

# 2023 Profile of the Legal Profession in Ohio



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## INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Bar Association compiled this report in order to provide a more complete picture of the legal profession in Ohio. The report is a reference for legal professionals so that we may better understand the practice of law in the state, from its impact on the economy to its makeup in terms of gender, ethnicity, geography and area of practice. The data here is compiled from many different sources, including the Ohio Supreme Court, association membership data, the American Bar Association and the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, as well as various studies commissioned by the Ohio Bar to survey attorneys in Ohio.

The legal profession is in a state of rapid change and our hope is that we can provide a clear vision of where we are now, so that we can better prepare for where we are heading in the future.

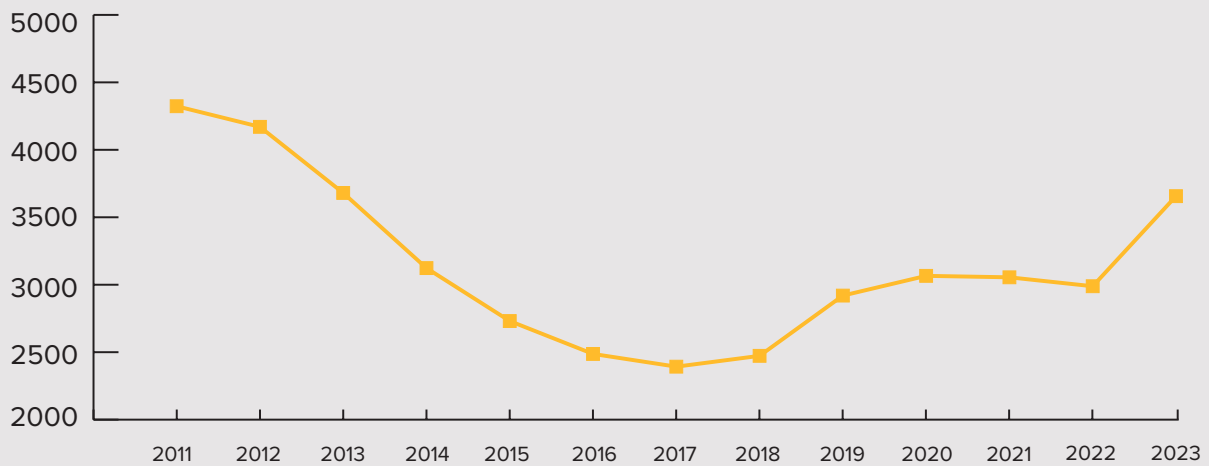
# LEGAL EDUCATION

Ohio Law school enrollment began a steady decline in 2011, but in 2017, numbers began a slight upward trend. Enrollment numbers continued that upward trend in 2023 after a slight dip in 2022.

Nationwide, women outnumbered men in law schools for the seventh year in a row in 2023, according to the American Bar Association. Meanwhile, in Ohio, law school enrollment hovers near gender parity but women 1L students do outnumber men by just over 100 students.



## OHIO LAW SCHOOL TOTAL JD ENROLLMENT



American Bar Association fall 2023 law school enrollment data

## OHIO LAW SCHOOL 1L ENROLLMENT, FALL 2023



2023-24  
Class Total  
1,211



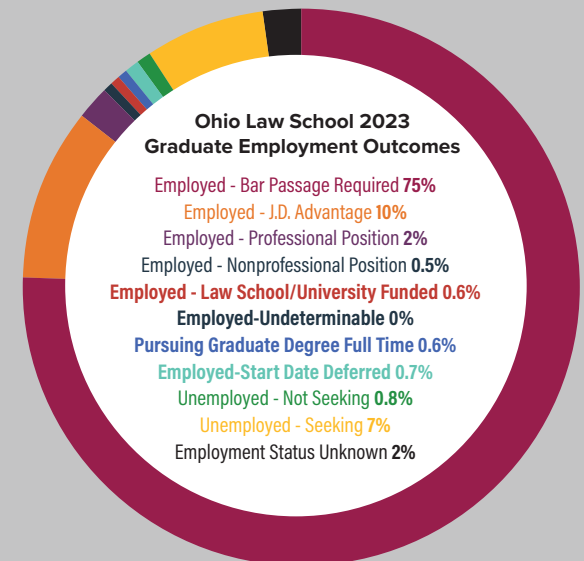
Men  
545



Women  
654

Other Gender  
Identity  
7

School	2023-24 Class Total	Men	Women	Other
University of Akron	127	63	64	0
Capital University	152	69	83	0
Case Western Reserve University	165	71	93	0
University of Cincinnati	126	52	71	2
Cleveland State University	150	68	79	2
University of Dayton	136	57	78	0
Ohio Northern University	87	42	42	1
Ohio State University	161	73	88	0
University of Toledo	107	50	56	0



