



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Funding the Promise of Justice for All



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on
Lawyer Trust Accounts Board

2021 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

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

As the charitable arm of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the IOLTA Board strives to ensure that high-quality legal assistance is available to low-income Pennsylvanians facing a civil legal crisis no matter where they live in the Commonwealth. Since the inception of our program in 1989, we have awarded approximately \$368.6 million in grants to legal aid organizations, county bar associations, and law school clinical programs that provide free civil legal services to low-income Pennsylvanians.

This year has been especially challenging for clients of legal aid providers as the pandemic only deepened economic disparities and widened the resulting justice gap, highlighting the importance of equal access to justice. Given these challenges, we are especially proud of the legal aid organizations we fund as they quickly developed new ways to reach and serve clients remotely and safely. We are inspired by the spirit of collaboration and growing momentum behind a broad range of initiatives to support vulnerable households during this time of significant need. Civil legal aid plays an important role in stabilizing disadvantaged communities by empowering low-income families to build a foundation for economic independence.

Our work continues to be urgent.

Therefore, 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, 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 unwavering support of our mission.

Sincerely,



A blue ink signature of Barry M. Simpson, Esq.

Barry M. Simpson, Esq.
CHAIR



A blue ink signature of Stephanie S. Libhart.

Stephanie S. Libhart
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Investing in Access to Justice for All

The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board funds the delivery of civil legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged through grant awards.

IOLTA stands for Interest on Lawyer 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.

What is Civil Legal Aid?

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

Who Benefits from Civil Legal Aid?

Many people are surprised to learn that the constitutional right to a lawyer is limited to criminal cases. Yet, civil legal matters affect basic human necessities, such as access to healthcare, housing, and safety. 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.

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 of 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 full report revealed significant positive impacts for individuals receiving civil legal aid as well as positive economic ripple effects on Pennsylvania communities, resulting in a return of \$12 for every \$1 invested in the delivery of civil legal aid.

\$1 →  → **\$12**

About Our Work

Attorneys routinely receive client funds to be held in trust for future use. If the funds are small or are expected to be held for a short period of time, they cannot be invested to benefit the client. In these cases, they are deposited into IOLTA accounts, also known as Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts, and the interest income is transferred to IOLTA programs.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

46

unclaimed or
unidentifiable remittances
received from attorneys.

1,301

attorneys received
assistance with compliance
issues or questions.

1,506

pro hac vice admission
applications and fees
processed.

296

grant activity and
expenditure reports examined
for grant compliance.

Program Administration

Until 2003, the main source of revenue for the IOLTA Board had been interest earned on attorney trust accounts. The revenue generated by these accounts depends upon the interest rates, service charges, and the principal amount of funds maintained in each account. The IOLTA Board engages financial institutions in annual compliance assessments to ensure adherence to regulations regarding interest rates, service charges, and account reporting.

Today, the IOLTA Board administers a number of different revenue sources, including legislatively-directed Access to Justice Act revenue, attorney registration fees, and *pro hac vice* admission fees paid by out-of-state attorneys seeking to appear in a Pennsylvania Court. Revenue is also generated from class action residual distributions and voluntary contributions from private attorneys and law firms. In addition, the IOLTA Board monitors attorney compliance with the requirements set forth in Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15 and provides assistance to attorneys to properly establish IOLTA accounts at approved financial institutions.

Grant Oversight

Like its national counterparts, the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board awards grants that support the provision of free legal assistance to low-income people in civil matters where a basic human need is at stake.

Funding is available only to Pennsylvania legal aid providers that meet the IOLTA Board's rigorous Organizational Performance Standards. Applicants participate in a competitive grant application process and grant awardees must execute agreements formalizing their commitment to program requirements.

The majority of the grants awarded by the IOLTA Board are disbursed quarterly and are subject to the IOLTA Board's review and approval of grantees' expenditures and delivery of services. These recurring, detailed assessments ensure ongoing accountability for the responsible use of available funds. Additionally, the IOLTA Board reviews the audited financial statements of grantees and conducts program monitoring and site visits.

