

20 Year Anniversary

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

LETTER FROM INTERIM CEO & CDO

Assalamu alaikum & Ramadan Kareem!

We wish you and your family a blessed Ramadan. We hope you observe this blessed month with peace and guidance and that you and your loved ones are blessed without measure!

As we look back at 2021, despite the uncertainties of the pandemic still lingering, we at MLFA operated with continued hope and our commitment to serving with excellence. 2021 was also the year we lost our beloved founder and chairman Tarek Al-Kadri. Tarek led with a great vision, a huge heart, and sincere love for the community. He was a role model for us all. Tarek's absence will always be felt at MLFA and in the Muslim community throughout North America. To keep his legacy alive, MLFA in partnership with Islamic Scholarship Fund (IFS) endowed the Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice & Leadership Scholarship, which will be given to one student every year moving forward.

MLFA is not an organization that backs down. Since our inception, we have shown the courage to address challenges our community faces all day, every day. At MLFA, standing up for our Muslim community against systemic oppression, government overreach, hate, and institutionalized Islamophobia to protect and defend our civil liberties - is what we do! We commemorated 20 years of defending American Muslims and Muslim organizations being securitized in the guise of "the war on terror".

In 2021, we raised over \$3.2M towards sustaining our mission to advance equality and justice for American Muslim organizations and individuals by promoting legal compliance and protecting their rights in matters concerning national security law. In 2021, we also opened 112 new and active legal cases to defend, protect, and continue to respond to the cries of our community through our law firm: The Constitution Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA).

Philanthropy is at the heart of Islam, and there are over 8000 Muslim Non-profits in the United States. In 2021, MLFA launched the Ihsan Standard in partnership with the Lily School of Philanthropy's Muslim Philanthropy Initiative. The Ihsan Standard is a capacity-building legal and research project—dedicated to leadership excellence among minority-led and Muslim American nonprofits. Muslim Americans, like other faith-based communities,

rely upon the nonprofit sector to promote the public good and build religious identity. The Muslim American nonprofit subsector is relatively young, diverse, and quickly expanding. Yet, it also experiences internal and external friction, including a disparate amount of scrutiny in law, policy, and practice. The Muslim American nonprofit subsector faces overlapping challenges with other minority-led nonprofits. Overall, it is under-resourced. Legal advice and healthy governance practices can be critical to the success of nonprofits. The Ihsan Standard promotes legal compliance and protects our Muslim non-profit community with legal screenings and individual legal consultation.

Together, we continue to build legal power for Muslims in the United States. We work within our legal system to create good law and fight one case at a time to set precedence and leave a lasting impact. With your support, we will continue safeguarding our communities, empowering the powerless, and fortifying American Muslim organizations.

I pray that Allah (swt), showers HIS infinite blessings upon you and your loved ones in this blessed month and every day after that.

With gratitude and for justice,



Arshia Ali-Khan
Interim CEO

MEET OUR TEAM

BOARD:



Tarek Al Kadri (Late)
Chairman & Founder
(2001-2021)



Moufaa Nahhas
Treasurer & Founder
(2001 - Present)



Dr. Hatem Bazian
Interim Chair
(June 2001 - Present)



Jamal Suleiman, J.D
Secretary
(2018 - Present)



John Davidoff
Board Advisor
(2019 - Present)

STAFF:



Arshia Ali-Khan
Interim CEO & CDO



Ayman Aishat
Director of Community
Engagement and
Stewardship



Mujahid Rasul
Donor Relations
Account Manager



Maria Laura Guzman
Executive Assistant



Wasif Khan
Director of Operations

CORE VOLUNTEER:

Sameer Afsar
Salesforce Architect

CONSULTANTS:

Lynette Morris
Symposium Strategy
& Communication

Zubair Zafar
Development Director

Nataly Castano
Development Associate

Laurie McParlane
Accounting, Bookkeeping and
Account Payable

Brian Laperriere
HR Strategics

Gina Owen
Major Gifts Strategy

Zunaid Timm
Website Development

Rose Olea
Grant Writer

Haneen Alkamil
Major Gifts Officer

Eaman Shebely
Accounting Supervisor

Our Vision

A nation where Muslims are treated like everyone else, and an America in which constitutional rights and liberties are upheld equally for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or cultural heritage.

Our Mission

To advance equality and justice for American Muslim organizations and individuals by promoting legal compliance and protecting their rights in matters concerning national security law.

What We Do and Why We Do It?

The Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA) is a 501C3 charity that funds legal work and programs to defend Muslim against injustice in America courtrooms, prisons, and communities.

The MLFA concept: Turning charitable donations into legal services for select cases with potential civil liberties impact, sometimes known as impact litigation.

MLFA is the only nonprofit legal fund dedicated to defending Muslims' civil rights and liberties at the federal level.

In the guise of national security, MLFA is addressing unwarranted actions towards Muslims, such as travel restrictions, immigration denials, bank account closures, extra scrutiny of nonprofit work, prisoners denied religious accommodations, unjust prosecutions and unfair trials, excessive sentences and cruel conditions for Muslim prisoners, informants targeting vulnerable youth and Muslims being intimidated into betraying their faith.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Justice



Courage



Excellence



Accountability



Community

CORE BELIEFS

- The U.S. Bill of Rights applies to Muslims in America.
- Muslims have the right to fair trials.
- Being Muslim should not make you a suspect or target of law enforcement agencies.
- Injustice against one is an injustice against all.
- Without justice, there is no freedom or liberty.





OUR THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Strengthen & Protect the Muslim Nonprofit Community

MLFA is recognized by the American Muslim nonprofit community as the leading resource for legal counsel and technical legal support in the areas of compliance, mitigation of risk from government scrutiny, and mission impact.

MLFA is a curator and aggregator of thought leadership on issues related to the legal risk posed to American Muslim organizations and individuals by the government's national security programs and best practices for risk mitigation. As a result, understanding has increased among American Muslims and the legal community regarding their level of vulnerability, in order to create stronger organizations and effective representation.



Prevent the Unwarranted Indictment of American Muslim Individuals and Organizations

MLFA has contributed to an overall decrease in the number of American Muslim organizations and individuals adversely impacted by FBI, Homeland Security and/or Treasury investigations and related enforcement actions. MLFA is considered a top-of-mind resource and first responder of choice among American Muslim organizations and leadership when they are at risk of federal investigation as a result of current national security policies.

CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION: Funding CLCMA to represent individual American Muslims as well as organizations whose civil liberties are under attack, in order to set precedents that will benefit the American Muslim community.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: Funding CLCMA to represent individuals and organizations who have been targeted based on guilt by association in order to protect their constitutional rights and set precedents to maintain "good law."



Increase Reach & Effect of Impact Litigation

MLFA is recognized as a leader in national security-related legal defense for American Muslim nonprofits and their leadership with national reach and visibility. MLFA has built a demonstrated record of challenging the lack of due process and unfair administration of extreme vetting and guilt by association policies and regulations resulting in government encroachment on the civil liberties of American Muslims.

IMMIGRATION CASE WORK: Take on cases to reduce Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP), unlawful extreme vetting programs, and discriminatory denials for American Muslims.

CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION: Represent individual American Muslims as well as organizations whose civil liberties are under attack, in order to set precedents that will benefit the American Muslim community.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE: Represent individuals and organizations who have been targeted based on guilt by association in order to protect their constitutional rights and set precedents to maintain "good law"

DENATURALIZATION CASES: Expand capacity to take on denaturalization cases related to national security. This can include the precursor matters like administrative revocation of passports, or refusal/delay in issuing passports to U.S. citizens without explanation or a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

PEER PARTNERSHIPS: Establish a network of national partnerships to extend the reach and impact of MLFA/CLCMA's work, establish referral relationships with peer organizations and law firms, explore opportunities for joint initiatives, and support fundraising.

OUR MISSION MOBILIZED



IUPUI
THE FUND RAISING SCHOOL
LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY



CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CENTER
for MUSLIMS in AMERICA

THE LEGAL WORK: CLCMA



The Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA), was founded in 2014, with funding from Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA) to defend unjust prosecution, governmental overreach, and systems of oppression through civil, immigration, and criminal litigation.

CLCMA has grown into the largest strategically focused, nonprofit law center dedicated to defending constitutional rights for Muslims in America.

MEET THE TEAM

CLCMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Naveed Husain
ATTORNEY

Shereen El-Domeiri
ATTORNEY

Ferdose Al-Taie
ATTORNEY

Furqan Sunny Azhar
ATTORNEY

Charles Swift
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND COUNSEL

Catherine McDonald
MANAGING ATTORNEY

Christina A. Jump
CIVIL LITIGATION DEPT. HEAD

Kathryn H. Brady
IMMIGRATION DEPT. HEAD

Sufia Khaled
LEGAL FELLOW

Waleed Naser
LEGAL FELLOW

Naireesa Khan
LITIGATION PARALEGAL

April Tremble
CORPORATE PARALEGAL

Najmu Mohseen
EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOW
SPONSORED BY AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER
& FELD, LLP

Linda Moreno
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY ASSOC. TENANT
DOUGHTY STREET CHAMBERS
LONDON

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CENTER FOR MUSLIMS IN AMERICA (CLCMA) IS GRANT FUNDED BY MLFA MOBILIZING OUR MISSION.

CLCMA is led by senior level attorneys spanning areas of law that include immigrations, civil, and criminal. All legal services are provided at no cost to beneficiaries.

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

20 active cases (federal litigation, administrative relief, or removal defense)



1 U.S. Supreme Court petition pending

2 removal case pending decision at the board of immigration appeals

4 administrative agency cases that are ripe for federal court litigation in the next 90 days

3 cases awaiting either the immigration court hearing or government issuance of the charging document.

8 active administrative level matters with impact litigation potential once administrative agency actions are exhausted.

2 requests for services pending

CIVIL LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

49 clients in 29 active cases, and 11 inactive / watching/ on administrative hold



2 U.S. Supreme Court petitions pending

7 federal appellate circuit court cases pending (for 16 total clients)

8 federal District Court cases pending (for 17 total clients)

12 active administrative level matters, which include multiple administrative level trials proceedings.

11 inactive/watching/on administrative matters total

Additionally, 60 current Civil Litigation department matters.

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

17 active cases



6 active litigation (trials / hearings / appeals)

6 FBI cases

2 Assistance with Subpoenas

2 Advising on US Citizens returns to the US

1 Exploring post-conviction relief

PRECEDENT SETTING CASES

TOGETHER WE ARE A FORCE FOR JUSTICE!

CRIMINAL

United States v. Noor Salman (Central District of Florida 2018)

Muhammad Ali's funeral was on Friday, June 10, 2016. Many of us remember seeing the incredibly moving funeral procession with so many people showing their love and support for this prominent Muslim fighter. I remember the khutba that day. The imam talked about Ali's faith and acts of service: "When we are of service to others, we are with God." Something was shifting in the public vibe. People were starting to open their hearts to Islam, remembering this beautiful human example. I could feel it in the air. It felt hopeful. Two days later, on June 12, 2016, the Orlando nightclub shooting was all over the news, and that hopeful feeling seemed miles away. It seemed like violence was the default association, and it would be enforced at all costs. I was at an all-day retreat, sitting silently for hours, no cell phones or distractions. Yet this piece of news still made it through our media blackout and shook us all up. For Noor Salman, wife of the shooter Omar Mateen, the nightmare was just beginning. You can hear in the video how scared this young mother was when the police stormed her house, guns pointed at her. How all she could think about was her scared 4-year-old child in the next room. As it turned out, her only crime was being the wife of someone who committed a horrible crime. Perhaps she asked herself privately if there was anything she could have done, as would any of us in the same situation.

The answer is, not much. Omar Mateen was responsible for his actions, and he was shot the same day. It is not a crime to be related to a criminal. "The Supreme Court has declared guilt by association 'alien to the traditions of a free society and the First Amendment itself: ... It violates both the Fifth Amendment, which requires that guilt must be personal, and the First Amendment, which guarantees the right of association.'" Nevertheless, the FBI interrogated Noor for more than 12 hours until they obtained a "confession" that she was with her husband when he "cased" the nightclub days before the attack. "After more than a thousand hours of investigations and with the assistance of forensic experts, at trial The Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA, funded by MLFA) used cell phone data and other

evidence to prove that neither Mateen nor Salman had ever been to the Pulse nightclub before the attack. Mateen had not visited Pulse's website the night before the attack or on any other night, and Mateen had actually chosen the Pulse at random.

