

rights dignity justice

words
that bring **peace**
ANNUAL REPORT 2012



The Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

WORDS OF PEACE FROM LEGAL AID'S CLIENTS...

Legal aid was very helpful to me - Thank you!

Due to an illness, I tend to get confused and forgetful. [My Legal Aid attorney] on his own volition called me twice to remind me of things I need in order for him to complete my profile. Thank you so much for your patience and extra effort.

I never got the chance to thank Legal Aid for steering me in the right direction. I was not able to afford a lawyer and information given to me set me on the right track.

I'm an older poor person and things were being taken away from me. Had it not been for the Legal Aid Society I would have been lost. Thank you so much again and again. Keep up the good work helping people in need.

I greatly appreciate the help that was offered through the Lorain Office of the Legal Aid Society. I had a criminal background from 2005 which hindered me from pursuing my goals. Recently I graduated with a degree and without the help offered it would have been extremely difficult to land a career. With this help available I was able to get help with an expungement, and now am working at a place compatible with my degree.



Dear friends and supporters,

Rights, dignity, and justice are the touchstones of Legal Aid's work to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for low income people in Northeast Ohio. These powerful words highlight the law's tremendous ability to bring peace and hope to the lives of the vulnerable, making justice real for those Legal Aid serves.

We bring peace to the lives of our clients in palpable terms. Because of your assistance, Legal Aid –

- Saves a home from foreclosure;
- Prevents an unlawful eviction;
- Obtains educational services for a child struggling to succeed in school;
- Restores benefits to a veteran; and
- Protects a woman and her children from abuse.

Your support helped Legal Aid serve 9,478 clients, impacting 23,642 individuals in 2012. We celebrate the victories we secured for our clients. However, 2012 was not without its challenges: economic pressures continue to impact our client communities. And in 2012 Legal Aid's federal funding was cut, and its revenues from interest on lawyer trust accounts remain at historic lows. These decreases in funding forced Legal Aid to lay off several valued staff members. These cuts mean that we will serve fewer clients as we move into 2013 even as the need for our services increases

Through these challenges, Legal Aid remains fully committed to providing high-quality legal services to those who are low income and most vulnerable in Northeast Ohio. Legal Aid also remains fully committed to ensuring that its resources are used effectively to meet the basic needs of shelter, safety and economic security.

Your support is indispensable to Legal Aid's continuing successes. We thank you – on behalf of the individuals, families, and communities that we serve – for your on-going support. We could not achieve these results without our many partners, generous donors and funders, and numerous volunteer attorneys.



Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Executive Director



Adrian D. Thompson, Esq.
Taft/
Legal Aid Board President, 2012



Ann S. Bergen, Esq.
Law Offices of Ann S. Bergen Co., L.P.A.
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2012 Data and Finances



REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

	2012	2011
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$3,055,705	\$3,028,791
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,064,009	\$2,342,473
Donations and Private Grants	\$1,159,563	\$939,772
Other Government Grants	\$1,036,456	\$211,508
Donated Services	\$557,351	\$2,065,688
United Way	\$308,284	\$263,317
Partner Agencies (contracts for legal services)	\$75,188	\$244,673
Other Income	\$546,705	\$209,546
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,803,261	\$9,305,768
EXPENSES	2012	2011
Program Services	\$7,343,103	\$8,895,727
Support Services (administration & development)	\$1,153,037	\$1,318,910
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,496,140	\$10,214,637
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$307,121	-\$908,869
Opening Net Assets	\$6,553,870	\$7,462,739
NET ASSETS as of 12/31/2011	\$6,860,991	\$6,553,870
Breakdown of Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
-Net Investment in Plant	\$2,945,171	\$2,824,647
-Board Designated Endowment	\$11,337	\$6,557
-Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$2,891,063	\$3,427,560
	\$5,847,571	\$6,258,764
Temporarily Restricted	\$958,370	\$241,656
Permanently Restricted	\$55,050	\$53,450
NET ASSETS	\$6,860,991	\$6,553,870

Annual Report Data 2012



23,642

Total People Helped by Legal Aid

Volunteer Lawyers Program:

Cases Handled by Volunteers: 1350

Number of Neighborhood Clinics: 56

Pro Bono Attorneys: 1593

Law Student Volunteers: 308

In-House Volunteers: 64

Personnel

Attorneys on Staff: 51

Other Staff: 30

Total Cases Handled in 2012: 9,478

- Cases Handled and Closed: 7,626

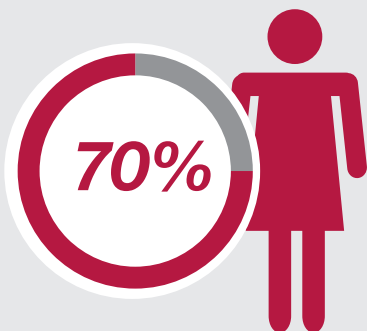
- Cases Continued into 2013: 1,852

Yearly Comparison Case Handled

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Consumer (including foreclosure)	43%	44%	42%	41%
Family	21%	20%	20%	19%
Health-Education-Work-Income-Immigration	21%	21%	22%	24%
Housing	10%	11%	12%	13%
Other	5%	4%	4%	3%



Types of Cases Handled 2012



Client Demographics 2012

- Women: 70%
- Men: 30%

Languages Spoken by Legal Aid Clients (other than English)

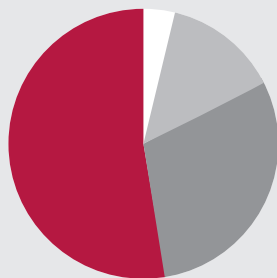
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Korean
- Mandarin
- Russian
- Spanish
- Vietnamese

Focus on Special Populations:

- 48% of all households helped included children
- 15% of all clients are older adults
- 658 cases involved U.S. Veterans. These cases impacted 1316 people

Ethnicity:

- Black = 54%
- White = 35%
- Hispanic = 9%
- Other = 2%



Cases by County 2012

1. Ashtabula: 5%
2. Cuyahoga: 77%
3. Geauga: 1%
4. Lake: 6%
5. Lorain: 11%



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