



ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION 2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

THANK YOU FOR BEING

The  *of Pittsburgh's Legal Community®*



ACBF YEAR IN REVIEW



Richard S. Wiedman, Esq., President of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation

By Richard S. Wiedman

This past year, we celebrated the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's 35th Anniversary with a Red Tie Gala. The event celebrated the growth of the Foundation and recognized the efforts of our volunteers. It served to highlight the ever increasing importance of the Foundation's role in ensuring equal access to justice for the most vulnerable members of the community while also serving the needs of our legal community. For a brief moment, it also shined a light on the positive and critical contribution that the legal profession makes to the community in which we live. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I want to express my profound thanks to the Allegheny County Bar Association membership for its support. Because of the strong support we have received from the Law Firm Leadership Circle, our Fellows and volunteer lawyers, the Foundation has been able to expand its pro bono and public service efforts, continue timely educational programs through the Zittrain Forums and continue to recruit and train pro bono volunteers.

This past year, the Foundation was also able to distribute almost \$300,000 in grants, scholarships and program support, including grants to legal aid organizations representing the underprivileged, Attorneys Against Hunger grants to hunger service agencies, and summer fellowships to law students through the Gismondi Law Student Fellowship Program and the Lawyers Fund Law Student Fellowship Program.

As President, I have the privilege of working with a dedicated and active Board that is committed to continuing the Foundation's support of a strong pro bono program. The

Foundation is committed to ensuring that every member of our community receives the protections they are entitled to under our legal system regardless of social status. Every day, the Foundation trains and connects volunteer lawyers with the poor, the hungry, the elderly and the abused to ensure that the most vulnerable of our neighbors are represented and protected.

The Foundation, like the ACBA, enjoys an excellent national reputation which has been reinforced by our Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert's recent election as President of the National Association of Bar Foundations. As the Foundation moves forward, the Board is fully cognizant of the mismatch between the resources available to the Foundation and the increasing demands of its mission. This has entailed hard choices over the years regarding the allocation of limited resources to where they can have the most impact. In response, the Foundation is currently engaged in a process of obtaining a realistic appraisal of the opportunities and mechanisms that exist for growing and securing the ability to fulfill our mission now and into the future.

As lawyers privileged to practice in this Commonwealth, we have a responsibility to give back to our communities. The Foundation offers a wealth of opportunities to do so. Again, on behalf of the Foundation, the Board and myself, I want to thank the members of the ACBA for making the work of the Foundation possible and for your continued support. ♥

Richard S. Wiedman
President

ACBF CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH RED TIE GALA

Over 300 guests gathered at the Circuit Center & Ballroom on March 12, 2016 to celebrate the ACBF's 35th anniversary. **Thanks to all of our supporters who shared in the celebration.** See page 2 for more! ♥



On a night when the ACBF celebrated the heart of Pittsburgh's legal community, Ron G. Jones and Carol A. Behers were honored with the ACBF Young Professional Award of Excellence and the Heart of Justice Award, respectively. After the awards presentation, Jones and Behers posed with their colleagues who had introduced them to the crowd. From left are Bill Clifford, Sam Grego, Jones, Behers, Mary Sue Ramsden and Jay A. Blechman.

INSIDE...

Read on to learn how your generous contributions and volunteer work allow the ACBF to **Serve the Community**, **Support the Profession**, and **Balance Justice!**

WHO WE ARE

MISSION

The mission of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation is to be a 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. ♥

2016-17 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



From left: Mackenzie Baird, Paul Gitnik, Susan Seitz, Stanley Stein, Jessica Crown, Joseph Napoli, Efreim Grail, Jeanine DeBor, Melinda Sala, Lori Wisniewski Azzara, Patricia Dodge, Ken Argentieri, Jennifer Andrade, Richard Wiedman. Not pictured: Jeffrey Heeter, Carol Mills McCarthy, Keith Whitson.

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Red Tie Gala

The ACBF celebrated 35 years of giving in style on March 12, 2016 at the Red Tie Gala. This was the first Anniversary Gala held by the ACBF, which has become known as "The Heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community." Over 300 guests attended to commemorate this landmark year. And there was plenty to celebrate, including Carol Behers, the Heart of Justice awardee and Ron Jones, the Young Professional Award of Excellence recipient for their professionalism and commitment to the ACBF's pro bono and public service programs, as well as all of our volunteers and friends.

