



Kaser  
Lawyer

Stephanie and Family  
Client



## Report to the Community

# 2008

### Putting Clients at the Center of Equal Justice



Advocates for Basic  
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of  
Western Ohio, Inc.

Together, we do the community justice.

## **ABLE and LAWO**

### **Together, we do the community justice.**

How do law firms for low-income individuals and groups work to advance equality, justice, and dignity? At LAWO and ABLE, attorneys and other advocates provide free legal services to individuals and families in civil matters every day. We help people navigate the courts and government bureaucracies to secure equal access to the benefits of the law.

There are vast numbers of people who need legal assistance, but do not have the money to pay for it. At the end of 2008, more than 375,000 people in northwest and west central Ohio were living in poverty, and that figure has continued to grow. Some have been in poverty for years while others are victims of circumstances – job loss, domestic violence, natural disasters, or illness – that have changed their lives. These are our neighbors who are lacking in the basic necessities of life – housing, food, water and sanitation, physical safety, education, and health care.

The core work of ABLE and LAWO is directly aligned with the most critical needs of clients; we devote significant resources to assisting people in crisis, offering advice and help with legal matters to thousands of people in our community who have no place else to turn.

We help individuals and families by informing them of their rights and helping them navigate their way through complex systems to obtain services, benefits, and other legal solutions to their problems. Specifically, LAWO and ABLE assist clients in escaping domestic violence, avoiding homelessness, obtaining needed public benefits or mental health care, accessing basic support services, and resolving many other problems that threaten the well-being of families and children.

The impact of the recession has placed significant economic stress on individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations like LAWO and ABLE. Our clients, who are already in dire economic situations, are being hit even harder as organizations and programs they rely on cut services.

## **ABLE and LAWO 2008 Combined Record of Service**

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**31,082 requests for help**

**20,307 open cases**

**20,161 closed cases**

**55,471 individuals and families  
who benefited from legal assistance**

**\$10,685,290 total monetary awards for clients\***

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**\*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.**

There are thousands of individuals and families throughout our 32-county service area who cannot afford quality civil legal representation and risk having their rights denied. In spite of the strains on our own budgets, the attorneys, advocates, and staff of ABLE and LAWO continue to work diligently to alleviate and eradicate poverty and to ensure that poor people have a voice on issues and decisions that affect their lives. Our commitment to offering a full range of services to our clients strengthens our resolve to secure justice for all.



## **Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) 2008 Significant Accomplishments**

### **Legal Aid Line**

Legal Aid Line, the application, advice, and referral services program that serves ABLE, LAWOW, and pro bono clients received more than 35,000 requests for help in 2008. This includes 11,355 Internet applications, approximately 2,380 more than were submitted in 2007. Legal Aid Line is projected to receive 13,000 Web applications by the end of 2009. Legal Aid Line is a telephone and Internet based application system shared by LAWOW and ABLE.

### **Mobile Benefit Bank**

In the spring of 2008, ABLE and LAWOW were approached by several community organizations to develop a project that would screen Toledo and Lucas County residents for public benefits using the online Ohio Benefit Bank System. The Ohio Benefit Bank is an Internet based computer program used to connect low and moderate-income Ohioans with access to work support such as tax credits and public benefits. The project design uses AmeriCorps members to conduct outreach and screen clients using the Ohio Benefit Bank system as well as to conduct a legal needs assessment. Legal needs assessments are then reviewed by attorneys; persons are referred to ABLE and LAWOW offices as appropriate. This project is operated out of Legal Aid Line. The Toledo Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Toledo, and the Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services have all provided funding for the Mobile Benefit Bank project.

### **Voter Protection**

ABLE provided extensive expertise and organizational support on the voter protection efforts for the 2008 presidential election. Beginning in late June and early July, advocates met with a coalition of community groups, including the Board of Elections and the Secretary of State's regional liaison, to develop and implement strategies to reduce the number of provisional ballots and to make sure all ballots that were voted would count. ABLE engaged in several support and advocacy efforts on Election Day as well, including voter education and voter registration efforts, poll worker training, and volunteer recruitment. In addition, advocates worked with the Board of Elections to develop guidelines to use in processing voter challenges.

