

SPECIAL
EDITION

Just Dealings

THE OHIO LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

AFTER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CAREER, CLYDE RETIRES AND ASSUMES ROLE OF OLAF SENIOR COUNSEL

After 15 years of service, OLAF's founder and Executive Director, Bob Clyde, has decided to retire from full-time status with OLAF. Clyde will assume a part-time role of Senior Counsel and Director of Government Relations. With 12 years prior experience as the Director of Northeast Ohio Legal Services, and 5 additional years as a staff attorney and Assistant Director, Bob has devoted his entire professional career, over 37 years, to the delivery of legal services to low-income Ohioans.

Bob Clyde's legacy is as a passionate leader in the legal aid community who has tirelessly worked to ensure that those unable to help themselves can gain access to justice. His continuous efforts to improve the legal aid system have earned him great respect throughout the state of Ohio and across the nation. Bob's part-time status will commence on January 19, 2010 and will continue through the balance of the year. It is anticipated that Bob will remain connected to OLAF thereafter, depending on the status of the various policy-related initiatives on which he will be working.



Bob Clyde upon receiving the Ohio State Bar Foundation's 2009 Ritter Award, the most prestigious award in Ohio for contributions to the administration of justice.

Credit: Ohio State Bar Foundation

Jerry Lawson, also a well-known and respected leader with past experience in Ohio's legal aid community, will serve as Interim Executive Director. Jerry will be responsible for management of OLAF's day-to-day operations. He will also work with the OLAF Board of Trustees' transition/search committee to conduct an organizational assessment, which will identify the skills and characteristics needed in a new permanent executive director. Jerry will be responsible for designing and managing the search process. The OLAF board hopes to engage its new Executive Director in six months. Jerry, who is not a candidate for the permanent position, will begin as Interim Executive Director on Tuesday, January 19th. (Learn more about Jerry on page 2.)

BOARD CHAIR DAVIS PROMISES THOROUGH SEARCH TO MEET OLAF, AFFILIATES' NEEDS



Julie Davis

*OLAF Board President
Executive Vice President
& General Counsel
Retail Ventures, Inc.*

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." This quotation, attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson and others, perfectly describes the leadership that Bob Clyde has brought to OLAF as its first and long-serving Executive Director. Bob has forged many important and successful trails for OLAF and legal services throughout Ohio, and now with his help we will clear one more trail: his well-deserved retirement.

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Board Chair Davis Story continued from page 1.

With grace and foresight, Bob approached the OLAF Board last year with his request to transition to a half-time position and then retire in 2010. On December 3, 2009, the OLAF Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve this request and to appoint Jerry Lawson OLAF's Interim Executive Director while Bob continues to represent OLAF in legislative, banking and other matters in which he specializes. The Board also voted to create a search committee for the new Executive Director of OLAF. We are very fortunate that this plan gives us time to conduct a diligent and thorough search for our next leader, and that someone as qualified and well-known to our organization as Jerry Lawson is available to serve us in this transition period.

We will be planning an appropriate commemoration of Bob's extraordinary and exemplary service to OLAF. We will keep the whole legal services community posted on those plans, as well as on our progress with the new Executive Director search process.



EMAIL UPDATES AVAILABLE

If you would like to receive periodic email updates from OLAF on the status of the search for a new Executive Director, details on the tribute for Bob, and other news and events, please email OLAF at:

news@olaf.org

Type "subscribe" in the subject line.



Jerry H. Lawson

*The Center for Resolution
of Disputes LLC,
Cincinnati
and
OLAF Interim
Executive Director*

As Interim Executive Director of OLAF, Jerry Lawson starts with the immediate respect of the delivery system and a solid understanding of legal services in Ohio, and will be a reassuring presence at the helm of OLAF during a transition period.

Jerry's work experience includes extensive leadership on several projects for legal services organizations. Notable Ohio projects include: the recruitment and hiring process for a new executive director for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland; affiliation discussions between various legal aid programs; developing a new work plan for state support; and rebuilding the management and organization of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. Jerry also assisted with the OLAF assessments of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, ABLE and LAWOW, and participated in the 2007 OLAF strategic planning process.

Jerry is president and senior mediator of The Center for Resolution of Disputes, Inc. He has served as the managing attorney and executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati. He has also served as the executive director of the Peninsula Legal Aid Center (Hampton, Virginia) and as a staff attorney for the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund (Charleston, West Virginia). Immediately after law school, Jerry was an associate with Taft Stettinius and Hollister in Cincinnati.

Jerry is a graduate of Indiana University, Columbia University School of Law, and received additional training in the areas of negotiation and mediation. He was admitted to the practice of law in the state of Ohio in 1968.



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The Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation is a private, non-profit organization created by the Ohio Legislature in 1994 as a response to the serious deficiencies in meeting the civil legal needs of all Ohioans. In partnership with the state and local bars, elected officials, and local legal service providers, the Foundation continues to coordinate statewide resource development, support the delivery of legal services by local legal aid providers, and promote innovative approaches to ensure justice for all.

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Visit www.OLAF.org to:

- Learn more about the OLAF leadership transition;
- Apply for the Executive Director position; and
- Follow the innovative work of the Foundation.