Unclaimed & Unidentifiable Funds Program

Effective June 2018, the IOLTA Board began administering the Unclaimed & Unidentifiable IOLTA Funds Program, which provides guidance to lawyers and law firms in addressing unclaimed or unidentifiable funds in Pennsylvania IOLTA accounts so client and third party funds can be properly safeguarded.

The Impact of Platinum Leader Banks and Their Attorney Customers



Where You Bank Matters

That's because the IOLTA Board receives the interest earned on IOLTA accounts and uses it to fund grants to civil legal aid programs throughout the Commonwealth.

The Platinum Leader Bank Program recognizes financial institutions that have committed to paying premium interest rates on IOLTA accounts. The IOLTA Board also publicly acknowledges the lawyers and law firms that choose to do business with a Platinum Leader Bank through its "[I Bank on Justice](#)" campaign.

Attorneys may be surprised by the profound impact they can have on the amount of civil legal aid funding just by selecting a Platinum Leader Bank. Consider this example. An IOLTA account with an average daily balance of \$500,000 would earn \$3,750 annually at a Platinum Leader Bank versus \$500 annually at a bank paying the current minimum rate.

More information about opening an IOLTA account, including a current list of Platinum Leader Banks, is available on the [IOLTA Board's website](#).

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT
PARTICIPATED IN THE PLATINUM LEADER
BANK PROGRAM IN FY 2020-2021:

American Bank
AmeriServ Financial Bank
CFS Bank
Congressional Bank
First Resource Bank
Huntingdon Valley Bank
Juniata Valley Bank (The)
Mifflinburg Bank & Trust
**MoreBank, a division of The Bank
of Princeton**
Muncy Bank & Trust Company (The)
New Tripoli Bank
Parke Bank
Presence Bank
Somerset Trust Co.
Standard Bank, PASB
Tioga Franklin Savings Bank
Tompkins VIST Bank
Washington Financial Bank
Woori America Bank

Class Action Residual Funds

The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure require that no less than 50% of class action residual funds in Pennsylvania state courts be directed to the IOLTA Board to help fund civil legal aid for the poor.

What are Class Action Residual Funds?

The class action mechanism is a legal remedy that allows access to justice for many who would not otherwise have practical or economical recourse to the judicial system. Class action cases, like legal aid organizations, promote access to justice.

At the conclusion of a class action case where damages have been awarded to class members, a fund is created. After class members' claims are paid, there is often an amount remaining because not all members of the class can be located, or if they are located, not all members of the class will apply for or use the compensation awarded.

How are Class Action Residual Funds Used by the IOLTA Board?

Class action residual funds received by the IOLTA Board increase the amount of revenue available for grants to legal aid organizations for the delivery of civil legal services to low-income Pennsylvanians.

For more information, check out our [class action residuals toolkit](#).

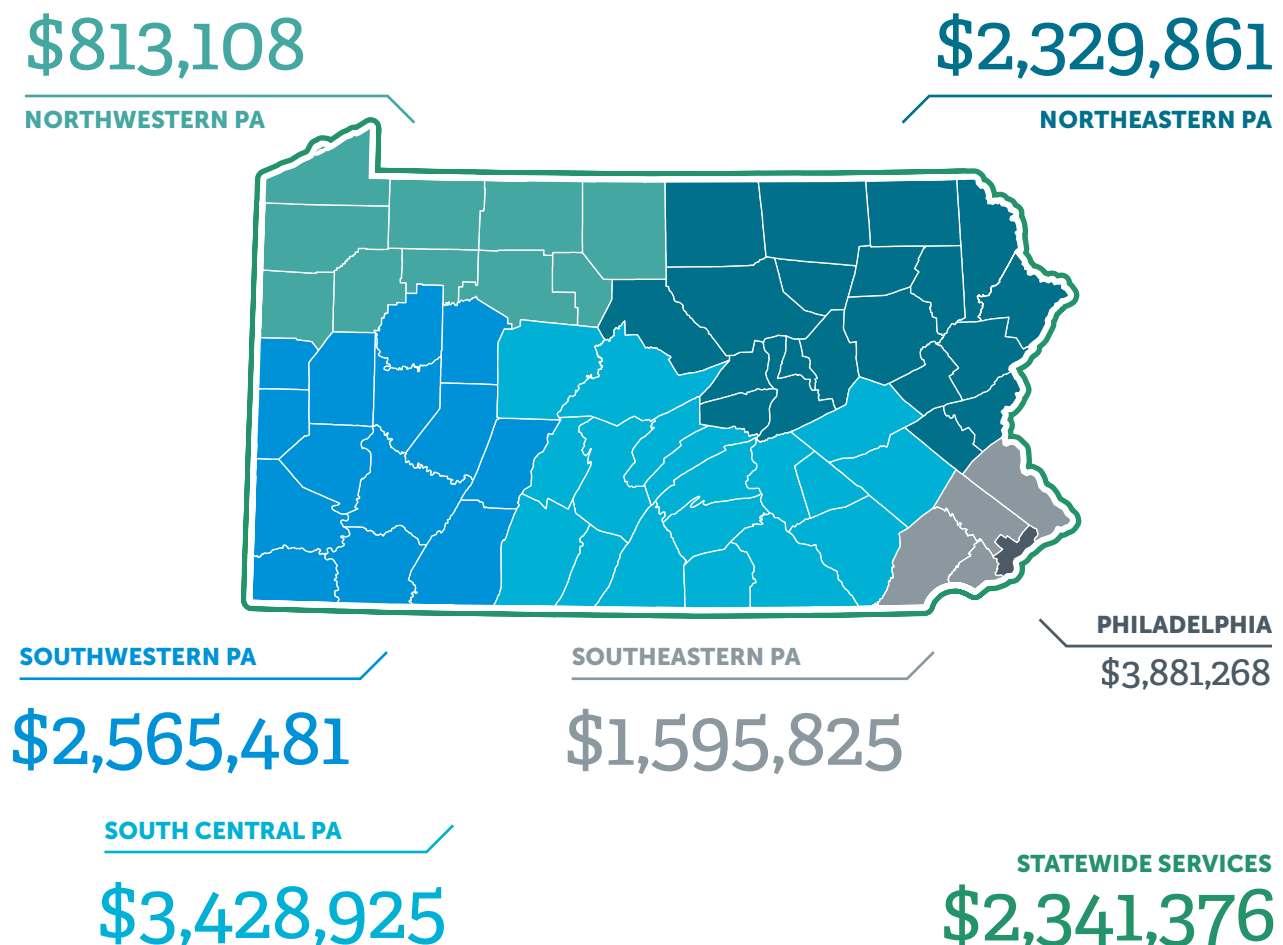
IN FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

\$965,319

in class action residual revenue received.

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 Expenses
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania	\$30,000
Allegheny County Bar Foundation	\$178,052
Community Justice Project	\$534,574
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	\$3,177,997
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project	\$50,000
Disability Rights Pennsylvania	\$179,000
Education Law Center	\$60,000
Franklin County Legal Services	\$299,487
Homeless Advocacy Project	\$50,000
Justice at Work	\$534,657
KidsVoice Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$162,428
Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.	\$96,860
Laurel Legal Services, Inc.	\$252,999
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$1,234,265
Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.	\$100,000
Legal Services for Immigrants & Internationals	\$119,514
MidPenn Legal Services	\$2,691,715
Neighborhood Legal Services	\$1,262,569
North Penn Legal Services	\$1,842,568
Northwestern Legal Services	\$670,458
Pennsylvania Health Law Project	\$411,463
Pennsylvania HIAS Indigent Immigrant Legal Services	\$194,741
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center	\$282,421
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project	\$278,612
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.	\$364,456
Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity	\$66,127
Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center, Inc.	\$50,000
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$125,000
Pro Bono Partnerships, Inc.	\$7,350
Public Interest Law Center	\$67,000
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$632,586
SeniorLAW Center	\$250,000
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.	\$469,189
Support Center for Child Advocates	\$90,000

