

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THE CENTER FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE



Stephanie Summers, CEO of the Center for Public Justice.
Photo by Hal Williams

DEAR FRIEND OF CPJ,

By the time you read this Annual Report, CPJ will likely have just completed “Prayers for Our Political Community.” This curated collection of daily prayers, to which more than 80 authors contributed, was first issued the evening prior to Election Day and ran through the day after the Inauguration. Our goal in a year of many difficult moments was straightforward: to help focus believers’ hearts and minds on God’s good purposes accomplished through the people, practices, and principles that uphold public justice.

Throughout this year God has continued to impress upon our team the importance of prayer, both the comfort found in the Psalms and the lament alongside joy. It is the vision of Christ’s just governance towards which we labor that keeps us from despair in the face of injustices so grievous they can barely be enumerated. Yet even in the midst of injustice, we are called to live and work with vigor in the confident expectation of the fulfillment of God’s promises.

As is true for many organizations, CPJ shifted our highly-relational work to be conducted entirely online beginning in March 2020. I am grateful for what this season has demonstrated about our work. CPJ’s team is in demand, highly trusted, and trustworthy. Our impact also increased significantly this year, as many more organizations and leaders

were newly able to participate in our webinars, coalitions, convenings, learning communities, and Political Discipleship groups due to reduced barriers to access.

During this unprecedented year - characterized by COVID-19, a tumultuous election, and widespread efforts for racial justice - CPJ’s team has been told countless times that what we do is now more vital and important than ever before. Thank you for being part of what the Lord has granted possible in 2020. Your generous prayer and financial support supplied what was needed to accomplish all that is detailed in this report, and we remain grateful to God for your partnership that makes this work possible.

Stephanie Summers

Stephanie Summers, CEO
The Center for Public Justice
January 2021

STEVE BLOM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRIGHT PROMISE FUND

Bright Promise Fund exists to support and strengthen Christian schools in neighborhoods across Chicago in which justice is often fleeting. When COVID-19 hit, inequities were exacerbated and already insecure communities were hit hard. We are grateful for the ways in which CPJ mobilized on behalf of the nonprofit sector in ensuring the voices of these integral institutions were heard as relief was considered on Capitol Hill. This could only have happened because of the relationships and respect CPJ has created over time in their response to God’s call to do justice. We are grateful for and stand alongside this work.



SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY



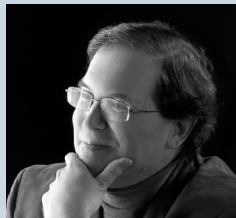
LAUREN NOYES
*Executive Director,
Faith & Law*

“I’m grateful for the role that CPJ has played through the years in engaging public justice from a Christian-democratic perspective. CPJ has committed for the long haul, always keeping in mind the common good. In the midst of a very divided city and nation, CPJ has brought to bear a Christian faith divorced from ideological partisan commitments to policy and it has done it in a way that is thoughtful and fair. In my work with Hill staffers and Members encouraging and equipping them to more fully integrate their Christian faith in their work on Capitol Hill, I know I can trust CPJ as a resource in policy making that reflects the Christian mindset and a concern for the other across party lines. This work is refreshing and critical, especially in this tribal age.”



CHIP WEIANT
*Board Member, Ohio
Governor's Office
of Faith-Based and
Community Initiatives*

“CPJ has a gentle way of providing concise and precise recommendations, which, in particularly divided times, is a salve for government officials. CPJ provides much needed counsel and has a way of speaking so clearly to the next generation of leaders.”



**WILLIAM
WUBBENHORST**
*Former Commissioner,
Family and Youth Services
Bureau in the U.S.
Department of Health
and Human Services*

“CPJ is a bridge between wonky policies and the faith-based groups that the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance serves. I’ve respected the way CPJ equips people of faith to understand public policies, and how they are related to religious freedom. CPJ has helped people like me — government officials and those in leadership — communicate with faith-based organizations and other government agencies.”



DR. LUKE BOBO
*Director of Strategic
Partnerships, Made to
Flourish Network*

“CPJ is quietly moving the needle in regards to seeking justice, especially the work on paid family leave legislation. Their unassuming posture and willingness to be nonpartisan and stubbornly Christian is refreshingly unique. CPJ is unique in that there is great emphasis on biblical truth and how it undergirds the work. Since my first exposure, CPJ has placed a premium on Biblical truth which is their pedigree.”

