



Gratitude Report 2019



OHIO STATE BAR
FOUNDATION

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

– William Arthur Ward

**ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY. A NEW DECADE UPON US. AS WE LOOK BACK ON 2019,
THE OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL AN IMMENSE SENSE OF GRATITUDE.**

Gratitude toward our Fellows. Gratitude toward our awardees. Gratitude toward our Board of Trustees. Gratitude toward our grantees. Gratitude toward our staff. Gratitude toward you.

Nothing at the Foundation is accomplished alone. It takes an army of people dedicated to its mission who are willing to stand on the frontlines and fight for a better justice system. Without each and every one of you - the soldiers for legal justice - there would be no us. We are grateful to have people behind us who are willing to give so much of their time, their talent, and their treasure to help us give more to the people of Ohio.

WHILE OUR GRATITUDE FOR 2019 IS THROUGH THE ROOF, WE'RE READY TO START LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE.

AS WE ENTER A NEW DECADE, WE CAN'T HELP BUT THINK - *what if we do even more?*

- What if more Ohioans advance their civic knowledge through our strategic grant to Issue Media Group?
- What if more new young lawyers are connected with experienced attorneys in Ohio's rural communities through our grant to the Ohio State Bar Association?
- What if more Latino families are educated on citizenship and immigration laws through our grant to the Dominican Sisters of Peace?

At the Ohio State Bar Foundation, *we're just getting started.*
But for now, join us as we look back and share our gratitude for the past year.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

OHIO STATE LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION Southeastern Ohio Youth Law Project

The Southeastern Ohio Youth Law Project (YLP) was implemented by Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS) in partnership with Sojourners Care Network (Sojourners) to address the need for civil legal aid for youth and young adults. The YLP was designed to remove legal barriers vulnerable youth face when transitioning into adulthood by providing education on legal rights and responsibilities, representation in legal proceedings, and community outreach.



THE SUPPORT FROM OSBF HAS HELPED US GIVE A VOICE TO YOUNG ADULTS AND CHILDREN WHO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS AND ARE STRUGGLING TO PULL THEMSELVES OUT OF POVERTY.

Baylee Butler, SEOLS STAFF ATTORNEY

THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM OSBF, ESPECIALLY FOR PROGRAMS LIKE THE YOUTH LAW PROJECT THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT PEOPLE STRUGGLING AS A RESULT OF THE OPIOID CRISIS, GIVES US THE FUNDS WE NEED TO INCREASE CAPACITY, REACH MORE PEOPLE WHO NEED LEGAL HELP, AND CONTINUE TO BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE IN SOUTHEASTERN OHIO COMMUNITIES.

Stephanie W. Harris, OSLSA DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

"Jake" is a young man with ADHD and a learning disability who was in the custody of children services. Over the last 2 years, Jake had numerous foster care placements and attended four different schools. Then, Jake was finally placed with a family who planned on adopting him. However, when he was disciplined at school for defending a friend who was attacked off school grounds and outside school hours, the foster family decided they were no longer willing to adopt Jake. He was sent to another foster home two counties away.

When Jake's new foster parent attempted to enroll him in school, they were informed that he had been expelled from his previous school – unbeknownst to him. The new school refused to enroll him. This meant that Jake would not be able to attend classes and would miss tryouts for wrestling, the sport he loved. Neither Jake nor his foster parents were notified of the expulsion by the former school or children services, and the expulsion hearing was held without anyone there to represent him.

Then, Jake's foster parents learned about the Southeastern Ohio Youth Law Project. They got connected to a SEOLS attorney who was able to challenge the expulsion. Jake was enrolled in school and able to participate in wrestling tryouts.

Jake and his foster parents were out of options until they learned about the YLP. Thankfully, they were connected to an organization that truly cared and that could help them navigate the complicated legal system.

OSBF's STRATEGIC GRANT UPDATE

In 2018, Issue Media Group (IMG) was awarded the OSBF's first strategic grant to improve the civics knowledge of adult Ohioans. IMG created Civics Essential: Ohio, a series and initiative that has included feature stories and quizzes published in *Soapbox Cincinnati* and *FreshWater Cleveland* and community events.

WHAT'S THE IMPACT SO FAR?*



Stay tuned for new Civics Essential Game Hours in 2020. This time, they'll be hosted *Family Feud* style.

*Data collected from August 2018 through October 2019.

OSBF's 2019 GRANTS CYCLE

In 2019, the OSBF awarded \$860,694 to 25 deserving programs that are impacting communities across the entire state.

