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.