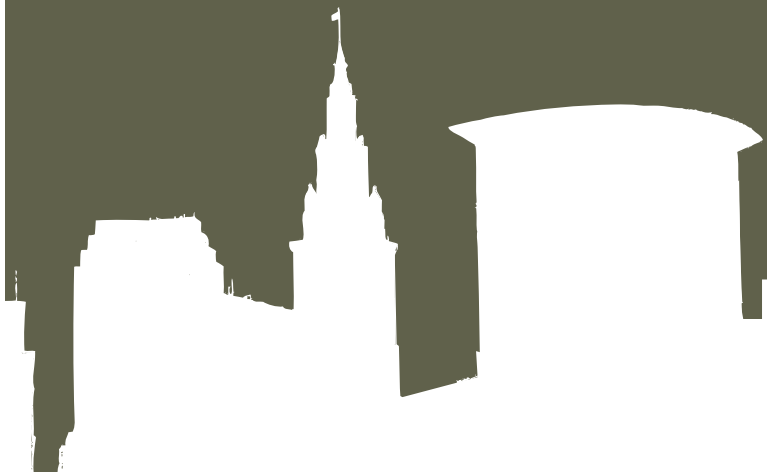


2015

Annual Report



*"It's every person's business to see justice done."
-Sherlock Holmes*



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.

Legal Aid uses the power of the law to ensure access to basic needs and lift people out of poverty. Thanks to thousands of supporters and community partners, Legal Aid provides services that focus on improving clients' health, safety, shelter, education, and economic security.

In 2015, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland staff, board, volunteers and supporters balanced the scales of justice for 19,673 people with low income who would otherwise have had little - actually, no - power to get a fair shake. We are all part of a vital, engaged community seeking justice, because, to quote Mr. Sherlock Holmes, "It is everyone's business to see justice done."

As you will see in this Annual Report, we worked to ensure our clients had shelter, safety, health and economic security. We worked to ensure that the courts and government agencies are accountable and accessible.

2015 was a year, like every year at Legal Aid, of making rights visible, of empowering our clients to understand their rights and to enforce them. It was also a year in which we achieved impressive positive outcomes for our clients, like saving homes, securing income and access to education, reducing debt, and securing safety. We achieved these successes because our staff and volunteers have the expertise and cultural competency required to serve a diverse community in a wide range of challenging legal issues. We were successful because of our strong partnership with other service providers who help us connect with those who need us. We were successful because our clients have incredible resilience in the face of crises, and with our intervention are able to move beyond the crossroads in their lives. We were successful because of our supporters, who see it as their business to see justice done.

Colleen M. Cotter

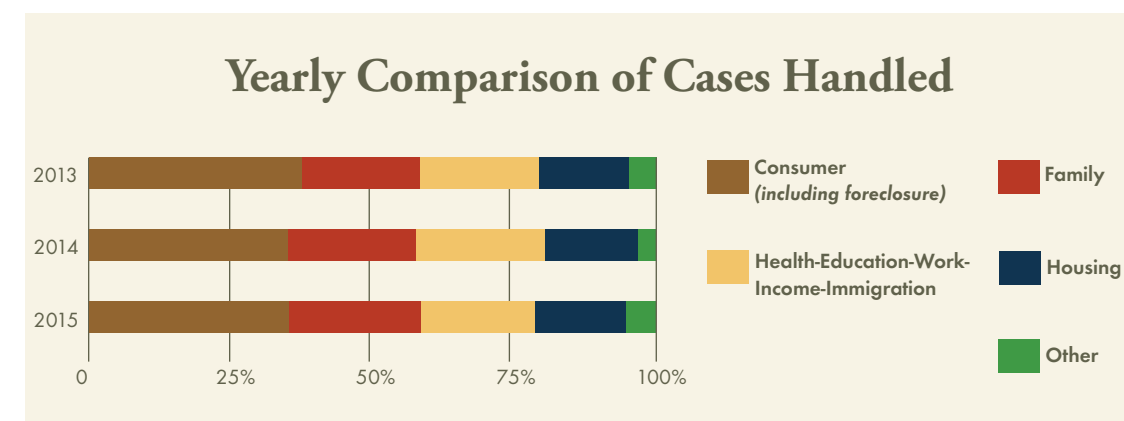
Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
Executive Director
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Legal Aid's Success in 2015 Included:

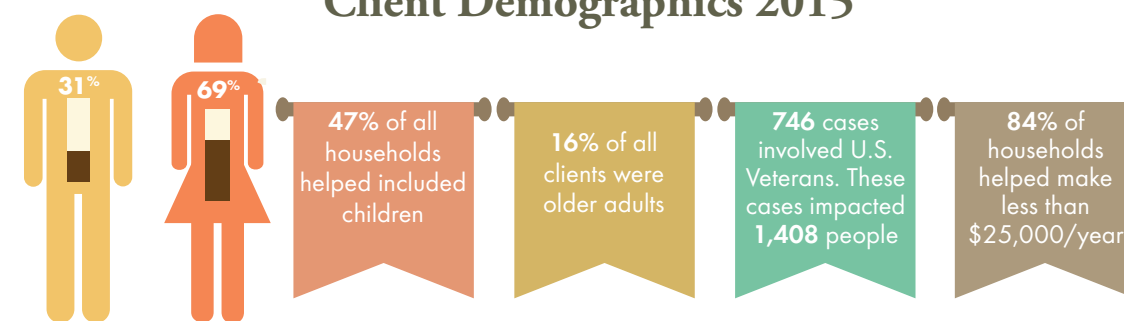
Increased assets and income, and reduced debt by **\$13** million for clients helped



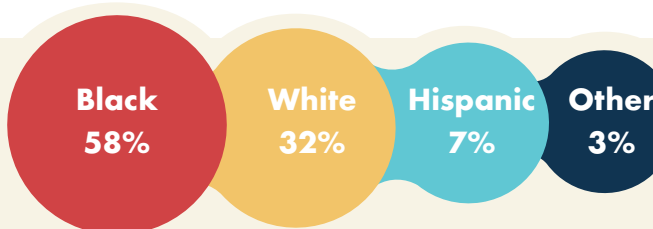
97% of cases where **SAFETY** was **SECURED**



Client Demographics 2015



Race/
Ethnicity



Cases by County 2015 (Percentage)



Cuyahoga



Lorain



Lake



Ashtabula



Geauga



Other



19,673 = Total People HELPED BY LEGAL AID

**Total Cases
Handled in 2015:
8,126**

Cases Handled
and Closed **6,779**

Cases Continued
into 2016 **1,346**

**Volunteer Lawyers
Program**

Cases Handled
by Volunteers **1,604**

Volunteer Attorneys Engaged **543**

Number of Advice Clinics **123**

People

Staff

Attorneys **39** Other **27**

Supporters

Pro Bono Attorneys **2,720**

In-House Volunteers **54**

Law Students **223**

Donors **1,467**

2015 Finances

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

	2015	2014
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,300,369	\$2,165,160
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$2,327,148	\$1,871,849
Donations and Private Grants	\$1,568,238	\$1,527,084
Donated Services	\$947,098	\$1,103,994
Other Government Grants	\$408,231	\$304,875
United Way	\$303,117	\$308,600
Partner Agencies (contracts for legal services)	\$220,982	\$68,802
Other Income	\$216,851	\$314,810
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,292,034	\$7,665,174

EXPENSES

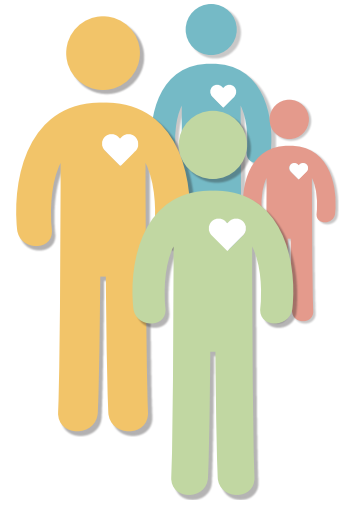
	2015	2014
Program Services	\$6,742,990	\$6,785,647
Support Services (administration & development)	\$1,321,308	\$1,289,775
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,064,298	\$8,075,422
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$227,736	-\$410,248
Beginning Net Assets	\$6,046,819	\$6,457,067
NET ASSETS as of year end	\$6,274,555	\$6,046,819