CLCMA further proved that Salman was telling the truth when she told the investigators that Mateen had told her was going out with a friend and she was unaware of his actual plans." Here's the twist - it came out in the trial, through the persistence of our lawyers, that one of the motives for targeting Noor was not what you'd expect.

"When CLCMA announced its intention to call Mateen's father, Seddique Mateen, the government was forced to admit Seddique was an FBI informant. Rather than protecting the community, the only thing Seddique had protected was his son. In turn, rather than telling the community the truth about what happened and why, the FBI and the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of Florida chose to scapegoat a young mother." The jury returned with a verdict of not guilty on all charges. This is amazing because unfortunately, with cases related to terrorism charges, an acquittal is hard to come by.

Although the criminal justice system generally operates with the assumption of innocent until proven guilty, since the PATRIOT Act was passed in 2001, this has been inversed for charges of terrorism. Defendants have been assumed guilty, with the burden of proving their innocence, which is much, much harder to do.

"To say that this win was historic is an understatement. In 184 terrorism cases that had gone to a jury since 9/11, there have been only three acquittals, and only one in an ISIS case, that of Noor Salman." How many people may have found themselves in similar situations, both in the U.S. and abroad, without any recourse? MLFA and CLCMA were able to change this story. Let's show up for them and give our support so that they can change the outcomes for many, many more.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 184 terrorism cases that had gone to a jury since 9/11, there have been only three acquittals, and only one in an ISIS case, that of Noor Salman. She was represented by CLCMA Director Charles Swift and Counsel Linda Moreno.

CIVIL

United We Stand

Donors to the Muslim Legal Fund of America have been supporting the rights of Palestinian Americans for more than 20 years.

American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) is a non-profit organization created in 2006 to “educate its youth and community about Palestinian issues and culture”ⁱ. It was founded to promote Palestinian awareness in the United States. David Boim was killed in 1996 at a bus stop in Jerusalem by two Hamas agents. Following the momentum of the PATRIOT Act, David Boim’s parents successfully filed a lawsuit against various Palestinian organizations in the United States, claiming that these organizations had provided support to Hamas and so were indirectly responsible for the actions of Hamas. Some of these Palestinian organizations included the Holy Land Foundation (HLF), the American Muslim Society (AMS), and the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP). These organizations were drained financially and became officially defunct (shut down) because of these legal battles. A jury awarded the family damages in 2004, which the court increased to \$156 million.

In 2017, the Boim family brought a lawsuit against the American Muslims for Palestine, claiming that AMP was really just another name for the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP). They are in fact entirely separate organizations. IAP was shut down completely in 2004, and AMP started in 2006. AMP is an American non-profit, funded entirely by donations made within the United States. The plaintiffs (Boims) claim that the two organizations have the same leaders. This is not true, and they have been unable to prove this claim. The main point of the plaintiff’s argument is that Palestinian organizations support Hamas, as a rule. This is a dangerous assumption. The court recognized that being Palestinian does not mean supporting Hamas: “The Court refuses to infer that because Dr. Bazian and Ahmad support Palestinian issues they are somehow connected to Hamas, as plaintiffs suggest.”ⁱⁱ

Civil Litigation Department Head of CLCMAⁱⁱⁱ, Christina Jump, tells us that this kind of lawsuit is often a battle of financial endurance. Someone can sue your organization until your organization runs out of money. Then they can win easily because

your organization has no way of fighting back. Or they don’t mind if they officially win or lose because they’ve ended your organization anyway.

From 2017 through 2021, our attorneys at CLCMA successfully defended AMP and got the case dismissed twice. The plaintiffs are still trying to move forward with their claims, and CLCMA attorneys continue to fight back.

AMP has been able to continue to provide culture and education about Palestinian for Americans since 2006 and throughout five years of legal battles. This is only possible because of the donations received from the Muslim Legal Fund of America.

“We are thrilled for our clients after this long and hard-fought battle,” commented Christina Jump, Civil Litigation Department Head for CLCMA, after one court victory in this process. “Without CLCMA’s ability to work for nonprofits like AMP free of charge, due to the generosity of our operating grant funded by many small donations from across the country, a blameless nonprofit would have been forced out of existence solely because of the nationality of its members and the culture which it works to preserve. After many years, many depositions, and a lot of fishing expeditions in discovery, the plaintiffs have still not been able to get past the early dismissal stages.”^{iv}

Knowing about your roots empowers you to contribute to the world in a meaningful way. Being able to celebrate where you come from is one of the wonderful things about living in the United States.

Please help us continue to fight for the rights of our communities.

ⁱ The Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America. “After Three Years, CLCMA Attorneys Win Victory for American Muslims for Palestine”. CLCMA, <https://www.clcma.org/after-three-years-clcma-attorneys-win-victory-for-american-muslims-for-palestine>. Accessed 6 April 2022. ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ CLCMA stands for “The Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America”, the non-profit law center funded by the Muslim Legal Fund of America.

^{iv} Ibid.

IMMIGRATION

Jafarzadeh v. Nielson (District of Columbia, District Court 2018):

Our team works hard to uphold the due process rights guaranteed in the Constitution to all Americans, so that our clients have the same opportunities and freedoms as those of any religions or national origin - no more, and no less.

Christina Jump | Department Head

The Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA), funded by the Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA), successfully fought for the rights of Mr. Manouchehr Jafarzadeh to become a lawful permanent resident. The CLCMA co-counseled with the attorney Ladan Mirbagheri-Smith in this case.

Mr. Jafarzadeh first applied for permanent residence in 2002 in the United States based on his wife's employment application. He was kept waiting for 8 years for his first application. In 2010, Mr. Jafarzadeh applied a second time for permanent residence, based this time on his adult daughter's U.S. citizenship. Again, he was kept waiting more than 9 years for his second application. The United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) didn't deny his application but "refused to adjudicate it". This means that they kept him in limbo for more than 17 years. Can you imagine waiting 17 years without the ability to make any coherent plans for the future? Can you imagine waiting 17 years wondering if you may be forcibly separated from your family?

