Hold fast y to Dreams

-Langston Hughes



LEGAL AID'S 118TH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, November 20, 2023 – 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsors are current as of November 2, 2023

PRESENTING



PLATINUM













GOLD

















SILVER

Calfee, Halter & Griswold • Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. • McDonald Hopkins Nelson Mullins • Northern Ohio Printing • Porter Wright Morris & Arthur Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino • Wickens Herzer Panza

BRONZE

Case Western Reserve University School of Law • Catholic Charities • Cleveland Academy of Trial Attorneys • Cleveland Clinic Foundation Cleveland State University College of Law • Fairport Wealth • Hahn Loeser & Parks • Margaret W. Wong & Associates Norman S. Minor Bar Association • Tucker Ellis • Ulmer & Berne

GENERAL

Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp • Brouse McDowell • Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs • The City Club of Cleveland • Cleveland Foundation • Cleveland Public Library Cleveland Rape Crisis Center • Eaton • Fisher Phillips • Gallagher Sharp • HFLA of Northeast Ohio • JACK Entertainment • Jackson Lewis • Vanetta Jamison • KJK

The Lubrizol Corporation • Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper • Ohio Access to Justice Foundation • Perez Morris • Reminger • Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell

Spangenberg, Shibley & Liber • Stout Risius Ross • United Way of Greater Cleveland • Walter | Haverfield • Weston Hurd • Yourkvitch & Dibo





THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND'S 118TH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, November 20, 2023 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown

3:20 p.m. Registration Opens

1.0 hour Continuing Legal Education credit available for attorneys. Please visit this link to attest to attendance: lasclev.org/2023CLECredit

3:30 p.m. Music Selection Cleveland Metropolitan School District's

Campus International School Choir

directed by Jason Levy

4:00 p.m. School Choir joined by General Counsel Glee Club

accompanied by Jonathan Leiken, ukulele see page 5 for list of Glee Club members

Introduction, Welcome Colleen Cotter, Esq.

& Legal Aid Update Executive Director, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Staff Awards
Pages 11, 14 & 15
Claude E. Clarke Award
Leadership Award

C. Lyonel Jones Lifetime Leadership Award

Volunteer Awards

pages 22 & 23

Legacy of Justice Award

Access to Justice Award

Community Impact Award

Board Member Recognition page 23

Louis Stokes Paragon Award page 11

"Hold Fast to Dreams" a film produced by Goldfarb Weber Creative Media

Why We Dream

Jonathan Leiken, Esq. (Dollar Tree)

Board President, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Keynote Moderator Quo Vadis Cobb, Esq. (Jacobs Engineering) *Vice President, Board of Directors,* The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Keynote Panel Gina Beredo, Esq. Owens Corning

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

April Miller Boise, Esq. Intel Corporation

Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

Paul Grewal, Esq. Coinbase *Chief Legal Officer*

Taras ("Terry") Szmagala, Jr., Esq. Eaton Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

Enjoy food and drink; mingle with friends

5:15 p.m. Reception

#TogetherWeCan

#ExtendJustice



We are Proud to Support the

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

to Extend Justice and be Guardians of Community Dreams

#TogetherWeCan







NSMBA is proud to support The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland on its Annual Meeting.

2022 - 2024 Executive Board

Delanté Spencer Thomas, *President*Brandon Brown, *First Vice President*Jasmine Taylor, *Second Vice President*Cyrus Patton, *Treasurer*

Erin James, Membership Secretary Kortney Mosley, Recorder Ciera Colón, Immediate Past President Hon, Ronald Adrine, President Emeritus

www.nsmba.org

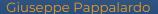
Tucker Ellis is a proud sponsor of the

2023 Legal Aid Annual Meeting

We are delighted to recognize our Partners in Justice











Hannah Smith

Tucker Ellis Llp

Together we can build a better future.

Ulmer stands with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in its work to cultivate a community where dedicated legal professionals join together to secure justice for those most in need.



Our business begins with you:

General Coursel GLEE CLUB The second of th

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 SINGERS!

Co-Chairs

Lisa Radigan (Diebold Nixdorf) Jonathan Leiken (Dollar Tree)

Atossa Alavi (AlphaMicron Inc.)

Lisa Black (Catholic Charities)

Sarah Cammock (Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities)

Annie Duffy (PT Asset Management, LLC)

Elizabeth Grove (Lubrizol)

Sara Horvath (Ranpak)

Shannon Jerse (Sisters of Charity Health System)

Heather Kimmel (United Church of Christ)

Katie McVoy (Cleveland Metroparks)

Ginger Mlakar (The Cleveland Foundation)

Jennifer Rieker (Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission)

Erin Ryan (BBQGuys)

Iken Sans (Lubrizol)

Sonali Wilson (Cleveland State University)

Leslie Wolfe (Lubrizol)

Georgia Yanchar (MRI Software)



IN 2022, LEGAL AID SERVED **21,640** PEOPLE + GROUPS THROUGH 7,941 CASES

DURING 2022, LEGAL AID increased assets and income and reduced debt for our clients by more than \$10.45 million





moves **PREVENTED**

rent assistance **SECURED**

REMOVED barriers



REDUCED debt to education



CASES BY COUNTY

83[%] Cuyahoga **8**[%] Lorain **4**[%] Lake **4**[%] Ashtabula **1**[%] Geauga

2022 CASES BY INITIAL CONTACT

(INTAKE METHOD)



client completed intake over the **PHONE**



client completed intake **ONLINE**



outreach **CLINICS**



ONLINE REFERRAL (partner portal)



COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



168 clinics (79 virtual, **89** in-person)



