

20
24

Annual Report

DELAWARE BAR FOUNDATION



Delaware Bar Foundation

ABOUT US

FOUNDED IN 1981
THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE DELAWARE STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION



OUR MISSION & VISION

The Delaware Bar Foundation's mission is to improve the administration of justice in Delaware by:

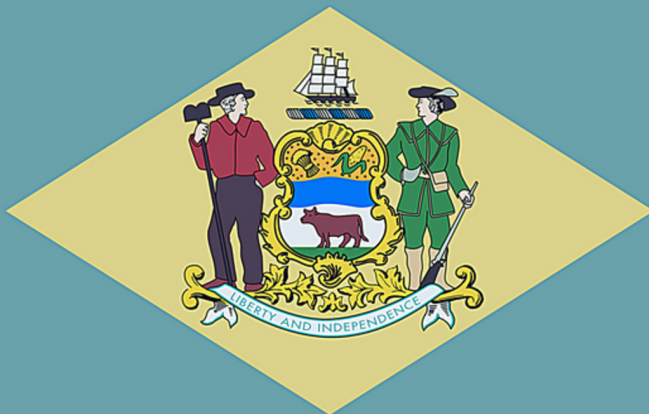
- Providing funding for legal services for those less fortunate
- Promoting study and research in the field of law
- Fostering knowledge of citizenship rights and responsibilities
- Enhancing public respect for the rule of law

Our FY2024 Board

President: Denise Nordheimer
President-Elect: Hon. Kyle Evans Gay
Secretary: Clarissa Chenoweth
Treasurer: David A. Felice

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The Hon. Bonnie W. David
Rebecca A. Guzman
The Hon. Karryl Hubbard
David C. McBride
Nicole M. Mozee
Samuel D. Pratcher, III
Jeffrey Young

Megan S. Greenberg, Executive Director



DECEMBER 7, 1787



The IOLTA Program

Delaware requires attorneys to pool short-term or nominal deposits made on behalf of clients or third parties into one account. The interest generated by these accounts is remitted to the Foundation for use in grant-making to improve the administration of justice in Delaware.

As the the IOLTA Program Administrator, the Foundation tracks these accounts, analyzes interest rate adjustments and fluctuations in the market, analyzes bank reports and ensures that financial institutions participating in Delaware's IOLTA program offer rates on IOLTA accounts that are comparable to rates offered on similar bank products. The Foundation also manages investment of IOLTA funds.

IOLTA accounts may only be maintained at "eligible" financial institutions (i.e., those which offer interest rate comparable IOLTA accounts **and maintain a physical presence in Delaware.**)

THANK YOU TO OUR

Prime Partner Banks

These banks have elected to offer a premium rate on IOLTA accounts in Delaware and generate additional funds to provide civil legal services to citizens in need in Delaware:

Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union



Where you bank matters

2024 IOLTA GRANT PROGRAM

Each year, the Foundation recommends to the Delaware Supreme Court an allotment of IOLTA funds which the Court then authorizes. In fiscal year 2024, the grantees receiving IOLTA funds included: Community Legal Aid Society (CLASI), Legal Services Corporation of Delaware (LSCD), Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), Delaware Center for Law-related Education (DELREC), and Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC).

Since 1983, the Foundation has granted **over \$38 million** for legal services to Delaware's neediest residents. In FY2024 the Foundation disbursed \$2,466,170 in IOLTA funds. In May 2023 the board approved \$1,911,720. In the fall, an additional round of \$554,455 in IOLTA grants to fund capital and technological improvements were awarded. This includes a significant update to the Delaware Legal HelpLink platform.

