

Uptown People's Law Center 2023 Annual Report



*Another year
fighting for justice,
with the help of our
generous supporters!*



UPLC

UPTOWN PEOPLE'S LAW CENTER

THANK YOU!



Our generous donors are the reason UPLC has been able to fight for people's rights for 45 years!

They have enabled the fight for poor people in the Uptown neighborhood...

They have helped tenants know their rights...

They make sure prisoners and tenants whose rights are being violated have somewhere to turn!

Here are just a few of the people our supporters have helped!

They helped Donald transition from prison to Social Security



Donald has a disability. We met him when he was a **prisoner who needed help** with an individual lawsuit he filed against IDOC about solitary confinement and mental health care.

UPLC has had a decade-long class action suit about mental health care in IDOC. Because of that, we are very familiar with prison mental health care records. When Donald got out of prison, **donor support helped us file for his Social Security right away**. This is

very beneficial, because it usually takes a long time to receive your money after filing.

Thanks to our donors, Alecia avoided homelessness

A strange man attempted to **force his way into Alecia's home with a gun**. Alecia tried to close the door, but the man forced his arm through. He fired a shot into her apartment. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

As if this wasn't traumatic enough, Alecia was then **given an eviction notice due to this event**. Even worse, Alecia lived in subsidized housing. When you get evicted from that, **you lose your subsidy**. You then have to pay market-rate rent elsewhere, something people in subsidized housing can't afford. So **an eviction from subsidized housing usually means homelessness**.

Building management told her that because "her guest" fired the gun, she had to be evicted. Alecia insisted she didn't know the man, and he was not her guest. But the building management didn't care.

Alecia contacted UPLC for help. Her eviction case lasted for over a year, but, thanks to the generosity of people like you, our attorneys helped Alecia **stay in her subsidized home!**



When Keith needed help more than once, UPLC supporters were there



Keith was a named plaintiff in UPLC's mental health lawsuit against IDOC. He was released due to a wrongful conviction as a police torture victim under the infamous Jon Burge. **UPLC helped Keith get Social Security disability income when he got out**, because he was unable to work.

Keith was able to secure housing, but then he was evicted.

Because he was familiar with UPLC, **he came to us again for help**. Thanks to people like you, we **helped Keith get what he needed**: more time to move, a sealed eviction record, and his rent settled.

Donors are helping people inside prisons!

Thanks to our caring donors, in the last year, UPLC staffers have visited 12 prisons, and spoken with more than 500 people inside!

With donor help, UPLC has been part of a vital investigation into toxic water inside Illinois prisons.

- Some prisons have brown tap water, others have specks floating in it (and others, both!).
- When we visit prisons, we never see officials drink anything other than bottled water (which they also offer to UPLC staff members).

Donations from caring people like you have allowed our attorneys in the last year to speak to 56 people being released soon who need to receive Social Security disability. Of these, UPLC has taken 31 of their cases!

Supporters help shine a light on the prison system...

Cruel and Usual: An Investigation into Prison Abuse at USP Thomson is a report resulting from **an 18-month investigation** into the solitary confinement unit at Thomson federal prison in Illinois. UPLC is grateful to pro bono partners Latham & Watkins and Levy Firestone, as well as the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs for collaborating with us on this project. **And of course, we can't do this without people like you.**

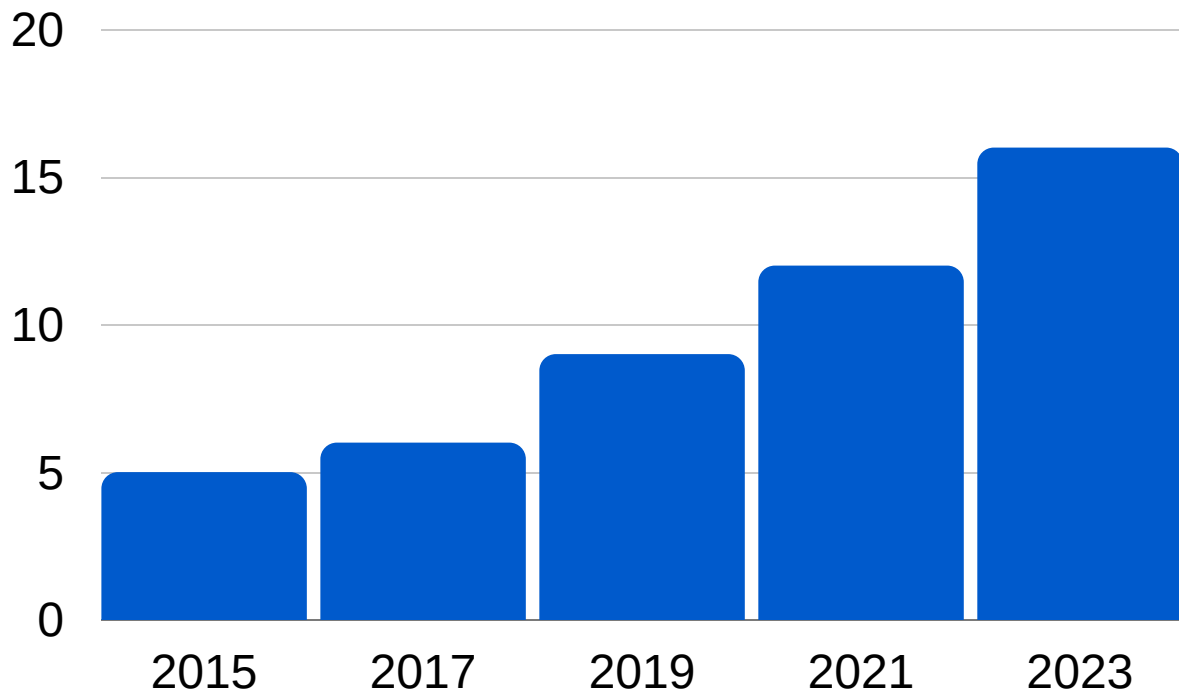
UPLC was about to file an extensive civil rights case against prison officials. We planned **to expose and address the many civil rights violations** in the solitary confinement unit at this prison. However, the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced that the solitary unit at the prison would be closed, so we canceled the lawsuit. But **we could not let these abuses pass without notice**, so we released the report.

