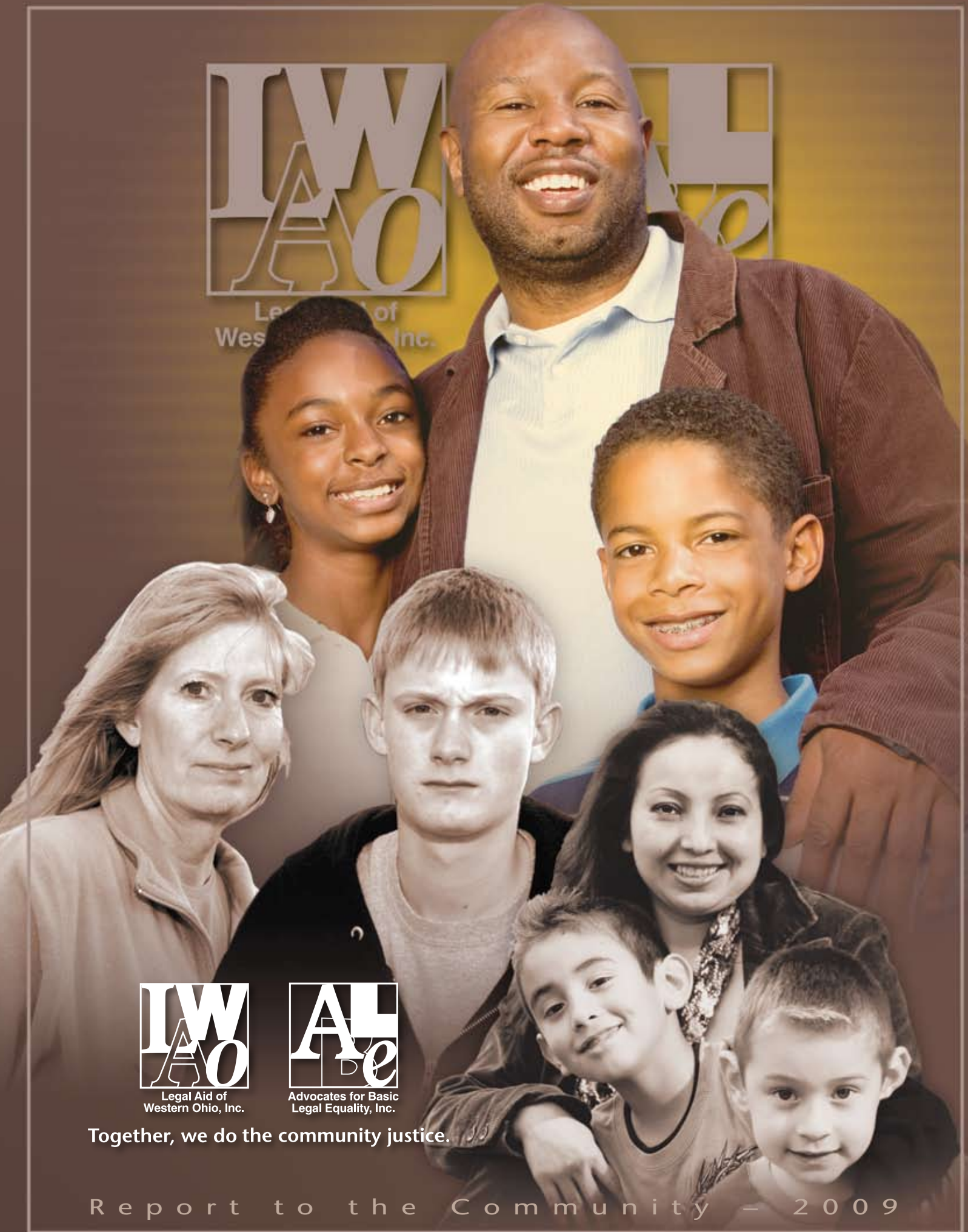




Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.

Together, we do the community justice.

Report to the Community - 2009

ABLE and LAWO

Together, we do the community justice.

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) are non-profit regional law firms that provide high quality legal assistance in civil matters to help eligible low-income individuals and groups in western Ohio achieve self reliance, and equal justice and economic opportunity.

Combined, ABLE and LAWO are the largest providers of free, civil legal services in Ohio. Our promise: to continue to respond effectively to the growing demand for legal services from low-income people regardless of location, language, or disability.

The serious decline in our area's economy has resulted in a significant increase in the number of families and individuals who are poor and need the assistance of legal aid. Attorneys and other advocates at Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) are helping people who never before thought they would need legal assistance.

Countless applicants for legal aid assistance are newly unemployed and are seeking assistance with foreclosure and debt collection, health care, and government benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare, cash assistance and food stamps. Many of these services are needed for the first time ever by families who recently were considered middle-income. Add all of these people and their families to the more than 350,000 people from our 32-county service area who are already living at or below the poverty level, and you begin to see the magnitude of the crisis we are facing in northwest and west central Ohio – and throughout the country.

Now more than ever, legal assistance is a critical resource for people in crisis. Many of the state and federal programs that support the health and welfare of people and communities have been reduced, or in some cases eliminated. In January 2010, *The New York Times* reported that food stamps are the only source of income for six million Americans. According to the report, these same people describe themselves as unemployed and receiving no cash aid – no welfare, no unemployment insurance, and no pensions, child support, or disability pay.