EQUIPPING PUBLIC SERVANTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

FOR more than 20 years, the federal government has made specific efforts to expand partnerships with faith-based (FBOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in order to engage the most effective service providers and learn from the solutions these organizations provide. The **Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance**, a division of the Center for Public Justice, has specific experience that has equipped federal, state, and municipal officials leading these efforts. **Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies**, the Founder and Senior Director of IRFA, has worked in the George W. Bush White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, served on the church/state task force for President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood

Partnerships, and presented training for Trump administration officials.

In the spring and summer of 2020, IRFA designed a Zoom seminar series on the faith-based initiative. Aside from IRFA's ongoing bipartisan efforts, it appears that there is no systematic way or significant network for current and former officials to share their accumulated wisdom and advance in their understanding of partnerships between government, FBOs, and CBOs. The need for this training remains paramount, especially in our current moment of administration transition amidst the interconnected social challenges of an ongoing global pandemic, racial violence, and injustice.

PASTOR CHERYL GAINES, J.D. The faith-based initiative [needs to be equipped] to fully live into its potential [to advance] religious freedom and racial justice for Black faith-based nonprofits, simultaneously. Black grassroots ministries and their leaders face the interconnected barriers of not knowing their legal freedom with respect to religious freedom along with not having the financial or professional expertise necessary to navigate government funding opportunities. If the federal faith-based initiative [were better equipped to harness] the power of these ministries to transform their communities and invested resources into these programs, they would advance religious freedom, racial justice, and quality of life in under-resourced communities. This [course] is a positive, innovative response to the calls from the public to invest more funding in community and preventative services.



CPJ advised and equipped officials from **66%** of federal cabinet agencies to uphold institutional religious freedom.

ADVANCING CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP

THE HATFIELD PRIZE

CPJ's Hatfield Prize is awarded annually to three undergraduate student-faculty pairs from **Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)** institutions. Recipients conduct research on social policies that impact children, families, and communities, and explore the impact of these policies in their local communities. This semester-long research project culminates in three policy reports that make recommendations for both government and civil society institutions in contributing to policies that promote flourishing communities.

The 2020 recipients were Katie Bogle and Abby Foreman, Ph.D. (**Dordt University**), Anna Cole and Timothy Taylor, Ph.D. (**Wheaton College**), and Daniel Montoya and Anupama Jacob, Ph.D. (**Azusa Pacific University**). This year's research included: "The Child Care Crisis and Its Impact on Hispanic Families" (Bogle and Foreman), "Predatory Lending and the Need for a Healthy Financial Ecosystem" (Cole and Taylor), and "The Invisible Homeless: Families and the Permanent Supportive Housing Model" (Montoya and Jacob). The Hatfield Prize is made possible through the generous support of the **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust** and the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**.



DANIEL MONTOYA

*Azusa Pacific
University '20
Hatfield Prize
Recipient*

Working closely with CPJ on the Hatfield Prize report has given me the opportunity to connect with individuals and organizations who are deeply committed to combating homelessness in my community. CPJ has taught me the importance of looking at the bigger picture and providing a holistic approach when trying to solve an issue. My research did not just focus on how one or the other can address the issue of homelessness in isolation, but how multiple entities can come together to find a stronger approach towards a solution that seeks the flourishing of all. Through CPJ, I have discovered my passion for research and public policy. I hope to continue my research and connect it with what is going on with COVID-19 and families who are experiencing increasing rates of eviction."

The mission and purpose of CPJ have broadened my thinking regarding the integration of my faith with my scholarship and desire to contribute to policy change. CPJ's work has reinforced my belief that a Christian's work cannot be confined to the walls of a church building. Rather, it is through outspoken and explicit demonstrations of faith and love that we show the world who we are and what we stand for. The bridge from private to social action occurs in the structures of society where Christians consecrate their labor to the glory of God in the service of one's neighbor."



**ANUPAMA JACOB,
PH.D.**

*Associate Professor
of Social Work, Azusa
Pacific University
Hatfield Prize Faculty
Advisor*

PARTNERING IN RESEARCH

“

CPJ has been a lighthouse of Christian political and moral intellect on my horizon since I was a graduate student in the late 90s. In recent months, it has been a delight to step into the beam. We are working with CPJ's Rachel Anderson in designing and organizing a Families Valued study of faith-shaped employers' support for their employees with children during the COVID-19 pandemic. CPJ occupies a precious niche, committed to Biblical principles while valuing factual investigation, complex explanations, and creative policy solutions.”

