

# Together, We Do The Community Justice



Advocates for Basic  
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of Western  
Ohio, Inc.®

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## **ABLE and LAWO**

### **Ensuring justice for all, no matter one's income...**

**ABLE** and **LAWO** represent clients and groups of people living in poverty in civil (non-criminal) legal matters. We are committed to protecting the rights of people with much at stake and nowhere else to turn. Through litigation and other advocacy, we prevent homelessness, domestic abuse, and discrimination and improve opportunities for education, housing, employment, and access to health care and public benefits for people living in poverty in 32 counties in western Ohio. ABLE represents immigrants and refugees throughout Ohio. In all cases, LAWO and ABLE work to address the root causes of poverty by seeking systemic solutions.

**Without legal aid, thousands of people would go without legal help when they need it.**

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# 2017 Was a Year of Achievements!

We celebrated the many accomplishments of **Joseph R. Tafelski** following **41 years** of outstanding service to **ABLE**. And, we welcomed his successor **Janet Hales**, previous director of the Ohio Poverty Law Center.

It was a year that marked the **50th anniversary** of legal aid in the Greater Dayton area. **ABLE** and **LAWO** announced an expansion of services thanks to a campaign, in tribute, that raised more than **\$1.3 million**.

Joe's retirement was met with mixed emotions. While applauding his leadership that spanned more than three decades, we were saddened by his departure. Joe joined ABLE in 1972 as a staff attorney. He left to work for the Fair Housing Center in 1976 and returned to head ABLE in 1980. He championed the rights of people who were disenfranchised. A fellowship, funded by Joe's long-time supporters and friends, will allow ABLE to provide opportunities for an attorney to follow in Joe's footsteps.

When Janet Hales was selected to succeed Joe, she was not new to legal aid or public interest law. Janet served as the Pro Bono Director and

Advocacy Director at LAWO before heading the Ohio Poverty Law Center in April 2015. Janet brings her experience in fair housing, poverty law, and leadership to her new position. She is honored and humbled by her selection and looks forward to connecting with clients and supporters throughout the region.

Janet and LAWO Executive Director **Kevin C. Mulder** are leading numerous initiatives. The expansion of legal services in the Greater Dayton Area will allow the firms to serve **1,000** additional residents over the next five years. That will reduce the number of people who are turned away annually due to limited funding. The expansion also will help specific neighborhoods to overcome targeted obstacles reducing poverty.

That's a great foundation for 2018! Plans also are underway for ABLE's 50th Anniversary celebration in the Toledo area and the 20th Anniversary of LAWO in that community.

We appreciate – much more than you can imagine – your support of our efforts to ensure justice for all.



**Joseph R. Tafelski**



**Janet E. Hales**



**Kevin C. Mulder**

# Fellowship Honors Joseph R. Tafelski

## Focusing on Housing and Nurturing Young Attorneys



For 45 years, **Joseph R. Tafelski** championed the rights of underserved people. He had an interest in ensuring fairness in housing and nurturing young attorneys to stand up for the rights of people who are disadvantaged.

In his honor, the **Joseph R. Tafelski Fellowship in Housing and Community Economic Development** has been established and the first fellow will be hired soon to serve for two years. Joe's colleagues, friends and family raised more than **\$129,000** to launch the

fellowship and will seek funding to make it an ongoing opportunity for newer attorneys.

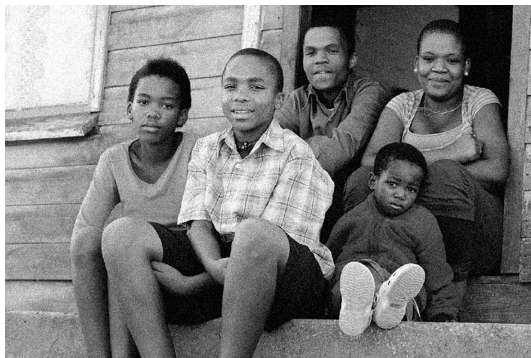
The Fellowship reflects the work Joe engaged in when he began his legal career with **ABLE** and in Toledo at the Fair Housing Center. Joe also has been very supportive of the AmeriCorps Program, Equal Justice Works Fellows, Skadden Fellows, and similar programs that provide ongoing opportunities for newer attorneys.

