

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

“Each time we stand up for an ideal, or act to improve the lot of others, or strike out against injustice, we send forth a tiny ripple of hope...”

- **Robert F. Kennedy**



IN 2018, LEGAL AID IMPACTED **16,945** PEOPLE

7,297 total cases handled = 5,904 cases handled & closed + 1,393 cases continued into 2019 including 1,566 cases handled by volunteers and 128 advice clinics

“Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

These words, spoken by Robert F. Kennedy 53 years ago, beautifully capture a guiding principle of Legal Aid. Living out our mission each and every day requires all of us to stand up against injustice and serve as a lifeline for those in need.

Legal Aid provides the first ripple of hope that changes the course of people’s lives. In 2018, we asked The Center for Community Solutions to survey our clients about their experiences with civil legal aid. The results, published earlier this year, reveal a lasting, positive impact on those we serve.

Many of those who participated in the survey reported benefits in areas beyond their initial legal problem. Their stories begin with a ripple of hope, and build from there: A mother’s economic security helps her maintain a stable home for her family, where her children feel safe, nourished, and confident. The children are motivated and supported at school, and develop skills that lead to successful careers. Later, they will care for their mother as she ages. The ripples continue.

In 2018, Legal Aid assisted 16,945 clients through more than 7,000 cases. Thousands more participated in brief advice clinics, community education sessions, and partnership programs. As our group adds staff, expands programs, and enhances services, we continue to elevate our ambitions and build on our own ripples of success.

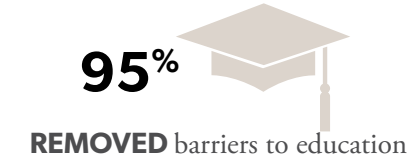
Thank you for helping us extend justice to those who are in crisis, and provide the foundation for stronger, more resilient communities. After all, Legal Aid’s ripple effect is not inevitable. It requires conscious effort to see everyday injustices as calls to action. It requires steadfastness in the face of our region’s biggest challenges. Because ultimately, taken “together – in the words of RFK:,” “Those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Colleen M. Cotter

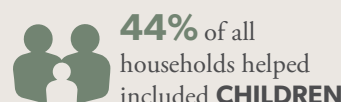
Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
Executive Director
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland



LEGAL AID’S SUCCESS LAST YEAR **Increased assets and income** **and reduced debt by \$10.3 million for clients**



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



STAFF & SUPPORTERS

Our Staff

48 Attorneys
31 Support Staff

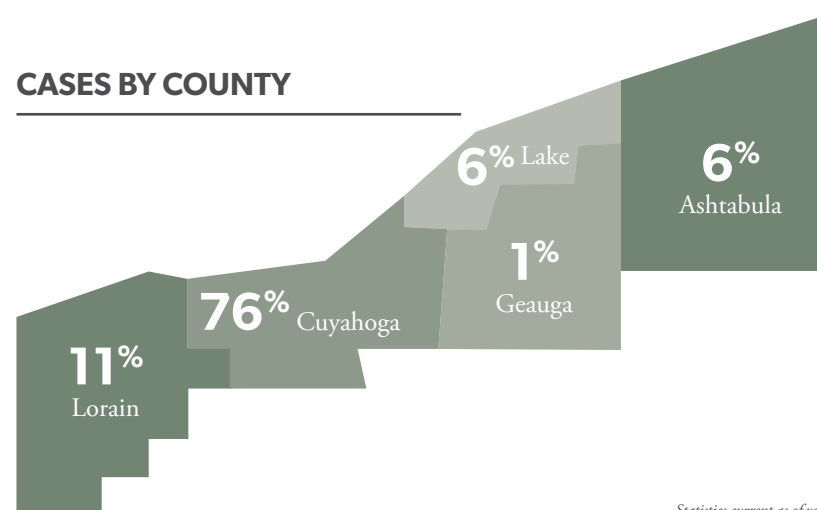
Our Supporters

3,234 Pro Bono Attorneys
678 Volunteer Attorneys Engaged
44 In-House Volunteers
295 Volunteer Law Students
1,802 Financial Supporters

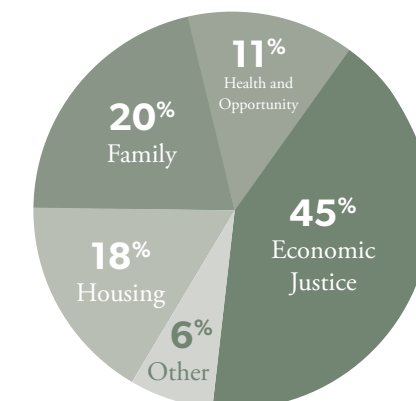
RACE / ETHNICITY

54% Black **34%** White **8%** Hispanic **4%** Identified as other races/ethnicities

CASES BY COUNTY



CASES BY PRACTICE



Statistics current as of year-end 2018

The mission of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is 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.

