

It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice, should do justice. -Thomas Jefferson



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

2014 Annual Report

Thank you for supporting The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in 2014!

We are proud of our work in the community to alleviate poverty. Last year, Legal Aid helped more than 20,000 people. This is work we could not do without your partnership.

A special quote we focused on in 2014 was from Thomas Jefferson:

It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice, should do justice.

Thank you for doing justice by supporting The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

This report details our work in 2014 through the names of our supporters, facts and figures – along with some quotes from donors who are “doing justice” with us. Please browse and enjoy: you are part of our team, and we hope you recognize yourself in our successes of the past year!



Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
Executive Director
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland








The mission of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland 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.

Legal Aid uses the power of the law to ensure access to basic needs and lift people out of poverty. Thanks to thousands of supporters and community partners, Legal Aid provides services that focus on improving clients' health, safety, shelter, education, and economic security.

Legal Aid's Success in 2014 Included:

- Increased assets and income, and reduced debt by \$18 million for clients helped
- Prevented 59% of foreclosures
- Removed barriers to education in 88% of cases
- Prevented 99% of evictions
- Secured safety in 99% of cases

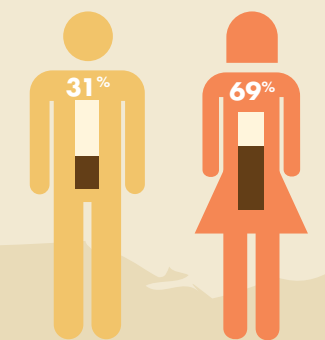
Yearly Comparison of Cases Handled

	Consumer (including foreclosure)	Family	Health-Education-Work- Income-Immigration	Housing	Other
					
2011	42%	20%	22%	12%	4%
2012	41%	19%	24%	13%	3%
2013	38%	21%	21%	16%	4%
2014	36%	22%	22%	16%	3%

Client Demographics 2014

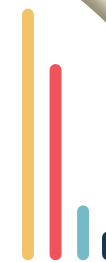
Focus on Special Populations:

- 48% of all households helped included children
- 14% of all clients were older adults
- 670 cases involved U.S. Veterans. These cases impacted 1,340 people
- 85% of households helped make less than \$25,000/year



Race/ Ethnicity

- Black = 59%
- White = 31%
- Hispanic = 7%
- Other = 3%



Cases by County 2014

- Cuyahoga: 79%
- Lake: 6%
- Geauga: 1%
- Lorain: 9%
- Ashtabula: 4%
- Other: 1%



Total Cases Handled in 2014: 8,286

Cases Handled and Closed **6,767** Cases Continued into 2015 **1,519**

Volunteer Lawyers Program

Cases Handled by Volunteers **1,521**

Volunteer Attorneys Engaged **512**

Number of Neighborhood Clinics **91**

People

Staff Attorneys 42 Other 25

Supporters Pro Bono Attorneys 2,616 In-House Volunteers 37 Law Students 210 Donors 1,433

2014 Finances

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	2014	2013
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,165,160	\$1,988,049
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$1,871,849	\$2,418,089
Donations and Private Grants	\$1,527,084	\$1,206,019
Donated Services	\$1,103,994	\$926,508
Other Government Grants	\$304,875	\$376,659
United Way	\$308,600	\$296,101
Partner Agencies (contracts for legal services)	\$68,802	\$90,061
Other Income	\$314,810	\$371,502
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,665,174	\$7,672,988
EXPENSES	2014	2013
Program Services	\$6,785,647	\$6,986,258
Support Services (administration & development)	\$1,289,775	\$1,090,654
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,075,422	\$8,076,912
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	-\$410,248	-\$403,924
Opening Net Assets	\$6,457,067	\$6,860,991
NET ASSETS as of year end	\$6,046,819	\$6,457,067
BREAKDOWN OF NET ASSETS	2014	2013
Unrestricted		
-Net Investment in Plant	\$2,931,609	\$2,920,584
-Board Designated Endowment	\$14,481	\$13,608
-Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$2,762,251	\$2,815,163
	\$5,708,341	\$5,749,355
Temporarily Restricted	\$273,428	\$652,662
Permanently Restricted	\$65,050	\$55,050
NET ASSETS	\$6,046,819	\$6,457,067

Total People Helped by Legal Aid



20,595

2014 Legal Aid Donors

We are grateful to members of our ten-year giving society (noted with an *) and those donors in our five-year giving society (noted with a "+"). These donors and their consistent support deserve special recognition. Donors designated in italics are deceased.

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I initially became involved with Legal Aid because of Aziza and Jean-Marie, sister and brother refugees from the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. Legal Aid assisted their extended family in Cleveland in getting them visas to come to the United States in 2007. Through an urban ministry program, my wife and I ended up becoming Aziza and Jean-Marie's legal guardians in 2009. The work Legal Aid does in Northeast Ohio helped not only Aziza and Jean-Marie, but also helps bring fairness and justice to thousands of people each year. Legal Aid accomplishes these outcomes by using the power of the law to help those who are poor and vulnerable. That is why I support Legal Aid.

-Edward W. Moore, Esq., Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, RPM International Inc., Member, Justice Leader Giving Society

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-Charna Sherman, Esq., Member, Champions of Justice Giving Society

Pro bono services are so important to protect the rights of those without the financial ability to do. I enjoy participating in the Brief Advice Clinics; the people who come for advice are always thankful for the time spent with them and the guidance on their issues. I also make an annual contribution to Legal Aid to enable it to maintain its high level of service for those less fortunate than myself.

-Maureen A. Doerner, Esq., Retired, KeyBank, Member, Advocates of Justice Giving Society

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*-David Tocco, Esq.,
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Every day, Legal Aid provides its clients with what should be a basic right: access to justice. Legal Aid delivers for those who need help and who have nowhere else to turn. In my numerous dealings with Legal Aid – whether as a Bar President, a Legal Aid board member, a pro bono volunteer or a donor – I have found that whatever time or money I could give has paid wonderful dividends towards helping our system of justice work for those who need it the most.

- David A. Kutik, Esq., Partner, Jones Day, Member, Champions of Justice Giving Society

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My world changed when I began working for Legal Aid in 1969. I jumped at the chance to work as a Legal Intern full time as I attended Cleveland-Marshall at night. I have no idea what my professional life would have been without my two years of experience with Legal Aid, but I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the Legal Aid family.

-James A. Lowe, Esq., Partner, Lowe Eklund Wakefield Co., LPA, Member, Champions of Justice Giving Society

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Legal Aid has been integral in helping us identify clients and cases for our students to work on as they begin their legal careers as certified legal interns in our Clinic. I consider Legal Aid a valuable partner in helping us train new lawyers on the importance of representing their clients to the best of their abilities and leveling the playing field for clients who would otherwise be unable to invoke the legal system to protect their rights.

-Andrew S. Pollis, Esq., Associate Professor of Law - Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Member, Benefactors of Justice Giving Society

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Legal Aid is important to our community. And, I give because my mother always said, "Help others." She helped so that someone may help one of hers. So when I receive help, I try to give back. If everyone gives, no one goes without and we're all better for it.

-Ida Williams, Community Representative Board Member at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Member, Friends of Justice Giving Society

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I support Legal Aid because I realize how fortunate I am, and how a relatively small effort on my part can make a big difference in the life of someone who is less fortunate. If those of us in positions of power can help those in our community who are down on their luck, the whole community benefits.

-Chris Williams, Esq., Partner, Calfee Halter & Griswold, Member, Benefactors of Justice Giving Society



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