The event was held at the Circuit Center & Ballroom and catered by The Fluted Mushroom. Many guests stayed until the very end, dancing to the music of No Bad Juju.

This gala was the ACBF's way of recognizing the great work of all of our volunteers which was evident by the 35th Year Anniversary Video that helps us remember many rewarding moments over the years. It was great to take some time to enjoy each other's company in a very special way. The theme of the night was **Red** and many guests had a great time with it by wearing everything from red gowns, jewelry, ties, socks and yes, it was rumored that someone even wore red underwear!



Even though many guests asked if we could do it again next year, we think it may be another landmark year before it happens again. This makes it all the more special! So if you are disappointed that you missed this Gala, look for it to happen again at some unknown but definite time in the future. The stronger we grow as a legal community that gives back, the more there is to celebrate! Special thanks to our amazing planning committee, board, sponsors and volunteers! We could not have celebrated without you! ♥



Continued on page 12...

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

ATTORNEYS AGAINST HUNGER CONTINUES STRONG TRADITION OF GIVING



Through generous donations from our members, the 2015-16 Attorneys Against Hunger campaign raised \$112,325. **Every dollar** raised was distributed to seventeen local hunger agencies. Your generosity helps these organizations reach thousands of struggling families every year. ♥



“Without their help, I would go hungry because I’m unable to work due to all my disabilities. They treat me like I’m a part of their family and that means the world to me because I don’t have a loving family, other than my son...Because of this food pantry, I get the food I need but can’t afford to buy.”

– Ms. “Forever Thankful”, East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry Client

SPONSORS & CHALLENGE GRANTS

Lead Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



& The Honorable Raymond A. Novak

Challenge Grant Sponsors:

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Rita M. McGinley Foundation
McGinley Family Members of the Bar Association

SUPPORTED AGENCIES

- East End Cooperative Ministry
- First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh
- Focus on Renewal
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- Hunger Services Urban League of Pittsburgh
- Jubilee Kitchen
- Just Harvest
- North Hills Community Outreach
- Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
- Rainbow Kitchen
- Smithfield United Church of Christ
- South Hills Interfaith Movement
- Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry
- Saint Mary of Mercy Parish
- The Intersection, Inc.
- Trinity Cathedral



ACBA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION STEPS UP TO FIGHT HUNGER

The ACBA Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) has long been a supporter of the bar foundation. However, in the past few years, the YLD has made an increased effort to support our programs, specifically Attorneys Against Hunger. In addition to the second annual “Strike Out Hunger” fundraiser on February 28, 2016, the YLD also hosted “RYEse Against Hunger” at Wigle Whiskey Barrelhouse on June 23, 2016. Together, these fundraisers raised over \$4,500 for Attorneys Against Hunger. Thank you, YLD, for your continued support! ♥



NEW MEEHAN CITIZENSHIP INSTITUTE AIMS TO EMPOWER IMMIGRANTS

The John A. Meehan Citizenship Institute was established in 2015 through a generous donation from attorney Jacqueline Martinez. Created in memory of Martinez's late husband John Meehan, the purpose of the fund is to help low-income immigrants apply for citizenship and to empower them to become active and knowledgeable participants in the American political process. Martinez, an immigration attorney who emigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador at age 6, wanted to create a legacy for her husband that embodied his belief in the "American immigrant dream." Meehan was a 20-year veteran of the Coast Guard and also worked as an immigration officer for the INS and USCIS.

The purpose of the Institute is two-fold: 1. To provide legal assistance to immigrants applying for citizenship, and 2. To offer courses that not only provide preparation for the citizenship exam but also encourage new citizens to become active participants in government. A pilot course just wrapped up at the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council's Families for Learning Center in Baldwin Borough. Upon completion of the pilot program, the Institute will continue to partner with the GPLC to serve the needs of our area's growing immigrant population. ♥

"John was a dedicated man to his family, work and friends. We chose to set up the named fund because we wanted to honor him in a way that the funds could reach the most people and help those in need."

