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2024 Annual Report

Published September 2025

Our mission

The Oregon Law Foundation builds a more equitable legal system to support and fund justice for all in Oregon by:

- **Ensuring access to civil legal help** for people with low incomes, or who experience other systemic barriers;
- **Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion** in the legal community; and
- **Educating the public** about the law and the legal system.

Our vision

An Oregon where the legal system is trusted, fair, accessible, and serves the needs of all.

Our values

Anti-racist

We actively address racial disparities, promote equity, and dismantle systemic racism in our decision-making, business practices, and grantmaking.

Empowerment

Because we believe that every individual with the right information, tools, and resources can thrive, we support grantees partnering with communities to eliminate barriers and meet their needs.

Equitable Justice

We strive for a justice system that acknowledges inequity and meets the needs of everyone regardless of factors attributable to identity, circumstances, or resulting from systemic barriers.

Innovative Leadership

Our leadership is resolute in identifying, understanding, and overcoming the root cause of systemic barriers, strengthening the coordinated efforts of our partners, and advancing improvements in the legal system.

Sustainable Funding

We steward consistent and reliable funding so grantees can provide services that communities rely on.

A letter from our Executive Director

2024 was a year of growth and building for the Oregon Law Foundation.

Growing reserves

Strong interest rates throughout 2024 brought record revenue to the Foundation. Even as we disbursed a record amount of grants, we were able to continue building our reserves—funds that have historically allowed us to sustain grantmaking through economic downturns, from the Great Recession to the COVID-19 pandemic. High interest rates and revenue are not permanent, but robust reserves ensure we can continue supporting Oregon’s civil legal help providers even when conditions change or demand increases.

Building connection to Grantees

In early 2024, the Foundation transitioned to directly employing its staff, expanding our capacity to connect with grantees. Throughout the year, we met more frequently with grantee staff, gaining a deeper understanding of their work and the challenges they face. These conversations led to new initiatives, including partnering with the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program to prepare for grantee staff support groups to launch in 2025. Our conversations also led to a spring 2025 gathering of OLF grantees, strengthening our grantees and our connection to them.

Where you bank matters!

We owe our continued success to our partnership with Oregon’s Leadership Banks & Credit Unions, who choose to pay above-market interest rates on IOLTAs. Equally important are Oregon’s lawyers who choose the banks and credit unions on our Leadership List for their IOLTAs. In 2024, for the second year in a row, four out of five lawyers opening a new IOLTA chose a Leadership Bank or Credit Union. For a list of Leadership Banks & Credit Unions, please go to www.oregonlawfoundation.org



William Penn
Executive Director

\$2.5M

Annual grants made in 2024.

\$52.6M

Funds granted by the Oregon Law Foundation from 1982 to 2024.

How we focus our funding

To fulfill our mission, we make grants in three categories:

Category A: full-service legal aid

Organizations that were part of the Association of Oregon Legal Services Programs as of January 1, 2001, make up Category A. These organizations are part of Oregon's efforts to address poverty by creating a statewide system of full-spectrum legal services centered on the needs of the low-income community.

