



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Funding the Promise of Justice for All



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on
Lawyer Trust Accounts Board



2020 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 healthcare, is at stake.

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Board.

Since the inception of our program in 1989, we have awarded approximately \$348 million in grants to nonprofit legal aid organizations, county bar associations, and law school clinical programs that provide free civil legal aid to low-income and other vulnerable communities across the Commonwealth.

This year, we have worked diligently to continue to fulfill our mission of funding accessible, high quality legal aid programs that expand access to legal resources and help to challenge systems that perpetuate inequality.

Our resolve and commitment to funding these important initiatives is strengthened by evidence that civil legal aid stabilizes disadvantaged communities by empowering low-income individuals and families to build the foundational capacity to become economically self-sufficient.

This past fiscal year, in partnership with researchers at Franklin & Marshall College and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, we studied the economic impact of civil legal aid in Pennsylvania. Researchers analyzed several important categories of civil legal aid cases, including domestic violence prevention, medical-legal matters, expungements, social security income maintenance, and utility services restoration. The result of their findings showed a return on investment of \$12 for every \$1 directed to funding civil legal aid, further evidencing both the positive impact on the individuals and families receiving civil legal aid and the positive economic ripple effects for Pennsylvania communities.

Our work and the work of so many seeking justice continues to be urgent. Even as we celebrate our accomplishments, we are confronted by the fact that thousands of low-income Pennsylvanians continue to face critical legal problems without the benefit of an attorney. The COVID-19 pandemic has only widened the existing justice gap and deepened economic disparities in our communities.

Thus, we call upon our partners across Pennsylvania's legal and banking communities to continue to champion our efforts and support our network of grantees. Among those partners, we are especially thankful to our friends in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and to our Platinum Leader Banks for their continued commitment to the success of our mission.

Finally, and of incalculable measure, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as well as the Appellate and Common Pleas Jurists and Magisterial District Judges, for their steadfast support of our common aspiration of equal justice for all under the law.

Sincerely,



Stella L. Smetanka

Stella L. Smetanka, Esq.

CHAIR



Stephanie S. Libhart

Stephanie S. Libhart

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What is Civil Legal Aid?

What does IOLTA stand for?

IOLTA stands for Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts. Every state, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, operates an IOLTA program. In Pennsylvania, the program is administered by the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Board, a nonprofit organization operating under the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

How does the IOLTA Program Work?

Attorneys routinely receive client funds to be held in trust for future use. When the funds are small or expected to be held for a short time, they cannot practically be invested to benefit the client. These funds are deposited in IOLTA accounts and banks transfer the interest earned to the IOLTA program.

Who Benefits from Civil Legal Aid?

Civil legal aid helps people like veterans improperly denied benefits, families facing a wrongful eviction or foreclosure, women trapped in abusive relationships, and seniors defending themselves against fraudulent debt collectors. All too often, these individuals must face court without legal help because they cannot afford to pay a lawyer. Civil legal aid levels the playing field by ensuring that all people have equal justice under the law, not just those who can afford it.

How is the Money Used?

Upon approval of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the IOLTA Board makes grants annually to nonprofit legal aid organizations and law school clinical programs. The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board funds the delivery of civil legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged through grant awards.

When was the IOLTA Program Created?

The first IOLTA program was established in Florida in 1981 as a way of generating funds for civil legal aid. In Pennsylvania, the IOLTA program was initially created in 1988 by the General Assembly's enactment of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Act. In 1996, the Supreme Court established a comprehensive IOLTA program under the direction of the Court.

What is Civil Legal Aid?

Civil legal aid is a combination of services and resources provided free of charge in order to help Pennsylvanians navigate the justice system. The most traditional form consists of direct representation by a lawyer in a court proceeding. Civil legal aid providers also host free workshops and community legal clinics, offer self-help services like telephone help lines and online chat tools, and publish information and downloadable court forms on their websites.

Economic Benefits of Civil Legal Aid

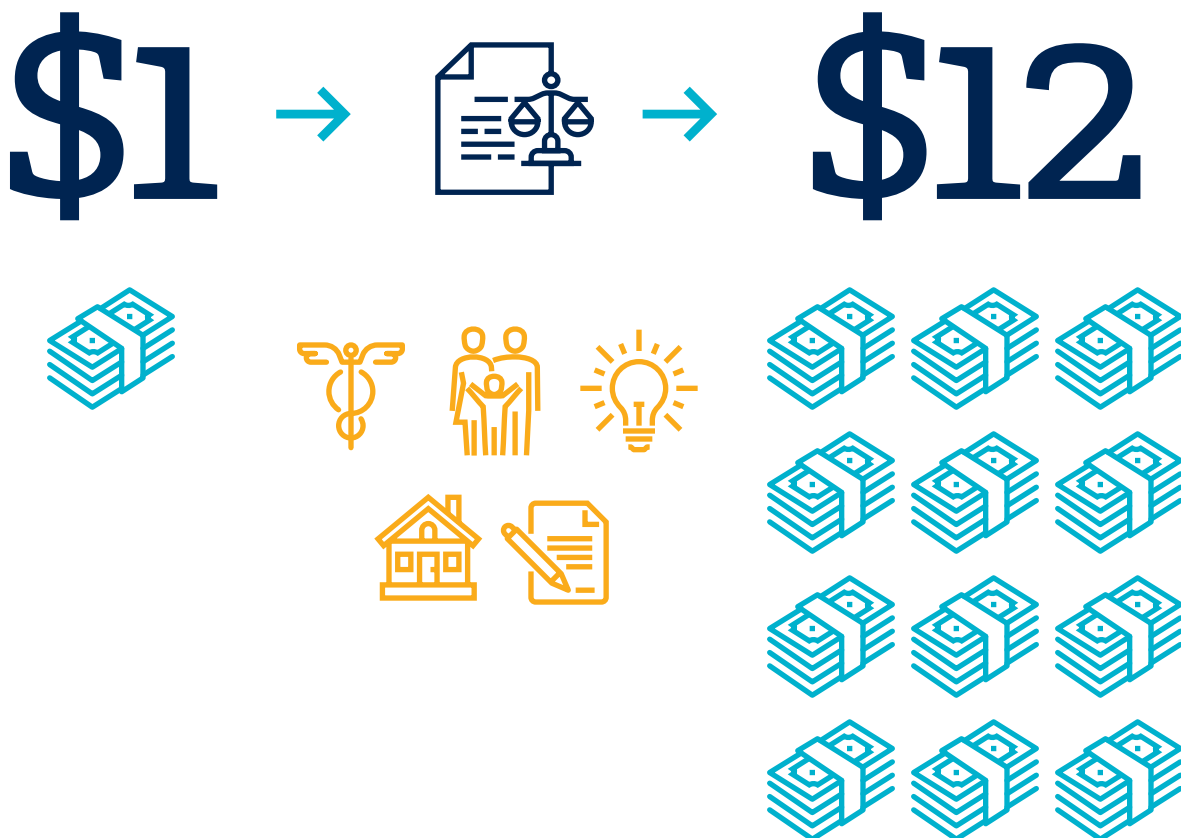
Investing in Civil Legal Aid has a Measurable Return

In 2019, researchers at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania worked in partnership with the IOLTA Board and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network to study the economic impact of civil legal aid.

The researchers performed an extensive analysis into several important categories of civil legal aid cases, including domestic violence prevention, medical-legal matters, expungements, social security income maintenance, and utility services restoration.

Significant positive impacts to individuals receiving civil legal aid, as well as positive economic ripple effects for Pennsylvania communities, were identified resulting in a \$12 return on every \$1 invested in the delivery of civil legal aid.

The full report, published in 2020, is available at www.paiolta.org.



Oversight and Key Activities

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

Program Administration

Of the various funding sources administered by the IOLTA Board, the interest generated on attorney trust accounts is the most time intensive for IOLTA staff. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the IOLTA Board processed account activity reports and interest remittances for an average of 14,175 IOLTA accounts per month. The IOLTA Board also received 147 individual contributions from private attorneys and firms this year. In addition, 1,338 *pro hac vice* admission applications and fees were processed for out-of-state attorneys seeking to appear in Pennsylvania courts. Finally, nine class action residual distributions were received and processed.

Grant Oversight

In order to ensure IOLTA funding supports legal aid providers that meet the Board's strict organizational performance standards, applicants must participate in a competitive grant application process. Grant recipients must execute agreements formalizing their commitment to adhere to program requirements and establishing consequences for failing to do so. The majority of the grants awarded by the IOLTA Board are disbursed quarterly and are contingent upon the IOLTA Board's careful approval of grantees' expenditures and delivery of services. These detailed, recurring reviews are conducted to ensure ongoing accountability for the efficient use of the limited funds. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the IOLTA Board received and reviewed 281 grantee performance reports. Additionally, the IOLTA Board reviews the audited financial statements of our grantees and performs site visits.

1,338

pro hac vice admission applications
processed by the IOLTA Board.

281

grantee performance
reports and reviewed by
the IOLTA Board.

