

2025 Profile of the Legal Profession in Ohio



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INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Bar Association compiled this report in order to provide a more complete picture of the legal profession in Ohio. The report is a reference for legal professionals and the public so that we may better understand the practice of law in the state, from its impact on the economy to its makeup in terms of gender, ethnicity, geography and area of practice, as well as how bar membership contributes to and compares with the profession as a whole. The data here is compiled from many different sources, including the Ohio Supreme Court, the American Bar Association and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, as well as various studies commissioned by the Ohio Bar to survey attorneys in Ohio.

The legal profession and association membership are in a state of rapid change and our hope is that we can provide a clear vision of where we are now, so that we can better prepare for where we are heading in the future.

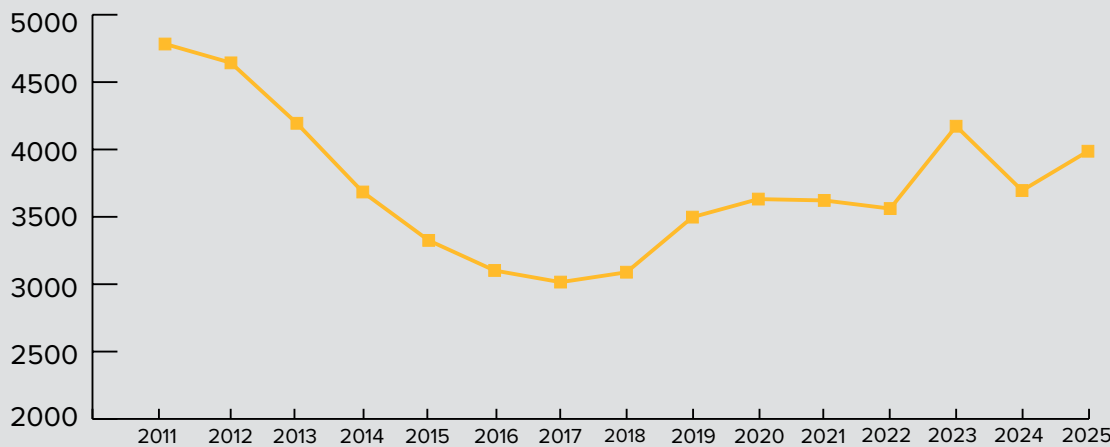
LEGAL EDUCATION

Ohio Law school enrollment began a steady decline in 2011, but in 2017, numbers began a slight upward trend. Enrollment numbers spiked again in 2025 after a 2024 dip.

Nationwide, women outnumbered men in law schools for the ninth year in a row in 2025, according to the American Bar Association. In Ohio, women 1L students outnumber men by about 175 students.



OHIO LAW SCHOOL TOTAL JD ENROLLMENT



American Bar Association fall 2025 law school enrollment data

OHIO LAW SCHOOL 1L ENROLLMENT, FALL 2025



2025-26
Class Total
1,479



**Men
638**



**Women
811**

**Other/Prefer
Not To Report
30**

School	2025-26 Class Total	Men	Women	Other/Prefer Not to Report
University of Akron	203	94	102	7
Capital University	180	79	101	0
Case Western Reserve University	180	63	111	6
University of Cincinnati	139	51	86	2
Cleveland State University	195	82	110	3
University of Dayton	168	79	86	3
Ohio Northern University	129	62	66	1
Ohio State University	159	74	80	5
University of Toledo	126	54	69	3

Ohio Law School 2024 Graduate Employment Outcomes

Employed - Bar Passage Required **79%**
Employed - J.D. Advantage **9%**
Employed - Professional Position **2%**
Employed - Nonprofessional Position **0.4%**
Employed - Law School/University Funded **1%**
Employed-Undeterminable **0%**
Pursuing Graduate Degree Full Time **0.5%**
Employed-Start Date Deferred **0.2%**
Unemployed - Not Seeking **1%**
Unemployed - Seeking **6%**
Employment Status Unknown **1%**

