

▶ READ HOW LEGAL
AID HELPED LEEANN
NAVIGATE THE
JUSTICE SYSTEM
ON PAGE 5.



TOGETHER, WE DO
THE **COMMUNITY
JUSTICE**



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Civil legal aid is critical to fulfilling our nation's promise of justice for all. ABLE and LAWO serve people of all backgrounds and ages, including the most vulnerable who face the toughest civil legal challenges: children, veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, and survivors of domestic violence. As the primary providers of free legal services for low-income people in our service area, our work is to ensure that no individual or family in our community is deprived of access to professional legal assistance solely because of an inability to pay.

Those who come to us for help are in crisis, with most facing financial emergencies and struggling to meet life's basic needs. The numbers of people living in poverty is staggering—48 percent of the U.S. population is considered poor or low-income. **That is one in every two people.**

Behind the numbers are real people—our friends and neighbors—who deserve the chance to achieve genuine and lasting improvement in their quality of life. The pressures of poverty, including housing and medical costs, inadequate government safety net programs, and poor educational opportunities, are what bring people to the breaking point.

Our advocates help navigate the justice system for those who do not understand how to do it for themselves, or who cannot afford a private attorney. We are dedicated to empowering people to rebuild their lives and become independent and self-sufficient. **Our work combines community outreach, education, litigation, and legislative advocacy—all aimed at making a real difference in the lives of our clients and our communities.**



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These numbers do not include the additional thousands of people who have benefited from materials and information on our website, pro bono legal assistance clinics, attendance at community legal education presentations and trainings, continuing legal education presentations for lawyers, and outreach visits to homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior centers, health clinics, nursing homes, and migrant labor camps.

* obtained benefits and awards in areas of child support, spousal support, unemployment compensation, supplemental security income, debt write-off, disability assistance, food stamps, and damages.

MEETING THE NEED FOR LEGAL AID IN OUR COMMUNITY

According to our Constitution, people charged with a crime must have a court-appointed attorney if they cannot afford to hire an attorney on their own. There is no such right for people needing legal assistance for matters like domestic violence, child custody, housing, employment, or health care. LAWO and ABLE work to ensure that justice is available and secure for vulnerable, low-income people living in northwest and west central Ohio.

ABLE and LAWO attorneys and advocates work in areas where private attorneys usually do not, including representation of veterans, tenants, domestic violence survivors, low-income seniors, and those receiving public assistance. We also work with a wide range of community partners to address community-wide problems. Our attorneys have experience helping vulnerable people in a time of crisis, including those

facing a loss of housing and financial security and experiencing threats to their safety.

Resolving problems and enforcing basic legal rights strengthens families and improves our communities for us all. Together, LAWO and ABLE have developed Strategic Advocacy Initiatives that focus our work where it is needed most in the communities we serve. We recognize that every client has different, individual needs, and we work to meet those needs through a full range of services to both rural and urban communities within our service area.

We believe that equal justice is achievable and we will continue our efforts—working together with clients and our community partners—to make it a reality.

OUR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY INITIATIVES



Healthcare
& Public Benefits



Women &
Children in
Poverty



Meaningful
Access to Justice



Meaningful &
Appropriate
Education



Agricultural
Worker &
Immigrant Rights



Housing &
Community
Economic
Development



HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC BENEFITS

We recognize that access to quality healthcare and public benefits is vital for families struggling in poverty. Our advocates focus on access to short-term or long-term benefits as a necessary part of creating opportunities for families to improve their quality of life and achieve self-sufficiency. Our advocacy also seeks to reduce health disparities in low-income and minority communities and encourages participation in public benefits programs and services in the least restrictive environment.

▶ JEANETTE'S STORY

After moving from one county in Ohio to another, Jeanette saw her Food Assistance benefit drop down to only \$16 per month. This gave the frail senior fifty cents per day for food. She could not understand why she had been approved for so little assistance to support herself.

LAWO intervened for Jeanette, leading to a modest increase in her food allowance, but still not enough to live on. Advocates then requested a state hearing and negotiated on her behalf. It turned out that the department had improperly calculated Jeanette's benefits. **Her Food Assistance increased to a sustainable level, and Jeanette received retroactive payments as well. Her financial and nutritional status is much more secure.**





WOMEN & CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Our advocates assist domestic violence survivors in escaping the violence and creating a safe and stable environment for themselves and their families through restraining orders, access to housing and economic stability, and immigration assistance. We work with survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition, our advocates provide legal assistance to human trafficking victims through a Human Trafficking Protection Project.