144 legal education presentations and outreach events for community groups



144 legal education presentations for social service providers (including 20 virtual presentations)

CASES BY PRACTICE AREA

OTHER: legal assistance to groups, wills & estates, expungements & record sealing

FAMILY: divorce / separation, custody, domestic violence

HEALTH & OPPORTUNITY: education, immigration, health

& income benefits

ECONOMIC JUSTICE: taxes, bankruptcy, debt, collections, loans, contracts

C : %

22 %

HOUSING: landlord / tenant disputes, evictions, defective housing conditions

OUR PEOPLE



2022 Staff

78 Attorneys / **61** Support Staff



2022 Supporters

1,720 Total Donors **1,498** Individuals **102** Law Firms/Corporations **72** Foundations **11** United Ways **37** Partner Agencies

Each year, Legal Aid helps thousands more through community legal education, information, and advocacy.

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



76% of households served MAKE LESS THAN \$25,000/year



383 cases involved
U.S. VETERANS or ACTIVE
DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS,
impacting 901 PEOPLE



Clients were
COMMUNITY GROUPS,
NONPROFITS or
BUSINESSES represented
by Legal Aid's growing
community engagement
practice



59% of all households helped included **CHILDREN**



58% of all cases involved clients who identify as **BLACK**

(60+) 18% of all cases involved clients who are OLDER ADULTS



74% all cases involved clients who identify as

Together We Can create community change

Published in September 2022, the research report, "Road to Nowhere: Debt Related Driver's License Suspensions in Ohio" is part of Legal Aid's ongoing work to address barriers to transportation for low-income communities.



Approximately **60**% of all Ohio driver's license suspensions are based on a person's failure to pay a fee or fine.

Debt-related license suspensions penalize those with limited means, resulting in a vicious cycle of poverty and criminalization.

VOLUNTEERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING LEGAL AID CLOSE THE JUSTICE GAP.

Annually, up to 20% of Legal Aid's matters are handled by *pro bono* attorneys.



Volunteer hours:

9,170 total volunteer hours contributed in 2022

- * 4,606 HOURS contributed FROM 109 IN-HOUSE VOLUNTEERS (those providing extended service)
- → 4,564 HOURS contributed FROM 581 VOLUNTEERS (those helping with a case, clinic, or community event)



Helping turn dreams into reality

We honor **The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland** for the vital role it plays in helping Northeast Ohioans overcome challenges and achieve their dreams.

Congratulations to our own **Ray Malone**, a Legal Aid Partner in Justice who embodies BakerHostetler's continuing commitment to supporting justice for all.

BakerHostetler

bakerlaw.com

one open door can open doors across a community.

Some of our most important work happens outside the four walls of our bank. KeyBank supports working with community focused organizations through investments, philanthropy, and volunteering. We believe that together we can help our communities thrive.

KeyBank thanks Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for making a difference.



KEYNOTE PANEL



Gina Beredo serves as executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Owens Corning. She was appointed to this role in June 2021. Prior to joining Owens Corning, she served as executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for Nordson Corporation. Before joining Nordson in 2013, Beredo served as chief litigation counsel and director of compliance and ethics at American Greetings Corporation. She began her legal career as a litigation associate at BakerHostetler LLP.

Beredo is committed to serving her community and has served on the boards of Playhouse Square, Providence House, and Ruffing Montessori (Rocky River). She also coached to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers. She has also coached

chaired three STEM events designed to inspire middle school girls to pursue STEM careers. She has also coached youth sports for over 20 years.



April Miller Boise is executive vice president and chief legal officer at Intel Corporation. She leads Intel's global legal, trade, and government affairs team, is a member of the executive leadership team, and is a strategic adviser to the company and the board of directors. Prior to joining Intel in July 2022, Miller Boise was executive vice president and chief legal officer at Eaton Corp.

Miller Boise has more than 25 years of experience and has served in executive leadership roles including chief legal officer, general counsel, and head of global mergers and acquisitions. Earlier in her career, Miller Boise practiced on Wall Street and later led the

largest office of an AmLaw 200 law firm as managing partner and was a member of the firm's executive committee.



Paul Grewal is the chief legal officer of Coinbase where he is responsible for Coinbase's legal, compliance, global intelligence, risk management, and government relations groups. Before joining Coinbase, Grewal was vice president and deputy general counsel at Facebook. Prior to Facebook, Grewal served as United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of California.

He was previously a partner at Howrey LLP, where his practice focused on intellectual property litigation. Grewal served as a law clerk to Federal Circuit Judge Arthur J. Gajarsa and United States District Judge Sam H. Bell.



Taras "Terry" Szmagala Jr. is executive vice president and chief legal officer for Eaton. He serves as counsel to Eaton's executive management team and its board of directors, and leads the company's global legal organization, including the corporate governance and compliance functions.

Prior to joining Eaton, Szmagala worked as group counsel with Avery Dennison Corporation and as an attorney with Squire Patton Boggs. He has served in leadership roles in many community organizations and is currently serving on the boards of St. Ignatius High School and the Ukrainian Catholic University.

LOUIS STOKES PARAGON AWARD



In August 2015, Legal Aid lost former board member, supporter, and friend Congressman Louis Stokes. Congressman Stokes dedicated his life to serving the people of Cleveland. His was a sharp vision of justice: all people deserve our respect, and any barriers that prevent each individual from fully engaging in our society must be removed. In his honor, Legal Aid inaugurated in 2015 the Louis Stokes Paragon Award.

This year's Paragon Award recipient is Vanetta Jamison. Jamison was a Legal Aid client nearly two decades ago, who went on to become the organization's first non-attorney board president in 2016.



