Mission & Leadership

The Oakland County Bar Foundation is dedicated to ensuring access to justice and an understanding of the law in our community.

The specific purposes recited in the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation include:

- Improving and facilitating the administration of justice in Oakland County and throughout the state of Michigan;
- Ensuring to the fullest extent possible that legal services are made available to all members of the public;
- Promoting legal research and the study of law as well as the diffusion of legal knowledge through support of the Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library;
- Promoting the continuing legal education of lawyers and judges;
- Educating the public as to their legal rights and obligations; and fostering and maintaining the honor and integrity of the profession of the law.

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The Oakland County Bar Foundation is nationally recognized for our success and impact through service to the community. This is a point of pride for us, but we could not achieve this level of success without the tremendous contributions of our supporters and donors. Every person who gives back to the community through the Foundation plays a role in ensuring that our neighbors have access to justice and legal education programs to help them understand the law. It is thanks to our supporters that we have been able to award more than $2.4 million in grant funding to programs in need throughout Oakland County and across Southeast Michigan.

How do these dollars touch the lives of our fellow citizens? The

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
Veronica R. Leonard

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
Lynn Capp Sirich
proof is in the dozens of programs funded by the Foundation each year, impacting thousands of lives in our community. Whether it’s establishing an estate plan for an aging senior, the resolution of an immigrant’s residential status, or a high school student experiencing the thrill of the legal profession firsthand during a mock trial, we provide resources which allow people to experience the beneficial impact of the law on their lives. More importantly, with your help, we are providing resources that enable access to vital legal services for underserved communities in this region.

We are eternally grateful for the people who embody and support our mission year after year, allowing us to serve the community for more than 40 years. At the Foundation’s 19th Annual Signature Event at the Oakland Hills Country Club, we welcomed incredible individuals and organizations who were part of raising more than $267,000 through sponsorship and donations. With the 20th anniversary of the Signature Event coming up in 2019, we anticipate a stellar event befitting of the milestone.

In addition to the Signature Event, which is continually the top driver of funds for our grant program, another vital component of the Foundation’s giving is our Fellows program. Comprised of lawyers and non-lawyers who are committed to the Foundation’s mission of ensuring access to justice and an understanding of the law in our community, this designation is the Foundation’s highest honor. Fellows share a commitment to excellence in their profession, as well as dedication and service to the public—essential attributes that strengthen the Foundation and our activities.

As we evaluate ways to reach more people in our community in the months and years ahead, all of us at the Foundation recognize the value of supporters like you. For every minute spent volunteering and every dollar contributed, we gain greater visibility in the community and are better equipped to reach new heights. The Foundation is known as a such a successful organization because we have an outstanding community who helps make our mission a reality. Together we can help more people, increase legal aid and understanding, and make lives better.

As lawyers or others working in professional services, we strive to provide our clients with exceptional service and representation. Our clients rely on us for our expertise, advice and problem solving skills. We’re able to help clients navigate areas in which they have no expertise to ensure they are equipped to make decisions about issues affecting their lives.

But what happens to the many residents of Oakland County who have no access to legal or other professional services? Oftentimes, these citizens get lost in the legal system or simply never address or resolve their issues. This means some of our neighbors are not receiving the help and attention they need to fully enjoy their lives.

The Oakland County Bar Foundation serves to remedy the lack of access and information to the legal system. In our role, we fund programs that enhance the quality of life for people in Southeast Michigan, especially those in underserved communities. These programs can give people essential resources they need for themselves and their families, and we are proud to provide a better future for people living in this region.

You too can be a part of the Foundation. As a part of our organization – whether you contribute time as a volunteer or financial support to fund our grant programs – you can do your part in giving back to the community in which you live and work. We are stronger when we share our knowledge, our energy and our resources. With 40 years of history behind us and decades of opportunity ahead of us, we hope you will join us this year in raising awareness of the challenges facing our fellow residents within the legal system. With your help, we can identify solutions for the problems people are facing to give everyone the same opportunities we enjoy.
**REVENUE | $507,971.93**
Year Ending December 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contributions</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$162,556.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$507,971.93</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES | $324,541.89**
Year Ending December 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW Detroit Immigrant &amp; Refugee</td>
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<tr>
<td>U of D Mercy Federal Pro Se</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakland County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Aid &amp; Defender Assoc Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriot Week Inc.</td>
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<td>Oakland County Bar Association</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Care House of Oakland County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy Historical Society</td>
<td>$4,040.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeshore Legal Aid - Estate P</td>
<td>$5,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$324,541.89</strong></td>
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**Assets**

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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,638,666.58</strong></td>
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**Net Assets**

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<td>Undesignated</td>
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<td>Temp Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,638,666.58</strong></td>
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</table>

**Fundraising**

- $283,182.00

**Investments**

- $162,556.93

**TOTAL**

- $507,971.93

**Assets**

- $1,638,666.58

**Net Assets**

- $1,638,666.58

**TWENTY programs supported**

**$225,865 RAISED for 19th Annual Signature Event**

**$168,641 in grants awarded**
The finances of the Foundation continue to be on solid ground. As a result of the generous support of our community, we provided approximately $345,000 in funding to grant recipients from January 2017 through August 2018 while continuing to maintain a healthy balance sheet.

We strive to keep our operating costs to a minimum to maximize the amount of available funds going directly to programs we believe are vital to providing access to legal aid and education in Oakland County and the surrounding area. Our ability to fund such programs relies on the financial support of our community. On behalf of the Foundation and all our grant recipients, thank you.

The Foundation is uniquely positioned in this region to provide funding to programs that enhance people’s lives by providing access to justice and a stronger understanding of the law, particularly to underserved portions of the community. While the majority of our donations have historically been from the legal community and those providing services within that community, which we greatly appreciate, all members of the community who believe in equal access to justice should consider supporting the Foundation and the worthwhile programs to which we provide funding. Thank you again for your support of our work.

Programs Supported

OCBA Diversity Scholarship
Patriot Week Initiative
Legal Aid and Defender — Free Legal Information Help Desk
Troy Historical Society Constitutional Cafes
University of Detroit Mercy Federal Pro Se Legal Clinic
Oakland County Adams — Pratt Law Library
CARE House — Intervention and Treatment Program
Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
Family Law Assistance Program

Estate Planning Clinic
Elementary Mock Trial
Constitution Day
Youth Law Conference
Seniors Law Day
Legal Aid Mini — Clinics
People’s Law College Program
Help End Legal Problems (HELP) Brochure
New Lawyer’s Admissions Ceremonies
Pro Bono Mentor Match
District Court Bench Bar
“The services that CARE House and their staff provide to community members in cooperation with their law enforcement agencies is a driving factor in the success of helping victims in our county, and connecting them with available services and resources.”
**FEATURED PROGRAM**

**CARE House Intervention and Treatment Program**

CARE House provides specialized intervention and treatment services for child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse, with the goal of minimizing their emotional trauma and facilitating their healing and recovery. CARE House was founded in 1977 in cooperation with multiple protective service agencies to bring the impact of child abuse and neglect to the forefront in the community.

The need for these programs continues. As of 2014, the population of individuals under 17 in Oakland County was 273,302, according to the Michigan League for Public Policy. The following year, 14,992 of those individuals were in families where investigations for allegations of abuse or neglect occurred, with 1,897 cases confirmed. Michigan ranks 10th in the country in numbers of individuals whose parental rights were terminated with over 15,000 children in foster care. In 2015, 679 Oakland County children were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

The Foundation’s support has been essential in giving youth individuals and their families the help they need. CARE House therapists provided 3,146 therapy sessions for an average caseload of 92 child victims and 21 non-offending family members. In 2017, 668 forensic interviews were completed, as well as 550 crisis counseling sessions completed for non-offending parents/guardians. And, 11 children and 11 adults participated in court orientation with CARE House staff.

The grant funding from the Foundation means 100 percent of the parents, guardians, and children who received a forensic interview also received access to information about community resources and crime victim compensation. Ninety-six percent of the 105 individuals who completed the CARE House Client Survey reported the Intervention and Treatment programs were helpful to their healing processes and useful in providing new and necessary information. Additionally, 100 percent of the 39 community partners recognize the program as satisfactory or better according to their survey.
“I really value the opportunity to work in the clinic and meet face-to-face with clients at the courthouse. Being in that atmosphere made it a well-rounded experience because we really felt like we were doing substantive work and helping people with their matters. Hands-on experience is not often seen in law school classes, and you cannot learn it all from a textbook. Clinics are the best way to practice what we have learned, and I feel fortunate to have been a student in the Federal Pro Se Clinic.”

Within six months of the clinic opening its doors, there were 153 CONTACTS MADE by pro se litigants.
University of Detroit Mercy Law’s Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic

The Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic came to fruition after Chief Judge Denise Page Hood and Judge Victoria Roberts of the United States District Court, Eastern District, reached out to UDM about the urgent need for a federal pro se clinic in Detroit. The clinic serves the unmet legal needs of indigent and low income non-prisoner litigants filing without an attorney in Federal Court. Most of the pro se litigants don’t choose to proceed without an attorney but are left without legal assistance due to inadequate financial resources. Litigants who proceed without an attorney are almost invariably at a disadvantage and often feel overwhelmed by the frequent deadlines.

The clinic was created to provide much needed legal assistance to hundreds of litigants who file in the Eastern District Court on matters that involve employment discrimination, civil right claims and social security appeals. From 2016 to 2017, non-prisoner pro se litigants filed 798 new cases and the District Court and Clerk’s office could not adequately assist pro se litigants of their own accord as court employees are not permitted to provide legal advice.

The clinic offers legal assistance to pro se litigants three afternoons per week in the federal courthouse. Because of the help with the grant from the Foundation, the clinic is staffed by a part-time staff attorney and up to eight UDM students per semester. They assist litigants in determining whether they are filing in the right court, reviewing already filed court cases, clarifying legal claims and amending complaints, educating on pro se forms, limited research and drafting, explanation of court orders, pleadings, processed and court rules and assisting bring and opposing motions and even more. Within six months of the clinic opening its doors, there were 153 contacts made by pro se litigants.
“The Estate Planning Clinic has been an excellent addition to the partnerships the probate court seeks in the community. Without this vital resource, the court would struggle to meet its obligations in this area. They are an important component in the process to ensure that wards are receiving appropriate care in guardianship cases across the county.”

Last year the EPC:

- Trained thirty-two law students
- Provided 1380 hours of service to 76 individual senior clients
- Prepared 68 wills, 59 medical power of attorney, 52 durable powers of attorney, 12 deeds

lakeshorelegalaid.org
FEATURED PROGRAM

Lakeshore Legal Aid
Estate Planning Clinic

The Estate Planning Clinic is in its twelfth year of operation. It is a collaborative program between Lakeshore Legal Aid and WMU-Thomas M. Cooley Law School and was created as a sister clinic to FLAP to fill the gap in legal services facing seniors trying to get by on relatively modest incomes.

The EPC limits its clients to those persons aged 60-plus, living on Social Security and other modest retirement incomes. All clients reside in Oakland County, and generally the EPC operates during evenings and weekends. The student attorneys are supervised by the clinic and meet with seniors at their homes, residential facilities or assisted living centers to analyze their legal needs and provide advice on their legal rights and responsibilities.

Last year the EPC trained 32 law students, provided 1380 hours of service to 76 individual senior clients, prepared 68 wills, 59 medical power of attorney, 52 durable powers of attorney, 12 deeds, presented 11 community education events, reviewed 77 guardianships and 222 hours of assistance to the probate court. The program has tripled the number of student attorneys since its start in 2007 because of the assistance they are providing.

The EPC has become an integral part of the senior services in Oakland County. The clinic regularly visits the Waterford Senior Center, Auburn Hills Senior Center, Oak Park Senior center and other centers to discuss the legal needs, rights and obligations of the seniors.

PRESENTED ELEVEN community education events
REVIEWED 77 guardianships
222 HOURS of assistance to the probate court
TRAINED TRIPLED the number of STUDENT ATTORNEYS since its start in 2007
I have learned how to file paperwork, how to talk to clients. Now when I go to court I actually feel like I’m contributing and helping people. I’m helping the people who need help. So I encourage everyone to try to give back because you can and until you watch from the other side you don’t know how bad it is. Doing this you’ll feel better about yourself and also you’ll learn how to manage your client’s expectation, not just the nuts and bolts.
Pro Bono
Mentor Match Program

The Pro Bono/Mentor Match Program began in 2012 to accomplish two main goals: provide mentorship to a new lawyer and provide legal services to the indigent at the same time. The program is targeted at new lawyers in practice five years or less who are unemployed or underemployed. These new attorneys apply for the program and receive training provided by University of Detroit Mercy and Lakeshore Legal Aid before being matched with a mentor and a pro bono case.

The goal is to engage our more experienced members in mentoring and training the next generation of legal professionals while supporting new lawyers and their professional development along with helping support the community in which they live and work.

During 2017, there were 37 mentees, 20 mentors and over 21 pro bono cases served. The cases that are most popular in the Pro Bono Mentor Match program are Expungement, Family Law and License Restoration. With rising demand in all these areas, the legal aid providers indicate that numbers will continue to increase with additional popularity of the program. In the upcoming year, the OCBA and legal aid providers are hoping to tape a new training and open up a few additional areas for pro bono work.
Recognition & Thanks

The great work of the Foundation is sustained through the ongoing generosity and dedication of our fellows, volunteers, donors and event sponsors. That support – both financial and in-kind – makes an impact on the entire Oakland County community through the legal aid programs and legal education initiatives to which the Foundation consistently grants critical funds. Thank you for believing in legal education. Thank you for believing in access to justice. Thank you for believing in the Foundation.

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As of March 8, 2018

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As of March 8, 2018
Fellows

The Foundation limits the number of fellows to 10% or less of the total active membership of the State Bar of Michigan who practice in Oakland County. There are four levels within the fellows program: fellow ($1,000 pledge), life fellow ($5,000 pledge) and life charter fellow. A fellow becomes a life fellow and a charter fellow becomes a life charter fellow upon receipt of the full pledge payment. A person can only become a fellow if nominated by another who practice in Oakland County. There are four levels within the fellows program: fellow ($1,000 pledge), life fellow, life charter fellow and life patron fellow ($2,500) and philanthropist fellow ($10,000).
IN 2017, THERE WERE 5,867 civil filings in Oakland County’s 6th Circuit Court.

GRANT RECIPIENT
Lakeshore Legal Aid ADVISED CLIENTS IN 7,000+ CASES, according to its most recent annual report.

197 ESTATE CASES were supervised by the Oakland County Probate Court in 2017.

Donate Today
The Foundation has grown and evolved year after year — awarding more grant funds, supporting more programs and serving the Oakland County community. But we’re just getting started! And, at a time when many publicly funded legal aid programs are being discontinued, our support is more vital than ever before. With your help, we can provide even more needed funding to local organizations that deliver legal aid and education to our community.

VISIT ocba.org/donate-to-the-ocbf/ to enhance equal access to justice today.