Throughout this time, ABLE was in close contact with the Board of Elections, as well as working with statewide voter protection efforts, including the Ohio Fair Elections Network (OFEN). Advocates and volunteer attorneys monitored the processing and return of the 60-day election notification cards. In the Miami Valley, ABLE joined with a non-partisan coalition of community groups that monitored 25 to 35 local precincts, providing information and a hotline number that linked voters with problems to local volunteer attorneys. In addition, volunteer lawyers were available in the Lucas County area to monitor the allocation of voting machines throughout the precincts in the county. Approximately 15 roving volunteer attorneys were recruited along with law student volunteers to monitor 20 Lucas County polling locations in cooperation with stationary poll monitors. Attorneys followed up on complaints referred to ABLE by the hotline attorneys.

### **Foreclosure and Predatory Lending Prevention**

ABLE participated in numerous outreach activities in 2008 to educate homeowners on predatory lending issues and foreclosure prevention. The outreach included participation with the Lucas County Foreclosure Prevention Taskforce and the Montgomery County Taskforce. ABLE participated in city and county sponsored foreclosure outreach events as well, primarily in Lucas and Montgomery counties.

### **Immigrant Detention Project**

More than 1,000 detained immigrants were provided information regarding their rights in 2008 as part of the Immigration Detention Project, a collaborative project between ABLE and the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. In addition, detainees were also provided direct representation. The added assistance from Legal Aid Line has allowed ABLE advocates to expand services to more people and provide more direct representation. Intake specialists help to determine eligibility and a Legal Aid Line attorney evaluates cases for brief service and advice or for referral to Detention Project staff for further investigation. Becoming more active with statewide and regional policy advocacy, the staff from the project has participated in collaborations with the Ohio Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in assisting with their Raid Response Team and the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights and their immigrant detention advocacy. The Immigration Detention Project has received funds from the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center and the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation.

## **Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) 2008 Significant Accomplishments**

### **Foreclosure Prevention Project**

With special funding provided by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, LAWO staff presented foreclosure prevention information at a series of community events to educate client communities about their rights and provided legal assistance to individuals and families facing the loss of their homes. Ohio continues to rank among the 10 highest states for foreclosure rates. In LAWO's service area, Lucas County (Toledo) and Montgomery County (Dayton) continue to be two of the hardest hit areas in the state. LAWO is currently investigating or litigating more than 300 cases for clients facing imminent loss of their homes. LAWO's foreclosure project also has worked closely with the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Dayton and the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program to train and support nearly 300 pro bono attorneys willing to handle foreclosure defense cases. LAWO has worked closely with several courts within its service area, including Lucas County, to establish new foreclosure mediation programs.

### **Lucas County Prisoner Re-entry Project**

The Lucas County Prisoner Re-Entry Project has served more than 300 ex-offenders returning to the Toledo area from the Toledo Correctional Institution. LAWO has continued 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 State Department of Corrections and several local funding sources to achieve future sustainability. The project helps former inmates resolve family, medical, housing, and employment law problems that otherwise would increase their risk of returning to prison. Agencies involved in the project begin developing a service plan for the inmates six months prior to release from the prison, so that appointments and services can be in place immediately after their release date.

### **Rural Domestic Violence Program**

LAWO's Family Justice Center Project (FJC), based in Defiance, received additional funding to expand its six county based rural centers to a total of 21 rural counties in northwest and west central Ohio. The project has established six "one-stop" service locations for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Together, lay advocates and legal aid attorneys with the FJC also have developed a collaborative protocol that provides comprehensive legal and support services to survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In 2008, a team of legal aid attorneys serving our rural counties formed a Community Coordinated Response Team (CCR Team) to develop a strategy for expanding this collaborative protocol into the additional rural counties in the ABLE and LAWO service area. The LAWO Rural Domestic Violence Program also added several faith based coordinators to begin a Faith Based Initiative in the original six rural counties. The program includes the development of collaborative projects with area churches to meet the needs of domestic violence victims. In addition, the Family Justice Center Survivor Network was established in collaboration with Defiance College and the faith based organizations to increase support and resources to survivors and their children to meet a family's basic needs.

### **Medical-Legal Partnership**

LAWO's Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in 2008 placed two full-time staff attorneys and two full-time AmeriCorps attorneys on site at pediatric clinics in two major Toledo area hospitals. The attorneys work with low-income families and children on housing problems, public benefits issues, domestic violence issues, and other legal needs affecting the health of the families who seek treatment at the clinic sites. The project is part of a growing national movement, based on a successful medical-legal clinic founded in Boston in the 1990's. Attorneys from the project were selected to lead a presentation on lead-paint advocacy at a national Medical Legal Project Summit held in Cleveland in March 2009.

