Overview of Achievements

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, students, 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 services on 441 cases on matters relating to orders of protection, visitation, custody, child support, paternity, divorce, criminal justice, and other areas; 449 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 FY22 the New York Family City courts operated mostly virtually. Day One also offered clients the choice 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. Having access to electronic programs like Docusign (electronic signature) and electronic notarization also eliminated the need for clients to travel long distances for brief meetings. The court’s Electronic Document Delivery System enabled us to upload client documents without having to travel to the courthouses. Unfortunately the system can be difficult for non-attorneys to use, and thus we have also provided service-seekers assistance with uploading documents and contacting the Family Courts.

Population Served: Low Income Populations

Area Served: New York City Metropolitan Area

Total IOLA Grant: $60,000

Staffing Full Time Equivalents:
- Total Staff: 5
- Lawyers: 4
- Paralegal: 1
Direct Legal Services: Cases

Family:
Day One continues to provide direct legal assistance to clients aged 24 and under. During this past reporting period Supervising Attorney Lisa Alexander met with a young mother of three who had been physically and verbally abused by an ex-partner. Ms. Alexander gave the client advice about her criminal and civil legal options and remained available to answer the client’s additional questions about paternity, custody, and visitation. Ms. Alexander and the client were able to develop a legal strategy based on the circumstances and the client’s goals and concerns. Ms. Alexander also worked with the client to complete and submit her DACA renewal. As a result the client’s DACA and her work authorization were both renewed for another two years. Senior Paralegal Michele Martinez researched ESL and highschool equivalency classes, and based on the resources she found the client was able to enroll in a program. Ms. Martinez also assisted the client with an application for public assistance benefits for her young children.

Family:
Over the course of 2021, Andrew Sta. Ana and Shaina Weisbrot worked with a victim of extreme stalking and harassment by a former intimate partner. The ex-partner’s conduct included posting hundreds of flyers in the clients childhood neighborhood disparaging her, and listing her contact information and photograph. These behaviors escalated to extremely violent threats on social media, and harassment of the victims family members. In response, Day One worked closely with the client to safety plan, to document the voluminous incidents of stalking, and to represent the young survivor in a related matter for an order of protection.

### Cases by Legal Problem Area

- **Family**: 94%
- **Immigration**: 3%
- **Housing**: 1%
- **Other**: 2%

449 people benefitted from 441 legal cases closed
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 the physical guides (and our ability to distribute them) decreased dramatically. In response we created and increased distribution of our downloadable guides. As mentioned previously, our Know Your Rights Guides were adapted to a downloadable format. We have received 381 during this reporting period. Day One is conservatively estimating that each downloaded guide will reach approximately 25 individuals. As a result we estimate that approximately 9525 individuals have received guides during FY22. 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. Since a single downloaded guide can be shared with an entire student group, class, school or organization, we believe that the number of guides actually viewed is higher than the figures of total downloads suggests.

| Number of People who Benefitted from Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Community Legal Education     | 10,681            |
| Online Assistance              | 9,525             |

20,206 People Benefitted by Services Other Than Direct Legal Representation
Other Services: Technology and Other Innovations
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 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.

Since our office’s document system is Google-based we are easily able to review and edit documents, draft or edit materials in real time during court proceedings, and search for writing samples. For virtual cases in Family Court we have downloaded and used Microsoft Teams to conduct hearings and other appearances.

Other Services: Trainings
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 City Bar, the Practicing 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.
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 2021 we supervised two fully remote law student interns. One of those summer interns continued in the Fall and another student joined us for the Spring semester of 2022. From assisting with case research to potential client screening and legal issue spotting, legal interns have become an essential feature of our program. In Spring 2022, Day One worked with two law students to research developments in stalking and the use of technology, and the ethical implications of an attorney as witness in a litigation case.

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.

Andrew and Lisa also supervised a team of NYU Wagner Graduate Students on a year-long Capstone Project. The project was designed to identify a policy platform for Day One and strategies for implementing it, including obtaining youth input and involvement.

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

3 Attorneys volunteered 50 hours

7 Law Students volunteered 525 hours

4 Other Volunteers volunteered 100 hours
Significant Collaborations

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. Lisa and her co-chair have had multiple meetings with the Family Court’s Administrative Judges to raise concerns about pandemic-related issues. 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. For the past several months Supervising Attorney Lisa Alexander has been assisting other CATF members develop a technology abuse training for Family Court judges, which CATF hopes to start presenting sometime later in 2022.

Supervising Attorney Lisa Alexander is also an active member of the New York City Bar Association’s Domestic Violence Committee. As a member she has worked with other practitioners to present Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses to public and private sector attorneys. Last spring Lisa assisted in authoring a committee report titled “Recommendations for New York City Virtual Family Court Proceedings, With Particular Focus on Matters Involving Litigants Who Are Survivors of Abuse.” The report was circulated amongst New York City Family Court Judges and referenced by the City’s Administrative Judges. Lisa also serves as one of the Domestic Violence Committee’s representatives on the City Bar’s Working Group on Racial Equity in New York State Courts.
Significant Collaborations

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.

Sources of Funding

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