DELAWARE
BAR FOUNDATION

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Advancing Justice for All





The most important number many attorneys don't know is their IOLTA interest rate."

Message from the Executive Director

This annual report tells the story of a community that believes justice should be accessible to everyone.

Every day, lawyers, judges, financial institutions, donors, volunteers, and community partners make choices that strengthen our legal system and expand opportunities for others. The Delaware Bar Foundation exists to bring those efforts together, connecting generosity with impact and stewardship with service.

As both the administrator of Delaware's IOLTA Program and the charitable arm of the Delaware State Bar Association, the Foundation occupies a unique place within our legal community. We have the privilege of working alongside individuals and organizations that share a commitment to improving access to justice, promoting civic education, and fostering public confidence in the rule of law.

This year also reminded us that meaningful change often begins with simple actions. A law firm that ensures its IOLTA account earns a competitive interest rate. A financial institution that chooses to become a Prime Partner. A donor who invests in the Foundation's mission. A volunteer who shares their time and expertise. Individually, these decisions may seem small. Together, they create lasting opportunities for Delawareans across our state.

As you read this report, I hope you will see more than programs and financial results. I hope you will see the collective impact of a legal community working together to strengthen our profession, serve our neighbors, and preserve the principles that define our system of justice.

Thank you for being part of that work.

Megan Greenberg
Executive Director
Delaware Bar Foundation

Timeline

1981
BEGINNING

Mandatory IOLTA

Our Mission

Improving the Administration of Justice

Two Areas of Work

ONE FOUNDATION • ONE COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE



AREA 01

Supreme Court

01 IOLTA Program

02 Compliance

03 Banks

04 Legal Aid

05 Attorney Education



AREA 02

Fundraising

01 Community Grants

02 DELREC

03 Delaware Lawyer

04 Rule of Law

05 Fundraising

DELREC PARTNERSHIP

2026 TODAY

COMMUNITY GRANTS

IOLTA in Action

Every IOLTA Dollar Changes a Life

Behind every IOLTA grant is a Delawarean facing a difficult moment: a family struggling to remain housed, a worker fighting to regain financial stability, or a cancer patient seeking to continue lifesaving medical treatment. These stories illustrate how IOLTA funding helps legal aid organizations provide critical legal representation that changes lives every day.

Legal Services Corporation of Delaware (LSCD)

RESTORING FINANCIAL STABILITY

After more than eight years of employment, a Delaware worker with cognitive disabilities lost his job and was denied unemployment benefits-twice. Unable to navigate the appeals process alone, he turned to LSCD for help.

An LSCD attorney represented him before the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, which ruled in his favor and restored his eligibility for unemployment benefits retroactive to the date of his original claim.

Today, he has returned to work in a new position and has regained the financial stability that allows him to move forward with confidence.

IMPACT: A vulnerable worker received the legal advocacy needed to obtain the benefits he had earned and begin a new chapter.

LSCD
Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc.



Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS)

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND STABILITY

Every year, volunteer attorneys working through DVLS help Delawareans overcome life-changing legal challenges. These victories demonstrate the extraordinary impact of volunteer attorneys supported by Delaware's IOLTA program. During the past year, IOLTA-supported representation helped:



A survivor of domestic violence obtained sole custody and relocate to safety with her children.



A mother secured guardianship of her adult son with permanent disabilities, allowing her to manage his medical and financial affairs.



A terminally ill client completed essential end-of-life planning, while another survivor of domestic violence protected her children through similar legal planning.



A senior citizen avoided eviction and obtain needed repairs to subsidized housing.

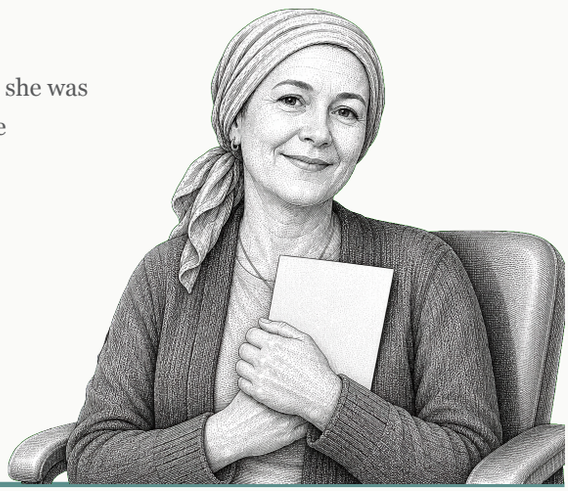
IMPACT: Legal representation provided security, dignity, and peace of mind for Delaware families facing some of life's greatest challenges.

Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

When a Delaware woman undergoing treatment for late-stage cancer learned she was about to lose her Medicaid coverage, she faced an impossible choice: continue treatment or shoulder overwhelming medical costs.

With assistance from CLASI's Public Benefits Unit, she successfully maintained her Medicaid coverage, preventing any interruption in her cancer treatment. CLASI also helped her obtain Supplemental Security Income disability benefits after her illness forced her to leave her job, easing the financial burden on her family during one of the most difficult periods of their lives.



IMPACT: Continuous access to lifesaving medical care and critical financial support for a Delaware family.