Our law firms are uniquely situated to help alleviate some of the harshest effects of the economic decline. Together, ABLE and LAWO are working to ensure that thousands of those in crisis will return to safe, productive lives as quickly as possible.

In spite of the strains on our own budgets, LAWO and ABLE's boards of trustees, attorneys, other advocates, and staff continue to work diligently to alleviate 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 civil legal services to our clients strengthens our resolve to secure justice for all. In the face of the economic misfortune facing so many of our neighbors, ABLE and LAWO have marshaled our strengths and broadened our focus, bringing stability, safety, health, and dignity to the communities we serve and the individuals and families who live in them.

2009 Combined Record of Service

29,805 Requests for help
24,595 Cases worked on
20,247 Open cases
20,962 Closed cases
62,961 Persons helped

\$12,047,109.62 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.

LAWO: 2009 Significant Accomplishments and Advocacy

LAWO Celebrates 10 Years of Providing Services

For the past 10 years, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO) has been a survival lifeline to thousands of financially struggling individuals and families, including women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need assistance in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

LAWO, funded by the Legal Services Corporation, knows first hand that many of the people are those most in need. While working to preserve homes and family stability through foreclosure and unlawful eviction work, LAWO receives more than 600 phone calls and online applications each day from throughout its 32-county service area related to a lack of financial resources, employment, healthcare, child custody, and public benefits. These are issues faced by everyone's neighbors, friends, and often their relatives.

Medical-Legal Partnership for Children: Raising the Bar on Children's Health

The Medical Legal Partnership for Children Toledo (MLPC) celebrated two years of bringing law and medicine together for the benefit of patients and families in northwest Ohio. MLPC is a unique program in which doctors and lawyers work together to provide legal services to pediatric patients and their families on a broad range of issues that affect a child's health and wellbeing. Patients served by the MLPC are the most vulnerable in our community – children living in poverty. With more than 800 referrals since its inception in 2007, the MLPC has allowed medical personnel to experience firsthand the benefits that onsite legal assistance can provide to patients. By providing access to legal services through a trusted environment, such as a medical clinic, the MLPC reaches families who often do not realize they have legal rights or know how to access an attorney. The MLPC is a collaborative partnership among LAWO, ABLE, Mercy Children's Hospital and Mercy Family Care center, and University Pediatrics at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

Private Attorney Involvement

LAWO's Private Attorney Involvement Project began operating monthly community legal clinics in Findlay and Hancock County. Working with LAWO attorneys, the clinics are coordinated and staffed by volunteer attorneys and paralegals from the Marathon Petroleum Corporation legal department as part of the Joe Simmons Pro Bono Project. The project has developed a model to prepare and support corporate pro bono attorneys for expanded availability in underserved rural counties. The project targets three areas of need: private landlord/tenant cases, probate matters, and advance directives.

Prisoner Reentry Project

The Prisoner Reentry Project provides civil legal assistance for individuals who are incarcerated or living with the effects of incarceration after release. LAWO has continued to be a lead agency in Lucas County for this multi-agency coalition, targeting housing issues and barriers to employment. In 2009, the project expanded to include the Dayton area where a series of first-time reentry clinics were conducted. The clinics matched recently released prisoners with volunteer attorneys trained to help resolve problems with housing, child support, driver's license reinstatements, and other civil legal problems that may increase their risk of returning to prison.

LAWO Advocacy

- LAWO attorneys, at the invitation of state, county and federal officials, advocated in collaboration with a wide variety of community organizations supporting the concept of a temporary foreclosure moratorium to stem the tide of home losses. Even though a moratorium has yet to be implemented, these efforts garnered wide media attention and helped raise public awareness of the issues behind Ohio's foreclosure crisis.
- LAWO advocates participated in public rulemaking activities to encourage Social Security to take immediate steps to reduce the time it takes to obtain a disability hearing before an administrative law judge. Many disabled clients routinely wait two or more years for a hearing. LAWO advocates submitted suggestions for several changes in how hearings are scheduled and tracked to make administrative law judges more accountable for inexplicably long delays.

LAWO Advocacy continued ...

- LAWO attorneys testified in favor of enhanced protections for domestic violence victims, working closely with community partners from the Family Justice Center project to coordinate testimony. House Bill 167 provides stronger protections for domestic violence victims who face discrimination from landlords or employers following episodes of abuse
- LAWO advocates submitted public comments to the State Department of Job and Family Services, urging stronger requirements for the state to assist low-income Medicaid applicants who have difficulty obtaining birth certificates or other proof of citizenship.

ABLE: 2009 Significant Accomplishments and Advocacy

40 Years of Providing Access to Justice

ABLE celebrated 40 years of providing high quality legal services to the poor in 2009. Established in 1969 by a group of local attorneys who were looking to develop a program that would provide affirmative advocacy on behalf of the poor through civil rights and law reform work, ABLE is now a national model for legal services programs across the country. The vision of ABLE's founders was to create a delivery system that would address the unmet legal needs of the poor – a vision that has continued to grow throughout our existence. ABLE has grown considerably over the past 40 years, including the addition of its partner law firm, LAWO, as well as the consolidation of five other legal services programs in 2004 and 2005. Combined, the organizations have secured millions of dollars in federal, state, and private funding to further their work with clients in the areas of housing discrimination, homelessness prevention, domestic violence, government benefits, education reform, family law, and migrant farmworker rights.