Vanetta Jamison first connected with Legal Aid in 2004 as a family law client. Legal Aid assisted Jamison through divorce proceedings while she focused on obtaining her degree and raising her children. Impressed with the service she received, she decided to volunteer, eventually receiving an invitation to join Legal Aid's board of directors. Jamison went on to serve as Legal Aid's first non-attorney board president in 2016 and 2017.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Jamison has always demonstrated a love for her community and a deep empathy for people. A benefit specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Jamison travels

across Ohio to educate and connect veterans to benefits and services. Active with many local organizations, Jamison brings a passion for equality and social justice to all that she does.

STAFF RECOGNITION

C. LYONEL JONES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

...for a career dedicated to The Legal Aid Society and its clients, and named in honor of C. Lyonel Jones (1932 – 2006), who himself dedicated his entire legal career to Legal Aid.



Penny Gooden
Intake Specialist II, Volunteer Lawyers Program and Intake Group

With Legal Aid since the late 1970's, Penny Gooden has been a dedicated employee for 45 years and is passionate about pursuing justice and providing support for Legal Aid's clients. She initially began her work at Legal Aid's Westside Office, filling many roles from legal secretary to office manager. Penny's career path adapted along with the organization's growth and change. She eventually moved to the Downtown Office and joined the Intake Group at the recommendation of a supervisor who noticed her keen interviewing skills.

Now, nearly 20 years later, Penny remains a leader in the Intake Group, serving as a mentor to new staff, and a supportive colleague to all. She continues to use her excellent interviewing skills to ensure that all clients and visitors are treated with dignity and respect, and trains incoming staff to do the same. Day-in and day-out. She remains calm and poised while listening to clients share details about difficult situations, and her work demonstrates a deep understanding of the many complex issues our clients face. Last year, she also served as a mentor to local high school students participating in a corporate work study program at Legal Aid, giving of herself patiently and generously as she introduced the students to the scope of Legal Aid's work and providing positive coaching along the way.

Penny is a leader in the organization – she notices when there are big issues happening in the community and identifies opportunities when she thinks Legal Aid can do more as an organization. Legal Aid and the Intake Group are stronger because of her dedicated service. Penny's unparalleled commitment to providing high-quality service to clients for 45 years makes her deeply deserving of the 2023 C. Lyonel Jones Lifetime Achievement Award.

11

RPM International Inc. is proud to support The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Thank you for securing justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change.



RPM International Inc., based in Medina, Ohio, owns subsidiaries that are world leaders in specialty coatings, sealants, building materials and related services.

















Accellis is proud to support the efforts of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and their mission to connect individuals in need with people that can help.

Whether you're looking for access to faster technical support, better strategic planning, or to lower your IT management costs, Accellis can help.

Managed IT Services | Cybersecurity | Microsoft Cloud



IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THE MOMENT, I STILL HAVE A DREAM.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

STAFF RECOGNITION

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland annually recognizes staff through this awards program funded by Legal Aid's Leadership Fund for Organizational Development.

The fund is supported by the Allen Madorsky Memorial Fund and the Alan Gressel Memorial Fund at Legal Aid and numerous other individual gifts. If you are interested in making a gift to support Legal Aid's Leadership Fund, please call 216.861.5217.

Leadership Award

... to acknowledge outstanding staff leadership, tireless efforts for Legal Aid clients and vision for Legal Aid's work. The Leadership Award is presented to an individual who makes Legal Aid a better organization, helps others around them achieve more for Legal Aid clients, and creates a team for social justice.



David Johnson, Data & Evaluation Manager

David Johnson is a superhero behind the scenes. David's expertise, his ability to see and create new solutions, and his communication skills enable Legal Aid to make data-informed decisions. Over the last 8 years, David's leadership has earned him a reputation as a data and evaluation expert and also as a reliable confidant, mentor, and leader.

The big picture is always present in David's mind, and he genuinely considers every possible (and often unique) scenario when analyzing data or applying new software or processes. He has elevated Legal Aid's level of efficiency and organizational capacity by applying insightful safeguards and custom analytics to our case management system. His knowledge has helped Legal Aid pioneer new tools and advance advocacy for our clients.

David is known as an expert throughout the national legal aid community – for his deep understanding and creative management of our case management system and how we can better understand our work and our client communities by leveraging data. He provides valuable insights to other legal aid organizations across the country, helping them establish reporting structures, understand the power of data, and implement solutions.

David's deep data expertise not only improves outcomes and operations for Cleveland Legal Aid staff and clients, but also for others. His contributions have a profound impact on Legal Aid's ability to fulfill its mission. David's tireless work behind the scenes and unrelenting drive for excellence make him deserving of the 2023 Leadership Award.

The Claude E. Clarke Award

 \dots recognizes staff members for outstanding service through professional performance and commitment to Legal Aid and its clients, and is named for Claude Clarke (1890 – 1975), who directed Legal Aid's work for nearly four decades.



