



# Board Brief

MARCH



## Message from the President

### The Art and Science of OSBF Storytelling

Do you know that when we tell a story that focuses on someone in distress and build a narrative of connection so that we care and have empathy, then the blood

levels of cortisol and oxytocin in the listener's brain significantly increase? Moreover, when that physiological event happens, the listener is more likely to act - and that includes donating to a relevant charity, for instance. This is effective storytelling.

One of this year's prime directives for us as a board is to better tell our OSBF story. We want to educate and thus advance our mission to many more lawyers and citizens. We also want to be more comfortable when engaging in fundraising efforts so that we can eventually award one million dollars in grants per year. So, after we had our first very productive board meeting on February 20, the next day we participated in an excellent retreat where we learned the specifics of good storytelling and began practicing.

Another retreat goal was to update our definition of our roles as trustees. Through a healthy discussion, we collectively concluded we have a plethora of duties. To name a few, we must be ambassadors, perpetuate the Foundation's good works, promote a positive community perception of the justice system and our profession, motivate others to get involved, and provide personal and financial support.

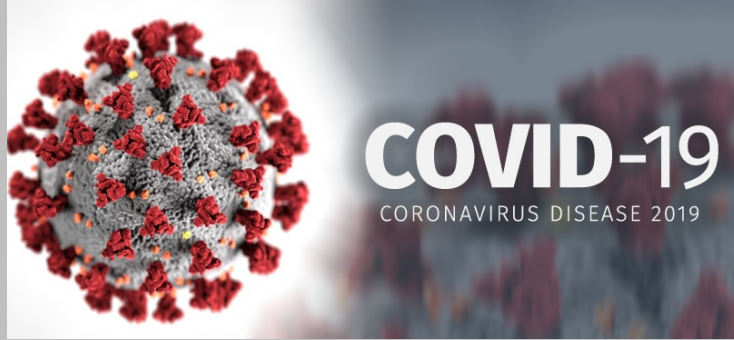
Meanwhile, our various committees met and provided report updates throughout the month. At the same time, our fantastic Fellows continue to accumulate various sundry items for vulnerable foster children with their *Stuff the Suitcase* initiative, and they've finalized the details of our first ever Fellows Week of Service called "On the Margin: Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking Symposium." Get ready for an incredible, unprecedented week where we will be helping foster children and human trafficking victims by educating thousands and calling for action vis-à-vis our Symposium on April 27, 2020 at the Ohio Statehouse. Let's work together to find out what we can do to protect victims.

In fellowship with gratitude,

Mark Kitrick  
President

Coronavirus has officially hit Ohio. Know that the OSBF is

consistently researching and staying up to date on the virus (a few staff members attended a very informative webinar on it last week). We are carefully studying options when it comes to upcoming meetings and events. Our highest priority is making sure our staff, Fellows, and supporters remain healthy and protected. We are working alongside the OSBA to determine the best, most reasonable options and actions.



As the situation remains fluid, we are continuing life

Great conferences leave a lasting impression. Not only through the people you meet, but also through actionable takeaways that you can - and do - incorporate into your work. In February, President Mark Kitrick, Cynthia Kincaid, Director of Development & PR, and I attended a great conference - the National Conference of Bar Foundations (NCBF) in Austin, Texas.

I most enjoyed sessions led by Brian Brandt, co-author of the book *Blind Spots: What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You*. Brian was able to illustrate, with the group's participation, ways to facilitate a meaningful meeting, including these strategies:

- To promote engagement, seat people in tables of no more than five.
- Before discussing the real work at hand, sometimes it helps to start with brain teasers or other tasks to get people thinking more creatively.
- Hand out any instructions for discussion to just one member at each table so that they must be read aloud and considered together. Passing out a piece of paper to everyone can lead to extroverts talking while introverts are writing down thoughts on their own piece of paper that may remain unshared.
- Ask participants to move around the room and debate. For example, if you are prioritizing the four parts of your organization's mission, have each part written on a piece of paper hanging on all sides of the room. Then, ask each participant to argue *in favor* of the part of the mission displayed closest to him or her with a partner from the opposite side of the room. After the first round, participants can be asked to move around any way the facilitator prefers. Participants may end up defending a point of view they might not have otherwise championed or hear an argument that might not have been otherwise voiced. This exercise fights group think and ensures all points of view are considered.

The biggest takeaway of all, though, is to put your time to its best and highest use. A meeting consisting of oral reports of written materials already provided may not be the very best use of the talent in the room. While some short reports may be necessary, dedicate much of rare in-person meeting time to discuss strategic issues. Participants who are asked to engage with the most significant topics will feel valued and leave the meeting feeling that their time was well spent.



