



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Advocating for legal rights
continuing a tradition of service
in DuPage County**

**dupagelegalaid.org | 630.653.6212
126 S County Farm Road. Wheaton IL 60187**

From Our Executive Director

As we close the 2024–2025 fiscal year, I am once again filled with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity and support of the DuPage County legal community. This year has been one of meaningful growth for DuPage Legal Aid, made possible by the dedication of our donors, volunteers, and staff who remain committed to ensuring access to justice for those who need it most.

One of the highlights of the year was the 50th Anniversary of Judges' Nite, a milestone celebration of a beloved DuPage County tradition. It was wonderful to see former staff attorneys and directors in attendance and to reflect on the legacy of this special event through clips from past performances. In honor of this milestone year, our goal was to raise \$50,000. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we exceeded that goal and raised \$54,000, surpassing our expectations. These funds will directly support our mission and allow us to provide legal representation to more individuals and families who otherwise would not be able to afford an attorney.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the DuPage County Bar Association and all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Judges' Nite such a success. The talented cast, musicians, and organizers once again delivered an unforgettable performance, reminding us how fortunate we are to be part of such a supportive and engaged legal community.

This year also brought significant growth for our organization. In the fall, DuPage Legal Aid received several important grants, including support through civil filing fee funding, the Lawyers Trust Fund, an anonymous donor, and two generous cy pres awards from cases litigated in DuPage County. These unexpected awards,



combined with the continued generosity of our donors, allowed us to expand our staff and strengthen our ability to meet the growing demand for legal services.

We are proud to share that DuPage Legal Aid now has four full-time staff attorneys, an important step forward in increasing our capacity to serve vulnerable individuals and families throughout DuPage County. This year, we were fortunate to welcome three outstanding attorneys to our team: Sheena Prevet, Robin Ritter, and Carolyn Weldy. Each brings unique experiences, professional dedication, and a deep commitment to public service. Their collective knowledge and passion for helping others have already made a meaningful impact on our clients and our organization.

Another cornerstone of our success continues to be the dedication of our volunteer attorneys. The theme of Law Day 2025, "Out of Many, One," reflects the spirit of collaboration that defines our work. We proudly recognize the many attorneys who accepted and completed pro bono assignments this year, giving their time and expertise to support individuals and families facing difficult legal challenges.

Their willingness to step forward ensures that access to justice remains possible for those who might otherwise go without representation. We extend special recognition to Azam Nizamuddin, who received the Rookie of the Year Award, and Angela Aliota, who was honored as Pro Bono Champion for her outstanding service. We also acknowledge the many attorneys who contributed significant hours of pro bono service, demonstrating exceptional commitment to public service and the well-being of our community.

As we reflect on this past year, we are reminded that every grant received, every volunteer hour given, and every dollar donated translates into meaningful legal assistance for individuals and families in need. The continued growth of DuPage Legal Aid would not be possible without the collective support of our legal community and dedicated partners.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our mission. Together, we look forward to another year of service, collaboration, and impact in DuPage County.