Tammy Adams, Paralegal II, Economic Justice Practice Group

Tammy displays outstanding service to Legal Aid's tax clients, placing them first and centering their needs. With Legal Aid since 2021, Tammy lives the value of prioritizing our clients. She graciously accommodates clients' meeting location preferences, even when that means she must travel to a different Legal Aid office or other location convenient for the client. She promptly returns client phone calls and emails, provides personalized attention, and strives to establish a good rapport with each and every tax client. She displays this same consideration in providing support to other Legal Aid staff and volunteers – offering to help her tax practice colleagues – no matter what the issue – and often adjusting her workload to meet the deadlines of others. Tammy's outstanding efforts contribute to the outstanding reputation and successful outcomes of Legal Aid's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

The Claude E. Clarke Award (...continued from previous page)



David King, Senior Attorney, Housing Practice Group

David joined Legal Aid in 2020, after serving as a Cuyahoga County Assistant Public Defender for nearly twenty-nine years. His career as a Public Defender acquainted him with the issues facing low-income clients and their families, allowing him to hit the ground running at Legal Aid. Focused on civil landlord/tenant cases, primarily eviction defense work, David effectively negotiates with landlords' attorneys so that clients stay in their homes or have the time they need to move and avoid an eviction judgment against them. In addition to providing excellent individual representation, David has broadened his impact by serving as a mentor for newer colleagues, accompanying less-experienced attorneys to court, and often serving as trial co-counsel. When colleagues have evidentiary issues or questions about the interaction between a client's criminal charge and their eviction case, they consult with David. Through his work, David combines his dedication to humanity and his commitment to social justice with his determination to ensure that the judicial system functions fairly for all.



Emily Murphy, Paralegal I, Economic Justice Practice Group

Emily exhibits outstanding service through her professional performance and commitment to our client community. She joined Legal Aid in 2021 while we were experiencing a huge increase in unemployment benefits cases because of the pandemic. A quick study, Emily jumped in to learn how to review those cases and how to support the attorneys handling them. As the number of unemployment cases waned, Emily shifted to learn other areas of employment law and barriers to employment, including employment discrimination, wage theft, criminal record sealing, and certificates of qualification for employment (CQEs). When meeting with clients, Emily is patient and empathetic, helping the client identify and work toward their goals. In addition to completing projects assigned to her, Emily regularly flags potential issues for attorneys and proposes steps or strategies that may be helpful to the attorney.



Krystle Rivera, Staff Attorney, Health & Opportunity Practice Group

Krystle was hired in 2020 and quickly learned both education and public benefits law, bringing her experience from prior positions in the education field. This unique insight elevates our education law practice and results in strong advocacy. Krystle is involved in the statewide education task force and has worked to draft comments regarding school discipline to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. In 2021, Krystle took on the added responsibility of becoming the Community Advocacy Program attorney for two of our Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) sites with MetroHealth. In this role, she has formed relationships with medical providers, represented Legal Aid at community partner meetings, and addressed a broad range of civil legal needs that arise in her MLP referrals. She handles these tasks on top of her regular public benefits and education caseload. Krystle places a priority on understanding the issues that are important to our clients and the communities we serve, and she regularly represents Legal Aid at community events.



Michael Russell, Senior Attorney, Community Engagement Practice Group

Mike demonstrates a deep commitment to Legal Aid – beginning his career at Alaska Legal Services, moving to Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, and then joining Cleveland Legal Aid in 2017. His work consistently reflects his commitment to working for and with our clients to achieve their goals. Since 2019, Mike has been a senior attorney in Community Engagement helping lead the development of our group representation, community economic development, and community lawyering work. He works on a wide range of projects, serves as lead counsel on several complex cases in which we represent groups, and displays a willingness to continue growing his professional skills to better serve our clients. One example of this is Mike's work supporting cooperative business models. Initially an unfamiliar area, Mike has developed deep knowledge about cooperative law. He now serves on the Board for Cleveland Owns, helps plan the Ohio Cooperative Law Conference, and has become one of Ohio's experts in this area. In all that Mike does, he brings humility and respect for our clients, honoring their expertise as equal to the legal knowledge he brings to the effort.





CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

TOGETHER WE CAN EXTEND JUSTICE.

Thanks to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for all you do!

CSULAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2121 Euclid Avenue, LB 126 · Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2214 Phone: 216.687.2368 · Email: cmlaa.csu@gmail.com www.csulaa-csuohio.org

SAVE THE DATE

CSULAA's 2024 Annual Recognition Luncheon honoring:

Kemper Arnold, CSU|LAW 1980 Awatef Assad, CSU|LAW 1995

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

Legal Aid in the Community







































- 1. Legal Aid's summer staff pose for a photo on their first day, Read more about the summer 2023 team at: tinyurl.com/2023summerstaff
- 2. Legal Aid Board Members Jon Leiken, Esq. (Dollar Tree) and Jan Roller, Esq. (Perez Morris) at the West Side Catholic Center for a free legal advice clinic.
- 3. Carmen Verhosek, Esq. (Dooley Gembala) helps a U.S. Veteran at a recent free legal advice clinic.
- **4. Dennis Dobos** (Legal Aid) is interviewed on BBC Community Radio, WOVU, on your rights related to tax law.
- **5.** (I-r) **Lillie Burkons** (Legal Aid), **Rich Wesorick** (Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino, and lead singer of **Faith & Whiskey**), **Nina Cherian** (Legal Aid), **Neil Cherian** (Cleveland Clinic)
- 6. Teresa Mathern, Legal Aid Intake Specialist
- **7.** Anne Sowell, Dr. E. Harry Walker, and Mallory Curran, Esq. reunite to honor **20 years of Medical-Legal Partnership** at Legal Aid's Founder's Day event.
- 8. Hugh McKay (Porter Wright, and lead singer in The No Name Band), Kris Treu (Buckingham), and Sue McKay at Jam for Justice.
- 9. Brittany Howard, Esq. (Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service)
- 10. Melanie Shakarian, Esq. (middle) accepts a generous gift for Legal Aid from members of the Ashtabula Foundation Board of Directors.
- 11. Members of **State Road** on the Beachland Ballroom's Tavern Stage at Jam for Justice: **Mike Cicero** (Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper), **Morgan Ellington** (Newbury Technologies), **David Marinelli**, and **Brent Pace** (Sherwin-Williams)
- 12. Howard Coburn, Esq. (KeyBank) provides free legal advice at a clinic in honor of KeyBank Neighbors Make the Difference Day.
- 13. Anastasia Elder, Esq. (Case Western Reserve University) and Shashelia Degraffinried, Esq. (Spitz Law Firm)
- 14. Volunteer Lawyers Program Administrative Assistants Aliah Lawson, Teresa Mathern and Isabel McClain pose at a recent free legal advice clinic.
- **15.** Attorney Hayden Gilbert of **Hayden Gilbert and The Ruckus** makes his debut at Jam for Justice 2023. Thanks to Hayden and the 8 other music groups more than \$120,000 was raised for Legal Aid!
- 16. Dena Kobasic, Esq.
- 17. Nancy Donnelly, Esq. (Steris) and Ellen Meehan, Esq. (Squire Patton Boggs) team up to provide pro bono service at an advice clinic.







