



Report to the Community 2007



Advocates for Basic  
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of  
Western Ohio, Inc.

**FAIRNESS.  
DIGNITY.  
OPPORTUNITY.**

Together, we do the community justice.

## ABLE and LAWO

Together, we do the community justice.



Each year, the law firms of ABLE and LAWO offer advice and help with legal matters to thousands of people in our community who have no place else to turn. Yet, there are thousands more throughout our 32-county service area who LAWO and ABLE cannot serve due to limited resources. These individuals cannot afford qualified civil legal representation and risk having their rights denied.

LAWO and ABLE received more than 35,500 requests for help in 2007, an increase of four percent from 2006. We assisted more than 50,000 individuals and families, a 19 percent increase. The needs of our clients continue to grow. We help individuals and families escape domestic violence, avoid homelessness, obtain needed public benefits or mental health care, access basic support services, and resolve many other problems that threaten their well-being.

As law firms for the poor, our work is to improve the lives of low-income people in northwest and west central Ohio by helping them obtain and maintain the basic necessities of life – housing, safety, health care, and food – in addition to enhancing family stability and security. We do this by working to resolve a full range of legal problems, including domestic violence, immigration, civil rights, employment, consumer, and family issues, as well as housing and public benefits matters.

Our law firms employ highly committed, experienced attorneys, paralegals, and support personnel. We maintain a strong record of partnering with other non-profit organizations and administrative and public service agencies that share our missions.

In addition to providing legal assistance for individual clients, we represent groups of clients with common legal problems when it is the most efficient and cost-effective way to resolve these problems. We conduct community legal education sessions and trainings, including providing *pro se* (self help) materials and guidance for those not facing emergency situations, and provide advocacy and assistance on systemic issues affecting our client communities, all of which benefit many thousands of poor people.

## LAWO and ABLE 2007 Combined Record of Service

- 35,862 requests for help
- 19,111 open cases
- 19,088 closed cases
- 50,049 individuals benefited across 32 counties
- \$6,069,046 total monetary awards for clients\*

\*Awards and benefits obtained in the areas of child support, spousal support, unemployment compensation, supplemental security income, debt write-off, disability assistance, food stamps, and damages.

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## Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) 2007 Significant Accomplishments

### Legal Aid Line

ABLE's intake, advice, and referral services program handled close to 29,000 cases in 2007. This includes 8,966 web applications, approximately 3,800 more than were submitted to Legal Aid Line in 2006. Legal Aid Line is projected to receive more than 10,000 web applications by the end of 2008. Legal Aid Line is a joint intake system shared by LAWO and ABLE and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project.

### Public Health Outreach Efforts

Since March 2007, ABLE has engaged in ongoing discussions with the University of Toledo, exploring the possibility of a collaborative approach to identify potential public health risks faced by low-income people. This collaboration has led to the development of a migrant farmworker health survey. The survey is being distributed to seasonal migrant farmworkers and the data will be analyzed by public health experts at the University of Toledo. Areas of inquiry include general health questions, field sanitation, water quality, public health conditions at the migrant camps, and health trends of the migrant farmworker population. ABLE will then become involved in redressing the health and sanitation issues identified.

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## Manufactured Home Park Residents' Rights

ABLE has been actively involved in outreach efforts and with investigating complaints of violations of residents' rights at manufactured home parks. At several mobile home parks, ABLE has received complaints from homeowner-residents regarding water billing and meter repairs. In particular, some residents are receiving higher bills since the park operator took over the water billing. In addition, park operators attempt to enforce rules making residents responsible for repairs to the water meter and pipes regardless of where the problem occurs. This is contrary to Ohio law, which places the responsibility of maintaining the water and sewer system on the park owner. ABLE is engaged in ongoing efforts to educate homeowners on their rights.

## Ombudsman/Nursing Home Advocacy Project

Ombudsman staff and volunteers investigated 926 complaints throughout a 10-county service area. In addition, more than 79 people sought assistance on the selection of a long-term care facility, and 57 volunteers spent 2,622 hours visiting long-term care facilities advocating for residents. Information about ombudsman program services, resident rights, and advocacy efforts on behalf of residents was presented to 42 community groups, and volunteer ombudsman Helen Martaus of Toledo was selected to represent Ohio's volunteer ombudsmen at the 2007 National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care conference.

## Immigrant Worker and Detainee Advocacy Project

ABLE received a grant from the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) that provided legal rights presentations and legal assistance to immigrants being detained in area jails. The Immigrant Worker and Detainee Advocacy Project was designed to remove barriers, both legal and illegal, imposed on immigrants and detainees because of their ethnicity, immigration status, or limited English proficiency. The OLAF grant helped increase the project's capacity to provide representation to detainees through a collaboration with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. This partnership increased coverage of the detention facilities in Ohio that house immigrant detainees to inform them of their rights through delivery of Know Your Rights presentations and to provide representation to detainees through dedicated staff at both ABLE and Cleveland Legal Aid, as well as the recruitment and placement of cases with *pro bono* attorneys. A grant from the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center also supported this project.

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## A Client's Story

### **Legal Aid Negotiates Compensation for Mark and Other Unpaid Temporary Workers**

When Mark and others went to pick up their paycheck from a temporary staffing agency in Dayton, they were shocked to find the agency shuttered. The company closed because of money issues, but employees were not notified. Mark wondered where to go and what to do to recover the money he had earned.

Mark was not alone; 11 co-workers at an area factory were also not notified. With no money to pay for rent, food, daycare, or transportation, Mark and the others went to the East End Community Center for help. At the Community Center, Mark and his co-workers met with an attorney from LAWO to apply for legal assistance. At the same time, an attorney from ABLE assisted by researching and tracking the temporary staffing agency that had mysteriously vanished.

After locating and speaking with the temporary agency's owner and her attorney, ABLE negotiated compensation for Mark and the other workers for a two-week period. Together, the workers were paid for the hours they had worked. Through the help and collaboration of the Community Center, LAWO and ABLE, Mark and his co-workers received the compensation they deserved.





## Predatory Lending and Foreclosure Prevention

In response to the foreclosure crisis facing our client communities in northwest and west central Ohio, ABLE and LAWO received a grant from the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation to provide legal assistance to homeowners to stem the tide of foreclosures and to preserve the dream of homeownership for as many families as possible. In addition, LAWO and ABLE are participating in the Save the Dream Program established by a planning group consisting of members of the Ohio Supreme Court, the Governor's Office, State Treasurer, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and statewide regional legal aid programs. Planning for Save the Dream began in late 2007, and the project launched in Spring 2008. Since that time, ABLE and LAWO have worked on record numbers of foreclosure-related matters, including identifying and fighting predatory mortgage brokers and lenders; working with banks and lenders to offer responsible and affordable loan products as an alternative to predatory lenders and brokers; and working with community partners to encourage and support homeownership as a way of building wealth and moving out of poverty.



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## Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) 2007 Significant Accomplishments

### Lucas County Prisoner Re-entry Project

In 2007, the Lucas County Prisoner Re-entry Project served more than 200 ex-offenders returning to the Toledo area from the Toledo Correctional Institution. LAWO continues to be a lead agency for this multi-agency coalition, targeting housing issues and barriers to employment. The project was launched with initial funding from the Ohio State Bar Foundation, and is now collaborating with the Ohio Department of Corrections and several local funding sources to achieve future sustainability. The project helps former inmates resolve family law, medical, housing, and employment problems that otherwise would increase their risk of returning to prison.

## Clark County Predatory Lending Project

LAWO's Springfield office, in collaboration with the Department of Job and Family Services, a local community foundation, and a community-based neighborhood advocacy project, expanded a predatory lending project to provide education and outreach for low-income homeowners in Clark County, one of the hardest hit areas in the state for foreclosures of low and moderately priced homes. The project also investigates and litigates cases for homeowners who have been victimized by unscrupulous mortgage lending practices. The project has worked with the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project to expand the number of *pro bono* attorneys willing to handle foreclosure defense cases.

## Northwest Ohio Family Justice Center

LAWO's Defiance-based Family Justice Center Project (FJC) coordinated new multi-county rural centers in 2007 to provide "one-stop" service locations for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Shelters, medical and social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, and other non-profit organizations collaborate in the project. The project is one of only 15 sites sponsored by the President's Family Justice Center Initiative, and the first such project to focus on a multi-county rural area. LAWO has now received additional funding to expand FJC services to as many as 15 additional rural counties in northwest and west central Ohio.

## Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

In 2007, the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) began handling cases with LAWO attorneys on-site at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. MLPC attorneys work with low-income families and children on housing problems, public benefits, domestic violence issues, and other legal matters affecting health and safety. Cases included legal issues dealing with housing conditions such as mold, evictions, and public housing availability and retention; family law and public benefits concerns such as food stamps, health insurance entitlement and coverage issues, paternity, child support, custody, visitation, adoption, Social Security disability; and consumer and employment issues including garnishments and lawsuits for collection, Family Medical Leave Act, and public utility shutoffs. The ABLE and LAWO MLPC project is part of a growing national movement, based on a successful medical-legal clinic founded in Boston in the 1990s.

continued...

## Toledo Municipal Court Project

LAWO continued to staff an office at the Toledo Municipal Court to represent low-income clients in housing and consumer cases. In 2007, LAWO staff participating in the Civil Legal Assistance Services (CLAS) project provided a full range of services, including intake and assessment, investigation, negotiation, litigation, appeals, and community legal education. CLAS cases included evictions from public and private housing, debt collection, and garnishment issues. The project is supported by funding from a local add-on filing fee implemented by the Toledo Municipal Court and Toledo City Council.

## *Pro Bono* Legal Corps

LAWO and ABLE have made significant progress in 2007 in efforts to strengthen and expand the involvement of private attorneys and law students in meeting the needs of our clients. LAWO continues to participate in the *Pro Bono* Legal Corps (PBLC) project, a national AmeriCorps project funded through Equal Justice Works. The mission of the PBLC project is to build a commitment to pro bono service at law schools and among future lawyers by expanding involvement in the delivery of critically needed legal services and by raising awareness of public interest issues at law schools through the work of members. The AmeriCorps *Pro Bono* Legal Corps Project continued to increase the number of volunteer law students and attorneys recruited through this program.

## Rural *Pro Bono* Expansion

LAWO's Private Attorney Involvement project significantly expanded *pro bono* capacity in a number of rural communities, including regular scheduling of *pro bono* and *pro se* clinics. The project also has convened a task force to work with courts and judges to recruit more local attorneys to handle *pro bono* work. The project's two AmeriCorps attorneys also recruited more than 140 volunteer law students to assist LAWO advocates throughout the region. LAWO, ABLE, and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project have worked closely together to expand *pro bono* attorney panels in rural counties.

## Emergency Flood Response

LAWO's Private Attorney Involvement project led and coordinated emergency flood response clinics following the historic floods that displaced hundred of clients in Findlay and surrounding counties in west central Ohio during the summer of 2007. Attorneys from LAWO, ABLE, and several private bar partners assisted clients with insurance disputes, home repairs and landlord-tenant problems, in addition to providing information and assistance in applying for emergency government aid.



## A Client's Story

### **Legal Aid Helps Shaina Gain Custody of and Support for her Children**

After her unhappy marriage ended, Shaina's ex-husband, Dan, still lived in the same mobile home park. His presence was a constant reminder of the problems he created in raising and providing for their children. While she struggled to cover the costs of daycare, groceries, and medical expenses, Dan was absent for weeks at a time, shirking the responsibilities of their shared parenting agreement. When the children were with Dan, he often left them with his alcoholic girlfriend.

Shaina sought help from LAWOW, where her attorney advised her to file a motion to modify their parenting agreement. After years of abuse, Shaina was afraid to stand up to Dan, but after meeting with an LAWOW attorney, she decided to act. When Dan refused to negotiate, Shaina and her attorney persisted.

Finally, after obtaining legal counsel, Dan agreed to settle the case. Shaina was named the residential parent and legal custodian of their children for school purposes. Now, Shaina receives \$550 in child support per month from Dan, understands she is eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and is finally caught up on her finances. She and her children appreciate the stability and justice LAWOW brought to their lives.



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Elizabeth Wright  
Lisa A. Kloppenberg  
and Mark Zunich

continued...



# A Client's Story

## **Legal Aid Obtains Shawn a Refund and Restores Water to his Neighbors**

After paying a deposit and one month's rent, Shawn was excited to move everything into his new home in a manufactured home park. He instantly regretted his decision when he learned that the park was about to close due to an outstanding water bill debt owed to the city. Although the owner knew the park would soon lose access to water and possibly close, he still allowed Shawn and other new tenants to move in.

Deciding to leave the park before becoming homeless, Shawn requested a refund of his money. The park refunded \$150 of Shawn's money right away, but then stopped communicating with him. Unsure of what to do next, Shawn contacted ABLE. An attorney helped Shawn draft a letter to the park owner asking that his money be paid in full within seven days. The rent money was refunded and Shawn was quickly able to find better housing.

