



SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA INTEREST ON
LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNT BOARD

January 10, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

CRA Program Officer
New Tripoli Bank
6748 Madison Street
New Tripoli, Pennsylvania 18066
C/O customerservice@newtripolibank.net

Re: 2023 Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Acknowledgement

Dear CRA Program Officer:

Thank you for your involvement in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. This acknowledgement pertains to the Platinum Leader bank participation by New Tripoli Bank during the period July 2022 through June 2023. New Tripoli Bank's support and investment in IOLTA has helped to increase access to justice for low income families, and in so doing, strengthened and improved local communities across the Commonwealth. In recognition of New Tripoli Bank's efforts we have provided information below that you may consider when preparing your Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) report.

I. Overview

The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board's mission is to support the provision of free legal assistance to low income Pennsylvanians in civil matters where a basic human need, such as access to shelter, nutrition, or health care, is at stake.

The concept of the IOLTA program is simple. Clients and others frequently transfer money to lawyers to hold. When the funds are small or expected to be held for a short time, they cannot practically be invested to benefit the owner. Pennsylvania lawyers maintain nominal and short term funds of clients in interest-bearing IOLTA accounts at approved financial institutions. Financial institutions that elect to participate and invest in Pennsylvania communities through this program must be approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and remit interest income generated on these accounts to the IOLTA Board.

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Administering Pennsylvania's Interest On Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) Program

The IOLTA Board is a not for profit organization operating under the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Upon approval by the court, the IOLTA Board distributes the interest collected from IOLTA accounts to legal aid organizations that serve low income and disadvantaged populations who would otherwise face challenges accessing the justice system. New Tripoli Bank's commitment to the IOLTA program as a Platinum Leader bank paying a premium interest rate and limiting service charges has helped fund critical services throughout Pennsylvania.

II. Participation and Investment in Pennsylvania's IOLTA Program Furthers the Community Development Promoted by the CRA

Programs funded through IOLTA grants further the community development encouraged by the CRA. As you are aware, one of the ways federal regulators evaluate an institution's CRA compliance is by examining whether the institution makes investments that facilitate community development. Examples of community development include: promoting affordable housing for low to moderate income individuals; providing community services targeted to low or moderate income individuals, and; activities that revitalize or stabilize low to moderate income geographies.

Pennsylvania IOLTA grants promote the community development contemplated by the CRA by funding services for low income individuals that include: advocacy for the disabled, elderly, and the homeless; domestic abuse prevention; preservation of home ownership; consumer bankruptcy assistance, as well as a variety of civil legal assistance that helps to ensure equal access to justice for all. The grantees that provide these services are primarily nonprofit organizations that operate throughout Pennsylvania.

The availability of these programs to low income individuals is often directly related to their ability to obtain credit, maintain housing, access federal safety net programs, and sustain employment - all of which are critical to core economic stability and community development. For example, in some parts of the state, civil legal aid organizations partner with hospitals and medical providers to help low-income families who face legal problems accessing healthcare services.¹ Researchers at Franklin & Marshall College found that this type of work often provided a tangible economic benefit from costs avoided or medical benefits received for each client to be \$779.18 per month, for an average of 30 months.² Similarly, with respect to the thousands of protection from abuse cases completed by legal aid programs to help clients to avoid domestic violence, the researchers found an average benefit in the form of costs avoided of \$2,023.93 per client.³ These services also allow local communities to realize savings by avoiding safety net costs as well as the economic benefits that derive from helping disadvantaged populations achieve greater stability.

¹ Flaherty, Meyer, & Yost, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Pennsylvania* (January 2020) at 13, https://www.paiolta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Economic-Impact-of-Civil-Legal-Aid-in-Pennsylvania_2020.pdf.

² *Id* at 15.

³ *Id*.

III. New Tripoli Bank's Pennsylvania Impact Through Investment via IOLTA Interest

When Pennsylvania individuals and families need legal assistance to create and preserve affordable housing, prevent domestic violence, or advocate for the disabled, elderly, and the homeless, Pennsylvania's IOLTA funded legal aid organizations are there to help. As a result of New Tripoli Bank's status as a Platinum Leader bank during the period July 2022 through June 2023, the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board received \$17,410.39 in funding which results in an estimated return on investment of \$208,924.68⁴ for LMI individuals and communities in Pennsylvania. This has helped to close the gap in access to justice for low income individuals at a time when IOLTA funding levels are stretched thin due to a high level of demand for services. Additional information on the impact of New Tripoli Bank's support and investment in IOLTA is provided in the attached pages.

In closing, on behalf of our clients, grantees, and the IOLTA Board, we would like to thank you for your investment and participation in the Platinum Leader bank program. Should your regulating agency have any questions, please feel free to refer them to our office for assistance.

Sincerely,



Stephanie S. Libhart
Executive Director
Pennsylvania IOLTA Board



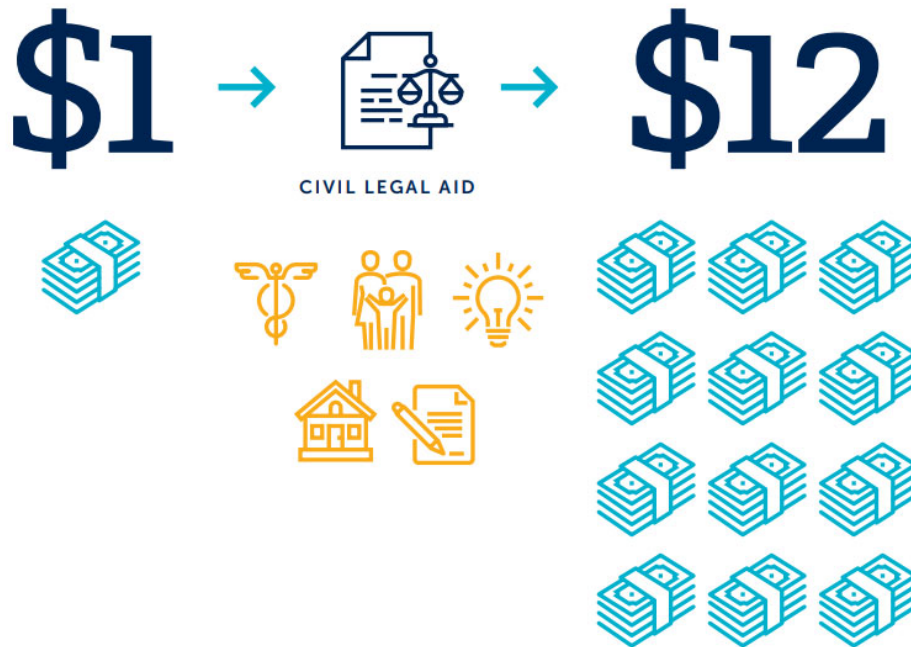
James D. Blythe
Compliance Manager
Pennsylvania IOLTA Board

Enclosures

⁴ See Flaherty, Meyer, & Yost, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Pennsylvania* (January 2020) at 17, https://www.paiolta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Economic-Impact-of-Civil-Legal-Aid-in-Pennsylvania_2020.pdf.

IOLTA Investment Provided by New Tripoli Bank

Month	Average Daily Balance of IOLTA Products	Interest Payments to IOLTA Bd. for Grants	ROI via IOLTA Interst for LMI Communities in PA*
July 2022	\$773,536.00	\$688.66	\$8,263.92
August 2022	\$587,013.00	\$592.75	\$7,113.00
Sept. 2022	\$850,486.00	\$869.25	\$10,431.00
Oct. 2022	\$816,226.00	\$1,172.03	\$14,064.36
Nov. 2022	\$712,061.00	\$1,332.71	\$15,992.52
Dec. 2022	\$873,628.00	\$2,020.33	\$24,243.96
Jan. 2023	\$466,080.00	\$1,149.61	\$13,795.32
Feb. 2023	\$603,701.00	\$1,476.40	\$17,716.80
March 2023	\$625,637.00	\$1,793.32	\$21,519.84
April 2023	\$664,166.00	\$1,719.07	\$20,628.84
May 2023	\$660,964.00	\$2,126.62	\$25,519.44
June 2023	\$800,120.00	\$2,469.64	\$29,635.68
	Monthly Average: \$702,801.50	FY Grant Funding: \$17,410.39	Community Impact: \$208,924.68



*As described in the study conducted by researchers at Franklin & Marshall College ([Flaherty, Meyer, & Yost, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Pennsylvania* \(January 2020\)](#)), when prorating the monies allocated to fund all Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network activities according to the ratio of outcomes examined to total cases closed, the return on investment is estimated to be \$12.10 for every \$1 invested in civil legal aid for low-income communities.

IOLTA Grantees - Making a Difference

Access to Health Insurance

***Pennsylvania Health
Law Project***

Kendra is a 53-year-old from Monroe County. She contacted the Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) after she was denied eligibility for Medicaid CHC Waiver funded supports. Kendra had a stroke in the previous year and has diabetes, sciatica and mobility limitations. She requires help with daily activities to continue living as independently as possible in the community with her family. PHLP advocated for a new assessment which resulted in Kendra meeting the clinical eligibility criteria and also helped her navigate the financial eligibility part of the application. With PHLP's help, Kendra was approved for the Medicaid CHC Waiver program where she was awarded twenty hours per week of Personal Assistance Services to help her with daily activities when her family isn't available to provide this care.

Restoring Critical Income

***Neighborhood Legal
Services Association***

Abbie was referred to Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLS) by the Salvation Army for several legal issues. Abbie had two-year-old twins, both of whom suffered seizures and other disabling conditions. She was in a panic because Social Security had terminated one twin's SSI benefits because they mistakenly thought that she was deceased. This loss of income to care for her disabled child and pay the rent was a significant blow as was the fact that when the Social Security Administration terminated her daughter's SSI benefits, they also terminated her Medical Assistance. This put Abbie in a tremendous bind because she could not afford the seizure medication that her daughter needed without medical coverage.

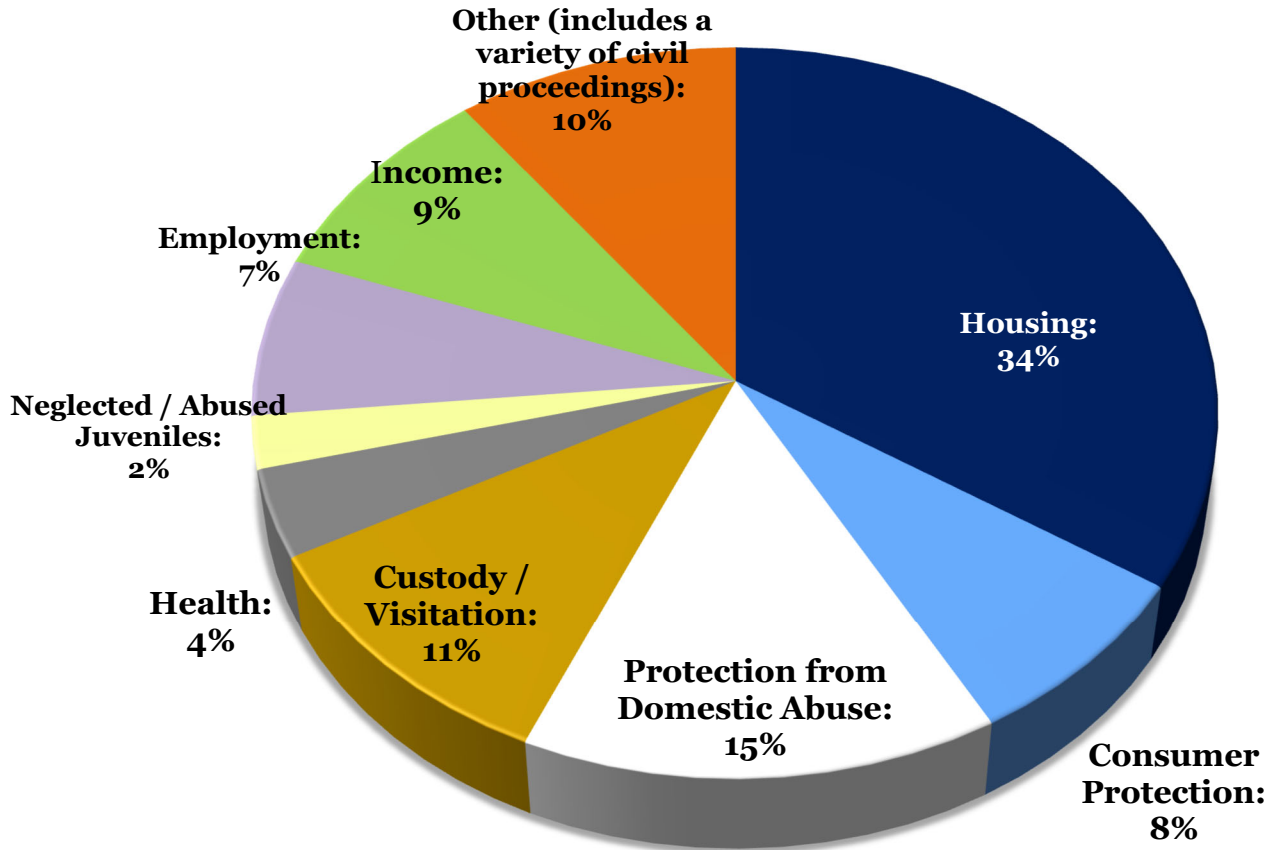
Fortunately, NLS was able to help Abbie in providing proof that her daughter was alive and continued to have the medication that made her eligible for benefits, and her Social Security benefits and Medical Assistance coverage was restored along with \$1,755 that Abbie was owed in back benefits for the month that she received no monthly checks. Abbie was also having significant difficulty taking her twins to their medical appointments because she had a suspended driver's license. NLS opened a separate case file for this issue and helped Abbie apply for an Occupational Limited License for the limited purpose of taking her twins to their doctor appointments.

Housing & Utilities

***Community Legal
Services***

Joe came to Community Legal Services (CLS) after receiving a notice that his electricity would be shut off. Joe has multiple health issues and uses an electric-powered machine to help him breathe, so it was crucial that he did not lose service. CLS's Energy Unit quickly got to work on his case. First, Joe's CLS advocate helped him get a medical certification to temporarily protect him from shutoff. Next, Joe's advocate helped him apply for a LIHEAP crisis grant to bring down his balance and stop the shutoff. Joe was approved, stopping the shutoff and ensuring that he could be safe in his home.

***Bettering Local Communities:
 Categories of Cases Handled by PA IOLTA Grantees
 Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023***



	Housing: 23,431
	Consumer Protection: 5,325
	Protection from Domestic Abuse: 10,132
	Custody / Visitation: 7,345
	Health: 2,675
	Neglected / Abused Juveniles: 1,604
	Employment: 4,823
	Income: 6,321
	Other (includes a variety of civil proceedings): 7,068

Total Cases Handled FY 22-23: 68,724

*Case totals are based on reporting of cases handled provided by Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) organizations that receive Pennsylvania IOLTA funding, however, these organizations also use funding from other sources to achieve their goals (such as legislatively-directed funds per the Access to Justice Act). It should be noted that the IOLTA Board also provides IOLTA grants to other nonprofit legal aid organizations and law school clinical programs across the Commonwealth whose case totals are not reflected in the chart above.