BREAKDOWN OF NET ASSETS

	2015	2014
Unrestricted		
-Net Investment in Property	\$2,928,518	\$2,931,609
-Board Designated Endowment	\$14,094	\$14,481
-Board Designated Reserve Fund	\$2,813,476	\$2,762,251
	\$5,756,088	\$5,708,341
Temporarily Restricted	\$403,417	\$273,428
Permanently Restricted	\$115,050	\$65,050
NET ASSETS	\$6,274,555	\$6,046,819

2015 Legal Aid Donors

We are grateful to members of our ten-year giving society (noted with an “**”) and those donors in our five-year giving society (noted with a “+”). These donors and their consistent support deserve special recognition.



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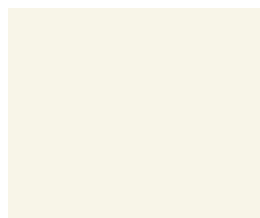
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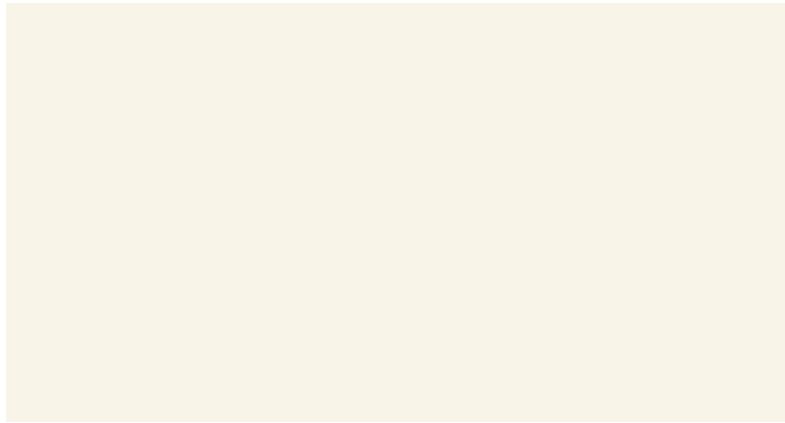
