

# JUSTICE FOR ALL

2022 GRATITUDE REPORT



OHIO STATE BAR  
FOUNDATION





# OSBF 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# GRATITUDE REPORT

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# RECONVENING, RECONNECTING

## A MESSAGE FROM OSBF LEADERSHIP

After two years of virtual engagement, 2022 allowed us to reconvene and reconnect in person. In doing so, we were reminded of the incredible power of relationships and how a shared commitment to mission doesn't break when we're not together. It makes us stronger.

One of the most significant examples lies in the heart of our work – our grant partners. Our continued investment in the transformative work our grant partners do in communities throughout Ohio has impacted many. In 2022, OSBF awarded \$1.3 million to 32 nonprofits, including \$386,000 from the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI), for programs taking on the challenges imposed by systemic racism. In 2022, grant awards topped \$15 million since the Foundation's first grants were made in 1992.

One of the innovative forces for good that emerged last year was from the Holocaust Humanity Center in Cincinnati. Using the history of the Holocaust and Nazification of law enforcement as a case study, the Center piloted a training curriculum for local law enforcement professionals on how the lessons learned during the Holocaust can be applied to modern-day community building and police practices. To date, more than 50 participants have taken part in the training.

In April, the Ohio State House was the backdrop for OSBF's first ever program focused on the LGBTQ+ community. We were proud to join our 2021 Fellows class in hosting the Unity Summit, which brought together more than 200 attendees for a day-long program addressing legal and health issues confronted by the LGBTQ+ community. With NBC4 Columbus news anchor Colleen Marshall as guest host, and former Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor among the featured panelists, the Unity Summit garnered community support and forged lasting relationships.

We launched our new podcast, Foundation of Justice. Built around today's most pressing legal issues, the limited series convened field experts, community members, and thought leaders in frank conversation on topics related to OSBF's mission. We are grateful to The Ohio State University for providing the space in which to produce the content, and we hope to continue these conversations in 2023.

After a two-year hiatus, it was exhilarating to gather in person for the All Rise Annual Awards Celebration last October at The Exchange at Bridge Park, Dublin. With a freshly formatted 2022 event and theme, Strong Foundation, Strong Future, the evening was fitting for the new leaders and faces of the OSBF, who represent the wave of talent and fresh ideas growing our organization. We were honored to recognize not only those individuals at the pinnacle of their profession, but organizations whose exemplary programs continue to help us sharpen our vision for a better justice system.

The guiding spirit of OSBF Fellows has always been a stabilizing force within our organization, but their generosity last November was truly special. In the Raise the Bar Ohio campaign's second year, Fellows motivated each other and their communities to raise \$39,000 in donations, exceeding the \$35,000 goal and nearly doubling efforts over the last three years.

As we embark on a new year, we congratulate and welcome Judge David Hejmanowski as President of the OSBF Board of Trustees. Along with President-Elect Belinda Barnes, continuing, and new Trustees, we look forward to another successful year.

On behalf of the Ohio State Bar Foundation, thank you for all you do!

With sincere appreciation,



**Kristin Burkett**  
2022 President



**Lori L. Keating**  
Executive Director

# 2022 GRANTS OVERVIEW

In 2022, the Ohio State Bar Foundation granted **\$1,363,395** to programs that are impacting communities across the state. These nonprofits go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of Ohioans and to move the OSBF's mission forward.



**\$1,363,395**

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN THROUGH OSBF GRANT CYCLES



**32**

GRANTS GIVEN TO OHIO NONPROFITS



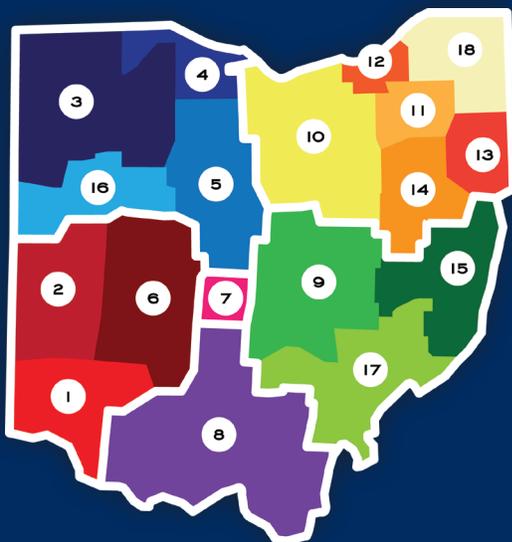
**\$386,510**

TOTAL DOLLARS GIVEN THROUGH RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



**Over \$15 million**

DOLLARS GIVEN SINCE 1992



Northeast: Districts 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 | Northwest: Districts 3, 4, 5, 16  
Southeast: Districts 9, 15, 17 | Southwest: Districts 1, 2, 6  
South: District 8 | Central: District 7

## NORTHEAST



**\$15,000 to the Catholic Charities Corporation** for the Pro Se Asylum Clinic project which will create clinics to assist individuals in navigating complex immigration court procedures and file asylum applications with all information necessary to preserve eligibility for relief. The project is designed to maximize the number of clients receiving competent legal assistance from a trained provider. It will be the first of its kind in the state of Ohio. This project will serve Cuyahoga County.



**\$133,310 to the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court** for the Parenting After Violence Program Curriculum Development project, which will formulate new court techniques designed to end the cycle of domestic violence and teach skills for positive and healthy parenting. This project serves Cuyahoga County.



**\$10,000 to The International Welcome Center** for the Pursuit of Happiness for its Educational Sessions on Navigating the Path to Citizenship project, which will provide legal education to refugees and immigrants. This project serves Portage and Summit counties.



**\$25,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland** for the Expert Report on Availability of Safe, Affordable Housing for Low-Income Cuyahoga County Households project which will create an expert report on the availability of safe, affordable housing for low-income Cuyahoga County residents with a special focus on lead hazards and racial disparities. In partnership with data scientists at Case Western Reserve University, this research project will highlight the prevalence of lead in available rental homes and the racial inequalities prevalent in the affordable housing crisis. This project will serve Cuyahoga County.



**\$50,000 to Slavic Village Development** for the Eviction Prevention Pilot Project, which seeks to reverse the high rate of eviction in the Slavic Village Community through tenants' rights education and proactive legal services. This project serves Cuyahoga County.

## un·Bail

**\$50,000 to unBail** for its Randomized Control Trial project, which will support the creation of a free mobile app designed to increase engagement with the justice system by providing defendants with access to their case information and resources. This project serves Cuyahoga County.



**\$22,500 to University of Mount Union** for its Spectrum Education Center for the Courage 2 Communicate project, which will increase the public's understanding of Ohio's Communication Disability Law designed to create safe and positive interactions between people with communication disabilities and law enforcement. This project serves Carroll, Stark & Tuscarawas counties.

## SOUTHWEST



**\$15,000 to Adopt a Class** for their Careers in Law and Legal Services and Life Skills Mentorship project, which will offer opportunities for students to learn about college and care pathways while developing essential employability skills that can help lift them out of poverty. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$2,400 to the Artemis Center** for Alternatives to Domestic Violence to develop their You Have the Right to be Safe Booklet, which will educate users on domestic violence, safety planning, and victims' rights. This project serves Darke, Miami, Montgomery, Preble & Shelby counties.



**\$6,325 to Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio** for their Know Your Rights project, which will provide critical legal and civic education to immigrant populations, especially those with limited English language proficiency. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$19,400 to the Children's Law Center** to support its Vital Legal Education and Outreach for Ohio's Youth project, which will provide community education on laws and legal systems impacting youth and best practices for safety, health, and well-being. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$54,200 to Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio** for the Engaging and Strengthening Community-Based Nonprofits with Pro Bono Business Legal Services project. This project aims to increase access to justice for organizations that have historically lacked the resources and connections to find legal assistance by focusing on recruiting new, community-based nonprofit clients, and re-engaging a set of current clients that fit within this category. Funding will allow PBPO to provide individualized assistance to at least 35 nonprofit organizations in Southwestern Ohio. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$50,000 to Summer Work Experience in Law** to support its 2023 programming, which provides paid internships to high school and college students as well as education around career and law school preparedness. This project focuses on increasing diversity and representation in the legal profession. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$15,000 to Talbert House** for the Victims' Services Project, which will support outreach initiatives to victims of violent crime to provide advocacy, assistance, and court support. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$20,000 to Women Helping Women** for the Increasing Awareness and Access to Legal Advocacy Services for Survivors project, which will support marketing initiatives to connect survivors of domestic violence with support resources. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.



**\$25,000 to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio** for the Connections Between Criminal Justice and Health: Child and Family Health and Well-Being project, which will create a policy brief designed to interrupt generational cycles of trauma, prevent future criminal justice involvement, and improve family well-being. This project serves all 88 counties statewide.



**\$25,000 to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio** for the Structural Drivers of Violent Crime project, which will provide policy recommendations to reduce deaths by homicide, protect communities, and improve health. This project serves all counties statewide.

## SOUTHEAST



**\$9,875 to the Children's Advocacy Center of Guernsey County** to support the expansion of services to underserved children in need, which will provide direct legal services to victims including case management, victim advocacy, and case reviews. This project serves Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson & Monroe counties.



**\$116,000 to the Ohio Center for Law Related Education** for the Civic Education Programs, Teacher Training & Outreach project, which will support the expansion of civics and law related education to students and teachers through Ohio Mock Trial, We the People, Moot Court, and Project Citizen & Youth for Justice. This project serves all counties statewide.

## CENTRAL



**\$140,875 to the Law and Leadership Institute** for the Diversity in Leadership Fellowship project, which prepares youth from underserved communities to compete at high academic levels fostering leadership skills, increasing confidence, and facilitating the pursuit of higher education. This project serves Franklin County.



**\$50,000 to Make-A-Day Foundation** for the Expansion of the Pop-Up & Mobile Outreach project which provides a range of services that support health, mental health, and legal and criminal justice needs of the chronically homeless and economically marginalized populations of central Ohio. This project serves Franklin County.



**\$50,000 to Ohio Legal Help** for the ChatBot and LiveChat Law Student Volunteer Pilot project, which will add robust chat features to the Ohio Legal Help website to provide another navigation method to help users find the information they need on Ohio Legal Help and to answer common questions about the site and organization. The chat will be operated via two complementary methods: 1) an automated ChatBot and 2) LiveChat staffed by volunteer law students from Case Western Reserve University. This project serves all counties statewide.



**\$10,000 to Ohio State Legal Services Association** for the Advocacy Skills Training for Legal Aid Attorneys and Low-income Advocates project. This project will combine the virtual and in-person elements of previous trainings to offer participants the best possible experience. This project will train representatives from all 25 legal aid offices in Ohio, as well as create a version of the training for community advocates. This project serves all counties statewide.

## STATEWIDE



**\$62,000 to the Equality Ohio Education Fund** for their Name and Gender Marker Change & continued expansion of the Attorney Referral Network and Education project which will provide accurate and up-to-date information about services and procedures for changing the gender marker on Ohio birth certificates for transgender individuals, legal service providers, and court administrators. This project will include monthly pro se Name and Gender Marker Change clinics and the creation of educational videos. Additionally, Equality Ohio will recruit, educate, and provide cultural humility training to the Attorney Referral Network. This project serves all counties statewide.

# GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

## PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2022



### OHIO LEGAL HELP, WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

Ohio Legal Help, the online platform that guides, informs and connects Ohioans with the right help for their legal problems, received a \$50,000 grant from the OSBF to improve their website and add chat features like an automated ChatBot and a LiveChat staffed by volunteer law students from Case Western Reserve University.

Thanks to the grant, Ohio Legal Help was able to expand their services to include legally accurate, plain-language Spanish content, which helped an estimated 95,000 Hispanic Ohioans who didn't speak English as their first language. And during the grant period, Ohio Legal Help assisted over 668,081 unique users over 850,000 visits, reaching Ohioans in all 88 counties.

Ohio Legal Help also exceeded its goal of 700,000 visits from 600,000 unique users for the grant period,

and currently receives over 75,000 visits a month from every county in Ohio. By providing legal help information, interactive self-help tools, and connections to local legal and community resources, Ohio Legal Help is empowering all Ohioans, regardless of income and language, to resolve their legal issues and chart a bright path forward.

Visit <https://www.ohiolegalhelp.org> to learn more.



## WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

### WOMEN HELPING WOMEN, DIVERT RESOURCE PROGRAM

Thanks to a \$20,000 grant, Women Helping Women (WHW) is making a significant impact through the DIVERT Advocacy Resource program. Their goal? To connect survivors of domestic violence with the vital support they need through targeted marketing efforts. Serving Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren counties, WHW is transforming lives for survivors of domestic abuse.

Since 1973, Women Helping Women has provided evidence-based prevention programs, crisis intervention, and comprehensive support services for survivors of dating violence, sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

At the heart of WHW's mission lies the Domestic Violence Enhancement Response Team (DIVERT) Advocates program. These advocates ensure that survivors' immediate safety needs are met while coordinating a range of services to address their unique legal, financial, and emotional

requirements. By offering personalized support, the program helps survivors overcome trauma and reduces the risk of future violence.

The DIVERT program has received incredible support, with Hamilton County dispatching DIVERT Advocates for 100% of domestic violence calls. Inspired by this success, WHW plans to expand the program by adding 20 new positions by the end of 2023. Their vision is to extend this invaluable service, further empowering more survivors.

With the support of the OSBF grant, WHW provided an impressive 1,213 hours of service to 1,534 survivors between June 2021 and June 2022. Additionally, the organization plays a crucial role in providing access to essential resources and support for those in need. With 90% of the survivors facing financial challenges, every bit of support they receive makes a profound difference in the lives of survivors.



## HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE OF OHIO, CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH BRIEF

For their “Connections Between Criminal Justice and Health Brief,” the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPiO) was awarded a \$15,000 grant to uncover the crucial links between these two areas and provide valuable research to policymakers and stakeholders in Ohio. With a mission to improve health, promote equity, and ensure sustainable healthcare spending, this brief provides significant contributions to the policy landscape.

With the grant funding, HPiO developed a policy brief that explored the impact of the criminal justice system on the health and well-being of Ohioans, with a particular focus on the effects of racism and inequities. The brief offered insights into opportunities for improvement in both the criminal justice and health systems, along with evidence-informed policy approaches to address these issues.

To ensure a comprehensive perspective, HPiO formed a diverse advisory group comprising experts from various fields such as healthcare, law enforcement, and public health. This

multi-sector collaboration ensured that the research considered a wide range of perspectives and experiences.

To effectively share their findings, HPiO utilized multiple channels such as hard copy distribution, email dissemination to over 5,900 individuals, engaging presentations, and a webinar. The brief highlighted three key findings: the negative consequences of pretrial incarceration, the unfairness of Ohio’s current bail system, and evidence-based reforms that showed promise in improving pretrial systems nationwide.

By uncovering the connections between criminal justice and health, HPiO aimed to equip policymakers and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions. This grant-funded project paved the way for evidence-based policies that could create a fairer and healthier society for all Ohioans.

Visit [www.healthpolicyohio.org/health-equity](http://www.healthpolicyohio.org/health-equity) to learn more.



## OHIO YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Thanks to a generous \$50,000 grant to the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs Foundation, the Youth & Government (YG) program is making a significant impact on the development of the American democratic process among Ohio’s middle and high school students. This program provides an immersive experience in the theory and practice of Ohio state government, fostering leadership skills, civic engagement, and a passion for public service.

The YG program offers an array of opportunities for young participants to dive into the world of governance. Teens receive comprehensive training on the legislative process, bill writing and research, and active participation in elections. The culmination of their efforts takes place at the state conference, where these aspiring leaders serve as delegates, engaging in lively debates on proposed bills right on the floor of the legislature. In fact, some outstanding teens have seen their bills transform into actual laws!

Beyond the knowledge of government processes, the YG program aims to instill valuable life assets and character traits in its participants, preparing them to become responsible and engaged adults. By building and strengthening these



qualities, the program equips young leaders with the tools they need to make a positive impact in their communities.

In 2022, the Ohio YMCA Youth & Government program successfully served 250 students. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, YG hosted two high school conferences in March and April at the iconic Ohio Statehouse and Renaissance Hotel in Columbus, along with a middle school conference in November. As YG programs across the country, including Ohio, transition from the rebuilding phase caused by the hiatus in in-person conferences, their goal is to surpass pre-pandemic levels of student participation. The grant funding also offers financial assistance to disadvantaged students, ensuring that all interested young individuals have an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from this transformative program.

Through the Youth & Government program, Ohio YMCA is empowering the next generation of leaders, inspiring them to actively engage in the democratic process and make a lasting impact on the future of their communities. With each student they reach, the YG program creates a brighter and more promising future for Ohio’s youth.

# RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In August 2020, the OSBF announced its Racial Justice Initiative (RJI), created to provide up to \$500,000 in new grant funding to focus on advancing racial justice in Ohio. Since 2020, additional funds have been allocated to the RJI program with a total of \$788,865 provided in grant funding to support projects focused on long-lasting impact and institutional change for racial justice.

In 2022, the OSBF awarded \$386,510 to eight Ohio nonprofits working to identify, address and challenge systemic racism, which hinders the pursuit of justice and public understanding of the rule of law for historically marginalized communities of color in Ohio.

## NORTHEAST



**\$49,642 to the Kent State University Foundation** which will bring together leaders from Black communities and from law enforcement agencies to evaluate and revise existing police training through the Kent State Basic Police Officer Training Academy. This project will hold community forums and create continuing professional training for police officers. The feedback from these forums will then be used to evaluate and revise existing police training through the Kent State program and develop new professional training for existing officers. This project will serve Summit, Portage, Mahoning & Columbiana counties.



**\$25,000 to Legal Aid Society of Columbus** for their Study on Fiscal Benefit of Right to Counsel in Evictions project, which will conduct a cost benefit study to show the financial benefit to Columbus and Franklin County of funding a right to counsel system for tenants facing evictions, which disproportionately impact people of color. This project serves Franklin County.



**\$95,468 to The Ohio State University's Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity** to support the Opportunity Mapping for Inclusion project. This study will equip policymakers with the data they need to eliminate racial inequality in housing and development and provide the tools to reform zoning updates with the end goal of creating more equitable and just communities in Ohio. Phase two of this project will focus on the city of Worthington as a pilot community for expanding research. This project serves Franklin County.

## SOUTHWEST



**\$50,000 to the Innovation Ohio Education Fund** for the Justice Agenda for Black Women and Girls in Ohio project. The second year of this project will focus on storytelling and real-life implications of discriminatory policies while delivering policy recommendations, testimonials, and education materials. This project serves Darke, Miami, Montgomery, Preble & Shelby counties.



**\$50,000 to the University of Cincinnati Foundation** to support the Social Justice and the Law: Assessment and Application in Ohio project, which will assess the inclusivity, diversity, and racial equity of the legal profession in Ohio. This project serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton & Warren counties.

## STATEWIDE



**\$35,000 to the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio Foundation** for its Know Your Rights: Rights versus Reality educational program. This project will educate the public on systemic racism and provide tools for safe interactions with law enforcement. This project will serve all counties statewide.



**\$41,400 to the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition** for its Racial and Ethnic Equity and Behavioral Health: Research, Reports, and Action research project to identify areas of racial and ethnic inequity in Ohio's community behavioral health system. The report will suggest strategies to improve data collection to help eliminate disparities, examine possible solutions, and make practical and actionable recommendations. This project will serve all counties statewide.

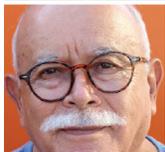
## CENTRAL



**\$40,000 to Juvenile Justice Coalition** for their Mandatory Bindover 101 outreach campaign, which will educate the public about the impact and racial disparities of mandatory bindover. This project serves Franklin County.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant applications are reviewed by the Board of Trustees twice each year. Deadlines for submitting grant applications each year are 5 PM on February 15 and August 15. From small to large grants, we welcome first-time grantees as well as returning grantees. If you'd like to learn more about any of our grantees, be connected with a grantee organization, or know more about the OSBF's grantmaking process, contact OSBF's Grants Manager Laura Spires at [LSpires@osbf.org](mailto:LSpires@osbf.org) or 614-487-4444.



# FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT

## CHUCK HOLLIS

In this Fellows Spotlight, we shine a light on 2021 OSBF Fellow Chuck Hollis, Founder and Attorney with Hollis Law Firm. Chuck is an exceptional attorney who believes in “personal care and compassion for every client,” and that mission drives his passion for community service as well. We’re proud to share more about Chuck and his work with the OSBF Fellows.

In March 2013, Chuck took a leap of faith, leaving his position as a partner with a prominent downtown Cincinnati law firm to establish his own immigration practice. Since then, he’s counseled clients from over 100 countries, offering compassion and care in his work.

Chuck gives back by volunteering his time with organizations like the The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)’s Dilley Pro Bono Projects, helping asylum-seeking families detained in Texas. Recently, he dedicated significant time and effort counseling Ukrainians whose relatives are either trapped in Ukraine or have fled to neighboring countries due to the war.

“For many years, I served as a Trustee with the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Partnership,” said Chuck. “In August 2010, I visited Kharkiv as a delegate to celebrate the city winning the Prize of Europe. I remember it as a charming, picturesque city with extraordinarily kind and hospitable people. This makes it all the more painful to see Kharkiv and its people under attack.”

When we asked Chuck about what motivates him to give back to the community through service, he pointed to his personal experiences and upbringing.

“I was raised by grandparents who were too poor to finish high school,” explained Chuck. “But throughout my life, I was blessed with the opportunities that enabled me to become a happy attorney with a successful practice. I do not take these blessings for granted, and I feel morally obligated to give back to our communities when given the chance.”

Chuck’s involvement with the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF) began with a nomination from his longtime friend and colleague, Dan Moore, a 2019 OSBF Fellow and Attorney at The Moore Law Firm. The Foundation’s mission, to improve public understanding of the law and build a better justice system, resonated with Chuck. He saw a great need in the community, and he stepped up to offer his hand.

Being an OSBF Fellow has been incredibly rewarding for Chuck, especially his Fellows’ class project. The 2022 Unity Summit: LGBTQ+ Education, Law and Policy, which helped bring understanding and addressed the unique challenges



faced by LGBTQ+ communities in Ohio. “I learned so much about the daily struggles Ohio’s LGBTQ+ community faces, and how we can tackle these problems more effectively,” said Chuck. “Working with talented attorneys and judges from all over our state was a true honor.”

Chuck firmly believes in the transformative power of supporting the OSBF. “It’s a unique opportunity to improve access to legal resources and make Ohio a better place,” he said. By supporting the Foundation, individuals can contribute to creating a fairer and more just society.

Outside of his work with the OSBF, Chuck finds joy in spending quality time with his family, exploring new places, and enjoying the Cincinnati Symphony at Music Hall.

Chuck Hollis embodies the values of compassion, dedication, and service. Through his work with the Ohio State Bar Foundation and his commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others, he is an inspiring attorney who makes us proud. Chuck’s tireless efforts remind us that together, we can build a brighter and more just future for all Ohioans.

# LAWYERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## THE 2021 OSBF FELLOWS CLASS



Sarah Biehl  
Bexley, OH



Cheri Budzynski  
Toledo, OH



Stephanie Chmiel  
Columbus, OH



Bryan Everitt  
Lancaster, OH



Amy Flowers  
Columbus, OH



Samuel Goodwater  
Westerville, OH



Kani Harvey Hightower  
Akron, OH



Charles Hollis  
Cincinnati, OH



Marshall Lachman  
Dayton, OH



Jane Messmer  
Columbus, OH



Jay Michael  
Columbus, OH



Moira Grilliot-Murty  
Dayton, OH



Gabrielle Neal  
Dayton, OH



Matthew Oyster  
Columbus, OH



Patrick Piccininni  
Columbus, OH



Jennifer Rausch  
Columbus, OH



Kyle Shelton  
Akron, OH



Elizabeth Tekavec  
Painesville Twp., OH



Dustin Torres  
Columbus, OH



Jennifer Towell  
Akron, OH



Mindy Yocum  
Dublin, OH



# THE OSBF UNITY SUMMIT

APRIL 28, 2022

The OSBF Unity Summit: LGBTQ+ Education, Law and Policy took place on April 28 at the Ohio Statehouse. We're so grateful for everyone who joined, especially our esteemed group of panelists who provided incredibly meaningful and insightful conversations on the important challenges and issues facing the LGBTQ+ community. We're proud of the OSBF Fellows Class of 2021 who chose to support the LGBTQ+ community through this event and their Fellows Week of Service, all in efforts to educate the public, advance the rule of law, and build a better justice system!

For more information and to view the full recording of the summit, visit [www.osbf.org/unitysummit](http://www.osbf.org/unitysummit)



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LGBTQ+ EDUCATION, LAW AND POLICY



# TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

## VELDA HOFACKER & MARLEY NELSON

We are so fortunate to have an incredible group of leaders on the OSBF Board of Trustees, and we are excited to spotlight OSBF trustees Velda Hofacker and Marley Nelson. Velda Hofacker, Past President, has been a dedicated member of the OSBF family for the past 2 decades, and we're so grateful for all that she does for the Foundation. Marley is a trustee of the board and currently serves on the Grants Committee and chairs the Membership Committee. We are excited to share more with you about these amazing trustees.



*Marley Nelson, Velda Hofacker*



*Velda Hofacker, Tom Guillozet & Sheila Buckley*

### VELDA HOFACKER

Velda first got involved with the OSBF when she was at the Ohio Attorney General's office in the summer of 2003. The 2002 OSBF Fellows made a request for additional volunteers to assist on their service project for Senior Citizen Day at the Ohio State Fair. Through her experience with the Fellows, and after learning more about the Fellows program, Velda was excited and grateful to be nominated to be a Fellow by 2002 OSBF Fellow Scott Mote.

"I could not think of a better mission than to educate Ohioans about the law and to strive for improvements in our justice system," said Velda.

"I had seen first hand the impact the OSBF volunteers had on the seniors we worked with, who were so happy to learn and receive assistance from an attorney. It was my honor to give of my time and treasure to advance the OSBF mission by becoming a Fellow."

Velda certainly has found so much to love about being involved with the OSBF. She is proud of all of our programs and grants that advance the OSBF mission. But what she values the most is the people! She has especially enjoyed working with and getting to know OSBF staff, Fellows, grantees, and those the Foundation serves. Whether judging a mock trial program, speaking with students in the LLI program, teaching one of OSBF's many educational programs, or helping a grantee educate immigrants about their rights and responsibilities, Velda is energized and inspired by the work she does with the public.

"Some of my very best friends are people I have met through the Foundation," said Velda. "I have met outstanding attorneys who are passionate about volunteer service and giving back to their communities... most of whom I never would have met, but for the Foundation!"

Velda has served on OSBF committees, participated in OSBF service projects, and attended OSBF events every single year since concluding her class year. She was honored to become a member of the board nine years

ago. She then became President of the OSBF at the beginning of 2021. Due to restrictions on the use of vacation time for charitable purposes, Velda quit her job at the Ohio Attorney General's Office after 32 years so she could serve as President! She has enjoyed having a role in planning for the future of the Foundation, representing the Foundation to the public, and working to get others involved in the work we do.

"I could have never imagined that one day I would have the privilege of serving as President," said Velda. "I have done my best to work with Fellow trustees to create a strong Foundation for the future!"

Outside of working for the Foundation, Velda enjoys spending time with family and friends, attending sporting events and other activities involving her nieces, nephews, and other special young people in her life. Of course, she can't help but encourage them to participate with her in various service projects. She is an avid bargain shopper and loves finding great deals on gifts to share with survivors of domestic violence, youth aging out of foster care, and those experiencing housing and food insecurities. She often travels all around Ohio to deliver gifts where they are needed most.



Finally, we asked Velda why others should support the Foundation. Her answer:

"As attorneys, we know the importance of the work the Foundation does. We see the impact of the law and the justice system on our clients every single day. But nearly everyone is impacted by the justice system at some point in their life, and we all have an interest in ensuring that our justice system is the best it can be, serving all equally, fairly and efficiently. That's why I also believe that individuals, businesses, corporations, and other non-profits should also support the OSBF. Supporting the OSBF is a WIN for ALL!!!"

## MARLEY NELSON

How did Marley get involved with the OSBF? As an Ohio transplant, Marley was looking for ways to get involved with like-minded lawyers. When she came to Columbus, Marley participated in the Supreme Court of Ohio's Lawyer to Lawyer mentoring program where she met her mentor, none other than OSBF's Executive Director Lori Keating! Marley heard about all the great work the OSBF does on a daily basis from Lori, and that sold her on joining the Foundation as a Fellow in 2018.

Marley is someone who wants to use her education and position of privilege as an attorney to benefit those who may not otherwise have a positive view of the legal system. The OSBF was a perfect way for Marley to meet attorneys who also had a strong dedication to public service and to improving the legal profession.



*Steve Tilson, Marley Nelson & Carol Marx*

"So many people only have terrible experiences with attorneys and the American legal system," said Marley. "It's really fulfilling to be able to do something to let folks know that there are attorneys out there fighting for positive change."

For Marley, keeping diversity and inclusion at the forefront of the Foundation's work is at top of mind. "It's the ability to make us not just allies but accomplices in the work of creating a more equitable legal system," she said. "I believe that is the greatest work I can do as an attorney."

Being a trustee is hard work, and we're so grateful for Marley's dedication to the OSBF and her commitment to advancing justice in Ohio. Recently, Marley received two important pins, one for becoming a Life Fellow of the Foundation, and the other to celebrate 5 years with the Office of the Ohio Public Defender.

"As a former Girl Scout, there are few things in life that please me more than earning a pin or a badge. Which is why I'm so jazzed to have earned two important pins in the past few months," said Marley.

When Marley isn't working on OSBF projects, she loves to hang out with her son, playing video games or making up silly stories together. She also enjoys cross stitching and home improvement projects, and she is currently updating her kitchen. Marley also loves to write everything from poetry to creative nonfiction. In addition, Marley is always dreaming up new things to get the OSBF involved in!

"It's worth every second spent on it because I know we're doing our small part to create the world we want to live in," she said. "If you believe that everyone deserves a fair shake in the legal system, you should support the OSBF. If you believe that our legal system is always improving and want to help it be even better, you should support the OSBF. If you believe that folks deserve an accurate education on how courts work, you should support the OSBF. The OSBF really is creating the legal system that we all believe in."

# RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN THE PROFESSION

2022 ALL RISE AWARDS



*Strong* **FOUNDATION,**  
*Strong* **FUTURE**

The 2022 OSBF All Rise Annual Celebration was held at the Exchange in Dublin on October 7, 2022, and it featured a fresh and revamped format. We were honored to recognize and celebrate the outstanding attorneys and organizations dedicated to improving the law and building a better justice system.

Under the theme “Strong Foundation, Strong Future,” we were reminded of the Foundation’s rich history, impressive accomplishments, and the exciting future that lies ahead. This theme was a tribute to all of the incredible individuals who have contributed tirelessly to cultivating the organization and bringing it to where it stands today.

The program highlighted the remarkable contributions of the award winners, who have not only demonstrated excellence in the legal profession, but have also gone above and beyond in serving the communities through volunteer work. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making the program and celebration a success. Together, we continue to build on a strong foundation to create a brighter future for all.

Visit [www.osbf.org/awards](http://www.osbf.org/awards) to learn more.

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# THE RITTER AWARD

## JUDGE ANNALISA S. WILLIAMS, AKRON

*As the highest honor awarded by the Foundation, The Ritter Award is given for a lifetime of service recognizing the accomplishments of the honoree in attaining and promoting the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and ethics in the practice of law.*



Judge Annalisa S. Williams of Akron Municipal Court is a remarkable, innovative leader with an unwavering passion and dedication to her community.

She presided over the Mental Health Court, which has been designated as one of five original learning sites by the Bureau of Justice and Assistance as well as the Council of State Governments. Judge Williams has developed many programs within the Akron Municipal Court, such as the Reading Advancement Program and the Peace of Mind Program. In addition, she is a founding member of the Ohio Black Judges' Association.

Judge Williams serves on non-profit boards that grant scholarships to underserved youth to attend college, including the Akron-Canton Barristers Association and Project GRAD Akron. Judge Williams is also an active volunteer with Sarah's House, a non-profit food pantry located in Akron. She is passionate about helping persons suffering from mental illness and the unique challenges they face within the criminal justice system.

With a lifetime of service within Akron and the legal profession, Judge Williams exemplifies every aspect of the Ritter Award.



# THE RAMEY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE

INAJO DAVIS CHAPPELL, SOLON

*Given annually to an Ohio attorney whose career has been exemplified by dedication to the goals and values sought to be furthered by the Foundation, the Ramey Award recognizes a lifetime of service to the public and the community, all while working with integrity, honor, courtesy, and professionalism.*

Inajo Davis Chappell is a respected civic leader, volunteer, and champion of causes to advance change in the legal system for historically marginalized communities of color in Ohio. Through her involvement and leadership in numerous community organizations, she has had a transformative impact on the Cleveland community.



# EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

CARL SMALLWOOD, COLUMBUS

*The OSBF Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion Award is a new award this year which celebrates an attorney who has envisioned and cultivated diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal system.*

Carl Smallwood has been a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout his distinguished career. As the Director of the Divided Community Project (DCP) at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Smallwood is advancing change in the legal system and fostering inclusion for historically marginalized communities in Ohio and throughout the country.



# STATEWIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR ATTORNEYS 40 AND UNDER

VALISSA TURNER HOWARD, CLEVELAND

*This award is presented to attorneys around 40 years of age or younger who contribute substantial time and effort in service to a local social service or a local civic, artistic, or cultural organization.*

Valissa Howard, Vice President of Talent and Legal Affairs at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, is a dynamic leader and advocate for equity in the justice system. Through her commitment to a myriad of community organizations, she uplifts and improves the lives of individuals in both her local and statewide communities.



# OUTSTANDING PROGRAM OR ORGANIZATION AWARD

LUIGI DODIEU, BUILDING BRIDGES, DAYTON

*Given annually to a program or organization that promotes the dissemination of information about, increases access to, and/or generates improvements in the Ohio justice system.*



Since its founding in 1974, Building Bridges has grown into a multi-faceted program which includes work therapy groups, educational programming, recreational groups, sport teams, social gatherings, and summer trips for young people throughout Montgomery County. Each year, the program provides services to over 200 at-risk youth and their families, acting as a safety net for youth that are involved in the Montgomery County Juvenile Court. By intervening and redirecting their lives through innovative programming, Building Bridges is making a dramatic difference in the lives of young people.

# JOHN AND GINNY ELAM PRO BONO AWARD

W. BRECK WEIGEL, CINCINNATI

*This award recognizes a lawyer's exceptional pro bono legal work in the State of Ohio, which may consist of pro bono representation necessary to make the system of justice available to all, support to organizations that provide pro bono representation, or time and skills donated to the community, government, and other activities that promote the common good. Unlike the other awards, this award is given by the Elam Committee rather than the Ohio State Bar Foundation.*



W. Breck Weigel, Partner at Squire Patton Boggs, has been a trusted advisor to companies and their executives, providing legal expertise in significant and sensitive matters. As a Founding Board member and former President of the Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio (PBPO), he has played a crucial role in uniting corporate and legal communities to provide free legal services to nonprofit organizations serving disadvantaged communities in Cincinnati and Dayton. Weigel's dedication and leadership have made a lasting impact on the mission of PBPO.

# ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGHOUT OHIO

## THE OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION DISTRICT AWARDS

Each spring, the OSBF presents Community Service Awards for Attorneys 40 and Under to outstanding lawyers who give back to their communities. Winners lead their communities in volunteer service both inside and outside of the legal profession. Visit [www.osbf.org/award-history](http://www.osbf.org/award-history) to learn more.

### DISTRICT WINNERS

DISTRICT 1 | SAMANTHA BERTEN, CINCINNATI

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DISTRICT 12 | BRANDON BROWN, CLEVELAND

DISTRICT 15 | AARON BRUGGEMAN, BARNESVILLE

If you would like to honor an awardee by making a tribute gift to the OSBF, visit [OSBF.org/giving](http://OSBF.org/giving). 100% of your donation will help us continue to make grants to nonprofits throughout Ohio who share our vision.



# OSBF HOLDS INAUGURAL BID FOR JUSTICE EVENT



In September 2022, OSBF held the 1st annual Bid for Justice online auction fundraiser. The two-week online event featured giveaways, unique experiences around Ohio, music, culture, and lots of sports memorabilia. Thanks to you, our generous donors, the OSBF raised \$5,291, and 100% of proceeds raised went toward grant making to organizations and nonprofits who share our vision for a better justice system.

The 2023 Bid for Justice online auction fundraiser is set to run from **Friday, July 7 – Sunday, July 16.**

## RAISE THE BAR 2022 THE VERDICT IS IN

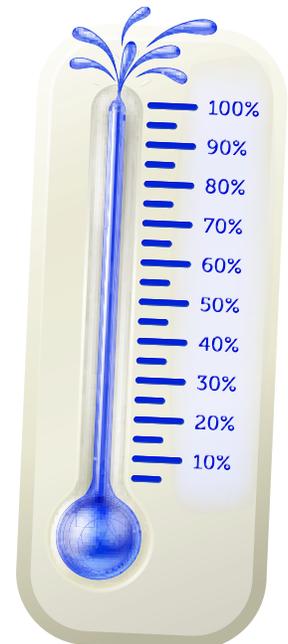
TOTAL GIVING IN THE 2022 RAISE THE BAR CAMPAIGN REACHED \$39,345,  
SURPASSING OUR GOAL OF \$30,000!



Raise the Bar Ohio is a friendly competition between teams of OSBF Fellows that come together and connect with their communities while raising awareness and support for a better justice system. Each year, awards are given to teams who raise the most money, bring in the most new donors, and secure the largest gift amount. Congratulations to the 2022 winners:

- The Prevailing Party was Not So Grumpy Old Men, led by Reg Jackson and Bill Weisenberg! This team raised the most money during the month of November.
- The Most New Donors were secured by Aunt Velda’s Advocates, led by Velda Hofacker! This team was successful in sharing the mission of the OSBF to people who were not yet familiar with our organization.
- The Largest Gift Amount was also secured by Aunt Velda’s Advocates, led by Velda Hofacker.

What a tremendous accomplishment! On behalf of the OSBF as well as our grantee organizations, we sincerely thank you for your support.



**GOAL:**  
**\$30,000**

**TOTAL GIVING:**  
**\$39,345**

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT *Donations received 1/1/22-12/31/22*

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John Heutsche, Euclid  
Robert Heydorn, Silver Lake  
Patrick Higgins, Columbus  
Thomas Hitchcock, Ashtabula  
Nicholas Hofacker, Fairlawn  
David C. Horn, Ryland Heights, KY  
Christy Howard, Kettering  
Bo Howell, Cincinnati  
Elizabeth Howell  
Mary J. Hudson, Columbus  
Jan Huebenthal, Dayton  
Michael Hunter, Columbus  
Jeffrey Hutson, Columbus  
Mark Hutson, Columbiana  
Ida Hyvarinen, Columbus  
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Marvin K. Jacobs, Toledo  
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Gretchen Jeffries, Columbus  
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John Jones, Worthington  
Julie Jones, Cuyahoga Falls  
Cherrefe A. Kadri, Toledo  
Eric Kawalec, Columbus  
Patricia Kearney, Warren  
Charles Kennedy, South Euclid  
Allen Kinzer, Columbus

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Edward M. Kochalski, Port Clinton  
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Hon. Jeffrey Mackey, Columbus  
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Dennis Manes, Cincinnati  
Theodore Manley, Columbus  
Jay Mattlin, Lancaster  
Lauren McAdams  
Dennis McCarthy, Columbus  
Denise Mccolley, Napoleon  
Christopher C. McCracken, Cleveland Heights  
Donald P. McFadden, Highland Heights  
Steven McGarrity, Akron  
Mary McGinty, Shaker Heights  
Terri McKee, Sugar Grove  
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Richard McNellie, Beachwood  
Shauna McSherry, Dayton  
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Joseph Medici, Columbus  
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Reverend Deniray Mueller, Columbus  
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Linda Murnane, Xenia  
Susan Muska, Toledo  
Michael M. Neltner, Cincinnati  
Bruce Nicholson, Troy  
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Caroline O'Connell, Dublin  
Yolanda Ogburn, Columbus  
Rick & Cindy Oremus, Tarpon Springs, FL

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Jaiza Page  
Mark Painter, Cincinnati  
Zoey Peach, Cincinnati  
William Peelle, Wilmington  
Ernest Pitt, Ashland  
William Polhamus, Tarpon Springs, FL  
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Ann Porath, Shaker Heights  
Erin Porta, Dublin  
William G. Porter II, Columbus  
Mel Prendergast, Columbus  
Linda Quartel, Akron  
Mark Rafidi, Canfield  
Steven Ray, Cincinnati  
Frank Reed, Columbus  
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Philip M. Rice, Naples, FL  
Amy Riedel, Columbus  
Roger Rill, Dublin  
Geoffrey J. Ritts, Shaker Heights  
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Norma Skoog, Cincinnati  
Ronald Slipski, Canfield  
Carl Smallwood, Columbus  
Michael Smalz, Columbus  
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Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus  
Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease LLP, Columbus  
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Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP,  
Columbus  
Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company,  
Columbus  
Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus  
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Friends of CASA of Franklin County,  
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Greenville  
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BEV GRAVES *Fellows Outreach Coordinator*

## PAST PRESIDENTS

2021	VELDA HOFACKER	2006	HON. THOMAS F. ZACHMAN, RET.	1991	HERD BENNETT
2020	MARK M. KITRICK	2005	THOMAS M. TAGGART	1990	THOMAS J. HARRINGTON
2019	ROBERT F. WARE	2004	STUART W. CORDELL	1989	EDWARD C. REDMOND
2018	CAROL SEUBERT MARX	2003	RONALD W. DOUGHERTY	1988	RICHARD D. BROOKS, JR.
2017	ANDREW C. STORAR	2002	LINDEN J. BECK	1987	MATT KOLB
2016	THOMAS P. MOUSHEY	2001	REGINALD W. JACKSON	1986	JAMES L. ELDER
2015	LEE E. BELARDO	2000	HON. KATHLEEN B. BURKE	1985	JOHN T. BROWN
2014	STEPHEN F. TILSON	1999	SALLY W. BLOOMFIELD	1984	RET. HON. WALTER A. PORTER
2013	THOMAS D. LAMMERS	1998	WILLIAM L. EVANS	1983	RAYMOND P. CUNNINGHAM
2012	HEATHER G. SOWALD	1997	JOHN F. HAYWARD	1982	GEORGE E. SCHROEDER
2011	KEITH A. ASHMUS	1996	ROBERT O. HAMILTON	1981	SAM D. BARTLO
2010	HON. DAVID B. BENNETT	1995	HON. THOMAS K. JENKINS	1980	WILLIAM HOWLAND
2009	STEPHEN E. CHAPPELEAR	1994	HON. EDWARD S. ROBE	1979	W. BITNER BROWNE
2008	REGINALD S. JACKSON, JR.	1993	JAMES J. CULLERS		
2007	PAULA L. BROOKS	1992	FRANK E. BAZLER		

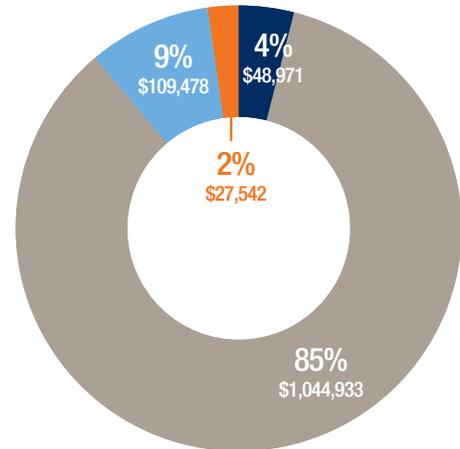
# 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The financial information included in this report has been extracted from the audited financial statements. The audit was performed by John Gerlach & Company, LLP, who expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request at the Ohio State Bar Foundation office.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF DEC. 31	2021	2020
ASSETS	\$58,293,469	\$49,771,927
LIABILITIES	\$267,375	\$255,257
NET ASSETS	\$58,026,094	\$49,516,670
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$58,293,469</b>	<b>\$49,771,927</b>

## 2021 REVENUE SOURCES

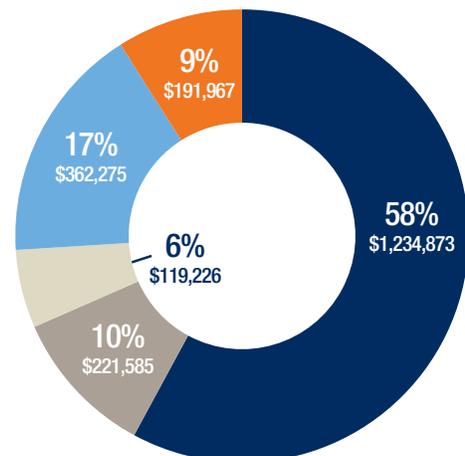


- Fellow Contributions, Net Of Discount
- Income On Securities, Net Of Fees
- Contributions
- Other Revenue & Support

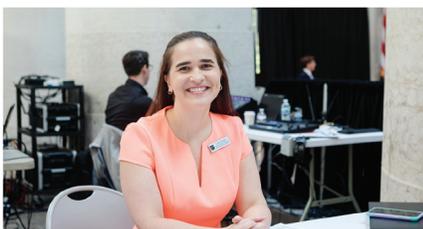
## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR YEARS ENDED DEC. 31	2021	2020
OPERATING REVENUE, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT	\$1,230,924	\$1,285,072
EXPENSES	\$2,129,926	\$2,176,185
OTHER CHANGES NET REALIZED & UNREALIZED GAINS (LOSSES) ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES	\$9,408,426	\$3,136,509
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$8,509,424	\$2,245,396
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$49,516,670</b>	<b>\$47,271,274</b>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$58,026,094</b>	<b>\$49,516,670</b>

## 2021 USE OF FUNDS



- Grant Awards, Net
- Programs, Publications & Awards
- Grantmaking Administration
- Management & Administration
- Marketing & Development



# OSBF 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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