Mobile Benefit Bank

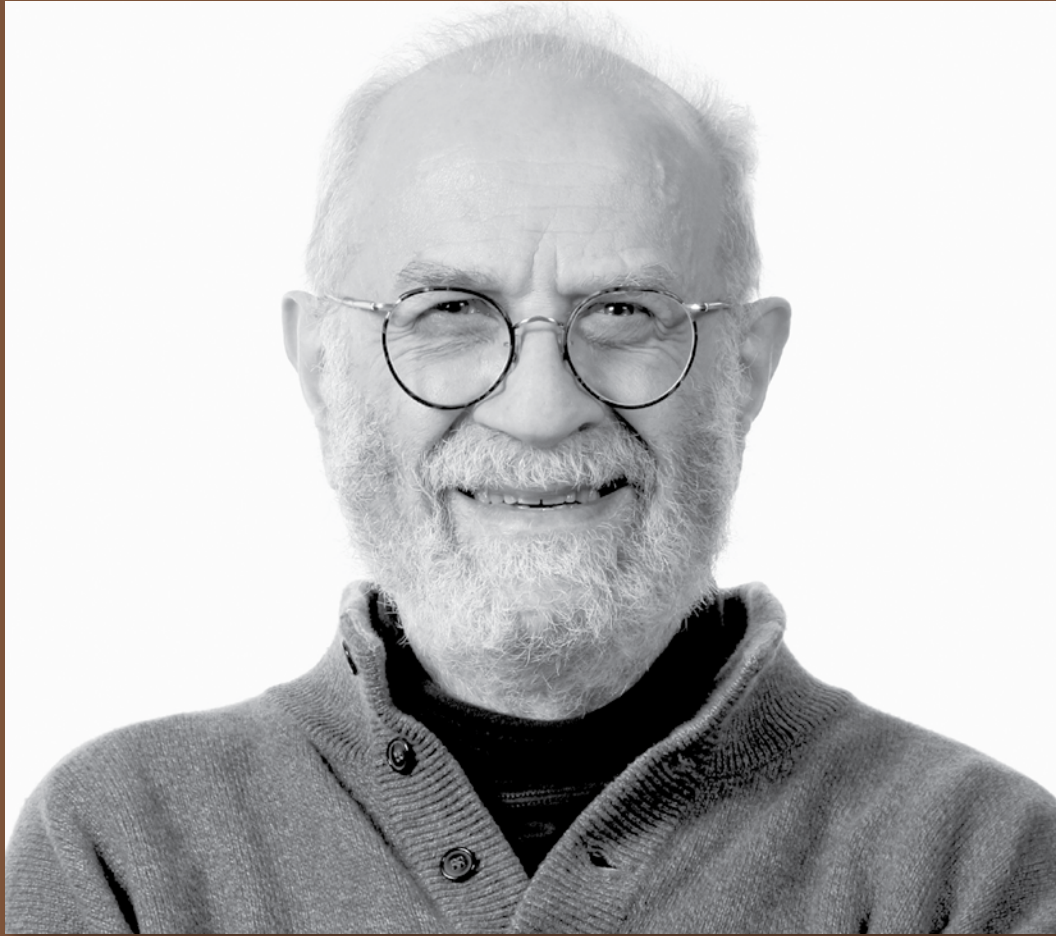
Navigating the public benefits system can be complicated and challenging. In March 2009, ABLE initiated a Mobile Benefit Bank to help people have better access to these benefits at this difficult time. Mobile Benefit Bank staff are able to provide easy access to public benefits for low- and moderate-income people. Mobile Benefit Bank staff travel with laptops, printers, cell phones, and mobile Internet access to events and activities throughout Lucas County.

Applicants are screened immediately to determine their eligibility for benefits, including food stamps, cash assistance, home energy assistance, prescription and other medical assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and more. In addition, a unique feature of the Mobile Benefit Bank is the ability to complete a legal assessment of each applicant in order to determine if there is a need for ongoing legal assistance. By the end of 2009, 471 clients were enrolled in assistance programs, benefiting 985 household members. Along with assisting these clients with utility, prescription, and healthcare benefits, 415 individuals were found eligible for a total of \$613,560 in supplemental nutrition benefits. The Mobile Benefit Bank is supported in part by ABLE, LAWO, the United Way of Greater Toledo, the Toledo Community Foundation, and the Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services.

ABLE Advocacy

- In 2009, ABLE joined as co-counsel with the Ohio Legal Rights Service in a federal court class action complaint against the State of Ohio seeking to force compliance with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) provisions of the Medicaid Program. ABLE represents several named plaintiffs who are Medicaid eligible children under the age of 21 who have been denied access to services they need, and are entitled to, under the federal Medicaid program known as EPSDT. The EPSDT program is designed to discover problems early through a screening component and to provide medically necessary treatment to correct or improve conditions, such as autism, cerebral palsy, myopia, diabetes, and other physical and mental health conditions, discovered through the screens. Specifically, Ohio is required to: 1) provide or arrange for the provision of screening services; 2) arrange for corrective treatment within a reasonable time; and 3) actively seek out and inform eligible individuals of the screening and treatments available under EPSDT and the means for obtaining these services. The complaint alleges that Ohio has failed to implement these federal Medicaid requirements and seeks to require the State to meet the medical needs of these children.

continued ...