On behalf of Shawn's former neighbors, ABLE filed an action against the manufactured home park and the city, successfully obtaining an injunction and a temporary restraining order preventing the water from being turned off.

Later, when the park owner filed bankruptcy, ABLE attorneys convinced the bank holding the mortgage to set up a receivership and pay the water debt, reinstitute trash pickup, and collect rents. The bank now hopes to complete necessary repairs, making the park more attractive to prospective, responsible owners.





## 2007 Miami Valley Campaign for Equal Justice

...continued

### Friend up to \$99

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We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and make every effort to ensure accuracy in acknowledging their support. If you feel an error has been made, please contact the Development Office at 419-930-2378.

## Volunteers

Individual volunteers make a big difference in the lives of those needing civil legal assistance. The following individuals generously contributed their time and talent to assist LAWO and ABLE in their missions of providing equal access to justice. They volunteered as legal interns, externs, paralegals, attorneys, and in other professional capacities.



## Volunteers

Donzhella Alford  
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**Other Volunteers**  
Jane Gensler

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Rebecca L. Krukemyer, AD  
Portage Valley Hearing, LLC  
Lynn Ritter, Ph.D.  
Pat Szyperski  
Diane Woggon

## A Client's Story



### **Winning Natalie an Appeal for Fair Housing**

Natalie's heart sank as she rummaged through what was left of her apartment after the fire. Not only were her belongings ruined and her home unlivable, Natalie had received a letter from the landlord informing her that she was no longer welcome. Natalie's troubles began when she lost one of her two part-time jobs. To pay the rent at the Section 8 housing complex, she took in a male tenant – a friend of a friend. The relationship quickly deteriorated when he began demanding sex from Natalie. She refused and made him leave the apartment. Soon after the confrontation, she came home to find smoke and flames pouring from her bedroom window.

Natalie came to LAWO for help. Her attorney filed a complaint against the complex and a motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against Natalie's former renter. While she was granted the TRO, the Court initially denied the preliminary injunction, stating that Natalie had breached her lease by housing an unauthorized tenant. The LAWO attorney appealed, arguing that under the law Natalie's tenancy had never been terminated prior to the fire. The Court reversed its decision and Natalie is back in her refurbished apartment.

# Building for Equal Justice



## Center for Equal Justice



Advocates for Basic  
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of  
Western Ohio, Inc.

Together, we do the community justice.



## Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice

Since launching their first ever capital campaign in September 2007, LAWO and ABLE, along with a group of highly committed supporters, have been diligently working to raise the funding necessary to make the Center for Equal Justice a reality. The goal of the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice is to raise \$6.1 million.

The initial response to requests for support from members of the legal community has been outstanding. Large firms and small firms, as well as individual attorneys have stepped forward with donations exceeding \$1.8 million, making this campaign the largest project the northwest Ohio legal community as a whole has ever supported.

The Stranahan Foundation awarded us a \$400,000 grant early in the campaign, leading the way in foundation and community gifts. In addition, community leaders and public officials have assisted our efforts in a number of ways, including securing a State capital budget appropriation of \$1 million. Along with some key volunteers, the bi-partisan support from our local legislators and the Governor's Office in making this budget request a priority went above and beyond what we had anticipated.

We are grateful for the community's ongoing support for the Center for Equal Justice, particularly from the increasing number of people who recognize the importance of our work. This show of support, combined with our commitment to providing a full range of high quality legal services for our clients, has strengthened our resolve to create the Center for Equal Justice – a resolve that has taken us to \$3.8 million.

## The Kresge Foundation Challenge

Just as ABLE and LAWO are committed to providing quality services to clients, the Center for Equal Justice also represents a commitment to the community; the downtown Toledo community, the Ohio community, and the world community. The Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice was recently awarded a Kresge Challenge Grant in the amount of \$870,000, more than double the \$400,000 that was requested. The Kresge Foundation is one of the nation's largest and most prestigious foundations with a very rigorous and competitive application process. The Kresge Foundation is a private foundation that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations. By awarding LAWO and ABLE a challenge grant, Kresge looked favorably on efforts to certify the Center for Equal Justice as a green building by seeking LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The Kresge Foundation cited legal aid's commitment to remaining in Toledo's downtown, contributing to its economic revitalization, and to sustainable design.

