

## Executive Director Announcement

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Branford D. Brown will serve as GHLA's new executive director. Mr. Brown replaces Elam Lantz, Jr. who is retiring after leading GHLA for 11 years. Upon accepting the position, Branford remarked, "GHLA is an impressive law firm, whose staff make a real difference for those living in poverty."



Branford D. Brown

A member of the Ohio Bar, Branford has worked in public interest law throughout his career. In addition to his many years with civil legal aid agencies, Branford worked as a Public Defender and Assistant Prosecutor. He has practiced in the area of family law and has consulted on prisoner reentry issues and responsible fatherhood initiatives.

Branford brings a wealth of legal aid management experience to GHLA from his positions as Managing Attorney at Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) and as Deputy Director of the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky. As Deputy Director, Branford helped establish firm wide policies, instituted a new method of peer case reviews, and initiated a successful strategic planning process. As Managing Attorney of LAWO's Dayton office he supervised the delivery of free civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Darke, Preble, Greene and Montgomery counties. A strong supporter of collaboration, he also worked hard to establish and strengthen connections with the communities served by LAWO. During his tenure, the Dayton office launched a number of innovative projects, including the Legal Education for Youth Project, Legal Intervention for Families in Trouble, The Senior Law Project, and the Homeless Intake Project – through which advocates meet with clients at local shelters to provide advice and counsel.

Branford received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University Honors College with a BA in Sociology. He is a licensed and ordained minister. Branford also serves as a regular planning team member of the Management Information Exchange, which is the primary national provider of management skills training for legal aid organizations.

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