

www.acuriae.org

A_CURI_AE

F R I E N D O F T H E C O U R T

2024

Annual Report

S T I N E T I N Z C O O

02.

Introduction

03.

Message from our founder

04.

What we do

05.

Measuring progress

06.

Stories of change

08.

Financials

09.

New initiative

10.

Consulting, education, & partnerships

13.

Looking ahead

15.

Acknowledgements

INTRODUCTION

A Curiae is a 501(c)3 organization that brings the principles of public health into the courts to support individuals as they transition back into the community.

We take a comprehensive approach, delivering the appropriate services and resources that justice-involved individuals need to develop and maintain long-term habits of success, while driving systemic change in the criminal justice system through education and collaboration. By integrating underutilized public health approaches and community resources, we provide the knowledge, expertise, and dialogue necessary to implement interventions that significantly improve outcomes.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide support for the court and clients on supervision through community partnership, professional skill-building, and problem-solving.

VISION

Our vision is to remove barriers by helping the court and clients achieve goals that will lead to foundational habits of success.

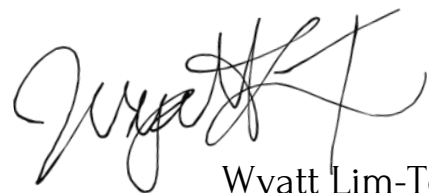
MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

2024 was a year of great growth, inspiration, and success for A Curiae. There were various events and conferences that allowed us to share our expertise and experience in the reentry space through an academic and direct services lens. I was overwhelmed with the desire to help through our volunteers, our growing board, and supportive agencies and organizations that have influenced the organization. Even as our team evolves and the landscape shifts, I am regularly reminded how important and impactful the work of A Curiae is and to keep our vision of serving both the reentry population and the courts throughout the criminal justice system to improve outcomes.

One of my goals in developing A Curiae was to invest in the reentry population, both through direct services and ultimately by providing employment opportunities for collaborative court graduates. We were able to do that this year, in a small capacity, by hiring Stephen Asmus who has served as the Policy and Community Associate in the Northern District of California. He went above and beyond in his role, building relationships with and providing direct services to participants through case management. He has been instrumental in conducting outreach and improving the organization, the collaborative courts, and how we approach stakeholders and colleagues to showcase our work. Stephen was accepted to multiple graduate programs and will begin one in the Spring of 2025. We want to wish him the best and thank him for his work with the organization. We hope he returns in the future to continue his amazing work with the courts.

From the beginning, mentors advised me to surround myself with smart and driven people to help with my organization. Each meeting, check in, and conversation with my board members, advisory board, and staff, I am reminded how talented, brilliant, and inspirational each person is to A Curiae. I am proud to say we had our first in-person board meeting and were able to share ideas and reflect on the growth of the organization and strategize to serve more clients directly and expand our reach to other districts around the country.

This effort would not be possible without the interest, support, and encouragement of the federal judges and stakeholders we work with on a regular basis. A Curiae's dedication to building and improving its services is rooted in the belief that innovative, individualized interventions can significantly enhance outcomes for the federal courts. Thank you to everyone for all you do and your support of A Curiae.



Wyatt Lim-Tepper
Founder & President

WHAT WE DO

01

Resource Referral Assistance

By building a network of community providers, A Curiae works with clients to understand their social determinants of health, medical and therapeutic history, and previous experiences in treatment to find not just any programming but the correct programming.

02

Professional Mentorship Initiative (PMI)

Our program matches clients to professionals from various tech companies to mentors to work on professional skills, growth, and development. The program began in 2020 and has expanded to 5 districts, helping nearly 50 clients receive individualized mentorship.

03

Financial Assistance

A Curiae provides support to remove barriers for clients on supervision, covering the cost of items such as government or housing application fees and workplace support. In collaboration with the clients and their officer or court program, we create a plan that incentivizes financial assistance, fulfilling eligible requests after a client has completed their individualized requirements, such as consecutive negative urine analysis tests or beginning a community-based program.

MEASURING PROGRESS

A Curiae worked diligently to provide direct services to the reentry population. With **53 intakes** this year, we touched base with clients to provide support and understand their needs. Working with their officer, A Curiae was able to connect with their respective officers or court contacts to be referred to the appropriate service.



Resource Referral

45

completed requests

2 days

avg time to referral

Professional Mentorship

8

new matches

23

mentor hours



Financial Assistance

3

requests

\$2,025

distributed

STORIES OF CHANGE

We were able to look for more ways to bring in academia, expertise, and community to the work of A Curiae in 2024. You can see a few highlights from our relationship with the School of Nursing Health Professionals at the University of San Francisco through our first Master's of Public Health Intern, Mikayla Aubry. One of our collaborative court graduates will shares his story along with his partner about the impact the program had for their family. And lastly, we were delighted to bring together staff and participants for a volunteer session at the San Francisco Food Bank in lieu of a traditional court setting.



Mikayla Aubrey

I started this internship with no criminal justice experience - neither professionally nor personally. All my knowledge of the judicial system was from my 12th-grade government class which I could have probably paid closer attention to. However, Wyatt had a dream, an idea of what the collaborative court could be in partnership with public health.

[Read more](#)



Stephen Burnes

The CAP program is doing something monumental. It's a beautiful collaboration of second chances and restoring trust in a system that has felt broken for years. This program has not just given Stephen a second chance, it has given a father back to his children, a son back to his parents, a brother back to his sister and my best friend back to me. There are not enough words to express how much gratitude we have for the opportunity to be a part of something so special.

[Read more](#)

STORIES OF CHANGE



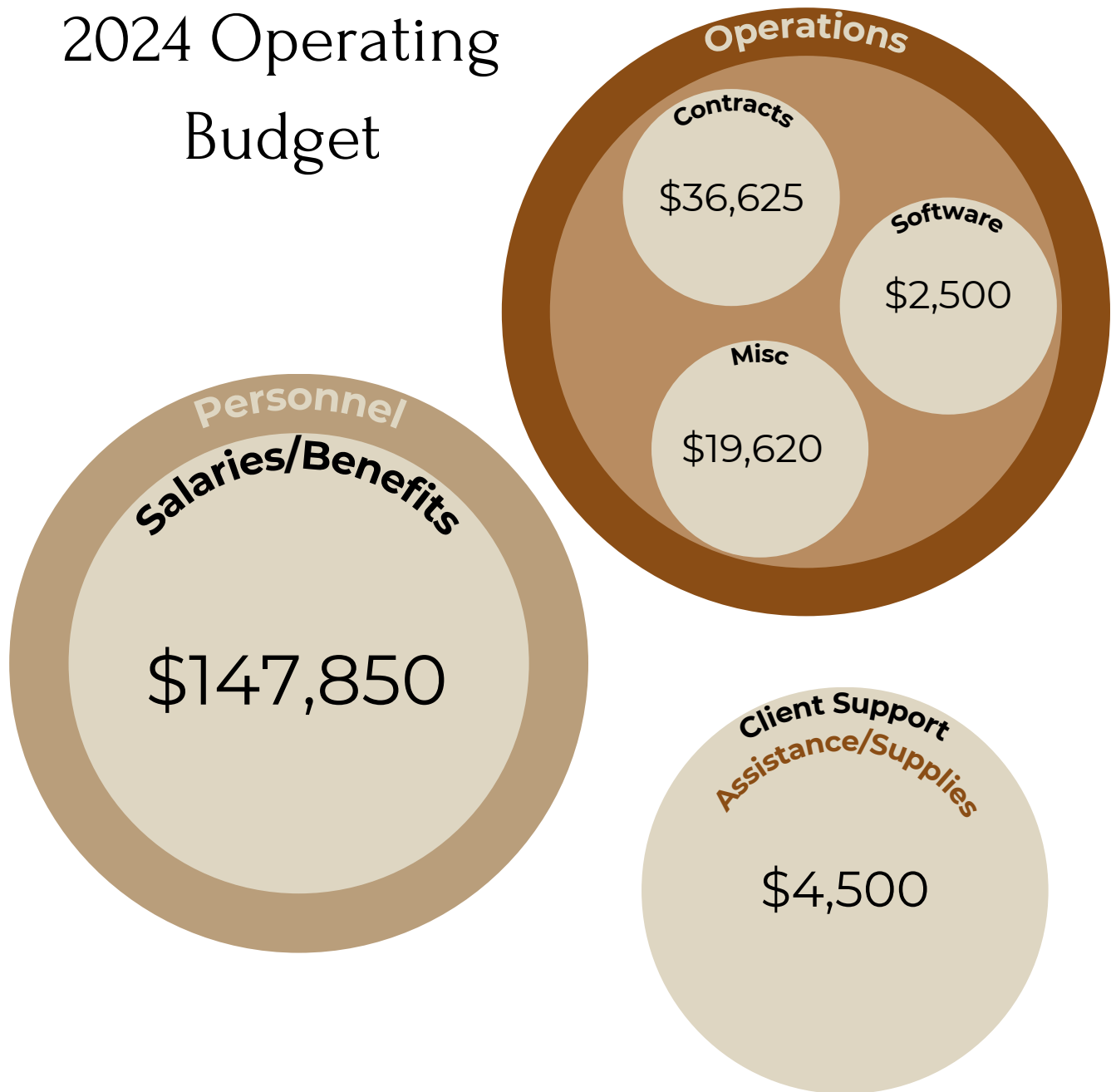
Volunteer Day

We took a different approach to our collaborative court session and had a group outing volunteering at the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank. It was great to get out of the courthouse for a few hours and spend time together volunteering and sharing a meal. Both participants and staff worked together in an assembly line to create grocery boxes to be delivered throughout San Francisco. Our group assembled 380 boxes of almost 9,500 pounds of food to be distributed!

