



acbf

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

The heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community

2022 - 2023 Gratitude Report

MESSAGE

FROM THE ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, we started the “Heart Project” at the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) Bench-Bar Conference. As we are known as “The Heart of Pittsburgh’s Legal Community,” it seemed appropriate to ask for ACBA members to give us a piece of their heart by painting a 4”x 4” square with a heart themed picture. It was so much fun and now, we have artwork to adorn our wall at our (fairly) new Allegheny County Bar Foundation offices. Please stop by sometime and check out the artwork!

In addition to sharing your heart pictures with us, we recognize that as donors and volunteers, you share your heart with us all year long. There is no doubt that this work pulls at our heartstrings. I always say that pro bono cases are the ones you will go home and talk about. They are the ones that will make you think about how valuable your legal skills are to you and our community, whether you are helping someone from being evicted from the only home they know, helping to resolve custody issues and simple divorces so that people can move on with their lives and co-parent effectively, or helping someone get protection from abuse or asylum. Even helping someone get a pardon is invaluable to them and sometimes the only way they can truly start over.

Every issue has a huge impact on our clients and time and time again, we are told that our clients who have attorneys are much more successful than when they are unrepresented.

My message to you is to continue to do and support the work you feel strongly about and give back as often as you can! Join the Fellows GIVE program which was revamped this past year and become part of our participatory grantmaking that helps expand pro bono services. Our volunteers are doing this amazing work every day in some way or another and our community is all the better for it!

Much appreciated,



Lorrie K. Albert, Esq.
Associate Executive Director



VOLUNTEERING

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING OUR PROFESSION

\$55,000

Awarded to
Loans and
Scholarships

7

Community
Legal Clinics
Held by Staff

\$60,000

Awarded in
Fellows
Legal Aid Grants

19

Students Received
Loans or
Scholarships

1,350

Parents
Represented
by the JCP

12

Pro Bono
Volunteer
Trainings

17

2L
Law Student
Summer Fellows

\$171,500

Received
in IOLTA
Grant Funding

\$128,120

Raised for
Attorneys
Against Hunger

41

Pardons
Applications
Filed by Staff

1,722

People Served
Directly by Pro
Bono Center Staff

5

Volunteers
Received
Pro Bono Awards

VOLUNTEERING

PARTNERING FOR GOOD

PRO BONO CENTER

The work of the Pro Bono Center is strengthened by its partnerships with volunteer attorneys, legal aid providers, social services organizations, and law schools, among many others. Over the last year, our Pittsburgh Pardons Project staffed three record clearing events hosted by Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc., then assigned cases to volunteer students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Pitt's Black Law Students Association reached out to people in need and assisted attorneys at community legal clinics at the Homewood and Hill District Community Engagement Centers. The Pro Bono Center worked closely with other legal aid providers and pro bono programs – such as Neighborhood Legal Services, the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, and dozens more – to help recruit, train, and recognize volunteers. We were able to reach the over 5,000 members of the ACBA to alert them to a dozen free pro bono CLE trainings and multiple volunteer opportunities.

These partnerships allow the Pro Bono Center and its member organizations and programs to serve thousands of our neighbors with low incomes every year. We support both the community and the legal profession, helping attorneys fulfill their responsibility to help individuals facing issues that impact their basic needs and who cannot possibly afford to pay for legal representation. The Pro Bono Center is grateful for your help.



Pro Bono Center and Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc. at pardon clinic held at the Carnegie Library downtown.



Volunteer attorneys and law students partnered with the Pro Bono Center at the Kingsley Association in Larimer.



PRO BONO AWARDS

Volunteers and public interest attorneys are at the heart of the Pro Bono Center's efforts to increase equal access to justice for all members of our communities, regardless of their ability to afford an attorney. These attorneys were recognized for their outstanding commitment to providing free legal services over the past year.

JEFFREY BRAUN, ESQ.

Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Attorney Award

ROBERT CRISANTI, ESQ. BETTY A. DILLON, ESQ.

Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Awards

REED SMITH LLP

Law Firm Award

EDWARD STOKAN, ESQ.

Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award



ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

The heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community

JUVENILE COURT PROJECT

In fiscal year 2022-23, the Juvenile Court Project (JCP) represented over 1,350 clients and participated in nearly 9,000 hearings concerning the clients' 2,300 court active children. Additionally, the JCP support staff received over 5,000 referrals and assisted clients with finding housing, community resources, developing family finding ecomaps, attending court hearings, retrieving records (medical, treatment, education, visitation, etc.), attending over 1,000 Family Conferencing and Teaming meetings, and over 400 other planning meetings, etc.

The support staff also conducted nearly 3,000 check-in calls with clients – a new initiative started last year. The paralegal team also contributed support by drafting motions, acquiring transcripts, issuing subpoenas, drafting appellate pleadings, conducting intake, and conducting legal research.

The JCP also converted to all electronic client files and completed the scanning of over 2,500 closed client files. The JCP completed updating its Office and Court Calendars conversion to a cloud-based approach. The JCP calendar needs are extensive as the JCP covers on average 35 dockets per week. The new calendars allow all staff members to know the location of staff on a daily basis.

The Juvenile Court Project is a non profit legal assistance program of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. Our mission is to advocate for the interests and protect the legal rights of indigent parents whose children are the subjects of Juvenile Court dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Allegheny County.

Parent advocates are licensed attorneys who specialize in assisting parents:

- who are accused of abusing or neglecting their children.
- whose children while subject to compulsory school attendance are habitually truant.
- whose children habitually disobey their parents, are deemed ungovernable, and are in need of care, treatment, or supervision.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY



The Young Lawyers Division once again sponsored Strike Out Hunger, a fundraiser supporting the Attorneys Against Hunger campaign. This year, there was a new twist to the event which was held at Shorty's Pins x Pints on the North Shore – *Strike Out Hunger – Game Night*, with duckpin bowling, shuffleboard, and pinball games on April 26, 2023. The event was a huge win, raising nearly \$8,000 for the AAH campaign! Thanks to all the YLD members and participants who made this event a resounding success.



The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan plays pinball during Strike Out Hunger Game Night Edition.





FOCUS ON RENEWAL

During their hot meal distribution, a couple who takes two separate buses to volunteer at the Food Pantry continues to state, “their work at the food pantry is the only thing keeping them alive.” In addition, a community member who also volunteers at the food pantry said, “she is always grateful to come to the food pantry and provide help on Fridays because it gives her a sense of purpose and a way to help others.”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

The impact of this grant is most noticeable in the lives that have been changed or at least brightened significantly, through both large and small gestures.

Many of the people helped through the Walk-In Ministry express their gratitude by returning to volunteer with them. “Mike” was once living on the street. He would come to the Walk-In Ministry to get help, and also to the Tuesday night Outreached Arms dinner. Eventually he was able to find housing with help from First Presbyterian and Outreached Arms. He now volunteers regularly at the Walk-In Ministry, distributing food and toiletries to others who currently are where he once was.

“Tracy” was a once frequent client of the Walk-In Ministry. He had been living on the street and spending his days in the sanctuary. Not long ago, he was able to find housing. First Presbyterian was able to provide him with an initial stockpile of groceries and toiletries for his new apartment. He was very grateful for the help.





Attorneys from Neighborhood Legal Services attended the Fall Foundation Reception to share about the impact of the grant they received from the ACBF on Oct. 19, 2022.

FELLOWS GIVE

Last year, we rolled out Fellows GIVE, a new program designed to connect past, present, and future Fellows of the Foundation with one another and the organizations that are making an impact in our community. Fellows with active status can attend an in-person pitch event to hear directly from applying legal aid organizations, and then vote on the ones they think most deserve to receive the grant.

FELLOWS GIVE GRANTEES

Through the Fellows GIVE Program, the ACBF supports organizations in Allegheny County that are working to close the justice gap through innovative programs and projects. In FY 2022-23, the Foundation's Fellows awarded \$60,000 in grants to the following 6 legal aid programs of varying focus, including refugee services, support for survivors of intimate partner violence, access to education, tenants' rights, and more projects that are meeting crucial and urgent needs in our community.



FELLOWS GIVE GRANTS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

WOMEN'S CENTER & SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

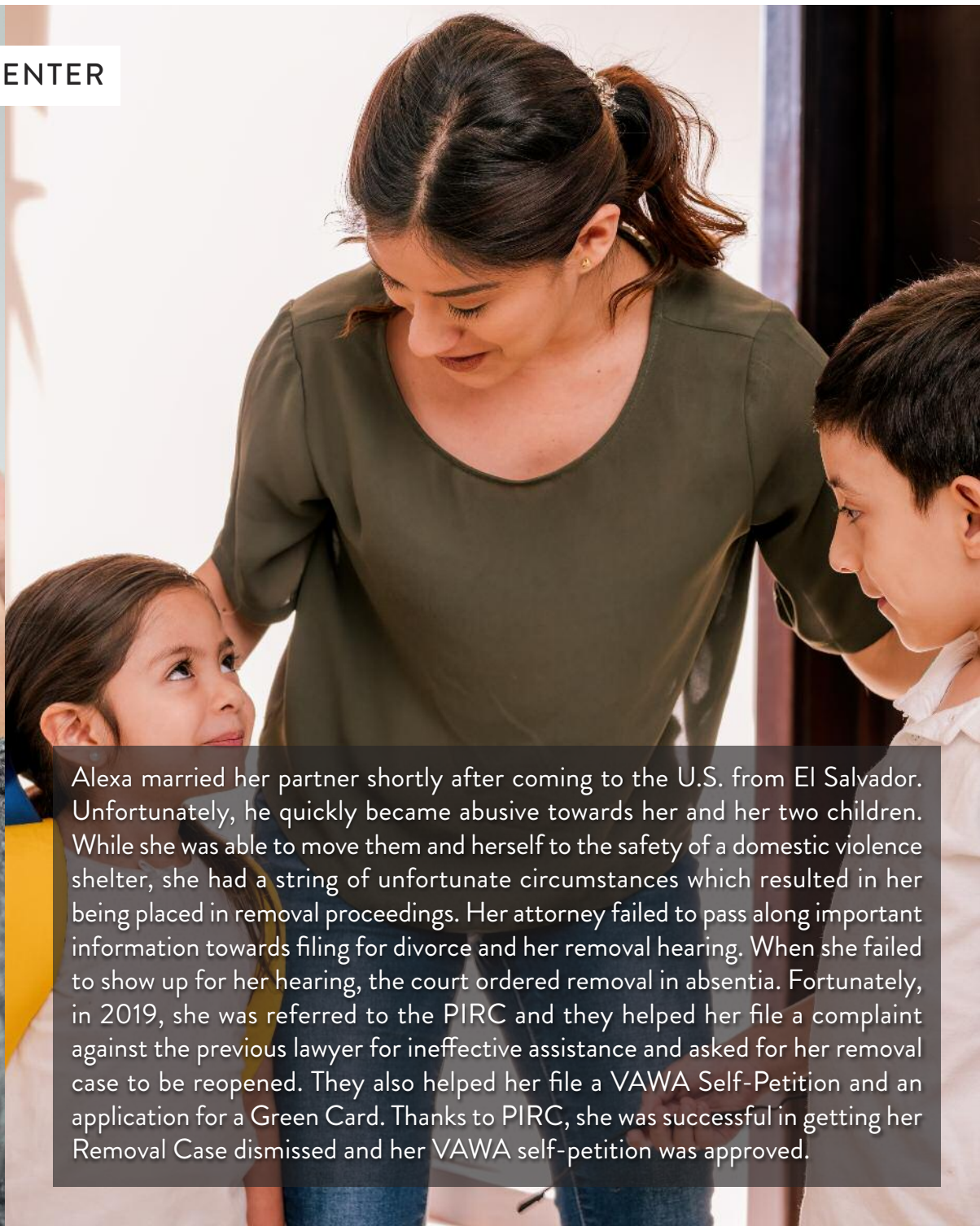
Both James and his wife are Nepali refugees who resettled in Allegheny County. James is the primary caregiver of their young son. He does not speak English and, therefore, interpreter services were required to communicate with him about his cases. Unfortunately, his wife became an alcoholic and was physically abusive towards him, eventually hurting him badly enough to need medical attention. With the husband as the primary caregiver and unable to speak English, he feared that his child and assets would be taken from him. The CLP attorney was able to arrange the necessary support he needed, including interpreters for meetings and translations for documents. In 2022, the husband was granted a divorce and able to retain many assets that helped him forge a new future for himself and his child.

FELLOWS GIVE GRANTS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION RESOURCE CENTER



Hanna is a 43-year-old native of Syria who initially entered the U.S. as a student attending English classes. She met another immigrant who convinced her to drop out and eventually became extremely abusive. Pregnant, unable to speak English, and entirely dependent on an abusive partner, Hanna was desperate for help. The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) helped her to submit a U visa application based on domestic violence and, after being in removal proceedings for ten years, the Immigration Judge dismissed proceedings against Hanna. She is now finally able to rebuild her life with her daughter without fear of separation.



Alexa married her partner shortly after coming to the U.S. from El Salvador. Unfortunately, he quickly became abusive towards her and her two children. While she was able to move them and herself to the safety of a domestic violence shelter, she had a string of unfortunate circumstances which resulted in her being placed in removal proceedings. Her attorney failed to pass along important information towards filing for divorce and her removal hearing. When she failed to show up for her hearing, the court ordered removal in absentia. Fortunately, in 2019, she was referred to the PIRC and they helped her file a complaint against the previous lawyer for ineffective assistance and asked for her removal case to be reopened. They also helped her file a VAWA Self-Petition and an application for a Green Card. Thanks to PIRC, she was successful in getting her Removal Case dismissed and her VAWA self-petition was approved.



FELLOWS GIVE
GRANTS
IMPACTING THE
COMMUNITY

EDUCATION LAW CENTER

Education Law Center (ELC) represented a junior high school student (K.C.) with a previously unidentified disability who was disciplined and ultimately sent to an alternative education setting with no return date to the school district. The alternative placement was not appropriate for K.C. and the expulsion did not match the infraction. As a result, K.C. became more socially and academically disengaged and he faced truancy issues. ELC was able to successfully work with the school to create a plan to transition K.C. back into his neighborhood school with additional learning support and services that address his behavioral needs. The additional support will allow K.C. to integrate back into a structured school environment, positively reinforce good behavior with school staff, and encourage social connections with his peers.

SUPPORTING OUR PROFESSION

2L SUMMER LAW STUDENT FELLOWS

The ACBF offers funded fellowships every summer made possible by members of the Allegheny County legal community to support students who are interested in pursuing careers in legal aid. We aim to promote the path of public interest as a viable career opportunity and level the playing field by offering resources and professional development to students from the very beginning.

LAWYERS' FUND SUMMER FELLOWSHIP STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW

Darren Campuzano, Juvenile Court Project

Courteny Hager, Pro Bono Center

Anita Krishnan, Disability Rights Pennsylvania

Grace Mannix, District Attorney

China McEachron, Education Law Center

Robert Necciai, Christian Legal Aid

Dave Oakley, Community Justice Project

Zachary Weiner, JFCS

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Felicia Dusha, Public Defender

Chantal Naum, Women's Center and Shelter

James Vinski, Office of Conflict Counsel

Carolyn Zeis, KidsVoice

GISMONDI CERTIFIED LAW STUDENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIP STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW

Kaitlyn Correa, Neighborhood Legal Services

Juliana Da Silva, District Attorney

Olivia Kruger, Neighborhood Legal Services

Genevieve Skaryak, Neighborhood Legal Services

JOHN A. MEEHAN CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP STUDENT

THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Kelsey Koch, JFCS

“Through the ACBA Summer Fellowship Program, I was able to intern at the District Attorney's Office. My experience was nothing short of incredible. As a Certified Legal Intern, I was able to gain the practical litigation experience I was looking for by being in court, on record, every day doing pleas, motions, or preliminary hearings. I even got to prepare and execute a full non-jury proceeding and secure a conviction for the Commonwealth. Outside of the internship itself, the Summer Fellowship Program provided me with additional opportunities to network with other students and professionals in the Pittsburgh Legal Community. I will definitely be recommending the program to rising 2Ls that are looking for summer internship opportunities next year!”

– Grace Mannix
Lawyers' Fund Summer
Fellowship Student



The Hon. Patricia Dodge participated in the ACBF Law Student Summer Fellowship Program and the ACBA Summer Clerkship Program “Lunch with the Judges” event at the Rivers Club on June 22.



The ACBF held its Law Student Summer Fellowship orientation at the Pennsylvania Market in the strip district on May 24.

LAWYERS’ FUND

Providing critical care and educational opportunities to our profession

The Lawyers’ Fund was established in part to provide financial assistance to attorneys in Allegheny County and their families as needed. The ACBF has provided funds to members of the legal community experiencing financial hardship caused by family emergencies, medical expenses, funeral costs, and other sudden life events. It also funds the Summer Student Fellowship program. Last year, the Fund provided \$115,814 in assistance to lawyers and law students.

LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

THE F.C. GROTE FUND



Kaitlyn Correa
*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*



Sarah Ferguson
*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*



Daniel Joyce
*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*



Grace Mannix
*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*

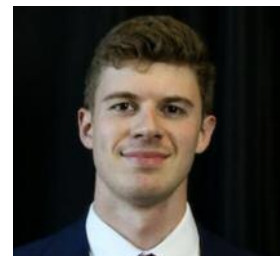


Angela Nolan
*University of Pittsburgh
School of Law*



Allison Zellers
*University of Pennsylvania
School of Law*

THE JAMES I. SMITH, III NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Tyler Selke
Notre Dame Law School



Zachary Zovko
Notre Dame Law School

FOUNDATION RECEPTION

The Foundation Reception was held at LeMont Restaurant on Oct. 19, 2022, to honor our volunteers, Pro Bono Award winners, and New Fellows GIVE Class of 2022. The Board of Trustees recognized **Stanley Stein** and the **Honorable Christine Ward** for their dedication and outstanding service on the ACBF Board of Trustees.

The Foundation awarded honorary Fellows GIVE memberships to **Pamela L. Dalton-Arlotti** and **Amy G. Carpenter** of Neighborhood Legal Services for their outstanding attorneys working in public service. We thanked **Carol Behers** and **Robert Ridge** for their outstanding tenure and service on the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Lawyers' Fund. The Presidential Merit Award was given to **Kenny Steinberg** for his long-standing dedication to the Foundation and the Attorneys Against Hunger campaign.

We had an opportunity to hear from Legal Aid Grantees **1Hood** and **Neighborhood Legal Services** about how they were able to make an impact through our Fellows GIVE Legal Aid Grants and from Pro Bono volunteer **Samantha Cook**. It was an exciting evening of celebration for all the good work our volunteers do for the profession and community.



Kenny Steinberg, Esq. was honored with the Presidential Merit Award for his longtime support of Attorneys Against Hunger.



Reed Smith, LLP was presented with the 2022 Pro Bono Law Firm Award.



2022 Pro Bono Achievement Awardees (from left: Jeffrey Weimer, Esq. representing Reed Smith, LLP; Betty A. Dillon, Esq.; Jeffrey Braun, Esq.; Robert Crisanti, Esq.; Barbara Griffin, Esq. Not pictured: Edward Stokan, Esq.)

28TH ANNUAL GOLF AND 8TH ANNUAL BOCCE TOURNAMENT

The ACBA's 28th Annual Golf and 8th Annual Bocce Tournament took place at Longue Vue Golf Club on Monday, July 25, 2022. The event was a huge success, raising crucial funds for both the Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services.

The Donnelly Foursome pose for a photo on Hole 2 at Longue Vue Country Club.



LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



Leadership Circle Law Firms step-up once again to show strong financial support for our Foundation's work. Created in 2012, the Law Firm Leadership Circle is composed of a distinguished group of law firms whose outstanding generosity demonstrates a commitment to joining the Bar Foundation's efforts to increase the legal profession's impact in the community. Each firm has made a financial commitment to the Foundation by pledging to donate to the Leadership Circle campaign over three years to secure the administration of the Foundation's outstanding pro bono, community, and professional programs.

These law firms have made an unwavering commitment to improve equal justice in our community:

**BABST CALLAND
BERNSTEIN-BURKLEY
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
BURNS WHITE LLC
CAMPBELL DURRANT BEATTY PALOMBO & MILLER, PC
CLARK HILL PLC
DENTONS COHEN & GRIGSBY, PC
DICKIE, MCCAMEY & CHILCOTE, PC
DUANE MORRIS LLP
ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT, LLC
FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP
FRANK, GALE, BAILS, MURCKO & POGRASS, PC
GISMONDI & ASSOCIATES
GOEHRING RUTTER & BOEHM
JONES DAY
K&L GATES LLP**

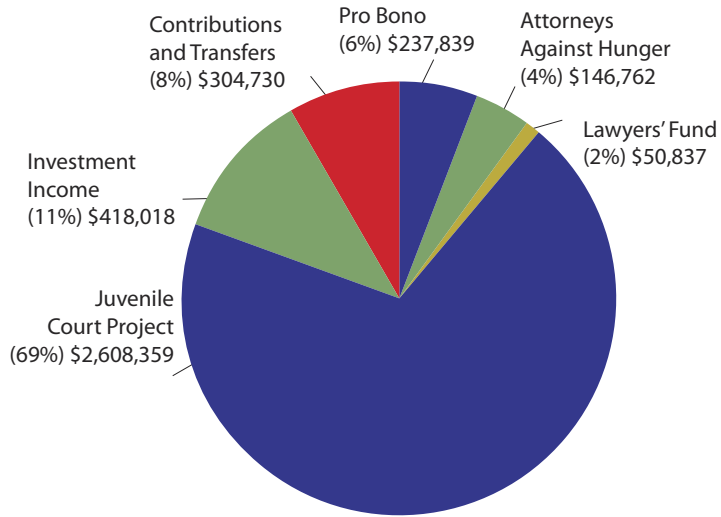
**MARSHALL DENNEHEY
MCCARTHY MCENROE ROSINSKI & JOY
MEYER DARRAGH BUCKLER BEBENEK & ECK, PLLC
MEYER UNKOVIC & SCOTT LLP
POLLOCK BEGG
RAPHAEL, RAMSDEN & BEHERS, PC
REED SMITH LLP
SCHNADER HARRISON SEGAL & LEWIS LLP
SHERRARD, GERMAN & KELLY, PC
STRASSBURGER MCKENNA GUTNICK & GEFSKY
THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFFER LLP
TROUTMAN PEPPER HAMILTON LLP
TUCKER ARENSBERG, PC
VUONO & GRAY, LLC
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, PC
ZIMMER KUNZ, PLLC**

If you would like to learn more about the Law Firm Leadership Circle, please contact Lorrie Albert at lalbert@acba.org or 412-402-6640.

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

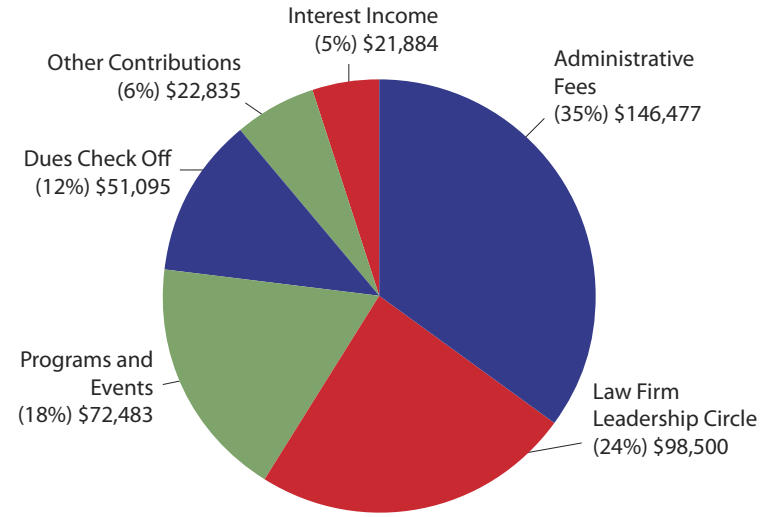
AUDITED FINANCIALS FOR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023

RESTRICTED

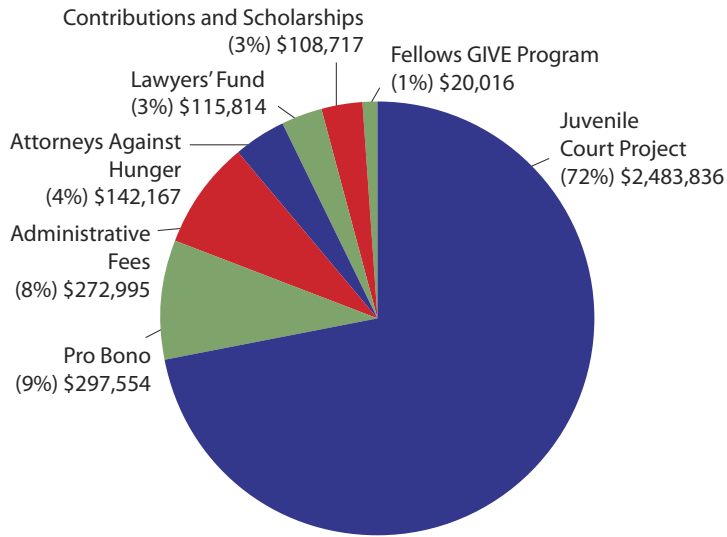


Total Revenue \$3,766,545

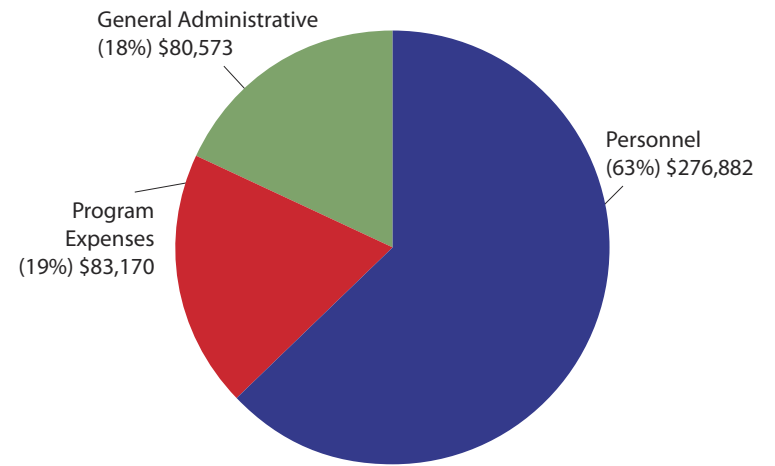
UNRESTRICTED



Total Revenue \$413,274



Total Expenses \$3,441,099



Total Expenses \$440,625

Please visit www.ACBF.org to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Keith E. Whitson, PRESIDENT
Daniel J. Sinclair, VICE PRESIDENT
Jaclyn M. Belczyk, SECRETARY
Robert S. Bernstein, TREASURER
Jennifer R. Andrade, IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

ONE YEAR

Gilda M. Arroyo • Edward J. Donnelly, III, MD • Andrew K. Fletcher
Gary M. Lang • Mary Lou McLaughlin • Crystal McCormick Ware

TWO YEAR

Ronald J. Brown • Lacey C. Ecker • Thomas R. Moore
Margaret W. Prescott • Brian C. Vertz

THREE YEAR

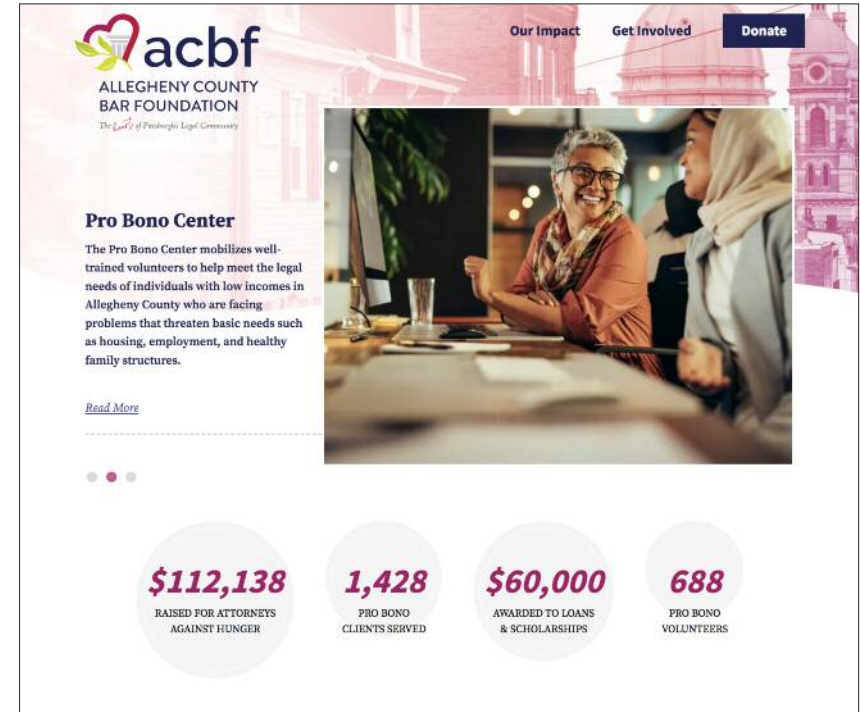
Frederick N. Frank • Bryan S. Neft • Sunu M. Pillai

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Aleksandra J. Kocelko

STAFF

David A. Blaner, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lorrie K. Albert, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Barbara Griffin, PRO BONO CENTER DIRECTOR
Ronald Slavonic, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Cathy Volponi, JUVENILE COURT PROJECT DIRECTOR
Stephanie Selya, PROGRAMS AND PROJECT MANAGER
Maggie Tarentino, DONOR RELATIONS AND EVENTS COORDINATOR
Patricia O. Jones, PRO BONO STAFF ATTORNEY
Olivia P. Hilborn, PRO BONO STAFF ATTORNEY



ACBF LAUNCHES NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation has a whole new look! We launched a new logo and redesigned our website which is now live. Available at www.acbf.org, the new website has a more modern design, intuitive navigation, updated content and streamlined resources. The revamped site also includes a redesign of www.PittsburghProBono.org, the online home of the ACBF's Pro Bono Center. Please come visit!



ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

The heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community

CREATING POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

The mission of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation is to be a driving force in promoting justice for all and to improve the community through public service law-related programs as the charitable arm of the Allegheny County Bar Association. To fulfill this mission, the Foundation raises, manages, and distributes funds, encourages and assists lawyers to provide pro bono legal services, and develops and supports public information initiatives.

400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

www.ACBF.org

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization and is classified by the IRS as a "public charity". A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.