

IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

2023 GRATITUDE REPORT



OHIO STATE BAR
FOUNDATION



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GRATITUDE REPORT

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AFFIRMATION & IMPACT

A MESSAGE FROM OSBF LEADERSHIP

We are pleased and grateful to present our 2023 Gratitude Report.

This report not only is an affirmation of our work and impact in the communities we serve, but a celebration of the Fellows, donors, grantees, and partners who keep our mission moving forward.

Their collective efforts guided our work in 2023:

- For the third consecutive year, OSBF awarded more than \$1 million in grants, with \$1.1 million directed to 34 Ohio nonprofits in 2023.
- The 2022 OSBF Fellows Class hosted The Color of Justice Symposium last April. The event had a national reach, bringing together leading experts, including CNN host and author Laura Coates, to discuss racial inequities in the justice system.
- Through the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI), the Foundation reached \$1 million in grant funding – testament to a growing need and our continued resolve to fund projects that address and challenge systemic racism in Ohio.
- In July, nearly 40 OSBF Fellows, OSBA members, and friends came together in Maumee for a bed-building event to benefit Let's Build Beds, a nonprofit that provides free beds to children who need them in northwest Ohio. We look forward to hosting similar activities in 2024 and promoting them with the help of the Ohio State Bar Association.
- In October, the Columbus Museum of Art was the backdrop for OSBF's annual awards celebration, themed the Art of Giving. The year's culminating event honored outstanding Fellows, statewide leaders, and nonprofit organizations for professional excellence and service to their community. You will be inspired to read their stories in the pages that follow.
- Thanks to the dedication of our Fellows and community, the Raise the Bar Ohio campaign exceeded 2022's giving total, raising over \$41,000. We are especially grateful to Stanley Ross for his generous matching gift challenge to expand our public reach.
- We were proud to host representatives from 15 nonprofits for our first-ever grantee convening event. The luncheon and program provided an informal setting for grantees to discuss projects and progress. It was also an opportunity for us to move beyond a transactional relationship and work together with our grant partners to create innovative programs and sustainable solutions in the communities we serve. We look forward to conducting future events this year.

Last year, the OSBF Board and Staff launched the first phase of a much-needed strategic planning process. Through facilitated group discussions, self-reflection, and stakeholder feedback, a draft of a new mission and vision statement was created. We look forward to sharing our mission and vision statement in coming weeks, and charting an inspirational and ambitious plan that will direct our course for the next few years.

We also welcome a dynamic Board of Trustees and two exceptional women at the helm - OSBF Board of Trustees President Belinda Barnes and President-Elect Sarah Skow. Under their leadership, we will continue to create opportunities and advance our mission.

And finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors. Without your unwavering support and fervent passion, our efforts are in vain.

Gratefully,



Judge David Hejmanowski
2023 President



Lori L. Keating
Executive Director

2023 GRANTS OVERVIEW



\$1,086,135

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN THROUGH OSBF GRANT CYCLES



34

GRANTS GIVEN TO OHIO NONPROFITS



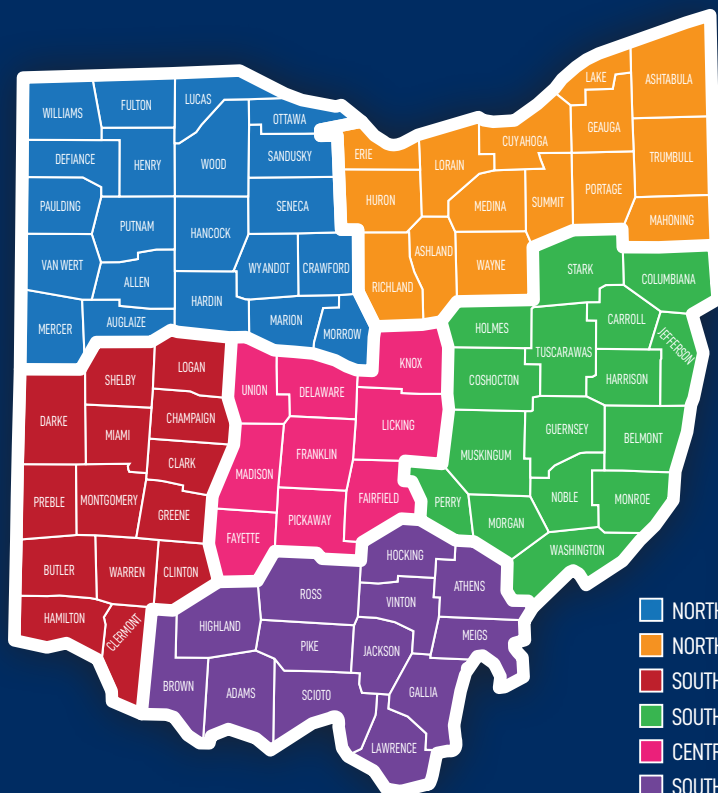
\$1 million

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN THROUGH RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE SINCE 2020



Over \$16 million

DOLLARS GIVEN SINCE 1992



NORTHEAST



\$25,000 to the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation for the establishment of the Cleveland Legal Collaborative (CLC), an innovative initiative designed to bridge the justice gap and promote social justice by creating a sustainable legal incubator. The funding will support the training and development of new lawyers who are dedicated to serving underserved communities and engage experienced attorneys in volunteer service. The project serves Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties.



NORTHEAST OHIO WORKER CENTER

\$15,000 to the Northeast Ohio Worker Center for their Worker Justice Project to organize 10 wage theft clinics that will educate individuals on their rights, with a specific focus on overtime, worker classification, and workplace harassment and discrimination. By offering “Know Your Rights” training and resources, workers will have the knowledge and tools to protect themselves from labor violations. The project serves Cuyahoga, Ashland, Erie, Holmes, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Richland, Ashtabula, and Geauga counties.



\$7,500 to Catholic Charities Corporation to provide legal assistance and resources to pro se asylum applicants. Serving Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties.



\$10,000 to Guardian Support Services to create a website to facilitate volunteer recruitment and training and provide educational resources on the legal process of applying for guardianship. Serving Stark County.



\$15,000 to Kent State University Foundation for the Youth Police Academy Experience which will give high school seniors a comprehensive view of the criminal justice system, educating on topics such as traffic control, court testimony, crime scene processing, and more. Serving Trumbull, Mahoning, and Portage counties.

LEGALWORKS

\$25,000 to LegalWorks to provide 20+ low to no-cost legal clinics, including one-day record sealing clinics which allow motions to be executed by judges on site. Serving Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties.



\$30,000 to Lorain County Bar Association for their Attorney Incubation Program which will encourage new attorneys to practice in Lorain County by providing office space and mentorship. Serving Lorain County.



\$15,000 to The International Welcome Center for their Educational Sessions on Navigating the Path to Citizenship Initiative which will develop virtual seminars and translation services. Serving Summit, Stark, and Cuyahoga counties.

NORTHWEST



\$10,000 to the Ability Center of Greater Toledo for their Disability-Friendly Business Project which will create educational resources to help businesses and public entities ensure they are accessible to people with disabilities. Serving Lucas, Wood, and Fulton counties.

CENTRAL



\$42,000 to Make A Day Foundation to create Columbus' first completely mobile application site to provide tenants' rights education and support to the zip codes where it is most needed. Serving Franklin County.



\$20,000 to Mid-Ohio Psychological Services Inc for their Ethics, Legal, & Diversity Training Expansion Project which will enhance training programs regarding justice, fairness, and collaboration with the legal systems for Ohio mental health professionals. Serving Fairfield, Franklin, and Delaware counties.

SOUTHWEST



\$7,500 to Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio for their Refugee, Immigrant Language, and Educational Adjustment of Status Services Project which will provide legal resources and translation services to refugees and immigrants. Serving Hamilton and Butler counties.

NORTHEAST CENTRAL NORTHWEST



\$21,500 to JusticeMobile for the JusticeMobile Program Expansion - Rural Areas project to expand the geographical reach of the JusticeMobile by funding additional monthly pro bono legal clinics in rural counties, providing crucial access to legal resources and education for individuals with lower incomes. The project serves Ashland, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Holmes, Huron, Lorain, Marion, Medina, Morrow, Richland, Seneca & Wyandot counties.

NORTHEAST

CENTRAL



\$25,000 to the Do It for James Foundation for the Enlightening Minds Project which will educate middle and high school students about sextortion, harassment, bullying, physical and mental abuse, and depression. Serving Portage, Cuyahoga, and Franklin counties.



\$117,500 to the Law and Leadership Institute for their Diversity in Leadership Fellowship which prepares high schoolers from underserved areas for success in high school, college, and their future professions. This project will utilize law students as instructors and explore issues of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and civic leadership. Serving Franklin, Cuyahoga, and Summit counties.

NORTHEAST CENTRAL SOUTHWEST



\$20,000 to Children's Law Center to create large-scale narrative change around the legal issues impacting youth, including education about mandatory bind over, special education resources, juvenile record expungement, youth mental health, and more. Serving Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and Franklin counties.

CENTRAL

SOUTHWEST



\$50,000 to Summer Work Experience in Law to grow its membership program which supports black high school and college students interested in careers in the law. This project will fund student internships with government offices and nonprofit organizations. Serving Franklin, Hamilton, and Montgomery counties.

WOMEN**HELPING****WOMEN**

\$10,000 to Women Helping Women to provide support, education, and legal advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Serving Hamilton, Butler, and Brown counties.

STATEWIDE



\$42,500 to Disability Rights Ohio for their Expanding Resource Advocacy and Awareness to Marginalized Populations project to increase accessibility to legal resources for people with disabilities. Through focus groups, educational videos, and translation/accessibility services, individuals will better understand their rights and have the tools to advocate for them. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$50,000 to Legal Aid of Western Ohio for the Getting Legal Protection From Abuse project to educate survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking on the process of obtaining a Civil Protection Order in Ohio. Grant funding will enable LAWO to create a series of videos and educational resources that will educate survivors and help them navigate the legal system to seek the necessary protection they deserve. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$30,000 to the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition for the Behavioral Health in Ohio: Improving Data, Moving Toward Racial and Ethnic Equity Research and Report to identify areas of inequity within the behavioral health system. Collaborating with Central State University and Ohio University, the project will address disparities and promote equity for Black, Indigenous, and people of color who seek behavioral health treatment, services, and support. The project serves all 88 counties.



\$50,000 to the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation for the Ohio YMCA Youth and Government project to support the administration, growth, and educational activities of the Ohio YMCA Youth and Government Program. This experience engages teens in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government in an annual State Assembly at the Statehouse and provides leadership training and volunteer opportunities. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$18,000 to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence for the Contextualizing Sexual Violence in Ohio's Legal System project to develop two series that will provide training and educational resources about sexual violence within the legal system for attorneys, judges, prosecutors, sexual violence survivors, and the general public. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$128,500 to the Ohio Center for Law Related Education for their Civic Education: Programs, Teacher Training & Outreach project to support the expansion of OCLRE's initiatives, which provide comprehensive access to high-quality civics and law-related education for students and teachers throughout Ohio. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$35,000 to Ohio Legal Help for the Legal Information and Action Plans for Mental Health project to educate and support Ohioans with mental health concerns and their families as they navigate the mental health system. The project will produce legal information and interactive tools designed to connect Ohioans to healthcare resources and to preserve the dignity of mental health consumers. The project serves all 88 counties in Ohio.



\$25,000 to Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice to promote the expansion of the Grandparent Power of Attorney and Caretaker Affidavit Project which aims to reduce the number of children entering the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Serving all 88 counties statewide.



\$25,000 to Ohio Domestic Violence Network to update Self Help Legal Manuals in English and Spanish and distribute them to domestic violence programs statewide; additionally educational workshops will be offered to incarcerated survivors on topics of judicial release, clemency, and more. Serving all 88 counties statewide.



\$5,000 to Ohio State Bar Association for their My Ohio Rights Project which will create new educational videos for students and young adults about civic engagement and the justice system. Serving all 88 counties statewide.

2023 RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In August 2020, the OSBF announced its Racial Justice Initiative (RJI), created to provide up to \$500,000 in new grant funding to focus on advancing racial justice in Ohio. Since 2020, additional funds have been allocated to the RJI program with a total of \$1 million provided in grant funding to support projects focused on long-lasting impact and institutional change for racial justice.

In 2023, the OSBF awarded \$211,135 to 6 Ohio nonprofits working to identify, address and challenge systemic racism which hinders the pursuit of justice and public understanding of the rule of law for historically marginalized communities of color in Ohio.

NORTHEAST

CENTRAL

SOUTHWEST

driv·en
while Black

\$8,000 to the Driven While Black Podcast to share the lived experiences of Black people in the pursuit of excellence and educate the public about racial disparities in the legal education system.

KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

\$54,195 to Kent State University Foundation for their Examining Organizations' Pledges to Justice-Involved Employees project which will examine hiring practices and support efforts in creating equitable employment opportunities for racially justice-involved individuals.

STATEWIDE

OHIO HUMANITIES
Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

\$25,000 to Ohio Humanities for the Brown@70 Initiative which commemorates the legacy of the Lincoln School Marchers, one of the longest sustained protests of the civil rights movement. This documentary shares the history of the fight for desegregation in schools and the implications for racial justice today.

LEARN MORE

If you'd like to learn more about any of our grantees, be connected with a grantee organization, or learn more about the OSBF's grantmaking process, contact Grants and Database Manager Michelle Hendricks at MHendricks@osbf.org or 614.487.4450.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

\$41,170 to The Ohio State University Foundation for their Collaborating on Educational Approaches to Enhancing Broad Representation in the Ohio Legal Profession, Other Professions, and Leadership Following the SCOTUS Rulings on Affirmative Action Project.

NORTHWEST



\$52,770 to The University of Toledo Foundation for the Launch into Law project which seeks to increase the number of historically underrepresented students enrolled in law school.

CENTRAL



\$30,000 to YWCA Columbus for their Racial Equity 101: Train the Facilitator pilot project which will teach high school girls in the Bright Futures empowerment program to facilitate racial literacy and anti-racism trainings.

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS: FREEDOM A LA CART'S LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT



Thanks to an OSBF grant of \$19,500, OSBF grantee Freedom a la Cart is advancing its mission through the Legal Resource & Education Project, providing legal education and resource referrals to survivors of sex trafficking. Freedom a la Cart also created digital educational videos on specialty dockets and restorative justice which were utilized at community workshops. We are excited to share more about the work they are doing to empower survivors of human trafficking.

Freedom a la Cart is a nonprofit social enterprise, dedicated to empowering survivors of human trafficking and helping them rebuild their lives with dignity and self-sufficiency. Through various programs such as restorative justice support, workforce development, housing assistance, and the Butterfly Program, survivors are given the necessary tools and resources to thrive.

We joined Katie Kettlehake, Engagement Manager at Freedom a la Cart, at their offices in downtown Columbus to speak more about Freedom's mission and the project that OSBF supported. Underneath their offices, Freedom a la Cart runs their café, where survivors receive paid training and personal support while working in the kitchen. Each purchase also supports their programs, helping provide even more workforce training and services for local survivors.

"Freedom is a place where survivors can heal, learn, and grow as they establish personal and economic self-sufficiency. Through the workforce development

program, survivors are able to experience paid job shadowing and internships with business partners as they explore what different career paths might look like for them. As they secure their next stable job, we continue direct support for another year to strengthen job retention," Katie explains.

The Legal Resource & Education Project supported by the OSBF was focused on driving dialogue in the community. With funding from the OSBF, Freedom a la Cart conducted workshops to educate survivors on civil legal matters they may encounter, covering topics like debt and student loans, family law, expungement law, and housing law. The impact of these workshops has been profound, with 25 survivors gaining invaluable knowledge about their legal rights and receiving support from legal professionals. Additionally, the project extends its reach to educate the wider community on the effectiveness of specialty court dockets and restorative justice approaches.

“NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS WOULD I HAVE THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE WHERE I AM TODAY CELEBRATING THE VICTORIES DUE TO THE HELP OF THE EXPUNGEMENT WORKSHOP AND FREEDOM.”

"Through these workshops, survivors were empowered with knowledge and now understand better their legal rights as citizens," said Katie. "A post-workshop survey showed that 100% of survivor respondents reported that their knowledge had increased on the legal topic presented, and 80% indicated they felt they had an easy next step to take," said Katie.

In addition to workshops, Freedom a la Cart produced digital educational videos to further amplify its message. These videos provide insights into specialty court dockets and highlight the successes of participants in the organization's programs, offering hope and inspiration to survivors and supporters alike.

"This project is important to creating a more just Ohio because survivors of human trafficking are being empowered to advocate for themselves when they face legal barriers due to their experience with being trafficked," said Katie. "The Legal Resource & Education Project provided an important opportunity to create public change as we believe survivor legal education and community education on restorative justice are both key to long-term justice for survivors of human trafficking throughout our region."

Collaborations with various restorative justice court programs and community organizations have also enhanced the project's effectiveness and outreach. Survivor workshops conducted in partnership with Advocating Opportunity, Legal Aid, Pohler & Keck, and the Ohio State Bar Association have created a supportive environment for survivors to access resources and guidance.

Nothing underscores the tangible impact of the project better than testimonials and stories from survivors who participated in the workshops:

"Thanks to the expungement workshop and help of Freedom a la Cart I gained the knowledge to complete paperwork and navigate the system," said one survivor. "A few months went by and the Judge herself called me explaining the gratitude she had for granting this order for someone that has been down the path and suffered from all the trauma and being able to give a 2nd chance at a new way of life. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would be where I am today celebrating the victories due to the help of the expungement workshop and Freedom."

As the project continues to unfold, Katie and Freedom a la Cart wanted to express their deep gratitude for the Ohio State Bar Foundation's support, acknowledging the pivotal role it has played in bringing about positive change. The Legal Resource & Education Project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, advocacy, and education in creating a more just and equitable society for all.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2023

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: EMPOWERING OHIO SENIORS AGAINST FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Thanks to the Ohio State Bar Foundation's grant of \$20,000 in the spring of 2021, Pro Seniors successfully launched the "Safe Ohio Seniors" project and made a significant impact on the community through its grant period, which ended in February 2023.

The "Safe Ohio Seniors" initiative aimed to combat the epidemic of financial abuse and exploitation targeting older Ohioans. Pro Seniors utilized legal advice, representation, online and in-person education, and strategic collaborations with partners including the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio, and the St Bernard Police Department, among others. Special emphasis was placed on educating first responders and real estate professionals, newly mandated to report suspected elder abuse.

The project successfully reached more than 350 individuals including seniors, family members, the general public, advocates, and professionals in the elder care field. Pro Seniors has ensured a lasting impact beyond the grant period by enhancing printed materials and website content. Collaborations with organizations such as the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol and specific initiatives like the Scam Squad in Cuyahoga County have significantly increased the spread of vital information on identifying, preventing, and recovering from financial exploitation.

Personal stories underscore the profound impact of the "Safe Ohio Seniors" project. One victim of cybercrime found solace and support at Pro Seniors when she was disbelieved by others. Another individual who fell prey to a "grandchild scam" received ongoing assistance from Pro Seniors to recover the substantial sum she had unwittingly handed over. These stories highlight the invaluable role Pro Seniors plays in restoring confidence, belief, and financial security to seniors in Ohio, thanks to the crucial support provided by the Ohio State Bar Foundation.



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: ADVANCING RACIAL AND ETHNIC EQUITY IN OHIO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM



Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition's project, supported by a \$41,100 grant from the OSBF, embarked on a critical research endeavor that was completed in 2023. Collaborating with esteemed partners such as Central State University, Multiethnic Advocates for

Cultural Competence, and Ohio University, the project aimed to identify and address racial and ethnic inequities within Ohio's community behavioral health system. Through comprehensive data analysis, the project highlighted disparities and proposed strategies to enhance data collection, ultimately striving to eradicate the negative impact on minority populations.

The culmination of this initiative is the "Behavioral Health in Ohio: Improving Data, Moving Toward Racial & Ethnic Equity" report, which not only illuminates existing disparities but also offers actionable recommendations for improvement. Partners have disseminated the report to various stakeholders, including members of the Ohio General Assembly, key administrative figures, Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition members and funders, as well as influential county

and city stakeholders. The project's impact also extended globally through a webinar presentation for the College of Behavioral Health Leadership, attracting over 100 attendees worldwide and reaching an additional 500 members through online availability.

One significant highlight of the project was Executive Director Joan M. Englund's participation in a roundtable discussion with Cleveland's Mayor, Justin Bibb, and US Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy. This discussion provided a platform to emphasize the report's findings and underscore the importance of prioritizing racial and ethnic equity as they relate to the law. Thanks to the support from the Ohio State Bar Foundation, this grant has played a pivotal role in advancing equity and shaping discourse around improving outcomes in Ohio's behavioral health landscape.

OSBF FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

MINDY YOCUM



Mindy Yocum, a member of the 2021 Class of OSBF Fellows, is an outstanding attorney committed to justice, accessibility, and legal education. Whether it's advocating for marginalized communities, championing legal reform, or empowering individuals with knowledge of their rights, Mindy is leading in the community and creating a positive impact. We are proud to spotlight Mindy in this Fellows Spotlight.

Introduced to the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF) by a law school friend, Mindy found a perfect match in the organization's community service and legal education work, which aligned with her vision for a more equitable justice system. Joining OSBF was a decision driven by the belief that she could affect meaningful change in people's lives every day.

"My dedication to the OSBF stems from our shared goal of enhancing access to justice and educating the public about the law. It's about empowering individuals with knowledge, a cornerstone of true empowerment," Mindy explains. "Law school, to me, wasn't just a path to a career; it was a means to make a tangible difference in people's lives daily."

As a member of the 2021 Class of OSBF Fellows, Mindy engaged with legal professionals, expanding her network and witnessing the transformative power of collective action in advancing social change. Reflecting on her experience with the

OSBF Fellows class, Mindy emphasizes the foundation's role in empowering individuals through education and advocacy.

A significant moment for Mindy was her Fellows class involvement in the 2022 Unity Summit, where she played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions on LGBTQ+ education, law, and policy. Engaging with speakers and attendees, Mindy found the experience profoundly enriching, showcasing the impact achievable through collaborative efforts.

"Participating in the summit and interacting with speakers and attendees was incredibly enriching. The collective effort to foster conversations on LGBTQ+ education, law, and policy demonstrated what we can accomplish together," Mindy reflects.

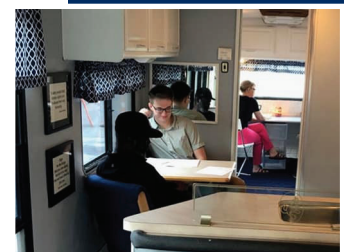
Outside of her work as a Fellow, Mindy founded the JusticeMobile, a groundbreaking mobile legal advice clinic. Through her work with the JusticeMobile, Mindy extends legal resources to over 1,000 individuals, offering reduced-fee services, clinics, and educational workshops. Last year alone, JusticeMobile made a significant impact, assisting 974 individuals through 170 legal advice clinics.

Mindy's commitment to innovation and accessibility is not only evident in these numbers but also in her work at Yocum Law, a firm she describes as "socially conscious." Her firm provides legal resources through reduced-fee services, clinics, and educational workshops, with the aim of enhancing accessibility and dismantling barriers to ensure justice is within reach for all.

Mindy believes OSBF's projects and fellowship programs foster a culture of philanthropy and service within the legal profession, directly impacting the lives of Ohioans. Through her dedication and advocacy, Mindy embodies the spirit of the OSBF, tirelessly working towards creating a more just and accessible legal system. Mindy's passion for justice permeates through her various endeavors, and we are proud to highlight her important work to build justice for all.



“MY DEDICATION TO THE OSBF STEMS FROM OUR SHARED GOAL OF ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE LAW. IT'S ABOUT EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH KNOWLEDGE, A CORNERSTONE OF TRUE EMPOWERMENT.”



2022 OSBF FELLOWS CLASS



Sarah Barry
Dayton, OH



Jan Baughman
Zanesville, OH



Michael Stephen Cox, Jr.
Newark, OH



Rebecca Facey
Toledo, OH



Brian W. Kelso
Columbus, OH



Todd B. Kotler
North Canton, OH



Bradley J. Martinez
Columbus, OH



C. Joseph McCoy
Newark, OH



Robert Miller
Columbus, OH



Marc Gregory Pera
Cincinnati, OH



Kyana Pierson
Columbus, OH



Tasha Ruth
Circleville, OH



Judge Nicole Sanders
Cincinnati, OH



Sarah Siemann
Dayton, OH



Stephen Sturgill
Portsmouth, OH



Michele Worobiec
Dublin, OH

COLOR OF JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

In 2023, OSBF Class of Fellows focused on race-based disparate treatment, resulting in the virtual symposium aimed at fostering understanding of barriers in the justice system, highlighting affected populations, and proposing avenues for change.



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MARLEY NELSON & SHEILA BUCKLEY
SPENGLER NATHANSON
JOSEPH WENGER
ZOLL & KRANZ




the color of
JUSTICE
Racial Inequities in the Justice System

The event opened with a compelling session featuring Laura Coates, a New York Times best-selling author and CNN Senior Legal Analyst, and Karhlton Moore, Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Dept of Justice. Coates shared her experiences as a federal Black prosecutor, stressing the need to challenge systemic inequality.

The symposium also featured expert panels examining the intersection of race and justice, criminal law reform proposals, and strategies to reduce implicit bias. The first panel, moderated by Michele Worobiec, a 2022 OSBF Fellow, included national policy experts Brandon Buskey from the ACLU, Kyle Strickland from the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and Paula Hannaford-Agor from the National Center for State Courts.

Another panel, led by Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt of the Tenth Court of Appeals for the State of Ohio, delved into the implementation of science and best practices in Ohio courts to address over-incarceration. This panel featured insights from Justice Michael Donnelly from the Supreme Court of Ohio, Judge Nicole L. Sanders from the Hamilton County Court of

Common Pleas, and Zach Klein, Columbus City Attorney, and Doug Berman, Professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and Executive Director of the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center.

Throughout the event, a sense of urgency and commitment to change resonated, reflecting OSBF’s dedication to creating a more equitable legal landscape. Beyond identifying issues, the symposium actively sought solutions, serving as a call to action for participants to be catalysts for positive change.

“As OSBF continues to champion the cause of racial equity, the Color of Justice Symposium stands as a testament to the organization’s commitment to fostering understanding, promoting change, and contributing to the realization of a legal system that is truly just for all,” said Lori L. Keating, OSBF Executive Director.

The conversations sparked during this event are expected to have a lasting impact on the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality. Visit www.osbf.org/color-of-justice to learn more and stream the full program.



LAWYERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



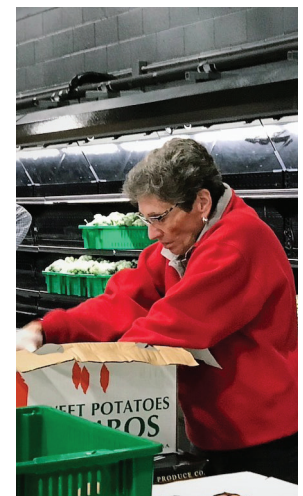
Over the past few months, Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows have been actively engaged in giving back to communities across Ohio.

In July, Fellows in Toledo worked to build beds for kids in need with Let's Build Beds. And in December, Cleveland area Fellows joined forces with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to address food insecurity in the area, offering assistance to neighbors facing challenges.

Thanks to OSBF Fellow Emily Samlow for leading the Build a Bed event in Toledo and the following Fellows for leading efforts in the Cleveland area: Marlon Primes, Barbara Friedman Yaksic, Bill Weisenberg, Rob Ware, and Keith Ashmus.

We are proud of OSBF Fellows for their commitment to volunteer service. Their actions not only help those in immediate need but also serve as an example of attorneys giving back through service to strengthen our communities and make a lasting impact.

We look forward to more volunteer opportunities in the coming year.



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

MAGISTRATE JOSEPH WENGER, IV



Joseph Wenger is a Magistrate on the Tenth District Court of Appeals for the State of Ohio and an incredible leader with a heart for community service. Joseph became an OSBF Fellow in 2021 and became a trustee in 2022. His dedication to seeing the OSBF grow and serve more is unparalleled, and we are proud to share a bit more about Joseph in this Trustee Spotlight.

When a respected judge suggested that Joseph join the OSBF Fellows program, he took a closer look at what it entailed. What he discovered was a chance to fill a void in his professional life – the opportunity to volunteer with attorneys passionate about giving back to their communities. For Joseph, a driving force in his life and career has been the idea that legal professionals could create meaningful change in the lives of Ohioans across the state.

“As attorneys, we can use our knowledge and skills to help people solve issues impacting their lives,” Joseph notes. “And when we work together, we can go beyond a single case to bring lasting, positive change to our whole state. The OSBF can help turn that dream into a reality.”

Once Joseph became a Fellow, he hit the ground running, participating in a number of ways. From his efforts working with each Fellows class, to presenting past OSBF Fellows class projects on crucial legal topics in classrooms, Joseph volunteered his time and talents to advance the OSBF’s mission.

In 2022, Joseph played a pivotal role in leading the OSBF Class of 2021 Fellows as they developed the Unity Summit on LGBTQ+ Education, Law, and Policy. The summit is a highlight of Joseph’s professional career. It brought together a distinguished group of panelists, including the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Panels provided insightful conversations that shed light on the legal and policy obstacles faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

“Through conversation with distinguished panelists, such as the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, the summit shone a spotlight on the many legal and

policy obstacles faced by the LGBTQ+ community,” Joseph explains. “Additionally, the summit provided a space for members of the LGBTQ+ community to talk to the legal community about their experiences—uplifting their voices and promoting learning and understanding through dialogue.”

In 2023, Joseph became a trustee of the OSBF board, where he quickly made an impact. His insight and fresh perspectives have been a welcome addition to the voices in the boardroom. Joseph is known for his kind demeanor, effective leadership, and a touch of humor. He serves on the Membership and Audit & Finance committees.

When not immersed in OSBF matters, Joseph enjoys a good book, leisurely walks through German Village, and indulges in his passion for baking. “There’s nothing like rolling out a homemade pie crust to relax your mind,” he says.

Joseph expresses gratitude by acknowledging the volunteers and staff of OSBF and the work of the Foundation. “Through education, service, and grants, the OSBF is transforming lives, enriching society, and improving our legal system throughout Ohio,” said Joseph. Adding, “Our Foundation family is the best!”

Joseph exemplifies tenacity, dedication, and a spirit of service. We are so grateful for his commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of Ohioans and fostering a sense of community within the legal profession.



“THROUGH EDUCATION, SERVICE, AND GRANTS, THE OSBF IS TRANSFORMING LIVES, ENRICHING SOCIETY, AND IMPROVING OUR LEGAL SYSTEM THROUGHOUT OHIO.”

THE ART OF GIVING



CREATING A MORE JUST OHIO

The 2023 All Rise Annual Awards Celebration embraced the theme, “The Art of Giving: Creating a More Just Ohio.” There was no better place to celebrate the beauty of service and giving back than at the Columbus Museum of Art! We were especially inspired by the live art of local artist Francesca Miller, whose work embodies the spirit of empowerment, social justice, and the pursuit of joy, hope, and comfort.

The All Rise Annual Awards honored the outstanding attorneys and organizations that have exemplified an unwavering dedication to building a better justice system, broadening access to justice, and advancing our collective understanding of the law. It was a beautiful evening of recognition and appreciation for those who have passionately devoted their expertise to creating a stronger, more just, Ohio.

ALL Rise

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THE RITTER AWARD

MERLE WILBERDING, DAYTON

The highest honor awarded by the Foundation, given for a lifetime of service recognizing the accomplishments of the honoree in attaining and promoting the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and ethics in the practice of law.



Merle F. Wilberding is a distinguished attorney whose lifetime of service, legal expertise, and commitment to the Dayton region has left an indelible mark on both the legal profession and his community. The OSBF's Ritter Award recognizes the accomplishments of the honoree in attaining and promoting the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and ethics in the practice of law.

"Merle Wilberding has devoted over fifty years to the practice of law, reflecting the highest levels of professionalism, integrity, and ethics," said Susan Elliott, Professor and Director of Zimmerman Law Library, University of Dayton School of Law. "He is deserving of this award not only for his long and successful career as an attorney, but also for his extraordinary contributions to the military justice system, to the state and local bars, to the arts, to education, and to continuing efforts to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion within our system of justice and the community at large."



THE RAMEY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE

RICHARD "DICK" POGUE, CLEVELAND

Given annually to an Ohio attorney whose career has been exemplified by dedication of the goals and values sought to be furthered by the Foundation; a lifetime of service to the public and the community, all while working with integrity, honor, courtesy, and professionalism.

Richard W. "Dick" Pogue is an exceptional attorney known for his significant contributions to the legal profession, civic engagement, generous philanthropy, and community service in Northeast Ohio.

"Dick Pogue exemplifies the values of civic duty, engagement, and generosity. Since moving to Cleveland in 1957 to work as an attorney for Jones Day, he has dedicated himself to bettering the region. Mr. Pogue's active involvement in civic groups and nonprofits has earned him the reputation as one of the most influential people in Cleveland, making a profound and lasting impact on his community and beyond," said Melanie Shakarian, Director of Development & Communications, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.



EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

JOSEPH MAS, COLUMBUS

Celebrating an attorney who has envisioned and cultivated diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal system.



Joseph L. Mas is a lifelong advocate for justice, diversity, and inclusion. At the age of 12, Mas came to the United States as a political refugee. For over four decades since, he has been a prominent legal figure and tireless advocate for those in need, especially the Latinx community.

“For more than 40 years, Joe has maintained a robust and successful law practice while finding time to engage in extensive community service,” said Angie Lloyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation. “He has an unwavering dedication to the legal profession’s ethical and moral obligation to work for the public good and a decades-long commitment to improving access to social and legal services for the Hispanic/Latino community.”

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION OR PROGRAM

OHIO LEGAL HELP

Given annually to a program or organization that promotes the dissemination of information about, increases access to, and/or generates improvements in the Ohio justice system.



Ohio Legal Help is at the forefront of leveraging technology and innovation to assist people with their legal needs, enhance access to justice in Ohio, and remove barriers to justice. Through its dedication and innovation, Ohio Legal Help is helping to create a more equitable and just Ohio for all its residents.

“Ohio Legal Help continues to develop equitable and innovative legal tools for Ohioans. Because of Ohio Legal Help, Ohioans have one easy place to go for life-changing legal help and resources,” said Angie Lloyd, Executive Director, Ohio Access to Justice Foundation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR ATTORNEYS 40 & UNDER

CINDY CUNNINGHAM, MT. VERNON

Presented to an attorney 40 years of age or younger who contributes substantial time and effort in service to a local social service or a local civic, artistic, or cultural organization.



Cindy Cunningham is an exceptional attorney, civic leader, and dedicated volunteer with strong roots in her community. She contributes substantial time and effort in service.

“Everyone in Knox County respects Cindy and enjoys her knowledge, passion and great sense of humor,” said Steve Oster, Superintendent of the Knox and Coshocton County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. “She has a deep sense of commitment and supports people, organizations, and causes with her whole heart, making Knox County a better place for everyone.”



RAISE THE BAR 2023

THE VERDICT IS IN

TOTAL GIVING IN THE 2023 RAISE THE BAR CAMPAIGN REACHED \$41,148, SURPASSING LAST YEAR'S RESULTS!

Raise the Bar Ohio is a friendly competition between teams of OSBF Fellows that come together and connect with their communities while raising awareness and support for a better justice system. Each year, awards are given to teams who raise the most money, bring in the most new donors, and secure the largest gift amount. Congratulations to the 2023 winners:

- The Prevailing Party was Aunt Velda's Advocates, led by Velda Hofacker! This team raised the most money during the month of November.
- The Most New Donors were secured by Aunt Velda's Advocates, led by Velda Hofacker! This team was successful in sharing the mission of the OSBF to people who were not yet familiar with our organization.
- The Largest Gift Amount – and the Matching Gift Challenge – was donated by Distinguished Life Fellow Justice, Stanley Ross, who supported two teams: Aunt Velda's Advocates and Fans of RBG!

What a tremendous accomplishment! On behalf of the OSBF as well as our grantee organizations, we sincerely thank you for your support of this annual campaign.



OSBF's 2nd ANNUAL BID FOR JUSTICE ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER IS A SUCCESS!

The OSBF held the 2nd annual Bid for Justice online auction fundraiser in July, and it was a resounding success!

The 10-day online event featured donations from 90 different businesses, organizations, and individuals located all across Ohio. Auction packages included getaways, fashion, unique experiences, cultural events and so much more.

THANKS TO YOU, OUR GENEROUS DONORS, THE OSBF RAISED A TOTAL OF \$8,830!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 DONORS *(Donations Received 1/1/23-12/31/23)*

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

The Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows are an elite group of attorneys who volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to advance the law and build a better justice system through community service efforts and philanthropic gifts to the Foundation.

As listed below, the Foundation's Levels of Distinction are offered in recognition of the generosity and cumulative giving of each Fellow:

CATEGORY	MINIMUM AMOUNT DONATED
Distinguished Life Fellow Justice	\$50,000
Distinguished Life Fellow Barrister	\$35,000
Distinguished Life Fellow Partner	\$25,000
Distinguished Life Fellow Advocate	\$15,000
Distinguished Life Fellow Counselor	\$10,000
Distinguished Life Fellow Associate	\$5,000
Distinguished Life Fellow	\$2,500
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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED IN 2023!

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2021	VELDA HOFACKER	2006	HON. THOMAS F. ZACHMAN, RET.	1991	HERD BENNETT
2020	MARK M. KITRICK	2005	THOMAS M. TAGGART	1990	THOMAS J. HARRINGTON
2019	ROBERT F. WARE	2004	STUART W. CORDELL	1989	EDWARD C. REDMOND
2018	CAROL SEUBERT MARX	2003	RONALD W. DOUGHERTY	1988	RICHARD D. BROOKS, JR.
2017	ANDREW C. STORAR	2002	LINDEN J. BECK	1987	MATT KOLB
2016	THOMAS P. MOUSHEY	2001	REGINALD W. JACKSON	1986	JAMES L. ELDER
2015	LEE E. BELARDO	2000	HON. KATHLEEN B. BURKE	1985	JOHN T. BROWN
2014	STEPHEN F. TILSON	1999	SALLY W. BLOOMFIELD	1984	RET. HON. WALTER A. PORTER
2013	THOMAS D. LAMMERS	1998	WILLIAM L. EVANS	1983	RAYMOND P. CUNNINGHAM
2012	HEATHER G. SOWALD	1997	JOHN F. HAYWARD	1982	GEORGE E. SCHROEDER
2011	KEITH A. ASHMUS	1996	ROBERT O. HAMILTON	1981	SAM D. BARTLO
2010	HON. DAVID B. BENNETT	1995	HON. THOMAS K. JENKINS	1980	WILLIAM HOWLAND
2009	STEPHEN E. CHAPPELEAR	1994	HON. EDWARD S. ROBE	1979	W. BITNER BROWNE
2008	REGINALD S. JACKSON, JR.	1993	JAMES J. CULLERS		

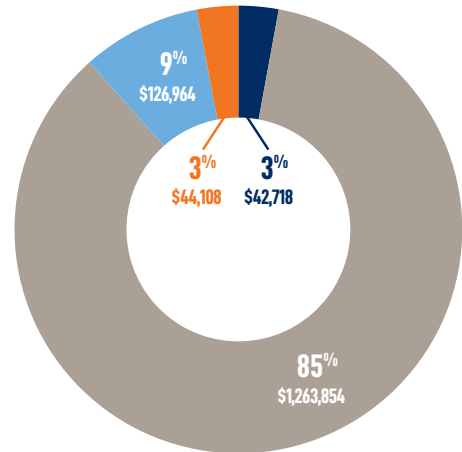
2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The financial information included in this report has been extracted from the audited financial statements. The audit was performed by GBQ Partners, LLC, who expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request at the Ohio State Bar Foundation office.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF DEC. 31	2022	2021
ASSETS	<u>\$51,214,097</u>	<u>\$58,293,469</u>
LIABILITIES	\$181,023	\$267,375
NET ASSETS	<u>\$51,033,074</u>	<u>\$58,026,094</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$51,214,097	\$58,293,469

2022 REVENUE SOURCES

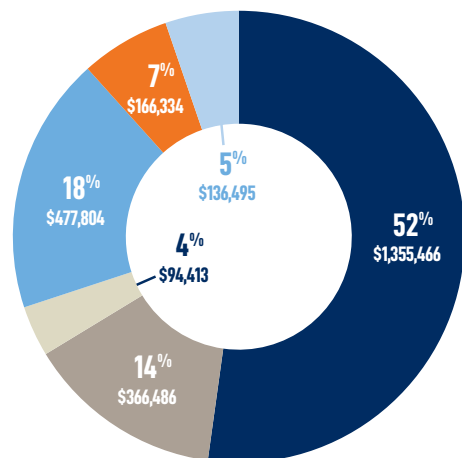


- Fellow Contributions, Net Of Discount
- Income On Securities, Net Of Fees
- Contributions
- Other Revenue & Support

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR YEARS ENDED DEC. 31	2022	2021
OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT	\$1,477,644	\$1,225,877
EXPENSES	\$2,596,998	\$2,124,879
OTHER CHANGES NET REALIZED & UNREALIZED GAINS (LOSSES) ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES	(\$5,873,666)	\$9,408,426
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$6,993,020)	\$8,509,424
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$58,026,094	\$49,516,670
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	<u>\$51,033,074</u>	<u>\$58,026,094</u>

2022 USE OF FUNDS



- Grant Awards, Net
- Programs, Publications & Awards
- Grantmaking Administration
- Marketing & Administrative
- Marketing
- Fundraising



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