In order to receive this challenge grant, and reach the campaign goal of \$6.1 million, ABLE and LAWO must now raise \$1.66 million from private sources by April 2009. Now is the time for the entire community to step forward in support of what legal aid brings to our community. Together, we can make a difference... and do the community justice.



## Our Donors

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**Catalyst**  
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\*contingent upon completion  
of Challenge Grant  
requirements

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**ABLE and LAWO  
Campaign for Equal Justice  
September 30, 2008**

**Legal Community:**

Law Firm Gifts .....	\$731,100
Individual Attorneys.....	\$143,650
Million Dollar Club.....	\$719,580
ABLE and LAWO Staff .....	\$138,754
Boards of Trustees .....	\$45,680
Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation .....	\$54,000

---

Subtotal Legal Community ..... \$1,832,764

**Community at Large:**

Corporations .....	\$34,000
Foundations .....	\$1,745,000
Community Groups .....	\$52,000
State/Local Funding.....	\$1,032,500
Individuals .....	\$31,060

---

Subtotal Community at Large..... \$2,894,560

Pledges to Date .....	\$4,727,324
Pledges to Reach Goal .....	\$1,372,676
Campaign Goal .....	\$6,100,000

# Northwest Ohio Access to Justice Awards Dinner

ABLE and LAWO presented their annual community service awards at the Access to Justice Awards Dinner, in conjunction with the Toledo Bar Association *Pro Bono* Legal Services Program. The 2007 dinner took place on March 29, 2007 with more than 500 people in attendance. Keynote speaker for the event, Kerry Kennedy, has devoted her life to the vindication of equal justice, to the promotion and protection of human rights, and to the preservation of the rule of law.

## 2007 Northwest Ohio Access to Justice Awards

### Award Recipients

Robert S. Salem  
Betty Morais  
Zepf Center

### Steering Committee

Martin E. Mohler,  
Co-chair  
Keith Wilkowski,  
Co-chair  
Ray Arce  
Mark Barnes  
Gretchen DeBacker  
Lori Decker  
Thomas George  
Thomas Gibney  
Joseph McNamara  
Richard Parr  
Steve Smith  
Beth Wilson  
Jack (John R.) Wanick  
James Yavorcik

### Awards Selection Committee

Hon. Vernelis K. Armstrong  
Hon. James Barber  
Bishop Robert Donnelly  
Billie Johnson  
Ben Konop  
Rev. Karen Shepler  
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### Sponsors

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## A Client's Story



### **Legal Aid Helps Adanna Obtain Freedom from Persecution**

Adanna was active in a political organization advocating for the rights of English-speaking Cameroonians. She had been jailed on two occasions and tortured during one of those detentions, including being beaten with an electrical cord with the insulation stripped off part of the cord. As a result of these beatings, she suffered a miscarriage and body scars.

In 2003, Adanna was successfully smuggled out of Cameroon. She contacted ABLE attorneys when she was threatened with deportation. Her attorney filed applications for asylum, withholding of deportation, and protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) on her behalf with the Department of Homeland Security. Adanna was interviewed by an asylum officer at the Department of Homeland Security office and waited several months for a decision. She was granted asylum and is now able to live and work in the U.S. and she can now apply for lawful permanent residence.

## Miami Valley Access to Justice Awards Celebration

ABLE and LAWO also held the second annual Miami Valley Access to Justice Awards Celebration, in partnership with the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP). The event was held on May 1, 2007 at the David H. Ponitz Center on the campus of Sinclair Community College in Dayton. Morris Dees, Co-Founder and Chief Trial Counsel at the Southern Poverty Law Center, was the keynote speaker for the event.

### 2007 Miami Valley Access to Justice Awards Dinner

#### Award Recipients

Susan Brasier  
Rosa Torres Caskey  
Mary Bullen

#### Steering Committee

Dianne F. Marx,  
Co-chair  
Maureen Pero,  
Co-chair  
Chris Albrekston  
Rosalie Catalano  
Jan Rudd-Goenner  
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#### Awards Selection Committee

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Jan Lepore-Jentleson  
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#### Sponsors

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## We can't do it without you.

ABLE and LAWO's client services are supported by public and private funding. Below are the names of the funders and the programs they support.



### ABLE

#### **Clement O. Miniger Foundation**

Support of the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Lucas County.

#### **Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights**

Immigrant Detention Project to provide legal rights presentations and legal assistance to immigrants being detained in the Seneca County Jail.

