

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS
AND CONTRIBUTING EMPLOYERS
LEGAL BENEFITS FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024



AKMAN
& ASSOCIATES, LLC
Pre-Paid Legal Services

AKMAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Creighton, Circa 1832
1402 Front Avenue
Lutherville, MD 21093

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INTRODUCTION

Enclosed is the 2024 Annual Report submitted by Akman & Associates, LLC to the United Food & Commercial Workers and Contributing Employers Legal Benefits Fund. This marks the seventh Annual Report covering the combined Locals 27 and 400, prepared by Akman & Associates.

As of April 1, 2016, Akman & Associates began serving as the prepaid legal services provider for members of Local 400, in addition to the membership of Local 27, whom we have proudly represented since 1981.

The enclosed statistical data covers the reporting period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Throughout the year, the participants continued to rely on our firm to meet a wide range of legal needs. Akman & Associates remains committed and equipped to provide high-quality legal services, and we are fully prepared to respond to any questions or comments the Board of Trustees may have.

FACILITIES

At Akman & Associates, we've spent considerable time studying the best ways to deliver effective prepaid legal services. One key takeaway has been clear: to serve members well, our services must be accessible. To that end, we currently operate seven offices throughout Maryland, as well as one office in Virginia and one in Washington D.C. - all strategically located for the convenience of plan participants. The office locations are as follows:

MARYLAND

Lutherville/Towson

1402 Front Avenue
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Landover

8400 Corporate Drive, Suite 230
Landover, Maryland 20785

Baltimore

300 E. Lombard Street, Suite 1100
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Ocean City/Salisbury

12417 Ocean Gateway, Suite 11
Ocean City, Maryland 21842

Frederick

410 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Bel Air

3 Vale Road, #200
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Annapolis

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway,
Suite 300
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

VIRGINIA

2560 Huntington Avenue, Suite 202
Alexandria, Virginia 22303

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

20 F Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

REFERRAL PROVIDERS IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA

While most Local 27 and Local 400 members in Virginia are based in the Northern Virginia region, we've found that some members live in — or have legal matters arising from — other parts of the state. To ensure continued access to quality legal services, Akman & Associates has established retainer or fee-for-service agreements with a law firm that operates five offices throughout Central Virginia:

CRAVENS & NOLL, PC

Chesterfield

15871 City View Drive, Suite 300
Midlothian, VA 23113

Harrisonburg

1400 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Henrico

4551 Cox Road, Suite 120
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Tri-Cities

456 Charles Dimmock Parkway, Suite 7
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

REFERRAL PROVIDERS OUTSIDE OF MARYLAND, DC & VIRGINIA

In addition to Maryland, D.C., and Virginia, members of Locals 27 and 400 also live and work in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia — and are eligible for legal services in those states. To meet their needs, Akman & Associates has established retainer or fee-for-service agreements with attorneys in each of those states to ensure members have access to quality, local representation. Below is a list of our current out-of-state providers:

DELAWARE

Michael F. McGroerty, Esquire
110 N. Pine Street
Seaford, Delaware 19973

Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze, P.A.

Wilmington
1105 Market Street
19th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dover
909 Silver Lake Boulevard
Dover, DE 19904

Rehobeth
19354C Miller Road
Rehobeth Beach, DE 19971

PENNSYLVANIA

Kevin Robinson, Esquire
60 E Middle Street
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Greg Hazlett, Esquire
7 West Main Street
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

Law Office of Andrea M. Singley
30 W. Middle Street, Suite 1
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Miranda L. Blazek, Esquire
Strausbaugh Law, PLLC
116 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

WEST VIRGINIA

Dittmar, Taylor & Makricostas, PLLC
320 Penco Road
Weirton, WV 26062

CHART I
CASES OPENED
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APR., MAY, JUNE	JULY, AUG., SEPT.	OCT., NOV., DEC.	TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
1 FAMILY	8	11	7	6	32	38
2 PROBATE	5	3	5	4	17	17
3 ESTATE PLANNING	10	7	8	6	31	36
4 NEGLIGENCE	6	7	4	5	22	25
5 REAL ESTATE	5	4	6	5	20	12
6 CONSUMER	13	16	14	10	53	53
7 CRIMINAL	3	4	2	3	12	15
8 TRAFFIC	6	5	5	6	22	20
9 LANDLORD/TENANT	4	6	3	4	17	13
10 ADMINISTRATIVE	4	3	5	3	15	11
11 JUVENILE	2	3	2	3	10	11
TOTAL	66	69	61	55	251	251

CHART II
PERCENTAGES BY CASES OPENED
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

		TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	PERCENTAGE	2023 PERCENTAGE
1	FAMILY	32	13%	15%
2	PROBATE	17	7%	7%
3	ESTATE PLANNING	31	12%	14%
4	NEGLIGENCE	22	9%	10%
5	REAL ESTATE	20	8%	5%
6	CONSUMER	53	21%	21%
7	CRIMINAL	12	5%	6%
8	TRAFFIC	22	9%	8%
9	LANDLORD/TENANT	17	7%	5%
10	ADMINISTRATIVE	15	6%	5%
11	JUVENILE	10	4%	4%
TOTAL		251	100%	100%

