Fairness and Justice.
Changing Lives for the Better.

2012 Report to the Community

Together, we do the community justice.
Working together to end poverty and injustice.

2012 Combined Record of Service

These numbers do not include the additional thousands of people who have benefited from materials and information found on our website, pro bono legal assistance clinics, attendance at community legal education presentations and trainings, continuing legal education presentations for lawyers, and outreach visits to homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior centers, health clinics, nursing homes, and migrant labor camps.

12,921 cases worked on

11,018 closed cases

25,618 requests for help

44,643 persons helped

$13,686,111* total monetary awards for clients

* Obtained benefits and awards in areas of child support, spousal support, unemployment compensation, supplemental security income, debt write-off, disability assistance, food stamps, and damages.
United States census data show that more than 400,000 people live in poverty in western Ohio. For the vast majority of these people, LAWO and ABLE are the only opportunity they will ever have for civil legal representation. Behind these numbers are real people - our friends and neighbors - who are looking for fairness and justice that will result in lasting improvement in their quality of life.

Legal Aid is equally important to all members of our community, not just those in desperate need. As law firms for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer, we work to provide powerful solutions to critical societal issues that include loss of income, debt problems, home foreclosures, evictions, and domestic violence.

Together, we work with the community and our funders and donors to make good on the promise of “...and justice for all” for the thousands of low-income people who need our help.

LAWO and ABLE advocate for those in desperate need of legal help. Our clients have experienced significant reductions in services for programs that assist low-income people, resulting in less support for persons trying to find their way out of poverty. Lack of access to the justice system is a defining attribute of poverty, and a barrier to breaking the cycle that traps many of our clients and their families.

The pressures of poverty are what bring people to the breaking point. Those who come to us for help share stories of fear, pain, and distress. They are among the most vulnerable in our community: women seeking protection from abuse, children seeking equal educational opportunities, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, and senior citizens, veterans and others trying to obtain benefits for which they qualify but have been denied.

Every day we approach our work with the urgency and intensity necessitated by the dire circumstances of our clients and the communities in which they live. Our attorneys and other advocates join with clients in their fight against poverty, injustice, and disparity and are dedicated to empowering people to improve their lives and become independent and self-sufficient. Our work combines legal representation, community outreach, education, litigation, and legislative advocacy - all designed to make a tangible difference in our clients’ lives.

Together, we are making a dramatic and significant difference in the lives of our clients and our community.
Alaina received a notice that her Section 8 subsidy was being terminated on the basis of failing to report income. She had begun to receive child support income again and was certain she had reported it to the Housing Authority. In fear of losing her home, Alaina contacted Legal Aid when the court upheld the termination of her subsidy. Her attorney appealed to the court on her behalf, arguing that the law required the housing authority to enter into a repayment agreement for the tenant in cases of tenant error or omission. Termination should only take effect if the tenant defaults on a repayment agreement. Alana’s attorney was able to show the difference between tenant error or omission versus fraud, of which she was accused. The Court of Appeals found in Alaina’s favor, not only saving her Section 8 subsidy, but also allowing her to maintain her housing.

The outcome also forced the Housing Authority to change its policy to prevent the termination of Section 8 assistance without following the proper procedures. This positive result will help hundreds more like Alaina.
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) were honored to receive a 2012 Nonprofit Excellence Award from the Toledo Community Foundation and The Blade, in partnership with the Center for Nonprofit Resources. The Nonprofit Excellence Award for large organizations honors and recognizes an outstanding nonprofit organization and its achievements in the northwest Ohio community. The award was presented at a breakfast celebration on Thursday, September 27 at the Toledo Club.

Receiving this esteemed recognition for our work validates our services and commitment to equal access to justice for all. We hope you will take great pride in the role you have played in our success by supporting us and believing in our work and our missions. As law firms for low-income persons, we dedicate ourselves to providing exceptional services that help our clients achieve self-reliance, economic opportunity, and equal justice.

As a recipient of Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funding, LAWO received its first Program Quality Visit by a team of seven experienced legal services personnel, including four from other legal aid programs. The team spent a week evaluating LAWO’s service and reviewed a number of records and documents. The purpose of the visit was to assess the quality of LAWO’s delivery of legal services. Overall, the final report was very positive and stated that “LAWO has been successful in assembling a group of compassionate and dedicated legal advocates who are well trained, highly skilled, and experienced. These advocates provide quality legal representation to clients and demonstrate a genuine commitment to the program’s mission and work. Other legal services providers and community organizations commented on the program’s motivation and commitment to providing high quality services to clients in the community despite its funding challenges.”
ABLE and LAWO are bound together by a shared commitment to bring fairness and justice to their clients. In an effort to better guide their legal work in light of reduced resources, the firms embarked on an extensive strategic planning process in 2011. The plan includes significant changes for LAWO and ABLE, including changes in the management structure and client services. Using a culmination of past experience, present commitment, and future vision to help guide us in our planning, we have adopted Joint Strategic Advocacy Initiatives that represent critical areas of poverty law that have a significant effect on our client communities. As we translate our plan into action, we remain committed to ensuring that civil legal aid makes a difference in the lives of the people we seek to help. Our strategic initiatives are:

**Access to Health Care and Benefits**
Assisting clients with access to quality healthcare and in securing public benefits, working to eliminate the barriers to employment and self-sufficiency for families struggling in poverty.

