



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
— of Cleveland  
*Since 1905*

*For Immediate Release*

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**The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland shares \$14 million cy pres award**

**Cleveland** -- The Legal Aid Society's of Cleveland was gifted \$443,000 today through a *cy pres* award coordinated by the Painesville law firm of Dworken & Bernstein.

The gift was one of 34 distributed today from a \$14 million pool of funds representing uncollected money from a class action lawsuit.

This distribution was the largest award of its type in U.S. history.

"Legal Aid focuses on access to justice for people who are low income and vulnerable, so this gift to us – from a class action lawsuit protecting consumers – is especially meaningful," said executive director Colleen Cotter.

*Cy pres* means "as nearly as possible," and is a legal doctrine dating from the third century allowing the courts to carry out the terms of an agreement as closely as possible. In class actions, it refers to distribution of unclaimed settlement funds to purposes benefitting society. Class actions lawsuits last for many years. Some class members move, pass away, or are difficult to locate. The settlement fund is then not able to be fully distributed to those who were harmed. *Cy pres* allows distribution of some or all of those unclaimed monies to charities – like The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Since 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has provided high quality legal assistance to low income clients. The mission of Legal Aid is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

For any further information, please call Legal Aid: 216-861-5217.

On the web: [www.lascllev.org](http://www.lascllev.org) or [www.ohiolawyersgiveback.org](http://www.ohiolawyersgiveback.org)

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