Annual Report of Legal Aid’s Volunteer Lawyers Program

and

Program for Northeast Ohio’s “Celebrate National Pro Bono Week”

October 2011
We cannot say thank you enough.

Since 2005, more than 2,200 attorneys in Northeast Ohio participated in Legal Aid’s Volunteer Lawyers Program and more than 1,800 are active today. In that same time, volunteers handled more than 7,149 cases and helped 16,922 people. Volunteers have “raised the bar” and helped us increase access to justice for the most vulnerable in Northeast Ohio.

Together, we have ensured safety and shelter and promoted an improved quality of life for the most in need in Northeast Ohio.

But, we need your continued help. Volunteers are a key part of Legal Aid’s mission to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable. While Legal Aid handles more than 11,000 cases annually – 8,700 are turned away because of lack of resources. Pro bono volunteers help Legal Aid close this justice gap. We look forward to your continued partnership and ongoing volunteer support.

Thank you,

Ann McGowan Porath, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Volunteer Lawyers Program and Intake Unit

Ann S. Bergen, Esq.
Law Offices of Ann S. Bergen, Co. LPA
Member, Board of Directors | Chairperson, Pro Bono Committee
Legal Aid Volunteers... Raising the Bar

   – Eaton Corporation

2. Mary K. Whitmer, Esq.
   – Kohrman, Jackson & Krantz, PLL

   – Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP

   – Littler Mendelson, PC

5. Dena M. Kobasic, Esq.
   – PolyOne Corporation

6. (Pictured L-R)
   Cynthia Binns, Esq.
   – Graftech
   with Leslie Johnson, Esq., Joan Gross, Esq., Mary Patricia Culler, Esq. and Deborah Coleman, Esq.
   – Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP

7. Rebecca Bennett, Esq.
   – Frantz Ward
   and Robert Fischer, Jr., Esq.
   – Cliffs Natural Resources

8. Christopher Brej, Esq.
   – Nationwide Insurance

   – Thompson Hine LLP

    – Ulmer Berne LLP
Volunteer Attorneys as of 9/01/2011

In 2010/2011, more than 1,800 attorneys were active in Legal Aid’s Volunteer Lawyers Program. The individual attorneys listed represent those pro bono volunteers who opened or closed a case or participated in a clinic within the past year. Every effort was made to include all activity through September 1, 2011. If a name is missing, please email probono@lasclev.org

* deceased

“This Pro Bono representation enhances access to our justice system for many citizens who, without it, would find that access only a myth.”

– Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor, The Supreme Court of Ohio
In 2010, Cleveland Legal Aid fielded 110,000 calls and handled 11,000 cases which helped more than 23,000 people. 20% of these cases were handled by the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

“Justice for all” if we help provide that justice to those who cannot pay for legal services.”

– Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, The Supreme Court of Ohio

“We can only have justice for all if we help provide that justice to those who cannot pay for legal services.”

– Judge Kristin W. Sweeney, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
Raising the Bar with Support of the Judiciary:
Judge Joseph Cirigliano

Judge Cirigliano served as a judge for 24 years as both a Lorain County Common Pleas and Ninth District Court of Appeals judge. Today, he is an attorney with Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co.

Judge Cirigliano has done pro bono work throughout his 59-year legal career. “Judges should preach Legal Aid,” he says, “and tell people that Legal Aid is willing to help to the extent that they can.”

He began volunteering with Legal Aid after retiring from the bench in 1991. Recently, his extensive experience in real estate has been used to help with the influx of foreclosures throughout the area.

Cirigliano is proud of his “fruitful experience with Legal Aid.” He finds work with Legal Aid uplifting and rewarding. He remembers one particular time being able to help two Legal Aid clients regain their houses from a foreclosure. This kind of pro bono service “gives one a sense of pride,” he says.

Judge Cirigliano will volunteer for and spread awareness of Legal Aid as long as he is able. At age 87, he still has a remarkable passion for his career and the law profession. This profession isn’t for the money, he explains, but “to help the people.”

