

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

**The Commons**

Law Center

# A word from our Executive Director

## Kamron Graham, J.D.



This year, I've been reminded again and again of the strength of our community. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our staff, partners, volunteers, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to expanding access to justice.

2025 tested us in ways we could not have anticipated. We lost 46% of our tenant eviction defense budget, faced record eviction filings, and navigated an increasingly competitive grant landscape. These challenges could have slowed us down. Instead, they galvanized us.

Our team responded with extraordinary resolve. They deepened their expertise, advocated fiercely in court, and showed profound compassion to every client who walked through our doors. Their dedication allowed us not only to maintain our services, but to grow them in meaningful ways. We launched a new legal clinic at Rose Haven, strengthened partnerships across the region, and delivered more free estate plans than ever before through our Homeownership Asset Preservation Program.

We also felt the power of community in other ways—through heartfelt advocacy from our partners, generosity from new and longtime donors, and kind words from clients who remind us why this work matters.

As you read through this report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of what we accomplished together. Your support fuels every hour of legal advice, every courtroom victory, and every moment of dignity restored. As we enter our 10th year of service, I invite you to join us to help ensure even greater access to legal services.

With gratitude,

Kamron Graham, J.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kamron Graham'.

# 10 Years of Service

The Commons Law Center began in 2016 as social enterprise with the goal of providing accessible, stabilizing civil legal services to low-income people who fall below 400% of the federal poverty level.

Our unique approach of designing our programs to **meet our clients where they are**, recruiting and **teaching new attorneys and paralegals, utilizing technology** to provide accessible and efficient legal services, and **partnering with community organizations** has allowed our once small, scrappy but determined firm to evolve into a creative, robust, and responsive organization at the forefront of legal service innovation.



6,500+  
Clients  
Served



25,000+  
Legal service  
hours



20+  
Community  
partnerships  
developed



4  
Attorneys  
licensed thru  
SPPE



40  
Student law  
clerks hosted



540  
Tenants received  
legal support



# Program Highlights



## Estate Planning & Probate

In 2025, three of our estate planning and probate attorneys licensed through SPPE. This year also marks 100 estate plans completed through the Homeownership Asset Preservation Program in partnership with the African American Alliance for Homeownership.

## Family Law

Our team conducted over 400 legal coaching calls to low-income Oregonians. We gave legal support to 100+ Rose Haven community members at our free legal clinic.



## Tenant Eviction Defense

In 2025 we exceeded our contract goals, representing 1,159 tenants with 1,063 avoiding eviction. Outside of our Eviction Clinic we aided disability accommodations, habitability issues, and conducted Know Your Rights trainings in partnership with local non-profits.



## Business Law

Williams & Russell CDC officially broke ground on their future site. The Commons completed building out our Business Law Program and will be ready to begin taking clients in 2026.



# Client Impact Testimony

“After purchasing a home through a program for first time buyers, I was referred here for estate planning. I had no idea that I, who felt like I didnt really own anything, needed to do this to protect myself and my asset. And after the purchase, I was not in a position to afford to do it. Thankfully this is something that they provide and I was able to receive wonderful inormation and help. Knowing what I do now, I'm so glad that this place exists to help people protect themselves. They make it possible for community members to receive legal services of a very high caliber.” - Clare, estate planning client

“Tanner was a godsend, assisting with my eviction case at the last minute, and helped me sail through the process, gave excellent advice, and put me at ease throughout. Was able to settle for me, made everything smooth and simple. Best results I could ask for. I will sing the praises of the Commons Law Center to everyone willing to listen. So helpful, considerate, and kind, patient and understanding. Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.” Dyan, tenant law client

“I needed follow-up advice on my divorce judgment from 15 years ago, as my ex was challenging the terms of the original decree. I was completely thrown by this was thrilled to find my original attorney Jeff Matthews at The Commons Law Center. Jeff was a rock of emotional support and solid advice as I negotiated this difficult change in my life circumstances over the course of several months. I cannot recommend him highly enough!” - Pat, family law client



# Our Partners

## Homeownership Asset Preservation Program

This year we are proud to have completed our 100th estate plan through this program. These estate plans help secure their future, build generational wealth and ensure these families are not displaced due to gentrification.



## The Rose & The Commons Justice Collaborative

In 2025 we established The Rose & The Commons Justice Collaborative at Rose Haven, providing 50 people with legal advice on matters such as divorce, custody, restraining orders, name and gender marker changes and more.



ROSE HAVEN

## Business Law Clinic

The Commons is partnering with Williams & Russell CDC, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring the Albina Neighborhood with affordable housing, homeownership, and business services. Our Business Law Clinic will open in 2026.



**Williams  
Russell CDC**  
Building Futures, Restoring Heritage

## Clear Clinic

CLEAR and The Commons partner closely on filling the gap in legal services, particularly in tenant eviction defense. CLEAR provides a senior legal advisor to our tenant law staff and TCLC provides support to CLEAR's housing team.



## Blanchet House

The Commons and Blanchet House are partnering to provide eviction expungement services, reducing the barrier to housing.



## Other Partners

Our partners provide referrals, conduct workshops with The Commons, and fundraise with our organization.



# Who We Are

## Our Team

Kamron Graham J.D. (She/Her)	Executive Director
Emma Fox (She/They)	Finance & Operations Director
Riley Gombart J.D (He/Him)	Estate Planning & Probate Director
Ekua Hackman J.D. (She/Her)	Staff Attorney   Estate Planning & Probate
Casey Payseno J.D. (He/Him)	Staff Attorney   Estate Planning & Probate
Courtney Tiemann J.D. (She/Her)	Staff Attorney   Estate Planning & Probate
Laura King J.D. (She/Her)	Staff Attorney   Estate Planning & Probate
Emily Komie J.D. (She/Her)	Staff Attorney   Tenant Law
Tanner Baloh J.D. (He/Him)	Staff Attorney   Tenant Law
Lucas Angell-Atchison (He/Him)	Paralegal   Tenant Law
Sean Perry (He/Him)	Paralegal   Tenant Law
Marguerite Stewart J.D. (She/Her)	Family Law Director
Jeffrey Matthews J.D. (He/Him)	Senior Advisor   Family Law
Dr. Kristina Granby (She/Her)	Paralegal   Family Law



## Our Board Members

Fallon Niedrist-Guzman J.D. (She/Her)
Jennifer Narron MPH (She/Her)
John E Grant J.D. (He/Him)
Jim Dwyer J.D. (He/Him)
Krisite Gibson J.D. (She/Her)
Elizabeth Savage J.D. (She/Her)
Jered Brown (He/Him)
Graham Craft (he/him)



## Thanking Our Law Clerks

Anika Chambers (She/Her)	Seattle University
Xinyi Gu (She/Her)	Seattle University
Paige Culver (She/Her)	Portland Community College
Anika Vyas (She/Her)	University of Oregon
Jenna Hamze (She/Her)	University of Oregon
Aidan Riley (He/Him)	Cleveland High School
Angelina Cao (She/Her)	University of Washington
Laura King (She/Her)	



# Thank You To Our Supporters

## OUR GRANTORS

Oregon Law Foundation  
US District Court Attorney Admission Fund  
Oregon Academy of Family Law Attorneys

## MAJOR DONARS AND AWARDS (\$1000 +)

Biz Litigation Section	Elizabeth Cronen	Susan Gary
Gertrude Allen	Elizabeth Savage	Chad Main
Kimberly Weingart	Michael Fuller	Jim & Jan Dwyer
Kristen McCall	Megan Livermore	John Grant
Jenny Narron	Bonnie Serkin	Ryan & Chad Main
Emily Templeton	Deanne Darling	Linda Eyerma
Jack Lundeen	Ken Edwards	

## DONORS (\$250 AND ABOVE)

Lewis Landerholm	Johnnie Graham	Debbie Komie
Allison Boomer	Eric Buller	Nancy Anderson
Talia Guerriero	Dan & Sandra Cooper	Neil Falk
Matthew Miller	Patrick Sampson	Michelle Johansson
Lou Savage	Neil Kimmelfield	Helen Hiershibiel
Jen Mancke	Dylan Everett	Jered Brown
Andrew Harrington	Dorna Mioni	Dana Taylor
Jovita Wang	Amy Subach	Leahland Hill &
Karen Lee	Jill & Steve Tanner	Gea Barker
Wally Lemke	Alexander Bogage	
Jesse Whittemore	Percy Wise	

If you would like to support our work, please consider [making a gift.](#)

Stay in touch with The Commons by [signing up for our newsletter.](#)

## Our 2025 Campaigns



Sip into Summer



Backyard BBQ & Benefit Concert



Give!Guide



Unite & Ignite