The case reveals a "pattern of harassment meant to discourage worthy individuals from asserting their rights to a fair immigration process". This is a systematic application of processes to discourage immigrants, especially from Muslim countries, from applying for legal residence. It's a kind of Muslim ban by default.

This represents "a targeted effort to discourage members of the Muslim community from settling in the U.S. by creating a sense of uncertainty and terminal delay of immigration benefits".

Mr. Jafarzadeh was relentlessly approached by the FBI with demands that he become an FBI informant against his community. This is not uncommon. If you refuse to work for the FBI, they may apply various forms of pressure. In Mr. Jafarzadeh's case, he was threatened with imprisonment and deportation. "USCIS, in concert with the FBI, secretly uses the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP) to subject immigration applicants to heightened scrutiny without cause. The court documents clearly show how CARRP was developed in secret and without public notice, then unfairly administered to applicants unwilling to cave to FBI intimidation"

We are dedicated to the fight against the systemic injustices that occur when the government tries to infringe upon an applicant's rights to seek lawful immigrations status. We have courageous attorneys who are committed to battling to protect the constitutional rights of immigrants.

Kathryn Brady | Department Head

NON PROFIT GOVERNANCE WORK: LAUNCHED A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

The Ihsan Standard Leadership Excellence in Community Based-Nonprofits

THE IHSAN STANDARD In the first five months of the project, our core team was assembled to build out the foundational design and operations for The Ihsan Standard. Three strategic communities were identified as crucial to raising the level of excellence among Muslim American and minority-led nonprofits. The Ihsan Standard will be using a feedback loop between the 1) nonprofit, 2) academic and research, and 3) legal communities to inform the direction of legal clinical interventions and public scholarship about the sector.

Meet The Team Between July 2021 and December 2021, a core team was identified and assembled to develop the foundation for and launch The Ihsan Standard. In addition to building a clearer vision and case for support, the legal clinic operations and research survey were also developed. More details below.



LILLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
IUPUI

STAFF



Shariq Siddiqui JD PhD | Director of The Muslim Philanthropy Initiative / Assistant Professor of Philanthropic Studies Shariq is assistant professor of philanthropic studies and director of the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Shariq has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Philanthropic Studies from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. He also has a JD from the McKinney School of Law at Indiana University and holds a B.A. in History from the University of Indianapolis. Shariq authors research on Muslim philanthropy and the Muslim nonprofit sector. Most recently, he conducted a national survey of full time Islamic schools in the United States. This project resulted in the book (that he co-authored) *Islamic Education in the United States and the Evolution of Muslim Nonprofit Institutions*, published in November 2017. Shariq also serves as the co-editor of the *Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society*, *Journal on Education in Muslim Societies*, and as the series editor of the *Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society Book Series*. All three are published by Indiana University Press. He has served as a nonprofit practitioner for over 20 years for international, national, regional, and local nonprofit organizations. Previously, Shariq served as the executive director of Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA).



Afshan Paarlberg JD | Visiting Assistant Professor Afshan Paarlberg is a visiting assistant professor with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. She is also pursuing her PhD in philanthropic studies. Afshan's research, publications, and practice focus on nonprofits, philanthropy, Muslim Americans, immigrants, and refugees. Afshan holds a JD from The University of Houston Law Center. She also has a B.A. with Honors in Middle Eastern Studies and a B.B.A. in Finance, both from The University of Texas at Austin. In 2020, she was an inaugural Fellow with the Zakat Foundation Institute, obtaining a graduate certificate in Muslim philanthropic and humanitarian studies. Her legal experience includes designing and implementing access to justice legal projects as well as governance, risk, and compliance measures for domestic and international nonprofits. Afshan also practiced immigration law for several years. She is a strong advocate for social justice. In 2008 before the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Afshan co-authored and co-presented a report highlighting domestic discrimination faced by Muslim and Arab Americans. Afshan enjoys giving back to her communities. She serves as the president of a statewide refugee resettlement agency, Exodus Refugee Immigration Inc. She is a board member of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding and advisory board member to The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art and its diversity taskforce. She further holds membership with the International Society of Third Sector Research, American Bar Association, National Association of Muslim Lawyers, and the Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action.



Sana Saleem JD

Visiting Assistant
Clinical Professor



Zeeshan Noor, Ph.D

Postdoctoral Research
Associate



Ifeoma Akobi

Graduate Assistant,
Lilly Family School of Philanthropy



Amal Siddiqui

Undergraduate Intern,
DePauw University

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council includes an esteemed group of national leaders who provide thought leadership to The Ihsan Standard. The Advisory Council also champions the project amongst Muslim, nonprofit, legal, and philanthropic communities. In September 2021, key leaders across legal and Muslim institutions were appointed by Dean Amir Pasic to guide the project. Additional individuals are being recruited to join the Advisory Council for 2022-2023

Arshia Ali-Khan, Muslim Legal Fund of America

Adeel Bashir, American Muslim Bar Association

Asifa Quraishi Landes, Muslim Advocates

Elvia Castro, BBB Charitable Giving Wise Alliance

Eric Amarante, University of Tennessee College of Law

Hiba Alami, IMAN Associates

Asad Rahman, National Association of Muslim Lawyers

The Honorable David Shaheed, Judge Emeritus

THE IHSAN STANDARD

A capacity-building legal and research project - dedicated to leadership excellence among minority-led and Muslim American nonprofits.

Legal

Legal screenings help mitigate risk and scrutiny while promoting organizational transparency and confidence. The Ihsan standard provides:

- Free and confidential legal screenings for nonprofits.
- Legal advice on governance, risk, and compliance matters.
- Detailed scorecard of the organization's legal health.
- Leadership training to address legal risks or exposure.
- Periodic legal workshops, topics ranging from advocacy to governance.
- Attorney referrals by jurisdictions and practice areas.

Research

In addition to building legal capacity, we also engage in rigorous research. Our research provides an opportunity to better understand minority-led and Muslim American nonprofits. It also allows us to participate in exchanging ideas to better our society.

- Meets IRB guidelines
- Includes surveys, focus groups, and interviews.
- Participatory and community-informed.