Attorney & Financial Institution Compliance

In order to monitor attorney compliance with Pennsylvania's IOLTA requirements, the IOLTA Board conducts an annual assessment of IOLTA accounts reported by licensed Pennsylvania attorneys on their registration form. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the IOLTA Board provided technical assistance to more than 349 attorneys to help them achieve or maintain compliance. In addition, the IOLTA Board sent approximately 1,470 newly licensed Pennsylvania lawyers educational resources about IOLTA accounts.

The IOLTA Board also performs annual compliance assessments on financial institutions to ensure adherence to regulations regarding interest rates, service charges, and account reporting. During fiscal year 2019-2020, 19 Bank Certification Agreements were negotiated.

349

attorneys helped to
achieve or maintain
compliance.

Unclaimed & Unidentifiable IOLTA Funds Program

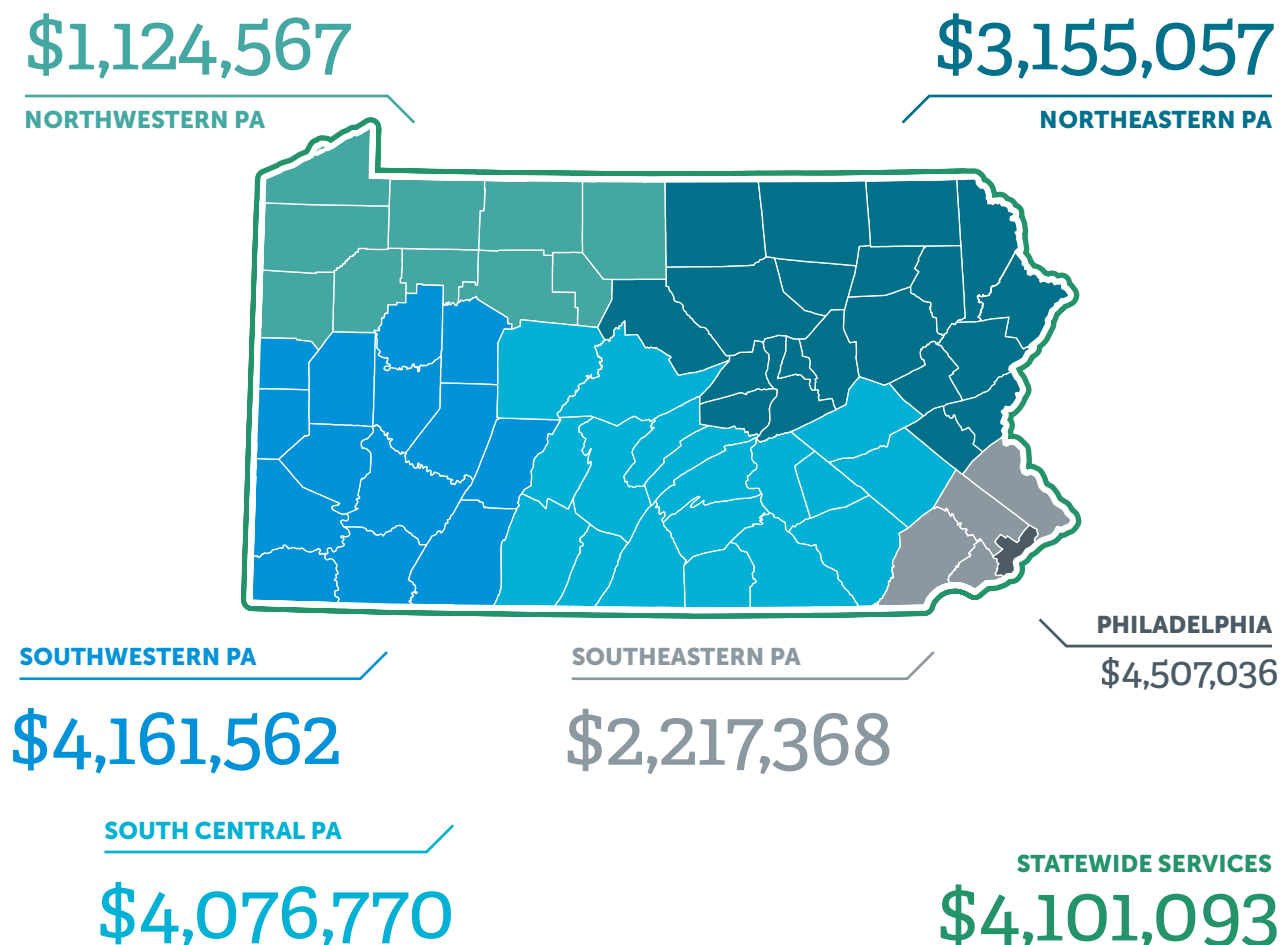
Effective June 2018, IOLTA began administering the Unclaimed & Unidentifiable IOLTA Funds Program. The program provides direction to lawyers and law firms to resolve unclaimed or unidentifiable funds in Pennsylvania IOLTA accounts. In fiscal year 2019-2020, the IOLTA Board received 75 remittances from attorneys and facilitated the return of funds to six owners.