▶ [READ SHAUNA'S STORY ON PAGE 19.](#)



MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Attorneys and other advocates inform and empower low-income persons about their legal rights and available resources and assistance through appropriate education and targeted outreach. In addition, we leverage technology to broaden access to justice for those who cannot afford attorney representation by making legal information, pro bono assistance, and pro se resources accessible. By building and maintaining community partnerships and relationships, we increase our ability to meet client needs.

▶ [READ LILAH'S STORY ON PAGE 42.](#)



MEANINGFUL & APPROPRIATE EDUCATION

We work to secure access to quality educational opportunities for children living in poverty, immigrant children, homeless children, children in foster care, and for children with disabilities. Our efforts focus on the disparities in the quality of education for children in poverty, particularly African American and Latino children, who are often served by schools that do not meet their needs and too often treat low-income children and their struggles as criminal matters instead of as educational needs.

▶ [READ SASHA'S STORY ON PAGE 31.](#)



AGRICULTURAL WORKER & IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

We offer a variety of free legal services, information, and referrals to vulnerable agricultural workers and their families who are often subjected to systemic exploitation and civil rights abuses. We also work to ensure that low-income immigrants have access to quality legal services, advocacy, and educational information in order to stabilize their immigration status. We are committed to providing legal representation to immigrants and refugees in order to keep families together, build a stronger community, and protect victims of crime.

▶ [READ VIVIENNE'S STORY ON PAGE 15.](#)



HOUSING & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We strive to ensure that low-income individuals and families have access to safe, affordable housing, including the freedom and choice to access areas of opportunity and be connected with education, healthcare, employment, and other critical resources to improve the quality of life. We work closely with groups focusing on economic development activities to ensure that low-income individuals have the ability to participate in and benefit from development within their own communities.

▶ LEEANN'S STORY

Leeann was trying to escape physical abuse from her husband and create a safe environment for her four-year-old daughter. However, her estranged husband continued the violence in front of their daughter during his parental visits in Leeann's home. He was charged and arrested for domestic violence after Leeann reported the abuse to the police. Following through on her lease agreement, Leeann reported the abuse and arrests to her subsidized housing landlord. She was stunned when she received an eviction notice citing her for allowing a person onto the property who committed a crime. Unable to afford an attorney, Leeann reached out to ABLE for help. Her attorney successfully argued that Leeann's housing rights were protected under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which prohibits subsidized housing landlords from evicting survivors due to incidents of violence. As a result, the eviction was dismissed and Leeann was able to retain her subsidized housing. **In addition, Leeann's positive outcome lead to the housing complex agreeing to revise its policies to be consistent with Fair Housing Act and VAWA protections and provide training for all of its staff.**



KEEPING FAMILIES FROM LOSING THEIR HOMES

Being forced to leave your home is difficult for any family, but when the tenant's rent subsidy is terminated, they are often forced to pay rent they cannot afford, ending up homeless or living in seriously compromised housing.

A series of clients who were terminated from a local housing authority program for minor alleged violations contacted LAWO attorneys for help. Their subsidies had been terminated for issues including failure to change lightbulbs or a single battery in a smoke detector, or for a dirty stove or a loose refrigerator handle. In some situations, the tenants had a disabling condition that prevented their compliance. In others, the defect was either not the obligation of the tenant, or simply not a violation of any regulation or law.

LAWO advocates aggressively challenged each of these cases, successfully keeping clients in their homes, or having them immediately rehoused in subsidized housing. Through negotiations with the housing authority, LAWO obtained an agreement limiting such drastic measures as termination from Section 8 to cases of serious and repeated violations, consistent with the law.

CRISIS STABILIZATION PROJECT

The Crisis Stabilization Project assists low-income persons in crisis seeking legal assistance to obtain information about their legal rights, prepare for court appearances or administrative hearings, and connect to appropriate resources and community partners.

In 2016 the Crisis Stabilization Project provided assistance to **1,933** individuals, including:

- **722** individuals seeking assistance with a housing matter;
- **488** individuals who recently experienced domestic violence;
- **167** individuals seeking to obtain or maintain public benefits;
- **42** individuals seeking assistance with healthcare or Medicaid; and
- **280** individuals seeking assistance with a consumer matter.

In collaboration with senior centers, nursing homes, senior housing, and community centers, LAWO brings legal services to vulnerable populations in or near their homes. Counsel and advice and limited legal assistance is provided by telephone, mail, or in person to stabilize a client's situation in order to determine whether more help is available for them, or to help them resolve a relatively uncomplicated legal situation on their own.

STABILIZING FAMILIES THROUGH LEGAL HELP

Unresolved legal issues often affect family stability. For example, unmanageable debt makes it more difficult for low-income families and individuals to break the cycle of poverty, even if a person works hard to become more educated and self-sufficient. Debt resulting from long stretches of unemployment, medical costs, or overwhelmingly high interest rates becomes nearly impossible to pay down. In addition, low-income families are often penalized again when prospective employers or landlords conduct credit checks before hiring or renting to them.

