



Coming Together



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Demonstrated Resilience



ABLE & LAWO

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

ABLE and **LAWO** represent individuals 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. We 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, and agricultural workers throughout Ohio. ABLE also represents immigrants and refugees throughout the state. In all cases, LAWO and ABLE work to address the root causes of poverty by seeking systemic solutions.

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



Together, we do the community justice.

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COMING TOGETHER IN 2020



JANET HALES

ABLE Executive Director



KEVIN MULDER

LAWO Executive Director

The bright hope and expectancy that ushers in a new year quickly dissipated when the world was thrust into a global health crisis in March 2020. We could not have imagined the unprecedented challenges that we all would face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic: physical distancing and mask mandates, 100% virtual work and school environments, and food and supply shortages to name a few. Amid these changing realities, our nation reckoned with an ongoing wave of unrest fueled by the resistance to systemic racism and justice inequities toward Black people in the United States.

The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice illuminated existing income, health, and educational disparities that have disproportionately affected Black and brown communities for generations. The world was forced to adjust to a new, and constantly evolving, normal. But this was anything but normal for the staff or the clients we serve - the situation was grave. Unprecedented challenges required unprecedented responses and the ABL and LAW family delivered essential and new services with compassion, flexibility, proactivity, and professionalism.

The effects of the dual pandemics were far-reaching. Soaring housing instability, insufficient educational services, rising domestic violence situations, and sweeping unemployment were just some of the monumental challenges our clients faced. Yet the ABL and LAW staff remained fierce and effective community advocates. Staff quickly pivoted to learn new areas of law, implement new processes to meet operational needs to deliver services, and innovate new forms of community engagement to mitigate clients' more immediate housing, safety, income, and education concerns. We offered unemployment compensation representation for the first time in years, litigated cases against school districts to ensure that children received better instruction, and hosted legal education presentations and virtual legal clinics using Facebook, Zoom, YouTube, and WhatsApp.

ABLE and LAW, as organizations and individuals, were not immune to these effects. We faced funding losses, as one of our major revenue sources experienced immediate and sharp declines, resulting in staff reductions, shifting job responsibilities to compensate, and questions of financial stability. Our staff adjusted well, and quickly, amid uncertainty, change, and sheer exhaustion.

Despite the uncertainty of the year, we have not only remained resilient and responsive but also improved our capacity and reputation as effective legal service firms through high-quality client services and important policy advocacy. We could not have accomplished this without the intersection of tremendous staff leadership, dedicated colleagues, financial support, and humanity in need.

To our colleagues (paid and volunteer) we say thank you for serving. To our clients, we say thank you for allowing us to serve you. To our supporters, we say thank you for supporting this monumental work, at any level. Together, we did the community justice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet S. Hales".

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin C. Mulder".

PRACTICE GROUPS: Impact Report

LAWO and **ABLE** utilize collective effort and synergy to improve outcomes for our clients. Internally, we have developed legal practice groups that address specific issues. Below are a few highlights from 2020.

Agricultural Workers and Immigrant Rights

Practice group members conducted outreach to **every** agricultural labor camp in Ohio and other places agricultural workers frequent and reside. In addition, outreach members purchased and compiled bags of personal protective equipment (PPE) and information for workers while complying with physical distancing safety standards. In the area of immigrant rights, ABLE practice group members protected the rights of immigrants in detention facilities who were at high risk for COVID-19.

Housing Justice and Community Economic Development

ABLE collaborated with LAWO on several eviction prevention projects to prevent homelessness in the wake of COVID-19, resulting in changes to policies that improved tenant protections like rental assistance programs, eviction record sealing, source of income ordinances, and "pay-to-stay" ordinances. Despite COVID, housing advocates appeared in court throughout 2020 to keep tenants safe and housed. ABLE's community economic development advocates continued innovative work and empowering civic engagement, resulting in continued economic growth and the opening of a co-op grocery store in a Dayton food desert.

