

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Funding the Promise of Justice for All



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on
Lawyers Trust Account Board





PENNSYLVANIA IOLTA BOARD
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Awarding grants that support the provision of free legal assistance to low income Pennsylvanians in civil matters where a basic human need, such as access to shelter, nutrition, or health care, is at stake.

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (“IOLTA”) Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Over the past fiscal year, our Board and staff have worked diligently to support accessible, effective, competent, creative and cost effective methods to fund the promise of equal access to civil justice for low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians while also assisting our Court’s other Boards with attorney guidance and oversight along with financial institution guidance for compliance with the IOLTA procedures and rules.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our successes would not be possible without the help of dedicated partners across Pennsylvania's Judiciary and our Commonwealth's legal and banking communities that have allowed us to support a network of local, regional and statewide legal aid organizations, *pro bono publico* legal services organizations, and accredited law school clinical programs that serve individuals with disabilities, veterans, victims of domestic abuse, the homeless, as well as families facing eviction or foreclosure.

Additionally, we are pleased to report that the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board is administering a one-time distribution of \$12,167,624 as a result of a litigation settlement between the United States Department of Justice and Bank of America. These funds are designated solely for legal aid services that facilitate foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment. In order to ensure that this one-time funding source is effectively utilized, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court IOLTA Board conducted extensive planning and research and also engaged organizations and thought leaders across the state, including, among others, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies, along with agencies devoted to the specific litigation settlement missions. As a result of this planning and collaboration, we will undertake a targeted five year grant application, review and award process, under the guidance of

the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, aimed at enhancing legal services access in the areas of foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment.

As we build on our past successes and lay the groundwork for the future, we keep in mind the words of former United States Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell Jr., "[E]qual justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists . . . It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status." To the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, we offer our gratitude for their unwavering support of that most worthy of goals. To our friends, colleagues and partners who help us strive to give life to these words, on behalf of our Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, and the people served by its grantees, we thank you.




Irwin W. Aronson, Esq.
CHAIR




Stephanie S. Libhart
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVERSIGHT AND KEY ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The IOLTA Board administers several court-directed and legislative-directed funding streams to accomplish our mission of supporting the delivery of civil legal services to low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians. In fiscal year 2015-16, the IOLTA Board received account activity reports and interest remittances for an average of 13,637 IOLTA accounts per month. Additionally, 1,677 *pro hac vice* admission applications and fees were processed for out of state attorneys seeking to appear in Pennsylvania courts.

GRANT OVERSIGHT

Detailed, recurring reviews are conducted on IOLTA grantee organizations in order to ensure accountability as well as the efficient use of the limited public funds for civil legal aid. These reviews include collecting and analyzing case data, performing site visits, and reviewing the audited financial statements of our grantees. In fiscal year 2015-16, the IOLTA Board received and evaluated 185 Grantee Performance Reports. Additionally, in order to encourage efficiency in the expenditure of both court-directed and legislative-directed funding, grantees must participate in a competitive grant application process, and grant finalists must execute agreements formalizing their commitment to adhere to program requirements and establishing consequences for failing to do so.

IN 2015-2016

13,637

accounts processed monthly by the IOLTA Board.

22

financial institutions underwent compliance assessments.

3,600

attorneys helped to maintain or achieve compliance.

ATTORNEY & FINANCIAL INSTITUTION COMPLIANCE

Each year, the IOLTA Board notifies approximately 1,500 newly licensed Pennsylvania lawyers of their IOLTA responsibilities. Additionally, the Board monitors attorney compliance with the IOLTA requirements. In fiscal year 2015-16, the IOLTA Board, through its compliance monitoring processes, provided technical assistance to more than 3,600 attorneys to help them maintain compliance.