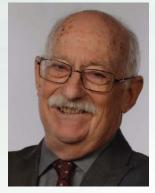
We are proud to support the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in its mission to secure legal solutions and justice for Northeast Ohio's vulnerable population.



Volunteer Lawyers Program [vlp]

LEGACY OF JUSTICE AWARD

given to an individual, group or institution whose participation in pro bono or other volunteer efforts has been significant in terms of length and/or impact.



Stephen Hobt (posthumously)

Stephen Hobt handled more than 70 *pro bono* cases from Legal Aid over the past two decades before he passed away in 2023.

Stephen believed that every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. He recognized his unique expertise in economic justice issues and put that knowledge to use for the more than 200 people he helped in his various Legal Aid *pro bono* cases. Stephen made a difference in the lives of his

clients: he helped them gain a new beginning by helping them get out of debt and see a brighter future. Legal Aid rarely had to ask – Stephen always offered. He sought out tough cases and offered his expertise. As a testament to his dedication to *pro bono*, many other bankruptcy attorneys offered to take on Stephen's *pro bono* case load and volunteer more with Legal Aid in his honor.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

given in recognition of significant contribution to advancing the mission of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland through pro bono commitment. This recognition is informed by number of hours/ cases/ clinics.



Ellen and Michael Meehan

Ellen Meehan (Squire Patton Boggs US) and Michael Meehan (retired, Cleveland Clinic) are a dynamic duo – each promoting *pro bono* in different ways for law firms and in-house counsel.

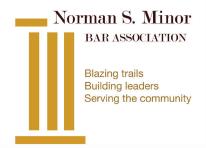
Ellen and Mike together have provided *pro bono* service through nearly 50 cases and clinics since 2008. Thousands more hours were donated by others who were encouraged to volunteer thanks to their example, as both have done much to inspire the next generation of attorneys to get involved with Legal Aid. Ellen serves as a mentor for others with questions about probate and estate work and

has encouraged other attorneys at Squire Patton Boggs and elsewhere to volunteer. Mike, as deputy general counsel at the Cleveland Clinic, served as many years as the ambassador between the Cleveland Clinic and Legal Aid. In that capacity, he created a structure to make it easy for Cleveland Clinic's in-house attorneys to get involved with *pro bono*. And, through that – the Cleveland Clinic became a formal collaborator with Legal Aid for a Medical-Legal partnership.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland cannot assist its many clients without the great work of its volunteers. Annually, up to 20% of Legal Aid's matters are handled by *pro bono* attorneys.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

given to individual(s), firm(s), group(s) or other volunteer(s) who have made a mark for outstanding participation, effort, or critical involvement that ensured success for a client, client community, project etc.



Norman S. Minor Bar Association

The Norman S. Minor Bar Association (NSMBA) works with Legal Aid to offer its membership the opportunity to learn about community needs, network with peers, and grow their legal skills and knowledge. For its entire history, the Norman S. Minor Bar Association has been a partner with Legal Aid – and over the last decade the membership has adopted Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program as its official *pro bono* project, doing *pro bono* work through at least two clinics each year. Additionally, leadership of

the NSMBA regularly shares "take a case" opportunities with its membership, helping to meet community needs with interested volunteers in their membership. The incredible volunteer service is not isolated to just *pro bono* work, as members of the NSMBA support other Legal Aid activities like Jam for Justice and other outreach events.



Hugh McKay, Esq.

Mike Ungar, Esq.



POLLAR TREE. FAMILY POLLAR.

Proudly Supporting the Legal Aid Society to Serve Communities in the Greater Cleveland Area





nce upon a time, 53 Cleveland attorneys dreamed of building an association that would advance the rule of law and serve Clevelanders. Today, 150 years strong, CMBA members are still shooting for the moon where equity and access to justice truly exist for all.





2023-2026 Strategic Plan

Mission

Our mission is to secure justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change.

Vision

We envision communities in which all people experience dignity and justice, free from poverty and oppression.

Values

Legal Aid's Core Values that shape our culture, support our decision-making, and guide our behavior are that we:

- Pursue racial justice and equity.
- Treat everyone with respect, inclusion, and dignity.
- Do high-quality work.
- Prioritize our clients and communities.
- Work in solidarity.

Issues We Address

Legal Aid will continue to understand the needs of our clients and client communities, and refine and focus our services to meet those needs within these four areas:

1. Improve safety and health

Secure safety for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, increase access to health care, improve health and safety of homes, and mitigate the social determinants of health.