For more than 15 years, LAWO advocates have worked to help stabilize the finances of Lucas County households by stopping or preventing wage garnishments, resolving judgment liens, and creating better credit opportunities. Our attorneys provide legal information, legal advice, and representation in hearings, appeals, and negotiations, all made possible with funding from the Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services (LCDJFS). By maintaining an on-site presence at the LCDJFS, and accepting referrals from other sources, LAWO attorneys are available to provide legal assistance to eligible individuals to remove the legal barriers hindering them from achieving family stability. Eligible clients consult with LAWO attorneys to identify and address issues such as divorce, child custody, or visitation arrangements; uncollected child or spousal support; financial uncertainty caused by unpaid bills; suspension or revocation of a driver's license; unstable housing situations; transportation difficulties resulting from consumer fraud; criminal records sealing; domestic violence; and other unresolved legal issues.

Since 2011, LAWO attorneys have helped more than 300 clients discharge or remove approximately \$8.9 million in debt. During this same period, LAWO helped 283 people obtain a divorce or dissolution, and obtained, preserved, or increased public benefits in 99 cases. LAWO's work has resulted in obtaining more than \$124,000 in ongoing monthly installment payments and more than \$153,000 in lump sum payments in family law and public benefit cases.



LAWO is funded in part by:

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PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

As a result of the settlement of a case brought by ABLE and others, parents and guardians with limited English proficiency (LEP) are now able to better advocate for their children. ABLE and Disability Rights Ohio filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, which was later referred to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, against seven local school districts and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and its Office for Exceptional Children. The complaint alleged that the school districts and the ODE discriminated against LEP children and parents on the basis of national origin and engaged in discriminatory practices, violating their obligations under various federal statutes. The Ohio school districts and ODE failed to provide translation of important educational documents and failed to provide appropriate interpreter services for parents and students, effectively denying them access to and participation in basic educational programming within the schools. Under the settlement, the school districts will create a process for identifying LEP parents and notifying them of the availability of free language assistance for school programs and activities. The school districts also are required to provide qualified interpreters at meetings, and critical written documents must be translated into the language of each frequently encountered LEP parent group. Examples of these documents include special education documents such as Individualized Educational Programs and evaluations; disciplinary notices and procedures; registration, enrollment and emergency forms; report cards; notices of parent-teacher conferences and meetings; parent handbooks and fact sheets; documentation of academic opportunities and services; and the initial request for information about the parents' preferred language. The Office of Civil Rights will conduct reviews to ensure that the plans are being followed.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITY RIGHTS FOR LOW-INCOME CONSUMERS

ABLE intervened in two Dayton Power and Light (DP&L) PUCO cases on behalf of a community group in Dayton, The Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition. The intervention aimed to limit rate increases and to secure shut off prevention funds for use in the DP&L territory, providing access to affordable utilities for low-income Ohioans. ABLE also continued to have an attorney serving as a member of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. USAC administers all telecommunications universal service programs for the nation including those directed at schools and libraries, high cost areas, rural health clinics, and low-income customers. ABLE's work contributed to the decision by the FCC to allow the Lifeline subsidy to be used for broadband service, and ABLE continues to work to ensure that the newly modified program is implemented in ways that maximize benefits to the low-income community.

IMPROVING FARMWORKER HOUSING CONDITIONS

Improving housing standards for migrant farmworkers living in agricultural camps helps to ensure a steady flow of workers, which is key to maintaining the viability of agriculture as Ohio's top industry.

ABLE and law students from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law won a victory for migrant farmworkers across Ohio. Conditions in most migrant camps are abysmal, with no requirement for running water in housing units or partitions between shared latrines, leaving no privacy for workers. Some common health and safety standards are also not required, such as smoke detectors in each housing unit, or regular cleaning of non-flush toilets. The students provided groundbreaking research in support of ABLE's work on the Ohio Department of Health Agricultural Labor Camp Rule Review Committee which led to new regulations that now require running water, smoke detectors, and bedframes in the housing units provided to workers and their family members living at migrant labor camps. While there is still a long way to go, the new provisions come as a relief to the thousands of migrant farmworkers living in more than 100 agricultural camps across Ohio. Taking effect on January 1, 2017, the improved regulations and housing conditions will benefit the overall agricultural industry and boost Ohio's competitiveness, with the goal of drawing workers to the state.

VETERANS LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Veterans Legal Advocacy Project provides legal services for veterans, active duty military service members, and household members of veterans and active duty service members throughout ABLE's 32-county service area.