Healthcare and Economic Stability

When COVID-19 hit communities, this practice group shifted priorities and expanded services to handle unemployment cases. Given the urgent and substantial need, ABLE and LAWO attorneys mobilized community partners by working with pro bono lawyers through the Toledo Bar Association (TBA) and Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project to begin referring cases that required brief service representation. This allowed ABLE and LAWO staff to focus on handling the most complex cases.

Medical-Legal Partnerships for Children

ABLE's MLPCs collaborated with the Community Development Legal Corps to address neighborhood conditions as a social determinant of health in neighborhoods of Toledo and Dayton.

Safety and Stability for Domestic Violence Survivors

LAWO supported task forces, coordinated meetings, strengthened collaborations, and provided training for community partners, including law enforcement officers, to significantly reduce or eliminate incidences of domestic violence in the community. In addition to the community-based involvement, LAWO provided holistic services to domestic violence survivors seeking to escape abusive relationships which were exacerbated by the pandemic.

PRACTICE GROUPS: Impact Report

Fairness in Education

Using a racial equity lens, ABLE developed new case acceptance criteria and better-facilitated community lawyering in the education legal practice. Additionally, the practice group launched a project, providing technical legal assistance to a group of home-based childcare providers in Dayton focused on changing legislative and regulatory proposals and provisions, as well as planning longer-term needs for legal assistance. As always, advocates continued representing families seeking special education services.

Access to Justice

Practice group members took the lead in developing the client side of our website - found at www.legalaidline.org. They also developed outreach and community information programs. Practice group members also coordinated with members of the Senior Project to develop and implement the Plan Ahead and Protect Yourself Series for Seniors.

Empowering Seniors

Practice group members had to reimagine outreach efforts to seniors at risk for abuse and neglect. Phone calls, virtual Zoom visits, and telephone conferences were used in place of in-person visits to senior centers and low-income senior housing complexes due to access restrictions. However, project staff continued helping homebound clients to supervise the execution of any documents, while following appropriate physical distancing and mask guidance, to ensure that the most vulnerable of the older adults were still able to access legal services.

Consumer and Economic Justice

People working paycheck to paycheck are often the most vulnerable to lending schemes, inequitable pay by employers, and unscrupulous lenders, landlords, and service providers. ABLE represents individuals and community groups in addressing these issues so they can protect against those who would take advantage of them. ABLE works with communities to build more civic engagement so that they have a voice in matters affecting their economic well-being. LAWO helps clients achieve economic justice through representation in debt collection and bankruptcy cases.



Impact

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

"Alice Perseveres to Gain Unemployment Benefits During COVID with ABLÉ's Legal Help"

Alice, a 79-year-old resident of rural northern Ohio, was employed as an activities director at a local nursing home for 21 years. She was very passionate about her job and loved creating positive and enjoyable social activities for the residents.

The facility struggled through COVID-related challenges. Residents could no longer visit with family and friends, new nursing home protocols were established, and group activities were suspended. Additionally, the management changed hands and struggled with internal communications regarding new rules and policies.

On May 5, 2020, Alice was given a written warning regarding her job performance. The warning stated that she needed to improve in several areas related to COVID-19 pandemic policies. However, rather than waiting the required 30 days for improvement, Alice was fired two weeks later for failure to perform the job.

Alice applied for unemployment compensation benefits in June 2020 and was initially denied. She appealed, but the case proceeded slowly due to the pandemic, and Alice was not scheduled for a hearing until January 2021. Alice's financial condition deteriorated.

ABLE represented Alice at the hearing, where it was determined that the nursing home did not have just cause to discharge Alice because they did not show that she failed to perform the job. Alice received retroactive unemployment benefits to June 2020 and regained her financial stability and well-being.



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

Our 2020 Combined Record of Service

"What Did We Do?"

Requests for help

11,439



Cases Closed

4,333



In Action

Nearly 18,000 people were served by ABLE and LAWO legal staff and paralegals in 2020. Countless others received help 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.

