

Foundation Focus

from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation
Spring 2022

After two years of living in a global pandemic, it can be easy to lose hope for the future – but the work of the ACBF has continued to grow, meeting the expanding needs of our community. We are inspired by the work of our volunteers, steadfast support from our donors, and valuable partnerships that have made it possible to create a positive impact in Allegheny County and beyond. Thank you for your commitment to the ACBF!

– Keith Whitson, President, ACBF

Attorneys Against Hunger



In a year when the health of our community was at risk, the Attorneys Against Hunger campaign continued the important work of ending food insecurity in Allegheny County. Since we kicked off our campaign in October 2021, over 250 donors have helped unlock a challenge grant to raise **over \$100,000** to distribute directly to local food pantries. The continued pandemic made this effort even more vital than ever before – on behalf of the AAH committee and all of us at the ACBF, thank you to our donors for helping your neighbors in need!

Lead Sponsor

The Law Offices of
Steidl & Steinberg PC

Supporting Sponsors

 **GLEASON**

Hon. Raymond A. Novak

Challenge Grant Donors

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Rita M. McGinley Foundation

McGinley family members of the bar

Donate! Gifts of any size are important. Visit www.ACBF.org for great ideas on how you can support the Foundation.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



The path of

a leader.



Successful Endowment Campaign Surpasses Goal

By the end of 2021, the Endowment Campaign **successfully exceeded its goal of \$1.5 million** to help secure the future of the foundation and its programs. This was a major undertaking with many challenges, including a pandemic. The Foundation has worked so hard over the years to become a household name among lawyers as an organization that helps lawyers give back to the community and profession by using their unique skills through pro bono work, volunteering, and supporting hunger initiatives, to name a few. The growth of the Endowment is essential in helping us become self-sustaining, and enhances our many programs, including raising the amount of available funding for Legal Aid Grants and expanding pro bono efforts. It will help us to continue this important work well into the future.

Kudos to our incredible Endowment Campaign Members, led by Tom McGough, who worked extremely hard to get us to our goal. A huge thank you goes out to all who participated and generously donated to support our efforts. We could not have done it without you!

SAVE THE DATES

28th Annual Golf / 8th Annual Bocce Tournament • Longue Vue Club • July 25, 2022

Fall Foundation Reception • LeMont Pittsburgh • October 19, 2022



Fellows Legal Aid Grant Recipients

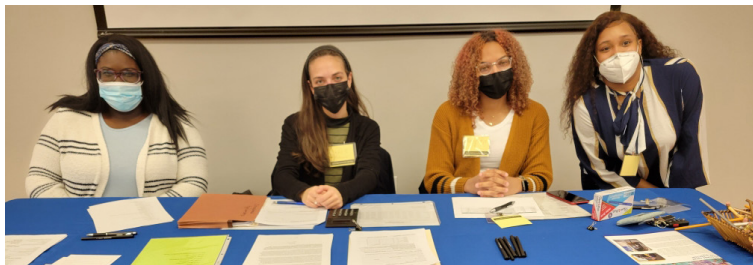


The ACBF distributed **\$65,000** in funds generated through the Fellows program in early 2022. After a competitive selection process, the following legal aid organizations and projects were awarded grants: 1Hood Media, Christian Immigration Advocacy Center, Christian Legal Aid, Education Law Center, Focus on Renewal, Jewish Family & Community Services, KidsVoice, Neighborhood Legal Services, North Hills Community Outreach, Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, Pennsylvania Women Work, Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net, and Women's Center & Shelter.

Military Veterans & Elderly Fund Grants

The ACBF Grants Committee awarded **\$3,427.97** to Neighborhood Legal Services to provide legal assistance to military veterans and older adults.

Derrick Bell Clinic



The Pro Bono Center collaborated with the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division and the University of Pittsburgh's Black Law Student Association to hold a community legal clinic in November 2021. Ten volunteer attorneys assisted 26 clients with a variety of legal issues, including wills and estates, criminal records clearing, and family law, among others. This annual clinic is held in memory of civil rights attorney and Pitt professor Derrick A. Bell. Pitt's Hill District Community Engagement Center served as the host location.

Pro Bono Center Wins Grants to Help Clients

Facing a decrease in funding at a time when clients are still struggling with the economic impacts of COVID-19, the Pro Bono Center secured grants from The Pittsburgh Foundation and PNC Charitable Trusts to continue its work. We engaged a non-profit translation service to translate the Divorce Law Project application into Spanish, allowing us to better serve clients referred to us from places like the Latino Community Center. Early this year, we were able to provide an attorney to a woman who had experienced physical abuse and threats of gun violence, and she obtained a final protection from abuse order. Our funders' support helped make this possible.

Foundation Reception

We were thrilled to welcome our supporters at our first in-person event since 2019 – the Fall Foundation Reception, which was held in October 2021 at the Hotel Monaco in Downtown Pittsburgh. It was a pleasure to once again mingle with members of the Allegheny County legal community, celebrate our Pro Bono Achievement Award winners, and recognize the work that the Foundation Fellows made possible in the legal aid community.

Pro Bono Award Winners



The Public Service Committee selected 7 individuals and organizations to recognize for their outstanding contributions to legal aid in our community. Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Pro Bono Achievement Awards:

James Petraglia, Esq.

Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award

Susan Abramowich, Esq.

Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Award

Allegheny County Housing Court,

Dianne Wainwright, Esq. & Hon. Christine Ward
Judicial Award

Dingess, Foster, Luciana, Davidson

& Chleboski, LLP

Law Firm Award

Pittsburgh Reporting Service

Organization Award

Cristian Minor, Esq.

Special Service Award