The project provides legal representation to veterans on numerous legal issues, including housing, public benefits, VA benefits, healthcare access, homeownership preservation, domestic relations, expungements, consumer rights and bankruptcy.

Attorneys in the Veterans Legal Advocacy Project engage in extensive community outreach, legal education, and collaboration with other veterans' advocacy services. This includes conducting legal information clinics and partnering with groups such as the Veterans Service Commission, VA Health Centers, and Veteran Treatment Courts in Toledo and Dayton.



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.

LONG-TERM CARE
Ombudsman
PROGRAM

Serving as a voice for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, ABLE's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for all residents of nursing homes and adult care facilities, and for consumers receiving in-home care services. The Ombudsman Program seeks resolution of problems and empowerment of residents to improve their quality of life and care. In 2016, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program provided assistance to more than **3,500 individuals**. Staff worked on **538** cases involving **811** various complaints. The most frequent complaint was involuntary discharge and evictions from long-term care facilities. Additionally, Ombudsman staff made presentations to approximately **500** staff members of long-term care providers, and participated in numerous community education presentations and events.

HOME CHOICE PROGRAM

The Ombudsman program continued to provide coordinated transition services through the HOME Choice Program.

Administered through the Ohio Department of Medicaid, the HOME Choice Program assists older adults and persons with disabilities to move from nursing homes into home and community-based settings.

Transition services include locating housing, setting up a household, and coordinating community-based services. Staff assisted **38 HOME Choice clients** including 17 who successfully transitioned back into the community.

MYCARE OHIO

ABLE's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program was awarded a grant through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand the Ombudsman program's services to MyCare Ohio beneficiaries, including outreach, consumer empowerment through education, complaint investigation, and person-centered complaint resolution.

In 2016, ABLE Ombudsmen spent more than **200 hours working on MyCare Ohio cases** by coordinating the benefits offered through the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Their efforts helped to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the individual while also improving healthcare quality and outcomes, as well as containing costs.

OMBUDSMAN VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATES

Volunteer associate ombudsmen play a significant role in providing education and advocacy for consumers of long-term care. These volunteers conduct regular presence visits to many long-term care facilities, educating residents about their rights and empowering them to take action. Volunteer associates conducted **1,218 advocacy visits**, making **9,431 contacts** with long-term care consumers. Volunteer associates contributed **2,389 hours** working toward resolution in **187 cases**.

Lori Amison	John Bombrys	Kay Ernest	Paulette Johnson	Heb Miller	Colleen Ryder	Sharon Tynan
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Bonnie Beck	Traci Doran	Peggy Hancock	Ted Meiers	Terry Ross	Christine Terry	Carol Zimmerman
Jill Bixler	Maryan Eitniear					

▶ DONNA'S STORY

Ombudsman Program Secures Ramp Repairs, Making Home Safe

Donna enjoyed living in her own home and getting out into the community whenever she could, despite using a wheelchair. When her ramp became deteriorated and dangerous to use, however, coming and going became a threat to Donna's safety. An ABLE Ombudsman working with MyCare Ohio advocated for Donna with her healthcare plan provider, and succeeded in securing the repairs Donna needed. **With her ramp now intact, Donna is able to safely access her community with confidence.**

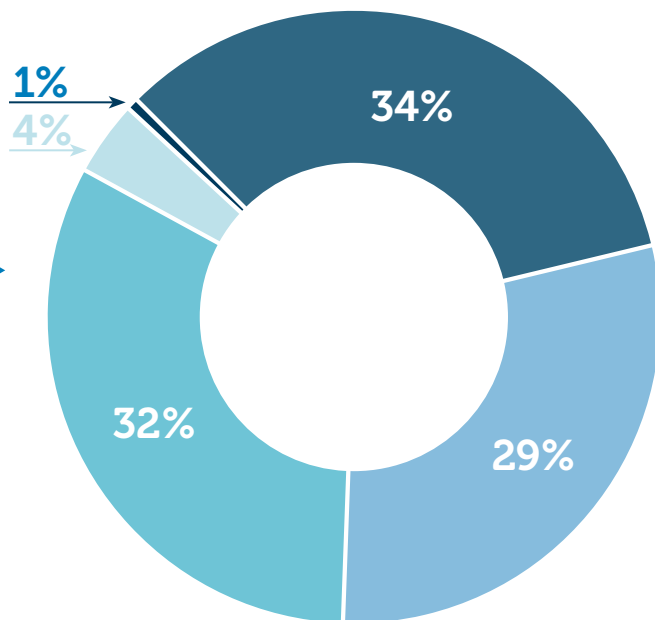


2016 OPERATING REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

This report is related to ABLE and LAWO's operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to depreciation, the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice, or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.