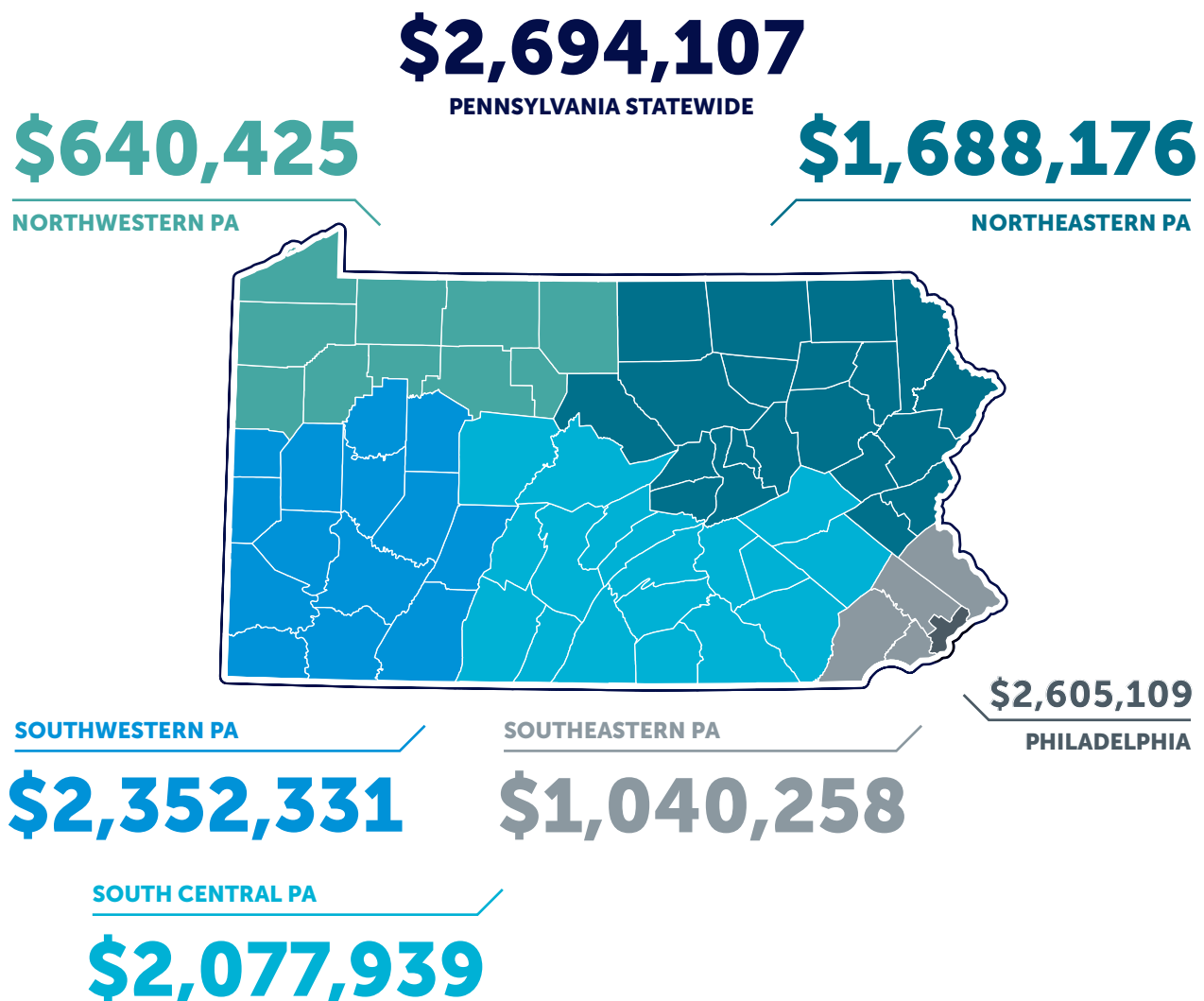
Compliance assessments are also conducted to assist financial institutions with their obligations regarding interest rates, service charges, and account reporting in accordance with the IOLTA regulations. During fiscal year 2015-16, twenty-two financial institutions underwent compliance assessments.

185

Grantee Performance Reports received and evaluated by the IOLTA Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF GRANTS BY REGION

