



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
of Cleveland  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**Legal Aid Announces Lorain County Office Leader**

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The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce Jessica Baggett as the managing attorney of the Lorain County Office. She will begin her position on March 30.

Ms. Baggett, a graduate of Ohio Northern University's College of Law, brings 14 years of legal experience to the position. For the past 12 years she served as a magistrate in the Lorain County court system – first in the intake department of the juvenile court and most recently in the domestic relations court. Ms. Baggett was an instructor at Tiffin University, Lorain County Community College and David N. Myers University. She began her legal career with a legal aid program in Zanesville, Ohio, where she represented low-income clients in family, consumer and housing law.

“We are thrilled to welcome Jessica Baggett to our staff,” comments Colleen Cotter, Legal Aid's executive director. “She brings compassion for our clients, excellent experience, and an understanding of how Legal Aid can work with individuals and organizations in Lorain County to have a greater impact on the lives of our clients.”

Ms. Baggett is a member of the Lorain County Red Cross board of directors (2005 – present), the Elyria Fair Housing Board (2003 – present), and is the former president of the Lorain County Urban League's Young Black Professionals (2005). She has served the Lorain County community through many civic and professional positions.

“We look forward to the leadership Ms. Baggett will bring to our Lorain County office,” states attorney Richard Panza, member of Legal Aid's board of trustees and a representative for Lorain County. “She will manage a staff of full-time Legal Aid attorneys and help mentor many *pro bono* attorneys serving Lorain County's low-income population.”

Ms. Baggett is a resident of Elyria.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the law firm for low-income individuals in Northeast Ohio. The nonprofit law firm has 45 full-time attorneys providing high-quality free legal assistance in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties.

Ms. Baggett will be available for interviews the week of April 2. To schedule an interview or for more information, call 216-861-5217 or e-mail [melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org](mailto:melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org)

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