

**UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS
AND FOOD EMPLOYERS LABOR RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
LEGAL BENEFITS FUND
FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022**

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

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INTRODUCTION

Enclosed herewith is the Fortieth Annual Report submitted by Akman & Associates, LLC for the United Food & Commercial Workers and Food Employers Labor Relations Association Legal Benefits Plan; however, this is the fifth Annual Report for the combined Locals 27 and 400 as prepared by the firm of Akman & Associates. On April 1, 2016, Akman & Associates became the prepaid legal services provider for those members of Local 400, in addition to the membership of Local 27, for which Akman & Associates has been providing prepaid legal benefits since 1981. The enclosed statistical data encompasses the reporting period of January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022. Since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, the restrictions imposed by states have finally been lifted. Courts have fully reopened, resulting in attorneys returning to hearings, whether in-person or remote. Our members continued to have vast legal needs, and they continued to engage Akman & Associates, LLC to assist with those needs. Our firm remained able to provide outstanding legal services to its clients, with a full return to in-person conferences for our members. As a result, utilization has improved from the two prior years of COVID-19 phases, and we have welcomed a full return to utilization of the legal benefit by membership. Akman & Associates, LLC stands prepared to address any questions or comments the Board of Trustees may have.

FACILITIES

Akman & Associates has spent considerable time researching the area of prepaid legal benefits. Our research has shown that in order to assure the delivery of adequate and competent legal services, the services must be easily accessible to participants. Presently, the firm maintains seven offices across the State of Maryland, one office in the District of Columbia and one office in the State of Virginia for the participants' convenience. They 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

Salisbury

11032 Nicholas Lane, Suite A202
Berlin, Maryland 21811

Frederick

410 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Bel Air

3 Vale Rd #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

Local 27 and Local 400 membership in Virginia is mostly concentrated in the Northern Virginia area; however, Akman & Associates has found that there are members who reside or have legal matters in Virginia outside of the Northern district. As a result, Akman & Associates has established retainer or fee or services agreements with a law firm that maintains five offices in the Central area of Virginia:

CRAVENS & NOLL, PC

Chesterfield Office:

9011 Arboretum Parkway
Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23236

Henrico Office:

4551 Cox Road
Suite 120
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Tri-Cities Office:

456 Charles Dimmock Pkwy
Suite 7
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Luray Office

7 Campbell Street
St. Luray, VA 22835

Harrisonburg Office:

1400 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

REFERRAL PROVIDERS OUTSIDE OF MARYLAND, DC & VIRGINIA

Local 27 and Local 400 membership is geographically located in three states outside of Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. Local 27 and Local 400 participants are also eligible for services in Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia. Therefore, Akman & Associates has established retainer or fee for services agreements with attorneys in those States to provide quality and accessible services to participants. The following is a list of the out of state providers:

DELAWARE

David D. Finocchiaro, Esquire
7 W. Commerce Street
Smyrna, Delaware 19977

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

Philip J. Facciolo, Jr., Esquire
Figliola & Facciolo
1813 Marsh Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19810

Vivian A. Houghton, Esquire
800 N. West Street, 2nd Floor
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Jayce R. Lesniewski, Esquire
1073 S. Governors Avenue
Dover, Delaware 19904

PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA

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

CHART I
CASES OPENED
JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Family	66	73	68	79	76	81	73	67	61	57	65	58	824	902
Probate	16	12	16	20	17	20	24	17	20	24	21	18	225	173
Estate Planning	64	76	82	70	79	67	62	73	81	71	66	70	861	900
Negligence	18	16	13	18	14	11	17	15	16	21	21	17	197	187
Real Estate	15	20	25	30	36	30	21	16	13	20	16	22	264	282
Consumer	92	85	90	73	83	65	72	88	78	90	74	76	966	1043
Criminal	14	18	16	14	12	19	21	15	19	16	19	17	200	190
Traffic	24	20	24	25	23	27	19	25	22	26	29	25	289	251
L/T	17	17	22	18	15	21	18	20	24	19	16	15	222	232
Admin	13	13	16	19	12	14	20	16	15	19	16	13	186	174
Juvenile	10	10	9	6	8	13	8	8	15	12	11	8	118	104
TOTAL	349	360	381	372	375	368	355	360	364	375	354	339	4352	4438

