



# Annual Report

## 2020

### The OACTA Foundation

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400 W Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120, Worthington, OH 43085

Tel: 614.228.4727 | Fax: 614.221.1989

[oacta@assnoffices.com](mailto:oacta@assnoffices.com) | [www.oacta.org](http://www.oacta.org)

# Table of Contents

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## Contents

Message From the 2021 OACTA Foundation President _____	1
Our Mission _____	2
Our History _____	3
2020 Financial Summary _____	4
2020 Board of Directors / Past Presidents _____	5
2020 Donor Support _____	6-7

**Message From the 2021 OACTA  
Foundation President  
*Jamey T. Pregon***

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2020 was the sixth year of the OACTA Foundation's existence, and as we all know, 2020 presented virtually everyone with challenges in all aspects of their professional and personal lives. The OACTA Foundation was not immune to these challenges. The OACTA annual golf outing, which traditionally has been the biggest source of revenue for the OACTA Foundation, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This created an obvious hardship for the OACTA Foundation, and caused the Board to make tough decisions to weather the storm.

An extremely generous outpouring of support from our supporting members, companies, and firms helped the OACTA Foundation survive the challenges of 2020, and only required the Foundation to reduce its contribution to the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence from \$5000 to \$3000. The OACTA Foundation received a record amount of donations, totaling \$13,325. I direct your attention to page 6 of this report where the donors are identified. On behalf of the OACTA Foundation, I humbly thank our 2020 donors who made such generous donations, even in the face of the personal struggles that we all faced due to the pandemic. My words will never do justice to recognize and appreciate the incredible generosity and kindness of our donors. They kept the Foundation afloat during unprecedented times, and both personally and as the Foundation President, I will forever be grateful for this amazing display of charity.

In addition to those who donated in their own name, a large donation was also made in memory of Hilary S. Taylor, who passed away in 2020. I would be remiss to not take this opportunity to recognize Hilary once again for his contributions to OACTA, his profession, and his community. His spirit will forever live on through the Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion and Equity Scholarship Awards, which are funded by the OACTA Foundation.

In closing, as my tenure in OACTA leadership is now reaching an end, I thank OACTA and the OACTA Foundation for everything they do for the defense bar. I will continue to support OACTA and the OACTA Foundation in the future, and I encourage you all to do the same. Giving back to our profession is a worthy cause, and we should all be thankful that we have each other during the turbulent times, as well as the non-turbulent times. I ask you all to keep the OACTA Foundation in mind when you are considering charitable contributions, now and in the future. I thank you all, and wish you all safe and happy holidays, and a great 2022.

Jamey Pregon

## **Our Mission**

Established in 2015, The OACTA Foundation was organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Foundation funds projects consistent with the mission of OACTA, such as the annual OACTA Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion and Equity Scholarship Program and the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE). The OACTA Foundation is incorporated in Ohio as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions made to The OACTA Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider contributing to The OACTA Foundation. Go to [www.oacta.org](http://www.oacta.org) to make a contribution. Your support is appreciated!

## **OACTA Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion & Equity Scholarships**

The OACTA Hilary S. Taylor Law Student Inclusion & Equity Scholarships are open to the following incoming second and third year law students who are enrolled in an Ohio law school or are a permanent Ohio resident: 1) Minority law students; 2) LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) law students, regardless of race or ethnicity; 3) Female law students, regardless of race or ethnicity; or, 4) Law students from economically impoverished families/backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity. The criteria include academic achievements; service to the community and to the cause of inclusion and equity; and experience or interest in a civil defense practice.

Up to two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each are awarded to successful applicants. Applicants are required to submit an application, law school transcript and a cover letter addressing the following: academic, personal and professional accomplishments, and why they should be selected as a recipient of the scholarship. Applicants must also submit at least one letter of recommendation but may submit a total of three. Applications must be submitted online with a cover letter. Transcripts and letter of recommendation may be mailed to the OACTA office. The completed applications and all other requested material must be received by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **OACTA Foundation Annual Golf Outing**

Since 2009, OACTA has conducted an annual Golf Outing. Net proceeds from the Golf Outing have benefitted the OACTA Foundation since 2016. Since its founding, the Golf Outing has been held at Pinnacle Golf Club in Grove City, Ohio, in early September. OACTA members, friends and colleagues gather for golf and fun and all for good causes! Net proceeds from the annual Golf Outing support the Law Student Inclusion and Equity Scholarships and the NFJE. Since its formation, the annual Golf Outing has generated over \$89,000 (through 12/31/20). The 2020 OACTA Golf Outing was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In its place, a Virtual Raffle Drawing was conducted.

