“The first duty of society is justice.”
— Alexander Hamilton
In 2016, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland staff, board, volunteers, in partnership with our supporters, impacted nearly 18,000 people — including veterans, the elderly, foster youth, and single mothers — who share in common the burden of living with low income. Without free legal assistance, these clients faced daunting barriers to their safety, shelter, and economic stability.

We thank you for being a vital part of an engaged community, and for taking up the work of balancing the scales, establishing fairness for those who are most in need. In the words of Alexander Hamilton, “The first duty of society is justice.” And we did that duty.

We pursue justice under the leadership of our Board, one-third of whom know the devastation of poverty firsthand. For example, one Legal Aid Board Member has experienced homelessness. Several Board Members have fought to get their children the educational services to which the law entitles them, but schools turned a deaf ear. One Board Member lives in public housing, advocating for her fellow residents. Another is a U.S. Veteran who knows the scars and pride of military service. These board leaders keep us grounded in our community and focused on our clients. By working toward justice for our community’s most vulnerable, Legal Aid alleviates poverty and makes our society fairer – and stronger as a result.

We are proud of our work to bring justice and fairness to our community in 2016. You should be as well; this is work we could not do without your partnership!

Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
Executive Director
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
IN 2016, LEGAL AID IMPACTED 17,769 PEOPLE

LEGAL AID’S SUCCESS IN 2016 INCLUDED:
Increased assets and income, and reduced debt by $15.7 million for clients

PREVENTED 68% of foreclosures
PREVENTED 92% of evictions
removed barriers to education in 84% of cases
SECURED safety in 98% of cases

IN 2016, LEGAL AID IMPACTED 17,769 PEOPLE

7,459 total cases handled = 6,122 Cases Handled & Closed + 1,337 Cases Continued into 2017 including 1,462 cases handled by volunteers and 137 advice clinics

PEOPLE
OUR STAFF:
40 Attorneys
27 Support Staff

OUR SUPPORTERS:
2,720 Pro Bono Attorneys
474 Volunteer Attorneys Engaged
54 In-House Volunteers
230 Volunteer Law Students
1,467 Individual Donors

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2016

46% of all households helped included CHILDREN
18% of all clients were OLDER ADULTS (60+)
29% Male
71% Female

494 cases involved U.S. VETERANS. These cases IMPACTED 878 PEOPLE

83% of households served MAKE LESS THAN $25,000/year

RACE/ETHNICITY
56% BLACK
34% WHITE
7% HISPANIC
3% OTHER

CASES BY COUNTY 2016

10% Lorain
76% Cuyahoga
7% Lake
1% Geauga
5% Ashtabula

CASES BY PRACTICE 2016

37% Health-Education-Work-Income-Immigration
22% Consumer
17% Family
4% Housing
1% Other
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.
2016 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. We welcome our first-time givers (noted with a ">#") to the Legal Aid Family.

BARRISTER SOCIETY

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS: $10,000+

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S. Lee Kohrman +
John Moran +
Richard and Patricia Pogue *

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INDIVIDUAL GIFTS: $2,500 - $9,999.99

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Douglas Brown +
Frank and Wendy DeSantis +
Philip and Dana Fastenau *
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Calvin Griffith +
Richard and Jessica Gurbst *
Kerin Kaminski *
Dena Kobasic +
David and Martha Kutik +
John Lewis +
Rita and Charles Maimbourg *
Edward and Kimberly Moore *
Kenneth Moore and Cynthia Holland *
Thomas A. Piraino, Jr. and Barbara McWilliams *
Joseph Rodgers
David and Julia Tocco +
Neil Vakharia and Michael Mumford *
George and Barbara von Mehren *
Christopher Williams and Cynthia Mog *

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David Alden +
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Cynthia Binns
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Julie and Ben Brouhard +
Alexander and Jennifer Burlingame
Annette Garner Butler +
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Thomas Cicarella
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Lynn Ballard
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Susan Becker *
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Gordon and Martha Beggs +
Mark and Rebecca Bennett +
Cipriano and Gina Beredo
William and Ann Beyer
John Biernacki
Matthew Brady +
Michael and Cynthia Brittain +
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Michele and Christopher Connell +
James Cooper +
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Timothy Downing and Ken Press
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Robert and Kim Ducman +
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John Heutsche *
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James and Sandra Koenig +
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Mark Rodio *
Barbara Roman *
Richard Dorman +
Malika’s mom tried for three years to get her daughter evaluated for learning disabilities, but was ignored. When Legal Aid joined her cause, the school listened and gave Malika the extra help she needed.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS: $500 - $999.99 (CONTINUED)

