

NEW INITIATIVES

Fundraising Events

Attorneys dance the night away at *Pro Bono Rocks!*

Guests received celebrity treatment as they walked the red-carpet at the Foundation's *Pro Bono Rocks* fundraiser on November 6, 2009. Held at the Hard Rock Café Station Square, "screaming fans" welcomed over 180 guests who turned out to support the Foundation's Pro Bono Center. Featuring the music of "Who's Bad: the Ultimate

"I think it is important to have events where our members can just kick back and have some fun."

– Lorrie Albert, ACBF Director

Michael Jackson Tribute Band," the event also offered upscale auction items and a chance to win a diamond pendant necklace valued at \$950. Guests, some dressed in 80's-era studded jackets and sequined gloves, danced to Jackson's greatest hits from Motown to *Thriller*. KDKA morning news anchor Rick Dayton served as emcee for the evening's festivities, which raised nearly \$6,500 for the Pro Bono Center. The first *Pro Bono Rocks*, held in 2007, featured local Beatles tribute band "Get Back."



Pro Bono Rocks Planning Committee member Aaron Asher, right, poses with wife Karin and a cut-out of Michael Jackson.



"Who's Bad: the Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band" performs Michael Jackson's greatest hits.

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NEW INITIATIVES

YLD Comedy Night brings on the laughs to benefit ACBF



YLD Comedy Night co-chairs Jill Albrecht, left, and Marla Presley pose with emcee Gene Collier and opening act comedian Shaun Blackham.

There were laughs galore at the Improve Comedy Club on March 26, 2009 for the ACBA Young Lawyers Division Inaugural Comedy Night Fundraiser benefitting the Foundation. The successful event gathered more than 160 guests. Gene Collier, comedian and columnist at the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, took on emcee duties while local comedian Shaun Blackham served as the opening act for featured comedian Mike Veneman whose in-your-face comedy had the audience in stitches. In addition to the entertainment, the event offered a variety of specialty auction items. Co-chaired by YLD President Marla Presley and Jill Albrecht, the event raised an impressive \$19,000 to support the charitable, educational and public service programs of the Foundation.

New Programs & Funds

ACBF launches Public Interest Law Fellowship Program (PILFP)

Through a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, the ACBF recently established the Public Interest Law Fellowship Program (PILFP). The \$100,000 grant will allow the Foundation to award stipends, over a two-year period, to public service attorneys who have shown exemplary performance and commitment in their fields of law, and demonstrate financial need. In September 2009, the Foundation awarded stipends, ranging from \$1,500 to \$4,000, to twenty eligible public interest attorneys.

To qualify for the program, applicants must be active members of the ACBA, employed full-time by an ACBA recognized civil legal service agency as defined by the ACBA dues structure, and commit to an additional year of full-time employment at one of the recognized agencies. Applicants must apply each year to be considered to receive funding.

For more information on this program or how to apply, please contact Foundation Director Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

ACBF to manage Sorg Fund for Professional Ethics

In May 2009, the ACBF Board of Trustees approved the transfer of a portion of the ACBA's John H. Sorg Fund to the ACBF to create the John H. Sorg Fund for Professional Ethics for the sole purpose of maintaining and elevating the standard of ethics in Allegheny County. Established by the will of John H. Sorg in 1954, the fund was created to 1) support the candidacy of lawyers endorsed by the association seeking judicial preferment in Allegheny County and 2) elevate the standards of ethics of the Allegheny County Bar. The Foundation plans to accept grant requests seeking support for seminars and programs on ethics. The ACBA will continue to administer the portion of the fund dealing with judicial candidacy.

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Endowment Campaign

Foundation's Endowment surpasses \$1 million milestone



The Foundation is excited to announce that the Endowment has arrived at a very important milestone- reaching over \$1 million! As of December 31, 2009, the Endowment Fund's assets totaled \$1,164,684. Since its creation in 1996, the Endowment has been steadily raising money to allow the Foundation to successfully carry out its mission well into the future. In 2005, the Foundation launched the "Building Bridges to the Future" Endowment Campaign, resulting in over \$1.2 million being pledged to the campaign by generous firms and attorneys (see full list of donors below). As of December 31, 2009, the Foundation exceeded the \$1 million cash mark by \$16,149. The \$1,016,149 cash balance includes \$136,168 in unrealized gain from increases in the market value of the portfolio.

Interest income from the Endowment will enable the Foundation to continue with its mission to balance justice in the community. It will help the Foundation continue to support its pro bono program and grow its Grants Program by awarding additional funding to legal service agencies representing low-income clients.

Thank You to the following Endowment Campaign Donors:

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Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

LRAP paves way for future of law school loan repayment programs

Now in its third and final year, the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) has assisted a total of thirty-three public service attorneys in paying off their law school debt. Created in 2006 to help civil legal

One of the first programs of its kind, LRAP has served as a model for other loan repayment assistance programs, including the William B. Billock Loan Repayment Assistance Program for alumni of Duquesne University School of Law, and a state-wide program which is currently in the planning stages.

"I am very grateful to the ACBF for this program, because it has assisted me in pursuing the career of my choice without worrying about getting a second job to supplement my income and pay my school loans."

– Nicole Scialabba, LRAP recipient

service agencies retain quality attorneys, LRAP provides financial awards to eligible attorneys who have demonstrated financial need and significant law school debt.

Funded by the Allegheny County Bar Association and the ACBF Lawyers Fund, each providing \$75,000 in funding over three years, LRAP has received \$24,000 in additional funding through the Skate-a-thon and iCarnivale! events sponsored by the ACBA Young Lawyers Division.

In 2009, over \$41,000 was awarded to seventeen recipients. Since its inception, LRAP has distributed nearly \$175,000 in financial awards.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

“I truly enjoy interviewing [the applicants].

Some of their stories have been deeply emotional.”

– Leo Kevican, Loans & Scholarship Committee member

ACBF distributes \$47,750 in educational awards

In 2009, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation awarded a total of \$47,750 in education loans and scholarships to deserving law school and high school students. The awards are established by a variety of named-funds administered by the foundation and require each student to meet criteria depending on the fund’s purpose. Some factors taken into consideration may include financial need, strong academic performance, excellent writing and oral argument skills or students who excel in certain areas of the law. The awards have become more competitive each year, making this year’s winners the most impressive group yet.

2009 ACBF Scholarship Recipients



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Dixon
Scholarship
recipient

Marsha Chien
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recipient

Katherine Holland
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Jason Ott
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Adam Barry Fischer
Smith
Scholarship
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Daniel B. Dixon Scholarship

Benjamin Gobel, University of Pittsburgh

Gerald K. Gibson Award

Daniel Colaizzi, IV, University of Pittsburgh
Stefan Fairchild, Duquesne University
Christopher Lockman, Duquesne University

F.C. Grote Scholarship

Marsha Chien, University of Pennsylvania
Katherine Holland, University of Pittsburgh
Carsen Nesbitt, University of Pittsburgh

Hon. Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Scholarship

Amy E. Nooning, Duquesne University

Lynette Norton Memorial Award

Megan E. Lehman, Duquesne University

Hon. Joseph H. Ridge Memorial Scholarship

Jason Ott, Duquesne University

James I. Smith, III Notre Dame Law School Scholarship

Adam Barry Fischer, University of Notre Dame

Academy of Trial Lawyers William S. Schweers, Sr. Essay Contest

1st Place Eric Wasserman Stern - Allderdice High School
2nd Place Rachel Isaacs - Baldwin High School
3rd Place Scott Wasserman Stern - Allderdice High School

For more information on scholarship and award funds, see page 31.