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## Residents Rebuild Neighborhoods

In 2017, we launched several community reinvestment projects in challenged neighborhoods of Toledo, Dayton, and Lima.

In the Junction neighborhood in Toledo, an **ABLE** attorney mapped historical bank redlining practices that made home loans unavailable to residents and found similar lending patterns today. The attorney worked with neighborhood residents and shared information about banks' obligations under the **Community Reinvestment Act** (CRA) to serve communities.



They developed a strategic plan to rebuild the neighborhood.

Residents now are engaging with area banks to explore funding and loans for home repairs. They are also working on workforce development and other projects in their strategic plan.

When neighborhood residents have the information they need and access to decisionmakers in their communities, they can affect positive change and are empowered to create a springboard for development, investment, and other improvements.

# Building on our Strengths

**ABLE** and **LAWO** are bound together by a shared commitment to bring fairness and justice to our clients. Based on research assessed through a strategic planning process, the areas of practice listed here have been established to serve our clients. Our firms continue to seek justice for all and make a significant improvement in the lives of the people we help. We know that without us, many individuals and families living in poverty would go without legal assistance because they are unable to afford it. With your help, we can continue to stand up for their rights.

## Access to Health Care and Benefits

Working to eliminate the barriers to employment and self-sufficiency for families struggling in poverty. Assisting clients with access to healthcare and in securing public benefits.

## Stability and Independence for Survivors

Empowering domestic violence survivors to escape violence and create a safe and stable environment for themselves and their families through protective orders, access to housing and economic stability, and immigration assistance.

## Agricultural Workers & Immigrant Rights

Protecting the legal rights of agricultural workers and immigrant families by addressing unfair or discriminatory employment practices and civil rights violations, including racial or ethnic profiling and protecting their rights in immigration proceedings.

## Meaningful Access to Education

Securing access to quality educational opportunities for children living in poverty, immigrant children, homeless children, children in foster care, and children with disabilities.

## Housing & Community Development

Representing clients to prevent evictions and preserve safe, affordable, and healthy housing, and helping low-income communities access economic development opportunities. Preventing housing conditions that affect the social determinants of health.

## Access to Justice

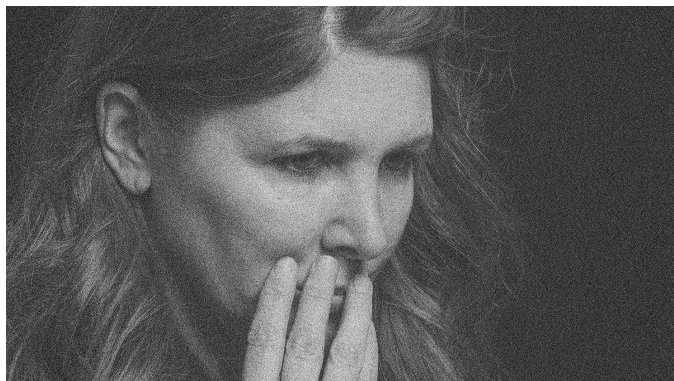
Informing and empowering low-income persons about legal rights and available resources and assistance through effective education and targeted outreach. Leveraging technology to make legal information, pro bono assistance, and pro se resources accessible.

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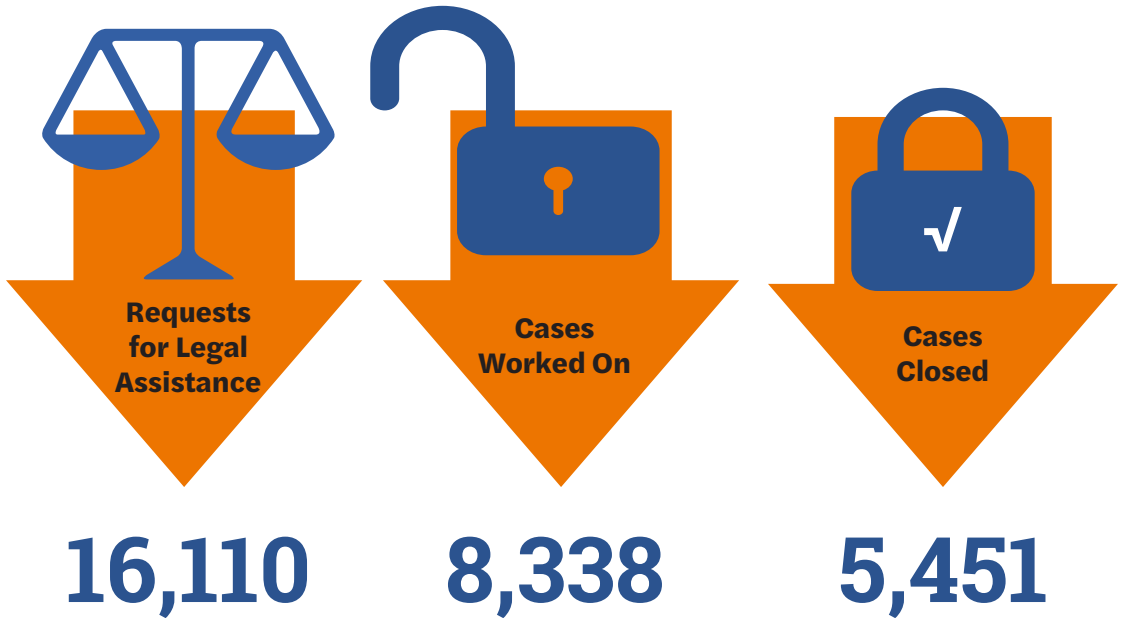
## Ann Has a Home

Ann was worried that she would lose her home when she contacted **LAWO**. She had purchased a manufactured home from an acquaintance. The seller never transferred the title to the home to Ann, and was now trying to sell the home to another person. An **LAWO** attorney investigated

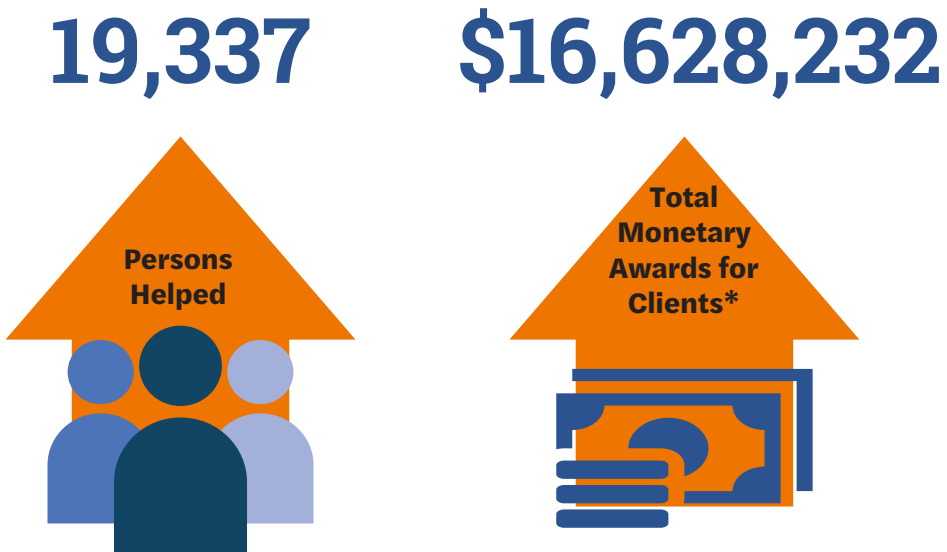
the case and filed a lawsuit against the seller and the other person seeking to buy the home. The Court issued an order directing the seller to place the title in Ann's name. Ann is now safe and secure in the home she purchased.