All Stella\* could think about was going home. She had been in a nursing home for rehab for almost a year and she missed her personal things and her neighbors. Every time she asked to go home, her sons and the nursing home staff would prevent her from leaving. When she told an Ombudsman volunteer from ABLE that she was frustrated about not being able to go home, the Ombudsman inquired about her assessment by PASSPORT. She discovered that Stella was assessed by the wrong PASSPORT office based on her county and that the person who conducted the assessment relied on information from the nursing home rather than gathering independent information. PASSPORT is a Medicaid Waiver program that provides older adults with additional services so they can remain in their homes. A staff Ombudsman stepped in and helped to advocate for Stella to receive another assessment from the correct office and she was found to be capable of returning home. The Ombudsman continued to advocate on her behalf with the nursing home staff, asking them to provide Stella with a discharge plan. More than a year later, Stella was able to go home with PASSPORT services, including Meals on Wheels and physical therapy. She was thrilled to be home!

*\* not client's real name*



## **“School to Prison Pipeline” Outreach**

LAWO in 2008 conducted community education programs for courts, private attorneys, and community organizations regarding “school to prison pipeline” issues. LAWO staff led sessions highlighting alternative strategies for assisting children with behavioral disorders to prevent needless expulsions and referrals to the juvenile justice system.

## **Toledo Municipal Court Project**

LAWO continued to staff an office located at the Toledo Municipal Court to represent low-income clients in housing and consumer cases. In 2008, advocates with the LAWO Civil Legal Assistance Services Project (CLAS) provided a full range of services, including intake and assessment, investigation, negotiation, litigation, appeals, and community legal education. CLAS staff provided assistance in cases including evictions from public and private housing, debt collection, and garnishment issues. The project is supported by funding from a local filing fee implemented by the Toledo Municipal Court and Toledo City Council.

## **Senior Outreach**

LAWO continued to provide extensive outreach services to senior citizens through programs supported by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, the PSA 3 Area Agency on Aging (Lima and west central Ohio), the PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging (metropolitan Dayton and surrounding counties), the District 5 Area Agency on Aging (Mansfield/Richland County and surrounding counties), and the Montgomery County Human Services Levy for services to the frail elderly in Dayton and Montgomery County. In 2008, LAWO advocates conducted outreach at senior centers located in 31 counties, providing intake and community legal education services at most centers on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

## **ABLE and LAWO:**

### **Mayor’s Poverty Commission - Toledo Old South End Project**

ABLE and LAWO are original members of the Toledo Mayor’s Poverty Commission – a group of local leaders convened in 2008 by the mayor and the United Way of Greater Toledo to assist in addressing issues of poverty in Toledo. The Commission has selected the Old South End of Toledo, one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city, as the pilot project to work with community members and local organizations to find innovative ways to combat poverty-related problems in that community. ABLE and LAWO have participated in a series of community meetings focused on tenants’ options for forcing absentee landlords to clean up substandard housing conditions.