75

remittances made
to the Unclaimed &
Unidentifiable IOLTA
Funds Program.

Financial Impact of Grants by Region

The IOLTA Board is committed to funding programs that increase access to justice for all Pennsylvanians. For that reason, funds are distributed to legal services organizations based on the geographical proportion of people living in poverty throughout the Commonwealth. This method ensures that resources are fairly allocated and support services for Pennsylvanians most in need.



Grant Recipients

Organization	Grant
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania	\$30,000
Allegheny County Bar Foundation	\$164,400
Community Justice Project	\$612,704
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	\$3,907,575
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project	\$40,000
Disability Rights Pennsylvania	\$179,000
Education Law Center	\$60,000
Franklin County Legal Services	\$171,438
Homeless Advocacy Project	\$25,000
Justice at Work	\$661,278
KidsVoice Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$145,000
Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.	\$83,500
Laurel Legal Services, Inc.	\$975,352
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$1,919,561
Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.	\$85,000
Legal Services for Immigrants & Internationals	\$60,000
MidPenn Legal Services	\$3,539,912
Neighborhood Legal Services	\$2,041,639
North Penn Legal Services	\$2,790,369
Northwestern Legal Services	\$994,187
Pennsylvania Health Law Project	\$524,600
Pennsylvania HIAS Indigent Immigrant Legal Services	\$85,907
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center	\$244,000
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project	\$776,559
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.	\$1,029,800
Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity	\$42,000
Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center, Inc.	\$40,000
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$125,000
Pro Bono Partnerships, Inc.	\$20,000
Public Interest Law Center	\$67,500
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$749,668
SeniorLAW Center	\$282,000
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.	\$663,081
Support Center for Child Advocates	\$86,943

Grant Recipients **CONTINUED**

Organization	Grant
Women Against Abuse Legal Center	\$66,480
Women's Center & Shelter Civil Law Project	\$54,000
Legal Services Organizations	\$23,343,453
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law	\$177,800
Duquesne University School of Law	\$177,800
Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law	\$177,800
Pennsylvania State University Penn State Law	\$177,800
Temple University Beasley School of Law	\$177,800
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School	\$177,800
University of Pittsburgh School of Law	\$177,800
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law	\$177,800
Widener University Commonwealth Law School	\$177,800
Law School Clinical and Internship Programs	\$1,600,200
Pennsylvania Bar Foundation	\$508,224
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$508,224

MORE THAN
\$1.6 million
 awarded to Law School Clinical and
 Internship Programs.

Grant Recipients **CONTINUED**

Organization	Grant
Community Justice Project	\$67,520
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	\$289,159
Justice at Work	\$113,276
Laurel Legal Services, Inc.	\$43,646
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$454,771
MidPenn Legal Services	\$393,396
Neighborhood Legal Services	\$280,740
North Penn Legal Services	\$400,000
Northwestern Legal Services	\$52,733
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$50,000
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$1,151,133
SeniorLAW Center	\$75,000
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.	\$8,741
Bank of America Surplus Distribution Program	\$3,380,115
Legal Services Organizations	\$23,343,453
Law School Clinical and Internship Programs	\$1,600,200
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$508,224
Bank of America Surplus Distribution Program	\$3,380,115
Total 2019-2020 Grants	\$28,831,992

MORE THAN
\$28.8 million

awarded in grants in fiscal year 2019-2020.

Ensuring Access to Employee Benefits during a Pandemic

Sabine needed to take intermittent leave from her job to care for her daughter who was out of school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her employer put her on an unpaid leave of absence, even though she was entitled to paid leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”). The unpaid leave of absence meant that she had insufficient income to support herself and her family.

Sabine contacted the Community Justice Project (CJP) for help. CJP sent a letter to Sabine’s employer requesting that Sabine immediately be placed on paid FFCRA leave and provided all back pay that she was owed. Shortly after receiving CJP’s letter, Sabine’s employer placed her on intermittent paid FFCRA leave and paid her all of the back

pay accumulated to that point. Paid FFCRA leave enabled Sabine to both maintain her long-term employment and care for her child during the pandemic.

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

IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

855

The Community Justice Project handled 855 cases for low-income clients in a variety of legal matters including employment.

2019-2020 Caseload Statistics of the Community Justice Project



Duquesne University
School of Law,
Family Law Clinic

Rebuilding a Family after a Tragedy

John took in his sister's three young children after she died in a tragic car accident and their father disappeared from their lives shortly thereafter.

The children were left at their uncle's house without any clothing or personal belongings. John slowly picked up the pieces that were missing in the children's lives. For the next three years, he gave them food and shelter, enrolled them in school and took them to their doctor's appointments, and gave them a loving home.

However, John was not the legal guardian of the three young children and ran into many difficulties as a result. Activities such as enrolling the children in school and bringing them to their doctor's appointments were always complicated. Additionally, John was working two jobs and struggling to afford his

rent. Since he was not the legal guardian of the children, he was unable to receive food stamps to assist with the costs of taking care of them. With assistance from a law student enrolled in the Family Law Clinic at Duquesne University School of Law, John took the correct steps to start the process to legally obtain custody of the children.

Before long, he obtained sole physical and legal custody of the three young children that he loved.

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



IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

280

The Duquesne University School of Law Family Law Clinic resolved 280 cases for low-income clients involving child custody, support, divorce matters, and protection from abuse.

*2019-2020 Caseload Statistics of the
Duquesne University School of Law Family Law Clinic*

Protecting a Child's Right to Special Education

The Education Law Center (ELC) helped Courtney, an eight year old girl living with a foster family, whose court-appointed educational decision maker had requested an evaluation by the school district more than seven months before contacting ELC.

The decision maker and foster parent were concerned that Courtney was preparing to enter 4th grade while reading on a 1st grade level and was not receiving any support. They feared that as the learning gap between Courtney and her peers grew larger, she would become disengaged from school. ELC represented the educational decision maker to ensure that the school district immediately completed the evaluation.

Courtney was found eligible for special education services and recently received an appropriate Individualized Education Plan. Finally, she has the necessary supports she needs.

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



IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

904

The Education Law Center
provided legal assistance
to 904 families across the
Commonwealth facing
challenges related to students'
rights in school enrollment,
stability, and discipline.

*2019-2020 Caseload Statistics of
the Education Law Center*

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) helps IOLTA-funded legal aid organizations to recruit and retain the best and brightest attorneys. Most law school graduates face a daunting student loan burden. The LRAP makes it possible for attorneys who choose lower-paying public interest jobs to manage their student loan debt.

MORE THAN
\$3.9 million
in loan assistance has been distributed since 2010.

Since the launch of the program in 2010, 319 attorneys employed at IOLTA-funded civil legal services organizations across Pennsylvania received financial assistance through the LRAP.

The LRAP was created by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and is administered by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation with a grant from the IOLTA Board. Funding for the program is made possible by *pro hac vice* fees paid by out-of-state attorneys who wish to make an appearance in a Pennsylvania court.

SINCE 2010

319

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

“For the last three years, I have been fortunate to receive LRAP from IOLTA. I have been able to meaningfully contribute to the creation of a more equitable society because of the financial assistance provided by IOLTA. LRAP has allowed me to work as a utility policy fellow and a housing attorney providing same-day legal advice and representation in Municipal Court.

The financial realities of law school often force attorneys to prioritize private firm jobs over jobs in the public interest field. LRAP has been instrumental in the retention of attorneys in the legal services field. IOLTA's support allows us to stand in the gap and protect the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. I am forever indebted to the IOLTA Board. IOLTA's support has enabled me to continue to service and empower vulnerable communities.

— **KADEEM MORRIS**

*Staff Attorney, Community Legal Services
of Philadelphia
Former Martin Luther King Jr. Fellow,
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project*



The Impact of Platinum Leader Banks and their Attorney Customers



Where You Bank Matters

One of the simplest ways attorneys and law firms can support civil legal aid is by choosing to open an IOLTA account at a Platinum Leader Bank. These financial institutions have willingly committed to providing a premium interest rate on IOLTA accounts, which results in greater funding for civil legal aid that helps to strengthen and improve local communities across the Commonwealth.

The IOLTA Board is proud to recognize attorneys who choose to patronize Platinum Leader Banks through our “I Bank on Justice Campaign”. More information on this campaign is available on our website, www.paiolta.org.

