



**. . . and Justice for All**

Over 25 years of support for effective legal assistance for essential civil legal matters and access to justice for all Ohioans.



# Civil Legal Aid – origins



**The Legal Aid Society** was founded in 1876 in NYC to defend the individual rights of German immigrants who could not afford to hire a lawyer.



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
*of Cleveland*  
*Since 1905*

In **1905**, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland became the 5<sup>th</sup> legal aid society in the country.



The Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati was founded in **1908**, to secure justice for and protect the rights of the needy, and to promote measures for their assistance.

# Civil Legal Aid – growth and support



**NLADA**

National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association

1911 – National Alliance of Legal Aid Societies - NLADA

*"Without access to the law, the system not only robs the poor of their only protection, but it places in the hands of their oppressors the most powerful and ruthless weapon ever intended."*

Reginald Heber Smith, Justice and the Poor (1919)

1920 – ABA creates the Standing Committee on  
Legal Aid and Indigent Defense

(originally the Standing Committee on Legal Aid)



1920-2020

# 1964-1968: Johnson's War on Poverty



## Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)

Began funding civil legal aid in 1966 & 1967

1963 – *Gideon v Wainright* – pursuant to the Sixth Amendment a public defender or appointed counsel must be provided at state expense for those charged with crimes.



As a result, most legal aid societies stopped providing criminal defense.



# The Legal Services Corporation - LSC

**1971** – the federal Wilkinson Commission, comprised of state supreme court chief justices, investigated allegations of abuses by California Rural Legal Aid, and found no wrongdoing



**1971** – the ABA recommends independent status for legal aid funding to insulate it from direct Executive Branch control



**CRLA**

**1974** – Richard Nixon signs the **LSC Act**, the last legislation signed before his resignation



**LSC** | America's Partner  
for Equal Justice  
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

# The 1980s - IOLTA

1964



1967



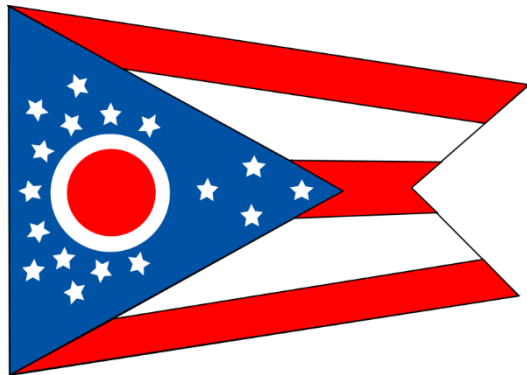
1969



1978 onward



Florida created the first IOLTA program in the U.S. and was shortly followed by California, Idaho and Maryland.



Ohio established its own IOLTA program in 1985, housing it within the Office of the Public Defender.

In 1994, the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation was created by Legislature to be an independent, nonprofit organization to

- (i) improve access to justice; and,
- (ii) support Ohio's legal aids.



# 1990 to 2010 – Federal Restrictions, IOLTA Challenges, and Expanding Delivery System

**1996 – 1998:**

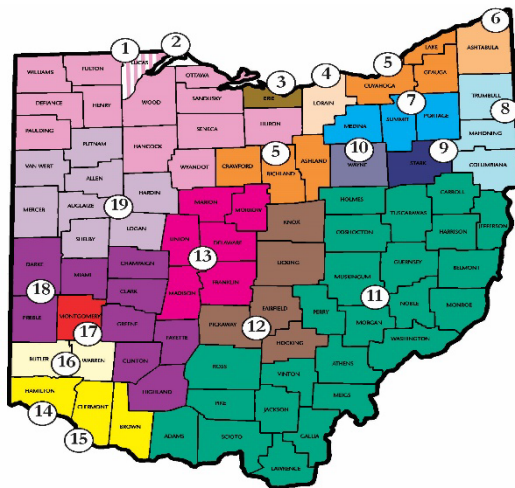
Congressional compromise: maintain LSC funding, but legal aids are restricted



Use of IOLTA to fund legal aid challenged in courts;

