Building On Our Strengths

Reaching People Where They Are



Charles Howard, Construction Specialist for Junction Coalition

Alicia Smith, Community Liaision for Junction Coalition



2018 Report To The Community

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 (noncriminal) 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.

Reaching People Where They Are

In 2018, **ABLE** and **LAWO** expanded their initiatives to reach more people where they are — in their neighborhoods and community spaces strengthening clients' ability to overcome legal barriers to wellbeing.

We served 19,622 individuals in 2018. We also helped people solve issues negatively affecting large numbers of people living in poverty:

- In Dayton, ABLE attorneys provided the legal foundation for the Gem City Market located in a neighborhood where large commercial grocers pulled out, leaving few fresh food options. With support from local foundations, government, banks, and individuals, residents will have a say in its future: more than 50% of the workerowned co-op grocery's board is made up of neighborhood residents.
- In Toledo, LAWO reached people through onsite legal help at the Toledo Municipal Court. LAWO staff assisted hundreds of people in 383 eviction and consumer debt cases, giving families a chance to sustain housing and economic stability when wrongfully sued.

- Toledo's Junction Coalition found help when a legal aid community lawyering project connected the neighborhood with Fifth Third Bank around community reinvestment plans. The relationship resulted in redevelopment in a neighborhood that has seen disinvestment, redlining, and long-time segregation practices. Now, other banks are investing in the project, too.
- When workplace immigration raids hit Sandusky early one June morning, ABLE helped families separated from spouses and children that evening. They worked with community groups to arrange a clinic where affected families could speak with Consulates from their countries of origin and learn where their spouses and other family members were being held in detention, sometimes in other states. ABLE worked to uphold their rights and to reunite families that were torn apart.

With your support, LAWO and ABLE continue to reach people where they are – to make their legal rights a reality and make a difference in their lives. For that, we say thank you!

anet E. Hales



Janet Hales ABLE Executive Director

Keri C.



Kevin Mulder LAWO Executive Director

Empowering People — Solving Big Problems Affecting Our Client Communities

LAWO and **ABLE** represent tens thousands of people living in poverty each year. We help them remove obstacles that keep them from moving forward in their lives. And when we get to the root of the problem, we can help solve the bigger problems they face – lack of access to medical treatment, vulnerability to fraud, neglect, and abuse, failed systems that were designed to protect immigrant children, lack of affordable housing.

Making Hepatitis C Treatment Available Earlier

People who suffered from chronic Hepatitis C were finally able to obtain curative treatment earlier. ABLE attorneys testified before agency committees, met with legislators, and engaged in other advocacy that prompted the Ohio Department of Medicaid to decrease to 0 the fibrosis score requirements for Medicaid approval of direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) so treatment can begin before organs are damaged. Hepatitis C medications can cure over 90% of chronically infected individuals, saving lives and allowing people to return to work and care for their families.

Protecting Seniors

In 2018, LAWO developed an innovative program — the Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself Series for Seniors — to empower seniors with the legal information and documents they need to avoid life-altering complications.

The series offers seniors a variety of classes providing legal information in a format including print, audio, visual, and audio-visual — best suited to the senior. The information is presented through both fixed site classes and in a virtual classroom. In many cases, seniors are able to obtain appropriate follow-up services, including the preparation of legal documents, to protect their interests. The ability to gain information on health care, safety, finances and asset protection, and estate planning and to obtain health care advance directives, powers of attorney, and estate planning documents is critical to preventing abuse, exploitation, and neglect and to maintaining a quality of life.

Safeguarding Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

In early 2018, after spending years representing children who had entered the U.S. without parents, an ABLE attorney was invited by Senator Rob Portman to testify before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. On April 26, 2018, the ABLE attorney delivered her written and oral testimony and responded to questions during a hearing entitled "Oversight of HHS and DHS Efforts to Protect Unaccompanied Alien Children from Human Trafficking and Abuse." Having legal protection often protects children from becoming trafficked and lost in the system set up to keep them safe. An engaged Senate panel questioned the ABLE attorney who explained the greater protections needed to prevent child trafficking.

Increasing Housing Options For Economically Disadvantaged People

ABLE, along with other Ohio legal aid programs, continued stakeholder meetings with policy staff of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) in 2018, resulting in changes to policies that increased housing opportunities for families with low to moderate incomes. Through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) program, OHFA awards tax credits to developers to subsidize the costs of construction or rehabilitation of housing developments that include affordable housing units. ABLE helped lead stakeholder meetings seeking revisions to the qualified allocation plan (QAP) and submitted testimony and written comments advocating to increase the number of family units in highopportunity areas. In 2018, OHFA made changes to the QAP and allocated tax credits to new family housing in opportunity areas and expanded bedroom sizes to provide more family housing in new builds, which will increase opportunities for safe and affordable housing for families and seniors with low incomes.

Building On Our Strengths

ABLE and **LAWO** are bound together by a shared commitment to bring fairness and justice to our clients. Based on research assessed through a strategic planning process, the areas of practice listed here have been established to serve our clients. Our firms continue to seek justice for all and make a significant improvement in the lives of the people we help. We know that without us, many individuals and families living in poverty would go without legal assistance because they are unable to afford it. With your help, we can continue to stand up for their rights.

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 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 & Immigrant Rights

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

Meaningful Access To Education

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

Housing & 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 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.

Martha Overcomes Challenge To Home Ownership

*Martha resided in a home inherited from her parents. She had four siblings; each had been bequeathed a onefifth interest in the home. Martha needed to make repairs to the home which she could not afford. An agency had advised

Martha that it would not be able to make the repairs for her unless she was the sole

owner of the property. Two of Martha's sisters and her widowed sister-in-law transferred their



interests to Martha. The remaining one-fifth interest had been owned by a brother who had died without leaving a will. The interest had passed to a nonrelative whom we could not locate.

LAWO filed a Complaint to Quiet Title and secured a court order granting Martha a 100% interest in the property and marketable title. Now, the property is hers to keep.

 $\ensuremath{^*\mathrm{The}}$ names of clients have been changed to protect their privacy.

Our 2018 Combined Record Of Service



Nearly 20,000 people were provided legal assistance by attorneys and paralegals in 2018. Countless others received help from **ABLE** and **LAWO** through materials and information that appear on our website, pro bono legal assistance clinics, legal presentations, and trainings and continuing legal education presentations for lawyers. Our staff also visited homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior centers, health clinics, nursing homes and agricultural labor camps to make people aware of their legal rights.





\$18,743,605



*This does not include groups and organizations that received legal help.

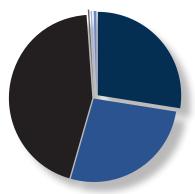
2018 Operating Revenues & Expenses

This report is related to **ABLE** and **LAWO's** operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to depreciation, the 50 Years of Fairness and Justice Campaign, the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice, or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.



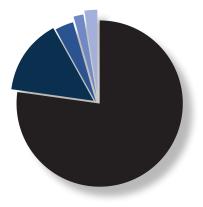
Support & Revenue

Other Grants & Contracts	\$5,720,125
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$3,561,526
Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO only)	\$3,442,391
Other Income	\$65,419
Miscellaneous Income and Gain on Investments .	\$37,427
Fundraising & Special Events	\$33,258
	\$12,850,146
Transfer to Reserves	(\$306,563)
Total	. \$12,553,583



Expenses & Expenditures

Compensation & Benefits	\$9,712,185
Operating Costs	\$1,850,406
Contract Services	\$445,689
Travel, Support & Training	\$263,510
Other	\$281,793
Total	\$12,553,583



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LAWO Helped Joan And Her Children Find Safety

*Joan fled to Ohio with her young children fearful of the domestic violence that they endured in Georgia. She turned to **LAWO** for help. The children's father had wielded a knife across Joan's forearm while their three-year-old daughter



With the help of her attorney, Joan received a Civil Protection Order for five years restricting the abuser from engaging in violent and threatening behavior towards Joan and her minor children. The order also can be registered in the State of Georgia. Joan and her children

watched. He had beaten their son, leaving him with a black eye and bruises on one ear and around his neck.

*The names of clients have been changed to protect their privacy.

hope to be safe from now on.

ABLE Helps Veteran To Keep Medicaid Benefits

*Kevin, a 63-year-old veteran with severe health problems, feared he would lose Medicaid benefits that cover his ongoing medical treatment. He received notice that the Hancock County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) was terminating his Medicaid benefits because he was receiving too much income. Also, Kevin was notified by the Veterans



An **ABLE** paralegal contacted the Hancock County Veterans Services Commission and secured a waiver of the overpayment for Kevin. To avoid losing Medicaid, Kevin needed to prove to JFS that his veteran's benefits had been terminated, and that Social Security was his only income. ABLE obtained a copy of the termination notice from the

Administration (VA) that he had an overpayment of veterans' benefits because he was receiving both Social Security and Veterans Administration payments at the same time. He had reported receipt of the Social Security benefits to the Veterans Administration, so he did not believe the overpayment was his fault. VA and interceded with Hancock County JFS to avoid the cancellation of Medicaid. With ABLE's help, Kevin retained his Medicaid benefits with no break in coverage and was able to continue receiving treatment for his medical conditions.