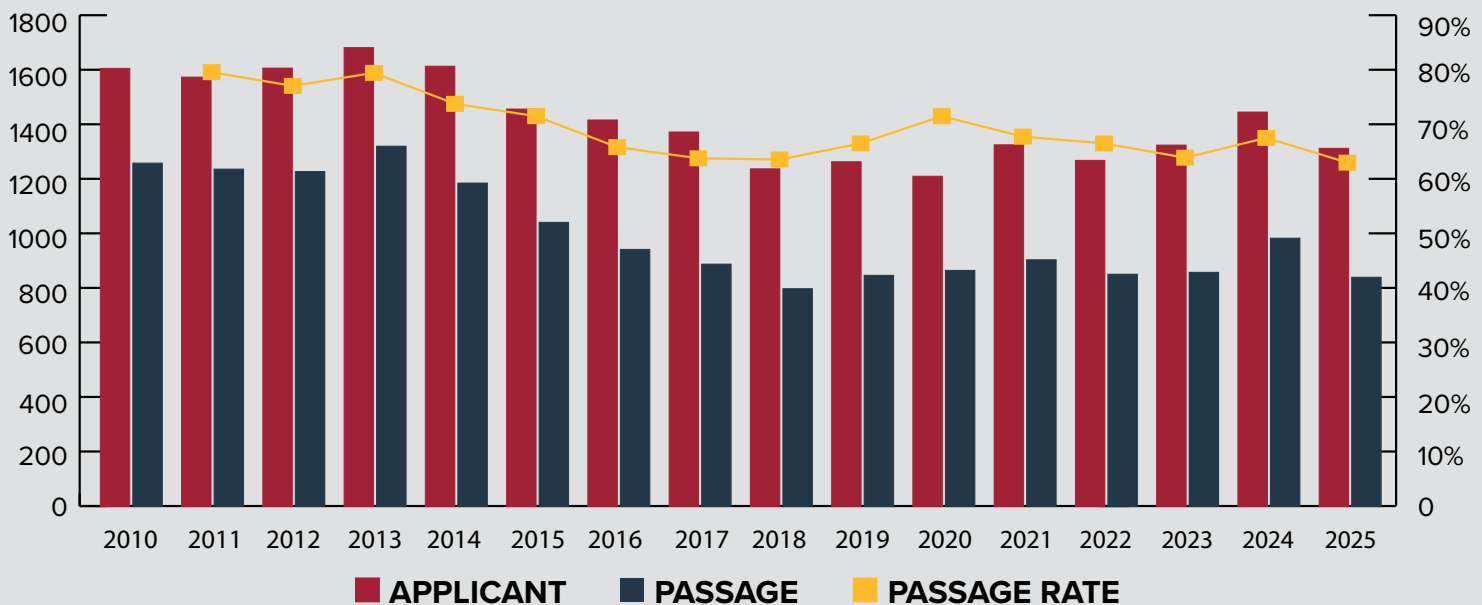
American Bar Association fall 2025 law school enrollment data

American Bar Association Section of Legal Education
Employment Summary Reports. Required disclosures
were reported in spring of 2025 and data may change
throughout the year.



After a brief uptick in 2024, bar passage rates continued a downward trend in 2025.

OHIO BAR EXAM APPLICANT/# OF PASSERS / PASSAGE RATE



Ohio Supreme Court Bar Examination results

LAW SCHOOL DEBT



Private Practitioners

Overall: \$73,106

Gen Z: \$73,500
Millennials: \$104,649
Gen X: \$79,777
Baby Boomers: \$31,488



Government/ Judicial Attorneys

Overall: \$69,521

Gen Z: \$51,333
Millennials: \$115,895
Gen X: \$65,606
Baby Boomers: \$26,667



In-House Counsel

Overall: \$73,667

Gen Z: --*
Millennials: \$145,750
Gen X: \$70,955
Baby Boomers: \$33,688



Legal Aid/Nonprofit

Overall: \$87,667

Gen Z: --*
Millennials: \$100,429
Gen X: --*
Baby Boomers: --*

Data based on voluntary responses to Ohio Bar 2024 Economics of Law Practice Survey. Values represent mean data points.

*Omitted due to low response rate.