The report documents a **widespread culture of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, even assault; as well as pervasive racism**, inside the solitary confinement unit at the federal prison in Thomson, Illinois. This abuse was widespread, not a case of "a few bad apples." This was the culture at Thomson. And the Federal Bureau of Prisons completely failed to hold anyone accountable.

As a result of this new report, Illinois legislators Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, and Representative Bustos have **called for an investigation into these assaults and deaths**. This investigation is much-needed. If government officials treated any other human this way, they would face serious consequences. **People in prison are people, and torturing them is a crime against humanity.**

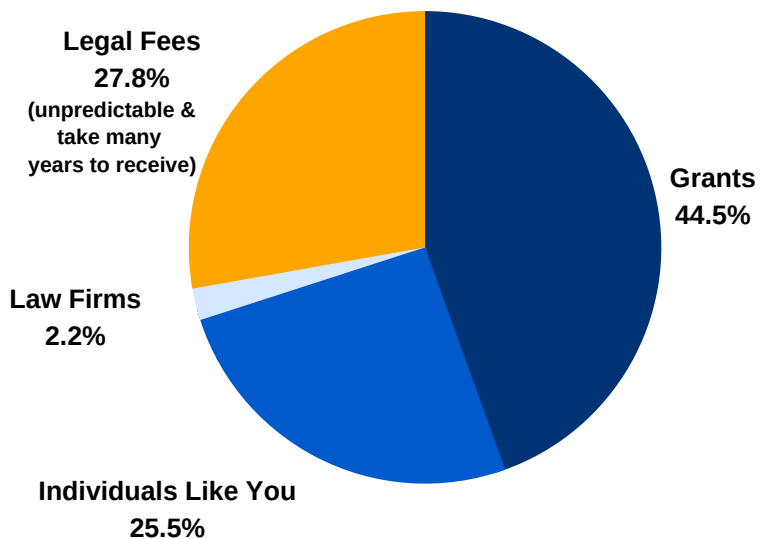
We at UPLC believe "sunlight is the best disinfectant," and it's **thanks to help from people like you that we can shine a light on human rights abuses behind the prison walls.**

UPLC staff is growing!

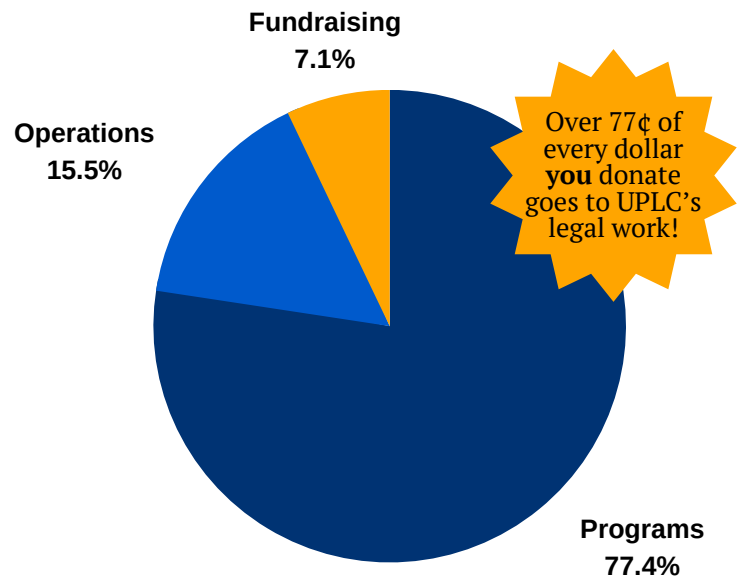


UPLC in 2023

Income



Expenses



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