How IOLTA Works

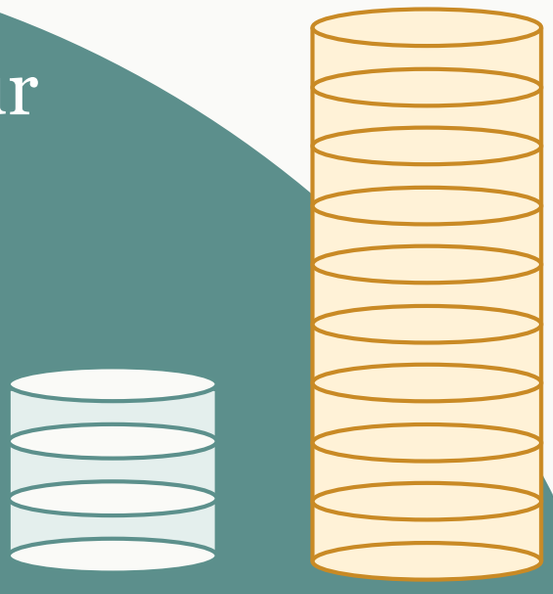
1/ ATTORNEY
Holds qualifying client funds for a limited period of time.

2/ IOLTA ACCOUNT
Pools eligible funds in an interest-bearing trust.

3/ INTEREST
The pooled account earns interest without reducing funds.

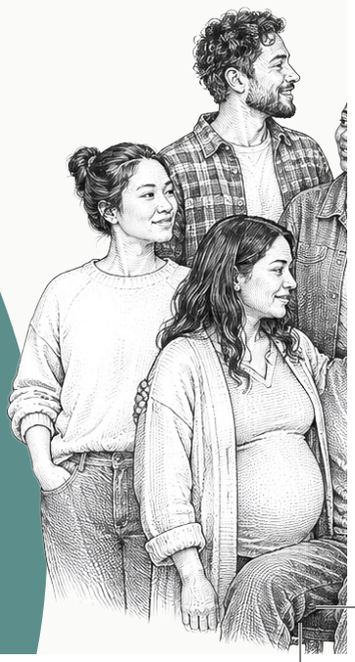
Do you Know Your IOLTA Rate?

A Simple Annual Check Can Multiply Your Impact 8X



~.10%–1.0%
LOWEST-TIER BANKS

~2.0%–3.0%
PRIME PARTNER



4/ FOUNDATION

Receives and stewards the interest generated by IOLTA.

5/ SUPREME COURT GRANTS

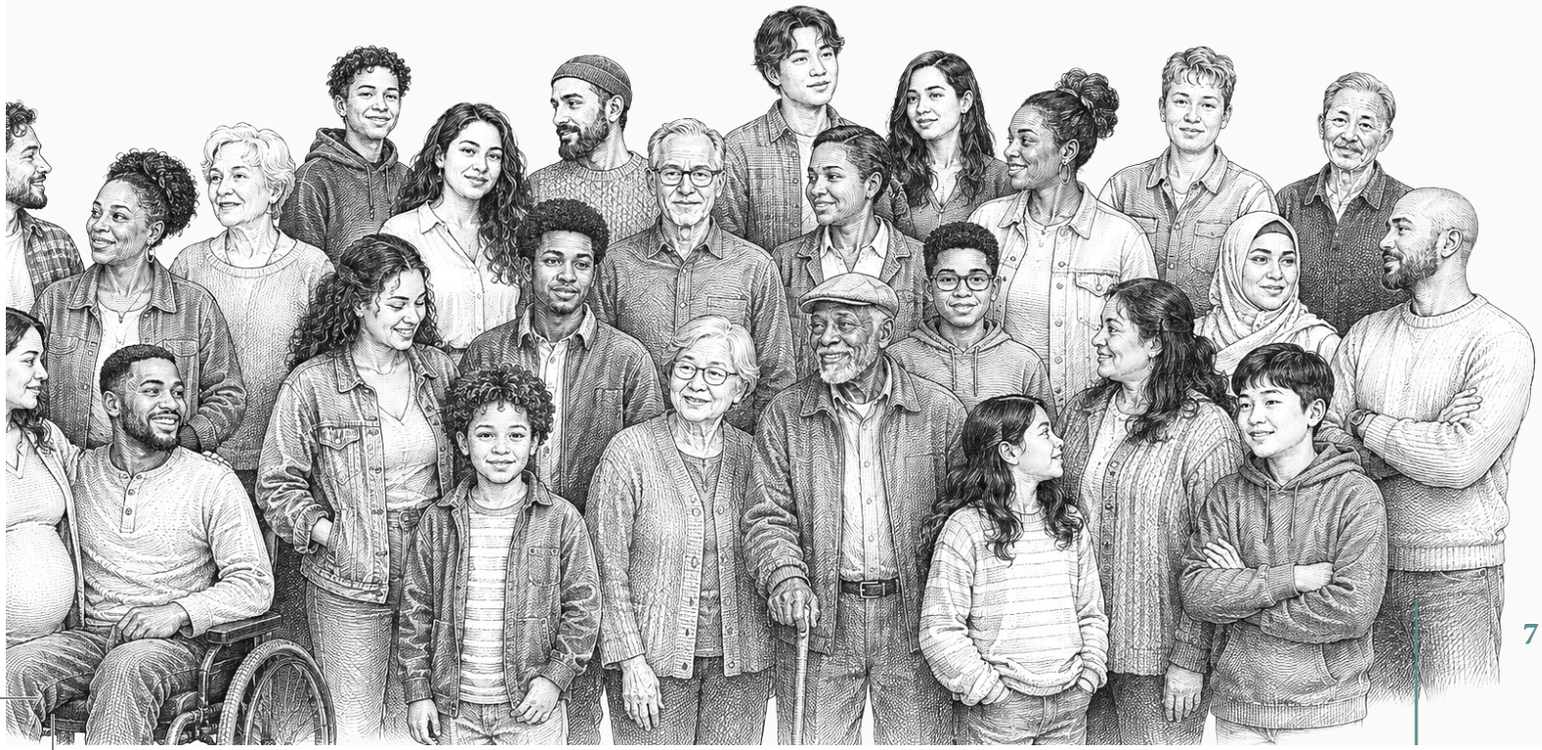
Grant funding is directed toward access to justice.