PLATINUM LEADER BANKS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

American Bank
AmeriServ Financial Bank
BankUnited, NA
Brentwood Bank
CFS Bank
Congressional Bank
Enterprise Bank
Fidelity Savings & Loan
Association of Bucks County
First Resource Bank
Fulton Bank
Huntingdon Valley Bank
Juniata Valley Bank
MidPenn Bank
Mifflinburg Bank & Trust
MoreBank, a division
of Bank of Princeton
Muncy Bank & Trust Company
New Tripoli Bank
Parke Bank
Somerset Trust Co.
Standard Bank
Susquehanna Community Bank
Tioga Franklin Savings Bank
Tompkins VIST Bank
Washington Financial Bank
Woori America Bank

We Bank on Justice

THE LAW FIRM OF YERGEY DAYLOR ALLEBACH SCHEFFEY PICARDI

POTTSTOWN, PA / ELVERSON, PA

“The law firm of Yergey Daylor Allebach Scheffey Picardi believes that every individual has a right to counsel and feels it is our obligation to provide free legal services



to low-income and indigent individuals. Since 1968, we have been fully integrated into the fabric of Pottstown and the surrounding communities and take our mission to serve the public very seriously. We are proud to support Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, our local legal aid provider, as pro bono conflicts counsel. Over the years, our attorneys have successfully handled numerous divorces, bankruptcies, and child custody cases on a pro bono basis.

We feel these cases allow our clients to make a new start which in turn grows the community. Given our firm's commitment to those less fortunate in our community, we are proud to partner with Tompkins VIST Bank, a local community bank that voluntarily goes above and beyond in their support of the IOLTA Board's mission.

By virtue of selecting Tompkins VIST Bank, an IOLTA Platinum Leader Bank, for our firm's IOLTA accounts, more funding is available to support the delivery of legal aid to low-income families across the Commonwealth.”

Financial Highlights

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

FROM 1989 TO JUNE 30, 2020

\$348 million

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

\$16,089,648

received in Access to
Justice Act fees, legislatively-
directed revenue to support
the delivery of civil legal aid
across the Commonwealth, in
fiscal year 2019-2020.

\$28,831,992

in grants awarded to
36 legal aid organizations, the
Pennsylvania Bar Foundation
and Pennsylvania's nine
law schools, in fiscal year
2019-2020.

Schedule of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes In Net Assets

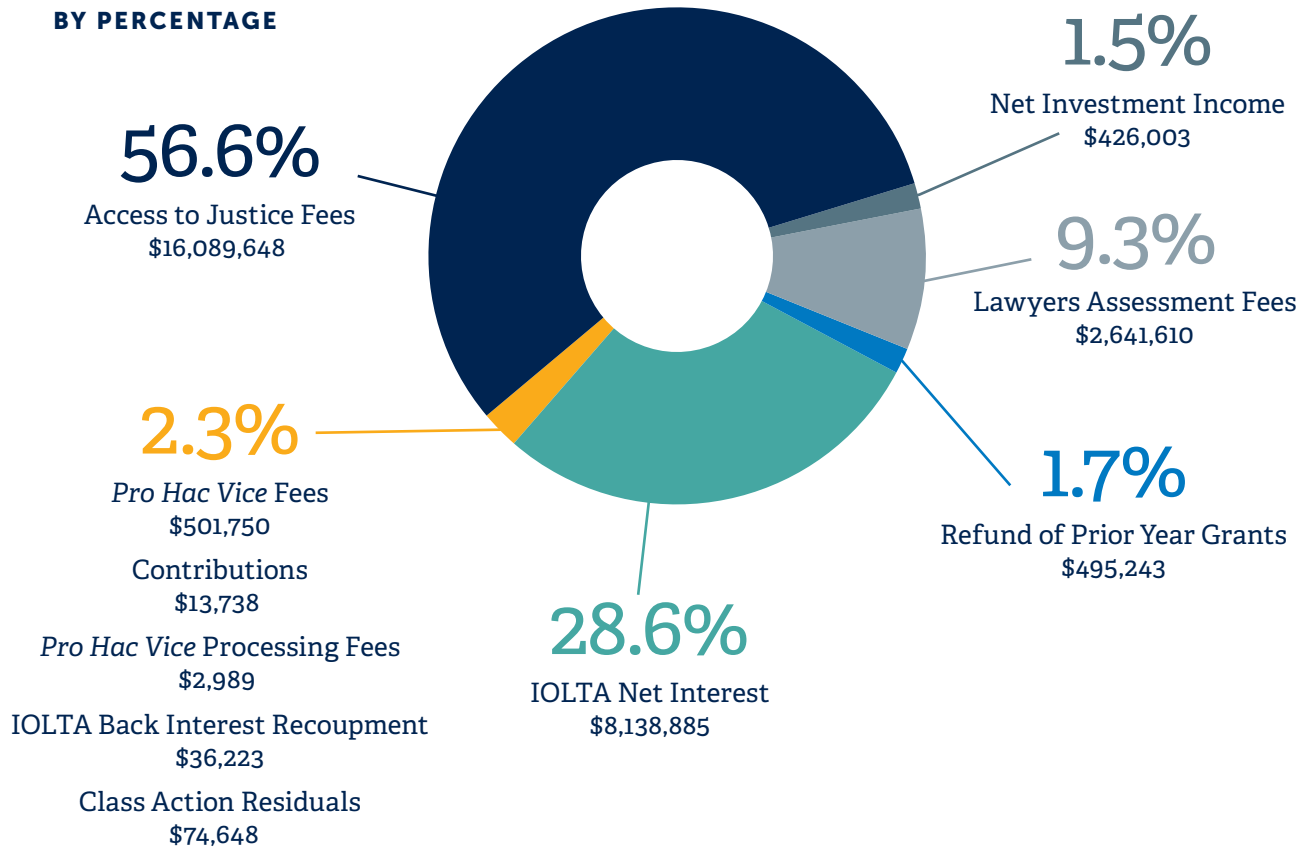
2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

