Timeline of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation

1980

- Articles of Incorporation are filed to establish the Allegheny County Bar Foundation

1982

- ACBA Juvenile Court Project, staffed by two independent contract attorneys, begins representing indigent parents in Juvenile Court dependency cases

1987

- ACBA establishes ACBA Pro Bono Foundation as a clearinghouse for Dues Check-off contributions and Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts ("IOLTA") grants
- ACBA establishes the Honorable Gerald K. Gibson Memorial Fund, which annually provides cash awards to the top students in the Creditors and Debtors Rights courses at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University Schools of Law

1990

- ACBA Board of Governors passes a resolution encouraging participation in pro bono legal services to the poor by the members of the Allegheny County Bar Association

1991

- Project Challenge is launched as a means to develop a partnership between the Bar Foundation and area legal service providers

1992

- Juvenile Court Project becomes a program of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation

1993

- The Board of Governors authorizes the Dues Check-off recipient be changed from the ACBA Pro Bono Foundation to the Allegheny County Bar Foundation

1993 (cont.)

- Amy Greer and Kenneth Steinberg launch first Attorneys Attorneys Against Hunger campaign began to benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Just Harvest, and Hunger Services Network

1995

- ACBA Board of Governors approves a resolution incorporating the ACBA Pro Bono Foundation into Allegheny County Bar Foundation, designating the Bar Foundation as the Association's 501(c)(3) recipient of IOLTA funds
- ACBA Board of Governors approves a resolution changing the name of Project Challenge to the Center for Volunteer Legal Resources to better reflect the inclusive mission of the program

1996

- Foundation creates Fellows Program as a means to recognize and honor attorneys who have shown a commitment to excellence in charitable, community, professional and/or public service activities; recognize a level of professional distinction in the legal community based on significant contributions; and create an Endowment in excess of $1,000,000 to support current programs and foster new and innovative projects

1998

- Juvenile Court Project restructures from independent contract attorneys to 11 full-time employees

2000

- ACBF creates the Grants Program to provide funding for area agencies providing legal services to low-income residents in Allegheny County. Half of every Fellows pledge now funds the Grants Program
- The Board of Governors approves the transfer of the Louis Little Attorneys Memorial Fund to the Bar Foundation
- The Donald W. Bebenek Fund is established by Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC to support education and mentoring of attorneys, including providing financial support for the "Operation Experience Program"
- The Academy of Trial Lawyers William S. Schweers, Sr., Educational Fund is established by the Academy and the Schweers family. The fund currently supports the Academy's annual essay contest for high school students, which explores current legal issues

2001

- The Bar Foundation establishes the James I. Smith, III, Notre Dame Law School Scholarship Fund in honor of the retirement of James I. Smith, III, and in tribute to his 38 years of devoted service to the lawyers of Allegheny County and the legal profession. The fund annually provides scholarships to law students from Allegheny County enrolled at the University of Notre Dame Law School

2002

- The Lawyers' Fund and F.C. Grote Fund are transferred to the Allegheny County Bar Foundation
- The Bar Foundation establishes the Lynette Norton Memorial Fund, which honors the memory of Ms. Norton by providing a post-graduate award to an outstanding law student graduating from Duquesne University School of Law who has demonstrated academic excellence, skills in oral advocacy through moot court programs, and a keen sense of ethics and professionalism

2003

- The Bar Foundation establishes the Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Fund, which honors the memory of Judge Mansmann by providing a scholarship to a third-year female law school student at Duquesne University School of Law
- Foundation receives its largest ever bequest from Lester E. Zittrain to benefit the Zittrain Forums on Law & Public Policy

2004

- The offices of the Divorce Law Project are moved to the Allegheny Building, which houses the Juvenile Court Project, in order to consolidate, under one roof, the public service activities of the Foundation

2005

- ACBF hires full-time Pro Bono Coordinator
- ACBF launches first-ever capital campaign to benefit its Endowment Fund
- Attorneys Against Hunger campaign reaches the $500,000 mark over the campaign's 13-year history. The campaign currently funds 12 area hunger service agencies

2006

- Juvenile Court Project and Divorce Law Project offices will relocate to Koppers Building