



MUSLIM
LEGAL FUND
of America



UNVEILING INJUSTICE. YOUR LEGAL FORCE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
MLFA.ORG

2023



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2023 YEAR IN REVIEW: A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

—A YEAR OF EMPOWERMENT

In 2001, civil rights activists saw the crucial need for a unique organization dedicated to preserving and fighting for the civil liberties of Muslims in America. In 2023, MLFA marked 22 years since its founding in the aftermath of a tragic event that profoundly impacted the Muslim community globally. This tragedy's echoes are still felt today, both domestically and worldwide. Back then, they understood what is now evident to us all—the Muslim community requires a legal force to challenge laws intentionally designed to harm us.

In 22 impactful years, our generous supporters (you) have helped us raise more than \$60 million, enough to push back those who work to silence us, oppress us, and treat us as probationary citizens. Labeled, targeted, surveilled, and intimidated, we've persisted with your unwavering support. Year after year, armed with top-tier constitutional and national security federal litigators, we fearlessly confront any accusation in federal courtrooms, demanding proof. We boldly say NO to injustice against Muslims and Muslim organizations, rejecting the systemic anti-Islamic bigotry embedded in our laws. We resist the anti-Muslim bias that unfairly labels our children, siblings, or associates under “guilt by association,” protecting the vulnerable from entrapment. We ensure that our day in court and our right to a fair trial are met. They push and we push back.

In 2018, when I joined MLFA and began my conversations with our donors across the nation, I realized that many in our community felt as though Muslims were now safe in America. That 9/11 was a thing of the past. Many didn't understand the need for organizations like MLFA. As 2023 began, we knew that we needed to UNVEIL the INJUSTICE that continues to plague us, not only in our communities but also and especially in our legal system. This year, uplifting and empowering our community became a very intentional goal that we set as an organization. The guise of national security is vague (on purpose) and the casting of its net is wide. Our legal team wished that we could get to the community before having to see them in court. So, we made it happen.





This past year, *MLFA served over 150 clients on federal constitutional or national security legal matters* across our Civil, Criminal Defense, and Immigration departments. We received and responded to over *500 legal intakes, launched our Education Pillar allowing us to empower over 41,983 people nationwide, and produced legal resources in response to the War on Gaza*. Because of YOU, we were also able to *educate over 3,925 leaders and community members* through our new MLFA In Your Community program *and re-integrated our Nonprofit training department (providing legal health and governance screenings) back into the fold of MLFA*. In 2023, we *doubled our staff, starting the year with 12 Full-Time Staff and ending the year with 25*. We received the *GreatNonprofits award five years in a row, platinum seal of transparency, and a 3/4 star rating on Charity Navigator!*

Our accomplishments would not be possible without your support. MLFA was built for this moment in time. MLFA is the leading Muslim-centric legal authority on national security and constitutional law in the nation.

We move into 2024 after experiencing the strongest mission-impact year in our organization's history. Operating with excellence, along with your commitment to justice, MLFA will continue to educate, protect, and defend American Muslims and Muslim organizations against systemic oppression and institutionalized Islamophobia across the nation in our communities and federal courtrooms. We are ready to grow (again) and we are confident that with supporters like you at our side, justice for Muslims and minorities will prevail.

Together, we are the legal force for Muslims and minorities in America.

Arshia Ali-Khan

Vision & Mission

VISION: An America in which constitutional rights and liberties are upheld equally for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or cultural heritage.

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

FY 2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

150+
clients served!

Educated over
41,000
community members.

Doubled our staff, starting the year with
12 Full Time Staff and ending at 25.

Received **500+** assistance inquiries from people and families needing our help!

Trained **850+** leaders & community members on how to address the Gaza Impact.

Sponsored **3** Law Students at Harvard, Yale, and Univ. of Michigan Law School through the Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice Leadership Scholarship as of 2023.

200+ active legal matters of all kinds (from cases to filing complaints to federal agencies on behalf of our clients)

Hosted **84** Community Engagement events across **17** states empowering **33,000+** community members.

Consulted with over a dozen nonprofit organizations going through nonprofit legal matters

120%
increase in case intakes compared to 2022!

“MLFA In Your Community” touched nearly **4000** Muslim leaders & community members.

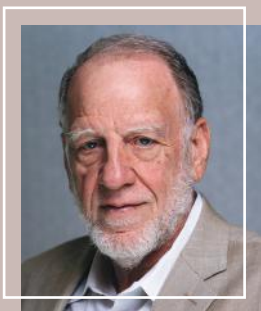
Led Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Training for the Legal Community training over **100** lawyers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LEGAL COMMITTEE

MLFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. HATEM BAZIAN
Board Chairman



MOUFFFA NAHHAS
Board Treasurer



JAMAL SULEIMAN
Board Secretary

LEGAL COMMITTEE

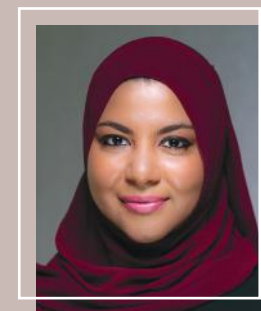
JAMAL SULEIMAN, ESQ.

FURQAN SUNNY AZHAR, ESQ.

NAVEED HUSAIN, ESQ.

SHEREEN EL DOMEIRI, ESQ.

CEO



ARSHIA ALI-KHAN, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT HEADS



CHRISTINA A. JUMP
Civil Litigation
Dept Head



CHARLES SWIFT
Criminal Defense
Litigation Dept Head



KATHRYN H. BRADY
Immigration Litigation
Dept Head



DR. AHMED ELKHALDY
Director of Community
Engagement and
Stewardship



SANA SALEEM
Nonprofit & Governance
Department Program
Manager & Staff Attorney



STAFF & CONSULTANTS

LEGAL TEAM

CHELSEA GLOVER
Civil Litigation Senior Staff
Attorney

SAMIRA ELHOSARY
Civil Litigation Junior Staff
Attorney

BASEL ALHASAN
Civil Litigation Junior Staff
Attorney

SUFIA KHALID
Criminal Defense Staff
Attorney

ALIZAY AZEEM
Criminal Defense Litigation
Paralegal

FRANCHEL DANIEL
Immigration Litigation Senior
Staff Attorney

ISLAM ZEBI
Immigration Litigation
Paralegal

PHELICIA WILLIAMS
Case Intake
Specialist

NAIREESA KHAN
Criminal & Civil Litigation
Paralegal

APRIL TREMBLE
Civil Litigation
Paralegal

HAYAH ALAZZEH
Case Intake Specialist

STAFF

MARIA GUZMAN
Executive Assistant to CEO &
Project Manager

JAWAAD KHAN
Operations Manager

SYEDA SADIQA
Operations Coordinator

MUJAHID RASUL
Donor Relations Account
Manager

CATHERINE MCDONALD
Training and Development
Manager

NATALY CASTAÑO
Donor Engagement Associate

INGRID ASCENCIO
Marketing & Communications
Manager

JEANINE SHERMAN
Content Writer

MONA AL
Graphic Designer

HAZIM PATEL
Project Manager & Research
Associate, American Muslim
Legal Ecosystem (AMLE)
MLFA & CAIR CHI

CONSULTANTS

Eaman Shebley, CJBS Accounting Firm, LLC.
Laurie McParlane, CJBS Accounting Firm, LLC.
Basil Idbeis, Financial Advisor & Analyst
Shawn Jough, Strategic HR Advisory
Kareem Hassan, Community Engagement South Coordinator
Dr. Saleh Elzahiri, Community Engagement North East Coordinator
Nouha Boundaoui, Grantwriter
Anna Mirza, Influence Brand Agency
Adnan Kussair, Transform Studio Website Dev Security Operations & Design
Holly Chovan, Transform Studio Website Dev Security Operations & Design
Sajjad Husain, Sunan Designs (2022-2023)
4th Wave Solutions
Net-Telligence Group (NTG) Support
RDB IT Services Inc

INTERNS

Law Student Interns:

Sakina Bhatti, 2L, Penn State Law
Khalid Abujamous, 3L, University of Houston Law Center
Sydney Cessna, 2L, SMU Dedman School of Law

DONOR DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

MANUELA JARAMILLO
Donor Engagement Associate

VALENTINA GALENDE
Donor Engagement Associate

ANA LAURA FRIELY
Donor Engagement Associate

NAYWA EL HAGE
Donor Engagement Associate

MOHAMMED YIBARA
Donor Engagement Associate

Educate | Protect | Defend

EDUCATE:

- Established MLFA's Training & Education Department.
- Named Catherine McDonald as Training & Development Manager.
- Educated over 41,983 people in 2023.
- Led 84 Community Engagement events across 17 states, empowering 33,600 members of our community.
- Launched "MLFA In Your Community" and trained over 3,925 leaders and community members.
- Hosted Virtual Town Halls and trained over 858 leaders & community members on how to address the Gaza Impact.
- Hosted Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Training for the Legal Community training over 100 lawyers in Dallas.
- Sponsored University of Michigan Law School student Zainab Bhindarwala, through the Tarek Al Kadri Social Justice Leadership Scholarship, marking this our 3rd year of scholarships through Islamic Scholarship Fund.

PROTECT:

- Transitioned partnership with Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in-house from the Ihsan Standard Nonprofit project to become the Nonprofit Department of our Legal Division.
- Re-established MLFA's Nonprofit Department, to focus on conducting legal screenings assessing governance, risk, and compliance against federal nonprofit guidelines.
- Provided training and research for established Muslim nonprofit organizations nationally.
- Hired Sana Saleem as Program Manager and Staff Attorney for our Nonprofit Department, along with 2 consulting attorneys.
- Initiated the design and research phase for crafting a curriculum tailored to Muslim nonprofit organizations and individuals, aiming to tackle crucial areas that uniquely affect our communities. Topics covered include nonprofit governance, fundraising compliance, employment law, international nonprofits, and more.
- Consulted with over a dozen nonprofit organizations going through nonprofit governance, compliance, and other legal matters.