# Our 2017 Combined Record of Service



Nearly **20,000** people were provided legal assistance by attorneys and paralegals in 2017. Countless others received help from **ABLE** and **LAWO** through materials and information that appear on our website, pro bono legal assistance clinics, legal presentations, and trainings and continuing legal education presentations for lawyers. Our staff also visited homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior centers, health clinics, nursing homes and agricultural labor camps to make people aware of their legal rights.



\*This amount represents benefits and monetary awards in areas of child support, spousal support, unemployment compensation, supplemental security income, debt write-off, disability assistance, food stamps and damages, money that is spent for necessities in the 32-county service area.

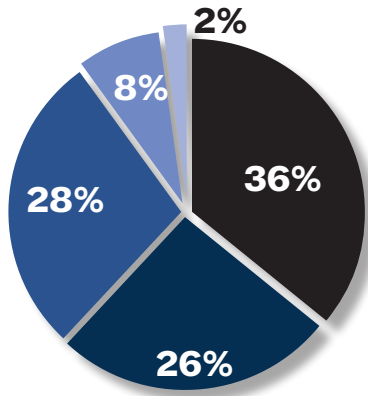
# 2017 Operating Revenues & Expenses

This report is related to **ABLE** and **LAWO's** operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to depreciation, the 50 Years of Fairness and Justice Campaign, the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice, or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.



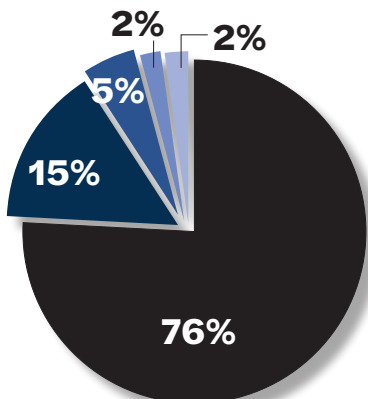
## Support & Revenue

■ Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) .....	\$4,450,703
■ Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO only) .....	\$3,173,643
■ Other Grants & Contracts .....	\$3,423,586
■ Fundraising & Special Events .....	\$1,041,772
■ Miscellaneous Income & Gain on Investments .....	\$234,823
Transfer to Reserves .....	(\$497,548)
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$11,826,979</b>



## Expenses and Expenditures

■ Compensation & Benefits.....	\$8,985,567
■ Operating Costs.....	\$1,827,228
■ Contract Services.....	\$556,094
■ Travel, Support & Training.....	\$223,261
■ Other .....	\$234,829
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$11,826,979</b>



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# 2017 Toledo Campaigns

## Campaigns Driven by Mission

No one should go without legal assistance because they cannot afford it. Your contributions to our campaigns help to ensure justice for all, no matter their income. We appreciate your support! Your generosity allows us to address challenges faced by people in need, empowering them and stabilizing their lives to improve their well-being.

2017 Northwest  
Ohio Justice for  
All Campaign

**\$192,479**

2017 Miami  
Valley Campaign  
for Equal Justice

**\$176,500**

Dayton's 50 Years  
of Fairness &  
Justice Campaign

**\$1.3 Million**

### 2017 Northwest Ohio Justice for All Campaign

The generosity of individuals who give to the **Justice for All Campaign** helps to ensure that thousands of people needing our legal assistance will continue to be served. For that, **ABLE**, **LAWO**, and the **Toledo Bar Association** say, **"THANK YOU!"**

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## 2017 Northwest Ohio Access to Justice Awards Dinner

The **Access to Justice Awards Dinner** recognized individuals and organizations that dramatically improved the lives of people living in poverty. During the Toledo event on May 10 at the Pinnacle, **Mia Birdsong**, co-director of the national **Family Story**, was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the importance of advocacy in helping to empower low-income people.

