

2017 IOLTA Grants

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation 2017 Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) grants totaling \$ 385,609.

This year's recipients are:

Rhode Island Legal Services

Funds are used for the Volunteer Lawyer Program primarily to help support the Family Law and Housing Units. Cases handled include divorce, custody, domestic violence, visitation, private and subsidized eviction and landlord/tenant issues. Funds also contribute to the RILS Safe Family Project.

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

Funds are used to continue the Citizenship & Immigration Services' Immigration Law-Project. Since 1987, this project has provided free and low-cost, comprehensive immigration legal services, and education, advocacy and outreach on immigration laws and issues to thousands of immigrants and refugees in the state, as well the community.

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Funds are used to continue the Superior Court component of their Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program in order to help victims seek civil and criminal relief from domestic violence.

Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless

To continue to fund the Homeless Legal Clinic, to enable homeless Rhode Islanders access to pro bono legal services through attorneys who volunteer at shelters and drop-in sites.

Rhode Island Bar Association Legal Information and Referral Service for the Elderly

The primary objective of the Elderly Program is to make legal services readily available to senior citizens. Approximately 1600 seniors receive legal assistance on an annual basis through the lawyer referral service, "Ask A Lawyer" and "Legal Clinic" programs. Pro Bono and/or reduced fee referrals are available for the income eligible. Last year, the Elderly Referral Service served 2,000 plus clients through the referral service, Ask A Lawyer, and Legal Clinic programming. The service continues to coordinate "Ask A Lawyer" and "Legal Clinic" programs on an annual basis at senior organizations throughout the state. Collection clinics are held regularly for seniors at the Bar Association.

Rhode Island Bar Association Pro Bono Project

The Pro Bono Project responds to domestic violence and family law cases and accepts conflict or overload cases from RI Legal Services' Family Law Unit. Other areas of law referred include bankruptcy, guardianship, education, landlord tenant and collections. There has been a substantial increase in foreclosures and foreclosure related issues. Onsite collections and mediation clinics are

offered to clients. Cases are prioritized by the urgency of the request, taking into consideration the case type and assigned court dates.

Day One

To help support the advocacy services program providing support and legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault, providing victims with information and legal advocacy as their case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

Center for Mediation & Collaboration Rhode Island

The Center for Mediation & Collaboration RI (CMCRI) was founded in 1996. CMCRI provides mediation and dispute resolution services to community residents and organizations regardless of their ability to pay. CMCRI staff and volunteers intervene in disputes, both in the community and Small Claims Courts, assisting with family and parent-teen conflicts, court-involved juveniles, neighbor-to-neighbor, organizational and workplace disputes, landlord-tenant, human rights cases, and small claims matters.

Rhode Island Center for Justice

The Center for Justice is an independent non-profit public interest law center created in cooperation with Roger Williams University (RWU) School of Law. Their mission is to ensure justice for vulnerable individuals, families, and communities through the provision of free legal services and advocacy. IOLTA funding is for the support its Lifeline Project in the provision of direct free legal assistance to low-income utility consumer households both in administrative proceedings before the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPU), and in Administrative Procedure Act (APA) appeals at the Superior Court. The Lifeline Project is dedicated to providing free legal advocacy and representation to medically vulnerable, low-income households who have experience or are at risk of termination of electric and gas utility service.