

Law and the Library:

A special collaboration between
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
and
The Cleveland Public Library



- When someone is faced with the **loss of something as basic as shelter, income, safety or education**, the best response is often the use of our legal system.
- But, there is **no right to counsel** in United States' civil courts.
- **This what Legal Aid does.**

About Legal Aid



- Legal Aid helps those below 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines.
- In Northeast Ohio, approximately **622,000 people** (32% of the population) are eligible for Legal Aid's services.

About Legal Aid



- Patrons try to access the library to get legal help: librarians hear people's legal questions but are unable to help.
- **"Law and the Library"** began in 2013:
12 **"brief legal advice"** clinics a year at 12 different CPL branches.
- Clinics advertised via Legal Aid and CPL branches (bookmarks, newsletters, etc.)

Legal Aid and CPL Partnership



Legal Aid at the Library



Legal Aid partners with the
Cleveland Public Library to enhance
understanding of the law.

Upcoming FREE legal advice clinics:

*All clinics are first come, first served free advice events for
low-income individuals with civil legal issues (not criminal).
Please bring all relevant paperwork with you.*

All clinics are held 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 10, 2015 Carnegie West Branch 1900 Fulton Road	Saturday, May 9, 2015 Woodland Branch 5806 Woodland Avenue	Saturday, September 12, 2015 Glenville Branch 11900 St. Clair Avenue
Saturday, February 7, 2015 Fulton Branch 3545 Fulton Road	Saturday, June 13, 2015 Fleet Branch 7224 Broadway Avenue	Saturday, October 3, 2015 Walz Branch 7910 Detroit Avenue
Saturday, March 14, 2015 Hough Branch 1566 Crawford Road	Saturday, July 11, 2015 Langston Hughes Branch 10200 Superior Avenue	Saturday, November 14, 2015 Memorial-Nottingham 17109 Lake Shore Blvd.
Saturday, April 18, 2015 Rice Branch 11535 Shaker Boulevard	Saturday, August 8, 2015 South Brooklyn Branch 4303 Pearl Road	Saturday, December 5, 2015 Harvard-Lee 16918 Harvard Avenue

Attorneys are available for brief advice and referral only.

Advice clinic attorneys do NOT represent you.

*If you need legal representation you may be referred to
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland or another service provider.*



The Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1965



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.cpl.org

- In the past 2 ½ years we helped more than **2,640 family members through 1,064 cases** at Cleveland Public Library clinics.
- **347 volunteer attorneys** staffed the 30+ clinics hosted at Library branches, representing **more than 1200 hours of time.**

Impact and Success



- **Hundreds more hours of Legal Aid staff attorney time** on cases handled, managing volunteers and overseeing clinics.
- **Hours of volunteer and staff service valued at more than \$250,000.**

Impact and Success



- Some other legal aid organizations in the US have a **“Law and the Library”** partnership.
- Ours is the only one with a **regular calendared presence** that focuses on client services, providing library patrons with **personalized legal advice**.
- The partnership provides needed support/relief to library staff, and brings additional patrons into libraries during non-peak hours.

Unique Nature of Partnership

