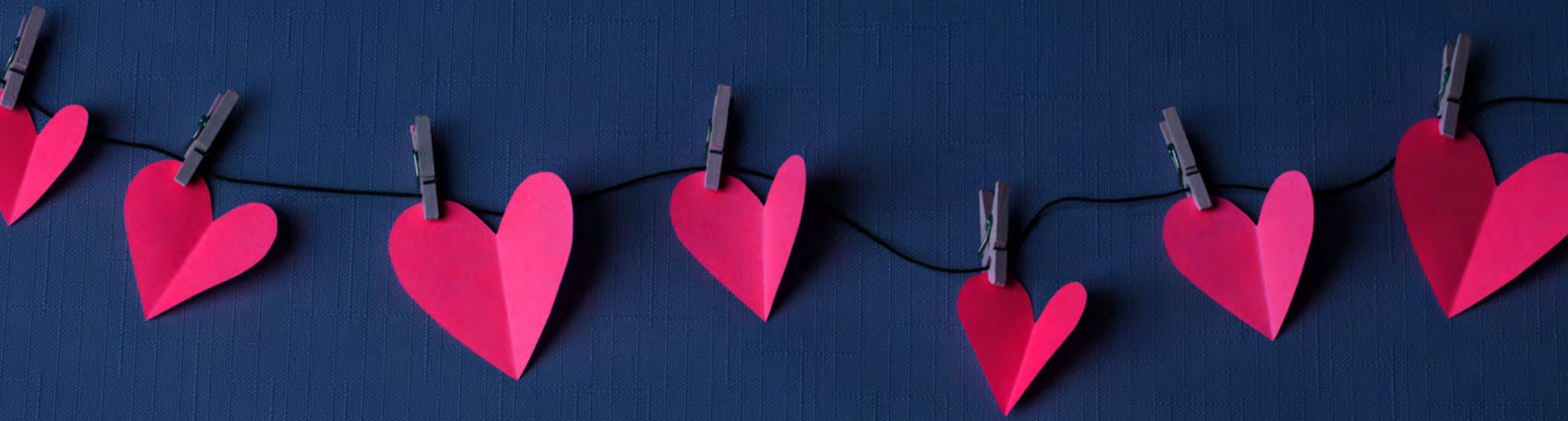


Allegheny County Bar Foundation

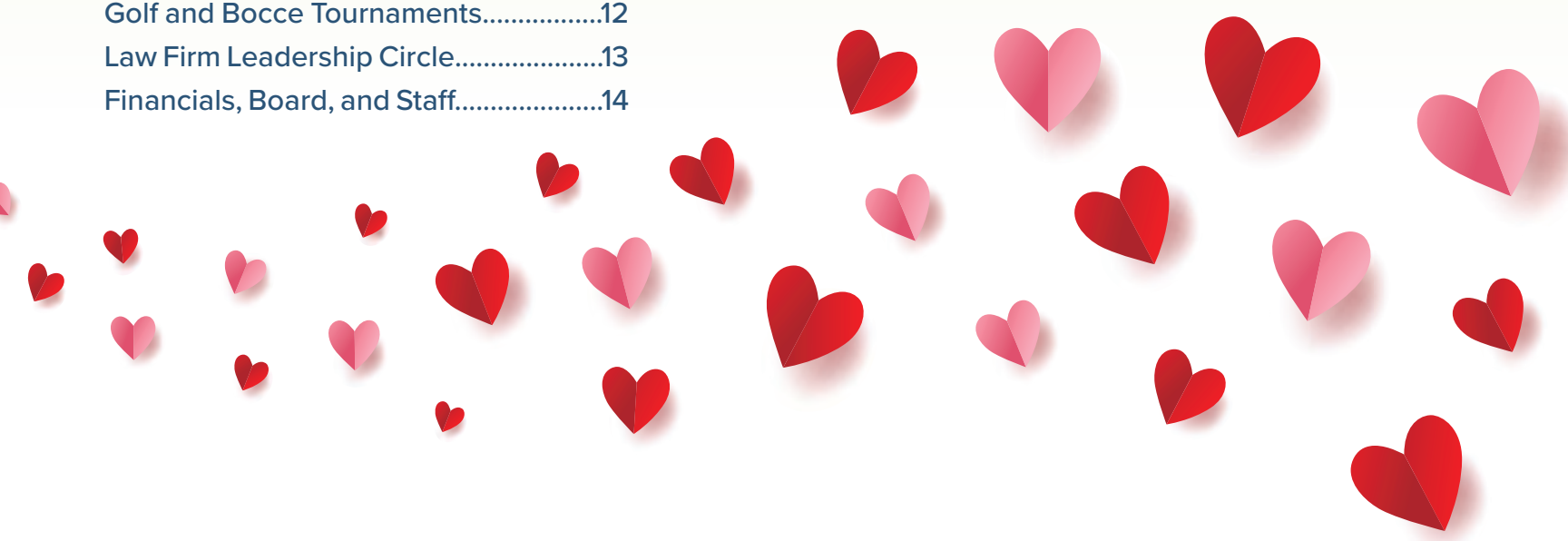
Gratitude REPORT

2025-2026

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The Allegheny County Bar Foundation known as ***the Heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community*** promotes justice for all through public service law-related programs. The Foundation raises, manages, and distributes funds, encourages and assists lawyers to provide pro bono legal services, and develops and supports public information initiatives.



Building a Justice System for All

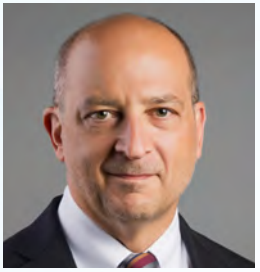
A justice system that works for everyone does not happen on its own. It is built through service, generosity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ensuring that everyone has a meaningful opportunity to seek justice.

Building a Justice System for All is at the heart of our mission. Every day, our volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners help ensure that individuals and families who cannot afford legal services have access to the legal help they need.

This past year, we expanded access to legal assistance, strengthened pro bono programs, and provided attorneys with the training and resources they need to serve. We invested in the future of the profession through scholarships and fellowships, while continuing to respond to broader community needs, including hunger and economic hardship.

Expanding the reach of justice means investing in the people who make justice possible – volunteer attorneys, future lawyers, donors, partners, staff, and Board members. Each plays an important role in removing barriers and strengthening access to justice in our community.

Together, we are strengthening our community and building a justice system that works for all. Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible. With your continued support, we can build an even stronger future for the Foundation and those we serve.



Bryan S. Neft, Esq.
President



Lorrie K. Albert, Esq.
Associate Executive Director

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION
Pro Bono Center



In the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, the Pro Bono Center:

- Served 1,452 individuals with legal help from our staff attorneys and volunteers
- Held 13 community legal clinics and outreach events, meeting clients where they are in underserved communities
- Prepared volunteers at eight CLE and other training programs
- Recruited and recognized volunteers at five events

Emeritus Attorneys Keep Giving Back

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court adopted a rule that created an emeritus status for attorneys who retire from the practice of law and seek to provide pro bono services to legal aid organizations. The Pro Bono Center is pleased to have on its roster of volunteers a group of emeritus attorneys who haven't let retirement stop them from continuing to give back. They helped dozens of people over the past year and are among the most reliable volunteers. Thinking about retiring? Contact the Pro Bono Center to learn more about how you can continue to serve people in need.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION
Juvenile Court Project

Protecting Families. Strengthening Advocacy.

The Juvenile Court Project (JCP) provides critical legal advocacy and support to parents navigating the child welfare system. In 2025-2026, 19 JCP attorneys represented more than 1,000 clients in over 6,500 hearings involving 1,700+ children, while 18 support staff completed more than 7,000 referrals connecting families with housing, community resources, and other essential services.

JCP also advanced clients' rights through appellate advocacy before the Department of Human Services Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, Pennsylvania Superior Court, and Pennsylvania Supreme Court, working collaboratively with child welfare attorneys to strengthen advocacy for parents and families.







Attorneys Against Hunger Campaign Intensifies Fight Against Hunger

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Attorneys Against Hunger (AAH) campaign **raised $141,428 – the second-highest total in its history.** Since 1993, AAH has raised more than **$2.8 million to fight food insecurity**, with this year's campaign supporting **18 local hunger-service organizations**.

The AAH **"Hunger Can't Wait" Cocktail Hour** helped address the impact of the initial cuts in the SNAP program in November so that every community member would have food on their table for Thanksgiving, and the Young Lawyers Division's **Strike Out Hunger** fundraiser in April helped push the campaign beyond its annual goal.

Campaign proceeds directly support hunger-relief efforts thanks to primary sponsor **Steidl & Steinberg**, with additional support from **Gleason** and the **Raymond A. Novak AAH Hunger Fund**. When donations reached $85,000, **Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, and McGinley family members of the bar** provided an additional **$15,000 challenge grant**.



Attorneys Against Hunger Providing More Than Meals

Hope Ministries of McKeesport increased the number of meals served from 3,700 in 2024 to 5,800 in 2025 and its number of volunteers from 7 to 25. Opening its doors before meals and providing coffee for fellowship on cold winter days, as well as rainy days, has significantly improved its food services and given clients a growing sense of community and belonging.



Fellows GIVE

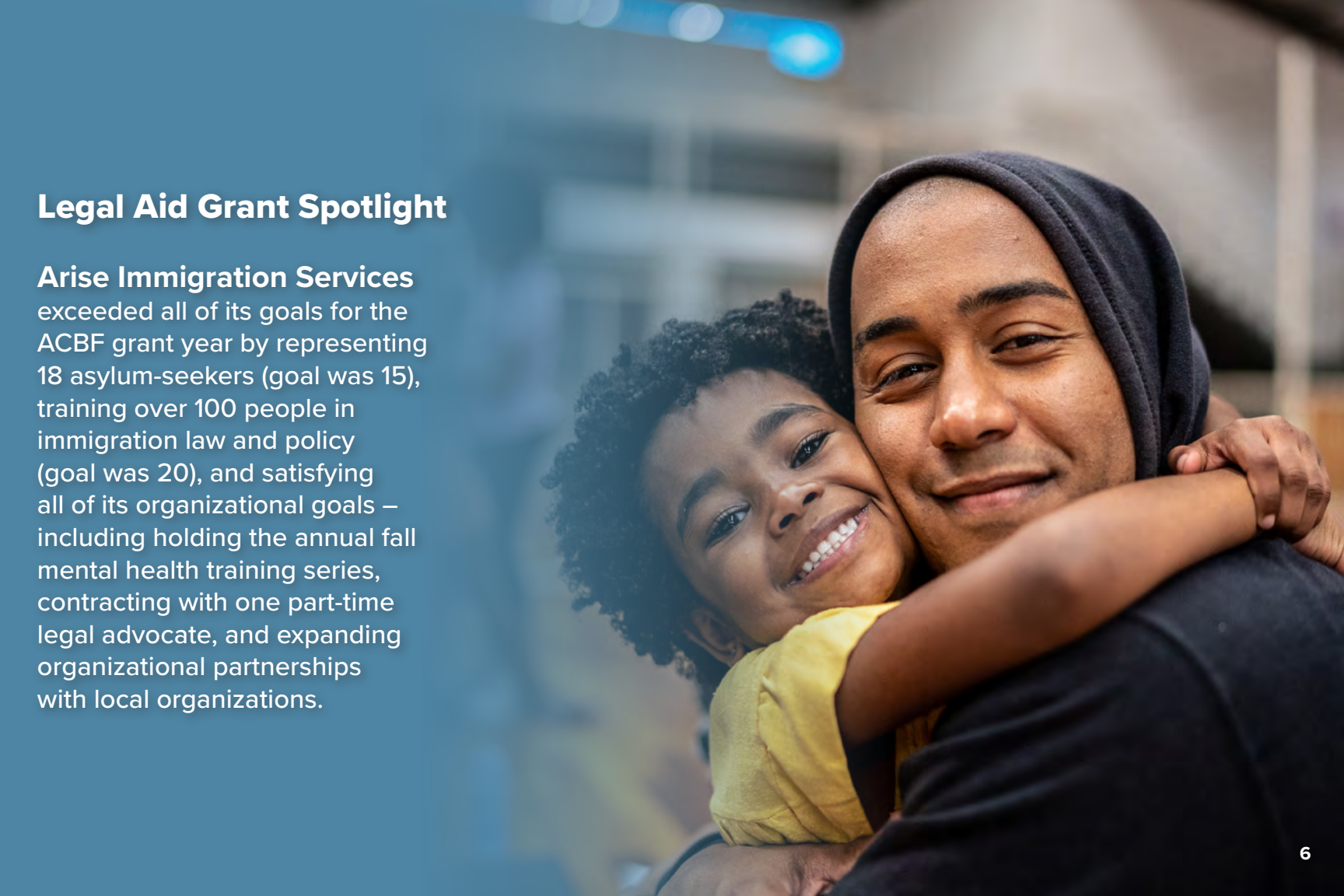
Members of the ACBF's Fellows GIVE program have shown a commitment to excellence in charitable, community, professional, and/or public service activities and create an organization of members who recognize and accept the bar's ongoing challenges to fund public service activities. Each year, Fellows GIVE members attend a Pitch Event and vote on funding different legal aid projects and organizations. In 2025, $60,000 in grants were awarded.

Pitch Event

On Oct. 21, 2025, active Fellows GIVE members attended the annual Pitch Event and heard pitches from nine different organizations. The six organizations with the highest number of votes at the end of the night each received a $10,000 grant to fund their legal aid efforts. The six funded organizations represent various areas of public service including immigration, domestic violence, civil rights, and housing security. Thank you so much to every organization that pitched and that works so hard every day to provide a better future for all of us, we are grateful for your efforts!

Legal Aid Grant Spotlight

Arise Immigration Services exceeded all of its goals for the ACBF grant year by representing 18 asylum-seekers (goal was 15), training over 100 people in immigration law and policy (goal was 20), and satisfying all of its organizational goals – including holding the annual fall mental health training series, contracting with one part-time legal advocate, and expanding organizational partnerships with local organizations.



Fellowships and Scholarships

The ACBF offers funded fellowships every summer made possible by members of the legal community. 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.

Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Students

Katie Lerner – Public Defender's Office
AlexSandra Sanna – District Attorney's Office
Kris Sharpe – Neighborhood Legal Services

John A. Meehan Citizenship Institute Fund

Rukayat Sulaiman – Jewish Family and Community Services

Summer Fellowship Students

Funding for ten Summer Fellowship placements were provided by an anonymous donor of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Emmanuel Agladima – Juvenile Court Project
Lilah Ashtyani – County Solicitor's Office
Erin Hake – The Pro Bono Center
Reilly Heidecker – Office of Conflict Counsel
Christopher Kozlowski – Disability Rights PA
Erin Lamirande – Community Justice Project
Carson Lutchansky – Women's Law Project
Hannah Martinez – KidsVoice
Carlee Weber – PA Health Law Project
Ryan Young – Women's Law Project

Lawyers' Fund Fellows

Caroline Bennett – Disability Rights PA
Emily Harling – Education Law Center
Darby Matvey – Women's Center & Shelter
Zoe Morse – Women's Center & Shelter
Sandra Mupende – County Solicitor's Office
Hayley Smith – District Attorney's Office
Caleb Stitt – Juvenile Court Project
Amber Tindall – Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh
Alyssa Travisano – Public Defender's Office
Elisabeth Vasko – Community Justice Project



Fellowship Students

In addition to working at legal aid organizations, the Summer Fellows engaged with the legal community and networked at Lunch with the Judges and the Career Panel, where they learned about a variety of practice areas.

"Working directly with clients turned abstract legal concepts into real human outcomes, showing me just how much direct representation matters when people are navigating complex systems. It solidified my drive to keep client-focused public interest work and pro bono advocacy at the center of my future career."

— **Rukayat Sulaiman**
Summer Fellowship Student, Jewish Family and Community Services

Scholarships

The ACBF provides a number of scholarships to deserving law students through a competitive process.

F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund



Madelyn Gilmore



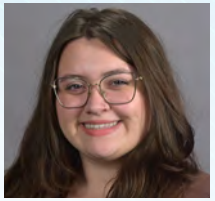
Molly Gunson



Daniele Meñez



Ryan Ruder



Julia Smiertelny



Carlos Tosca

Not pictured: Cameron Arredondo

Daniel B. Dixon Scholarship Fund



RJ Sorensen

James I. Smith, III Notre Dame Law School Scholarship Fund



Alyssa Carnevali



Max Farino

Hon. Carol Los Mansmann Scholarship Fund



Olivia Brophy

Celebrating Our Volunteers and Donors

The ACBF hosted its 2025 Fall Foundation Reception on Sept. 25, 2025, at the Kimpton Hotel Monaco. The evening brought together members of the bench and bar to recognize outstanding volunteers, celebrate the work of the Foundation, and highlight the impact of its programs.

During the program, the Foundation presented the Edward G. O'Connor Fellows Award to Jane Myhers, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney with KidsVoice, in recognition of her dedicated service and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable children.





The Foundation also presented the following awards in recognition of outstanding commitment to pro bono and public interest services: Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award to Bradley J. Kitlowski, Esq.; Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award to Matthew Mohammad Roohollahi, Esq.; Mary Ann Troper Malley Partner in Justice Award to Dana Gold; Law Student Pro Bono Award to James Miller; and Outstanding Pro Bono Project Award to the Carnegie Clinic Volunteers.

The event also included the induction of the Fellows GIVE Class of 2025, recognizing 24 new Fellows for their commitment to funding public service activities and supporting innovative pro bono programs.

Pro Bono Rocks Returns!

After a 12-year hiatus, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Center brought back its signature concert fundraiser – Pro Bono Rocks! – on Oct. 11, 2025, at City Winery. Interest in the event's return proved strong: approximately 140 attorneys, legal professionals, community partners, and music lovers filled the venue for an evening that was equal parts celebration and support for legal services across Allegheny County.

The night's lineup featured three Pittsburgh-area bands, each featuring at least one attorney or legal professional: The Dead End Streets, The Centralians and Repo Man. Each band brought its own style – from Americana-rock to punk – to the stage, donating their time and talent to a great cause.

The evening also marked the ACBF's 45th anniversary, with the theme "celebrating 45 years of banding together for justice" woven throughout the night as a reminder of the organization's long-standing commitment to expanding access to legal support. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, sponsors, and supporters, the event raised over $23,000 to benefit the Pro Bono Center's network of programs that help individuals and families with low incomes access free legal services.



Golf and Bocce Tournaments

The ACBA's 31st Golf and 11th Annual Bocce Tournaments took place at Westmoreland Country Club on July 28, 2025. The event was once again a success, generating funds for both the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services.



Leadership Circle: Instrumental to Our Success



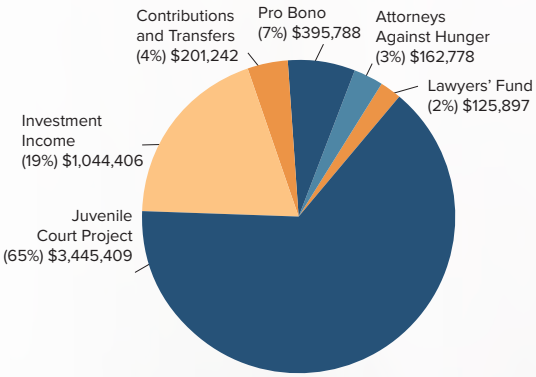
The Law Firm Leadership Circle provides essential support that strengthens our ability to respond to the legal needs of our community, expand access to justice for those who cannot afford legal services, invest in the next generation of attorneys, and support vital community programs, including hunger relief and legal aid grants.

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to our **2024-2027 Law Firm Leadership Circle members,** whose commitment continues to be instrumental to the success of the Foundation:

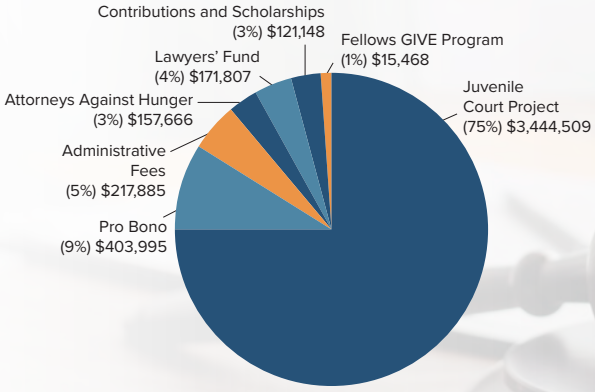
Babst Calland
Bernstein-Burkley, P.C.
Blank Rome
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Burns White, LLC
Campbell Durrant Beatty & Palombo, P.C.
Clark Hill PLC
Dentons Cohen & Grigsby
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.
Duane Morris LLP
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Edgar Snyder & Associates
Fox Rothschild LLP
Frank, Gale, Bails & Pocrass, P.C.
Friday & Cox, LLC
Goehring Rutter & Boehm
James A. Traficante & Associates
John P. Gismondi
Jones Day
K&L Gates LLP
Kontos Mengine Killion & Hassen
Marshall Dennehey, P.C.
McGuireWoods LLP
Medure Bonner Bellissimo, LLC
Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC
Meyer Unkovic & Scott LLP
Pollock Begg
Quatrini Law Group
Raphael, Ramsden & Behers
Reed Smith LLP
Saul Ewing LLP
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky
Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP
Troutman Pepper Locke
Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
Vuono & Gray, LLC
Woomer & Talarico
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

2025-2026 Financials

Restricted

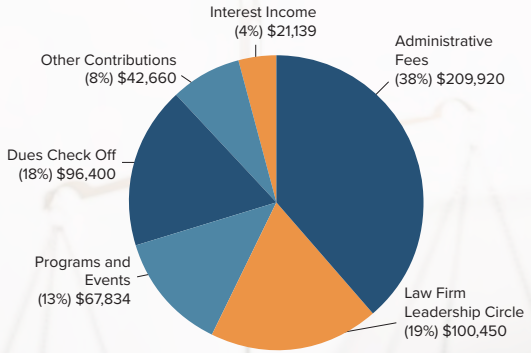


Total Revenue $5,375,520

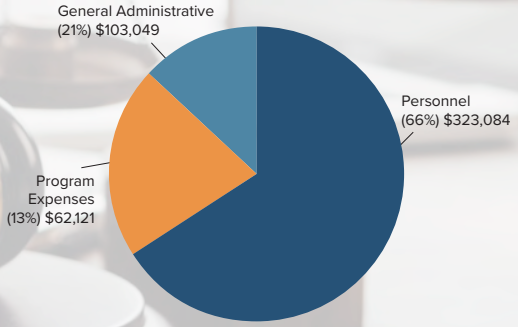


Total Expenses $4,532,478

Unrestricted



Total Revenue $538,404



Total Expenses $488,255

Audited financials for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
Please visit www.acbf.org to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

2025-2026 Board of Trustees

President: Bryan S. Neft
Vice-President: Jaclyn M. Belczyk
Secretary: Gilda M. Arroyo
Treasurer: Hon. Patricia L. Dodge
Immediate Past-President: Daniel J. Sinclair
Young Lawyers Division Liaison: Alyssa M. Zottola

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Our Heart Wall is growing – ACBF staff standing in front of hearts painted by ACBA members and law students.

2025-2026 Staff

David A. Blaner, Executive Director
Thomas C. Petropoulos, Assistant Executive Director
Lorrie K. Albert, Associate Executive Director
Barbara Griffin, Pro Bono Center Director
Michael Diana, Director of Finance
Juli M. Marhefka, Director of Admin and HR
Erin Work, Juvenile Court Project Director
Stephanie Selya, Programs and Project Manager
Mya Thomasmeyer, Development Assistant
Patricia O. Jones, Pro Bono Staff Attorney
Olivia P. Hilborn, Pro Bono Staff Attorney

Help us build a justice system for *all*, donate today. >>>