**Help for Women & Children in Poverty**
Assisting domestic violence survivors to escape the violence and create a safe and stable environment for themselves and their families through restraining orders, access to housing and economic stability, and immigration assistance.

**Migrant Farmworkers**
Working to protect migrant farmworkers and their families under federal and state labor protective statues, addressing unfair or discriminatory employment practices, and civil rights violations, including racial or ethnic profiling.

**Education & Children**
Securing access to quality educational opportunities for children living in poverty, for immigrant children, homeless children, children in foster care, and children with disabilities.

**Housing & Community Development**
Assisting clients with access, development, and preservation of safe, affordable, and healthy housing, and helping low income communities access economic development opportunities.

**Access to Justice**
Informing and empowering low-income persons about legal rights and available resources and assistance through appropriate education and targeted outreach and leveraging technology to make legal information, pro bono assistance, and pro se resources accessible.
Lauren was referred to Legal Aid for assistance in obtaining safety for her family. Lauren’s boyfriend was verbally and physically abusive toward her throughout their relationship. Once when Lauren was carrying their daughter, he attacked her, knocking them both to the ground and holding her at knife point. Fearing for her daughter’s safety, Lauren sought assistance from Legal Aid. Her Legal Aid attorney stood by her side, helping her obtain a five year Civil Protection Order (CPO) and full custody of their daughter.

Lauren credits Legal Aid with helping her to no longer feel like a victim. She is certain that if it weren’t for her Legal Aid attorney, she and her daughter would not have survived.

Lauren is now motivated to move forward and create a new life for her and her daughter.
ABLE and LAWO provide assistance to homeowners at risk of losing their home to foreclosure. The firms provide individual representation as well as developing and litigating cases that resulted in systemic change and relief to a large number of homeowners. Issues surrounding the failure of lenders to comply with Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) mortgage modification requirements, including several state court appeals on HAMP issues have been litigated. In addition, the firms continued their work on foreclosure rescue scams, working with community groups and with fair housing agencies to identify individuals who may have been targeted by scam rescue operations. Outcomes for this work include assisting a senior in receiving a refund of rescue scam payments and then negotiating a reasonable loan modification, ending the for closure and enabling the client to remain in her home.

Overall, the firms have obtained significant monetary benefits for homeowners through litigation and negotiated settlements. In 2012, more than $375,000 in home equity was retained for clients, with more than $425,000 in interest rate savings, $325,000 in debt write-off, and $220,000 in reduced principle, arrearages, fees, and penalties. In all, LAWO and ABLE advocates saved more than $1.3 million for their clients.

Fostering Civility and Respect for Immigrants

ABLE and LAWO are active in the Welcome Dayton Plan – an Immigrant Friendly City Initiative that includes a partnership with the City of Dayton’s Human Relations Council to assist immigrants with legal issues related to housing, including access to housing, landlord/tenant problems, and discrimination. The firms are also partnering with the Dayton Police Department to help immigrant victims of crime.
ABLE and LAWO saw significant developments in their efforts to address the school-to-prison pipeline crisis in northwest Ohio. Our fight against harsh school discipline policies that funnel children from school to jail began in 2011 when a complaint was filed with the Department of Justice alleging that the discipline policies and practices employed by a local school system violated the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The complaint was based in part on data which shows obvious and troubling disparities in discipline rates of African American children and children with emotional and behavioral disabilities. An African American child in the school system was three times more likely than a white child to be disciplined for engaging in the same behavior. Children with emotional disabilities were almost three times more likely than children with no disability to be disciplined and over six times more likely to be suspended from school. Toledo is also the only city in Ohio with an ordinance that makes it a crime for a child to be disruptive in school. As a result of the complaint, the Department of Justice initiated an investigation into the disciplinary policies and practices, including extensive data gathering and a visit by attorneys from the Department of Justice to conduct an on-site investigation. As part of the investigation, ABLE and LAWO coordinated numerous interviews with parents of students who had been subjected to harsh discipline under these policies and many students with disabilities whose rights were not being protected.

In 2012, in response to both the investigation and to a new incident of an arrest of an 11-year-old African American girl in school, the school system agreed to commence serious discussion directly with ABLE, LAWO, the Juvenile Court, the teachers’ and administrators’ unions and other community-based groups to begin working together on implementing alternative behavioral intervention programs that avoid police and juvenile court referrals.
Ten-year-old Lenny uses his custom wheelchair to navigate his way around home and school. Because he has a debilitating condition, Lenny relies on this very expensive chair for everyday living needs. Recently, when he and his mother moved to a new home, they left his chair in the previous apartment intending to get it later. When they returned later that day, the landlord had already changed the locks on the doors. After repeated requests, they were unable to get the landlord to return the chair.

When his mom told Lenny’s hospital social worker that her son no longer had access to his chair, she was immediately referred to a Legal Aid attorney from the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Lenny’s attorney sent a letter to the landlord, informing her that she had illegally locked the family out of their apartment and requested immediate return of the Lenny’s wheelchair. As a result, they were able to retrieve the chair and Lenny is now back in action.
The LAWO Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) is a unique program in which doctors and lawyers work together to provide legal services to pediatric patients and their families on a broad range of issues that affect child health and wellbeing. Legal Aid attorneys assist pediatric patients and their families with various legal matters including obtaining access to health care, public benefits, safe and affordable housing, appropriate special education services, securing custody for relative caregivers, and resolving health and related consumer matters.