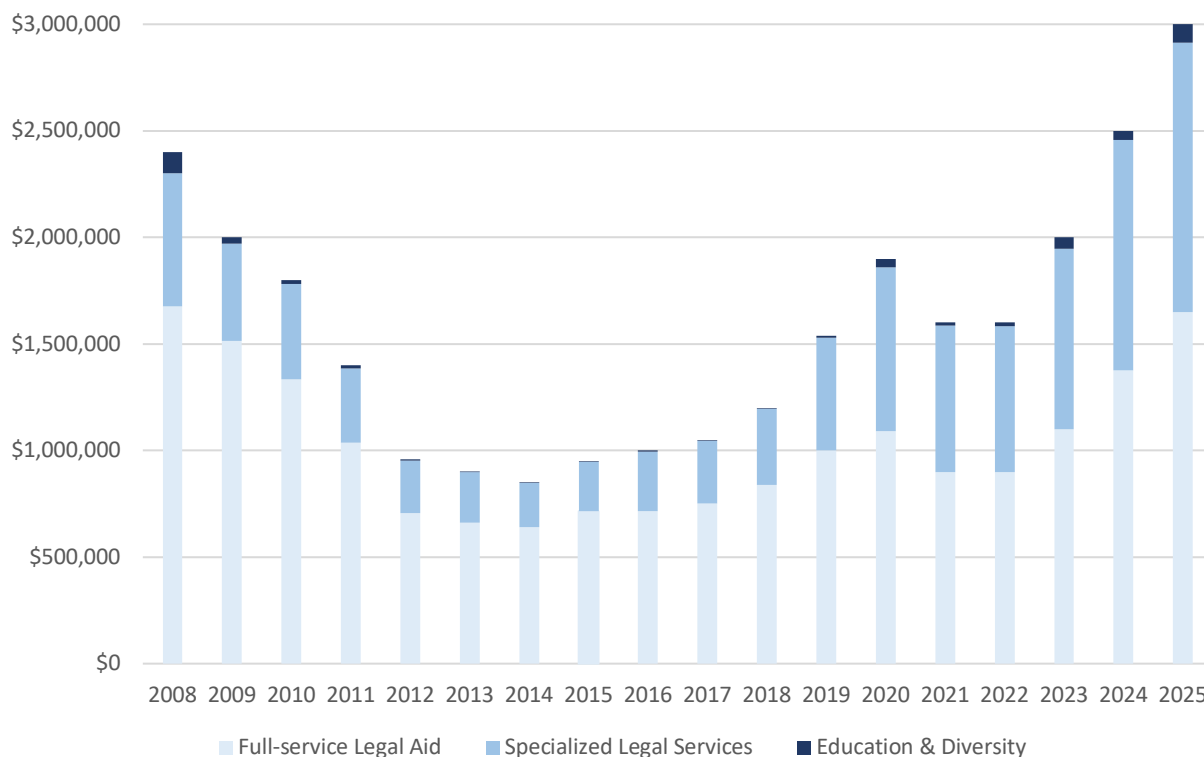
Category B: specialized legal services

Other organizations that provide direct civil legal services fit into Category B. These organizations tend to focus on providing services in a particular area of the law or focus on providing services to a particular client community.

Category C: education & diversity

Organizations that work in Oregon to educate the public about the law or promote diversity in the legal profession fit into Category C.

Annual grant funding over time



How our grantees helped

Types of legal issues

Our grantees who perform legal work keep track of their casework and the legal subject areas into which their cases fall. These charts show the percentage of cases in different legal areas for our full-service legal aid grantees and our specialized legal services grantees. The ratio of the area of the two pie charts is equal to the ratio of funding between categories A and B in 2024. Numbers reflect the percentage of cases in categories by both staff and pro bono volunteers during 2024. More informal assistance like “know your rights” trainings and legal education materials that do not result in a case being opened are not captured in these charts.

38,709

Total number of cases closed filings made by OLF Grantees in 2024.

Specialized legal services

Immigration: 45.5%

Other Rights: 22.3%

Family: 10.2%

Housing: 9.9%

Miscellaneous: 3.5%

Disability: 2.6%

Income Maintenance: 1.8%

Employment: 1.7%

Education: 1.3%

Consumer/Finance: 0.7%

Health: 0.4%

Juvenile: 0.6%

Full-service legal aid

Housing: 45.6%

Family: 22.6%

Consumer/Finance: 6.0%

Miscellaneous: 5.6%

Employment: 5.2%

Income Maintenance: 4.9%

Other Rights: 3.7%

Immigration: 3.5%

Health: 2.1%

Education: 0.4%

Juvenile: 0.3%

Disability: 0.1%

Engaging pro bono attorneys: full-service legal aid

Involving private attorneys in the delivery of legal services to low-income Oregonians allows organizations to increase the number of people served in a cost-effective manner. OLF's Category A, full-service legal aid grantees, regularly involve private attorneys as case workers. In 2024, pro bono volunteers handled 10% of cases closed by OLF's full-service legal aid grantees.



Providing the right level of service: all grantees

Legal service attorneys help clients in a number of different ways, from meeting once and providing advice to litigation and appeals. Services are aggregated into two categories: brief service and extended service. Brief service includes the counsel and advice category and the limited action category, like writing a letter, making a phone call, or preparing a simple document. Extended service includes negotiating settlements, filing and arguing cases in court or administrative hearings, and other activities like extensive document preparation.

Based on several factors, including case priorities, client needs and abilities, and the chance that an individual case might affect many or change the system as a whole, the right level of service is provided. Time also plays a factor in balancing brief and extended service cases; extended service cases take considerably more time per case than brief service cases. By offering a variety of levels of service, providers can help many more clients than they would be able to if only extended, full-representation, cases were accepted.

Forty-nine percent of cases closed in 2024 by OLF grantees (counting staff and pro bono cases) were extended service cases.

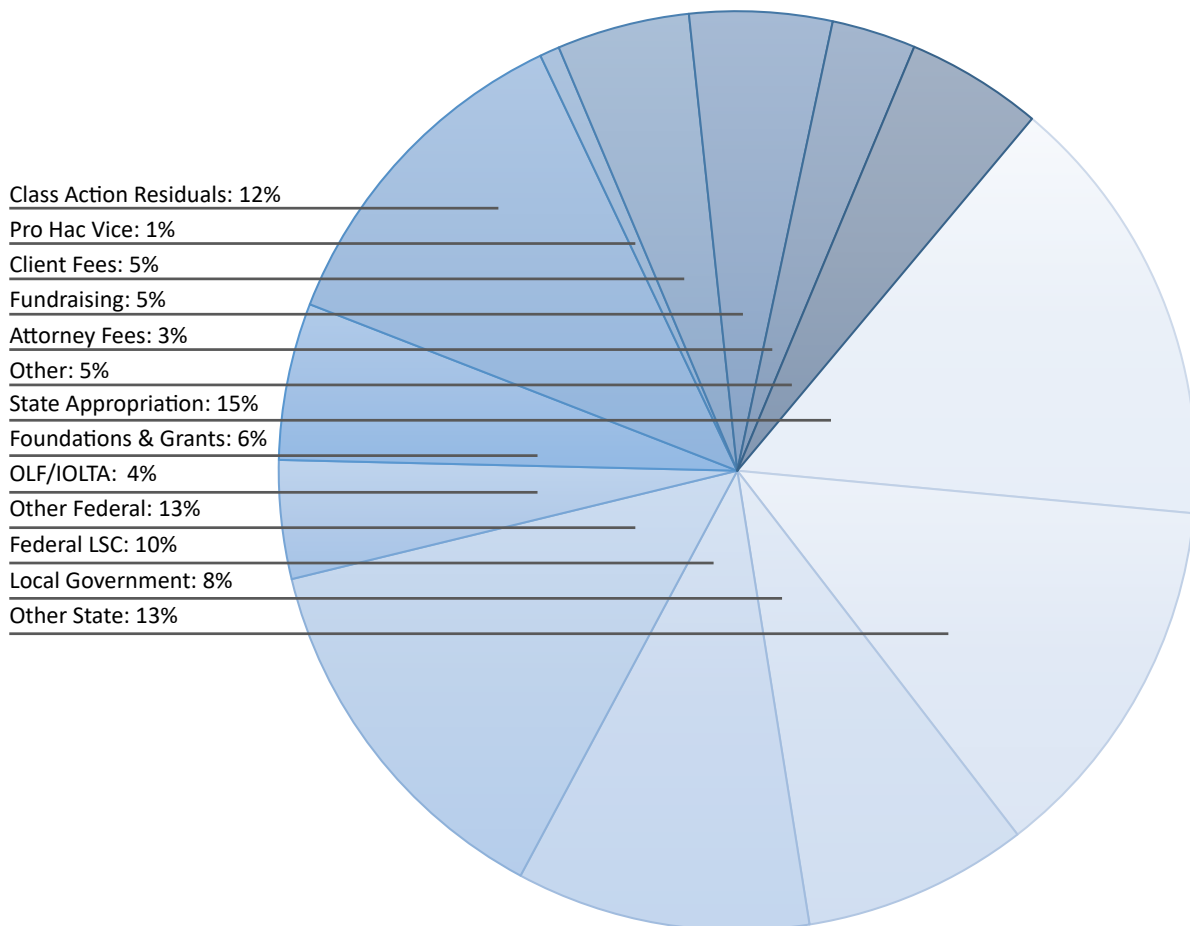


A network of support

Oregon Law Foundation grantees make up most of the civil legal help system of Oregon, covering providers from Oregon’s full-service legal aid providers to single-issue and single-community-serving providers. The Foundation is unique in the breadth of legal help organizations we fund; however, we made up only **4%** of the combined approximately \$60 million of funding that flows to our category A and B grantees from all sources combined.

Oregon’s civil legal help system relies not only on a cooperative network of providers but also on **a network of support** from funders, large and small. Looking forward, significant, long-standing funding sources are at risk. The Foundation continues to encourage dialogue between funders and stands ready to help bridge future funding gaps.

2024 Oregon Civil Legal Help Funding Sources



Our grantees

Total 2024 Grants – \$2,530,000

Category A

Association of Oregon Legal Services Programs – \$1,375,450

The Association provides civil legal assistance to Oregonians with low incomes statewide through a network of offices in 17 communities. Assistance is coordinated and centered on the needs of the client community. Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Oregon Law Center, and Center for NonProfit Legal Services make up the Association.

Category B

Immigration Counseling Service (ICS) – \$175,000

ICS improves the lives of Oregon’s immigrant communities, unaccompanied children, and survivors of human trafficking by providing affordable immigration legal services and free informational forums.

St. Andrew Legal Clinic – \$141,750

St. Andrew Legal Clinic provides low- and moderate-income people with legal representation in family law cases, bridging the gap for families who do not qualify for Legal Aid but cannot afford to hire an attorney.

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) – \$110,000

DRO promotes and defends the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing statewide legal services to Oregonians with disabilities who are victims of abuse or neglect or have problems obtaining health care, special education, housing, employment, public benefits, or access to services.

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (CCILS) – \$83,000

CCILS provides low-cost consultations and legal representation to immigrants and refugees and educates the public focusing on family reunification and assistance to the most vulnerable immigrants and refugees, including survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

SOAR Immigration Legal Services – \$75,000

SOAR Immigration Legal Services provides culturally competent, immigration-related legal representation, and education to low-income refugees and immigrants in and around the Portland metro area.

Victim Rights Law Center – \$63,000

VRCL delivers free, holistic legal services to sexual assault survivors in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. VRCL’s legal services team prioritizes clients who live at the intersections of oppression.

New Avenues for Youth – \$60,000

New Avenues for Youth Legal Clinic is a partnership with the Metropolitan Public Defender and Lewis & Clark Law School providing pro bono legal services to young people experiencing housing instability.

Northwest Workers' Justice Project / Northwest Employment Education and Defense Fund – \$55,000

NWJP/NEED Fund provides community education and legal representation in employment matters to low wage, immigrant, and contingent workers to protect workplace dignity and to improve wages and working conditions.

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) – \$45,000

IRCO's Immigration Legal Services provides affirmative legal services, community education and navigation services, and community clinics.

The Commons Law Center – \$45,000

The Commons Law Center provides legal services to underserved communities; those who fall in the gap between being qualified or able to access legal aid services and those who can afford a private attorney.

CLEAR Clinic – \$35,000

CLEAR Clinic helps community members clear their records, clear up their housing and immigration issues, and clear their paths forward through free legal services and advocacy.

Lutheran Community Services NW – \$33,075

Lutheran Community Services Northwest's Immigration Counseling and Advocacy Program provides a safe harbor for immigrants and refugees to learn their rights, maximize their legal status, and empower them to make the United States their home.

Catholic Community Services of Lane County – \$28,000

The Catholic Community Services of Lane County Immigration Legal Services Program provides affordable access to quality immigration legal services for the Lane County immigrant community.

Clackamas Workforce Partnership – \$26,500

Clackamas Workforce Partnership provides no-cost *pro se* guidance on legal record expungement and fine forgiveness for eligible Oregonians through Clean Slate Clackamas. The program is also expanding to eviction expungements, gender marker changes, DACA filings and renewals, and assistance for undocumented people interested in obtaining legal documentation.

Youth, Rights & Justice – \$25,000

Youth, Rights & Justice improves the lives of vulnerable children and families through legal representation and advocacy in the courts, legislature, schools, and community.

Clackamas Women's Services – \$20,000

Clackamas Women's Services provides survivors of domestic and sexual violence with legal representation for contested protective orders through its Civil Legal Services Program.

Family Justice Center of Washington County – \$20,000

The Family Justice Center of Washington County's Access to Justice Project is a partnership with the St. Andrew Legal Clinic. This project offers legal advice, assistance, and representation to victims in civil cases, including family law matters, Orders of Protection, and contested hearings.

Metropolitan Public Defender Community Law Division – \$20,000

The Community Law Division’s mission is to address the negative impacts of an imbalanced criminal justice system by providing barrier reduction civil legal services to low-income, justice-involved Oregonians.

Multnomah Volunteer Lawyers Project – \$15,225

The Multnomah County Office of Legal Aid Services of Oregon has a specialized Pro Bono Unit with six projects. Annually, approximately 1,800 clients are matched with volunteer lawyers who provide free legal help.

Lewis & Clark Law School Small Business Legal Clinic – \$5,000

The Small Business Legal Clinic provides transactional legal services to low-income small and emerging businesses throughout Oregon.

Category C

Civics Learning Project (formerly Classroom Law Project) – \$15,000

CLP promotes public understanding of the law and legal process for 15,000 elementary and secondary students by incorporating the lessons and principles of democracy into the school curriculum.

Portland State University’s Explore the Law Program – \$19,000

PSU’s Explore the Law Program encourages diverse students to enter legal professions. Outreach for this program is targeted to communities and identities that are underrepresented in the legal field.

Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) – \$10,000

OLIO is the Oregon State Bar’s recruitment and retention program for law students who can contribute to the bar’s historically or currently underrepresented membership; who have experienced economic, social, or other barriers; who have personally experienced discrimination or oppression; or who can otherwise demonstrate a commitment to advancing the Diversity & Inclusion Department’s mission.

Our finances

Unaudited December 31, 2024, financials.

Assets	
Cash Accounts	\$452,521
Investment Accounts	\$14,847,887
Receivable, IOLTA Interest	\$873,706
Other Assets	\$20,000
Total Assets	\$16,194,114
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$457
Payroll Liabilities	\$56,847
Total Liabilities	\$57,304
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$14,702,821
Temporarily Restricted	\$796,882
Permanently Restricted	\$571,511
Fiscal Sponsorship Funds	\$65,596
Total Net Assets	\$16,136,809
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$16,194,114

Revenue	
Contributions	\$3,215
Fiscal Sponsorship Contributions	\$25,783
IOLTA Income	\$10,284,467
Gain/Loss on Investments	\$500,781
Investment Income	\$379,877
Other Income	\$103,242
Total Revenue	\$11,297,365

Expenses	
Annual Grants & Contributions	\$2,529,770
Supplemental Grants	\$150,000
Fiscal Sponsorship Distributions	\$0
IOLTA Service Charges	\$9,984
Salaries & Benefits	\$393,496
Professional Services	\$178,810
Other Expenses	\$46,278
Total Expenses	\$3,308,337
Change in Net Assets	\$7,989,028
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$8,147,782
Net Assets at End of Year	\$16,136,809

Get to know us

Board

13

Total board members.

9

Lawyer board members.

4

Banker board members.

3

Positions appointed by the Oregon State Bar.

1

Position appointed by the Oregon Supreme Court.

1

Position nominated by the Association of Oregon Legal Services Programs.

**Hon. Rima Ghandour
(President '24)**

Multnomah County Circuit Court
Portland, Oregon

**Brent Hall
(President-elect '25)**

Hall Law, PLLC
Walla Walla, Washington

**Kristen Connor
(Treasurer)**

Heritage Bank
Portland, Oregon

Valerie Colas

Governor's Office
Salem, Oregon

Christine Costantino

Samuels Yoelin Kantor LLP
Portland, Oregon

Gus Martin

Northwest Bank
Portland, Oregon

Faith Morse

Morse Law LLC
Medford, Oregon

Sabrina Rippy

Columbia Bank
Portland, Oregon

**Justin Thorp
(President '25)**

Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt LLP
Salem, Oregon

**Hon. Chanpone Sinlapasai*
(Past-President '24)**

Multnomah County Circuit Court
Portland, Oregon

**Elise Bouneff
(Secretary)**

Heritage Bank
Portland, Oregon

Bonnie Richardson

Allegiant Law, LLP
Portland, Oregon

Laura Shipley-Strobbe*

Bank of America
Portland, Oregon

Diane Sykes

Diane Sykes, Attorney at Law PC
Portland, Oregon

Hon. Debra Velure

Lane County Circuit Court
Eugene, Oregon

* Laura Shipley-Strobbe and Chanpone Sinlapasai left the board in 2024. Sabrina Rippy joined in 2025.

Staff

Bill Penn

Executive Director

Brooke Thacher

Assistant Director

Laura Greer

Program Coordinator

Leadership Banks & Credit Unions

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of the Oregon Leadership Banks & Credit Unions that choose to pay above-market rates and the lawyers who choose to bank with them. When lawyers use Leadership Banks & Credit Unions, the OLF gets up to 335x more funding.

3.35%

Minimum interest rate paid by Visionary Banks.

Visionaries

Bank of Eastern Oregon	OnPoint Credit Union
Beneficial State Bank	Oregon Community Credit Union
Columbia Bank	Pacific West Bank
Columbia Credit Union	Pioneer Trust Bank
First Federal Savings & Loan	Summit Bank
Heritage Bank	Washington Trust Bank
Lewis & Clark Bank	Wells Fargo Bank
Northwest Bank	

2.85%

Minimum interest rate paid by Advocacy Banks.

Advocates

Bank of America*	1st Security Bank of Washington
BankUnited	KeyBank
Chase Bank	Oregon Pacific Bank
Esquire Bank	Willamette Valley Bank

* pays leadership rate on balances over \$100,000

0.01%

Lowest rate net of fees paid on IOLTA by an Oregon bank.

Where you bank matters!