

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL AID OF SOUTHEAST AND CENTRAL OHIO

Lucy Schwalle
No Wrong Door, October 3, 2024 12 pm – 1 pm





Our Mission:

To provide civil legal and advocacy to combat unfairness and injustice and help people rise out of poverty.



Topics Covered

1. Who We Are
2. What We Do
3. Who Is Eligible
4. How To Refer



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We have a new name!



8 offices, 36 counties
Same crucial legal services for our communities.



Our Mission

To provide civil legal aid and advocacy to overcome unfairness and injustice to reduce poverty and increase opportunity.



Our Clients

- Household income that is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- Up to 200% FPL for Pro Bono clinics
- In most of our counties, we receive funding to help some seniors (60+) who don't meet income or assets threshold



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Eligibility Chart

Free civil legal help for **low-income people**.

LASCO 2024 Income Guidelines
Below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level

THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLDS ARE		
Family Size	Maximum Monthly Income	Maximum Yearly Income
1	\$909	\$2,718
2	\$1269	\$3,808
3	\$1679	\$5,038
4	\$2169	\$6,508



Rural Office Details

- 7 offices that cover 3-7 counties per office in: Athens, Marion, Chillicothe, Newark, New Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Steubenville
- 3-10 attorneys in each office
- Compared to Columbus, our rural clients face:
 - Less access to other services in rural areas;
 - Transportation challenges – lack of public transportation and cab services;
 - Technology/broadband gaps – access to internet, ongoing phone;
 - More homeowners – properties passed through generations;





■ Athens
 ■ Chillicothe
 ■ Columbus
 ■ New Philadelphia
■ Newark
 ■ Portsmouth
 ■ Steubenville



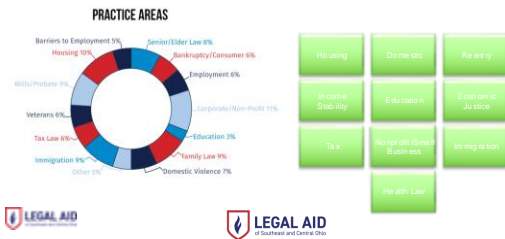
Athens Office of LASCO

- Athens office covers: Athens, Meigs, Vinton, Morgan, Hocking, Gallia and Washington Counties
- 7 staff attorneys, 1 paralegal, 2 legal assistants
- Three office cats: Ruthie, Elle and Boots.



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Our Core Legal Work



Housing Advocacy

Eviction Defense and Housing Stabilization

Addressing poor housing conditions for tenants

Housing discrimination





Family Law

Families seeking financial stability and safety through:

- Divorce,
- Child Custody,
- Child Support, and
- Protection Orders



Public Benefits and Health Law



- Loss or Denial of Life Sustaining Medical and Public Benefits








Education Advocacy

- Special education IEP/504 plans
- Discipline
- Special education discipline
- Access to education for homeless students







"Reentry" Services

- Criminal Record-sealing & Expungement
- Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Certificates of Qualification for Employment
- Driver's License Reinstatement

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Consumer Law

Bankruptcy, Tax, Foreclosure, Garnishment Issues

- Debt Collection Lawsuits
- Foreclosures
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
- Auto Defects/Repairs
- Utility Problems
- Student Loans
- Other State and Federal Tax issues, overpayments, debts, and disputes

Community Building Work

- Mobile Home Parks
- Know your Rights Trainings
- Parent Groups
- Self-Help Materials



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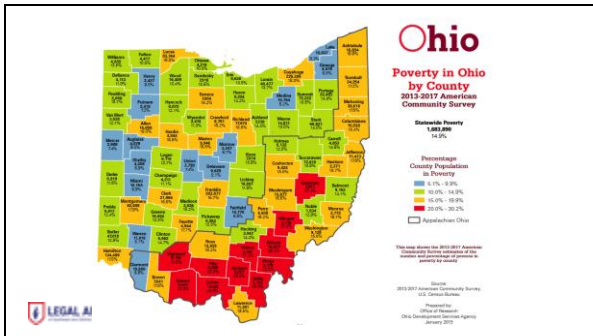
Unmet Civil Legal Needs

Justice Gap – difference between free civil legal help available and the level necessary to meet the legal needs of low-income Americans

LSC reported that in 2017, low-income Americans sought legal aid's help for 1.7 million civil legal problems, but 1.0-1.2 million (62%-72%) received inadequate or no legal assistance.

That means for every 100 problems for clients served by LSC programs, between 62 and 72 of the problems are unable to receive the help they need.





Intake Options

By phone:

For a new case, please call our Intake Line at [844-302-1800](tel:844-302-1800). Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We close for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Get help online!

Our online application is an interactive interview that will walk you step by step through our intake process. This easy-to-follow question and answer session will help us better understand your problem so we can give you a more accurate response to your needs. It also saves our intake workers time and allows us to help more people. Rest assured that your data is safe and will not be shared with anyone.

https://oslsaoi.legalserver.org/rmdules/matter/extern_intake.php?pid=129&h=daa817&



