



Lean Forward: Veterans Summit 2025

Anna Lynch
Veterans Outreach Attorney

1

Our Plan

- **Who We Are**
- **Overview of Legal Services**
- **How to contact us**
- **Questions?**



Toward Justice

2

Who We Are

Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio

8 offices, 36 counties

We have a new name!

Same crucial legal services for our communities.



Toward Justice

3



Our Mission

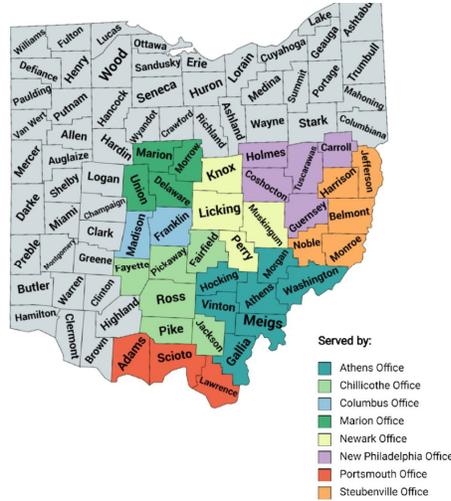
To provide civil legal aid and advocacy to overcome unfairness and injustice to reduce poverty and increase opportunity.



Toward Justice

4

Where we are



Toward Justice

5

Our Range of Services

- We offer general resources to our community and partners:
 - Trainings for service providers
 - Presentations, webinars, Facebook Live events for community on legal issues
 - Referrals to other legal service or resource providers
 - General Legal Info and Self-Help Materials



6

Our Range of Services

- Staff and pro bono attorneys offer a range of legal services to eligible clients, including:
 - Advice-only directly to clients
 - Brief service – drafting forms, wills, expungement applications, advance directives, etc.
 - Full case representation

****Based on priorities and current capacity****



Toward Justice

7

5 Eligibility Items for Clients

LASCO will need to check 5 Eligibility Items before giving legal help to someone:

- ✓ **Income**
- ✓ **Assets**
- ✓ **Immigrant Eligibility**
- ✓ **Not a conflict**
- ✓ **Current Legal Issue in Priority**



Toward Justice

8

Our Clients

- Generally, Household income at or below 150-200% of federal poverty level (FPL) – varies by county
- Assets at or below \$15,000







Toward Justice



9

Our Clients – Conflict Checking

- Because we are a law firm, LASCO must make sure that we are conducting "conflict checks" when processing applicants for our services.
- If someone is turned away because they are a "conflict" we will not be able to provide details about what that conflict is.




10

Our Clients – Current Legal Issue within “Priorities”

- Can shift based on resources (staff on sick or parental leave, case volume and complexity, etc.)
- Up-To-Date Info available via link: <https://www.lasco.org/referralguidance>
- When in doubt about whether to refer, ask your LASCO staff contact, or if not available, reach out to Anna at alynch@lasco.org



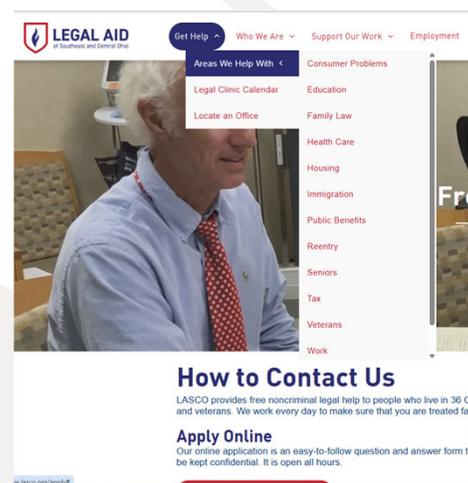
Toward Justice

11

Resources for People "Outside Priorities"

- Self Help Resource Library – <https://www.lasco.org/>
- Brief Advice Clinics* – <https://www.lasco.org/calendar>

***Note that to receive legal advice at brief advice clinics, clients must still meet income, asset, and immigrant eligibility criteria.**



Toward Justice

12

Our Core Legal Work



Housing	Domestic	Reentry
Income Stability	Education	Economic Justice
Tax	Nonprofit/Small Business	Health Law



Toward Justice

13

Housing Law

What We Prioritize

- Eviction
 - *Onsite Clinics at Court in Athens, Franklin, Fairfield, Licking, and Washington Counties*
- Grievance/Informal meeting (if you have rent-subsidized housing)
- Lockouts by landlord without court order
- Utility shutoff by landlord without court order
- Retaliation by landlord
- Concerns related to domestic violence
- Discrimination based on protected classes (race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability)



Toward Justice

14

Housing Law

What We Prioritize, Cont'd

- Foreclosures
- Land contract issues
- Conditions/Rent Escrow issues
- Lead poisoning issues



Toward Justice

15

Family Law

We Prioritize:

- Protection orders for victims of domestic violence or stalking
- Child custody proceedings
 - Seriousness of issues
 - Safety for parents and children
 - Opposing party has filed and is represented by counsel
 - Client has barrier to effective self-representation (disabilities, age, LEP)
- Child Support
 - Cases of extreme power imbalances,
 - Cases that are tied to custody or divorce case,
 - Domestic violence, or complicated situations involving hidden income
 - Less likely to engage in modification-only or solely administrative cases (for full representation)
- Divorce
 - Generally, more likely to engage in cases of extreme power imbalances



16

Public Benefits and Health Law

We Prioritize: Loss or Denial of Medical or Public Benefits



- SSDI, SSI
- OWF, PRC, Food assistance
- Veterans benefits and discharge upgrades
- Unemployment Compensation
- Health Benefits –
 - Medicaid enrollment / treatment coverage
 - Medicare
 - Home and community based care waivers
 - Marketplace coverage/Obamacare
 - Long term care/ Nursing home
 - DD Eligibility
 - Medical Debt



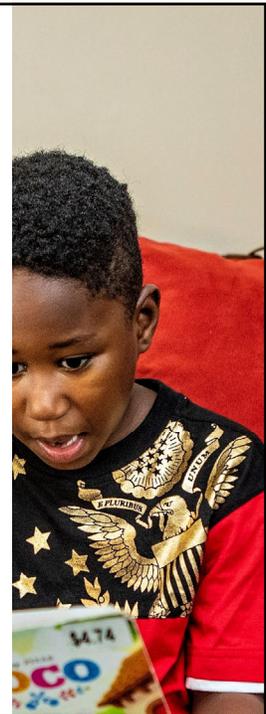
Toward Justice

17

Education Advocacy

We Prioritize:

- Special education IEP/504 plans - Initial/suspected disability issues, Implementation/appropriate interventions or supports issues, unless child is being denied FAPE
- Discipline – suspensions/expulsions before a hearing has occurred, or after a hearing has occurred , but within the appeal deadline
- Special education discipline (MDRs, FBA/BIP issues)
- McKinney Vento/enrollment for students experiencing homelessness; other access issues



18

“Consumer” Law

We Prioritize:

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



19

Tax

We Prioritize:

- Federal (IRS) tax issues: tax refunds and overpayments, debts, and other disputes
- We can only handle state and city issues directly related to the federal issue
- We do not prepare tax returns unless it's to resolve a dispute with the IRS.



LEGAL AID
of Southeast and Central Ohio

Toward Justice

20

“Reentry” Services

We Prioritize:

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



Toward Justice

21



Wills and Advance Directives for Seniors

We Prioritize:

- Seniors Age 60+ at or below 200% FPL with \$15K liquid assets
- Veterans
- Homeowners eligible for Transfer on Death Affidavits



22

Transactional Help for Nonprofits and Entrepreneurs

We Prioritize:

- Advice and support to organizational clients that cannot afford legal representation
- Nonprofit incorporation, bylaw drafting, contract drafting, commercial lease review, or review of internal governance, policies, and procedures



23

Eric's story



Navy veteran Eric was denied a home repair grant because of a tax lien from a retirement withdrawal he made to help his parents.

Legal Aid resolved the tax issue, clearing the way for vital home repairs.

"It is a big weight lifted off my back. Now I can breathe a little.

If it weren't for my attorneys, none of this would have happened."



24

Bobby's story

Air Force veteran Bobby was pursued for gas charges years after ending service.

Legal Aid attorney Shelli Clark intervened, stopped the collection efforts, and got \$340 in charges waived.



25

Jane's story

Disabled Air Force veteran Jane had the chance to inherit her late aunt's home. She soon discovered her aunt had been behind on the mortgage, and she couldn't negotiate with the lender because she wasn't the official owner.

Attorney Mark Gnatowski with Legal Aid helped her transfer the home into her name.

"If it weren't for Mark and Legal Aid, I would not have this home.

I could not have done this without you—period."



Toward Justice

26

Frank's story

When Army veteran Frank faced eviction over noise complaints, Legal Aid attorneys discovered early-stage dementia was affecting his behavior.

They negotiated extra time for him to move and, with support from social worker Chris Kelly, Frank found a new home.



Toward Justice

27



How to Apply:

- Intake Line **1-888-246-4420**
- Online on our website:
https://oslsaoi.legalserver.org/modules/matter/extern_intake.php?pid=129&h=daa817&



28



29

Expand our Reach

- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and share our requests for help
 - @LegalAidSCO
 - @legalaid_sco
- Sign up for Monthly Newsletters - <https://oslsa.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3a58bc6a56fd7e665d6b3e5c9&id=f255056b98>



30



Questions?

Anna Lynch – alynch@lasco.org

1108 City Park Ave
Columbus, OH 43206
614-221-7201
lasco.org