

Access to Justice & Equity for Ohio Families

Presented by
Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio

Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct

- ▶ “As an officer of the court, a lawyer not only represents clients but has a special responsibility for the quality of justice.” Preamble, Paragraph 1.
- ▶ “A lawyer should seek improvement of the law, ensure access to the legal system, advance the administration of justice, and exemplify the quality of service rendered by the legal profession...” Preamble , Paragraph 6.

Access to Justice Issues

- ▶ Report and Recommendations of the Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force on Access to Justice: Eleven Recommendations for the Improvement of Access to Justice
- ▶ “The “access to justice gap” is widely recognized to refer to estimates that 80 percent of the civil legal needs of low-income Americans go unaddressed. At the same time, recent law school graduates struggle to find legal employment and experienced practitioners search for practice models and tools that will enable those attorneys to offer competitive prices to those who can afford to pay and still earn adequate income for themselves.” Ohio State Bar Association, Futures Commission Report 2017.

Limited Scope Representation

- ▶ RULE 6.5: NONPROFIT AND COURT-ANNEXED LIMITED LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS, Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct
- ▶ A lawyer who, under the auspices of a program sponsored by a nonprofit organization or court, provides short-term limited legal services to a client without expectation by either the lawyer or the client that the lawyer will provide continuing representation in the matter is subject to both of the following:
 - ▶ (1) Rules 1.7 and 1.9(a) only if the lawyer *knows* that the representation of the client involves a conflict of interest;
 - ▶ (2) Rule 1.10 only if the lawyer *knows* that another lawyer associated with the lawyer in a *law firm* is disqualified by Rule 1.7 or 1.9(a) with respect to the matter.

Making a Difference:

- ▶ Use of Technology
- ▶ Online Communities
- ▶ Rural Practice Initiative
- ▶ Ohio Access to Justice Foundation
- ▶ Ohio Legal Help
- ▶ Legal shield