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James Sullivan and Gabrielle Brett +
Cullen and Anne Sweeney
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James and Debra Vail +
James Venizelos and Lindsay Maxwell
Sandra Walker
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David Weiss +
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Emily and Samuel White
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James and Deb Wooley
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Ted and Diane Zawadski
Suzanne and Adam Blum +
Howard and Deborah Bobrow +
Ann Bomberger
Rita and Robert Bonomo #
Kenneth Bossin +
Yelena Boxer
Nicole Braden Lewis and Zach Lewis +
Jack Bradley #
Katherine Brandt #
Ellen and Jonathan Brown
Sarah Bunce
Judge Janet R. Burnside *
Don and Alice Cairns +
Erica Calderas
Michael and Christina Chase +
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Magistrate Gregory Clifford and
Karen Bryant-Clifford *
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Arthur Cobb +
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Lawrence Corman
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Mallory Curran and Keith Romer +
Eric and Jacquelyn Daniel +
David and Virginia Dawson *
Jeffrey Dawson *
C. Lynne Day +
Lisa deFilippis
Michael and Amy Diamant +
Susan Dirks +
Maureen Doerner and Stanley Brandt
Magistrate Perdexter Williams *
Cheryl Wills +
James and Deb Wooley
Georgia Yanchar
Ted and Diane Zawadski

ADVOCATES OF JUSTICE

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS: $250 - $499.99

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Thomas Aldrich *
Jeffrey and Debra Applebaum +
Keith and Marie Ashmus +
Clifford and Monica Babcock
Paulette Balin +
Nancy and Andrew Barnes +
Blair Barnhart-Hinkle and
William Hinkle +
Brian Bash +
Elizabeth Batt #
Fred Bauer
Robert Belovich
Nancy Benacci #
Daniel and Mary Berick
Abigail and Darrell Blanks #
Suzanne and Adam Blum +
Howard and Deborah Bobrow +
Ann Bomberger
Rita and Robert Bonomo #
Kenneth Bossin +
Yelena Boxer
Nicole Braden Lewis and Zach Lewis +
Jack Bradley #
Katherine Brandt #
Ellen and Jonathan Brown
Sarah Bunce
Judge Janet R. Burnside *
Don and Alice Cairns +
Erica Calderas
Michael and Christina Chase +
Diane Citrino *
Magistrate Gregory Clifford and
Karen Bryant-Clifford *
John Climaco #
Patrick Clunk
Edward Coaxum, Jr.
Arthur Cobb +
Thomas and Victoria Collin +
Tim Collins
Kari Coniglio +
Retired Judge Colleen Conway Cooney and
John Cooney *
John Corlett +
Lawrence Corman
Matthew Cox
Tracy and David Grandall
Michael and Kim Cullers +
Kacey Cummings #
Mallory Curran and Keith Romer +
Eric and Jacquelyn Daniel +
David and Virginia Dawson *
Jeffrey Dawson *
C. Lynne Day +
Lisa deFilippis
Michael and Amy Diamant +
Susan Dirks +
Maureen Doerner and Stanley Brandt
Magistrate Perdexter Williams *
Cheryl Wills +
James and Deb Wooley
Georgia Yanchar
Ted and Diane Zawadski

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.
A juvenile criminal record threatened Tim’s hopes for a career. Legal Aid helped get his record sealed, and Tim enlisted.
INDIVIDUAL GIFTs: $100 - $249.99 (CONTINUED)

Anastasia Christman
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Kelly Cicconetti *
Retired Judge Joseph and
Beverly Cirigliano *
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Abigail Greiner
Christian Grostic *
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Robert Hardacre *
Ruth Hartman and Joshua Davis
Michael Harvey
Laura Hauser
Rebecca and Joseph Havestick *
Amanda Hawkins *
William Heine and Kathy Moore *
Lauren Helbling
Leigh Hellner-Cord and
Daniel Cord
Harold and Linda Henderson *
James Henderson *
Beth and Tom Hendricks *
Bruce Hennes
Richard Hennig
Donald Herbe *
Justin Herdman and
Elizabeth Hijar
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Ralph and Christine Higgins *
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Magistrate Roseanne Hilow *
Cory and Amanda Hinton
Joel and Mara Hlavaty *
Ayako Hobbs
Peter Hochberg and
Maxine Singer
Scott and Sharon Holbrook
Ronald Holman and
Susan Stephens
Herbert Hoppe, Jr. *
Representative Stephanie Howse *
Emily Huggins Jones *
Maura Hughes
Bruce Hutton
Edward and Mary Icove
Victor Iitama *
Daniel Jaffe
Carl Jenks *
We welcome our first-time givers (noted with a “#”) to the Legal Aid family.

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Catherine Kroll #
Stephanie howse #
Scott and Sharon Perotti
Rachel Perry
Judy and Mark Pestak
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Patricia and Catherine Peters
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Lester Potash
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Amy Ryder Wentz
Elizabeth Ryser

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.

Herbert Hoppe, Jr. *
Daniel Jaffe
Edward and Mary Icove
Bruce Hutton
Maura Hughes
Emily Huggins Jones +
Representative Stephanie Howse #
Scott and Sharon Holbrook
Peter Hochberg and Ayako Hobbs
Joel and Mara Hlavaty +
Cory and Amanda Hinton
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Beth and Tom Hendricks #
Harold and Linda Henderson +
Daniel Cord
Leigh Hellner-Cord and William Heine and Kathy Moore *
Amanda Hawkins #
Rebecca and Joseph Haverstick +
Laura Hauser
Michael Harvey
Ruth Hartman and Joshua Davis

Single mom Hailey’s landlord demanded illegal side fees, and then threatened to evict her when she refused. Legal Aid helped get her out of her lease so she could find a new home.
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.

**INDIVIDUAL GIFT$: $100 - $249.99 (CONTINUED)**

Sarah Ryzer #
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Patrick Saccogna +
Judith Saltzman and Richard Rogen
Michael and Susie Saltzman
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Meredith Shoop and Cassidy Clark +
Lindsey Sigler
Thomas and Laura Simmons
David and Cheryl Simon +
Gary Simon
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Jill Smialek +
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Thomas and Linda Smith
Todd Smith *
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Robyn Minter Smyers and Bertrand Smyers +
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Robert Bowes III #
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Winnifred Boylan #
Mary Bradley
Patrick and Jacqueline Brickman

Raquel suffered domestic violence while she and her family were seeking asylum in the U.S. Legal Aid helped her and her children secure U Visas, and eventually green cards.
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.

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Elizabeth Cole #
Annmarie and
Edward Coleman-Kamposek #
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Christopher Comiskey +
Amanda Condon
Nora Cook
Kathleen Corcoran +
Charles Corea +
Alejandro and Julie Cortes
Dale Cowan +
Brandon Cox +
Thomas and Maria Coyne +
Frederick Cruz #
M. Patricia Culler +
Mary Cusick +
Sarah and David D’Amore
Lisa Darden #
Alexandra Dattilo
Virginia Davidson
Albert Davies
Elizabeth Davis Conway
Amanda Davis +
Mark Davis #
Pamela Dawson
William Day #
Michelle DeBaltro +
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Amy DeLuca
Kathleen DeMetz +
Cynthia and John Dettelbach #
Susanne Dickerson #
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Jennifer Friedman #
Alexander Froendt and Jason Bristol
David and Stella Fulton #
Laura Gaertner
Cheryle Gainer #
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Morris and Sharon Galin
Patrick Gallagher #
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Douglas and Ashley Gault
Melissa Gawel #
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Gordon Gibb
Amy Gilbert #
Justin Gingerich
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Unemployed with health issues, Toni faced shut off. Legal Aid negotiated with the utility for an affordable payment plan.
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Despite her mother’s insistence that Dee needed extra help, the school overlooked Dee’s learning disability because of her good behavior. With Legal Aid’s help, Dee got evaluations and special education.
Lori faced eviction for missing two months of rent while caring for her sick relative out of town. She tried to pay what she owed, but the landlord wouldn’t accept her payment. Legal Aid intervened, and Lori was able to stay in her home.
A bank glitch caused 80-year-old Paula to miss one rent payment, and she received an eviction notice. Legal Aid resolved the issue and helped prevent future errors so Paula could stay in her home.

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Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

Unemployed after a back injury, Helene was struggling under ballooning debt for student loans she took out for her son to go to college. Legal Aid helped negotiate several months of forbearance and secure a loan consolidation with new monthly rate she could afford.
The Smiths faced a $10,000 lawsuit for the demolition costs of their vacant home — which they thought they'd lost in foreclosure 10 years earlier. A Legal Aid volunteer negotiated with the Smiths and saved their home.
Bernadette, aged 68, lived in constant fear of her adult daughter’s aggressive behavior and physical abuse. With a Legal Aid attorney by her side, Bernadette faced her abuser in court and was granted a five-year civil protection order.
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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this listing as of December 31, 2016. If you have feedback or want to note a correction, please email melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org