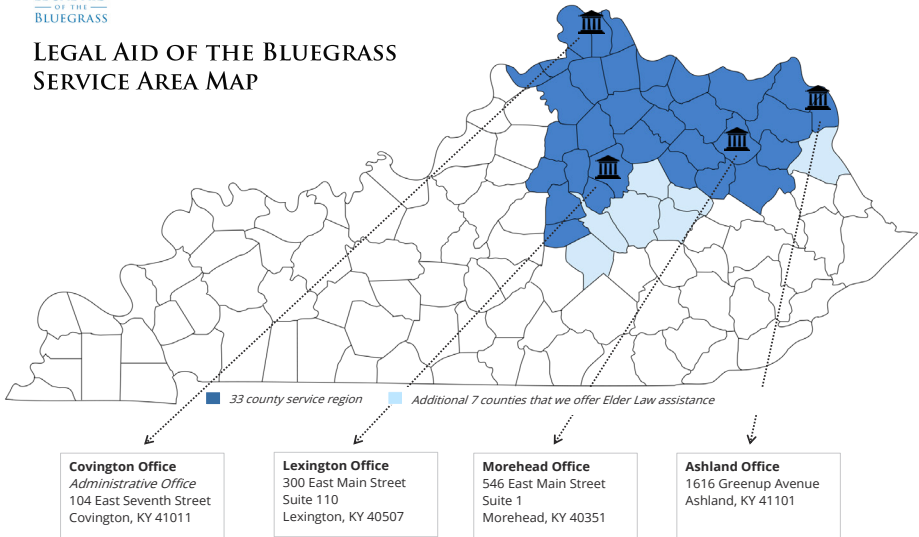




# ANNUAL REPORT



## LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS SERVICE AREA MAP



# Our work made possible by:

*We are grateful to our funders who make our meaningful work possible.*

Access to Justice Foundation  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
American Bar Endowment  
American College of Bankruptcy  
Foundation  
Blue Grass Community Foundation  
Bluegrass Area Development District  
Boone County Fiscal Court Aging Tax  
Buffalo Trace Area Development District  
Butler Foundation  
Campbell County Fiscal Court Aging Tax  
Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Fayette County Bar Foundation  
FIVCO Area Development District  
Franklin County Fiscal Court  
Gateway Area Development District  
Heart of Kentucky United Way  
Kenton County Fiscal Court Aging Tax  
Kentucky Bar Association  
Kentucky Bar Foundation  
Kentucky Colonels

Kentucky IOLTA Fund (Bank of America  
Settlement Funds)  
Kentucky Justice Cabinet Kentucky State  
King's Daughters and Sons Foundation  
Legal Aid Society  
Legal Services Corporation  
National Council on Aging  
Northern Kentucky Area Development  
District  
Office of Violence Against Women  
Ohio Valley United Charities, Inc.  
Philanthropy of PNC  
United Way of Franklin County  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati  
United Way of Greater Cincinnati (Fifth  
Third Settlement)  
United Way of the Bluegrass  
US Bank- Haile Foundation  
West Tennessee Legal Services  
WK Kellogg Foundation

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

During this tumultuous political time with so much talk from politicians and candidates alike about the U.S. Constitution, we are reminded that our founding fathers before anything else formed our country in order to establish justice. However, contrary to that intention, not all people have equal access to our justice system. The poor are more likely to experience legal problems in relation to their income, housing and safety, but they are considerably less likely to seek help because the financial and physical cost of legal problems can be high. Legal Aid of the Bluegrass plays an essential role in helping people access justice and protection under the law.

Based on U.S. Census data, 18.5% or nearly 818,000 Kentuckians live in poverty. About 220,000 of these people are living in Legal Aid of the Bluegrass' service region. Kentucky's civil legal aid programs are the only Kentucky programs helping low-income people with civil legal problems like domestic violence, sexual assault, consumer scams, denial of disability benefits for Veterans, home foreclosure due to predatory lending, elder abuse, unlawful eviction from a nursing home, and helping disaster survivors back on their feet free of charge.