 $^{*}\mbox{The}$ names of clients have been changed to protect their privacy.



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We appreciate the generosity of individuals who give to the **Justice for All Campaign**. Your donations make it possible for us to serve thousands of people needing legal help to sustain themselves and achieve independence.

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2018 Northwest Ohio Access To Justice Awards Dinner

Coach Jim Harbaugh, acclaimed coach of the University of Michigan Wolverines and an advocate of legal aid, was the keynote speaker at the Access to Justice Awards Ceremony and Dinner on May 10 at the SeaGate Convention Centre. Coach Harbaugh serves on the Legal Services Corporation's (LSC) Leaders Council. LSC is the largest funding source of legal aid nonprofit law firms nationwide. Coach Harbaugh volunteered his time to raise awareness of the importance of ensuring equal access to our justice system to low-income Americans who otherwise cannot afford legal representation. Also, three greater Toledo area individuals were honored for their outstanding service to disadvantaged people.

Gretchen DeBacker, Esq., received the Public Interest Law Award for her long-term dedication to providing legal services to underserved people, including as founder of the Sisters in Law program of Mom's House. The program engages nearly 20 female attorneys in providing pro bono legal representation and one-on-one mentoring to address legal issues that destabilize the lives of mothers and their children. **Dr. Celia Williamson** was the recipient of the Community Advocacy Award. She is professor and chair of the social work department at the University of Toledo and executive director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute. She founded the first anti-trafficking program in Ohio in 1993, the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and the annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference in Toledo. Under Dr. Williamson's leadership, since 2000, the University of Toledo has provided research on human trafficking that is used across the country and throughout the world.

R. Michael Frank, Esq. was presented the Distinguished Service Award. As the founding executive director of ABLE in the 1970s, Michael led the firm in achieving groundbreaking advances in assuring the civil rights of women, minorities and low-income Americans. After leaving ABLE, Frank continued to engage in community service and represented clients in civil rights litigation for another 35 years until his recent retirement.



Jim Harbaugh

Gretchen DeBalker

Margaret Lockhart

Richard Malone

Kevin C. Mulder

Celia Williamson



R. Michael Frank

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Helping Families Cope with Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC)



Linda cared for her granddaughter, Cheyenne, because both parents were actively addicted to opiates. Cheyenne developed cancer at age 2. As she recovered from surgery, her father began coming to the hospital high, threatening to remove Chevenne. The hospital staff referred Linda to the MLPC. ABLE attorneys filed legal papers, and the court awarded Linda legal custody. Cheyenne's health is improving; while Linda hopes for reunification, Cheyenne is safe with her grandmother.

Northwest Ohio Development Advisory Council

The **Development Advisory Council** assists the development staff in securing individual and corporate gifts, sponsorships, and trusts and bequests to sustain our programs. The committee, comprised of professional, legal, business, academic, and philanthropic leaders, also work to ensure that **ABLE** and **LAWO** maintain their strong presence in the greater Toledo area. We appreciate their dedication to advancing our missions.

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Please accept our gratitude for donations to the 2018 **Campaign for Equal Justice**. The campaign total is comprised

of contributions from the legal community and area donors, and revenue from the **Access to Justice Awards Celebration!** and **Justice on Tap!** Your financial support allows us to continue providing civil legal help to people in need.

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Five Individuals were honored at the 2018 Access to Justice Awards Celebration!

that was held at Sinclair Community College on November 1. Two LAWO senior attorneys received the Denis L. Murphy Award from the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, a major funder for legal aid. Three honorees were recognized by **ABLE**, **LAWO** and the **GDVLP**.

Pamela Hayman-Weaner, a recipient of the Denis

L. Murphy Award helped establish the Family

Justice Center of Northwest Ohio, the first rural

the Presidential Family Justice Center Initiative,

United States Department of Justice.

clients.

model in the United States. It was funded through

Gary Weston received the Denis L. Murphy Award for his longtime dedication to legal aid. He was

executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of

Dayton, the predecessor of ABLE and LAWO, and

assisted in establishing the GDVLP. He advanced

numerous initiatives to help seniors and other

Khadijah Ali received the Patricia Rousseau

Community Advocacy Award from LAWO, ABLE and the GDVLP. Khadijah is co-founder and

program director of Circle of VisionKeepers, a

nonprofit ex-offender recovery and re-entry



program. She is secretary of the LAWO and ABLE Boards of Trustees, president of the President's Club and two-term president of the Exchange Club.

Rebuilding Together

Dayton, an organization that ensures that seniors stay safe in their homes, received

the Community Impact Award. **Amy Radachi** is president, CEO and founder of the organization that provides repairs and safety measures and secures legal assistance for clients in need.

D.K. Rudy Wehner was honored with the Lloyd H. O'Hara Public Interest Law Award. Rudy retired as the Montgomery County Public Defender. He was an advocate for bail reform to prevent low-income people from being kept in jail because they cannot afford to pay bail for their release.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Susan Bridgman**, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for Field Aerospace. She is the GDVLP's past president and now president emeritus who developed its Consumer Debt Collection Defense Clinic. She was co-chair of the **50th Anniversary Fairness and Justice Campaign** that raised \$1.3 million to support ABLE and LAWO. She also serves on the firms' boards.

2018 Access To Justice Awards Honorees



Pamela Hayman-Weaner



Amy Radachi



Gary Weston



Khadijah Ali



D.K. Rudy Wehner



Susan R. Bridgman

With charitable contributions from compassionate donors, **ABLE** provides legal assistance to lowincome immigrants and refugees protecting their rights under United States law. With that assistance, many can thrive in communities where they feel safe and have an opportunity to lead productive lives. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this program.

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Landlord Forced To Pay Tenant After Disposing Of Family's Belongings

When banks foreclose on landlords' rental properties, they are required to notify their tenants who are at risk of becoming homeless. **ABLE** represented *Kelly who was renting a home for herself and her children when the owner went into foreclosure. The bank failed to give her notice



of the foreclosure and possible loss of housing as required by law. The notification provides tenants the opportunity to negotiate to stay in their home or find other housing. Without any notice, the bank completed the foreclosure and disposed of the family's furniture, clothing, toys, and other belongings. ABLE filed suit on Kelly's behalf and reached a settlement. As a result, the bank will cover the value of Kelly's belongings, as well as

the legal deposition costs.

*The names of clients have been changed to protect their privacy.

LAWO and ABLE

depend on the support of volunteer attorneys to expand services to people in need.

A total of 368 volunteer attorneys provided more than 6,382 hours of pro bono legal assistance in 2018 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.

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

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2018 Legal Interns And Volunteers

Legal interns and volunteers play an important role at **LAWO** and **ABLE** providing civil legal assistance and support in all areas of advocacy. All volunteers benefit from hands-on experiences and training, as well as professional support and feedback.

Legal Interns Michigan State University College of Law

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Marie Blake Larry DeHoff Deanna Krokos Scott Montgomery Summer K. Smith Madeline Sterling Sara Yaklin

ABLE And LAWO Joint Funding Sources – 2018



Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

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.

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Victims of Crime Act funding to provide legal services to seniors and domestic violence survivors.



Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

Support for **ABLE** and **LAWO** area-wide services, the ABLE Agricultural Worker and Immigrant Rights Practice Group, advocacy for children and veterans, and other projects.

PNC Foundation

Support for foreclosure work in Dayton.

ABLE Funding Sources – 2018

Anderson Foundation Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal

Partnership for Children.

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 Foundation

Support for a Fellow in the Dayton area office.

Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation Support for the Education Advocacy Project and the 50th Anniversary Campaign.

Five Rivers Health Centers

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

France Stone Foundation

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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.



Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board

Advocacy on behalf of consumers within the mental health system

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

Neo Philanthropy Support for immigration services.

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in northwest Ohio.

Ohio Department of Aging

Support for the MyCare Ohio and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.

Physicians Charitable Trust

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in northwest Ohio.

ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital Foundation

Support of 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.

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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - US Together

Support for immigrants who are survivors of torture.

U.S. Department of Labor - Toledo Goodwill

Support for the adult re-entry program.

Vera Institute of Justice

Support for immigration services.

LAWO Funding Sources - 2018



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.

City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods

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

City of Toledo, Department of Law — Toledo Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance to Toledo residents.

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.

LSC America's Partner for Equal Justice

Legal Services Corporation

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

Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Title XX funding for legal assistance to lowincome individuals and families.

Miami County Department of Job and Family Services

Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for county assistance.



Montgomery County Human Services Levy

Support for legal assistance to those who are elderly, need help with employment stability, and need protection from domestic violence.

Ohio State Bar Foundation

Funding for the Plan Ahead and Protect Yourself Series for Seniors.

Sandusky Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.

Springfield Foundation

Support for legal services to residents of Clark County.

Toledo Community Foundation

General operating support and support for the Strategic Alliance Partnership.

U.S. Department of Justice

Legal Assistance for Victims, a project to provide legal assistance to domestic violence survivors.

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.

Advocates For Basic Legal Equality, Inc.



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