



OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION

THANKS TO YOU, THE OSBF AWARDED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS IN 2020

Every year, the Ohio State Bar Foundation awards grants to worthy non-profits across the state that are working to educate people about their legal rights and who are trying to improve the justice system.

Because of the generosity of so many of our donors, the Foundation stepped up with more than \$1 million in grants to support nonprofit projects focused on legal education and removing barriers to racial justice for Ohioans.

HONOR. REMEMBER. CELEBRATE.

Honor the exceptional, celebrate an occasion, or recognize the significant people in your life with a charitable gift to the OSBF. Tribute gifts are an easy way for you to support OSBF grantmaking initiatives and ensure special colleagues, friends, and family members receive the statewide recognition they deserve.

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THE 2020 FELLOWS CLASS

When the 2020 Fellows class was initiated, it was the beginning of the pandemic and the class knew they had their work cut out for them. To accomplish the OSBF's mission to better the justice system, they were compelled to help the public and legal community navigate through the devastating effects of COVID19.

The class collectively decided to create a helpful tool to provide guidance in areas where the pandemic caused upheaval. This led to setting up several quick-hit videos on legal rights topics including changes in unemployment compensation and bankruptcy.

"I am proud of the videos we produced and hope that they will help more Ohioans navigate the new barriers to rights and justice during the pandemic," said Kerstin Sjoberg, '20 Fellows class member.

The quick-hit videos will be available on the OSBF YouTube channel within the coming weeks.

The 2020 class is also working on a Week of Service. This is a tradition started by the 2019 Fellows class. The 2020 class will choose from the OSBF's library of tried-and-true programs and take to the virtual airways. They will be speaking on topics such as B4USend, Constitution Classroom, Forward@18, Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking and many others. The class members will speak with students and organizations across the state to further the OSBF's mission to educate the public on the rule of law.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Fellows quick-hit videos in the coming weeks
April Fellows Week of Service
Welcome new Fellows class



Gifts made October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

To make a donation, visit [OSBF.org/Donate](https://osbf.org/Donate).

FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT CHRIS TEODOSIO



Chris applied to become an OSBF Fellow because he believes it is a unique opportunity to be part of a team of diverse and motivated attorneys. When he heard of the positive impact that prior classes had made on their communities, he knew it was something that he wanted to be involved in.

"EVERYONE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE AND ASSIST THOSE IN NEED. FOR ATTORNEYS, I BELIEVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS AMPLIFIED."

The OSBF Fellows program has been an incredibly rewarding experience for Chris. "It allows you to meet attorneys from all corners of the State that practice in different areas of the law and come from different backgrounds." More importantly, with the resources and support of the OSBF, the Fellows program is a rare opportunity to affect change on a large scale.

Teodosio attributes three influential people who helped him make the decision to become a lawyer: his grandfather, Al Teodosio, his mother, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, and his father, Judge Thomas Teodosio. All three are attorneys and have served their communities and clients in different ways. His grandfather was the first (and only) person that ever tried to persuade him to go into the "family business" of becoming a lawyer. "I have a letter from him hanging in my office discussing the sacred relationship that an attorney has with his or her client—and it's often the first thing I read every day when I arrive in my office," he said.

His mother also instilled in him the importance of being involved in the Bar Association through her actions—first by becoming the president of the Akron Bar Association and now, the Ohio State Bar Association.

Teodosio's family created the Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation in memory of Chris' late sister, who passed away in a skiing accident in 2011 at the age of 22. In the weeks after Andrea passed, his family decided to create a foundation to carry on her memory and give back to causes she felt deeply about during her lifetime. With the support of the Summit County community and countless hours from volunteers, the Foundation has been able to carry on Andrea's legacy. Special Olympics and Battered Women's Shelter in Akron are just a few of the recipients of their Foundation's efforts.

Chris is one of several exemplary attorneys who are Fellows in the Ohio State Bar Foundation. If you are interested in becoming a Fellow, please go to [OSBF.org/TakeAction/BecomeaFellow](https://osbf.org/TakeAction/BecomeaFellow).

OHIO STATE BAR FOUNDATION GRANTEE PROFILES

CASA Board Volunteer Association CASA Changemaker Academy

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers are required to complete 12 hours of training annually. In an increasingly digital world, the CASA Changemaker Academy set out to provide online training opportunities in addition to traditional live training formats. The three two-hour training sessions were designed for the Ohio CASA network on domestic violence, immigration, and human trafficking issues in the children's welfare system and 79 volunteers have been reached.

Following a training session, one attendee said, "In my work, I listen to both men and women use their words to describe their life stories and assess the information to make recommendations for each case we are assigned. At the end of this training, I felt an emotional connection to understanding their words and life stories."

OHIO FEDERATION FOR HEALTH EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE Grandparents and Other Relatives, Kinship Care and Their Legal Concerns

For the Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice (OFHESJ) helping caregivers access information about legal options and understand the court process is an essential area of need in Ohio. This grant project enabled OFHESJ to reach 5,500 in person (pre-pandemic) caregivers, 1,000 caregivers online and over 250 grandparents, policymakers and elected officials at their statewide event held in Columbus on the custody type and status available and services, benefits, and private resources available.



"The respondents noted that the topic was informative and useful, relevant to their situation and were encouraged to participate in the conversation," said Tina Gaston, Kinship Navigator Program Supervisor at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio.

OHIO STATE LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Ohio Poverty Law Center's Advocacy Skills Training for Legal Aid Attorneys

The Ohio State Legal Services Association's Ohio Poverty Law Center provided training in legislative advocacy for legal aid staff, which was identified in November 2018 as an unmet need by a statewide advocacy group. The two-day training, designed to improve understanding of the legislative process and increase engagement in statewide policy, had 23 attorney participants representing each Ohio legal aid program and Pro Seniors. With continued OSBF funding, another training is being planned for Spring 2021.

One training attendees said "One of the best trainings I've been to - very practical and informative. I would highly recommend this training for anyone interested in policy advocacy".

