



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

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Legal Aid Receives Largest IRS Grant in Ohio

Nina Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, announced that the Internal Revenue Service has awarded approximately \$7.5 million in matching grants to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) for 2005.

There are seven such Low Income Taxpayer Clinics in Ohio. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland received the largest Low Income Taxpayer Clinic grant in the state. The \$65,000 grant funds direct representation, community education, and earned income taxpayer credit (EITC) advocacy.

The funding enables Legal Aid to represent low income taxpayers involved in tax disputes with the IRS or that provide education on tax rights and responsibilities to taxpayers for whom English is a second language or who have limited English proficiency.

The LITC grant program, now in its seventh year, encourages the creation and growth of Low Income Taxpayer Clinics across the nation. These clinics provide an important resource to taxpayers who may not be able to afford a tax professional.

Since 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has focused on securing justice and changing lives. As the fifth oldest organization of its kind in the nation, Legal Aid provides high-quality free legal assistance to low-income individuals in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties.

Last year alone, 39 advocates at Legal Aid handled more than 8,500 civil cases related to housing, employment, unconscionable businesses practices, family law, immigration, community development and special education. C. Lyonel Jones has directed the organization since 1968. Diana M. Thimmig (Roetzel & Andress) is the president of the Board of Trustees.

For more information, visit:

- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic: <http://www.irs.gov/advocate/content/0,,id=108540,00.html>
- IRS announcement: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/litcgrants2005.pdf>
- The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland: <http://www.lasclev.org/>

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