



2020-2021 Gratitude Report



Mission

We aim to be a driving force in promoting justice for all and to improve the community through public service law-related programs as the heart of Pittsburgh's legal community. To fulfill this mission, we raise, manage, and distribute funds, assist lawyers in pro bono legal efforts, and develop public information initiatives.

Because...

justice matters.

The Pro Bono Center strives to close the justice gap, ensuring that each of our neighbors have an equal chance to make their case.

community matters.

We're investing in people and initiatives that make a difference today and tomorrow – from local food pantries to the next generation of lawyers.

YOU matter.

Through professional development programs and funding opportunities, our goal is to make the work you do as impactful as possible.

COVER ART This mural on the corner of 31st and Penn in the Strip District was painted by Matt Speck as a part of the MLK Mural Project. *Photo by Lorrie Albert.*

2020-2021 Highlights



17

\$146,404
WAS RAISED BY AAH FOR
HUNGER RELIEF AGENCIES



\$50,000
IN LEGAL AID GRANTS TO **9**
ORGANIZATIONS

15 LAW STUDENTS RECEIVED
LOANS & SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING



\$40,500

17 LAW STUDENT 
SUMMER FELLOWS WORKED AT **13**
LEGAL AID ORGANIZATIONS



\$6,737
IN GRANTS AWARDED TO
AID MILITARY VETERANS
AND OLDER ADULTS

\$302,500
RAISED THROUGH
THE LAW FIRM
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



Director's Note

Teamwork has always been our mantra at the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. We have built our programs with the help of many of you with the focus on making our community and profession stronger. Our mission, which allows all of us to use our legal knowledge and leadership and business skills, has enabled us to improve the lives of our community and legal profession in many ways.

Our **Attorneys Against Hunger** campaign has continually grown over the years and has raised over \$100,000 per year for the last several years. Notably, last year was the biggest year ever, raising over \$146,000 to help with the massive food insecurity which was caused by the pandemic. Our grantees tell us how immensely grateful they are for your donations and support.

Our law firm support through the **Law Firm Leadership Circle** is vital to our operating budget so that we can run all our programs, including pro bono, scholarships, grants, and fundraising, to name a few. With another successful campaign this year, these firms play such an active role in all we do!

Most of our **ACBF** programs continued without a hitch. We adjusted to remote committee meetings, law student summer fellowships, and the increased demand for pro bono services. We awarded scholarships and loans. And while we had to cancel our golf tournament and foundation reception at least three times, we are ready to celebrate our donors and volunteers as soon as it is safe again.

Without you, we would not have been able to make such a big impact! You truly make a difference in our lives, community, and profession. Thank you for your caring heart, compassion, and support!

FOR ALL YOU DO... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Lorrie K. Albert, Esq.
Associate Executive Director



**There is no
power for change
greater than a
community
discovering what
it cares about.**

Margaret J. Wheatley

Because... *justice matters.*



The Pro Bono Center is the nexus between the members of the bar association and its more than 40 projects and member organizations that provide direct legal services to individuals with low incomes. Volunteer attorneys have access to the support they need, including free or reduced fee CLE training, free online research, mentoring, and malpractice insurance, as well as volunteer opportunities through the Center's projects, organizations, and new initiatives.

Celebrating Pro Bono!

The Pro Bono Center and Public Service Committee celebrated National Pro Bono Week – Oct. 25-31, 2020 – and the life-changing work that volunteers perform on behalf of clients with low incomes.

An Ethics CLE was held Oct. 28 to empower pro bono volunteers to better serve their clients. Participants used “Broke—the Game,” a learning tool created by Dana Gold, to simulate the stress of living in poverty and how limited options and systemic obstacles can lead to a downward spiral.

A virtual celebration of volunteers was held on Oct. 29. Attendees heard from ACBA and ACBF leadership, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Attendees received a pro bono mask and answered trivia questions for which other prizes were given. And in a special cameo appearance, Roberto Clemente, Jr. shared words of thanks and inspiration for volunteers!

Pro Bono Center Stats

1,154

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH
REFERRALS, BRIEF ADVICE, OR
FULL REPRESENTATION

49

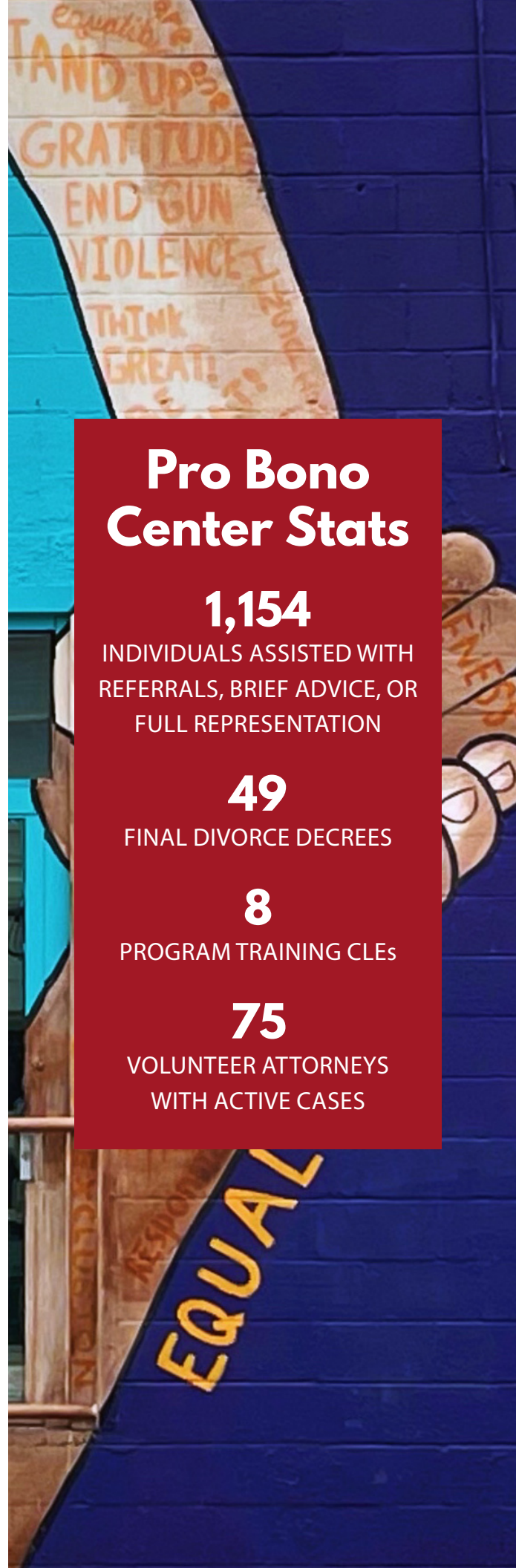
FINAL DIVORCE DECREES

8

PROGRAM TRAINING CLEs

75

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS
WITH ACTIVE CASES



Expanding Our Capacity to Serve



Mallory Draisma

In Spring 2021, the Pro Bono Center welcomed a new staff member – Legal Programs Coordinator Mallory Draisma – to help optimize program delivery for people in need of legal aid. This new

position will support the staff attorneys and pro bono programs, and assist with the maintenance of support systems for the Center’s volunteers.

Pro Bono Center Summer Fellow



Olivia Hilborn

“My fellowship experience at the Pro Bono Center added exponentially to my law school education – not only did it provide practical experience such as drafting court documents and

conducting legal research, but it allowed me to learn by example from attorneys that I admire and communicate directly with members of my community in a difficult time. I was privileged to work on numerous divorces and Protection from Abuse actions alongside my supervising attorneys. I also had the opportunity to assist a client with their application for a pardon; I was able to get to know the client over the course of the summer and help submit their application for review which was incredibly gratifying. Speaking with these clients allowed me to gain experience in legal research and interact with members of my community in a direct and valuable way.”

Juvenile Court Project

Throughout the entire 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Juvenile Court Project (JCP) staff worked remotely and conducted hearings via Microsoft Teams.

1,557

CLIENTS REPRESENTED

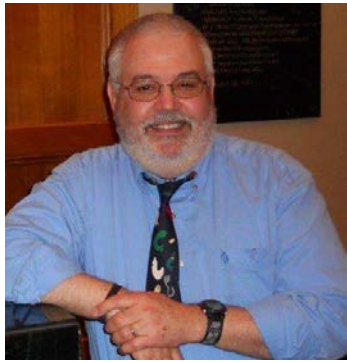
8,000+

HEARINGS

3,609

COURT ACTIVE CHILDREN

In November 2020, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) approved funding for the JCP’s proposal to pilot an interdisciplinary model of legal representation which began in June 2021. This program has enabled the JCP to expand its staff by 7 new staff members and assist clients with a variety of issues including housing, community resources, public benefits, and insurance issues. They help clients enroll in many additional services to pursue their education goals and assist with their children’s medical appointments, including understanding Children Health Evaluation and Coordination Services (CHECS) Nurse Reports, Individual Education Programs (IEPs), and completing documents necessary for school enrollment. In March, they also began offering assistance to sign up for free Chromebooks and hotspots through a program run by Allegheny County DHS.



David Korman

Retirement is a new way to give back

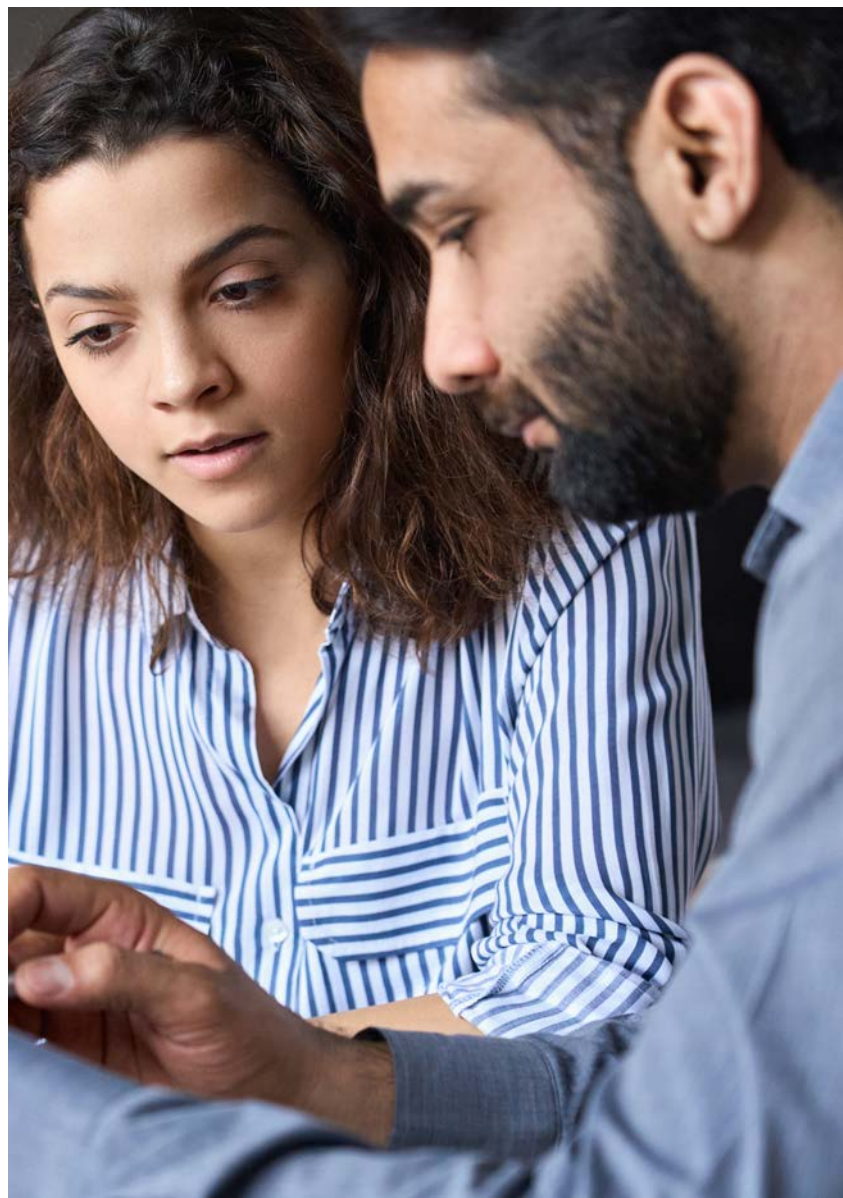
Emeritus attorneys continue to help clients

A Pro Bono Center initiative was the impetus for a statewide rule adopted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2018, which allows retired attorneys to be licensed solely for the purpose of providing free legal services through organized legal aid and pro bono programs. To increase the rolls of emeritus attorneys, the Pro Bono Center partnered with the ACBA Senior Lawyers and Public Service Committees to hold a CLE program in October 2020 on the rule and share volunteer opportunities. Then in June 2021, the ACBA Board of Governors approved a change to the ACBA By-Laws to create a new membership category for emeritus attorneys, with a reduced annual fee and 8 free hours of CLE programs through the bar. The Pro Bono Center is here to assist attorneys who keep giving back, even after retirement.

Lowering Barriers to Employment & Housing

The Pardons Project

Individuals who faced barriers to employment, housing, and education because of old criminal records suffered an even greater degree because of the massive downturn in the economy and record unemployment during the COVID-19 crisis. In the Fall of 2020, the Pro Bono Center partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services to create a project to clear criminal records through the pardons process. The project was made possible by a grant from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. Volunteer and staff attorneys helped 21 individuals start on the path to new opportunities.





Meeting needs in innovative ways

Law students assisted with domestic violence cases

COVID-19 created a myriad of challenges not only for clients, but for everyone who is part of the legal system. The Pro Bono Center partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services to train law students – many who lost their summer internship opportunities because of COVID – to prepare attorneys for final protection from abuse hearings. The students researched publicly available court documents to help the attorneys understand the positions of the parties in the cases. The students honed their research and analysis skills, and the attorneys received useful help.

6

WEEKS PROJECT

42

STUDENTS

454

PARTIES RESEARCHED

227

PFA CASES

253

VOLUNTEER HOURS

"SOLIDARITY FOR CHANGE"
ARTIST: MATT SPECK

@the_nattspeck24

Design by Kyle Holbrook

Attorneys Against Hunger

Just when the community needed us the most during the pandemic, we raised **over \$146,000** this year! Even though we were not able to have outreach events, our donors stepped up to the plate. Many hunger organizations did not have the volunteers this year and had to rely on their small staff to meet the increasing need.

Because...
community matters.



Vann preparing and serving meals

Rainbow Kitchen's staff of five have been doing their work and the work of 200 volunteers for the past year. Since March 2020, they have not engaged with any volunteers to assist with their operations.

EECM staff hard at work

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM)'s food pantry program provides families with healthy groceries each month. They have gone from serving 30 individuals a day (*each representing a family unit*) before COVID-19 to serving 100-140 individuals a day since COVID-19. The food pantry had 21,433 visits in 2020 compared to 7,515 in 2019.

I am a type 1 diabetic and the food I am getting from EECM is literally keeping me alive! You guys are amazing.

Marita, Age 40

EECM helps me with food. If it wasn't available, there's no telling what would have happened to me.

John, Age 70

Fellows Grants

Fellows Grants are awarded to help fund programs that directly provide pro bono counsel to low-income residents in Allegheny County and/or promote the public understanding, interest, and support of legal-related issues. In 2020, the following organizations received a total of **\$50,000 in assistance.**

Christian Immigration Advocacy Center
Christian Legal Aid
Education Law Center
Focus on Renewal
Jewish Family & Community Services

KidsVoice
Neighborhood Legal Services
North Hills Community Outreach
Women's Center & Shelter



Jewish Family & Community Services

JFCS was able to help youth like Karamia, who came to the U.S. as a Bhutanese refugee from Nepal, to complete their N-600 application for Certification of Citizenship so that they can pursue higher education and employment goals.

Neighborhood Legal Services

NLS was able to continue its efforts at the Medical Legal Collaboration at Children's Hospital Primary Care Clinic in Oakland to train hospital staff to recognize the legal issues which affect their patients and how such issues impact their medical efforts on behalf of the children.

Nevaeh, a child suffering from a serious learning disability, mild intellectual deficits, and asthma, needed a more restrictive individualized Educational Plan to function and SSI benefits to address her problems. NLS, working with her pediatrician through the Clinic and teachers, was able to help Nevaeh get SSI benefits and a more restrictive Individualized Education Plan.

Because...
YOU matter.

Hon. Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship Winner

Nicole Smith

The Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship was established to honor her memory. Each year, the fund awards a scholarship to a female law student attending Duquesne University School of Law who demonstrates a potential for leadership and a commitment to the advancement of women.



Being recognized as a woman with potential for leadership, after working so hard to get to where I am today, gave me a sense of dignity and pride. It made me believe in myself even more that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of the women and children I advocate for. This scholarship also helped alleviate the financial strains my family and I were facing at the time. I am so honored and thankful to be a recipient of the Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship.



F.C. Grote Fund Scholarship Winners

The F.C. Grote Fund is part of the Lawyers' Fund of the bar foundation, which was established to give scholarships, fellowships, and grants-in-aid for research, writing, and other study of law and of the administration of justice. The Fund awarded \$35,000 to seven students who attend University of Pittsburgh School of Law and University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.



Veronica Vivero-Condon
University of Pittsburgh



Alexander Dettwyler
University of Pittsburgh



Wilson Guarnera
University of Pittsburgh



Kaitlin Kramer
University of Pittsburgh



Aaron Mukodo
University of Pennsylvania



Gwenyth Ortman
University of Pittsburgh



Amanda Shields
University of Pittsburgh

John P. Gismondi Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

Danielle Harrington, Neighborhood Legal Services

“Through the John P. Gismondi Law Student Summer Fellowship Program, I gained valuable experience representing clients, drafting motions, and learning a new area of law. This experience helped me to become more confident and to learn the skills that I will need to better serve my community in the future. My work this summer made me much more confident and comfortable doing this kind of work.”



Danielle’s work in our summer intern program was outstanding – she was confident enough to work independently but knew when to ask for assistance, she worked well with NLS staff and with her fellow interns, and she will be returning in the fall semester to continue her work assisting our attorneys with landlord-tenant cases.

Barbara Kern, NLS

Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

Lindsay Miller, Community Justice Project

"My experience as a Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellow this summer at the Community Justice Project was fantastic. I got hands-on experience with clients, attended court proceedings in federal court, and honed my research and writing skills related to state and federal issues. The additional professional development interns received from the ACBA program was equally fantastic. We attended career panels in small group settings and lunch with distinguished judges with the opportunity to have meaningful conversations. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a summer intern and am so happy with my choice to spend my 2L summer with the program! I am now strongly considering a career in public interest law thanks to my experience."



Lindsay Miller's enthusiasm and compassion helped the Community Justice Project engage with low-income Pennsylvanians across our state to understand their legal issues and develop strategies to address those concerns – from helping residents of a mobile home park facing park closure because of poor conditions at the park, to domestic violence victims being discriminated against and consumers charged illegal fees for water service.

Dan Vitek, Community Justice Project

Endowment Campaign

We embarked on an endowment campaign right before the pandemic hit with a goal of \$1.5 million to help secure the future of the foundation and its programs. The pandemic slowed us down, but it did not stop us. With Tom McGough at the helm and an amazing campaign committee, we have raised \$1.38 million to date with a few more months left in the campaign. We hope to reach and exceed our goal!

The path of

a leader.



Our unstoppable team

Chair

W. Thomas McGough

Vice Chairs

Carol A. Behers
Eric Cottle
John Gismondi
Ronald L. Hicks
Gregory B. Jordan
Gary M. Lang
John R. McGinley, Jr.
Lourdes Sanchez Ridge
Keith E. Whitson

Members

Jennifer R. Andrade
Hal D. Coffey
Jessica L. Crown
Walter P. DeForest
Efrem M. Grail
Gary P. Hunt
Marie Milie Jones
Lori E. McMaster
Thomas R. Moore
Richard S. Wiedman

For more information and to learn how to become a leader through the endowment campaign, visit acbf.org/endowment.



Law Firm Leadership Circle

Law firm's step up their support through another successful Leadership Campaign

Who does a law firm campaign amid a pandemic? **WE DID!** We were able to raise \$302,500 to provide essential help to the foundation to be able to continue all our programs. They say timing is everything. Well, it was time to ask law firms to re-up their pledges for another three years. Our law firms didn't disappoint with their continued support. In addition, we added a few new leading law firms.

Babst Calland

Bernstein-Burkley

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Burns White LLC

Campbell Durrant, PC

Clark Hill PLC

Dentons Cohen & Grigsby

Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, PC

Duane Morris LLP

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Fox Rothschild LLP

Frank, Gale, Bails, Murcko & Pocrass, PC

Gismondi & Associates

Goehring Rutter & Boehm

Jones Day

K&L Gates LLP

Marshall, Dennehey, Warner,
Coleman & Goggin, PC

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

The Webb Law Firm

Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP

Troutman Pepper Hamilton LLP

Tucker Arensberg, PC

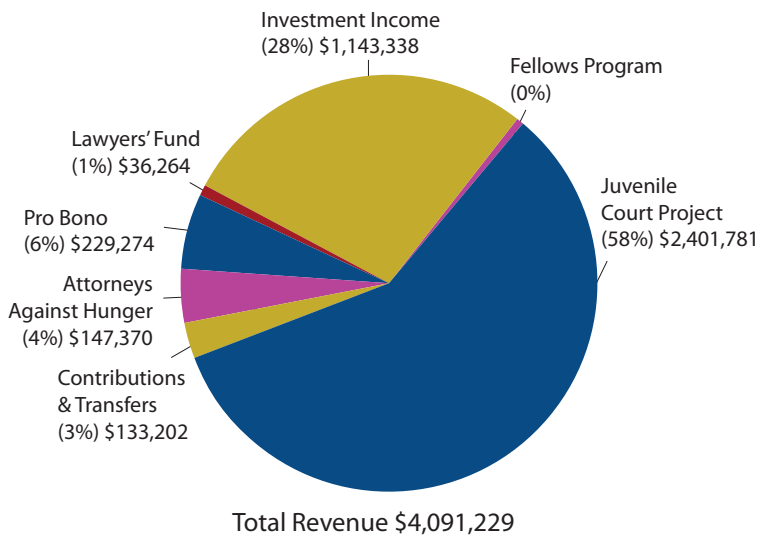
Vuono & Gray, LLC

Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

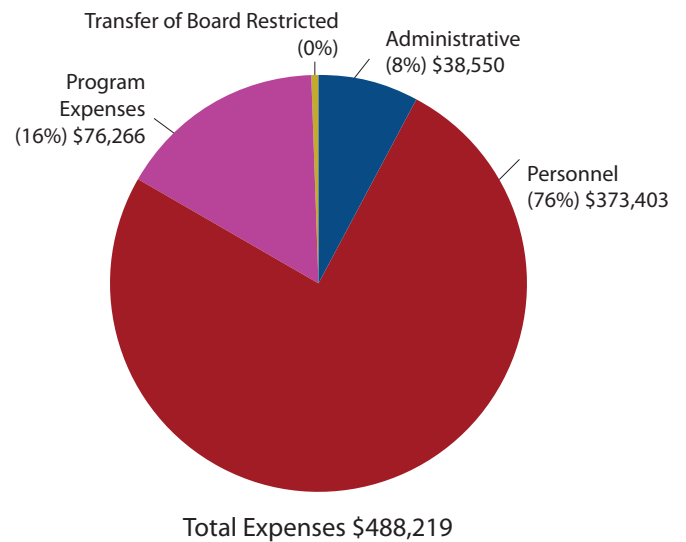
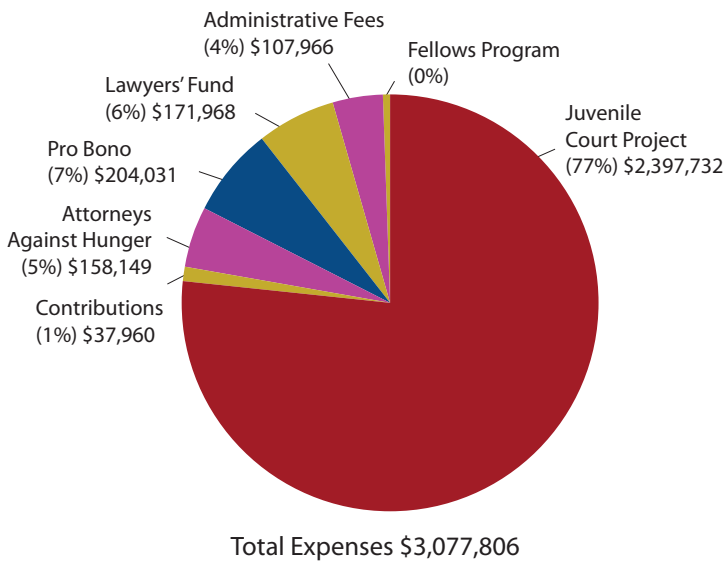
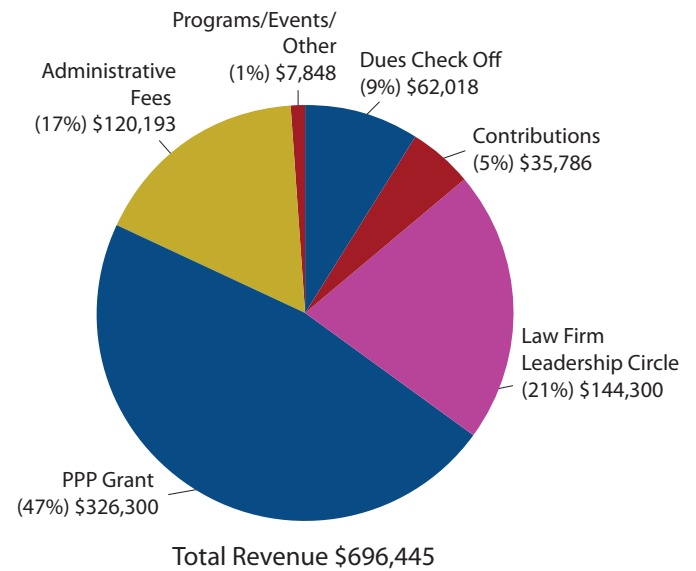


2020-2021 Financials at a Glance

RESTRICTED



UNRESTRICTED



Audited financials for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

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



ACBF Staff (from left)

- Richele Ward
Programs & Project Manager
- Mallory Draisma
Pro Bono Center Legal Programs Coordinator
- Patricia Jones
Divorce Law Project Staff Attorney
- Lorrie Albert
Associate Executive Director
- Barbara Griffin
Pro Bono Center Director
- Jessica Pfauth
Development Assistant

Our New Offices
Look Left!

We are ready to serve our community out of the newly updated ACBA and ACBF offices in the Koppers Building in downtown Pittsburgh! The next time you visit the ACBA offices, be sure to look **left** when you step out of the elevators to find the Foundation!

2020-2021
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The of Pittsburgh's Legal Community[®]



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www.acbf.org

Pro Bono Center:
412-402-6677
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.