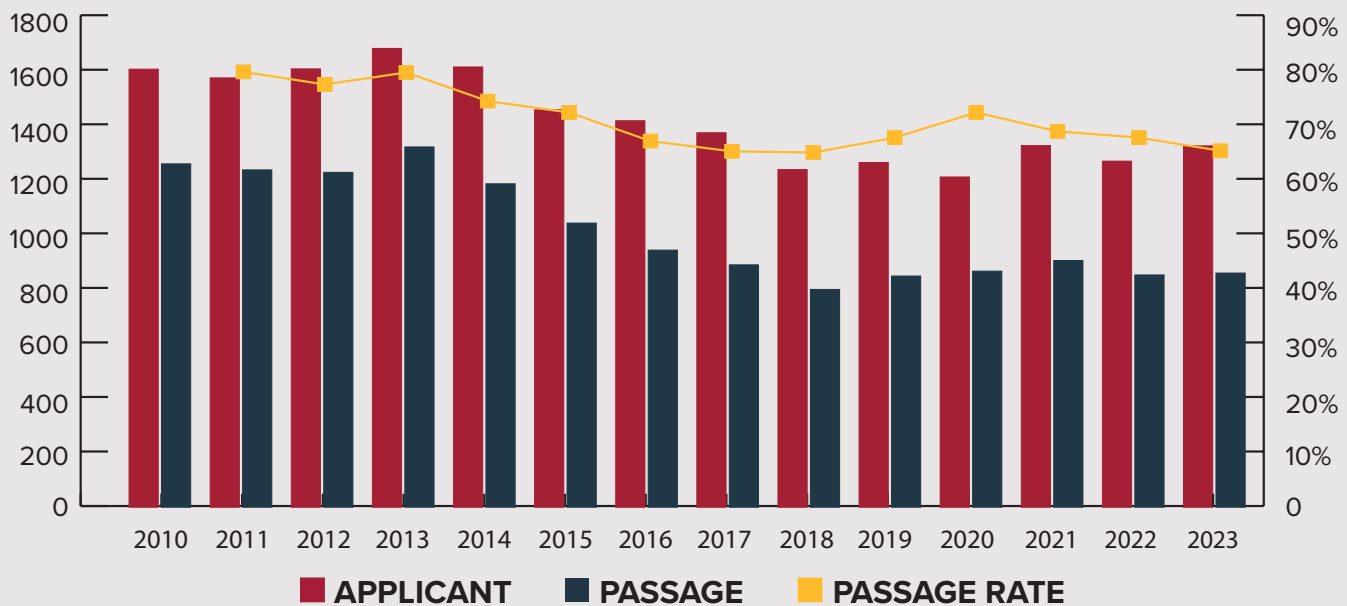
American Bar Association fall 2023 law school enrollment data

American Bar Association Section of Legal Education Employment Summary Reports. Required disclosures were reported in spring of 2024 and data may change throughout the year.



After an uptick in 2020, bar passage rates have been steadily declining for the past three years. The number of exam applicants trended upward in 2023.

## OHIO BAR EXAM APPLICANT/# OF PASSERS / PASSAGE RATE



Ohio Supreme Court Bar Examination results

## STUDENT DEBT



### Private Practitioners

Millennials: \$98,801  
Gen X: \$71,088  
Baby Boomers: \$32,228



### Government Attorneys

Millennials: \$113,380  
Gen X: \$67,450  
Baby Boomers: \$6,738



### In-House Counsel

Millennials: \$87,706  
Gen X: \$72,000  
Baby Boomers: \$41,000

Data based on voluntary responses to OSBA 2019 Economics of Law Practice Survey. Values represent mean data points.

