Overview of Achievements, 2020-2021

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

During this reporting period we provided consultations and other services to 115 clients on matters relating to orders of protection, visitation, custody, child support, paternity, divorce, criminal justice, and other areas; 209 individuals benefited from these services. Whenever appropriate we referred clients to other New York City-based legal services agencies, court-appointed counsel, and/or counseling services for assistance. For much of 2020 the New York City courts operated at a limited, emergency-only capacity, which reduced the number of matters we could file and caused delays for pending cases. However, towards the end of 2020, filing restrictions eased and we began filing for custody, visitation, and child support on behalf of our clients. In appropriate cases we have successfully advocated for visitation between an abusive party and the subject child to be supervised through an agency. We have filed emergency motions to address violations of custody and visitation orders. Additionally, throughout the pandemic we remained able to file petitions for civil orders of protection and conducted several inquests and trials that resulted in final stay-away orders of protection for clients.

While Day One’s legal program focuses on serving youth within New York City, we receive requests statewide to provide technical assistance to advocates and attorneys working with young survivors. Through webinars and live sessions, we deliver legal training statewide. For example, our Senior Staff Attorney, Lisa Alexander, co-presented two Continuing Legal Education courses for domestic violence and family court practitioners focused on family offense proceedings and how to file for emergency relief during COVID-19. Our Equal Justice Works Fellow, Shaina Weisbrot, has provided seven training sessions about dating violence, ACS, and the foster care system to Family Justice Center Staff, healthcare workers, and others.

Population Served: Low Income Population
Area Served: New York City Metropolitan Area
Total Funding: $ 357,114.
Total IOLA Grant: $23,625

Staffing - Full Time Equivalents:
- Total Staff: 5.00
- Lawyers: 4.00
- Paralegals: 1.00
In Spring 2020, when New York City schools initially moved online due to the global pandemic, Day One's Legal Team was contacted by a high school student. The student reached out because she had been attending a class through Zoom during which she received messages from her friends telling her that intimate pictures in which she was "exposed" were distributed online. Next, in partnership with the student, Day One utilized new laws in New York State to protect against non-consensual pornography. We filed a case on her behalf, seeking a protective order for her and prohibiting the images from being distributed online. After completing a virtual hearing in November, we secured a final order of protection on her behalf that included provisions to address the non-consensual image-sharing. Although the virtual hearing was new for Day One’s team, due to our communication and thorough preparation with the student she obtained a result that was meaningful and affirming for her.

In December 2020 Day One’s legal team conducted an inquest for a long-term client, “Teresa.” After years of delays by the abuser, the team successfully convinced the judge to proceed without him when he missed multiple court dates. “Teresa” answered a number of questions about several abusive episodes, as well as why she was the best person to have custody of her children. The judge granted her a final order of sole custody and a stay-away order of protection for three years. “Teresa” is elated to be finished with litigation and to know that she can safely care for her children going forward.
Number of People Benefitted by Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,365 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Legal Education</td>
<td>2,033 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Outreach</td>
<td>332 people</td>
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Other Legal Related Services: Overview

To prevent and confront intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking among youth in New York City, Day One continues to implement and refine our multi-part strategy. First, Day One provides a full spectrum of legal services, ranging from provision of legal information and advice to full representation for young survivors of IPV throughout the five boroughs. However, because Day One prioritizes outreach and awareness on the issue of dating violence, 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, connecting with youth 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, which address areas including Custody & Visitation, Stalking, Consent, Orders of Protection, Technology Abuse, and LGBTQ Dating Violence. Each of these training and guides includes elements of legal education and information. In a typical year, Day One distributes tens of thousands physical “Know Your Rights” guides to raise awareness about dating violence. However, due to the pandemic, demand for the physical guides (and our ability to distribute them) decreased dramatically. In response, as school and other community spaces were closed, we pivoted toward promoting our downloadable guides. As mentioned previously, our Know Your Rights Guides were adapted to a downloadable format. We have received 287 downloads through the end of this reporting period. Our attorneys have also provided links to several of the guides in their training materials for the New York City Bar Association and other organizations. As a single downloaded guide can be shared with an entire student group, class or organization, we believe that the number of guides distributed is significant.