2018 Finances

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	2018	2017
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,445,581	\$2,352,644
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (now the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation)	\$3,115,922	\$2,852,996
Donations and Private Grants	\$3,211,832	\$1,964,047
Donated Services	\$928,040	\$1,157,144
Other Government Grants	\$645,320	\$693,885
United Ways	\$361,609	\$371,942
Partner Agencies (contracts for legal services)	\$456,837	\$206,870
Other Income	\$97,809	\$498,013
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,262,950	\$10,097,541
EXPENSES	2018	2017
Program Services	\$8,171,922	\$7,604,973
Support Services (administration & development)	\$1,800,652	\$1,586,647
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,972,574	\$9,191,620
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$1,290,376	\$905,921
Beginning Net Assets	\$7,596,425	\$6,690,504
NET ASSETS as of year end	\$8,886,801	\$7,596,425
BREAKDOWN OF NET ASSETS	2018	2017
Unrestricted		
-Net Investment in Property	\$3,033,304	\$2,800,241
-Board Designated Endowment	\$18,788	\$18,230
-Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$4,956,851	\$4,183,172
	\$8,008,943	\$7,001,643
Temporarily Restricted	\$613,313	\$429,407
Permanently Restricted	\$264,545	\$165,375
NET ASSETS	\$8,886,801	\$7,596,425



2017 Legal Aid Donors

“ When Sofia’s son was in the NICU, she had to take extended leave from work. Legal Aid helped her secure food stamps so she could continue to provide for her family while not earning income. ”

We are grateful to members of our fifteen-year giving society (noted with a “*”), our ten-year giving society (noted with a “+”), and members of our five-year giving society (noted with a “#”). These donors and their consistent support deserve special recognition. We welcome our first-time givers (noted with a “#”) to the Legal Aid Family. We honor the memory of deceased donors in italics.

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“ It was a normal visitation day, until Eric’s daughter’s mother never arrived to take her home. Thanks to Legal Aid, Eric is on his way to legal guardianship and could keep his daughter in school during a difficult time. ”

“ With help from a Legal Aid attorney, Joy was able to set up a specialized education plan for her son David, who has ADHD and was struggling in class. Today, David is thriving and enjoys school for the first time ever. ”

//

After losing her job and falling on hard times, Suzanne turned to alcohol for relief, and became an addict. When she entered a treatment program at St. Vincent's, she met a Legal Aid attorney. Legal Aid ultimately represented Suzanne in five cases, resolving issues with bankruptcy, food stamps, health care, social security benefits, and sealing criminal records to help her make a fresh start.

//

//

After Ashley's young daughter tested positive for elevated blood lead levels, The City of Cleveland inspected her apartment and identified lead hazards in her unit. When Ashley's landlord refused to make any repairs, her Legal Aid attorney took the case to housing court and won. Today, Ashley's home is lead-free.

//

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//
A diagnosis of acute renal disease meant Chase had to cut down his work schedule to accommodate dialysis days. Legal Aid helped him negotiate fair terms of employment so his medical condition would not stop him from earning a living.
//



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//

Alyssa and Joey McPhee lived in their home for 13 years and their young grandson, Jabari, had lived with them his entire life. When an eviction threatened the family's housing stability, Legal Aid stepped in and helped them stay in their home.

//

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When Sarah's landlord refused to make necessary repairs to her home, she reported the situation to the city housing authority. In retaliation, the landlord tried to evict her. Sarah's Legal Aid attorney helped her avoid eviction, recoup her security deposit, and find a new, safe home.

//



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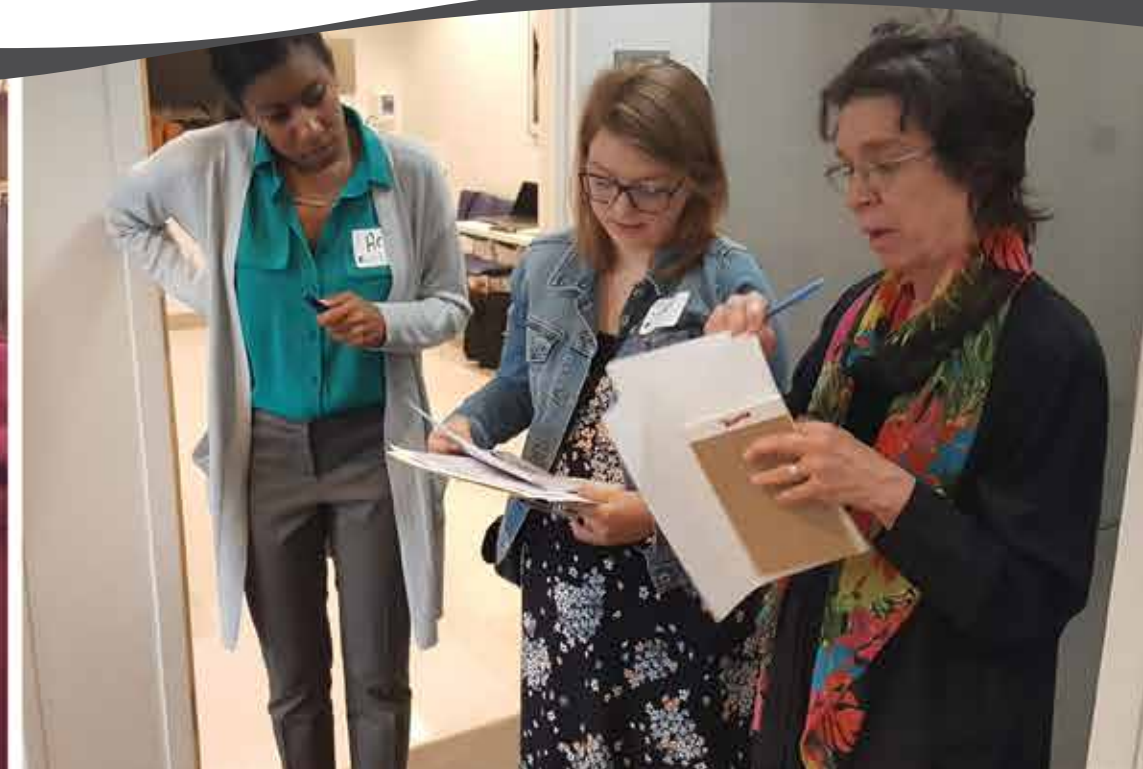
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