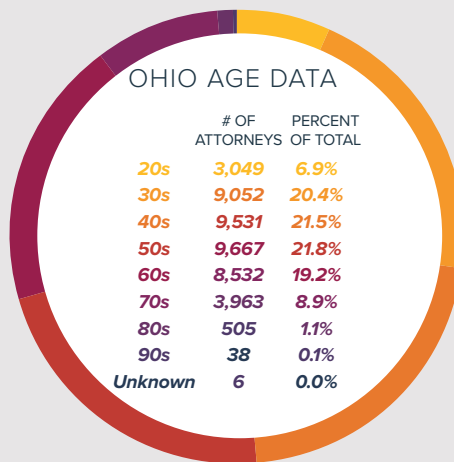
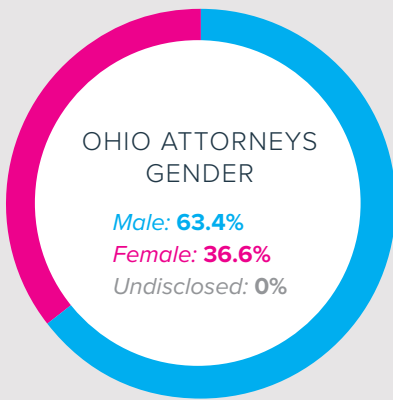
# OHIO ATTORNEYS

Though law school enrollment figures paint a promising picture for the future of the legal profession, Ohio attorneys have a ways to go when it comes to achieving gender parity, closing the wage gap and attaining true racial diversity.

However, the legal profession is also one of the most giving industries, with attorneys being several times more likely to serve on the board of a nonprofit than other professions. Close to three quarters of attorneys in Ohio provide legal services at no cost to those in need.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

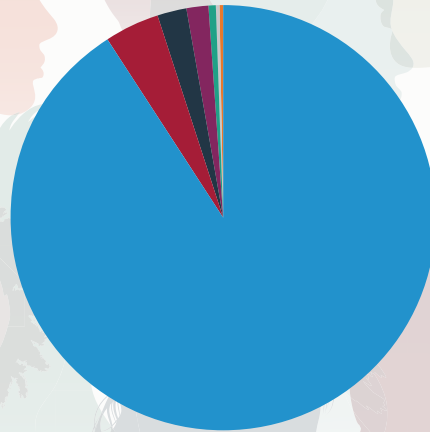


**37,599**  
 2023 REGISTERED ATTORNEYS  
 WITH OHIO SUPREME COURT  
 AND OHIO BUSINESS ADDRESS\*

\*Total registered attorneys with the Ohio Supreme Court in 2023: 44,308

Gender and age demographics based on 2023 Supreme Court data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