– Jacqueline Martinez, Esq.



FELLOWS AND MILITARY VETERANS & ELDERLY FUND GRANTS CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

Thanks to the Fellows Program and the Military Veterans and Elderly Fund, the ACBF awarded \$40,000 in grants in 2015 to help support the pro bono efforts of six public service organizations.



LEGAL AID GRANTS

Our Fellows continue to provide much needed support to organizations that provide direct legal services to low-income clients through the Grants Program. In 2015, the ACBF awarded \$30,000 to help advance the following programs.

Christian Legal Aid

To provide more people in need with access to legal help, acquire and implement technology to improve efficiency, and recruit additional volunteers.

Focus on Renewal

To continue serving low-income individuals and families through the Sto-Rox legal clinic with legal documents, such as wills, power of attorney and health care directives.

Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh

To provide training for pro bono attorneys to assist clients with green card applications through the Legal Services for Immigrants & Internationals (LSII) program.

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

To offset legal costs for the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (H.E.L.P.) program that helps homeless individuals regain proof of identity and assists with social services benefits.

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

To provide civil legal representation to victims of intimate partner violence that will help victims obtain safety, autonomy, and restoration from the justice system.

MILITARY VETERANS & ELDERLY FUND GRANT

This fund continues to support our veterans by providing fiduciary and legal services that are specifically directed to their unique needs.

Neighborhood Legal Services Organization

To support the Veterans Justice Outreach & Legal Literacy Project to educate veterans and military families currently involved with Allegheny County Veterans' Court with knowledge and strategies to prevent further civil legal issues. ♥

BACKPACK PROJECT MARKS TENTH YEAR OF OUTREACH

The ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee's Backpack Project has been bringing smiles to children's faces for ten years now. This past summer, volunteers distributed a whopping 1,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in Braddock, Homewood, McKeesport, North Side, Penn Hills, and Turtle Creek. Thanks to all of the donors who made this possible, especially the Bayer USA Foundation and Feed the Children for their continued and generous support! ♥



JUVENILE COURT PROJECT ADVOCATES FOR STRONGER FAMILIES

By Catherine Volponi, Esq.
 Juvenile Court Project
 Director

The Juvenile Court Project (“JCP”) provides free legal representation for indigent parents in dependency and termination of parental rights cases. The JCP staff consists of a director, sixteen attorneys and seven support staff. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the JCP represented over 1,200 clients concerning nearly 2,600 children in over 9,100 dependency and termination hearings. The JCP provides an interdisciplinary model of parent advocacy employing Parental Support Advocates to attend various case planning meetings and assist with finding appropriate services for clients. Through the work of our Parental Support Advocates under the direction of our attorneys, we have greatly enhanced the legal representation provided to our clients.



The JCP has an active appellate practice concerning not only dependency and termination cases but also ChildLine cases. Appeals in fiscal year 2015-2016 were filed in

the PA Superior Court, the PA Commonwealth Court and petitions for writ of certiorari were filed in both the PA Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Still pending is

an issue concerning the right to meaningful appellate review in ChildLine cases and another is the right to specialized services for parents with intellectual disabilities in dependency cases before a finding of “reasonable efforts” can be made under the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

The JCP also engages in out of court advocacy by participating in both local and statewide roundtable workgroups. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the JCP participated in statewide workgroups concerning Legal Representation for Parents and Children, Transitional Youth, Trauma and Caseworker Retention. JCP staff and clients participated in the video “A Parent’s Guide to Understanding the Pennsylvania Dependency System” that was created by the Legal Representation workgroup and funded by the Office of Children & Families in the Courts. The video has been distributed to county child welfare agencies and court systems throughout Pennsylvania. ♥

ANNUAL GOLF AND BOCCE TOURNAMENT PAIRS FRIENDLY COMPETITION WITH A GREAT CAUSE

Over 130 guests gathered at Diamond Run Golf Club on July 20, 2015 for the 23rd Annual ACBA Golf Tournament & 3rd Annual Bocce Tournament. Thanks to the support of sponsors, in-kind donors, and players, the tournament raised \$35,000 for the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services Association. ♥



SUPPORTING THE PROFESSION

LAW STUDENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS SERVE BOTH STUDENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

Created by Pitt Law alumnus John P. Gismondi, the Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program provides paid fellowships to students who will help advance the mission of Neighborhood Legal Services Association and at the same time gain valuable “real life” experience in representing clients.



