SAFETY FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
• Securing orders of protection
• Preventing/reversing parental kidnapping
• Providing custody with safe visitation
• Securing financial support for children & abuse survivors
• Ensuring fair division of debts/property
• Dissolving abusive marriages

PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
• Securing legal status to remain in the United States
• Reuniting family members and obtaining guardianship of minors
• Obtain restitution from traffickers
• Vacating/clearing trafficking-related criminal records

HOUSING AND CREDIT
• Preventing loss of home due to foreclosure, wrongful eviction from private or public housing
• Fighting illegal debt collection practices
• Preventing utility shut-offs
• Fighting substandard housing conditions

PROTECTING THE ELDERLY
• Securing orders of protection for the physically abused and/or financially exploited
• Establishing financial and health care powers of attorney
• Establishing guardianships to manage finances and maintain independent living
• Representing grandparents on support, custody and visitation issues

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) of Metropolitan Family Services pioneered the concept of equal access to justice more than 125 years ago. Each year LAS provides critical legal services to more than 8,000 low-income families in the Chicago area in crucial areas of need, addressing domestic violence, elder abuse, trafficking, housing and consumer issues.

PROMISING SOLUTIONS & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

OVER 8,000 FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY EACH YEAR
Charlene lived in a public housing complex plagued by gangs and violence when she came to the Legal Aid Society. She had been referred by one of Metropolitan Family Service's domestic violence counselors. Charlene had been married over 40 years. She stayed at home to raise the couple's children and had no income or work experience when her abusive husband abandoned her. He refused to provide Charlene with any financial help. She was subsisting on a small social security check each month. Working with the counselor, the Legal Aid Society was able to locate senior housing in a safe neighborhood and helped her through the application process. LAS was able to obtain a divorce and an award of $100,000 as Charlene's share of the marital property. Today she lives free from poverty and abuse and fills her days with visits from her children and grandchildren.