Pro Bono is a two-way street. The client gains an experienced, trusted guide through the dark woods of the legal system and the attorney can rest assured a potential miscarriage has been averted.”
– Judge Christopher A. Boyko, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio
“Pro Bono work provides a public service to those of limited means. The feeling of satisfaction and the act of giving back to the community makes the commitment worthwhile.”
– Judge Eileen T. Gallagher, Cuyahoga County
Common Pleas Court

Legal Aid’s pro bono attorneys make an economic impact on Northeast Ohio.
The value in donated time in the past year was $1.3 million, using a conservative $145 billable rate.

Jennifer Himmelein
Stacy Hinners
Stephen Hobt
Amy Hocevar
Deborah Hoffman
Timothy Holder
Walter Holeski
David Holland
Katherine Hollingsworth
Clarence Holmes
Henry Holz II
Laura Hong
Emily Honsa Hicks
Christopher Horn
George Huang
Barrett Hubbard
Neal Hubbard
William Hubbard
Mary Huber
Roy Hulme
Ernest Humne
James Hungerford
Ann Hunt
Calvin Hurd, Jr.
Kenneth Hurley
Michael Hustick
Lee Hutton
Nicholas Iarocci
Elise Ice
Edward icove
Peter Igel
Erika Imre Schindler
Jeremy Iosue
Karen Ireland-Phillips
Rachael Israel
Gerald Jackson
Jacqueline Jackson
Amanda Jacobs
Jacqueline Jacobs
William Jacobs
Diana Jancura
Peter Janos
Edward Jansen
Alexandra Jeanblanc
Lei Jiang
Alana Joehurn
Geoffrey Johnson
Leslie Johnson
Nelli Johnson
Ronald Johnson, Jr.
Scott Johnson
Tracy Johnson
Christina Joliat
Gregory Jolivette, Jr.
Candace Jones
Katharine Jones
Larry Jones
Leslie Jones
Tonya Jones
Edward Joseph
Kathryn Joseph
Stanley Josseloon
Virginia Judd
L. James Juliano, Jr.
Woo Jun
Rachel Kabb-Effron
Gus Kallegis
Kerin Kaminski
Karl Kammer
Dharminder Kampani
Richard Kaplow
Jonetta Kapusta-Dorogi
Lana Katz
Shannan Katz
David Kaufman
Abraham Kay
John Kealy
Amy Keating
Martin Keenan
Ellen Keller
Gabrielle Kelly
Jocelyn Kelly
Shelly Kennedy
Richard Kenney, Jr.
Margan Keramati Davis
Heather Kern
Monica Killough
Aaron Kimbrell
Andrea Kinast
Barry King
R. Reed King
John Kirkland
David Kitchen
Jane Kleinsmith
Kenneth Kleppel
Paul Klug
Mark Knevel
Dena Knevel
Richard Koblentz

“With the state of the economy and the loss of significant funding to Legal Aid, our community has a greater need than ever before for attorneys to assist them on a pro bono basis.”
– Judge Rosemary Grdina Gold, Cuyahoga County
Domestic Relations Court
## Pro Bono events in Northeast Ohio

Celebrate National Pro Bono Week, October 22-29, 2011

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### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**“SAVE THE DREAM”**

- **9:00 am - 12:15 pm**
  - FORECLOSURE LITIGATION
  - Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
  - 1301 East Ninth Street, 2nd floor
  - Register at www.lasclev.org
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

- **1:30 pm - 4:45 pm**
  - FORECLOSURE MEDIATION
  - Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
  - 1301 East Ninth Street, 2nd floor
  - Register at www.lasclev.org
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

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### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**WILL KOHN BANKRUPTCY BY-PASS CLINIC**

- **4:00 pm - 5:30 pm**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteer attorneys
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**CLEVELAND HOMELESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CHLAP) INTAKE CLINIC**

- **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteer attorneys
  - Sponsored by CHLAP volunteers

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**DEBTOR - CREDITOR CLINIC**

- **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
  - Drost Family Services Center
  - 24075 Commerce Park Road, Beachwood
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteers from Jewish Family Service Association and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
  - Sponsored by the JFSA and CMBA

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### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**BRIEF ADVICE and REFERRAL CLINIC**

- **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
  - American Legion Conneaut
  - 272 Broadway, Conneaut
  - First come, first served
  - Staffed by volunteer attorneys
  - Sponsored by the Ashtabula County Bar Association and Legal Aid

- **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
  - El Barrio
  - 5209 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland
  - First come, first served
  - Staffed by the CMBA’s Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Committee
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**INTRODUCTION TO LANDLORD-TENANT LAW**