“Law students crave real-world experience... [This program] will allow second-year students to handle actual cases in front of magistrates or government agencies, and it will give more low-income families access to legal representation.”

– John P. Gismondi, Esq.

Second-year Pitt Law student Allison Fedorka was awarded the Summer 2016 Gismondi Fellowship. She became certified to appear in court and worked for ten weeks helping clients suffering from domestic violence to obtain Protection from Abuse Orders. Ms. Fedorka found the summer to be a great lead-in to practicing law. When asked about her summer experience, Ms. Fedorka responded, *“I can’t imagine another job preparing me this well to be a lawyer.”*



Lawyers Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

In its third year, the 2016 Lawyers Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program was, once again, a great success for both second-year students from Pitt and Duquesne law schools and public service organizations. The program was created by the Lawyers Fund Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation to provide law students who are certified to appear in court with paid fellowships at 11 organizations that provide free legal services to low-income Allegheny County residents.



For ten weeks over the summer, student Fellows gained hands-on experience and were able to assist low-income clients facing critical legal issues affecting their daily lives, including immigration, education issues, homelessness and more. This past summer, six Duquesne and five Pitt law students were selected to work at the following participating legal services providers:

COME JOIN US IN

Pittsburgh

2017

Equal Justice Conference

MAY 4–6, 2017
PRE-CONFERENCES MAY 3

See page 10 for details!

ORGANIZATION	SCHOOL	LAW STUDENT FELLOW
Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh	Duq	Zach Fleming
Office of Conflict Counsel	Pitt	Emelina Perez
Disability Rights Pennsylvania	Duq	Jessica Rosenblatt
District Attorney’s Office	Pitt	Taylor Staiger
Education Law Center	Duq	Mohammed Al-Bidhawi
Jewish Family & Children’s Service	Duq	Zachary Zabawa
Juvenile Court Project	Duq	Kristi Heidel
KidsVoice	Pitt	Sarah Saba
Pro Bono Center	Duq	Lorraine Sullivan
Public Defender’s Office	Pitt	Camille Davidson
Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh	Pitt	Abigail Yochum

Testimonials from student fellows:

“While my experience at [legal service organization] was nothing short of astounding, it was the events set up by the Fellowship that made this summer one of the best summers I have ever had.”

“I will cherish this experience and carry everything I learned along the way with me into the legal community.”

LAWYERS FUND FELLOW LEARNS ABOUT LAW AND CLIENTS

Lorraine Sullivan, now a 3rd-year law student at Duquesne University, discusses her experiences working this past summer at the ACBF's Pro Bono Center as a Lawyers Fund Fellow.

What interested you about a fellowship at the Pro Bono Center?

What interested me most about a fellowship at the Pro Bono Center was the intersection of two things that I am very passionate about – helping others and family law. In searching for summer jobs, I wanted to find something that would leave me feeling fulfilled and challenged and also help me further my career. A fellowship position at the Pro Bono Center felt like the perfect fit to do just that.

What kinds of things did you work on?

During my fellowship I was able to handle about five of my own divorce cases for the Divorce Law Project as well as assist attorneys Barbara Griffin and Patricia Jones with drafting and filing pleadings. I also learned how to better correspond with clients by phone and by mail.

Another large component of my fellowship was preparing for and representing clients in final protection from abuse ("PFA") hearings. Initially, I sat in with attorney Barbara Griffin as she contacted clients to prepare them for their hearings, met with



Lorraine Sullivan, Lawyers Fund Fellow

them the day of their hearings to discuss available options, negotiated with defendants, drafted orders of court, and represented clients in final hearings if necessary. As time progressed I became more involved in hearing preparation through review of petitions and court dockets and contact with clients. I even took the lead with one client whose case I had handled on my own. I learned PFA law, the different outcomes available for plaintiffs in final PFA hearings, how to draft orders of court, and how to navigate interactions with clients in stressful situations.