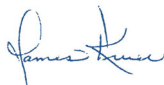
For almost 50 years, LABG has been fighting to ensure fairness and accessibility to our justice system, especially for the most vulnerable members of our communities. Even with all of the funding challenges that we faced in 2017 it was no different. Last year, through the services of our advocates and staff, LABG provided legal assistance impacting 10,047 adults and 5,549 children. This includes over 1,000 veterans and their households and 2,449 domestic violence victims and their children

While these results are laudable, the needs of our community continue to be great. The rate of persons living in poverty in our communities continues to increase and the rate of children living in poverty is truly alarming. There is much work that remains to be done. LABG will continue fulfilling our role of helping to establish justice for all in our Commonwealth and hope that you join us in the fight.

Best Regards,



Joshua B. Crabtree  
Executive Director

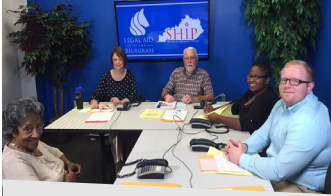


James R. Kruer  
President, Board of Directors



# 2017

# A YEAR IN REVIEW & A LOOK AHEAD



We held 553 outreach events reaching about 5,649 people. In addition, we distributed 5,031 brochures.



Kentucky's Civil Legal Aid Programs reestablished annual Statewide Poverty Law Training, May 24-26th, 2017.

Pictured above LSC President, Jim Sandman with the Directors of KY Legal Aid Programs

## LEGAL HELP?

Legal Aid attorneys and paralegals will be in your area to help you resolve your legal problems for FREE.  
**The Justice Bus is coming to a county near you.**

The Justice Bus is expected to be ready for the road in late Summer of 2018.

A project funded by:

**ABE**



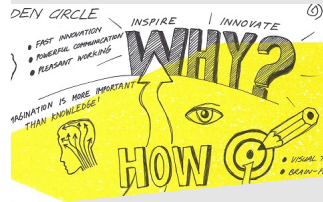
Coming to a county near you!  
Secured funding for the Justice Bus; a mobile pop-up office.



Our Board of Directors adopted the 2016 Legal Needs Assessment and used its findings to set our priorities and build projects to fill gaps in service.



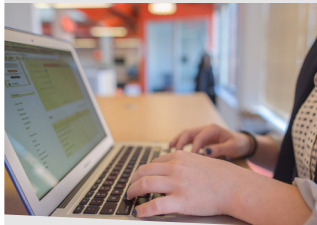
Our first ever Tele-Town Hall connected us with 12,557 Kentuckians via phone. Information about Medicare and other money saving benefit programs was provided.



In 2017, we created a strategic plan which lays out the goals and measures of success for our work over the next 5 years. It was adopted in March 2018.



14,632 people visited our website viewing 57,112 pages last year.



The statewide Kentucky Civil Legal Aid Program website, [kyjustice.org](http://kyjustice.org) had 522,793 visitors in 2017.



We ended 2017 with 676 Facebook followers and 334 Twitter followers; an increase of about 24% from 2016.



# CHAMPION FOR JUSTICE RETIRES 1975-2017

After 42 years, Glenda Harrison retired from Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. She began her career with us in 1975 as a Social Worker and left in 1980 to attend law school. In 1984, she returned to Legal Aid to lead the elder-law program. She quickly became skilled in many civil legal areas like consumer, family, housing and civil rights law. Glenda became Advocacy Director in 2006. Her leadership and vision continue to be a guiding force in LABG's quest for "Justice for All".

Congratulations to our Lady of Justice, Glenda Harrison.



2017

LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS

# *Pro Bono Awards* event series

## *Attorney Access Committee*

Open House and Pro Bono recognition  
September 28, 2017



Pictured left to right: Board Members John McGinnis and Jim Moore, Pro Bono Coordinator, Josh Fain and Glenda Harrison, retired Advocacy Director.