The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Toledo

RAISING THE BAR FOR CHILD HEALTH

In 2012, LAWO received funding from the United Way of Greater Toledo and the Stranahan Foundation to expand the Toledo MLPC. Since its inception, the Toledo MLPC has received more than 1,200 referrals and accepted hundreds of cases. The Toledo MLPC is a collaborative partnership managed by LAWO, and includes ABLE, Mercy Children’s Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital, and University Pediatrics at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Miami Valley

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN’S HEALTH

The United Way of Greater Dayton, the CareSource Foundation, the Mathile Family Foundation and Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation, provided the funding needed to start an MLPC in Dayton. LAWO, working with Dayton Children’s Hospital, opened the Dayton MLPC in Spring 2012, conducting intensive training and outreach. The MLPC is now accepting referrals.
Advocating for the Frail Elderly

In the Dayton area, with the support of Human Services Levy (HSL) funding, LAWO is an active participant in a multi-agency coalition that addresses the needs of the frail elderly, many of whom do not have the ability to leave their homes to access services. Caseworkers at the Area Agency on Aging, Adult Protective Services, the Ombudsman’s office, and elsewhere turn to LAWO when their frail elderly clients need legal assistance to address barriers to health, safety, and security.

Through education, cross-trainings, referrals, advocacy, and individual legal representation, LAWO has been successfully addressing legal issues such as domestic violence, elder abuse (including financial exploitation), housing problems (including landlord/tenant and foreclosures), consumer/financial problems, access to Medicaid, wills, and durable powers of attorney. It also has been successful in providing service in a broad range of areas of need, including many cases involving financial exploitation.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence in Hancock County

LAWO received funding from the Community Foundation in Hancock County to support the efforts of an LAWO attorney to galvanize the Hancock County Domestic Violence Task Force and to provide additional attorney assistance to domestic violence survivors. The Task Force has been re-energized, is meeting on a monthly basis, and has scheduled two trainings for law enforcement personnel. In addition to funding community based work, the Community Foundation grant allowed for an increase in the assistance provided to survivors in domestic relations proceedings.
Securing Fair and Affordable Housing

LAWO represented tenants in a Section 8 subsidized housing project who were being asked to pay rent arrearages because the previous management had miscalculated their rent. The amount of rent owed ranged from a few hundred dollars to more than $10,000. Most of the tenants were current in their rent and were surprised to receive notices to vacate for non-payment of rent. LAWO attorneys filed a complaint against the landlord and the management company and after lengthy negotiations settled the case, with two clients receiving more than $2000 for overpayment in rent. In addition, LAWO was successful in getting the landlord to write off almost $35,000 in rent charges.

LAWO also represented tenants of a mobile home park who were threatened with a water shut off and had been notified by the health department that the park would be closed if the water service was terminated. LAWO found that the property was in foreclosure and that the landlord lived in California. LAWO attorneys advised the tenants to pay their rent into escrow to prevent the water service from being terminated. While representing the tenants in the rent escrow case proceeding, LAWO asked the court for an order to use these monies to pay the water charges as well as for trash pickup. LAWO also contacted the county prosecutor to file for appointment of a receiver to take over management of the property. A receiver subsequently was appointed to manage the property.
In 2012, ABLE continued its work with Leaders for Equality and Action, Inc. (LEAD), a Dayton-area coalition of community and religious leaders, in challenging the alleged discriminatory actions by the City of Beavercreek in denying bus stop applications. When Beavercreek chose not to allow the Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to establish requested bus stops in the Fairfield Commons area, ABLE filed a complaint with the Offices of Civil Rights for the Federal Highway Administration and the United States Department of Transportation on behalf of LEAD, alleging that Beavercreek discriminated based on race in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI specifically precludes federal funding recipients from making determinations of sites or locations of facilities - including public transit stops - which have the effect of discriminating on the basis of race.

Beavercreek City Council denied the RTA application despite the fact that it met all design criteria as required by ordinance. The denial followed public council meetings and comments made to City Council voicing objections to the bus stops due to fears of safety and crime from West Dayton, a predominantly African-American neighborhood. The decision by City Council to deny the application has had a disparate impact on African Americans in the Dayton area who disproportionately rely on public transportation to get to work and access services.

This past year, ABLE has worked with the Federal Highway Administration to provide additional information in support of the complaint and has continued to provide support for LEAD for the on-site investigation conducted in the Spring of 2012.
Preserving an Aging Neighborhood

In September 2011, ABLE began a project that begins to address problems associated with poverty and a lack of economic opportunities in one of Toledo’s struggling neighborhoods. Known as the “Old South End,” the area suffers from declining housing stock, increased crime and other problems associated with escalating poverty. Attorneys with the project work with community-based groups to plan for long-term solutions, specifically on housing-related matters, looking to create practices that can be applied to other struggling communities. In 2012, the attorney on this project worked diligently on the passage of a Vacant Residential Building Registry. As a result, the Toledo City Council passed updates to its vacant property registry which will now include provisions to hold mortgagees - including banks and lending institutions - responsible for vacant abandoned foreclosures and problems stemming from “toxic title.” This result is important for cities in the Midwest that have struggled with increased crime, fires, and deterioration of property values in the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis. These problems particularly plague inner-city and minority-concentrated areas where much of the subprime and abusive lending practices are targeted.