I also performed legal research and volunteered at the ACBA's Annual Golf Tournament at Allegheny

Country Club. I was able to attend two CLE programs this summer and sit in with the Juvenile Court Project for a day.

What did you learn from your direct interactions with clients?

I learned that a little bit of kindness goes a long way. Many of the clients that seek assistance from the Pro Bono Center are individuals who are experiencing difficulties in the most basic, yet important areas of their lives, be it their families or their living situations. The legal system is difficult to navigate and I have found this especially true for those with limited means. One of my clients had difficulty reading, and

since the Divorce Law Project corresponds with its clients mainly by mail, I made sure to call her before I mailed anything to her so she knew what I was sending and why I was sending it. That very little extra effort made on my part made a big difference in my client's peace of mind and trust in me as her advocate and helped me learn too.

How did your fellowship add to your law school education?

This fellowship provided me with the opportunity to take some of what I've learned in law school and apply it to real life situations. This fellowship has given what I have learned in school meaning.

Has your experience at the Pro Bono Center affected how you envision your legal career?

Absolutely. This summer I have learned how valuable pro bono work is to low income members of the community, to the attorneys who volunteer their services, and to those who coordinate pro bono programs and services. It does not take much time to truly make a difference in someone's life through pro bono work, and the feeling of helping someone in need is very rewarding. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to work at the Pro Bono Center this summer and plan on making time for pro bono work as my career unfolds. ♥

ACBF LOANS & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS FACE GROWING LAW SCHOOL DEBT

In 2015, the ACBF awarded \$62,000 in loans and scholarships to law students attending Duquesne University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Pittsburgh. We are proud to support future attorneys through our various named funds. The following recipients were selected based on strong academic performance, as well as other criteria specific to each fund.

F.C. Grote Scholarship of the Lawyers Fund

Bryant Andrews-Nino, *University of Pittsburgh*

Melissa Fann, *University of Pittsburgh*

Allison Marciniak, *University of Pittsburgh*

Danielle Santoro, *University of Pittsburgh*

Grace Schmidt, *University of Pennsylvania*

James I. Smith, III Notre Dame Law School Scholarship

Brian Haney

Shane LaBarge

Lynette Norton Memorial Award

Emily Celeste Bittle, *Duquesne University*

Aubrey Therese Smith, *Duquesne University*

Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Scholarship

Alyssa Federoff, *Duquesne University*

Fayezeh Haji Hassan, *Duquesne University*

Daniel B. Dixon Scholarship

Christopher Shook, *University of Pittsburgh*

Honorable Joseph H. Ridge Memorial Scholarship

Mark Howell, *Duquesne University*

ACBA Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section Gerald K. Gibson Memorial Award

Johnathan Foster, *University of Pittsburgh*

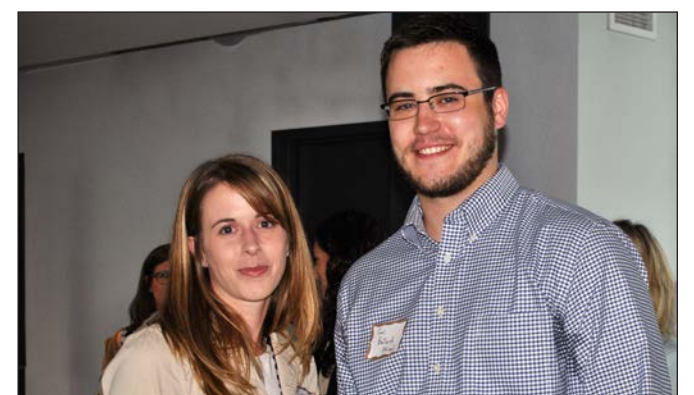
Kevin Shaw, *Duquesne University*

Jonathan Smith, *Duquesne University*

ACBA Environment & Energy Law Section Scholarship

Carl Ballard, *University of Pittsburgh*

Katrina Lawrence, *Duquesne University*



Carl Ballard (first photo above) and Katrina Lawrence (immediately above) were presented with scholarships from the ACBA Environment & Energy Law Section at the Section's Green Event on May 21, 2015 at the Energy Innovation Center.