Grant Recipients **CONTINUED**

Organization	Grant Expenses
Women Against Abuse Legal Center	\$77,116
Women's Center & Shelter Civil Law Project	\$62,640
Legal Services Organizations	\$16,955,844
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law	\$177,800
Duquesne University School of Law	\$177,800
Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law	\$175,854
Pennsylvania State University Penn State Law	\$134,898
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	\$1,555,352
Pennsylvania Bar Foundation	\$462,420
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$462,420

MORE THAN
\$1.5 million
 in grant funding for Law School Clinical and
 Internship Programs.

Grant Recipients **CONTINUED**

Organization	Grant Expenses
Community Justice Project	\$48,035
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	\$150,000
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.	\$141,839
Neighborhood Legal Services	\$75,000
North Penn Legal Services	\$146,749
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$50,000
Public Interest Law Center	\$39,953
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$1,070,914
SeniorLAW Center	\$75,000
Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program	\$50,000
Regional Housing Legal Services	\$1,151,133
SeniorLAW Center	\$75,000
Bank of America Surplus Distribution Program	\$1,797,490
Legal Services Organizations	\$16,955,844
Law School Clinical and Internship Programs	\$1,555,352
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$462,420
Bank of America Surplus Distribution Program	\$1,797,490
Total 2020-2021 Grant Expenses	\$20,771,106

MORE THAN
\$20 million
 in grant expenses in fiscal year 2020-2021.

Legal Aid of Southeastern
Pennsylvania

Seeking a Second Chance for Celeste

Celeste is a single mother of two children. She came to Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP) to clear a nearly 20-year-old criminal record.

Despite her old record and non-violent convictions, Celeste experienced persistent employment difficulties and was unable to obtain a job that paid a living wage. Even though she always had a job, she still had to depend on government assistance programs to feed her children.

Her LASP attorney helped Celeste expunge what was permissible under the law, but other charges remained that only a pardon could erase. In 2017, Celeste completed her pardon application with assistance from her attorney. Celeste's pardon was granted by Governor Wolf more than three years later.

Getting Celeste's pardoned cases expunged was the final step to clearing her record. Once again, Celeste turned to LASP for help. Her attorney advised her on the steps of the expungement process and how to file the necessary petitions. Celeste is excited to have her record cleared and to soon be able to pursue better employment opportunities.

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

IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

116

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania provided legal assistance to eligible clients in 116 pardon cases and 658 expungement cases.

Final Grant Report, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 2020-2021



Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project

Protecting People and Their Livelihoods Amid the Pandemic

Terence spent his entire career working in the restaurant industry.

When he was 34 years old, he was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer that caused him to have to quit his job in order to undergo multiple rounds of chemotherapy.

During this time, Terence had no income and had to rely on a single credit card to pay for his most basic expenses.

In the four years following his remission, Terence returned to work and began paying off his credit card debt. But like many hospitality workers, Terence lost his job when the pandemic hit and restaurants closed. Even after limited dining resumed, Terence was still out of work because the chemotherapy had compromised his immune system to such

a degree that it was not safe for him to work under the conditions.

Although Terence had received several unemployment benefits, he eventually ran out of money to put towards his credit card payment. Terence contacted the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project and was guided by a supervising attorney and a law student through a Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing, which would discharge his single debt and give him a fresh start when he can safely return to work again.

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



IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

111

Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance
Project provided legal advice and
representation to 111 clients.

Final Grant Report, Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project, 2020-2021

Pennsylvania Immigration
Resource Center

Securing Safety and Independence for a Mother and Her Child

Monica is a 36-year-old native of Panama, who currently lives in Central Pennsylvania.

In 2005, she visited the United States on a tourist visa, but remained in the country after it expired.

After living here for several years, Monica met Robert through a mutual friend. The couple married the following year and started a family two years later. Throughout their relationship, Robert had been controlling, jealous, and unpredictable, and his behavior only got worse after the birth of their daughter. Rather than allowing her to carry cash, Robert made her use a credit card so that he could monitor her expenses. Increasingly, Monica was subjected to physical, emotional, financial, and verbal abuse.

In 2018, Monica filed a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition with the help of an attorney from the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center. Nearly two years later, Monica's VAWA Self-Petition was finally approved. After an interview with the local US Citizenship and Immigration Services field office, Monica is now a lawful permanent resident and will start her naturalization process to become a US citizen.

Monica is now self-sufficient, independent, and empowered. She works hard to provide for her daughter as a single mother and is devoted to her church and faith.

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



IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

96

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center provided legal assistance to 96 immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking throughout the Commonwealth.

Final Grant Report, Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, 2020-2021

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Student loan debt is a daunting burden for many law school graduates. For attorneys that dedicate their careers to serving the legal needs of the poor, their burden is especially great as legal aid salaries are significantly lower than their counterparts working in private practice.

MORE THAN
\$4 million

in loan assistance has been distributed since 2010.

The IOLTA Board's Loan Repayment Assistance Program provides up to \$6,000 in assistance annually to legal aid attorneys employed by an IOLTA-funded legal services organization to manage their student loan debt. It also makes it possible for legal aid organizations to recruit and retain the best and brightest attorneys.

Since the launch of the program in 2010, approximately 1,157 forgivable loans valued at more than \$4 million have been made to 342 attorneys employed at IOLTA-funded civil legal aid organizations across Pennsylvania. This program was initiated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and is administered by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation with grant funding provided by the IOLTA Board. The grant is financed by *pro hac vice* fees paid by out-of-state attorneys who wish to make an appearance in a Pennsylvania court.

SINCE 2010

342

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

“I work as an attorney for North Penn Legal Services in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I truly love my job as an attorney representing low-income individuals and families in their time of greatest need. Thanks to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program, I have been able to commit all I have to this important work while reasonably managing my student loan debt.

With the burden and stress of loan repayment eased, I have been able to focus on what is important in my life: my family and my work.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program has been crucial to the financial life of myself and my family and makes it possible for lawyers like myself to dedicate their careers to serving those in need. It is a rare privilege to be in the position to be able to do work that I am passionate about.”

— **STEPHEN FERNANDO, ESQ.**

Associate Manager at North Penn Legal Services



Thank You to Our Donors

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

We are deeply grateful to those who support us financially. Due to the IOLTA Board's fully funded administration, 100% of donations from law firms and private attorneys goes directly to support legal aid organizations. Because of your generosity, more low-income and disadvantaged Pennsylvanians will be able to receive civil legal services.

