Current Policy Related to the Sharing of Civil Legal Aid Funding Data
Collected by the ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives
(Project of the American Bar Association’s
Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants)

♦ Aggregate data:
  - Aggregate data, defined as total national amount by funding category, is available to anyone requesting it.

♦ State and program level data:
  - State level data, and all the charts and graphs constructed from it, including the full ranking chart, is available only to programs that directly or indirectly provide the ABA with data.
    - In some states, the ABA obtains data directly from legal aid providers.
    - In other states, the ABA obtains most of the information from a state-level compiler (usually the IOLTA program). Every program included in the data from the state-level compiler is eligible to receive the data.
    - In practice, this means that every IOLTA program and almost every legal aid provider is eligible to receive the info.
  - States may use their own data as they choose.
    - They can compare themselves to the national numbers. For example:
      - “We are in the bottom 10 states in terms of funding.”
      - “We are ranked 47th out of 50 states.
      - “We are the lowest funded state in our region.”
    - When a state wants to compare itself with other specific states, the ABA may be able to help them obtain permission from the other states’ data providers to do so.
  - Program level data is not shared with any other program, even/especially within the state, unless it is already being shared by a state entity.