



2015 Annual Report

3100 W. Charleston Blvd. | Ste. 100
Las Vegas | NV | 89102
www.nevadabarfoundation.org

Executive Summary

The Nevada Bar Foundation (NBF) was incorporated in 1997 as the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of the State Bar of Nevada. The NBF was organized to support charitable giving related to access to justice and legal education programs.

In 2014, the NBF assumed management of the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, including the making of annual grants to organizations that promote access to justice through direct legal services to the poor, to victims of domestic violence and to children protected by or in need of protection of the juvenile court. This year, in its first full year of operation, the Nevada Bar Foundation awarded \$2,813,917 in IOLTA grants.

Nevada's legal aid community received an additional boost in funding this year. In August 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice announced a \$17 billion settlement with Bank of America related to its involvement in residential mortgage-backed securities and other unlawful conduct that contributed to the housing/financial crisis. The settlement provided for \$30 million to be distributed to every IOLTA program in the country and the territories for "foreclosure related legal assistance" and "community redevelopment legal services." In late-April, the Nevada Bar Foundation received its portion of the settlement: \$355,046.96. Of this amount, the Foundation distributed \$227,657 in grants to legal aid providers whose programs fulfilled this purpose.

In addition to management of the IOLTA program, the NBF supports law related education. In coordination with the State Bar of Nevada, the Nevada Bar Foundation successfully bid to host the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, NV, bringing nearly 700 students and team coaches; upwards of 400 family members; and more than 400 volunteer judges, team coordinators and competition organizers to the "Biggest Little City in the World."

Message from President Connie Akridge



Two years ago, the Nevada Bar Foundation was a somewhat dormant organization, functioning primarily as an entity that held Federal grant funds and donations used for law related education (LRE). During this country's great recession, grant funding for LRE dried up, leaving the Foundation with a nominal role in fundraising from the State Bar of Nevada annual license renewal process. Recognizing the need to support LRE, the Nevada Bar Foundation was reconstituted in October 2013, starting with a small, five-member Board of Trustees committed to building the program.

In late 2014, the Nevada Bar Foundation was honored to accept management of the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, including the distribution of IOLTA grants under SCR 216. This undertaking required the Foundation to shift gears quickly and among other things, increase the size of our Board of Trustees to 11 members. I'm proud to state that in addition to continuing our original objective of supporting LRE by hosting the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Competition, the Nevada Bar Foundation has ensured access to justice to thousands of low income Nevadans in need of legal assistance.

Nevada Bar Foundation Board of Trustees

Constance Akridge, President
Richard Pocker, Treasurer

Cynthia Alexander
Ann Bersi
James W. Bradshaw
Hon. Linda Gardner
Kirk Jacobson
Mark Knobel
Margaret Wightman Lambrose
Vernon (Gene) Leverty
Lori Teicher

Kimberly K. Farmer, Executive Director
Lisa Dreitzer, Deputy Executive Director



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

--Margaret Mead

A Moment of Levity...The Nevada Bar Foundation Board of Trustees received the 2015 State Bar of Nevada Medal of Justice Award

Back row (left to right): Richard Pocker, Connie Akridge, Gene Leverty, Kirk Jacobsen, Jim Bradshaw. Front row (left to right): Hon. Linda Gardner, Maggie Lambrose, Lori Teicher.

IOLTA Grant Distribution: \$2,813,917

The Nevada Bar Foundation focuses its charitable giving on legal aid organizations that provide a variety of pro bono legal services statewide.

Thanks to the support of its participating financial institutions, the Nevada Bar Foundation granted more than \$2.8 million dollars to fund the 2016 operations of Nevada’s legal service providers.

To ensure distribution of IOLTA funds by population needs, the majority of IOLTA funding is distributed to a core group of legal aid organizations, including: Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada, and Washoe County Legal Services. Secondary funding is distributed to those legal aid organizations that provide specialized services, such as domestic violence assistance and services for juveniles.