BALANCING JUSTICE

PRO BONO CENTER



The mission of the Pro Bono Center is inspired by Rule 6.1 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct: "A lawyer should render public interest legal service." The Center advances this mission by creating and supporting programs that match volunteer attorneys with individuals with very low incomes facing critical legal issues that impact their basic human needs. The Center works with 36 member programs and organizations to recruit, train, support, and recognize volunteer attorneys. The Pro Bono Center has the unique ability to leverage the over 5,500 members of the Allegheny County Bar Association and frequently engages member attorneys, judges, and law students in developing and supporting the delivery of legal services, resulting in collaborative projects that benefit clients, improve the function of the courts, and provide attorneys and paralegals with volunteer opportunities. For calendar year 2015, these member programs and organizations reported 6,643 individuals assisted by volunteer attorneys.

Pro Bono Center staff attorneys and law student interns also provide direct legal services to clients including extended representation, limited representation, brief advice, and referrals. In 2015, staff directly assisted 1,009 individuals who turned to the Center for assistance.

PITTSBURGH PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP



The Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership is a collaboration of legal departments, law firms, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, and Neighborhood Legal Services Association. The purpose is to increase attorney and paralegal pro bono legal services to the greater Pittsburgh community. With over 40 members with almost 20 projects, the Partnership creates innovative programs to provide legal services to persons of limited means and to those organizations, including charities, which work on their behalf. The new chair of the Administrative Board is Antoinette Oliver, a partner at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, which itself administers several pro bono projects. In the past year, the Partnership honed existing projects, recruited and trained new volunteers, and worked with the bar foundation's Pro Bono Center to increase local and national awareness of the legal needs of individuals with low incomes.

EMERITUS RULE PROPOSAL AIMS TO INCREASE PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

The Pro Bono Center collaborated with the ACBA Senior Lawyers Committee and a statewide working group to propose a new bar admission status that would allow retired and voluntarily inactive attorneys to be licensed solely for the purposes of providing pro bono legal services. The goal of the proposal is to tap into a pool of volunteer attorneys who might not otherwise maintain their law license to help meet the high demand for free legal services for individuals with low incomes. An effort led by committee chair Zelda Curtiss culminated in the submission of a proposal from the ACBA, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association to the state Supreme Court. The proposal is now under active consideration by the court. ♥

POVERTY SIMULATION

The Pro Bono Center helped volunteers to better understand the circumstances of people living with very low incomes by hosting a "poverty simulation" in which they had the virtual experience of walking a mile in the shoes of the individuals and families they assist. The 67 attendees took on roles such as family members, employers, schools, law enforcement, social services providers, and others. **"Our goal was to empower our volunteers to better assist families living in poverty,"** said Barbara Griffin, Director of the Pro Bono Center.



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee recognized individuals, law firms, legal departments, and organizations who have made significant contributions to enhancing the provision of free legal services to low-income residents of Allegheny County with the 2015 Pro Bono Achievement Awards. The awards were presented at the Fellows Appreciation Reception on October 8, 2015. The winners also gave inspiring talks about their volunteer experiences at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on October 26, 2015, at the Fairmont Hotel. The award winners were:



Joseph V. Balestrino, Esq., Young Lawyer Award

Kathryn L. Harrison, Esq., Jane F. Hepting Individual Pro Bono Award

Maureen Hohman, Paralegal Pro Bono Award

Kathryn M. Kenyon, Esq., Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award

Tracey McCants Lewis, Esq., Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Attorney Award

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Pro Bono Achievement Organization Award

Name Change Project (Reed Smith/BNY Mellon), New Initiative Award

Sara J. Rose, Esq., Public Interest Impact Award

Stella Smetanka, Esq., Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT – CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID OF PITTSBURGH

The mission of Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh (“CLA”) is to provide access to justice regarding civil and family matters to individuals whose incomes are very low through the service of those who study and practice law. CLA offers free legal help and, when desired, spiritual guidance. Although CLA is a faith-based charitable organization, it offers its services without regard to the religious beliefs, if any, of our clients.

Using volunteer attorneys and law students, CLA holds free legal aid clinics monthly at two locations: every Monday on the North Side at Allegheny Center Alliance Church, and on the first and third Thursday of each month at North Way Christian



Community Church in East Liberty. Within five miles of these areas, up to 70% of the population lives below the poverty line. The East Liberty clinic is a new location that improves access to a people in need of services.

