

**20
25**

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:

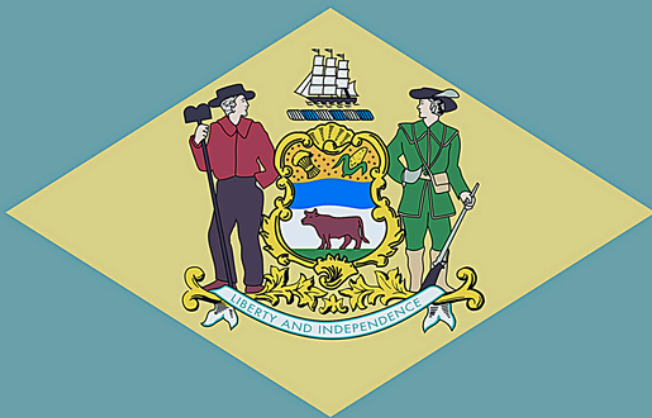
- Providing funding for legal services for those less fortunate
- Promoting study and research in the field of law
- Fostering knowledge of citizenship rights and responsibilities
- Enhancing public respect for the rule of law

Our FY2025 Board

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

The Hon. N. Christopher Griffiths
The Hon. Bonnie W. David
Rebecca A. Guzman
The Hon. Karryl Hubbard
David C. McBride
Nicole M. Mozee
Samuel D. Pratcher, III
Amy L. Simmerman

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:



M&T Bank

Where you bank matters

2025 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 2025, **the grantees receiving IOLTA funds included:** Community Legal Aid Society (CLASI), Legal Services Corporation of Delaware (LSCD), Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS), and Delaware Lawyer Assistance Fund (De-LAF).

Since 1990, the Foundation has granted **over \$46 million** for legal services to Delaware's neediest residents. In FY2025 the Foundation disbursed close to \$4 million in IOLTA funds. In addition to traditional IOLTA grants, the Foundation supported technological enhancements and capital investment in LSCD and CLASI, and an ongoing improvement of DELegalHelpLink which the Foundation has funded since its development in 2018. The Foundation also supported assistance to attorneys in need of in patient rehabilitation services who are unable to afford them.

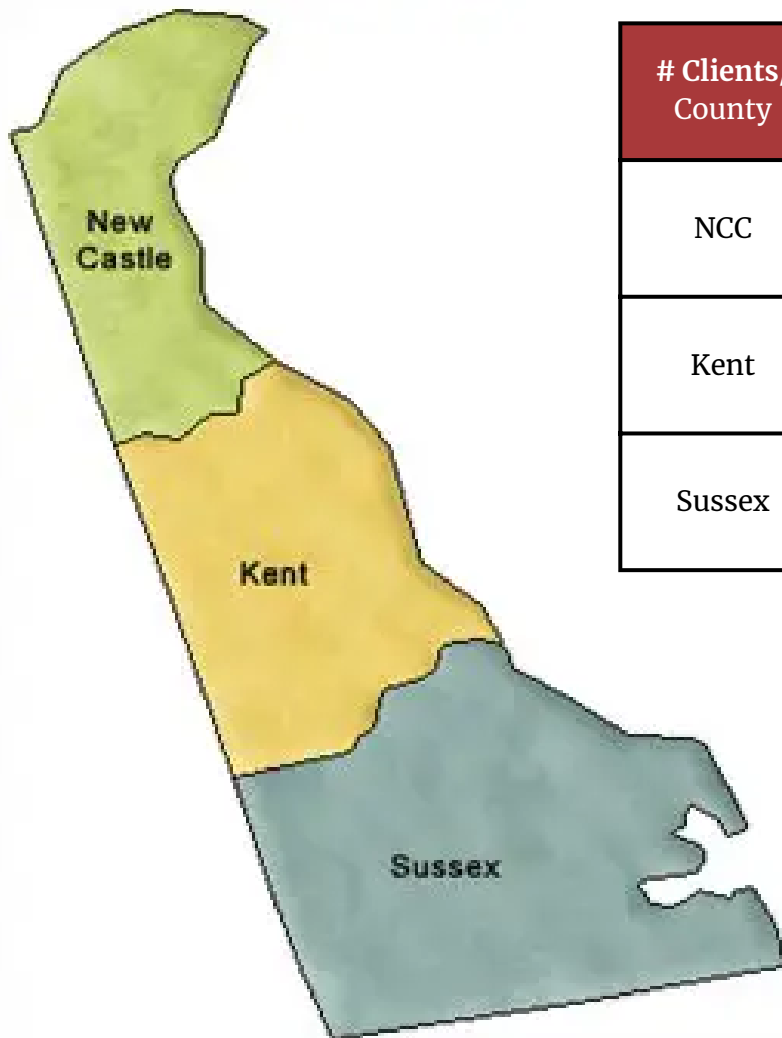
State Appropriation

Beginning in 2004, additional funds to provide legal services for low-income citizens have been sought through the State's budget process. The Foundation is grateful for the State's annual support of \$600,000 as well as the Supreme Court's support of the work.



With increased IOLTA funding, LSCD has been able to assist Delawareans facing financial hardship due to unscrupulous car dealers. LSCD staff attorneys have increased their efforts to provide important representation in these cases. Had they remained unrepresented, LSCD clients would have faced a steep uphill battle to receive either deserved compensation or relief from unfair and oppressive judgments.

IOLTA IMPACT



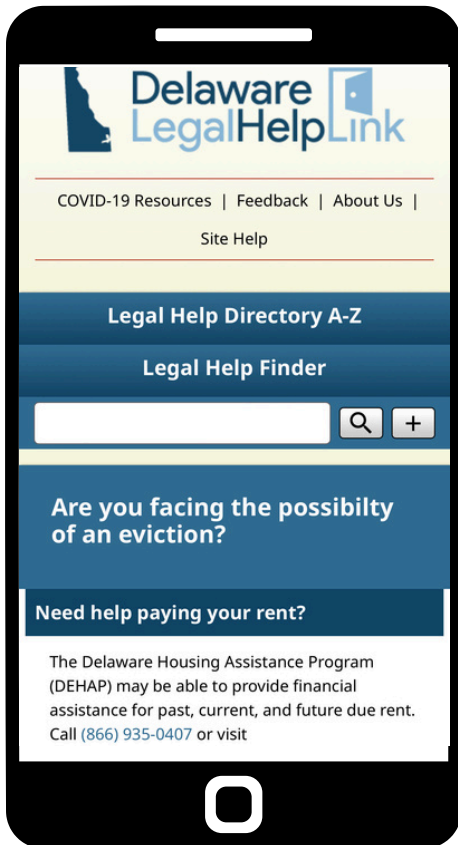
# Clients/ County	CLASI	DVLS	LSCD
NCC	4235	1056	2905
Kent	1118	157	722
Sussex	1694	142	530

12,559
clients supported
throughout DE



CLASI conducted community legal education programs to reach **over 4,600** people in Delaware in 2024. 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.

Last year the Foundation reaffirmed that commitment by investing additional funds in those services. We are currently working to update and modernize the site, and 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 35,000 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 Knowledge
of How to Solve
Legal Problems

Supporting Delaware Attorneys In Need



The Foundation is proud to grant funds to the **Delaware Lawyers' Assistance Fund** as part of its mission to improve the administration of justice.

The **Delaware Lawyers' Assistance Program** estimates that between 10 to 15 percent of licensed Delaware Lawyers face "problems that threaten their ability to continue practicing their profession" at any given time.

The Fund assists attorneys in obtaining expensive long-term treatment for addiction or mental illness who cannot afford treatment.

Confidential help

\$20,000 Grant to support attorneys unable to afford treatment

Worried about a colleague? Call 302.777.0124

IOLTA Helps ... But Volunteers Are Needed



DVLS has updated its website and developed an online platform for volunteers and intake of pro bono matters.

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.



22,835
domestic violence
incidents
reported

1,370
Final Protection
from Abuse
Orders issued

Clients 6X
more likely to
obtain a PFA
with legal aid

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 who overcame the odds of continuing their education.



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.

80,000 Delawareans have a criminal record for low-level offenses. 9 out of 10 employers use a past criminal conviction to screen candidates for employment.

More Community Investments

Funding an Out-of-School Youth Mentor at Reach Riverside's Teen Warehouse to guide disconnected teens with job training, GED preparation, and life skills for brighter futures.



Powered by West End Neighborhood House, the Launcher Program supports cohorts in Wilmington and Bear of aspiring business owners to formalize their ventures with legal support.

A virtual **citizenship** course for immigrants residing in Sussex County who seek citizenship. In April, 50 graduates were welcomed as new citizens.