Total monetary
awards for clients

\$8,349,672



Individuals helped*

17,892



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

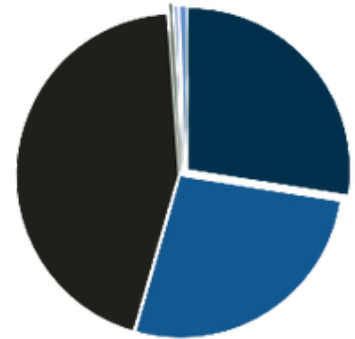
2020 OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENSES



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.

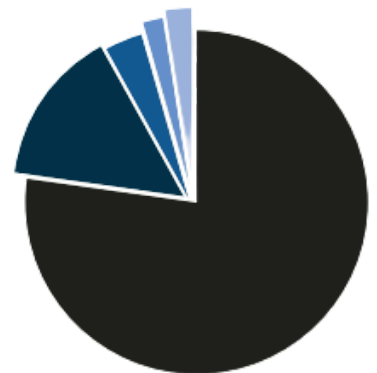
Support & Revenue

Other Grants & Contracts	\$5,720,125
Ohio Access to Justice Foundation (OAJF).....	\$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
Subtotal	\$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



2020 ABLE & LAWO BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

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Attorney
Thompson Hine, LLP
Dayton

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Attorney
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The Hearn Law Office
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Dayton

Victor H. Perez

Attorney
Seneca Co. Dept. of Job
and Family Services
Tiffin

Lindsey Posey

Attorney
Office of Disability
Adjudication
Dayton

Cassandra Andres Rice

Attorney
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur,
LLP
Dayton

Thomas J. Schaffer

Attorney
Schaffer & Associates, LPA
Toledo

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Attorney
Law Office of Denise M.
Stollings
Bryan

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Mechelle Zarou

Attorney
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick,
LLP
Toledo

Impact

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY



"LAWO Helps Mom Secure Emergency Assistance"

Latisha is a 46-year-old, African American single female who has a disability. She received a six-month sanction from the Ohio Works First (OWF) Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Latisha has two school-age daughters who attended school remotely due to COVID-19. Without benefits, she struggled to pay for shelter, utilities, and other household expenses.

In March 2020, LAWO advised Latisha to apply for the COVID-19 Emergency Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program. In April we contacted the local Department of Job & Family Services (JFS) because it had taken no action on her application. JFS sent a series of notices listing varying reasons for why Latisha was not eligible for the COVID-19 Emergency PRC Program, including she was being sanctioned; her documents were not verified; she was unemployed, and the COVID-19 Emergency PRC Personal Items Application ended in May 2020. JFS could not, however, produce a written policy concerning eligibility requirements for this COVID-19 Emergency PRC program. LAWO appealed the determination and requested a hearing. As a result of the telephone hearing, JFS determined that Latisha's application was timely, and her application was approved. She subsequently received shelter and utility vouchers.

"LAWO Helps Grandfamilies Thrive During COVID"

Opioid addiction and other forms of substance abuse are the primary reasons for the removal of children and the creation of "grandfamilies". During COVID these situations increased dramatically. Critical needs that seniors must address include the ability to make decisions about education, healthcare, and other essential needs.

Access to legal assistance and support services for grandparents is particularly challenging in Ohio's rural counties where there are far fewer resources available to grandparents raising grandchildren. Through the Grandfamilies Legal Assistance Project, grandfamilies received needed services to keep their families intact during the pandemic.



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

2020 pro·bono

Together, we do the community justice.



LAWO and **ABLE** depend on the support of volunteer attorneys to expand services to people in need. Volunteer attorneys provided pro bono legal assistance in 2020 through **LAWO**, **ABLE**, the **Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project**, and the **Toledo Bar Association's Pro Bono Legal Services Program**. LAWO and ABLE support the GDVLP, and the TBA.

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.