In the past year, CLA has increased services provided to people referred from Neighborhood Legal Services Association and the Allegheny County Family Court’s Self-Help Center. Family law matters remain a big area of need, according to CLA Executive Director Lauren Darbouze, Esq. When the Self-Help Center came under the direction of Keith Calhoun in early 2016, he met with CLA leaders and a relationship was born. CLA is able to help with the overflow from the Self-Help Center to meet the constant demand for pro se assistance in the Family Division.

In 2015, CLA volunteers – including 60 attorneys and 75 law students – assisted 315 individuals with a wide

range of civil legal issues including family law, health law, elder law and estate planning, employment, housing, civil rights violations and more. CLA is a recipient of a grant from the ACBA Fellows program, which it uses to provide more people in need with access to legal help, acquire and implement technology to improve efficiency, and recruit additional volunteers.

Christian Legal Aid’s biggest challenge is maintaining a base of consistent volunteers to meet the ever-growing needs of the clinic. If you would like to volunteer or would like additional information, please visit www.clapittsburgh.org or contact CLA at 412-622-0232 or by email at info@clapittsburgh.org. ♥

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Community outreach and education is one way that the Pro Bono Center helps people understand common legal issues and avoid potential problems. Center director Barbara Griffin gave informational talks to several Allegheny County community groups in the past year including Sen. Wayne Fontana’s Senior Flu Clinic in Brookline and Operation Better Block in Homewood.

JEANS FOR JUSTICE



Strassburger, McKenna, Gutnick, & Gefsky

Over 2 dozen Pittsburgh law firms and legal corporations were part of the fun on Jeans for Justice Day, October 30, 2015. Staff members made contributions to the Allegheny County Bar Foundation for the privilege of “dressing down” that day. Thanks to all those who participated in helping to raise funds to support free legal services.

THE DIVORCE LAW PROJECT GETS SUPPORT TO HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

In March 2015, Allegheny County Bar Foundation received a grant from FISA Foundation that will enable the Divorce Law Project to provide greater assistance for victims of domestic abuse who are seeking to be divorced. The \$20,000 grant will support the New Beginnings Divorce Project and provide resources to also serve low-income residents of Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence Counties, where no such free services exist.

The Divorce Law Project is the only program providing free representation to low-income individuals seeking simple divorces in Allegheny County. Using staff attorneys, volunteer

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation

DIVORCE — LAW — PROJECT

attorneys, and law students, the project closed over 200 cases in 2015. The DLP receives an average of 7 applications for assistance each week. ♥

“[D]ivorce Law Project...saved my life and gave me a new one...”

– Staci S.

“My attorney was great. She did everything in her power to help me get my divorce. I’m really grateful to have such a wonderful attorney.”

– Rebecca H.

“I tried for over sixteen years to get a divorce. It was so painful to see my kids have to be bounced in between me trying to have a life for us but couldn’t due to being married to somebody that refused for so long to let us have a life...Now I’m fully free. I got my divorce.”

– Rebecca H.

EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE COMING TO PITTSBURGH

Save the Date!

2017 EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE MAY 4-6, 2017
PRE-CONFERENCES ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 3



DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

www.equaljusticeconference.org



 Presented by
 The ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service
 and The National Legal Aid & Defender Association

For the first time ever, the national Equal Justice Conference will be held in Pittsburgh on May 4-6, 2017! The ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee is working with the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and National Legal Aid & Defender Association to welcome attendees and provide substantive and logistical support.

The Equal Justice Conference joins all components of the civil legal aid community to discuss and address the delivery of legal services to low-income individuals. This long-standing conference is the largest of its kind focused on access to justice with an anticipated attendance of as many as

1,000 individuals from around the country, including legal services attorneys, pro bono coordinators, judges, law professors and students, bar leaders, volunteer attorneys, paralegals and public interest advocates.

