



Board Brief

FEBRUARY



Message from the President

Beyond Leading a Horse to Water

It's one thing to lead a horse to water, but it's another thing to get the horse to float on its back.

That is what we're all about here at the OSBF. We're now crafting and implementing grand plans that execute our mission. Our FELLOWS are finalizing details of their human trafficking and foster care *week of action*. In fact, they've already begun collecting suitcases and goods for their *Stuff the Suitcase Campaign* that will be delivered to foster children. Our ED Lori Keating, our development director Cynthia Kincaid and I fly to Austin this week to represent the OSBF at the national conference of nonprofit bar foundations. Meanwhile, Cynthia created an excellent, extensive Development Plan that Development Committee Chair Bill Weisenberg and Co-Chair John Holschuh will bring to their committee for further evaluation and execution- and that includes our eventually giving \$1,000,000 in grants in a single year! Our Board of Trustees gather later this month for our first board meeting and retreat run by expert Cheryl Pope out of Texas. With the outstanding guidance and expertise of Jack Stith, our Treasurer and Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, along with Co-Chair Belinda Barnes, we're analyzing and completing our 2020 budget which will then be brought to our board for approval. As well, we've moved our offices and so we're now working on buying furniture and figuring out space renovations that we need to complete by mid-year. These are a handful of crucial actions we've engaged in so far in 2020.

I'm not afraid to repeat that we have lofty goals for the benefit of the OSBF and all those touched by our beneficence. Given our amazing board we'll accomplish more than ever before. Collectively we desire to have *our reach exceed our grasp*. Ultimately, we'll get the horse to float on its back.

In fellowship with gratitude,

Mark Kitrick
President



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Membership Committee Meeting	12	13 National Conference of Bar Foundations	14	15
16	17 President's Day, OSBF Office Closed	18	19	20 Development Committee Meeting Board Meeting & Dinner	21 Board Retreat	22
23	24 OSBA District 7 Meeting	25 OSBA District 10 Meeting	26	27 OSBA District 1 Meeting	28	29

The current average adult attention span is less than that of a goldfish. We typically pay attention to one task for about eight seconds, as interruptions bombard us from all sides. During the average day, 120 emails appear in our inbox, 250 marketing messages come our way, and 94 text messages are sent or received. We field instantaneous alerts about client needs and family responsibilities and then spend about two hours a day catching up on social media updates. Our communications are delivered in bits and pieces from all directions, at all hours of the day.

In this land of interruptions, it is challenging to take a step away from it all to remember the big picture and the ultimate responsibilities of our profession. We, as attorneys, aspire to the highest professional ideals. We are charged to support our system of justice. We are charged to keep our work a calling that serves society. We are charged to promote an understanding and appreciation of our justice system to the public. And we are charged to serve, to devote our time, skills, and money to the community to promote our common good.

Participating in the Ohio State Bar Foundation promotes these ideals. By engaging in OSBF activities, we share fellowship with others who represent the best of our profession. By nominating others for OSBF awards, we bring attention to those who serve their communities tirelessly and with impact. By donating to our unrestricted fund, we strengthen organizations throughout the state that are doing the hard, important work of building a better justice system and educating the public about how it all works. By serving as an OSBF Trustees or committee member, we guide our organization to the best version it can be.

Amidst all of your instant alerts, competing interests, and obligations, make your participation at the OSBF a priority. Our mission – to support and improve the justice system that serves Ohio – unifies us, linking us to our colleagues, to our neighbors, and to our communities. In this world of distraction, the OSBF encourages us to live the ideals that truly connect us in big ways.





This spring, OSBF's strategic grantee IMG Media Group will be hosting another round of Civics Essential Game Hour events.

Hosted at public libraries, these events will be held *Family Feud*-style and test attendees' civic knowledge.

Keep reading the OSBF Brief to find out when Civics Essential Game Hour will be coming to a library near you!

OSBF Fellows
STUFF THE Suitcase

Help the Ohio State Bar Foundation's 2019 Fellows Class fill suitcases for the first-ever Fellows Week of Service!
OSBF is collecting new and gently used suitcases (or duffel bags, bookbags, etc.) filled with products to give to organizations across Ohio that help youth in the child welfare system and those who are emancipating from the system. The Class will be collecting suitcases and products through May 2, 2020.

Questions? Want to plan a Stuff the Suitcase Drive at your organization or firm? Ready to coordinate a pickup for suitcases and products?
Contact Jordann Dillard at the OSBF at JDillard@OSBF.org.