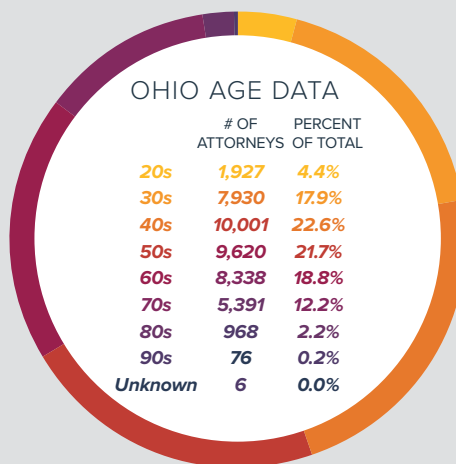
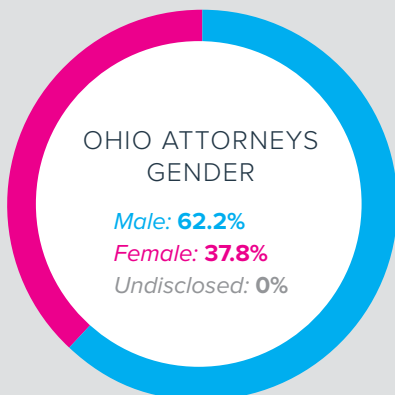
OHIO ATTORNEYS

Ohio attorneys have a ways to go when it comes to achieving gender parity, closing the wage gap and attaining true racial diversity.

However, the legal profession is also one of the most giving, with attorneys being several times more likely to serve on the board of a nonprofit than other professions. Close to three quarters of attorneys in Ohio provide legal services at no cost to those in need.



DEMOGRAPHICS



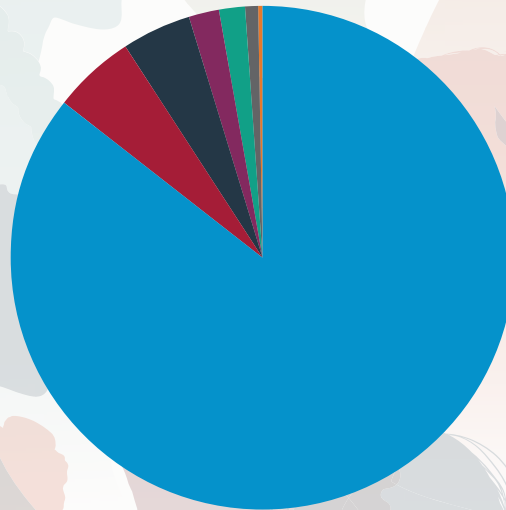
37,192

**2025 REGISTERED ATTORNEYS
WITH OHIO SUPREME COURT
AND OHIO BUSINESS ADDRESS**

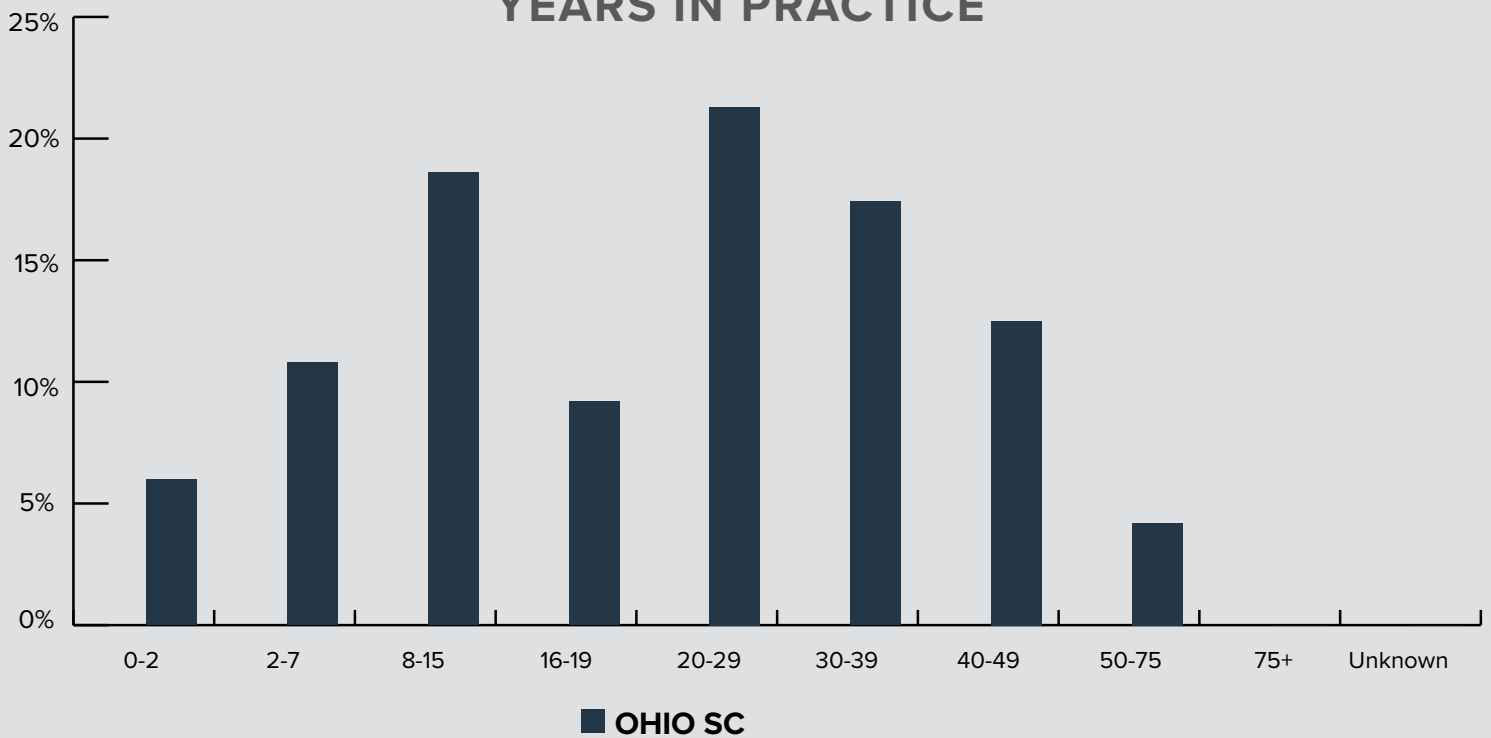
Gender and age demographics based on 2025 Supreme Court and Ohio Bar member data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Ohio SC
0% Other
0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific
0.7% Am. Indian/Alaskan
1.7% Hispanic
2.1% Asian
4.4% Black/African American
5.2% Not Provided
85.7% White