Our Supporters

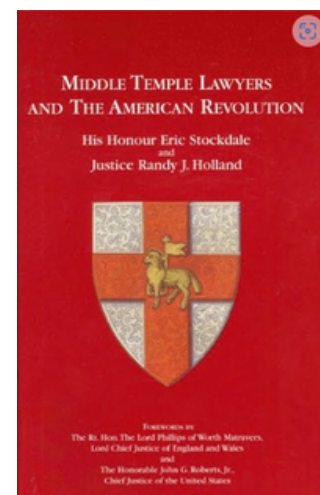
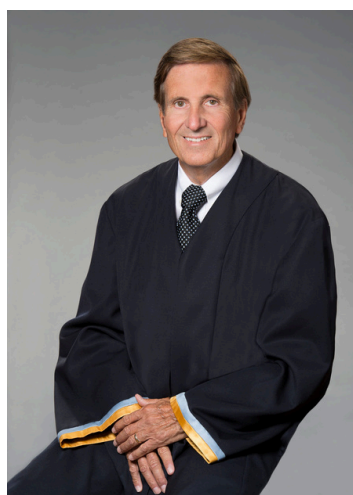
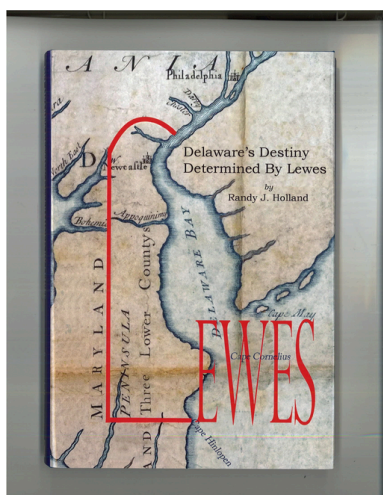
The Foundation seeks support annually from Delaware attorneys and this year, directly from law firms. The response from the Bar continues to be generous.

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

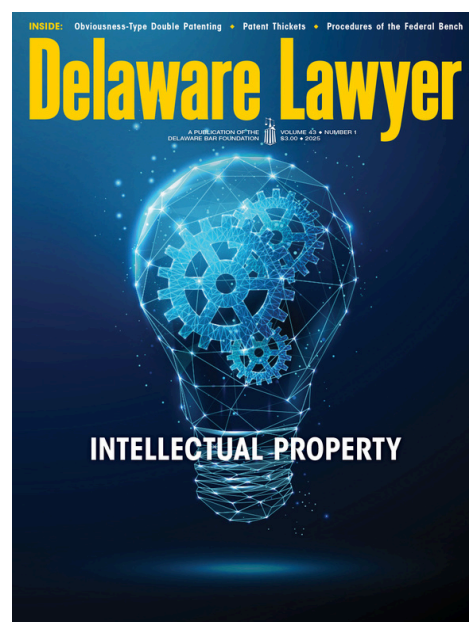
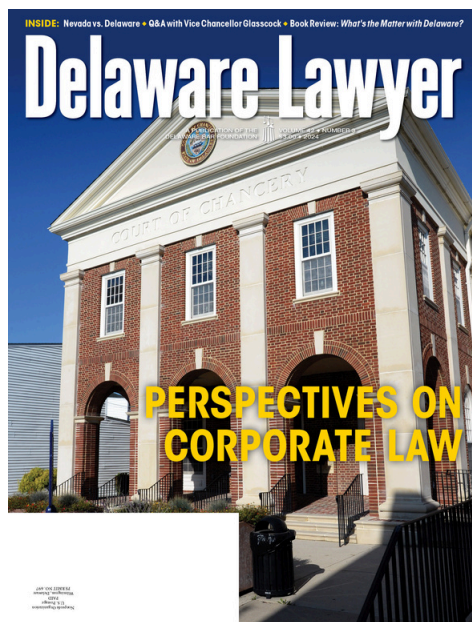
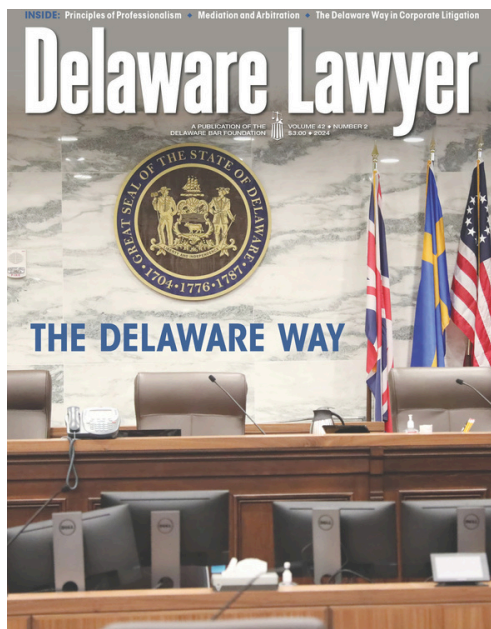
Established in 1982, the *Delaware Lawyer*, the Foundation's legal journal, celebrated its 43rd anniversary of publication this year. This year also marked a transition on the masthead as Charles Durante who had chaired the board of editors for over 20 years, stepped down as chair. We will continue to address issues of import to Delaware lawyers publishing three issues per year.

Over the past year, issues focused on intellectual property, the Delaware Way and corporate law.