James lived in an apartment complex with approximately 65 other seniors and individuals with disabilities. He belonged to the residents' association who discovered that he and his fellow residents have, for a number of years, been exposed to severe mold growth in numerous areas of the complex, including in individual units. In addition, a report was issued by a certified mold inspector stating that the conditions pose a serious health risk to the elderly and disabled residents. The residents' association retained Legal Aid to pursue remedies to the mold situation with the building management. After initial attempts at seeking information regarding clean up were unsuccessful, the Legal Aid attorneys initiated a demand that efforts to clear out the mold begin immediately. Due to a lack of response from the owner, and in light of the substantial risk the mold presented to the health of James and the other residents, Legal Aid filed a complaint for abatement of public nuisance. The owner then entered into mediation with Legal Aid and agreed to a settlement that required the apartment management to make structural repairs to the building that will address the moisture and mold problems. With the support of the residents' association, the owner applied for and received additional federal funding to make energy efficient improvement to the building, including structural repair, energy savings improvements, and an integrated pest management plan for the building. As work begins, James looks forward to living in his apartment without fear of illness or contamination.



Joanie is a seventy-seven-year-old who suffers from several disabilities. She had co-signed for her son's car loan and was now being sued for a \$5,900 deficiency after the car was repossessed and sold. Joanie, who is almost completely blind, had been misled by the car dealer regarding the terms of the loan when she agreed to be a co-signer. When she came to Legal Aid, her attorney filed a motion with the court that stated the car dealer's complaint had not provided sufficient documentation of the debt. The court ruled against Joanie and entered a judgment against her on the same day. Joanie's attorney filed an appeal and a motion stating that what the court did was not allowed under Ohio law. During the appeal, the parties settled the case, the judgement was vacated, and the case was dismissed. Thanks to her Legal Aid attorney, Joanie will never have to worry about being held responsible for her son's debt.

ABLE Advocacy continued ...

- During the 2009 growing season, ABLE advocates began hearing from Hispanic farmworkers that they were being detained without cause and questioned about their immigration status by U.S. Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement. ABLE investigated the claims and learned of an increase in profiling of Hispanics that correlated with the opening of a U.S. Border Patrol office in the area. This profiling is being done even though Ohio local law enforcement authorities have no jurisdiction regarding the enforcement of the civil provisions of federal immigration law. These seizures and interrogations have taken place in gas stations, retail establishments, at soccer games, and in other public settings and have caused fear and concern in Hispanic communities. With numerous individual clients, ABLE filed a class action lawsuit alleging that these profiling activities violate the Fourth Amendment and the due process and equal protection rights of these individuals. Also joined as organizational plaintiffs on behalf of their members are the Ohio Immigrant Worker Project and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. ABLE is co-counseling the case with the Sandusky-based law firm of Murray & Murray.
- ABLE continues to represent a community group that has organized to address a serious environmental contamination in the McCook Field neighborhood in Dayton. ABLE advocates work with the community group, Behr VOC Area Leaders, or BVOCAL, in efforts to have a groundwater plume of TCE, a volatile organic compound, tested and cleaned up and to protect the health of the neighborhood residents. The TCE is migrating into homes and businesses through a process called vapor intrusion. ABLE has been successful in obtaining more extensive testing and ventilation for homes in the affected area and also have been addressing the lack of accurate appraisals in this neighborhood by the County. The site has been listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund list and the U.S. EPA continues involvement in the testing of indoor air TCE levels. ABLE will continue to assist BVOCAL in the superfund process.

ABLE and LAWOW Community & Client Advocacy Day

In October 2009, LAWOW and ABLE held their first Community & Client Advocacy Day at the new Center for Equal Justice in downtown Toledo, bringing clients together with important community resources. Attorneys, lay advocates, and other service agencies covering a wide range of social services participated in the day. Throughout the day clinics and educational events were held in order to work with low-income individuals who have recurring legal and economic problems, and to highlight available resources and solutions to address those problems. Participating human services and government agencies provided assistance with completing paperwork, provided information, and held seminars on managing debt and preventing foreclosures.

Legal Aid Line: Client Access Made Easy

Legal Aid Line, ABLE and LAWOW's intake, advice, and referral services program handled more than 36,000 requests for help in 2009. This number includes 10,248 web applications – 4,146 or 40 percent of which originated in our urban counties and 6,102 or 60 percent of which originated in our rural counties. Providing access to our services through a web-based application process helps break down the geographic barriers to accessing legal services for individuals who do not live close to a legal aid office. It also allows a point of access for people who may not be able to apply for assistance by telephone during traditional business hours.

In addition, LAWOW and ABLE launched a new online application through Legal Aid Line that utilizes an easy, web-based interview process to facilitate access to legal services. The applicant, guided by an avatar, completes the application process through a series of user friendly interview steps. At the conclusion of the interview, the applicant receives county-specific resource information to provide assistance while the applicant is waiting to hear from Legal Aid Line. The new application process is designed to be navigable by low literacy users and is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week at www.legalaidline.org. The new application process is supported by a TIG grant awarded to LAWOW from the Legal Services Corporation.

continued ...

ABLE and LAWO continued ...

Save a Home, Save a Family: Foreclosure Defense Work

ABLE and LAWO have taken a leadership role among a number of housing programs and private bar associations to identify areas for collaboration and cooperation. In 2009, Legal Aid Line received 1,671 foreclosure-related calls for assistance, a 63.6 percent increase compared to 2008. As part of our Save a Home, Save a Family project, we are now averaging more than 100 foreclosure applications each month. Our advocates have joined with other statewide efforts to address the foreclosure crisis affecting thousands of Ohioans. In order to help people remain in their homes, we increased 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. We have worked with the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program and the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project to train and support nearly 300 pro bono attorneys who have expressed a willingness to handle foreclosure defense cases. In addition, several attorneys participated in a statewide foreclosure defense committee that completed a model equity defense brief in the spring of 2009. Sections from the brief have been used by legal aid staff and pro bono attorneys to argue against summary judgment motions filed by lenders in cases across the state.

Working Together on Behalf of Children

ABLE and LAWO filed a class administrative complaint with the Ohio Department of Education alleging that a local school system was in willful non-compliance with the Child Find provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). The complaint described the stories of seven students within the school system who had been diagnosed with disabilities but whom the school system had failed to identify as students with disabilities and, even when requests were made by parents and counselors, failed to evaluate these students and provide services required under IDEIA. The complaint requested that the Department of Education conduct a review of school records and order compliance with IDEIA. The Department of Education (DEA), in July 2009, found that the school system was in fact failing to comply with its responsibilities under federal law to identify and serve these children in need. The DEA issued an extensive order setting forth the steps to be taken by the school district to come into compliance.

Stimulus Funding: Furthering Capacity during a Tough Economy

Exploring every funding opportunity possible to meet the growing demand for services, both LAWO and ABLE applied for a number of stimulus grants and contracts on the federal, state, and local levels. Five stimulus contracts for domestic violence work were secured, enabling the firms to provide direct services to clients, support collaborative efforts with domestic violence service providers (i.e., shelters, courts), and provide training for domestic violence advocates and service providers. Five stimulus fund contracts for HPRP – Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program – allowed for the provision of direct services to clients with “rental” housing issues, such as evictions and landlord tenant disputes. In addition, the AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows, Equal Justice Works/Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF) provided funding for five experienced attorneys placed in legal aid programs throughout Ohio (one at ABLE) who focused their work on foreclosure prevention. Funding was also secured for the Legal Aid Capacity Program, placing 15 non-attorney AmeriCorps members at legal aid programs throughout Ohio. ABLE is the administrator of this non-renewable grant.

This new funding came at a crucial time, helping our law firms assist people in great need.



At 27 years old, Crystal wanted a better future for her three young boys and knew she needed to get a job. She was discouraged because she had recently been turned down for a job due to a prior criminal record, despite the fact that she had never been convicted. Knowing her record would stop her from getting work, she followed a friend's advice and called Legal Aid. Her attorney filed a motion to expunge her record with the court. The motion was granted and Crystal will no longer have to worry about her criminal record appearing when a potential employer or landlord conducts criminal background checks.



"I am grateful that organizations like Legal Aid are available to help someone like me turn being a victim into being a survivor. I hope my story will inspire others to recognize sooner what is happening so they can change their circumstances before it is too late. Without Legal Aid, it may have been too late for me."

For Barb and her family, legal aid was a lifeline. Looking back, Barb realized that she was in a situation that she never thought could happen to her – she was being physically and mentally abused by her husband and their life together was rapidly dissolving. Not knowing what to do or where to turn, Barb took a friend's advice and called Legal Aid. Barb's legal aid attorney filed for a Civil Protection Order and began assisting her with divorce proceedings. That still did not stop her husband from holding Barb hostage at gunpoint, while the media made public their situation. Barb's attorney was very supportive, encouraging her to stay strong every step of the way as she navigated the legal proceedings necessary in order to move on with her life. Barb is now divorced and her ex-husband is in jail facing a criminal trial that will keep him there for some time.

Making a Difference

Individual volunteers made a big difference in the lives of those needing civil legal assistance – and they expand our capacity to help more people. The following individuals generously contributed their time and talent to assist us in providing equal access to justice. They volunteered as legal interns, externs, paralegals, attorneys, and in other professional settings.

Kathleen Batliner, University of Toledo College of Law
Steve Beiding, University of Toledo College of Law
Samuel Benham, Drake University Law School
Sara Best, Best People Solutions
Jared Brown, University of Toledo College of Law
Russell Courtney, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Shalonda Cross, *volunteered post-graduation
Sarah Driftmyer, University of Toledo College of Law
Janet Fleck, University of Cincinnati
Lisa Gardner, *volunteered post-graduation
David Gasser, Boston College Law School
Chad Gilson, University of Dayton School of Law
Connie Graham, Sinclair Community College
Kristopher K. Gray, University of Toledo College of Law
Zachary Hillyer, University of Toledo College of Law
Eli Jacobs, Harvard University
Eric Johnson, University of Toledo College of Law
Casey Krill, University of Dayton School of Law
CeCe Lamoreau, University of Toledo College of Law
Robert Lemons, University of Dayton School of Law
Rebecca Martin, Stautzenberger College
Nikki Mason, University of Dayton School of Law
Priya McDonald, University of Toledo College of Law
Angelita Menchaca, Stautzenberger College
Reejade Mitchell, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Maggie Mulcrone, University of Michigan School of Law
Theodore Nichol, St. Lawrence University
Matthew Parker, University of Toledo College of Law
John Powers, University of Toledo College of Law
Shannon Richards, Stautzenberger College
Madyson Roe, Central State University
Maria Saliba, University of Dayton School of Law
Sarah Sanderson, University of Cincinnati School of Law
Robyn Schiff, University of Dayton School of Law
Leslie Schoup, University of Toledo College of Law
Nicholas Seger, University of Toledo College of Law
Philip Snyder, University of Dayton School of Law
Norah Softic, University of Cincinnati
Allma-Tadema Spencer, Ave Maria School of Law
Kelly Sredeja, University of Toledo -
College of Health Science and Human Service
Brian Sullivan, University of Dayton School of Law
Robert Switzer, University of Toledo College of Law
Brian Vennekotter, University of Toledo College of Law
Thomas Visone, University of Dayton School of Law
Rayna Zacharias, University of Toledo College of Law