2. Promote economic security and education

Increase access to quality education, increase income and assets, reduce debt, and reduce disparities in income and wealth.

3. Secure stable and decent housing

Increase availability and accessibility of affordable housing, improve housing stability, and improve housing conditions.

4. Improve accountability and accessibility of the justice system and government entities Increase meaningful access to courts and government agencies, decrease financial barriers to the courts, and increase access to justice for self-represented litigants.

Approaches to addressing issues

Legal representation, *Pro Se* Assistance & Advice

Legal Aid represents clients (individuals and groups) in transactions, negotiation, litigation, and administrative settings. Legal Aid also provides assistance to *pro se* individuals and advises individuals, so they are equipped to make decisions based on professional guidance.

Community Engagement, Coalitions, Partnerships, and Education

Legal Aid provides people with the information and resources to solve issues on their own and seek assistance when needed. Legal Aid also works with clients and client communities and in partnership with groups and organizations to elevate the impact of our services and ensure sustainability of our outcomes.

Advocacy for Systemic Change

Legal Aid works towards long-lasting, systemic solutions through impact litigation, amicus, comments on administrative rules, court rules, education of decision-makers, and other advocacy opportunities.

Strategic Goals

Make systems better for our clients.

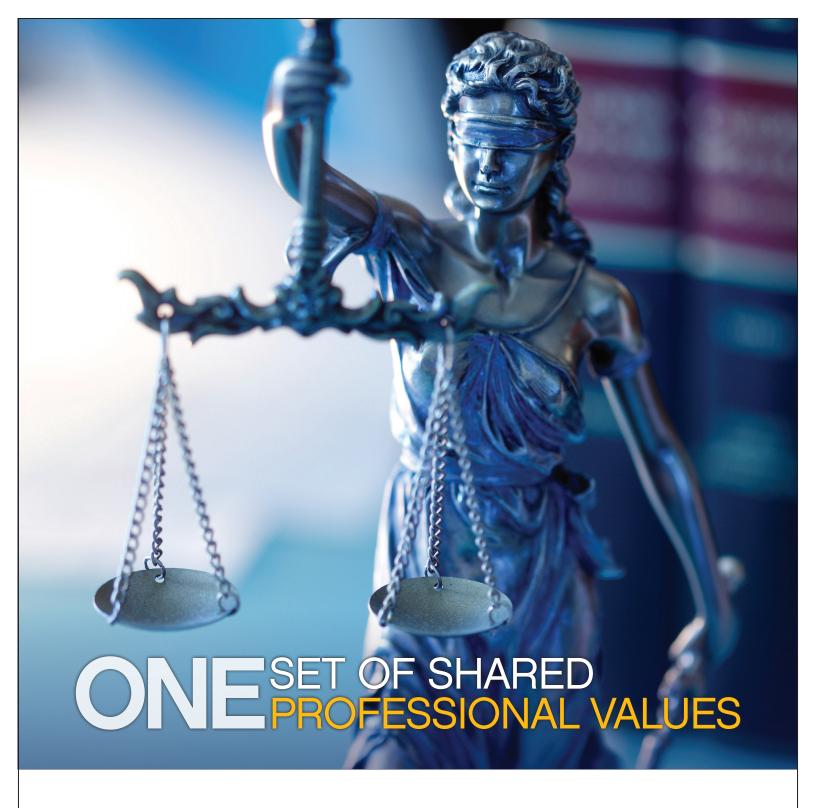
1. Establish the infrastructure for systems change work to achieve long-term equity and justice.

Build our skills and capacity to better fulfill our mission.

- 2. Become more human-centered, trauma-informed, and responsive to our clients and client communities.
- 3. Establish an anti-racist practice.
- 4. Align our culture and infrastructure with our core values, impact areas, and strategic goals.

Leverage the resources around us to amplify our impact.

- 5. Establish reciprocal relationships and partnerships with our clients and client communities to increase impact.
- 6. Deepen reciprocal relationships and partnerships with organizations to increase impact.



Jones Day proudly supports The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and its many initiatives to help those who are most in need of legal services. Legal Aid is a vehicle to make dreams a reality through its action-focused work. "Hold fast to dreams." – Langston Hughes

Why Jones Day? Binding energy, conviction, and credibility arising from shared professional values.



Taft/

Celebrating

Taft's 2023 partners in justice.

Thank you for promoting Legal Aid's work in our community.