6/ LEGAL AID

Civil legal services reach people who cannot afford them.

THE RESULT

Lives Changed



IOLTA'S IMPACT

Turning Interest Into Impact

12,559*

CLIENTS SUPPORTED STATEWIDE IN 2025

CLIENTS SERVED BY AGENCY

New Castle

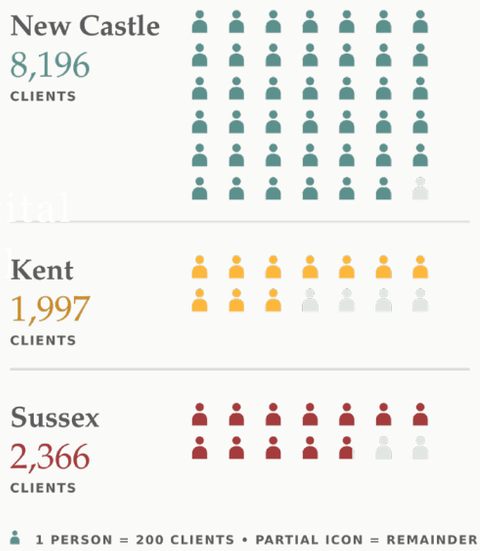
- CLASI 4,235
- DVLS 1,056
- LSCD 2,905

Kent

- CLASI 1,118
- DVLS 157
- LSCD 722

Sussex

- CLASI 1,694
- DVLS 142
- LSCD 530



A statewide digital doorway to civil legal help.

VOLUNTEER WITH DVLS

IOLTA Helps. Volunteers are Needed.

Your experience can change a life.

DVLS has developed an online platform for volunteers and the intake of pro bono matters. Volunteer attorneys help clients navigate essential civil legal cases. The need far exceeds the number currently registered and trained.

22,835
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS REPORTED

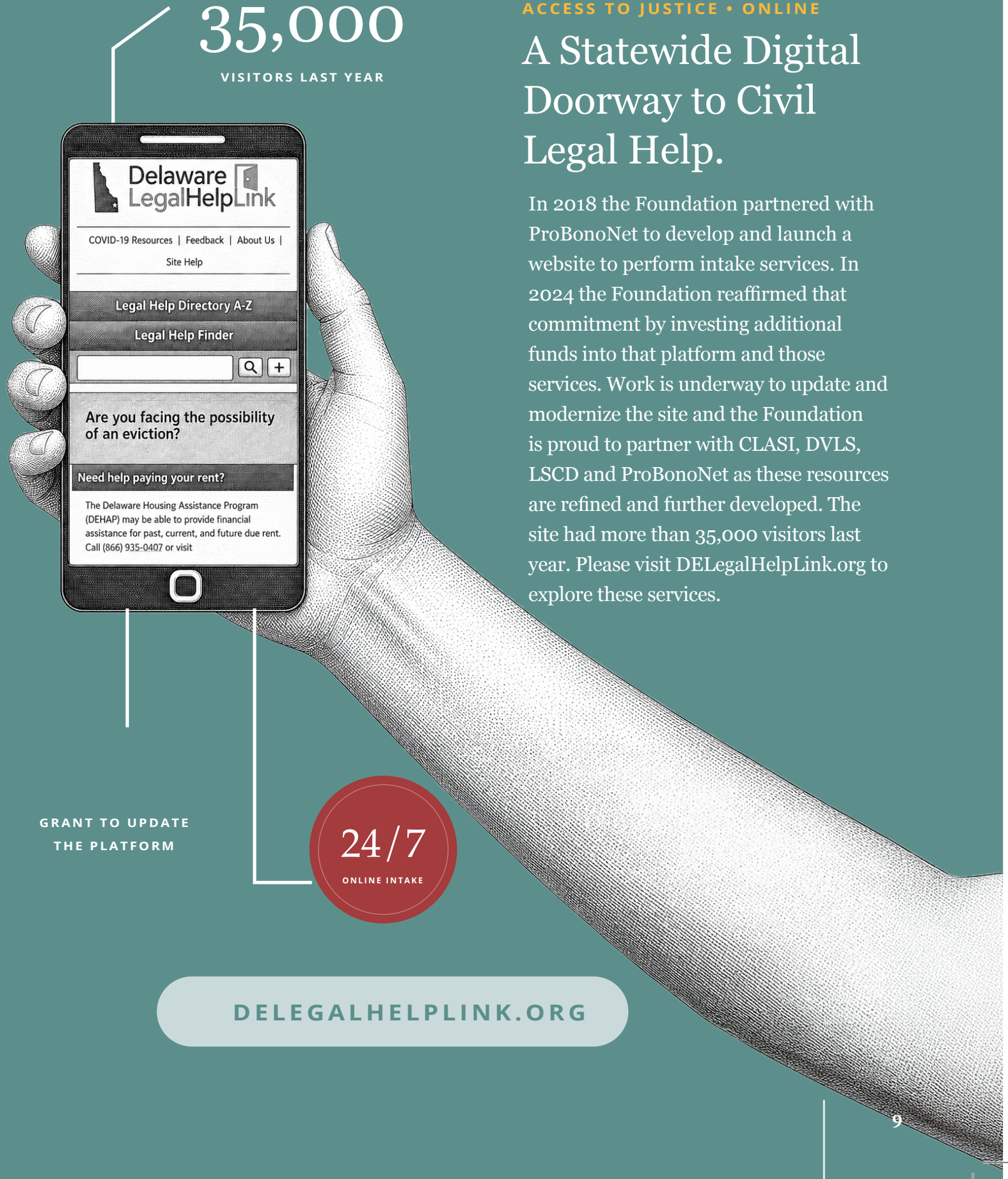
1,370
FINAL PFA ORDERS

6X
MORE LIKELY TO OBTAIN A PFA WITH LEGAL AID

ACCESS TO JUSTICE • ONLINE

A Statewide Digital Doorway to Civil Legal Help.

In 2018 the Foundation partnered with ProBonoNet to develop and launch a website to perform intake services. In 2024 the Foundation reaffirmed that commitment by investing additional funds into that platform and those services. Work is underway to update and modernize the site and the Foundation is proud to partner with CLASI, DVLS, LSCD and ProBonoNet as these resources are refined and further developed. The site had more than 35,000 visitors last year. Please visit DELegalHelpLink.org to explore these services.



Stewardship in Service

Strong governance is the foundation of a strong mission. Throughout Fiscal Year 2026, the Delaware Bar Foundation continued its commitment to thoughtful leadership, sound governance, and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

Honoring Leadership

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to the Hon. Kyle Gay, Delaware's Lieutenant Governor, who concluded her service as President and completed eight years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors. Kyle's leadership helped strengthen the Foundation's strategic direction while reinforcing its commitment to access to justice, civic education, and the responsible administration of Delaware's IOLTA Program.



Hon. Kyle Gay
FY 2018 - 2026

8 Years

OF DEDICATED BOARD SERVICE

Welcoming New Leaders

The Foundation welcomed new voices and perspectives to its Board of Directors.



Liliana Townsend
FY 2026



Andrea Short
FY 2027



Brad Aronstam
FY 2027

Strengthening the Foundation

The Board undertook a comprehensive review of governance practices and policies to ensure the organization remains well-positioned for the future.

- Updated Board committee charters
- Modernized governance policies
- Examined governance structure for long-term effectiveness
- Reaffirmed collaboration with the Delaware State Bar Association

Serving as the haritable arm of Delaware's legal community since

1981

12
VOLUNTEER DIRECTORS

100%
BOARD PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE REVIEW

4
STANDING COMMITTEES

BUILDING DELAWARE'S FUTURE TOGETHER

Partnering with DELREC for Civic Learning

Law-related education strengthens democracy.

For more than two decades, the Delaware Bar Foundation and the Delaware Law Related Education Center (DELREC) have shared a common vision: strengthening our communities by fostering an understanding of the law, the courts, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

When DELREC was established in the late 1990s, the Foundation was proud to provide its initial financial support, recognizing that law-related education is essential to a healthy democracy. Today, that partnership continues to flourish.



MEGAN GREENBERG AND BETSY RENZO, CEO OF DELREC

In Fiscal Year 2026, the Foundation and DELREC formalized a renewed Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming our shared commitment to expanding civic education and law-related learning opportunities for Delawareans of every age.

Two pillars of the Foundation's mission are to promote the study and research of law and to foster knowledge of citizenship rights and responsibilities while enhancing public respect for the rule of law. DELREC serves as an indispensable partner in advancing these goals through innovative programs that reach elementary, middle, high school, college, and adult learners throughout Delaware.

Together, we are preparing the next generation of informed citizens, introducing young people to careers in the legal profession, and strengthening public confidence in the rule of law through education, engagement, and collaboration.

The Delaware Bar Foundation is proud to stand alongside DELREC as we continue building opportunities that inspire civic understanding and expand access to justice for future generations.

A SHARED HISTORY

LATE 1990s

Foundation provides initial support to establish **DELREC.**

RENEWED COMMITMENT

Partnership Highlights

25

A PARTNERSHIP SPANNING MORE THAN 25 YEARS



Statewide civic and law-related education initiatives



PROGRAMS SERVING LEARNERS

from elementary school through adulthood



RENEWED MEMORANDUM

of Understanding adopted in Fiscal Year 2026

2010

Law-related education becomes part of the IOLTA mission.

2026

Renewed MOU strengthens collaboration for the future.

