



2025 IMPACT REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

MLSC helps people improve their lives by preventing and solving legal problems -- from consumer, to contracts, to family, to employment matters; discrimination and civil rights; affidavits and powers of attorneys; from notary services and simple legal advice to representation in litigation; and much more.



57

STAFF MEMBERS, INCLUDING

- ATTORNEYS
- TRIAL COUNSELORS
- PARALEGALS
- ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
- ACCOUNTANTS
- IT SPECIALISTS

5,470

CASES CLOSED IN 2025

IMPACTING

- __Veterans
- __Women
- __Persons with Disabilities
- __Children
- __Persons over 60

24,469

TOTAL PERSONS HELPED

"From the very first meeting, you gave me not only legal advice but real support. You always made me feel heard, respected, and protected during one of the hardest seasons of my life...There were so many moments when I felt overwhelmed, scared, and unsure of myself—but your calm advice and steady support helped me put sense back into my head and stay strong....Thank you for standing by me, for being patient with me... and for helping me find the strength to move on. I will always be grateful for your professionalism, kindness, and dedication...Wishing you continued success in helping others the way you helped me." ...Words from an MLSC client

IN THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

In addition to services for clients, MLSC also provides services to the community generally. This includes outreach, community education, self-help and other legal information, and working in collaboration with others to increase access to justice for all.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

MLSC has offices throughout Micronesia, including the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, on Guam, in Palau, in each of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), and in the Marshall Islands (Majuro and Ebeye). Our central administrative office is located on Saipan.

We have a total staff of 57, including secretaries, trial counselors, paralegals, attorneys, and our administrative staff, including accountants and IT Specialists.

MLSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, governed by a 10-member board of directors, with at least one director representing each of the regions in which we have offices.

MLSC never charges for our services to the community. All our services are always free. MLSC is supported by several sources, including each of the governments in which we have offices, the U.S. Legal Services Corporation, other institutional and government grants, and by individual donations.

Our Board sets priorities for use of MLSC resources each year. For 2026, MLSC has adopted the following priorities:

- **Support for Families**
- **Preserving the Home**
- **Maintaining Economic Stability**
- **Safety, Stability, and Health, with emphasis on anti-domestic violence advocacy**
- **Populations with Special Vulnerabilities, with emphasis on service to persons with disabilities**
- **Delivery of Legal Services (including outreach, community education, and collaboration)**

The primary strategies MLSC uses for implementing these priorities include provision of direct legal services to low income individuals and families, free of charge; collaboration with agencies and institutions; and outreach and community education.

Individuals and families may be eligible for free legal assistance from MLSC if their household income is below 125% (or 200% in some circumstances) of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii and their assets do not exceed specified amounts.

However, due to limited resources, MLSC is not able to help all persons who are eligible and need free legal assistance in civil matters; MLSC has adopted the a set of case acceptance considerations to guide us in deciding which cases we should accept.

Our guiding principles include whether we can resolve the case to the client's satisfaction, and in a meaningful way that will impact the client. We also evaluate whether working on the case will positively impact the greater community.

Thank you for your support and interest in the work of our organization. We will continue to fight for justice and improvement in the lives of the people of Micronesia.



Lee Pliscou

Lee Pliscou has been the Executive Director of Micronesia Legal Services Corporation since 2012.

2025 ADVOCACY DATA

Cases closed

In 2025, we closed a total number of 5,470 cases for clients:

Year	Number of cases closed
2019	5,843
2020	3,905
2021	4,558
2022	3,434
2023	5,191
2024	4,106
2025	5,470

Here's our breakdown of cases closed, by region:

Office	Closed Cases in 2025	Total Number of People Helped (includes total number of persons in household)	Number of MLSC staff per office (2025)	Total population
Chuuk	1,596	7,655	7	49,595
Guam	172	553	8	168,801
Kosrae	300	1,152	4	6,744
Marianas	230	727	7	47,329
Marshalls	567	2,776	7	42,418
Palau	661	1,568	5	17,614
Pohnpei	1,451	8,078	8	36,896
Yap	493	1,960	5	11,597
Total	5,470	24,469	51	380,994

Level of service provided

Here we show the level of service provided on the cases closed in 2025:

Advice only	340
Limited services only	3,373
Negotiated Settlement without Litigation	26
Negotiated Settlement with Litigation	57
Agency Decision	23
Court Decision Uncontested	803
Court Decision Contested	44
Court Decision Appeals	3
Other Closure Method	4
Extensive Services	87
Deselected cases	710
Total	5,470

Cases remaining open

We ended 2025 with 3,508 open cases, which we continue working on in addition to new cases.

Services for the community

In addition to services for clients, MLSC also provides services to the community generally. This includes outreach, community education, self-help and other legal information, and working in collaboration with others to increase access to justice for all.

Value

In 2025, our expenditures for providing services throughout the entire Micronesia region was about \$3.5 Million. The investments in MLSC by our funders have resulted in value to our clients and our communities with a significant multiplication factor, amplifying the impact of every dollar spent and generating exponential benefits for our clients and communities throughout the Micronesia region.

Every one of over 50 studies conducted on the return on investment (ROI) of civil legal aid in the last 25 years demonstrates that civil legal aid provides a positive return on investment. Investment in civil legal aid has paid for itself many times over. Every study has found that civil legal aid generates more economic value than the funding it receives. These benefits include cost savings for public programs, recovered income for clients and economic ripple effects that support local communities. Reported ROI ranges from \$1.15 to \$17.99, with an average of ROI \$6.72.

By helping individuals resolve legal challenges, legal aid reduces the burden on government services and strengthens communities. <https://www.lsc.gov/our-impact/economic-impact>

Budget

Our single largest funder has been the U.S. Legal Services Corporation, which is appropriated funds each year by the U.S. Congress. LSC then distributes funds to MLSC and 130 other nonprofit legal services organizations in the U.S. based on population. Historically, some 2/3 of our funding is from LSC. Appropriations from governments where we provide services has always been essential for MLSC to maintain our services to our communities.

For more information

Executive Director Lee Pliscou: lee@mlscnet.org or 670-322-6472.

Web <https://micronesianlegal.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/micronesianlegal.org>

To request legal assistance, contact the office nearest you, or you can request legal assistance online:

https://mlscoi.legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern_intake.php?pid=129&h=daa817&

If you are traveling to Hawaii or the U.S. Mainland, please know that you may be eligible for free legal services. There is a free legal aid organization that serves you, wherever you are in the U.S., including Hawaii, and every place on the U.S. mainland. Go to <http://www.lawhelp.org/find-help> to find the organization (or organizations) for that region.

MLSC is funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC"). As a condition of the funding it receives from LSC, it is restricted in certain activities in all of its legal work- including work supported by other funding sources. MLSC may not expend any funds for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq. or by Public Law 104-134. Public Law 104-234 §504(d)a requires that notice of these restrictions be given to all funders and contributors to programs funded by the Legal Service Corporation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **Donate.** MLSC never charges for its services. MLSC is supported by each of the governments in which we have offices, the U.S. Legal Services Corporation, other institutional and government grants, and by individual donations.

Scan the QR Code to
Donate Now!



2. **Join Our Team.** MLSC is powered by a group of dedicated individuals. Embark on a rewarding journey where your skills and passion can make a real difference in nonprofit legal services. Find current openings at this [link](#).



3. **Spread the Word!** MLSC offers **free** legal help with many different types of civil legal issues, including divorce and custody, employment, immigration, debt collection, wills and powers of attorney, and housing.





Chuuk Office

P.O. Box D
 Weno, Chuuk FM 96942
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Chuukese, English
 (691)-330-2597, 5597
chuuk@mlscnet.org



Ebeye Office

P.O. Box 198 Majuro
 MH 96960
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Marshallese, English
 692-625-8227/28, 5119
rmi@mlscnet.org

CONTACT US



Palau Office

Main Street
 Koror, Palau
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Palauan, English
 (671) 969-5504, 5604, 5704
palau@mlscnet.org



Guam Office

238 Archbishop Flores Street
 Suite 902 DNA Building
 Hagatna, Guam 96910
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Chuukese, Chamorro, English
 (671) 969-5504, 5604, 5704
guam@mlscnet.org



Majuro Office

P.O. Box 198 Majuro
 MH 96960
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Marshallese, English
 692-625-8227/28, 5119
rmi@mlscnet.org



Pohnpei Office

238 Archbishop Flores Street
 Suite 902 DNA Building
 Hagatna, Guam 96910
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Pohnpeian, English
 (691) 320-2404, 3762
pohnpei@mlscnet.org



Kosrae Office

P.O. Box 38, Tofol
 Kosrae FM 96944
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Kosraen, English
 691-370-3032, 2232
kosrae@mlscnet.org



Marianas Office

Chalan Piao, Saipan
 P.O. Box, 500655, Saipan 96950,
 Northern Mariana Islands
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Languages spoken: English, Chamorro
 (670) 234-7729
marianas@mlscnet.org



Yap Office

P. O. Box 206
 Colonia, Yap FM 96943
 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
 Languages spoken: Yapese
 Outer Island Languages: Ulithian, Woeaian, Satawalese
 English
 (691) 350-2193
yap@mlscnet.org