LAWO, ABLE, & GDVLP's 2020 Pro Bono Partners

Maha Aldoohan

Chloe Alexis

Mohamed Al-Hamdani

James A. Anzelmo

Adam C. Armstrong

Adam J. Arnold

Jennifer Babak

Thomas Baggott

Farley K. Banks

Joseph R. Barton

Kathleen A. Batliner

Jonathon L. Beck

Martin A. Beyer

Jason Bichsel

Amy R. Blair

L. Michael Bly

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Shannon Bockelman

David D. Brannon

Lauren Breitenstein

Jennifer L. Brogan

Jennifer N. Brown

Matthew G. Bruce

Jennifer Brumby

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John R. Butz

Mitch Carnes

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John E. Clough

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Jenny Cox

Samantha Crist

Thomas P. Croskey

Kristina Curry

Ebony D. Davenport

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Wilmer J. Dechant

Lindsey K. Deck

Joyce M. Deitering

Jennifer Delaplane

Kent Depoorter

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Lynette P. Dinkler

Daryl R. Double

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"Ensuring access to justice for all"



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of
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2020 ABLE & LAWO JOINT FUNDERS

The Andersons

Support for legal services.



Area Office on Aging
of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.

Support for legal services for seniors.



Ohio Access to Justice Foundation (OAJF)

Major source of funding to support our work addressing the unmet civil legal needs of low-income and underserved Ohioans.

2020 ABLE FUNDING PARTNERS



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 for seniors in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA5

Legal assistance to seniors in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.

Board of Lucas County

Commissioners

Immigration legal services.



Borealis Philanthropy

Support for impact litigation addressing systemic discrimination.



2020 ABLE FUNDING PARTNERS

City of Columbus Families Together Fund

Support for immigration legal services.



City of Dayton

Support for housing and community economic development.



City of Dayton Human Relations Council - Welcome Dayton

Support for immigration legal services.

Consulate of Mexico-Detroit

Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Consulate of Mexico-Indianapolis

Legal assistance to Mexican nationals referred by the Consulate.

Clement O. Miniger Foundation

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Support for legal services for reentering citizens.

Dayton Children's Hospital Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

The Dayton Foundation

Support for several projects benefitting the greater Dayton area.

The Dayton Foundation - Eichelberger Fund

Support for several projects benefitting the greater Dayton area.



Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation

Support for the Education Advocacy Project and community legal services.

Dayton Police Department

Support for immigration legal services.

Equal Justice Works

Support for Immigration Summer Legal Corps Fellow.



First Financial Foundation

Legal services in Dayton.

Five Rivers Health Centers 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.

Iddings Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.

2020 ABLE FUNDING



Justice for
Migrant Women

Justice for Migrant Women

Support for agricultural worker advocacy.

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the Dayton Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.



Mental Health Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) of Lucas County

Support for legal advocacy for mental health services consumers.

Montgomery County

Supports legal services for seniors.

NEO Philanthropy

Support for immigration legal services.

Ohio Department of Aging

Support for Ombudsman Program for seniors in long-term care facilities.



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Support for COVID-19 pandemic relief.

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Support for mental health services and stigma reduction COVID outreach.

Ohio State Bar Foundation

Support for Know Your Rights videos and outreach.

PNC Foundation

Support for eviction legal work in Dayton.

ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital Foundation

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children.



Supreme Court of Ohio

Support for Know Your Rights videos and translation services.

The Impact Fund

Support for impact litigation expenses.

Toledo Community Foundation - Lovell Fund

Support for study and report on the impact of evictions on people with mental health diagnoses.



United Way
of Greater Toledo

United Way of Greater Toledo

Support for the Toledo Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and for immigration legal services.

U.S. Department of Labor- Toledo Goodwill Industries

Legal support for reentering citizens.

2020 LAWO FUNDING PARTNERS



Area Agency on Aging

Area Agency on Aging, PSA2

Support for legal assistance to seniors in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Green, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA3

Support for legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA5

Support for legal assistance to seniors in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.



City of Toledo

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

Dayton Legal Heritage Foundation

Support for the Education Advocacy Project and community legal services.