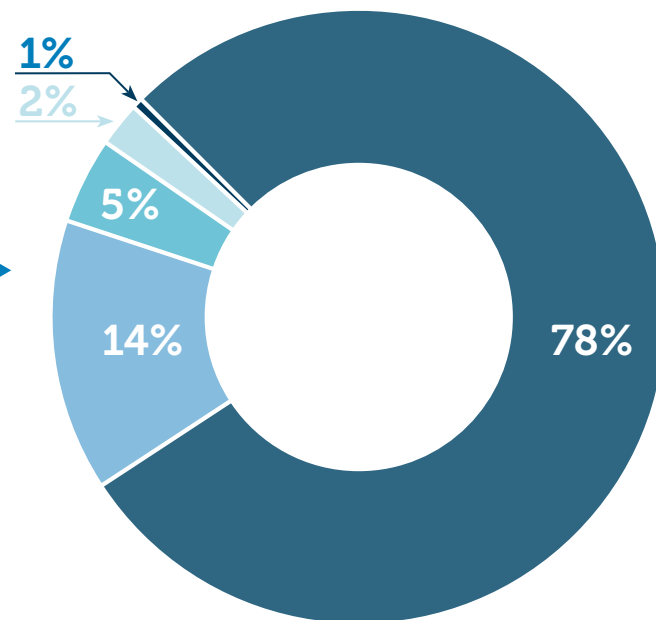
SUPPORT & REVENUE

➤ Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$3,675,112
➤ Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO only)	\$3,193,771
➤ Other Grants & Contracts	\$3,526,435
➤ Fundraising & Special Events	\$428,178
➤ Miscellaneous Income & Gain on Investments	\$67,762
Subtotal	\$10,891,258
Transfer to Reserves	\$444,132
Total	\$10,447,126



EXPENSES & EXPENDITURES

➤ Compensation & Benefits	\$8,177,152
➤ Operating Costs	\$1,494,010
➤ Contract Services	\$473,789
➤ Travel, Support & Training	\$243,782
➤ Miscellaneous	\$58,393
Total	\$10,447,126



Thanks to the generous response of our donors, ABLE and LAWO are able to continue providing critical civil legal services to those in our community who cannot afford legal help. Your support is an investment in the present and future of our legal aid firms. We are very grateful to the individuals, law firms, foundations, and organizations that chose to contribute to LAWO and ABLE among their 2016 charitable donations. The collective impact of your donations has never been greater, nor has the need for your support.

2016
NORTHWEST OHIO
JUSTICE FOR
ALL CAMPAIGN

\$241,000

2016
MIAMI VALLEY
CAMPAIGN FOR
EQUAL JUSTICE

\$170,000

(MIAMI VALLEY CAMPAIGN
FOR EQUAL JUSTICE
INCLUDES JUSTICE ON TAP!
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AWARDS GALA)

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are pleased to report
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giving by their staff and
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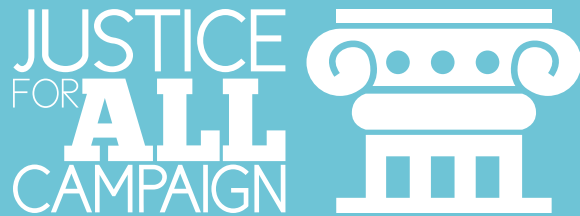


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2016 NORTHWEST OHIO JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN



This is the third year for the combined Justice for All Campaign, a united fundraising effort among LAWO, the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program, and ABLE. The Justice for All Campaign allows our donors to support what matters most—making equal justice a reality in northwest Ohio. Thank you on behalf of our clients whose lives are greatly improved as a result of your support!



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VIVIENNE'S STORY

Vivienne's traffickers promised her a better-paying job and the chance to go to school in America. What they gave her when she arrived from Malawi was a brutal life of domestic servitude. For more than two years, Vivienne endured physical, sexual and psychological abuse. Attorneys from ABLE became part of Vivienne's rescue team. They helped Vivienne acquire a T Visa so she could continue living and working in the United States. They also represented her while Vivienne assisted with a federal investigation of her traffickers. Vivienne stills deals with the physical and psychological effects of her trauma. **Yet she has built a wonderful life for herself, achieving self-sufficiency through her job and continuing on the path to citizenship.**



2016 NORTHWEST OHIO JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

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SHAUNA'S STORY

Fear dominated Shauna's life—fear of her abusive spouse, and fear for her children's safety if she tried to leave him. A victim advocate suggested Shauna contact legal aid for help. The safety planning offered by a Legal Aid attorney was a critical first step in Shauna's pathway out of fear. With her attorney's help, Shauna filed for divorce. Her attorney negotiated a resolution of the case that granted Shauna full custody of her children and child support, as well as a fair division of marital property. **Now, instead of living in fear, Shauna and her children are moving on with their lives.**



