

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation administers a number of named funds. Although the purposes of these funds are as varied as the individuals and organizations that created them, each fund furthers the foundation's philanthropic and educational mission. With a minimum gift of \$10,000 and with approval of the Board of Trustees, a named fund can be established that carries any name and creates a legacy for charitable or educational purposes.

## THE DANIEL B. DIXON SCHOLARSHIP FUND



In 2007, the Real Property Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association formed a committee to raise funds for the Daniel B. Dixon Scholarship Fund in honor of Dixon's lifelong commitment to the law and community. For over sixty years, Daniel B. Dixon worked as an attorney in the real estate field. Born in Pittsburgh in 1912, Dixon received his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1938 and served in the Army from 1944 to 1946. Upon his return, Dixon began working at Rose, Schmidt, Hasley & DiSalle, where he worked for the remainder of his career until he passed away in March 2008. Dixon served as president of the ACBA in 1974; was inducted as a charter fellow of the ACBF in 1980; chaired the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the PBA; and chaired the ACBA Real Estate Section from its creation in 1970 to 1972.

Proceeds of the fund will be awarded annually to a student of Dixon's alma mater, The University of Pittsburgh School of Law who has completed his or her first or second year and who has demonstrated an interest in real estate law, academic excellence and financial need. A plaque, which will display the names of each scholarship recipient, has been created in honor of the fund and will be available for viewing at the offices of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

If you are interested in donating to the Daniel B. Dixon Scholarship Fund, please contact Lorrie Albert at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).

## THE HONORABLE JOSEPH H. RIDGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Honorable Joseph H. Ridge was a devout Catholic, a learned jurist, and a valued member of the Duquesne University community. The son of Irish immigrants, Judge Ridge was a graduate of Central Catholic High School, and following a stint in the Armed Forces during the Second World War, returned to Pittsburgh and attended Duquesne University. Judge Ridge served the people of Allegheny

County for over thirty years. First elected as a county court judge in 1961, Judge Ridge was assigned to the Criminal Division in 1970. He presided over criminal cases until his retirement 21 years later. Following retirement, Judge Ridge took senior status but continued to preside over domestic violence and protection from abuse cases until his death in December 2002.

Judge Ridge attended Mass daily. He was a recipient of the St. Thomas More award and the Knights of St. Gregory award. In his honor, Judge Ridge's family and friends have endowed a scholarship to be awarded to the highest ranking member of the graduating class at Duquesne Law School who is also a graduate of Central Catholic High School.

In 2007, the fund distributed its first \$1,000 award.

## CREATING A LEGACY

Through their generosity, these donors have created a legacy for Allegheny County. If you would like to make a lasting gift for the legal community through a named fund or planned gift, please contact Lorrie Albert, Director of the Foundation at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).

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## THE HONORABLE CAROL LOS MANSMANN MEMORIAL FUND



The Honorable Carol Los Mansmann was the first woman appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. In 1985, after serving for three years on the district court bench, she was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Judge Mansmann consistently advocated for the advancement of women in the legal profession.

To honor her memory and dedication to the practice of law, her family, friends, and the Women in the Law Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association established the Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Fund in 2003.

This fund annually awards a \$3,000 scholarship to one or more women law students attending the Duquesne University School of Law. These scholarships are based upon financial need and the students' potential for distinction in the legal profession.

Since 2006, the fund has awarded three scholarships totaling \$9,000.

## LYNETTE NORTON MEMORIAL FUND



Established in 2002, the Lynette Norton Memorial Fund provides an annual post-graduate award to a student graduating from the 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. The fund creates a lasting legacy in memory of Ms. Norton's distinguished career as an

accomplished trial lawyer and an insurance law expert, and her commitment and dedication to the legal community of Allegheny County.

In 2008, graduating seniors Kathleen Charlton and Lyle Dresbold were honored with awards. Since 2003, the fund has distributed awards totaling \$2,000.

## THE HONORABLE GERALD K. GIBSON MEMORIAL FUND

Established in 1987 by the Commercial and Bankruptcy Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, this fund, in memory of the Honorable Gerald K. Gibson, makes annual cash awards to the top law school students enrolled in the creditors & debtors rights courses at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University Schools of Law.

Since its inception, the fund has distributed awards to 44 recipients.

The Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association annually funds two of the scholarships, while the Gibson Fund provides the remaining two. The above-referenced recipients include both those of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section and the Honorable Gerald K. Gibson Memorial Fund.

## JAMES I. SMITH, III NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Created in James Smith's honor at the time of his retirement as Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association, the James I. Smith, III Notre Dame Law School Fund annually provides \$1,000 scholarships to law school students from Allegheny County enrolled in Notre Dame Law School. Mr. Smith passed away on February 10, 2006. The fund pays tribute to James I.

Smith's 38 years of devoted service to the lawyers of Allegheny County and the legal profession.

In 2008, the fund awarded two scholarships totaling \$2,000. Since its inception, the fund has awarded \$13,000 in scholarships.

## THE LAWYERS FUND

Lawyers have long concerned themselves with the welfare of their colleagues and families. In the late nineteenth century, a Potato Fund was formed to provide food for needy Allegheny County lawyers and their families. Records of the ACBA indicate that in 1923, it created the Committee on Benevolence to assist "needy members of the bar and their families." During the Depression, the ACBA formed the Lawyers' Aid Fund to supplement the work of the Committee on Benevolence. The main source of revenue was bequests of deceased members.

The work of these Committees continued quietly and confidentially for a number of years. Although records no longer exist, it appears the Lawyers Fund was formed in the 1940s by the ACBA to succeed the earlier work. In 1960, the American Bar Association and the ACBA saw the opportunity presented by changes in the federal tax laws to give favorable tax treatment to insurance dividends assigned to charitable entities. Wisely, the ACBA sought and obtained a determination by the Internal Revenue Service that the Lawyers Fund was a charitable trust exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Most Allegheny County lawyers who carried ACBA-sponsored life insurance signed over their dividends to the Lawyers Fund. Lawyers received a charitable deduction on their income tax return and the Lawyers Fund rapidly grew. As of December 31, 2008, the Lawyers Fund had assets of \$1,069,340, with the income being utilized for assistance and education.

The purpose of the Lawyers Fund is to relieve want or distress among members of the bar of Allegheny County or their immediate families; to promote, advance, improve, and facilitate the administration of justice in Allegheny County; to give scholarships, fellowships, and grants-in-aid for research, writing, and other study of the law and of the administration of justice; to make loans to deserving law students; and, to acquire, preserve, and exhibit rare books, objects of art, and items of historical interest having legal significance or bearing on the administration of justice.

In 2002, the Lawyers Fund was transferred from the ACBA to the foundation to centralize the association's charitable efforts. Since the foundation also had been designated as a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Service's Code, the transfer of the Lawyers Fund from the ACBA to the foundation maintained its tax exempt status and benefits.

On a confidential basis, the Lawyers Fund has assisted members of the bar who have incurred medical, financial, or substance abuse issues. The Lawyers Fund provides assistance in other ways as well. In the fall of 2004, the Lawyers Fund provided \$36,000 of assistance to lawyers that were impacted by area flooding. The Lawyers Fund was able to make grants totaling over \$56,000 to members facing serious health issues and financial difficulties in 2008.

Additionally, the Lawyers Fund provides assistance in the form of scholarships and loans. The **F.C. Grote Fund** of the Lawyers Fund annually provides \$5,000 scholarships to law school students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In 2008, the fund awarded three (3) scholarships totaling \$15,000. Since its inception, the fund has awarded \$80,000 in scholarships.

## ZITTRAIN FORUMS ON LAW & PUBLIC POLICY



## ZITTRAIN *forums*

In 2000, Lester E. and Ruth A. Zittrain established the Zittrain Forums on Law & Public Policy at the foundation. The Forums are instrumental in bringing to our community educational, topical, and informative programs, which lead to a better understanding of the complex issues confronting our government and legal systems and how best to deal with these issues.



Ms. Zittrain, a Charter Fellow of the foundation, is an elected member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and is a court-appointed Master for Arbitration Appeals in both the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Ms. Zittrain served many years on the ACBA Board of Governors.

An esteemed and valued member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Mr. Zittrain passed away on January 26, 2003. He was a Charter and Sustaining Fellow of the foundation, and served on the Board of Trustees for many years. He chaired the Development Committee, providing leadership in the committee's organization and creation of its major and planned giving initiatives. In addition to his work with the foundation, Les served many years on the ACBA Board of Governors. He was an elected member and officer of the Academy of Trial Lawyers and was one of the first "sports attorneys" in Allegheny County. Les represented several Super Bowl-winning Steelers, negotiating their contracts as well as their commercials, including Joe Greene's beloved "toss-the-kid-your-jersey" Coca-Cola commercial.

Through his will, Les made a significant bequest of \$150,000 to the Zittrain Forums on Law & Public Policy. His most generous gift will sustain and support the important work that he and Ruth were so dedicated to building at the foundation. The Zittrain Forums on Law & Public Policy have funded two Bench-Bar speakers, Juan Williams and Lawrence O'Donnell.

The inaugural Zittrain Forum on Law & Public Policy was held on October 14, 2008 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. The program featured nationally-recognized political commentators Peter Beinart and Jonah Goldberg debating on topics facing voters in the 2008 presidential election. Les and Ruth's children, Laurie Eisenberg and Jonathan Zittrain participated in the event. Laurie, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Carnegie Mellon University, provided introductions while Jonathan, Professor of Internet Law at Harvard University, moderated the debate. The event was a success with over 250 guests in attendance. The planning of a second Zittrain Forum is in the works.

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## DONALD W. BEBENEK FUND



Donald W. Bebenek, a partner at Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, was one of Pittsburgh's most outstanding litigators, with his practice concentrating on medical malpractice. Mr. Bebenek was very active in Pittsburgh's legal community, serving on the ACBA Board of Governors and as chair of the ACBA Bench-Bar Conference Committee and Headquarters Evaluation Committee. In memory of his long-standing commitment to Allegheny County's legal

community, Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck created the Donald W. Bebenek Fund in 2000 to support the education and mentoring of attorneys, including, but not limited to, providing financial support for the "Operation Experience Program" of the Allegheny County Bar Association.

In conjunction with the ACBA Civil Litigation Section and the Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Donald W. Bebenek Fund helps to fund Continuing Legal Education seminars presenting the issue of Operation Experience from the perspective of the plaintiff, defendant and court. In addition to the CLE seminar, registrants participate in an actual trial as observers to obtain necessary experience in a civil trial.

## LOUIS LITTLE ATTORNEYS' MEMORIAL FUND

Born in Braddock, PA in 1892, Louis Little became one of Pittsburgh's best-known criminal lawyers. Practicing extensively before federal and common pleas courts, Louis Little worked on some of Allegheny County's biggest criminal cases of the first half of the 20th century. Louis Little wanted Allegheny County's legal community to be the beneficiary of his legal career. Upon his death in 1956, he bequeathed his real estate on Fifth Avenue to the Allegheny County Bar Association for use as a club house. According to his will, "if it is not accepted, then I direct that my executors sell it and donate the money as loans to needy lawyers or law students."

Using the proceeds from the sale of his property, the Allegheny County Bar Association established the Louis Little Attorneys' Memorial Fund in 1963 with the purpose to provide low-interest bearing loans to needy law students. Since 1963, many deserving students, now lawyers, have benefited from the loan program and Louis Little's generosity. Each year, the fund provides low-interest loans in the amount of \$3,000.

In 2008, the fund awarded eight (8) loans totaling \$24,000. Since its inception, the fund has provided \$147,000 in loans.

## ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS WILLIAM S. SCHWEERS, SR. EDUCATIONAL FUND



William S. Schweers, Sr., a prominent trial lawyer, was very active in the Academy of Trial Lawyers, serving as its Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. Established in 2000 by the Academy of Trial Lawyers and the William S. Schweers family, this fund, in honor of William S. Schweers, Sr., supports the Academy of Trial Lawyers' annual essay contest for high school students, which explores current legal issues.

## ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS WILLIAM S. SCHWEERS, SR. EDUCATIONAL FUND ESSAY CONTESTS

### Inaugural Essay Contest (2000)

*"Should gun manufacturers be held legally accountable for crimes committed with their products?"*

### Second Annual Essay Contest (2001)

*"Under what circumstances should a person under the age of 18, who commits a crime, be punished as an adult?"*

### Third Annual Essay Contest (2002)

*"Should reparations be paid by the United States government to the descendants of slaves?"*

### Fourth Annual Essay Contest (2003)

*"Should the Fourth Amendment right to privacy from warrantless and unreasonable searches and seizures, the Sixth Amendment right to an attorney with whom one may communicate privately, and the Sixth Amendment right to a public trial by an impartial jury of one's peers be accorded to individuals suspected of terrorism who are not American citizens?"*

### Fifth Annual Essay Contest (2004)

*"Recently, a controversy has developed between music companies and Internet downloaders concerning the unauthorized appropriation of copyrighted music. Are the downloaders 'freedom fighters' or 'thieves'?"*

### Sixth Annual Essay Contest (2005)

*"Should the United States be allowed to use methods of torture, which are banned by international law, to get information from suspected terrorists?"*

### Seventh Annual Essay Contest (2006)

*"Should the Government fund Stem Cell research?"*

### Eighth Annual Essay Contest (2007)

*"In these times when our country is engaged in conflict against terrorism, how important is an independent judiciary?"*

## NINTH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST (2008)

Private Rights in Conflict with Public Safety & Family Interests: In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy, should a prospective student's health and disciplinary records be made a part of the academic record available to the university/college? Under what circumstances should the university/college be obligated to inform parents/guardians about the mental health and disciplinary issues involving students while on campus?