## *Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers*

Celebrating Access to Justice 39 years  
October 12, 2017



Pictured left to right: (TOP) Joshua Crabtree, Executive Director, Student of the Year Rebecca Sheehan with her parents, Judge Marty Sheehan (ret.) and Rusty Sheehan. William Knoebel, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year with Justice Michelle Keller (BOTTOM) Joshua Crabtree, Justice Michelle Keller, William Knoebel, Director Emeritus Dick Cullison, "Justice for All" Awardee Kim Tandy, Chase Law Dean Jeff Standen, Rebecca Sheehan, Eric Lightfoot, Nick of Time awardee, Judge Christopher Mehling and LABG Pro Bono Coordinator, Josh Fain.

## *Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program*

Celebrating Access to Justice 32 years

October 12, 2017



Pictured left to right: (TOP) Joshua Crabtree, FCBA Pro Bono Board Members: Eileen O'Brien, Judge Sheila Isaac (ret.), Doug Logsdon and Lucy VanMeter, Joshua Crabtree presenting Rep. Jesse Crenshaw the Access to Justice award at Law Day (BOTTOM) Outstanding Lay Volunteer Dana Arnold, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Martha Rosenberg and Allison Connelly, the Trinia Clemons Friend of Pro Bono awardee, the ladies of Legal Aid: Glenda Harrison, Erica Stacy-Stegman, Brenda Combs, Melinda Jennings, Karen Ginn and Patricia Smith.

## *Pappy for Pro Bono Raffle*

Thanks to the generosity of Party Town Florence, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass raised \$15,000 through the Pappy for Pro Bono raffle. In October of 2017, 150 tickets were sold for a chance to win a bottle of limited edition Old Rip Van Winkle Bourbon Whiskey. The winner was William Fu from Virginia.

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass will auction three bottles of Pappy in Fall of 2018. All proceeds to benefit the Pro Bono Program.



**Lawyers Mutual**  
[www.lmick.com](http://www.lmick.com)

The Legal Aid of the Bluegrass Pro Bono Award event series is sponsored by Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of Kentucky.



# ENSURING FAIR

We believe that all people should have access to the justice system regardless of income. Unlike the criminal justice system, there is no right to an attorney. For people who need legal help to low income people we ensure that justice under the law is possible.

## Preserving Rental Protections

In Kentucky, only 4 counties and 15 cities have enacted the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA), which clearly lays out the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. Without it, Kentucky law provides minimal protections and no clear process for resolving many issues that frequently arise in landlord and tenant relationships. While Kentucky landlord/tenant laws remain inconsistent, our successful *Shinkle v. Turner* decision clarifies proper notice, an issue that neither the Court of Appeals nor Supreme Court had addressed since 1984, and sets forth a clear requirement that applies in non-URLTA jurisdictions across the Commonwealth.

The *Shinkle v. Turner* decision clarifies that the time specified in the notice to vacate given to the tenant must pass before a landlord is entitled to possession of the rental property. Until the landlord is entitled to possession, the tenant cannot be “forcibly detaining” the property and no eviction should be filed by the landlord. Prior to this decision, premature filings of forcible detainers were commonplace and families were being unfairly evicted.



Our attorneys and clients are experiencing firsthand the utility of the *Shinkle* decision. Landlords are less likely to file before the notice period has ended and are more likely to come to an agreement with tenants. District Judges have clear direction on proper procedure of notice and the Supreme Court of Kentucky sent an unmistakable message that procedural improvisations are not permitted. Most importantly, people in eviction proceedings without an attorney will be provided proper notice to vacate and no longer be unfairly displaced.

# RNESS

Regardless of how much money they have in civil cases. When we provide law is afforded to all Kentuckians.

