

“It is better  
to light a  
candle  
than curse the darkness”



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



Legal Aid fielded more than 110,000 phone calls in 2011 and processed 16,292 intake applications. Of those, 7,669 (47%) were accepted for representation. The remaining 8,623 (53%) are part of the "Justice Gap" in Northeast Ohio. These are people who qualified for Legal Aid, had a case with legal merit – but because of lack of resources, were turned away.



## Dear Friends & Supporters,

When The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland began in 1905, it was founded on the principle that justice is free to all; that it is the right of the poor no less than the privilege of the rich.

Today – because of your support – The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland continues to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

This Annual Report highlights the impact Legal Aid had in 2011 on more than 26,000 people in Northeast Ohio.

However, as 2011 came to a close, we learned of a 14 percent reduction in our 2012 funding from the Legal Services Corporation. This cut is in addition to the already realized \$2.6 million drop in revenue, from \$3.38 million to \$700,000, derived from interest on lawyers' trust accounts (IOLTA). Meanwhile, poverty has increased in Northeast Ohio has demand for Legal Aid's services. In 2011 we again chose to spend from our reserves rather than decrease our services.

In 2012 we are planning to make cuts to our budget, in response to these economic forces beyond our control. This will mean we will become a smaller organization, serving fewer people. But, we remain strong and continue to be a voice for the powerless. Because of your dedication to our work and our clients, we will persevere.

Your partnership is more important now than it has ever been. Thank you for your ongoing support,



*Colleen M. Cotter*

Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.  
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland  
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**Total People Helped by our cases handled 26,224**

# 2011 Data and Finances

## Revenue and Other Support

	2011	2010
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$3,028,791	\$3,314,439
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,342,473	\$2,441,094
Donations and Private Grants	\$939,772	\$819,815
Donated Services	\$2,065,688	\$1,348,436
United Way	\$263,317	\$241,528
Partner Agencies (Contracts for Legal Services)	\$244,673	\$299,404
Other Government Grants	\$211,508	\$235,879
Other Income	\$209,546	\$500,788
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$9,305,768</b>	<b>\$9,201,383</b>

## Expenses

	2011	2010
Program Services	\$8,895,727	\$8,309,303
Support Services (Administration & Development)	\$1,318,910	\$1,449,383
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$10,214,637</b>	<b>\$9,758,686</b>

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	- \$908,869	- \$557,303
Opening Net Assets	\$7,462,739	\$8,020,042

**Net Assets as of 12/31/2011 \$6,553,870**      \$7,462,739

### Breakdown of Net Assets

- Undesignated	\$0	\$269,471
- Net Investment in Plant	\$2,824,647	\$2,806,029
- Board Designated Endowment	\$6,557	\$10,523
- Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$3,427,560	\$4,176,678
	<b>\$6,258,764</b>	<b>\$7,262,701</b>
- Temporarily Restricted	\$241,656	\$146,588
- Permanently Restricted	\$53,450	\$53,450
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$6,553,870</b>	<b>\$7,462,739</b>

## Total Cases Handled in 2011 10,279

Cases Handled and Closed	8,285
Cases Continued into Next Year	1,993

## Volunteer Lawyers Program [VLP] Clinics

Cases Handled at VLP Clinics	1,096
Total Neighborhood Clinics	63

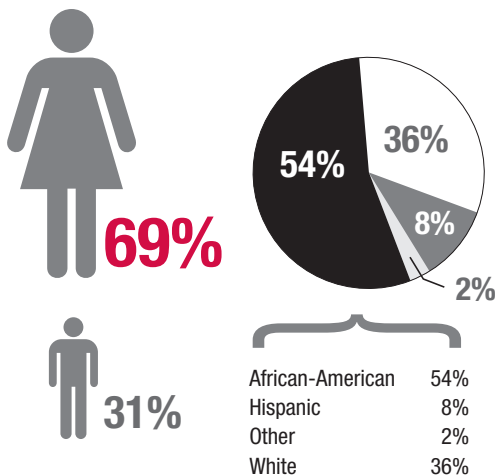
## Personnel

	2011
Attorneys on Staff	54
Other Staff	36
Volunteer Lawyers Program ( <i>pro bono</i> ) Attorneys	1,606
Law Student Volunteers	233
In-House Volunteers	72