- **9:00 am - 11:00 am**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**DEBTOR - CREDITOR CLINIC**

- **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteer attorneys
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC**

- **3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteers from the CMBA Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Law Section
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**BRIEF ADVICE and REFERRAL CLINIC**

- **4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**
  - Oberlin Senior Center
  - 90 East College Street
  - First come, first served
  - Staffed by Diana Jancura and Associates
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS BASICS AND COURTHOUSE WALK-THROUGH**

- **10:00 am - 12:00 pm**
  - Drost Family Services Center
  - 24075 Commerce Park Road, Beachwood
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteers from Jewish Family Service Association and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

### Continuing Legal Education Seminar

**STEPS TO SEALING A RECORD**

- **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
  - The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - 1223 West Sixth Street
  - By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
  - Staffed by volunteer attorneys
  - Sponsored by Legal Aid

### National Volunteer Recognition

**NATIONAL CELEBRATE PRO BONO WEEK IN NORTHEAST OHIO**

- **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
  - Barley House Cleveland
  - 1265 West Sixth Street
  - For all pro bono volunteers; register at www.lasclev.org
  - Led by local members of the judiciary
  - Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and Legal Aid

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**Wednesday, October 26**

- **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**
  - National Celebrate Pro Bono Week in Northeast Ohio
  - Barley House Cleveland
  - 1265 West Sixth Street
  - For all pro bono volunteers; register at www.lasclev.org
  - Led by local members of the judiciary
  - Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and Legal Aid
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Law Student Volunteer Recognition
CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW
C-M College of Law
1801 Euclid Avenue
By invitation only
Sponsored by C-M College of Law and Legal Aid

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Law Student Volunteer Recognition
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CWRU School of Law
11075 East Boulevard, Cleveland
By invitation only
Sponsored by CWRU School of Law and Legal Aid

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
CLEVELAND HOMELESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(CHLAP) INTAKE CLINIC
Norma Herr Center
(Community Women's Shelter)
2227 Payne Avenue, Cleveland
For residents of the shelter only
Staffed by CHLAP volunteers
Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

9:00 am - 1:00 pm
2011 Pro Bono Convention
Grange Insurance Audubon Center
505 West Whittier Street, Columbus
By invitation only
Keynote Speaker, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
Sponsored by the Ohio State Bar Association and Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
PRO SE DIVORCE CLINIC
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
1301 East Ninth Street, 2nd Floor
By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
Sponsored by volunteers from the CMBA Family Law Section

11:00 am - 1:00 pm
CLEVELAND HOMELESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(CHLAP) INTAKE CLINIC
Bishop Cosgrove Center,
a Catholic Charities site
1736 Superior Avenue, Cleveland
First come, first served - focused on the homeless or people at risk of homelessness
Staffed by CHLAP and Catholic Lawyers Guild volunteers
Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Continuing Legal Education Seminar: ELDEN LAW UPDATE
Hellriegels Inn
1840 Mentor Avenue, Painesville
Register at www.lasclev.org
Sponsored by Legal Aid

7:30 am [REGISTRATION]
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation’s 10TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN RUN FOR JUSTICE
Galleria at Erieview
1301 East Ninth Street
Register at www.clemetrobar.org
or call 216-696-3525
Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation

Saturday:

10:00 am - 4:00 pm
WILLS FOR HEROES CLINIC
Beachwood Community Center
25325 Fairmount Boulevard
By appointment only: call 888-817-3777
Sponsored by volunteers from the CMBA Young Lawyers Section

9:45 am - 12:00 pm
BRIEF ADVICE and REFERRAL CLINIC
Neighborhood House Association Lorain
457 Griswold Road, Elyria
First come, first served
Sponsored by volunteers from Lorain County

9:45 am - 12:00 pm
BRIEF ADVICE and REFERRAL CLINIC
St. Martin de Porres Center,
a Catholic Charities site
1264 East 123rd Street, Cleveland
First come, first served
Sponsored by volunteer attorneys from the US Attorneys’ Office, Federal Trade Commission and Federal Public Defender

7:30 am (REGISTRATION)
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation’s 10TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN RUN FOR JUSTICE
Galleria at Erieview
1301 East Ninth Street
Register at www.clemetrobar.org
or call 216-696-3525
Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation

Pro Bono Event Notes:
See individual event listings for details on location and necessity of reservations.