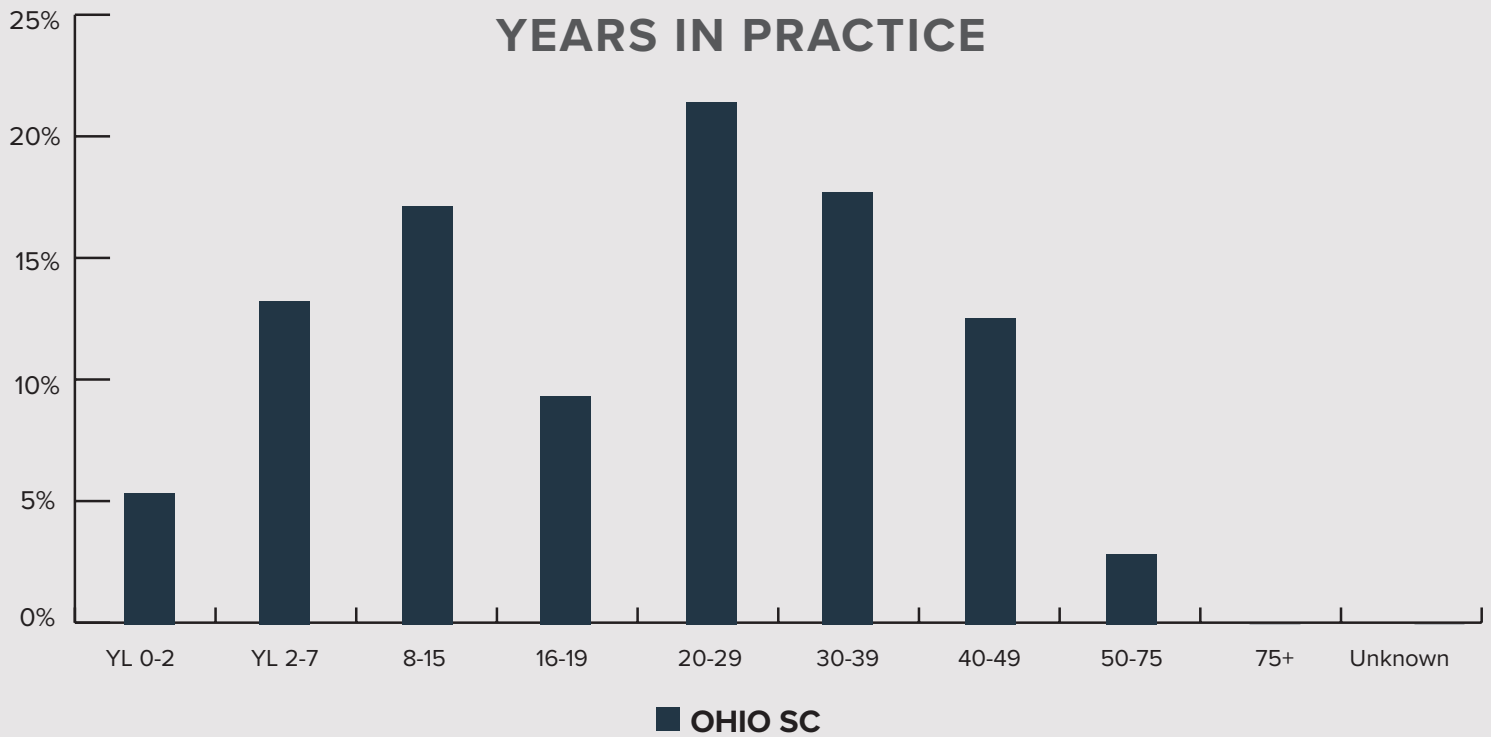
## RACE/ETHNICITY



### Ohio SC

0% Other  
 0.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific  
 0.2% Not Provided  
 0.6% Am. Indian/Alaskan  
 1.8% Hispanic  
 2.1% Asian  
 4.3% Black/African American  
 90.8% White

## YEARS IN PRACTICE



Ohio Supreme Court 2023 registered attorney data.

Ohio Bar and Supreme Court race and ethnicity data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

Private practitioners and government attorneys are more optimistic with current and future economic conditions when compared to 2012 data.

## SALARY & HOURLY RATES

**3-5**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$51,000 | \$51,000  
2012 \$46,000 | \$50,000



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$90,000 | \$42,000  
2012 \$83,000 | \$62,500



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$73,500 | \$78,000  
2012 \$70,500 | \$57,500



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$200/HR.  
2012 \$175/HR.

**6-10**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$69,990 | \$84,500  
2012 \$70,000 | \$60,000



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$123,000 | \$118,000  
2012 \$117,500 | \$99,500



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$90,000 | \$67,500  
2012 \$100,000 | \$77,500



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$215/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

More than 70% of attorneys report using a firm website and networking at their bar association as marketing tools for their practice.



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$69,990 | \$84,500  
2012 \$65,000 | \$59,500



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$130,899 | \$100,000  
2012 \$150,000 | \$118,000



**11-15**  
YEARS IN PRACTICE



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$120,000 | \$82,000  
2012 \$135,000 | \$100,000



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

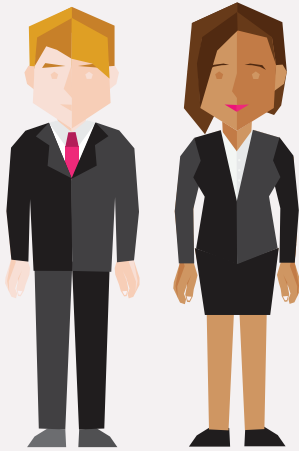
Figures represent median values. Values are based on OSBA member responses to the 2019 and 2013 Economics of Law Practice studies.

● = Male    ● = Female



# 16-25

YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$100,500 | \$81,500  
2012 \$77,000 | \$78,000



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$181,000 | \$105,000  
2012 \$120,000 | \$127,500



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$111,000 | \$115,000  
2012 \$114,000 | \$105,000



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$200/HR.

In 2018, 27% of private practitioners reported using a flat fee as an alternative fee arrangement, and data suggests that those in private practice are driving a trend away from the billable hour.

