



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

QLaw Foundation

Address:

400 E Pine St, Ste 225
Seattle, WA 98122

Mailing Address:

PO Box 18181
Seattle, WA 98118

Contact:

(206) 483-2725
<https://qlawfoundation.org>

Organization's General Goals:

QLaw Foundation of Washington promotes the dignity and respect of 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians within the legal system through advocacy, education, and legal assistance.

Date of Award:

2024 Q1

Level:

\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from QLaw Foundation.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



2024 Charitable Support Fund Grant Report

QLaw Foundation of Washington

Grant Code: Q1 2024 14.2

Introduction & Acknowledgement

QLaw Foundation of Washington is deeply grateful for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Support Fund's investment of [REDACTED] in 2024. Your support allowed us to expand access to affirming, community-driven legal services for 2SLGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities across Washington. This funding supported our significant strides in adapting our programs to emerging challenges and strengthening partnership with community and legal stakeholders. Below reflects key accomplishments across our core programs, illustrating how we remained responsive and impactful in a year of unprecedented legal and political challenges.

2024 Accomplishments

Legal Clinics & Community Services:

- **30 virtual legal clinics** held across Washington (including **16 LGBTQ+ Legal Clinics** and **9 Transgender Legal Clinics**)
- **290 clients served** through free legal consultations on employment, healthcare access, name and gender marker changes, family law, housing, and other civil legal issues
- **3 in person pop-up legal clinics** held, providing 30 legal consultations on safety planning, immigration relief, name and gender marker changes, housing, and benefits access
- Several of the clients who initially contacted us received referrals for ongoing legal support and direct representation beyond what our initial 30-minute consultations could provide. Through our statewide Attorney Referral Network, we worked to connect clients with experienced and affirming attorneys.
- **11 community outreach events** across the state in areas including, but not limited to: Arlington, Yakima, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Bremerton, Bellingham, Grays Harbor, Goldendale
- **Hybrid Community Q&A session** held to answer the community's most urgent legal questions following the Trump re-election. This event featured **5 volunteer attorneys** and **served approximately 60 community members**
- **3 virtual community trainings:** Immigration Law Continuing Legal Education with immigration attorney Paula Arno Martinez, Legislative Advocacy 101 with Alphabet Alliance of Color, What Is Initiative-2081 Community Q&A with Gender Justice League, **Lavender Rights Project, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children**
- Developed a **virtual legal resource library** for accessible, self-advocacy tools

Direct Representation

QLaw Foundation provided **direct legal representation to 16 individuals** on issues ranging from complicated name or gender identity changes; criminal-adjacent processes where our client had been the victim of a hate crime, bias crime, or assault; family law matters; and civil

cases reducing discrimination and harassment within a school and public health system. These cases not only protected individual rights but also informed our larger advocacy agenda.

Rapid Response & Pop-Up Clinics

In response to heightened fear and uncertainty following the re-election of Donald Trump, we moved quickly to address the urgent legal questions and fears voiced by our community. Within two weeks, we organized a **legal Q&A session with five volunteer attorneys** and **launched a series of weekly in-person pop-up legal clinics**. These events provided critical legal information and support, fostering a sense of security and connection for community members during a tumultuous time. In December 2024, we hosted **three pop-up clinics** which offered walk-in consultations, safety planning, and legal referrals while serving as affirming environments for queer and transgender individuals at a particularly vulnerable moment for our community.

The success of these in-person events serves as a reminder of the unique value face-to-face interactions offer in providing the sense of safety, security, and connection people so desperately need right now and that virtual opportunities often fail to replicate, despite increasing accessibility. This insight has prompted us to explore expanding in-person clinic and legal education opportunities to rural communities, particularly in eastern Washington, to increase accessibility and strengthen connections with communities we've identified as underserved. We are committed to understanding and meeting the unique needs of our communities, and we believe that in-person interactions are a key part of that commitment.

Policy Advocacy & Strategic litigation

In 2024, our legislative priorities focused on safeguarding the fundamental rights and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in the face of mounting threats to bodily autonomy, cultural and self-expression, and economic stability. These bills addressed critical areas where queer and marginalized communities face heightened vulnerabilities. Our advocacy centered on addressing systemic barriers and protecting the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities across health care, housing, education, and labor rights. Below is an overview of each bill we campaigned for in the 2024 legislative session, including their end-of-session status.

- **Keep Our Care Act** – aimed to ensure that health care mergers, acquisitions, and affiliations improve, rather than harm, access to quality and affordable care. This legislation remains particularly critical in rural areas where religious hospital mergers often restrict services like reproductive and gender-affirming care. Not passed.
- **Rent Stabilization** – promoted housing stability by limiting excessive rent increases, a growing concern for our queer and QTBIPOC tenants who are disproportionately low-income and face skyrocketing rent statewide. Not passed in 2024.
- **Inclusive Curriculum** – required school districts to adopt age-appropriate and representative materials highlighting the histories, contributions, and perspectives of LGBTQ+ Washingtonians, fostering belonging and cultural awareness in classrooms. Passed.
- **Employee Paid Sick Leave** – expanded the definition of "family member" to include chosen family, allowing workers to use paid sick leave to care for loved ones outside of traditional biological ties. Passed.
- **Strippers Are Workers Act** – improved working conditions and labor protections for strippers by addressing discriminatory "lewd conduct" regulations. These laws

disproportionately harm queer venues and strip clubs and perpetuate unsafe work environments for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC workers. Passed.

In 2024, QLaw Foundation engaged in strategic litigation to protect the rights and wellbeing of Washington's 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and transgender individuals. Key accomplishments include:

- **Protecting youth privacy:** QLaw co-counseled with ACLU-WA, Legal Voice, and others to mount a constitutional challenge to Initiative 2081, which threatened the confidentiality of student health and gender information. This effort secured a **preliminary injunction blocking the Initiative's most harmful provisions** – preventing widespread harm to 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, survivors of sexual violence, and students needing confidential mental health services – and laid the groundwork for legislative reforms to strengthen student protections. Though we could not overturn I-2081 through litigation, it catalyzed statewide organizing and positioned these protections for passage in 2025.
- **Advancing transgender health equity:** QLaw continued its class action lawsuit with Lambda Legal and Sirianni Youtz Spoonemore & Hamburger, LLC against Premera to challenge insurance denials of medically necessary gender-affirming care for youth. In 2024, the organization defended depositions and engaged in extensive motion practice to advocate for equitable access to health care.
- **Community-centered approach:** Across both cases, QLaw's litigation strategy emphasized empowering clients, amplifying community voices, and building coalitions to drive systemic change.

These efforts reflect QLaw's commitment to combining **direct legal action with broader advocacy**, where we use litigation as a tool not only for legal outcomes, but for movement-building narrative change. With Tulalip's support, we blocked harmful legislation in its most critical early stages, protected the dignity and agency of trans youth in Washington, and built cross-sector coalitions that will secure lasting protections in future legislative sessions.

Sector Leadership:

In May, we **led two impactful workshops at the Equal Justice Conference**, equipping legal service providers with tools to better serve 2SLGBTQIA+ clients and support 2SLGBTQIA+ staff. The first workshop focused on fostering inclusive environments, building authentic community partnerships, and addressing systemic barriers. The second provided foundational knowledge on key 2SLGBTQIA+ concepts, the intersection of poverty and queer identities, and trauma-informed lawyering practices. These sessions were vital to advancing equity and cultural competency within the legal aid sector, ensuring more affirming and effective services for marginalized communities.

Looking Ahead

Tulalip's investment allowed us to meet urgent needs in 2024, while laying the groundwork for a more accessible, relationship-centered legal services model in 2025. We are proud to continue advocating for justice and safety for all 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians, particularly those most impacted by systemic discrimination.



Meeting the Moment: Post Election Community Q&A (December 2024)



QLaw Staff Directors, Governance Board and Community Advisory Board



Walla Walla Pride, June 2024

Contact:

QLaw Foundation of Washington

qlawfoundation.org

Rebekah Gardea, Community Advocacy & Outreach Director (rebekah@qlawfoundation.org)