YEARS IN PRACTICE



Ohio Supreme Court 2025 registered attorney data.

Data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

The majority of private practitioners believe their economic circumstances will remain the same over the next couple years.

PRIVATE PRACTITIONER SALARY & HOURLY RATES

3-5
YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$97,000 | \$75,000
2018 \$73,500 | \$78,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$250/HR.
2018 \$200/HR.



6-10
YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$130,000 | \$125,000
2018 \$90,000 | \$67,500



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$300/HR.
2018 \$215/HR.

More than 40% of private practitioners have been able to reach new clients on virtual platforms, but the profession remains worried about the impact of virtual platforms on personal relationships.



SALARY

2023 \$130,000 | \$102,000
2018 \$120,000 | \$82,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$300/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.

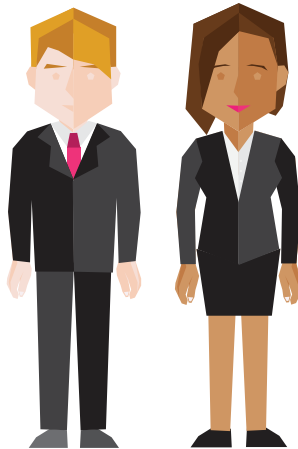


11-15
YEARS IN PRACTICE

Figures represent median values. Values are based on Ohio Bar member responses to the 2019 and 2024 Economics of Law Practice surveys.

● = Male ● = Female

16-25 YEARS IN PRACTICE



SALARY

2023 \$184,000 | \$127,500
2018 \$111,000 | \$115,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$303/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.

Most attorneys practice in solo or small firms and one-third of them do not use administrative or paralegal support.



SALARY

2023 \$160,000 | \$150,000
2018 \$150,000 | \$85,000



HOURLY RATE

2023 \$278/HR.
2018 \$250/HR.



26-35 YEARS IN PRACTICE

OTHER SEGMENT SALARIES



IN-HOUSE SALARY

2023 \$200,000 | \$141,000
2018 \$125,000 | \$109,000



GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2023 \$100,000 | \$100,000
2018 \$77,000 | \$71,000



LEGAL AID/NONPROFIT SALARY**

2023 \$85,000 | \$72,250

Figures represent median values. Values are based on Ohio Bar member responses to the 2019 and 2024 Economics of Law Practice surveys.

● = Male ● = Female

*New segment for 2024 Economics of Law Practice survey.

IOLTA

18,093

ACTIVE ATTORNEYS WITH REGISTERED IOTA/IOLTA ACCOUNTS

IOLTA accounts are a good indication of the amount of lawyers in the state who work with clients and maintain client funds. Interest earned on these accounts provide financial support to Ohio's legal aids.