Established in October, 2015, the OACTA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, dedicated to supporting OACTA projects, such as the OACTA Law Student Inclusion and Equity Scholarships and the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE), and the broader educational and organizational goals of OACTA itself.

In 2016, OACTA hosted a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at the Ohio Statehouse in the Atrium and Rotunda. OACTA provided all the logistical and staff support for the event held in conjunction with the OACTA Annual Meeting in Columbus and the OACTA Foundation was the direct beneficiary of all net proceeds from the event. Sponsorships and contributions helped generate a net income to the OACTA Foundation in the amount of \$42,435.

2017 marked the first full year in which the entire OACTA Law Student Diversity Scholarship Program and the Annual OACTA Golf Outing were fully administered through the OACTA Foundation, with significant administrative support from OACTA. The personal donations and contributions of individuals are fully eligible for favorable tax deductions for each generous donor to the OACTA Foundation for these and all future OACTA Foundation programs and events.

In 2019, the scholarship program was re-named the Hilary S. Taylor Law Inclusion and Equity Scholarship, in honor of Mr. Taylor who provided leadership in OACTA's efforts to establish and implement the OACTA Diversity Scholarship. OACTA provided Mr. Taylor this recognition, in-person, at the November, 2019 Annual Meeting. Since the OACTA Law Student Inclusion and Equity Scholarships were first awarded in 2011, OACTA and the Foundation have collectively awarded \$35,000 in scholarships to 24 students (as of 12/31/20). In addition to the Hilary S. Taylor Inclusion and Equity Scholarship Awards, OACTA has been a national leader among all defense bar organizations across the country both in its level of support and total years of support for the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence (NFJE). The NFJE is a unique program among national and state defense bar programs which seeks to train appellate court judges from around the country at an annual seminar held each year in Chicago. Before 2009, OACTA had made annual contributions to the NFJE from its general operating budget. The annual Golf Outing began in 2009 to fund these projects and since 2016, net proceeds fund the annual Golf Outing fund the OACTA Foundation.

Looking to the future, the goals of the Foundation include a commitment to continue OACTA's historic support for the NFJE, and the continued funding of Law Student Inclusion & Equity Scholarships, as well as increasing both the amount and number of scholarships which can be awarded to deserving law students in the future. Last, but not least, the Foundation exists to serve as a vehicle to receive even more support from existing and future donors who support the above activities and the welfare and existence of OACTA itself.

- Foundation provides scholarships to law students of diverse backgrounds to further their education.
- Foundation provides annual financial support to the NFJE which focuses specifically on education for the state appellate judiciary.
- Foundation will continue to support the mission of OACTA in these and future projects.

The OACTA Foundation is the only organization of its kind led by the Ohio Defense Bar.

As of 12/31/20, the total assets of the OACTA Foundation are \$50,045.23. In 2016, at the 50th Anniversary Gala Event, the OACTA Foundation raised over \$42,000 with the generous support of individual attorneys, law firms, corporations, and sponsors of OACTA. Expenses for 2020 accurately reflect the OACTA Foundation mission – educating future lawyers with diverse backgrounds and supporting the education of the judiciary. Since 2016 was a pivotal year near the inception of the creation of the OACTA Foundation, the main thrust was to create a “nest egg” to build on for future goals and financial stability of the OACTA Foundation. The OACTA Foundation Golf Outing is the annual fundraising event and the Law Student Inclusion and Equity Scholarship Program and NFJE contribution are the annual expenses. OACTA conducts an audit every-other year, alternating between a full audit and a financial audit review. When this is conducted, the OACTA Foundation is included in the process. A financial review was conducted by a certified public accountant as of 12/31/18 and the results were satisfactory with no modifications suggested. OACTA continues to provide significant administrative and staff support for the Foundation programs.

DESCRIPTION	REVENUE	EXPENSES	NET SURPLUS
<b>Golf</b>	\$0	\$0	
<b>General Contributions</b>	\$13,325		
<b>Inclusion &amp; Equity Scholarships</b>		\$5,000	
<b>NFJE</b>		\$3,000	
<b>Operating / Banking &amp; Credit Card Fees</b>		\$540	
<b>Accounting Fees</b>		\$710	
<b>Interest / Dividends</b>	\$104		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,429</b>	<b>\$9,250</b>	<b>\$4,179</b>
<b>Unrealized Investment Gain (Loss)</b>			<b>\$995</b>

# **Pg. 5      Board of Directors/ Past Presidents**

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## **2020 OACTA Foundation Board of Directors**

### ***President (OACTA Immediate Past President)***

**James N. Kline**

Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co. L.P.A.  
Cleveland, Ohio

### ***Secretary-Treasurer (OACTA Executive Director)***

**Debbie Nunner**

Executive Director of OACTA  
Columbus, Ohio

### ***Directors***

**Jamey T. Pregon**

American Family  
Columbus, Ohio

**Natalie M.E. Wais**

Young & Alexander Co. LPA  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Benjamin Sassé**

Tucker Ellis LLP  
Cleveland, Ohio

**David W. Orlandini**

Collins, Roche, Utley & Garner, LLC  
Dublin, OH

*The Members of the 2020 OACTA FOUNDATION consisted of the 2020 OACTA Board of Trustees.*

## **OACTA Foundation Past Presidents**

**2019 – Jill K. Mercer**

**2018 – Brian D. Kerns**

**2017 – John J. Garvey, III**

**2016 – James L. Mann**

Thank you to all of our individual and institutional donors who generously contributed to the OACTA Foundation in 2020.

**Contributions of \$2,000 or more:**

**Weston Hurd LLP**

**Contributions of \$1,000 or more:**

**John Garvey III, Garvey Shearer Nordstrom PSC**

**Contributions of \$500 or more:**

**Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co. L.P.A.**

**Cavitch, Familo & Durkin Co., LPA**

**David Orandini, Collins, Roche, Utley & Garner, LLC**

**Mark McCarthy, Tucker Ellis LLP**

**McNeal Schick Archibald & Biro Co., LPA**

**Contributions of \$250 or more:**

**ARCCA**

**Susan Audey, Tucker Ellis LLP**

**Mark Baserman Sr.**

**Dinsmore & Shohl LLP**

**Freund Freeze & Arnold**

**Thomas Glassman, Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co. L.P.A.**

**Peter Hersha**

**Melanie Irvin, Branch Insurance**

**James Kline, Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co. L.P.A.**

**James McCrystal, Jr., Sutter O'Connell**

**Jill Mercer, Nationwide Insurance**

**Jamey Pregon, American Family Insurance Company**

**Roetzel & Andress**

**Ulmer & Berne**

**Young & Alexander Co. LPA**

**Contributions of \$100 or more:**

**Kurt Anderson, Collins, Roche, Utley & Garner LLC**

**Brigid Heid, Eastman & Smith LTD**

**Michelle Laisure**

**Gretchen Koehler Mote, OBLIC**

**Nicole McGee, The Board of Directors of Upcycle Parts Shop**

**Michael Neltner, The Cincinnati Insurance Company**

**Stephen Roach, The Cincinnati Insurance Company**

**Carolyn Taggart**, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, LLP  
**Sandra Thomas**  
**Jessica & Angelo Trivisonno**  
**Natalie Wais**, Young & Alexander Co. LPA

**Contributions of \$25 or more:**

**Alexander Andrews**, Ulmer & Berne LLP  
**Lewis Barr**  
**Anthony Brown**, Milligan Pusateri Co. LPA  
**Gregory Farkas**, Frantz Ward LLP  
**Stephen Freeze**  
**Paul McCartney**, Bonezzi Switzer Polito & Hupp Co. LPA  
**Nicole Mitchell**, Freund Freeze & Arnold  
**Jennifer Nordstrom**, Garvey Shearer Nordstrom PSC  
**Gregory O'Brien**, Cavitch, Familo & Durkin Co, LPA  
**Daniel Richards**, Weston Hurd LLP  
**Debra & Warren Rosman**  
**Benjamin Sasse**, Tucker Ellis LLP  
**Anne Marie Sferra**, Bricker & Eckler LLP  
**Elizabeth Smith**, Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease LLP  
**Whitney Todd**, Roetzel & Andress

**Contributions in the amount of \$2,125.00 were made in memory of Mr. Hilary S. Taylor.**