Nursing Home Advocacy: Volunteers Expand Service Capacity

Volunteer Ombudsmen expand ABLÉ's capacity to address the needs of long term care residents, especially those in nursing homes. Working under the supervision of ombudsman staff, 77 volunteer ombudsmen advocated for residents of long-term care facilities (nursing homes, residential care homes and assisted living residences). They made frequent and unannounced visits to long-term care facilities, responded to resident complaints, reported serious problems, and provided residents and their families with information. Most important, they are committed to promoting and protecting the right of each resident to a safe and secure environment. Volunteer ombudsman contributed 2,905 hours handling complaints, providing advocacy, and visiting clients.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman/ Nursing Home Advocacy Volunteers

Dave Allman	Marcy Gregory
Mary Antoine	Harry Griffin
Stephanie Antoun	Anne Guiberson
Linda Apling	Carl Hamilton
Barbara Applebaum	Judy Hanus
Anna Auler	Fred Hardy
Grace Bell	Rebecca Henderly
Cheryl Baker	Lynda Humbert
Dorothea Barker	John Jacobs
Barbara Barkley	Angela James
Catherine Barnes	Merle Kearns
Sheila Beck	Sue Lange
Stephanie Beckman	Rita Lessestin
John Bombrys	Sheri Luedtke
Henry Bond	Helen Martaus
Susan Bones	Jerry Matheny
Susan Borkovich	John Miller
Jim Brace	Marilyn Miller
Marty Brace	Nancy Mooney
Kathie Braddock	Phyllis Morton
John Brewer	Sharon Musch
Jean Brown	Nancy Myerholtz
Ruth Celek	Katie O'Neil
Annette Churchill	Patricia Paul
Andrew Connors	Janice Richardson
Irene Csanyi	Tanya Ruble
Donald Cummings	Marilyn Shaffer
Glenda Cummings	Kelly Sradeja
Pauline Dinkins	Dollie Smith
Pat Elliott	Sandi Sparks
Carol Ely	John Stevenson
Doris Fauble	Nancy Stevenson
Evelyn Feiger	Brittany Tackett
Jacquie Fields	Janet Tadsen
Mary Franks	Cathy Taylor
Linda Gamber	Jennifer Wagner
Jake Gecowetts	Vicki Whitted
Howard Goldman	Patricia Williams
Yvette Green	

Partners in Equal Access to Justice

ABLE and LAWO have 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 by providing free legal assistance.

In addition, volunteer lawyers also participate in outreach programs, make community education presentations, and co-counsel cases with other volunteers and legal aid staff attorneys. LAWO is the major funder of pro bono programs in western Ohio. LAWO and ABLE also collaborated with these two programs on fundraising programs, community legal education programs, and volunteer lawyer recruitment.

An important benefit of pro bono work is the direct contribution an attorney can make to the principle of equal justice for all. In 2009, the following legal professionals in northwest and west central Ohio willingly and generously gave their time and expertise to those who could not otherwise afford an attorney. ABLE and LAWO applaud these women and men who agreed to give back to their community.

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
Jeanine Allender
Jeffrey L. Amick
Kathy Amon
Marc Amos
Candace Anderson
Barbara J. Ansted
Stephen R. Archer
Adam C. Armstrong
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
Rebecca Bailey
John Baird
Joseph E. Balmer
Mark J. Bamberger
Shannon Bartels

Robert B. Bartlett
Ralph A. Bauer
Rick Baum
Patti Baumgartner-
Novak
Jane E. Beach
Phillip L. Beard
Jesse B. Beasley
Ann Beck
Jonathon L. Beck
Suzanne Beck
Jennifer Behrendt
Sharon Beightol
David Beitzel
Paul Belazis
Barbara Belcher
Frank L. Benham
Donald S. Bennett
John F. 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
Douglas Brannon
Dwight D. Brannon
Scott Braum
Randall Breaden
Donald Brezine
James Bruce Brimley
C. Wesley Bristley
Jennifer L. Brogan
Adrienne D. Brooks

Phillip Browarsky
Charles Brown
Christopher M. Brown
Garth Brown
Jennifer N. Brown
Sarah Brown
Halli Brownfield
Matthew D. Bruder
Jeff Brumbaugh
Ryan Brunk
Stephen Bruns
Joseph P. Buchanan
Andrew R. Bucher
Sharon Buck
Michael Buckwalter
Thomas J. Buecker
Michael J. Burdge
Ronald L. 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.
Jack Carter
Robyn Carter
Sarah B. 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
Mark R. Chilson
James J. Chrisman
Joseph Chrisman
Richard A. Ciambrone
Christopher D. Clark
Jan A. Clark
Kristi L. Clark
William Clark
Renee Climmons
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
James Courter
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
Jamil G. Daoud
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

