

# 2021 Profile of the Legal Profession in Ohio



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## INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) 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 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 OSBA 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, OSBA membership data, the American Bar Association and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, as well as various studies commissioned by the OSBA 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.

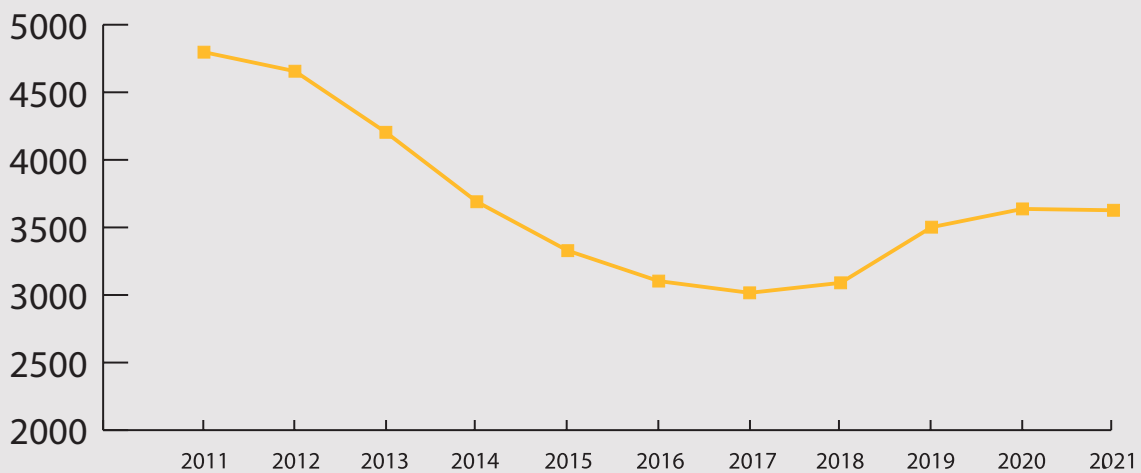
# LEGAL EDUCATION

Ohio law school enrollment began a steady decline in 2011. In 2017, law schools began to see their first uptick in enrollment numbers and 2021 maintained an upward trend of new law students.

Nationwide, women have outnumbered men in law schools for the fifth year in a row in 2021, according to the American Bar Association. Meanwhile, in Ohio, law school enrollment hovers near gender parity but women 1L students do outnumber men, with the gap increasing in 2021.



## OHIO LAW SCHOOL TOTAL ENROLLMENT



American Bar Association 2021 law school enrollment data

## OHIO LAW SCHOOL 1L ENROLLMENT, FALL 2021

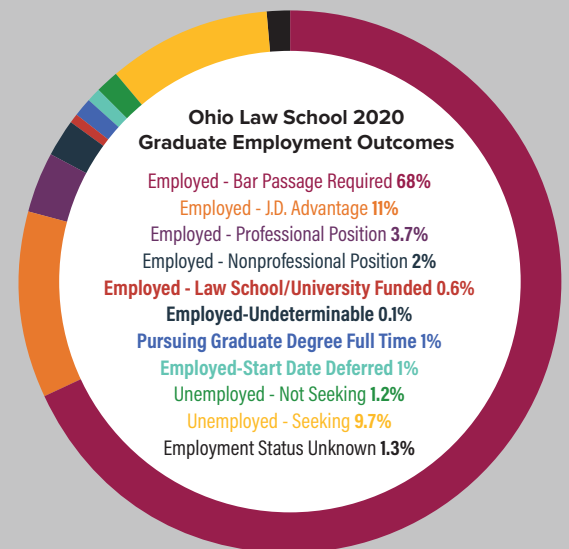
2020-21  
Class Total  
**1,327**

**Men**  
**591**

**Women**  
**725**

**Other**  
**11**

School	2020-21 Class Total	Men	Women	Other
University of Akron	164	82	81	1
Capital University	194	78	116	0
Case Western Reserve University	162	68	93	1
University of Cincinnati	127	59	66	2
Cleveland-Marshall College	139	62	77	0
University of Dayton	132	43	85	4
Ohio Northern University	66	25	41	0
Ohio State University	181	87	91	3
University of Toledo	162	87	75	0