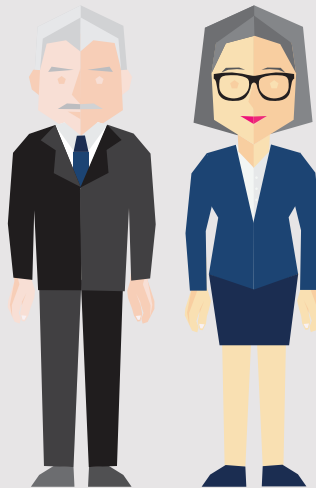
# 26-35

YEARS IN PRACTICE



### GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY SALARY

2018 \$100,500 | \$81,500  
2012 \$102,000 | \$83,500



### IN-HOUSE SALARY

2018 \$300,000 | \$228,000  
2012 \$150,000 | \$152,500



### HOURLY RATE

2018 \$250/HR.  
2012 \$225/HR.



### PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARY

2018 \$150,000 | \$85,000  
2012 \$140,000 | \$90,000

Figures represent median values. Values are based on OSBA member responses to the 2019 and 2013 Economics of Law Practice studies.

● = Male    ● = Female

# IOLTA 18,831

## ACTIVE ATTORNEYS WITH REGISTERED IOTA/IOLTA ACCOUNTS

IOLTA accounts are a good indication of the amount of lawyers in the state who work with clients and maintain client funds. Interest earned on these accounts provide financial support to Ohio's legal aids.

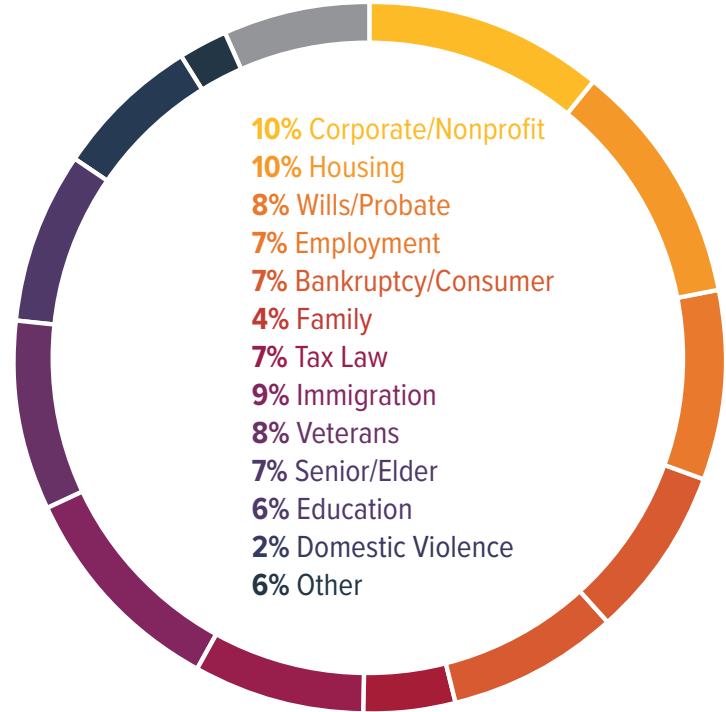
This data was compiled Jan. 2023 and may change throughout the year.

## PRO BONO

# 76,053

PRO BONO HOURS REPORTED  
32% DECREASE FROM 2021

## PRACTICE AREAS OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES



# \$19,013,250

VALUE OF REPORTED PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

Data from Ohio Access to Justice Foundation 2022 Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

At the state level, an attorney is 11 times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit as would be expected based on their occupational representation. This is an increase from 2012, when lawyers were four to eight times more likely to serve as a board member for a nonprofit.

### Nonprofit Board Participation by Region:

- Cincinnati: 39.7%
- Cleveland: 37.6%
- Columbus: 37.1%
- Other Urban Areas: 48.5%
- Rural Areas: 47.1%



Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services Industry prepared for the OSBA by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Ohio's legal services industry is a major employer, directly employing 44,427 people and paying more than \$3.6 billion in wages. An additional 58,394 jobs are created due to the profession's indirect employment and \$2.7 billion in indirect wages are generated via direct expenditure on wages.

Overall, the profession has a total economic impact of \$6.3 billion in household earnings and the creation of 102,821 jobs.



### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRIVATE OHIO LAW FIRMS

**\$3.6 Billion**  
DIRECT WAGES      **44,427**  
DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

**\$2.7 Billion**  
INDIRECT WAGES      **58,394**  
INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT

**\$6.3 BILLION**  
**102,821 JOBS**

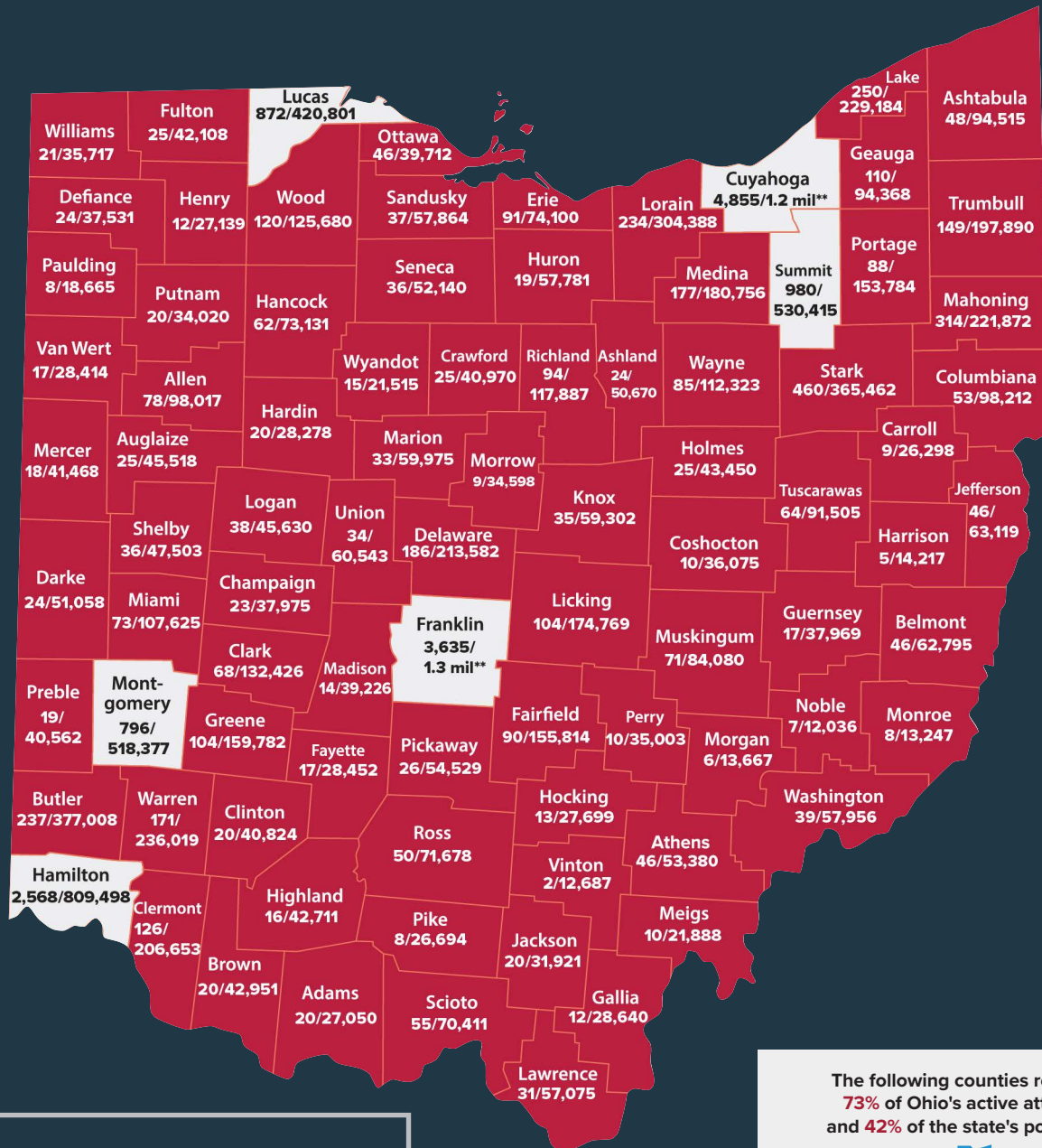
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Region	Total Earnings Impact	Share of State Impact	Total Employment Impact	Share of State Impact
Akron	\$343,980,422	5.4%	5,321	5.2%
Canton	\$119,757,30	1.9%	2,061	2.0%
Cincinnati	\$934,049,094	14.8%	13,898	13.5%
Cleveland	\$2,081,887,567	32.9%	30,207	29.4%
Columbus	\$1,283,589,742	20.3%	19,721	19.2%
Dayton	\$302,398,904	4.8%	4,793	4.7%
Toledo	\$216,648,978	3.4%	3,813	3.7%
Youngstown	\$93,667,928	1.5%	1,822	1.8%
Appalachia Region	\$251,135,289	4.0%	4,914	4.8%
<b>State of Ohio</b>	<b>\$6,326,140,448</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>102,821</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data from The 2020 Economic Profile and Impacts of Ohio's Legal Services Industry prepared for the OSBA by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center

Earnings and employment impacts include 2019 payrolled employees, self-employed individuals, and extended proprietors. The total earnings and employment impacts of the regions do not sum to the total for the State of Ohio. The nine regions analyzed do not encompass all counties in the State of Ohio, and the Appalachian region encompasses seven counties included in other metropolitan areas analyzed.

# Ohio Private Practitioners/Population\*



Ohio contains 82 counties with more than 700 residents per attorney.

The following counties represent **73%** of Ohio's active attorneys and **42%** of the state's population.

- Cuyahoga
- Lucas
- Franklin
- Montgomery
- Hamilton
- Summit

**13,706/4,801,508**

- Counties contain a population to attorney ratio of more than 700 people per attorney
- Remaining counties with fewer than 700 people per active attorney

\*Number of private practitioners is based upon attorneys with IOTA/IOLTA accounts, i.e. those who handle client funds. Population data sourced from U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

\*\*Rounded for space

Data compiled at a single point in time and may change throughout the year.

# Ohio Attorney/Population Ratio

Adams	1/1,353	Licking	1/1,680
Allen	1/1,257	Logan	1/1,201
Ashland	1/2,111	Lorain	1/1,301
Ashtabula	1/1,969	Lucas	1/483
Athens	1/1,160	Madison	1/2,802
Auglaize	1/1,821	Mahoning	1/707
Belmont	1/1,365	Marion	1/1,817
Brown	1/2,148	Medina	1/1,021
Butler	1/1,591	Meigs	1/2,189
Carroll	1/2,922	Mercer	1/2,304
Champaign	1/1,651	Miami	1/1,474
Clark	1/1,947	Monroe	1/1,656
Clermont	1/1,640	Montgomery	1/651
Clinton	1/2,041	Morgan	1/2,278
Columbiana	1/1,853	Morrow	1/3,844
Coshocton	1/3,608	Muskingum	1/1,184
Crawford	1/1,639	Noble	1/1,719
Cuyahoga	1/254	Ottawa	1/863
Darke	1/2,127	Paulding	1/2,333
Defiance	1/1,564	Perry	1/3,500
Delaware	1/1,148	Pickaway	1/2,097
Erie	1/814	Pike	1/3,337
Fairfield	1/1,731	Portage	1/1,748
Fayette	1/1,674	Preble	1/2,135
Franklin	1/355	Putnam	1/1,701
Fulton	1/1,684	Richland	1/1,254
Gallia	1/2,387	Ross	1/1,434
Geauga	1/858	Sandusky	1/1,564
Greene	1/1,536	Scioto	1/1,280
Guernsey	1/2,233	Seneca	1/1,448
Hamilton	1/315	Shelby	1/1,320
Hancock	1/1,180	Stark	1/794
Hardin	1/1,414	Summit	1/541
Harrison	1/2,843	Trumbull	1/1,328
Henry	1/2,262	Tuscarawas	1/1,430
Highland	1/2,669	Union	1/1,781
Hocking	1/2,131	Van Wert	1/1,671
Holmes	1/1,738	Vinton	1/6,344
Huron	1/3,041	Warren	1/1,380
Jackson	1/1,596	Washington	1/1,486
Jefferson	1/1,372	Wayne	1/1,321
Knox	1/1,694	Williams	1/1,701
Lake	1/917	Wood	1/1,047
Lawrence	1/1,841	Wyandot	1/1,434

Calculations are based upon data compiled at a single point in time from the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Census Bureau