


A man and a woman in business attire are shown from the back, looking out over a city skyline at sunset. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. The city skyline is visible in the background, with several tall buildings. The sun is setting behind the buildings, creating a warm, golden glow. The text "The path of" is overlaid on a dark blue rectangular background.

The path of

**a leader.**





*The Mission of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation is to be the driving force in promoting justice for all and to improve the community through public service law-related programs as the charitable arm of the Allegheny County Bar Association. To fulfill this mission, the foundation raises, manages and distributes funds, encourages and assists lawyers to provide pro bono legal services and develops and supports public information initiatives.*





## A CALL TO SERVE AND LEAD

“ The reason I support the ACBF is both professional and very personal. It operates at the intersection of our duty as officers of the court and the empathy we have for real people who struggle to navigate the system. I’ve seen how just a few minutes with a committed attorney can eliminate a lot of chaos and confusion. The legal work made possible by the ACBF makes our society stronger, but it also makes our courts more efficient. And I’m proud to say it’s made me a better attorney. ”

Elizabeth L. Hughes, ACBF Fellow

## In a profession built on leadership, **A GUIDING FORCE FOR ALL.**

No matter your specialty, when someone comes to you for legal representation, it is because they are unable to work through a legal situation on their own. They need your guidance to achieve a favorable outcome.

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation (ACBF) is uniquely positioned to give lawyers the opportunity to lead the way—in public service, promoting the legal profession and impacting lives.

Your gift to the ACBF increases the ability to impact our community through the commitment and legal skills of lawyers such as yourself.

Donations could help cover the costs of a PFA for a woman desperately seeking protection from an abusive spouse, help to reconnect a child with their parents, or simply put food on an otherwise empty dinner table.

**These are cases that change lives.  
Cases that require leadership and passion.  
The ACBF provides you the opportunity  
to lead that change.**



# 40

**YEARS  
OF LEADERSHIP.**

**TOGETHER,  
WE'VE COME  
SO FAR.**

*Now entering our fifth decade of service, the ACBF has become a beacon for attorneys, law students and the community, and is considered by our peers to be one of the foremost bar foundations in the nation.*



**1980**

The Allegheny County Bar Association establishes the ACBF.

**1990**

Center for Volunteer Legal Resources is (renamed the Pro Bono Center in 2005) provided pro bono legal services to more Allegheny County residents with low

**1996**

Fellows Program is established as a formal means of recognizing and honoring attorneys who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in charitable, community, professional and public service activities.

**2012**

The 2L law student summer fellowship programs are launched, awarding approximately 15 stipends per year for students to participate in 10-week programs at organizations providing legal aid.

Today, m  
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established  
and since has  
e than 80,000  
incomes.

**1992**

ACBF assumed management of the Juvenile Court Project and the Divorce Law Project to provide direct legal services and ease the burden on the courts.

**1993**

The first Attorneys Against Hunger campaign is a success.

**2000**

The Grants Program is initiated. It has awarded more than \$500,000 over the years.

**2005**

ACBF launched the *Building the Bridges to the Future* endowment campaign, resulting in \$1.2 million being pledged by generous firms and attorneys.

**2019**

more than 40 member programs and organizations thousands of individuals every year seeking help basic human needs such as housing, income and family structure.

**2020**

The ACBF embarks on a new chapter of outstanding service with its second major endowment campaign.



# The case for your

# continued support.

## OUR VISION:

Our profession is grounded in principles that recognize the value and importance of legal education and the obligation to use our unique skills to positively impact both our profession and our communities. As the sole foundation in Allegheny County dedicated to supporting the legal profession, the ACBF is on a constant quest to improve the quality of justice.

We work hard every day to provide you with opportunities to support our profession and communities, whether it is through education, volunteer activities such as committee or board service and pro bono work, or philanthropy. It is our job to ensure that this essential work continues well into the future. Last year:

ACBF Pro Bono Center helped retired PA attorneys receive **EMERITUS STATUS** to be licensed to practice solely for the purpose of providing free legal services.

**1,213  
individuals**

were directly assisted, represented or referred by ACBF Pro Bono Center.

**19 LAW  
STUDENTS**

received assistance via ACBF Loans & Scholarships Programs.

## OUR CHALLENGE:

The ACBF services making the most serious impact must continue to grow. We pledge to support our legal profession and help our neighbors meet their basic needs—a roof over their heads, food and jobs. Only 20 percent of Americans with low incomes receive the legal help they need. We can do better. In fact, we have a professional duty to increase access to quality legal services today and in the future.

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**ONLY 20%**

**of Americans with low incomes receive the legal help they need.**

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With this as our challenge, the ACBF has embarked on a second endowment campaign. We currently have \$1.8 million from our first endowment campaign. And while we will continue to protect the corpus (\$1 million) of our endowment, additional funds will allow us the ability to grow in three areas: providing pro bono services, awarding legal aid grants, and continuing to make an impactful difference in both our community and profession.

## MORE THAN ONE WAY

For Jeffrey Heeter, Executive Vice President and General Counsel and Secretary at Alcoa Corporation, the ACBF represents an opportunity for attorneys to satisfy their obligation to support pro bono initiatives in a way that best suits them.

Some corporate lawyers don't always feel suited for pro bono, according to Heeter. "What we do on a daily basis is about contracts, mergers and acquisitions, which don't necessarily translate into your typical pro bono client who can't pay their medical bills or rent," says Heeter. "But if you aren't comfortable doing that kind of work, you can support the ACBF financially. It fills our obligation, and it goes directly to help people in need."

Heeter's interest in pro bono began nearly 20 years ago, when he started volunteering for the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, which has since become a program of the ACBF.

Today, he continues pursuing pro bono work at Alcoa, and supports the ACBF as a Fellow and member of the Board of Trustees.



“ I see firsthand the level of passion at the ACBF, and I can see that the money goes directly to support their mission. ”

He believes that Pittsburgh is providing a good example for other cities.

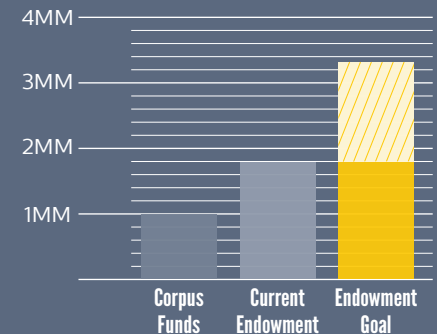
“What we have here in Pittsburgh is really special,” says Heeter. “It’s a relatively small, but tight-knit community of people who are incredibly passionate about providing legal service.”

## WHY NOW?

The best time to build for the future is during a period of strength. While currently financially healthy, the ACBF needs to successfully fund the endowment to continue our efforts and provide services well into the future. What we do now will create a legacy to pass on to future lawyers and continue our practices, our commitment to the law and our determination to improve justice for all.

Our present endowment is valued at \$1.8 million. It is our goal to raise an additional \$1.5 million in this campaign, which will give us the ability to ensure our continued impact and growth.

We need you in order to reach this milestone. With your support, we will continue to build on our success and establish a sustainable legacy of legal support for our most vulnerable communities.



**Our goal is to raise an additional \$1.5 million**

# Your vision

come to life.

Imagine a world where no matter a person's economic status, they could receive a fair and just legal experience—the kind of society we thought possible as law students. Equal justice under the law shouldn't be for only those who can afford it. It is for all.

THIS IS THE DREAM THAT DRIVES THE ACBF'S  
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PRO BONO CENTER.

The Center is the nexus between you and the community. With more than 40 pro bono programs and partners, 900 volunteers were able to assist approximately 6,000 individuals of limited means within the last year alone. The Center directly handles more than 1,200 legal inquiries annually.

For many lawyers, the professional obligation to give back to the community can be overwhelming. For this reason,

another primary goal of The Center is to provide support to its volunteers—through training and mentoring programs, providing legal research opportunities and primary professional liability coverage for your pro bono activities.