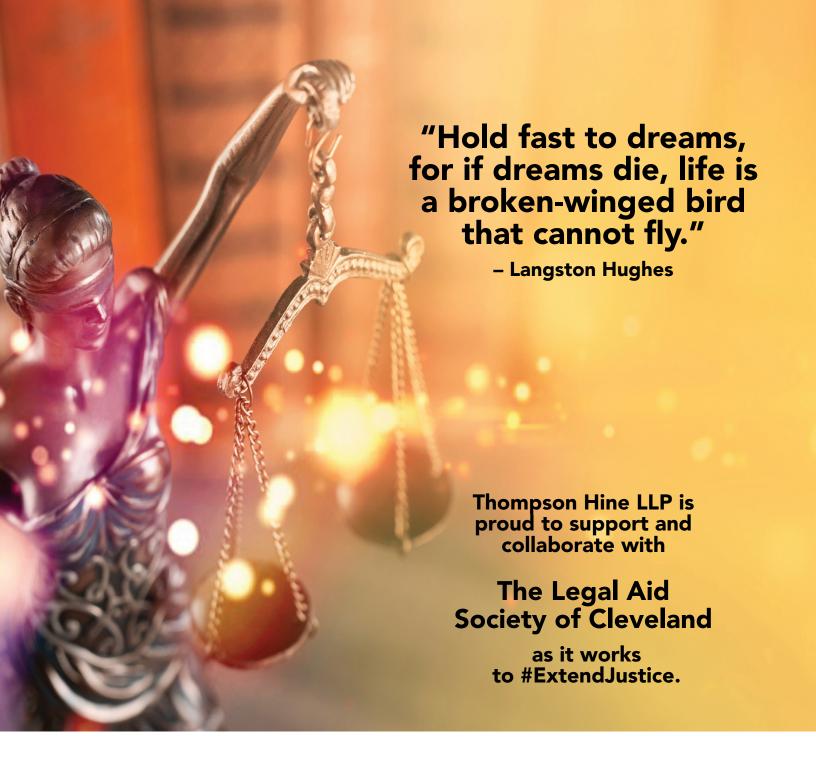
Lynn Rowe Larsen

Allison Smith Newsome

Daniel Bryan

Eugene Roytberg

Will Doyle





A Smarter Way to Work – predictable, efficient and aligned with client goals.



Calfee is proud to support The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and congratulates Art Hall and Chris Williams as 2023 Partners in Justice.

For 120 years, Calfee attorneys have provided sound legal counsel to support business clients' growth objectives while also supporting organizations committed to advancing the health, well-being, and opportunities in our local communities.

CALFEE.COM | 888.CALFEE1

©2023 Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP. All Rights Reserved. 1405 E. Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. ADVERTISING MATERIAL.



Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. is proud to sponsor the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and its continuing mission to extend justice to everyone in our community.







"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

- Dr. Martin Luther King

"This is what God asks of you only this, to act justly to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God."

- Micah 6:8



Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, envisions a world touched by God's love: where we alleviate poverty and need, and all people share justly in the blessings of creation.

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE. SERVING ALL.

www.ccdocle.org

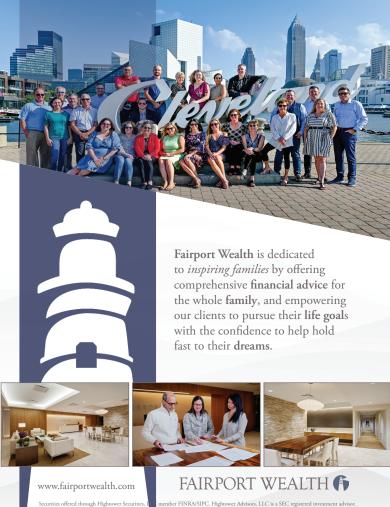
For every care in the community.

We proudly support the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Thank you for helping to make dreams a reality through your action-focused work.

ClevelandClinic.org







WICKENS HERZER PANZA

is proud to recognize our Firm's 2023 Partners in Justice



Matthew W. Nakon, Esq.

... and them



Daniel C. Urban, Esq.

for their commitment and service in support of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.



WickensLaw.com

We are honored to support The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and its mission to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable.

At Case Western Reserve University School of Law, we develop lawyers ready to make an impact—starting with initiatives like our Social Justice Law Center and our 10 legal clinics, through which students provide pro bono support to clients in need.

It's a mission that directly aligns with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, and one of the many reasons we support and applaud all that the society does daily for our community.

case.edu/law







Proud supporters of



and Legal Aid's mission of ensuring access to justice for all.

It's time to redefine the scope of diversity and inclusion efforts.

At McDonald Hopkins, we are dedicated to understanding and responding to the evolving needs of our team, clients, and communities.

www.mcdonaldhopkins.com



Nelson Mullins is proud to support

Legal Aid's 2023 Annual Meeting

We are inspired by your longstanding commitment to hold fast to the dream of securing justice, equity, and access for all people through advocacy and systemic change.











Attorneys and legal professionals only in the United States



NORTHERN OHIO PRINTING

Our printing solutions are thoughtfully crafted to make a lasting impression.

Your designs are intended to speak to your brand's story, and they deserve a partnership worthy of telling it. As craftsman printers and designers, we know a thing or two about bringing brands to life. We put heart and an unmatched skill set into every print, treatment, and enhancement.

Northern Ohio Printing has been a proud to partner to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for their printing needs for the past 6+ years!

o 216.398.0000 e info@nohioprint.com www.nohioprint.com in @ f & G @nohioprint













- Langston Hughes











PROUD TODAY.

INSPIRED. EVERY DAY.

Giving back and paying it forward are simple beliefs at the core of our culture at Porter Wright. We are proud to support the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's critical mission, and we thank our Legal Aid Partners in Justice Tracey Turnbull and Board Member Hugh McKay for their commitment.

porterwright

INSPIRED LEGAL COUNSEL





"Hold fast to dreams."

Langston Hughes

We are proud to support Legal Aid in its mission to fulfill community dreams by extending justice to those most in need.

Local Connections. Global Influence.

More Than 40 Offices Across Four Continents
squirepattonboggs.com

Leaders in

Intellectual **Property Law**

The Tarolli Firm has become a recognized leader in the field of intellectual property law by maintaining a devotion to clients and a commitment to providing prompt, high-quality services.







Computer



Biomedical



Mechanical



Biotechnology /



Trademark

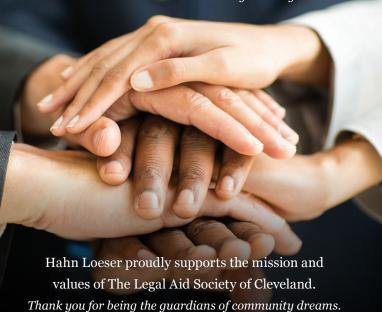
Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino LLP 950 Main Avenue Suite 710 Cleveland, OH 44113

Office 216 621 2234 Fax 216.621.4072 **Email** tarolli@tarolli.com

www.tarolli.com

"HOLD FAST TO DREAMS."