John D. Donaldson	John Filkins	Gerald E. Gunnoe	Ralph E. Heyman	Ronald D. Keener
Mark Donatelli	Theodore O. Finnarn	Robert W. Gurry	Greg Hickman	Rodney D. Keish
Richard Donenfeld	John A. Fischer	Michael E. Gutmann	William C. Hicks	Ralph F. Keister
Barbara Doseck	Dennis Fitzgerald	Alan Guy	John P. Hilgeman	James W. Kelleher
Daryl R. Double	Sanford Flack	Marlene Guynes	Steven Hill	Mary Ellen Kellow
Joseph A. Downing	James P. Fleisher	Christine M. Haaker	Jerome Hock	Robert Kelsey
Timothy S. Downs	Lynne M. Fleming	Vaseem S. Hadi	Louis I. Hoffman	Thomas W. Kendo, Jr.
Samuel E. Dowse	Canice J. Fogarty	Philip Evans Haffenden	Glen Hoffman	Ann Kentris Arthur
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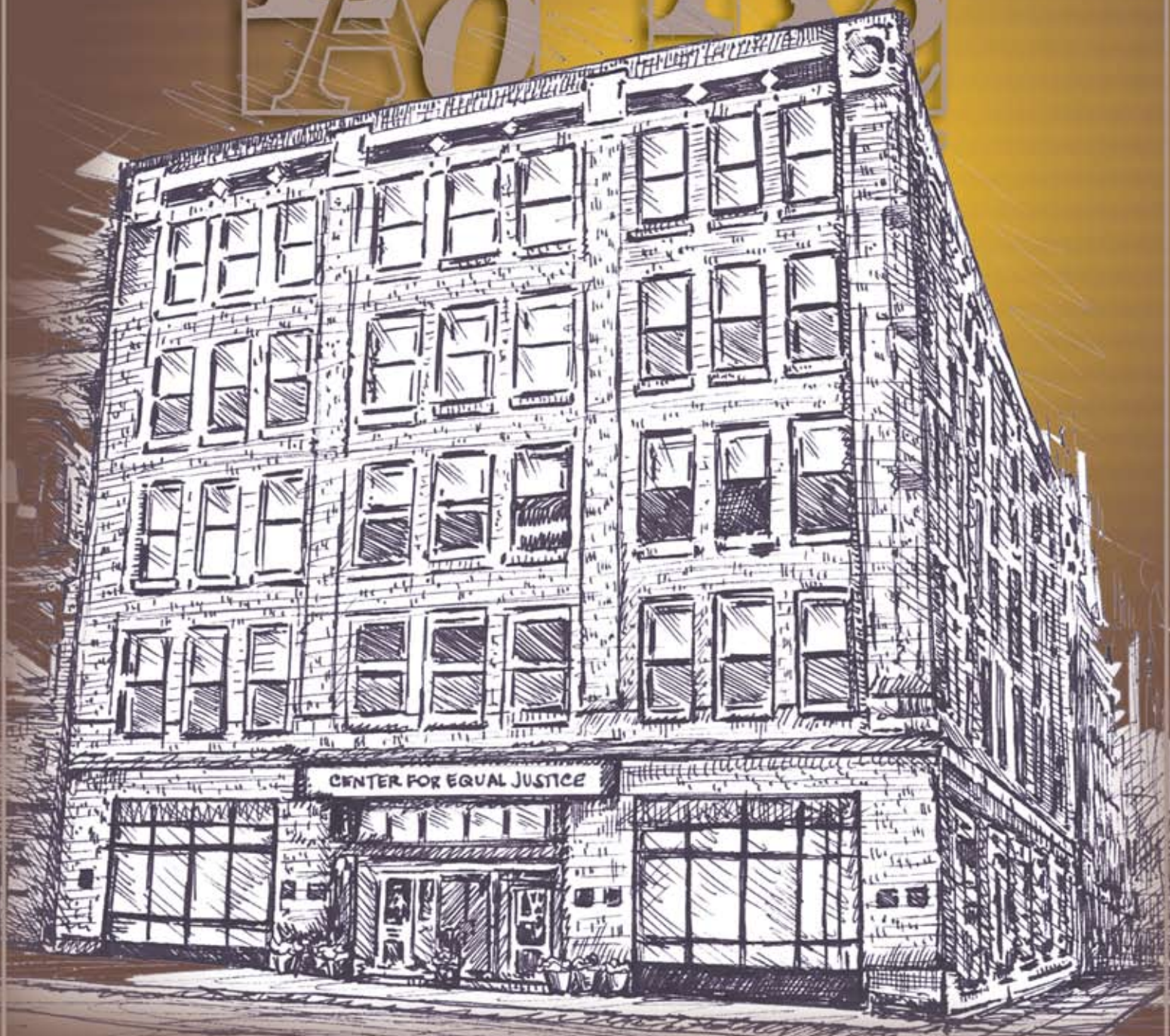


Charlie, 83 and retired, had been living on a fixed income for a number of years. Because his home mortgage had been adjusting upward every six months with increases in interest rates, Charlie was finding it difficult to keep up his payments. He contacted ABLE for assistance, and after investigating his situation, Charlie's attorney discovered that he was the victim of loan flipping and fraudulent practices by a mortgage broker and lender. The mortgage company had refinanced Charlie's mortgage twice in two years, resulting in a mortgage balance almost double the value of his home. He also had an option that resulted in interest accruing on the balance each month and monthly payments that would increase within a matter of years to an amount of principal and interest equaling more than 70 percent of his gross fixed monthly income. Charlie had been charged more than \$5,000 in fees for this refinance. ABLE filed suit against the broker and the lender, alleging violations of a number of laws. After defeating a motion to dismiss by the lender, ABLE successfully negotiated a permanent mortgage modification that reduced Charlie's loan balance by more than \$50,000, reduced his interest rate to a fixed low-rate and, most importantly, reduced his monthly payments to an affordable amount that he could maintain, allowing him to remain in his home.

