



2020 Annual Report

Our mission

To support access to justice in Oregon by obtaining and distributing funds to **provide legal services** to persons of lesser means, **promote diversity** in the legal profession, and **educate the public** about the law.

A letter from our Executive Director

2020 proved to be both a challenging year and a year of innovation for the Oregon Law Foundation (OLF). With the onset of COVID 19 the Federal Reserve Board dropped interest rates to near zero in March having a detrimental impact on the amount of IOLTA interest revenue received in 2020. Despite the drop in revenue, the OLF was able to keep 2020 grant allocations the same as awarded and provided funding for initiatives to understand and increase legal services in Oregon. Below are the highpoints and major initiatives of 2020.

Revenue & Grants

The OLF received approximately \$1.8 million in IOLTA revenue in 2020. This was a decrease of \$900,000 compared to 2019 and \$500,000 below budget projections. As stated above the decrease in IOLTA interest revenue was the result of a drop in interest rates to near zero. Although the OLF lost considerable revenue, we were able to keep 2020 grant allocation the same as originally awarded. This is due to the OLF's policy of keeping a reserve to smooth out funding for grantees when IOLTA income declines. A reserve allowed the OLF to budget grant awards for 2021 only \$300,000 less than 2020.

Leadership Banks & Credit Unions

Although market interest rates on deposit accounts dropped to near zero in 2020, many OLF Leadership Banks and Credit Unions continued to pay an above market on IOLTA accounts. The Leadership rates were adjusted downward in 2020 due to the drop in interest rates. During 2020, Visionary Banks & Credit Unions paid 1.00% and Advocacy Banks & Credit Unions paid .75%. In comparison the Leadership rates for 2019 were 1.75% for Visionaries and 1.5% for advocates.

Portal Project

In 2020 a Justice for All Summit (The Summit), was held on January 14. It was a joint effort by the OLF, Oregon Judicial Department, The Oregon State Bar, and Oregon's legal aid providers to explore how Oregon's self-help resources could be built upon to provide better access to Oregonians with unmet legal needs. The Summit showcased how other states were using legal information portals and remote facilitators to provide legal system self-navigators with information and referrals tailored to their needs. OLF allocated funds to hire a facilitator to engage with stakeholders. The purpose was to build a road map to develop and maintain a structure focused on a self-help legal portal website that would be the primary online referral site for people with legal issues, regardless of income level.

Economic Impact Study

In 2020 the OLF engaged a consultant to conduct two statewide economic impact studies. The first study focused on the economic and community impact created as a result of legal aid's client and community work. The second study focused on the economic and community impact created from immigration legal service providers' client and community work. The first study concluded that for every one dollar spent on legal aid, Oregon receives \$3.42 of financial benefit to individuals and the community. The second study concluded that for every one dollar spent on immigration legal services Oregon receives \$4.94 of financial benefit to individuals and the community.

Where you bank matters!

We owe our continued success to our partnership with Oregon's Leadership Banks & Credit Unions who choose to pay above market rates on IOLTA accounts. We also owe our success to our partnership with Oregon's lawyers who insist that their banks be committed to the OLF and committed to justice for all. For a list of Leadership Banks and Credit Unions please go to www.oregonlawfoundation.org.

How we focus our funding

\$1.68M

Annual grants made in 2020.

To meet our mission, we make grants in three categories. Our policies limit how much annual funding can go to each category.

Category A: full-service legal aid – 55% to 85% of grants

Organizations that were part of the Association of Oregon Legal Services Programs as of January 1, 2000, make up Category A. These organizations are part of Oregon’s efforts to address poverty by creating a statewide system of full-spectrum legal services centered on the needs of the low-income community.

\$43M

Funds granted by the Oregon Law Foundation 1982–2020.