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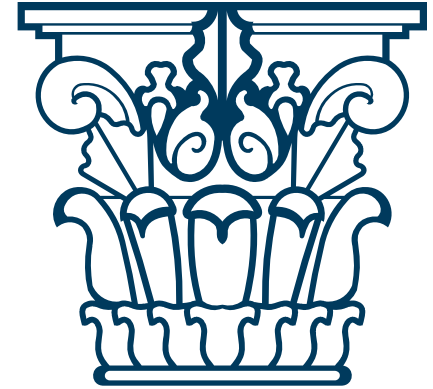
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More than 550 people were in attendance at the 17th Access to Justice Awards Dinner, held Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at The Pinnacle in Maumee. The purpose of the Access to Justice Awards is to celebrate the great work of legal aid and pro bono programs in our community; to increase critical financial support for legal services to the poor; to recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary service in the public interest; and to hear from a prominent national leader on the importance of equal access to justice in our society. We were pleased that the comments made by our keynote speaker, **Wil Haygood**, reiterated the importance of the work and services we provide to low-income people in our community. Wil is the author of *The Butler* and *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America*.



At the dinner, we had an opportunity to honor **Rochelle A. Abou-Arraj**, **Michael D. Hampton**, **Hon. Connie F. Zimmelman**, and **Michael J. Todak** for their great contributions to equal justice in our community. Our honorees are evidence that individuals and organizations can make a difference in the lives of significant numbers of people.



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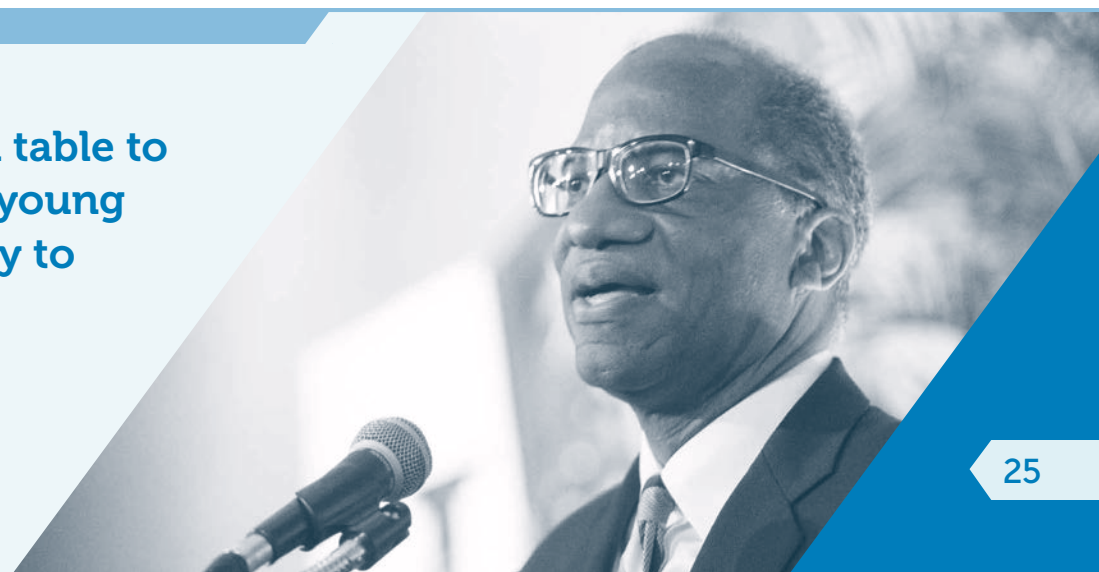
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“I want every black mother at her kitchen table to be able to look at her young daughter or young son and say, it is possible for you someday to make it on to the U.S. Supreme Court.”

WIL HAYGOOD





The 2016 Race4Justice drew close to 150 runners and walkers. Proceeds from the Race are designated to help ABLE's Medical-Legal Partnership for Children program serve more children and families.

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SASHA'S STORY

A good education is the foundation for success. Students with disabilities, like Sasha, need barriers removed to ensure this foundation is secure. When Sasha began struggling academically and behaviorally in school, her mother knew Sasha needed more help than she was receiving. Sasha's mother reached out to Legal Aid. An attorney requested a special education evaluation for Sasha and accompanied Sasha's mother to the reporting and planning meetings. Her attorney then worked to obtain the academic and behavior supports that Sasha needed. **With this help, Sasha's mother is happy to report her daughter is doing well in school.**



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Thank you to donors who have stepped forward to support ABLE's Immigration Advocacy Project. Immigrants and refugees have long been a part of our communities' social, cultural, and economic fabric. With your support, we are able to directly assist immigrants and refugees who face many legal challenges.