Participating Financial Institutions

American First National Bank
 Bank of America
 Bank of George
 Bank of Nevada
 Bank of the West
 BMO Harris Bank
 Citibank
 City National Bank
 East West Bank
 Financial Horizons Credit Union
 First Foundation Bank
 First Independent Bank of Nevada
 First Savings Bank
 First Security Bank of Nevada
 Heritage Bank
 JP Morgan Chase & Co.
 Meadows Bank
 Mutual of Omaha
 Nevada Bank & Trust
 Nevada State Bank
 Northern Trust Bank
 Plaza Bank
 Royal Business Bank
 Silver State Credit Union
 Town and Country Bank
 Umpqua Bank
 US Bank
 Valley Bank of Nevada (BNLV)
 Wells Fargo

2016 IOLTA Grant Recipients

Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW)	\$28,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Carson City	\$11,200
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Lyon County	\$14,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Northeastern Nevada	\$10,500
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – Pioneer Territory	\$17,514
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	\$1,533,873
Nevada Legal Services	\$304,500
Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program (RSVP)	\$26,600
S.A.F.E. House	\$12,250
Safe Nest	\$35,000
Southern Nevada Senior Law Program	\$211,892
Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada	\$164,805
Washoe County Legal Services: General Legal Services	\$329,609
Washoe County Legal Services: Rural Legal Services	\$94,174

2015 IOLTA Grant Recipient Activities

The Nevada Bar Foundation distributes IOLTA grants to legal aid organizations that provide statewide delivery of pro bono legal services, ensuring all Nevadans in need of assistance have access to justice. **This year, 10,000 more households received services from the year prior, due in large part to the ever increasing needs for legal services and availability of IOLTA dollars to fund programs.**

The numbers of households represented below were served with IOLTA dollars alone (each legal service provider receives funding from multiple sources and thus the total number of clients served is greater than represented here). For the purpose of this report, there is one person per household.

NEVADA COUNTIES	2015	2014
CARSON CITY	761	752
CHURCHILL	77	158
CLARK	31,331	19,701
DOUGLAS	144	124
ELKO	205	145
ESMERALDA	24	26
EUREKA	10	0
HUMBOLDT	340	296
LANDER	36	17
LINCOLN	7	16
LYON	169	250
MINERAL	331	299
NYE	89	93
PERSHING	50	74
STOREY	20	5
WASHOE	1,187	1,696
WHITE PINE	14	8
	34,521	23,660

Client Story: A client in early stage dementia was coerced into marriage by a much younger woman who he 'met' over the internet. The woman moved to the United States and lived here long enough to marry the man before returning home. The client faced eviction from his apartment because he had been sending the woman half his monthly income to support her and her 'four children.' A pro bono attorney obtained information which proved the woman was not who she said she was and assisted the client to annul his marriage.

HIGHLIGHTS

▲ MORE THAN 34,000 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

Although the vast majority of legal services were provided in Clark and Washoe Counties, IOLTA grant funding was distributed to legal service providers who ensured pro bono representation in Nevada's rural counties.

▲ CLIENT SERVICES

Clients may be assisted directly through litigation or through other non-traditional means such as an Ask-a-Lawyer clinic. More than 24,000 clients were provided legal advice at self-help centers.

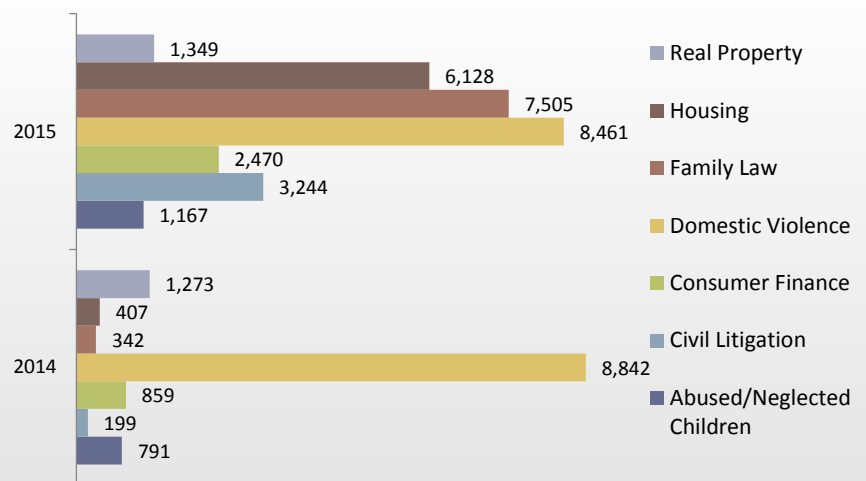
▲ LEGAL MATTERS

Client legal matters run the gamut from abuse and neglect issues to assistance receiving government benefits. In 2015, majority of legal matters pertained to

Client Story: While working as a cab driver, a man had a heart attack during his shift. He immediately took himself to the hospital for treatment, without first returning his cash pouch to his employer's office. The cab driver was fired and denied unemployment benefits; the employer cited misconduct for failing to return the pouch. A legal aid attorney represented the driver at his Appeals Referee hearing and the man was awarded his unemployment benefits.

Legal Matters

In Nevada, more than one million people qualify for legal services at the 200 percent poverty measure. Ninety percent of those people live in Clark and Washoe Counties. IOLTA funding supports people – whether they reside in urban or rural areas – who are most vulnerable when legal emergencies occur. Whether facing eviction, emergency medical situations, domestic violence or unscrupulous predators who steal life savings from unwary seniors, legal assistance from well-trained professionals can be literally the difference between life and death.



The nature of the types of services provided from year to year can vary and is often dependent on factors such as current economic conditions and availability of funding for dedicated programs. For example, representation for domestic violence issues has remained consistent – largely due to the services provided by two legal service providers, Safe Nest and Safe House, whose legal service programs concentrate on this limited issue. Alternatively, representation in family law and housing matters increased significantly in 2015 due to availability of IOLTA funding as well as other sources of revenue for providers such as Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services.

Client Story: *Following allegations of abuse and neglect of three children in northeastern Nevada, a CASA worker stepped in to help. After the children were removed from their mother’s home, the CASA volunteer attended parent-teacher conferences, advocated for counseling and tutoring for the children, and spent hours helping the kids with their homework to improve their lack of education. The CASA volunteer advocated for the children to be placed with their individual fathers, who visit regularly and share time with the children to facilitate their sibling relationship. The CASA volunteer followed through with the transition, ensuring all three children are in a safe loving home and are doing well in school.*

Client Representation Examples

- *Assisting a client with significant deficits in cognitive function who was the victim of federal tax identity theft.*
- *Filing an appeal on behalf of a 71 year-old widow whose sole source of income was \$801 a month from Social Security and whose food stamps were being reduced from \$16 to \$6 per month.*
- *Working with the court to allow a mother seeking treatment for addiction to keep her children and develop a permanency plan.*
- *Representing a victim of domestic violence when her abuser filed frivolous and unmeritorious motions for custody of their shared child.*
- *Helping a young woman with limited English proficiency whose husband abused her, “hid” her baby at his mother’s house, and isolated her from her family to obtain a divorce, custody of the child and support.*

Non-IOLTA Operations

National High School Mock Trial Championship

In addition to managing the IOLTA program, the Nevada Bar Foundation engages in programs that promote legal education. This year, with cooperation from the State Bar of Nevada, the Nevada Bar Foundation successfully bid to host the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship (NHSMTC) competition in Reno, Nevada. This is the first time Nevada has had the honor of hosting the NHSMTC – and 2018 will mark the State Bar of Nevada’s 20th anniversary of mock trial involvement.

The competition is expected to bring to Reno nearly 700 students and team coaches; upwards of 400 family members; and more than 400 volunteer judges, team coordinators and competition organizers. The competition’s success will hinge on volunteer efforts and the Nevada Bar Foundation will rely extensively on lawyers, judges/justices, and business leaders to see it through fruition. Additionally, the Nevada Bar Foundation has formed a Steering Committee and several committees dedicated to planning and carry-through of competition logistics.