DEFEND:

- Our Legal Division received over 500 assistance inquiries from the community in 2023.
- Our team dealt with over 200 active legal matters.
- We served dozens of clients in cases that span several months to several years long!
- We won a historic outcome in the case of a young Muslim man in his 20s wherein the government dropped four counts of material support of terrorism, and brought a sentence of 80 years in prison down to 8 years or less for this young man!



LEGAL DIVISION CIVIL LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

295 Total # of intake cases

125 Total # of active cases

45 Total # of new cases



Client Testimonial

Certainly, a lawyer's professionalism is one of his or her most important qualifications and qualities. There are two other qualities a lawyer should have, but not all of them possess them: ***humanity, and caring.*** Without a doubt, our MLFA lawyers are highly professional and competent. Most importantly, they have humanity and concern for us as individuals and not just as clients.

OSAMA ABUIRSHAIID

Executive Director of American Muslims for Palestine
(AMP has been an MLFA client since 2017)



Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director and
Board Member of AMP



CRIMINAL DEFENSE LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

131 Total # of intake cases

32 Total # of active cases

21 Total # of new cases

IMMIGRATION LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

135 Total # of intake cases

53 Total # of active cases

30 Total # of new cases



NONPROFIT & GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT

31 Total # of intake cases

28 Total # of active cases

28 Total # of new cases



Client Testimonial

Mashallah we had MLFA's Nonprofit Department do an audit of our organization a couple of years ago and have really clung to the advice from their invaluable review! As a small nonprofit, the legal insights and expertise that ISLA gained through the MLFA's Nonprofit Department audit would not have been possible if it wasn't for the pro bono review that they provided us.

The entire process was hugely beneficial for ISLA. Because the audit requires a statement of support from the entire board of directors, it is set up to ensure that the non-profit's entire governing team is ready and willing to support the process and implementation of the audit.

DR. SHAZA KHAN
Executive Director | ISLA



Shaza Khan
Executive Director, ISLA

Portraits of Impact

CIVIL LITIGATION

MLFA's Critical Role in Defending & Protecting American Muslims for Palestine (AMP).

MLFA stands for AMP in court, so that AMP can stand for Palestine in the United States!

Since 2017, MLFA's legal division has been protecting and defending AMP, and continues to represent AMP free of cost, as always, in its fights, on many fronts, in courtrooms across America.

In May 2017, right-wing forces attempted to hold AMP accountable for a decades-old judgment against defunct Palestinian entities. Despite being created in 2006 and having no involvement in the earlier lawsuit, AMP faced legal challenges, was accused of operating as the "alter ego" of those entities to avoid the prior judgment. It defended itself on multiple legal fronts for a debt it did not incur, facing liability without a trial for events predating its existence.

That's when MLFA attorneys got involved.

Our opponents thought they'd have an easy win—they won several key steps in their legal history, by default, because the other entities could no longer pay to defend themselves and did not have legal counsel.

Many forces hoped to bankrupt AMP, to shut it down without the burden of substantiating any allegations. Our Civil Litigation attorneys quickly got involved in the legal proceedings against AMP within a month of their initiation. Uninterrupted and unwavering, our legal team has been representing AMP throughout the entire seven-year duration of the litigation.

Our donors made it possible for our attorneys to work tirelessly on behalf of AMP free of cost so that it did not suffer the same fate as other defunct Muslim nonprofit organizations.

Imagine navigating this genocide without a trusted resource like AMP standing with our community. Instead, our Civil Litigation team, led by Civil Litigation Department Head Christina A. Jump, and has been by AMP's side from the start seven years ago, turned the tide.

We have been there for through it all:



Persevering through seven years of ongoing litigation.

Navigating a Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals oral argument and subsequent reversal.

Participating in more than 20 federal court hearings and counting.

Completing ten additional depositions and counting.

Managing over 370 federal court filings in the "new" 2017 lawsuit alone.

Conducting two depositions of the plaintiff after requiring a court order for her appearance.

Our legal victories don't just protect AMP; they safeguard the very essence of its mission — providing education and history within the United States on Palestine and its rich culture and its right to survive.

The urgency to protect those who boldly advocate for a free Palestine has reached unprecedented heights, and MLFA promises to always educate, protect, and defend our community.



Portraits of Impact

CRIMINAL LITIGATION

FBI Targeting: MLFA Sets Legal Precedent

MLFA Wins First Dismissal of Material Support Charges In An Undercover Operation Targeting An American Muslim Since 9/11!

We're witnessing an alarming surge in FBI undercover operations targeting our Muslim community. With billions of dollars pouring into the national security budget, our communities are facing entrapment, extensive surveillance, undercover schemes, and an alarming rise in anti-Muslim bigotry and media bias.

The Unsettling Connection:

Entrapment: Teens, reverts, and those facing mental health challenges are being deliberately targeted by the FBI.

Media Bias: Reporting glorifies the FBI for stopping a terrorist attack and ignores the FBI's tactics of targeting a vulnerable individual, and then creating a crime.

Increased Surveillance: FBI operations are compromising our privacy with budgets in the billions.

