



Board Brief

JANUARY



Message from the President

Care, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity. These four Cs will be hallmarks of our year together. Thanks to the superb vision and leadership of Rob Ware, Carol Marx, Andy Storar, Tom Moushey, Steve Tilson, and our other past

Presidents, we are a national leader. And we continue to communicate to many Ohio lawyers and citizens who do not know that we're the largest nonprofit, legal bar foundation in the nation and in the world! This past year, we gave a record \$860,694 in grants. However, our new goal is to grant \$1,000,000 per year and to effectively tell our story to many more thousands of lawyers and the public. Given the collective passion, care, skills, wisdom, intelligence, and knowledge of our board, committee members, and our more than 1,000 Fellows, we will accomplish all our goals and enhance our mission and reputation.

We're also very excited about what this year's Fellows (2019-2020) are doing regarding foster care and human trafficking. They are creating an education and outreach program unlike any other we've ever done - and perhaps this will be a longer term path that future Fellows, Ohio lawyers, other bar foundations and associations, and many citizens can build upon and extend through our social media, our strategic grants, our collaboration, and so many other positive acts.

We will act with the four Cs as our guide. We will work hard and grow from healthy debate. We will be accountable. It is all for the OSBF's betterment.

I'm incredibly honored and humbled to be your President in 2020. If you ever want to contact me, I'm always available.

Until we meet or speak again!

In fellowship with gratitude,

Mark Kitrick
President

February 13-15 - National Conference of Bar Foundations

February 17 - President's Day, OSBF Office Closed

February 20 - Development Committee Meeting
and Board of Trustees Meeting and Board Dinner

February 21 - Board Retreat



February 24 - OSBA District 7 Meeting

February 25 - OSBA District 10 Meeting

February 27 - District 1 Meeting

A Message from the Executive Director

Storytelling is one of the best ways to connect with others and to leave an impression, a feeling, and a truism that sticks. The Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF) is filled with stories, and in 2020, we are taking stock and sharing about who we are, what we have done, and what we dream.

From my tenure as Executive Director, I have many stories. I can tell you about the clients we helped at an expungement clinic with our grantee Equality Ohio. We met people who, because of their sexual identity, were hit hard by life's adversities, yet remained charismatic, optimistic, and truly touched by our outreach. I can tell you about the emotional, almost physical, heaviness I experienced during our tour of the Mansfield Reformatory last year, walking by cells that prisoners used to occupy and hearing stories from an attorney who sued to close the prison and end the inhumane conditions. I can tell you about the absolutely wonderful time I had at our 2019 All Rise Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony, a night filled with fun, inspiration, and close connections with friends and colleagues.

In 2020 we want to hear your stories. Share with us your experiences serving your communities and help us spotlight organizations who are working in ways that support our mission to educate the public about the rule of law and build a better justice system. Talk to us about how you would like to bring together Fellows in your community for a social hour, a legal clinic, or an educational presentation for the public. Listen in about our 2019 Fellows Class, who has chosen to learn about and share the hidden story of people at the margins, the victims of human trafficking in Ohio. Finally, enjoy a chapter of fun by spending a fabulous night at our Annual Dinner on Friday, October 2nd or participate in a new "fun"raiser to be unveiled later this year.

All of us at the OSBF - our officers, Trustees, and staff - are looking forward to 2020 and the new stories it will bring.



A new article through OSBF's strategic grant has been released. In ["Dark Waters" in Ohio: Our rich natural resources are under threat from industry and farms](#), they highlight the increasing dangers of industrial and agricultural sources on Ohio's precious water resources.

Ohio environmental activists hope the new film *Dark Waters*, which tells the true story of

Cincinnati corporate defense lawyer Rob Bilott who sued chemical giant DuPont on behalf of West Virginia residents, will help draw attention to our own water resources that are at risk. Thanks to threats from sediment, manure, fertilizers, and a growing variety of chemical pollutants, nearly half of Ohio's waterways do not meet the standards required under the Clean Water Act for fishing, swimming, and drinking.



Fellows



The 2019 Fellows Class has been busy at work planning the first-ever Fellows Week of Service, which will highlight the intersection of human trafficking and foster care.

The week will now begin on Sunday, April 26 and end on Saturday, May 2. This is an exciting change - allowing the Fellows more time to plan and the ability to highlight Law Day on May 1 of the week.

The Fellows Week of Service will kick off with an evening event at the Ohio Statehouse on April 27. We will be hearing inspiring stories and ways to get involved to combat this important issue.

The Fellows will also be collecting suitcases for a Stuff the Suitcase campaign. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved!

Thanks to a grant from the OSBF, the **Dominican Sisters of Peace's Martin de Porres Center** has been able to educate the Ohio Latino community on legal issues and offer legal assistance. They have held five legal education sessions, hosted two citizenship workshops, and assisted five people in becoming U.S. citizens.



This past fall, the Dominican Sisters of Peace were awarded another grant for the Martin de Porres Center's Legal Education for Latino Families Program. Through this, they will continue providing legal education for Latino families on citizenship, immigration laws, employment, and how-tos on completing legal forms through workshops and educational sessions.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR

Application Deadline is February 17 at 5 PM

Spring Grant Cycle



DURING SPRING 2018, OSBF AWARDED MORE THAN \$300,000 TO ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS ACROSS OHIO.

BE A PART OF THE 2020 SPRING GRANT CYCLE - *apply now*



Help us spread the word! The 2020 Spring Grant Application Window is now open.

As a charitable grantmaking organization, the OSBF awards grant money twice a year (during the spring and fall) to worthy nonprofits that work hard to better the legal system. Since 1992, the Foundation has awarded more than \$12 million - and we have no plans to slow down.

To apply, nonprofits can get started on the OSBF website [here](#).

Staff Update



It's been an exciting year so far at the OSBF! Our staff has officially moved spaces at the OSBA Headquarters. The second floor is currently under construction - a new area is being created for the tenant who will be moving in and sharing the floor with us.

Once all construction is complete on the second floor later this year, the OSBF will have its own updated suite, which will include a conference room and small kitchenette. It will take some flexibility from staff once updates begin on our area, but we are all excited for a *fresh* office space.

Special shout out and thanks to Pam for leading the charge on our move. She made sure everything went smoothly for us all.



Can we count on you to do your part? At the end of each issue of the Board Brief, we will ask you to partake in an activity (we promise it will be easy!) to help us spread the word on the great work the Foundation is doing throughout Ohio.

For this issue, we're asking you to go like or follow the OSBF's social media pages. We're on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. You'll find icons and links to each at the bottom of this email.

When you give, we give.

All donations to the OSBF go directly to our grantmaking efforts.

[Give Now](#)

Ohio State Bar Foundation | OSBF@OSBF.net | 614-487-4444 | OSBF.org

See what's happening on our social media sites:

