

2024 Giving Circle Application

Member-Nominated Nonprofit

Name

Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)



Leader

Arshia Ali-Khan, CEO



Summarize what is the core mission & vision

Mission: To advance equality and justice for American Muslim organizations and individuals by promoting legal compliance and protecting their rights in matters concerning constitutional and national security law.

Vision: An America in which constitutional rights and liberties are upheld equally for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or cultural heritage.

Briefly explain when your nonprofit was founded, why and by whom.

MLFA was founded in 2001 by a coalition of civil rights activists seeking to redress systemic discrimination against American Muslims. 9/11 caused a surge in discrimination and unlawful profiling by both the public and private sectors - more critical and less obvious was that laws were changed clearly against Muslims. Islamophobia dominated politics and the media, affecting Muslims from the classroom to the courtroom. Countless unprecedented and overreaching legal actions harmed the reputations of individuals and organizations nationwide, who were left with no legal

recourse to defend themselves. Thus, MLFA was created to do just that. Educate, Protect and Defend.

Who is your constituency and approximately how many people are served by your nonprofit?

At its core, MLFA aims to serve the most marginalized and underserved individuals and community organizations and is proud to be a woman-led organization. Over 90% of our clients are BIPOC, representing over 24 different countries of origin. When choosing clients, we aim to support the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, including incarcerated people, immigrants facing government discrimination, and individuals whose civil rights are violated. In 2023 MLFA served over 41,000 people through our education and training programs and over 150 legal clients.

What is the impact of your nonprofit over the past five years?

Over the past 5 years, MLFA has demonstrated operational excellence & sustainable growth. We transitioned from a founder-centric grassroots organization to a national leader, expanding beyond our grassroots base while still maintaining a strong foundation in the community. Today, we are run on robust systems & standards, focused on advancing our mission, organizational brand, & program sustainability. We have merged our previously funded boutique law firm into MLFA and tripled our staff, serving over 150 clients/year on federal constitutional or national security matters. In 2023 alone we responded to 500+ legal intakes, trained over 41,000 community members and over 100 lawyers.

What is your goal for the next 1-5 years?

Muslim lives have been dehumanized under the guise of National Security for over the past 23 years. We continue to build programming that will strengthen Muslim legal power. This year we are launching the National Security Criminal Defense Resource Center. We are also working towards launching National Security Law and Policy Clinics across selected universities (creating a consortium - a critical cluster) of law schools & legal practitioners that are focused on law and policy as it relates to Muslims. Furthermore, we aim to launch MLFA's Research, law & policy department strengthening the Muslim narrative through research, to influence policy through strategic communications.

What is one key item our giving circle members should know?

MLFA is the ONLY Federal litigation firm that serves Muslims in Criminal, Nonprofit and Immigration cases. MLFA is an essential service that needs to be strengthened. MLFA is the ONLY Federal litigation firm that serves Muslims in Criminal, Nonprofit and Immigration cases. MLFA is an essential service that needs to be strengthened. MLFA is a woman-led nonprofit and

building community and support with other women is essential to the growth of MLFA. Too many doors get closed in our faces but our resilience and pursuit to establish justice changes lives. I hope you will become my strength and I continue to defend the defenders and protect and educate our UMMAH.

If you receive funding from the Women's Giving Circle, how would you plan to use the funds?

What we do in America has a global impact. MLFA will continue our strategic and empowering public narrative building and training (train the trainer) work will be to create long-term transformative change by dismantling the current narrative around structural Islamophobia that directly associates Muslims with Terrorism in the public sphere. By defending our collective interests through our focused communications strategy will increase accountability, provide solidarity mechanisms and promote participation, influencing decision making, directly engaging in service delivery, & challenging the current national security status quo. MLFA's focus on building our strategic narrative & communication tools, we believe will influence public policy processes.

Learn more about Muslim Legal Fund of America

Website: mlfa.org

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Nonprofit Tax ID# 01-0548371

Follow on Social Media: @muslimlegalfund

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/muslimlegalfund>

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Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/mlfavidoes>

Twitter - [x.com/MLFA](https://twitter.com/x.com/MLFA)

Additional Information:

 ***MLFA OnePagers.pdf***

Pictures





BREAKING NEWS

U.S. DEPT. OF TREASURY DESIGNATES SAMIDOUN PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONER NETWORK AS 'SHAM CHARITY' FOR DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORG.



LUNCH & LEARN
Worker Classifications & Mosques
Employee v volunteer



CHRISTINA A. JUMP
Civil Litigation
Department Head



CHELSEA GLOVER
Civil Litigation Service
Staff Attorney

Oct . 14 . 2024 @ 1PM CST
RSVP for Webinar MLFA.ORG