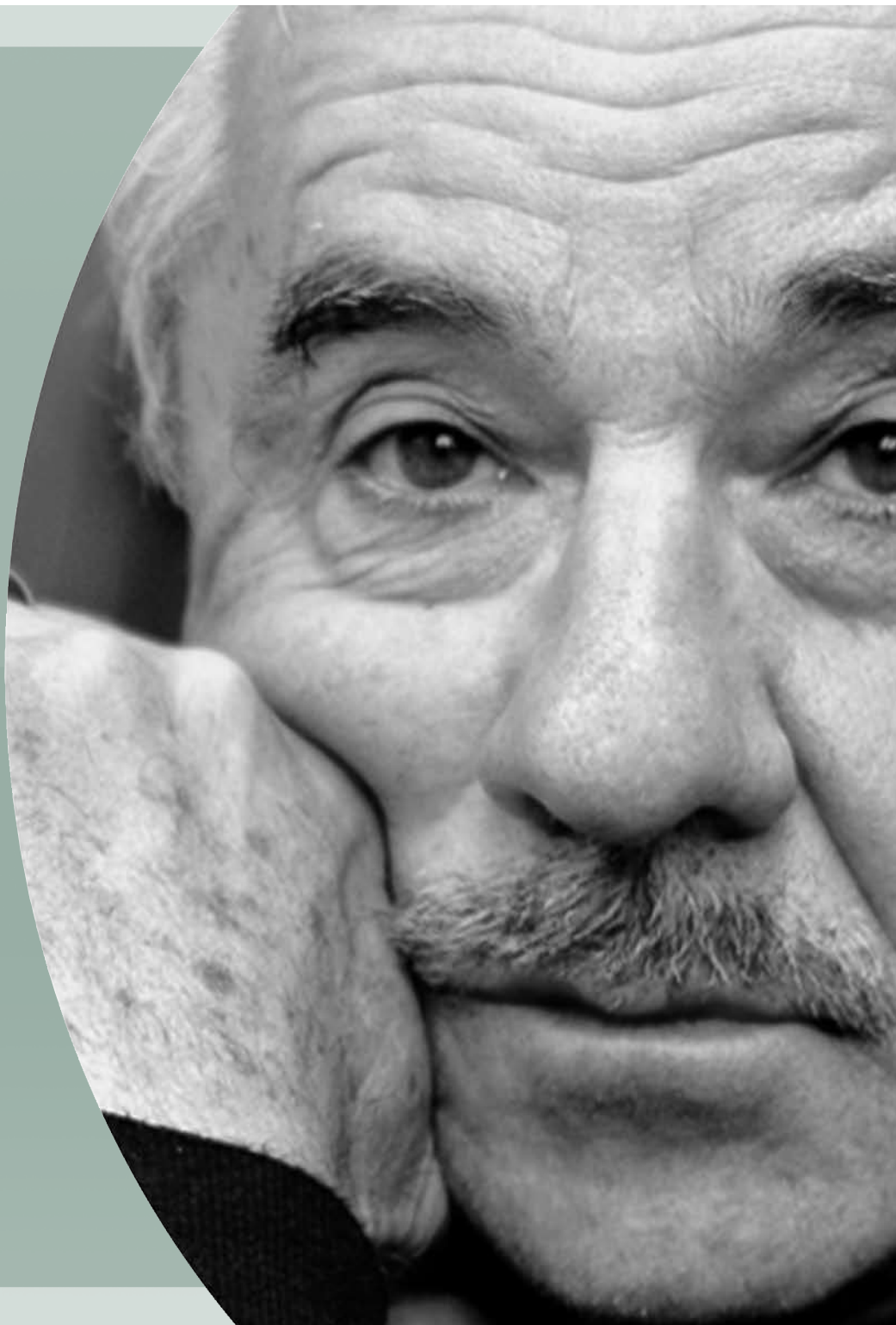
### **Save the Dream**

Since the spring of 2008, ABLE and LAWO have been partner organizations in the Ohio Foreclosure Legal Assistance Program. In conjunction with the Attorney General’s “Save the Dream Program” and other Ohio legal aid programs, ABLE and LAWO have responded to the foreclosure crisis affecting thousands of Ohioans by significantly increasing our capacity to process foreclosure intake applications; provide counsel, advice and brief service; provide full representation in court; and make referrals to a growing number of pro bono attorneys. In 2008, ABLE and LAWO staff alone took on full representation in more than 100 foreclosure cases and assisted homeowners in retaining pro bono counsel in many more. Our staffs continued to answer the call to assist homeowners in distress as we expanded education and outreach efforts, trained new pro bono attorneys, and continued efforts to expand our ability to provide full representation to as many homeowners as possible.



José\* entered the United States from Guatemala without inspection in 1994. He obtained agricultural work on farms in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, and New York. José found that he could not open a bank account due to his lack of documentation. As a result, he carried his money, close to \$20,000 in cash, in a plastic shopping bag. In January 2008, while driving from New York to Michigan, José was stopped on the Ohio Turnpike by the Ohio Highway Patrol. The officer seized his money, suspecting that it was drug money, and turned it over to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). José was arrested and transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody where he was eventually ordered removed from the country. Awaiting deportation in the Seneca County Jail, José met with staff from ABLE's Immigration Detention Project where he reported the seizure of his earnings by DHS. ABLE filed a Petition for Relief of Seizure based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The DHS granted the petition to return to José all of his earnings.

*\* not client's real name*



## Making a Difference!

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 services.

Donzhella Alford  
Lubirda Allen  
Sana Ashraf  
Tamara Bershok  
Nicole Boals  
Alisha Bubo  
Chris Boehm  
Amy Boring  
Trena Boyd  
Samantha Bran Stutter  
Matt Becker  
Joseph Brennan  
John Brooches  
Stacy Brown  
Heather Brunet  
Michael Bryant  
Alexandra Buck  
Kim Campo  
Kristin Cantrell  
Craig Carson  
Matt Carter  
Stephen Case  
Cathryn Cason  
Tony Cirrilli  
Bridget Connelly  
David Copeland  
Andrew Cosslett  
Marissa D'Altorio  
Mark Deters  
Conrad Dillon  
Emily Dye  
Colleen Ebel  
Melissa Ford  
Anita Foreman  
Shena Frantzich  
Scot Ganow  
Meredith Goldberg

Chris Gore  
Randy Greenwald  
Matt Gutteridge  
Janelle Hackman  
Kathleen Haflett  
Scott Hamner  
Zach Haughawout  
Scottlin Henshaw  
Jennifer Holzworth  
Brandon Hoover  
Richard Huff  
Valerie Inman  
Jessica Jacobson  
Jim Jaffe  
Jenica James  
Shon Johnson  
Josh Jones  
Heather Kestian  
Ian Kierpaul  
Brandon Knight  
Nick Laudato  
Sarah Leblang  
John Lindsey  
Jennifer Longo  
Adam Lowen  
Amanda Lyons  
Bobbi Lyons  
Jennifer Maco  
Kayellen Maher  
Aaron Mallin  
Andrea Marcus  
Lauren Martin  
Sean Martin  
Montez Mason  
Andy McCarthy  
Rebecca McCarty  
Tony McDowell

Allyson McFerren  
Teresa McMahan  
Ryan Moloney  
Ashleigh Monroe  
George Moore  
Melanie Murray  
Ashley Myers  
Mikal Nuhn  
Jeremiah O'Brien  
Crystal Okoro  
Nik Olah  
Elisha Owens  
Tim Padot  
Rex Patterson  
Joshua Peterson  
Olivia Phifer  
Bradley Proudfoot  
Jessica Ramos  
Sean Reed  
Shawn Richter  
Enrique Rivera-Cerezo  
Angela Swain Rohs  
Joseph Rudolph  
Rob Salem  
Esther SanInocencio  
Tara Santarelli  
Carla Scherr  
Matthew Schuh  
Marie Schumach  
Cassie Screngi  
Andy Seger  
Leslie Shoup  
Chad Skipwith  
Eric Sladewski  
Jessica Stan  
Angela Stearns  
Edward Stechschulte

Matthew Stiff  
Jacqui Snyder  
Lynn Taylor  
Kimberly Tayner  
Tamera Thomas  
Karl Timbers  
Tom Timmers  
Gregory Tisone  
Robert Tucker  
Jennifer Turner  
Amber Wagner  
Nicholas Walters  
Adam Weaver  
Emily White  
Kate Wlodarski  
Amy Wynkoop  
Emily Zilgitt

### Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Volunteers

Mary Antoine  
Barbara Applebaum  
Anna Auler  
Cheryl Baker  
Dorothea Barker  
Barbara Barkley  
Catherine Barnes  
Sheila Beck  
Stephanie Beckman  
Grace Bell  
Janice Billings  
Henry Bond  
Susan Bones  
Susan Borkovich  
Jim Brace  
Marty Brace  
Kathie Braddock  
John Brewer  
Jean Brown  
Ruth Celek  
Annette Churchill  
Irene Csanyi  
Donald Cummings  
Glenda Cummings  
Marita Davis  
Pauline Dinkins  
Doris Fauble  
Evelyn Feiger  
Jacquie Fields  
Mary Franks  
Jake Gecowetts  
Anne Guiberson  
Harry Griffin

Fred Hardy  
Becky Henderly  
Lynda Humbert  
John Jacobs  
Angela James  
Merle Grace Kearns  
Sue Lange  
Sheri Luedtke  
Helen Martaus  
Jerry Matheny  
John Miller  
Marilyn Miller  
Nancy Mooney  
Phyllis Morton  
Sharon Musch  
Nancy Myerholtz  
Katie O'Neil  
Deborah Podgurski  
Janice Richardson  
Tanya Ruble  
Cheryl Seigley  
Marilyn Shaffer  
Dollie Smith  
Sandi Sparks  
John Stevenson  
Janet Tadsen  
Cathy Taylor  
Jennifer Wagner  
Vicki Whitted  
Donald Williams  
Patricia Williams



Jean\* came to the Family Justice Center having survived both domestic abuse and cancer. Alone with five kids, she had lost her job due to the trauma of the abuse, her divorce, lack of affordable housing, and health issues. Legal Aid's regional domestic violence coordinator connected Jean to a couple who were involved in local faith-based initiatives. The couple adopted Jean and her children and worked on their behalf to find them a home. Together, area churches provided a farmhouse rent-free and paid the utilities until Jean could find a job and get her finances in order. In addition, the churches provided all of the things needed to make the farmhouse a home, including furniture, appliances, towels, bedding, kitchen equipment, and a pantry stocked with food, and they helped Jean get a car. Jean continued to work with her Legal Aid attorney to finalize her divorce and child custody and support issues. Eight months later her divorce was final and she was awarded custody of her children. Jean found a full time job that paid a living wage and benefits. She found affordable housing for her family and affordable child care for her children. Jean is a great example of how faith based initiatives working with Legal Aid can help with the necessary tools to become self reliant and to live successfully free of abuse and fear.

*\* not client's real name*



## Partners in Equal Access to Justice

Legal aid has maintained long standing partnerships with pro bono legal services programs, including the Dayton/Miami Valley Volunteer Lawyers 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 \$147,000 to the Dayton/Miami Valley 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

Karen R. Adams  
Jaime L. Agnew  
William R. Ahern  
Joseph F. Albrechta  
William Sherman Alge  
Charles F. Allbery  
Stephanie Allen  
Jeffrey L. Amick  
Kathy Amon  
Marc Amos  
Candace Anderson  
Barbara J. Ansted  
Stephen R. Archer  
James S. Armstrong  
W. David Arnold  
Matthew R. Arntz  
Scott A. Ashelman  
Kevin W. Attkisson

James E. August  
Charlita Awosika  
Stephen J. Axtell  
Thomas Baggott  
Dennis L. Bailey  
John Baird  
Joseph E. Balmer  
Mark J. Bamberger  
Shannon Bartels  
Ralph A. Bauer  
Rick Baum  
Patti Baumgartner-  
Novak  
Jane E. Beach  
Phillip L. Beard  
Jesse B. Beasley  
Suzanne Beck  
Jonathon L. Beck

Ann Beck  
Jennifer Behrendt  
Sharon Beightol  
David Beitzel  
Paul Belazis  
Frank L. Benham  
John F. Bennett  
Donald S. Bennett  
Kelly Bennington  
Veronica N. Bennu  
Daniel A. Bensman  
Elaine S. Bernstein  
Thomas Berry  
Stephen Betts  
Martin A. Beyer  
Alan A. Biegel  
Irvin G. Bieser  
Rebecca Bingham

R Scott Blackburn  
Robert Blackwell  
April R. Blair  
C. William Blair  
Kara M. Blake  
Rodney R. Blake  
Jessica Blakewood  
Robert M. Blue  
James L. Blunt, II  
L Michael Bly  
Nicole M. Boals  
Sharon Bockelman  
John D. Bodin  
Jerome B. Bohman  
Michael F. Boller  
Jacqueline M. Boney  
Michael R. Booher  
James E. Borland  
Michael R. Botros  
Richard A. Boucher  
Carolyn Bowe  
Kevin Braig  
Dwight D. Brannon  
Douglas Brannon  
Scott Braum  
Randall Breaden  
Donald Brezine  
James Bruce Brimley  
C. Wesley Bristley  
Jennifer L. Brogan  
Adrienne D. Brooks  
Phillip Browarsky  
Garth Brown  
Jennifer N. Brown  
Charles Brown  
Christopher M. Brown  
Sarah Brown  
Matthew D. Bruder  
Jeff Brumbaugh  
Ryan Brunk  
Stephen Bruns  
Joseph P. Buchanan  
Andrew R. Bucher  
Sharon Buck  
Michael Buckwalter