The Jason Fong Case ANOTHER FIRST:

In a groundbreaking moment, MLFA achieved an unprecedented victory. After a mistrial, the U.S. Attorney's Office dismissed all material support of terrorism charges against Jason Fong, a Chinese-American revert. This marked the first dismissal of such charges in an undercover operation targeting an American Muslim since 9/11—a precedent our Criminal Defense Litigation Department was proud to set.

We take immense pride in celebrating the accomplishments of MLFA's Criminal Defense Litigation Department, headed by Charles Swift. Charles began his fight for civil rights more than 20 years ago with a pivotal victory in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* on behalf of Salim Ahmed Hamdan.

In Fong, our team partnered with local counsel to expose the abusive tactics, questionable backgrounds of the undercovers, and the overcharging that too often underlies FBI undercover operations against American Muslims.

By putting his statements in context and compelling the government to disclose these tactics, which, in Fong's case, included the targeting of a Muslim child in conjunction with Fong, we won a victory not just for Jason but for our community.

MLFA is the only NATIONAL criminal legal defense fund for Muslims!

A genocide is unfolding in realtime, and speaking out against the horrors taking place in Palestine is a constitutional right. But, we also know that when our most vulnerable speak out, they become targets of the FBI and subjected to intense questioning, surveillance, and possible entrapment. The urgency to protect those who boldly advocate for a free Palestine has reached unprecedented heights.

Portraits of Impact

IMMIGRATION LITIGATION

MLFA v. USCIS, FBI, and US Attorneys' Offices

MLFA's client applied for naturalization over 20 years ago. This same application is still pending at USCIS (formerly INS). The Service has interviewed this client four times, and the FBI has conducted multiple interviews to identify national security issues.

In 2022, MLFA attorneys entered notices of appearance for this client's naturalization application and green card renewal after reviewing his FOIA documents, which revealed USCIS was processing his applications under CARRP. The government's concerns revolve around "guilt by association" and purported national security concerns related to cultural and social organizations in which our client was involved.

In response to MLFA's administrative advocacy, USCIS "reopened" this client's N-400 application, which it administratively closed for 12 years without notice.

The Service then conducted a fourth naturalization interview in September 2023, where MLFA's attorneys provided copious updates to his application and legal arguments supporting a favorable resolution. Although the USCIS officer strongly indicated the Service would issue a quick decision approving the naturalization application, it remains pending as of November 2023. MLFA is now preparing for federal court litigation under 8 USC § 1447(b) based on USCIS's continued delay on this application.

This client's long-pending citizenship application remains pending, but USCIS approved the renewal of this client's permanent resident card in 2022. MLFA was also able to resolve this client's green card renewal application in two months after it had been pending at USCIS for almost two years.

The only impediment to USCIS's approval of MLFA's client Adjustment of Status application before her travel abroad in 2020 seemed to be the FBI's desire to speak to her spouse. The Immigration Litigation Department believes this is a case where DHS is targeting the client's immigration application to pressure her spouse to speak to the FBI, possibly to become a confidential informant. This is an all-too-frequent occurrence of discrimination against vulnerable immigrants targeted by the U.S. government based on race, religion, or national origin.

There are no issues related to criminal conduct, immigration violations, or any other reasons why her application should not have been approved after the first USCIS interview in March 2018.

MLFA's Immigration Litigation Department looks forward to assisting our client with her green card application now that she has returned to the U.S.



Portraits of Impact

NONPROFIT GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT

MLFA's Pro Bono Legal Screening Strengthens 75-Member Islamic Schools League of America

The Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA) works in partnership with educators, organizations, and universities to foster the development, growth, and quality of Islamic education primarily by establishing networks, providing resources, disseminating knowledge, nurturing leadership, and carrying out critical and foundational research on Islamic education and full-time schools.

The Islamic Schools League of America envisions and works towards the day when Islamic schools will be the preferred centers for learning and leadership that nurture and encourage America's youth to develop their innate creativity and inquisitive nature in the pursuance of academic excellence while anchoring their hearts and souls in a moral framework of a God-centered life.

There are currently 75 member Islamic Schools, and approximately 300 full-time Islamic schools located in the United States that are part of ISLA's directory. The organization's goal is to make it easier for Islamic schools to access vital information that would enhance a school's instruction and the professional development of their faculty. With this goal in mind, ISLA approached the [MLFA's Nonprofit Department] early 2022 to help with its governance. During its legal screening, we successfully identified key best practices for the organization to improve upon or implement, with the focus for the leadership training in the areas of controls and governance.

The organization was immensely grateful and very receptive to making the changes suggested by [MLFA's Nonprofit Department] so much so that they have recently reached back out to MLFA for a follow up legal screening in light of the changes ISLA implemented after their initial legal screening.



AMERICAN MUSLIM LEGAL ECOSYSTEM (AMLE)

MLFA in partnership with CAIR-Chicago launches the American Muslim Legal Ecosystem (AMLE) project - Grant funded by The Community Collaboration Initiative (CCI) through Tides Foundation.