Through the work of the Immigration Advocacy Project, low-income immigrants and refugees are now able to live stable, productive lives, and can continue to give back to their communities. Thank you for recognizing this legacy by funding this important project.

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PASCAL'S STORY

Pascal is a 66-year-old man who originally came to the United States as a refugee from Burundi. Because of a learning disability made worse by living through Burundi's ethnic warfare, Pascal was unable to learn to read or write in English. As a refugee and then a Lawful Permanent Resident, Pascal relied on public benefits, particularly Medicaid, to survive. When he was 65, his Medicaid was unlawfully terminated because he was not a U.S. citizen. ABLE staff worked with Pascal to file an application for naturalization with a disability exception. After two rounds of interviews with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service Field Office, **Pascal's application for the exemption was approved. He became a U.S. citizen and his benefits were reinstated.**





Successful legal aid programs encourage and implement creative and innovative approaches to engage private attorneys in the delivery of legal services in order to help serve more clients.

LAWO has maintained partnerships with pro bono legal services programs, including the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP) and the Toledo Bar Association (TBA) Pro Bono Legal Services Program. LAWO is a major funder of the GDVLP and the TBA Pro Bono Legal Services programs. Both programs, along with ABLE and LAWO's pro bono programs, recruit hundreds of lawyers each year who help fill the gaps for those thousands of low-income people who would otherwise go unrepresented in legal matters that affect their lives and the lives of their families. Our volunteer attorneys spend a significant number of hours advocating for children and families, representing victims of domestic violence, and generally providing access to justice to those who might otherwise be overlooked. In addition to direct representation of clients, some attorneys and law firms choose to provide time on larger cases that provide for meaningful change in the lives of individuals and that result in systemic change in our legal system.

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In 2011, Phil retired from Marathon Petroleum Company where he served as general counsel and participated in the company's pro bono program with LAWO. "I maintain an active license so that I am able to continue to do pro bono work," he says. Phil is compelled by his ethical and personal beliefs to assist others. "There are people who cannot afford legal services who desperately need help." Since his retirement, Phil has provided pro bono services through the LAWO Pro Bono LiveChat Project, a unique opportunity for attorneys to expand their potential for volunteer work without a large time commitment. Pro Bono attorneys assist in providing "chat-based" counsel and advice in civil legal matters to eligible low-income clients via web-based technology. The project leverages existing online communication tools and matches low-income persons with pro bono attorneys based on availability and expertise. "Since my retirement, I have been able to continue helping clients in need from my home through the LiveChat project. The training is short and simple and provides for CLE credit. Legal Aid makes it easy and provides technical and legal support."



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Volunteers play a vital role at LAWO and ABLE, providing civil legal assistance and support in all areas of advocacy. All volunteers benefit from hands-on experiences and training, as well as professional support and feedback.

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The Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) is a group of attorneys who are the next generation of leaders in the northwest Ohio legal community. The ELC was created to support the work and mission of ABLE and LAWO through professional development, pro bono participation, and other ways that will raise awareness.

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NORTHWEST OHIO DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Development Advisory Council is composed of professional, legal, business, and philanthropic leaders dedicated to promoting the mission and vision of LAWO and ABLE. The Council's mission is to assist the staff in securing individual and corporate gifts, trusts, and bequests to sustain our programs, and to serve as a resource by providing suggestions and advice on programs and activities. Members of the Development Advisory Council provide leadership for a united effort to ensure ABLE and LAWO's reputations as one of the nation's foremost legal aid firms.

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LILAH'S STORY

Access to justice helps people become self-reliant. Lilah took control and protected her family from homelessness with the help of the legal counsel she received from LAWO. Lilah's new landlord was a Limited Liability Company (LLC) who wanted to evict the single mother and her young child from their home of three years. Lilah contacted LAWO and was provided with legal counsel to help her handle the unwarranted eviction. After hearing the facts of the case and reviewing court and auditor records, her attorney informed Lilah that since the property was owned by a LLC, the company must be represented by an attorney in a legal action. Lilah's landlord, however, had filed the eviction without an attorney. This became Lilah's defense to the eviction action, and she was able to get the case dismissed as a result. **Supported by the legal advice she received from her LAWO attorney, Lilah achieved success and security for her family.**



LAWO and ABLE's client services are supported by public and private funding. Listed are the names of the funders and the programs they supported in 2016.

ABLE & LAWO JOINT FUNDING SOURCES

Anderson Foundation

Support for legal services for Basic Needs Assistance.



Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Legal assistance to senior citizens in 10 counties of LAWO and ABLE's service area. Also supports ABLE's Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council—Second Chance Act

Support for legal assistance to adults and juveniles reentering society following incarceration.