Thomas J. Buecker  
Ronald L. Burdge  
Michael J. Burdge  
Lawrence T. Burick  
Brian Burke  
Chad E. Burton  
Melinda Burton  
David Busler  
Jim Butler  
Mariah Butler  
John R. Butz  
Allen Cabral  
Esteban R. Callejas  
James L. Caplinger  
Richard L. Carr, Jr.  
Sarah B. Carter  
Jack Carter  
James D. Caruso  
Michael Cassady  
Robert D. Castor  
Mary Beth Caudill  
John F. Cayton  
Brad A. Chalker  
F. Stephen Chamberlain  
John C. Chambers  
Susan Chema  
James Childress  
James J. Chrisman  
Joseph Chrisman  
Richard A. Ciambrone  
Christopher D. Clark  
William Clark  
Jan A. Clark  
Kristi L. Clark  
Nathan Clinard  
J Timothy Cline  
John M. Cloud  
John E. Clough  
Brandon A. Coate  
Wanda Coats  
Thomas R. Cochran  
Angie Colchin  
Gwen Coles  
Daniel Collette  
Michael T. Columbus

Brooks A. Compton  
Christopher Conard  
Karen Connelly  
W Michael Conway  
Janet K. Cooper  
Lauri Cooper  
Brent Copeland  
Byron Corley  
Edward Corley  
John Cotner  
Christopher F. Cowan  
Ray A. Cox  
David J. Coyle  
Brent A. Crane  
Nicholas Cron  
Thomas P. Croskey  
F Ann Crossman  
Robroy Crow  
Kyle Alison Cubbon  
Stuart F. Cubbon  
Roger Culbert  
David Cusack  
Linda Cushman  
R. Casey Daganhardt  
Douglas A. Daley  
Rudolph A. D'Amico  
Rima Davidson  
Scott S. Davies  
Steven J. Davis  
Christopher A. Deal  
Steven O. Dean  
Michael Deffet  
Joyce M. Deitering  
Michelle DeMasi  
Kent Depoorter  
Sylvie J. Derrien  
Teresa Dewey Bacho  
Barbara Ann Dibble  
Matthew Diccio  
Larry Dilabbio  
Lynette P. Dinkler  
Mary A. Ditmer  
David H. Dokko  
John R. Doll  
Peter J. Donahue



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**Campaign  
for the  
Center  
for  
Equal Justice**

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*“More than just  
a building”*





## Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice

LAWO and ABLE staff have been working from the Center for Equal Justice since late April thanks to the dedication and generosity of the Campaign Cabinet, our donors, the boards of trustees and other volunteer leaders and staff.

For more than 50 years, ABLE and LAWO have been changing the lives of our community's most vulnerable residents. Those listed here have personally played a role in ensuring that future generations will benefit from the legacy of these two law firms and the Center for Equal Justice.

Our goal of making the Center for Equal Justice "more than just a building" has already come to fruition with a number of activities and events planned for clients, attorneys, and other groups who share our mission and vision. Plans are under way to coordinate or participate in events that will provide hands-on assistance to people in our community challenged by loss of income, foreclosure, lack of health care, limited access to benefits, and many other issues low-income and disadvantaged people face every day.

If you haven't already, we hope you will take an opportunity to visit the Center for Equal Justice – and that you will come back often. We appreciate the confidence and support you have shown us as law firms for the poor. We know you will take great pride in the Center for Equal Justice and our many accomplishments for years to come.

### How we did it.

Knowing the importance of maintaining our long-term goals of sustainability and of growing our capacity to help more people, LAWO and ABLE began their first ever capital campaign in 2007 – the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice.

With plans in hand and the focus on being "more than just a building," we started by bringing together a group of dedicated attorneys and community members to be the leaders of the Campaign. Once the Campaign officially kicked off, a number of unprecedented events occurred:

- The legal community rallied behind the efforts of their colleagues, resulting in large firms and small firms, as well as individual attorneys, stepping forward with donations of close to \$3 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 local foundation and community gifts. The Landman-Goldman Foundation, The LaValley Foundation, Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation, France Stone Foundation, R.A. Stranahan Jr. Charitable Trust, and the Walter E. Terhune Memorial Fund followed with significant supporting gifts.
- Together, the boards of trustees and staff of LAWO and ABLE pledged 100 percent support to the Campaign, contributing nearly \$200,000.
- Key community volunteers worked together with local legislators and the Governor to secure a capital budget appropriation of \$1 million – making the Center for Equal Justice a priority at the State level.
- Senator Sherrod Brown worked relentlessly to ensure that an appropriation of \$712,500 for the Center for Equal Justice was included in the Omnibus Appropriation Bill approved by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama.
- The Kresge Foundation, one of the nation's largest and most prestigious foundations, with a very rigorous and competitive application process, awarded the Campaign a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$870,000 – more than double the \$400,000 that was requested. This significant gift provided the added incentive needed to complete the Campaign.
- With several hundred thousand dollars left to raise, we successfully launched a "Help Meet the Kresge Challenge" initiative that took us through the end of the Campaign and allowed us to claim the \$870,000 Kresge award.