When Muslim Americans need legal support and do not know where to go or who to turn to, many get left behind. Legal support is much like health support: people's lives are at risk if their legal troubles are not handled with care. Since the September 11th attacks, Muslim Americans and Muslim organizations have felt "threatened" and under "attack" through surveillance, terrorist watchlists, national registries, Muslim Travel Bans, and more measures cast from all levels of government. Despite more visibility and bridge building in our broader communities, we have been working in silos due to fear, perceived scarcity, and the need to survive.

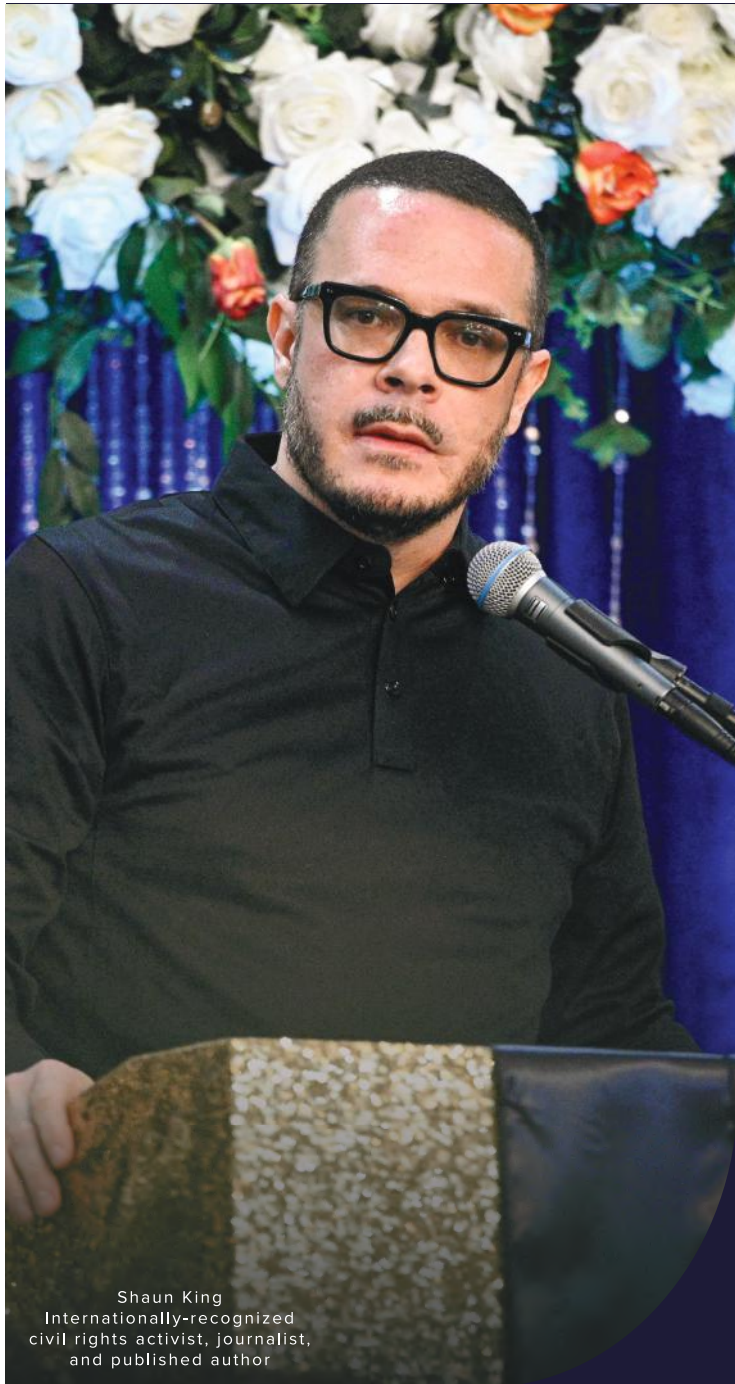
Through this grant and partnership with CAIR-Chicago, we are collaborating on a legal resource database for American Muslims and a portal that will serve as an immediate support for Muslims seeking legal assistance, allowing us to close the gap in access and resources for our community. We've hired Haazim Patel as Research Associate & Project Manager in 2023 to lead the project in conjunction with our organizations' leadership and we are working to start rolling it out in 2024!



MUSLIM
LEGAL FUND
of America



CAIR
CHICAGO



Shaun King
Internationally-recognized
civil rights activist, journalist,
and published author

UNVEILING INJUSTICE: A GALA EVENT

Nearly 700 of you joined us in our groundbreaking series of banquets hosted across the nation—from the heart of our headquarters in Dallas to the vibrant activism scene in New York and the brilliant innovation hub of California—MLFA orchestrated a transformative experience dedicated to dismantling the chains of injustice. Unveiling the stark realities of systemic bias and paving the path towards equality, these banquets weren't just typical events: they were catalysts for real change.

It was our honor to host a lineup of distinguished speakers who brought unparalleled insight and inspiration to the stage. Notable figures included Shaun King, renowned for his impactful activism; Dr. Yusef Salaam, a powerful advocate for justice and a member of the Exonerated Five; Dr. Hatem Bazian, a leading scholar in Islamic studies; Dr. Debbie Almontaser, a trailblazing educator and community leader; and Prof. Jonathon Brown, an esteemed academic. Imam Mohammad Qatanani graced our stage in New York bringing tears to the audience's eyes with his motivational address. In Dallas, Shaykh Abderraouf Alkhawaldeh sparked an energy impossible to contain, forcing us all to confront injustice!