Products to Collect:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Shower Puffs
- Facial Moisturizer
- Face Cleanser
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Floss
- Deodorant
- Q Tips
- Cotton Pads
- Baby Powder
- Feminine Products
- Brushes or Combs
- Hair Ties
- Hair Clips
- Body Lotion
- Body Spray
- Socks

The 2019 Fellows Class has been busy at work planning the first-ever Fellows Week of Service, which will highlight the intersection of human trafficking and foster care.



One part of their service will include a Stuff the Suitcase campaign. They're gathering suitcases, bags, and products to give to foster youth who might have not much more than a plastic bag. These filled suitcases will be given to youth throughout the state as we partner with Bridges and other organizations to ensure these are going to those who need them most.

Are you interested in leading your own Stuff the Suitcase campaign at your office? Click the flier to the left for more details.

Thanks to a grant from the OSBF in spring 2019, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has been working to expand access to Cleveland Legal Aid by adding newer technology and an online intake module to their case management system.



Previously, potential clients were required to attend a brief advice clinic, call during office hours, or come in for a visit during limited hours. Now, thanks to OSBF support, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has...

- Developed a system for potential clients to initiate the online intake process
- Purchased appropriate technology to activate the online module at partner sites and Legal Aid Society of Cleveland clinics
- Given staff and volunteers interface training
- Held focus groups to test the online intake module
- Soft-launched the initiative to a limited community

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland also purchased necessary hardware for clinics in 5 counties to further improve access to the online module. The online intake module is accessible in three ways: through 24/7 online access, partner access for collaborating organization referrals, and clinic access for use at Legal Aid Society of Cleveland brief advice clinics.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR Spring Grant Cycle

Application Deadline is February 17 at 5 PM



DURING SPRING 2018, OSBF AWARDED MORE THAN \$300,000 TO ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS ACROSS OHIO.

BE A PART OF THE 2020 SPRING GRANT CYCLE – *apply now*



Help us spread the word! The 2020 Spring Grant Application Window is now open.

As a charitable grantmaking organization, the OSBF awards grant money twice a year (during the spring and fall) to worthy nonprofits that work hard to better the legal system. Since 1992, the Foundation has awarded more than \$12 million - and we have no plans to slow down.

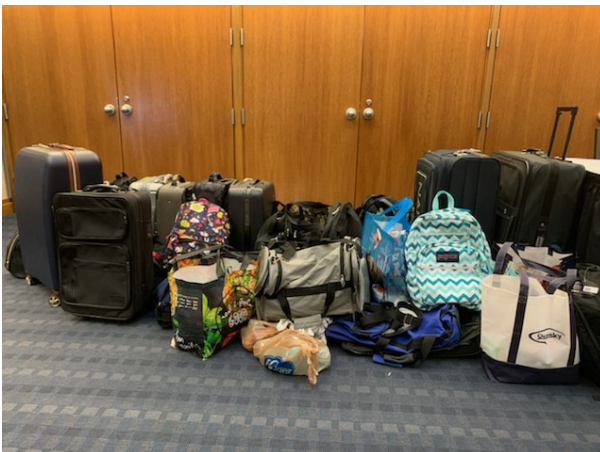
To apply, nonprofits can get started on the OSBF website [here](#).

Staff Update



The OSBF staff has had a busy February. The month kicked off with staff member Jordann Dillard traveling to Dayton to represent the OSBF at a CLE. 2019 Fellow Katie Lenski held an all-day CLE on child welfare - fitting well with our Fellows Week of Service! Instead of charging, she asked attendees to bring suitcases, bags, and products for our Stuff the Suitcase campaign. It was a hit! We collected more than 40 suitcases, duffle bags, book bags, and 30 plastic bags of products. What a great kick off to the campaign!

Later this week, Lori Keating and Cynthia Kincaid are heading to Austin, Texas, for the National Conference on Bar Foundations. Stay tuned to find out how their trip goes!





Can we count on you to do your part? At the end of each issue of the Brief, we will ask you to partake in an activity (we promise it will be easy!) to help us spread the word on the great work the Foundation is doing throughout Ohio.

For this issue, we're asking you to share with us why you wanted to become an OSBF Fellow. Your responses will help us inform other attorneys on why they should be interested in the Fellows Program, too!

When you give, we give.

All donations to the OSBF go directly to our grantmaking efforts.

[Give Now](#)

Ohio State Bar Foundation | OSBF@OSBF.net | 614-487-4444 | OSBF.org

See what's happening on our social media sites:

