

HAWAII JUSTICE FOUNDATION
P. O. Box 4750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4750
(tel.) 808•537-3886 (fax) 808•528-1974
E-Mail: [hjff@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hjf@hawaii.rr.com) Website: www.hawaiijustice.org

THE HAWAII JUSTICE FOUNDATION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Like nearly every other organization, the Hawaii Justice Foundation (HJF) was negatively impacted by COVID-19 and the economic downturn, but HJF is now again in excellent financial health. The recent increase in interest rates has enabled HJF to rebuild its reserves while continuing to provide significant IOLTA grants. HJF has a strong team with its Board, officers, auditors, accountants, and management. HJF has deep and positive relationships with the Judiciary, legal service providers, IOLTA banks, HSBA, School of Law, and the general legal community. HJF is stable financially and in its management, which enables to continue with our mission of working to achieve greater access to justice for Hawaii's economically challenged. Below are described the major grant activities of HJF.

The Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Interest Rates. HJF's primary source of income is through the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. The amount of income from IOLTA varies directly with interest rates. These rates dropped precipitously with COVID, but in recent months these rates have increased dramatically. This has significantly increased HJF's income from this vital income stream. Grant awards distributed through IOLTA in recent years are: 2005, \$70,000; 2006, \$155,000; 2007, \$278,000; 2008, \$410,000; 2009, \$345,000; 2010, \$175,000; 2011, \$152,050; 2012 \$124,650; 2013 \$104,000; 2014 \$100,000; 2015 \$125,000; 2016 \$155,000; 2017 \$207,500; 2018 \$362,500; 2019 \$725,000; 2020 \$660,000; 2021 \$658,500; and 2022 \$662,500. Awards for 2023 are planned to be \$691,500.

The Continuation of Funding through The Bretzlaff Foundation. In addition to IOLTA grants, each year HJF distributes funds to the ten Bretzlaff grantees, with the amount depending on the current values in HJF's Bretzlaff Endowment with Vanguard. In 2022, a total of \$156,500 was awarded.

The Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF). ILAF is a process where surcharges are collected on certain filing fees in the State of Hawaii Judicial System. These funds are retained by the Judiciary for distribution to qualified low-income service providers under the statutory formula. From the inception of ILAF, HJF has served as the ILAF Administrator. ILAF funds are distributed in cooperation with the Hawaii State Judiciary, the legal service providers, and HJF. In recent years, these sums have been \$1,000,000/year. Currently ten legal service grantees receive funds under ILAF. This is a critical part of funding for legal services, and the Legislature is to be commended for its creation of this valuable program.

The Cades Foundation. Each year in June, the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission hosts its Access to Justice Summit Conference held at the Richardson School of Law. The Cades Foundation has generously provided yearly financial support to HJF for this event. The Conference is always the yearly highlight of access to justice activities. Over 275 people attended the virtual conference in 2021. The thirteenth annual conference was held in-person in 2022, with more than 240 people attending.

Please be assured that HJF has sufficient operating income and reserves to ensure our continued ability to work for access to justice. We ask you to join with us in these efforts. Much work remains to be done to achieve the ideal and goal of achieving "justice for all."

2022 BRETZLAFF FOUNDATION GRANTS

2022 Bretzlaff Foundation Grants Total \$156,500

Note: The amount distributed each year is 5% of the corpus value of HJF's Bretzlaff Endowment at the start of the calendar year.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, Inc.

\$15,000 to fund one-on-one mentoring programs for children at risk

Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii

\$15,000 to assist with direct personnel costs for its "Spalding House" program

Community Assistance Center

\$15,000 to assist and support youthful offenders and their families through the Juvenile Anger Management Program

Foster Grandparents

\$13,000 to develop improve ability to engage in virtual learning situations between volunteers and youth

Hale Kipa

\$15,000 to fund the Youth Outreach (YO!) Program for homeless youth.

Hawaii Foodbank

\$19,500 to help collect, inspect and distribute food for children and the elderly, who are the two groups most at risk of hunger in Hawaii

Kids First Program (Through Friends of Kids First)

\$13,000 to fund five programs that otherwise would not be funded through traditional state funding. Funds are used for costs for recognition of volunteers, program supplies, safety equipment (PPE), incentives for teens, and membership fees

The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.

\$20,000 to support for the Domestic Mediation Program

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program (fka GAL Program)

\$11,000 to provide programs that otherwise could not be funded through state funds to help provide special advocates for children involved in family court issues

Waikiki Health Center

\$20,000 to provide operational support to enable the Center to provide quality and affordable medical care, health education, and social services that are accessible to the needs of individuals and the community

2022 IOLTA GRANTS TOTAL \$662,500

Advocates for Public Interest Law

Fund summer internships for law students working in public interest law firms

Big Island Mediation, Inc., dba West Hawaii Mediation Center

Provide quality mediation, conciliation, and advocacy services to individuals and organizations with limited access to legal-related services in West Hawaii

Children's Law Project (Big Island)

Provide legal services to youth on the Big Island who have been exposed to domestic violence

Domestic Violence Action Center

Provide legal advice and representation for low-income persons who are in imminent danger of harm in domestic abuse situations

Ethnic Education Hawaii

Provide general legal information to large numbers of the ethnic poor by translating legal information into various languages and broadcasting the translations on KNDI Radio

Hale 'Opio Teen Court Project (Kauai)

Provide funding for a diversion program built on restorative justice principles for first-time misdemeanor or status offending youth.

Hawaii Access to Justice Commission Support

Provide support for the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission on various projects

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (LEJ)

Provide funding for class action lawsuits, policy research, and legislative advocacy on behalf of Hawaii's low-income people

Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Provide support for advocacy for people with physical and mental disabilities

Kapiolani Community College Paralegal Program

Provide funding for an estate planning clinic utilizing paralegal students

Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc., dba Mediation Services

Provide quality mediation, conciliation, and advocacy services to individuals and organizations with limited access to legal-related services in Kauai

Kuikahi Mediation Services (Hilo)

Provide quality mediation, conciliation, and advocacy services to individuals and organizations with limited access to legal-related services in East Hawaii

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

Provide legal information, advice, and representation to low-income clients

The Legal Clinic

Provide start-up and operating support for a clinic helping people with immigration issues

Mediation Center of the Pacific

Provide quality mediation, conciliation, and advocacy services to individuals and organizations with limited access to legal-related services on Oahu

Mediation Services of Maui

Provide quality mediation, conciliation, and advocacy services to individuals and organizations with limited access to legal-related services in Maui

Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Provide funding for this organization designed to protect the rights and legal interests of people of Native Hawaiian descent.

University of Hawaii Elder Law Program (UHELP) William S. Richardson School of Law

Provide general support of legal services for Hawaii's low-income elderly

University of Hawaii Medical/Legal Partnership William S. Richardson School of Law

Establish a partnership between legal service providers and a medical clinic to provide legal assistance at early stages for low-income clients

University of Hawaii Immigration Clinic

Provide start-up and operating support for a clinic helping people with immigration issues

University of Hawaii Innocence Project

Provide support for this program designed to assist those in prison who are in fact not guilty of the crime for which he/she is currently incarcerated

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii

Fund general operations to match pro bono attorney and paralegal volunteers with available cases and to provide other legal services for low-income clients

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

THE CADES FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR THE YEARLY ATJ CONFERENCE \$7,500 Grant Received

Each year the ATJ Commission hosts an access to justice conference held at the Richardson School of Law on a Friday in June. The Cades Foundation for the past several years has generously provided funding for this Conference. In 2019 more than 275 attended the event, and the Conference is always the yearly highlight of access to justice activities. Unfortunately, in 2020 due to COVID-19 considerations, the Conference could not be held. In 2021, the access to justice conference was offered in hybrid and virtual form, with more than 275 people attending. In 2022, the Conference was held in-person, with more than 240 people attending.

HJF PROVIDES FUNDING TO THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

From the inception of the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, HJF has provided funding for Commission activities, including its travel and other operating expenses, printing costs for the Commission's Annual Report, and partial funding for the Pro Bono Celebration,

FY 2021-22 AND 2022-2023 ILAF PROGRAM 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 ILAF Grants Total \$1,000,000 Per Year

The Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF) is a process where surcharges are collected on certain filing fees in the State of Hawaii Judicial System. These funds are retained by the Judiciary for distribution to qualified low-income service providers, with the Hawaii Justice Foundation acting as Administrator for these funds. ILAF funds are distributed in cooperation with the Hawaii State Judiciary, the low-income service providers, and HJF. ILAF is a critical part of funding for legal services. The Legislature is to be commended for its creation and support of this valuable program that is a partnership between the Judiciary, HJF, and the participating legal service providers. Currently ten legal service providers are receiving critical funding through ILAF.

The amount available in ILAF funds varies each year, depending upon the number of eligible cases filed and the rate of the surcharge. The ILAF program has seen significant growth from earlier years, due to the surcharge rate increase. In FY 2012-13, the amount distributed was \$472,039; for FY 2013-14 \$1,400,000; for FY 2014-15 \$1,425,000; for FY 2015-16 \$1,300,000; for FY 2016-17 \$1,000,000; for FY 2017-18 \$1,100,000; for FY 2018-19 \$1,000,000; for FY 2019-2020 \$1,000,000; for FY20-21 \$1,000,000; FY21-22 \$1,000,000; and for FY 22-23 \$1,000,000.

Summary and Conclusion: HJF is currently experiencing significant increases due to raising interest rates for the IOLTA program. The market has had a negative impact on value of our investment and endowment accounts. Through careful management of our existing resources and efforts to minimize operational costs, HJF will continue to be a valuable and essential contributor to Hawaii's access to justice efforts. HJF has a strong team with its Board, officers, auditors, accountants, and management. HJF has deep and positive relationships with the Judiciary, legal service providers, IOLTA banks, HSBA, School of Law, and the general legal community. HJF looks forward to working with others to work towards increased access to justice for all.