Internal Revenue Service

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

Legal Services Corporation

Support of LAWO area-wide services, services to agricultural workers, and LAWO Disaster Relief and Recovery Project.



Lourdes University

Support for the Campus Domestic Violence Project through the U.S. Department of Justice.

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 Board of County Commissioners

Support for legal services for the frail elderly, survivors of domestic violence, and people seeking employment.



Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

Support for legal services victims of domestic violence.

Ohio Access to Justice Foundation

Support for legal services for survivors in the Greater Lima area, individuals and families seeking assistance with the opioid crisis, and veterans and for pro bono services in several rural counties.

2020 LAWO FUNDING PARTNERS

Ohio Attorney General Office

Support for legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.



OHIO STATE BAR
ASSOCIATION

Ohio State Bar Foundation

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

Sandusky Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance in housing cases for Sandusky residents living on low income.



Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever.®

Springfield Foundation

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



Toledo Community Foundation

Support for LAWO's eviction prevention project.

Toledo Municipal Court

Support for legal services for low-income City of Toledo residents in eviction and debt collection cases.

United Way of Defiance County

Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Defiance County.

United Way of Fulton County



United Way of Fulton County

Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Fulton County.

United Way of Greater Dayton

Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Greene and Montgomery counties.



United Way
of Greater Toledo

United Way of Greater Toledo

Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas and Wood counties.

United Way of Williams County

Support for legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.



U.S. Department of Justice

OVW

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

Support for training and services grant to end violence against women with disabilities.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

Reaching People Where They Are

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.



The **Justice for All Campaign** is a fundraising partnership among **LAWO**, the **TBA Pro Bono Legal Services Program**, and **ABLE**. As the sole providers of free civil legal aid to low-income residents of northwest Ohio, the Justice for All Campaign unites our fundraising efforts to ensure that vulnerable and disenfranchised members of our community have equal access to the legal system.

JUSTICE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Meghan Anderson Roth,
Marshall & Melhorn, LLC

Robert C. Tucker
Robison, Curphey &
O'Connell, LLC

Mechelle Zarou
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick,
LLP

CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Cheryl Mendenhall
Allotta & Farley Co., LPA

Heather L. Allred
Brouse McDowell, LPA

Janelle Matuszak
Bugbee & Conkle

Steven P. Collier
Collier Law Group, LLP

James E. Yavorcik
Cubbon & Associates Co.,
LPA

Adam Nightingale
Eastman & Smith Ltd.

Christopher F. Parker
Goranson, Parker & Bella Co.,
LPA

Stevin J. Groth
Groth & Associates

John S. Wasung
Kitch Drutchas Wagner
Valilutti & Sherbrook

Michael Todak
LaValley, LaValley, Todak &
Schaefer Co., LPA

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MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd,
LLC

Richard R. Malone
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2020 NORTHWEST OHIO

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Awards Dinner

Lisa Rice of the **National Fair Housing Alliance** was the keynote speaker at the **2020 Access to Justice Awards Dinner**. The event took place virtually on September 30, 2020. A former Toledo resident, Rice has been committed to managing and leading fair housing organizations for 25 years, including the Toledo Fair Housing Center and the Northwest Ohio Development Agency. She has led teams that investigated, brought, and resolved precedent-setting fair housing cases resulting in the elimination of systemic discriminatory practices in the areas of lending, appraisals, insurance, rental, and real estate. She leads efforts by NFHA and its partners to advance fair housing principles and to preserve and broaden fair housing protections, expanding equal housing opportunities for millions of Americans. Rice played a major role in crafting sections of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and in establishing the Office of Fair Lending within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Also, during the virtual event and 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.

Dean Horrigan, Esq. received the **2020 Public Interest Law Award** for his representation of the elderly, many of whom have a disability and are

underserved. He has been an invaluable member of the **Coalition of Organizations Protecting Elders (COPE)**, serving as Chair of the Advocacy Committee. His work includes addressing COPE's concerns with legislators, tracking legislation, coordinating meetings with legislators to educate them about elder abuse issues, and participating in advocacy conferences.