Sincerely,
Lynda Marquardt
Executive Director, DuPage Legal Aid

DuPage Legal Aid

FY 2024-25 Program Activity

Cases Completed by
In-House Counsel

373

Cases Completed by
DCBA Volunteer
Attorneys

68

Total In-House
Court Appearances

1060

Total DCBA
Volunteer Court
Appearances

298

Total In-House
Hours

4,135.48

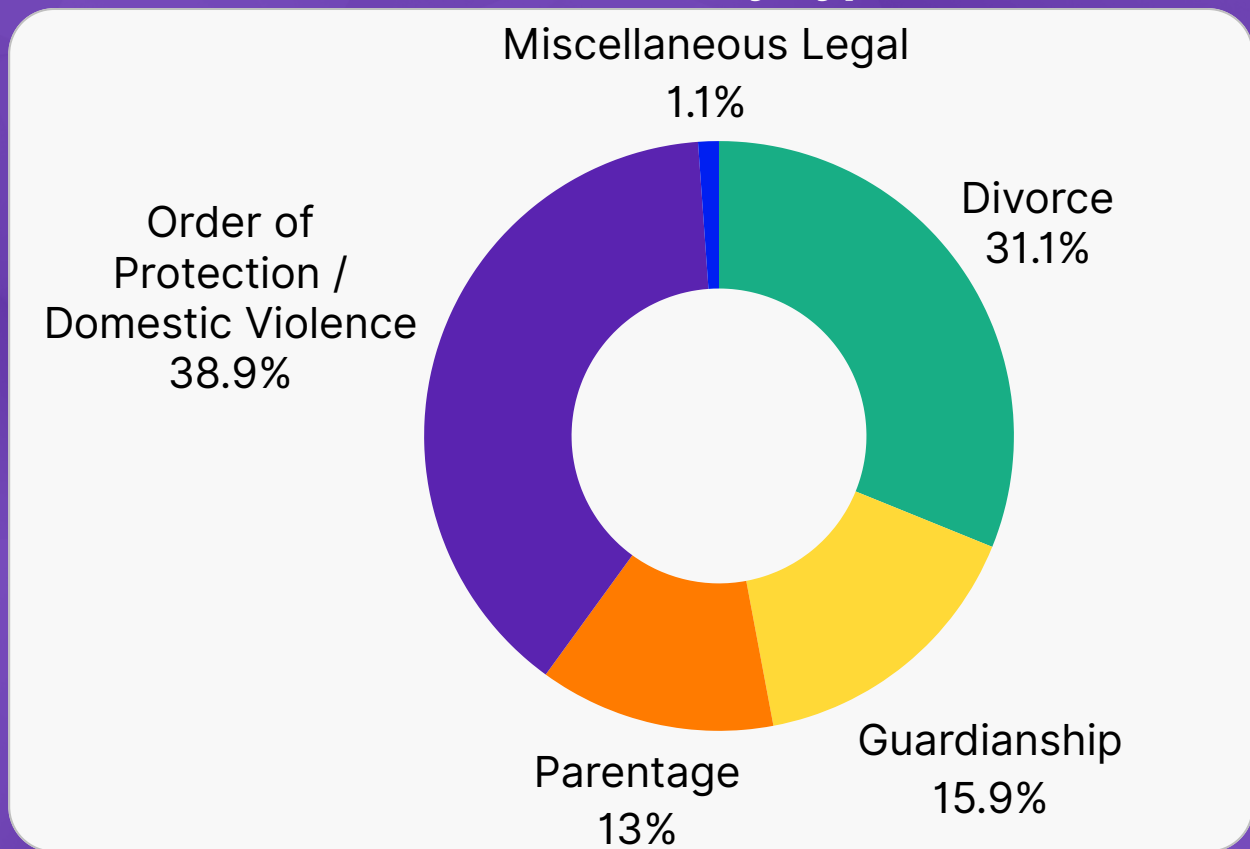
Total DCBA
Volunteer Hours

1,219.27

FY 2024-25 Cases by Type - Percentage

Order of Protection	171	39%
Divorce	137	31%
Parentage	57	13%
Guardianship	70	16%
Miscellaneous Legal	5	1%

Performance by Type:



Client Testimonials

"DuPage Legal Aid is very generous and very helpful. I truly appreciate and I am thankful from [the] bottom of my heart"

"[Attorney] is a wonderful asset to your agency. Her knowledge and sensitivity to our situation could not have been better. We are so appreciative of all her efforts to come to an amicable resolution for all in a very difficult and heart wrenching situation."

2024/2025 DuPage Legal Aid Impact Statement



70+

attorney volunteers



5,355

pro bono hours donated



\$1,874,162

saved in legal services

	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
Total New Cases Screen	1208	1232
Assigned to In-House Counsel	322	405
Assigned to DCBA Volunteers	45	54
Referred to DCBA-LRS	350	150
Referred to Other Legal Service Organization:	0	191
Referred to Out of County Services:	0	56
Referred to No Retainer Attorney	0	15
Modest Means (DCBA Program)*	0	*Program discontinued
Completed by In-House Counsel	364	373
Completed by DCBA Volunteers	59	68

Legal Clinics

34

community partnership legal clinic given

49

in-house legal clinics given

79

cases currently pending

249

of domestic violence clients served in 2024

42

of court appointed cases worked on



Board of Directors and Staff 2024-5

Thank you to our Donors!

Officers

President: Nick Economos
 Vice-President: John Demling
 Secretary: Monica Alvarez
 Treasurer: Lisa Murphy

\$1,000- \$4,999

Maria G. Antonioli, Beck & Houlihan, Perry Browder, Andrew Cores, Sean McCumber, Wendy Musielak, Stephanie Neuman, Brad Pollock, Jim Reichardt, Matthew Shaw, Elizabeth Soriano, Kathleen Torluemke, Bonnie Wheaton

Directors

Jennifer Nunez
 Lisa Giese
 Robin Slattery
 Connie Gessner
 Dan Hunter
 Lori Seccombe

\$500- \$999

Andrew Cores (2), Jeffrey Ross and Catherine Dalzell, Umberto S. Davi, PC, Paul Fullerton, Megan E. Gieseler, Richard and Ann Jorgensen, Denise Pcolinski, Marissa Spencer, Margaret Stein Kodzik, Christopher Ward

Office Staff

Lynda Marquardt, Executive Director / Managing Attorney
 Sheena Prevette, Staff Attorney
 Robin Ritter, Staff Attorney
 Carolyn Weldy, Staff Attorney
 Allyson Stoops, Office Manager and Grant Coordinator
 Lucy Cortez, Intake Coordinator
 Lucero Martinez, Administrative Assistant
 Maribel Rodriguez, Paralegal

\$100-\$499

Steven D. Armamentos, Brenda Carroll, Rebecca Chaikin, Tony Coconate, Paul De Luca, Honorable Robert Douglas, Honorable (Ret.) Rodney W. Equi, Honorable (Ret.) William I. Ferguson, Patrick Goar, William Guild, Jodi Henninger, Honorable Angelo Kappas, Daniel Kollias, Jae Kwon, Angela Larimer, Honorable James F. McCluskey, Stacey McCullough, Wendy Musielak, Nicolas Nelson, Denise Niederman, Justice Mary Key O'Brien, Honorable Monique O'Toole, Sarah H. Poeppel, Elizabeth Pope, Steven Powers, Emily Rapp, Dan and Maria Regan, Roe Rooney (2), Ann Russell, Aaron Ruswick, David Schwartz, Hilary Sefton, Michael Sitrick (2), Robin C. Slattery, Alexa St John, John Straus, Pam Trojan, Robert Walsh, Alison Wardein, Charles Wentworth, Greg Wildman (2), Janet H. Winningham, Jeff York, Christopher Zaruba

Interns

Rhea Waghray, Marquette University Law School
 Elizabeth Malone, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Less than \$100

Nancy and Mr. Clifford Scott-Rudnick

Grants

DuPage County Bar Association
 18th Judicial Court Civil Filing Fee Grant
 Lawyers Trust Fund
 Anonymous Grantor
 Wayne Township

Cy Pres Awards

Rochell Hestrup et al. vs. DuPage Medical Group Ltd et al.
 Plaintiffs represented by Barnow and Associates PC

Anthony McGowan et al. vs. Roblox Corporation et al.
 Plaintiffs represented by McGuire Law
 Defendants represented by Perkins Coie LLP