Ideas that shape our profession... *Delaware Lawyer*



CARLA M. JONES
EDITOR



JAMES H.S. LEVINE
EDITOR

"As the law continues to evolve, *Delaware Lawyer* remains committed to exploring the ideas, challenges, and opportunities that define our profession. Through thoughtful scholarship and diverse perspectives, we hope each issue informs, inspires, and encourages meaningful conversation among Delaware's legal community."

CARLA M. JONES & JAMES H.S. LEVINE,
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



2026

EDITORIAL BOARD

- HON. 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

10

Commumity Partners One shared commitment.

Each organization meets a distinct need. Together, they widen the path to justice.

From legal services to civic learning, every grant creates a point of entry.

01 Center for Structural Equity

Supports a Youth Participatory Action Research project with high school students examining school discipline policies and constitutional due process protections.

02 Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council (DCRAC)

Expands access to estate-planning services for residents facing tangled title issues, helping preserve generational wealth and housing stability.

03 Delaware State Bar Association — ILYA Backpacks Program

Provides essential household and personal items to youth aging out of foster care, easing the transition to independence.

04 DSBA Disabilities Survey Initiative

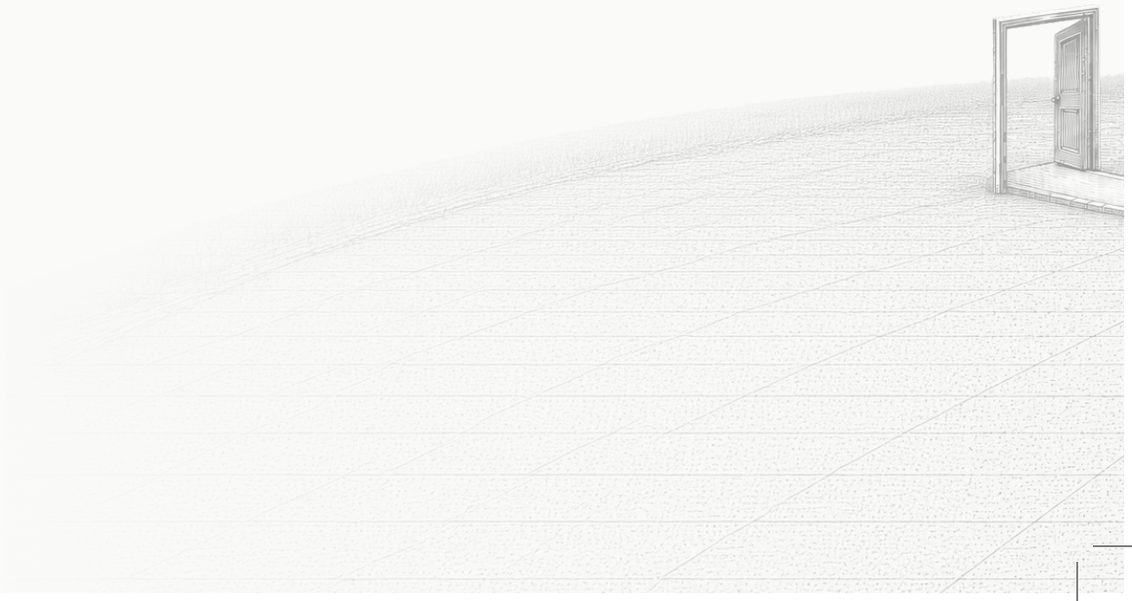
Identifies barriers faced by attorneys with disabilities in Delaware to inform more inclusive policies and practices.

05 El Sandalo

Hosts community workshops on tenant rights, family court processes, expungement, and access to legal aid for underserved populations.

Many paths.

One Delaware.



06 Innocence Project Delaware

Supports investigative costs, including trial transcripts and expert analysis, to secure justice for individuals who have been wrongfully convicted.

07 La Esperanza

Provides citizenship education and support services to immigrants pursuing naturalization and full participation in civic life.

08 Latin American Community Center

Expands a family immigration legal clinic offering direct legal services and civics education to immigrant communities.