Protecting Immigrant Children from Deportation

In June 2012, the Obama Administration created a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. DACA provides for temporary lawful presence in the United States for undocumented individuals who were under 31 years of age as of June 15, 2012, who came to the U.S. while under the age of 16, and who have continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. Individuals must also be in school or have graduated from high school, obtained a GED or have been honorably discharged from the armed forces, and have no significant criminal background. In 2012, ABLE represented 19 individuals in filing for Deferred Action under this program; nine received approval and 10 are still pending. DACA approval is extremely significant because grantees are protected from removal (deportation) for two years (with the possibility of future extensions), are eligible for work authorization, and may openly participate in and continue to contribute to our communities, which for most of these individuals is the only home they have ever known.
ABLE’s Ombudsman Program promotes and protects the rights of residents of long-term care facilities and services. With a focus on empowering residents to become self-advocates and improving the quality of life and care for residents, the Ombudsman Program documented more than 5,200 hours addressing issues of wrongful discharge and evictions from facilities, unattended or unnoticed symptoms, denial of a resident’s right to exercise choice, denial of civil and consumer rights, misadministration of medications, incidence of accidents or injuries of unknown origins, lack of dignity and respect by staff, and insufficient care plans. Staff handled 733 cases/complaints, received 533 requests for assistance that were not cases or complaints, and closed 328 cases. Overall, 1,310 individuals were assisted by the Ombudsman Program.

Licensed Volunteer Ombudsman Associates are critical to the success of the Ombudsman Program. In 2012, ombudsman associates contributed nearly 3,000 hours advocating on behalf of consumers of long-term care services.

**2012 Certified Ombudsman Associates**

Dave Allman
Linda Apling
Barbara Applebaum
Marie Aubry
Albertah Banks
Kathleen Barber
Dorothea Barker
Sheila Beck
Stephanie Beckman
Kathy Bednarski
Rita Betz
Jill Bixler
John Bombrays
Susan Borkovich
Melissa Burke-Skoney
Annette Churchill
Donald Cummings
Glenda Cummings
Jeannie Dempsey
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Sandy Hamilton
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Frank Kohler
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Sandi Sparks
John Stevenson
Nancy Stevenson
Kaitlin Swindaman
Theresa Symons
Janet Tadsen
Cathy Taylor
Jennifer Wagner
Marcia Walker
Patricia Williams
In August 2012, the staff of ABLE’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program quickly mobilized to respond to the imminent closure of a nursing home facility in Toledo. The facility had a history of poor performance and had previously been designated a focus facility by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), subjecting it to an increased number of inspections. In August 2012, citing the facility for multiple severe violations, including abuse, ODH proposed to revoke the facility’s license to operate as a nursing home. Soon thereafter, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) revoked the facilities Medicare and Medicaid certification resulting in closure of the nursing home. At the time the closure was announced, 89 residents resided at Liberty, 88 of whom were Medicaid recipients, and all of whom required transition planning and identification of an appropriate new placement upon discharge.

ABLE Ombudsman Program staff became a daily presence at the home to ensure residents were aware of their right to safe and appropriate discharge planning, as well as their right to participate in the planning. The Ombudsman staff further ensured resident rights were not being violated by the facility ownership and administration. With many of the residents requiring intensive services, the Ombudsman staff also brought together several local agencies to resolve issues and address legal obstacles with housing, government benefits, and community supports and services.

Through these intensive efforts and a significant commitment of staff time over a six-month period, the Ombudsman Program coordinated the safe and appropriate discharge of every single resident by the facility’s closure date.
This report is related to ABLE and LAWO’s operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice, Depreciation, or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.

### Support & Revenue

- Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) 3,536,518
- Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO) 2,482,668
- Other grants and contracts 3,412,133
- Fundraising and special events 436,693
- Miscellaneous income & gain on investments 146,652

Subtotal 10,014,664

Transfers to Reserves (82,434)

**TOTAL** 9,932,230

### Expenses & Expenditures

- Compensation & benefits 7,819,425
- Contract services 610,057
- Operating costs 1,111,059
- Travel, support, & training 194,781
- Miscellaneous 196,908

**TOTAL** 9,932,230
Access to a Legal Aid lawyer often means access to healthcare, safety, food, and shelter. By making an annual contribution to the Campaigns for Equal Justice you are part of a valued group of supporters who are affirming that equal access to the justice system should be a reality for everyone, regardless of their income. We are very grateful to the individuals, firms, foundations, and organizations that considered the Campaigns for Equal Justice among their 2012 charitable donations. The collective impact of your donations has never been greater, nor has the need for your support.

Amount raised during the
2012 Northwest Ohio Annual Campaign

$165,000

Amount raised during the
2012 Miami Valley Annual Campaign

$150,000

ABLE and LAWO are pleased to report
100 percent giving by their boards of trustees and staff.
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2012 Annual Campaign for Equal Justice
Northwest Ohio

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The 2012 Access to Justice Awards Dinner, celebrating the great work of legal aid and pro bono programs in northwest Ohio, was held Monday, April 30 at The Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio. The annual awards dinner was presented by ABLE, LAWO, and the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program.

Featured speaker for 2012 was Charles Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law. Ogletree is a prominent author and legal theorist and is the founding and executive director of Harvard Law School’s new Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice. His most recent book is *The Presumption of Guilt: The Arrest of Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Race, Class and Crime in America*, which draws on the 2009 mistaken arrest of Gates to explore issues of race and what must be done to create a more just legal system.

Access to Justice Award recipients for 2012 were:

**Community Advocacy Award**

**Margarita De Leon**

*For her work on behalf of Latinos and Latino groups and organizations in northwest Ohio.*

**Distinguished Service Award**

**C. Thomas McCarter, Attorney**

*For his long-term commitment and leadership in ensuring access to justice for the poor in northwest Ohio.*

**Public Interest Law Awards**

**Marathon Petroleum Corporation and the Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association**

*For working to meet the legal needs of low-income Findlay and Hancock County residents.*

**Thomas Goodwin, Attorney**

*In recognition for his long-time pro bono work on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged women and children.*
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When Bob* learned he was being involuntarily discharged from the nursing home where he lived he was devastated. Bob no longer met a level of care under Medicaid requirements so he was scheduled to be discharged in mid-December. Not knowing what to do, Bob approached an advocate from ABLE for help. It was already early December, so Bob’s advocate worked with him to complete a HOME Choice application while at the same time advocating to prevent the discharge until safe and appropriate housing could be found. Once approved by the HOME Choice program the ABLE advocate was designated as Bob’s transition coordinator. The advocate successfully negotiated for Bob to remain at the nursing facility until after the holiday weekend, allowing him time to secure an apartment, purchase furniture, order necessary medical equipment, and to schedule a home health agency.

Most importantly, Bob was able to enjoy a stress-free holiday weekend with family and friends in his current residence. Once the holidays were over, Bob moved into his own apartment on his own terms.
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Jennifer R. Asbrock
Shawn M. Blatt
Shannon K. Bockelman
Jennifer M. Brill
Michael P. Brush
James E. Byrd
Randall M. Comer
Christopher F. Cowan
Adam N. Croumer
Scott S. Davies
Matthew D. Dicicco
Mark Engling
Judy M. Evans
Gregory M. Ewers
Lee Charles Falke
Sarah E. Fields
Rory Elizabeth Garrity
Sarah N. Germain-Kunk
Erica L. Glass
Robert L. Gresham
Julie A. Gunter
Penny L. Hamilton
Jonathan Hawkins
Nicholas A. Heppner
Walter Herin
Sherry M. Holley
Nathan E. Holmes
Kelli R. Howard
Francisco A. Irizarry
Nancy E. Jones
John F. Kane
Hon. John W. Kessler
Jessica D. Ledbetter
Michael G. Leesman
William J. Leibold
Mary E. Lentz
Kermit F. Lowery
Kathryn Mack
Michael C. Mahoney
Julia Martin
Rhine McLin
Linda McNelly
Nicole A. Mitchell
John E. Moore, Sr.
Mary M. Morgan
Alvarene N. Owens
David C Perkins
Kelly M. Schroeder
Sharon Sherlock
Jeffrey B. Shulman
Micah M. Siegal
Jade Smarda
Molly Stitsinger
Richard A. Talda
Julia A. Turner
Breanne M. Whalen
Thomas James Whalen
Jason Williams
Hon. Mary L. Wiseman
Lee E. Young, Jr.

In memory of James J. Gilvary
Robert J. Brown

In memory of Hon. Joseph Kerns
Lee Charles Falke

In memory of Chuck Whalen
Thomas James Whalen
The 2012 Access to Justice Awards Gala recognized individuals who have provided extraordinary assistance to low-income or disabled individuals in the Miami Valley. The awards were presented by ABLE, LAWO, and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. Honorees for 2012 are:

**Lloyd O’Hara Public Interest Law Award**

Nancy A. Roberson

For her exceptional work in representing those who are disabled or who have mental health issues, both in her practice and through pro bono and personal time.

**Community Advocacy Awards**

John (Tim) Donnellan

Longtime director of the Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area.

Patricia S. Meadows

Recently retired as executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Dayton.

**Community Impact Award**

Reach Out of Montgomery County

A non-profit organization of volunteer physicians, nurses, and pharmacists that provides health care and prescription assistance to the poor who are underserved and uninsured.

**Distinguished Service**

Honorable Walter H. Rice

For his longtime advocacy for the disadvantaged and homeless.
2012 -2013 Boards of Trustees

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Marci Matthews  
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* 2012 only
Natasha Newberry **
Asst. Prosecuting Attorney
Dayton

Laurie J. Pangle
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Spengler Nathanson PLL
Toledo

Victor H. Perez **
Attorney-at-Law
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David P. Pierce
Attorney-at-Law
Coolidge Wall Co. LPA
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Patricia Rousseau
Attorney-at-Law
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J. Michael Vassar
Attorney-at-Law
Toledo

Anna M. Walker *
Client Representative
Toledo

Kathryn Watson
Client Representative
Toledo

Diane Welborn
Community Representative
Dayton

Nicole M. Winget **
Attorney-at-Law
Walter M. Lawson Law Office
Lima

Patricia A. Wise
Attorney-at-Law
Niehaus & Associates, LTD
Toledo

Hon. Mary Wiseman
Montgomery Co. Court of Common Pleas
Dayton

James Stahler (Emeritus)
Retired Social Worker
Clayton

David Ward (Emeritus)
Attorney-at-Law / Mediator
Columbus

** 2013 only
Pro Bono Services

LAWO and ABLE continue to rely on pro bono programs to secure volunteer lawyers who help fill the gaps for those who would otherwise go unrepresented in legal matters that affect their lives and the lives of their families. The time, hard work, and dedication of local volunteer attorneys made it possible to provide legal assistance to even more clients. ABLE and LAWO maintained partnerships with pro bono legal services programs, including the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP) and the Toledo Bar Association (TBA) Pro Bono Legal Services Program. Both programs, along with the LAWO and ABLE Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) program recruit hundreds of lawyers each year who represent thousands of low income clients throughout our service area. The programs provide opportunities in a number of legal areas for attorneys and other legal professionals to find meaningful pro bono work. LAWO is a major funder of the GDVLP and the TBA Pro Bono Legal Services Program.

Expanding Capacity through Innovative Pro Bono Projects

Attorneys from Marathon Petroleum’s corporate legal department worked with Legal Aid Line and LAWO staff several times in 2012 providing brief counsel and advice via pre-scheduled phone appointments with clients from across ABLE and LAWO’s 32-county service area. In one afternoon, a group of 10 to 15 Marathon attorneys and paralegals provided legal advice, followed by referrals and written instructions, to more than 30 clients. Pro bono volunteers receive free continuing legal education in preparation for the clinics in substantive areas of poverty law such as landlord-tenant issues, consumer debt collection, and domestic relations problems. Since the project began, additional attorney groups have joined the effort, resulting in five additional pro bono counsel and advice clinics in 2012. As an added bonus, two active pro bono attorneys offered to fund the production of an instructional video designed to train attorney volunteers.

Volunteer lawyers also participate in outreach programs, make community legal education presentations, and co-counsel cases with other volunteers and legal aid attorneys.
If you would like to join this list of generous individuals, contact ABLE and LAWO’s Private Attorney Involvement Program by calling (419) 724-0030 or (877) 994-4599.
Volunteers Who Provided Pro Bono Services

If you would like to join this list of generous individuals, contact ABLE and LAWO’s Private Attorney Involvement Program by calling (419) 724-0030 or (877) 994-4599.

Susi Dugan
Paul Hanley Duggan
Julie Duncan
Karen T. Dunlevey
Aaron G. Durden
David M. Duwel
Katherine L. Early
John M. Ebersole
Steven Elleman
Angela Marie Elliott
James C. Ellis
Nicholas Endsley
Lauren Epperley
Herbert Ernst
Meg Evans
Rebecca Lynn Fahim
Lee C. Falke
Gene Farmer
Valerie Jean Fatica
Jessica Faulkner
John Cornell Filkins
Theodore O’Finnarn
Robert Blaine Fitzgerald
James P. Fleisher
Jason Nathaniel Flower
Abbey Mae Flynn
Martin A. Foos
Anne M. Frayne
Bruce Comly French
Keith A. Fricker
Gary L. Froelich
Gregory M. Gantt
Phillip R. Garbig
Charles F. Geidner
Erik Geiger
Spencer German
Daniel F. Getty
Katherine Gorski
Nicholas G. Gounaris
Dalma Grandjean
Abigail Grasinger
Sean A. Graves
Thomas M. Green
Douglas B. Gregg
Robert L. Gresham
James N. Griffin
Edwin Grinvalds
Jonas J. Gruenberg
Anneliese M. Grytafey
Justin Guedel
Gerald E. Gunnoe
Michael E. Gutmann
Christine M. Haaker
Janet E. Hales
Elaine Hammonds
Scott E. Hamner
Paul David Hancock
Donald F. Harker
Sean H. Harmon
Mark Andrew Harris
Anne C. Harvey
Brandon C. Hedrick
James K. Hemenway
Richard Hempfing
Lawrence W. Henke
Elizabeth J. Henley
R. Mark Henry
David P. Herier
J. Michael Herr
Lisa A Hesse
Ralph E. Heyman
Cody Hibbard
John P. Hilgeman
Carol J. Holm
Timothy Charles Holtsberry
Joanne Eileen Horen
Amanda Hortsman
Bradley Francis Hubbell
William Evan Huber, II
John Christopher Huffman
Kathleen M. Hughes
Jonathan F. Hung
Deborah D. Hunt
Nathan C. Hunt
Tonya Jo Hunter
Isadora Huntley
Dustin R. Hurley
Kenneth J. Ignozzi
Glenn Norman Ingersoll
Thomas J. Intili
Francisco A. Irizarry
David S. Jablinski
Angelina Jackson
Rodney Jacobs
James L. Jacobson
Michelle James
Mary Lynch Jarrell
Marilyn Staup Jenkins
Matthew T. Jewson
Jeanne Deimling Johns
Jerry Marshall Johnson
Lindsey M. Johnson
Andrew H. Johnston
Taylor Jones, Jr.
If you would like to join this list of generous individuals, contact ABLE and LAWO’s Private Attorney Involvement Program by calling (419) 724-0030 or (877) 994-4599.
Volunteers Who Provided Pro Bono Services