Why Ihsan?

Ihsan encourages continual growth toward the highest levels of excellence and beautification, including philanthropic giving and leadership.

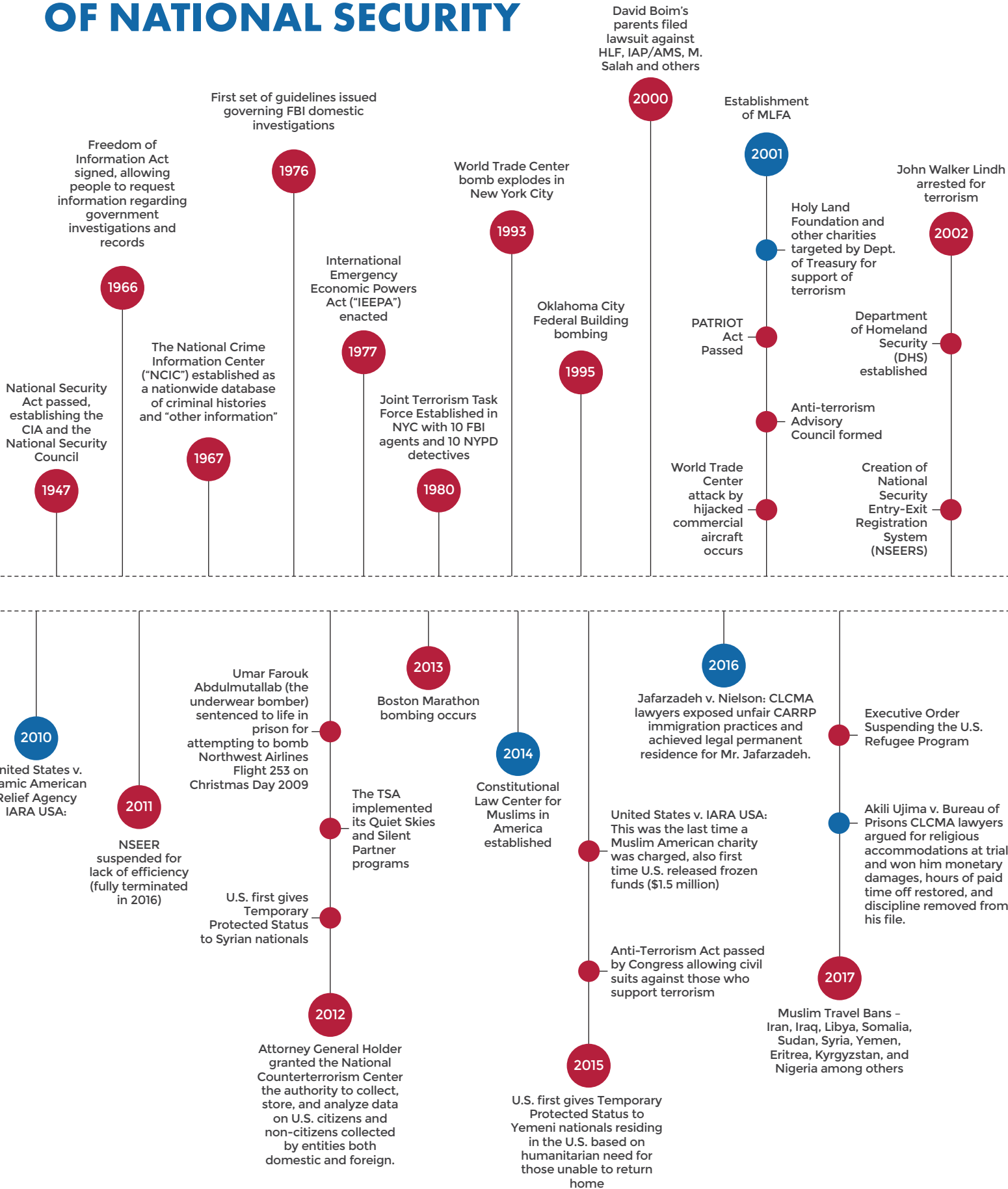


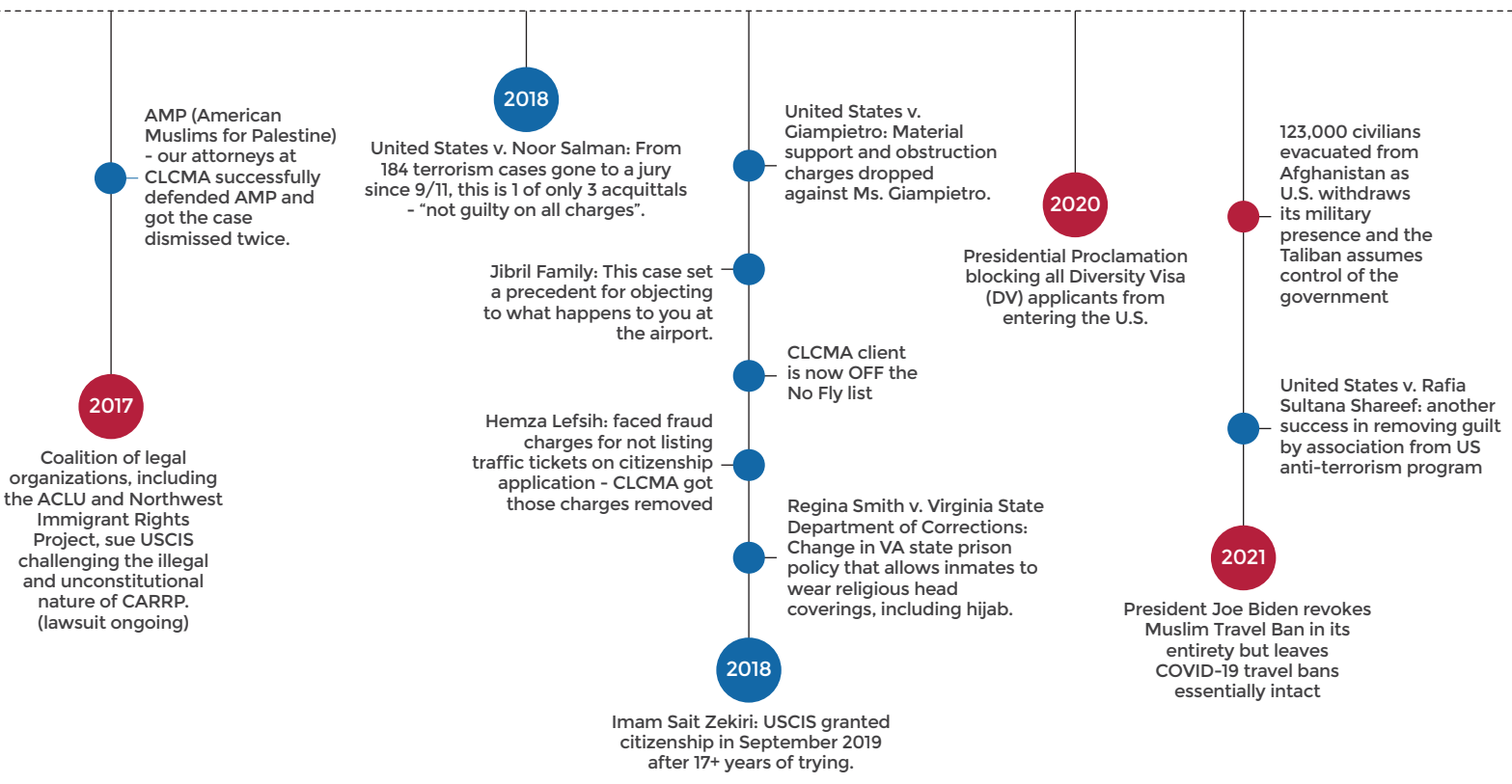
