

**Arkansas Access to Justice Commission and Foundation
Strategic Priorities 2016-2019**

GOALS

- (1) Increase the financial resources available to support the delivery of civil legal aid and to expand access to the civil justice system for all Arkansans.**
- (2) Strengthen support systems for the delivery of civil legal help through pro bono attorneys and resources for self-represented litigants.**
- (3) Provide technical expertise and other support to the efforts of the legislature, courts, and other entities to adopt innovations that improve access to justice for all Arkansans.**

Goal One: Increase the financial resources available to support the delivery of civil legal aid and to expand access to the civil justice system for all Arkansans.

Outcomes:

- The Commission, Foundation, and legal aid are equipped with the staff capacity and tools necessary to support resource development efforts.
- Commissioners, Foundation Board members, and legal aid Board members have a good understanding of the importance of access to justice and legal aid and use that understanding to advance resource development efforts.
- Individual giving (\$1 to \$499) to the statewide Campaign for Legal Aid will increase through retention of 85% or more of existing donors and acquisition of 200 new or lapsed ones.
- Major individual gifts (\$500 or more) to the Campaign for Legal Aid will increase through retention of existing major donors and the acquisition of 10 new or lapsed ones.
- Corporate giving to the statewide Campaign for Legal Aid will increase through retention of 85% or more of existing corporate donors and acquisition of 10 new or lapsed ones.
- The Foundation, in partnership with the Commission and legal aid, will establish one or more endowment funds to provide long-term, sustainable sources of funding for legal aid.
- Increase revenues for grants to legal aid and programs of the Commission through IOLTA “orphan funds” rule.
- Explore unclaimed court registry money as source of revenue for grants to support to legal aid and programs of the Commission.
- Increase court settlement revenues to support grants to legal aid and programs of the Commission.
- Establish support from Arkansas Congressional Delegation for maintaining or increasing Legal Services Corporation funding.
- Seek state legislative funding for legal aid.
- Programs of the Commission and legal aid will receive grant funding for core activities that are priorities for the philanthropic community.
- Self-help resources created by legal aid have sustainable sources of funding and staff support.

Goal Two: Strengthen support systems for the delivery of civil legal help through pro bono attorneys, limited scope representation, and resources for self-represented litigants.

Outcomes:

- Private attorneys understand the prevalence of self-representation and adapt their service delivery models to provide limited scope representation, which in turn results in greater access to justice.
- Judges are supportive of Arkansas-specific self-help resources and limited scope representation in their courts.
- Circuit clerks and other court staff are supportive of self-help resources and are equipped to provide appropriate legal information to self-represented litigants.
- The concept of assisted self-help will be supported and promoted by the leadership of the bar as a means of attaining meaningful access to justice.
- The concept of assisted self-help will be supported and promoted by the leadership of the judicial branch as a means of attaining meaningful access to justice.
- Attorneys will be more aware of pro bono opportunities and will have favorable attitudes toward pro bono service.

Goal Three: Provide technical expertise and other support to the efforts of the legislature, courts, and other entities to adopt innovations that improve access to justice for all Arkansans.

Outcomes:

- Legislature, courts, nonprofits, and other entities are aware of the Commission and seek input from Commission on issues that impact access to the court system in civil matters (i.e., Commission is a thought leader).
- Legislature, Congress, courts, and other entities have access to up-to-date, relevant statistics and other information needed to make evidence-based decisions on matters that relate to legal aid and access to justice.
- Arkansas's Justice Index ranking improves.
- Adoption of innovations by other stakeholders that improve access to justice, e.g., incubator program; rural fellowships; etc.