James E. Swaim
Jill Tanner
Carrie Thiem
James W. Thomas
Michael Thomas
Anne Thompson
Christopher W. Thompson
Ira Thomsen
Anastasia (Stacey) Tipler
Patrice Tisdale
Jeremy M. Tomb
Kelly Jeanette Tomlinson
Ronald C. Tompkins
Robyn Traywick
Gretchen M. Treherne
Jason Treherne
Robert C. Tucker
Mark A. Tuss
Timothy Tye
Karl Ulrich
Fred A. Ungerman
Jason Mark Van Dam
Navay M. Vaughn
D. Andrew Venters
Peter F. von Meister
H. Charles Wagner
Jared Wagner
A.J. Wagner
J. Joseph Walsh
E. James Wampler

Sherry Wampler
Cheryl R. Washington
Halli Watson
Mark D. Webb
Adam R. Webber
Rudy D. K. Wehner
Cathy Weithman
Heather D. Welbaum
Michael G. Weller
Amy Wells
James I. Weprin
Cynthia L. Westwood
Breane M. Whalen
Thomas Whalen
Thomas P. Whelley, II
Betty White
Merle F. Wilberding
J. Michael Wilder

Lucas Wilder
Brian L. Wildermuth
Todd Michael Williamson
David P. Williamson
Jamesha Williamson
Nicole Marie Winget
Paul Winterhalter
Patricia Anne Wise

Molly Wollet
Stephanie Wood
John Woodard
Edward C. Yim
Steven E. Yuhas
Paul Zimmer
Jonathan S. Zweizig
Volunteers play a vital role at ABLE and LAWO, providing civil legal assistance and support in all areas of advocacy. All volunteers benefit from hands-on experience, training, as well as professional support and feedback.

**Law Student Volunteers**

Chelsea Arnold, University of Dayton School of Law  
Christopher Brock, University of Colorado School of Law  
William Daley V, University of Toledo College of Law  
Robert “Max” Gibson, Boston College Law School  
Lindsey Gill, William & Mary Law School  
Mark Harris, University of Toledo College of Law  
Jonathan Kenney, University of Dayton School of Law  
Katie Kersh, University of Michigan College of Law  
Jamar King, University of Toledo College of Law  
Royce Link, University of Dayton School of Law  
Abby McMahon, Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University  
Alec Ross, University of Iowa College of Law  
Heidi Schmenk, Quinnipiac University School of Law  
Marshall Sirmans, University of Toledo College of Law  
Shamara Stewart, University of Toledo College of Law  
Aaron Stubbs, University of Toledo College of Law  

**Paralegal Volunteer**

Megan Monaghan, University of Toledo

**General Office Volunteers**

**DAYTON**

Larry DeHoff  
Charis Stanek (Miami Valley HS)

**TOLEDO**

Mary Berg  
Marie Blake  
William Daley V (Wittenberg University)  
Marshall Desmond (University of Toledo)  
JoAnne DeVerna  
Janet Green  
Lidia Uran
The Development Advisory Council is composed of professional, legal, business, and philanthropic leaders dedicated to promoting the mission and vision of ABLE and LAWO. The Development Advisory Council’s mission is to assist the staff of ABLE and LAWO in securing individual and corporate gifts, trusts, and bequests to nourish programs throughout our 32-county service area; and to serve as a resource by providing suggestions and advice on programs and activities. Members of the Development Advisory Council provide leadership for a united effort to ensure ABLE and LAWO’s reputations as two of the nation’s foremost legal aid firms.

2012 Northwest Ohio Development Advisory Council Members

Robert M. Anspach
R. Jeffrey Bixler
James E. Brazeau
Steven P. Collier
Cary R. Cooper
David J. Coyle
Aux. Bishop R. Donnelly
Lawrence M. Friedman
Reginald S. Jackson, Jr.
Justice G. Johnson, Jr.
Catherine H. Killam
C. Thomas McCarter
Laurie J. Pangle

Richard A. Parr, II
Stephen A. Rothschild
Sarah K. Skow
E. James Stengle, III
Robert V. Sterling
David A. Ward
Thomas L. Young
The 2012 Race4Justice drew more than 150 participants. Proceeds from the 2012 Race4Justice were designated to help Legal Aid’s Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) program to serve more children and families.
The Emerging Leader’s Council (ELC) began in 2011 as a group of new attorneys who support the work and mission of LAWO and ABLE through professional development, pro bono participation, and other activities to raise awareness of these important community resources. ELC highlights for 2012 include providing pro bono assistance to ABLE and LAWO clients through Legal Aid Line clinics; organizing and presenting CLE opportunities on Consumer and Housing Law Issues; social networking, and organizing and running the first ever Race4Justice and One Mile Walk. Membership in the ELC is comprised of attorneys who are the next generation of leaders in the northwest Ohio legal community.

2012-2013 Emerging Leaders Council Members

Cory Catignani
Brian Craig
Brandi Doniere
Henry Geha
Hon. Michael Goulding
Anneliese Grytafey
Katie Hunt
Matthew Hutchinson
Exum Jelani Jefferson
Melissa LaRocca
Lisa Mantel
Andy Mayle
Drew Miller
Kate Mitchell
Eugenio Mollo, Jr.
Dan Nathan

Colleen Neary
Rebecca Nowak
Ericka Parker
Tonya Robinson
Emily Samlow
Rebecca Shope
Sarah Skow
Nicholas Stack
George Thomas
Thomas P. Timmers
Kelly Tomlinson

Robert Tucker
Jason Van Dam
Julita Varner
Lucinda Weller
Todd Williams
Karen Wu
ABLE and LAWO’s client services are supported by public and private funding. Listed are the names of the funders and the programs they supported in 2012.

**Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.**
Legal assistance to senior citizens in 10 counties of northwest Ohio.

**City of Dayton, Human Relations Council**
Support for educational presentations and legal assistance with housing issues for immigrant populations in Dayton.

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

**Dana Foundation**
Support for the Medical-Legal Partnership in Toledo.

**Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County**
Advocacy on behalf of consumers within the mental health system, including outreach visits to area mental health agencies, and community groups.

**Nellie R. Bash Charitable Trust**
Support for the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Toledo.

**Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation**
Support of ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, Legal Aid Line, and the migrant program, as well as support for the Save the Dream foreclosure prevention project, the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows, and other projects.
American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation
Support for pro bono services delivered through rural bankruptcy clinics.

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

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 3
Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties.

Area Agency on Aging - Ohio District 5
Legal assistance to senior citizens in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties.

Avon Foundation for Women
Support for an Economic Self-Sufficiency Coordinator to provide services to domestic violence survivors in six northwest Ohio counties.

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Support for benefits planning assistance to individuals with disabilities seeking to return to work.

City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods
Federal Community Development Block Grant funds supporting legal assistance in housing matters for low-income Toledo residents.

Clark County Department of Job and Family Services
Support for legal assistance to low-income Clark County residents.

Dayton Foundation
Support for education and outreach services to Montgomery County area seniors regarding estate planning and advance directives.

Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association
Support for staffing and expenses of the Findlay satellite office in Hancock County.

Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation
Support for the Legal Assistance for Victims Project in Hancock County.

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

Internal Revenue Service
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters.
Legal Services Corporation

Support of LAWO area-wide services and support for technology projects.

Lucas County
Department of Jobs and Family Services

Program to remove legal barriers to employment and self-sufficiency and provides services to seniors and persons with disabilities.

Miami County
Department of Job and Family Services

Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the implementation of a Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Dayton.

Montgomery County

Support for legal assistance to frail elderly individuals in Montgomery County.

Ohio Attorney General

Victim of Crime Acts (VOCA) funding for legal assistance to domestic violence survivors throughout LAWO’s service area.

ProMedica Advocacy Fund

Support for legal assistance with basic needs issues including housing, access to healthcare and public benefits, and other needs to residents of counties in the ProMedica region.

Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation

Support for the implementation of a Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Dayton.

St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center

Support for the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children through the Abandoned Infants Assistance Project and the Empowering Families Project.

St. Marguerite d’Youville Foundation II

Support for legal services to individuals with mental health issues in Lucas County.

Sandusky Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.

Springfield Foundation

Support for legal services to low-income Clark County residents.
The Stranahan Foundation
Support of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, Education Advocacy Initiative in Toledo.

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC)
Support for pro bono assistance to incarcerated individuals released from correctional institutions in Toledo and Lima through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Toledo Community Foundation
Support for legal assistance to seniors in Lucas County.

Toledo Municipal Court and City of Toledo
Civil Legal Assistance Services Project to provide legal assistance at the court to individuals with housing and consumer cases.

Turner Foundation
Support for legal services to low-income Clark County residents.

United States Department of Justice
Legal Assistance for Victims Project to provide legal help to survivors of domestic violence in 14 rural counties.

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 through the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and programs that assist families, those who have a disability, and the elderly.

United Way of Greater Lima
Legal assistance to low-income residents and domestic violence victims in Allen County.

United Way of Greater Toledo
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties and support of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Toledo.

United Way of Williams County
Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Supports advocating for residents of nursing homes, adult care facilities, and consumers receiving in-home care services through ABLE’s Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods


Northwest Ohio Community Shares

Operating support through workplace giving.

Equal Justice Works

Support for Attorney Fellows working in the areas of neighborhood revitalization and foreclosure prevention.

Four Freedoms Fund

Support for the Migrant Farm Worker and Immigration Program’s Anti-Profiling and Immigrant Detention Project.

The Ford Foundation,
Institute for International Education

Support for travel and staff development for the Migrant Farm Worker and Immigration Program.

Internal Revenue Service

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters and provide outreach and education on tax issues to English as a Second Language taxpayers.

Mexican Consulate

Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Ohio Attorney General

Moving Ohio Forward funding to support individuals and families that have experienced or are at risk of foreclosure.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in 10 northwest Ohio counties.
Ohio State Legal Services Association
Support for pre-foreclosure legal assistance to homeowners.

PNC Community Development Foundation
Support for foreclosure prevention services.

The Stranahan Foundation
Support for the Microenterprise Legal Assistance Project, Homeownership Preservation Project, and for the development of additional education and self-help materials for clients.

Toledo Community Foundation
Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank Project in Lucas and Wood Counties.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Support for services to members of fair housing protected classes who have been victims of foreclosure rescue scams.
Together, we do the community justice.

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

**Administrative Office**
Center for Equal Justice
525 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 400 | Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 724-0030 | (877) 894-4599 Toll-free

Offices in Dayton, Defiance, Fremont, Lima, Sandusky, Springfield, and Toledo

www.lawolaw.org

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

**Administrative Office**
Center for Equal Justice
525 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 300 | Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-0814 | (800) 837-0814 Toll-free

Offices in Dayton and Toledo

www.ablelaw.org

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