A half century of transformative change

annual report 2022
Changing systems changes lives.

For 50 years, Justice in Aging has fought for the rights of low-income older people across the country to live and age with dignity and justice.

Through litigation and policy advocacy, we’ve led systemic change that has helped older people put food on the table, pay the rent, keep the heat on, buy medications, visit doctors, and access long-term care. We’ve trained hundreds of thousands of advocates across the country to do the same for their individual clients. We’ve worked with the administrations of ten presidents and with lawmakers through 26 Congressional sessions to develop our unique model of advocacy and plant the seeds to become the nationwide force for change that we are today. In that time, we’ve changed leadership, we’ve changed our name, we’ve opened new offices, but we’ve never strayed from our core mission.

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources. Since 1972 we’ve focused our efforts primarily on fighting for people who have been marginalized and excluded from justice, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, immigrants, and people with limited English proficiency.

Thank you to Louis Kravitz and Norman Schwartz for the beautiful photographs featured throughout this report.
Letter from leadership

Dear Supporters,

In this special 50th anniversary report, we reflect back on what we accomplished in 2022 and celebrate 50 years of impact since our founding in 1972. We're incredibly grateful to all of you who have supported and partnered with us over all of these years. All of you have contributed to our growth, our impact, and our efforts to advance equity in aging. You enable us to make a tangible difference in the lives of low-income older adults by helping us build equitable systems for all, especially for those who have experienced systemic injustices in their life.

Thanks to you, we've grown from a small, scrappy, legal services support center into the nationwide force for transformative change that we are today. As we step back to reflect on where we started, we can clearly see how the groundwork we laid early on has led to real policy changes that benefit older adults and their families today—as you'll read in more detail in this report. Our early work to protect access to pensions returned retirement benefits to our plaintiffs and also led to our current economic security work. Our advocacy to make Medicare more affordable and accessible planted the seeds for our current focus on improving the system for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Our contribution to the passage of the Nursing Home Reform Act made us the powerful advocates we are today for better long-term services and supports systems, including those that enable older adults to receive care at home instead of in an institution. Our early focus on populations who, due to discrimination, have been prevented from sharing equally in the nation's wealth, including women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and others, led to our current initiative to advance equity in aging.

Over the past 50 years, we have built expertise, partnerships, and power. Our staff is recognized and consulted by policy makers at the national and state levels, as well as by legal services and elder law attorneys across the country. And today, that legacy is leading to more opportunities to partner with lawmakers and other powerful advocates, to more funding for additional attorneys and advocates to do this important work, and to growth into new and emerging issues. Looking ahead, we will continue to leverage our expertise as we respond to new challenges and opportunities that impact the lives of low-income older adults and their families. We will invest in educating broader audiences about what it takes to ensure that all older adults have the resources and supports to age with dignity and justice. Together, with you, we will make a positive impact in all our lives and future generations.

We are incredibly honored to have you here with us as we continue to work tirelessly to build more robust and fair systems to support an equitable future of aging for all of us. We couldn't do it without you.

In gratitude,

Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director

Hannah Lieberman, Chair, Board of Directors
Leading transformative change for a more equitable future in aging

Transforming economic security

We honed our litigation skills and strategies in the 1970s and 80s, winning lawsuits that returned pension benefits to workers who had been wrongly denied access to basic retirement security.

Today, we are the nation’s leading experts on the most important anti-poverty program for older adults and people with disabilities, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which was signed into law the same year we were founded.

We work with Congress and the Social Security Administration to expand benefits and access for the low-income people who rely on the program, particularly older adults of color, women, LGBTQ+ older adults, and others who face systemic discrimination.

Our trainings on the SSI program attract thousands of advocates a year who receive help navigating the program’s complicated rules and appeals processes. In the last three years, we’ve added new homelessness prevention projects to our economic security work to address the growing crisis of older adult homelessness and target those most at risk, who are disproportionately Black older adults.

1973-1996

Won several pension cases against private entities, resulting in millions of dollars in benefits to low-income workers and establishing important legal precedents.

1974

SSI program officially launches.

2000

Settled Evans v. U.S State Department for $5.5 million on behalf of federal workers laid off due to their age. It was one of the largest federal payments ever made in an age discrimination case.
Today,
We continue to push for increased SSI benefits, simplified application processes, and updated rules.

For tomorrow,
We’re building new, more equitable systems that will lift and keep older adults out of poverty, in safe secure housing, and ensure everyone who needs SSI and qualifies for it can access the program.
Transforming health care

Since the beginning, we’ve fought to ensure all older adults have access to high quality, affordable health care, and advocated at the state and federal level for innovative policy reforms.

Over the years, we’ve been involved in improvements to Medicare to make it more affordable, and we’ve worked to expand Medicaid to more people—focusing especially on the population of people who are dually eligible for both programs due to age and low-income. We’ve fought to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) due to its critical importance for the health care of low-income older adults, and our trainings on health care programs for older adults have attracted hundreds of thousands of advocates.

1981
Won our first Medicare case in Gray Panthers v. Schweiker, winning due process rights for beneficiaries.

2005
Launched a program to ensure the implementation of Medicare Part D didn’t leave low-income older adults behind.

2006
Fought to ensure that 6 million Medicaid recipients could access Medicare Part D to save money on prescription drugs—a fight that continued for 20 years (see below).

2012
Part of a team that defended the Affordable Care Act in the Supreme Court.

2017
Successfully fought back against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act in Congress.

2022
Expanded Medi-Cal to more older adults and people with disabilities by raising the asset limit and expanding the program to immigrants.

2022
Saw our work for affordable prescription drugs come to fruition when President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, which included long overdue prescription drug reforms to lower and cap medication costs for everyone age 65 and older in the United States.
Today,
We’re building on all this success across the country.

For tomorrow,
We’re ensuring that everyone, regardless of where we live, where we came from, the color of our skin, the language we speak, or how much money we have, will be able to access the comprehensive, high quality, affordable health care we need to age in dignity.
Transforming residential long-term care

We have long been a leader in protecting the rights of older adults and people with disabilities in nursing and other long-term care facilities.

1980
Justice in Aging was a leader in launching the nursing home reform movement to counter industry efforts at deregulation.

1987
Helped craft the policies that became the Nursing Home Reform Law.

1992
Won a lawsuit against California that compelled the state to implement the Nursing Home Reform Law.

2005
Spearheaded a study on conditions in assisted living facilities nationwide that is still used by advocates today.
Today,
We continue to advocate for better care, safety, and visitation rights during the pandemic, decision making rights for residents, eviction protections, freedom from unnecessary medication, and more.

For tomorrow,
We’re building a system that will ensure people living in long-term care facilities will have quality care that meets their needs and honors their wishes.
Transforming aging in community

We have always advocated for expanding opportunities for older adults to age with their families and in their communities instead of in institutions.

2011
Won a lawsuit in California that saved the state’s adult day care system from being cut completely.

2013
Prevented deep cuts to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program in California.

2022
Advocated for the full restoration of cuts made to IHSS in the Great Recession.

Today,
We continue to focus on ending the institutional bias that funnels more federal dollars into institutions at the expense of home-based options, and expanding Medicaid to make in-home care more available and more equitable.

For tomorrow,
We’re building a robust system that will enable us all to receive the help we need at home and in our communities, support family caregivers, and provide well-paying jobs for the direct care workforce.
Justice in Aging has long recognized that older adults who have been involved in the criminal justice system face increased hardship in trying to access health care and economic security benefits that will allow them to meet their needs. We have long advocated for justice for older adults who are incarcerated or who are reentering the community after incarceration.

Transformative justice

1995
Won a lawsuit that expanded SSI eligibility to plaintiffs who were incarcerated at home, and therefore unable to work for wages, so they could keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

2009
Won Martinez v. Astrue, returning $750 million in Social Security benefits that were wrongfully denied solely on the basis of outstanding warrants, some of which were based on mistaken identity.

2010
Won Clark v. Astrue, restoring over $1 billion in benefits to low-income people illegally terminated or denied based on outstanding warrants for probation or parole violations.

Today,
Our justice work continues with a new project advocating for improved access to health, housing, and other benefits that older adults reentering the community from incarceration need.

For tomorrow,
We’re ensuring that justice involvement won’t mean a life sentence of crushing poverty.
Transforming civil rights for older adults

Justice in Aging has always been involved in advocating for low-income older adults who face special challenges because they have marginalized identities, including older adults with limited English proficiency, older women, LGBTQ+ older adults, and others.

1999
Vice President Al Gore recognized us for our work to ensure Social Security and SSI recipients could access important information about their benefits in the language they prefer.

2005
We convinced California to translate Medicare Part D materials into the state’s most common languages for approximately a million people with both Medicare and Medicaid.

2010
We published a groundbreaking report on the experiences of LGBTQ+ older people in long-term care facilities. *Stories from the Field* highlighted the discrimination and fear LGBTQ+ elders face in long-term care and led to more advocacy.
2015
Sued the Social Security Administration for failing to recognize the legal marriages of same sex individuals in a timely way.

2021
Launched a major initiative to advance equity in aging.

2022
After years of advocating for the translation of Medicare’s important “Medicare and You” into several commonly spoken languages, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began offering the publication in Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese, in addition to English and Spanish.

Filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court of California in support of a law that requires transgender residents of long-term care facilities be treated with respect and dignity and that staff use their correct pronouns.

Advancing Equity in Aging initiative

During a peak in our country’s reckoning on race relations, in 2021 we launched a major initiative to advance equity in aging.

We know that the impacts of discrimination and oppression on one’s health and economic security only amplify as one grows older. Those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, like ageism combined with racism, gender discrimination, anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, language discrimination, and/or xenophobia face even more barriers to aging in good health with sufficient resources to make ends meet.

Today,
We continue to build on our past work and dig deeper into all of our programmatic work to ensure that equity is at the very center of all of our advocacy.

For tomorrow,
We envision systems that meaningfully account for past and present-day structural discrimination and are targeted toward the people who are most in need because of historic and structural oppression.
Transformative impact in the courts

Litigation has always been an important part of Justice in Aging’s advocacy. Justice in Aging works with legal services partners to identify systemic issues that particularly impact people who have faced discrimination and poverty throughout their lives. As we build our cases, we team up with partners to investigate and prepare to file a lawsuit. In 2022, we resolved one long-standing major lawsuit and filed two new ones.

Barrows v. Becerra—Preserved the Appeals Rights of Medicare Beneficiaries Nationwide

This lawsuit corrected a long-standing injustice for people across the country whose hospital stay classifications were changed from “inpatient,” under which Medicare would cover subsequent skilled nursing care, to “observation status,” which commonly results in the patient being charged hundreds of thousands of dollars if they later need skilled nursing facility care. After over a decade of litigation, we celebrated a win that will allow hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries—with some claims dating as far back as 2009—the right to appeal their classifications.

Partners: The Center for Medicare Advocacy and pro bono law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.


This summer, we learned that some states were stripping Medicaid benefits away from hundreds of thousands of people due to an illegal, Trump-era rule that required states to kick certain
people off Medicaid during the ongoing public health emergency. Older adults and people with disabilities were losing in-home care, oral health, transportation, and other vital benefits. We sued the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to compel them to stop enforcing the rule. In early 2023 a federal judge certified a nationwide class and ordered HHS to stop enforcing the rule and tell states that they must restore coverage to those who were improperly terminated when they became eligible for Medicare Savings Plans.

**Partners:** Disability Rights Connecticut, National Health Law Program, and pro bono law firm Stinson LLP.

**John Simmons, Mass. Senior Action Council, et al v. Charles Baker et al. — Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Move out of Institutions and Join the Community**

John Simmons has been confined in a nursing facility in Everett, Massachusetts, for the past three years against his will. He wants to live independently and could, with some supports at home. John is Black and has medical and psychiatric disabilities. John, the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, and five other representative plaintiffs filed this class action lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Medicaid Act in ways that disproportionately impact older people of color. The complaint alleges that Massachusetts has failed to provide sufficient community residential services and supports, forcing thousands of people with disabilities to live in segregated nursing facilities rather than in the community.

**Partners:** Center for Public Representation, Greater Boston Legal Services, and pro bono law firm Foley Hoag.

**Other Active Cases**

**Amin v. Azar**

This national class action was filed in 2020 against the Social Security Administration for its failure to timely process Supplemental Security Income (SSI) appeals. Filed with Urban Justice Center, New York Legal Assistance Group, and pro bono law firm Arnold & Porter.

**Campos et. al. v. Kijakazi**

This national class action was filed in 2021 against the Social Security Administration for wrongfully reducing and discontinuing SSI benefits during the pandemic while the agency’s offices were closed, leaving plaintiffs with no path to resolution. Filed with New York Legal Assistance Group and the law firm Arnold and Porter.

**Chinatown Service Center & Saint Barnabas Senior Services v. United States Department of Health and Human Services**

This case was filed in 2021 against the Department of Health and Human Services for eliminating protections for Limited English Proficient Individuals in health care settings. Filed with pro-bono firm Stinson LLP.
Transforming legal training—the National Center on Law & Elder Rights (NCLER)

Trainings and technical assistance to legal and other professionals have always been a core part of our mission. In 2017, we launched NCLER to reach larger and broader audiences of legal services and aging and disability advocates with trainings, resources, and technical support to serve older adults with the greatest social and economic need.

2017–2022
In the five years since we launched NCLER, our training numbers have skyrocketed, proving the need for a one-stop, comprehensive national legal resource center serving the aging and disability communities.

2020
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, NCLER nimbly responded to the pandemic and the corresponding shutdown of services by providing critical up-to-the-minute information to ensure older adults could get the help they needed—growing our audience tremendously.

2021
NCLER launched a program to provide targeted capacity-building support to legal services organizations to help them advance equity in their work.
Today,
That work continues, and we’re taking what we’ve learned from our targeted capacity-building support and sharing it with the entire network.

For tomorrow,
We will expand our capacity-building program and network-wide trainings in innovative ways to support our expanding network.

Testimonials
“For our legal organization, the webinars are best for new attorneys or attorneys new to a field, which fills a real need. There usually are not other resources to fill the gap and our young attorneys have appreciated the clarity and availability of the information.”

—Manager, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

“I’ve attended your webinars on various different topics. They have all been excellent. The presenters have been knowledgeable, engaging, and well-prepared. The materials have been useful as a resource after the training is done. You are a wonderful resource!”

—Staff Attorney, Atlanta Legal Aid Society

By the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network growth</th>
<th>54,000 members in 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training participant growth</td>
<td>32,000 attendees in 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case consultation growth</td>
<td>1,383 consults in 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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990 consults in 2017
95% report that the consultation resulted in successful resolution of a case
What a night of celebration! After two years of staying home and hosting virtual events, our staff and board members were excited to return to being in person for our annual fundraising event on our 50th anniversary!

On April 28, 2022, at the City Club Los Angeles, we honored April Verrett, President of SEIU Local 2015, with our Paul Nathanson Distinguished Advocate Award, and Dr. Steven Wallace, Associate Director of UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, with our Impact Award (presented posthumously). Rigo Saborio, Vice President of Programs, Equity, and Community Impact at The SCAN Foundation, was our wonderful emcee for the evening.

One highlight was the original poetry, written and performed live by Dr. Wallace’s son, Brian Sonia-Wallace.

Brian, along with other poets Lisbeth Coiman and Lynne Thompson, Los Angeles’ 21-22 Poet Laureate, later performed the poem in a video as part of our 50 for 50 video anniversary project.

Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to watch it.

Justice in Aging 50th Anniversary Poem by Brian Sonia-Wallace

50 years is (we are) generations
After justice, the arc of history long,
Our work, always in some new infancy—
Intimacy of late nights burning
At both ends around policy papers,
Legal briefs, stacks and piles
& the emails just keep coming,
(Don’t the emails just keep coming?)
At the end of the day, they’re only words!

But words with the power to shape
The lives of grandfathers who cannot sleep
At night, grandmothers who always call
At the wrong time, veterans who showed up
To wars they did not choose,
Elders of color a generation’s memory from slavery
Immigrant elders beyond language,
Queer elders whose love was illegal
& the hospital-bed dreamers
Who don’t know what day it is
but remember
Which faces belong to the people
they adore,
Or have forgotten all the faces
But can’t help but dance when the music
Of their youth comes on:

Like a bridge over troubled water—I will lay me down

We remember the lyrics
long after we’ve forgotten everything else.
Elder comes from the Old English eldra—
Parent (but also) ancestor (but also) chief
(or) prince.
someone who has authority in their
community,
Because their years have earned it.
The recipe holders, the history keepers.
The people who raised us
& now need champions to raise them up.

This is why we are gathered here.
You are people who know
The power of words. That these are the
instruments
Through which we build our reality.
Our manifestos in the form of budgets.
Our bleeding heart statistics
After the promise of America—
A nation built on words, no national identity
But a dream: give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free.
A place where nothing, not even money,
Should be a barrier to human dignity.
& after two years behind masks,
home, hidden
From the world we gather again
To sing the songs of justice
Until a nation remembers itself
And starts dancing.
As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, Justice in Aging launched the 50 Videos for 50 Years of Impact project in which partners, elected officials, clients, and others submitted short videos highlighting our partnership and congratulating us on our impact over the years. We released a video every week on our social media channels and our website.

