

# Leveraging a Law Firm Partner to Maximize Impact

Maureen van Stone, JD, MS; Christopher Smith, PhD; Paul S. Sugar, JD

## OberKaler's Partnership with Project HEAL

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), a community-based program of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, is Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership (MLP). Project HEAL provides advocacy and legal services to Kennedy Krieger patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The program offers representation in special education matters, appeals for denials of Supplemental Security Income, and simple family law matters. The program also provides limited representation for patients and families, case consultations with healthcare professionals and trainees, and professional and community trainings on a variety of legal topics.

Many MLPs partner with one or more law firms for pro bono legal assistance. However, Project HEAL attorneys identified other ways to leverage a law firm partnership to achieve more significant benefits for clients, increased collaboration with healthcare professionals and trainees, enhanced participation by law firm attorneys, and greater sustainability for the MLP.

### Categories of Support

#### Case Support

- Pro bono cases
- Participation in case consultation clinics

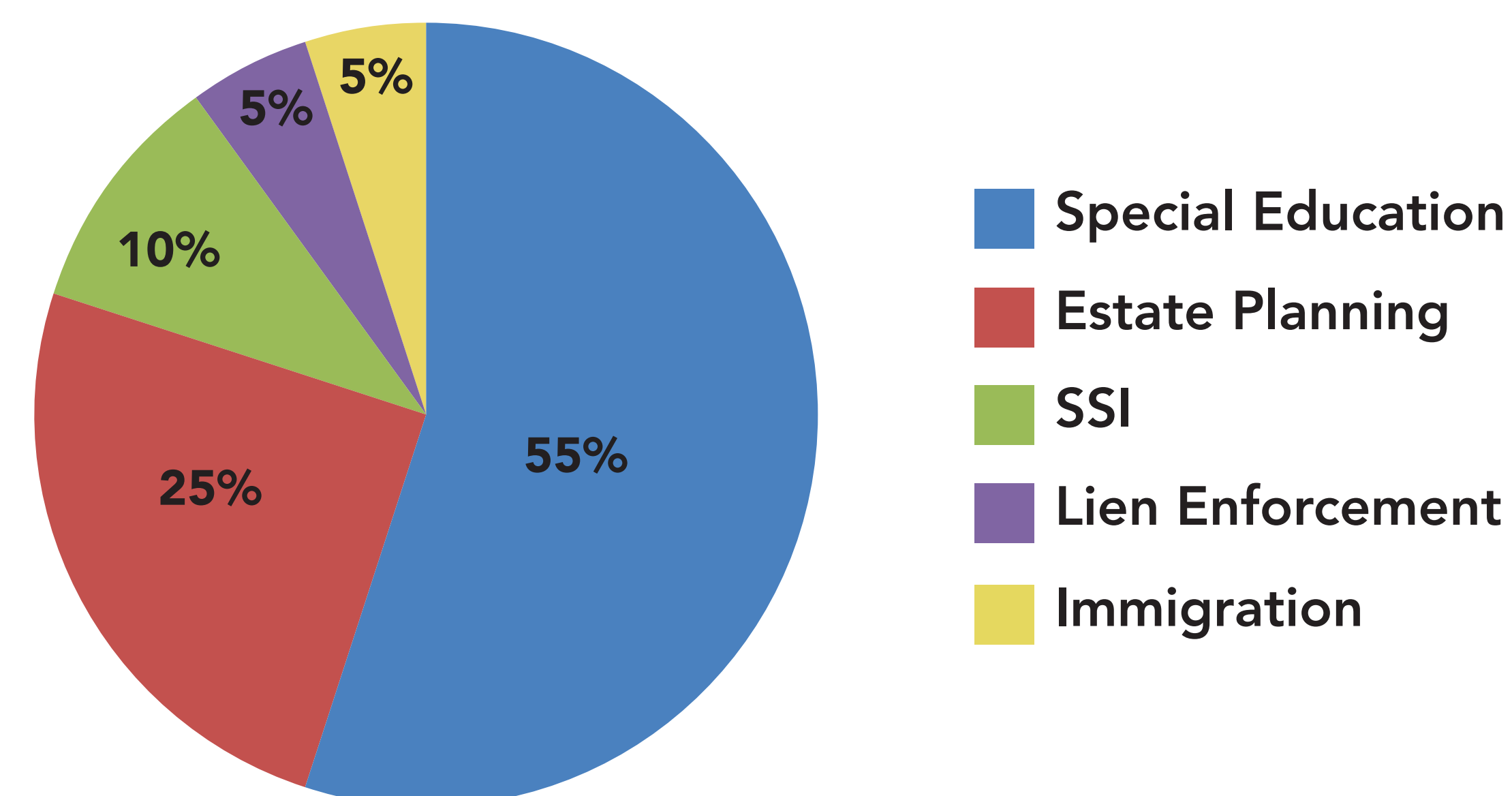
#### Financial Support

- Letters of support for grant proposals
- Sponsor an exhibitor booth at a national conference
- Donations

#### Informational Support

- Federal legislative meetings
- Support informational brochures
- Support webinars
- Co-present at a national conference
- Community trainings

## Pro Bono Subject Matter by Case Type



In five years, the attorneys at the Baltimore-based law firm of OberKaler have provided significant support to Maryland's only comprehensive MLP, including:

- Providing pro bono legal assistance
- Participating in federal legislative meetings
- Hosting a networking event