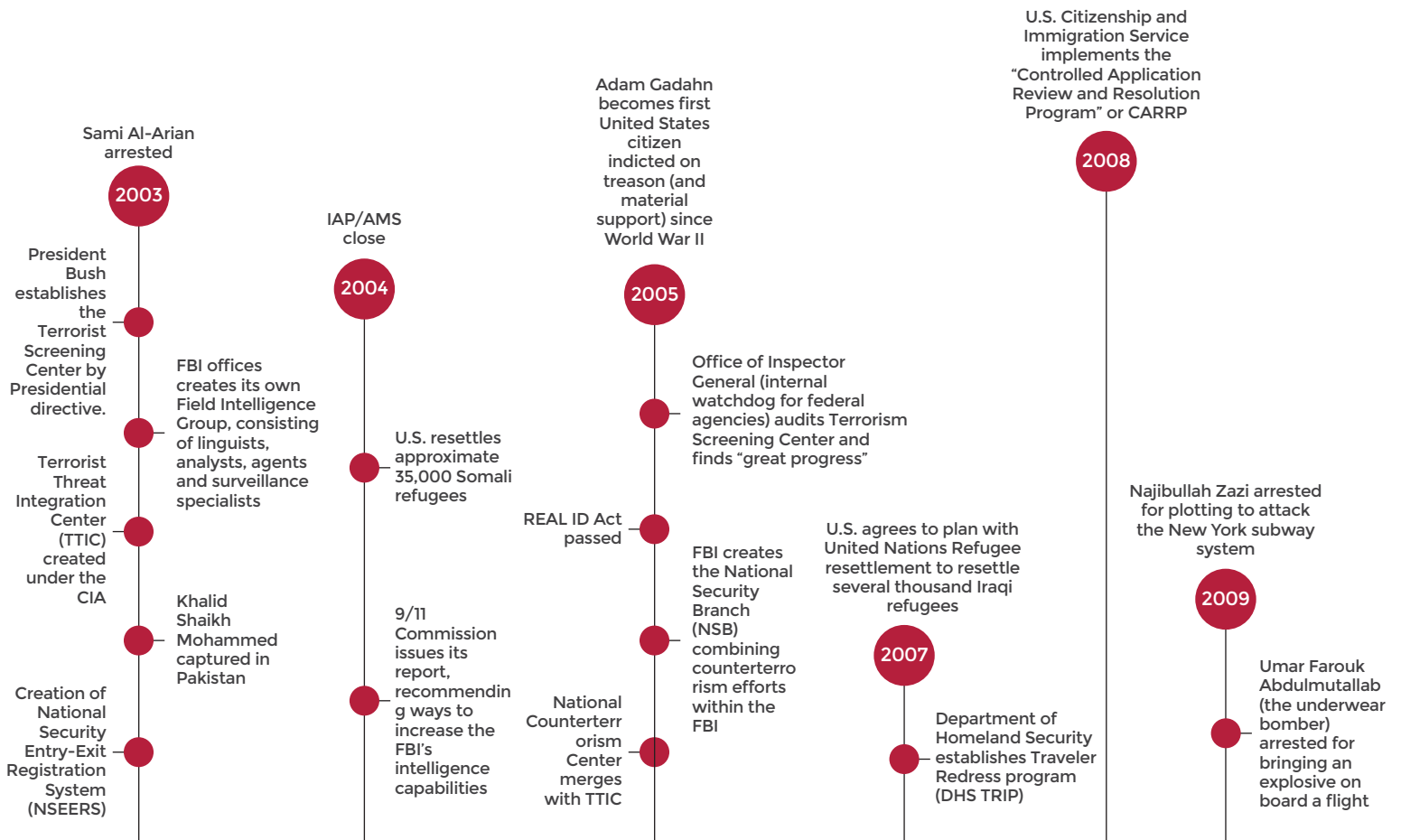


**BECAUSE OF YOU
FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER
COMMUNITIES ARE PROTECTED
NARRATIVES ARE REWRITTEN
LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED
JUSTICE IS UPHELD**