## Evolving to Meet the Needs of our Community.

The results of our 2016 Legal Needs Assessment led to the exploration of two new areas of law. Advocacy for environmental as well as consumer issues will grow from areas of exploration to significant areas of practice in the years ahead. Our attorneys are making contacts in the Kentucky bar and attending trainings focused on how these issues may disproportionately impact poor Kentuckians. Our incubator units will prepare to represent a growing number of clients who express need for these services.

We provided legal assistance to

# 500

families experiencing landlord tenant issues.

## Quality of Care: Working with residents with Dementia

Long Term Care facilities are plagued with short staffing and turnover. Direct care staff are given minimal training and thrust onto facility floors to care for individuals who are extremely ill and often suffering with dementia. When staff lack education on how to relate to those with dementia and have inadequate staffing, it can result in verbal and physical abuse of seniors in the facility. In order to combat this issue, our Ombudsmen developed a training module for facility staff, families and other interested persons. The training module titled *Challenging Communications: Working with residents with Dementia to Decrease Conflict and Increase Quality of Life* provides an overview of the disease and real life strategies in working with residents suffering from dementia. This training module empowers direct care providers with tools to engage with residents differently so that everyone has a better experience. Our Ombudsmen continue to ensure dignity, protect rights, and change the lives of Kentucky's seniors.



# PROTEC

Our attorneys, advocates and volunteers combat civil legal problems that threaten the strength of a family's foundation. Our family law work focuses on protecting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and protecting the rights of families and children.



We provided legal help to

**900 +**

domestic and interpersonal  
violence victims affecting

**2,449**

adults and children.

## New Leadership for Pro Bono Programs

There are obvious benefits when we help a DV victim obtain a divorce. However, many others not experiencing violence, also need representation to get their lives back. In order to assist us in the overwhelming number of requests for services we depend on private attorney involvement and clinics to help people represent themselves in divorce proceedings.

In 2017, Josh Fain became Pro Bono/PAI Coordinator in an effort to better mobilize our Pro Bono and Pro Se programs. With his

leadership we improved the process to qualify pro se and pro bono divorce clients by launching an online divorce questionnaire. The new system allows for a prompt response of eligibility, scheduling at pro se events, and assignment of divorce cases to pro bono attorneys.

We also consolidated our Pro Se clinics in 2017 to focus on areas where the need was greatest and volunteer attorneys and law students were



# TING FAMILIES

## Family Law Services Allow Kentucky Families to Start Over

Family law including divorce, custody, and juvenile matters are among the most highly requested services at LABG. These cases range from simple uncontested divorces where there are no children, property, or debts to complex matters involving child custody and asset division. Addressing family law needs can protect children from violence, provide much needed monetary assistance in the form of child support and maintenance and simply allow clients the opportunity to start over.

In a recent LABG's family law case Amanda contacted LABG after fleeing a violent relationship in another state and relocating to Kentucky. Amanda's husband had been in prison since before their daughter was born and upon his release he immediately located Amanda and assaulted her in front of their daughter. It

was at this point that Amanda fled to Kentucky. Amanda contacted LABG for assistance and her attorney was able to immediately get a restraining order and temporary custody order in place. This was especially important because Amanda's husband was threatening to take their child from her and flee. This case was made more complex due to the jurisdictional and domestic violence issues involved. However, Amanda's LABG attorney continued to represent her throughout the divorce and custody proceedings to ensure that Amanda and her daughter are safe.

Amanda's story is not unlike so many of the requests for services received by LABG throughout our entire service area. That is why providing high quality legal representation to people like Amanda is an essential part of LABG's mission of protecting families.

available. In 2017, 117 cases were closed through our divorce clinics. There are ongoing efforts to expand Pro Se Clinics to other counties in our service region.

Our Pro Bono efforts are largely concentrated on recruitment. With the introduction of Josh Fain as Pro Bono PAI Coordinator there is an increased awareness of the program and one central contact for the volunteer lawyer programs. There are currently 256 attorneys active on our panels, including

the Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers, the Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program and the Attorney Access Committee in Ashland. Last year, 138 divorce cases were closed by Pro Bono attorneys last year.