The ACBF also assists local organizations providing legal services to residents with low incomes and connects them to well-trained pro bono volunteers. These programs help meet their clients' needs and provide grants to support new initiatives.



THE ACBF'S PRO BONO CENTER SUPPORTS 40 DIFFERENT  
PRO BONO PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS.





## AID IN ASYLUM

During regular working hours, Keith Whitson, Managing Partner at Schnader Pittsburgh, engages primarily in commercial litigation—representing major corporations and businesses. But in his spare time, he volunteers with the ACBF Pro Bono Center on legal matters that appeal to his personal values.

“I’ve always had an interest in immigration law, because there is a lot of injustice in the world that people are trying to escape from,” says Whitson. “It means a lot if I can actually help someone find a place where they feel safe for the first time. That changes lives. Unlike what we typically do in commercial litigation.”

The ACBF Pro Bono Center provides lawyers like Whitson training and malpractice insurance to allow them to stretch outside their normal specialty. “It’s all the support I need to venture out and do something very meaningful,” Whitson says.

Whitson recalls representing an Iraqi man whose involvement in providing medical supplies to the coalition forces made him a target for various insurgent groups during the Iraq War. After escaping a shoot-out, the man and his wife fled to Jordan, where she suffered a stroke and died. Unable to stay in Jordan and too afraid to return to Iraq, he made his way to the U.S., where Whitson was able to prepare an asylum application for him and help him to find a place to live in Pittsburgh.



“ When my kids ask me what kinds of cases I handle, I don’t talk about commercial litigation. I talk about the cases that tug at the heartstrings. Like these cases do. ”





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**“ The ability to get involved in these cases is perhaps the most important part of what I do as a lawyer. ”**

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“I am amazed at the strength of these individuals,” Whitson says. “They have the courage to leave their homes and start anew in a strange place. To take all the steps necessary to protect yourself and your family.”

In another case, Whitson helped a woman seeking asylum for her two daughters. She had fled Rwanda when her husband, an officer in the Rwandan Patriotic Front, became abusive toward her. She was able to come to the U.S. as a student, but unable to bring her daughters, who she left in hiding in Uganda. Once here, she applied for asylum for herself and derivative asylum for her daughters. The whole process, which involved working with the embassy in Kampala, Uganda, took about two years.

“I was ecstatic. When they arrived in Pittsburgh to be reunited with their mother, that was such a special moment,” says Whitson. “I feel a bond with them. She and her daughters even joined us for Thanksgiving one year.”



THE ACBF PRO BONO CENTER HELPS VOLUNTEERS WITH  
TRAINING, MENTORING, FREE ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH  
AND MALPRACTICE INSURANCE.



**“ In my day-to-day, I’m not working with people where, if we don’t get the outcome we are hoping for, they are going to be on the street. The stakes are much higher with a pro bono client. These are people who are at the toughest time in their life. ”**

## COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Sometimes when she’s out looking for lunch, Kathryn Harrison takes a brief detour to visit her friend, Ted, who lives in public housing downtown. “There’s my lawyer!” Ted exclaims, before sitting down to catch up on each other’s lives.

The two met years ago when Kathryn headed up the ACBF Pro Bono Center’s Uptown Legal Clinic, which meets monthly at Bethlehem Haven shelter to provide free legal services to the homeless. Ted had a substantially funded IRA. But when his mother died, Ted, who suffers from schizophrenia, lost the wealth he had accumulated. Just the presence of the IRA, however, made it appear he had some wealth and was ineligible for housing services.

As an associate at Campbell & Levine, where she focuses primarily on debtors, creditors and trustees, pro bono cases like Ted’s keep Harrison grounded.

Harrison began volunteering for the Pro Bono Center nearly 10 years ago. Her Catholic faith gives her additional motivation to devote her time to the poor and homeless. This is her third year as manager of the Uptown Legal Clinic.

