



SEOLS

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services



2 0 2 1
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



“

Alone we can do so
little; together we can
do so much.”

– Helen Keller

Our Mission:

SEOLS provides civil legal aid and advocacy to combat unfairness and injustice and to help people rise out of poverty.

Cover Photo: Susan Tolonese worked with SEOLS Managing Attorney Pam Bolton to become legal guardian for Leland (at left) and his brother George (at right) after Children's Services removed them from their mother's home.

Inside cover photo: Ross County Common Pleas Court, Chillicothe, Ohio

In the second year of the pandemic, we continued to help low-income families living in Southeastern Ohio deal with the COVID-19 crisis. We not only provided legal representation, but we also adjusted the type and method of delivery of legal services to best meet their needs. This included expanding our housing and unemployment compensation legal assistance as well as enhanced and new collaborations with community partners.

To ensure continued access to safe and affordable housing and to decrease incidences of homelessness, SEOLS added new Tenant Advocacy Projects in partnership with courts in Washington and Athens counties. These projects allowed real-time assistance for individuals and families at risk of eviction. Those clinics, and other eviction representation, were coupled with strong partnerships with local community action agencies so that those impacted by COVID-19 illness or job loss received rental assistance. Our housing efforts were further bolstered by our creation and implementation of the Appalachian Ohio Fair Housing Center. This project is the first coordinated effort of its kind in the region and protects the rights of low-income individuals and families who may be facing discrimination because of their disability, race or other protected reasons.

The number of workers in need of unemployment compensation assistance remained at historic highs. SEOLS was able to continue to dedicate staff and pro bono resources to get hundreds of thousands of dollars directly into the pockets of unemployed workers. In addition to resolving benefits issues, we helped people show that funds they received were not overpayments or that the overpayments were caused by no fault of their own.

While housing and unemployment compensation cases were higher than usual this year, SEOLS staff continued to provide the entire range of holistic services that are so important to our community – representation for domestic violence survivors, educational assistance for children with disabilities, protection for those at risk of foreclosure, helping to remove barriers to employment and much, much more.

We would not be able to provide these much-needed legal services without the hard work of SEOLS staff and the support of each of you. We are grateful and look forward to continued partnership in 2022.

Sincerely,

Sandra Anderson
Incoming OSLSA Board Chair

William Taylor
Outgoing OSLSA Board Chair

Kathleen C. McGarvey
Executive Director



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Retired Attorney
Franklin County

John Biancamano
Retired Ohio University Faculty
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Licking County Court of Common Pleas

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Law Offices of John Stevenson
Scioto County

William J. Taylor
Kincaid Taylor & Geyer
Muskingum County

Melanie Tobias
Columbus City Attorney’s Office
Franklin County

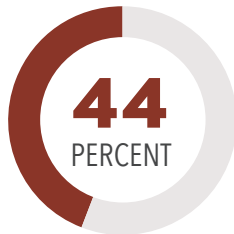
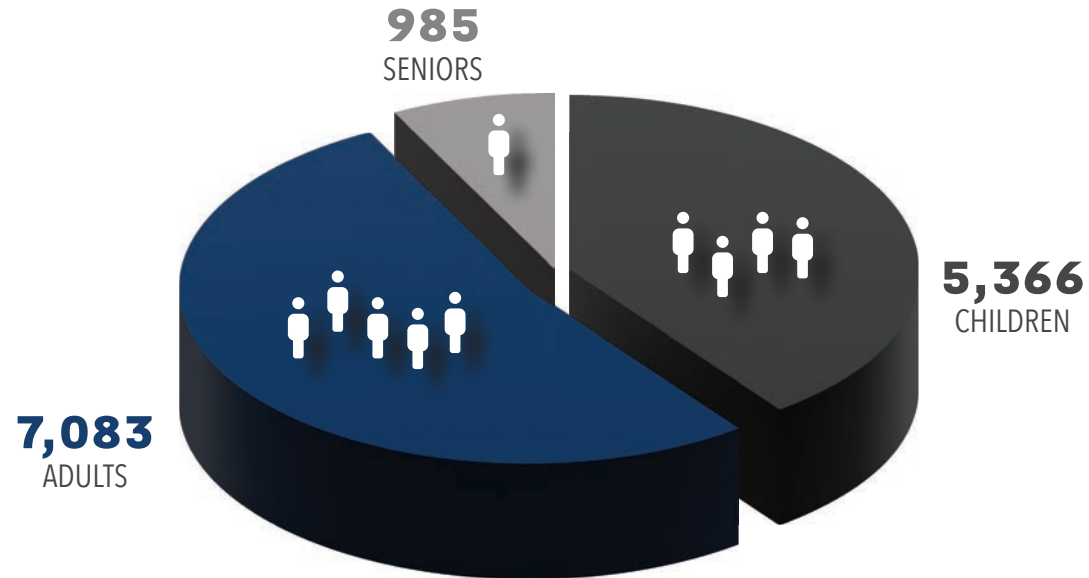
Lisa Tomes
Community Representative
Licking County

Phyllis Violet
Community Representative
Ross County

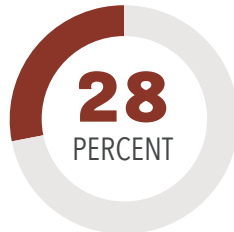
Christopher S. Williams
Calfee Halter & Griswold
Cuyahoga County

13,434

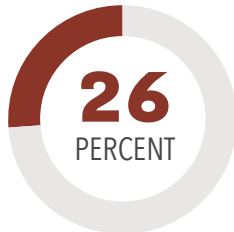
PERSONS HELPED IN 2021



CASES INVOLVING
HOUSEHOLDS WITH
CHILDREN



CLIENTS WITH
DISABILITIES



CLIENTS WHO
ARE SENIORS



The best possible outcome was attained. I have much respect and admiration for all you do to help low-income people like me.”

– SEOLS client

COVID Further Challenges Housing Stability in Rural Counties

Rural renters struggled to find safe, affordable housing even before the uncertainty and job losses caused by COVID-19. Rural areas tend to have limited rentals and a disproportionate number of properties that are in poor condition, making it difficult for low-income renters to secure housing.

To prevent families from losing their homes, SEOLS connected with local partners to provide services at several Southeastern Ohio eviction courts. For example, we worked with Judge Janet Welch to start a Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) clinic at the Marietta Municipal Court. TAP clinics provide free legal assistance at court to tenants facing eviction that day. Similarly, after a successful TAP pilot program at the Athens County Municipal Court in 2020, we moved forward with a permanent TAP clinic at the request of Judge Todd Grace and Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action (HAPCAP). Also, Fairfield County Commissioners agreed to provide \$48,000 over the next two years to our TAP program at the Municipal Court in Lancaster.



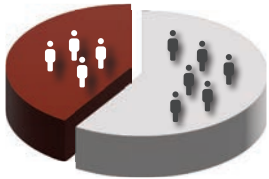
Tenants with eviction cases in Athens County Municipal Court have the opportunity to meet with a TAP attorney ahead of their hearing.

TAP Partners with Community Action Agencies to Prevent Evictions in Southeastern Ohio

In addition to offering legal assistance, advocates routinely refer renters to local community action agencies and other organizations that can assist with rent relief. The federal government has funneled millions of dollars earmarked for emergency rental assistance to these agencies. Tenants who have been impacted by COVID-related layoffs, loss of work hours, quarantine, illness, and medical expenses are eligible to apply. By partnering with local community action agencies, particularly Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action and Washington-Morgan

Community Action, TAP clinics have saved more than 30 renters from eviction and connected them to agencies that could pay past-due rent allowing tenants to move on debt-free.

“It’s been a good partnership for the clients,” said Michele Saegert, a rent coordinator with the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency. “It’s helping with the process and preventing quite a few evictions.”



41%

of rural renters are cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 1/3 of their income for housing costs.

Source: Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies

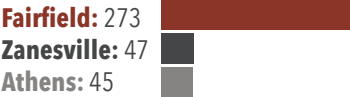


3 OUT OF 4

rural homes are owner-occupied, leaving about 1 out of every 4 rural homes available for rent.

Source: Shelterforce.org

Families Served by SEOLS TAP:



TAP clinics have saved more than **30 renters** from eviction and paid back rent in at least 75 cases, allowing tenants to move on debt-free.



Samual Staley and three of his children.

Fairfield TAP Helps Father Keep Housing

When Samual Staley received notice that he was being evicted, he was terrified. After catching COVID twice and missing work, he lost his job at a drive-through and fell behind on rent. Faced with the prospect of having no home and five children to take care of, Staley didn’t know what to do or where to turn.

After getting a letter advising him to contact 2-1-1 for help, Staley was skeptical, but he called. Fortunately, he was referred to the Fairfield County Tenant Advocacy Project, where he got help from SEOLS Attorney Caitlyn McDaniel. Instantly, Staley finally felt like he had someone in his corner. “Caitlyn was wonderful,” Staley said. “She put herself in my shoes. She makes you feel comfortable.”

McDaniel went to work finding a solution to the Staley family’s problems, texting Staley every day to keep him updated and answer any of his questions. She contacted his landlord’s attorneys, helped him with paperwork, and worked with the local community action agency on his behalf. Soon, he was caught up on rent, and the eviction was dismissed.

Without McDaniel’s help, Staley says he would have been out on the street with his kids and fiancée. “**She always came through for me,**” Staley said. “**It meant a lot to have her by my side. For her, it’s personal. If she can [help a client], she’s going to make it happen.**”

Advocates Connect Clients to Crucial Unemployment Benefits

In the second year of the pandemic, unemployment issues continued to dominate our public benefits work. Unemployment issues were wide-ranging, including alleged fraud, overpayments, documentation inquiries, lost appeals, and long waits for benefit payments. SEOLS advocates worked to stay abreast of the many changes in the state unemployment and federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) programs. Our staff continued to develop the contacts, skills, and expertise necessary to effectively represent unemployed workers in various stages of the administrative process.

Several of our staff participated in the statewide Employment Law Taskforce, a group of legal aid representatives who work on unemployment issues. Those meetings were useful, as SEOLS's representatives were able to build relationships with staff at the Office of Unemployment Compensation at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to assist with individual client concerns.

Using those contacts, we efficiently resolved appeals without the need for a hearing, which meant clients received their benefits sooner. In many cases, our help also led to large retroactive payments for clients.

We also successfully represented dozens

of clients before the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission. We helped prove that the funds people received were not overpayments or that the overpayments were caused by administrative errors that were beyond their control. In one remarkable case, a client was granted a waiver of an overpayment of \$48,000, and we successfully argued that they should receive a \$6,500 retroactive payment.

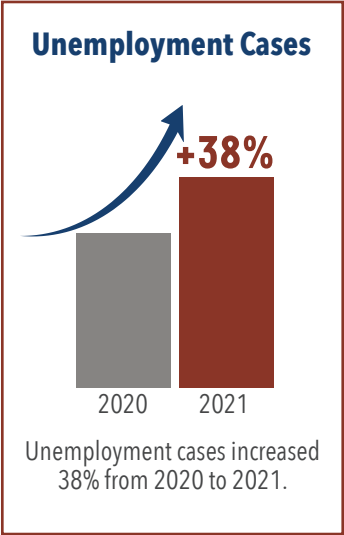
#NoStupidQuestions 

ASK US A QUESTION

about unemployment compensation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

SEOLS used social media to answer questions about unemployment benefits.

Through our efforts, unemployed workers saw hundreds of thousands of dollars returned to their pockets while many other families felt the relief of improperly assessed overpayments being forgiven. With more household income available, families were able to focus on staying healthy during the pandemic, managing their children's schooling, and finding new job and education opportunities.



Our efforts resulted in clients receiving payouts for earned benefits totaling:



\$444,601
and the distribution of more than **\$211,000** in monthly benefits.



Paralegal Mary Ellen Nose meets with client Ryan McGuire.

Unemployment Benefits Help Father Provide for Family

When the pandemic interrupted Ryan McGuire's employment as a plumber for a mechanical contracting firm, he applied for and began receiving unemployment compensation. The payments covered living expenses for his family and allowed him to purchase internet service for his daughter's online school. When the state informed him that his employer had appealed his claim, he responded in the allotted time. He never received any additional paperwork and continued to receive payments for a year.

Later, when the payments abruptly stopped, he called the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) multiple times asking for clarification. "They told me there was a glitch with the computer and not to worry."

Meanwhile, he and his wife struggled to put food on the table, especially since online school meant that their daughter did not have access to school breakfast and lunch. "We were seeking assistance from the (Nelsonville) Food Cupboard," he said.

McGuire called SEOLS when he received notice from ODJFS

that he needed to pay back more than \$18,000 in unemployment compensation benefits they claimed he wasn't entitled to. "I've never been so floored. I was completely flabbergasted," he said. "I called for weeks trying to straighten it out."

Mary Ellen Nose, a paralegal with 40 years of experience working in our Athens office, reviewed the timeline and documents McGuire had put together about missing work due to a COVID quarantine. She represented him at a hearing of the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission where his previous employer tried to classify his quarantine as a failure to show up for work. The Commission ruled in his favor and determined that he did not need to repay any funds and was entitled to an additional five months of benefits. "Mary Ellen gave me some hope," he said. "It was a rollercoaster. She was super helpful. She calmed me down."

Judge Orders ODJFS to Speed Up Appeals Process

Although Ohio law requires ODJFS to respond to all unemployment compensation benefit appeals within 21 days, clients were often waiting months. In response, our sister organization, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus (LASC), started filing petitions for writ of mandamus asking the court to order ODJFS to respond in a timely fashion, as the law requires.

LASC, with input from SEOLS, filed its first writ, *Rutherford v. ODJFS*, in March 2021. LASC filed another one, *Hummel v. ODJFS*, two months later. In July, Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Chris Brown ordered ODJFS to respond to all unemployment compensation appeals within 21 days.

At that time, ODJFS had a backlog of roughly 150,000 pending appeals. Within a few weeks of the order, ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder announced a plan for reducing the backlog.

Grant Helps Advocates Promote Fair Housing Policies

Through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant, the **SEOLS Fair Housing Enforcement Project** provides education and enforcement of fair housing rights throughout Southeastern Ohio, the first coordinated effort of its kind in the region. Staff members provide fair housing information to home seekers and housing providers. They also investigate allegations of housing discrimination and initiate enforcement actions against those violating state and federal fair housing laws.



When the new owner of the building where Ron Noble was renting a room tried to circumvent his lease by shutting off the water and having the building condemned, his family sought help from SEOLS. Attorney Valerie Hendrickson represented Noble, a 72-year-old disabled Zanesville resident. She negotiated that the new owner rent Noble a fully equipped apartment at one of his other properties for the remainder of the lease. He has since moved to another property more suited to his needs.

SEOLS Wins Accommodation for Renter with Failing Eyesight

When Melanie Otis’ eyesight began to fail due to progression of glaucoma and cataracts, she started to rely more on friends and family to help with weekly tasks, such as picking up groceries and medications. Because it was hard to maneuver down the apartment stairwell to unlock her door every time someone came to help her, Otis temporarily lent her apartment building key to the friends and family who were running her errands. Unfortunately, managers at her apartment complex saw others coming and going with her key, so they accused her of permitting unauthorized tenants and improperly giving others access to the building in violation

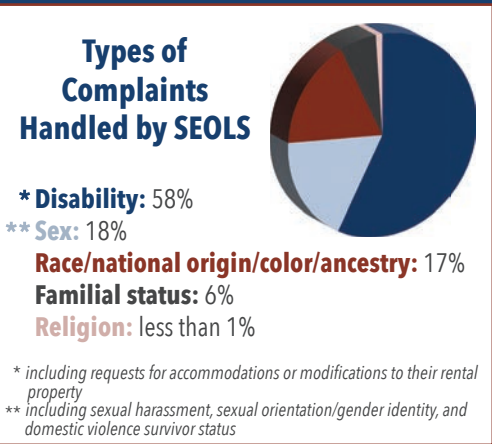
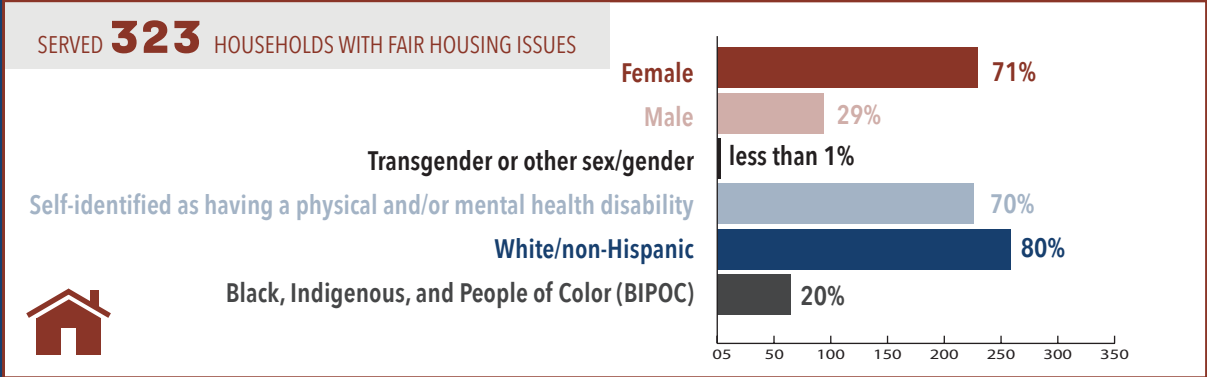
of policy. When the 51-year-old received a Notice of Lease Termination threatening eviction and the loss of her housing assistance, she called SEOLS for help.

SEOLS attorneys quickly helped Otis request a reasonable accommodation (an exception to a policy or practice necessary because of a person’s disability) to allow her family and friends to enter the apartment building to bring groceries and medication and for other errands. By presenting evidence to management about why Otis was allowing others to use her key, SEOLS prevented the eviction and the loss of her housing assistance. SEOLS attorneys even won a promise from

management to provide all future written notices to her in large print to ensure that she can read them.

Like many tenants with disabilities, Otis did not know her fair housing rights and only learned of her right to ask for a reasonable accommodation after speaking with a SEOLS attorney. Of the 323 fair housing cases handled by SEOLS in 2021, more than 70 percent involved tenants with disabilities. Ensuring that people with disabilities are treated fairly, given equal access to housing, and protected from illegal housing discrimination are central goals of the SEOLS Fair Housing Enforcement Project.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



Outcomes Achieved:

- Took legal action to enforce fair housing rights in **110** cases
- Filed **6** housing discrimination complaints with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Obtained more than **30** reasonable modifications and accommodations for renters with disabilities to be able to stay in safe, affordable, and accessible housing, such as installation of a ramp or permission to have an assistance animal
- Stopped more than **30** evictions that were initiated due to discriminatory practices
- Helped **13** households keep their housing assistance

DURING THE PANDEMIC:



English language arts proficiency rates **decreased by 8 percentage points** across most grades.

Math proficiency rates **decreased by 15 percentage points** across most grades.

Ohio's spring 2021 assessment results indicate that historically underserved students experienced the greatest decreases in learning as a result of the pandemic, **sometimes two to three times more than their peers.**

Source: Ohio Department of Education

Education Advocates Help Parents Navigate COVID-related School Issues

While COVID-19 has disrupted many aspects of everyone's lives, the virus has created unique difficulties for parents and students managing schooling amid this evolving environment. Throughout the pandemic, SEOLS education attorneys monitored the impact of COVID-19 on schools, representing students and conducting outreach to families and community partners. Advocates helped ease the burden of ever-changing statewide COVID-19 protocols by regularly communicating updates to our clients and communities.

The pandemic has also led to delays in identifying and evaluating students for special education services and created behavioral and disciplinary challenges as students return to the classroom with unaddressed mental health needs. To help with these challenges, the Education Team created weekly social media posts offering tips and links to online articles. Designed to empower and engage parents and community partners, the posts raised awareness about shifting COVID-19 policies and offered legal information on various education topics including "Keeping and Organizing a Special Education Binder,"

"Making Your Case for an Extended School Year," "Addressing Social Emotional Needs During a Pandemic," "Summer Learning," and "Building Strong Study Habits." Attorneys also wrote blog posts that delved deeper into numerous education law topics. These blog posts are archived on our website so families can continue to use them as a resource.

Finally, our Education Team spent time this past year building relationships with parent groups, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, and behavioral health providers in an effort to expand and enrich our advocacy efforts. **In the face of widespread uncertainty in schools, their work has laid a solid foundation for helping students get needed supports to achieve their academic potential.**

"He explained what needed to be done and respectfully took care of everything."

— SEOLS client



Susan Tolonese and George talk about his plans for the future.

SEOLS Attorney Paves Way for Student Success

When Suzanne Tolonese learned that the 16-year-old neighbor that she agreed to raise had an Individualized Education Program (IEP), she wanted to make sure that the school district was doing all it could to provide George with an appropriate education and to help him work toward his career goals. She contacted SEOLS for help, and Mary Kovalessky, an attorney in the Steubenville office, accompanied Tolonese to the annual IEP meeting.

Tolonese, who was unfamiliar with the IEP process, was wowed by Kovalessky's efforts. She not only asked the district how it set benchmarks and evaluated George's performance, but she seemed

personally engaged in ensuring his success. **"There are not enough adjectives to describe how valuable Mary's help has been. She helped me understand how IEPs work,"** Tolonese recalled. "She told them: 'He's not being challenged. I'm not seeing progress.' The school district was put on notice that this is not some kid you're going to pass until he graduates."

Kovalessky worked with the family and the IEP Team to set annual goals and identify a tailored process for measuring George's progress. The IEP Team also agreed that George needed catch-up work for the summer, which would be accomplished both at school and at

home with materials provided by the school. It's critical George gets the help he needs because he is trying to overcome numerous issues stemming from years of parental abuse and neglect, Tolonese said.

Ensuring that George receives a quality education and graduates from high school is a priority, Tolonese said. She is working with Kovalessky to push the school to join her in helping George succeed. "The school is just looking at the paperwork and his IEP. That's what they're required to do. I'm responsible for raising this boy up to be a productive, capable member of society. Mary gets that. She wants that, too."



SEOLS worked with community partners to identify ways to help families impacted by the opioid crisis.



Infants, children and youth neglected by addicted parents or victimized by their communities are truly the most vulnerable in the opioid crisis – and, sadly, they are among the least served.”

– Darlene Hutchinson, former director of the Office of Victims of Crime

Grant Strengthens Legal Services' Response to Children Impacted by Opioid Crisis

While the death toll of the opioid crisis in Ohio has been well documented and studied, less has been said about the children whose lives have been upended by the epidemic. From cognitive impairments and health risks to child abuse and neglect, children of parents with substance use disorders have struggled to survive and thrive.

To better understand the issues children and families were facing and how they were being served, SEOLS sought grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime for the Appalachian Children's Victim's Assistance Project. The three-year effort, which ended in 2021, focused on assisting families with children across 18 counties in Southeastern Ohio who were affected by the opioid epidemic and other types of addictions. The Project allowed us to partner with Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio, Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, and Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service.

Working together, we conducted research and interviewed community partners and leaders, government officials and social service providers to gain a better understanding of the implications of the opioid epidemic and how communities in the 18 counties have responded. We also



worked with Ohio University to complete a gap analysis that helped identify the barriers preventing families from accessing services, as well as determining needed resources.

In response to the research, SEOLS modified its intake process and expanded its case acceptance priorities to both identify families and children who have been harmed by the opioid epidemic and to better provide legal services to them. We also conducted outreach to service providers who were deeply connected with their communities, established partnerships for future referrals, and provided information on how to access our services. The Project Team spoke at the Office for Victims of Crime - Bureau of Justice Assistance's annual conference.

The Project helped inform us about the work being done in our communities to

address the opioid epidemic and recover from it, such as the resources available to kinship families and the legal services they need. Our advocates are committed to this critical work and will continue to partner with service providers to meet the needs of families impacted by the opioid epidemic.

The estimated annual total cost of opioid addiction, abuse, and overdose deaths in Ohio ranges from \$6.6 to \$8.8 billion.

Ohio has the capacity to treat only 20 to 40 percent of the population abusing or dependent upon opioids.

Source: Taking Measure of Ohio's Opioid Crisis, Ohio State University's Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy

Meet the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellows

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship, which provides opportunities for law students to work in a legal services organization, is designed to foster diversity in legal aid programs, particularly for students with backgrounds or from communities that have been underrepresented in law school and the legal profession. The Fellowship is part of OSLSA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, intended to reduce barriers to public interest employment and make the organization better reflect the diversity of the population it serves. It was created to honor Tom Weeks, the longtime director of OSLSA, who retired in 2019.



CANDACE MILNER

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio
Education: Georgetown University
Law school: The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Career goal: Nonprofit Executive Director

"This fellowship with OPLC gave me a chance to work at the intersections of my passions in a community I care about deeply. Everyone deserves access to legal representation and to live in a community where families thrive. My fellowship gave me the opportunity to work on policies that make this a reality."



KARINA MONTOYA

Hometown: North Hollywood, California
Education: University of California, Davis
Law school: University of Dayton School of Law
Career goal: Law Firm Partner

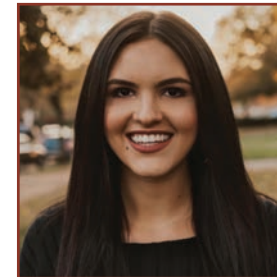
"[Being able to help use civil legal aid to help combat injustice] means the world to me; it makes me feel that all my hard work in law school has been worth it. I want to use my degree to help others. Now I see that there are actually lawyers who do that. As a low-income, first-generation Latina law student, I know the struggles of not having access to legal services. Now I know I can help people in my community."



JOEY OTENG

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
Education: University of Vermont, Kent State University
Law school: The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Career goal: University President or Secretary of Education

"To be able to be a familiar face, to get to express empathy in between providing legal aid, and to be affirming of the identities people are bringing with them to court was significant. The majority of the clients we served in eviction court looked like me – disproportionately Black. To have me there to understand them literally and figuratively was huge. So many comments about feeling safe, seen, or that they mattered with me will stay with me long after this experience ends."



KIERA ZACHER

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Education: The Ohio State University
Law school: The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Career goal: Pro Bono Coordinator of a law firm

"I always wanted to work in public interest, and after volunteering at LASC with the Public Benefits Team over the school year I knew that I liked the organization and their commitment to ensuring access to justice. I was drawn to the fellowship in particular because I believe increasing diversity in the legal profession is important, and I appreciated the goals that the fellowship was trying to achieve."

In Remembrance



PATTI BROWN

In November of 2021, OSLSA lost a dear friend when Patti Brown passed away after an eight-year battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Patti began working with OSLSA in 1977 as an Executive Secretary and continued her work until the fall of 2021, becoming a respected and beloved presence in the state's legal aid community. Patti was devoted to four things – her family, her faith, her friends, and her work, said former colleague Eugene King. "For many people in the legal aid community, Patti was the face and the voice of our statewide trainings and task forces. She was the problem solver when something came up," said King, who served as the director of OSLSA State Support/Ohio Poverty Law Center.

"She was often the first person folks would see when they came to a meeting or training. Patti always made everyone feel welcome."

Patti's passion for her work was evident in all she did for OSLSA, said Executive Director Kate McGarvey. "She worked tirelessly to make sure trainings and other events went smoothly. We're so grateful for her tremendous contributions to our program. She helped us make a difference in the lives of so many people."

Patti also worked hard to make members of the legal aid community feel valued and supported, added Patrina Queen, a paralegal in the SEOLS Chillicothe office. "She truly cared about the work we do and recognized that, just as importantly, you need to care about the people doing that work. Patti was a wonderful person and fantastic representative of how we should treat each other."



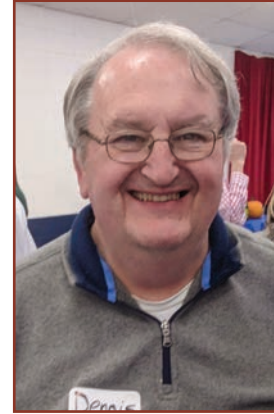
**Made it so I can sleep!
All states should have
you angels!"**

– SEOLS client

Retirements



ROBIN BOZIAN, the project managing attorney of the Athens office, retired in July. Robin joined SEOLS in 1977 as an attorney in the Portsmouth office. Early in her career she developed a passion for addressing family law issues, including domestic violence, leading her to advocate for regional and statewide policy changes. Within SEOLS, Robin was responsible for administering grants that expanded legal services to low-income survivors of family violence. She spearheaded efforts to establish and maintain services for domestic violence survivors in Washington County through her work on the board of Eve, Inc., which operates an emergency shelter. In 2016, she was presented the Jenco Foundation Fund Award for her service and leadership in Appalachian Ohio.



DENNIS HARRINGTON, who was appointed managing attorney of the Newark office in 2009, retired after more than 30 years with SEOLS. His wide-ranging litigation and advocacy work was particularly notable in the areas of state and federal fair housing law. Dennis worked to ensure that low-income Ohioans have equal access to housing. As one example, he initiated a Housing and Urban Development complaint process against local newspapers that freely ran advertisements that discriminated on the basis of familial status. He also served on numerous local task forces and nonprofit boards, including the Licking County Coalition for Housing.



Robin Bozian has the extraordinary ability and drive to help those among us who are the most vulnerable. Robin retired after 42 years of service as an attorney for SEOLS. Her version of retirement is serving on the board of the Washington County Homeless Project where she is also a regular volunteer. It is because of Robin's personal interaction with the project's clients that one veteran went from homeless to a home with the help of the Veterans Administration, and two persons with addiction entered residential treatment. The world needs more Robins."

– Rhonda Mears, attorney and OSLSA Board member.



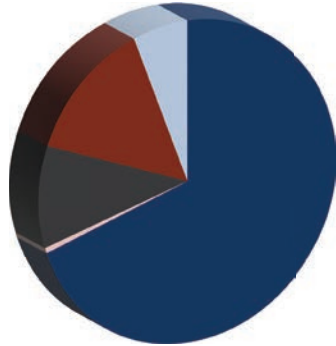
Dennis led the fight to ensure that low-income Ohioans had access to affordable housing. As managing attorney, he led a team of excellent and dedicated attorneys who always displayed the highest qualities of the legal profession. Most importantly, he made a difference in people's lives."

– Judge David Branstool, Licking County Common Pleas Court

Financials

2021 Revenue

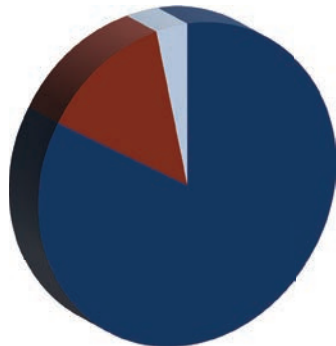
\$7,950,000



Grants	69.9%
Contributions	0.5%
Investment Income	10.2%
PPP Loan Forgiven	13.7%
Other	5.7%
<hr/>	
	100.0%

2021 Expenses

\$7,060,000



Legal Program	83.6%
General & Administrative	13.3%
Fundraising	3.1%
<hr/>	
	100.0%

Donors

\$2 Million - \$3 Million

Legal Services Corporation
Ohio Access to Justice Foundation

Area Agency on Aging Region 9 – Title III
Fairfield County
Licking County Coalition for Housing
U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

\$100,000 - \$300,000

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
United States Department of Justice

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
Knox County United Way
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
Victims of Crime Act

\$50,000 - \$99,000

Muskingum Valley Health Centers
Internal Revenue Service Low Income Tax Clinic

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Equal Justice Foundation
Ohio State Bar Association
Ohio State Bar Foundation
Adams County

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging – Title III
Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging – Title III
Area Agency on Aging District 7 – Title III
Area Agency on Aging Buckeye Hills Regional Council – Title III

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. If you have any updates, please contact Melissa Linville at mllinville@oslsa.org.

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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**The attorneys working
on my cases always
kept me up to date
with information,
answered all my
questions, and were
great support during
the process.”**

– SEOLS client

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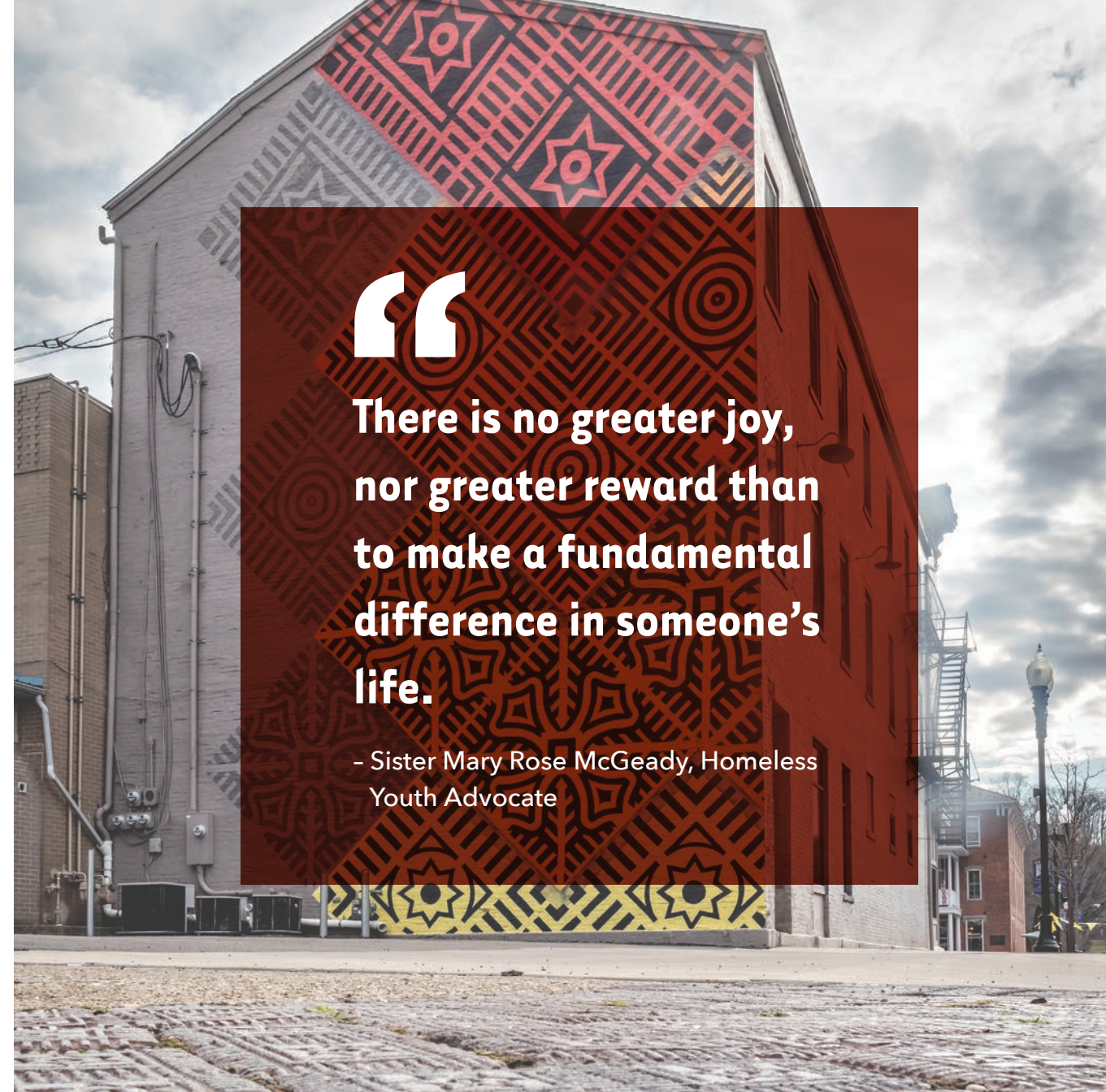
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Back inside cover photo: Ohio University graduate student Barry O'Keefe designed and painted this mural in Nelsonville, Ohio, which celebrates the town's connection to the brick industry.



“

**There is no greater joy,
nor greater reward than
to make a fundamental
difference in someone's
life.**

**– Sister Mary Rose McGeady, Homeless
Youth Advocate**

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