Thanks in part to a grant from the OSBF, the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation (formerly known as the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation) was able to launch Ohio Legal Help. This website was designed to give access to information on the justice system


and meaningful assistance for civil legal needs to all Ohioans. Content of the website is written in an easy-to-understand format and covers five topics, including family, housing, consumer, public benefits, and the state's legal system. From website launch in August 2019 through the end of December 2019, the website had nearly 32,000 visits from users in every single county in the state.



To check out the website for yourself, visit [OhioLegalHelp.org](http://OhioLegalHelp.org).



Join the Ohio State Bar Foundation's 2019 Fellows Class for *On the Margin: Foster Youth at Risk for Human Trafficking*, an educational symposium highlighting the alarming number of Ohio kids in foster care who fall victim to human trafficking.

 **April 27 • Ohio Statehouse**  
**Reception 5 PM**  
**Program Begins at 6 PM**

Hear from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, human trafficking survivors, and other experts who are fighting to address this concerning issue. Discussions will be led by former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown and will focus on educating and, more importantly, action.

Throughout the evening, the event will highlight organizations who are on the frontlines working with survivors, kids, and the community. Learn what they are already doing to help foster youth and those in human trafficking and how you can get more involved.

Let's learn, educate, and work together to protect Ohio's vulnerable youth.

**Get Your  
Ticket**

*Community*  *Service Award*  
**FOR ATTORNEYS FORTY AND UNDER**



Congratulations to our District 7 recipient Katrina Thompson!

Katrina is a very active member of her community. As a member of Leadership Columbus, she planned and helped build dog houses for Star House after learning homeless youth with pets weren't able to take advantage of their services.



Congratulations to our District 1 recipient Matthew Wagner!

Matt was one of the first volunteers to take on a legal project with Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio (PBPO), which is an organization dedicated to providing legal services to nonprofits. Over the past four years, he has volunteered for 24 different legal projects with PBPO.



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](mailto:JDillard@OSBF.org).

**Products to Collect:**

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Shower Pouches
- 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 the [Ohio Bridges Program](#) to ensure these are going to those who need them most.

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

# Staff Update



**Ready for a look into the work life of OSBF Grants Manager Tiffany Patterson?**

Last week, Tiffany attended an event by OSBF grantee the Healthy Policy Institute of Ohio, and

she gave us a great, first-person recap...

In 2019, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio researched and developed resources to identify strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement within law enforcement and the criminal justice system as a part of their Addiction Evidence Project, which was partially funded by the OSBF. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of attending their forum to learn more about the findings following the late 2019 release of their report titled Ohio Addiction Policy Inventory and Scorecard: Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System. The event was packed with attendees from various health, legal and community organizations.

The day was filled with presentations about behavioral health systems, law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and how these systems function and overlap. With presentations by HPIO, the Vera Institute of Justice, the Criminal Sentencing Commission and the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Dockets Manager, current and new initiatives addressing the addiction crisis were outlined, including strategies focused on legislation changes, drug treatment courts, consistent data collection and reform for prisons, bail, and sentencing throughout the state. A panel also provided insight into changes at the rehabilitation and jail levels specifically for Hamilton County, Lorain County, Montgomery County and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

In addition to the wealth of knowledge provided at this event, I was also delighted to meet Stephen A. Johnson-Grove, a former Ohio Justice & Policy Center employee. Through our conversation, I learned Stephen implemented CIVICC in 2009 at OJPC, with OSBF grant funding. CIVICC is Ohio's online database about the Civil Impact of Criminal Convictions, which is still active today and updated continuously by 2007 OSBF Fellow, Pamela Hackes Thurston.

At the close of the event, conversations lingered, connections were made around the room, and resources were outlined for further review by attendees. When I connected with Amy Rohling McGee, Executive Director at HPIO, she expressed her gratitude to the OSBF for providing grant funding which allowed this phase of the Addiction Evidence Project to be thoroughly completed.

Resources for the event agenda and presentations, as well as the report, inventory, and scorecard related to Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System, can be found at <https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/>. For more information about CIVICC, please visit <https://civicc.opd.ohio.gov/>.



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 want you to check out [OhioLegalHelp.org](https://ohiolegalhelp.org). Peruse the site for a bit, and let us know what you think. What did you find most informing? Why do you think it's a good resource for Ohioans?

### **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](mailto:OSBF@OSBF.net) | 614-487-4444 | [OSBF.org](https://OSBF.org)

See what's happening on our social media sites:

