



TRANSCRIPT

Fall 2020



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OSBF'S RESPONSE TO 2020 CHALLENGES = REMARKABLE RESULTS

MARK M. KITRICK | PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The crucibles of the coronavirus and social unrest have severely challenged everyone this year. Yet, the Ohio State Bar Foundation continues to demonstrate protean flexibility to better accomplish our mission. Let's take a look:

Our Racial Justice Initiative – This summer, the OSBF launched its first-ever Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) grant, which will award up to \$500,000 to Ohio nonprofits working to improve the systemic racism we see in our state. This

new grant is operating parallel to our usual fall grant cycle. While we have a history of being sensitive to diversity and inclusion and have supported minorities and the underserved through many programs and grants, this is a very important, rare undertaking. The first application window of our RJI grant cycle closed in August, and we received more than 15 requests totaling more than \$1.1 million. Stay tuned to meet our RJI grantees later this year.

Our Strategic Grant – The OSBF Board of Trustees voted to complete the third year of our \$100,000 funding of our first strategic grant initiative with Issue Media Group (IMG). Over the last two years, through IMG's articles, events, and quizzes, we have reached more than 2.6 million people. This means that millions of people have been impacted from this grant. Visit [OSBF.org/StrategicGrants](https://osbf.org/StrategicGrants) to review IMG's past articles and quizzes.

Our 2020 Virtual Symposium – Due to the pandemic and our staff and Fellows' flexibility and work ethic, we have two classes of Fellows running concurrently. Our 2019 Class will be closing out their class year with their virtual symposium, *On the Margin: Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking*, taking place virtually on October 20th at 4 PM. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown will join several topic experts and two survivors for a well-rounded discussion on foster youth in the

grip of human trafficking. Donations will be matched by a generous benefactor and given to three Ohio nonprofits working with foster youth and human trafficking victims. Please join us for this special event by visiting [OSBF.org/Symposium](https://osbf.org/Symposium)

Our 2020 Fellows Class kicked off their class year virtually and have been brainstorming ideas to confront the pandemic and deciphering how it has impacted their communities. They plan to respond in the form of quick-hit informational videos for the public.

Our Connections – OSBF leadership has conducted a number of virtual meetings with the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati (BLAC), the Ohio Innocence Project in Cincinnati, the Law and Leadership Institute, and the Ohio State Legal Services Association. We continue to develop our relationships and discuss future collaborations. Further, as president, I volunteered to be on the OSBA's Law Practice Modernization Task Force, whose charge is to construct and promote new law practice models to better help lawyers and connect consumers with attorneys.

Our Annual Awards Ceremony – The OSBF decided months ago not to conduct our usual October in-person event due to growing coronavirus concerns. We will be hosting a virtual meeting for all Fellows on October 2 at 5:30 PM, and then, we will present a series of videos about our four annual award winners vis-a-vis social media and other marketing tools throughout the month of October.

While my time as OSBF president is beginning to wind down, we have many important events planned for the final months of 2020. I look forward to all we can accomplish together.

In fellowship with gratitude,

Mark Kitrick, President

2020 AWARD CELEBRATION

This October, join the OSBF as we celebrate this year's awardees!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has decided not to host the 2020 All Rise Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony. The health and well-being of our supporters is our top priority, which means we made the difficult decision not to have this year's event. However, that won't stop us from honoring our special awardees.

During each week of October, we will highlight the recipients of the Ritter Award, the Ramey Award for Distinguished Community Service, the Outstanding Program or Organization Award, the Statewide Community Service Award for Attorneys 40 and Under, and the Elam Award. Follow the OSBF on social media, check our website, and keep an eye on your inbox throughout the month to meet our inspiring honorees.

While we will miss the connection and fun we have together in person, we hope you'll help us honor our awardees virtually this year.



2020 SPRING GRANTEES

This past spring, the OSBF awarded more than \$300,000 to eight Ohio nonprofits. With this grant money, our spring grantees are able to continue their crucial work, which aligns with our mission to educate Ohioans about the justice system so that they better understand their legal rights.

Here's a look at our spring grantees:



This spring, the OSBF continued the third and final year of its strategic grant, which aims to improve the civics knowledge of Ohio adults. With this grant, Issue Media Group (IMG) has created **Civics Essential: Ohio**, a series and initiative that includes feature stories and corresponding surveys published in *Soapbox Cincinnati*, *FreshWater Cleveland*, and *The Hub Springfield* and live and virtual events. The grant has continued since its inception and will conclude after the three-year term. To learn more about this grant and see IMG's content, visit OSBF.org/StrategicGrants.



The OSBF gave \$118,000 to the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) in Columbus to further develop and expand its student programs, teacher professional development opportunities, and outreach efforts. Students can access high-quality civics content and have an opportunity to practice responsible citizenship through the study of the U.S. Constitution, judicial system, and community impact of social issues. Educators learn valuable teaching strategies, create lesson plans and student activities, and share substantive knowledge through OCLRE professional development opportunities.



The OSBF gave \$59,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Columbus for their **Statewide Kinship Care Provider Education and Outreach Program**. The program assists kinship care families, caregivers for children whose parents are unable or unavailable to care for them. This initiative helps kinship caregivers have better access and increased understanding of the legal system through collaborations with Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center in Columbus and with the Cincinnati Bar Foundation and Ohio Federation of Health Equity and Social Justice statewide.



The OSBF gave \$50,000 to the United Way of Greater Cleveland for their **Right to Counsel - Cleveland Community Education and Awareness Campaign**, which works to educate the Cleveland community on a recent court rule change entitling tenants to legal representation in city eviction proceedings.



The OSBF gave \$34,000 to Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, located in Dayton and Toledo, for the **Medicaid Developmental Disability Waivers and You Program**. This program will provide legal information to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and disability-rights advocates on the three types of waivers available, their rights and eligibility, and the application and appeals process.



The OSBF gave \$20,000 to the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Ohio, which is located in Columbus, for **Answering the Calls of Veterans in Crisis**. With this grant, NAMI Ohio will hold a one-day conference for judges, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and veteran outreach coordinators to encourage collaborative efforts for de-escalating veterans facing unique problems, such as traumatic brain injury, PTSD, substance abuse, depression, and other mental, physical, and emotional challenges.

OHIO VOICE

The OSBF gave \$10,000 to Ohio Voice to expand the **Ohio Fair Courts Speakers Bureau**, which conducts "Courts 101" presentations that engage and train new speakers and organizations in Dayton, Cincinnati, Akron, and Cleveland.



The OSBF gave \$10,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Columbus for **Boss Up**, which supports the development of legal education materials for aspiring entrepreneurs in historically underserved communities in Franklin County. The grant will help provide needed information on start-up services for small businesses.



The OSBF gave \$10,000 to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Ohio, located in Dublin and Cincinnati, for **Know Your Rights Legal Fellow**. The grant will support the development of "Know Your Rights" legal materials that will help educate the Ohio Muslim community on legal issues specific to them and other general legal topics.



The OSBF gave \$9,000 to Ohio State Legal Services Association in Columbus for the **Ohio Poverty Law Center's Advocacy Skills Training**. Legal aid attorneys will have the opportunity to participate in a two-day advocacy training where they'll engage in group presentations, discussions, and small group exercises to help them better understand the legislative process and increase their level of engagement in statewide policy.

Soon, the OSBF will announce the recipients of its 2020 fall grants cycle, as well as the recipients of its brand-new Racial Justice Initiative grant. Follow us on social media to stay updated.

■ FELLOW FEATURE MEET DAN MOORE

Dan joined the OSBF Fellows Program as a member of the 2019 Fellows Class. As an active member of the Class, Dan has been instrumental in planning the first-ever Fellows virtual symposium. During this symposium, the 2019 Class will be highlighting the risks foster youth often face at falling victim to human trafficking.

Why did you want to become an OSBF Fellow?

I was invited by Mark Kitrick (current OSBF president) to become an OSBF Fellow. Mark has been a friend for years, and I respect his opinion. After learning more, I understood that the program would be a good way to get involved with other lawyers on a statewide level.

What does it mean to you to be an OSBF Fellow? Why would you encourage others to get involved?

Being a Fellow is about making something a little bit better – whatever your class chooses to work on. The lawyer has an opportunity to take a step back from the practice of law and make a difference in a significant, positive way. If you choose to become an active member of your Class, your efforts will be rewarding in ways the everyday grind cannot provide.

Why do you think the On the Margin: Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking virtual symposium is important?

Human trafficking is a particularly awful form of human abuse, especially when directed toward young, vulnerable people. The symposium is focused on raising awareness for a segment of our population that is often overlooked and who often do not benefit from opportunities and successes that many others in the United States experience. It is our hope that increased awareness will lead to increased recognition of the problem and bring us a few steps closer to reducing its prevalence. Just as important, donations by attendees and sponsors of the symposium will go to support organizations that are assisting survivors and foster youth.