The IOLTA Board is committed to funding programs that increase equal access to justice for all Pennsylvanians. Funds that support grants to legal services organizations are distributed based on the geographical proportion of people living in poverty. This method ensures that funds are distributed fairly and supports services where poor people reside.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION	GRANT
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania	\$17,000
Allegheny County Bar Foundation	\$74,900
CASA of Allegheny County	\$27,650
Community Justice Project	\$368,057
Community Legal Services	\$2,288,035
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project	\$36,850
Disability Rights Pennsylvania	\$38,700
Education Law Center of Pennsylvania	\$44,400
Franklin County Legal Services	\$19,100
Friends of Farmworkers	\$249,078
Homeless Advocacy Project	\$5,000
KidsVoice Pennsylvania	\$55,600
Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.	\$25,000
Laurel Legal Services	\$571,781
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania	\$1,000,258
Legal Clinic for the Disabled	\$49,500
Legal Services for Immigrants & Internationals	\$40,000
MidPenn Legal Services	\$1,883,639
Montgomery Child Advocacy Project	\$5,000
Neighborhood Legal Services Association	\$1,130,327
North Penn Legal Services	\$1,541,726
Northwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services	\$602,425
Pennsylvania Health Law Project	\$253,978
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project	\$357,530
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.	\$628,390
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc., Cy Pres Funds for new Case Mgt. System	\$405,991
Pennsylvania HIAS Indigent Immigrant Legal Services	\$35,000
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center	\$108,000
Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center	\$17,900
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts	\$3,570
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$75,950
Public Interest Law Center	\$37,400
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$472,427
SeniorLAW Center	\$80,500

GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUED

ORGANIZATION	GRANT
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services	\$414,623
Support Center for Child Advocates	\$62,950
Women Against Abuse Legal Center	\$32,660
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh Civil Law Project	\$37,450
IOLTA Legal Services Organizations	\$13,098,345
Alice Paul House (Indiana County)	\$10,000
Cumberland County Bar Association	\$5,000
Delaware County Bar Association	\$5,000
Face-to-Face Legal Center (Philadelphia County)	\$10,000
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (Montgomery County)	\$2,500
Washington County Bar Association	\$5,000
Westmoreland Bar Foundation	\$5,150
York County Bar Association	\$7,500
Pro Bono Organizations	\$50,150
Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law	\$150,000
Duquesne University School of Law	\$150,000
Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law	\$75,000
Pennsylvania State University Law School	\$75,000
Temple University, Beasley School of Law	\$150,000
University of Pennsylvania School of Law	\$150,000
University of Pittsburgh School of Law	\$150,000
Villanova University, Charles Widger School of Law	\$150,000
Widener University Commonwealth Law School	\$150,000
Law Schools	\$1,200,000
Pennsylvania Bar Foundation	\$325,447
Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) 2014-2016	\$325,447
Legal Services	\$13,098,345
Pro Bono	\$50,150
Law Schools	\$1,200,000
LRAP (current portion of 3-year grant)	\$325,447
Total 2015-2016 Grants	\$14,673,942

GRANTEE DETAILS

IOLTA LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS LAW PROJECT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Ronda B. Goldfein, Esq.

Executive Director

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Lorrie Albert, Esq.

Associate Executive Director

CASA OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Melissa Protzek, Esq.

Executive Director

COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROJECT

Peter Zurflieh, Esq.

Executive Director

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

Deborah L. Freedman, Esq.

Executive Director

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Mary Anne Lucey

Executive Director

DISABILITY RIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA

Peri Jude Radecic

CEO

EDUCATION LAW CENTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Deborah Gordon Klehr, Esq.

Executive Director

FRANKLIN COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES

Gloria Keener

Executive Director

FRIENDS OF FARMWORKERS

Meredith Rapkin, Esq.

Executive Director

HOMELESS ADVOCACY PROJECT

Marsha I. Cohen, Esq.

Executive Director

KIDSVOICE PENNSYLVANIA

Scott M. Hollander, Esq.

Executive Director

LACKAWANNA PRO BONO, INC.

Sylvia Hahn, Esq.

Executive Director

LAUREL LEGAL SERVICES

Renee Williams, Esq.

Executive Director

LEGAL AID OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, Esq.

Executive Director

LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED

Linda Peyton, Esq.

Executive Director

LEGAL SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS & INTERNATIONALS

Linda Ehrenreich, Esq.

Associate Executive Director

MIDPENN LEGAL SERVICES

Rhodia Thomas, Esq.

Executive Director

MONTGOMERY CHILD ADVOCACY PROJECT

Mary C. Pugh, Esq.

Executive Director

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Robert Racunas, Esq.

Executive Director

GRANTEE DETAILS CONTINUED

NORTH PENN LEGAL SERVICES

Victoria A. Coyle, Esq.

Executive Director

NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL SERVICES

Robert Oakley, Esq.

Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH LAW PROJECT

Laval Miller-Wilson, Esq.

Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTIONAL LAW PROJECT

Angus Love, Esq.

Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK, INC.

Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.

Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA HIAS INDIGENT IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES

Judith A. Bernstein-Baker

Executive Director

PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION RESOURCE CENTER

Mary Studzinski

Executive Director

PHILADELPHIA LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Anita Santos-Singh, Esq.

Executive Director

PHILADELPHIA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS

Rachael Nave, Esq.

Director, Legal Services

PHILADELPHIA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE INDIGENT PROGRAM

Sara Woods, Esq.

Executive Director

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER

Jennifer R. Clarke, Esq.

Executive Director

REGIONAL HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES

Mark Schwartz, Esq.

Executive Director

SENIORLAW CENTER

Karen Buck, Esq.

Executive Director

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL SERVICES

Brian Gorman, Esq.

Executive Director

SUPPORT CENTER FOR CHILD ADVOCATES

Frank P. Cervone, Esq.

Executive Director

WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE LEGAL CENTER

Jeannine Lisitski

Executive Director

WOMEN'S CENTER & SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL LAW PROJECT

Shirl Q. Regan

President & CEO

PRO BONO ORGANIZATIONS

ALICE PAUL HOUSE (INDIANA COUNTY)

Audia Boyles

Executive Director

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Becky Morgenthal

Executive Director

DELAWARE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

William L. Baldwin, Esq.

Executive Director

FACE-TO-FACE LEGAL CENTER (PHILADELPHIA COUNTY)

Mary Kay Meeks-Hank

Executive Director

LEGAL AID OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA (MONTGOMERY COUNTY)

Elizabeth Wood Fritsch, Esq.

Executive Director

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Kathleen L. Sabol

Executive Director

WESTMORELAND BAR FOUNDATION

Diane Krivoniak

Executive Director

YORK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Victoria Connor

CEO

LAW SCHOOLS

DREXEL UNIVERSITY, THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

Roger J. Dennis

Dean

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Maureen Lally-Green

Interim Dean

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW

Gary Gildin

Interim Dean

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

James W. Houck

Interim Dean

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

Greg Mandel

Interim Dean

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF LAW

Theodore Ruger

Dean

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW

William M. Carter Jr.

Dean

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

Mark C. Alexander

Dean

WIDENER UNIVERSITY COMMONWEALTH LAW SCHOOL

Christian A. Johnson

Dean

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FROM 1989 TO JUNE 30, 2016

\$258.6 million

awarded in grants since the inception of the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board.

\$11

RETURN ON INVESTMENT for every dollar spent on legal aid to Pennsylvania and its residents through a combination of avoided social safety net costs as well as recovered federal medical and disability benefits.*

\$14,794

saved, on average per family, as the result of legal assistance provided during eviction or foreclosure proceedings which helps families stabilize their finances and avoid the use of emergency shelters.*

** Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, The Economic Impact of Outcomes Obtained for Legal Aid Clients Benefits Everyone in Pennsylvania (April 11, 2012).*

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE THROUGH JUNE

	IOLTA	AJA	Bank of America Surplus	Bank of America Donation	Pro Bono	Pro Hac Vice	Property	Total
OPERATING REVENUE								
IOLTA Interest, Net of Service Charges	\$3,149,107	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,149,107
Access to Justice Fees	\$0	\$10,726,166	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,726,166
Bank of America Surplus Distr.	\$0	\$0	\$12,167,624	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,167,624
Pro Bono Initiative Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,175	\$0	\$0	\$21,175
Pro Hac Vice Admission Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$628,675	\$0	\$628,675
Lawyer Assessment Fees	\$1,947,185	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,947,185
Class Action Residuals	\$346,440	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$346,440
Homeowner Assistance Settlement Act	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000
Investment Income	\$53,054	\$37,982	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$91,036
Miscellaneous Income	\$3,130	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,130
IOLTA Back Interest Recoupment	\$68,291	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68,291
Refund of Previous Year's Grants	\$813	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$813
Total Revenue	\$5,568,020	\$11,364,148	\$12,167,624	\$0	\$21,175	\$628,675	\$0	\$29,749,642
EXPENSES								
General & Administrative	\$565,596	\$141,953	\$19,444	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,092	\$747,085
Grant Awards								
Legal Services Organizations	\$2,834,345	\$10,264,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,098,345
Law Schools	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000
Pro Bono Initiative Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,150	\$0	\$0	\$50,150
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$325,447	\$0	\$325,447
Total Grant Awards	\$4,034,345	\$10,264,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,150	\$325,447	\$0	\$14,673,942
Total Expenses	\$4,599,941	\$10,405,953	\$19,444	\$0	\$50,150	\$325,447	\$20,092	\$15,421,027
Change in Net Assets	\$968,079	\$958,195	\$12,148,180	\$0	(\$28,975)	\$303,228	(\$20,092)	\$14,328,615
Acquisition of Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Assets — Beginning	\$7,803,378	\$9,522,618	\$0	\$852,693	\$79,747	\$879,246	\$22,087	\$19,159,769
Net Assets — Ending	\$8,771,457	\$10,480,813	\$12,148,180	\$852,693	\$50,772	\$1,182,474	\$1,995	\$33,488,384



