



2017-  
2018

# GRATITUDE REPORT

*Celebrating the Past...  
Sharing the Vision...*

*The*  *of Pittsburgh's Legal Community®*

## Helping in the fight for food security



Imagine being homeless in Pittsburgh, living somewhere in the city that meets the minimum standards of living: the clothes on your back, shelter from the weather (usually under a bridge or overpass), and food wherever you can find it. That's where Attorneys Against Hunger (AAH) makes a real difference. AAH raises funds to support 17 local organizations fighting to end hunger in Allegheny County. As a part of our program, AAH supports the Downtown Ministerium Walk-In Ministry, a collection of 5 churches that take turns all week feeding those in need. The lines are long, but the resources are good. Your AAH donations continue to help to increase these churches' ability to provide much-needed food to members in our community who may not find it any other way.

**AAH's grant is the largest single source of income for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's food pantry and program. The Ministry serves 3-to-5 days of food to between 40 and 110 households that represent upwards of 175 individuals.**





The Red Door Program provides bagged lunches which typically consist of at least 2 sandwiches, soup or salad, fresh fruit, juice box, water and pastries and are distributed Monday through Saturday to more than 100 persons each day.



## Connecting with Communities



# PRO BONO CENTER

Allegheny County Bar Foundation

A national study by the Legal Services Corporation in 2017 found that 71% of households with very low incomes experienced a legal problem in the previous year, but only a small fraction of them got legal help for those problems. The Pro Bono Center's mission is to help bridge that gap and one way we do this is by connecting attorneys with communities in need. Community legal clinics and informational sessions bring volunteer attorneys into neighborhoods and are a vital piece of the fabric of free legal services in Allegheny County.

In the past year, volunteers helped prepare wills and other advanced planning documents at the Grayson Center in the Hill District and at Operation Better Block in Homewood. They staffed legal resources tables at events serving the elderly and at the Urban League of Pittsburgh's annual Thanksgiving food distribution. These events were in addition to the ongoing community legal clinics managed by volunteer attorneys and Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership firms and corporations that serve residents of McKees Rocks, Millvale, Uptown, and others.





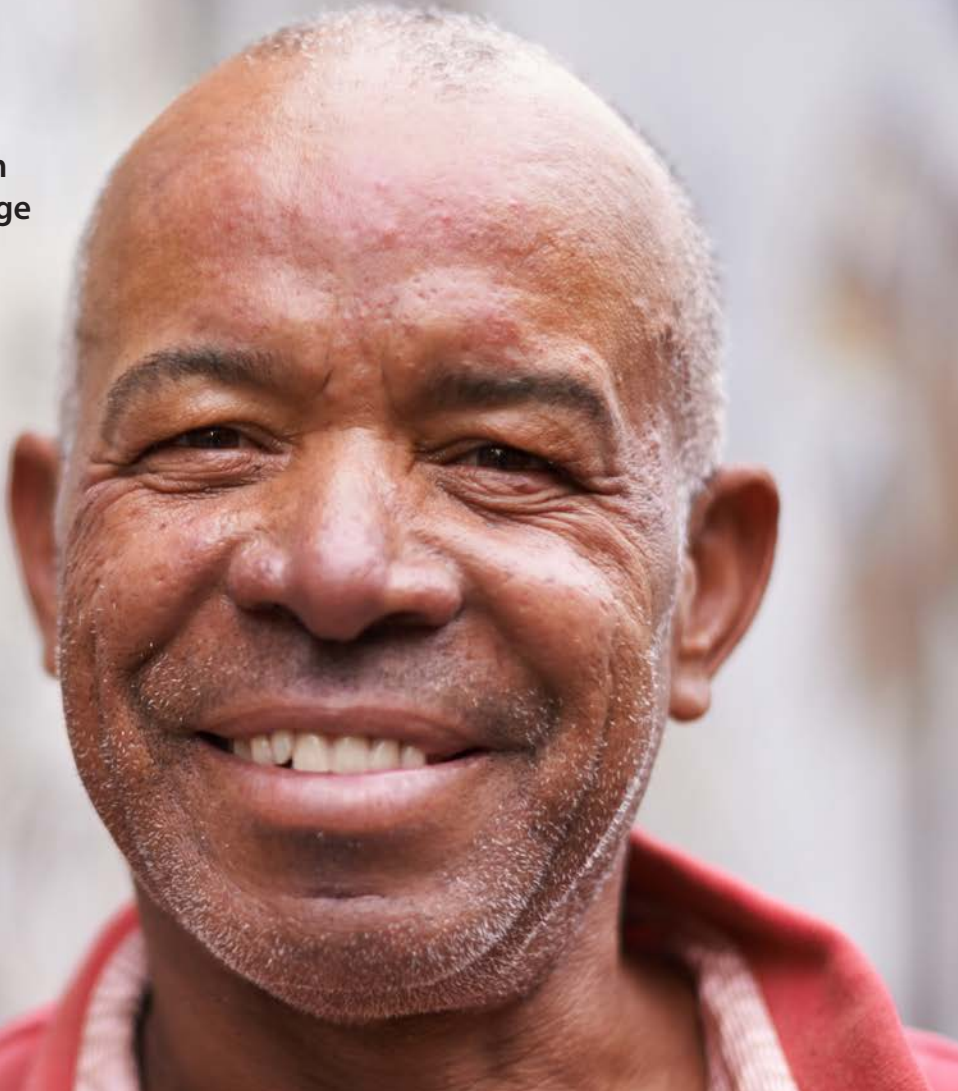
## Changing Lives

Robert had been separated from his wife for years, but his marriage made him ineligible for certain benefits that he desperately needed for his health care. The Divorce Law Project was able to help.

“I found out about the pro bono service at a doctor’s appointment. I’m going blind and have diabetes. Because of the Divorce Law Project, I’m able to maintain help from those who care for me and care about my wellbeing. Thank you for your kindness and professionalism.”

– Robert G.

With over **40** member programs and organizations, the Pro Bono Center remains a critical nexus between the legal community and individuals in desperate need of free legal services. In 2017, volunteer attorneys provided services to nearly **7,000** individuals in Allegheny County in a wide variety of areas. Of those, **844** were helped directly by Pro Bono Center staff attorneys, law student interns, and volunteers. We continue to offer training, support, malpractice coverage, and free on-line legal research with the goal of helping attorneys to fulfill their professional responsibility to give back and to enhance equal access to justice for all.





## **New Emeritus Rule Allows Retired Attorneys to Keep Giving**

In May 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court approved a new rule that permits an attorney admitted in Pennsylvania who is registered as retired to transfer to emeritus status and be authorized to provide pro bono legal services under the auspices of an eligible legal aid organization. This rule is the culmination of an effort that began in 2012 when the Pro Bono Center worked with the ACBA Senior Lawyers Committee to convene a statewide working group to research similar laws in other states and prepare a proposed rule for Pennsylvania. With the support of the Public Service Committee and the leadership of the Allegheny, Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania bar associations, the proposal was adopted by the Supreme Court in substantial part, creating a new way for retired attorneys to continue to use their experience and skills to benefit Pennsylvanians with low incomes.

Volunteer attorneys are a part of helping the Pro Bono Center to advance initiatives that make an impact on expanding the availability of free legal services to those in need.



## 2017 Pro Bono Achievement Awards and Volunteer Recognition

Annually, the ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee presents the Pro Bono Achievement Awards to both recognize outstanding contributions of volunteers and inspire others to follow in their footsteps. The committee presented the awards at the Fellows Reception on November 1, 2017 and also celebrated with the winners at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon as part of National Pro Bono Week.

The award winners were:

Dorothy Alke, Esq., *Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award*  
Guardianship Project (Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti), *New Initiative Award*  
K&L Gates, *Law Firm Award*

Gary M. Lang, Esq., *Lifetime Pro Bono Service Award*  
Katherine L.W. Norton, Esq., *Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Attorney Award*  
Jennifer Fox Rabold, Esq., *Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award*  
Joseph Williams, Esq., *Young Lawyer Award*



## The Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

I spent my summer working on landlord-tenant cases at Neighborhood Legal Services Association out of their Pittsburgh office. It was a genuine privilege working alongside some of the most talented and passionate attorneys. I was able to see clients through their cases from start to finish, beginning with initial interviews and often litigating on their behalf at administrative hearings and arbitrations. I could not have asked for a better opportunity to grow and learn while still in law school, and I hope to continue this work throughout my career. – *Josh Davis*



## Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship Winner

Throughout my life and the beginning of my legal career, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by strong women. Once I moved to Pittsburgh for college, I realized how necessary it was as a female to have other women as peers and mentors. In many of my experiences, women have coached and guided me to where I am today, and I hope to do the same for my younger sister, my peers in an educational and work setting, and those that I will meet in the future. Being selected to receive the Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship is an honor, and I aspire to echo her commitments to the advancement of women in leadership positions throughout my career. – *Taylor Wantz*



## ACBF Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

This past summer, I worked with the immigrant community in Pittsburgh. In my placement at Jewish Family and Community Service's Immigration Legal Services, I helped countless clients from all over the world get green cards or citizenship, including families from Aleppo, Syria, and Bhutan. As the only low or no cost legal immigration service in this half of Pennsylvania, all of West Virginia, and parts of Ohio, our case load was staggering.

This past summer immigration law was tumultuous. As the only state besides Texas with a Family Detention Center, Pennsylvania is at the heart of the child immigration crisis. The recent mass confusion and separation at the border reverberated here in Pittsburgh with our clients and the community. Jewish Family and Community Service assists unaccompanied immigrant children in Family Court to receive Special Immigrant Juvenile Status ("SIJ") and in Immigration Court.

Ultimately, this experience made me consider what it means to be an American and appreciate the rights and privileges that we have as United States citizens. Without the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Summer Fellow Program, I would never have been able to explore this area of law or aid the many refugees and immigrants in the Pittsburgh area.

– Alexandra Boyer



Photo by  
Megan Walker, Esq.



## Jeans for Justice

Our 5<sup>th</sup> and most successful Jeans for Justice campaign raised over \$7,000 to support the Pro Bono Center and its programs that assist individuals with low incomes in desperate need of legal help in October, 2017. Thank you to our participating organizations' attorneys and staff!

Alcoa, Inc.  
BNY Mellon  
Burns White  
Cohen & Grigsby  
Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman  
Cipriani & Werner  
Clark Hill  
Creenan & Baczkowski  
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote  
Duquesne Light  
Feinstein Doyle Payne & Kravec  
Feldstein Grinberg Lang & McKee, P.C.  
Houston Harbaugh  
K&L Gates

Meyer Unkovic & Scott  
Morgan Lewis & Bockius  
Pepper Hamilton  
Picadio Sneath Miller & Norton  
Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP  
Raphael Ramsden & Behers  
Reed Smith  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP  
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.  
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky  
The Webb Law Firm, P.C.  
Tucker Arensberg  
UPMC Health Plan







## Cocktails for a Cause

Guest bartenders Joe Williams and Bryan Neft were kept busy at the inaugural Cocktails for a Cause event at the Rivers Club during Pro Bono Week in October, 2017. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Pro Bono Center.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf and 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Tournaments

Held at the Club at Nevillewood on July 17, 2017, over \$30,000 was raised to benefit both Neighborhood Legal Services Association and the ACBF.





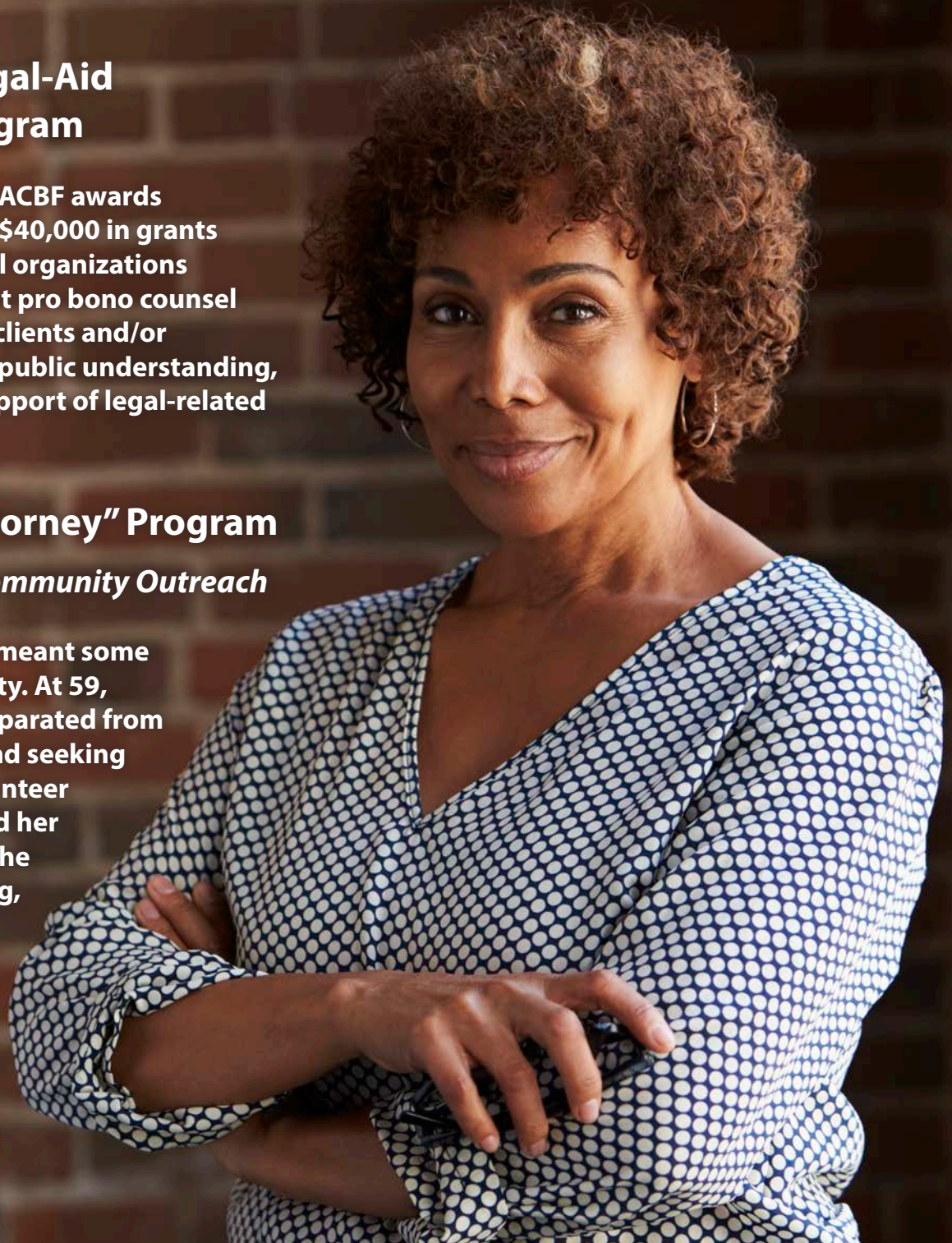
## **Fellows Legal-Aid Grants Program**

Every year, the ACBF awards approximately \$40,000 in grants to support local organizations providing direct pro bono counsel to low-income clients and/or promoting the public understanding, interest and support of legal-related issues.

## **“Ask an Attorney” Program**

### *North Hills Community Outreach*

For Roberta, it meant some financial security. At 59, Roberta was separated from her husband and seeking alimony. A volunteer attorney helped her to prepare for the alimony hearing, and she was awarded alimony.





For Carol, it meant a safe and adequate place to live for her family. A young single mother, she was living in substandard housing and having significant problems with her landlord. She had a phone consult with a volunteer attorney who advised her on how to exit her lease so that she could move into a better house for her and her children.



**For Katie, it meant the ability to assure for the care of a loved one. Katie was 72 when her adult son began having severe health problems that impacted his ability to function. A volunteer attorney assisted Katie and her son in establishing Katie as Power of Attorney for her son so she was able to handle his affairs while he was unable to do so.**





**At Tucker Arensberg, we have always taken our pro bono obligation seriously. Many of our attorneys, paralegals, and other team members contribute their time and expertise every year in a broad range of matters and projects. When we first learned about the Leadership Circle in 2012, though, we saw another opportunity to support the important work of the ACBF.**

**We learned that, even as the foundation's programs were growing, previously available funding sources were on the decline. Without enough resources, the ACBF's ability to deliver its pro bono and other programs would be reduced. We decided to participate in the Leadership Circle to help the ACBF not only continue, but to increase its important work throughout our community.**

**This initiative has been a great success and has helped the ACBF to add critical staff and expand its programs. Tucker Arensberg is proud to again be a part of the Leadership Circle.**

***– Tom Peterson, Esq.  
Managing Shareholder at Tucker Arensberg***





### **2018-2021 Campaign**

Babst Calland  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Burns White LLC  
Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo &  
Miller, P.C.  
Clark Hill PLC  
Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.  
Cozen O'Connor  
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.  
Duane Morris LLP  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
Edgar Snyder & Associates  
Fox Rothschild LLP  
John P. Gismondi, Esq.  
Goehring, Rutter & Boehm  
Jones Day  
K&L Gates LLP  
Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman &  
Goggin, P.C.

McCarthy McDonald Schulberg & Joy  
McGuireWoods LLP  
Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek &  
Eck, PLLC  
Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP  
Pepper Hamilton LLP  
Pollock Begg Komar Glasser & Vertz, LLC  
Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C.  
Reed Smith LLP  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP  
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.  
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC  
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky  
The Webb Law Firm, P.C.  
Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP  
Tucker Arensberg, P.C.  
Vuono & Gray, LLC  
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

If your firm would like to learn more about the Law Firm Leadership Circle,  
please contact Lorrie Albert, Esq. at [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org) or 412-402-6640.





Alone we can do so little;  
**together we can do so much.**

– Helen Keller





*The **S** of Pittsburgh's Legal Community<sup>®</sup>*

These are just a few stories that pull at our heartstrings and inspire us to ensure that legal help continues to be available. We are sharing them with you because you make stories like this possible. **Every single day.** Thank you for your vital and vibrant support of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

Your gifts and volunteerism provide critical, urgent care to those who are unable to meet their basic needs and would otherwise risk losing their housing, their children and much more. You help them navigate a daunting and overwhelming court system. Your gifts help fund pro bono legal services, law student scholarships and fellowship programs and help fight for food security. You help us support legal aid providers with grants, volunteers and pro bono programs in their ongoing fight for justice and fairness in a system that often does not provide a level playing field.

But most important of all, you help our volunteers give these clients the greatest chance at getting the best legal result possible. You arm our volunteers with everything they need to confidently represent their clients. By helping fund our new initiatives, volunteer trainings and programs, you give clients hope and knowledge that our community cares about them and they are not forgotten. Thank you for empowering us to continue to grow and increase our reach into the community. We hope that their stories touch your heart and your soul. We truly cherish all of your support of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's programs!

---

## 2017-2018's Board of Trustees

---

### *Officers:*

Patricia L. Dodge, *President*

Jennifer R. Andrade, *Vice-President*

Paul J. Gitnik, *Secretary*

Jessica L. Crown, *Treasurer*

Richard S. Wiedman, *Immediate Past-President*

Benjamin J. Gobel, *Young Lawyers Division*

Efrem M. Grail

Jeffrey D. Heeter

Carol S. Mills McCarthy

Melinda Sala

Susan M. Seitz

Stanley M. Stein

Keith E. Whitson

### *Trustees:*

Mackenzie A. Baird

Jill Lipman Beck

Jaclyn M. Belczyk

Ronald J. Brown

Paul J. Gitnik

David A. Blaner, *Executive Director*

Diane K. McMillen, *Assistant Executive Director*

Lorrie K. Albert, *Associate Executive Director*

Barbara Griffin, *Pro Bono Center Director*



### **ACBA Professionalism Statement**

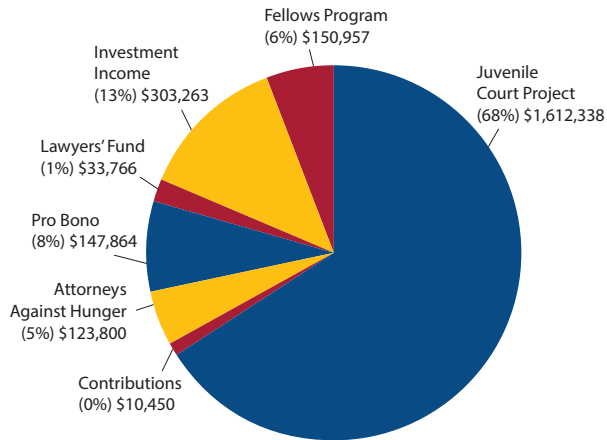
All members of the Allegheny County Bar Association are expected to act in accordance with the Association's Mission Statement and Code of Professionalism. The behavior of members toward one another and in public should reflect the Association's commitment to equality and diversity. Members are expected to diligently promote and maintain the collegiality and the positive image of the bar at all times. Disparaging language, offensive actions or other conduct which is contrary to the Mission Statement and the Code of Professionalism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.



# Financials at a Glance

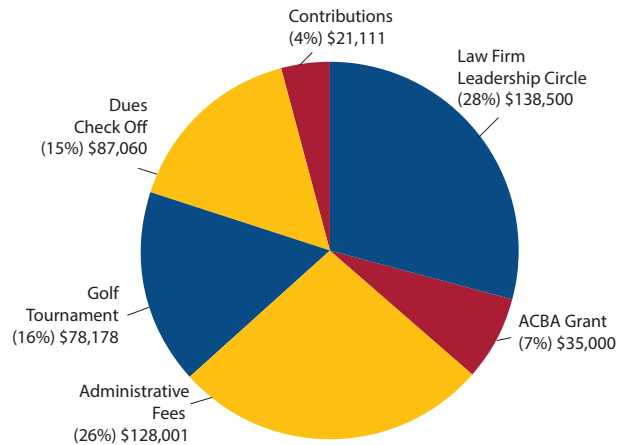
## Allegheny County Bar Foundation FY 2017-2018

### Restricted

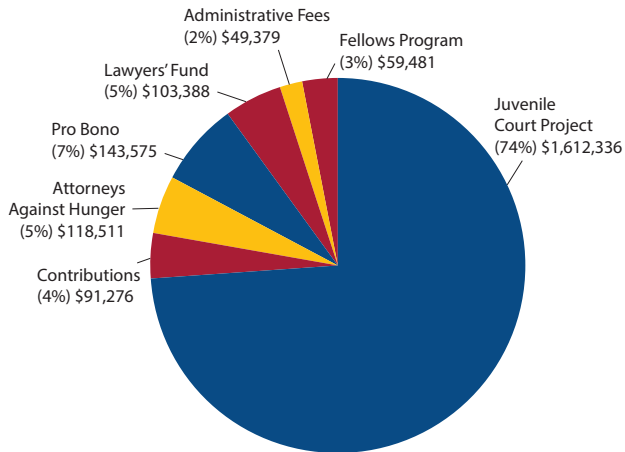


Total Revenue \$2,382,438

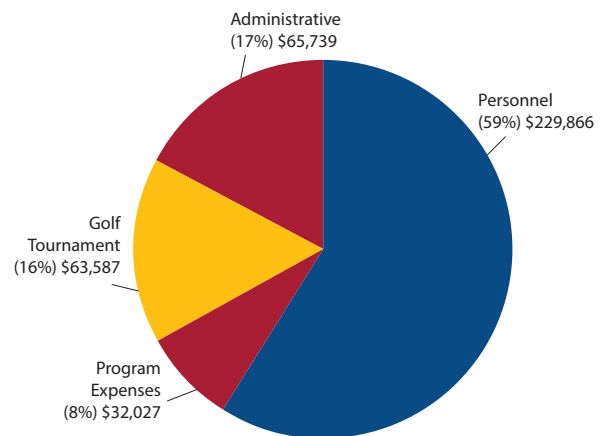
### Unrestricted



Total Revenue \$487,850



Total Expenses \$2,177,946



Total Expenses \$391,219

Audited financials for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Please visit [www.acbf.org](http://www.acbf.org) to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

---

# gratitude

[grat'-i-tyud'] • *noun*

the state of being grateful, thankfulness

---



400 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ACBF: 412-402-6641  
Pro Bono Center: 412-402-6677

[www.acbf.org](http://www.acbf.org)  
[www.pittsburghprobonocenter.org](http://www.pittsburghprobonocenter.org)