#### **The Impact Fund**

Litigation expenses for the Clients for the Responsible Destruction of Chemical Weapons of the *Miami Valley v. Perma-Fix of Dayton* environmental justice case.

#### **Internal Revenue Service**

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters and to educate taxpayers for whom English is a second language.

#### **Northwest Ohio Community Shares**

Operating support through workplace giving.

#### **Ohio Attorney General**

Victims of Crime Act funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in ten northwest Ohio counties.

#### **Stranahan Foundation**

Support of the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Lucas County.

#### **Area Office on Aging**

Funding for Ombudsman program, advocating for residents of nursing homes, adult care facilities, and consumers receiving in-home care services.

## LAWO

### **Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2**

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

### **Area Agency on Aging - Ohio District 5**

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties.

### **Area Agency on Aging, PSA 3**

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties.

### **City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods**

Federal Community Development Block Grant funds supporting legal assistance in housing matters for low-income Toledo residents.

### **Clark County Department of Job and Family Services**

Clark County Predatory Lending Project for services to victims and potential victims of predatory lending.

### **Erie County Department of Job and Family Services**

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

### **Greene County Department of Job and Family Services**

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

### **Improved Solutions for Urban Systems (ISUS)**

Legal assistance to students at the ISUS Manufacturing High School in Dayton.

### **Legal Services Corporation**

Support of LAWO area-wide services.

### **Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Service**

Program to remove legal barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.

### **Miami County Department of Job and Family Services**

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

### **Miami County Foundation**

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) presentations in Miami County.

continued...

## **LAWO *continued...***

### **Montgomery County Human Services Levy**

Legal assistance to frail elderly residents and home mortgage foreclosure assistance.

### **Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Service**

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

### **Ohio Coalition on the Education of Children with Disabilities**

Community legal education events on the legal needs of children with disabilities.

### **Ohio State Bar Foundation**

Funding to support the Lucas County Key Initiative Focus project to provide services to ex-offenders re-entering the community.

### **Sandusky Municipal Court**

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.

### **Shelby County Department of Job and Family Services**

Support for legal assistance to Shelby County residents.

### **Toledo Municipal Court**

Community Legal Assistance Services (CLAS) project to provide legal assistance on site at the court to individuals with housing and consumer cases.

### **Turner Foundation**

Support of the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Clark County and the Clark County Predatory Lending Project for services to victims and potential victims of predatory lending.

### **United States Department of Justice**

Rural Domestic Violence Project to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in 21 rural counties.

### **United Way of Defiance County**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Defiance County.

### **United Way of Fulton County**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Fulton County.

### **United Way of the Greater Dayton Area**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties through programs that assist families, the disabled, and the elderly, and provide education on legal rights and responsibilities to youth.

### **United Way of Greater Lima**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Allen County.

### **United Way of Greater Toledo**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties.

### **United Way of Williams Count**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.

## **LAWO via ABLE**

### **Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.**

Legal assistance to senior citizens in ten counties of LAWO's service area.

### **Equal Justice Works**

AmeriCorps Pro Bono Legal Corps Project to recruit and support volunteer law students and attorneys.

### **Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services**

Legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in the LAWO rural counties.

### **St. Marguerite D'Youville Foundation**

Medical-Legal Partnership for Children to provide assistance at medical locations to low-income children and families with legal problems affecting child health.

## **LAWO and ABLE Combined**

### **Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County**

Advocacy on behalf of consumers within the mental health system, including outreach visits to area mental health agencies and community groups.

### **Ohio Community Service Council**

AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project to provide legal assistance and advocacy to low-income clients and long-term care residents with legal problems related to the ability to obtain or maintain safe, affordable housing.

### **Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation**

Support of ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, Legal Aid Line, the Migrant Farmworkers program, the Immigrant Detention Project, and the Save the Dream foreclosure prevention project through a competitive discretionary grant process.



## Partners in Equal Access to Justice

Legal aid has maintained long-standing partnerships with *pro bono* legal services programs, including the Greater Dayton/Western Ohio Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP) and the Toledo Bar Association *Pro Bono* Legal Services Program. Both programs provide opportunities for attorneys to volunteer their services to low-income people.

In addition to providing direct services on cases, volunteer lawyers also participate in outreach programs, make community education presentations, and co-counsel cases with other volunteers and staff attorneys. Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) provided \$68,196 to the Toledo Bar Association for the *Pro Bono* Legal Services Program and \$139,401 to the Greater Dayton/Western Ohio Volunteer Lawyers Project. ABLE and LAWO also collaborated with these two programs on fundraising programs, community legal education programs, and volunteer lawyer recruitment.

