

## Skills and Substantive Trainings on Poverty Law Topics

---

OPLC organizes skills and substantive trainings for the legal aid community on a variety of poverty law issues and has developed curricula on Ohio-focused, regional, and national trainings. Below is a list of some of our recurring training programs.

- **New Advocate Substantive Training—Yearly:** substantive poverty law training for new legal aid attorneys in Ohio.
- **Basic Lawyering Skills Training:** three day introduction to basic lawyering skills for legal aid attorneys.
- **Litigation Planning:** intermediate training on the litigation planning process.
- **Trial Advocate Skills Training:** week-long intermediate/advanced trial skills training.
- **Substantive Law Mini-Seminars:** one day seminars exploring beginner, intermediate, and advanced poverty law topics

## Ohio Poverty Law

### Task Forces

---

OPLC chairs/hosts poverty law task forces comprised of legal aid and public interest law practitioners across Ohio to facilitate coordination and exploration of statewide poverty law issues. Task forces include:

- Family Law
- Housing Law
- Immigration
- Consumer Law
- Health Law
- Welfare Law
- Education Law
- Legal Aid Intake
- Litigation Directors
- Prisoner Re-entry



**Ohio Poverty Law Center**  
**555 Buttles Avenue**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43215**  
**Phone: (614) 221-7201**  
**Fax: (614) 221-7625**  
**[www.ohiopovertylaw.org](http://www.ohiopovertylaw.org)**



---

**Using the Law**  
**to Fight Poverty**  
**in Ohio**

# Using the Law to Fight Poverty in Ohio

---

The **Ohio Poverty Law Center** (OPLC) is a non-profit legal organization dedicated to using the law to fight poverty in Ohio.

OPLC advocates on statewide systemic policy and legislative poverty law issues and provides assistance to the Ohio legal aid community through litigation support, training, consulting, task forces, publications, resource development, and other activities.

## Our Work

**Policy Advocacy**— statewide legislative and administrative advocacy, issue identification and development, and community outreach and education

**Litigation Support**—support and coordination of statewide litigation efforts; co-counseling, resource development, and other litigation assistance to legal aid programs in Ohio

**Trainings**— skills and substantive poverty law trainings, local, state and regional events, webinars, and training design

**Task Forces**—statewide substantive law task forces and issue-based work groups

**Publications**— compilation of Ohio legal aid cases, directory of legal services programs and staff in Ohio, poverty law practice manuals, resources, and community education pamphlets

**Strategic Communication**— use of the media as an advocacy tool to address legal issues facing low-income Ohioans and to increase the public awareness and understanding of poverty law issues

## Projects and Accomplishments

- Managed Ohio's foreclosure legal assistance project, a component of Save the Dream Ohio.
- Fought electricity rate increases in Ohio, representing consumer interests before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
- Worked to reform Ohio's child support guidelines.
- Member of the Dignity in Schools Campaign, working to assure every child's right to an education.
- Monitored and sought reforms in Ohio's public benefits system.

## OPLC Staff

### Gene King, Director

- Health Law, Insurance and Training

### Mike Smalz, Senior Attorney

- Family Law, Utilities, and Fair Housing

### Linda Cook, Senior Attorney

- Consumer Law, Foreclosure Law, and Unregulated Utilities

### Joe Maskovyak, Staff Attorney

- Housing Law and Utilities

### Sarah Biehl, Staff Attorney

- Education Law and Policy

### Chris Barley, Staff Attorney

- Public Benefits Law

### Melissa Lindsay, EJW Fellow

- Prison Re-Entry Law and Policy