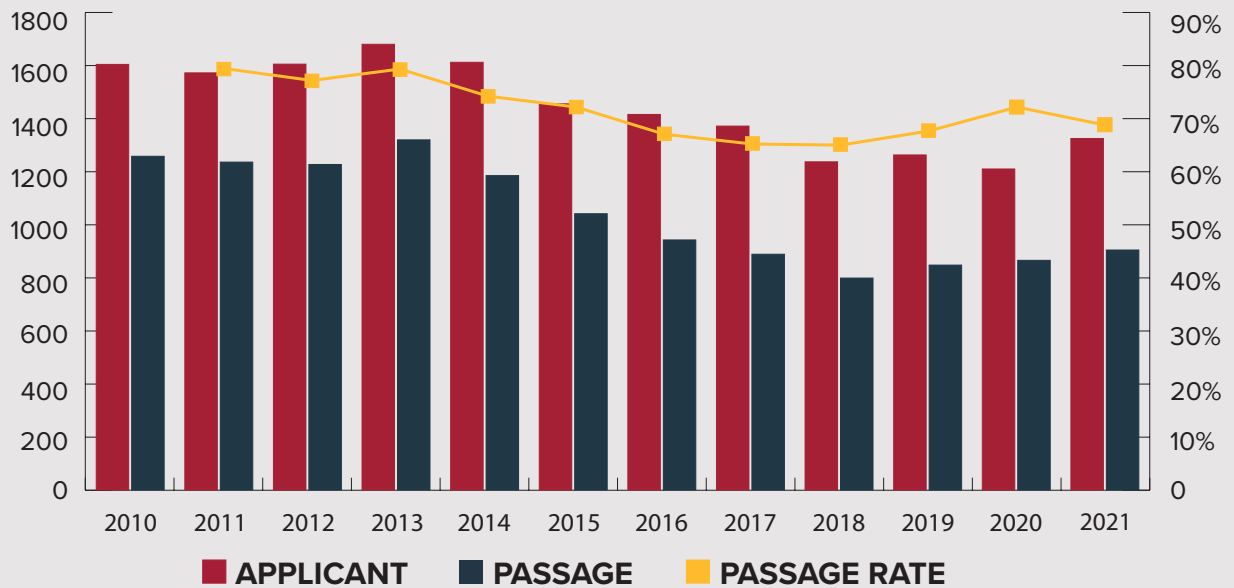
American Bar Association 2021 law school enrollment data

American Bar Association Section of Legal Education Employment Summary Reports. Required disclosures were reported in spring of 2020 and data may change throughout the year.



Bar passage rates in 2021 declined slightly for the first time since 2014. But, 2021 also saw the highest number of exam applicants and passers since 2016.

## OHIO BAR EXAM APPLICANT / # OF PASSERS / PASSAGE RATE



Ohio Supreme Court Bar Examination results

## STUDENT DEBT



### Private Practitioners

Millennials: \$98,801  
Gen X: \$71,088  
Baby Boomers: \$32,228



### Government Attorneys

Millennials: \$113,380  
Gen X: \$67,450  
Baby Boomers: \$6,738



### In-House Counsel

Millennials: \$87,706  
Gen X: \$72,000  
Baby Boomers: \$41,000

Data based on voluntary responses to OSBA 2019 Economics of Law Practice Survey. Values represent mean data points.

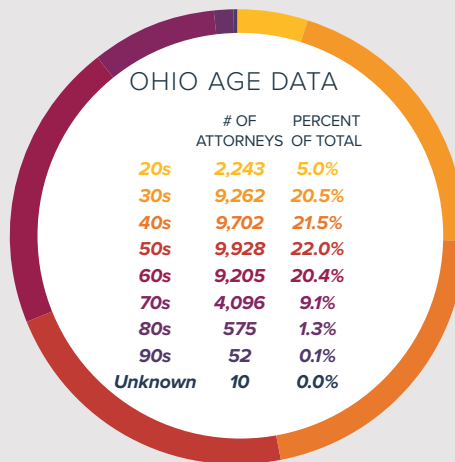
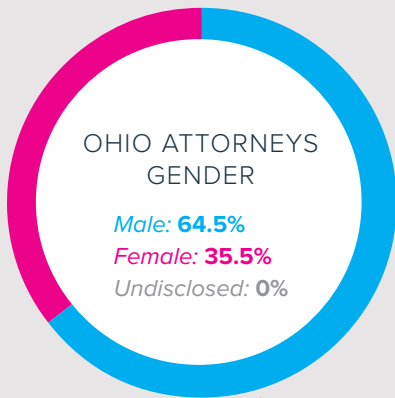
# OHIO ATTORNEYS

Though law school enrollment figures paint a promising picture for the future of the legal profession, 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 industries, 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 and the value of pro bono services provided by Ohio lawyers trends steadily upward.



## DEMOGRAPHICS



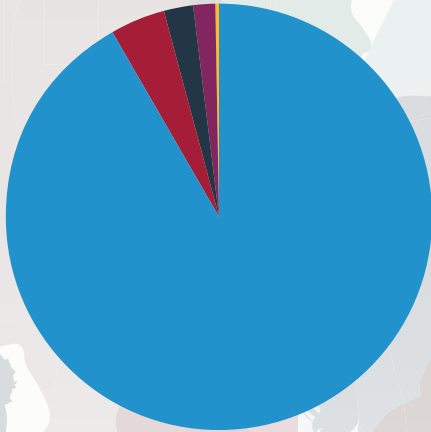
# 38,354

**2021 REGISTERED ATTORNEYS WITH OHIO SUPREME COURT AND OHIO BUSINESS ADDRESS\***

Total registered attorneys with the Ohio Supreme Court in 2021: 44,590

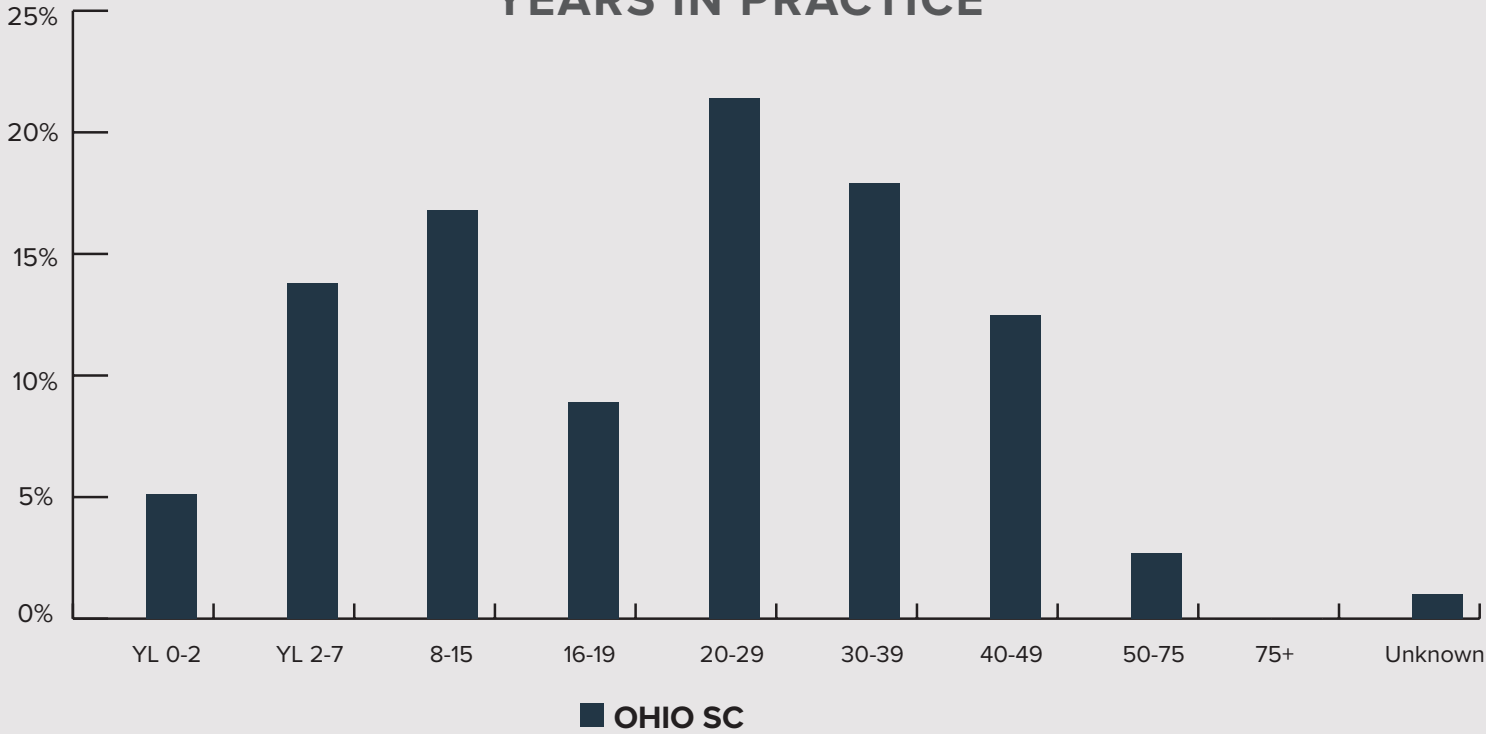
Gender and age demographics based on 2021 Supreme Court data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

# RACE/ETHNICITY



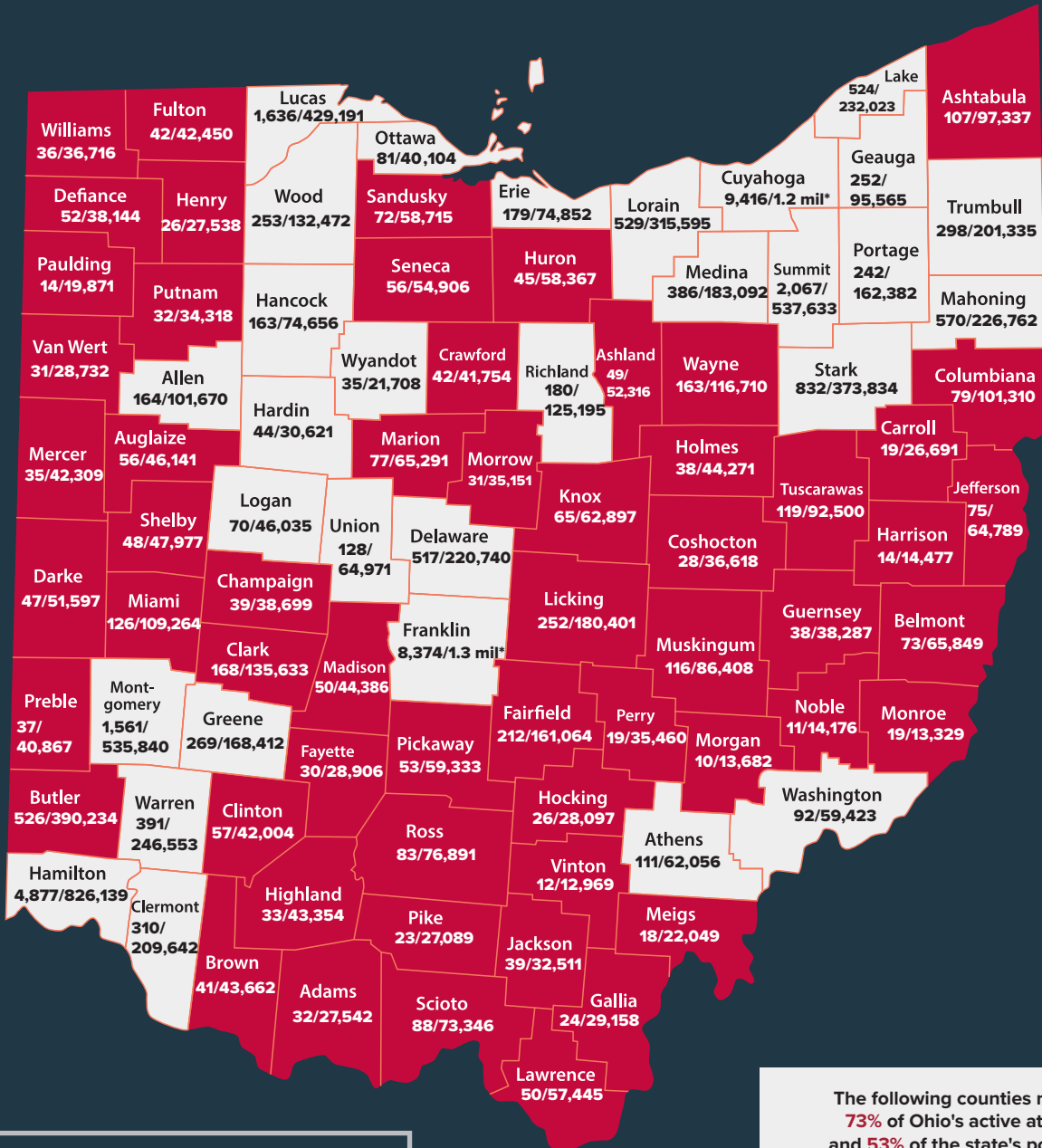
**Ohio SC**  
 0% Other  
 0.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific  
 0.1% Not Provided  
 0.7% Am. Indian/Alaskan  
 1.7% Hispanic  
 2.0% Asian  
 4.2% Black/African American  
 91.3% White