Attorney Volunteers are welcome to help at any of the listed clinics.
To participate, email probono@lasclev.org for Legal Aid events or jpaine@clemetrobar.org for CMBA events.

Low-Income Client participation varies by clinic.
See specific clinic for details. All Brief Advice Clinics are open to walk-ins on a first come, first-served basis,
(please bring important papers with you).
Most other clinics are by appointment only.
In the past year, Legal Aid volunteer attorneys helped prevent homelessness in 619 cases.

"Pro bono work educates by forcing practicing lawyers to really see and grow respect for people from whom they might otherwise avert their eyes."
– Judge K.J. Montgomery, Shaker Heights Municipal Court

“Pro bono work is likely the single most significant effort to enhance the public’s perception of the legal profession.”
– Justice Terrence O’Donnell, The Supreme Court of Ohio

Jeffrey Kocian
Paul Kocsis
William Kolis, Jr.
James Konorowski
Christopher Korff
Suean Kornatowski
James Koscianski
Robert Koury
Kevin Kovach
Lisa Kraemer
Edward Kramer
Patrick Kramer
Kalia Krausz
Janet Kronenberg
Scott Kuboff
Matthew Kucharson
Harvey Kugelman
Julianne Kurdila
Pamela Kurt
David Kutik
Emily Ladky
Julie Lady
Robert LaForce
Cliff Lai
Lori Laisure
Deneen Lamonica
David Landman
Brian Lange
Anthony LaPlaca
Patricia Larson
Katrina Larrick-Serrat
David Lash
Marlu Laubenthal
Melissa Laubenthal
Jeffrey Lauderdale
Patrick Lavelle
Wendene Lavey
William Lawko
James Laoniczak
Arthur Leary III
Patrick Leary
Patrick LeClair
Steven Lee
Amanda M. Leffler
Linda Lehman
Jonathan Leiken
Jerome Lemire
James Lentz
Jennifer Lesny-Fleming
Lisa Leszynski
Laurel Letts
Diane Leung
Dennis Levin
Vadim Levtonyuk
John Lewis
Patrick Lewis
Rochelle Licata
Arthur Licygiewicz
Elena Lidbrauch
Daniel Lindner
Tanya Linetsky
Yuri Linetsky
Seth Linnick
Timothy Linville
Holly H. Little
Nora Loftus
Christina Londrico
Nicholas Longauer
Jason Lorenzon
Elena Lougovaikia
Sheryl Love
Beatrice Loyer
Barbara Lum
Robert Luria
Timothy Lutz
Andrew P. Lynch
Tiao Lynch
George Macdonald
Lisa Mach
Jimme Mack, Jr.
Martin Mackowski
Franklin Malermud
Johannes Maliza
Edward Mamrack
Robert Mann
Jamie Manning
Katica Markulin
Todd Masuda
Roshen Mathew
Laura McBride
Joseph McCafferty
David McCombs
Luke McConville
Thomas McCormack
Alexander R. McCready
Shannon McCue
Dawn McFadden
John McGinnis
Mark McGraw
Mark McGuire
Tracey McGrurk
Hugh McKay
Patricia McKay
William McKinley
Joyce McKiniss
Ashlee McLaughlin
Christopher McLaughlin
Conor McLaughlin
Ronald McLaughlin
Carl McMahon
Rebecca McMahon
Ronald McMillan
Eugene Meador
Eugene Medina
Michael Meehan
Shelly Meek
Sara Menenefee Santoli
Charles Merchant
Mark Merims
Lanene Meslat
Daniel Messeloff
Anthony Meyer
G. Christopher Meyer
Lisa Meyer
Victor Mezacapa III
Mark Micheli
Deborah Michelson
Bradley Miller
Virginia Miller
Kent Minshall, Jr.
Ginger Milakar
James Moennich
Laura Molica
Megan Molitoris
Bruce Molinar
Chaundra Monday
Gayle Montalto
Margaret Montano
Karen Moore
William Moore
Russell Moorehead
John Moran
Brian Morgan
Hugh Morgan
Stanley Morganstern
Kristin Morrison
Suzann Moskowitz
Jeffrey Moyle
James Mirrorn
Norma Mudry
Adrienne Mueller
John Mulligan
Michael Mumford
Edward D. Muransky
Colleen Murnane
Barry Munner
Brian Murphy
Patricia Murphy
Michael Murray
Robert Myers, Jr.
LaVonda Napka
Carmen Naso
Karen Neilsen
Jill Nelson