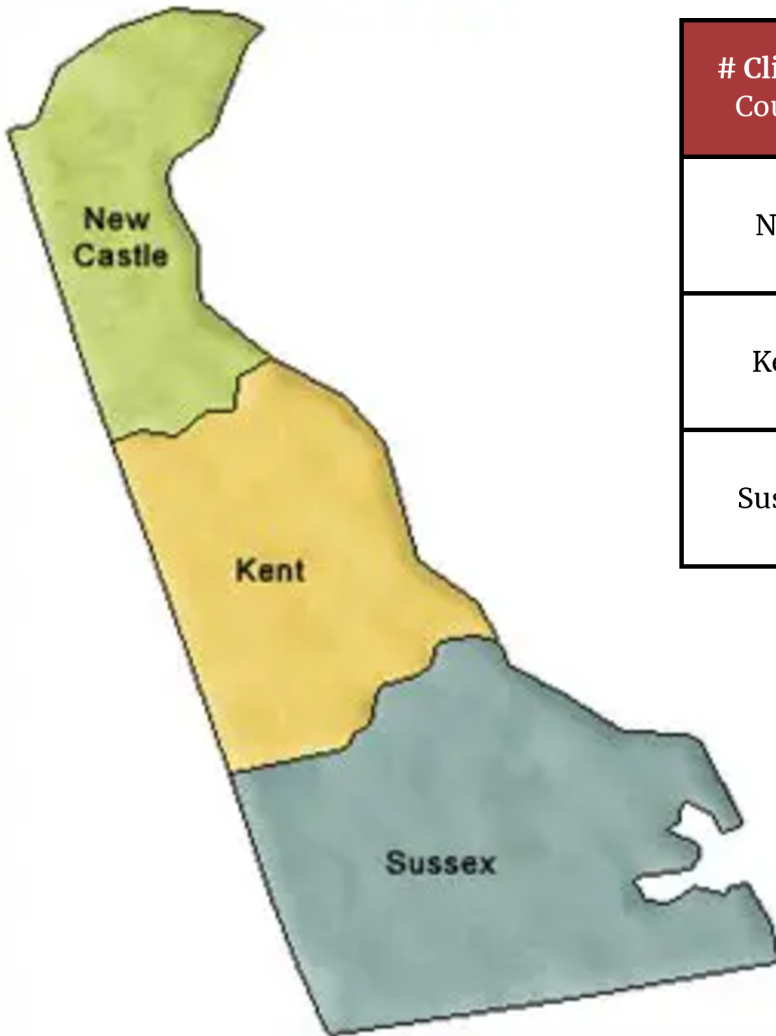
State Appropriation

Beginning in 2004, additional funds to provide legal services for low-income citizens have been sought through the State's budget process. While the funds have not increased significantly in recent years the Foundation is grateful of that state support of \$600,000 in FY2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and the Supreme Court's support of the work.



A client and her husband bought their home in 1997 and took out a second mortgage in 2000 at a high interest rate. After her husband passed away in 2009, the client forgot about the loan. In 2023, she was sued for over \$109,000. An attorney reviewed the case and negotiated a settlement, reducing her liability to \$9,100, payable over eight years. This settlement secured her financial stability and protected her from foreclosure.

IOLTA IMPACT



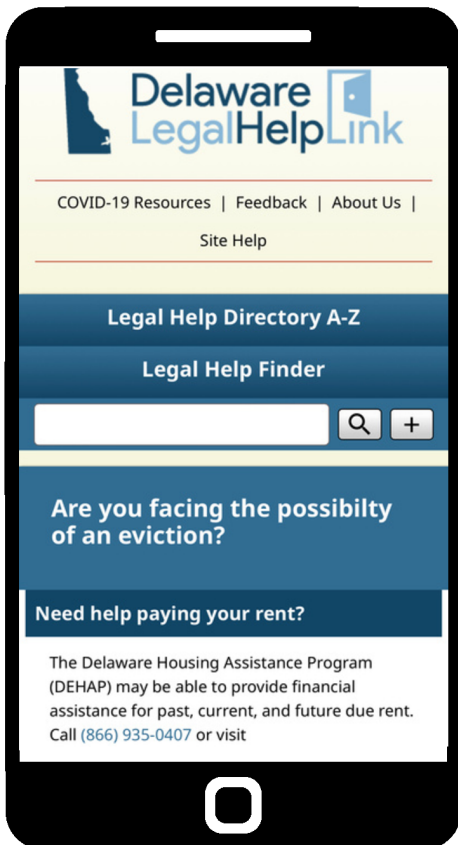
# Clients/ County	CLASI	DVLS	LSCD
NCC	4217	1817	2188
Kent	1017	166	542
Sussex	1494	211	402

12,035
clients supported
throughout DE



CLASI conducted **165** community legal education programs to reach **3,982** people in Delaware in 2023. In these gatherings, people learn their legal **rights** and **responsibilities** to learn how to **self-advocate** & when they need counsel.

