

Letter from the Executive Director

Survivors are facing more uncertainty and fewer resources than at almost any point in ALIGHT's first decade. Federal funding for trafficking services has fallen. Competition for what remains has grown. As a result, human trafficking programs are closing and critical services are being cut back.

ALIGHT's response is to step forward, not back. Legal problems do not wait for better funding cycles. A criminal record does not expire. A stolen identity closes every bank door. A custody order stands until someone files to change it.

This year our work reached further than ever, across Colorado, Utah and our expanding program in Greater Los Angeles.

We answered the call when survivors reached out for help.

Debt repair under the federal Debt Bondage Repair Act reached 88 survivors, more than any other service we provide. It remains one of the most powerful tools we have against the lasting effects of financial abuse.

The two other top legal needs were clearing criminal records and fighting for child custody. One survivor came to us carrying 141 separate criminal charges, every one incurred under a trafficker's control. We supported another survivor's fight to keep custody of her child. Survivors who lose that fight often lose their children to the very trafficker who exploited them: 62% report losing custody to their trafficker or exploiter (Polaris, 2023).

When we remove the legal obstacles between a survivor and what comes next – a lease, a job, a nursing license, a child returned – we refuse to let this crisis define us or the survivors we serve.

At a moment when many are stepping back, thank you for standing with survivors and investing in their path to freedom.

With gratitude,

Marianna Kosharovsky, Founder and Executive Director



ALIGHT's team, board and designer partner VENIA hosted survivors, local service partners and members of the public for Restoring Justice in LA, May 2026, part of ALIGHT's expanding program in Greater Los Angeles.

ALIGHT's Growth: 75% More Legal Matters Over the Past Year

Survivors Served

FY25: 180

FY26: 196

Legal Matters

FY25: 297

FY26: 520

Value of Legal Services

FY25: \$1.3M

FY26: \$1,470,000

*ALIGHT's fiscal year (FY) begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. A matter counts if it was open at any point during the year. FY26's 520 matters comprise 362 newly connected and 158 carried over from prior years. Record relief is counted per charge, so one survivor with an extensive trafficking-related record accounts for 141 matters.



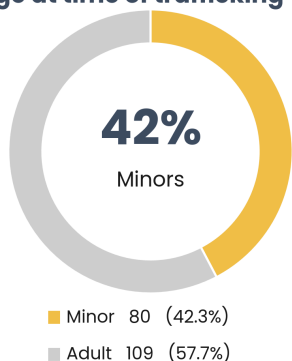
ALIGHT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that connects human trafficking survivors with pro bono attorneys in civil, criminal and family law.

A trafficker's coercion leaves a legal record behind. Convictions for acts committed under compulsion. Accounts opened in a survivor's name. Custody orders entered while a survivor was unreachable. Each of these has a specific remedy, and each remedy requires a lawyer with the right specialization. ALIGHT works to close the gap between the two, at no cost to the survivor.

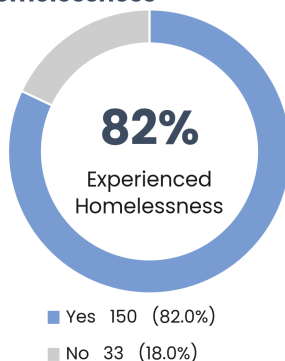
Who We Served

Disclosure is voluntary. Each graph represents responses from survivors who chose to answer.

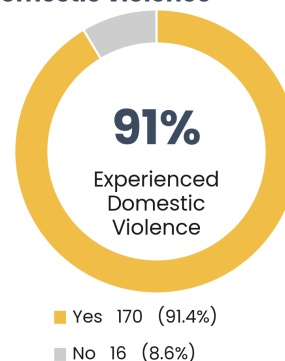
Age at time of trafficking



Homelessness



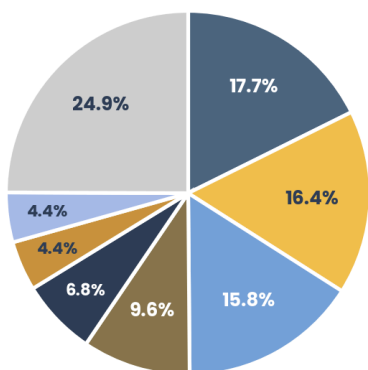
Domestic violence



Industries of Exploitation: Where Survivors Were Trafficked

Many survivors were trafficked into more than one industry. The 177 survivors who answered reported 385 industries between them. The chart counts each instance an industry was reported. Each slice is that industry's share of the 385 reports, not the share of survivors exploited in it.