This multi-part strategy to reduce IPV among youth recognizes the importance of both preventive and direct intervention efforts and combines the approaches to fully meet our organizational objectives.
In October 2020 Day One co-sponsored the NYC Cyber Sexual Abuse Taskforce’s annual conference. This year’s conference, held virtually due to COVID-19, had over 200 individual registrants. Director of Law & Policy, Andrew Sta. Ana, moderated a panel addressing cyberbullying and diverse communities, including discussions of harassment of women and girls, LGBTQ Communities, youth, and communities of color. Featuring panelists from organizations such as Brown Girl Gamer Code, Hollaback!, and a professor from Northeastern Law School, the conversation explored the importance of creating spaces online where communities can organize. Throughout the conversation we highlighted the disproportionate harassment and bullying some communities face and how social media could be used as a tool of abuse, but also as a mechanism for empowerment and community.

Day One’s Senior Staff Attorney, Lisa Alexander, worked with a member of the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender Based Violence on “Beyond Survival: Advocacy in the Aftermath of Abuse.” Participants included Day One’s Youth Voices Network (YVN), Day One’s youth survivor advocacy group, and a representative from SafeBAE, an organization that works to address online safety and prevent sexual violence, particularly among young people. Despite technical challenges preventing two panelists from joining, the event was extremely well-received. Sara, a member of YVN, and the moderator had a wonderful discussion about tech-based abuse and ways that survivors can advocate for and support each other.

These events not only serve as opportunities for networking between service providers, but also as community education and outreach events for the many youth in attendance.

Since the launch of her Equal Justice Works Fellowship in September 2020, Shaina Weisbrot, one of Day One’s newest attorneys, has regularly conducted outreach and training regarding the intersection of foster care and dating violence. She focuses on how to work with young survivors of dating and domestic violence generally, and particularly those who have been involved with the child welfare system or who are at risk of foster care. Drawing upon her previous professional experiences in this area, Ms. Wiesbrot presented to community-based organizations including Safe Horizon, GirlUp, RISE, and STEPS To End Family Violence. She has also conducted virtual outreach and education events for the Family Justice Centers in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.
**Trainings**

Day One invests heavily 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. 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 through organizations like the City Bar, the Practicing Law Institute (PLI), and trainings available through 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. This practice builds skills with our new attorneys while sharpening those 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.

**Technology**

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 legislation 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 bi-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 fully engaged the platform to the extent possible. 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.

Finally, for virtual cases in Family Court we have downloaded and used Microsoft Teams to conduct hearings and other appearances.
Significant Collaborations

Throughout this year, despite the ongoing pandemic, Day One continued our collaborations with numerous 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 former volunteer and current Senior Staff Attorney. Through the LCADV Day One has helped center the unique concerns of young survivors and advocate for policies that are responsive to their needs. We have connected with members from other nonprofits, small firms, and other nonprofit organizations, which has helped increase our referral numbers. Lisa and her co-chair have also held meetings with Chief Administrative Judge Marks and several other jurists to raise concerns regarding Family Court operations and related issues during the pandemic and suggest solutions.

Day One also has a strong presence on the New York City Cyber Sexual 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.

Senior Staff Attorney Lisa Alexander is an active member of the New York City Bar Association’s Domestic Violence Committee. As a member she has worked with other domestic violence practitioners to present Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses to public and private sector attorneys. The Domestic Violence Committee collaborated with the Animal Law Committee on a statement supporting legislation requiring veterinarians to report suspected domestic violence. Lisa also recently partnered with private practitioners on the Tax Law Committee to plan a CLE on domestic violence related tax issues and remedies.

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. As a result, our clients can obtain easier access to the criminal justice system and access to services that they may not have otherwise known exist. Since 2018, Day One has continued as an on-site partner at the Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan FJCs. Although these services have been virtual for the past year, the FJCs regularly send us referrals.
Pro Bono Volunteer Involvement

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 2020 we supervised two fully remote law student interns. In the fall of 2020, we were joined by a law student for the semester. From assisting with case research to potential client screening and legal issue spotting, legal interns have become an essential feature of our program.

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

Pro Bono Statistics

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<th>1 Volunteer</th>
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Sources Of Funding

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