**Steven P. Collier**, of **Collier Law Group, LLP**, received the **Public Interest Law Award** for initiating the **Aging Out Program**. The program assists foster children as they turn 18 and are deemed independent by law, but still need guidance as they enter adulthood.

**Olivia Holden**, Executive Director of **Assets Toledo**, received the **Community Advocacy Award**. The nonprofit organization offers training and support for small business owners and future professionals. Olivia works tirelessly to provide economic empowerment for all.

And, **Russell A. Kelm** received the **Distinguished Service Award** for his longtime advocacy for the rights of disadvantaged people. He was a managing attorney for **ABLE** during the organization's early years and continues to champion their rights today.

We extend our appreciation to the organizing volunteers, sponsors and guests for making this a successful event.



**Mia Birdsong**



**Steven P. Collier**



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When participants join in the 5K Race for Justice they run to support the **Medical-Legal Partnership for Children**, an **ABLE** project.

Donations received from the race help us to address social issues and conditions at home that negatively affect children's health.

We give thanks to the **Emerging Leaders Council** for organizing the event and appreciate sponsors that support the MLPC's mission.

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# Northwest Ohio Development Advisory Council

The **Development Advisory Council** assists the development staff in securing individual and corporate gifts, sponsorships, and trusts and bequests to sustain our programs. The committee, comprised of professionals, legal, business, academic, and philanthropic leaders, also work to ensure that **ABLE** and **LAWO** maintain their strong presence in the greater Toledo area. We appreciate their dedication to advancing our missions.

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## 2017 Corporate Counsel Legal Aid Fund

The **Corporate Counsel Legal Aid Fund** was created to involve more corporate and in-house attorneys in supporting the work of **ABLE** and **LAWO**. This fund is used to support a full-time attorney with the **Medical-Legal Partnership for Children** in Toledo. We thank contributors to this fund.



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# 2017 Miami Valley Campaigns

## 50th Anniversary, Campaign for Equal Justice, annual events and One City benefitted the Greater Dayton Area

2017 was an extraordinary year for the Greater Dayton Area as the generosity of local individuals, foundations and corporations supported two campaigns that together raised more than **\$1.4 million**, exceeding its \$1 million goal to support our programs.

**The 50 Years of Fairness & Justice Campaign** recognized the 50th Anniversary of legal aid assistance in the community. Proceeds from the campaign will be used to provide legal help to an additional 1,000 clients over the next five years. In past years, about 40% of people seeking legal services have been turned away due to limited funding.

Funds raised through the **2017 Campaign for Equal Justice** ensure that free legal assistance is available to eligible low-income and disadvantaged area residents served by **ABLE, LAWO** and their partner the **Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project**. Without their services, many individuals and families would go without any legal assistance at all. Proceeds from the **Access to Justice Awards Celebration and Justice on Tap!** are included in the campaign total of **\$175,375**.

In addition, **One City**, a fundraiser in conjunction with the City of Dayton provided **\$11,795** that was donated to help ABLE uphold the legal rights of low-income immigrants who are living in the Dayton area.

We are grateful for the contributions of many supporters who have helped us to continue providing legal services to people in need.

---

## 50 Years of Fairness & Justice Campaign

More than **\$1.3 million** were contributed to the **50 Years of Fairness & Justice Campaign** that commemorated the golden anniversary of legal aid services provided to Dayton area residents. The funds will be used to expand legal assistance in the community.