We were privileged to have Judge Zahid Quraishi, the first Muslim Article III federal judge in U.S. history, as a distinguished speaker at our New York event. His presence added a significant perspective to our discussions, emphasizing the crucial role of diversity and representation within the legal system.

Each meticulously curated night was a testament to our commitment to ignite passion, empower voices, and shatter the barriers hindering progress. The impact was undeniable—a collective unleashing of power to challenge bigotry, change oppressive systems, and usher in a new era of justice.

Our commitment to unveiling the truth in a time where exposing injustice is paramount, our events stood as powerful symbols of our collective strength.

UNVEILING INJUSTICE TRIBUTE TO TAREK AL-KADRI

We gathered in the heart of New York and Dallas for our Unveiling Injustice events with a shared purpose and to pay tribute to a remarkable man, Tarek Al-Kadri. Tarek was more than a leader; he was a legend, leaving an undeniable mark on everyone he encountered. The occasion marked our first large-scale, in-person event since Tarek's passing in 2021. Tarek's ability to face adversity with a radiant smile, his leadership, and the profound impact he made on many lives propels us forward.

Our decision to hold our events in New York and Dallas was deliberately in his honor. InshaAllah, our events ensured that Tarek's legacy continues to thrive, not just within MLFA but within the countless lives he touched.

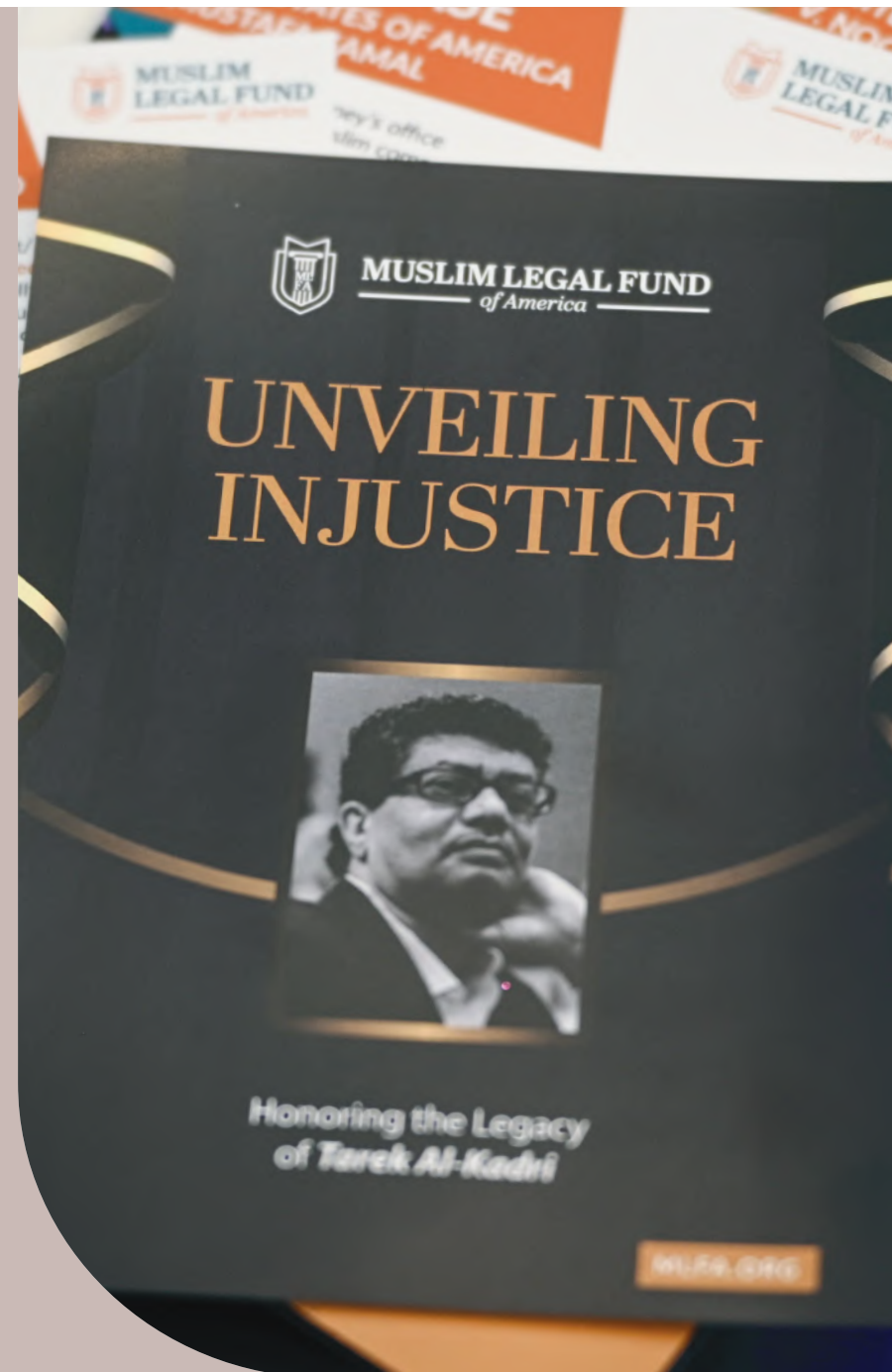
—THE TAREK AL-KADRI SCHOLARSHIP

MLFA established the Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice Leadership scholarship in honor and memory of MLFA's former President and Co-Founder, Tarek Al-Kadri.

