



ARKANSAS
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE
REPRESENTING HOPE

Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation – Board Member Expectations

About the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation

The Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that serves as the fundraising and grantmaking arm of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission. The Foundation also manages the state's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. Since its formation in 1985, the Foundation has been one of the largest sources of funding for civil legal aid in the state, having made grants collectively totaling more than \$13 million.

The Foundation was originally created in 1985 as the Arkansas IOLTA Foundation, Inc. Its authority to manage the IOLTA program is governed by court rules that prohibit attorneys from profiting from their clients' money and that require them to deposit client funds in interest-bearing accounts that benefit the Foundation. All 50 states have IOLTA programs. The Foundation's name changed in 2014 as a result of a merger with a non-profit corporation formed in 2009 that was created for the purpose of raising money to support legal aid. The merged entity's purposes now include not only administration of the IOLTA Program and related grants, but fundraising to support legal aid and access-to-justice-related initiatives. The Foundation is currently staffed by employees of the court who also staff the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission. It has no employees of its own, and has not since 2009.

The Foundation has assets in the amount of approximately \$3.6 million. Its annual operating expenses total approximately \$225,000. These expenses are primarily associated with the cost of managing the IOLTA program and running the Foundation's fundraising efforts. The Foundation also makes grants to the state's two civil legal aid programs. In 2018, those grants total \$50,000 in general support and \$644,190.80 for the Housing Foreclosure and Community Redevelopment Program, which is funded out of a \$4.4 million distribution that the Foundation received in 2015 and 2016 as the result of a multi-state settlement with Bank of America. Prior to the 2008 recession, the Foundation was able to make general support grants each year in the amount of \$500,000 or more.

Expectations of Board Members

Our 15-member board meets quarterly and oversees administration of the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts program, engages in fundraising, and makes grants to support legal aid. Each board member is expected to support the Foundation's work and mission by committing to do the following:

- Attend in person and actively participate in the Foundation's quarterly board meetings (online/telephone participation may be made available but is discouraged for our regular board meetings)
- Attend the joint retreat of the Foundation board and Arkansas Access to Justice Commission (held every other year in even-numbered years)
- Become knowledgeable about the legal responsibilities of the Board of Directors
- Serve as a member of and actively participate in one or more of the Foundation Board Committees
- Give a personally significant annual donation and participate in at least one grantee site visit or Foundation- or Commission-sponsored event

Board Committees

We have five active committees that normally meet between quarterly meetings by online/by phone; those committees include our **Executive Committee**, our **Governance Committee** (which oversees board member orientation, supervises our annual audit, and makes board member and officer nominations), our **Grant Committee** (which oversees our Foundation's grant programs that support legal aid and access to justice), our **Finance Committee** (which prepares and monitors our budget and financial performance) and our **Resource Development Committee** (which oversees our fundraising and IOLTA revenue enhancement activities).

Contact Us

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