One of the most important benefits of doing *pro bono* work is the direct contribution to the principle of justice for all. Last year, the following legal professionals in northwest and west central Ohio willingly and graciously gave their time and expertise to those who could not otherwise afford an attorney. ABLE and LAWO applaud these men and women who agreed to give back to the community so generously.

### Attorneys who Provided *Pro Bono* Services

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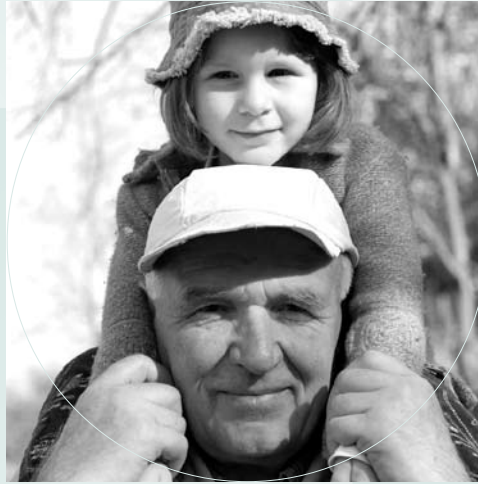
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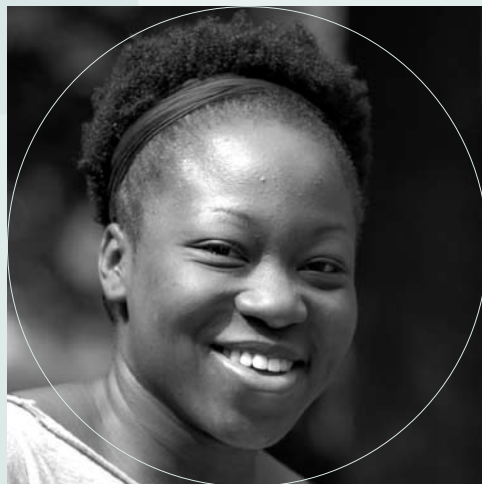
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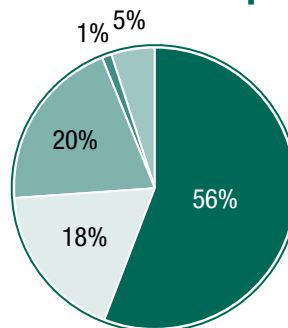
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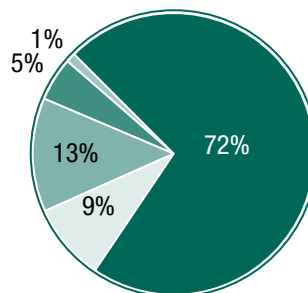
## ABLE and LAW0 2007 Operating Revenue and Expenditures



### Support and Revenue

● Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) .....	\$7,897,288
○ Legal Services Corporation (LSC) [LAWO only] .....	\$2,524,859
● Other grants and contracts .....	\$2,880,868
● Fundraising/special events .....	\$214,653
● Miscellaneous interest and other income .....	\$700,641

Total ..... \$14,033,309



### Expenses and Expenditures

● Compensation and benefits .....	\$9,785,699
○ Contract services .....	\$1,204,568
● Operating costs .....	\$1,804,258
● Travel, support, and training .....	\$703,520
● Miscellaneous .....	\$145,337

Total ..... \$13,643,382

This report does not include revenue and expenses related to the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice or endowment funds.

# A Client's Story

## Advocating for Clara

Eighty-three year old Clara lived in a nursing home. Her daughter, Elaine, lived a distance away and visited when she could – about once a month. During a recent visit, Elaine was concerned to see severe bruising over most of Clara's body. The nursing home's administrator and staff had no explanation for the bruising.

At the request of Clara's family, a member of ABLE's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program investigated the situation at the nursing home. The ombudsman found that Clara did not have an appropriate bed, and the nursing home staff was improperly transferring her from the bed to a wheelchair. Unknowingly, the staff had also been administering two blood-thinning medications to Clara, which further contributed to the bruising.

Clara's condition improved dramatically after the nursing home administrator implemented changes recommended by the ombudsman: the staff received more training; Clara got a new bed; and her medications were adjusted.



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