View them all at justiceinaging.org/50-for-50-videos or scan the QR code with the camera on your phone.

Special thanks to AARP for supporting our 50th anniversary celebrations, including our event and our 50 for 50 video project.

BOB CASEY
U.S. SENATOR, PENNSYLVANIA

Here in the U.S. Senate, we count on your advocacy to help low-income seniors access the vital benefits that they are entitled to. Your advocacy helps shape federal policies to ensure that the needs of seniors living in poverty are a continuing priority for us.

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, CALIFORNIA’S 44TH DISTRICT

You have been a great partner as we work to deliver better Medicare dental care coverage for older adults. Black and Latino older adults are more likely to have unmet dental needs compared to white older adults... together, we can tackle this unnecessary disparity.

APRIL VERRETT
PRESIDENT, SEIU LOCAL 2015

Together we will ensure our long-term care system is one that delivers the best care for those who need it and does not leave one worker behind.
Thank you for your tireless work fighting senior poverty and leveling the playing field for older folks.

I am so grateful for your leadership and partnership, particularly when it comes to protecting and strengthening Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You have been at the forefront of the fight to update SSI’s woefully outdated eligibility rules for years.

I’m so excited to celebrate 50 years of your extraordinary work on behalf of low-income older people, including domestic workers and caregivers. Your work is so essential.

Who we are

Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director
Jennifer Goldberg, Deputy Director
Remy Alexander, Communications & Program Manager
Regan Bailey, Litigation Director
Vanessa Barrington, Managing Director, Communications and Individual Giving
Jim Berchtold, Senior Attorney
Georgia Burke, Director, Medicare Advocacy
Lauren Carden, Director, California Elder Rights
Eric Carlson, Director, Long-Term Services and Supports Advocacy
Denny Chan, Managing Director, Equity Advocacy
Amber Christ, Managing Director, Health Advocacy
Katrina Cohens, Database & Website Manager
Hannah Diamond, Policy Advocate
Hagar Dickman, Senior Attorney
Sarah Galvan, Managing Director, Elder Rights
Tracey Gronniger, Managing Director, Economic Security
Tiffany Huyenh-Cho, Senior Attorney
Natalie Kean, Director, Federal Health Advocacy
Sy Klipsch-Abudu, Director, Digital Engagement
Jennifer Kye, Senior Attorney
Kate Lang, Director, Federal Income Security
Vivianne Mbaku, Director, Equity in Elder Justice
Emma Messore, Communications & Brand Manager
Shelby Minister, Development Manager
Chika Onyedike, Social Media Manager
Yasmin Peled, Senior Policy Advocate
Trinh Phan, Director, State Income Security
Patti Prunhuber, Director, Housing Advocacy
Archie Roundtree, Jr., Staff Attorney
Murray Scheel, Senior Attorney
Gelila Selassie, Senior Attorney
Thomas Smith, Director, Finance & Administration
Sahar Takshi, Staff Attorney
Alexandra Villegas, Program Associate
Carol Wong, Associate Litigation Director
Justice in Aging operated with a balanced budget throughout 2022 and ended the year with reserves equal to 83% of operating expenses.

Justice in Aging maintains a 4 Star Rating on Charity Navigator and a gold seal for transparency from Guidestar.

Full audited financial statements for fiscal year 2022 with comparisons to 2021 are available on Justice in Aging’s website at www.justiceinaging.org.

Planned giving

Justice in Aging welcomes your planned gifts, as well as gifts of stock. To notify us of your intent to make a planned gift, or to learn more, contact Vanessa Barrington, Director of Individual Giving, at vbarrington@justiceinaging.org.
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The Center for Policy Research on Aging, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
Kate Villers
Community Catalyst
Joyce Walker
PK Management, LLC

We pay tribute to Michael Kelly, longtime board member, powerful advocate, and champion of Justice in Aging who passed away unexpectedly in January 2023. We will miss him.
Thank you to all our donors & funders.

$100,000+
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The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The SCAN Foundation
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AltaMed*
Bet Tzedek Legal Services*
Bloomberg Philanthropies
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California ChangeLawyers
SEIU Local 2015*
UDW/AFSCME *

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Denise J. Likar
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