	IOLTA	AJA	Bank of America Surplus	Pro Hac Vice	Property	Total
REVENUE						
IOLTA Net Interest	\$8,138,885	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,138,885
Access to Justice Fees	\$0	\$16,089,648	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,089,648
Pro Hac Vice Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$501,750	\$0	\$501,750
Lawyers Assessment Fees	\$2,641,610	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,641,610
Class Action Residuals	\$74,648	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$74,648
Net Investment Income	\$87,970	\$157,778	\$180,255	\$0	\$0	\$426,003
Contributions	\$13,738	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,738
Pro Hac Vice Processing Fees	\$2,989	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,989
IOLTA Back Interest Recoupment	\$36,223	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,223
Refund of Prior Year Grants	\$141,515	\$0	\$353,728	\$0	\$0	\$495,243
Total Revenue	\$11,137,578	\$16,247,426	\$533,983	\$501,750	\$0	\$28,420,737
EXPENSES						
Program Administration	\$766,486	\$87,982	\$32,190	\$0	\$16,533	\$903,191
Grant Awards						
Legal Services Organizations	\$5,943,453	\$17,400,000	\$3,380,115	\$0	\$0	\$26,723,568
Law Schools	\$1,600,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600,200
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$508,224	\$0	\$508,224
Total Grant Awards	\$7,543,653	\$17,400,000	\$3,380,115	\$508,224	\$0	\$28,831,992
Total Expenses	\$8,310,139	\$17,487,982	\$3,412,305	\$508,224	\$16,533	\$29,735,183
Changes in Net Assets	\$2,827,439	(\$1,240,556)	(\$2,878,322)	(\$6,474)	(\$16,533)	(\$1,314,446)
Acquisition of Property	(\$24,930)	(\$2,770)	\$0	\$0	\$27,700	\$0
Net Assets — Beginning	\$13,302,931	\$18,812,779	\$6,688,268	\$1,749,190	\$62,932	\$40,616,100
Net Assets — Ending	\$16,105,440	\$17,569,453	\$3,809,946	\$1,742,716	\$74,099	\$39,301,654

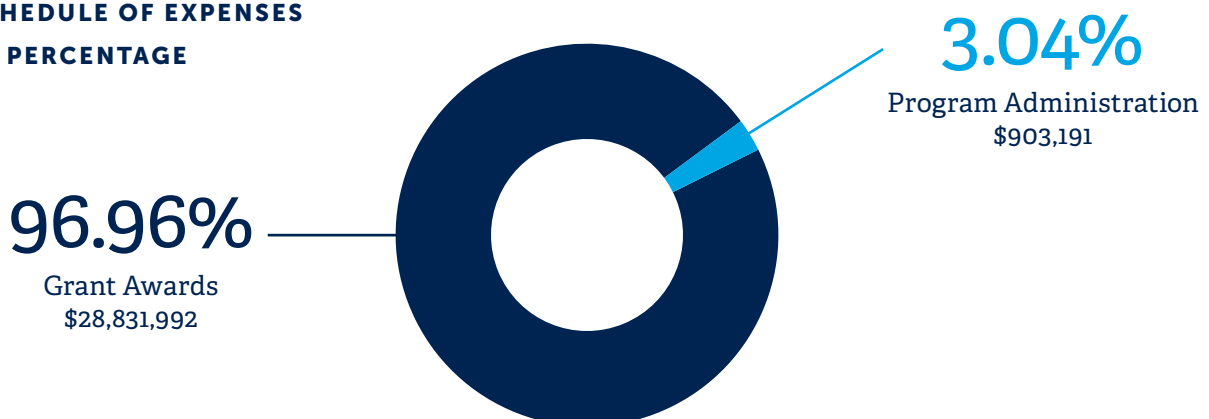
By the Numbers

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE BY PERCENTAGE



SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY PERCENTAGE



Board of Directors

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR



Gretchen L. Kelly, Esq.

