

ATTORNEYS STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Spring symbolizes new beginnings and growth, which seems particularly fitting this year. As many local nonprofits move forward from paused or reduced services, the demand for PBPO's assistance has skyrocketed. In fact, our program was up 40% in the first 3 months of 2021 compared to this time last year. To help us meet the increased legal needs of our nonprofit clients, we will be bringing two new staff attorneys on board later this month. I look forward to introducing them to you soon!

The staff and I are continually humbled by the work of our nonprofit community and attorney volunteers. We look forward to the possibilities this year brings and know that, with your help, PBPO will remain strong and able to continue to have a positive ripple effect on our community.



Erin Childs, Executive Director

PBPO News

Welcome New Board and Grow PBPO Members!

PBPO recently welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors: **Laura Martin**, *Bon Secours Mercy Health* and **Meredyth Whitford-Schultz**, *Western & Southern Financial Group*. Additionally, **Kermit Lowery**, *LexisNexis*, joined the PBPO Executive Committee.



Laura Martin
Associate General Counsel
Bon Secours Mercy Health



Meredyth Whitford-Schultz
Counsel
Western & Southern Financial Group



Kermit Lowery
Vice President and Head of
Legal
LexisNexis

We are thrilled to have them join our team to help guide us into the future. [See our current Board of Directors.](#)

At the same time, we bid farewell to founding board members **Edward J. Babbitt**, *Western & Southern Financial Group* and **Richard W. Holmes**, *Fifth Third Bank*. We are grateful for their service to PBPO for the past 6 years, their generous support, and thoughtful guidance.



Grow PBPO elected Tara Burke, *Jackson Lewis P.C.*, as Grow PBPO Co-Chair and welcomed the following new members:



Tara Burke
Jackson Lewis P.C.



Jessica Baverman
Vorys



Jennifer Heis
Ulmer



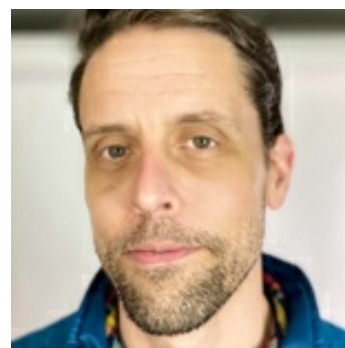
Jerrad Howard
Dinsmore



Miriah Lee
Fifth Third Bank



Maggie Muething
Taft



Giles Roblyer
Procter & Gamble

Grow PBPO supports PBPO's mission through service, improved engagement in the community, and fundraising/special events. Thank you to Jackie Aguilar, *Procter & Gamble*, for her contribution to PBPO as a founding Grow PBPO member since 2017.

Seeking Attorney Volunteers

With the increased demand for our services, some legal projects are taking longer to place. Volunteering is easy! Pro bono projects average 6 hours or less, and we often have template forms available. Please spread the word about volunteering with PBPO and consider signing up for a project today. View and sign up for current [Volunteer Opportunities](#).



Join Us! Battle of the Barristers Trivia Night –



Thurs. June 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Kick off the summer by putting your brain to work in a friendly virtual trivia competition on June 3rd! Hosted by Grow PBPO, teams of up to 7 people will compete against each other for bragging rights (and an amazing trophy). Cost is \$25/person or \$150/team. [Sponsorship opportunities are available. Register here.](#)

PBPO Program Update

Thirty attorneys recently strengthened our community by attending our *Nonprofit Legal Checkup* CLE program with the Southwest Ohio Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel, and Thompson Hine. They learned about issues unique to nonprofits and then broke into smaller groups to perform Legal Assessments of PBPO nonprofit clients. One client raved, *"The entire meeting was amazing, and it brought to light some things I had not even thought about. The attorneys were fantastic as usual!"*

Participating clients included: [4 Paws for Ability](#), [Artemis Center](#), [Center for Independent Living Options](#), [Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati](#), [Keep Cincinnati Beautiful](#), [RefugeeConnect](#)

We are excited to kick off *The Legal Lowdown for Nonprofits: 4-Part Educational Series* in April, beginning with a 2-hour workshop *"Keeping House: The Nitty Gritty of Governance & Compliance"*. This workshop series, presented by expert attorneys, is offered to the nonprofit sector throughout Ohio in partnership with capacity-building nonprofits in Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo and more, thanks to a generous grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation. Registration is ongoing. [More information here.](#)

Thank you to our partners across the state:



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Adreanne Stuckey, Duke Energy

Adreanne is a wonderful example of a PBPO attorney volunteer going above and beyond for one of our nonprofit clients. We were proud to award her the 2019 Rising Star Award for her extensive

work advising a local organization on various facets of commercial leases.

Why does Adreanne volunteer with PBPO?

"I love volunteering with PBPO because it is a phenomenal way to help nonprofits achieve their goals. I have learned so much about the Cincinnati community through volunteering with PBPO and the rewarding and philanthropic work many nonprofits are doing in this community. Legal work is very expensive and not readily available without the right resources, so I volunteer in hopes of meeting nonprofits' needs so they can go out in the world and be awesome."



[Read More about Adreanne and her extensive community involvement](#)

NONPROFIT HIGHLIGHT

Brighter Connections Theatre

Many families of young people with autism and communication differences struggle to find recreational activities that are both welcoming and nurturing. Brighter Connections Theatre (BCT) provides innovative recreational theatre programs, utilizing educational best practices and therapy-based techniques, to work on the person-centered goals of all cast members. Initially conceived as a college research project, BCT creates compelling theatrical experiences in an inclusive environment with neurodiverse young people, building life skills one act at a time. It utilizes theatre to improve life skills, such as self-advocacy, self-awareness, communication, emotional, and social skills.

"We turned to PBPO to help us take the steps necessary to grow and continue serving our current and new cast members, especially in the virtual sphere. We worked with wonderful and highly professional volunteer attorneys to develop policies so that we can offer virtual programs and continue to provide professional instructors. Without PBPO and their highly qualified volunteer attorneys, we would not have been able to take this next step. We sometimes still find ourselves thinking that PBPO is too good to be true!"

-Katie O'Leary, President and Founder



[Read more about Brighter Connections Theatre and its therapeutic use of theatre](#)

PBPO SUPPORTER FOCUS

PBPO is immensely grateful for the support of the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF), which recently funded our 2021 educational programming and efforts to expand webinars and Pro Bono Legal Briefs to nonprofits across Ohio. OSBF Executive Director Lori Keating said, "Among the nearly \$1 million in grants that the Ohio State Bar Foundation awarded across the state this year, we were excited to make this award to PBPO, as this organization works to build a better justice system in a way like none other in Ohio. The work of PBPO has an exponential effect for nonprofit organizations." Thank you, OSBF for your ongoing support of our mission! We are proud to partner with you.



OHIO STATE BAR
FOUNDATION

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Thank you all our 2020 corporate donors for your belief in and support of our mission!

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Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust

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LLP

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Fund

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Worldpay from FIS

*Special thanks to **Dinsmore & Shohl LLP** (Cincinnati) and **Bricker & Eckler** (Dayton) for donating PBPO's office space and supplies.

Mission:

Powered by attorney volunteers, we strengthen our community by providing free business legal services and education to nonprofits.

Vision:

We envision a just and equitable community enhanced by thriving nonprofits and engaged attorney volunteers.

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