

CHESAPEAKE LEGAL ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT

2024



MEET OUR TEAM



Staff

- David Reed**
Executive Director
- MarieClaire Egbert**
Executive Assistant & Operations Manager
- Lesley Vultaggio**
Development Coordinator
- Evan Isaacson**
Senior Staff Attorney & Director of Environmental Action Center
- Patrick DeArmey**
Senior Staff Attorney & Litigation Manager
- Molly Brown**
Senior Staff Attorney & Director of Education Center
- Kennedi Fichtel**
Staff Attorney & Associate Director of Legal Education Center
- Morgana Omaleki**
Pro Bono Coordinator & Staff Attorney

Board of Directors

- Thomas Barba**
- Patrick Coyne**
- Jody Cummings**
- Richard Hinds**
- Rick Hoffman**
- Deborah Jennings**
- Morgan Johnson**
- Stephen Kurzman**
- Robin Leone**
- David Menotti**
- Peter Robertson**
- Lois Schiffer**
- Joyce Schlesinger**
- Holton Shipman**
- Russell Stevenson**
- David Weinberg**

Board of Advisors

- Decker Anstrom**
- Donald Boesch**
- Dick D'Amato**
- Theodore Garrett**
- Jeff Harris**
- Joe Hollingsworth**
- Arielle King**
- Frank Leone**
- Roger Martella**
- Roy Mason**
- Michael Murphy**
- Kurt Riegel**
- John Willkie**



Dear Friends,

In 2024, the Chesapeake Legal Alliance continued to offer robust environmental legal services, but during a time of great uncertainty. Even before the Presidential election, the future of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement remained unclear, and continued availability of State funding for watershed protection is very much at risk. With and since the election, the new Administration's sweeping Federal governmental retrenchment threatens maintenance of achievements to date, to say nothing of future improvements.

In response, CLA has expanded its services, deepening ties throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and developed plans to help fill the emerging gaps. The Bay states—and the United States Congress—have spoken, passing powerful and lasting watershed protections through their respective clean water laws, reinforced over many decades and readily available for citizen enforcement.

At CLA, we start with the states, not only because this is where we live and work, but because this is where our legal and policy strategies are most effective. Most simply put, Bay protection matters most at the local level. But we don't work alone - we work through alliances. Our modest staff is supported by a network of more than 350 attorneys and experts who donate their time and expertise to support community education, participation in administrative proceedings and litigation. *Every dollar we receive in contributions produces more than six dollars of legal services to protect the Bay and leverages the immense resource that is our pro bono network.*

The Chesapeake Bay includes nearly 12,000 miles of coastline, the terminus of dendritic pathways flowing for hundreds of thousands of miles that connect us all to the largest estuary in the country. It provides, and links with, vast acreages of wetlands and forests, supporting thousands of plant and animal species. Nature is our sanctuary, a necessity of both the spirit and of biology. It also drives economies. Together, the watershed's natural resources provide over \$100 billion in economic productivity.

Now more than ever, we are called to respond to this moment and steel our resolve, to serve our partners and community members throughout the region, and to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

We look forward to your continued support. Please join with us in meeting the current unprecedented challenges.