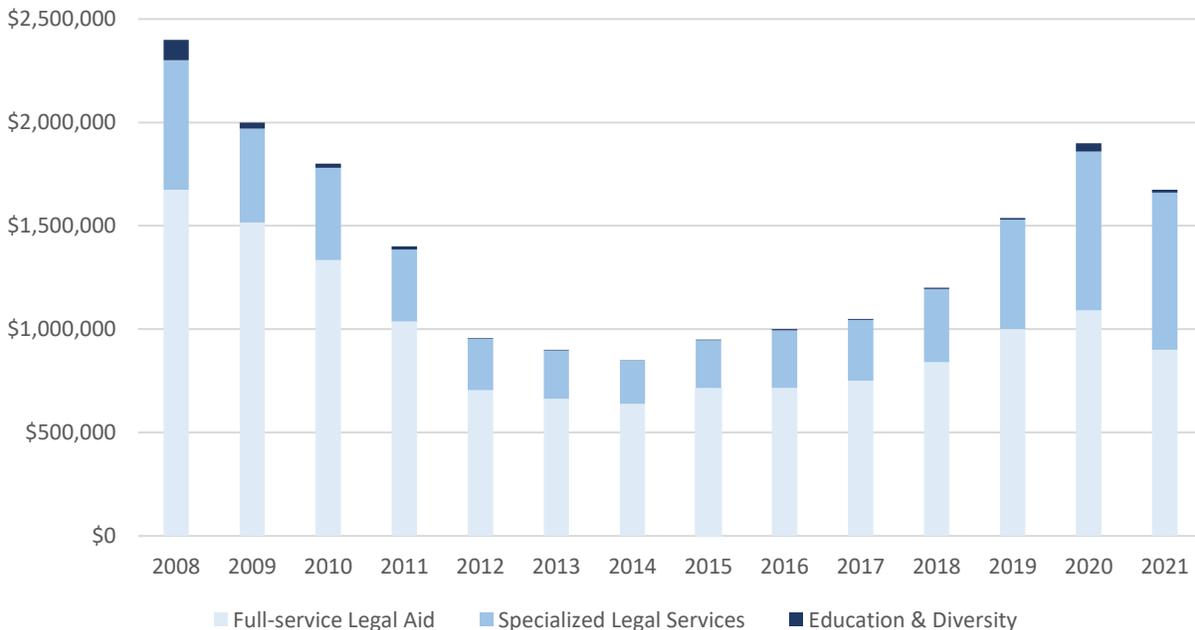
Category B: specialized legal services – 15% to 25% of grants

Other organizations that provide direct civil legal services fit into Category B. These organizations tend to focus on providing services in a particular area of the law or focus on providing services to a particular client community.

Category C: education & diversity – 0% to 10% of grants

Organizations that work in Oregon to educate the public about the law or promote diversity in the legal profession fit into Category C.

Annual grant funding over time



Economic Impact Study: measuring the economic effects of our grantees

\$4.95

Economic return of immigration legal services in Oregon: For every \$1 invested in Oregon's immigration legal services organizations, the citizens of Oregon receive \$4.95 of immediate and long-term financial benefits.

\$3.43

Economic return of legal aid in Oregon: For every \$1 invested in Oregon's full-service legal aid providers, the citizens of Oregon receive \$3.43 of immediate and long-term financial benefits.

\$57.7M

1-year economic benefit of legal aid: In 2018, \$16.8 million was invested in Oregon legal aid. That investment will return \$57.7 million of additional economic activity and savings to Oregonians over the long-term.

In early 2020, the Oregon Law Foundation commissioned Economic Impact Study was completed. The economic impact study independently analyzed the economic return of two cohorts of Oregon legal help providers: full-service legal aid organizations and immigration legal service organizations. To conduct the study, the Foundation partnered with Community Services Analysis LLC, which has been providing social return on investment analysis reports to state agencies, nonprofits, and foundations since 2007. Analysis was performed based on funding provided and work completed during the 2018 calendar year.

The study revealed that for every dollar invested in Oregon's full-service legal aid providers, \$3.43 of financial benefit was returned. In the long-term, the services provided by Oregon's full-service legal aid providers in 2018 is expected to generate \$57.7 million of economic benefit to Oregon and Oregonians.

For immigration legal providers, the study showed that for every dollar invested, \$4.95 is returned in economic benefit. This economic benefit from immigration legal help was calculated net of the cost for additional community and governmental services. The economic activity generated as a result of immigration legal services is so high, over \$1 billion, that even when the cost of additional community services are offset, the economic multiplier remains positive, and large at 4.95 times.

The Oregon Law Foundation's Economic Impact study is the first of its kind for legal aid and immigration legal help organizations in Oregon. The study will help grantees and the Foundation advocate for additional support for civil legal help in Oregon.