—Langston Hughes





HAHN 🕕 LOESER

attorneys at law

HAHN LOESER & PARKS LLP | HAHNLAW.COM | 216.621.0150 200 PUBLIC SQUARE | SUITE 2800 | CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114



Grace, **Gratitude & Love**



Margaret W. Wong & Associates, a leading immigration services firm with over 200 years of combined experience, has represented thousands of employers & individuals around the world since 1978. We tailor solutions to your particular immigration needs. We fight for the best results with innovative strategies. We guide our clients through complex immigration law that requires prompt and professional responses.

Green Cards • Permanent Residency • Non-Immigrant Visas Immigrant Visas • Visas & Labor Certification • Citizenship & Naturalization Deportation & Removal • Exclusion & Asylum • Employment Authorization Criminal Alien Issues • 601A Waiver • BIA Appeals • Federal Litigation







MWW Immigration Center, 3150 Chester Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114 216-566-9908 www.imwong.com info@imwong.com Atlanta • Chicago • Cleveland • Columbus • Nashville • New York • Raleigh



Legal Aid leverages gifts to maximize community impact. It is easy to make a gift – pick what works for you:





Via phone by calling 216.861.5590



Mail a check to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland 1223 West Sixth Street Cleveland, OH 44113

Quick Facts: Other Ways to Give



Direct IRA distributions to Legal Aid:

Attorney and Legal Aid supporter Dianne Foley recently reflected on the impact of giving through an IRA distribution:

"I give to Legal Aid because I deeply appreciate what it does for people who really need an attorney, who need help with matters that mean more than anything; a roof overhead, stability during a family crisis, or accessing critical benefits. Legal Aid's compassion for the community is unmatched."

"Donating through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA account** is simple. I work with my financial advisor – the administrator of my IRA accounts – to make sure the designated organizations receive my gifts, and the advisor does the rest. It's as simple as listing the nonprofits I want to support, along with the amount of each gift. My advisor then issues checks from my IRA distributions directly to the nonprofits in accordance with IRS regulations."

Don't forget about your Donor Advised Fund:

Consult with the administrator of your DAF to direct funds to Legal Aid. The check will go directly to Legal Aid from the third-party administrator – which means no hassle for you!

The gift that keeps on giving - endowed funds:

Legal Aid has several endowed funds that create long-term sustainability for the organization. Reach out to Legal Aid to learn more!

Plan your legacy today:

Create a better tomorrow by including Legal Aid in your estate plan through a bequest and become a member of *The 1905 Society*. Consult with your attorney or financial professional about this option today, and contact Legal Aid to let us know your plans.

Questions? Want to learn more? Call Camille at 216.861.5590



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harlin Adelman, Esq. **University Hospitals**

Jason Bristol, Esq. Cohen Rosenthal & Kramer LLP

Carolyn Butler Community Representative

Quo Vadis Cobb, Esq. Jacobs Engineering

Stephen M. Fazio, Esq. Squire Patton Boggs

Nathan Genovese, Esq. Community Representative **Gwen Graffenreed**

Community Representative

Elizabeth Grove

Lubrizol

Erica Hughes

Community Representative

Robyn King

Community Representative

Jonathan Leiken, Esq. Dollar Tree, Inc.

Hugh McKay, Esq. Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP

Carole Rendon, Esq.

BakerHostetler

Joseph Rodgers, Esq. **Eaton Corporation**

Jan Roller, Esq. Perez-Morris

Sonya Shakir

Community Representative

Robin Turner

Community Representative

Ted Tywang, Esq. Haslam Sports Group (Cleveland Browns)

Michael N. Ungar, Esq. Ulmer & Berne LLP

Daniel C. Urban, Esq. Wickens Herzer Panza

Neil Vakharia, Esq. McKinsey & Company

Doug Wang Retired, Northern Trust Bank

Rhonda Wilson Community Representative

MANAGING ATTORNEYS -

Katie Feldman, Esq.

Health & Opportunity Group

Lauren Gilbride, Esq. **Volunteer Lawyers**

Program & Intake

Katherine Barr Hollingsworth, Esq. **Economic Justice Group**

Tom Mlakar, Esq. Lorain County (Interim) Abigail Staudt, Esg.

Ashtabula, Lake, **Geauga Counties**

Anne K. Sweeney, Esq. Community Engagement Matthew Vincel, Esq.

Housing Group

Tonya Whitsett, Esq. Family Group

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.

Executive Director

Susan Chiancone

Director of Finance

Tenille N. Kaus, Esq.

Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Advancement

Tom Mlakar, Esq.

Deputy Director for Advocacy

Roz Quarto, Esq.

Director of Strategic Initiatives

Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq.

Director of Development &

Communications

lennifer Teeter

Executive Assistant & Organizational Development

Coordinator

LEGAL AID OFFICES

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland serves clients in five counties across Northeast Ohio.

Phone: 888.817.3777 lasclev.org

Cleveland & Administrative Offices 1223 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, 44113

323 W. Lakeside Avenue, 3rd Floor, Cleveland, 44113

Elyria 1530 West River Road North, Suite 301, Elyria, 44035

Jefferson 121 East Walnut Street, Jefferson, 44047

In addition to offices, Legal Aid provides services at numerous off-site locations including but not limited to hospitals, libraries, food banks, and other trusted community partners.

lasclev.org













The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland