

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF COLUMBUS: IMPROVING OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY

With strong support from the Columbus Bar Foundation (CBF) and an active legal community, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus (LASC) has had an incredible year of progress helping people in poverty. In 2017, our staff and volunteers made a difference in the lives of more than 8,038 individuals and families in Central Ohio. Our successes ranged from securing safe housing for 18 immigrant families, to helping an eight-year-old go from an expulsion to Student of the Month, thanks to the intervention of our revitalized education team.

Money and time invested by the legal community and CBF yield concrete, positive outcomes in people's lives.

2017 saw the inception of our Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) clinic operating at the Franklin County Municipal Court.



MOLLY CRABTREE
Porter Wright
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DIANNA PARKER HOWIE
The Legal Aid Society
of Columbus

With a full-time staff attorney funded by the Ohio State Bar Foundation and The Columbus Foundation and an army of 248 attorney volunteers, we were a presence every day, helping people navigate the process of eviction court, and holding landlords with unfair practices accountable. In March 2018, with support from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, we added another full-time attorney to expand the reach of TAP, which assisted in 792 cases in nine months.

LASC also saw an expansion of our medical/legal partnership from Nationwide Children's Hospital to adult hospitals across Central Ohio. This work helps us partner with medical professionals to address the underlying causes of poverty and chronic illness. Earlier this year, an LASC housing lawyer helped the mother of a sick child being cared for at Nationwide Children's Hospital obtain a reasonable accommodation from the local housing authority to ensure she could maintain housing for her four children.

This past year has seen challenges, progress and growth for our clients and for the staff. We have represented consumers in the Supreme Court of Ohio, low-income wage earners in the 10th District Court of Appeals and tenants struggling for habitable homes in Environmental Court. We've joined the Columbus Women's Commission

Pay Equity Challenge, executed The Women's Fund of Central Ohio Gender By Us™ exercise to disrupt gender bias through conversation, and welcomed an impressive and diverse pool of new lawyers.

We saw a huge increase in the number of people we served annually, with an additional 1,429 in 2017. In Pro Bono, we saw a 15 percent increase in overall cases, launched Domestic Relations clinics in Delaware and Marion Counties, and added special education cases to our pro bono opportunities.

With the leadership of the Columbus Bar Foundation and continued commitment from individual lawyers and firms, LASC shows no signs of slowing down in 2018. We're working on an innovative new way to reach out to rural clients and are looking forward to becoming more deeply involved in our community including in the Hilltop, Southside, South Linden and Near East Side through our Neighborhood Revitalization grant.

We simply can't do this work alone, and fortunately we don't have to. We are truly privileged to work with volunteers on a daily basis — those who handle pro bono cases, volunteer time at our offices or elevate the stories of our clients in the community at large through their board participation. Still more work remains to be done, and we continue to develop new means by which supporters in our community can help us improve the lives of more low-income people. LASC welcomes volunteers from all fields — technology, business, fundraising, communications, social work and law. If you would like to join us, contact Pro Bono Coordinator Dianna Parker Howie at dhowie@columbuslegalaid.org or (614) 737-0184. ■



Working together to advance the philanthropic interests of the central Ohio legal community

Grants and Programs

The Columbus Bar Foundation supports programs and projects that further its vision for a more just and equitable legal system in central Ohio. Below are some of the Foundation's larger programs and the cumulative amount of grants made:

\$1,798,000	Legal Aid Society of Columbus
\$827,660	Columbus Bar Pro Bono Program, Lawyers for Justice
\$522,000	Community Mediation Services
\$517,900	Center for Family Safety and Healing
\$225,522	Law and Leadership Institute
\$200,000	CBA renovation and appointment of Education/Committee Meeting Rooms
\$197,500	Public Interest Law Foundation Fellowships and Schermer Scholarships
\$105,000	Columbus Bar inc (incubator) Program for new lawyers
\$50,000	Capital University Law School-Program on Advanced Dispute Resolution Education
\$40,000	Open Books Open Minds- Juvenile Detention Facility Media Center
\$30,000	City Attorney's Office Victims of Domestic Violence
\$21,000	Ohio Judicial Center

Areas of Focus



If you would like more information about the Foundation, please visit www.columbusbarfoundation.org or call Marion Smithberger at 340-2070.