

ACBF DISTRIBUTES \$17,000 FROM NEWLY-CREATED MILITARY VETERANS & ELDERLY FUND

In 2007, an anonymous donation of \$123,000 was given to the ACBF with the purpose of providing fiduciary and legal services to military veterans and the elderly. In spring 2008, the foundation solicited grant applications for the fund, resulting in the provision of grants to two local programs that assist military veterans:

ACBA Military & Veterans Affairs Committee Call-in Day

First held in 2006, the call-in day provides legal consultation and referrals to members of the military, their families, and veterans. The 2008 call-in day was held on October 28 at KDKA Studios where twenty-nine attorney volunteers fielded approximately 400 phone calls from individuals seeking advice on military benefits, bankruptcy, family law, and other legal issues.

Veterans Leadership Program (VLP) of Western Pennsylvania's Veterans Court Program

Established in 1982 by Vietnam vets, the VLP provides veterans with job training, housing services, and case management. The mission of the VLP's Veterans Court Program is to clear warrants so that clients can access community services; enable clients to use agencies, private providers, educators, and faith-based community to find better solutions to homelessness; and provide a forum in which clients may come with dignity and respect to redress their offenses through alternatives to punishment-oriented sentences. According to the VLP, the Pittsburgh area has the second highest per-capita concentration of veterans in the country.

The foundation will begin accepting grant applications for the Military Veterans & Elderly Fund in June 2009. For more information on the fund, please contact Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

INAUGURAL ZITTRAIN FORUM OFFERS COMPELLING PRE-ELECTION DEBATE

The inaugural Zittrain Forum on Law & Public Policy was held on October 14, 2008 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Over 250 guests attended the event which featured nationally recognized political commentators Peter Beinart and Jonah Goldberg debating on topics facing voters in the 2008 presidential election.

ZITTRAIN *f o r u m s*

Beinart, a liberal, is editor-at-large of *The New Republic* and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He also writes a monthly column for *The Washington Post*. Goldberg, a conservative, is a contributing editor to *National Review* and was the founding editor of *National Review Online*. He is a weekly columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Beinart and Goldberg expressed their differing views on a variety of issues, including judicial interpretation of the Constitution, the importance of character in a President, and the pros and cons of potential McCain and Obama presidencies. The debaters also fielded audience questions during a Q&A period following the debate.

Founded in 2000 by Les and Ruth Zittrain, the Zittrain Forums aims to bring in quality, relevant speakers in an effort to help the local community better understand the complex issues of public policy and law.

Two of Les and Ruth's children participated in the inaugural event. Daughter Laurie Eisenberg, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Carnegie Mellon University, provided introductions while Jonathan Zittrain, Professor of Internet Law at Harvard University, moderated the debate.

Lester Zittrain passed away in 2003, leaving to the Allegheny County Bar Foundation a \$150,000 bequest to maintain and administer the Zittrain Forums, the largest donation the foundation has received to date.

The planning of a second Zittrain Forum is in the works. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact foundation Director Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.



Political commentators Jonah Goldberg (left) and Peter Beinart with Ruth Zittrain (center).

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ACBF LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LRAP)

Since 2006, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation has been assisting public service attorneys in paying back their law school loans through the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). The first program of its kind in the nation, LRAP was created as a means of addressing the growing financial need among local public service attorneys, and maintaining the delivery of quality legal services to the poor in Allegheny County.

The ACBA Board of Governors and the ACBF's Lawyers Fund each agreed to provide funding in the amount of \$75,000 over three years. This funding commitment of \$150,000 has made the ACBF LRAP program a prototype for other loan repayment programs across the country.

The Young Lawyers Division has also supported LRAP through the Skate-a-thon and Carnivale! events which have raised a total of over \$24,000 for the program.

Awards have been made up to \$3,600 per year (not to exceed fifty percent of the monthly loan principal payment). The application criteria include financial need, outstanding loan debt, current salary, and the applicant's contributions to the community.

In June 2008, over \$62,000 was awarded to twenty-nine recipients. Since the program's inception, nearly \$140,000 has been awarded to thirty-three recipients.

For more information on the ACBF LRAP program, please contact Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

ACBF ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

In May 1996, the Board of Trustees created the Allegheny County Bar Foundation Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund and launched the "Building the Bridges to the Future" campaign in an effort to help the foundation in carrying out its philanthropic mission to help balance justice for all in our community.

Through this new initiative, the bar foundation made a commitment to build the Endowment to at least \$1,000,000 by 2010. Raising funds for the Endowment directly impacts the foundation's ability to assist legal service providers in their mission to increase critically needed legal services to low-income residents in Allegheny County

We are pleased to report that nearly \$1.2 million has already been pledged to the Endowment. As of December 31, 2008, the Endowment Fund's assets totaled \$975,978, which includes an unrealized loss of \$203,299 due to the unfortunate downturn in the stock market. Despite this loss, we are still close to reaching our goal. Once the Endowment Fund reaches \$1,000,000, the foundation will be able to start using the earnings to award additional and/or larger grants to these agencies and to expand its pro bono efforts and educational service to the community.

Endowment Campaign Donors as of February 16, 2009

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ACBF LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

In May 2008, the ACBF launched a new and improved website. In order to better communicate with bar members and the community, the new site provides up-to-date information in a user-friendly format.

Among other information, visitors can quickly link to the Pro Bono Center, Grants, Loans & Scholarships, and volunteer and giving opportunities. In addition, News and Events are frequently updated on the website's home page.

Visit us at www.acbf.org and let us know what you think. Comments or suggestions should be directed to Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