# YEARS IN PRACTICE



Ohio Supreme Court 2021 registered attorney data.  
 Supreme Court race and ethnicity data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

# Ohio Attorney/Population Ratio by County



Ohio contains 58 counties with more than 700 residents per attorney.

- Counties contain a population to attorney ratio of more than 700 people per attorney
- Remaining counties with fewer than 700 people per active attorney

The following counties represent 73% of Ohio's active attorneys and 53% of the state's population.

- Cuyahoga
- Franklin
- Hamilton
- Lucas
- Montgomery
- Summit

**27,931/4,899,604**

Data compiled from Ohio Supreme Court and U.S. Census Bureau (Ohio County Population Estimates as of 7/1/2021).

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

\*Rounded for space



# Ohio Attorney/Population Ratio

Adams	1/860	Licking	1/716
Allen	1/620	Logan	1/658
Ashland	1/1,068	Lorain	1/597
Ashtabula	1/910	Lucas	1/262
Athens	1/559	Madison	1/888
Auglaize	1/824	Mahoning	1/398
Belmont	1/902	Marion	1/848
Brown	1/1,064	Medina	1/474
Butler	1/742	Meigs	1/1,225
Carroll	1/1,405	Mercer	1/1,209
Champaign	1/992	Miami	1/867
Clark	1/807	Monroe	1/702
Clermont	1/676	Montgomery	1/343
Clinton	1/737	Morgan	1/1,368
Columbiana	1/1,282	Morrow	1/1,134
Coshocton	1/1,308	Muskingum	1/745
Crawford	1/994	Noble	1/1,289
Cuyahoga	1/133	Ottawa	1/495
Darke	1/1,098	Paulding	1/1,419
Defiance	1/734	Perry	1/1,866
Delaware	1/427	Pickaway	1/1,119
Erie	1/418	Pike	1/1,178
Fairfield	1/760	Portage	1/671
Fayette	1/964	Preble	1/1,105
Franklin	1/158	Putnam	1/1,072
Fulton	1/1,011	Richland	1/696
Gallia	1/1,215	Ross	1/926
Geauga	1/379	Sandusky	1/815
Greene	1/626	Scioto	1/833
Guernsey	1/1,008	Seneca	1/980
Hamilton	1/169	Shelby	1/1,000
Hancock	1/458	Stark	1/449
Hardin	1/696	Summit	1/260
Harrison	1/1,034	Trumbull	1/676
Henry	1/1,059	Tuscarawas	1/777
Highland	1/1,314	Union	1/508
Hocking	1/1,081	Van Wert	1/927
Holmes	1/1,165	Vinton	1/1,081
Huron	1/1,297	Warren	1/631
Jackson	1/834	Washington	1/646
Jefferson	1/864	Wayne	1/716
Knox	1/968	Williams	1/1,020
Lake	1/443	Wood	1/524
Lawrence	1/1,149	Wyandot	1/620

Calculations are based upon data compiled at a single point in time from the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Census Bureau (Ohio County Population Estimates as of 7/1/2021) and may change throughout the year.

Private practitioners and government attorneys are more optimistic with current and future economic conditions when compared to 2012 data.

## SALARY & HOURLY RATES

**3-5**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$51,000 | \$51,000  
2012 \$46,000 | \$50,000



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$90,000 | \$42,000  
2012 \$83,000 | \$62,500



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$73,500 | \$78,000  
2012 \$70,500 | \$57,500



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$200/HR.  
2012 \$175/HR.