Thank you,



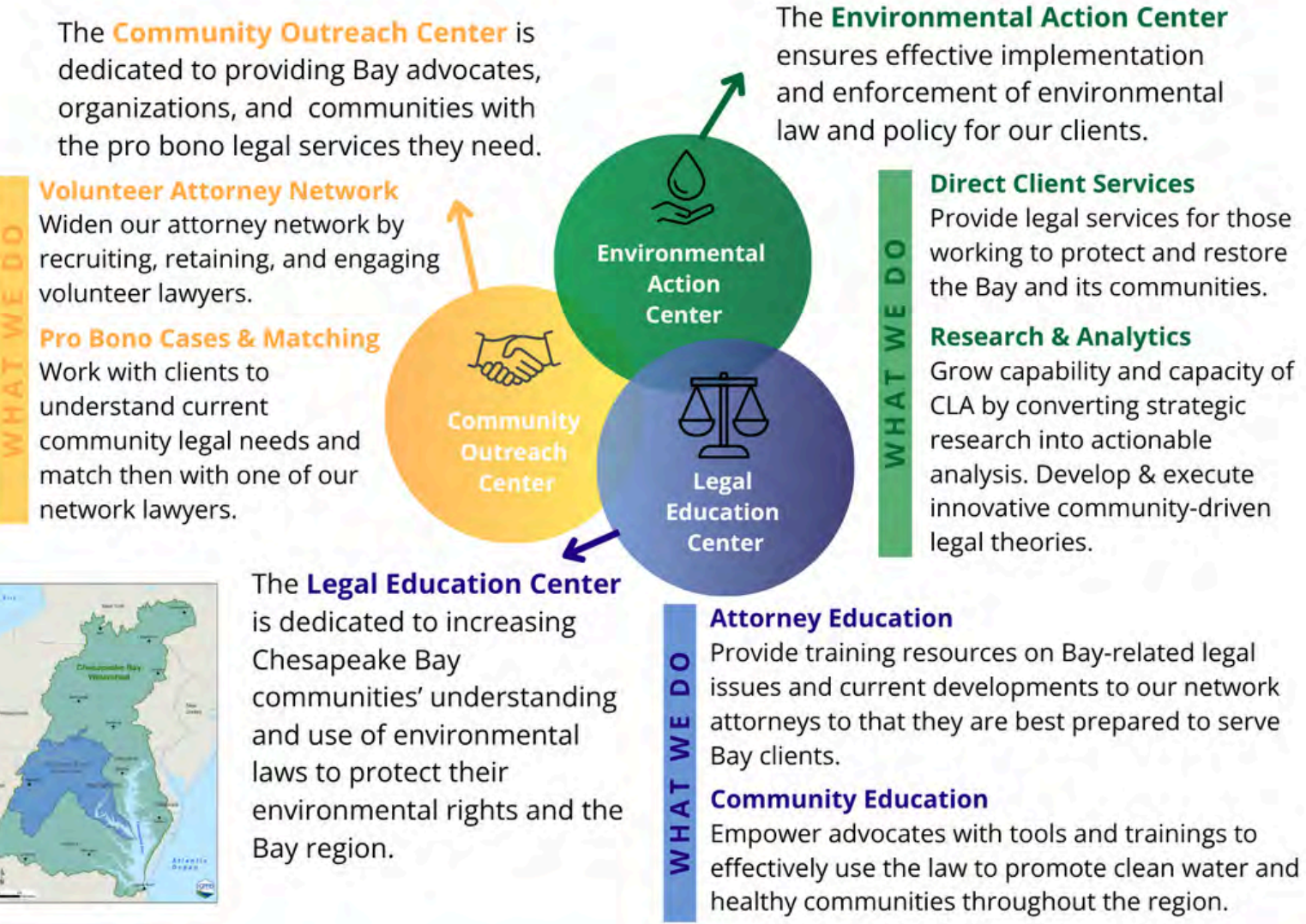
David Reed, Executive Director



David Weinberg, Board Chair

ABOUT CLA

Chesapeake Legal Alliance's staff attorneys, together with its pro bono network of volunteer attorneys, collaborate to deliver free, comprehensive legal services to citizens, community groups, local governments, and environmental advocates through our three centers:



VISION

Enduring protection for the Chesapeake Bay watershed with healthy ecosystems, sustainable land use, and clean water for all.

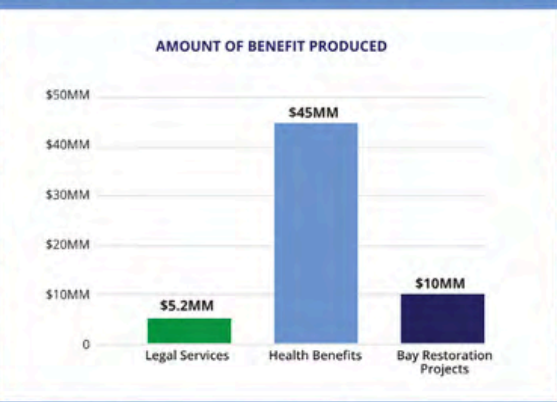
Mission

To apply the power of the law to protect and restore clean water and promote healthy, resilient ecosystems for communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Chesapeake Legal Alliance is a non-profit environmental law center dedicated to applying the power of the law to protect and restore clean water and promote healthy, resilient ecosystems for communities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

*** FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN CLA, WE YIELD AT LEAST \$60 WORTH OF BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC**

CLA'S ANNUAL BUDGET OF \$1 MILLION RESULTS IN:



The health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its communities relies on strong environmental laws, agency enforcement of those laws, and the public's right to intervene where government fails to do so. Yet, despite being granted such authority, most public advocates working to protect and restore the Bay lack the resources to hire legal counsel to exercise this right. It is within this gap that CLA works to provide free legal services to community members and partner organizations. Your support allows our staff and volunteer attorneys to focus on:

-  **Point source enforcement**
Compliance monitoring, facility investigations, and strategic litigation, often in cooperation with state and federal agencies, in order to maximize pollution control.
-  **Nonpoint source pollution controls**
Address industry sectors and land use practices to improve systemic degradation, including agricultural runoff, municipal impervious surfaces and development, and other industry sectors.
-  **Land use**
Identify and proactively protect parcels with the greatest potential for downstream impacts, including forested headwaters and low-density zoned acreage.
-  **Aquatic ecosystems**
Develop ecosystem-based priorities for protecting aquatic plants and wildlife.
-  **Tidal and non-tidal waters and wetlands**
Identify imperiled habitat types and species for enhanced focus.
-  **Vulnerable communities**
Identify and address stormwater, flood risks, and other issues, including toxic pollutants, in and around vulnerable and/or historically overburdened communities.

2024 CASE HIGHLIGHTS

CLA puts in the *upstream work* in order to mitigate *downstream consequences*. Upstream from our vital marine ecosystems, we are one of the very few organizations that effectively challenge state level permits; this work is critical following the Supreme Court's 2023 *Sackett v. EPA* decision, which gutted Clean Water Act (CWA) wetland protections. By reducing the amount of wetlands and waterways that receive CWA protections, we now expect to have more destruction of headwaters and wetlands, and more pollution entering our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.



2024 was a fantastic year for CLA's clean water litigation efforts. We successfully closed out two cases: a land use case that prevented 330 acres of forested wetlands from being developed in **Abingdon Woods** Business Park and a settlement in a lawsuit against **Fleischmann's Vinegar Company**, which resulted in upwards of \$1 million going back into the polluted community of Jones Falls.

This year also saw CLA continuing to monitor Horizon Land Management's compliance in the **Community of Lothian** deemed a "sacrifice zone;" representation of Waterkeepers Chesapeake in mediation efforts over the largest single point source of pollution to the Bay, the **Conowingo Dam**; and steadfastly leading the charge in the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's mismanagement of **Atlantic Menhaden** overfishing by Omega Proteins.

In 2024, CLA began the litigation process and entered into a research phase on numerous fronts. In the case of **Ridgely's Reserve**, CLA filed an intent to sue on behalf of our client, Gunpowder Riverkeeper and is in the early stages of litigation. CLA has begun rigorously advocating Potomac Riverkeeper Network's concerns about the **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project** transmission line's impacts on state water resources, and began the litigation process with a notice of intent to sue **J&K Salvage** on behalf of our client, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association.

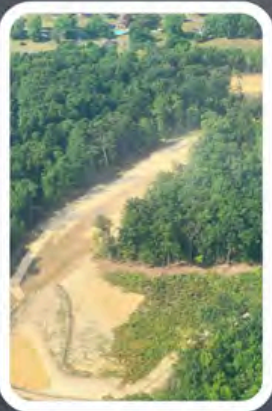
photo courtesy of Sal Icaza, Solomon's Island Photography

FLEISCHMANN'S VINEGAR COMPANY

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance, alongside Saul Ewing, LLP, secured a successful settlement in a lawsuit against Fleischmann's Vinegar Company for unlawfully leaking acid into Baltimore's Jones Falls. Importantly, CLA's involvement helped to ensure that most of the \$1.3 million penalty goes to fund projects benefiting the Jones Falls. This victory highlights the impact of community vigilance and how community lawyers can protect and restore local waterways.



ABINGDON WOODS



After years of lawsuits, advocacy, and public pressure, on behalf of Gunpowder Riverkeeper, CLA prevented the development of 330 acres of forested wetlands in the Bush River watershed. The developer of the proposed Abingdon Business Park, an over 2 million square foot warehouse logistics center, has pulled out of the project and agreed to close out the site and partially reforest it. This big win for the watershed demonstrates that perseverance and challenging rubber-stamped permits can ultimately protect our waterways by preventing ill-conceived development projects that would destroy forested wetlands and increase stormwater runoff to already impaired watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay.

CONOWINGO DAM

In 2022, the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association and Waterkeepers Chesapeake, represented by Earthjustice, won a landmark legal case of critical importance for the Chesapeake Bay. A federal appeals court sent the case back to the Maryland Department of the Environment to ensure that a full review of the State's important Clean Water Act water quality certification could be completed. These two waterkeeper organizations then reached out to CLA for help and, after assisting with the filing of supplemental briefs, have been leading in a multi-party mediation process to see if a deal can be reached that would result in protective terms that can be incorporated into the next license for the operation of the Conowingo Dam. This matter is of utmost importance not only because it is considered to be the largest single source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, but also because the license could be in effect for the next half century.

LOTHIAN COMMUNITY

As a result of years of advocacy and enforcement referrals from Chesapeake Legal Alliance, on behalf of the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the Environmental Protection Agency took an enforcement action against Horizon Land Management, the large corporate owner of four polluting mobile home parks in the Lothian/Harwood area of Anne Arundel County. This resulted in a fine of \$1.1 million dollars and requirements for each of the four sites to upgrade their wastewater treatments systems and fix problems that had existed for years. The result is a reduction of pollution, meaning a safer Patuxent River for downstream communities that have been used as “sacrifice zones” for industrial siting. This case demonstrates that results are possible without litigation, through public pressure and advocacy by CLA and our clients to state and federal regulators.



RIDGELY'S RESERVE

In August 2024, CLA, representing Gunpowder Riverkeeper, issued a Notice of Intent to sue D.R. Horton, Inc., Forestar Group Inc., and Kinsley Construction, LLC, alleging violations of the Clean Water Act at the Ridgely's Reserve construction site in Joppa, Maryland. The notice cited repeated failures to maintain erosion and sediment controls, leading to significant sediment pollution in Foster Branch, the Gunpowder River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. This pollution has been linked to a substantial decline in submerged aquatic vegetation in the Gunpowder River, adversely affecting local ecosystems and recreational activities.

In response to these environmental concerns, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Attorney General filed a complaint in September 2024 against the developers and contractors involved in Ridgely's Reserve, seeking penalties and remediation for the water pollution violations. Subsequently, in October 2024, CLA filed a motion to intervene on behalf of Gunpowder Riverkeeper to join this state enforcement action, aiming to strengthen efforts to halt ongoing pollution and restore the affected waterways. This case is currently ongoing in the Maryland court system.

J & K SALVAGE

J & K Salvage is a “recycler of ferrous and non-ferrous metals” that functions as a major scrap yard in York County, Pennsylvania. Staff Attorneys at CLA are working diligently to hold this facility accountable for documented illicit discharges. This work will culminate in the filing of a Notice of Intent to sue under the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

20SW

CLA, alongside the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) and Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), filed suit against the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in 2022 alleging inadequacy of the 2022 General Permit governing industrial stormwater discharges. Due to CLA, EIP, and CBF's advocacy, MDE voluntarily withdrew the permit, pausing litigation, so they could conduct further notice and comment procedures to get input from the public. As it stands, litigation remains paused pending MDE's reissuance of the permit.



MARYLAND PIEDMONT RELIABILITY PROJECT

In 2024, the PSEG Renewable Transmissions LLC (PSEG) publicized their plan to build the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a 70-mile transmission line cutting through three counties. In its initial investigations, CLA discovered that MPRP would have significant detrimental impacts on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including construction on over 100 rivers and streams, 30 riparian wetlands, and 70 federally identified wetlands. Additionally, this project would slash through numerous biologically sensitive habitats, impacting several endangered and threatened species. In response, CLA is representing the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) to intervene in the PSEG's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). CLA will be rigorously advocating to voice PRKN's concerns about the impacts on state water resources. CLA will work to ensure that PRKN's interests, and the interests of the watershed, are fully represented in the Public Service Commission's considerations to approve or deny the project's CPCN.

ATLANTIC MENHADEN

Atlantic menhaden are central to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. These small, nutrient-packed fish are a keystone species in the Bay and the Atlantic because they are a critical forage food for prized sportfish such as striped bass, predatory birds such as ospreys, and marine mammals. As a filter feeder, menhaden help to clean our waters – each fish filtering gallons of water every minute. Virginia law charges the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to manage the menhaden fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Atlantic Coast. VMRC must follow specific conservation and management measures when making rules such as setting fishery harvests. But it has abdicated its responsibilities.

Over the past two years, CLA has challenged the VMRC both in and out of court to follow the law. Our legal challenge seeks to compel the Commission to follow its mandate to protect the fishery and marine resources of Virginia waters and the Chesapeake Bay. We have also petitioned the Commission to regulate the industry using the best science available. To that end, in 2024, two internationally renowned forage fish and ecosystem modeling scientists completed a study that has upended coastwide harvest estimates, and calls for a dramatic reduction in the allowable harvest for the industry. As reliable scientific studies have now confirmed, overfishing is threatening the area's menhaden population and, with it, the many reliant species of sportfish, predatory birds, and marine mammals. This also threatens the \$990 million annual revenue and over 10,000 local jobs that the recreational fishing industry brings to Maryland and Virginia.



Watermen, anglers, conservationists, and advocates continue working to protect this keystone forage fish and the many species that it supports, including osprey, dolphins and humpback whales.

A TRIBUTE TO RIDGEWAY HALL

At the end of 2023, we lost our dear friend and co-founder of Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Ridgeway Hall. Ridge was a titan in the field of environmental law, a tireless defender of the Chesapeake Bay, a renowned litigator, and a policy expert who mapped out and replumbed both state and federal policy and legislation critical to Bay restoration.

Ridge, alongside his longtime friend Russ Stevenson, co-founded CLA in 2009, and acted as an integral member of the staff and board right up until his passing. Ridge didn't just give of himself, he toiled at his craft, and constructed as many partnerships for good as possible. Anytime you met with Ridge he greeted you as a good friend he hadn't spoken to in too long a time.

His dedication to restoring and protecting clean water was both contagious, and evident in everything he did. So many of us have built out ideas, and seen many of them come to fruition, with and through him. His well of generosity toward younger cohorts was endless. He provided the advice and knowledge gathered over nearly fifty years of experience and excellence, and shared it with patience and good humor.

Ridge's accomplishments and contributions to the environmental advocacy movement are so vast they would take pages to recount. Most of us can honestly say we wouldn't have embarked upon many of our most important endeavors without him. When there were difficulties, both internal or external, he faithfully adhered to a presumption of good faith; Ridge was often our better angel. Even now, with this great loss, the mountains of good work, novel ideas, and networks for conservation remain.

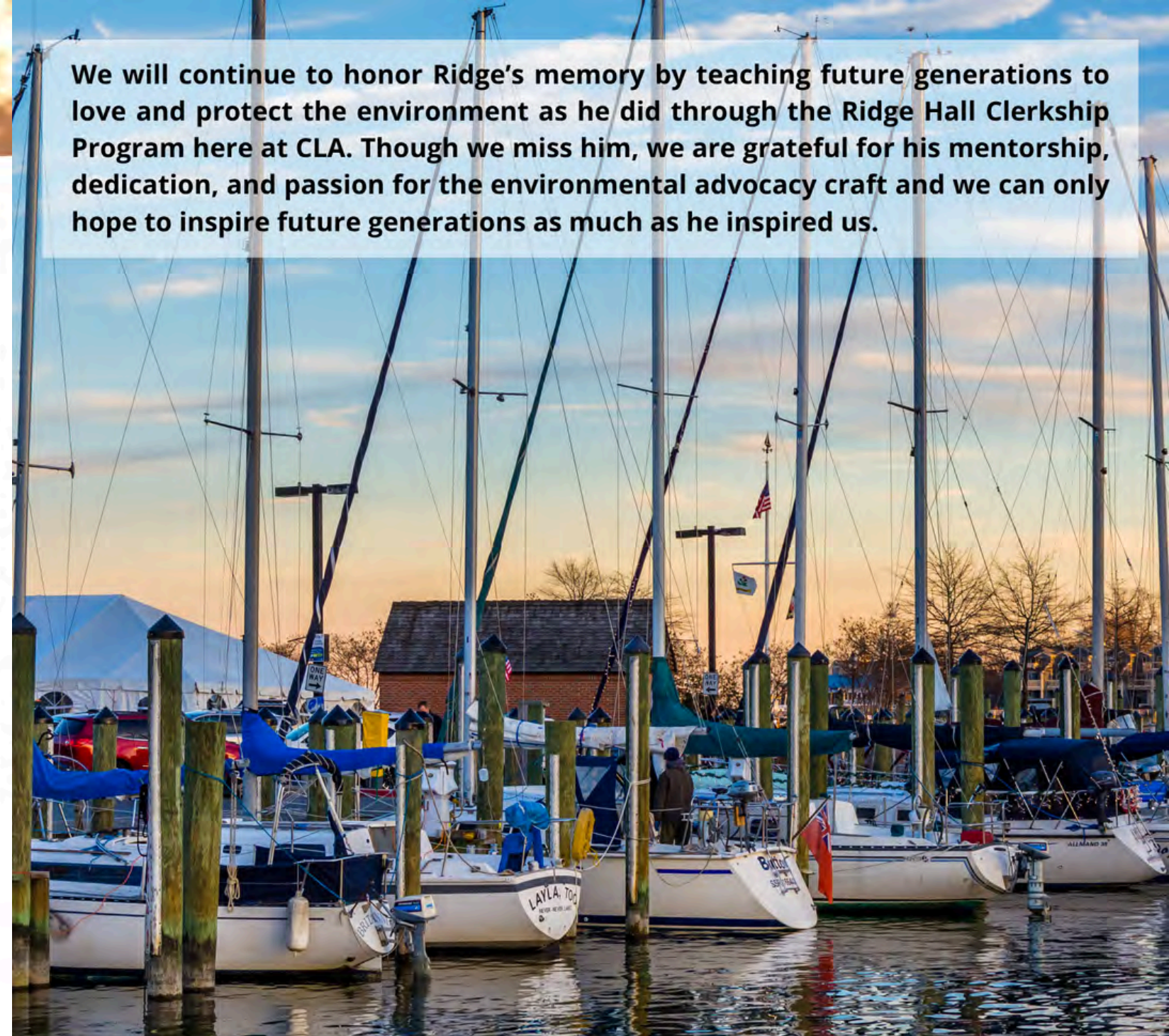
From all of us at CLA, thank you, Ridge. You will be greatly missed.

"For over 40 years I have been sailing and kayaking on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. During the last 10 of them, as a member of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance's board and part of its network of environmental lawyers, I have handled a variety of projects relating to the protection and restoration of the Bay and its watershed. This is exciting and rewarding stuff – putting the law to work to protect a national treasure – and I plan to keep at it as long as I can pick up a pen and raise my voice."

Ridgeway Hall



We will continue to honor Ridge's memory by teaching future generations to love and protect the environment as he did through the Ridge Hall Clerkship Program here at CLA. Though we miss him, we are grateful for his mentorship, dedication, and passion for the environmental advocacy craft and we can only hope to inspire future generations as much as he inspired us.



In the spirit of Ridge's passion for education, 2024 saw CLA engaged in a record-high amount of educational experiences for current law students. Educating the next generation of environmental legal professionals is a core principle of CLA's model, and in 2024, CLA staff expanded the organization's reach immensely. CLA not only hosted seven law clerks from law schools up and down the eastern seaboard, but CLA also received applications from law students in schools as far as Chicago, Illinois. **CLA's message is being spread: environmental law students receive excellent, immersive training from the staff at CLA, and the clerkship experience is one-of-a-kind.**

Additionally, in 2024, CLA worked with 33 law students from a variety of law schools on 11 separate pro bono research projects. This is a 175% increase in student involvement in pro bono research from 2023.

CLA’s Legal Education Center has seen a dramatic increase in educational material output in 2024. In 2024 alone, three major publications originated from staff at CLA. **Evan Isaacson** authored an article with the prestigious *Environmental Law Institute*. **Molly Brown** authored an article, that is part of an entire publication series, with the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*. And **Kennedi Fichtel and Evan Isaacson** together authored a Law Review article submitted in 2024 for publication in 2025 with the *University of Baltimore Law Forum*.

In 2024, CLA offered 32 different educational webinar or in-person presentations to either non-lawyer community members, members of the legal community, or members of the environmental protection community. This is a record-high for CLA, and is demonstrative of CLA’s capacity to continue expanding its education program. Educational requests that CLA staff members could not fulfill, either due to capacity restraints or a need for expertise, were sent out via the pro bono listserv and fulfilled by pro bono attorneys within the network.

70

EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS



Our team produced 70 educational presentations, written materials, workshops and more. 133% increase compared to 2023.

8

STATE BILLS



We provided research and policy analysis for 8 state bills.

2900+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



CLA educated over 2900 community members through our various legal educational products throughout the year. 222% increase of people reached compared to 2023.



“I want to see an enforcement action, and I want to see one that’s large enough to get their attention,” said Evan Isaacson, research director for the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, a nonprofit environmental law group. **“The pollution of these waterways is not only a problem in and of itself. It’s a matter of public policy. It’s a private operator ruining a public resource for profit.”**

Bay Journal, June 5, 2024

“No Marylander should be deprived of their right to stop illegal water pollution or destruction of our most important ecological habitats. This new law simply restores and reinforces the vision that Congress and the Maryland General Assembly have had for decades about the important role the public plays in protecting itself and our cherished waters from dangerous pollutants,” said Evan Isaacson, Senior Attorney, Chesapeake Legal Alliance.

The BayNet, April 8, 2024

“The pollution from this site is so bad you can see it from space,” said Evan Isaacson, research director for the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, a nonprofit environmental law firm. “But ... these massive blowouts happen all the time across the Bay watershed. It just so happened that this one is located immediately upstream of a large underwater grass bed that Bay researchers were studying and [where] we have a very active and vocal waterkeeper on top of things there.”

Bay Journal, September 29, 2023

“We appreciate the fact that this company has been a part of Baltimore’s fabric for generations, but pollution from the now-closed facility harms the ecosystem in one of the city’s major waterways,” said Secretary McIlwain. “We are grateful for the partnership with Blue Water Baltimore and Chesapeake Legal Alliance to advance the goal of clean water for everyone.”

Serena C. McIlwain, Maryland Secretary of the Environment,



photo courtesy of Sal Icaza, Solomon's Island Photography

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

14,283

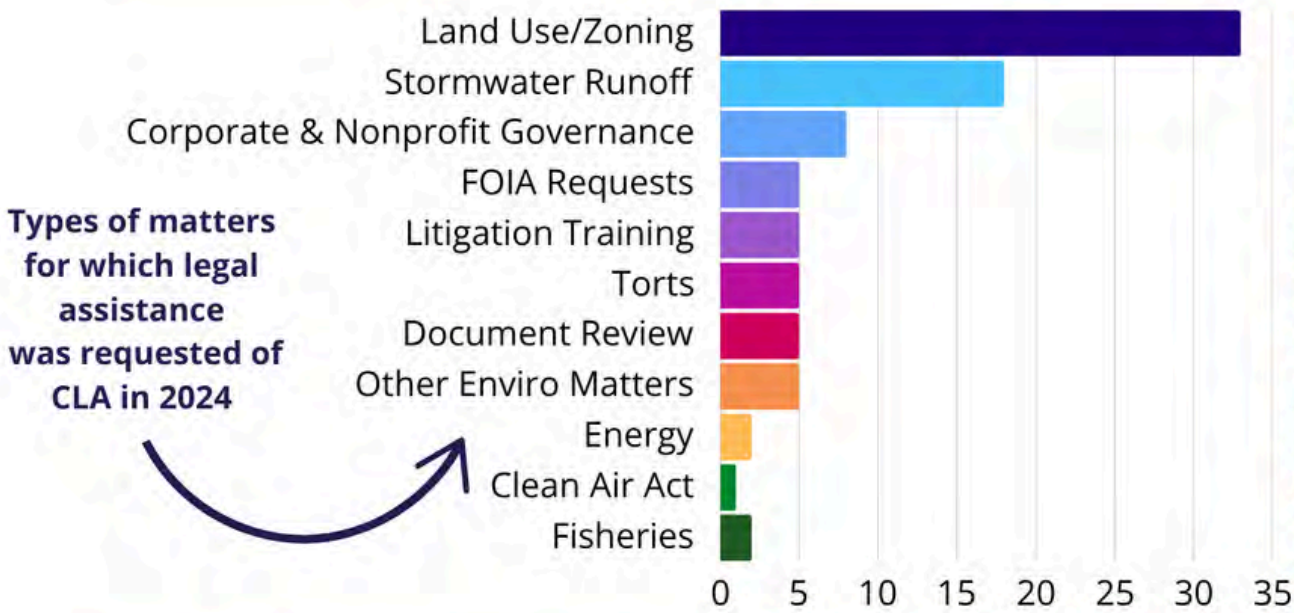
Total # of pro bono hours provided to our clients & partners.

\$5.9M

Market value of our free legal services.

58

of legal matters handled by our staff & volunteer attorneys.



CLA placed **61.8%** of requests for assistance in 2024. In 2021, our placement rate was 23.4%.

CLA added **13** attorneys to our pro bono network in 2024 for a total of **345**.

Expansion Across the Watershed:

100% increase in Pennsylvania based case placements.

400% increase in Virginia based case placements.

*Since 2022

CLA's pro bono network currently consists of **345 attorneys** spanning the Bay watershed area. 2024 was a year of transition for CLA's team, seeing three staff members transition out, but adding a Development Coordinator, a staff attorney with a focus on education, and a staff attorney dedicated to the pro bono network. **In 2024, we received 89 requests for legal help and were able to place the case with an appropriate attorney or otherwise resolve the matter in 58 of those cases.**

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



One particular case that exemplifies the wonderful work of CLA's Pro Bono Network is with the Barshinger Creek Preservation Alliance. This Pennsylvania nonprofit came to CLA requesting assistance on the purchase and conservation of a property below the headwaters of Barshinger Creek in York County, PA. The nonprofit had successfully opposed the development of the property, but now needed an attorney who would be able to assist with the complex process of finding a conservation buyer and forming a land trust on the property to preserve its natural beauty. After contacting various organizations in the area to find assistance, CLA found a PA land trust organization with legal counsel who was willing to join the CLA Pro Bono Network. The newly-joined CLA pro bono volunteer met with the Barshinger Creek Preservation Alliance and determined that he would assist them in their efforts to preserve the property. The matter continues into 2025 with the CLA pro bono attorney hard at work to get this property situated as a land trust to preserve the area and the adjoining headwaters for public enjoyment. Once the land is successfully preserved with the help of the CLA pro bono volunteer, the Barshinger Creek Preservation Alliance hopes to work with the local school situated on the adjoining property to repair the stream buffers as a way to educate students on outdoor sustainability and integrate meaningful watershed experiences into the school's curriculum.

According to the Barshinger Creek Preservation Alliance website: *"This piece of land has historic, sentimental value to many. But it is also just below the headwaters of Barshinger Creek, which empties into the East Branch Codorus Creek, and eventually, Lakes Redman and Williams, the source of our drinking water for many in York County. It is part of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds. Many down stream also have wells and farms that are touched by the Barshinger Creek."* *"Their opposition at Red Lion School Board and York Township hearings resulted in defeat of two zoning changes, and termination of the developer's contract."*

This case is a success story that highlights the power and reach of our pro bono network. Thank you to those who are part of such an important and expansive network which makes a difference in the lives of citizens within the Chesapeake Bay watershed every day.

EXPANDED FREE LEGAL SERVICES

In 2024, CLA launched a brand new limited legal assistance program. This program effectively functions as a triage for matters awaiting placement in the network of pro bono attorneys. CLA Staff Attorneys will conduct an intake and, should there be an immediate legal need, offer the client limited legal advice while they await placement. This limited legal advice is only available for those with tight deadlines, and matters that CLA attorneys have extensive experience handling. The Staff Attorney will then provide one or two educational meetings to the client either conveying the client's rights to them, or making them aware of actions they may be able to take while awaiting placement. Through this program, CLA has helped more community members exercise their legal rights in a responsible and thoughtful way without an attorney.

CLA'S 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On September 12, 2024, CLA staff and supporters came together to celebrate 15 years of successful environmental advocacy. We were proud to host two congressional speakers: **State Senator Sarah Elfreth**, who called CLA, "...the leading advocate on Chesapeake Bay issues," and **Senator Chris Van Hollen** who said, "At the end of the day, it is all about preserving an amazing national treasure that we have in the Chesapeake Bay... and CLA is a critical part of that effort."



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Blue Crab Sponsor \$2,500+ Rockfish Sponsor \$1,500 - \$2,499

Friends, colleagues, supporters, members of our pro bono network, and many others who have helped to make our work possible, came together to celebrate with us. We were honored to show our appreciation of the important work our representatives do for the Bay area with the *Bay Protector* and *Chesapeake Guardian* awards. To honor the substantial amount of hours Saul Ewing, LLP has donated to our pro bono network, we presented the first annual *Russell Stevenson ProBono Excellence Award*. Thanks to our generous sponsors and guests, we raised over **\$30,000** to keep working toward enduring protection of the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the next 15 years and beyond.



Chesapeake Legal Alliance is established by Ridge Hall & Russell Stevenson.

CLA volunteer attorneys represented a local citizens' group, successfully protecting and blocking development of a 140-acre piece of property within Maryland's Critical Area (land within 1,000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries) in Churchton, MD, known as Turtle Run.

WWTP Case win is the largest water pollution penalty in Maryland state history, stopping two million pounds of nitrogen pollution from entering Baltimore's Harbor and the Bay, and preventing millions more, ultimately moving Maryland closer to meeting its nutrient reduction goals under the Bay agreement.

2009

CLA's Ridge Hall, CBF, BWB, and MDE negotiate \$500,000 to be set aside to investigate offsite contamination in huge win at Sparrow's Point.

2012

Chesapeake Legal Alliance and Environmental Action Center merge.

2016

2020

2023

2024

CLA celebrates 15th Anniversary.

NEW SPACE, OLD FRIENDS



Earl Conservation Center, Photo by Sue Buyaskas

In December 2024, we were honored to be able to move in to the newly remodeled Earl Conservation Center, which was made possible thanks to the generosity of James and Sylvia Earl and family. We are sharing our new office space with the *Chesapeake Conservancy*, *Blacks of the Chesapeake*, and the *Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education*. Stay tuned to see what great things we can accomplish through collaborating with some new and some old friends in our new space.

Physical Address: 1212 West St. Annapolis, MD 21401
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6482 Annapolis, MD 21401



MOURNING THE LOSS OF OUR FRIEND AND BOARD MEMBER, VINCENT LEGGETT

Vince was a respected advocate in the Maryland General Assembly with focus areas in Equity Educational Funding, Natural Gas, Oil and Clean Energy, Environment, and Historic & Cultural Preservation. Leggett was also the founder and President of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation. The Blacks of the Chesapeake documents the significant contributions of African Americans in the maritime and seafood-related industries. The Library of Congress and the U.S. Congress designated the Blacks of the Chesapeake as a Local Legacy Project and the Governor of Maryland appointed and commissioned Vince as an honorary Admiral of the Chesapeake for his work.

Vince was a tireless advocate, striving to bring to life the Bay's heritage and an icon in the region, opening our eyes to the rich histories, communities, and traditions throughout the Chesapeake Bay. Those of us who had the pleasure to know Vince will remember his extensive knowledge of Bay history, his expertise, his easy smile and sense of humor, and his readiness to broaden the conversation and perspective of our work.

Vince, you will be greatly missed and we thank you for your dedication to the Chesapeake Bay region through so many avenues.

Mr. Leggett (left) with his mentor, Captain Earl White, both of whom have been honored as "Admirals of the Chesapeake Bay" by the state of Maryland. (Courtesy of Vince Leggett via NOAA)



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS

WATERSHED ADVOCATE > \$2,500

- Clarke Ohrstrom
- Beth Libow
- Dan Watson
- Wayne & Ursula Quin
- Eliza Smith Steinmeier

BAY ADVOCATE \$1,001 - \$2,500

- Michael & Patricia Davis
- Thomas Lilly
- Thomas Mansbach
- Sam Bleicher
- Family of Ridgway Hall
- Jeffrey Smith
- Mark & Barbara Wynn
- Bruce Potter
- Robert Power
- Leonard Shaffer
- Ann Powers
- Eli Cohen
- Armond Spikell
- Vickie Wilson

RIVER ADVOCATE \$501 - \$1,000

- William Biddle
- John (Jack) Bray
- Guy & Laura Cecala
- Leslie Clevenger
- Bowman Cutter
- Christopher Dorment
- Laurel Harken
- Sally Hornor
- Larry Liebesman
- George & Kennie Lupton

- Anne Marsh
- Betsy Nicholas
- Thomas O'Donnell
- William Roberts
- Greg Walker
- Harrison & Sue Wellford
- Leslie Carothers
- Robert Vom Saal
- Joseph & Carol Friend
- Bert Carp

CREEK ADVOCATE \$100 - \$500

- Will Baker
- Louis & Bonnie Cohen
- James Daly
- Nelson Dodge
- Ann Marie Etergino
- Jeffrey Kanne
- Margaret Lenzner
- Judith & Harry Martin
- Jerome Murphy
- David Pensky
- Parker Stokes
- John Williams
- Linda & Steve Weitz
- Robert Doyle
- Ibby Jeppson
- James Slaughter
- Danielle Vogel
- John Facciola
- Jacqueline Sincore Guild
- Susan Trotman
- John Curtin
- Amy Dunbar
- John Filippini
- Alice Kipel
- James Murphy
- Brendan & Lila Sullivan
- Susan Bastress

- Patricia Bolin Cecil
- Nina Cardin
- Verna Harrison
- Steve Jawetz
- Ronald & Anne Lewis
- Augusto Pichard & Nancy Prendergast
- John Smith
- Ron Smith
- Richard Williams
- Edward Maguire
- William Buzbee
- Rebecca Livingston
- Andrew Marks
- Juliet Page
- Jeffrey & Kathy Phillips
- Richard Schwartz
- Allison Zieve
- Jeffrey Gibbs
- Robin Broder
- Julie Kacmarcik
- Martin Barley
- Joseph & Susan Bredekamp
- Marc Efron
- Robert Willey
- Joyce Jones
- Louise Harmony
- Lynn Brown
- Kathleen Carr
- Ted Connell
- Richard Crane
- Alice Cruikshank
- George Donohue
- Linda Gaydos
- Kathy Gramp
- Mark Holmes
- Evan Isaacson
- Steven Miano
- Alan Morrison
- Nancy Oliver

- Iris Robertson
- Lynne Rockenbauch
- Anne Seidlitz
- Martha Ainsworth
- Marie Birnbaum
- Marney Bruce
- Elisabeth Curtz
- Katherine Danon
- Jennifer Duffy
- Darrel Earhart
- Charles Elkins
- Ben English
- Nancy Griscom
- Andrew Hiller
- Insa Kummer
- Michael Levin
- Fred Millhiser
- Robert Pearlman
- David Alan Plymyer
- Robert Pollard
- Pam Risdon
- Christopher & Anita Rizek
- Eric Schloss
- Robert Shafer
- Dave Skulski
- Albert & Virginia Tucker
- Robert Whitcomb
- John Wyss
- Jacqueline Yost
- Leonard Zuza

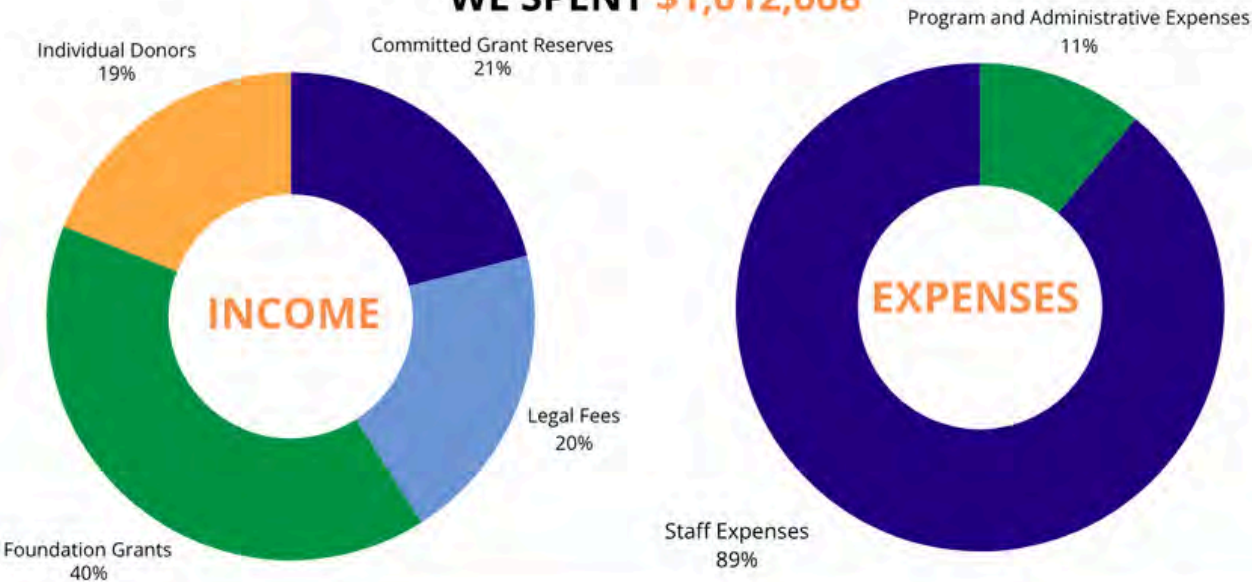


FINANCIALS

IN 2024

WE RAISED \$907,109

WE SPENT \$1,012,668



FOR EVERY \$1 DONATED IN 2024, OUR LAWYERS PROVIDED \$6 IN FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED.



CHESAPEAKE LEGAL ALLIANCE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

- Anonymous (via Dietel Pickering & Partners)
- The Kentfields Foundation
- Abell Foundation
- Merrill Family Foundation
- The Campbell Foundation
- Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation
- Clayton Baker Trust
- Patagonia Baltimore Retail Store
- Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
- Royal Bank of Canada, USA
- The Dealy Foundation
- Shared Earth Foundation
- The Jim & Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation

A DONATION TO CHESAPEAKE LEGAL ALLIANCE IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF THE BAY AND ITS WATERSHED.



HOW TO DONATE

A gift to Chesapeake Legal Alliance is a powerful vote for future generations.

Please Visit: ChesapeakeLegal.Org/Donate

For information about additional giving opportunities such as **Donor Advised Funds and Planned Giving**, please contact Lesley Vultaggio, Development Coordinator, at lesley@chesapeakelegal.org





Chesapeake Legal Alliance
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
chesapeakelegal.org