We honor Tarek's commitment to social justice and his legacy continues to empower American Muslims through our scholarship, providing funds to American Muslims who share a strong commitment to justice and aspire to make a difference in the world.

This scholarship is part of the Islamic Scholarship Fund's Endowment Fund, which shares our goal of investing in the education and future of Muslim students.

Our 2023 recipient is Zainab Bhindarwala, 3rd year law student at University of Michigan Law School. Zainab is especially interested in labor and employment law, and has interned at Legal Aid Chicago in the Immigrants and Workers Rights Practice Group.

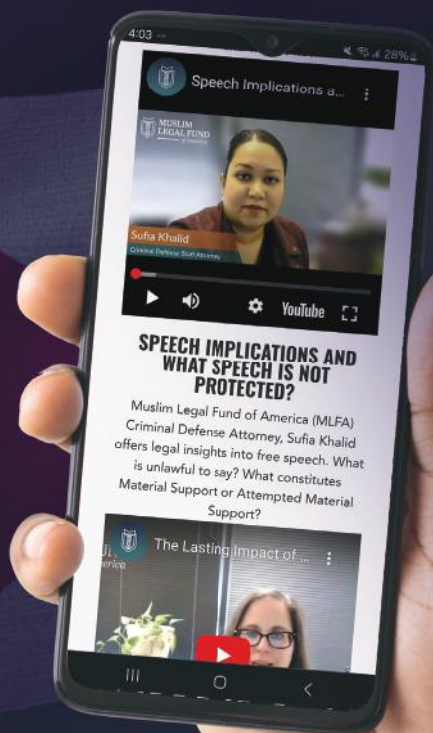


GAZA: Our Response!

AN EDUCATIONAL SERIES BY MLFA

In the wake of the devastating events of October 7th, MLFA sprang into action, driven by a steadfast commitment to support and protect our community amidst the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Recognizing the urgent need for resources and guidance, we swiftly launched a dedicated website offering Gaza Impact educational resources. Within days, we organized a virtual town hall event led by our legal department heads. This forum, attended by over 400 community members, provided vital insights and addressed pressing concerns regarding sending aid abroad, free speech limitations, travel regulations, and FBI monitoring.

In addition to these immediate measures, we increased our efforts with a comprehensive array of educational resources directly related to the impact of the genocide. From informative YouTube videos covering key legal topics to in-depth articles on preventative actions and compliance measures, we equipped nonprofits with essential knowledge and tools to navigate challenging times.



Our nonprofit training session, “Gaza Impact: Is Your Nonprofit Safe?”, offered invaluable guidance to Muslim nonprofits on compliance, empowering organizations to safeguard their operations and uphold their missions in the face of adversity. Through multiple in-person events held across the country, we fostered meaningful discussions and solidarity within our community, amplifying our collective voice in support of justice and humanitarian efforts.



Gaza-Related Cases / Intakes

Within weeks of October 7th dozens of cases flooded our legal intakes team.

We saw a **120%** increase in case intakes received compared to similar time periods last year, and **119%** increase in intakes our team responded to!

CIVIL LITIGATION

MLFA has extended its representation of AMP beyond the existing Boim lawsuit to cover:

- 01 The Virginia Civil Investigation request, for which we submitted our initial response on Dec 11; and
- 02 Working with the DOJ's Civil Rights unit to investigate Hyatt's cancellation of its contract with AMP.

We've accepted representation in a matter spearheaded by Harvard Law students to complain about multiple incidents of Islamophobia on the Harvard campus, which begins with complaints to the Dept of Education under Title VI.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION

Requests Received:

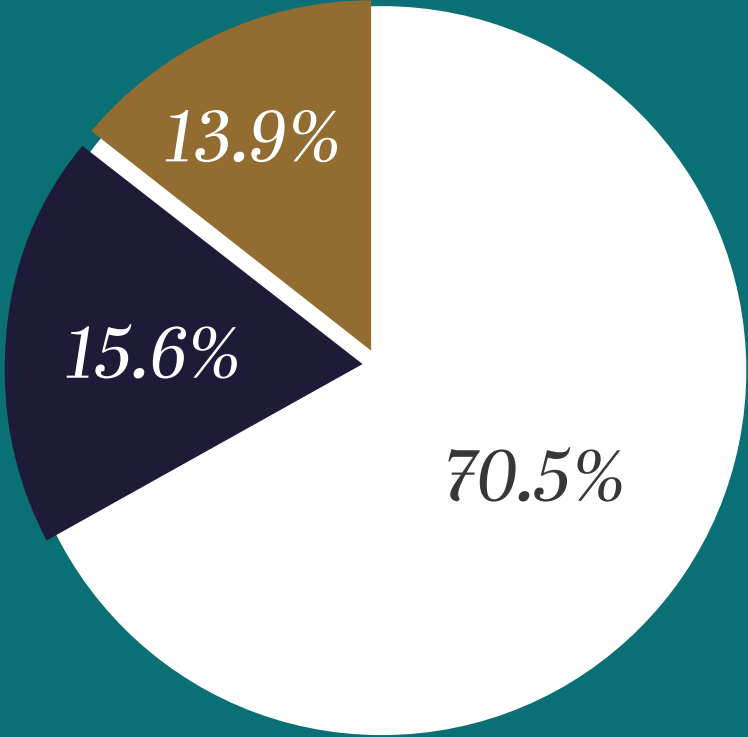
- Support provided to individuals returning from Gaza in their dealings with the FBI.
- Assistance requests with GoFundMe donation campaigns.

MLFA has formed attorney/client relationships with individuals related to issues cited above. We have signed limited representation agreements (full representation not required as none have pending cases yet.)

Several significant intakes within our Immigration Department have emerged in direct correlation with the events of October 7th. Among them, one long-term client, whose USCIS application with ties to Palestine appeared to MLFA imminently for a positive resolution after an in-person interview in September 2023. This case is unfortunately indefinitely stalled, but our legal team remains steadfast in their representation. Additionally, an older intake, initially unrelated to Palestine, has become entangled with the aftermath of October 7th and its subsequent events.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

EXPENSE ALLOCATIONS



- PROGRAM SERVICES
- FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
- ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL

INCOME

Individual Donations/Contributions	\$ 3,002,841.62
Corporate Matching Grants	\$ 52,967.25
In-Kind Service Donations	\$ 226,769.79
Grants	\$ 87,000.00

TOTAL INCOME \$3,369,578.66

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 2,331,264.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 458,000.00
Admin & General Expenses	\$ 515,940.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,305,204.00

2023 Financial Audit in Progress



ESTABLISHING JUSTICE: CONSIDER THE COST

Imagine the impact of your support in ensuring justice for all. Defending constitutional rights comes with substantial expenses, and your ongoing contribution plays a vital role in empowering us to deliver crucial pro bono legal services. Your generosity makes justice possible, one contribution at a time.

What It Costs To Build A Legal Force

- \$350** - The average attorney fee for one hour
- \$402** - Current federal court filing fee for a new lawsuit
- \$1,500** - Cost of drafting a request for government disclosure of documents under the Freedom of Information Act
- \$2,000** - Cost of drafting & filing an administrative complaint
- \$3,500** - Cost of drafting & filing of a federal court complaint
- \$5,000** - Cost of preparation and defense of a witness in an interview
- \$8,000** - Cost of the defense of a witness for a deposition
- \$15,000** - Cost of preparing one federal court trial court brief
- \$35,000** - Cost of preparing one appellate court brief
- \$50,000** - Cost of preparing one U.S. Supreme Court brief
- \$75,000** - Cost of an administrative hearing
- \$150,000** - Cost of a federal civil trial



With *your support*, we never have to turn someone away due to financial hardship.

JOIN US

A Legal Force Right in Front of You!

Join us in our monumental effort to build, power, and sustain a legal force for Muslims in America. Together, we can achieve transformative change and uphold justice for our community. Your support is the key to making a lasting impact, and we invite you to be a crucial part of this historic journey. We can't do it alone—stand with us as we forge a path toward a more just and equitable future for all.

Sustainers for Justice Program

Your monthly gift sustains our work and provides a lifetime of liberty. When you become part of our Sustainers for Justice Program, you'll receive a certificate of recognition, early access to events, and more! Plus, your regular contribution is tax-deductible and zakat-eligible.

PILLAR \$1,000

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

ADVOCATE \$100

You provide legal education to protect yourself and others around you.

MOBILIZER \$500

You defend Muslims facing legal challenges in federal courtrooms.

PATRON \$50

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

CATALYST \$350

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

ALLY \$25

You remain steadfast in your pursuit for justice. Every dollar counts.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering with MLFA is not just an opportunity to give back; it's a chance to shape the future of justice in our community. Whether you're a college student looking to make a difference, a high school student eager to get involved, a parent seeking to instill values of service in your children, or a seasoned community organizer, your contribution matters.

By joining our grassroots efforts, you become a vital part of building a legal force that defends the rights of Muslims across the nation. Volunteering with MLFA offers tangible benefits, including the potential to earn credit, receive letters of recommendation, and gain invaluable experience.

Ready to make a difference?

Reach out to us via volunteer@mlfa.org to start your journey toward justice today.





“GOD COMMANDS JUSTICE AND FAIR DEALING...”

Quran, 16:90

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Each precedent set, every case argued, and every judgment rendered is a testament to the price paid for the precious gift of freedom. Our work is fueled by our collective courage and conviction because we believe that, indeed, freedom is not free, but we will fight for it until the end of time. Build this legal force with me.

Arshia Ali-Khan