

Bar Foundation

33 Organizations Receive Bar Foundation Grants

MAYBE YOU SAW THE HEADLINE IN JANUARY – “Philadelphia Bar Foundation Gives Record Amount in Grants to Help Legal Services Organizations Facing Funding Cuts.” And we did. For 2009, the Bar Foundation awarded 33 organizations a total of \$563,000 in grants.

As you know, many foundations and sources that fund our grantee agencies cut the dollars they gave in 2009. But, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is not just another funding source. We are the Philadelphia legal community’s foundation and we had to be there, not only for our colleagues working in the public interest, but for the clients who depend on them for legal services. And, as detailed last month in my column, because of the generosity of many sponsors and donors, *cy pres* awards and the Bar Foundation’s endowment, we were able to be there in a big way.

This month, I want to thank our hard-working Grants Committee, tell you how it works and let you know about two new organizations that are being funded by the Foundation.

The Bar Foundation’s Grants Committee is chaired by Norm Weinstein, a private practice lawyer who has a deep commitment to the public interest community. Over the years, Norm has assembled a diverse team to comprise the Grants Committee, including a law

school dean, a program officer from an independent foundation, a former bank vice president and several other private practice attorneys with an interest in the pro bono community.

Starting in May, when applications arrived, the Grants Committee got to work. This year, in addition to an in-depth financial analysis and thorough review of each written application, the Grants Committee asked for an “environmental scan” that gathers information about trends and issues within the external environment that are affecting an organization. The Grants Committee then met with the directors of each organization. These meetings were attended by trustees of the Bar Foundation Board. Because of this exhaustive review process, the Grants Committee was able to fine-tune grant allocations to maximize the dollars the Bar Foundation spends and to distribute funding in ways that benefit those organizations most in need in any given year.

Armed with the information, the Grants Committee recommended a grant allocation to the Board of Trustees in December. After much thoughtful discussion, including consideration by the Finance Committee, the Board agreed to dip deeper into its endowment this year because of the urgent needs of the grantee organizations and to fund 97 percent of the Grants Committee recommendation;

then two anonymous donors stepped in and made contributions so that the Bar Foundation could fund 100 percent of the Grants Committee’s proposal. We thank them for the generosity that enabled us to give more in grants this year than ever before.

We are also pleased to announce that the Bar Foundation added two new public interest organizations to its network of grantee agencies – the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, which provides legal services to incarcerated individuals with viable claims of wrongful conviction, and Face to Face, a community-based legal clinic located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. After an extensive review, we concluded that both of these organizations serve the

By Amy B. Ginensky



mission of the Foundation by providing access to justice to those who would otherwise be without representation.

During the interview, Richard Glazer, retired managing partner of Cozen O’Connor and now executive director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, commented, “It’s remark-

able, for \$1 a year, how many lawyers have stepped up to be trained by our program and how the law schools have collaborated to provide students. We feel our mission is consonant with the Bar Foundation’s mission of providing access to justice, and we’re pleased to be a part of it.”

We are part of a remarkable legal

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2009 Bar Foundation Grantees

- ACLU
- AIDS Law Project
- Community Legal Services
- Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Custody and Support Assistance Clinic
- Defenders Association – Capital Representation Project
- Disabilities Rights Network
- Education Law Center
- Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
- Face to Face
- Friends of Farmworkers
- HIAS and Council Migration
- Homeless Advocacy Project
- Juvenile Law Center
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled
- Nationalities Service Center
- Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
- Pennsylvania Innocence Project
- Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
- Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program
- Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for Arts
- Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Regional Housing Legal Services
- SeniorLAW Center
- Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight
- Support Center for Child Advocates
- Women Against Abuse
- Women’s Law Project
- Women Organized Against Rape

Memorial Gifts Recognized

From time to time, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation receives contributions or a fund in memory of someone who has died or, on a happier note, to mark a special occasion or honor an achievement. Philadelphia lawyers are a special breed. We honor them when we make a gift to the Bar Foundation that is then used to assist Philadelphia’s public interest lawyers and the clients to whom they provide legal services.

In Memory

R. Nicholas Gimbel, a partner at McCarter & English, a Philadelphia litigator and a man of varied talents, interests and friends. The following have made donations to the Bar Foundation’s R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence in his memory: **Mark W. Bedgood, Richard M. Berstein, Roseann Bove, Harriet Bronstein, Robert I. Handler, The Hoyle Law Firm, James C. Kardon, Alexander Kerr, Justin P. Klein, Cheryl A. Krause, Carol Loewenson, Lawrence Masland and Pamela Talbot, Robert A. Prentice, Abraham C. Reich, David Richman, Gita F. Rothschild Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe and Rob Sedgwick.** (Donations made between Dec. 15, 2009 and Jan. 13, 2010.)

Given by **Lynne E. Brown** in memory of her father, **William J. Brown**, a member of the design team for the NORAD Early Warning System and a lifelong progressive activist.

In Honor

Given by **Judge Marlene F. Lachman** in honor of the election of **Judge Anne E. Lazarus** to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Given by **Aaron Finestone** in honor of **Robert B. Von Mehren**, a distinguished New York City attorney and retired partner of Debevoise and Plimpton LLP.

Given by **Judge Marlene F. Lachman** in honor of **Judge Louis H. Pollak** for receiving the Philadelphia Bar Association Criminal Justice Section’s 2009 Thurgood Marshall Award.

Given by **Judge Marlene F. Lachman** in honor of **Judge Annette M. Rizzo** for receiving the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2009 Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award.