



2019-2020 GRATITUDE REPORT



TOGETHER – WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each and Every Day

Thank you

It was business as usual for half of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. And then the pandemic took us all by surprise and drastically changed our mode of operations. While COVID-19 has affected our service delivery methods in a multitude of ways, our office has remained open remotely. Despite the changes, our work has never stopped. We were able to successfully engage in meetings and educational trainings remotely with the help of Zoom. Our volunteers and donors stepped up in every way to help advocate for and assist the most vulnerable in our community.

The Pro Bono Center's work throughout the year – most notably since March 2020 when staff moved to remote operations – remained steady, and continued without any interruption or reduction of services that are so critical to the Center's clients. Calls and requests for assistance from people in distress brought about by the pandemic increased by 15% and spanned issues of divorce, custody, consumer, and landlord/tenant. The Center also trained and provided volunteer opportunities to law students who lost internships and jobs due to COVID-19.

As opportunities and sources of funding decreased, the ACBF continued its important programs that benefit law students, including providing scholarships

and grants and awarding Summer Fellowships to law students who worked remotely to help organizations providing legal aid this summer through the Gismondi and Lawyers' Funds.

Attorneys Against Hunger reached a huge milestone, surpassing the \$2 million mark in total funds raised for the fight against hunger since the program was established in 1993.

We celebrated and honored our new Fellows and pro bono volunteers and long-standing Lawyers' Fund Committee volunteers at the Foundation's Fall Reception in September 2019.

THANK YOU to our Grantors, Donors, Law Firm Leadership Circle members, Trustees, Committee members, and especially our pro bono volunteers who supported our mission and for making it possible to remain responsive to the community's unexpected and urgent needs this past year.



Jennifer R. Andrade

Jennifer R. Andrade, Esq.
President



Lorrie K. Albert

Lorrie K. Albert, Esq.
Associate Executive Director

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



43

Pro Bono Center member projects and organizations



Over 900

Pro Bono volunteers served over **6,000**

individuals in a wide variety of legal issues and cases



22

new Fellows were honored



15

law students received **\$48,500** in loans and scholarships



42

law students were trained to assist in

227

protection from abuse cases



\$20,000

in grants awarded to aid military veterans and older adults



\$40,000

in legal aid grants to

11

legal aid organizations



\$4,790

was raised by Jeans for Justice



\$106,700

donated through the Law Firm Leadership Circle



15

Law Student Summer Fellows worked at

12

legal aid organizations



\$102,225

was raised by AAH for

17

local hunger relief agencies



6

outstanding volunteers received Pro Bono Awards

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Attorneys Against Hunger Reaches \$2,000,000 Milestone!



The Attorneys Against Hunger campaign reached a huge milestone, surpassing the 2 million dollar mark since its inception in 1993! This fantastic goal could not have been reached without everyone who has ever been a part of the committee, donated to the campaign or participated in an outreach event over the years.

Each year, Attorneys Against Hunger raises funds to aid 17 area organizations committed to providing food and services to people and families with low incomes.

Rainbow Kitchen's Outreach Coordinator Marlene (Pumpkin) Murphy who coordinated our yearly outreach events passed away unexpectedly in 2019. Here she is pictured with Committee Co-Chair Bill Stang. Anyone who volunteered there will remember her passion for helping feed our community. Her bright smile and vibrant energy will be dearly missed!



AAH is grateful to its underwriters including Lead Sponsor Steidl & Steinberg and Supporting Sponsors Gleason Experts and the Honorable Raymond A. Novak (Ret.). Every dollar donated to the campaign goes directly to 17 agencies located throughout Allegheny County.

The Attorneys Against Hunger campaign for 2019-2020 raised over \$103,000, which was made possible thanks to Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, and the McGinley family members of the bar who provided a \$15,000 challenge grant once we hit the \$85,000 mark.

Thank you!



Outreach volunteers help Squirrel Hill Community Pantry pack grocery bags for those in our community who rely on them to provide food on their table.



New outreach event at the First Presbyterian Church where ACBA volunteers had a chance to serve meals during a weekly dinner provided to those in need.

GRANTMAKING

Fellows Legal-Aid Grants Program



Volunteer Frances O'Connor was able to help Thomas navigate a difficult legal obstacle and qualify for much needed Social Security benefits.

- Operation Safety Net Program
Pittsburgh Mercy

A single mom who was a victim of domestic violence was provided with a LegalShield membership so that she could obtain assistance in navigating the custody process and in creating a will.

- "Ask an Attorney" Program
North Hills Community Outreach



Using funds generated through the Fellows Program, the ACBF has been issuing grants to providers of legal services since 2000. This year, \$40,000 was awarded to the following grantees through a competitive selection process: Christian Legal Aid, Education Law Center, Focus on Renewal, Jewish Family & Community Services, KidsVoice, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

Military Veterans and Elderly Fund Grants

This year, \$20,000 was awarded to the following organizations to provide services to military veterans and older adults: Achieva, Neighborhood Legal Services, and North Hills Community Outreach.



Neighborhood Legal Services' dedicated attorney for veteran services Ariel Oliver was able to help veterans remain in their homes, regain or retain custody of their children, and deal with crippling consumer debt.

In order to reach clients who have difficulty coming to NLS, Attorney Oliver has started meeting some individuals in local coffee shops and libraries.

SUPPORTING FUTURE LAWYERS

Law Student Fellows Make an Impact

The Gismondi Fund sponsored 4 fellowship positions to students who completed their second year of law school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and became certified to represent clients in accordance with the court rules of Allegheny County. The Lawyers' Fund sponsored an additional 11 Pitt and Duquesne law students. The student fellows had the opportunity to earn real-world experience handling legal matters – including client interaction – at public service organizations.



"I found the program helpful and rewarding, even in a time of social distancing. I had the opportunity to connect with attorneys and judges via remote sessions through the ACBF. My experience at the public defender's office was memorable and highly informative. I was able to help prepare a brief and several motions, in addition to memos and case research. My experience has helped me confirm that public defense is where I want to spend my career."

– Kristen Patton
Duquesne University School of Law

"My Gismondi Summer Fellowship provided me with an opportunity to aid people within my community during some of their most troubling times. This fellowship also allowed me to work with extremely intelligent attorneys in various legal disciplines where I developed valuable skills through legal research and document drafting."

– Trevor Handlovitch
University of Pittsburgh School of Law



ACBF Law Student Scholarship Programs

The Foundation awards several loans and scholarships every year through named-funds which have been created to honor past members and judges and as a way for ACBA Sections to award scholarships in their particular field of law. These scholarships are awarded each year to law students who meet the specific criteria in the named-fund agreements.



Dickinson Captures True Spirit of Mansmann Scholarship

"I am humbled and honored to be this year's Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship Recipient. I came to law school with the goal of becoming a civil rights attorney. Along with that, I have always been passionate about fighting for the equality of women. I just completed an externship with the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender, I am currently working at Neighborhood Legal Services, and when I graduate, I will be working at the Law Office of the Public Defender of New Mexico. I am finding my work representing indigent clients to be very rewarding because I am helping women who have been harmed due to their race, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, their socio-economic status, or a past criminal record. Receiving this scholarship means the world to me as I am grateful the selection committee recognized that, for women to be equal, all women need to be equal. This scholarship enabled me to continue my legal education so that I could continue to fight for the women the first equality movements left behind. It is my hope I am honoring Carol Los Mansmann's legacy by working as a public defender and fighting for the fair treatment of all women."

– Ariel Dickinson
Duquesne University School of Law

CLOSING THE JUSTICE GAP

Pro Bono Center



2019 Derrick A. Bell Community Legal Clinic


Even when the country and our region are prospering economically, individuals and families at the lowest income levels continue to struggle to address legal problems that impact their basic human needs. The access to justice gap has been persistent, with studies showing that on average only 20% of individuals with low incomes get the legal help they need. In the past year, the Pro Bono Center worked with its many partners and programs in the legal community to provide services to these individuals.

For example – before the COVID-19 crisis – the Pro Bono Center partnered with the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division to hold two Derrick A. Bell Community Legal Clinics, one in Homewood and one in the Hill District. And volunteers from the Public Service Committee staffed a legal information table at the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh’s annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution, telling hundreds of attendees about services available to them.

When COVID shutdowns began, individuals and families already disadvantaged were hit hard, and the Pro Bono Center worked to meet their needs in new ways. The Divorce Law Project switched from in-person intake to phone and email, and held a “virtual legal clinic” on divorces for the public. We are working with our partners to create new ways to continue to serve clients while keeping them and our volunteers safe.

Pro Bono Center's Attorneys Provide Ongoing Assistance

Individuals with low incomes facing complicated legal problems – or even everyday difficulties – often find themselves without the knowledge, resources, and time to address the issue at hand. We hear from clients that the work of Pro Bono Center staff and volunteer attorneys is impactful in ways big and small. Over the last year, we helped a client dispute a cell phone bill, saving her \$400. We helped a family settle a small estate so that they could collect unclaimed funds from the Pennsylvania Treasury belonging to their deceased grandfather, something that would have been impossible for them to do on their own. And the Divorce Law Project continues to make a difference in the lives of spouses seeking to end their marriages.



"I have been very pleased with the entire handling of my divorce case and so I must thank you and be forever grateful. Whenever I would call with questions about the case you made it seem as if the case was the most important. Getting a divorce through the Divorce Law Project has enabled me to escape an unworkable marriage where I would otherwise be unable to proceed with a divorce."

- Rebecca D.

WORKING TOGETHER

Pro Bono Center

The Pro Bono Center is uniquely positioned to work collaboratively with local courts, law schools, social services agencies, legal aid organizations, and many others to meet emerging areas of need.

Last year, we worked with the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership to launch the pro bono component of the new Housing Court. The Pro Bono Center recruited volunteers and helped present a CLE program to train them. Volunteer attorneys are now helping litigants with low incomes attempt to resolve eviction and habitability issues in advance of court arbitration. Programs like this are beneficial to both the clients and the judicial process.

Throughout the COVID crisis, the Pro Bono Center remained an essential resource for people in need as they struggled to understand new laws on public benefits and faced constantly-changing court procedures and deadlines.



RECOGNIZING

Public Service Committee Recognizes Volunteers

The ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee presented the Pro Bono Achievement Awards at the Fall Foundation Reception to attorneys, judges, and organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to serving those in need. All volunteers were celebrated at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in October 2019 at the Hotel Monaco which featured an ice cream sundae bar and door prizes! Attendees heard words of appreciation and inspiration from Nicole Molinaro, President and CEO of the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.



**ACBA IMMIGRATION
LAW COMMITTEE**
New Initiative Award

**ALCOA CORPORATION
AND ARCONIC INC.**
Corporation Award

LACEE C. ECKER, ESQ.
Young Lawyer Award

JENNIFER MCGARRITY, ESQ.
Lorraine M. Bittner Public
Interest Attorney Award

MCGUIREWOODS LLP
Law Firm Award

HILARY A. SPATZ, ESQ.
Jane F. Hepting Individual
Attorney Award

FUNDRAISING

Jeans for Justice

The Pro Bono Center has been celebrating National Pro Bono Week with a Jeans for Justice Day since 2013. The 2019 campaign was joined by 16 firms and legal departments, raising \$4,790 for Pro Bono Center programs. Thanks to all of our participating organizations, their attorneys and staff, and individual donors!



Alcoa, Inc.

Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo
& Miller, P.C.

Clark Hill PLC

Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall
& Furman PC

Creenan & Baczkowski P.C.

Dentons Cohen & Grigsby

Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Feinstein Doyle Payne & Kravec, LLC

Goehring, Rutter & Boehm

Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP

Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C.

Reed Smith LLP

Schnader Harrison Segal
& Lewis, LLP

The Webb Law Firm, P.C.

Tucker Arensberg, P.C.

UPMC Health Plan

LEADERSHIP

Law Firms Provide Essential Assistance to the ACBF

We are grateful for our 2018-2021 Law Firm Leadership Circle members. Their continued pledges and support are an essential part in helping our programs and projects grow.



Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Burns White LLC

Campbell, Durrant, Beatty, Palombo & Miller, P.C.

Clark Hill PLC

Cozen O'Connor

Dentons Cohen & Grigsby

Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.

Duane Morris LLP

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

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Fox Rothschild LLP

John P. Gismondi, Esq.

Goehring, Rutter & Boehm

Jones Day

K&L Gates LLP

Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.

McCarthy McEnroe Rosinski & Joy

McGuireWoods LLP

Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC

Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP

Pepper Hamilton LLP

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

Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

"If your firm would like to learn more about the Law Firm Leadership Circle, please contact me at lalbert@acba.org."

- Lorrie Albert, Esq.

CELEBRATING

Time to Celebrate at Foundation Reception

Class of 2019



Edward G. O'Connor Fellows Award

Katherine L. W. Norton won the prestigious Edward G. O'Connor Award for her outstanding volunteer work and dedication to the bar foundation and the community.



2019 Fellows

Patrick L. Abramowich, Esq.
Robert M. Barnes, Esq. (2018)
Kirk B. Burkley, Esq.
Jayme L. Butcher, Esq.
Steven M. Cherin, Esq.
Andrea Clark-Smith, Esq.
Maria D. Comas, Esq.
Michael A. Comber, Esq.
Peter D. Giglione, Esq.
Elizabeth L. Hughes, Esq.
Jessica Leigh Lynch, Esq.
James R. Mall, Esq.
Lisa A. Mantella, Esq.
Kathryn McKee, Esq.
Marie I. Rivera-Johnson, Esq.
Regina Wilson, Esq.

2019 Young Lawyer Fellows

Alexander Cashman, Esq.
Jonathan R. Cohen, Esq.
Erica Pietranton, Esq.
Sunu Pillai, Esq.
Margaret W. Prescott, Esq.
Maxwell Briskman Stanfield, Esq.
Meghan L. Zupancic, Esq.

2019 Patron Fellow

Dawn K. Gull, Esq.

Lawyers' Fund Committee Service Recognition



Jack McGinley



Tom McGough

The Lawyers' Fund was created in the 1940s to relieve want or distress among members of the Allegheny County bar and/or their families. Jack McGinley joined the Lawyers' Fund Committee in 1997. Tom McGough joined the committee in 2009. They were honored for their outstanding combined 32 years of dedication and service.

During their tenure, Tom and Jack helped to enforce the charitable purposes of the fund and upheld their fiduciary duties to monitor the Fund's growth and budget, and participated in the decision making process regarding the disbursement of funds. The fund provided financial assistance to so many lawyers and their families who were in need, awarded scholarships, fellowships and grants for research, writing and other studies of law – including the creation of the Law Student Summer Fellowship Program.

Presidential Merit Award

The Presidential Merit Award is given to recognize individuals in the legal community for exhibiting exceptional dedication to the Foundation and promoting pro bono service to people with low incomes in Allegheny County.



President Jennifer Andrade selected Kenneth M. Argentieri, Esq. to receive this year's award in recognition of his exceptional leadership and substantial contributions to the delivery of free legal services. His pro bono work through the ACBF dates back to the late 90's when he joined the ACBF Board of Trustees and served two three-year terms from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2005 and from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2015 and served as President from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

2019-2020
Board of Trustees

President
Jennifer R. Andrade

Vice-President
Keith E. Whitson

Secretary
Jill Lipman Beck

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Young Lawyers Division
Margaret W. Prescott

Executive Director
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Diane K. McMillen

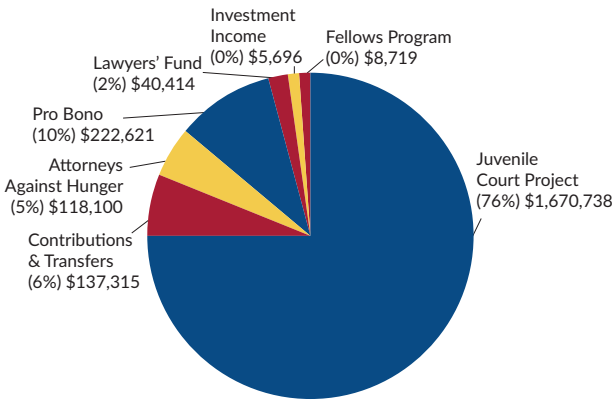
Associate Executive Director
Lorrie K. Albert

Pro Bono Center Director
Barbara Griffin

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

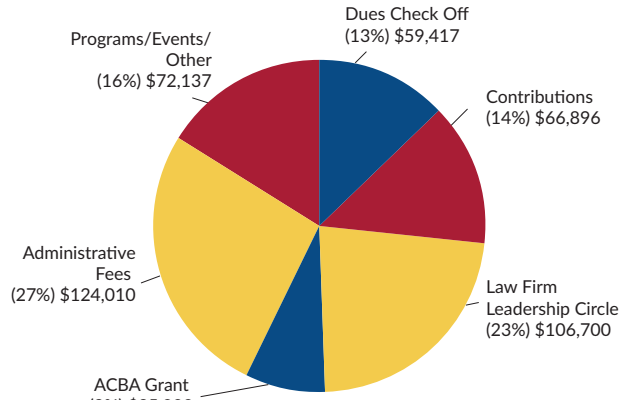
Audited financials for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Please visit www.acbf.org to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

Restricted

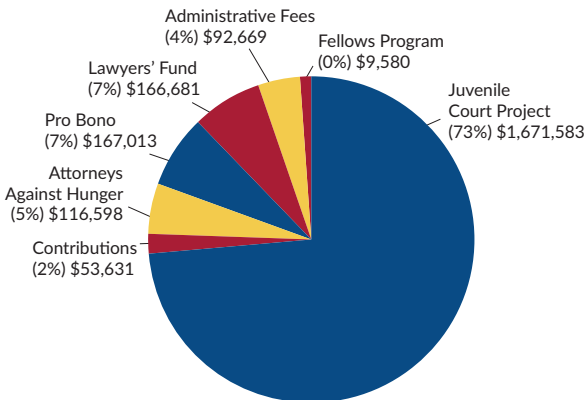


Total Revenue \$2,203,603

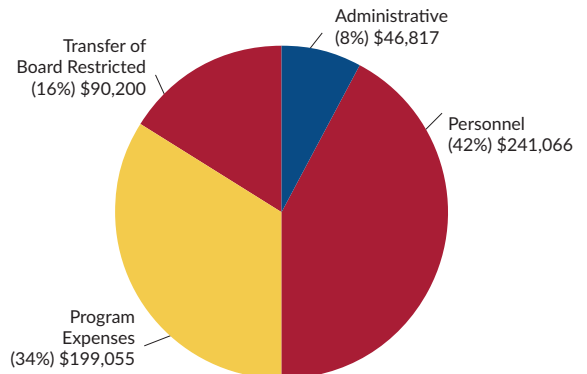
Unrestricted



Total Revenue \$464,160



Total Expenses \$2,277,755



Total Expenses \$577,138

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



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436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

www.acbf.org
www.pittsburghprobono.org

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.