CHART II

PERCENTAGE OF UTILIZATION BY CATEGORY OF LAW JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

Category of Law	Total Number of Cases	Percentage	2021 Percentage
Family	824	18.93%	20.32%
Probate	225	5.17%	3.90%
Estate Planning	861	19.78%	20.28%
Negligence	197	4.53%	4.21%
Real Estate	264	6.07%	6.35%
Consumer	966	22.20%	23.50%
Criminal	200	4.60%	4.28%
Traffic	289	6.64%	5.66%
Landlord/Tenant	222	5.10%	5.23%
Admin	186	4.27%	3.92%
Juvenile	118	2.71%	2.34%
TOTAL	4352	100.00%	100.00%

CHART III

ATTORNEYS' HOURS

JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

CATEGORY	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Family	486.95	539.60	522.85	538.40	507.35	523.70	512.35	459.95	414.75	362.15	387.40	341.75	5597.20	5797.65
Probate	72.55	59.95	68.85	80.40	81.00	89.20	98.20	71.85	71.80	86.50	72.10	77.55	929.95	624.20
Estate Planning	196.65	226.65	248.10	221.20	243.20	209.85	184.75	218.55	249.75	226.85	214.50	223.30	2663.35	2706.95
Negligence	83.10	67.50	59.85	63.20	56.15	60.10	78.95	53.50	60.00	71.70	69.30	60.65	784.00	613.65
Real Estate	47.20	56.60	65.25	94.55	114.35	113.25	68.70	62.25	46.25	72.60	50.85	67.35	859.20	948.10
Consumer	469.55	437.20	429.75	407.45	472.90	411.80	398.30	519.95	398.55	408.50	365.95	353.15	5073.05	5691.10
Criminal	121.25	133.95	124.05	106.15	98.05	149.05	171.35	103.75	147.85	115.55	144.50	127.20	1542.70	1385.40
Traffic	159.60	129.15	142.35	159.30	154.15	178.60	136.40	170.45	142.45	166.45	189.15	166.30	1894.35	1621.25
L/T	72.95	72.95	85.75	70.20	63.35	86.40	83.85	71.50	91.95	75.45	65.15	54.85	894.35	897.70
Admin	56.05	56.05	72.75	77.55	46.75	56.95	87.35	60.25	61.90	75.95	62.65	52.40	766.60	687.10
Juvenile	64.40	64.40	48.85	39.75	43.45	65.55	50.75	42.60	59.95	66.25	68.80	53.35	668.10	608.90
TOTAL	1830.25	1844.00	1868.40	1858.15	1880.70	1944.45	1870.95	1834.60	1745.20	1727.95	1690.35	1577.85	21672.85	21582.00

CHART IV

PARALEGALS' HOURS
JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

CATEGORY	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL	2021 TOTAL
Family	386.70	462.40	437.70	446.50	410.50	418.40	399.50	350.75	333.75	297.45	320.40	280.35	4544.40	4420.95
Probate	103.35	88.15	102.40	132.05	117.30	125.50	151.20	113.45	111.15	130.75	111.45	102.10	1388.85	975.40
Estate Planning	173.75	204.60	224.85	204.55	219.65	189.15	168.65	191.75	220.90	201.30	184.15	185.30	2368.60	2405.90
Negligence	98.65	79.50	73.95	120.95	103.90	82.55	91.45	64.95	77.00	93.20	83.50	73.65	1043.25	872.25
Real Estate	31.30	36.80	46.30	66.10	78.40	71.80	43.05	45.45	28.40	40.20	31.70	45.60	565.10	602.15
Consumer	429.15	397.25	383.05	362.80	371.05	317.75	328.75	400.05	355.90	370.90	344.35	331.55	4392.55	4802.40
Criminal	24.60	29.85	26.10	22.15	18.65	37.05	35.10	23.80	30.30	25.25	32.15	28.50	333.50	283.90
Traffic	34.25	34.25	38.85	35.30	29.00	32.65	29.70	23.85	31.90	32.05	37.50	40.15	399.45	336.80
L/T	41.75	41.75	48.70	43.50	33.45	43.55	45.15	38.75	51.80	41.25	35.60	37.15	502.40	460.70
Admin	33.70	33.70	40.60	49.25	25.85	33.90	44.85	26.90	32.25	33.90	30.80	28.75	414.45	325.65
Juvenile	16.80	16.80	18.45	12.25	12.10	17.85	12.35	12.45	23.80	16.65	17.80	13.80	191.10	147.85
TOTAL	1374.00	1425.05	1440.95	1495.40	1419.85	1370.15	1349.75	1292.15	1297.15	1282.90	1229.40	1166.90	16143.65	15633.95

