



# If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share.

AS WE LOOK BACK THROUGH 2018, A STRONG WORD COMES TO MIND TO DESCRIBE OUR FEELINGS - THANKFUL.

The year was full of accomplishments for the Ohio State Bar Foundation. We awarded our first-ever strategic grant with the goal of improving the civics knowledge of adults in Ohio, enhancing their participation in and knowledge of government, enabling their access to justice and improving their perceptions of the judicial system. We welcomed 32 new Fellows to the Foundation's Fellows Program. We hosted a successful Annual Awards Dinner where we honored those who continuously inspired us with their hard work, selflessness and dedication. And we awarded more than \$700,000 during our grant cycles.

All of the Foundation's 2018 accomplishments would not have been possible without our Fellows, our donors, our partners, our staff and our leadership. We are thankful for everyone who continues to fight for our mission. Now, we want to share our gratitude.

I can honestly say that the OSBF reinvigorated my passion for the law. Through being inducted as a Fellow, I was immediately connected with some of the most accomplished, charismatic and civic-minded attorneys in our state. Further, I was provided with invaluable opportunities through which I served as a spokesperson, educator and volunteer in order to create positive change in our community. I found my experience to be nothing short of empowering! I came out of the program with a greater appreciation for my fellow colleagues, the law and what we can all accomplish by working together.



Kiko Vee



Foseph Wenger

Being an OSBF fellow provides you an opportunity to learn about and participate in some of the amazing charitable work happening across the state. At our fellows class meeting at Migration and Refugee Services of Cleveland Catholic Charities, I was thrilled to learn about how OSBF funding is helping to provide immigration-related legal services for Ohioans in need. As a volunteer, it was a powerful and moving experience to help a refugee on their path to United States citizenship. I'm proud that OSBF is assisting in this life-changing work and inspired to do more in my local community to help migrants and refugees.



Because of you, we can provide grants to organizations around the state. These organizations use grant funds to improve the knowledge of and access to our justice system for all Ohioans. Here's a snapshot of your donations in action.



"Receiving the grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation made the launch of the program possible. The Summer Law & Trial Institute seeks to increase understanding of the law and its possibilities among high school students."

## Larvy Hayman

## SUMMER LAW & TRIAL INSTITUTE 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



**100% of students reported having a better understanding** of legal issues facing residents of Appalachia and an improved understanding of the American legal system.

In the program's third year, **the number of applicants almost tripled from its first year**—26 in 2016 to 72 in 2018.

Applicants came primarily from Ohio, but also included students from Kentucky, Michigan, Colorado, Illinois, West Virginia and Texas.

The 20 students selected for the program were residents of Athens (5), Madison (2), Franklin (2), Cuyahoga, Brown, Scioto, Jackson, Washington, Lorain, and Montgomery counties in Ohio, Greenup and Boone counties in Kentucky, and Wood County in West Virginia.

#### GRANTS AWARDED DURING FALL 2017/SPRING 2018 GRANT CYCLES

Total amount awarded: \$712,411

Location of grantees: Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17 Average grant amount: \$33,924.33



## 2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OSBF's 2017 financial information can be accessed at OSBF.org. The information has been extracted from the audit report performed by John Gerlach & Company, LLP. A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request.

#### OHIO UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION Center for Law, Justice & Culture's Summer Law & Trial Institute

The Center for Law, Justice & Culture's Summer Law & Trial Institute (SLTI) is a 13-day immersive residential program on Ohio University's Athens campus that improves access to legal education for economically disadvantaged students through collaboration with the legal community, academia, state and local government and non-governmental organizations.

While on campus, students are treated to the full college experience dorm room stays, hall keys, meal cards, study room access and roommate assignments. They study, prepare for and conduct plea negotiations and oral arguments for a mock trial and also visit the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Statehouse, the Athens Prisoner Re-entry Task Force and more.

The program is directed by Larry Hayman, who has a unique perspective as both an OSBF grantee and Fellow.

"Being a Fellow has contributed to my experience with the Summer Law & Trial Institute (SLTI) in a multitude of ways by giving me an additional opportunity to network with those in my fellows class. For the first time in July 2018, we were able to bring the Fellows to Athens to both learn about and participate in SLTI. Following a presentation about the program, Fellows served as Jurors in the students' capstone mock trial experience. By donating their time to the program, Fellows were able to see firsthand the hard work the students invest to prepare for their trial during the two weeks of the program. Hopefully, it also showed them the great work that their donations go to support."

Larry Hayman

I grew up in a very broken home with little opportunity. Doors were constantly slammed in my face and I had many challenges to overcome throughout my life. I heard about this program and was very interested but was concerned about the tuition cost since I didn't have much support. I was extremely relieved to find out that it was free. I applied and cried when I found out I was accepted. It was something I only ever dreamed I could accomplish.

The program was filled with so much information. The speakers were great with teaching us skills and helping us learn more about the field of law. The court trips were wonderful and exciting. Every time I stepped into a courtroom I felt my heart beat faster because I know it's for me. The Supreme Court, House of Representatives and the Attorney General was a great experience. The day at Hocking was beautiful as well.

I am forever grateful for what SLTI has done for me, and I will never forget the memories, friends and education I received at this program. More importantly, it empowered me to chase my dreams and not look back. Thank you, you'll never understand what an impact this has made on my life.

Lotri Tulmetr SLTI 2016 From Jackson, Ohio Political Science, Ohio University

## **RITTER CIRCLE**

The George W. Ritter Circle honors members of the OSBF Legacy Society and those who include the Foundation in their estate plans. When it comes to fighting for our justice system - there is no quick fix. The progress we make continues to grow year after year and takes consistent dedication, support and hard work. A gift in your will to the Ohio State Bar Foundation will allow continuance of this fight. To start a conversation about a gift in your will, contact OSBF Executive Director Lori Keating at 614-487-4443 or LKeating@OSBF.net.

#### **FELLOW PROFILE** Maria R. Schimer, 2017 OSBF Fellow



Feeling passion through a phone call can be difficult. Unless that phone call is with Maria Schimer. As soon as the conversation starts, you can see where her heart is. Maria gives and gives and gives. Then, she gives some more. Not only has she completed her law degree, but she brings knowledge and expertise from her nursing degree as well.

Maria has combined the nursing world and world of law together to help those who can't help themselves. Her pro bono work centers around being a voice for the voiceless - those who are terminally ill, the elderly, those who are

mentally disabled and children who have fallen victim to the opioid crisis. Maria represents them when they have no one else to do so.

During her time as a Fellow, Maria has taken advantage of multiple volunteer opportunities with the Foundation. From teaching middle and high school students to working with Asian Services in Action (ASIA), an organization that provides legal services for refugees and immigrants in Northeast Ohio, she's had the opportunity to give back and make a difference in the fight for a better understanding of and access to our justice system.

"When I first got involved [with ASIA], I was afraid. I don't speak their language, and they don't know American culture. How will I do this? Then, we started meeting people. All it took was reaching out, being patient and being empathetic. Some people I met with didn't even know to dial 9-1-1 for emergency help.

IF WE ALWAYS SIT IN OUR LAW OFFICES AND NEVER PUT OUR TOES INTO THE WATER, WE WILL NEVER KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS. YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT, BUT YOU AREN'T ENGAGED. YOU HAVE TO IMMERSE YOURSELF FULLY INTO THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE... AND YOU END UP FEELING REALLY GOOD. I'D ENCOURAGE ALL FELLOWS TO PARTICIPATE."

Maria Schimer





VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS (MAY - AUGUST 2018)



#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The OSBF Board of Trustees is an extension of our staff. Their leadership and guidance is critical, and we are grateful for their continuous support and hard work.

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"Serving as a Trustee for the Ohio State Bar Foundation has been a highlight of My Legal Career. It is an honor and privilege to work with outstanding lawyers from throughout Ohio who care about their communities and are dedicated to the OSBF mission. Together, we are truly making a difference in the lives of Ohioans - not only through our grants to groups around the state working to improve our justice system through education and innovation, but also through our own volunteer service to these groups."

SBF Trustee

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