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VICE-CHAIR

*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*



Forest N. Myers, Esq.

TREASURER

Forest N. Myers Law Offices



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*Court of Common Pleas of
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Markita Morris-Louis, Esq.

Compass Working Capital



Barry M. Simpson, Esq.

Pennsylvania Bar Association



Kay Yu, Esq.

Ahmad Zaffarese LLC

Thank You To Our Donors

2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR

Every contribution counts, and we are deeply grateful for gifts of all sizes. Because the IOLTA Board has a fully funded administration, 100% of the donations from private attorneys and firms increases grants to legal aid organizations.

Maria Angelo

Michael Balzarini

Joseph Baniszewski

Morris Baran

Curtis Barnette

Karen Barrett

Maliaka Bass

Donna Beechey

Lori Bibko

Dennis Biondo

Lisa Bookman

Brennan Bradley

Arthur Braitman

Richard Brown

Robert Brown

Claudia Callaway

Joan Caruso

Paul Ceja

William Chapas

Linda Checchio

Terry Clemons

Michael Cook

Richard Cooper

Louisa Cresson

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Daniel D'Alesio

Robert Danenberg

Thomas Dausch

Diane Desieno

Roland Desilets

Robert Dibuono

Daniel Diloretto

Richard Dissen

Daniel Distasio

Laurel Diznoff

Michael Dorman

David Dorsey

Stephen Elliott

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David Felderman

Vernon Francis

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Jane Gutcher

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Freda Krosnick	Georgine Olexa	Diane M. Vari
Cindy Lancaster	Michael Paige	Jennifer Velencia
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Henry Leone	Ross Parr	Robert Winter
Julia Levin	Joel Peppetti	
Rupasri Lloyd	Tien Pham	
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Sarah Markwood	Margaret Quick	
Heather Martin	James Rahner	
Richard Matoni	Sandra Riviears	
James Maule	William Rosoff	
Felecia McBride	Alice Rowley	
Howard McDonald	Scott Rubin	

Emeritus Attorneys Make a Difference in Retirement

Attorney Jennifer Fox Rabold of Allegheny County is one of Pennsylvania's first retired attorneys to elect the new emeritus status adopted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 2018. An emeritus attorney is permitted to provide pro bono services to those in need. While the emeritus status is new, Jennifer's pro bono service is not. Before retirement, Jennifer worked as in-house counsel for FedEx Ground. In 2011, Jennifer approached her general counsel about starting a pro bono program within the corporation's legal department. Before long, she and many other FedEx Ground attorneys and support staff were drafting wills and helping people obtain protection from abuse orders as well as those facing veteran and children's education issues.

Since electing emeritus status in July 2019, Jennifer's pro bono service in collaboration with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation has included revising by-laws for a small library and helping the library board negotiate a lease. Additionally, she volunteers in Allegheny County's housing court to represent tenants that appear without counsel and she continues to volunteer with the wills project she helped to establish at FedEx Ground. Ms. Rabold describes her pro bono service in retirement as "very rewarding" and encourages other retired or retiring attorneys to consider electing emeritus status.



"Don't be afraid to volunteer. Pro bono service can take as little or as much time as you have to give. It's a wonderful way to give back."

— JENNIFER FOX RABOLD

Steps for Electing Emeritus Status

STEP 1: APPLY

Attorneys on (or simultaneously requesting) retired status should submit an Application for Emeritus Status form.

STEP 2: LEGAL AID


ORGANIZATION APPROVAL

Attorneys on emeritus status must submit an Eligible Legal Aid Organization form for approval PRIOR to the commencement of services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and applicable forms are available on the Disciplinary Board's website at www.padisciplinaryboard.org.

Chief Justice Thomas G. Saylor



The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has extended its long-standing support of IOLTA's mission to ensure that justice is both fair and accessible to everyone. Now, in these unprecedented times, as lawyers, our collective commitment and dedication to that mission providing for the civil legal needs of those who cannot afford representation becomes more important than ever. I can think of no better way to offer our continued support to Pennsylvania's most vulnerable than by offering your time and your talent through civil legal aid, both financially and through pro bono work."



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts Board

MAILING ADDRESS

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