Dana Foundation

Support for legal services for Basic Needs Assistance.

Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation

Support for the Education Success Advocacy Project.



Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

Support of ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, the ABLE Agricultural Worker and Immigrant Rights Practice Group, the ABLE Equal Justice Works Fellowship, the ABLE Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows, advocacy for children and veterans, and other projects.



United Way of the Greater Dayton Area

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, including low-income residents of Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties.

ABLE FUNDING SOURCES

Board of Lucas County Commissioners

Support for immigration services.

City of Dayton

Support for immigration services.

Consulate of Mexico—Detroit

Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Consulate of Mexico—Indianapolis

Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust

Support for veteran services.

Dayton Children's Hospital

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Dayton Foundation

Support for immigration services.

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement

Support to provide immigration services to survivors of torture.

Department of Labor—Toledo Goodwill Industries

Support for Re-Entry services.

Equal Justice Works

Support for Attorney Fellows working in the areas of veterans and immigrant children.

Five Rivers Health Centers

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

France Stone Foundation

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Iddings Foundation

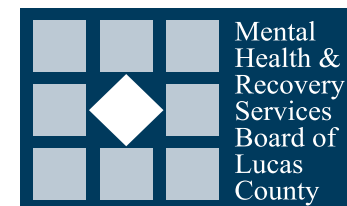
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Immigration Legal Assistance Program

Support for immigration services.

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.



Mental Health & Recovery Services

Board of Lucas County

Advocacy on behalf of consumers within the mental health system.

Clement O. Miniger Foundation

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Montgomery County Human Services Levy

Support for immigration services.



Northwest Ohio Community Shares

Operating support through workplace giving.

Ohio Attorney General

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in northwest Ohio.

Ohio Department of Aging

Support for the MyCare Ohio and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

PNC Foundation

Support for foreclosure work in Dayton.

ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital Foundation

Support of the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Retirement Research Foundation

Support for services to the elderly.



Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation

Support of the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Skadden Fellowship Foundation

Support for an Attorney Fellow working in the area of immigration services.

The Stranahan Foundation

Support of the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Toledo Community Foundation

Support for mapping incidents of childhood asthma and for immigration services.

Toledo Community Foundation— Stranahan Supporting Organization

Support of the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

United Way of Greater Toledo

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and for immigration services.



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.

LAWO FUNDING SOURCES



Area Agency on Aging, PSA2

Legal assistance for seniors in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA3

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties.

Area Agency on Aging—Ohio District 5

Legal assistance to seniors in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods

Federal Community Development Block Grant funds supporting legal assistance in housing matters for low-income City of Toledo residents.

Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association

Support for the LAWO Findlay office and for legal assistance to residents of Findlay and Hancock County.

Internal Revenue Service

Funding for Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters.



LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Legal Services Corporation

Support of LAWO area-wide services and support for technology projects.

Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Title XX funding for legal assistance to low-income individuals and families.

Miami County Department of Job and Family Services

Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.



Montgomery County Human Services Levy

Support for legal assistance to frail elderly individuals in Montgomery County.

Ohio Attorney General

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to provide legal assistance to domestic violence survivors.

Ohio Benefit Bank

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank Project in Lucas and Wood counties.

Sandusky Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.

JACKIE'S STORY

Jackie, a forty-year-old mother of two young children, came to the LAWO offices located in the Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services for help when her wages were being garnished for an old debt she had incurred when she was younger. Because her family received food assistance, Jackie was eligible for LAWO services. Her attorney reviewed her case and found that Jackie's wages were being improperly garnished. As a result, her LAWO attorney was successful in negotiating the return of more than \$3,000 in garnished funds to Jackie. Jackie is working with LAWO to review what her options are in preventing any future wage garnishments.





Springfield Foundation

For **good**. For **ever**.

Springfield Foundation

Support for legal services to low-income Clark County residents.

Toledo Municipal Court, City of Toledo

Support for the Civil Legal Assistance Services Project (CLAS) to provide on-site legal assistance to individuals with housing and consumer cases.

United States Department of Justice

Legal Assistance for Victims Project to provide legal assistance to domestic violence survivors.

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Defiance County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Defiance County.

United Way of Fulton County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Fulton County.

United Way of Greater Dayton

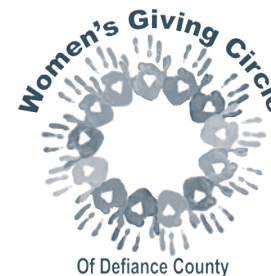
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties.

United Way of Greater Toledo

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties.

United Way of Williams County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.



Women's Giving Circle of Defiance County

Legal assistance to victims of human trafficking.



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