This data was compiled Sept. 2025 and may change throughout the year.

PRO BONO

86,161

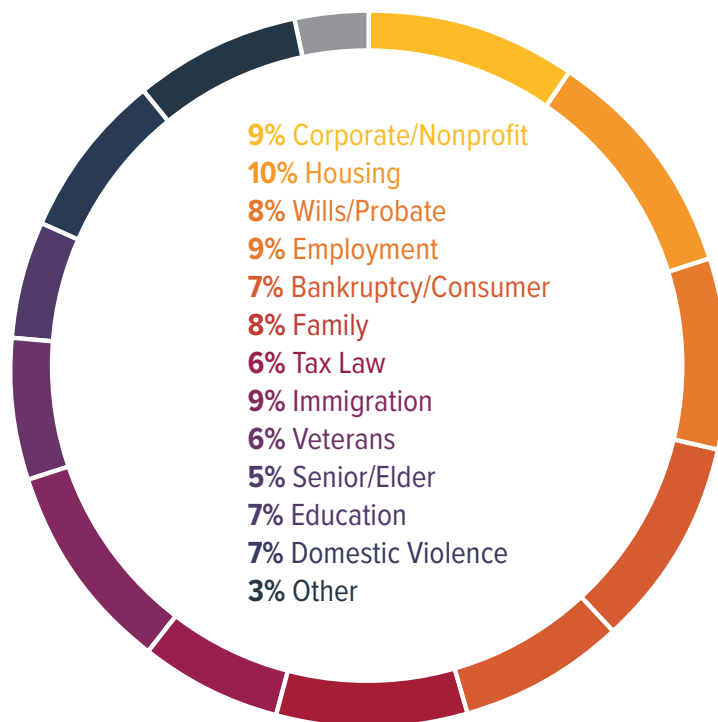


PRO BONO HOURS REPORTED
13.7% DECREASE FROM 2023

\$21,540,250

VALUE OF REPORTED PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

PRACTICE AREAS OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES



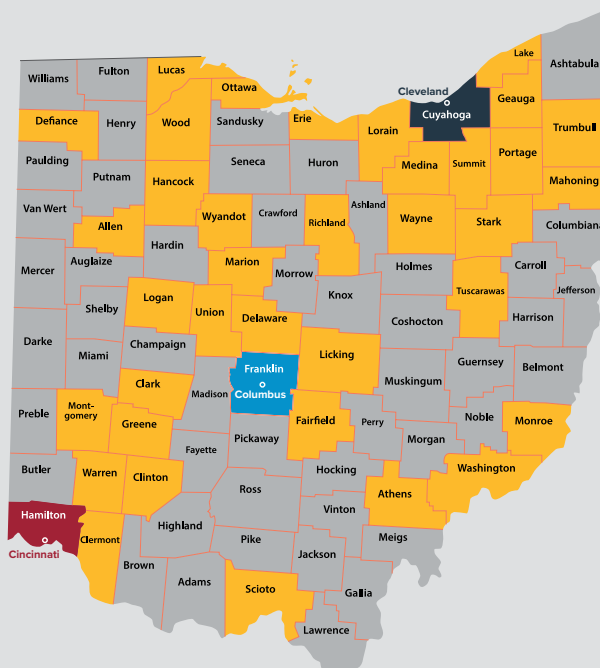
Data from Ohio Access to Justice Foundation
2024 Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

At the state level, an attorney is 11 times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit as would be expected based on their occupational representation. This is an increase from 2012, when lawyers were four to eight times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit.

Nonprofit Board Participation by Region:

Cincinnati: 39.7%
Cleveland: 37.6%
Columbus: 37.1%
Other Urban Areas: 48.5%
Rural Areas: 47.1%



Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services
Industry prepared for the Ohio Bar by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Ohio's legal services industry is a major employer, directly employing 44,427 people and paying more than \$3.6 billion in wages. An additional 58,394 jobs are created due to the profession's indirect employment and \$2.7 billion in indirect wages are generated via direct expenditure on wages.