## Languages Spoken by Legal Aid Clients [other than English]

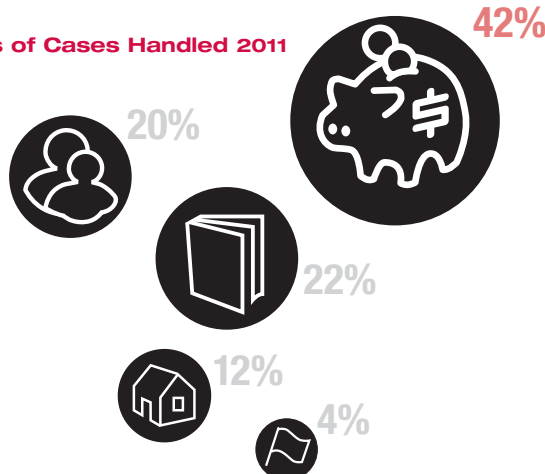
- Arabic • Cantonese • Spanish • Swahili •
- Russian • Vietnamese •

## Client Demographics 2011



Children in Household 49%

## Types of Cases Handled 2011

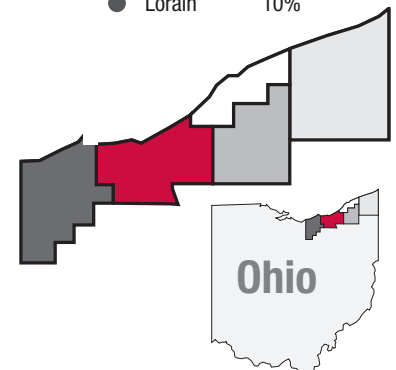


## Yearly Comparison Cases Handled

	2009	2010	2011
Consumer (including foreclosure)	43%	44%	42%
Family	21%	20%	20%
Health-Education-Work-Income-Immigration	21%	21%	22%
Housing	10%	11%	12%
Other	5%	4%	4%

## Cases by County 2011

- Ashtabula 6%
- Cuyahoga 77%
- Geauga 1%
- Lake 6%
- Lorain 10%



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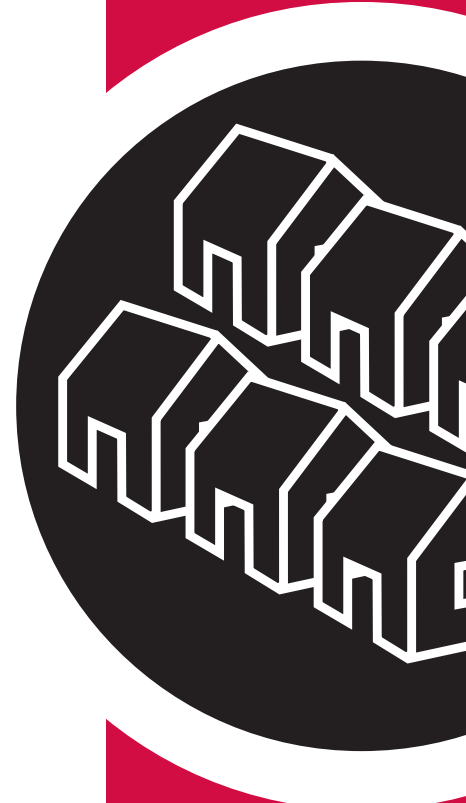
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In 2011 –  
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 prevented  
 eviction  
 in 99%  
 of cases  
 where  
 rental  
 housing  
 was at  
 risk.





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