NEIL CARLSON

Director, Calvin University Center for Social Research



57 MILLION people were protected through CPJ's work to advise legislators and advocates to increase the eligibility of workers, including clergy and those affiliated with houses of worship, in COVID-19 relief legislation.

THE CPJ-CSR PARTNERSHIP

With support from **Ascend at the Aspen Institute**, CPJ's Families Valued initiative and the Calvin University Center for Social Research (CSR) began a multi-year research partnership to understand how households and workplaces have learned about and benefitted from several key COVID-19-related policies.

In an attempt to protect health and prevent hardship during COVID-19, Congress authorized emergency sick leave, emergency family leave, and work-share programs. Private employers and civil society institutions also initiated new family-friendly responses to COVID-19. The CPJ-CSR research team is examining attitudes about and effects of these shifts, particularly for low-income working families. The research partnership will also shed light on the response of faith-shaped employers to COVID-19-related family economic stresses.

DEVELOPING FAITH-BASED LEADERS



DIANNE FAUST
*2020 Sacred Sector Fellow,
partnered with Redemption
Housing*

“The Center for Public Justice was unbelievably helpful to me in making the transition from seminary to community engagement. CPJ encouraged, equipped, guided, and repurposed the skillset I had used in my secular career towards use in a faith-based nonprofit organization that works with veteran homeless men who need both pastoral care and secure housing to recover from PTSD. CPJ provided me with the tools necessary to practice public policy and engage the public square on behalf of these men.”



**YASMINE
ARRINGTON**
*2020 Sacred Sector
Fellow, partnered with
Prison Fellowship*

“CPJ enabled me to merge my theological education with my personal vocation in working with faith-based nonprofits. My biggest take away from the fellowship was CPJ’s teaching of political discipleship and the Three P’s Framework, a lens through which to understand the three main elements that exist in every faith-based nonprofit’s work. Politics is a framework for governance and public service that should be undertaken with care and empathy. I now understand that as a Christian, it is my responsibility to engage in my community politically.”



**REV. HAROLD
DUGGER, SR.**
*Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Capitol
Heights*

“CPJ has been very instrumental in informing Capitol Heights Baptist Church on how to navigate through new legislation. CPJ has shown us how to better reach our community through increased engagement with local politics. We are now more aware of what we can and cannot do at a local and national level. We have a better understanding of how to protect our organizational structure from a legal perspective in light of new legislation.

CPJ has provided us with the necessary language to articulate what we do as a ministry that is engaged with different partners, clearly express our boundaries as an institution, and understand the rules that govern our different ministries. This has made it easier for us to share our guidelines on processes of hiring and leasing our facilities to third parties.”

PARTNERING WITH HISPANIC-LED MINISTRIES

Building on our partnership, CPJ and National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) will begin a five-year engagement to equip Hispanic-led ministries, supported by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.



DR. GUS REYES
*Chief Operating Officer,
National Hispanic
Christian Leadership
Conference*

“The National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference and CPJ have enjoyed a mutually strengthening relationship for many years and have worked together in a variety of capacities, including how to support Hispanic families facing challenges in balancing paid work and parental caregiving responsibilities, translation of CPJ’s resources on healthy, faith-based civic engagement into Spanish, and responding to the needs of Hispanic-led ministries navigating new norms during COVID-19. Our partnership has grown and in 2020, CPJ partnered with NHCLC and Texas Baptists to provide learning sessions and resources to over 50 Hispanic-led ministries in California and Texas.”

“I would like to thank the Center for Public Justice team that was here at the San Antonio Baptist Association that I serve to answer questions and give guidance to our Hispanic pastors and leaders on public policies and faith-based organizations. The CPJ team was well prepared and competent. This organization truly lives out their faith and mission through public policy and practice.”



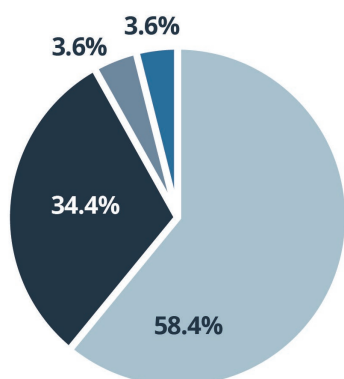
DR. ROLAND LOPEZ
*Church Planting
Specialist, San Antonio
Baptist Association*

SACRED SECTOR COMMUNITY

Sacred Sector Community is a learning community within CPJ that empowers and trains faith-based organizational leaders to apply a public justice perspective to their specific context. Sacred Sector uses a holistic framework to empower faith-based organizations and their leaders to integrate their faith into everything they do: how to understand and respond to public policies that impact their faith-based work, how to implement organizational best practices to advance their faith-based missions, and how to publicly position their faith-based impact. Sacred Sector calls this framework the “Three P’s,” empowering its participants to incarnate their sacred institutional identities (both their freedom and their responsibilities) in six key areas: religious staffing, government partnerships, positive engagement in the public square, sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination laws, advocacy and lobbying, and family-supportive workplaces.

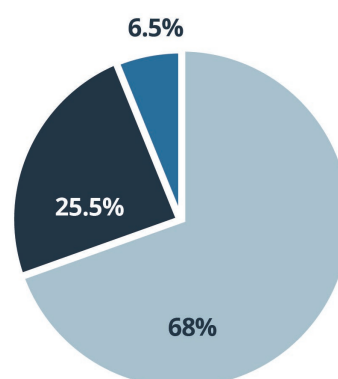
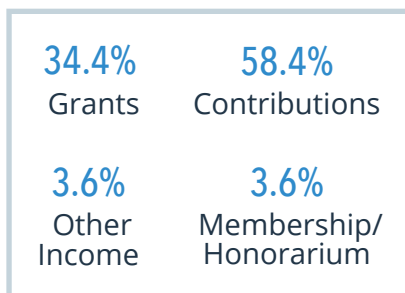
FY20 STEWARDSHIP

CPJ is deeply committed to stewarding its gifts with integrity and purpose.



\$1,300,000

Total Revenue and Support



\$1,169,844

Total Expenses



WAYS TO GIVE

FOUR ways to partner with the Center for Public Justice so you can help equip citizens, develop leaders and shape policy.

1. Give by Check, Credit/Debit Card, or Electronic Funds Transfer

Please use the enclosed remit slip and envelope. You can also donate online at www.CPJjustice.org/give.

2. Give the Gift of Securities

Many donors prefer gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, and mutual funds when considering a donation of \$1000 or more. To donate gifts of securities, please instruct your bank or broker to transfer the securities from your account to CPJ's account. The broker for the Center for Public Justice is RBC Wealth Management, 1906 Towne Center Boulevard, Suite 375, Annapolis, MD 21401, Phone: 410.573.6715. Broker contact is Lauran Palmer. DTC Number: 0235. Center for Public Justice Account Number: 350-19104. Please ask your bank or broker to notify RBC of your name when making your gift. To make a gift of closely held stock or mutual funds please contact CPJ directly.

3. Give Through an IRA Charitable Rollover

You may be looking for a way to make a big difference to help further CPJ's mission. If you

are 70½ or older you may also be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA charitable rollover is a great way you can help continue CPJ's work, and satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year and avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000. An IRA Charitable rollover also reduces your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions. Please contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to CPJ. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to CPJ to help continue our important work. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

4. Give Through a Planned Gift

You can increase your impact through planned giving to CPJ through non-cash assets or gifts in your will. Did you know that all donors to CPJ are eligible to receive free estate planning services through our partnership with the Barnabas Foundation? To take advantage of this opportunity, contact CPJ directly to be connected to a Christian estate planner or to receive a copy of CPJ's endowment policy for your review. Contact CPJ's Operations Assistant, Oliver Mead at oliver.mead@CPJjustice.org or call 202.695.2667.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



STEPHANIE SUMMERS is the CEO of the Center for Public Justice. Ms. Summers is a co-author with *Washington Post* columnist Michael J. Gerson and Katie Thompson of *Unleashing Opportunity: Why Escaping Poverty Requires a Shared Vision of Justice* (Falls City Press). A frequent speaker and moderator, she has written on the role of Christian think tanks and for publications including *Comment and Q Ideas*. Ms. Summers is a recipient of the inaugural Duke Divinity Reflective Leadership Award. Ms. Summers also serves as a Trustee of Eastern University, where she received her M.S. in Nonprofit Management.



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