Overall, the profession has a total economic impact of \$6.3 billion in household earnings and the creation of 102,821 jobs.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRIVATE OHIO LAW FIRMS

\$3.6 Billion
DIRECT WAGES

44,427
DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

\$2.7 Billion
INDIRECT WAGES

58,394
INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

\$6.3 BILLION
102,821 JOBS

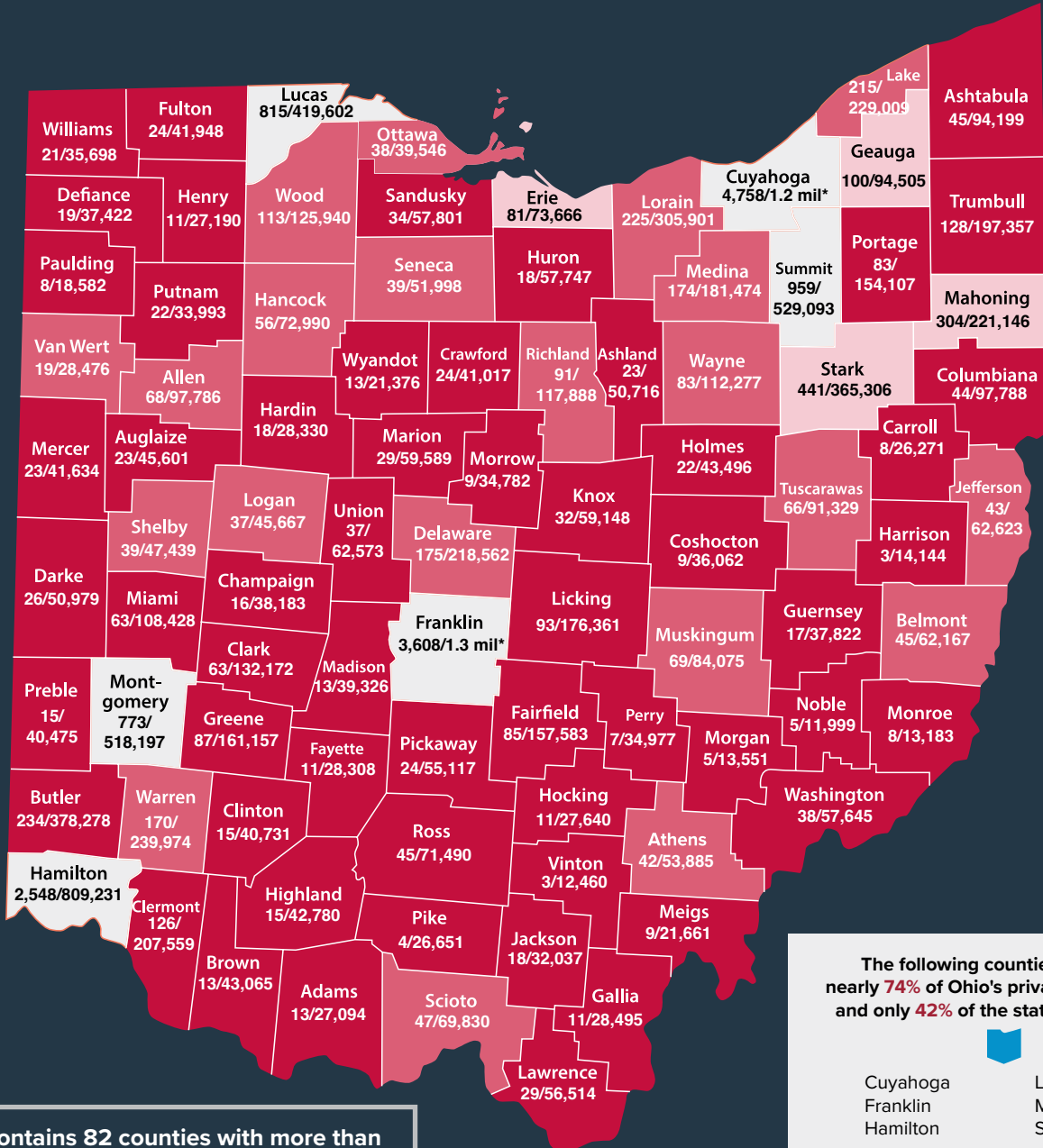
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Region	Total Earnings Impact	Share of State Impact	Total Employment Impact	Share of State Impact
Akron	\$343,980,422	5.4%	5,321	5.2%
Canton	\$119,757,30	1.9%	2,061	2.0%
Cincinnati	\$934,049,094	14.8%	13,898	13.5%
Cleveland	\$2,081,887,567	32.9%	30,207	29.4%
Columbus	\$1,283,589,742	20.3%	19,721	19.2%
Dayton	\$302,398,904	4.8%	4,793	4.7%
Toledo	\$216,648,978	3.4%	3,813	3.7%
Youngstown	\$93,667,928	1.5%	1,822	1.8%
Appalachia Region	\$251,135,289	4.0%	4,914	4.8%
State of Ohio	\$6,326,140,448	100.0%	102,821	100.0%

Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services Industry prepared for the Ohio Bar by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center.