**Robert M. Curry**  
Co-chair



**Susan R. Bridgman**  
Co-chair

Dayton's legal aid began when **Lloyd H. O'Hara** was president of the Dayton Bar Association. He proposed the development of an organization that would provide free legal assistance to indigent residents of the community. Ten previous Bar presidents wrote to members urging them to reject the proposal. Undaunted, Mr. O'Hara wrote members urging them to support his efforts. By ballot vote, legal aid won

**70% approval**, according to Dayton Barristers in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century.

On April 14, 1967, the Dayton Legal Aid Society was formed. By 2004, it had grown into **LAWO** and **ABLE**, nonprofit law firms that continue to provide free legal assistance to thousands of disadvantaged Dayton area residents each year.

In honor of legal aid's heritage, the 50 Years of Fairness & Justice campaign was launched. **Robert M. Curry** of Thompson Hine LLP and **Susan R. Bridgman** of Field Aerospace led the campaign with assistance from honorary chairs and a fundraising cabinet. Donations were received from major donors, the legal community, corporations, and foundations.

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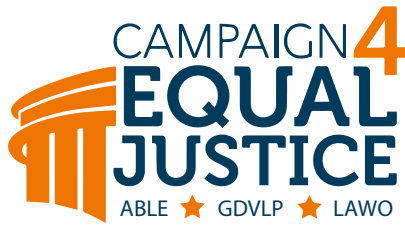
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Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn *in*  
*memory of* Robert J. Wehrle-  
Einhorn

Four individuals were recognized for the extraordinary assistance they have provided to low-income and disadvantaged people of the Greater Dayton area. The awards were presented at the **Access to Justice Awards Celebration!** on November 2 at Sinclair Community College.

**Jane Novick, Esq. – Lloyd O’Hara Public Interest Law Award** – for her dedication to providing legal assistance to people with disabilities and elderly residents.

**National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) – Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award** - for helping to build a community of inclusiveness and growth of its ANYTOWN program that brings youth and



police together. The award was presented to Executive Director **Mary E. Tyler.**

**The East End Community Services and Jan Lepore-Jentleson – Community Impact Award** – The organization is an anchor of East Dayton with strong leadership and a broad

breadth of services that are innovative and collaborative.

**The Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation of The Dayton Foundation – Distinguished Service Award.** The Foundation provides substantial financial assistance to **ABLE** and **LAWO** that supports the firms’ education advocacy services and the 50 Years of Fairness & Justice Campaign. The Foundation also supported the GDVLP’s youth initiatives.

## 2017 Access To Justice Awards Honorees



Jane Novick, Esq.



Mary Tyler



Jan Lepore-Jentleson

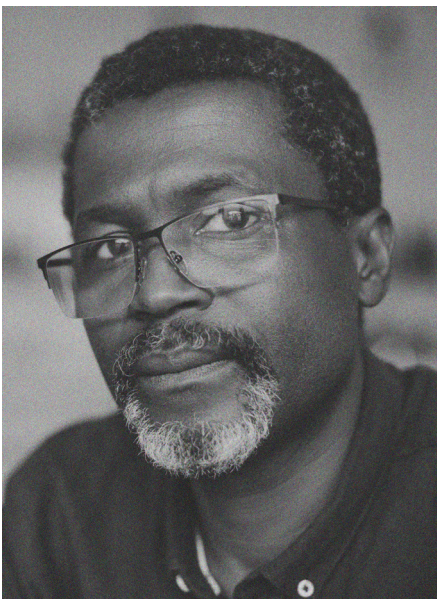


# ABLE Immigration Advocacy Project

With charitable contributions from compassionate donors, **ABLE** provides legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees protecting their rights under United States law. With that assistance, many can thrive in communities where they feel safe and have an opportunity to lead productive lives. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this program.

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## Alain Finds Hope



Alain felt fortunate to be granted political asylum status in the United States after arriving here from the Democratic Republic of Congo. His happiness was complete when his young children were able to join him as dependents under his asylum application. He dreamed of U.S. citizenship for himself and his family, and freedom from the threat of persecution in his home country. Alain contacted **ABLE** in 2016 for help filing for Adjustment of Status for his children.

With **ABLE**'s assistance, Alain's children received their permanent resident cards in 2017. During the same time, Alain attended one of **ABLE**'s naturalization clinics, going on to file for naturalization and successfully passing the interview and civics test. He is excited about being sworn in as a U.S. citizen and contributing to his community. **ABLE** will continue to work with Alain as he seeks certificates of citizenship for his two youngest children.

**LAWO** and **ABLE** depend on the support of volunteer attorneys to expand services to people in need.

A total of **368** volunteer attorneys provided more than **6,382** hours of pro bono legal assistance in 2017 through **LAWO's Pro Bono Legal Services Program, ABLE**, and **the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project**. LAWO also supports the **Toledo Bar Association's Pro Bono Legal Services Program**.

If you would like to provide your legal assistance, please contact the **Private Attorney Involvement Program** by visiting **probono.lawolaw.org** or call **(419) 930-2479**.

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# 2017 Legal Interns and Volunteers

Legal interns and volunteers play an important 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.

## Legal Interns

### Michigan State University College of Law

Kelsey E. Reiner

### University of Dayton School of Law

Ebony D. Davenport  
Michael D. Richardson

### University of Toledo College of Law

Victor Aberdeen, Jr.  
Ariel M. Berger  
Samantha Blochowski  
Emina Causevic  
Paul DeCorte  
Mary E. Hawes  
Hassanayn Joseph  
Lorrie J. Rendle  
Cam R. Stanley

### University of Iowa College of Law

Raghu Bhardwaj

### Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law

Adam Hans Andrae  
Susan D. Johnson  
Ifeoma A. Ofuani  
Jessica Simon

### Tulane University Law School

Abby McBride

## Legal Volunteers

### Bowling Green State University

Jacob Ritts

### University of Michigan

Elizabeth Hudson

### Wright State University

Stephanie Patino-Garfias

## Administrative Volunteers

Marie Blake  
Larry DeHoff  
Deanna Krokos  
Scott Montgomery  
Summer K. Smith  
Madeline Sterling  
Sara Yaklin

## Thanks to Our Funders

### ABLE & LAWO Joint Funders

#### 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 re-entering society following incarceration.

#### Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation

Support for the Education Success Advocacy Project and the 50 Years of Fairness & Justice Campaign.



#### Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

Funding for ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, LAWO's Domestic Violence program, ABLE's statewide Agricultural Worker, Refugee and Immigrant legal services, 2017-2019 Justice for All Fellowship, Program Assistance grant, Neighborhood Stabilization grants, Elder Justice Initiative, Pro Se Divorce Clinic and other Pro Bono Services, and general operating expenses.



#### United Way of the Greater Dayton Area

Support for ABLE and LAWO services, including the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, assistance to low-income seniors, and assistance to domestic violence survivors in Montgomery County.

**United Way of Greater Toledo**

Support for ABLE’s Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and immigration services and for LAWO’s Steps Out of Poverty program to serve low-income residents of Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood counties.

**ABLE Funders****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.

**Corporate Counsel Legal Fund**

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

**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.

**Dayton Police Department**

Legal assistance to immigrant victims of crime.

**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. Minger 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.

**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.

## LAWO Funders



### **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.

### **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**

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

### **Levin Family Foundation**

Support for the “Plan Ahead and Protect Yourself” series for seniors.

### **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**

Legal assistance to Montgomery County residents who are survivors of domestic violence or who are seeking stable employment



### **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 State Bar Foundation**

Support for the “Plan Ahead and Protect Yourself” Series for Seniors.

### **Sandusky Municipal Court**

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.

### **The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation**

Support for the Community Partnership for Economic Self-Sufficiency Program.

### **Toledo Municipal Court, City of Toledo**

Support for legal assistance to Toledo residents in housing and debt collection cases.

### **United States Department of Justice**

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

### **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 Williams County**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.

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**Thank You For Your Support!**

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Community Justice**