**2003** – US Supreme Court upholds constitutionality of IOLTA

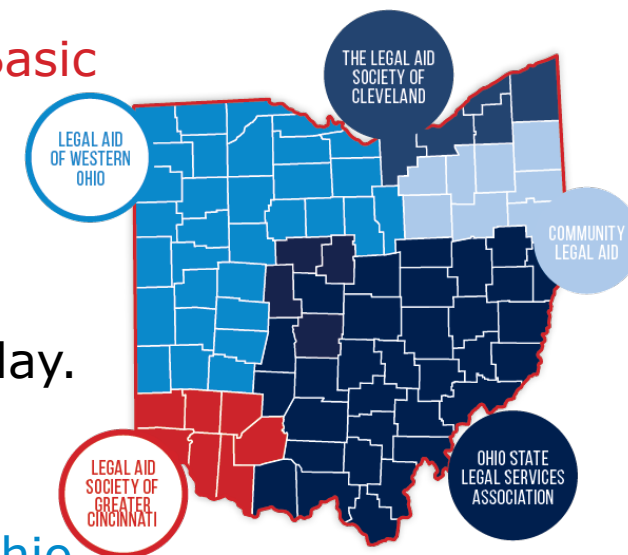
LSC mandates “State Planning” throughout the country



Advocates for Basic Legal Equality

Ohio transitioned from 19 legal aid societies in 1997 to the 5 which operate today.

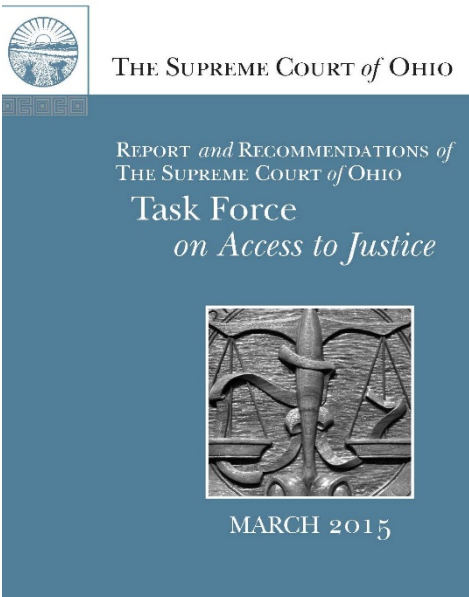
Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio



# 2015 – Access to Justice Movement

## Resolution 5

. . . the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators support the **aspirational goal of 100%** access to effective assistance for essential civil legal needs . . .



## Ohio Supreme Court's 2015 Access to Justice Task Force Report

- Ohio should be guided & administered by an **independent Access to Justice entity**;
- Ohio should use an **existing organization** for this purpose;
- The entity must have a "broad base of stakeholders, including the Supreme Court, the General Assembly, the Governor, bar associations, law schools, private attorneys, and community leaders;" and,
- It may or may not have a member of the Supreme Court on its board.



2019 - 2020



In September, 2019, the Ohio Legislature changed the name of the **Ohio Access to Justice Foundation**.



In January, 2020, the Ohio Supreme Court recognized the **Ohio Access to Justice Foundation** as the state's access to justice entity, per the 2015 task force report.

The Ohio  
Access to  
Justice  
Foundation



## Civil Legal Services

Since its creation in 1994, the **Ohio Access to Justice Foundation** has funded life-changing legal help for over **4 million** Ohio children, seniors, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence.



**Ohio Legal Help** was founded in 2018 to help all Ohioans better access the civil justice system.

It provides plain language legal help and information; interactive self-help tools; and, connections to local legal and community resources to help Ohioans resolve their legal issues.



The **Ohio Justice Bus** was launched with the support of the AEP Foundation in 2019 as a mobile legal aid office and technology hotspot to provide effective civil legal assistance to remote and rural Ohioans.

The Ohio  
Access to  
Justice  
Foundation  
– the work

# Strengthening Communities

Using Ohio's portion of the Bank of America settlement, the Foundation is investing in community economic development projects to strengthen Ohio. The projects are community driven and are focused on making impactful and lasting change. With this funding, legal aid provides the legal services required to make the project a success, which could take a variety of forms, such as transactional work to establish a co-op or impact litigation on behalf of a tenant's organization in a public housing conditions case.

## Neighborhood Stabilization Grants (BofA)



**Medical-legal partnerships** improve health outcomes for low-income Ohioans by pairing health care providers with attorneys to remove legal barriers to health. Ohio is home to 11 medical-legal collaborations.



# Medical- Legal Partnerships



Advocates for Basic  
Legal Equality, Inc.