**6-10**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$69,990 | \$84,500  
2012 \$70,000 | \$60,000



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$123,000 | \$118,000  
2012 \$117,500 | \$99,500



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$90,000 | \$67,500  
2012 \$100,000 | \$77,500



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$215/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

More than 70% of attorneys report using a firm website and networking at their bar association as marketing tools for their practice.

**11-15**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$69,990 | \$84,500  
2012 \$65,000 | \$59,500



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$130,899 | \$100,000  
2012 \$150,000 | \$118,000



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$120,000 | \$82,000  
2012 \$135,000 | \$100,000



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

Figures represent median values. Values are based on OSBA member responses to the 2019 and 2013 Economics of Law Practice studies.

● = Male    ● = Female

# 16-25

YEARS IN PRACTICE



## GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$100,500 | \$81,500  
2012 \$77,000 | \$78,000



## IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$181,000 | \$105,000  
2012 \$120,000 | \$127,500



## PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$111,000 | \$115,000  
2012 \$114,000 | \$105,000



## HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

In 2018, 27% of private practitioners reported using a flat fee as an alternative fee arrangement, and data suggests that those in private practice are driving a trend away from the billable hour.

# 26-35

YEARS IN PRACTICE



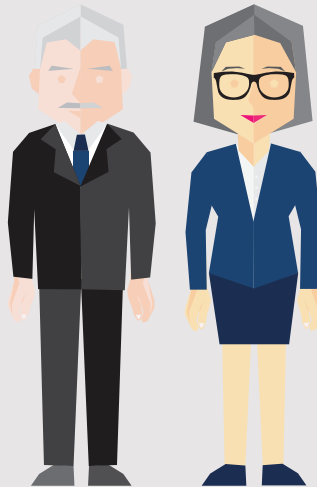
## GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$100,500 | \$81,500  
2012 \$102,000 | \$83,500



## PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$150,000 | \$85,000  
2012 \$140,000 | \$90,000



## IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$300,000 | \$228,000  
2012 \$150,000 | \$152,500



## HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$225/HR.

Figures represent median values. Values are based on OSBA member responses to the 2019 and 2013 Economics of Law Practice studies.

● = Male    ● = Female

# IOLTA 20,362

## 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 Jan. 2021 and may change throughout the year.

## PRO BONO

# 101,655

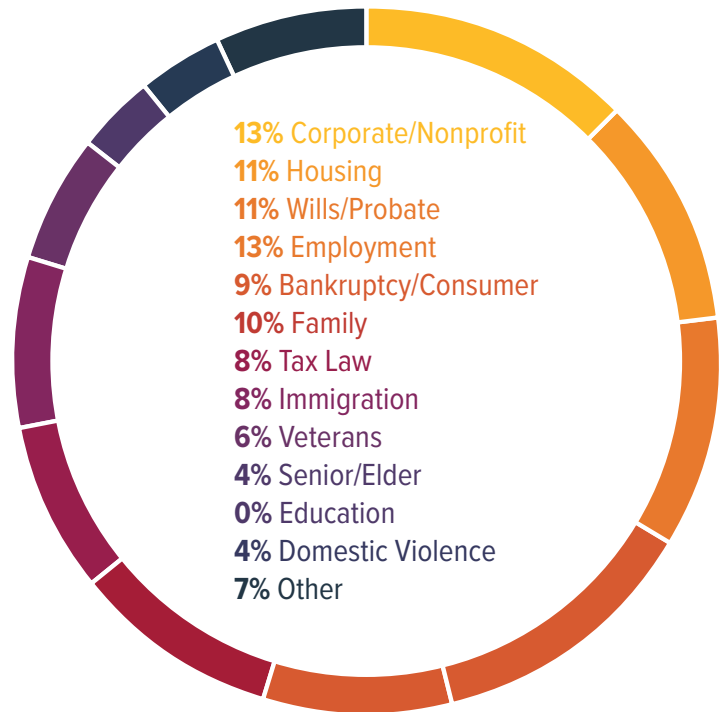
 PRO BONO HOURS REPORTED  
3.7% DECREASE FROM 2019

**10,079** DIRECT RESPONSE HOURS TO COVID-19

# \$25,413,725

VALUE OF REPORTED PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

## PRACTICE AREAS OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES



Data from Ohio Access to Justice Foundation 2020 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 OSBA 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%
<b>State of Ohio</b>	<b>\$6,326,140,448</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>102,821</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services Industry prepared for the OSBA 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.