“Often those clients’ legal issues aren’t even difficult. We just need to be there to help get them through the process,” Harrison says. She recalls another case she worked on recently where a woman was being denied disability because she did not have the proper paperwork and diagnoses for her debilitating Crohn’s Disease. Within just a couple months, Harrison had the right paperwork filed and represented her in court, where she was granted



the disability benefits she needed to get her off the street and into housing.

“With programs like the Uptown Legal Clinic, we are able to open up access to justice to so many people in this community who need it, and that is fundamental,” Harrison says.

**“ I think the ACBF and the work that it does really promotes the legal profession in a profound way.**

**It raises the profession. It makes the profession more dignified. And it makes us a stronger part of the community at large.”** — Kathryn Harrison



## CONNECTING ATTORNEYS TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED.

The work of the ACBF does not end at the office or courthouse door. Through programs such as the Uptown Legal Clinic and Attorneys Against Hunger, we're directly impacting lives in the most under-served neighborhoods in Allegheny County.

Creating a legacy

# of leadership.

With your help, the ACBF will continue to make an impact—in both our community and profession, by raising funds to provide law students with scholarship and summer fellowship opportunities and giving private grants to lawyers and their families in their time of need.

From the Fellows and Young Lawyers Fellows programs to the Loans and Scholarship Educational Awards, Law Student Summer Fellowship Programs, and the Lawyers Fund, the ACBF is there to provide strong support for lawyers.

**“ As someone who is older going back to school, and having to quit my full-time job, the scholarship helps a lot. It’s helping me to live independently and have my own space to study for law school. But it’s also such an honor. It’s not just the money. For this particular scholarship, people are putting their trust in you as a woman who can give something back to other women. That’s what Carol Los Mansmann stood for ... Strong female role models have encouraged me along my career path, and I hope to do the same for other women. ”**

*Amanda Leonard, The 2019 Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Scholarship Award Winner, Head of Duquesne University’s Women’s Law Association*



## THE HEART OF PITTSBURGH'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

Thanks to the hard work of passionate lawyers such as yourself, the foundation has also grown to support a series of robust public service initiatives.

Projects include the annual Backpack Project, Law Day, ACBA Golf Tournament, Fellows Grants Program and Attorneys Against Hunger (AAH).

AAH'S GRANT IS THE LARGEST SINGLE SOURCE OF INCOME FOR TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL'S FOOD PANTRY AND PROGRAM.

**175 INDIVIDUALS & UP TO 110 HOUSEHOLDS  
RECEIVE FOOD EVERY WEEK.**

**17 LOCAL  
ORGANIZATIONS**

receive AAH funding in their effort to end hunger in Allegheny County.

Since 1993,  
AAH has raised  
**NEARLY \$2  
MILLION**

strengthening their effort to end food insecurity in our neighborhoods.

The Fellows Grants Program raises funds and awards approximately

**\$40,000 ANNUALLY**

to help increase pro bono representation at community legal aid programs.

IN 2019, THE ACBA/ACBF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE PROVIDED APPROXIMATELY

**500 BACKPACKS**

FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO STUDENTS AT ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED SCHOOLS IN PITTSBURGH.

The ACBA Golf Tournament raises

**MORE THAN**

**\$30,000**

**ANNUALLY**

to benefit both Neighborhood Legal Services and the ACBF.

## **WE DECIDE THE LEGACY WE LEAVE.**

Our actions today determine how our profession will be judged in the future.





At the ACBF, we don't believe in setting small goals and settling for modest results. The needs of our community have never been greater. So now is the time for us to aim high, and draw upon the vast talent and generosity of our legal community to meet these challenges and leave a lasting legacy.

Please consider making a strong statement with a generous donation to the ACBF Endowment. With your support, we can continue to grow our most impactful programs and expand our efforts to provide legal services for our most vulnerable neighbors.

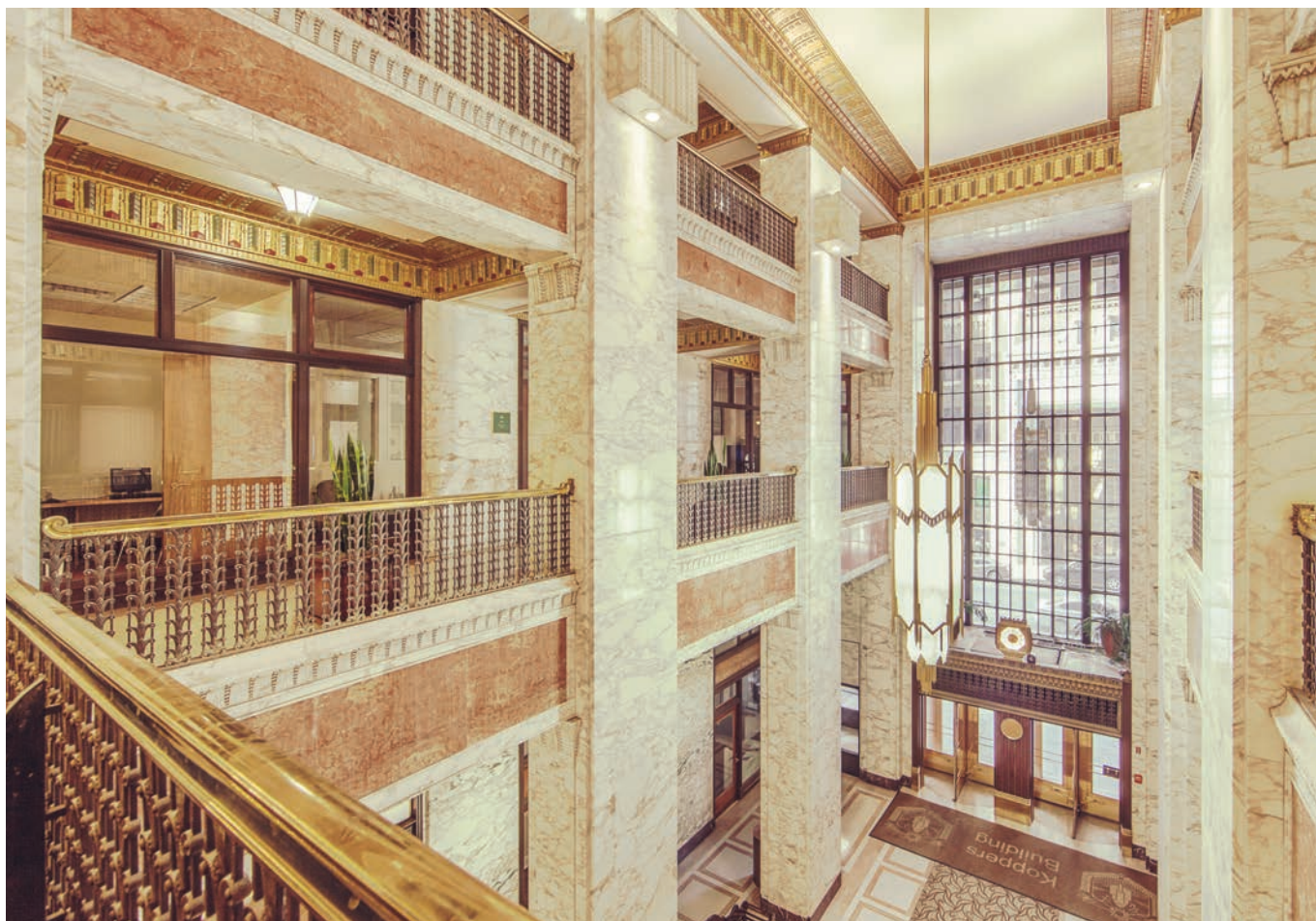
**HELP US REACH THIS AGGRESSIVE MILESTONE AND  
CONTINUE TO BUILD ON OUR COLLECTIVE SUCCESS.**

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

400 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412.402.6640



ACBF.org



## WHAT'S YOUR PATH?

On the very first day of law school you began a journey shared by countless others in our profession. How has the legal profession shaped you as a person? And how have you made our system more equitable and just for others? Now is one of those key steps along the way when you can take the lead. Make an impact. And create a legacy that others will want to follow.