As a result, of these efforts and those of numerous other individuals, the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice reached its \$6.1 million goal. We are proud of the fact that the lawyers in our community took the lead to make the Center for Equal Justice a reality, contributing nearly \$3 million to the Center for Equal Justice — an unprecedented show of support and generosity.

Thank you to all those who assisted LAWO and ABLE in our efforts to improve the delivery of our services, increase the numbers of those whom we help, and create a new Center for Equal Justice. We share a proud history of partnership with the communities we serve – and we look forward to continuing our work with you from the Center for Equal Justice.

### **Leadership of the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice**

Cabinet members of the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice gave close to three years of significant time and energy to this important cause. Without their leadership, the Center for Equal Justice would not be a reality. LAWO and ABLE are proud to have been partners with these men and women who understand and believe in our missions.

#### **Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice Cabinet Members**

R. Jeffrey Bixler  
David A. Ward  
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**2008 Miami Valley  
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Equal Justice**

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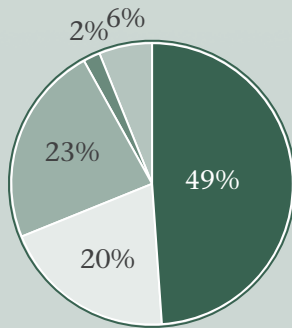
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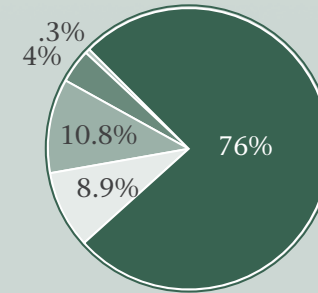
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## ABLE and LAWO 2008 Operating Revenue and Expenditures



### Support and Revenue

■ Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) .....	\$6,312,782
□ Legal Services Corporation (LSC) [LAWO only] .....	\$2,567,299
■ Other grants and contracts .....	\$3,036,200
■ Fundraising/special events .....	\$215,343
■ Miscellaneous interest and other income.....	\$726,309
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$12,857,933



### Expenses and Expenditures

■ Compensation and benefits .....	\$10,413,968
□ Contract services .....	\$1,216,401
■ Operating costs .....	\$1,486,481
■ Travel, support, and training .....	\$561,256
■ Miscellaneous .....	\$50,513
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$13,728,619

2008 Operating Deficit (870,686)

Excludes Center for Equal Justice building capital campaign and building expenditures. This report is related to ABLE and LAWO's operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.



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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**

#### **Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio**

Supports Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: advocating for residents of nursing homes, adult care facilities, and consumers receiving in-home care services

#### **Equal Justice Works**

Support for Attorney Fellows working in the areas of immigration and foreclosure prevention

#### **Internal Revenue Service**

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

#### **NeighborWorks**

Foreclosure mediation program

#### **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

#### **Toledo Community Foundation**

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank pilot project

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

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank pilot project

### **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 Ashland, 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 City of 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

#### **Findlay-Hancock County Bar Association**

Support for staffing of the Findlay satellite office

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

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance

#### **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 and provides services to seniors and persons with disabilities

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

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance

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

Legal assistance to frail elderly residents and home mortgage foreclosure assistance



**Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services**

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

**Sandusky Municipal Court**

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents

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

Legal assistance to residents eligible for county assistance

**Springfield Foundation**

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

**Toledo Municipal Court**

Civil Legal Assistance Services 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 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 County**

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County

**LAWO via ABLÉ**

**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 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 ABLÉ 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 ABLÉ and LAWO area-wide services, Legal Aid Line, and the migrant program as well as support for the ABLÉ Immigrant Detention Project and the Save the Dream foreclosure prevention project through a competitive discretionary grant process.

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