Industries in which survivors were exploited



- Residential 68 (17.7%)
- Hotels & Hospitality 63 (16.4%)
- Outdoor Solicitation 61 (15.8%)
- Escort Services 37 (9.6%)
- Bars, Strip Clubs & Cantinas 26 (6.8%)
- Remote Interactive Sexual Acts 17 (4.4%)
- Family 17 (4.4%)
- 18 other industries 96 (24.9%)

Survivor Story: Fighting for Safety and Separation

For decades, Mimi* has tirelessly worked to free herself from members of her family of birth who sexually exploited her starting when she was a child. The grooming, coercive control, stalking and harassment never stopped. Her family used creative ways to tie themselves to her to continue the exploitation, including beguiling and coercing her into mutual real estate transactions.

Mimi turned to ALIGHT for help finally breaking those ties. The Akerman LLP legal team is doing far more than facilitating the sale. They are working to secure a protection order against at least one of the perpetrators and help resolve various identity matters.

*Survivor name has been changed to protect privacy.

“

My attorneys are a godsend! They have been so compassionate and generous throughout this process. It feels incredible to have such dedicated and caring legal power on my side. I call my legal team the Freedom Dream Team! I will always be grateful to them.

– Mimi
Survivor

“

Mimi's personal history is heart wrenching and created interesting legal issues in dire need of resolution.

– Janis Cheezem
Partner, Akerman LLP

“

Helping Mimi has been a reminder of why I wanted to practice law in the first place.

– Keiana Wilkerson
Associate, Akerman LLP



Program Spotlight: Training the Profession with the ABA

Most attorneys who want to represent a trafficking survivor have never done it. They do not know which remedies exist, how a trauma history changes an intake conversation, or what a survivor can reasonably be asked to recount. ALIGHT's training closes that gap before a matter is assigned.

ALIGHT piloted its attorney matching model in Denver in 2017. In February 2020 the American Bar Association adopted Resolution 113, which encouraged lawyers in every practice area to use technology platforms like the ALIGHT model to match survivors with counsel holding the right specialization, and the accompanying report named ALIGHT's model as an example. The

ABA Center for Human Rights adopted ALIGHT as its human trafficking project the same year.

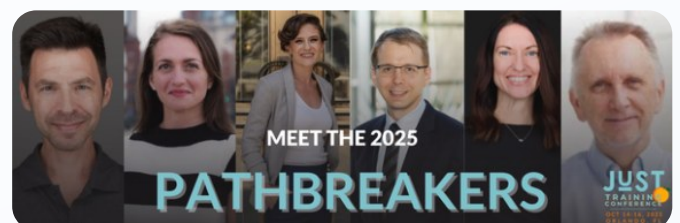
This collaboration has widened significantly since 2020. What began as a policy endorsement became joint programming in January 2025, when ALIGHT and the ABA marked Human Trafficking Awareness Day with a session built around specific pro bono opportunities rather than general awareness. The 2026 session, “Advancing Justice for Survivors: Legal Needs, the Debt Bondage Repair Act, and Pro Bono Opportunities,” trained more than 75 attorneys and drew sponsorship from three ABA entities: the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, the Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the Center for Human Rights.



Program Spotlight: The 2025 Pathbreaker Award

Shared Hope International's Pathbreaker Award recognizes U.S.-based individuals and organizations that have carved essential routes to justice for trafficking victims and survivors.

In October 2025, Shared Hope honored the six co-leads of the National Survivor Law Collective with this award, recognizing the group for “shifting the landscape when it comes to access to justice for survivors.” The leadership team of the collective are (in order of appearance): Joel Shapiro of the Trafficking Law Center, Marianna Kosharovskiy of ALIGHT, Jamie Beck of Justice with Humanity, Peter Hering of Rutan & Tucker, Sarah Byrne of Moore & Van Allen and Brent Woody of the Justice Restoration Project.



The Next Frontier: Greater Los Angeles

As one of the country's largest human trafficking hubs, Greater Los Angeles, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties, has a clear need for ALIGHT's services. Having taken matters since 2020, ALIGHT has steadily been expanding our work in the region to meet the need. As we surpassed 100 survivors served, we marked this milestone with the Restoring Justice in LA event, a special collaboration with local designer VENIA in the Downtown Arts District.

In 2026, the AHLA Foundation presented ALIGHT with the No Room for Trafficking Award, a lead gift to support our Los Angeles expansion. This investment enables us to scale in three ways: (1) Platform work to support the placement of survivors' requests with qualified attorneys. (2) Targeted recruitment of high-needs specializations in California and attorney training and support, such as in criminal vacatur and family law. (3) Matter support for an increasing volume and complexity of matters.



ALIGHT receives the AHLA Foundation's No Room for Trafficking Award, the lead gift for the Greater Los Angeles expansion.

Thank You: To the ALIGHT National Attorney Network

A special thank you to the 1,500+ attorneys providing legal services at a critical time in a survivor's recovery.



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