09 Literacy Delaware

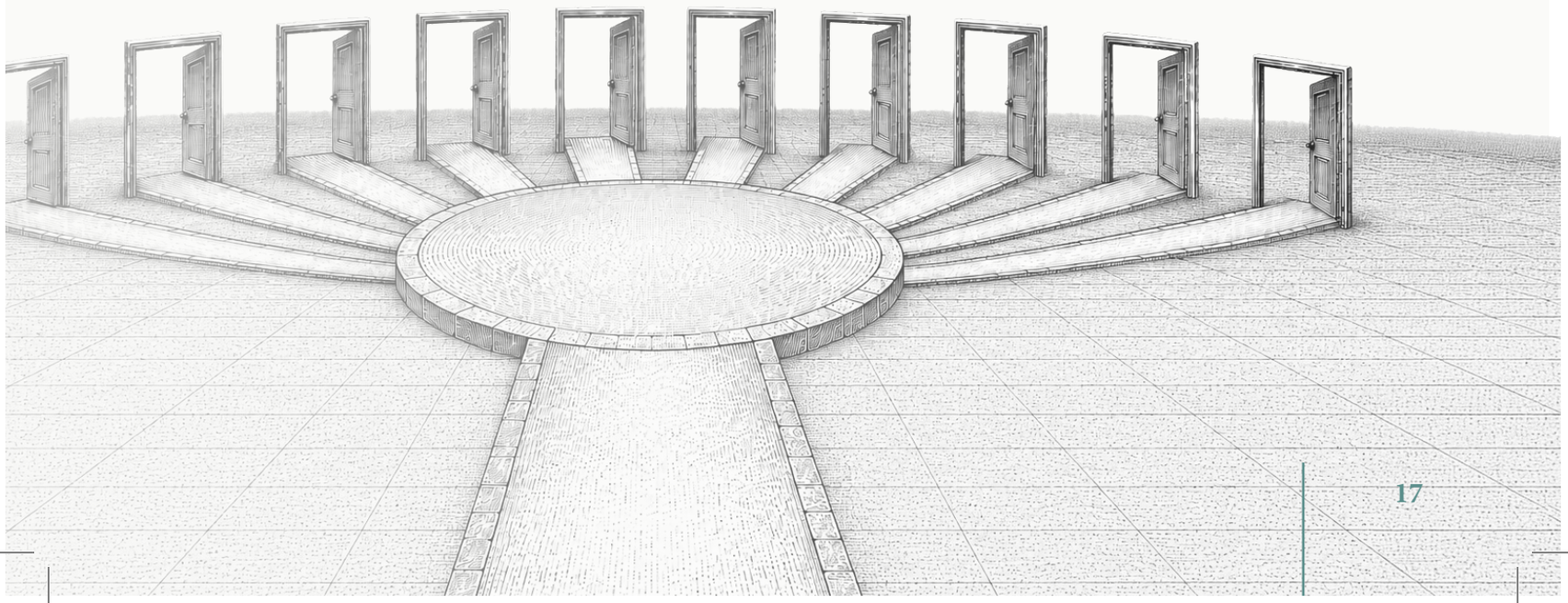
Delivers English-language instruction and citizenship education to adult learners, strengthening civic engagement and workforce readiness.

10 YMCA of Delaware

Supports the Youth in Government program, which educates middle and high school students about civics, leadership, and public service.

A COMMITMENT TO

- ☑ Expand access to legal services and justice
- ☑ Promote civic education and engagement
- ☑ Support vulnerable populations
- ☑ Strengthen community responsiveness



Investing in Delaware's Future Through ILYA



"Every student deserves to begin the next chapter knowing their community is behind them."

The transition from foster care to college or career is an exciting milestone, but it can also present significant financial and practical challenges. Through a 2026 Community Grant, the Delaware Bar Foundation was proud to support the Delaware State Bar Association's Independent Living for Young Adults (ILYA) program, helping provide backpacks filled with essential supplies to graduating high school seniors who have participated in Delaware's foster care system.

For these students, a backpack represents more than school supplies. It is a tangible reminder that Delaware's legal community believes in their future and is committed to helping them begin the next chapter with confidence.

The Foundation is honored to partner with organizations that create meaningful opportunities for young people as they pursue higher education, workforce training, military service, and other paths toward independence.

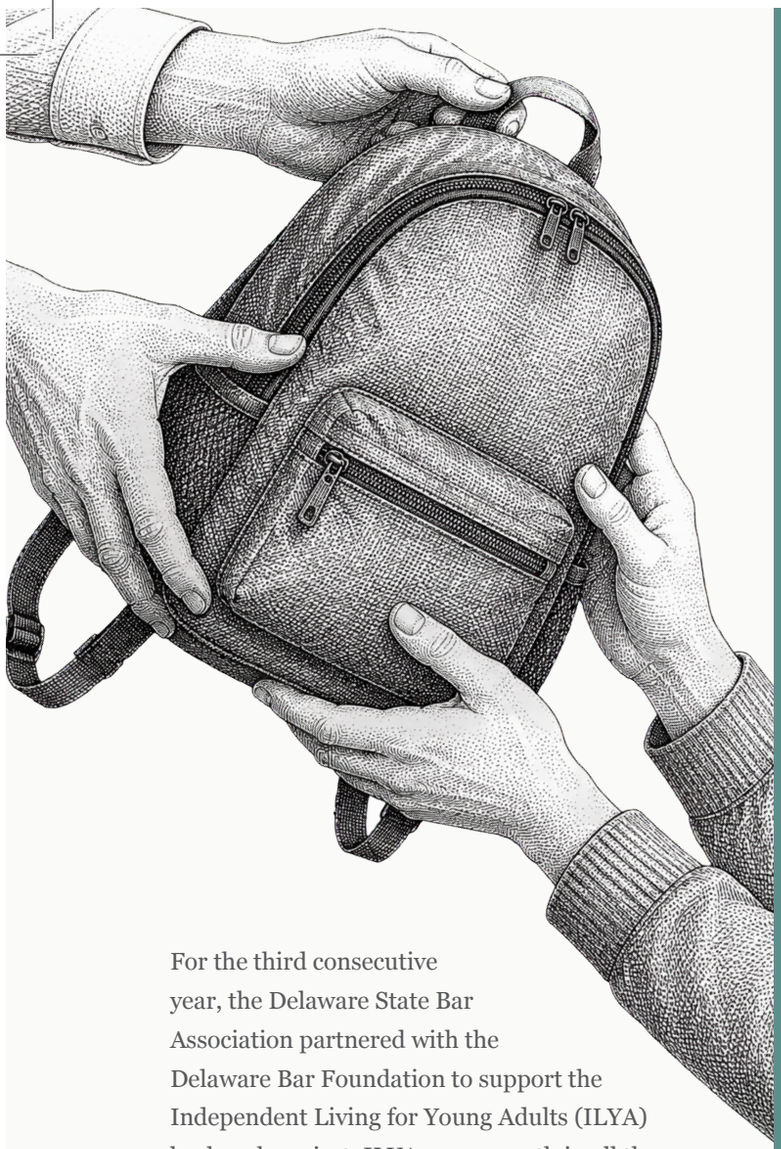
PARTNER ORGANIZATION:
Delaware State Bar Association and Youth in Action (ILYA)

120
STUDENTS SERVED

$6,500
FOUNDATION GRANT

IMPACT:
Backpacks filled with essential supplies distributed to graduating foster youth preparing for college, career training, or employment.





For the third consecutive year, the Delaware State Bar Association partnered with the Delaware Bar Foundation to support the Independent Living for Young Adults (ILYA) backpack project. ILYA serves youth in all three Delaware counties aging out of the foster care system. Each student selects a backpack in their design and color of choice, filled with essentials including toiletries, a complete towel set, first aid kit, umbrella, phone charger, a compass bracelet and keychain set featuring an inspirational message encouraging them to "go confidently in the direction of their dreams" and many more items. Each student also receives a co-branded Visa gift card bearing both the DSBA and Delaware Bar Foundation logos.

This year's backpack assembly was incorporated into the DSBA's annual Membership Month activities as the "Service and Social" event, which allowed members and staff the opportunity to work together to support this important initiative. The project concludes with the DSBA staff attending and assisting with the annual ILYA Graduation Celebration in Dover, Delaware, where the graduates are recognized as they begin their next chapter.

FOUNDATION IN ACTION:
CONVENING FOR INNOVATION

Exploring Artificial Intelligence to Expand Access to Justice

In August 2025, the Delaware Bar Foundation brought together leaders from Delaware's civil legal aid community and the Administrative Office of the Courts for a day-long discussion focused on one important question:

> How can artificial intelligence help expand access to justice for Delawareans who cannot afford legal assistance?

Representatives from Community Legal Aid Society, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, and the Administrative Office of the Courts joined colleagues from Maryland, who shared their experience developing and implementing AI tools designed to assist legal aid organizations in serving more clients efficiently and effectively.

The gathering created an opportunity to exchange ideas, examine emerging technology, and begin exploring how a collaborative approach could allow Delaware's legal aid providers to leverage artificial intelligence while maintaining the highest standards of legal accuracy, ethics, and client confidentiality.

Rather than focusing on technology for its own sake, the discussion centered on a shared goal: using innovation to help more Delawareans navigate the civil justice system and obtain timely legal assistance.

As a trusted partner to Delaware's legal community, the Foundation was proud to convene this conversation and support the collaborative spirit that will be essential as new tools continue to reshape the delivery of legal services.

CONVENING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Representatives from Delaware's three civil legal aid organizations**
- **Administrative Office of the Courts' participation**
- **Presentations by Maryland legal aid innovators**
- **Collaborative brainstorming on shared AI solutions**
- **Foundation leadership in convening the access-to-justice community**

Strengthening Delaware's Legal Community:

The Delaware Bar Foundation is committed to supporting not only access to justice, but also the continued professional development of Delaware attorneys. Through educational programs developed in partnership with the Delaware State Bar Association and the Delaware judiciary, the Foundation helps strengthen the practice of law while advancing service to the public.

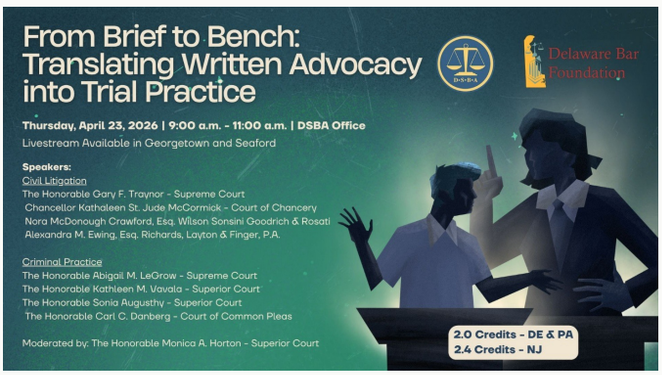


JUDGE MONICA HORTON

Annual Advocacy & Trial Practice CLE

This spring, the Foundation partnered with the Delaware State Bar Association to present its annual Advocacy & Trial Practice CLE, featuring a program devoted to effective oral advocacy before Delaware's courts.

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to Judge Monica Horton, whose leadership and continued commitment have made this annual program a valued educational opportunity for Delaware attorneys. Her thoughtful guidance in organizing and coordinating the program has helped ensure its continued success and relevance for practitioners at every stage of their careers.



Looking Ahead:
IOLTA in Action

Continuing its commitment to professional education, the Foundation will present a new Continuing Legal Education program in September focused on the Delaware IOLTA Program.

The program reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to helping attorneys understand that sound trust account management not only fulfills professional responsibilities—it also expands access to justice for thousands of Delawareans.