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Center for Equal Justice



The Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice **How we did it.**

At the end of April 2010, LAWO and ABLE staff has been working from the Center for Equal Justice for one year 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. All of our supporters 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 held for clients, attorneys, and other groups who share our mission and vision. One of our biggest accomplishments was hosting our first ever Community and Client Advocacy Day as part of our opening celebration events. A number of our community partners joined us in providing 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.

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, and later increased their grant to \$500,000 leading the way in local foundation and community gifts. The Landman-Goldman 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 of Ohio 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 earn 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.

Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice

We are grateful to our donors and supporters for their time, their resources, and their ability to enrich our community through a shared vision of equal access to justice for all. The following donors have made possible the Center for Equal Justice.

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Elaina, a fourth grader who attends a local public school, was diagnosed with autism. Rather than provide Elaina with support services appropriate to her diagnosis, the school placed her in a program designed for emotionally disturbed children. Elaina's inability to handle her situation resulted in severe behavioral problems. When her Mom contacted Legal Aid for help, Elaina was in serious danger of being expelled from school. Legal Aid assisted Elaina by negotiating an agreement for the school to hire an autism specialist – a step that could benefit many children in similar situations.

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We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and make every effort to ensure accuracy in acknowledging their support. This list is complete as of July 8, 2010. If you feel an error has been made, please contact the Development Office at 419-930-2562.

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

Equal Justice Works

Support for Attorney Fellows working in the areas of neighborhood revitalization and foreclosure prevention.

Internal Revenue Service

Low Income Taxpayer Clinic to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters and provide outreach and education on tax issues to English as a Second Language taxpayers.

National Center on Elder Abuse

Support for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to coordinate a multidisciplinary elder abuse prevention task force in Lucas County.

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 10 northwest Ohio counties.

Ohio State Legal Services Association

Support for preforeclosure legal assistance to homeowners.

Stranahan Foundation

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

Toledo Community Foundation

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank project.

United Way of Greater Toledo

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank project.

LAWO

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 2

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

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to support legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in Lucas County.

Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association

Support for staffing of the Findlay satellite office and the AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Hancock County.

Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation

Support for the AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Hancock County.

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

Support for legal assistance to frail elderly individuals in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services

Legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to support legal assistance to domestic violence victims in most LAWO counties.

Ohio Poverty Law Center

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to support legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.

St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center

Support for the Medical Legal Partnership for Children through the Abandoned Infants Assistance Project.

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 for legal assistance to Clark County residents with predatory lending and foreclosure issues and support for the AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Program in Clark County.

United States Department of Justice

Legal Assistance for Victims Project to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in 21 rural counties.

**United States Department of Justice,
Office on Violence Against Women**

Rural Domestic Violence grant to provide legal assistance to victims through the Northwest Ohio Family Justice Center 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 ABLE**Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.**

Legal assistance to senior citizens in 10 counties of LAWO's service area.

Equal Justice Works

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

LAWO and ABLE Combined**The Kresge Foundation**

Support of general operations.

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.

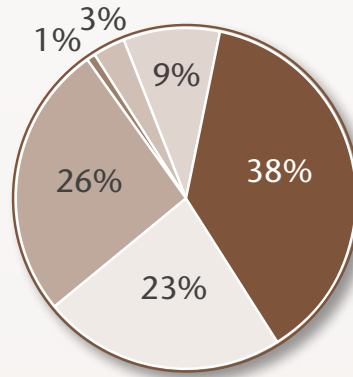
Ohio Community Service Council

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

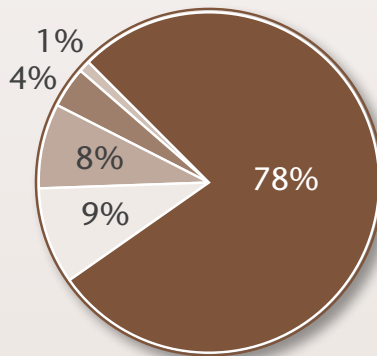
Support of ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, Legal Aid Line, and the migrant program, as well as support for the ABLE Immigrant Detention Project and the Save the Dream foreclosure prevention project, the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, and Equal Justice Works Recovery Fellows.

ABLE and LAWO 2009 Operating Revenue and Expenditures



Support and Revenue

■ Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	\$4,699,425
□ Legal Services Corporation (LSC) [LAWO only].....	\$2,792,333
■ Other grants and contracts	\$3,201,169
■ Fundraising/special events	\$107,432
■ Miscellaneous interest and other income	\$367,429
<hr/>	
Subtotal.....	\$11,167,788
□ Application of reserves and transfer from Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio	\$1,152,312
<hr/>	
Total	\$12,320,100



Expenses and Expenditures

■ Compensation and benefits	\$9,619,625
□ Contract services	\$1,101,154
■ Operating costs	\$985,315
■ Travel, support, and training	\$450,691
■ Miscellaneous	\$163,315
<hr/>	
Total	\$12,320,100

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.

2009 - 2010

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