



***LEGAL SERVICES IN THE  
CLEVELAND TGA***

**Nolan Stevens, Director of Legal Services  
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center  
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# MISSION & HISTORY

- Our mission is a perpetual balancing act –
  - To assist the greatest possible number of clients;
  - In in the broadest possible array of legal fields;
  - While providing the highest possible quality of service
- Founded in 2012
- Added second attorney in 2015
- Added paralegal in 2017
- Strategic plan in 2019?



# LEGAL SERVICES IN THE CLEVELAND TGA

- Two full-time attorneys, one paralegal
  - Nolan Stevens – Director of Legal Services
  - Lauren Hamilton – Staff Attorney
  - Shannon Slimak – Paralegal
- All services are offered free of charge to clients\*
- Sole Ryan White-funded legal services provider in Cleveland TGA
  - All HIV+ clients in six-county area, in or out of care, are eligible for services



# CLIENTS SERVED IN THE PREVIOUS GRANT YEAR

- **234 unique clients** (static in prior grant year)
- **9,022 hours billed** (+14.5% from previous grant year)
- **Practiced before 10 courts:**
  - Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Bedford, Parma, Euclid, Lakewood, Lorain, Medina,



# FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS

- AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month
- Signature Health
  - Willoughby – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month
  - Maple Heights - TBD
- MetroHealth – TBD
- Working toward concrete partnerships with University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic, and institutions serving clients in Medina, Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties



# LEGAL SERVICES OFFERED

## ○ Legal services offered:

- **Anything within competence and not prohibited by grant funding, notably:**
  - Housing and Landlord/Tenant
  - Advanced directives
  - Estate planning
  - Expungement
  - Child support and custody
  - ID Theft/fraud
  - Social Security and other benefits
  - Immigration
- **Things we don't do, but for which we find appropriate referrals:**
  - Divorce
  - Small claims
  - Bankruptcy
  - Criminal law
  - Class actions



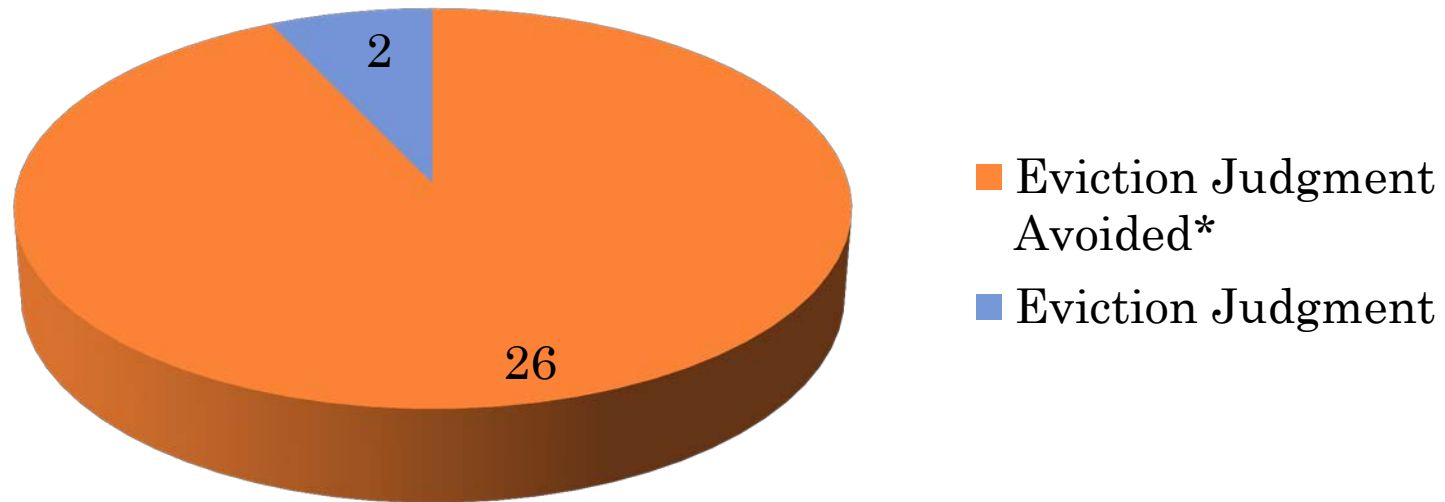
# SPOTLIGHT ON EVICTION DEFENSE

- Stable housing is a critical foundation for client success in managing their disease
- Goals vary by clients and facts
  - Win the case
  - Avoid displacement
  - Avoid eviction judgment
  - Buy time



# EVICTION DEFENSE SUCCESS RATE: 92.8%

## Eviction defenses in 2018 YTD





# OTHER WORK AND AMBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Re-entry housing
- HIV decriminalization
- Expanded marketing, especially through social media
- Continued client trainings
- Expansion of services offered – federal bar membership
- Strategic plan



ANY QUESTIONS?

Nolan Stevens  
Director of Legal Services, NLURC  
(216) 623-1521  
[nstevens@nlurc.org](mailto:nstevens@nlurc.org)