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland’s Volunteer Lawyers Program – 2011
Feeling good as a lawyer is about giving to someone who needs your help,” comments The Honorable Joan Synenberg of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. As Eighth District Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Pro Bono Task Force, Judge Synenberg has given her utmost support to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and the activities of Pro Bono Week.

During last year’s Pro Bono Week, Judge Synenberg, along with Judge Richard Ambrose, provided 90 volunteer lawyers with CLE instruction and a panel discussion that included Bob Tobik from the The Office of the Public Defender. Afterwards, they walked the attorneys over to Legal Aid where each lawyer was paired with a pre-screened, eligible client.

“As lawyers we can help those in need, protect people, defend the poor, and be an advocate for those who are voiceless. I don’t think there is anything that could possibly be as satisfying for a lawyer as sharing what we do professionally with people who would otherwise be unable to receive legal representation,” says Judge Synenberg.

Judge Synenberg also takes pride in helping to lead the 2010 Fugitive Safe Surrender program, where nearly 7,500 people turned themselves in on outstanding warrants. "We reached deep into the legal community and had a great outpouring of volunteer criminal and civil lawyers. I have never seen people so grateful as the clients who received assistance from these volunteer lawyers."

She believes, “Lawyers’ finest hours are when they can reach out for the greater good."
**Pro bono** attorneys create nearly $14 million of economic benefit for Northeast Ohio low-income clients – representing increased assets, increased income or reduced debt for Legal Aid clients.

Pro bono work - even a few hours’ worth - can have a major impact on clients’ lives. **Pro bono** attorneys can help a client keep their home or apartment, increase their income, be compensated for wrongs, or even keep their freedom.

**Pro bono** attorneys not only help their individual clients, but serve as guardians of justice as well, letting those who would take advantage of the poor know that they will not succeed.”

– Judge Raymond L. Pianka, Cleveland Housing Court
When The Honorable Mary Jane Trapp realized just how powerless people facing foreclosure feel in their ability to secure legal representation, she quickly put her power as Judge of the Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals and as 11th District Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Pro Bono Task Force to work. Within a year, an effective pro bono foreclosure mediation program was in place in each of the 11th District’s five counties.

Judge Trapp was recognized with The Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation’s 2011 Presidential Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Delivery of Pro Bono Legal Services for her creation of this outstanding program.

Judge Trapp continues to educate attorneys as to the value, both professionally and personally, of pro bono work. “Pro Bono has increased the flow of good solid legal advice to people who would normally not be able to afford it. In doing so, we have given them the keys to the courthouse door. The whole concept of pro bono service is maintaining and increasing access to the court.”

### In addition to participants in the Volunteer Lawyers Program, Legal Aid benefits from long-term in-house volunteers. The following law graduates and attorneys volunteered in-house for a significant number of hours in the past year:

- Christian Carson
- Steven Casiere
- Elizabeth Dormann
- Cara Finnegan
- Elizabeth Ford
- Carol Fox
- Kimberly Gavel
- Cassandra Haddock
- Mallory Holmes
- Kimberly Irons
- John Kim
- Sarah Kostick
- Melissa Kunder
- Markus Lyytinen
- Jose Matheus
- Geoffrey McCarrrell
- James Mellor
- Jason Mohler
- Brian Polis
- Jorge Rovelo
- Marri Santoro
- Lynnette Sequeira
- Maya Simek
- Erin Simmons
- Vivian Solganik
- Wesley Williams
- Sung Hee Yu
Peoples’ perception of fairness in the judicial system is based in large part in being able to have a voice in proceedings. Therefore, pro bono work increases justice and belief in the system by providing a clearer and stronger voice for people who would otherwise be unrepresented.”

– Judge Diane M. Palos, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court

“Pro Bono work is important because it shares our personal skills and training and demonstrates our respect for others when we help those in need”

– Judge Janet R. Burnside, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court

“By engaging in pro bono work each of us in the profession does our part to insure that the American legal system works for everyone.”

– Judge Dan A. Polster, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio

Legal Aid’s pro bono attorneys volunteered nearly 13,000 hours over the past year.

In addition to attorneys, 323 law students and other lay volunteers support the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Thank you
mission

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.

Legal Aid serves five counties in Northeast Ohio:

- Lorain
- Cuyahoga
- Geauga
- Lake
- Ashtabula

Legal Aid Board of Directors

* denotes member of Pro Bono Committee

Ilah M. Adkins, Esq.
Charter One Bank

Jesse O. Anderson
Community Representative
nominated by the Greater Cleveland RTA

Mark S. Bennett, Esq.,* U.S. Attorney's Office

Ann S. Bergen, Esq., * Chair
Law Offices of Ann S. Bergen, Co. LPA

Frank R. DeSantis, Esq. *
Thompson Hine LLP

Carole M. Heyward, Esq.
CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Vanetta J. Jamison
Community Representative
nominated by Beech Brook

Kathleen M. Kordeleski, Esq.
ABB, Inc.

Barbara Leadbetter
Community Representative
nominated byMetroHealth's Center for Community Health

John O. Lewis, Esq. *
Jones Day

Heather Nicastro
Community Representative
nominated by The Arc of Greater Cleveland

Richard Panza, Esq.
Wickers, Herter, Panza, Cook & Babka

Richard D. Petrulis, Esq.
KeyBank National Association

Betsy Rader, Esq.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Rebecca Ruppert McMahon, Esq.
Cuyahoga Community College

Congressman Louis Stokes, Esq.
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP

Adrian D. Thompson, Esq. *
Turn

Tim Walters
Community Representative
nominated by Merrick House

Michelle Wilkinson-Guerry
Community Representative
nominated by the NEO Coalition for the Homeless

Ida R. Williams *
Community Representative
nominated by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County

Rebecca L. Wojtke *
Community Representative
nominated by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County

Others who serve on the
Pro Bono Committee

Stacy E. Cozart, Esq.
Sharon and Kalkowsk LLC

Patrick Nagy, Esq.
Franco Ward LLP

Julie Lady, Esq.
KeyBank National Association

Jenna Peyton, Esq.
Jennifer Peyton & Associates

David Watson, Esq.
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Executive Team

Colleen C. Cotter, Esq., Executive Director

David B. Dawson, Esq., Deputy Director

Bettina Kaplan
Director of Finance and Administrative Operations

Katherine Ingerson
Executive Assistant

Garrett Lipscomb
Director of Information Technology

Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq.
Director of Development and Communications

Art Direction & Design

Sharon Baden
Baden Design, Cleveland

Photography

Legal Aid Archives
Want to become involved?

Opportunities to volunteer with Legal Aid range from a two-hour commitment to extended representation.

Brief Advice & Referral Clinics
... a great introduction to pro bono work. Usually held on Saturday mornings or weekday afternoons, clinics are held at neighborhood community centers and clients are first-come, first-served.
Time commitment is two hours. No training necessary. Legal Aid provides mentoring at the clinic and, if requested, can provide an orientation prior to clinic.

Pro Se Clinics
... only a bit more involved than Brief Advice Clinics, these clinics address the needs of pro se litigants with divorce, child support, or expungement issues. Volunteer attorneys assist individuals with pro se pleadings and provide instructions on proceeding pro se.
Usually held on Saturday mornings or weekday afternoons, the time commitment is three hours. Training and mentoring provided.

Specialized Clinics, Projects and One-on-One Match
... for those ready to jump into an extended representation commitment, these clinics separately provide assistance to low-income individuals on specific issues.
The time commitment varies. Some experience needed; training and mentoring provided.

If interested in this opportunity, please note your interest area:

- Bankruptcy By-Pass Clinic
- Bankruptcy Practice Clinic
- Domestic Violence Prevention Project (including Civil Protection Orders)
- Elder Law Project
- Foreclosure Prevention Program (“Save the Dream”)
- Immigration Clinic
- Private Landlord-Tenant Project
- Tax Clinic
- Tort and Contract Litigation
- One-on-One Match (for all areas of civil practice)

Visit the Volunteer Lawyers Program online at: www.lasclev.org
or e-mail: probono@lasclev.org

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