The **2020 Community Advocacy Award** was awarded to **Veralucia Mendoza** for her immigrant rights advocacy and creation of **Mutual Aid Toledo**. She has been a community organizer for 13 years, having served in rapid response for migrant worker justice, LGBTQ+ migrant rights, and responding to ICE raids. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic impact, Mendoza created Mutual Aid Toledo. The success of the group's effectiveness to organize aid swiftly for thousands is well-recognized throughout the city. Mendoza also serves as Regional Field Manager at Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

E. James Stengle, III was honored with the **2020 Distinguished Service Award** for his extensive volunteer history with ABLE, LAWO and the TBA. Additionally, he currently serves as the chair of the Toledo Cultural Arts Center, Valentine Theatre Board of Trustees and chair of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County. Stengle is Senior Vice President, Employee Benefits at Hylant.



Keynote Speaker

Lisa Rice



2020 Awardees

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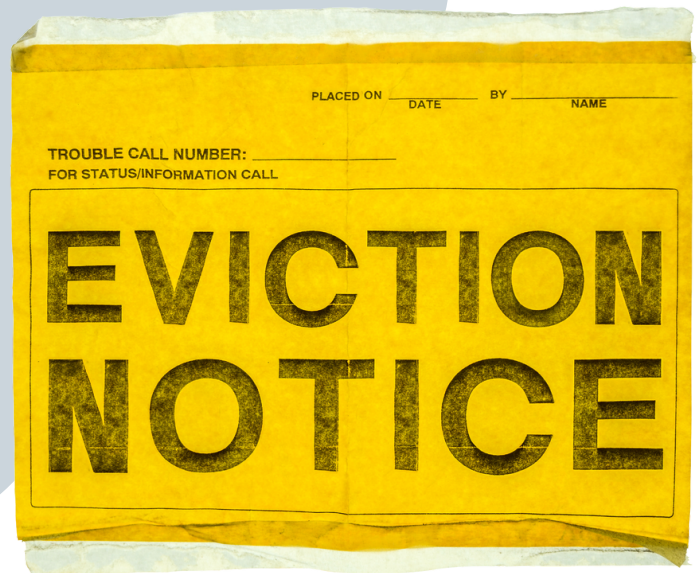
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STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

"Housing Instability"

ABLE represented a mother of two who applied for help after her landlord locked her out of her home during the pandemic. She and her two minor children were forced to lodge at various places separate from each other. An ABLE attorney filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief, Damages, and Attorney Fees in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas seeking relief from the illegal lock-out. We also filed a Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), requesting that the court order the landlord to put the family up in an extended stay hotel until the hearing on the preliminary injunction since the landlord had already re-rented the home. The court granted the TRO and ordered that the family be permitted to retrieve their personal belongings.

But the landlord had already thrown all their possessions away. ABLE negotiated a settlement of \$2,000 to compensate the mother for her financial losses and to enable her to secure housing and replace personal belongings.



"Tenant Protection"

ABLE represented two tenants evicted from the same apartment complex to prevent their scheduled move-outs during the pandemic. A partner agency, the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC), called ABLE about the move-outs to see whether we could help. Both tenants had health issues - one was pregnant and had Graves' disease, while the other had just been released from the hospital and was using a walker due to mobility issues. An ABLE attorney filed motions for a stay in both cases just hours before the tenants were scheduled to have their belongings removed by a bailiff in March. The Montgomery County Municipal Court granted the motions to stay and scheduled a hearing in April, which of course had to be rescheduled, until May. The tenants were able to remain in their homes and within social distance until their hearing dates. In the meantime, both tenants found other suitable housing, so the parties settled the cases. ABLE negotiated an extension of time for the tenants to move, preserving housing stability and protecting public health during the pandemic.



2020 CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

ABLE and LAWO are grateful for contributions to the 2020 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.

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ACCESS² JUSTICE AWARDS



2020



2020 Access to Justice Awards Celebration!

Honorees who have provided exceptional services to people living in poverty in the Miami Valley were recognized at the annual Access to Justice Awards Celebration! on November 5, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event was held virtually during the lunch hour. ABLE, LAWO and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Projects were proud to present the awards to deserving individuals for their outstanding service to community members in need.

Judith A. LaMusga, founder of LaMusga Law Office, LLC was presented with the Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Law Award. LaMusga specializes in estate planning and guardianship. She has helped numerous individuals plan to leave a legacy of love for their family. She has been involved with prevention of abuse or neglect with vulnerable populations for most of her career as she has worked with children, individuals with disabilities, and seniors.

Gabriela Pickett, Ph.D, Director of International Education at the Lynda A. Cohen Center for Study of Child Development, received the Patricia Rousseau Community Advocacy Award. In response to the humanitarian tragedies that occur after family separation due to immigration law enforcement, Dr. Pickett was instrumental in starting the Dayton Rapid Response Network. She routinely assists immigrants with obtaining legal counsel, including assisting them with transportation, funds, evidence gathering, and even arranging for pro bono psychological and educational evaluations. Her advocacy has affected the lives of thousands of immigrants and refugees in the Dayton area.

Two individuals received the Community Impact Award: **Judy Hennessey, Ph.D (Retired)**, from the Dayton Early College Academy and **Pastor Robert E. Jones (Retired)**, from College Hill Presbyterian Church. Dr. Hennessey received this prestigious award for her life-long commitment to working with and advocating for at-risk students in the Dayton community. Pastor Jones, who received the award posthumously, was honored for his decades-long work in making the church a welcoming and inclusive place for all, supporting initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity, and spearheading programs that benefitted women, children, and veterans.

Each honoree's dedication and compassion helped many people and families during difficult times. We are grateful for their service to the Dayton community.

2020 Access To Justice Awards Honorees



Judith A. LaMusga



Gabriela Pickett, Ph.D



Judy Hennessey, Ph.D



Pastor Robert E. Jones

2020 Access To Justice Awards Selection Committee

We appreciate the participation of the following community leaders who served on the **2020 Access to Justice Awards Selection Committee**. They are Mark Donaghy, CEO of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority; the Hon. Mary Katherine Huffman of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas; Claudia Cortez-Reinhardt, Executive Director of the Dayton Hispanic Chamber; Ted Vander Roest, Executive Director of the Springfield Foundation; and the Rev. Dr. Daryl Ward, Pastor Emeritus at Omega Baptist Church.



IN
MEMORIAM OR HONOR
OF

A dedication in honor of those who have made an impact
 within the **ABLE** and **LAWO** communities.

Donato J. Borrillo

In Honor of Zoll & Kranz, LLC

**Hon. Vernelis K.
 Armstrong**

*In Memory of Hon. Fred
 McDonald*

Corry Baker

In Honor of Zoll & Kranz, LLC

Jacqueline M. Boney

*In Honor of Vincent and
 Beverly Nathan*

Robert W. Cabanski

In Memory of John M. Casey

Gabrielle Davis

*In Memory of Beverly and
 Vincent Nathan*

James A. Duggan

*In Memory of Ted C.
 Gillespie*

**Nicholas & Rebecca
 Fahim**

*In Memory of Ronald
 Langenderfer*

Martin E. Goff

In Memory of Donald Goff

Stuart J. Goldberg

In Memory of David R. Goldberg

Sandra Hamilton

*In Memory of Justice Ruth Bader
 Ginsberg*

Hon. Nancy Miller

*In Memory of Hon. Fred
 McDonald*

Jon D. Richardson

*In Memory of Merritt (Tim)
 Green*

H. Buswell Roberts, Jr.

In Memory of Beverly Nathan

Dawn E. Sanderson

*In Memory of Hon. Peter
 Handwork*

Sarah K. Skow

*In Memory of Felicia E. Skow
 and the Honorable William J.
 Skow*

Charles A. Stocking

In Honor of Joseph R. Tafelski

Michael Todak

*In Memory of
 Richard G. LaValley, Sr.*

J. Michael Vassar

In Honor of Joseph R. Tafelski

David G. Wise

In Memory of Walter F. Brown

Roger K. Zimmerman

*In Memory of Edward
 Shelling*



TOLEDO

Rudolph A. Peckinpaugh Jr.