# CHANGING LIVES

We provide the opportunity for Kentuckians to protect their families. Our work can remove barriers, protect assets, save homes and ensure a positive outcome for our clients, it changes their lives immediately for everyone in the family.

## Expanding Veteran Services

Our work to provide veterans and active military expedited service continued in 2017. Relationships in the community and with veteran organizations allow us to meet veterans regardless of what they are experiencing, most notably our collaborations with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC). Attending VTC in Fayette, Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties allows us to assist veterans whose recovery makes them ready to confront neglected legal issues. Our connection at the VA provides direct access to veterans at the Ft. Thomas Domiciliary where our advocates meet with residents who have legal questions.

We identify veterans seeking legal help through community partners as well. For example, Gateway Community College refers veteran students for a variety of legal issues, including those that may impact their employment opportunities post-graduation.

We remain vigilant in our fight for justice for those who fought for our freedom. We continue to find opportunities to connect with Kentucky's veterans.

## Helping Kentucky's Seniors Thrive

Our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) continues to educate Kentuckians about benefit programs that improve the lives of seniors and those with disabilities. In 2017, SHIP in conjunction with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) piloted two projects to increase awareness of the services provided through our SHIP program and lifesaving benefits that help Kentucky's seniors thrive.

The first pilot project was a tele-town hall where eligible Kentuckians received information about money saving benefits. Through the SHIP program 2,934 Kentuckians participated in the town hall live and 550 Kentuckians requested and received help.



# ES

families, homes and health. Our power families. When we get a family and has long-term benefits for

# 1062

Veterans and their families helped in 2017.

Our second pilot project was a Facebook Ad Campaign that targeted ads to the Medicare eligible population in our Kentucky service area. The campaign ran from April through June 2017 and focused on government benefit programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). A total of 27,926 senior Kentuckians were reached and 440 requested information and direct assistance through the SHIP program.



## Restoring Dignity through Expungement

The path to felony expungement is littered with challenges. While the latest changes to expungement law in Kentucky provide new opportunities for those now eligible for expungement, many others remain disenfranchised by a felony record. The percentage of people experiencing felony disenfranchisement in Kentucky is 9.14%.

Kentuckians with a felony often have a difficult time obtaining housing or a job but perhaps most surprisingly, they lose the right to vote. While removing barriers to housing or employment can be the primary motivation for obtaining a criminal record expungement, for many Kentuckians having the right to vote is a matter of dignity and contributing in a way they have not been able to do in the past.

In the past year, LABG attorneys and advocates participated in events aimed at educating Kentuckians about the expansion of expungable offenses and the disproportionate effect on people of color. Outreach efforts include presentations at colleges and career centers, participation in the statewide Expungement Information Sessions produced through the DPA, and bi-monthly clinics at the Life Learning Center in Covington. All efforts conclude with information on applying for service through LABG.

Our representation removes barriers and returns dignity. We identify prejudice and promote the ideal of justice for all. In 2017, we helped 256 Kentuckians with criminal record expungement.

# 2017 FOCUSED REACH

In 2017, LABG reached

**26,176**

of its target population through direct services or outreach

Our outreach advocacy efforts positively impacted

**10,680**  
people

LABG legal staff & advocates provided direct legal representation and advice affecting

**15,496**  
people

**30.22%**  
of LABG are the working poor.



**49.80%**  
of LABG clients are poor elderly



**48.70%**

of working age families have children in the household



**13,234**

families requested legal help from LABG

Direct legal services were provided to

**7,739**

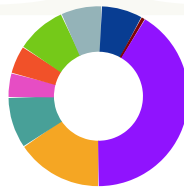
families affecting

**10,047**  
adults

&

**5,449**  
children

Types of Legal Issues Addressed



- Medicare and Medicaid Assistance/ Other Health- 41.5%
- Family- 15.3%
- Housing- 9.26%
- Protection Orders- 9.1%
- Consumer Issues/ Improving Family Income- 5.0%
- Life Planning Documents- 7.4%
- Public Benefits including Veterans Benefits- 4.4%
- Nursing Home Residents Rights- 0.7%
- Other- 7.44%

## LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS services have immediate and long-term value.

For every victim of violence we represent, there is a direct service benefit of

**\$1,905**

and long-term value of

**\$2,346**

We helped 900 victims of violence =

**\$1,714,500**

in direct service benefit &

**\$2,111,400**

in long-term value

For every family we help obtain or maintain SNAP, there is a direct service benefit of

**\$685**

and long-term value of

**\$21,087**

A study conducted in 2016 concluded that for every \$1 invested in Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, \$7.45 of immediate and long-term financial benefit was returned to the community.

**745%** Return on investment

Legal Aid Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis; For the Three Years 2013-2015; Community Services Analysis LLC

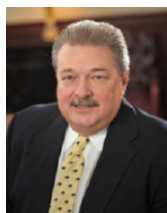




"Every step toward  
the goal of **JUSTICE**  
requires sacrifice,  
suffering, and  
struggle; the tireless  
exertions and  
passionate concern  
of **DEDICATED**  
individuals."

MLK, Jr.

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**\*\*CR- Client Representative**



# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE & EXPENDITURES | 2017

### REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$	2,694,589	62.34%
State & Local Grants & Contracts	\$	119,053	2.75%
United Way & Other Contributions	\$	1,023,633	23.68%
Foundation Grants	\$	283,207	6.55%
IOLTA Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts	\$	152,192	3.52%
Other Income	\$	49,591	1.16%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$	<b>4,322,265</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Poverty Law	\$	3,768,173	85.1%
Administration (Support)	\$	454,251	10.3%
Fundraising	\$	205,021	4.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$	<b>4,427,445</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET | 12.31.17

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,371,714
Receivables:		
Contributions Receivable, Short-term, net	\$	571,702
Accounts Receivable	\$	318,261
Prepaid Expenses	\$	37,692
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$	<b>2,299,369</b>

#### PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT, at cost

Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$	(840,178)
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (NET)</b>	\$	<b>1,434,967</b>

#### OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS

Contributions Receivable, Long-term, (NET)	\$	510,046
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$	<b>4,244,382</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

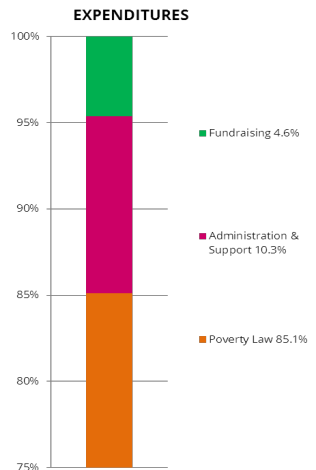
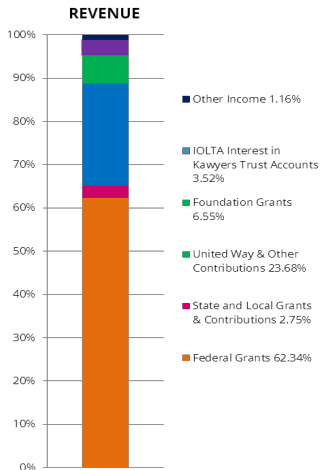
Accounts Payable	\$	36,758
Other Current Liabilities	\$	257,179
Notes Payable, Short-Term	\$	83,496
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	\$	<b>377,433</b>

#### OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Notes Payable, Long-Term	\$	444,139
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	\$	<b>821,572</b>

#### NET ASSETS

Net Investment in Property & Equipment	\$	907,332
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	1,085,265
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$	1,430,212
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	\$	<b>3,422,809</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	\$	<b>4,244,381</b>





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Hall David  
Michael Davidson  
Jon Davis  
Charles Davis  
Peter De Castro  
Deborah Debenedetto  
Elizabeth Deener  
Catherine Deflorio  
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*Charles Dickens*

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