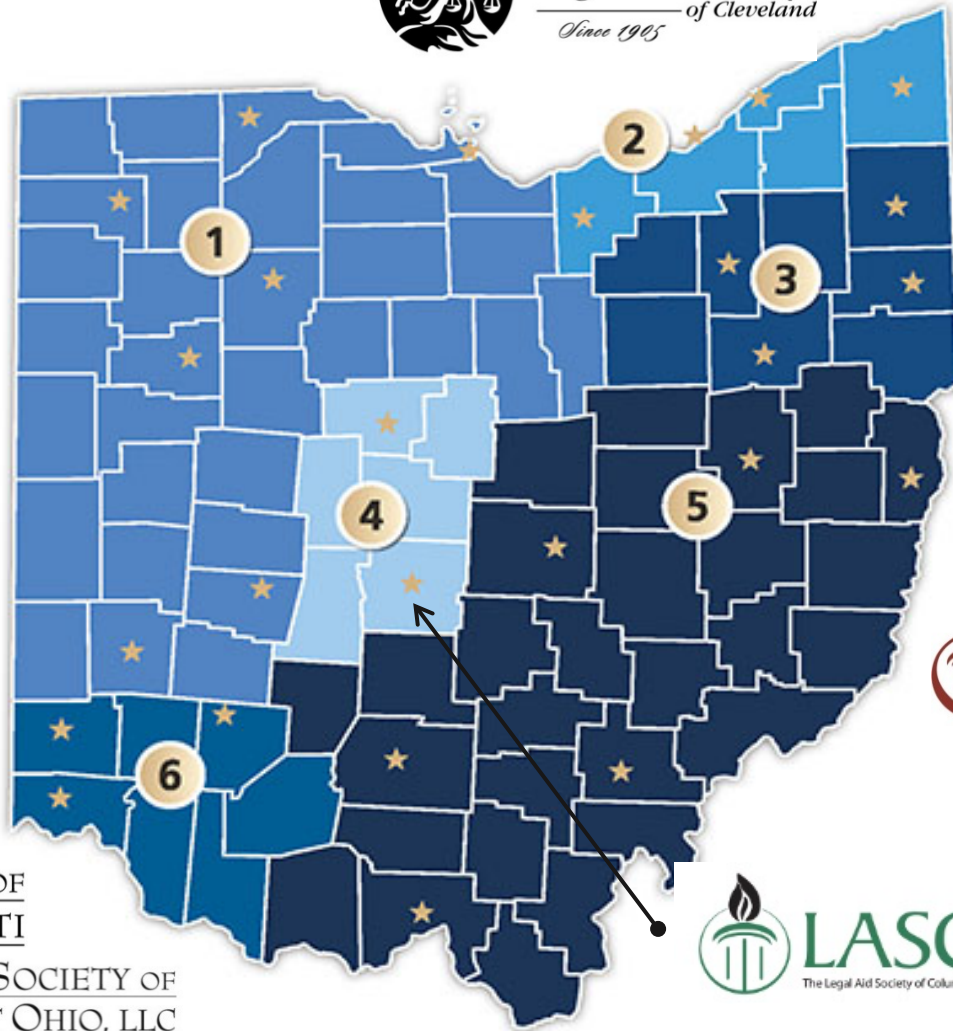
Legal Aid of  
Western Ohio, Inc.®

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF  
GREATER CINCINNATI

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHWEST OHIO, LLC



The  
Legal Aid Society  
of Cleveland  
Since 1905



ALLIANCE  
OF OHIO  
LEGAL AIDS

Community  
LEGAL AID



SEOLS  
Southeastern Ohio Legal Services



LASC  
The Legal Aid Society of Columbus

# Civil Legal Aid In Ohio





Helping seniors resolve legal and long-term care problems.



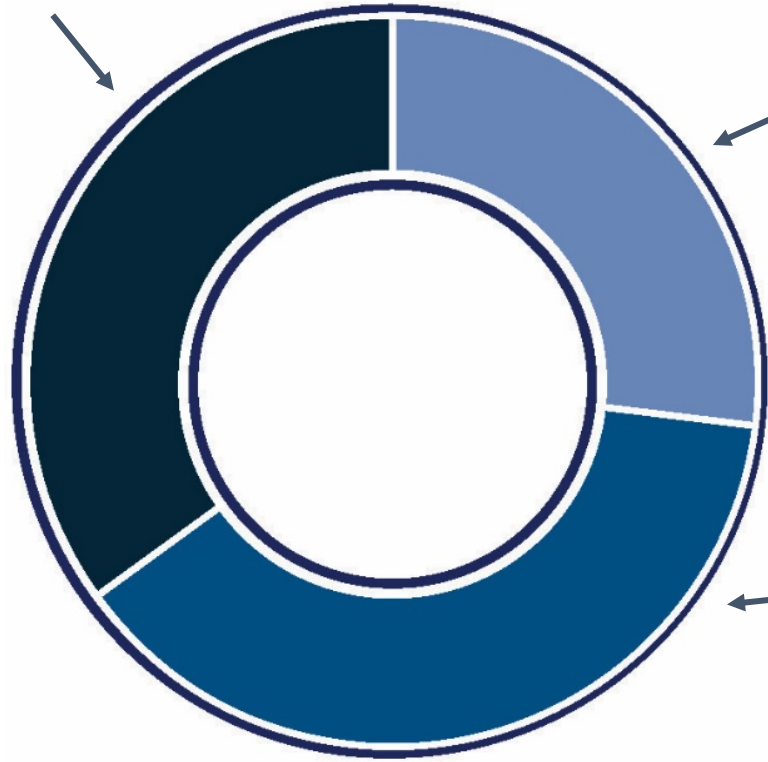
The Ohio Poverty Law Center advocates for policies to reduce poverty and increase access to opportunities and justice for all Ohioans.



# Statewide Services and Advocacy

**Other Sources**  
(philanthropic giving,  
foundation grants,  
United Way)

**39%**



**LSC**

(federal funding provided  
through annual congressional  
appropriation)

**25%**



**Ohio Access to  
Justice Foundation**

(predominantly  
IOLTA/IOTA funds &  
filing fee surcharges)

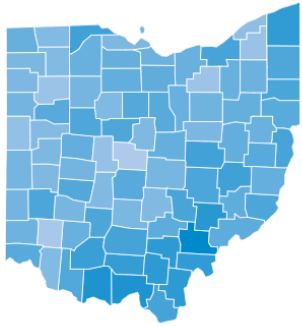
**36%**

# Funding of Ohio's Legal Aids

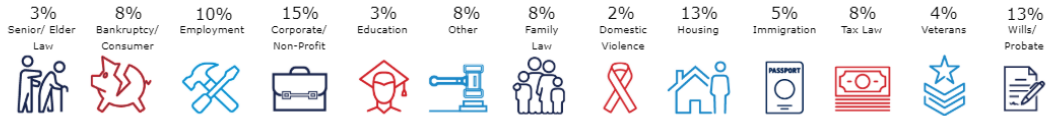
# Pro Bono in Ohio

## OHIO'S LEGAL NEED

Statewide



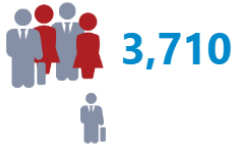
OHIOANS BELOW 125% POVERTY



<https://www.ohiojusticefoundation.org/lawyers/pro-bono/>



Statewide



**\$26,386,763**  
Value of Pro Bono Services based on \$250 per hour

## WHY ATTORNEYS DO PRO BONO

Feel Good Helping others in need  
Ethical Training Experience  
Firm Culture Professional Public Image  
Go to Court  
Interact with Underserved Ohioans  
Professional Duty Reduce Social Inequalities  
Recognition from Colleagues  
Recognition from Employer  
Relationships with Private Clients

## THE SOLUTION IS YOU!

105,547

Pro Bono Hours Reported

**\$1,805,808**

Financial Contributions

**3,710**

Individuals And Firms Reporting Pro Bono Work

**105,547**

Pro Bono Hours Reported

**\$1,805,808**  
Financial Contributions Reported

Value of pro bono services: **\$26,386,763**

# Justice for All Fellows & Clerks

The **Justice for All Fellowship** program gives law school graduates with a passion for public service the opportunity to address urgent legal problems facing Ohioans.



**Justice for All Summer Clerkship** is a program designed to support diversity in the legal profession for first-and second-year law students of color.

# Bank on Justice / Prime Partners



"I Bank on Justice because no one should be denied access to equal justice because of poverty."

