

# 2025

## BY THE Numbers



**OPLC**  
Ohio Poverty Law Center

### 1 CRITICAL MISSION

The Ohio Poverty Law Center's mission is to reduce poverty and increase justice by protecting and expanding the legal rights of Ohioans living, working, and raising their families in poverty.

**Skyline Foundation**

**Ohio Access to Justice Foundation**

**Fuller Deakyne Legacy Fund**

**The George Gund Foundation**

**Ohio CDC Association**

### 5 FOUNDATIONS



## MAKING THE CASE

**75** Legislative Meetings Attended

**23** Legislative Committee Testimonies Given

**19** Trainings Attended

**11** Tenant Protection Roundtable Meetings Held

**6** Pro-Tenant Bills Introduced

**5** Written Comments Provided

**2** Community Presentations / Trainings Given

**2** State Agency Meetings Attended

**1** Amici Signature



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Mary Asbury**  
Executive Director  
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati

**Debera Diggs**  
Health Care Navigator Outreach  
MidOhio FoodBank

**John Gilligan**  
Attorney at Law

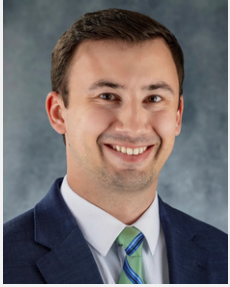
**Jonathan W. Marshall**  
Retired Attorney

**Shawn Organ**  
Attorney at Law  
Organ Law LLP

**Melanie Tobias**  
Deputy Chief of Staff - Criminal Division  
City Attorney Zach Klein's Office

**Alicia S. Williamson**  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network

## Meet Senior Policy Advocate Zack Eckles



Zack Eckles leads OPLC's advocacy on housing, family law, and reentry issues. His policy portfolio includes court costs and fees, barriers to employment—such as collateral sanctions, occupational licensing, and Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQE)—and critical housing matters including eviction sealing, land contracts, and landlord-tenant protections.

Zack joined OPLC in March 2022. He earned his undergraduate degree from Ohio University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. In 2026, Zack will continue to advance statewide efforts to strengthen housing stability, support families, and expand equitable pathways to employment.

Contact Zack at [zeckles@ohiopoveritylaw.org](mailto:zeckles@ohiopoveritylaw.org).

## Meet Policy Advocate Danielle DeLeon Spires

Danielle DeLeon Spires leads the organization's advocacy on Medicaid, public benefits, unemployment compensation, consumer protections, and immigration. Her policy portfolio includes access to healthcare and income support programs; the integrity and administration of unemployment compensation systems; consumer and debt-related protections; and efforts to ensure immigrant Ohioans can fully participate in their communities. She also co-chairs Advocates for Ohio's Future, helping coordinate statewide collaboration to educate policymakers and the public on health and human services issues impacting low-income Ohioans.



Danielle joined OPLC in April 2022. She earned her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University and her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law, with an emphasis on health law. In 2026, Danielle will continue advancing OPLC's work to protect and expand critical safety-net programs, support Medicaid coverage, and strengthen consumer protections that safeguard Ohio.

Contact Danielle at [dspires@ohiopoveritylaw.org](mailto:dspires@ohiopoveritylaw.org).

## Meet Senior Policy Advocate Tim Johnson



Tim Johnson leads advocacy on education, lead poisoning prevention, and health issues affecting low-income Ohioans. His policy portfolio includes expanding access to safe and healthy housing, strengthening protections for children exposed to lead hazards, and advancing education and health policies that support families across Ohio. At OPLC, he helps connect legal aid attorneys with lawmakers, prepares advocates to testify on legislation, and provides training to support a deeper understanding of the legislative process. As co-chair of the Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition since 2020, he works with more than 60 partner organizations committed to ensuring every child grows up in a safe home free from lead risks.

Tim joined OPLC in July 2019 after six years in state government. He earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Bowling Green State University. In 2026, Tim will continue to guide OPLC's statewide efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning, promote educational equity, and improve health outcomes for communities most affected by poverty.

Contact Tim at [tjohnson@ohiopoveritylaw.org](mailto:tjohnson@ohiopoveritylaw.org).

