

# OREGON LAW FOUNDATION

## Leadership Bank Program

### **Oregon Interest on Lawyer Trust Account (IOLTA) Program**

The Oregon Supreme Court established a mandatory IOLTA program in 1989. All lawyers and law firms handling client funds must put these funds in an IOLTA account. The interest generated by the IOLTA accounts are administered by the Oregon Law Foundation to make grants to organizations that provide legal services to persons of lesser means.

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### **What it takes to be a Leadership Bank**

Where you bank matters! Leadership Banks maximize the rate of return on IOLTA accounts. This exceptional level of support reflects a commitment to the goals of the Oregon Law Foundation and access to justice in Oregon. Banks can either be a Visionary Bank or an Advocacy Bank. The requirements are as follows:

- **Visionary Banks**  
These banks pay at least 1% interest and charge no service fees.
  - **Advocacy Banks**  
These banks pay between .7% and 1% interest and charge no service fee.
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### **Leadership Bank benefits include:**

- Ad placements in the Oregon State Bar's monthly publication called the Bulletin and other publications
- Featured in press releases issued to local and statewide media and bar association publications
- Award recognition at the Campaign for Equal Justice Annual Luncheon with over 350 lawyer and judges in attendance
- Highlighted in all OLF presentations to lawyers discussing the importance of access to justice and the IOLTA program, appear on the OLF website with links to the banks website
- Promoted to new lawyers by including information in the Oregon State Bar New Member Packet and through the Oregon State Bar Mentoring Program
- Part of the House of Delegates Resolution supporting legal services
- Discussed by staff to lawyers calling with IOLTA account questions

# Fact Sheet

- Oregon lawyers and bankers were among the first in the country to recognize Interest on Lawyer Trust accounts (IOLTA) as a potential funding source for legal services to the poor.
- All Oregon lawyers holding client funds are required to have IOLTA accounts.
- In Oregon the Oregon Law Foundation (OLF) receives all IOLTA funds then allocates those funds to non-profit groups throughout the state that provide legal services to people of lesser means.
- According to the Oregon Legal Needs Study completed in 2000, more than 80% of low to moderate income Oregonians in need of legal assistance are going unserved each year. A recent survey completed by Legal Aid Services of Oregon shows that this unmet need has only increased in the last five years.
- Legal services representation is limited to high-priority needs: food, shelter, medical care, income maintenance and physical safety. About 40% of the cases are family law cases, usually helping the victims of domestic violence to obtain and enforce restraining orders and create a stable home environment for the children.
- Oregon's legal services programs have offices in 19 communities statewide (Albany, Bend, Coos Bay, Eugene, Grants Pass, Hillsboro, Independence, Klamath Falls, McMinnville, Medford, Newport, Ontario, Oregon City, Pendleton, Portland, Salem, St. Helens, Woodburn and the statewide Native American Program).
- The IOLTA program also provides critical funding for organizations that specialize in juvenile rights, immigration, employment and people with disabilities.

**Your IOLTA Interest Makes the Difference**

**[www.oregonlawfoundation.org](http://www.oregonlawfoundation.org)**