\$860,694 **25**

\$306,050 TO 11 UNIQUE PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS during the Spring Grants Cycle

\$454,648 TO 13 UNIQUE PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS during the Fall Grants Cycle

\$99,996 TO ISSUE MEDIA GROUP to continue OSBF's ongoing strategic grant

OSBF PRESENTS

Whether it's FWD@18, Constitution Classroom, or B4USend, OSBF is in classrooms and at organizations around Ohio presenting on some crucial topics students need.

90 **3,900+**

In 2019, OSBF facilitated 90 presentations and educated more than 3,900 students

FELLOW PROFILE



Katie Lenski has a unique perspective on the OSBF Fellows Program – she's a current Fellow of the 2019 Class. She's here to give the low-down on what the Fellows Class is planning this year.

For Katie, it seemed like the OSBF kept popping up – she heard about the Foundation from being a member of the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Governors, learned how it helped with funding during an event for the Law and Leadership Institute, and interacted with lawyers who she had immense respect for who were OSBF Fellows. Sounds like the universe was telling her that it was her turn to get involved.

Since joining the OSBF, Katie has hit the ground running. As an active member of the 2019 Class, she's helping develop the first-ever Fellows Week of Service. During this week, which will be held during the spring of 2020, current and past Fellows will stand together behind one initiative to highlight the great work of Ohio attorneys. This year, the class chose the intersection of human trafficking and foster care as their focus.

"I AM VERY PROUD OF OUR WORK TO CREATE AN EVENT FOCUSING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE RISKS OF FOSTER YOUTH BECOMING VICTIMS. MANY IN THE PUBLIC AND LEGAL COMMUNITY ARE NOT AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE RISKS ON FOSTER YOUTH. OSBF HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH AMAZING INDIVIDUALS TO DEVELOP A HIGH-QUALITY EVENT WHERE WE CAN PROVIDE EDUCATION ABOUT THIS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM."

During the Week of Service, the Fellows will be hosting a special evening event and will be collecting filled suitcases for a Stuff the Suitcase campaign. Keep up with the Foundation to find out how you can get involved.

"WHAT OSBF DOES MATTERS. THE WORK OF OSBF CAN MOVE THE NEEDLE, AND THAT IS WHY I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF IT. ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT HOW THE LEGAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES. THE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE, AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO EXPLORE THE OSBF AND CONSIDER BECOMING A FELLOW."

Katie Lenski

2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OSBF's 2018 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.

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 you to continue this fight and magnify your impact. To start a conversation about a gift in your will, contact OSBF Director of Development and PR Cynthia Kincaid at 614-487-4477 or CKincaid@OSBF.net.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Robert F. Ware, Cleveland
President

Mark M. Kitrick, Columbus
President-Elect

Carol Seubert Marx, Lancaster
Immediate Past President

John S. Stith, Cincinnati
Treasurer

Lori L. Keating, Columbus
Executive Director/Corporate Secretary

Mary Amos Augsburger,
OSBA Executive Director
Serving Ex-Officio, Columbus
Belinda S. Barnes, Columbus
Jeffrey A. Brauer, Cleveland
J. Kristin Burkett, Newark
Eleni A. Drakatos, OSBA President
Serving Ex-Officio, Columbus
Hon. David A. Hejmanowski, Delaware
Velda K. Hofacker, Columbus
Jonathan Hollingsworth, Centerville
John D. Holschuh, Jr., Cincinnati
Tabitha D. Justice, Dayton
Janet L. Green Marbley, Columbus
Martin E. Mohler, Toledo
Drew Odum, Akron
Kathleen A. Stoneman, Carrollton
Nirakar C. Thakur, Toledo
Robin G. Weaver, OSBA Past President
Serving Ex-Officio, Cleveland
William K. Weisenberg, Columbus

STAFF / CONTACT INFO

Lori L. Keating
Executive Director

Cynthia Kincaid
Director of Development and PR

Pam Brown
Administrative Assistant II

Jordann Dillard
Marketing and Communications Manager

Beverly Graves
Outreach Program Coordinator

Michele Mitchell
Executive Assistant

Tiffany Patterson
Grants Manager

Lisa Ray
Fellows Relationship and Events Coordinator

Staci Waterman
Database Administrator

1700 Lake Shore Drive
PO Box 16562
Columbus, OH 43216

Phone 614-487-4444

OSBF.org

We would love to connect with you. Follow us on our social media channels to stay up to date with the latest happenings at the Ohio State Bar Foundation.



[Facebook.com/OhioStateBarFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/OhioStateBarFoundation)



[Instagram.com/OhioStateBarFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/OhioStateBarFoundation)



[Twitter.com/_OSBF_](https://twitter.com/_OSBF_)