*In Memory of Hon. Peter
 Handwork*

In Memory of Fred McDonald

In Memory of James Barber

In Memory of James Jensen

Lisa E. Pizza

In Memory of Phyllis Ide

Thomas G. Pletz

*In Memory of Hon. James
 Jensen*

In Honor of Hon. James Knepp



IN
MEMORIAM OR HONOR
OF

A dedication in honor of those who have made an impact
 within the **ABLE** and **LAWO** communities.

College Hill Community Church

In Memory of Rev. Robert E. Jones

Jon Conhaim

In Memory of Rev. Richard L. Righter

Dr. Samuel N. Dorf

In Honor of Ellis Jacobs

Barbara A. Duncombe

In Honor of Mark Feur, Lance Gildner, Dave Reed, Zach Arnold and Robert Dunlevey

Rose N. Fox

In Memory of Rev. Richard L. Righter

Donald L. Hayashi

In Memory of Rev. Richard L. Righter

Jerald W. Hill

In Honor of those who have been slain and forgotten by the State who swore to protect us

Stanley A. Hirtle

In Memory of Rev. Robert E. Jones

Andrea Hirtle

In Memory of Rev. Robert E. Jones

Lisa C. Kellar

In Memory of Rev. Richard L. Righter

Dominic Leppla

In Honor of Gary J. Leppla

Karen Lindsay

In Honor of Hon. Michael R. Merz

Theodore J. Majka, Ph.D.

In Memory of Linda Majka

James F. Oneil

In Memory of Peter J. Donahue

Ashley Overman

In Honor of Judy Hennessey

Laura Rench

In Honor of Ellis Jacobs

Michael Van Ausdal

In Honor of Glenn Van Ausdal

Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn

In Memory of Robert J. Wehrle Einhorn

Thomas P. Whelley II

In Honor of Judy Hennessey

Cara J. Williams

In Memory of James and Caroline Giglia



DAYTON

Jamar King

In Honor of Tina I. Pope

Marjorie A. Kuhns

In Memory of Edward Kuhns

Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton (LEAD)

In Memory of Rev. Richard L. Righter



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.


CONTACT US


ADVOCATES FOR BASIC LEGAL EQUALITY, INC.

Administrative Office:



 525 Jefferson Ave. Suite 300
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Offices in: Dayton, Defiance, and Toledo

 (419) 255-0814
(800) 837-0814 Toll-Free

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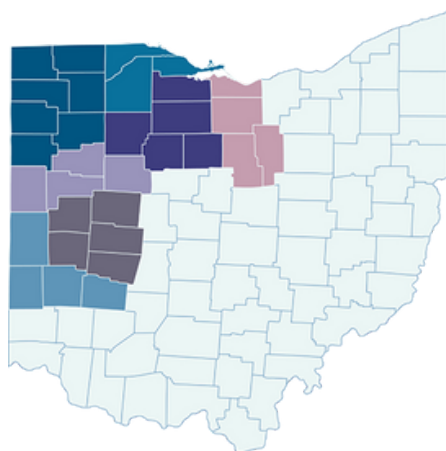
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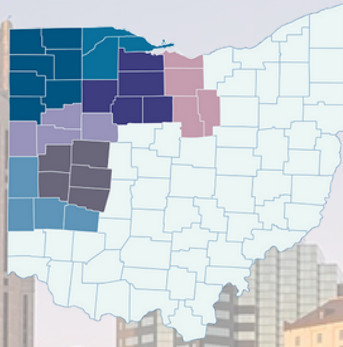




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