Aiding Delawareans In Need



Committed to facilitating access to justice, in 2018, the Foundation worked with Pro Bono Net to develop and launch a website to perform intake services.

In FY2024, the Foundation invested additional funds in those services. Granting almost \$250,000 in funds to update and modernize the site, the Foundation is proud to be a partner of CLASI, LSCD, DVLS and Pro Bono Net as these resources and this platform are refined and developed. The site had more than 33,000 visitors last year.

Please visit www.DELegalHelpLink.org to explore these services.

Online Intake
24/7 availability

\$248,725
Grant to Update
and Enhance
Platform

Improved Self-help
tools to promote
access to justice

IOLTA Helps ... But Volunteers are Needed



The Foundation granted funds to DVLS to update its website and develop an online platform for volunteers and intake of pro bono matters.

Almost **97,000** Delawareans live in poverty. DVLS relies primarily on volunteer attorneys to assist clients with cases. The need for volunteers far exceeds those who have registered and been trained to assist.

Mentoring and training is available. Please consider providing support to a family in need of legal counsel.



22,232

Reported domestic violence incidents in Delaware last year

287

custody requests; 12 placed with pro bono counsel

43%

of eligible clients unable to receive family law services due to limited resources

Supplemental IOLTA Grants

Due to the dynamic interest rate environment and the resulting increase in revenue, this year the Foundation announced a supplemental round of IOLTA grants. The objective of this program was to fund special one-time grants for discrete purchases or services such as technology needs, or innovative pilot projects to assist in reaching hard-to-service indigent clients or significantly improve service delivery in civil legal matters. In addition to the update of DeLegalHelpLink, the Foundation is proud to report that it was able to identify and fund **three additional** significant projects designed to meet these objectives and **innovate** Delaware's legal aid system.



- 250 local residents surveyed
- 95 new clients served
 - 15 estate planning clients
 - 10 clients with deed related issues
 - 35 clients with banking and tax issues
- Know Your Rights & Responsibilities Workshops
 - Designed for high school students
 - Educate students about civic rights under 4th Amendment, self-defense and responsibilities under the law
 - Close to 20 workshops hosted
- Goal is to offer to all high school students in Delaware



The Foundation granted over \$180,000 to Legal Services Corp. of Delaware to shift its case management platform to LegalServer. Now all three legal aid organizations will work on the same platform fostering easier collaboration and innovation.

Community Grants

We partnered with DSBA & Independent Living for Young Adults to support graduates aging out of the foster care system.

We filled 50 backpacks with essential items for college-bound graduates.



Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ) extends vital financial assistance to Delawareans transitioning from incarceration. The Foundation granted funds to assist with expungements as a barrier to reentry.

On August 1, 2024 Delaware began automatically clearing the records of 290,000 eligible Delawareans for certain arrest, misdemeanor and some felony records. The Foundation has supported this work since 2020.

Pipeline Program with Howard High School



The Foundation was proud to partner again with Howard High School to sponsor, plan and coordinate visits for students in its Law Administration Program. During the school year, fifteen tenth grade students visited eight law offices. They met with attorneys along with members of all of the administrative teams that help make the offices function. We are grateful for our host partners and KiaMeisha Dean who coordinated the program at Howard.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC.
CONNOLLY GALLAGHER LLP
LEGAL SERVICES CORP. OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF DEFENSE SERVICES

PRATCHER KRAYER LLC
RICHARDS, LAYTON & FINGER, P.A.
SKADDEN ARPS SLATE MEAGHER & FLOM
TROUTMAN PEPPER LLP

The Stargatt Speaker



The Foundation again partnered with the Joint Inns Committee and the Family of Bruce M. Stargatt to present former Nick Propper as the keynote speaker of the Joint Inns' 2024 gathering in March.

Mr. Propper is the third “Stargatt Speaker” – selected to honor the legacy of Mr. Stargatt, one of the Delaware Bar’s preeminent practitioners and leaders in the second half of the 20th Century. Thanks to the generosity of his late wife Barbara and his family the Foundation received funding to sponsor the Stargatt Speaker, hoping to keep alive the professionalism and civility elements that have long been hallmarks of the Delaware bar.

At this year's presentation Mr. Propper, CEO of Impact Performance, reframed the concept of stress and taught attendees a powerful strategy to optimize performance in the heat of the moment. Nick speaks frequently to leadership teams around the world and has worked extensively with the leaders of organizations, such as Yale School of Medicine, Goldman Sachs, Procter & Gamble, Morgan Stanley, DaVita, G100, United States Ski & Snowboard Team, United States Air Force and the United States Federal Intelligence Community.

**The Foundation thanks
Caleb Johnson and Caroline Kaminski
for their work in organizing and coordinating the event.**

Our Supporters

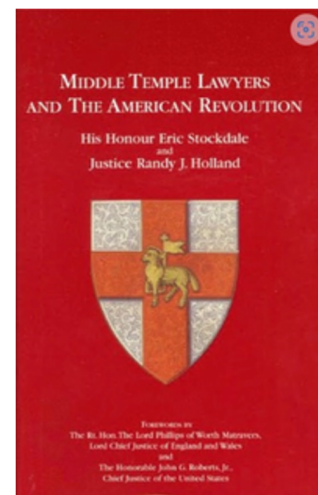
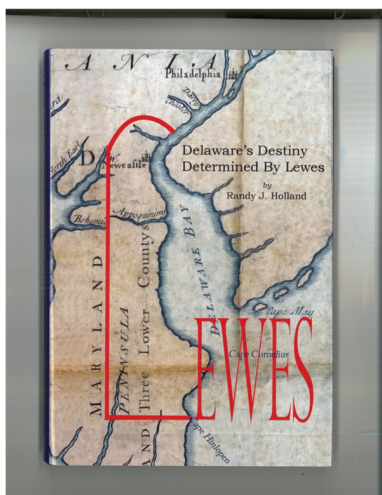
The Foundation seeks support annually from Delaware attorneys and this year, directly from law firms. The response from the Bar continues to be generous.

In the past ten years, the Foundation has raised over \$280,000 for its community programming.



Join us in this important work by scanning the code above!

The Foundation is honored to benefit from the generosity of the late Justice Randy J. Holland. Justice Holland established an ongoing fundraiser for the Foundation by offering us the proceeds from sales of two of his books: *Delaware's Destiny Determined By Lewes* and *Middle Temple Lawyers & the American Revolution*. Since 2015, sales of the books have exceeded \$17,000. The Foundation greatly appreciates this lasting legacy of Justice Holland, who passed away in March of 2022. Copies remain available for purchase.

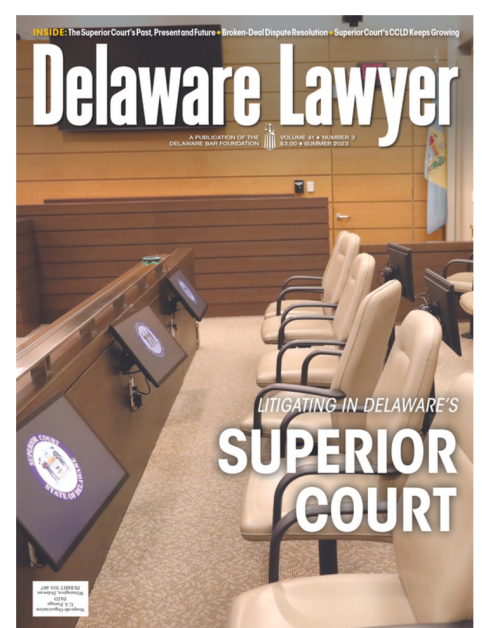
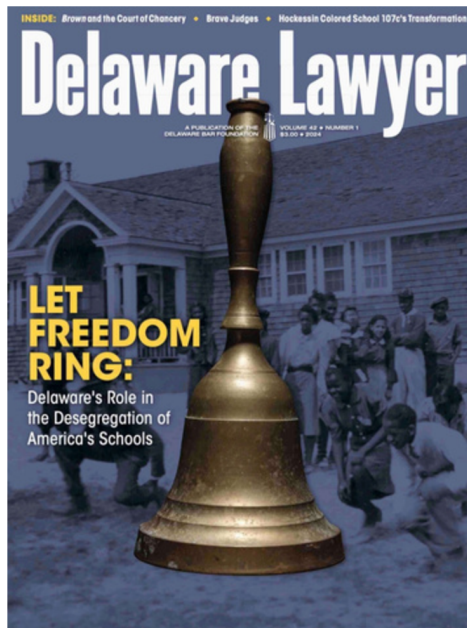
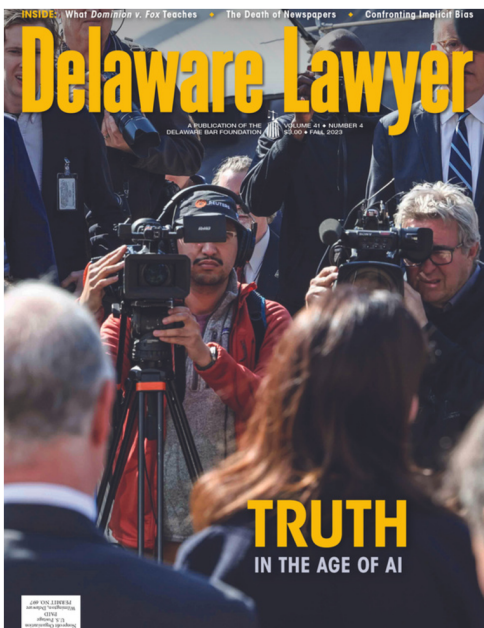


The Delaware Lawyer

Established in 1982, the *Delaware Lawyer*, the Foundation's quarterly journal, celebrated its 42nd anniversary of publication this year. This year also marked a transition on the masthead as Charles Durante who had chaired the board of editors for over 20 years, stepped down as chair. We will continue to address issues of import to Delaware lawyers.

Over the past year, topics included the 70th anniversary of the *Belton/Bulah* decisions, the Impact of AI, and Litigating in Superior Court.

2024 Board of Editors
Charles J. Durante, Chair
Hon. Thomas L. Ambro
Larence S. Drexler
Dominick T. Gattuso
Hon. Gretchen Gilchrist
Gerald J. Grant, Jr.
Candace E. Holmes
Carla M. Jones
James H.S. Levine
Ryan M. Lindsay
David C. McBride
Jesse L. Noa
Karen L. Pascale
Robert W. Whetzel
Hon. Loretta M. Young



Fundraising

The Foundation is proud to partner with the Delaware State Bar Association for an annual seminar. The Twelfth Annual Seminar was held on November 16, 2023. Addressing *Mediation: A Primer*, the event reflects the ongoing collaboration between the Delaware State Bar Association and the Foundation. This year's program featured Professor Professor Christine G. Mooney, Villanova School of Law, who among other things addressed styles of negotiation and how we can best leverage our skills in mediation settings.

We thank the Honorable Monica A. Horton and the Honorable Kyle E. Gay for their leadership in organizing the seminar and the Delaware State Bar Association for coordinating and hosting. To date, the Foundation has received over \$40,000 as its share of the net proceeds from the annual seminar.



Stay Tuned!
2024 LIVE Seminar
Will be in December!

Our Supporters

The Foundation continues to seek new funding partners among Delaware's legal community.

We are proud to thank the following Law Firm Partners who joined us in 2024 to improve the administration of justice throughout Delaware:

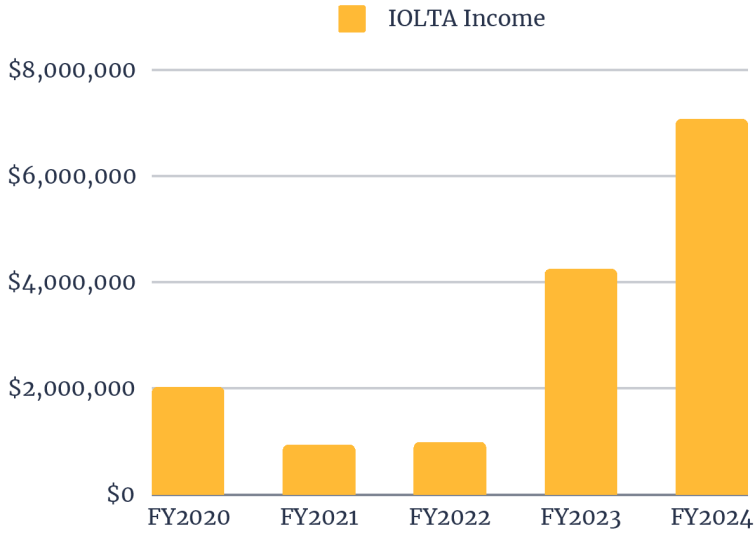
**Bailey Glasser LLP
Duane Morris
Richards, Layton & Finger, PA
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Pratcher Krayter LLP
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP**

The Foundation has established categories of giving to recognize those who contribute substantially to the Foundation:

- 1) Serjeants-At-Law honors those who contribute gifts that meet or exceed \$10,000;
- 2) Justice Partners honors those who contribute gifts that meet or exceed \$5,000;
- 3) Justice Fellows honors those who contribute gifts that meet or exceed \$3,000; and
- 4) Foundation Fellows honors those who contribute gifts that meet or exceed \$1,000.

The Foundation is grateful for these and all donors for their ongoing support. Please visit our website for an up-to-date listing of them.

Financial Highlights



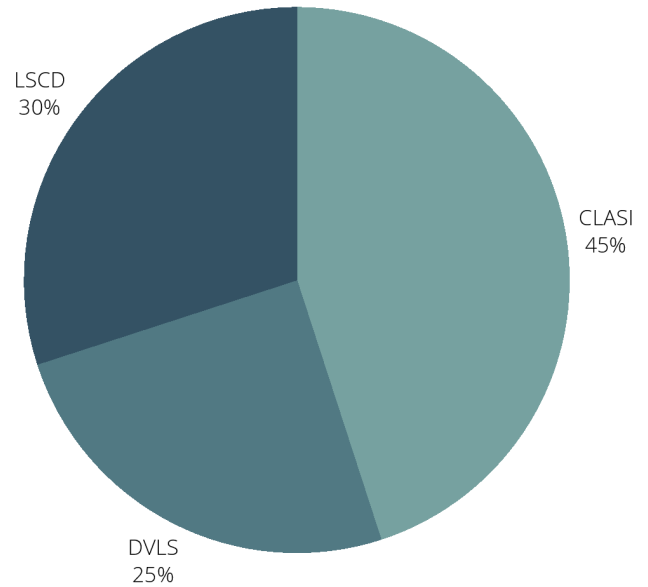
AUDITOR'S REPORT

These financial highlights are derived from unaudited financial results through June 30, 2024. The Foundation's auditor, **Papaleo, Rosen & Chelf** annually reviews the Foundation's finances.

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

As the Federal Funds Rate has increased, the Foundation has worked with its Eligible Financial Institutions to ensure that all are paying comparable interest rates on their Delaware IOLTA accounts.

The Foundation is well-positioned for the future with over \$12,000,000 in equity and has invested reserve funds to preserve funds for the future.



\$38M

IOLTA Funds Distributed
For Legal Aid Since 1981

#19

IOLTA Eligible Financial
Institutions

117%

Increase in IOLTA
Revenue Over FY2023