Financials

We are a small but growing non-profit with an annual operating budget of just over \$200,000 for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years. Below you will find our primary categories of expenditures.

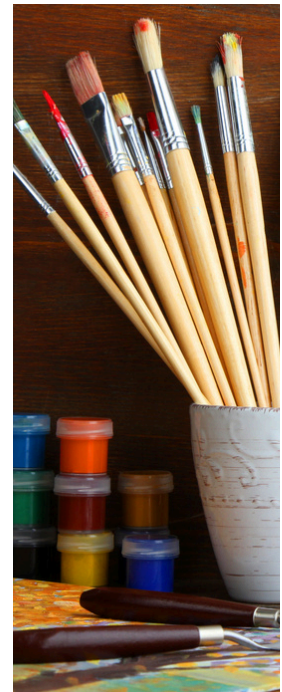
2024 Operating Budget



SPOTLIGHT: ART GALLERY

In the Spring of 2024, we launched a virtual Art Gallery, exhibiting the work of anyone involved in the criminal justice system. We wanted to provide a venue to support someone's artistic journey, whether their painting helps them maintain their sobriety or their poetry helps them get through their incarceration.

This gallery showcases their passion, work, and themselves through a portal where we can promote their work and their stories. We invite you to explore.



Wood

A short essay by Trevor Love

There is no other word that describes as much unique diversity as - Wood. A high-tech definition of this ancient life-form is a "carbon fiber honeycomb composit," just like a formula race car. Ranging from Balsa to Lignum Vitae, from Holly to Ebony, from Sasparilla to Cinnamon, from Dogwood to Redwood, or cottonwood to Ironwood; it's like comparing apples and oranges. It rises from the ashes and casts mountains into the sea. A tiny acorn containing a massive oak and a somber cathedral ring regenerating the memory of a fallen giant. Intensely competitive yet steadfastly patient in life; their story is recorded in rings far beyond their own timeline, and is sometimes even set in stone. Unlike human color, the kalidiscscope of hue and tone and shade goes way deeper than

Explore our online art gallery at <https://www.acuriae.org/art> and encourage those you know to share and submit their work.

CONSULTING & EDUCATION

A Curiae continues to look for ways to contribute to those working with the reentry population. We did this through various speaking engagements, conferences, and training opportunities to both learn about best practices in programs such as collaborative courts but also learn how to address and understand different aspects of working with the reentry population such as mental health, substance use, and gambling. We also worked with staff about how to understand and approach the reentry population through empathy, patience, and a public health approach.

Speaking Engagements

- Contra Costa Food Bank | March 2024
- UC Berkeley Law School, Exploring the Impact of Drugs in Criminal Justice Reform | November 2024

Trainings & Conferences Attended

- All Rise | Irvine, CA | May 2024

Observations & Consultations

- Central District of California | San Bernardino, CA | May 2024
- FJC Mental Health Court Program | Salt Lake City, UT | November 2024

Our experts provide quality improvement consulting to support program outcomes and procedures. Whether you have an established collaborative court program or are just beginning, we offer training that ranges from a few hours to six months in length, specifically designed to meet the needs of your particular organization or programs. Contact us today at info@acuriae.org to learn more.

SPEAKER SERIES

Experts shared their work and thoughts this year on various topics affecting the reentry population and the courts. We saw an increase in attendees from different professions including judges, attorneys, nurses, city officials, and community leaders. We were also proud to have Stephen Asmus host an event with Judge Faruqui, sharing the dynamic of collaborative courts from both a judge and participant perspective. Thank you to the speakers for volunteering their time and sharing their expertise and passion on these subjects. Recordings can be found on YouTube page: www.youtube.com/@acuriae.



- Correctional Education and Reentry Programming That Works with Dr. Amy Lopez, February 2024
- Coming Full Circle, Victim and Reentry Support with Maureen French, May 2024
- Inside Collaborative Courts with Judge Zia Faruqui (hosted by Stephen Asmus), August 2024
- Measuring and Addressing Recovery Capital with Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, November 2024

Let us organize a webinar speaker series for the court and any interested organizations. We bring in subject matter experts on various topics relating to the reentry population, hosting events designed to educate and encourage conversation about challenges and approaches to improving outcomes for clients. Contact us today at info@acuriae.org to learn more.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Jesuit Prison Education Network (JPEN)

A Curiae has been collaborating with JPEN for the past few years, a group working to implement inside out prison education. These programs go into prison institutions to teach courses where incarcerated students can earn college credits. The hope is to build a sense of purpose while they are incarcerated and build a long term commitment to education upon release. These programs not only benefit incarcerated students but also provide professional development for correctional officers and offer unique learning experiences for university professors.

JPEN held two large events this year. The first was held at Loyola Chicago where we were able to share a book of essays we collectively wrote, "Making the Case for Jesuit Prison Education." It was amazing to represent the University of San Francisco for this work, and a very special thank you to Stephen Asmus for co-authoring our essay for the book. The second event was a gathering at Notre Dame in South Bend Indiana. It was two days of incredible presentations, diligent networking and information sharing, and vision casting to strategize how to implement more impact and collaboration moving forward.

I want to thank Father Tom Curran who has led JPEN in developing partnerships and a network of passionate individuals to help the reentry population. His mentorship has been instrumental in shaping A Curiae's core values: prioritizing people, fostering strong stakeholder relationships, and cultivating professional growth. Thank you, Father Tom, for your trust in A Curiae and our ongoing partnership!

LOOKING AHEAD

01

Oral History Project

Through much of this year, Leah McGarrigle, an oral historian and the Executive Director of the Northern District Practice Program, graciously volunteered to develop a project on the partnership between the Northern District of California and its non-profit partners. Leah and I will be conducting interviews with judges working in collaborative courts to understand their experience and perspective. Stay tuned in 2025 to see the completion of this fascinating project!

02

Education Observation

With the landscape of criminal justice constantly shifting, A Curiae hopes to attend additional trainings, conferences, and court hearings for the development of collaborative courts in the federal system. With robust and innovative programming, we plan to visit both the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Western District of Washington in 2025 to learn about their programs and enhance our knowledge.

03

Expanded Legal Resources

A Curiae will look to expand its partnership with the legal community to develop stronger referral services for legal issues our clients are experiencing. This will be done through partnership with bar associations, law firms, and attorneys that are interested in working with A Curiae and its clients.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will also continue to refine our service objectives, with a goal of serving **40 unique individuals** in 2025. Those clients will continue to receive community-based resource referrals, be matched with professional mentors, and receive financial support as needed. We hope to expand to an additional **3 districts** in the coming year.

Objective	Goal	Impact
Find appropriate community-based organizations that can meet the needs of clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 clients referred • 200 active community resources in directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ability to self-address needs • Increased knowledge of resources available
Match industry professionals with clients to support them in their reentry goals with practical professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 new matches • 40 hours of professional mentorship across all districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved social cohesion • Increased employment skills
Provide financial support to clients in order to remove barriers to their reentry success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 new requests • \$1,000 distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced barriers to successful community engagement
Provide trainings and organizational support to districts across the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 districts served • 3 trainings delivered • 4 speaking engagements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding and acceptance of alternatives to incarceration

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the stakeholders, organizations, government agencies, and individual donors who work with, collaborate with, and support A Curiae.

Northern District of California, United States District Court

- Judiciary
- United States Probation
- United States Pretrial Services
- United States Attorney's Office
- Federal Public Defenders Office
- Criminal Justice Act Panel
- Clerk's Office

Central District of California, United States District Court

- Conviction and Sentence Alternatives Program (CASA)
- Substance Abuse and Treatment Program (STAR)

District of Columbia, United States District Court

- Reentry Court

University of San Francisco

- School of Nursing and Health Professionals

Federal Judicial Center

- Christina Ruffino
- Mark Sherman
- Dr. Pete Luongo

Tech Coalition

- Michelle Bazu
- Gavin Corn
- Danielle Coleman
- Heather Alpino

BraunHagey & Borden

- Lauren Chase

Moving Worlds

Father Tom Curran, SJ • Anjuli Lam • Carolina Echeveria

Individual Donors

Thank you to our Board of Directors and Advisory Board members whose knowledge and input shape A Curiae’s approach to problem-solving.

-
- Crystal Sheffield
 - Sachin Sharma
 - Emebet Aklilu
 - Ellen Leonida
 - Anthony Castellano
 - Gavin O’Neil
 - Bobby Love
-



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to our volunteers and interns who brought their interest, passion, and skill to advance A Curiae.

- Catheryn Grier
 - Ben Cox
 - Mikayla Aubry
 - Jordan Cochran
 - Leah McGarrigle
-

Thank you to those who volunteered their time to contribute to our blog posts, A Curiae anecdotes, and other contributors.

- Dr. Amy Lopez
 - Maureen French
 - Magistrate Judge Zia Faruqui
 - Dr. Elizabeth Bowen
 - Stephen Burnes
 - Jenee Fortier
 - Mikayla Aubry
 - Bobby Love
-



A CURIAE

San Francisco, CA

www.acuriae.org
info@acuriae.org