**Mina Nami Khorrami**

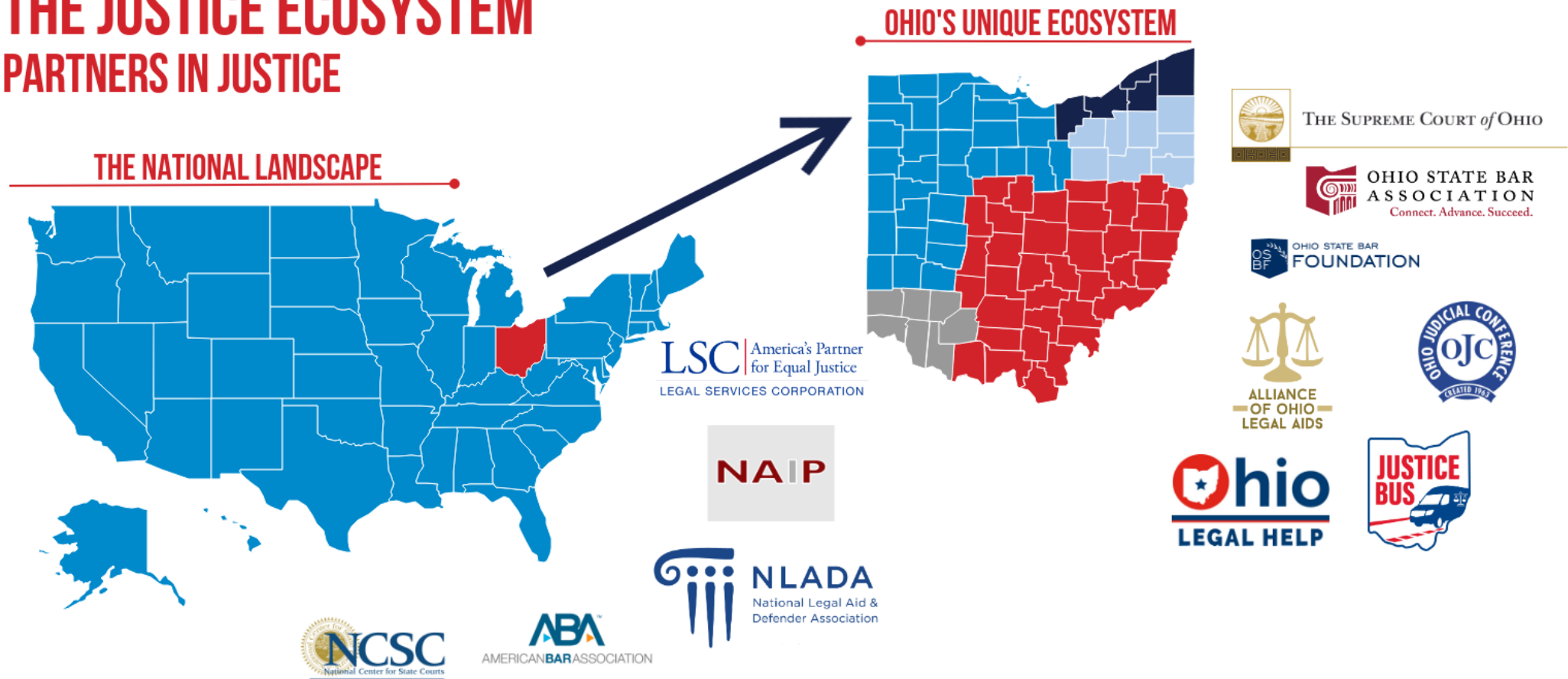


## 2020 PRIME PARTNERS



# State and National Partners

## THE JUSTICE ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS IN JUSTICE



# The Foundation's Mission

The **Ohio Access to Justice Foundation** is committed to improving access to justice and ensuring that legal aid societies and other resources, programs, and services address the unmet civil legal needs of low-income and underserved Ohioans.



# The Foundation's Guiding Principles

## Justice

Work to ensure that all Ohioans have equal access to justice to resolve their civil legal issues and thereby lead more stable, healthier, more productive lives.

## Integrity

Be honest and true to our mission.

## Diversity and Equity

Work to ensure that our strategies and actions promote diversity and equity based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, language, national origin, legal status, system involvement, and socioeconomic status.

## Respect



Value all thoughts, ideas, guidance, and insight from all of the communities with whom we work.

## Collaboration

Work together with those outside the foundation to fulfill our mission and strategic plan through partnerships based in knowledge, experience, resources and mutual respect.



# The Foundation's Strategic Plan 2020-2023

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>
<p><b>Lead Efforts to Narrow The Civil Justice Gap</b></p> 	<p><b>Grow and Sustain Funding to Narrow the Civil Justice Gap</b></p> 	<p><b>Improve Advocacy for Access to Justice</b></p> 