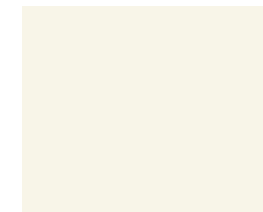
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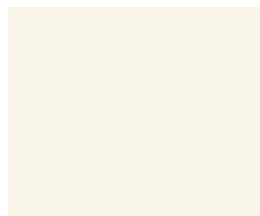
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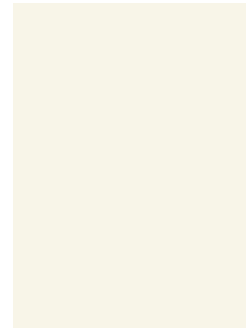
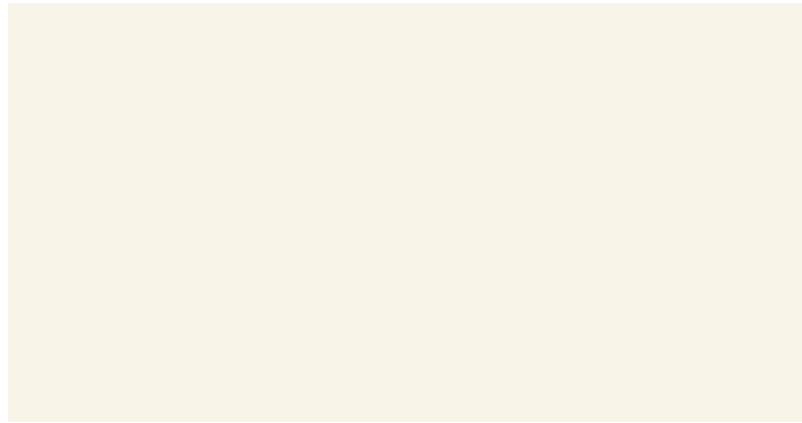
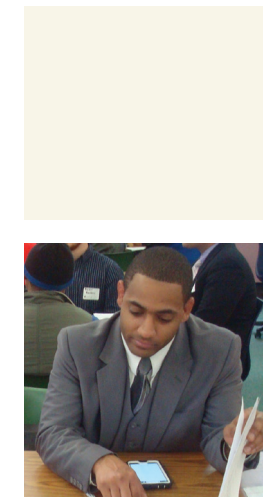
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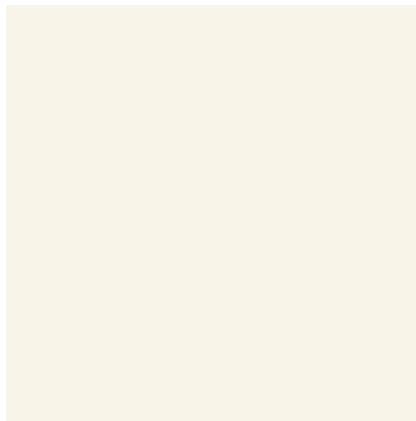
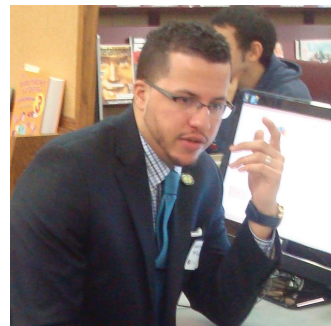
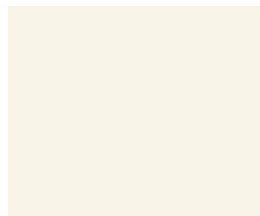
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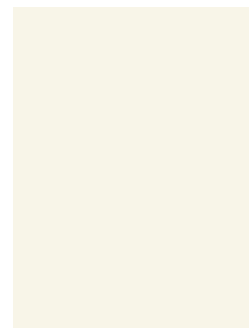
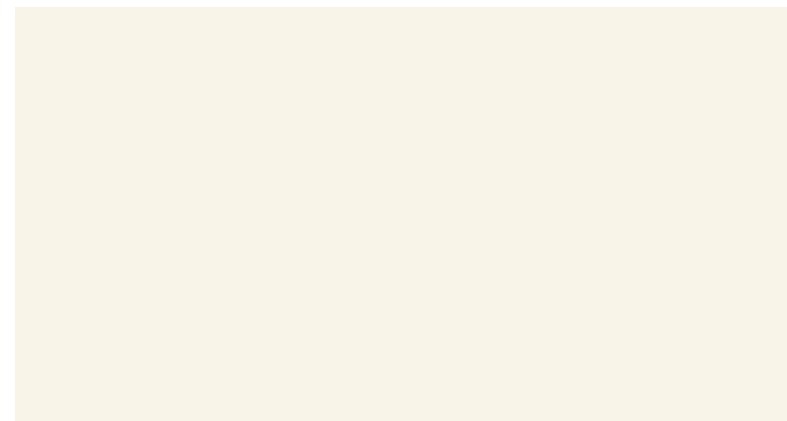
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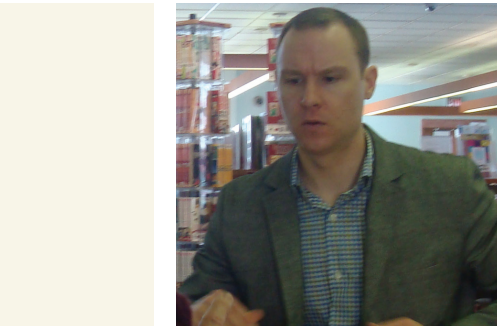
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