NHSMTC STEERING COMMITTEE

- ▲ PAUL MATTEONI, PRESIDENT
- ▲ CONNIE AKRIDGE, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ▲ ANN BERSI
- ▲ CYNTHIA ALEXANDER
- ▲ DON CHRISTENSEN
- ▲ KATHLEEN DICKINSON
- ▲ LISA DREITZER
- ▲ KIMBERLY FARMER
- ▲ GENE LEVERTY
- ▲ HON. LINDA GARDNER
- ▲ MARK KNOBEL
- ▲ JUSTICE NANCY SAITTA

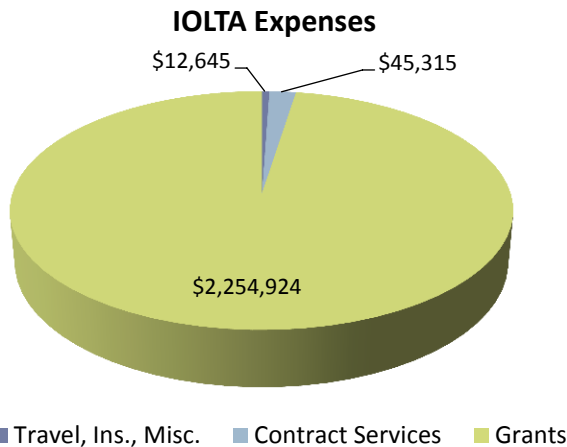
Colleagues Fund

The Colleagues Fund was previously established by the Nevada Law Foundation as a charitable endowment to assist low income people with their legal problems and assist members of the public in learning more about the law and the state’s judicial system. When the Nevada Bar Foundation assumed responsibility for the IOLTA program from the Nevada Law Foundation, it also took over management of the Colleagues Fund. This year, the Nevada Bar Foundation contacted the 174 Colleagues and asked them to elect to maintain their donations in an endowment or release them for pro bono and law related education purposes. **Of the \$468,000 held in the Colleagues Fund, \$189,800 was released.** The Nevada Bar Foundation Board of Trustees elected to donate \$50,000 of the released funds to support the 2018 NHSMTC, provide five years of funding for non-IOLTA operations, and leave the remaining unrestricted dollars for future use.

Financial Operations

The Nevada Bar Foundation is the tax-exempt entity under SCR 216 for administering Nevada’s IOLTA program, including the distribution of grants to legal aid organizations that provide services to the poor, victims of domestic violence, and to children protected by or in need of protection of the juvenile court. In addition, the Foundation engages in non-IOLTA activities, such as fundraising to support law related education.

Staffing to support the Foundation is provided under a contract with the State Bar of Nevada and select IOLTA data management and legal services are contracted with third party vendors. These partnerships allow the Foundation to operate with three percent of funding used for administration, maximizing the dollars available for grant funding.



In addition to administering the IOLTA program, the Foundation has focused its fundraising to support the Access to Justice Commission’s One Promise campaign and law related education, primarily the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship. Excluding funding for the Mock Trial Championship, the Nevada Bar Foundation realized a net profit of \$9,284 in 2015.

Financial Information as of 12.31.15 (Unaudited)

CURRENT ASSETS

	2015	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,275,100	
IOLTA	\$2,275,102	
Non-IOLTA	\$331,807	
IOLTA Reserves	\$697,545	
Colleagues Funds	\$278,200	
Bank of America Settlement	\$355,047	
IOLTA Rainy Day Reserves	\$116,400	
Mock Trial Fund	\$105,006	
Accounts Receivable	\$355,010	
Prepaid Expenses	\$3,619	
Total Current Assets		<u>\$4,633,729</u>

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Flagpole and Podium	\$11,513	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$6,080)	
Net Property & Equipment		<u>\$5,433</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$4,639,162</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$3,042,499
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OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Mock Trial Deferred Income	\$50,000
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FUND BALANCE

	<u>\$1,546,663</u>
	<u>\$4,639,162</u>