Maria Angelo

Ralph Arpajian

Curtis Barnette

Gerald Barr

Maliaka Bass

Donna Beechey

Kelly Bender

Marian Bennett

Loretta Best

Lori Bibko

Dennis Biondo

Brennan Bradley

Debra Branch

Joan Caruso

Paul Ceja

William Chapas

Leticia Chavez-Freed

Terry Clemons

Iris Coblitz

Matthew Connelly

Robert Connors

Katie Crystaloski

Michael Cunningham

Charles DeAngelo

Diane DeSieno

Roland Desilets

Daniel DiLoretto

Laurel Diznoff

Michael Dorman

David Dorsey

Stephen Dubin

Michael Dulin

Stanley Edelstein

Jane Fagan

David Felderman

Vernon Francis

Lawrence Friedeman

William Friedman

Richard Frumer

Joanne Fungaroli

Charlene Gallagher

Clare Gallagher

James Garrett

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Mary Kathleen Gillespie

Mary Jo Gilsdorf

Christina Glendening

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Michael Gordan

John Gragson

Gail Gratton

Jonathan Grossberg

Sylvia Hahn

Thomas Harty

David Heilman

Richard Heiser

Nathan Henriksen

Nicole Herman

Thomas Hill

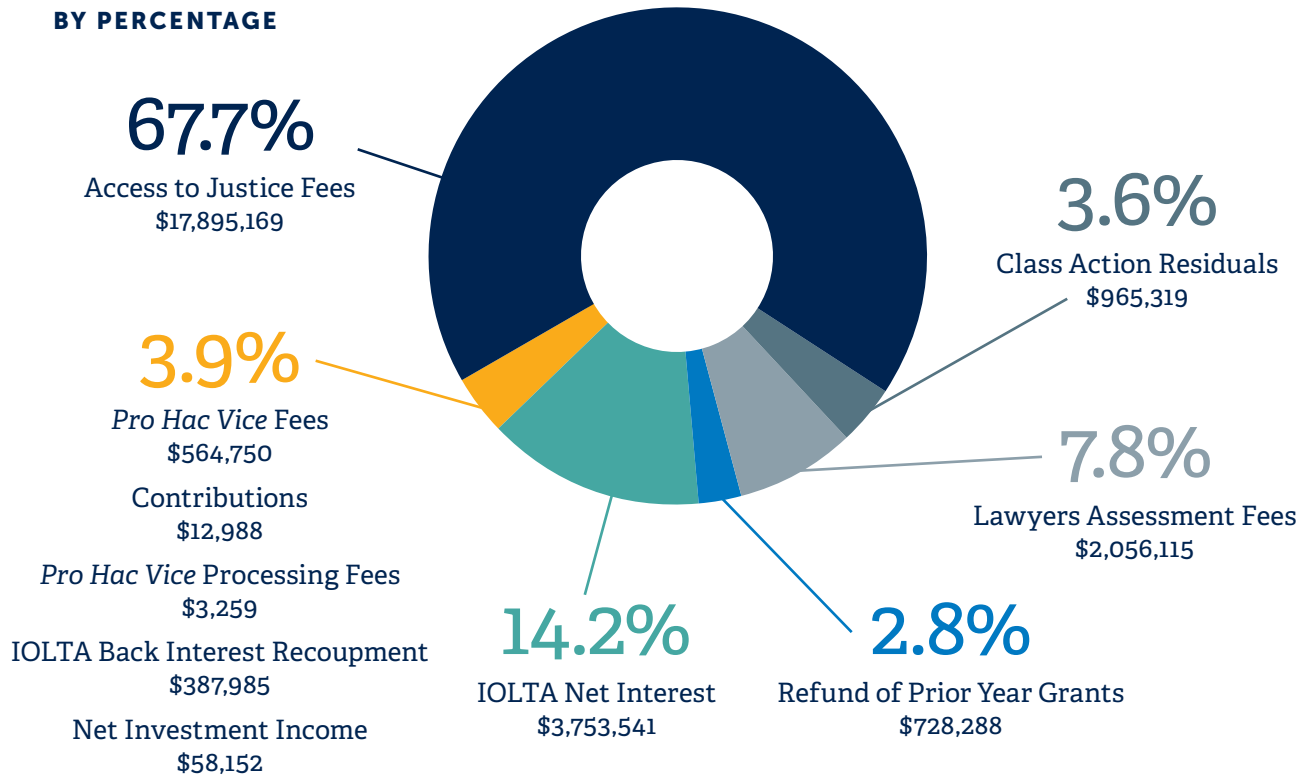
Thomas Hopkins

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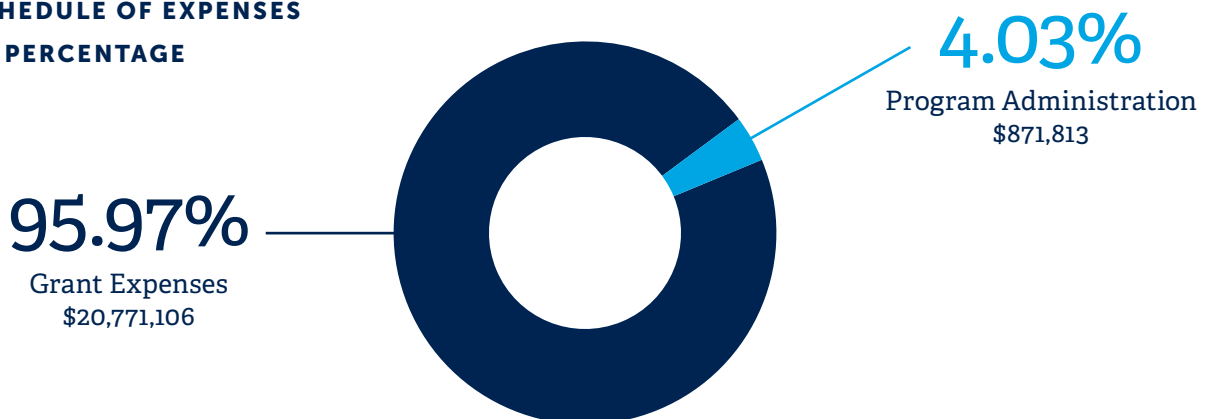
By the Numbers

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

SCHEDULE OF REVENUE BY PERCENTAGE



SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY PERCENTAGE



Schedule of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

	IOLTA	AJA	Bank of America Surplus	Pro Hac Vice	Property	Total
REVENUE						
IOLTA Net Interest	\$3,753,541	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,753,541
Access to Justice Fees	\$0	\$17,895,169	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,895,169
Pro Hac Vice Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$564,750	\$0	\$564,750
Lawyers Assessment Fees	\$2,056,115	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,056,115
Class Action Residuals	\$965,319	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$965,319
Net Investment Income	\$11,549	\$25,919	\$20,684	\$0	\$0	\$58,152
Contributions	\$12,988	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,988
Pro Hac Vice Processing Fees	\$3,259	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,259
IOLTA Back Interest Recoupment	\$387,985	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$387,985
Refund of Prior Year Grants	\$259,332	\$524	\$468,432	\$0	\$0	\$728,288
Total Revenue	\$7,450,088	\$17,921,612	\$489,116	\$564,750	\$0	\$26,425,566
EXPENSES						
Program Administration	\$735,127	\$96,219	\$20,684	\$0	\$19,783	\$871,813
Grant Expenses						
Legal Services Organizations	\$6,728,955	\$10,226,889	\$1,797,490	\$0	\$0	\$18,753,334
Law Schools	\$1,555,352	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,555,352
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$462,420	\$0	\$462,420
Total Grant Expenses	\$8,284,307	\$10,226,889	\$1,797,490	\$462,420	\$0	\$20,771,106
Total Expenses	\$9,019,434	\$10,323,108	\$1,818,174	\$462,420	\$19,783	\$21,642,919
Changes in Net Assets	(\$1,569,346)	\$7,598,504	(\$1,329,058)	\$102,330	(\$19,783)	\$4,782,647
Acquisition of Property	(\$13,200)	(\$1,800)	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0
Net Assets — Beginning	\$16,105,440	\$17,569,453	\$3,809,946	\$1,742,716	\$74,099	\$39,301,654
Net Assets — Ending	\$14,522,894	\$25,166,157	\$2,480,888	\$1,845,046	\$69,316	\$44,084,301

Board of Directors

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR



Stella L. Smetanka, Esq.

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School of Law*



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Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.

*Nonprofit and Legal Aid
Consultant*



Joseph G. Price, Esq.


*Dougherty Leventhal
& Price LLP*



Kay Yu, Esq.

Arbitrator | Mediator

Chief Justice Max Baer



Again this year, we found ourselves in a place where the ongoing pandemic created an unprecedented need across Pennsylvania for civil legal aid.

Through the commitment and dedication of Pennsylvania's legal aid community and pro bono efforts of the private bar, countless individuals and families have been provided access to justice which would otherwise have been impossible. On behalf of the Court, we applaud your efforts and look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of all Pennsylvanians."



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts Board

MAILING ADDRESS

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OFFICE ADDRESS

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