CHART V

PERCENTAGE OF ATTORNEYS' HOURS
BY CATEGORY OF LAW
JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

Category of Law	Total Number of Hours	Percentage	2021 Percentage
Family	5597.20	25.83%	26.86%
Probate	929.95	4.29%	2.89%
Estate Planning	2663.35	12.29%	12.54%
Negligence	784.00	3.62%	2.84%
Real Estate	859.20	3.96%	4.39%
Consumer	5073.05	23.41%	26.37%
Criminal	1542.70	7.12%	6.42%
Traffic	1894.35	8.74%	7.51%
L/t	894.35	4.13%	4.16%
Admin	766.60	3.54%	3.18%
Juvenile	668.10	3.08%	2.82%
TOTAL	21672.85	100.00%	100.00%

CHART VI

PERCENTAGE OF PARALEGALS' HOURS
BY CATEGORY OF LAW
JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

Category of Law	Total Number of Hours	Percentage	2021 Percentage
Family	4544.40	28.15%	28.28%
Probate	1388.85	8.60%	6.24%
Estate Planning	2368.60	14.67%	15.39%
Negligence	1043.25	6.46%	5.58%
Real Estate	565.10	3.50%	3.85%
Consumer	4392.55	27.21%	30.72%
Criminal	333.50	2.07%	1.82%
Traffic	399.45	2.47%	2.15%
L/T	502.40	3.11%	2.95%
Admin	414.45	2.57%	2.08%
Juvenile	191.10	1.18%	0.95%
TOTAL	16143.65	100.00%	100.00%

CHART VII

SURCHARGES

JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

	FAMILY	OTHER	TOTALS	2021 TOTALS
JANUARY	\$3,266.00	\$0.00	\$3,266.00	\$3,531.13
FEBRUARY	\$2,222.80	\$0.00	\$2,222.80	\$3,620.09
MARCH	\$4,189.75	\$0.00	\$4,189.75	\$3,730.64
APRIL	\$4,178.69	\$0.00	\$4,178.69	\$4,048.01
MAY	\$5,261.13	\$0.00	\$5,261.13	\$3,452.50
JUNE	\$3,154.25	\$0.00	\$3,154.25	\$3,811.03
JULY	\$2,413.00	\$0.00	\$2,413.00	\$3,927.50
AUGUST	\$3,928.50	\$0.00	\$3,928.50	\$4,367.25
SEPTEMBER	\$4,148.85	\$0.00	\$4,148.85	\$4,263.58
OCTOBER	\$3,807.99	\$0.00	\$3,807.99	\$3,901.50
NOVEMBER	\$4,098.75	\$0.00	\$4,098.75	\$2,627.23
DECEMBER	\$3,382.28	\$0.00	\$3,382.28	\$2,674.00
YEAR TOTAL	\$44,051.99	\$0.00	\$44,051.99	\$43,954.46

CHART VIII
STATISTICAL COMPARISON
BY YEAR

YEAR	TOTAL ATTORNEY HOURS	MONTHLY AVERAGE	TOTAL PARALEGAL HOURS	MONTHLY AVERAGE	TOTAL CASES	MONTHLY AVERAGE	MEMBERS MONTHLY AVERAGE	UTILIZATION AVERAGE
2012	12216.95	1018.08	10163.02	846.92	1770	148	5927	24.32%
2013	11874.35	989.53	9732.90	811.08	1975	165	5218	26.74%
2014	10553.35	879.45	8695.35	724.61	1799	150	5570	22.22%
2015	10059.80	838.32	7871.60	655.97	1847	154	5272	22.14%
2016	24514.15	2042.85	16834.75	1402.90	4921	410	11934	16.39%
2017	27580.20	2298.35	17651.55	1470.96	5845	487	14728	20.60%
2018	25646.10	2137.18	17340.13	1445.01	5628	469	14552	19.65%
2019	24795.05	2066.25	16581.40	1381.78	5544	462	14574	18.92%
2020	20206.95	1683.91	14802.80	1233.57	4444	370	14022	16.42%
2021	21582.00	1798.50	15633.95	1302.83	4438	370	13729	17.84%
2022	21672.85	1806.07	16143.65	1345.30	4352	363	13535	18.31%

CHART IX

UTILIZATION AND CAP FIGURES PER MONTH - 2022

MONTH	UTILIZATION	CAP
JANUARY	18.25%	\$101.77
FEBRUARY	18.73%	\$99.17
MARCH	18.73%	\$98.95
APRIL	19.12%	\$96.89
MAY	18.91%	\$97.41
JUNE	19.32%	\$95.08
JULY	19.07%	\$97.93
AUGUST	18.39%	\$99.98
SEPTEMBER	17.74%	\$103.59
OCTOBER	17.70%	\$95.76
NOVEMBER	17.32%	\$98.43
DECEMBER	16.39%	\$104.32
YEAR AVERAGE	18.31%	\$99.02