ABLE and LAWO

Ensuring justice for all, no matter one’s income...

ABLE and LAWO represent clients and groups of people living in poverty in civil (non-criminal) legal matters. We are committed to protecting the rights of people with much at stake and nowhere else to turn. Through litigation and other advocacy, we prevent homelessness, domestic abuse, and discrimination and improve opportunities for education, housing, employment, and access to health care and public benefits for people living in poverty in 32 counties in western Ohio. ABLE represents immigrants and refugees throughout Ohio. In all cases, LAWO and ABLE work to address the root causes of poverty by seeking systemic solutions.

Without legal aid, thousands of people would go without legal help when they need it.

On behalf of the dedicated staff of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), we are pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report. The theme of the year is “Resiliency.” Thanks to our supporters, donors, and funders, ABLE and LAWO helped communities and individuals carry on in the face of overwhelming challenges threatening their homes, safety, ability to earn a living; and sometimes, their very existence.

In 2019, LAWO and ABLE staff showed their resiliency to adapt quickly to changing opportunities and community challenges. They were “all hands on deck” to help the City of Dayton (#DaytonStrong) and resilient community members after catastrophic weather wreaked havoc on Memorial Day. After a record 15 tornadoes touched down, LAWO and ABLE staff provided myriad community stabilization services such as: creating and translating legal education fact sheets; coordinating and participating in legal clinics and outreach events at community centers and on RTA buses to assist with immediate disaster recovery; and assisting with FEMA claims, long-term recovery efforts and rebuilding.

We adjusted rapidly, creating 15 legal clinics and joining with many community partners along the way.

A Bureau of Motor Vehicles fine reduction program and expanded eligibility for fee created opportunities for thousands of people with suspended driver’s licenses to regain their driving privileges. You will read more about how ABLE and LAWO maximized this opportunity to help hard-working people achieve financial security and resilience.

The resiliency of all of our clients also inspired us. An example: asylum-seeking Black Mauritanians, who have been contributing to their Ohio communities for years and permitted to check-in annually with immigration officials, despite decades-old removal orders. These immigrants would face imprisonment, enslavement, and torture if deported to their home country. In 2019, ABLE represented nine detained Mauritanians before the Board of Immigration Appeals, Federal District Courts, and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. All were released and joyfully reunited with their families and communities. ABLE’s efforts stemmed the tide of aggressive immigration enforcement against these asylum seekers – models of resiliency – in Ohio.

Please review the full scope of our efforts in 2019 in this Annual Report. And know that without your partnership, many of these efforts would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Janet Hales
ABLE Executive Director

Kevin Mulder
LAWO Executive Director

Ongoing Resilience
Thousands of residents became eligible to apply for their driver’s licenses. We helped them take advantage of the state’s Driver’s License Amnesty Program that reduced fines. Through 15 legal clinics, nearly 2,000 residents in the firms’ 32-county service area were assisted by ABLE, LAWO, and their partners, the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project. More than $800,000 in fines and fees were waived by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and courts; low-income residents were hardest hit by those fees because they often could not afford to pay. The lack of a driver’s license kept them from securing employment opportunities and childcare arrangements, and restricted their ability to secure health care and groceries and fulfill other needs.

These are just two ways that LAWO and ABLE assist when people feel they have nowhere else to turn. With contributions from donors, the firms continue providing legal help to people in need.

When the Greater Dayton area was struck by 15 tornadoes on Memorial Day, ABLE and LAWO rushed to help with legal assistance. Many residents had lost their homes and their jobs during the devastation. Children were displaced from their schools. People needed assistance navigating legal mazes to secure insurance reimbursements and benefits, and to get their jobs back after employers were hampered by the storms. Staff visited neighborhoods on an Outreach Bus provided by the Greater Dayton RTA, for use as a mobile office.

As if that was not enough, in a city that already had tapped down a Ku Klux Klan rally earlier that month with nine Klan members facing 600 peaceful protesters, in August, the city was then rocked by a mass shooting that took the lives of nine individuals and injured dozens more who were enjoying an evening out. They were #DaytonStrong overcoming the challenges.

2019 brought a different form of challenge when thousands of residents became eligible to apply in 15 counties in northwest Ohio. In 2004 and 2005, LSNO and ABLE expanded to serve 32 counties and LSNO changed its name to Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

Now, the firms have offices in Toledo, Defiance, Sandusky, Findlay, Lima, Springfield, and Dayton, and serve their surrounding counties. ABLE and LAWO uphold the legal rights of clients living in poverty, ensuring fairness in housing and eviction cases, and in special education, disability, employment, and public benefits proceedings; represent survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse; work with communities to create access to opportunities; and uphold the rights of immigrants and agricultural workers.

ABLE and LAWO are proud to be headquartered at the Center for Equal Justice, following extensive renovation of the Western Union Building that was built in 1926. The building renovation campaign raised $6.1 million, with $3 million of the total contributed by individual attorneys and law firms from northwest Ohio. The Kresge Foundation, the State of Ohio, and the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development also made significant investments in the Center for Equal Justice. The firms moved into the building in the spring of 2009. The Center was recognized as the first “green” renovated building in northwest Ohio to receive a gold level LEED certification.

2019 was a year to celebrate anniversaries and milestones!
Access to Health Care and Benefits
Working to eliminate the barriers to employment and self-sufficiency for families struggling in poverty. Assisting clients with access to healthcare and in securing work supports and public benefits.

Stability and Independence for Survivors
Empowering domestic violence survivors to escape violence and create a safe and stable environment for themselves and their families through protective orders, access to housing and economic stability, and immigration assistance.

Agricultural Workers and Immigrant Rights
Protecting the legal rights of agricultural workers and immigrant families by addressing unfair or discriminatory employment practices and civil rights and constitutional violations, including racial or ethnic profiling and protecting their rights in immigration proceedings.

Meaningful Access to Education

Housing and Community Development
Representing clients to prevent evictions and preserve safe, affordable, and healthy housing, and helping low-income communities access economic development opportunities. Preventing housing conditions that affect the social determinants of health.

Access to Justice
Informing and empowering low-income persons about their legal rights and available resources and assistance through effective education and targeted outreach. Leveraging technology to make legal information, pro bono assistance, and pro se resources accessible.

Legal Aid Makes A Difference
ABLE and LAWO staff assist tens of thousands of individuals in crisis each year. When special needs arise, we listen. Through a series of clinics during Ohio's Driver's License Amnesty program, many individuals received waivers of fines and fees allowing them to take steps to regain their driving privileges. That was significant since people living on low wages often cannot afford to pay the high costs of fees that are a factor in the revocation of their licenses. Mary is one of the thousands of people helped with fines and fees in 2019.

“When I came here, I owed $2,600 in fees...”
... says Mary*. “Now, it’s down to $175. I’m pregnant and this will help me get to my doctor’s appointments and find better employment. I have two children and so it’s hard getting them to daycare, getting to a job, and picking them up on time. Now that the fees are so much lower, I can afford that.”

*Clients’ names have been changed.
Our 2019 Combined Record Of Service

$13,479,610
Total monetary awards for clients

3,015
Cases opened

5,670*
Cases carried over from previous period

16,736
Requests for legal assistance
(383 applications carried over from previous period)

3,236,926
Total of lump sum and annual awards

$3,236,926
Monthly awards x 36 months

$10,242,684
Total of lump sum and annual awards

20,931
Persons helped
(Counsel & advice, limited action and extended service cases)

5,717*
Cases closed
(8,685 cases worked on Jan.1 - Dec. 31, 2019)

2019 Operating Revenues And Expenses

This report focuses on ABLE’s and LAWO’s operations budget. It does not include revenue and expenses related to depreciation, the 50 Years of Fairness and Justice Campaign or Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.

Support & Revenue

Other Grants & Contracts ______________________ $4,304,525
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) ___________ $5,232,740
Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO only) _______ $3,208,809
Other Income ____________________________________ $238,801
Miscellaneous Income and Gain on Investments ________ $3,520
Fundraising & Special Events ________________ $394,692
Transfer from Reserves ________________________ $38,175
Total ........................................................... $13,383,087

Expenses & Expenditures

Compensation & Benefits ________________________ $10,975,964
Operating Costs ............................................. 1,686,755
Contract Services ______________________________ 363,037
Travel, Support & Training ______________________ $267,805
Other ........................................................... $127,701
Total ........................................................... $13,421,262

*Jan. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019
During this challenging year, your contributions have helped our clients to overcome challenges. Gifts to the Justice for All Campaign allow us to continue providing legal help to people in need.

Co-Chairs
Robert C. Tucker
Robison, Curphey & O’Connell, LLC

Michelle Zarou
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP

Campaign Cabinet
Janet E. Hales
ABLE

Karla Garrett Harshaw
ABLE

Brad Lagusch
TBA

Kevin C. Mulder
LAWO

Adam Nightingale
Eastman & Smith Ltd.

Carmen Vega-Perez
ABLE

Carla Wall
Zoll & Kranz, LLC

Campaign Ambassadors
Heather L. Allred
ProMedica Health System

Margaret G. Beck
Brady, Coyle & Schmidt, Ltd.

William J. Bingle
Maloney, McHugh & Kolodgy, Ltd.

Kevin Boissonneault
Gallon, Takacs & Boissonneault Co.

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Collier Law Group, LLP

Brandi Doniere
Brouse McDowell, LPA

Stevin J. Groth
Groth & Associates

Joe Heckendorn
Dana Incorporated

Michael E. Heffernan
Allotta Farley Co., L.P.A.

Roy A. Hulme
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

Michelle L. Kranz
Zoll & Kranz, LLC

Firm Recognition - 100%

Attorney Participation
Collier Law Group, LLP
Cubbon & Associates Co., LPA
Goranson, Parker & Bella Co., L.P.A.
Groth & Associates
Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
Lafferty, Gallagher & Scott, LLC
LaValley, LaValley, Todak & Schaefer Co., L.P.A.
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MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
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Malone, Ault & Farell
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Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP
Mark M. Mockensturm
Mockensturm Limited
Jeremiah O’Brien
LaValley, LaValley, Todak & Schaefer Co., L.P.A.
Christopher F. Parker
Goranson, Parker & Bella Co., L.P.A.
Kent Reisen
Anspach Meeks Ellenberger LLP
Meghan Anderson Roth
Marshall & Melhorn, LLC
Robert (Rob) Salem
University of Toledo, College of Law
Jonnie Short
Libbey Inc.
Robert (Rob) L. Solt
Buggie & Conkie, LLP
Carrie L. Urrutia
Eastman & Smith Ltd.

John S. Wasung
Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
Marilyn L. Widman
Widman & Franklin, LLC

James E. Yavorcik
Cubbon & Associates Co., LPA

Firm Gifts - $1,000 or higher
Allotta & Farley Co., L.P.A.
Anonymous
Mag. Vernelis K. Armstrong
Michael R. Barnett
Sandra K. Bashore
Eric D. Britton
Brouse McDowell, LPA
Cheri A. Budzynski
Buggie & Conkie, LLP
Robert W. Cabanski
Charles & Carol Contrada
Gregory Gilchrist
Rick Goheen
Goranson Parker & Bella Co., L.P.A.
Hon. John P. Gustafson
Janet Hales
Reginald Jackson
LaValley, LaValley, Todak & Schaefer Co., L.P.A.

Margaret Lockhart
Malone, Ault & Farell
Marshall & Melhorn, LLC
Susan R. Martyn
John J. McHugh III
Frank S. Merritt
Andrew & Jena Miller
Martin E. Mohler
Thomas W. Palmer
Meghan Anderson Roth
John J. Siciliano
Hon. Mary Whipple

Benefactor - $500 to $999
Heather L. Allred
Johna Marie Bella
William J. Bingle
Jack Joseph Brady
James E. Brazeau
Angelita Cruz Bridges
John Hosler Burson
Esteban R. Callejas
Steven P. Collier
David J. Coyle
Jennifer J. Dawson
Joseph A. Decker
Lori W. Decker
Thomas P. Dillon
Janis E. Susalla Foley
Stuart J. Goldberg
Roger W. Goranson
Eileen M. Granata
Michael E. Heffernan
William H. Heywood
Dorothy J. Hill
Vaughn A. Hoblet
Roy A. Hulme
Kathleen A. Kress
Richard G. LaValley
Barry F. Luse
Richard S. MacMillan
Richard R. Malone
Marathon Petroleum Corp.
William G. Meyer
Kevin C. Mulder
John K. Nelson
Christopher F. Parker
Jerome Phillips
Thomas G. Pletz
Bonnie R. Rankin
Gregory W. Robinette
Jonathan D. Sandys
Sarah K. Skow
C. J. Keller Smith
Michael J. Todak
Richard S. Walinski

Sheldon S. Wittenberg
Lisa Anne Wruster

Supporting - $300 to $499
William I. Barkan
Thomas C. Blank
Marcia L. Briggs
James G. Burkhardt
Jonathan B. Cherry
Joseph K. Cole
Nikoleta Cook
J. Randall Engelwert
Denise Ford Saxom
Heather J. Fournier
George Guusses
Anastasia & Paul Hanson
Pamela A. Hayman-Weaner
Scott A. Hinshaw
Michelle Lynn Kranz
Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger
Daniel J. LaValley
Judith A. Leb
Anita Levin
Veronica L. Martinez
Hon. Christine E. Mayle
Mark M. Mockensturm
John R. Polofka
Jon D. Richardson
Joseph A. Rideout
Bradley E. Sales
Jeffrey Simmons
Robert C. Tucker
Carasusana Wall
Cynthia M. Zalewski
Hon. Norm & Hon.
Connie Zemmelman
Hon. Jack Zouhary & Kathleen M. Zouhary

Advocate - $100 to $299
Norman A. Abood
Dominic L. Adams
Lisa Ann Amend
Anonymous
Roman Arce
Gregory L. Arnold
Tim A. Ault
Janine T. Avila
Wendy Maria Aviña
David R. Bainbridge
C. William Bair
C. Philip Baither
Mark S. and Asha W. Barnes
D. Benjamin Barros
Sarah V. Beaubien
Gayle K. Beier
Paul T. Belazis
Michael D. Bell
Marshall A. Bennett
Kaser S. Bhatti
Pamela K. Billaire
John A. Blaufuss
John H. Boggs
Samuel G. Boletin
Donato J. Bonillo
Bos & Vitou Co., LPA
Charles M. Boss
Elizabeth Bostedorff
Marcus J. Brubaker
Kara Bruce
Matthew B. Bryant
Michael E. Bryant
Thomas E. Cafferty
Deborah Callahan
James D. Caruso
Casey & Slaybold
Byron S. Choka
A. Thomas Christensen
Robert J. Comes
Kimberly A. Conklin
Mark A. Conrad
Belinda Cooper
Ronald M. Cooperman
Steven L. Crossmack
Lawrence Cryan
Hon. Denise Navarrre Cubbon
Kyle Alison Cubbon
Stuart F. Cubbon
John Czarnecki
Stephen Mark Dane
Michael P. Dansack
Gabrielle Davis
Crecia Decker
Katherine Stone Decker
Meredith S. Decker
Cormac B. Delaney
Randall Carl Dixon
Brandi L. Doniere
Hon. Andy & Sue Douglas
Hon. Myron Colbe Duhart
Michael A. Dzienny
William C. Eckholt
Richard F. Ellenberger
Bradley C. Elrod
Gregg W. Emch
Donna M. Engwert-Loyd
Gregory C. Farell
Jay E. Feldstein

During this challenging year, your contributions have helped our clients to overcome challenges. Gifts to the Justice for All Campaign allow us to continue providing legal help to people in need.
Gifts in Memoriam or Honor of
Hon. Vernelis Armstrong in memory of Hon. Charles J. Doneghy
John Boggs in memory of Howard W. Boggs
Angelita Cruz Bridges in memory of Olivia India Phifer
James G. Burkhardt in memory of David J. Fickel, Esq.
Gabrielle Davis in memory of Beverly Nathan
James Duggan in memory of Ted C. Gillespie
Bradley Elrod in memory of Robert Elrod

2019 Northwest Ohio Access To Justice Awards Dinner

Legal justice advocate James Bell was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Access to Justice Awards Dinner, held May 21, 2019, at The Pinnacle, in Maumee. Bell is the founder and president of the W. Haywood Burns Institute. The Burns Institute has been active in more than 200 counties in 23 states, building equity in the administration of justice, including in Lucas County, where Bell continues to work with justice system leaders.

Internationally, Bell assisted the African National Congress in the administration of the juvenile justice system in South Africa and consulted with the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund. He has worked with governments and activists in connection with the human rights of children and restorative justice in Cambodia, Kenya, Brazil, New Zealand, and China.

Also, during the dinner, ABLE, LAWO and the Toledo Bar Association’s Pro Bono Legal Services Program presented awards to three greater Toledo area individuals for their service to people living in poverty. Megan K. Mattimoe, Esq., received the 2019 Public Interest Law Award. Mattimoe represents people involved in human trafficking through Advocating Opportunity, the nonprofit organization that she founded. She provides holistic legal services and advocacy to trafficked and exploited persons to give them a voice in the judicial system. She strives to end human trafficking.

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie (ACLE) and its founder Mike Ferner received the Community Advocacy Award. Ferner organized a grassroots initiative that advocates to keep Lake Erie drinkable, fishable, and swimmable. Noting that pollution has a significant effect on people with low income who cannot afford to challenge it, Ferner and ACLE press to mitigate harmful environmental problems that affect us all.

Margaret J. Lockhart, Esq., was honored with the 2019 Distinguished Service Award for her longtime, passionate support of the mission of ABLE, LAWO and the TBA’s Pro Bono Legal Services Program. Lockhart is Associate General Counsel, Labor & Employment, at ProMedica Health System, Inc. She continues to be a strong advocate for ensuring that everyone has access to the justice system, no matter their income, race, or creed.
2019 Northwest Ohio Access To Justice Awards Dinner

We express appreciation to the following individuals who served on the Awards Selection Committee. They include the Honorable Myron C. Duhart of Lucas County Court of Common Pleas; Joseph R. Tafelski, retired ABLE executive director; Robert S. Salem, clinical professor and associate dean for Diversity and Inclusion, University of Toledo College of Law; Dr. Celia Williamson, director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, University of Toledo; Olivia Holden, executive director, ASSETS Toledo; and Gretchen DeBacker, Esq., legislative director, City of Toledo.

**Campagne Leadership and Committee Members**

**Campaign for Equal Justice Co-Chairs**
- Jeffrey A. Mullins
  - Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- Mary Ann P. Recker
  - University of Dayton

**Access to Justice Awards Celebration! Co-Chairs**
- Cassandra A. Rice
  - Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
- Michael D. Rice
  - Surdyk, Dowd & Turner Co. LPA

**Justice on Tap! Co-Chairs**
- Jason A. Hillard
  - Edward Jones Financial Advisor
- Ann Charles Watts
  - Dinsmore & Shohl LLP

**Additional Joint Development Committee Members**
- Douglas C. Anspach, Jr.
  - Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- Jenna L. Beck
  - Sinclair Community College
- Myla Cardona-Jones
  - Sinclair Community College
- Zachary S. Heck
  - Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- Sean P. McCormick
  - Thompson Hine LLP

**Staff:**
- Kelly Henrici
  - Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project

**ABLE and LAWO are grateful for contributions to the 2019 Campaign for Equal Justice. The campaign total is comprised of donations from the legal profession, community contributions and patronage of the Access to Justice Awards Celebration! and Justice on Tap! You make it possible for our firms to serve people in need.**

**Campagne Ambassadors**
- Karla Garrett Harshaw
  - Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.
- Matthew J. Bakota
  - Auman, Mahan & Furry LPA
- Joseph C. Oehlers
  - Bieser Greer & Landis LLP
- Kate V. Davis
  - Bricker & Eckler LLP
- Ashley E. Warwar
  - Coolidge Wall Co. LPA
- Mary R. McMurtry
  - Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
- James D. Brookshire
  - Dungan & Lefevre Co. LPA
- Lynn M. Reynolds
  - Faruki Ireland Cox Rhinehart & Dusing PLL
- Susan Blasik-Miller
  - Freund, Freeze & Arnold LPA
- Mary E. Lentz
  - Gottschlich & Fortune LLP
- Fredric L. Young
  - Green & Green Lawyers
- Karen T. Dunlevey
  - Jackson Lewis PC
- Cassie M. Quinn
  - LexisNexis
- Melissa A. Pfahler
  - Montgomery Cty Public Defender’s Office
- James W. Kelleher
  - Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling Co. LPA
- Tami H. Kirby
  - Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
- Channing M. Kordik
  - Rogers & Greenberg LLP
- Michael A. Booth
  - Sebaly Shillito + Dyer

**Nicholas E. Subashi**
- Subashi, Wildermuth & Justice

**Zachary S. Heck**
- Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

**Robert M. Curry**
- Thompson Hine LLP

**Nathan Croumer**
- WilmerHale LLP

**Pillar of Justice - $15,000 +**
- Thompson Hine LLP
- WilmerHale LLP

**Gold - $5,000+**
- Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
- Fifth Third Bank Dayton
- Maureen Perez

**Silver - $2,500+**
- Bieser Greer & Landis LLP
- CareSource Foundation
- Robert Curry
- Faruki Ireland Cox Rhinehart & Dusing PLL
- Freund, Freeze and Arnold
- Maureen Lynch
- Todd Miller
- Matthew Molloy
- Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office
- PNC Financial Services Group
- Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
- Surdyk, Dowd & Turner Co. LPA
- Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

**Bronze - $1,250+**
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Gary W. Auman
- The Dayton Foundation
- Patrick J. Foley
- Horenstein, Nicholson & Blumenthal LPA
- D. Jeffrey Ireland
- Johnson Investment Counsel, Inc.
- Kathryn A. Lamme
- Pickrel Schaeffer & Ebeling
- Terry and Lindsey Posey
- Rogers & Greenberg LLP

**Copper - $1,000+**
- Larry Y. Chan
- Jeffrey T. Cox
- Dayton Bar Association Foundation
- Karla Garrett Harshaw
- Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority
- Kelly Johnson
The morning after the 15 Memorial Day tornadoes that left thousands of people in the Dayton area without homes, their other belongings and even their jobs, ABLE and LAWO staff immediately rallied to help affected residents and businesses.

People like Tracie Edwards say their legal help was invaluable. She was left off by a business that was affected by the tornadoes and did not have money to pay rent. The landlord refused to accept her payment from a nonprofit rental assistance program until an ABLE attorney negotiated a settlement for Tracie and her 15-year-old daughter to keep their home.

“At the end of the day, I’m not going to be homeless,” Tracie says. “They saved me a lot. Legal aid is very needed. People don’t understand that legal aid does a lot... They are there to help people who really need it... They are a wonderful agency, and without them I don’t know what I would have done.”

Honorees who have provided exceptional services to economically disadvantaged people were recognized at the Access to Justice Awards Celebration on November 14, 2019, at Sinclair Community College.

ABLE, LAWO and partner, the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project were proud to present awards to them for their outstanding service to community residents in need.

Michael A. Rake, Esq., a partner at Horenstein Nicholson & Blumenthal, LPA was presented with the Lloyd O’Hara Public Interest Law Award. Rake provides extensive assistance to homeless veterans and those with a disability helping them to secure benefits and making sure that their needs are met. Often, he provides pro bono legal assistance to keep people from being left behind.

Gary LeRoy, MD, is the recipient of the Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award for his outstanding community service and assistance to disadvantaged people. He is associate dean for student affairs and admissions at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. He also provides leadership and medical services at the East Dayton Health Clinic. Dr. LeRoy is noted for his engagement in numerous civic initiatives and many accomplishments, including serving as the president of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The Rev. Daryl Ward and The Rev. Vanessa Ward, Omega Baptist Church pastors emerita, received the Community Impact award for their longtime impact on community development, including developing housing, educational assistance for children and other initiatives to help underserved people. The Wards are recognized for their decades of leadership that has inspired others to achieve. The honorees’ dedication and compassion help many disadvantaged individuals and families to overcome challenges that hamper their ability to lead productive lives and secure opportunities.

2019 Access To Justice Awards Honorees

Mike Rake
Gary LeRoy
Rev. Vanessa Ward
Rev. Daryl Ward

2019 Access To Justice Awards Selection Committee

We appreciate the participation of the following community leaders who served on the 2019 Access to Justice Awards Selection Committee. They are Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl; Sandra Gudorf, president of the Downtown Dayton Partnership; Brandon McClain, Recorder of Montgomery County, who also presented the awards; Karin VanZant, vice president and executive director of Life Services, at CareSource; and Lisa Wagner, executive director of Levitt Pavilion Dayton.
ABLE immigration advocacy project

2019 able immigration advocacy project

2019 ABLE Immigration Advocacy Project

ABLE is at the forefront of protecting the legal rights of low-income immigrants and refugees as they attempt to lead safe and productive lives in our communities. Compassionate donors give to ensure that ABLE continues to provide this legal assistance. For that, we are grateful.

ABEL Immigration Advocacy Project

ABLE Helped Amara Establish Residency

Amara* is a 34-year-old widow originally from Syria. She, her husband, and their two children arrived in Toledo in January 2017 as refugees. Before arriving in Toledo, the family lived in a refugee camp in Jordan for five years. Unfortunately, about a year after their arrival in the United States, Amara’s husband was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer and passed away. ABLE represented Amara and her children in their applications for Lawful Permanent Residency status, all of which were granted. ABLE also referred Amara to necessary supportive services during this difficult time in her life.

Since then, Amara has learned how to drive, continues to learn English, and is saving money to buy a house in Toledo.

ABLE Helped Amara Establish Residency

LAWO Helped Rita Draft A Will

Rita* is a Montgomery County senior struggling with a number of issues that threaten her quality of life, including housing and utilities. She had originally reached out to Legal Aid for help drafting a will. In talking with Rita, her attorney learned more about the extent of her needs. In addition to drawing up the necessary advisory documents for Rita to sign, the attorney has worked tirelessly to connect her to community resources. These include support agencies to address the client’s lack of heating and hot water, and senior agencies to conduct home visits for the client. This work demonstrates how, for so many clients, legal needs are one part of a bigger picture of needs. With Legal Aid’s advocacy and efforts, Rita is much closer to achieving stability.

ABLE Helped Amara Establish Residency

LAWO Helped Rita Draft A Will

A total of 4,884 hours of legal services were donated by volunteer attorneys who handled cases for people who handled cases in 2019. Those 336 volunteers engaged in pro bono legal assistance through LAWO’s Pro Bono Legal Services Program, ABLE and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project. LAWO also supports the Toledo Bar Association’s Pro Bono Legal Services Program. With their assistance, we can expand the legal services provided by ABLE’s and LAWO’s staff attorneys.

This year, LAWO’s Private Attorney Involvement Program expanded its relationship with Marathon Petroleum Corporation’s legal department to assist with a Juvenile Court Clinic, in Hancock County. Twenty-two attorneys attended the training to assist. Our partnerships between Marathon’s legal team, Hancock Juvenile Court, and Hancock Job and Family Services are addressing the opiate crisis in our rural counties by assisting with Kinship Care documents or legal actions for grandparents or others raising children who are not their biological relatives. LAWO hopes this program will attract new volunteers that have an interest in helping juveniles.

If you would like to provide legal assistance, please contact the Private Attorney Involvement Program by visiting probono.lawlaw.org or call (419) 930-2479.

LAWO, ABLE & GDVLp’s 2019 Pro Bono Partners


*Clients’ names have been changed.
Christopher D. Lyttle
Brian Lusardi
Roger Luring
Kermit F. Lowery
Jose M. Lopez
Khandice Lofton
Joshua A. Liles
Dennis A. Lieberman
Scott A. Liberman
Stephanie Lewis-White
Ronald Lewis
Cynthia A. Lennon
John Leahy
David E. Larson
James Langendorf
Dezta Hay
Chelsea Vergiels
Dezta Hay
Chelsea Vergiels
Maria C. Zirbel
Wayne State University
Law School
Rebecca Bundy
ABLE Funding — 2019

Area Agency on Aging, PSA2
Legal assistance for seniors in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA3
Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 5
Legal assistance to seniors in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.

Area Office on Aging
Legal assistance to senior citizens in 10 counties of LAWO and ABLE’s service area. Also supports ABLE’s Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Board of Lucas County Commissioners
Support for immigration services.

Borealis Philanthropy
Support for immigration services.

City of Columbus
Support for immigration services.

City of Dayton
Support for immigration services.

Clement O. Miniger Foundation
Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Consulate of Mexico – Indianapolis
Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Dayton Children’s Hospital
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation
Support for the Education Advocacy Project and community legal services.

Five Rivers Health Center of Dayton
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

France Stone Foundation
Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Frank M. Tait Foundation
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Hill-Snowden Foundation
Support for immigration services.

Iddings Foundation
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Justice for Migrant Women
Protects and advances migrant women’s rights through education, public awareness and advocacy.

Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
Supports mental health services.

Mathile Family Foundation
Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

NEO Philanthropy
Support for immigration services.

Ohio Department of Aging
Support for the MyCare Ohio and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

Ohio State Bar Foundation
Funding for the Plan Ahead and Protect Yourself series for resources for seniors.

PNC Foundation
Support for eviction work in Dayton.

ProMedica Foundation
Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Skadden Fellowship Foundation
Support for an Attorney Fellow working in the area of immigration services.

The Stranahan Foundation
Support of the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Supreme Court of Ohio
Support for immigration services.

The Dayton Foundation
Support for a Fellow in the Dayton area office, and disaster relief assistance funds.

Toledo Community Foundation
Supports collaboration to address seniors, youths transitioning to adulthood, and survivors of abuse, financial and housing instability.

U.S. Department of Justice
Supports legal assistance to protect survivors of domestic violence.

U.S. Department of Labor – Toledo Goodwill
Support for immigrants who are survivors of torture.

United Way of Greater Toledo
Support of the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and for immigration services.

Vera INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
Vera Institute of Justice
Support for immigration services.

LAWO Funding Sources — 2019

Area Agency on Aging, PSA2
Legal assistance for seniors in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA3
Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 5
Legal assistance to seniors in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 10
Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas County.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA11
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas County.

Area Office on Aging
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas County.

Area Office on Aging
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas County.

City of Toledo, Department of Law — Toledo Municipal Court
Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for county assistance.

Findlay-Hancock County Bar Association
Support for the LAWO Findlay office and for legal assistance to residents of Findlay and Hancock County.

Internal Revenue Service
Funding for the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LPTC) to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters.

Legal Services Corporation
Support of the LAWO area-wide services.

Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Title XX funding for legal assistance to low-income individuals and families.

Miami County Department of Job and Family Services
Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for county assistance.

Montgomery County
Support for legal services for seniors, survivors of domestic violence, and people seeking stable employment.

Ohio State Bar Foundation
Support for legal services for seniors.

Sandusky County
Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents living on low income.

Springfield Foundation
Support for legal services for residents of Clark County living on low income.

Toledo Community Foundation
General operating support and support for the Strategic Alliance Partnership.

U.S. Department of Justice
Legal Assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

United Way of Defiance County
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Defiance County.

United Way of Fulton County
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Fulton County.

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Montgomery, Greene, and Preble counties.

United Way of Greater Toledo
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties.

United Way of Williams County
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.