Mortgage Settlement grants

\$802k

Funds disbursed by the Oregon Law Foundation in 2020 from Mortgage Settlement funds to address foreclosure issues and community redevelopment legal services.

The Oregon Law Foundation is the entity in Oregon designated by the 2014 settlement on mortgage-related litigation between the U.S. Department of Justice and Bank of America to distribute settlement funds for foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance.

In 2020, the foundation disbursed just under \$802 thousand to organizations providing foreclosure legal help and housing legal help. The statewide foreclosure legal help grant ended in 2020 and the statewide housing legal help grant is on track to continue through mid-2022.

How our grantees helped

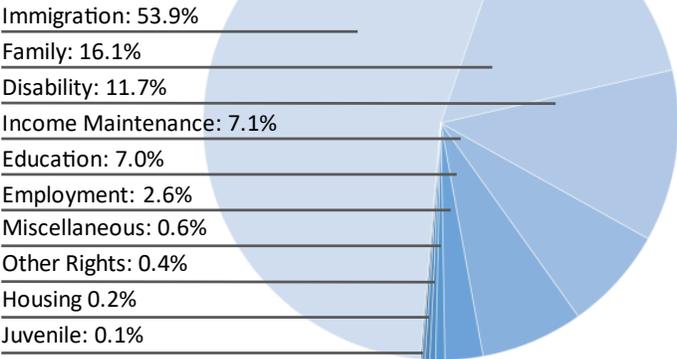
Legal subject areas addressed

Our grantees who perform legal work keep track of the number of cases they close and the legal subject area into which their cases fall. These charts show the percentage of cases closed in different legal areas for our full-service legal aid grantees and our specialized legal services grantees. The ratio of the area of the two pie charts is equal to the ratio of funding between the two categories in 2020. Numbers reflect the percentage of cases closed in categories by both staff and pro bono volunteers during 2020. More informal assistance like know your rights trainings and legal education materials that do not result in a case being opened are not captured in these charts.

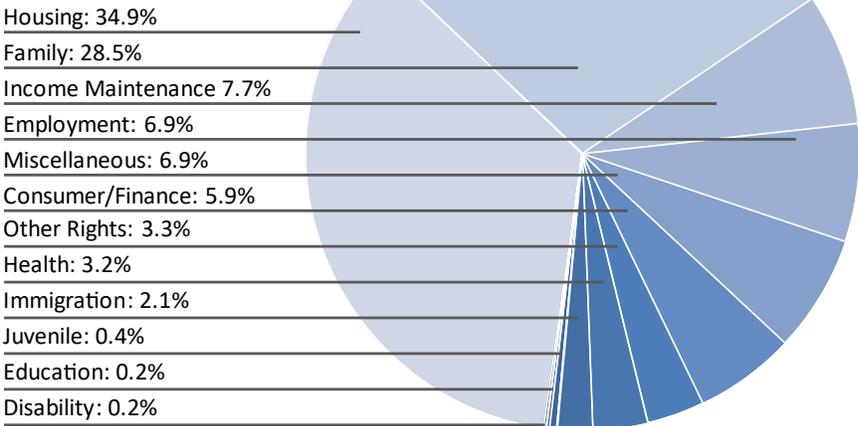
14,673

Total number of cases closed by OLF Grantees.

Specialized legal services



Full-service legal aid



Engaging pro bono attorneys: full-service legal aid

Involving private attorneys in the delivery of legal services to low-income Oregonians allows organizations to increase the number of people served in a cost-effective manner. OLF's Category A, full-service legal aid, grantees regularly involve private attorneys as case workers. In 2020, pro bono volunteers handled sixteen percent of cases closed by OLF's Category A, full-service legal aid, grantees.



Providing the right level of service: all grantees

Legal service attorneys help clients in a number of different ways from meeting and providing advice to litigation from trial through appeals. Services are aggregated into two categories: brief service and extended service. Brief service includes the counsel and advice category and the limited action category like writing a letter, making a phone call, or preparing a simple document. Extended service includes negotiating settlements, filing and arguing cases in court or administrative hearings, and other activities like extensive document preparation.

Based on a number of factors including case priorities, client needs and abilities, and the chance that an individual case might affect many or change the system as a whole the right level of service is provided. Time also plays a factor in balancing brief and extended service cases; extended service cases take considerably more time per case than brief service cases. By offering a variety of levels of service, providers are able to help many more clients than they would be able to if only extended, full-representation, cases were accepted.

Twenty-eight percent of cases closed in 2020 by OLF grantees (counting staff and pro bono cases) were extended service cases.



Our grantees

Total 2020 Grants – \$1,900,000

Association of Oregon Legal Services Programs – \$1,992,000

The Association provides civil legal assistance to Oregonians with low incomes statewide through a network of offices in 17 communities. Assistance is coordinated and centered on the needs of the client community. Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Oregon Law Center, and Center for NonProfit Legal Services make up the Association.

Immigration Counseling Service (ICS) – \$200,000

ICS improves the lives of Oregon’s immigrant communities, unaccompanied children, and survivors of human trafficking by providing affordable immigration legal services and free informational forums.

St. Andrew Clinic – \$135,000

St. Andrew Legal Clinic provides low- and moderate-income people with legal representation in family law cases, bridging the gap for families who do not qualify for Legal Aid but cannot afford to hire a private attorney.

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) – \$100,000

DRO promotes and defends the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing statewide legal services to Oregonians with disabilities who are victims of abuse or neglect or have problems obtaining health care, special education, housing, employment, public benefits, or access to services.

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (CCILS) – \$75,000

CCILS provides low-cost consultations and legal representation to immigrants and refugees and educates the public focusing on family reunification and assistance to the most vulnerable immigrants and refugees, including survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

New Avenues for Youth – \$60,000

New Avenues for Youth Legal Clinic is a partnership with the Metropolitan Public Defender and Lewis & Clark Law School providing pro bono legal services to young people experiencing housing instability.

SOAR Immigration Legal Services – \$50,000

SOAR Immigration Legal Services provides culturally competent, immigration-related legal representation, and education to low-income refugees and immigrants in and around the Portland metro area.

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) – \$50,000

IRCO’s Immigration Legal Services provides affirmative legal services, community education and navigation services, and community clinics.

Northwest Workers’ Justice Project / Northwest Employment Education and Defense Fund – \$50,000

NWJP/NEED Fund provide community education and legal representation in employment matters to low wage, immigrant, and contingent workers to protect workplace dignity and to improve wages and working conditions.

Clackamas Women’s Services – \$40,000

CWS and A Safe Place are developing the Legal Empowerment Accelerator Program to provide low- and no-cost legal services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse and help new lawyers build practices.

Youth, Rights & Justice – \$20,000

Youth, Rights & Justice improves the lives of vulnerable children and families through legal representation and advocacy in the courts, legislature, schools, and community.

Multnomah Volunteer Lawyer Project – \$13,000

The Multnomah County Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon has a specialized Pro Bono Unit with six projects. Annually, approximately 1,800 clients are matched with volunteer lawyers who provide free legal help.

Classroom Law Project – \$10,000

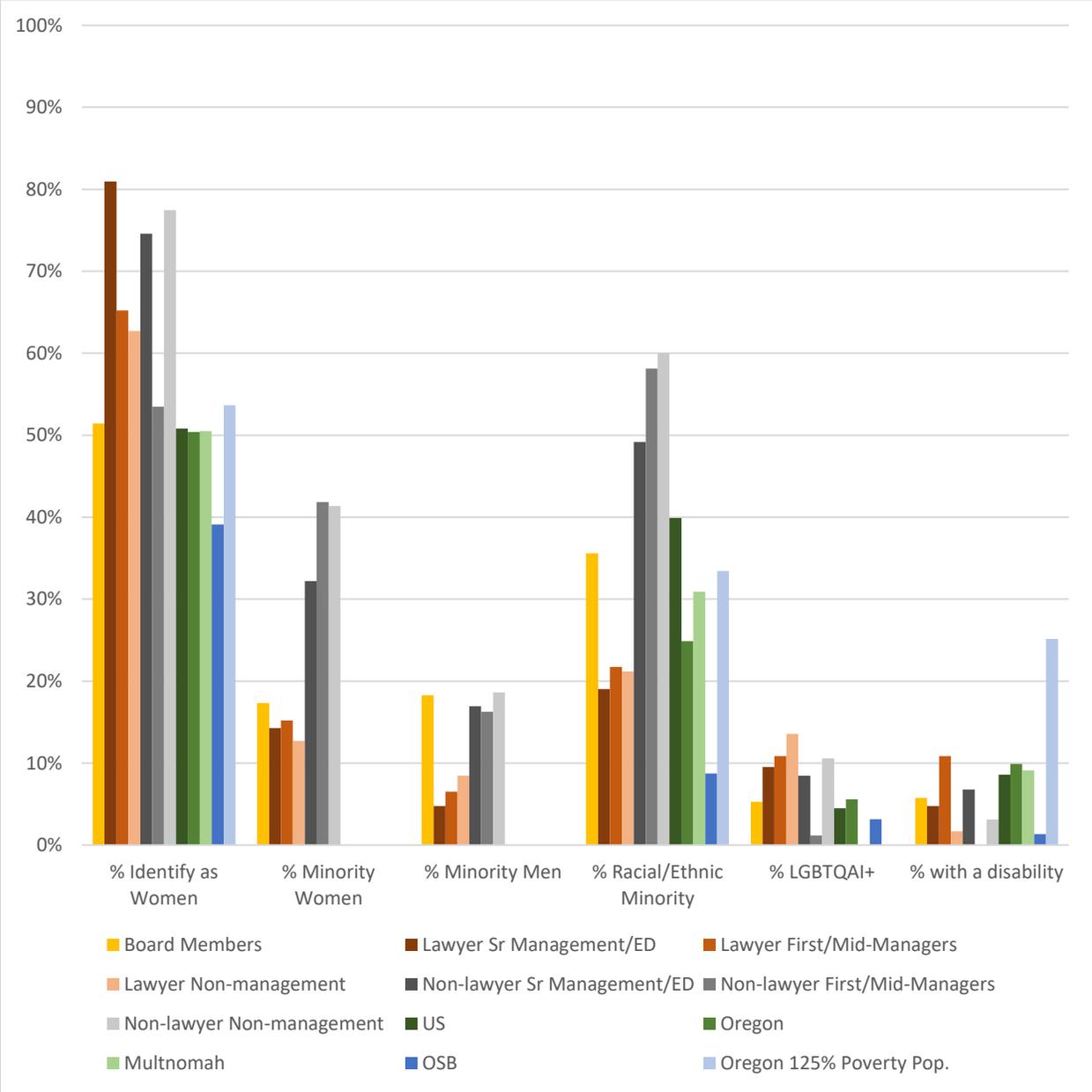
Classroom Law Project promotes public understanding of the law and legal process for 15,000 elementary and secondary students by incorporating the lessons and principles of democracy into the school curriculum.

Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) – \$5,000

OLIO is the Oregon State Bar’s recruitment and retention program for law students who can contribute to the bar’s historically or currently underrepresented membership; who have experienced economic, social, or other barriers; who have personally experienced discrimination or oppression; or who can otherwise demonstrate a commitment to advancing the D&I Department’s mission.

People at our grantees

Part of the Oregon Law Foundation’s mission is supporting diversity in the legal profession. In support of these efforts, our grantees have long reported demographic information about their workers and boards. In 2020, the foundation began collecting additional information to better understand the interaction of staff seniority with gender identity, racial and ethnic background, sexual orientation, and disability status.



US, Oregon, and Multnomah gender, ethnicity, and disability statistics from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US,OR,multnomahcountyoregon>

US and Oregon LGBTQAI statistics from <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Adult-US-Pop-Jul-2020.pdf>

OR 125% of poverty guideline population statistics <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=0400000US41&tid=ACST1Y2019.S1703&moe=false&hidePreview=true>

The following comparisons to national legal aid staffing information can be made from this first-year OLF grantee staff demographic data:

- In aggregate, our Grantees' boards are representative of both Oregon demographics and client demographics in the categories where data was collected, except for disability status.
- Our grantees do not have an aggregate under-representation of women in senior-level attorney roles compared to entry-level attorney roles. Nationally, aggregate legal aid information shows a decline in representation of women in senior-level attorney positions.
- Although at all seniority levels lawyers who are minority men and women are represented at or above their representation in the Oregon legal profession, they are under-represented at all seniority levels compared to both Oregon demographics and low-income client demographics—this is particularly true for men who are minorities, a trend that is unfortunately consistent with national aggregate legal aid staff demographics.
- The data show a progressive decline in representation as seniority level increases among non-lawyer staff who are minorities, lawyers who are minority men, and lawyers who are LGBTQAI+. There is also a dramatic decrease in representation of women who are minorities in senior-level non-lawyer staff positions compared to entry-level and mid-level non-lawyer staff positions. Statistical analysis will be pursued in future years to better identify the presence and extent of under representation.

185 Attorneys 655 Staff

Our finances

December 31, 2020, audited financials.

Assets	
Cash Accounts	\$480,590
Investment Accounts	\$3,206,168
Receivable, IOLTA Interest	\$126,075
Prepaid	-
Other Assets	\$20,000
Total Assets	\$3,832,833

Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$155,120
Due to Oregon State Bar	\$13,107
Total Liabilities	\$168,227
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$1,864,794
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,228,301
Permanently Restricted	\$571,511
Total Net Assets	\$3,664,606
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$3,832,833

Revenue	
IOLTA Income	\$1,774,682
Contributions	\$2,605
Fiscal Sponsorship Contributions	\$2,691
Unrealized Investment Change	\$136,951
Investment Income	\$125,059
Other Income	\$37,528
Total Revenue	\$2,079,516

Expenses	
Annual Grants & Contributions	\$1,930,000
Supplemental Grants	\$735,081
Salaries & Benefits	\$179,842
Administrative Charge - OSB	\$35,086
Professional Services	\$70,285
Other Expenses	\$7,230
Total Expenses	\$2,957,524

Change in Net Assets	-\$878,008
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$4,542,614
Net Assets at End of Year	\$3,664,606

Get to know us

Board

13

Total board members.

9

Lawyer board members.

4

Banker board members.

3

Positions appointed by the Oregon State Bar.

1

Position appointed by the Oregon Supreme Court.

1

Position nominated by the Association of Oregon Legal Services.

Ethan Knight (President '20)
US Attorney's Office
Portland, Oregon Portland, Oregon

David Rosen (President '21)
High Desert Law, LLC
Bend, Oregon

Valerie Colas (President-elect '21)
Oregon Judicial Department
Salem, Oregon

Elise Bouneff (Secretary)
Columbia Bank
Portland, Oregon

Randy Compton (Treasurer)
Pioneer Trust Bank
Salem, Oregon

Kristen Connor
Heritage Bank
Portland, Oregon

Rima Ghandour*
Ghandour Law
Portland, Oregon
Oregon Supreme Court Appointee

Staff

Judith Baker
Executive Director

Bill Penn
Assistant Director

Kamron L. Graham, J.D.*
Portland, Oregon
Oregon Supreme Court Appointee

Brent Hall
Hall Law, PLLC
Walla Walls, Washington

Traci Ray
Barran Liebman LLP
Portland, Oregon

Laura Shipley
Bank of America
Portland, Oregon

Chanpone Sinlapasai
Marandas Sinlapasai Garcia
Lake Oswego, Oregon

Bernie Thurber
Portland, Oregon

Justin Thorp*
Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt LLP
Salem, Oregon

Brooke Thacher
Program Coordinator

Laura Greer
Administrative Assistant

* Kamron Graham's term ended in 2020 and Rima Ghandour's term began in 2021.

Leadership Banks & Credit Unions

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of the Oregon Leadership Banks & Credit Unions that choose to pay above-market rates and the lawyers who choose to bank with them. When lawyers use Leadership Banks & Credit Unions, the OLF gets up to 100x more funding.

1.00%

Minimum interest rate paid by Visionary Banks.

Visionaries

Bank of Eastern Oregon

Oregon Community Credit Union

Beneficial Bank

Pacific West Bank

First Republic Bank[†]

Pioneer Trust Bank

Heritage Bank

Washington Trust Bank

Northwest Bank

Wells Fargo Bank

OnPoint Credit Union

Willamette Valley Bank

0.75%

Minimum interest rate paid by Advocacy Banks.

Advocates

Chase Bank

Oregon Pacific Bank

Columbia Bank

Summit Bank^{*}

Lewis & Clark Bank

* pays leadership rate on balances over \$50,000
† pays leadership rate on balances over \$250,000

0.01%

Lowest rate net of fees paid on IOLTA by an Oregon bank.

Where you bank matters!