# Two top Legal Aid Society of Cleveland attorneys retiring

## Colleagues, friends, advoctes for decades

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By: Ted Kortan, newsnet5.com



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CLEVELAND - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has been in existence for 106 years. As top attorneys with the organization, Dave Dawson and Harold Williams haven't been around for quite that long. Still, at the end of 2011 the two long-time Legal Aid lawyers and administrators are retiring.

Dawson and Williams told NewsChannel5 their Legal Aid positions are the only professional jobs they've ever held. Both said they started at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland right after graduating from law school.

Dawson, currently deputy director, has been at Legal Aid for 40 years. Williams, managing attorney of the Consumer Law Practice Group, is marking 35 years with the non-profit firm.

Both men proudly talked about "impact cases" from their careers. Dawson said a case against the Social Security Administration resulted in changes in the law defining how disability claims were maintained. According to Dawson, that case affected hundreds of thousands of Ohioans.

Similarly, Williams identified his work in the decades-long integration of the Cleveland Division of Police and the Ohio State Liquor Commission as high points in his career. Both those cases resulted in 'consent decrees' won by Williams and co-council from the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

As for their future plans, both men said they are planning some personal travel and relaxation time with family. Each attorney also said they will likely return to help out at the Legal Aid Society in some lesser capacity.

Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the fifth oldest legal aid organization in the United States.

Legal Aid has offices and serves clients in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties.

Here is a link to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland website: http://lasclev.org/

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LaRoyal Jones

legal aid is a complete farce and so are these two individuals. they only fight cases that are media friendly to make themselves relevant to the community which in reality they are really not. good riddance and good bye.

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Chris McMarlin

Wow seeing I have never heard of them they must not have done too many media friendly legal work. I am guessing you are probably another unhappy soul who did not qualify for free legal work. They have helped a few people I have known, not a bad organization and well worth their existence.

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