

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# SOURCES OF FUNDING

Day One received **\$637,877** in total funding this past year



<b>Federal Funding</b>	<b>\$241,408</b>
<b>State Funding</b>	<b>\$191,209</b>
<b>Foundations</b>	<b>\$87,500</b>
<b>IOLA Grant</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$57,759</b>