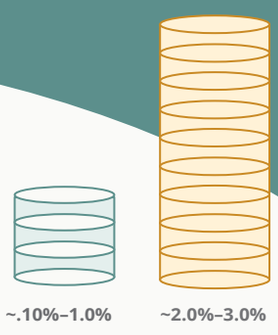
EVERY ATTORNEY WHO UNDERSTANDS IOLTA HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN DELAWARE'S CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Designed for managing attorneys, firm administrators, and attorneys responsible for client trust accounts, the program will provide practical guidance on:

- Delaware Rule 1.15 and ethical compliance
- Proper establishment and maintenance of IOLTA accounts
- Understanding interest rate comparability
- Ensuring IOLTA accounts generate the greatest possible benefit for Delaware's civil legal aid organizations

Know your rate.

A Simple Annual Check Can Multiply Your Impact 8X



Financial Highlights

These financial highlights are derived from audited financial results through June 30, 2025. 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 $17,000,000+ in equity and has invested reserve funds to preserve funds for the future.

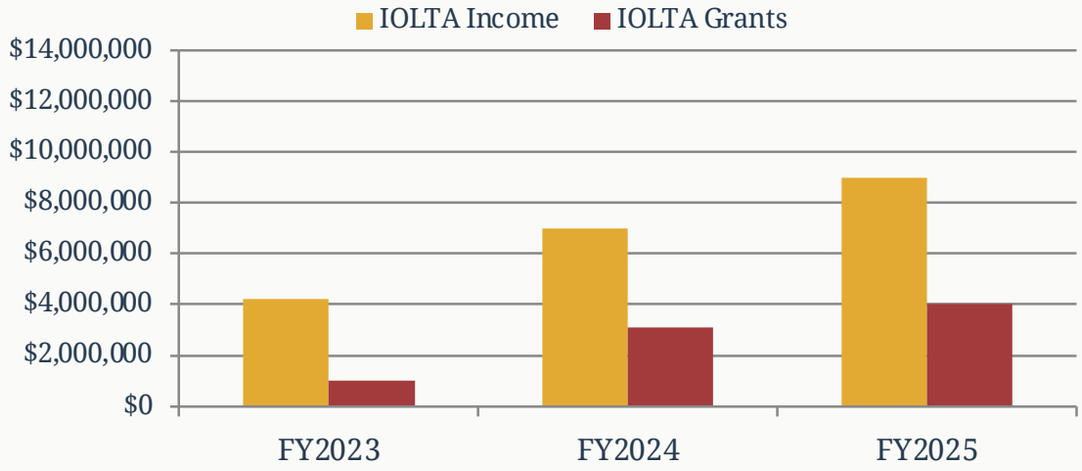
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2025

$50M
IOLTA Funds Granted Since 1981

19
IOLTA Eligible Financial Institutions

10
Prime Partner Banks

IOLTA INCOME AND GRANTS



RESERVES FOR THE FUTURE

17M+
in equity
+ invested reserve funds

SUSTAINING THE GOOD

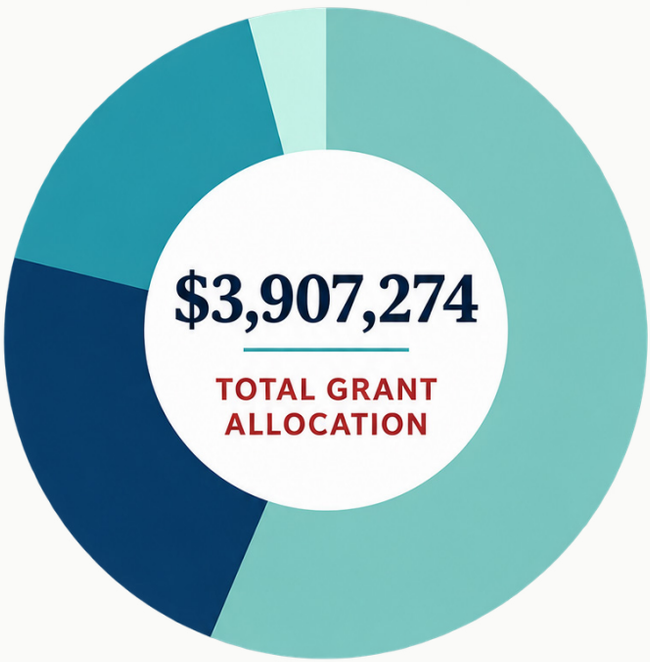
Foundation Giving

Philanthropic support continues to strengthen the Delaware Bar Foundation's ability to expand access to justice, invest in the legal community, and respond to needs across Delaware. Rather than measuring that support simply by the number of donors, we recognize the broader impact of the generosity that makes our work possible year after year.

This year, we were especially honored to draw on the Stargatt Fund, established by the family of Bruce Stargatt as a legacy gift in his memory. A portion of the fund helped support the Foundation's community grants, extending resources to organizations serving Delawareans across the state. The fund also supported the Joint Inns of Court speaker, helping create an opportunity for members of the legal community to come together for learning, dialogue, and professional connection.

The Stargatt Fund is a meaningful example of how legacy giving can create an enduring impact, honoring a life of service while continuing to strengthen Delaware's legal community for generations to come.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GRANT FUNDING BY GRANTEE:



CLASI 55.2%
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

LSCD 25.1%
Legal Services Corporation of Delaware

DVLS 16.2%
Delaware Volunteer Legal Services

DELREC 3.6%
Delaware Law Related Education Center



DELAWARE
BAR FOUNDATION

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