2025 Board of Editors

Carla M. Jones, Co-Chair
James H.S. Levine, Co-Chair

Hom. Thomas L. Ambro
Mark D. Collins
Larence S. Drexler
Charles J. Durante
Dominick T. Gattuso
Hon. Gretchen Gilchrist
Ryan M. Lindsay
Jesse L. Noa
Karen L. Pascale



Fundraising

The Foundation is proud to partner with the Delaware State Bar Association for an annual seminar. The Thirteenth Annual Seminar was held on April 30, 2025. Addressing *Written Advocacy*, the event reflects the ongoing collaboration between the **Delaware State Bar Association** and the Foundation. This year's program featured a presentation by Professor Michael Hornzell, of Wilmington University School of Law, who addressed best tools and strategies for drafting legal work product. The program then offered a panel of jurists and practitioners who shared tips for success in Delaware with their written advocacy.

We thank the **Honorable Monica A. Horton** and board member **Nicole M. Mozee** for their leadership in organizing the seminar and the Delaware State Bar Association for coordinating and hosting. To date, the Foundation has received over **\$43,000** as its share of the net proceeds from the annual seminar.



Stay Tuned!
2026 LIVE Seminar
Will be in the Spring!

Our Supporters

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

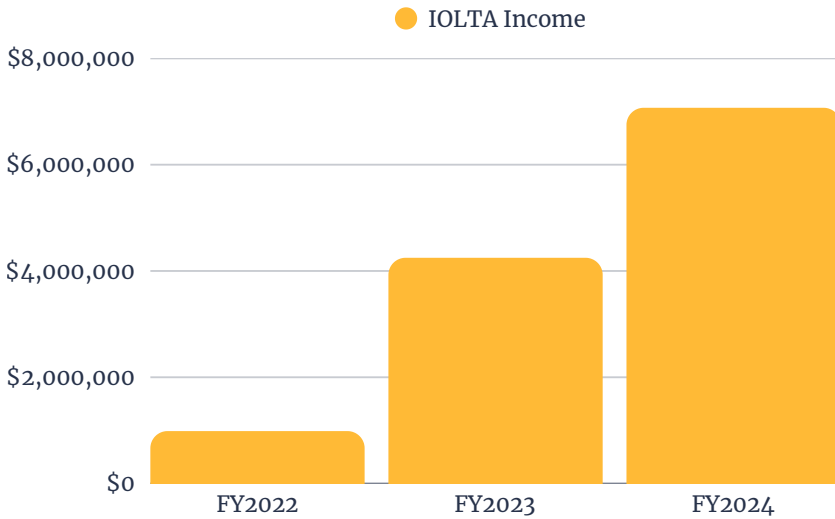
We are proud to thank the following Law Firm Partners who joined us in 2025 to improve the administration of justice throughout Delaware:

**Bailey Glasser LLP
Fox Rothschild LLP
Pratcher Krayner LLP
Richards, Layton & Finger, PA
Saul Ewing LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Troutman Pepper Locke LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati**

The Foundation is grateful for these and ALL donors for their ongoing support.

Please visit our website for to learn more.

Financial Highlights



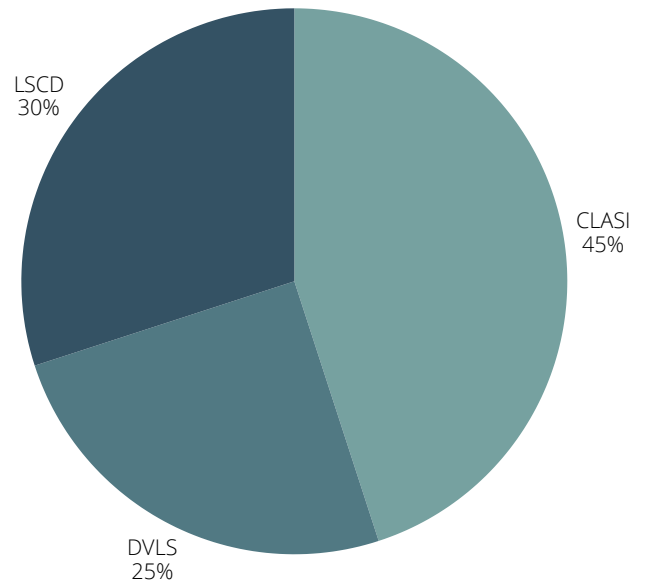
AUDITOR'S REPORT

These financial highlights are derived from audited 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 \$15,000,000 in equity and has invested reserve funds to preserve funds for the future.



\$46M

IOLTA Funds Distributed
For Legal Aid Since 1990

#19

IOLTA Eligible Financial
Institutions

166%

Increase in IOLTA
Revenue Over FY2023