What do you hope attendees take away from the symposium?

I hope that those watching the symposium depart with a better understanding of the problem and are moved to make a difference. Volunteering your time with an organization helping survivors is a good start. Donating to fund these organizations is a good start. Spreading the word about the problem and the organizations that are helping provide solutions is a good start.

Join Dan and the rest of the 2019 Fellows Class for the On the Margin: Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking virtual symposium on October 20 at 4 PM. Learn more at [OSBF.org/Symposium](https://osbf.org/Symposium).



“BEING A FELLOW IS ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING A LITTLE BETTER. THE LAWYER HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A STEP BACK FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE WAY.”

“IT IS OUR HOPE THAT INCREASED AWARENESS WILL LEAD TO INCREASED RECOGNITION OF (HUMAN TRAFFICKING) AND BRING US A FEW STEPS CLOSER TO REDUCING ITS PREVALENCE.”



GRANTEE FEATURE



During the OSBF's fall 2018 grant cycle, we awarded \$75,000 to the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation. This grant, along with contributions from the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and others, supported the development of Ohio Legal Help, a website for Ohioans to use to have access to information on the justice system and meaningful assistance for civil legal needs. This includes access to plain-language legal information, interactive self-help tools, and connections to local legal and community resources. All content is reviewed by lawyers to ensure the website is easy to understand, action-oriented, and accurate.

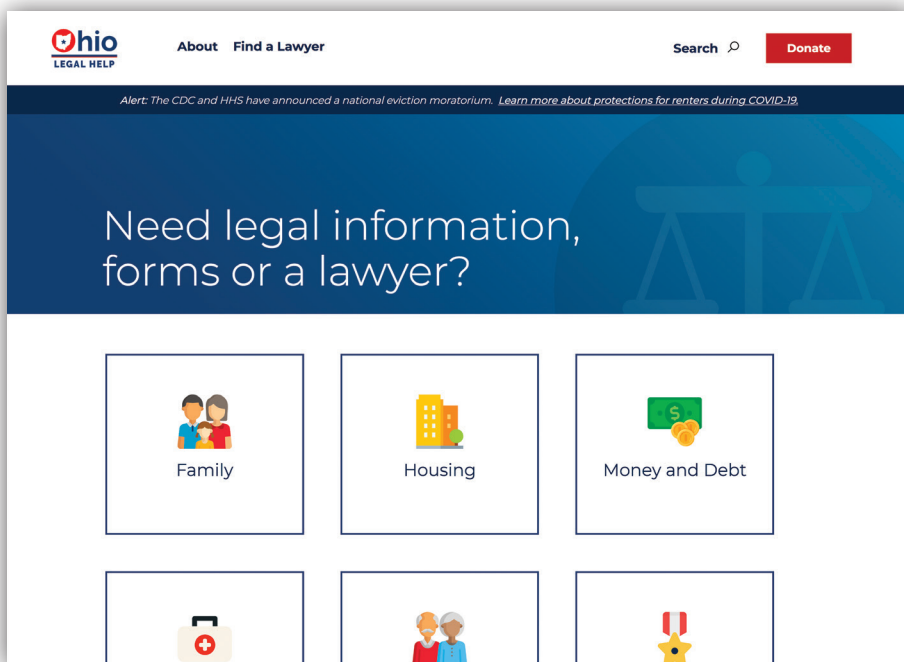
Recently, Ohio Legal Help reached their first birthday. For a year now, website visitors have had access to content on five different areas, including family, housing, consumer, public benefits, and Ohio's legal system. The site has had more than 250,000 visits and is fully operated by an independent 501(c)(3), also called Ohio Legal Help, which successfully acquired grant funding from OSBF during the fall 2019 grant cycle to continue content expansion for the website.

Check out the website at OhioLegalHelp.org.

"I USED THE OHIO LEGAL HELP WEBSITE TO HELP CONNECT A FAMILY MEMBER IN CENTRAL OHIO WITH DEBT COUNSELING SERVICES. THE SIMPLE QUESTION/ANSWER FORMAT OF THE WEBSITE MADE IT EASY TO NAVIGATE, AND I WAS LINKED UP WITH THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE WITHIN MINUTES. THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY MANY PREDATORY DEBT COUNSELING SERVICES OUT THERE, SO I APPRECIATED THAT OHIO LEGAL HELP DIRECTED ME TO A NON-PROFIT SERVICE THAT I COULD TRUST FOR MY FAMILY."

— Amanda*, Franklin County

*Name changed to protect user privacy



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