Earnings and employment impacts include 2019 payrolled employees, self-employed individuals, and extended proprietors. The total earnings and employment impacts of the regions do not sum to the total for the State of Ohio. The nine regions analyzed do not encompass all counties in the State of Ohio, and the Appalachian region encompasses seven counties included in other metropolitan areas analyzed.

Ohio Attorneys/County Population*



Ohio contains 82 counties with more than 700 residents per attorney.

- 57 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of more than 1,500 people per attorney.
- 21 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of between 1,000 and 1,499 people per attorney.
- 4 counties contain a population to attorney ratio of between 700 and 999 people per attorney.
- 6 remaining counties have fewer than 700 people per active attorney.

*Number of private practitioners is based upon attorneys with IOTA/IOLTA accounts, i.e. those who handle client funds, according to the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation. Population data sourced from U.S. Census ACS 2023 five-year estimates.

**Rounded for space

9/30/2025

Data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

Ohio Attorney Per Resident

Adams	1 per 2,084
Allen	1 per 1,438
Ashland	1 per 2,205
Ashtabula	1 per 2,093
Athens	1 per 1,283
Auglaize	1 per 1,983
Belmont	1 per 1,381
Brown	1 per 3,313
Butler	1 per 1,617
Carroll	1 per 3,284
Champaign	1 per 2,386
Clark	1 per 2,098
Clermont	1 per 1,647
Clinton	1 per 2,715
Columbiana	1 per 2,222
Coshocton	1 per 4,007
Crawford	1 per 1,709
Cuyahoga	1 per 257
Darke	1 per 1,961
Defiance	1 per 1,970
Delaware	1 per 1,249
Erie	1 per 909
Fairfield	1 per 1,854
Fayette	1 per 2,573
Franklin	1 per 358
Fulton	1 per 1,748
Gallia	1 per 2,590
Geauga	1 per 945
Greene	1 per 1,852
Guernsey	1 per 2,225
Hamilton	1 per 318
Hancock	1 per 1,303
Hardin	1 per 1,574
Harrison	1 per 4,715
Henry	1 per 2,472
Highland	1 per 2,852
Hocking	1 per 2,513
Holmes	1 per 1,977
Huron	1 per 3,208
Jackson	1 per 1,780
Jefferson	1 per 1,456
Knox	1 per 1,848
Lake	1 per 1,065
Lawrence	1 per 1,949

Licking	1 per 1,896
Logan	1 per 1,234
Lorain	1 per 1,360
Lucas	1 per 515
Madison	1 per 3,025
Mahoning	1 per 727
Marion	1 per 2,055
Medina	1 per 1,043
Meigs	1 per 2,407
Mercer	1 per 1,810
Miami	1 per 1,721
Monroe	1 per 1,648
Montgomery	1 per 670
Morgan	1 per 2,710
Morrow	1 per 3,865
Muskingum	1 per 1,218
Noble	1 per 2,400
Ottawa	1 per 1,041
Paulding	1 per 2,323
Perry	1 per 4,997
Pickaway	1 per 2,297
Pike	1 per 6,663
Portage	1 per 1,857
Preble	1 per 2,698
Putnam	1 per 1,545
Richland	1 per 1,295
Ross	1 per 1,589
Sandusky	1 per 1,700
Scioto	1 per 1,486
Seneca	1 per 1,333
Shelby	1 per 1,216
Stark	1 per 828
Summit	1 per 552
Trumbull	1 per 1,542
Tuscarawas	1 per 1,384
Union	1 per 1,691
Van Wert	1 per 1,499
Vinton	1 per 4,153
Warren	1 per 1,412
Washington	1 per 1,517
Wayne	1 per 1,353
Williams	1 per 1,700
Wood	1 per 1,115
Wyandot	1 per 1,644

Calculations are based upon data compiled at a single point in time from the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Census Bureau