- Drafting letters of support for grant proposals
- Nominating Project HEAL for local, state, and national awards
- Authoring and printing an informational estate planning brochure for families raising children with disabilities
- Assisting with futures & estate planning informational sessions
- Hosting a futures & estate planning webinar
- Providing a special lecture for Kennedy Krieger healthcare professionals and trainees
- Co-presenting at a national conference
- Sponsoring an exhibitor booth for Project HEAL at a national conference
- Donating goods for fundraising efforts
- Attending fundraising events
- Providing advice to healthcare professionals and trainees during case consultation clinics
- Marketing of Project HEAL on law firm website

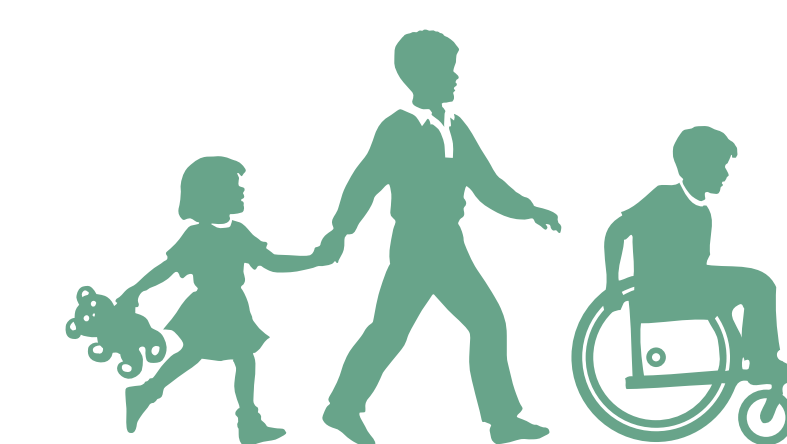
## Benefits

When MLPs fully engage pro bono attorneys from law firm partners in their work, all parties benefit. Through OberKaler's work with Project HEAL, the attorneys increase their knowledge and understanding of the patients and families served, and the MLP achieves better outcomes for their clients. Attorneys have the opportunity to work directly with the clients and collaborate with healthcare professionals and trainees. Attorneys who do not wish to represent individual clients can assist with brochures, information sessions, webinars, and special lectures. OberKaler helps to increase the sustainability of Project HEAL by participating in the marketing, public relations, and philanthropic aspects of the work.



The Adkins family received valuable pro bono legal assistance from an OberKaler attorney in a special education matter.

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Attorneys at Law



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities  
at Kennedy Krieger Institute  
*Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.*

For more information, visit our website  
at [mccd.kennedykrieger.org](http://mccd.kennedykrieger.org).