HOUSING

IMPACT OF IOLTA

GRANTEE

Philadelphia
Volunteers for the
Indigent Program

**Names and photos have been changed to protect the privacy of clients.*

MAKING ENDS MEET FOR STEVE AND SUZANNE

Steve Morris* worked two jobs to support his family. His wife, Suzanne*, was ill and could not work. Unfortunately, as they struggled to make ends meet, they were misled into refinancing their home.

Despite their attempts to renegotiate their loan payments, the bank was unresponsive. Fortunately, they were put in contact with a volunteer attorney through the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP).

For over a year, their VIP attorney tried to connect with the bank to make progress on modifying their mortgage, first reaching out to the loan processor, then the bank's counsel, then to bank management. Complicating the matter, the bank confused the Morris family with a different borrower, and did not recognize their good faith payments which prompted the negotiation of a second loan modification.

Nonetheless, 13 months after the VIP attorney accepted their case, the original loan rate of 8.125 % was dropped to a varying rate of 2%-4.875% and the family's payments dropped from \$777 to \$324 a month, resulting in a savings of approximately \$100,000 in interest as compared to the original loan.

Due to the hard work and persistence of their VIP attorney, the Morris family was able to remain in their home, maintain their income, and have a better quality of life.

IN 2015

4,074

residential mortgage foreclosure filings in Philadelphia.

27,395

residential mortgage foreclosure filings across Pennsylvania.

Data compiled by the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

IMPACT OF IOLTA

GRANTEE

Women's Center &
Shelter of Greater
Pittsburgh, Civil
Law Project

**Names and photos have been changed to protect the privacy of clients.*

HELPING TO PROTECT MARY AND HER SON

Mary*, the young mother of a ten year old son, suffered repeated violence and verbal threats from her child's father. After he broke her nose and threatened her with a hand gun, Mary separated from him and took her son to live with his maternal grandmother.

However, after their separation, her son's school reported to Mary that they had concerns about his behavior in class. Mary reached out to her son's father, asking him to co-parent with her so that they could get their son back on track with school. The father initially agreed, but, after a brief visit with their son, refused to return him to Mary's custody, and even petitioned for protection from abuse (PFA), raising meritless claims that caused the Office of Children Youth & Families to investigate Mary and her family.

With the help of an attorney from the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Civil Law Project (CLP), Mary was granted an order in a PFA case that included interim primary custody of her son to her, as well as safety provisions to ensure safe custody exchanges, limited communication to e-mail only, and excluded the father from Mary's residence.

Because of the hard work of the CLP attorney, Mary and her son have been able to enjoy a safe home environment while Mary works toward obtaining her nursing degree and improving her family's overall stability. As Mary has a custody case that is still pending, a CLP attorney will continue to represent her as the parties proceed to a final custody Order.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

296

Protection from abuse cases handled by the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Civil Law Project.



CUSTODY

IMPACT OF IOLTA

GRANTEE

Widener
Commonwealth
Law School

**Names and photos have been changed to protect the privacy of clients.*

PROVIDING A STABLE HOME FOR DOLORES' GRANDSON

Dolores'* 13-year-old grandson moved in with her to escape life with his mother, who struggled with a drug addiction. The arrangement was only supposed to last a few weeks, but because of his mother's continued drug abuse, he ended up staying much longer.

Dolores wanted to file the legal paperwork to gain custody of her grandson but she didn't know where to turn and she was unable to afford a private attorney. Without custody, Dolores could not obtain health insurance for him, enroll him in school, or tend to other matters that required a legal guardian. She also worried about her daughter coming to reclaim her son and insisting on taking him back into a dangerous environment against his will.

Thankfully, Dolores found the Widener Civil Law Clinic, staffed by Widener Commonwealth Law School students and faculty. Two students and a supervising attorney handled her case *pro bono*. With their help, Dolores won full custody of her grandson ensuring that he would be provided with a safe and stable home environment.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

324

students participated in law school legal clinics that received IOLTA funding. These programs provide hands-on training to law students while also providing free assistance to low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians.

Law school clinical programs receive funding from a variety of sources in addition to IOLTA grants.



PUBLIC BENEFITS

IMPACT OF IOLTA

GRANTEE

Legal Clinic for
the Disabled

**Names and photos have been changed to protect the privacy of clients.*

PEACE OF MIND FOR FIONA AND HER CHILDREN

When Fiona*, a single mother of three and seven months pregnant with her fourth, visited her prenatal Nurse Practitioner she was told she needed to see a specialist within the week due to complications with her pregnancy.

An appointment was immediately scheduled with a specialist. Unfortunately, Fiona did not have health insurance as her Medicaid coverage had been terminated without notice. Without insurance, the specialist would not see Fiona.

Fiona was referred to Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD). A LCD attorney filed an immediate appeal and began advocating with the local Department of Human Services County Assistance Office, citing the urgency of the situation. Because of LCD's intervention, Fiona's Medicaid coverage was reinstated within 24 hours. Fiona was able to go to her specialist without being turned away for lack of insurance and had peace of mind that her unborn child's healthcare needs would be addressed.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

3,865

cases handled involving access to health related programs for low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians by IOLTA Grantees in the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN).

The Legal Clinic for the Disabled is not a member of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In 2014, the PA IOLTA Board awarded a three-year, \$1,050,858 grant to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation (PBF) to administer a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) which helps legal aid attorneys manage their student loan debt.

IN 2014

\$1,050,858

was awarded by the PA IOLTA Board to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation over a three-year grant.

The program is funded by *pro hac vice* fees paid by out-of-state attorneys who wish to make an appearance in a Pennsylvania court. The goal of the LRAP is to assist IOLTA-funded legal service organizations in recruiting and retaining the best and brightest attorneys to serve the civil legal needs of poor Pennsylvanians.

Since the inception of the program in 2010, 191 legal aid lawyers received a loan which has been or will be forgiven when the lawyer completes a full year of legal aid employment. Eligible lawyers may participate in the LRAP for up to 10 years.

SINCE 2010

191

legal aid lawyers received a loan which has been or will be forgiven when the lawyer completes a full year of legal aid employment.

“What does LRAP mean to me? Quite simply, it means the ability to focus on my client’s financial stability... without sacrificing my own.

Nearly three decades ago, a legal aid attorney helped my family achieve physical safety and financial security after we escaped from my abusive step-father. This was the motivating factor in my decision to go to law school — I knew what a tremendous difference an attorney had made in my life, and I wanted to do the same for others. So with public service at the fore, I studied hard, graduated with honors, and secured a job using my legal education to fight against domestic violence.

By all accounts, I achieved what I set out to do. But panic set in when I learned I would need to pay 1/3 of my modest income to finance my law

school debt. And for several years thereafter, I slid further into debt — often paying for basic expenses like groceries and gas with credit. I was nearing the end of my financial rope — weighing my options to either get a second job or leave the public interest field — when I was connected to LRAP. Thankfully, LRAP has played an integral role in stabilizing my finances — filling in the gaps between my income and expenses, and clearing the way for me to focus on my client’s financial stability without sacrificing my own.”

—ELIZABETH R. MARX, ESQ.

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project, a specialized program of Regional Housing Legal Services

IMPACT OF PLATINUM LEADER BANKS

The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board encourages attorneys to patronize Platinum Leader Banks.

At a time of historically low interest rates, a law firm's decision to maintain their IOLTA account with a Platinum Leader Bank has an outsize impact on the legal profession's ability to self-fund legal assistance for low-income Pennsylvanians without resorting to increasing attorney registration fees, court filing fees, or relying on legislatively appropriated funds.

Platinum Leader Banks have voluntarily committed to providing a premium interest rate on IOLTA accounts which results in greater funding for legal aid services that help to ease the burden of *pro se* litigants on the court system, as well as helping communities avoid safety net costs that would otherwise be incurred in assisting low-income individuals struggling with legal issues related to housing, employment, or access to credit.

For example, a law firm's IOLTA account with a Platinum leader bank will earn a 1% interest rate, as compared to other institutions that currently provide a rate on IOLTA accounts closer to .10%. Over twelve months, a small to mid-size law firm with an average of \$50,000 in its IOLTA account will earn \$500 as compared

to \$50 at the .10% rate with a non-Platinum Leader Bank. You can see that if twenty-five firms with similarly sized IOLTA accounts maintained their accounts with a Platinum Leader Bank, in one year \$12,500, or enough to pay for foreclosure prevention representation for seven families, would be available for IOLTA grants (as compared to just \$1,250 with a non-Platinum Leader Bank).

A LAW FIRM'S IOLTA ACCOUNT WITH A PLATINUM LEADER BANK WILL EARN A 1% INTEREST RATE, AS COMPARED TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS THAT CURRENTLY PROVIDE A RATE ON IOLTA ACCOUNTS CLOSER TO .10%.

We are proud to recognize attorneys and law firms that bank at a Platinum Leader Bank on our website through the "I Bank on Justice" campaign. To join the campaign and demonstrate your support of funding for legal aid, transfer your IOLTA account to one of the Platinum Leader Banks and contact the IOLTA Board so that your firm can also be featured on our website.

PLATINUM LEADER BANKS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2016

ACNB Bank
American Bank
AmeriServ Financial Bank
BNY Mellon
Centric Bank
Chrome Federal Credit Union
CFS Bank
Congressional Bank
Fidelity Savings & Loan Bucks County
First Choice Bank
First Priority Bank
First Resource Bank
FNB Bank, N.A.
Fulton Bank, N.A.
Huntingdon Valley Bank
Juniata Valley Bank
Lafayette Ambassador Bank
MoreBank, a division of Bank of Princeton
Muncy Bank & Trust Company
New Tripoli Bank
Parke Bank
Standard Bank, PASB
Swineford National Bank
Washington Financial Bank
West Milton State Bank
Woori America Bank

PRO BONO EFFORTS AND SPECIAL GRANTS

SUPPORTING PRO BONO EFFORTS


The IOLTA Board administers the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's *Pro Bono* Initiative Fund. The fund support grants to county bar associations and nonprofit organizations to cover the administrative costs of recruiting, organizing, and training *pro bono* attorneys in communities across Pennsylvania. The initiative is funded exclusively by attorney donations, which totaled \$21,175 in fiscal year 2015-16. As a result of the support provided through this fund, many low-income Pennsylvanians received critical legal advice from a volunteer attorney in their local community.

\$21,175

in attorney donations in fiscal year 2015-16 to support the *Pro Bono* Initiative Fund.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR COST EFFECTIVE LEGAL AID CASE MANAGEMENT

The IOLTA Board takes seriously our obligation to ensure that our grants further the goal of funding critical civil legal services for low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians in a responsible and cost-effective manner. As part of this commitment, we made a one-time grant to the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) to update their aging and outdated case management system. PLAN is a coordinated system of sixteen independent legal aid providers serving the civil legal needs of Pennsylvanians living in every county across the state. This special grant was made possible by a substantial *cy pres* award. We are confident that this investment in technology will result in a more efficient delivery system.

The Seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is visible in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield. The shield contains a ship on water. The shield is flanked by two figures: a Native American on the left and a Revolutionary War soldier on the right. A banner at the bottom of the shield reads "CONSTITUTION".

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is dedicated to ensuring that the civil legal needs of those who cannot afford the services of a lawyer are met. The Court supports civil legal aid in a variety of ways, from securing funding for a loan forgiveness program for legal services practitioners to honoring the work of pro bono volunteers.

Each year, every lawyer in Pennsylvania contributes to civil legal aid through the IOLTA portion of our annual licensing fee. The Court also encourages legal practitioners to consider donating to legal aid, both financially and through pro bono work.”

**— CHIEF JUSTICE THOMAS G. SAYLOR,
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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