

Allegheny County Bar Foundation

Balancing the scales of justice through education, philanthropy, and community service



Balancing justice...

in our community.

Cy Pres Awards & the ACBF

Working together for Justice



What are Cy Pres Awards?

Definition: the term *cy pres* comes from the French, “*cy pres comme possible*,” meaning “as near as possible.” *Cy Pres Awards* are residual funds in class action cases and sometimes other types of proceedings like probate matters that cannot be distributed to the class members or beneficiaries for a variety of reasons. These funds can be distributed to appropriate charitable causes, and the Allegheny County Bar Foundation (ACBF) is an appropriate beneficiary.

ACBF’s Impact on the Community: The ACBF is dedicated to helping increase access to justice in our community, particularly to the low-income and disadvantaged people who are in most critical need of the protections of our civil legal system. The ACBF is the only legal-related organization whose mission is to promote the balance of justice through pro bono services, education, and philanthropic programs. This mission is carried out through a collaboration of activities with the courts, legal-aid providers, volunteer attorneys, and the community. This unique ability to join the many community and professional forces to make a real impact in the legal system makes us an effective charitable investment.

Making the Case for the ACBF

Why is the ACBF an Ideal Choice?

Our Mission to balance justice in our community is a perfect match for class action *cy pres* awards, as one underlying premise for all class actions is to make access to justice a reality for those who otherwise would not be able to obtain the protections of our court system.

Our Service to the Courts and the Legal Community. The ACBF provides a valuable service through its leadership in developing and supporting a broad range of Pro Bono programs.



Through the **Pro Bono Center**, the ACBF provides on-going support to over 33 *pro bono* programs and projects and continues to develop new initiatives to meet new and existing legal needs of the indigent in our community. We coordinate with the legal aid providers and the Courts to increase legal services that are critical to the fair and efficient administration of justice. Volunteer attorneys are supported through training, mentoring, coordinating, and malpractice insurance.

Our Comprehensive Focus, Network, and Expertise. The ACBF has its pulse on the legal service community and is in an excellent position to identify the greatest need for legal services and education and how to meet that need. Through the **Grants Program**, the ACBF strategically and objectively allocates its resources to support non-profit organizations with a

wide variety of outstanding pro bono initiatives and law-related educational programs. The ACBF has the ability to monitor the grants and ensure that the funds are properly used.

Our Distinct Programs that Support Public Service Attorneys and Law Students. The **Public Law Interest Fellowship Program** provides much needed assistance to attorneys who are in the trenches fighting for the rights of members of our community who cannot afford legal

services. The **Loans**

& Scholarship Funds help deserving law students with financial need with their law-related debt, who in turn, give back to us by volunteering and supporting our programs.

Our Flexibility. The ACBF has the flexibility to use a *cy pres* award to expand our established grant-making, fellowship and scholarship programs or to designate the funds toward specific pro bono projects that would not be able to exist but for the funding availability. We welcome *cy pres* awards that are not designated for specific projects or organizations and would support the comprehensive mission of the ACBF programs.

Our Freedom from Potential

Conflicts. The ACBF does not file lawsuits in federal or state civil courts or represent parties in class actions, and thus is free of any potential conflict that otherwise might arise for the court or the defendant in a class action.



Help Us Continue to Make a Real Impact

Thanks to our many supporters, the ACBF is making a real impact in its efforts to increase access to justice, to educate the community of their rights, and how to obtain representation regardless of financial ability, to educate and support volunteer attorneys to make that representation a reality, and to support the next generation of public interest lawyers so that they can continue to dedicate their careers to helping the less fortunate gain equal access to the courts.

For more information about how you can make an impact
by directing a *cy pres* award to the ACBF,
contact Lorrie Albert at (412)402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

The ACBF is a non-profit organization that is tax-exempt under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
It is affiliated with but operates independently from the Allegheny County Bar Association.

Allegheny County Bar Foundation

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