GETTING ON THE MAP OF NATIONAL SECURITY



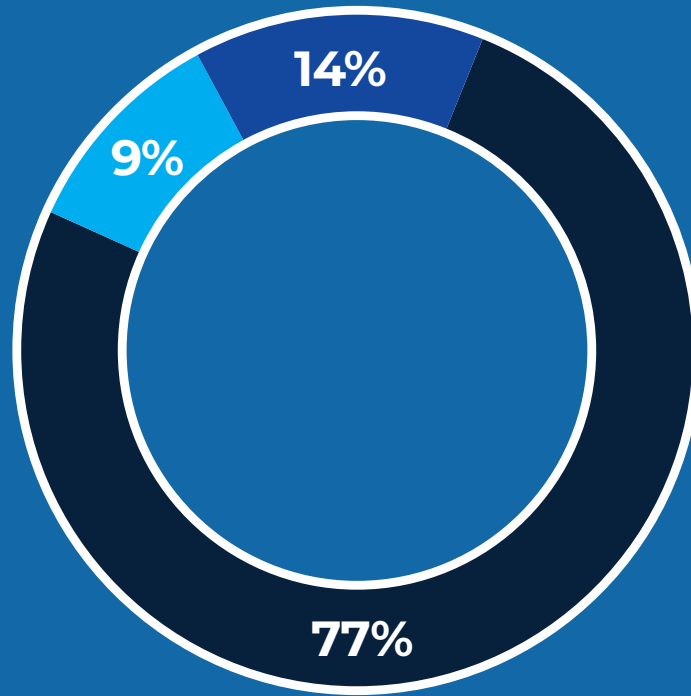


LESSONS WE LEARNED OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS

- NO CASE we ever “lost” was a loss. We were learning, entering an area of law that was never tackled before. Our initial “losses” were actually “lessons,” and we had to keep at it - until we started to break ground. Noor Salman case was when the impossible became possible for ALL of us. Noor was acquitted. She went home to her son. This is a case we need not ever forget. Precedence was set!
- Too many nonprofits and mosques were at risk- not because they were engaged in illegal activities, but because they did not understand corporate compliance requirements, risk evaluation, and risk minimization strategies. So our mosques were (and some still are) tempting targets for federal investigators and anti-Muslim organizations.
- Our best work does not always make headlines, but not making headlines often is the best way to achieve a great result.
- From a cost and preventative perspective, funding an external law firm, we created the Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA). We were able to multiply the cases we were able to address; we saved our community and clients a lot of money, and we created allies and opened doors that otherwise were not visible to us.
- Our fact-based challenge approach to the government’s narrative began changing minds both in and out of court.
- Despite what we see or hear in the media, the number of Muslims labeled as suspected terrorists have continued to grow exponentially since 9/11.
- We have a lot of allies and partners who want to support us; all we had to do was show up.
- Every time we overcome injustice together, it changes the narrative, gives hope for many, and creates a chance for change. That is how we are changing the legal the landscape for Muslims in America.

2021 FINANCIAL RECORD

Statement of Activity



Program Services
 Fundraising Exp
 Administration & General

Individual Donations/Contributions	\$ 2,742,454.55
Coporate Matches	\$ 140,741.09
Grants	\$ 288,749.00
Investment Income	\$ 7,020.86
In-Kind Service Donations	\$ 44,558.97
	\$ 3,223,524.47

Program Services	\$ 2,039,321.90
Fundraising Exp	\$ 228,292.45
Administration & General	\$ 329,771.33
	\$ 2,660,385.68

* Audit of Financial record has commenced for 2021 to be completed in 2022.

* MLFA is a nonprofit charity that relies on individual and foundation support. Your dedication and generosity is indispensable in the fight for justice. Thank you!



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Kopczyk, Osher, & Scott
Certified Public Accountants
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Hillside, IL 60162
Voice (312) 527-0111
Fax (312) 527-9441
www.rcscottcpa.com

Board of Directors
Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc. as of December 31, 2019 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

KOPCZYK, OSHER, & SCOTT

KOPCZYK, OSHER, & SCOTT

Chicago, Illinois
October 25, 2021



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Kopczyk, Osher, & Scott
 Certified Public Accountants
 4415 Harrison St. Suite 552
 Hillside, IL 60162
 Voice (312) 527-0111
 Fax (312) 527-9441
 www.rcscottcpa.com

Board of Directors
 Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2020 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Muslim Legal Fund of America, Inc. as of December 31, 2020 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

KOPCZYK, OSHER, & SCOTT

KOPCZYK, OSHER, & SCOTT

Chicago, Illinois
 October 25, 2021

A black and white close-up portrait of Tarek Alkadri, a man with dark curly hair and glasses, looking slightly upwards and to the right. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is blurred.

**TRIBUTE TO
TAREK ALKADRI
MLFA FOUNDER**

**ESTABLISHED
MLFA**

CHAIRMAN

**FOUNDER OF
PURE HANDS**

“The Loss of Tarek Al-Kadri showed us what is possible when you don’t give up. He showed us what we are capable of when we believe. He led by example. He loved, laughed, and lived with vulnerability, mercy, and humility. There was no other quite like him. Let us continue each day to be inspired by his lifelong example and his call to never stop working for a better and more just world for all of us.”

Arshia Ali-Khan, Interim CEO

MLFA, Richardson, TX (June 14, 2021) – The Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA) mourns the passing of the President/Chairman of its Board of Directors, Tarek Reskan Mohammed Al-Kadri, on June 05, 2021. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeeoon (From God we came and to HIM we shall return). We pray that he be granted the highest-level Jannat Al Firdous and that his family will be enveloped with mercy, patience, and perseverance during this difficult time.

Mr. Al-Kadri was one of the co-founders of MLFA and has served as the Chairman of the Board since 2008.

There are no words that can do justice to the sadness we feel at this time at the loss of our dear brother, mentor, and friend Tarek Reskan Mohammed Al-Kadri. We will always remember him as a kind, thoughtful, and generous visionary leader—a man whose whole life was focused on serving humanity.

No matter who you were, you were made to feel like the most important person in the world when you were with Tarek. He always demonstrated sincere caring, knew how to make you laugh, and carried himself with humility and genuine kindness. The sheer extent of Tarek’s humility and life-changing impact on those around him is becoming increasingly apparent as more and more

people come forward to express their respect and to talk about the influence he has had on their lives. Many told us that Tarek’s Janaza/Funeral prayer was the largest congregation they had ever experienced in their lifetimes. The internet has been flooded with messages of condolences. It is clear that Tarek will be deeply missed by a great many people across the globe.

Arshia Ali-Khan, Interim Chief Executive Officer of MLFA says “We are deeply saddened by the passing of Tarek, who led our Board with a great vision, a sharp mind, a pure heart, and absolute integrity. He led by example and was a role model for all of us at the Muslim Legal Fund of America. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to his wife and his six children. He will be so dearly missed.”

Tarek was a pillar in the greater Dallas area and has served on the boards of the North Texas Islamic Council, Islamic Association of North Texas, Islamic Services Foundation, and was a founding member of Pure Hands, a relief organization for Yemen. His absence will be greatly felt in the Muslim community in North America.

The Muslim Legal Fund of America joins the nation in mourning the loss of Tarek. We commit to creating a lasting legacy to honor him and his life’s work and to fight against injustice in all of its forms.

TAREK AL KADRI SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The TAREK AL KADRI SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP has been established in the honor and memory of MLFA's former President and Co-Founder, Tarek Al-Kadri. The scholarship is awarded as a part of the ISF's Endowment Fund.

For over a decade, the Islamic Scholarship Fund has had the great privilege of identifying and empowering the most promising young Muslim scholars through its various scholarship programs. Each recipient is chosen because he or she demonstrates a dedicated commitment to justice and a desire to live a life in service to a world where everyone is considered and treated as an equal.

The very first recipient of the Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice Scholarship, Isir Said, already has a number of outstanding achievements to her credit. Isir received her bachelor's degree in Political and Social Thought from the University of Virginia, where her academic and research interests ranged from human rights, globalization, and world literature to politics and ethics. Isir's other awards and distinctions include two Critical Language Scholarships, an IPE Ethics Internship Grant, internships at the United Nations Permanent Mission of Somalia and the University of Virginia's Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures; and a fellowship at White & Case LLP.



Isir Said—a 2020 and 2021 ISF Law Scholar currently pursuing a Juris Doctorate at Yale University

ISIR IS DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM SO MANY DESERVING APPLICANTS:

“...I am so deeply honored to have received this scholarship as public interest law student who cares about issues concerning not only the Muslim community but other marginalized communities...[I] hope to spend my career in service to these communities and this scholarship is making such an impact in my ability to do so...”

MLFA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Citizens on Probation



Our 20th Anniversary Symposium examined US legal and national security policies enacted in the wake of 9/11 and the impact these have on American Muslims' civil rights.

This engaging virtual event provided a forum for illuminating discussion with thought leaders and scholars in national security law, civil rights, and the American Muslim community on the lasting impact 9/11 has had on the American Muslim community and the history of civil rights infringements perpetrated in the name of national security. We also envisioned a collective path forward.

The Aims of the Symposium were to:

- Review and celebrate the accomplishments made since 9/11 in the areas of national security knowledge, scholarship, and defense of the American Muslim community.
- Provide insight into American Muslims' current and future challenges related to national security law.
- Engage policymakers, peers, and partners about the key issues impacting Muslim Americans related to national security, immigration, civil law, and nonprofits compliance in the context of events since 9/11.
- Encourage participants to engage with MLFA in tackling these important issues and aligning with MLFA to protect the civil rights of Muslim Americans and roll back the post 9/11 policies and legal precedents that disproportionately target American Muslims and organizations.

We ought to uphold constitutional rights and liberties equally for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, cultural heritage, or social background. Looking forward to engaging with MLFA to advance belonging and equity for all.

Prof John A. Powell

Director of the Othering and Belonging Institute



The Muslim Legal Fund of America does essential work to ensure that American Muslims have access to equal justice and fair treatment in America's courtrooms. The highest calling of the legal profession is to defend every person's constitutional and human rights, no matter the circumstances. MLFA plays an essential role in making that aspiration a reality.



Jonathan Manes

Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center,
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

BUILDING LEGAL POWER FOR AMERICAN MUSLIMS

What does it cost to defend our constitutional rights?

\$250 The average attorney fee for one hour	\$5,000 Funds one federal court brief	\$10,000 Funds one appellate court brief
\$20,000 Funds one U.S. Supreme court brief	\$30,000 Funds an administrative hearing.	\$50,000 Funds a federal civil trial.

Your monthly donations will also help us:

- Continue to build legal power for Muslims in America.
- Staff the departments at the MLFA-funded law center with expert attorneys, paralegals, researchers, interns, and support staff.
- Fund projects that empower American Muslims through legal education and training, including law conferences, board boot camps, legal clinics, community events, and online education projects.



Join Online

mlfa.org/Ramamdan



Fill out a pledge card



Call toll-free

866.MLFA.USA

Join our Sustainers for Justice Program

A monthly investment for a lifetime of liberty

Pillar \$1000

You empower and protect American Muslim institutions and organizations against the injustices done in the name of national security

Mobilizer \$500

You defend Muslims facing legal challenges in federal courtrooms.

Catalyst \$250

You work to restore justice for innocent American Muslims and their families by providing one hour of legal work.

Advocate \$100

You provide legal education to protect yourself and others around you

Patron \$50

You are dedicated to ensuring that the constitution applies to all Americans- including Muslims.

Ally \$25

You fight for justice. Every dollar counts.

WAYS TO SUPPORT MLFA

WHY YOU

Upholding the rights of American Muslims today safeguards the rights of all future generations tomorrow. We must stand up against government-sanctioned discrimination by pooling our collective resources to make the greatest positive impact on the state of justice for Muslims in America. Every person can make a difference.

WHY NOW

American Muslims continue to face systemic injustices by governmental infringements to their constitutionally-protected civil rights. Standing up to injustices today will protect our families and institutions for a brighter future tomorrow.

WHY MONTHLY

It's affordable

Start for as little as \$25/mo

It's a community

Connect with people standing up for others.

It's sustainable

Consistent funding expands legal services.

It's rewarding

You give hope to those facing injustice.

It's exciting

You build legal power for American Muslims.

It's easy

You give at mlfa.org/give or by calling 866.MLFA.USA

Donate

Support the cause of Justice by donating to our tax-deductible and zakat eligible legal fund. Consider joining our Sustainers for Justice program and making your gift recurring or donating stocks.

Volunteer

Whether you're a student, professional, community member, or leader, there's a perfect volunteer opportunity!

Share Our Mission

Follow us on social media, crowdfund for MLFA and Please send us your feedback

...the most beloved deed to Allah is the most regular and constant even if it were little.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him)



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