CHART III
ATTORNEY HOURS
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.,	MAY,	JUNE	JULY,	AUG.,	SEPT.	OCT.,	NOV.,	DEC.	TOTAL	2023 TOTAL
1 FAMILY	36.05			45.30			36.20			29.35			146.90	168.00
2 PROBATE	16.75			11.65			25.40			14.90			68.70	62.50
3 ESTATE PLANNING	31.85			20.15			26.60			18.85			97.45	117.95
4 NEGLIGENCE	19.15			22.45			29.95			27.85			99.40	79.25
5 REAL ESTATE	13.90			11.10			21.10			16.15			62.25	39.15
6 CONSUMER	53.40			49.60			57.50			44.60			205.10	223.75
7 CRIMINAL	19.70			28.25			15.50			21.45			84.90	107.85
8 TRAFFIC	34.45			29.50			37.70			39.40			141.05	120.45
9 LANDLORD/TENANT	16.70			23.30			12.30			16.70			69.00	58.75
10 ADMINISTRATIVE	17.15			15.85			23.25			15.20			71.45	42.40
11 JUVENILE	13.50			21.25			13.85			18.45			67.05	59.70
TOTAL	272.60			278.40			299.35			262.90			1113.25	1079.75

CHART IV
PERCENTAGE OF ATTORNEY HOURS
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS	PERCENTAGE	2023 PERCENTAGE
1 FAMILY	146.90	13.20%	15.56%
2 PROBATE	68.70	6.17%	5.79%
3 ESTATE PLANNING	97.45	8.75%	10.92%
4 NEGLIGENCE	99.40	8.93%	7.34%
5 REAL ESTATE	62.25	5.59%	3.63%
6 CONSUMER	205.10	18.42%	20.72%
7 CRIMINAL	84.90	7.63%	9.99%
8 TRAFFIC	141.05	12.67%	11.16%
9 LANDLORD/TENANT	69.00	6.20%	5.44%
10 ADMIN	71.45	6.42%	3.93%
11 JUVENILE	67.05	6.02%	5.53%
TOTAL	1113.25	100.00%	100.00%

CHART V
PARALEGAL HOURS
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL	TOTAL	V
1 FAMILY	24.25			32.95			22.10			19.90			99.20	117.90	
2 PROBATE	24.90			17.95			30.95			20.20			94.00	90.00	
3 ESTATE PLANNING	29.40			18.10			23.65			17.05			88.20	98.50	
4 NEGLIGENCE	26.00			29.15			26.80			30.30			112.25	107.05	
5 REAL ESTATE	9.45			6.55			13.35			9.35			38.70	23.25	
6 CONSUMER	41.65			38.20			47.80			40.20			167.85	177.55	
7 CRIMINAL	5.00			7.65			4.45			6.20			23.30	22.40	
8 TRAFFIC	10.25			10.05			12.35			14.50			47.15	29.70	
9 LANDLORD/TENANT	10.60			16.90			8.60			12.35			48.45	36.85	
10 ADMINISTRATIVE	11.30			9.70			15.15			10.10			46.25	22.50	
11 JUVENILE	5.10			9.65			4.80			6.55			26.10	17.75	
TOTAL	197.90			196.85			210.00			186.70			791.45	743.45	

CHART VI
PERCENTAGE OF PARALEGAL HOURS
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS	PERCENTAGE	2023 PERCENTAGE
1 FAMILY	99.20	12.53%	15.86%
2 PROBATE	94.00	11.88%	12.11%
3 ESTATE PLANNING	88.20	11.14%	13.25%
4 NEGLIGENCE	112.25	14.18%	14.40%
5 REAL ESTATE	38.70	4.89%	3.13%
6 CONSUMER	167.85	21.21%	23.88%
7 CRIMINAL	23.30	2.94%	3.01%
8 TRAFFIC	47.15	5.96%	3.99%
9 LANDLORD/TENANT	48.45	6.12%	4.96%
10 ADMIN	46.25	5.84%	3.03%
11 JUVENILE	26.10	3.30%	2.39%
TOTAL	791.45	100.00%	100.00%

CHART VII
UTILIZATION
JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

		2024		2023	
	PARTICIPANTS	AVERAGE NO. OF		AVERAGE NO. OF	
		PARTICIPANTS	UTILIZATION	PARTICIPANTS	UTILIZATION
January	615			631	
February	609	615.00	20.20%	628	19.00%
March	621			626	
April	624			627	
May	635	639.67	19.70%	628	20.40%
June	660			624	
July	670			621	
August	673	670.00	20.20%	619	19.80%
September	667			620	
October	665			629	
November	671	670.33	17.80%	630	18.20%
December	675			623	
	7785	648.75	19.48%	7506	19.35%