Please consider helping us welcome conference attendees to Pittsburgh by becoming a sponsor of the host reception to be held on May 4, 2017, at the August Wilson Center. Contact Barbara Griffin at bgriffin@acba.org or 412-402-6622 for more information. We hope that you will join us in supporting this exciting opportunity to welcome conference attendees and showcase our region's commitment to legal services for individuals with low incomes. ♥

SAVE THE DATES



Allegheny County Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division
Public Service Committee
presents

**STRIKE OUT
HUNGER
FUNDRAISER**

Benefiting the
ATTORNEYS AGAINST HUNGER
campaign of the
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

**SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 2017**

2017 Equal Justice Conference

May 4 - 6, 2017

American Bar Association
Equal Justice Conference
David L. Lawrence Convention Center



July 17, 2017

25th Annual ACBA Golf Tournament
The Club at Nevillewood

LAW FIRM LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Thank you to the 31 law firm members of the Law Firm Leadership Circle. Your continued support and dedication embolden us to continue providing quality pro bono, philanthropic, and educational programming.



2012 - 2015

Edgar Snyder & Associates
Houston Harbaugh, P.C.

2012 - 2018

Babst Calland
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Burns White LLC
Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller, P.C.
Clark Hill PLC
Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.
Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.
Duane Morris LLP
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
Fox Rothschild LLP
John P. Gismond, Esq.
Goehring, Rutter & Boehm
Jones Day
Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.

McCarthy McDonald Schulberg & Joy
McGuireWoods LLP
Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck, PLLC
Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP
Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C.
Reed Smith LLP
Rothman Gordon P.C.
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky
Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
The Webb Law Firm, P.C.
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC

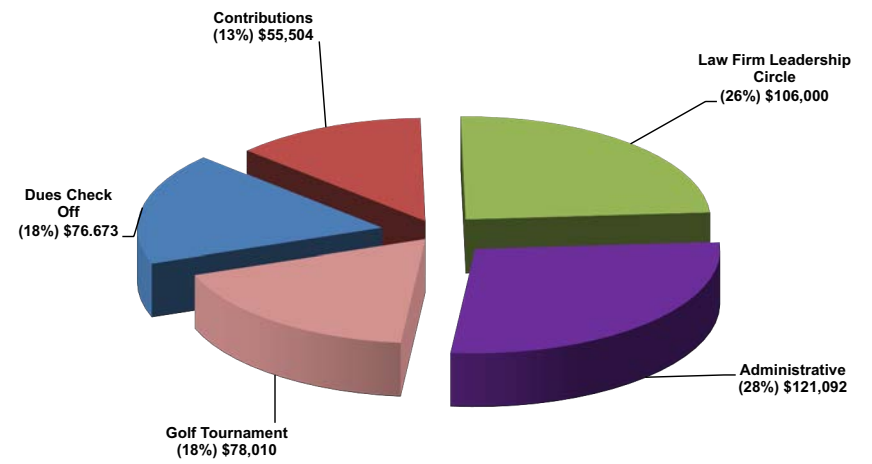
2015 - 2018

K&L Gates LLP
Saul Ewing LLP

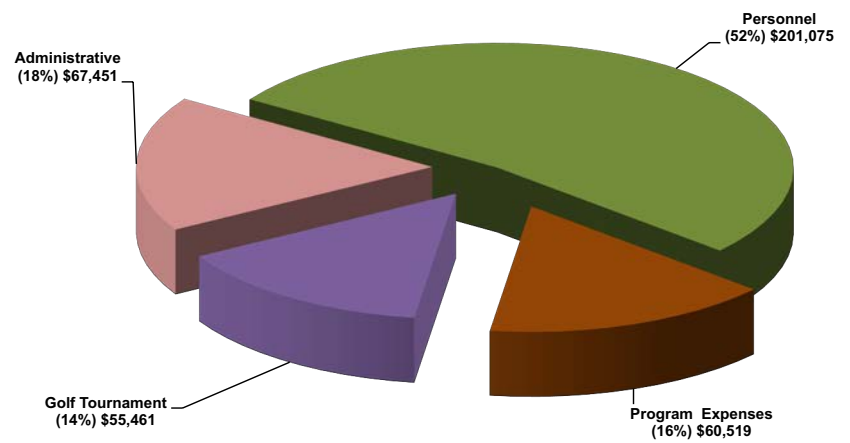
ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION FY 16 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Audited financials for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Please visit www.acbf.org to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

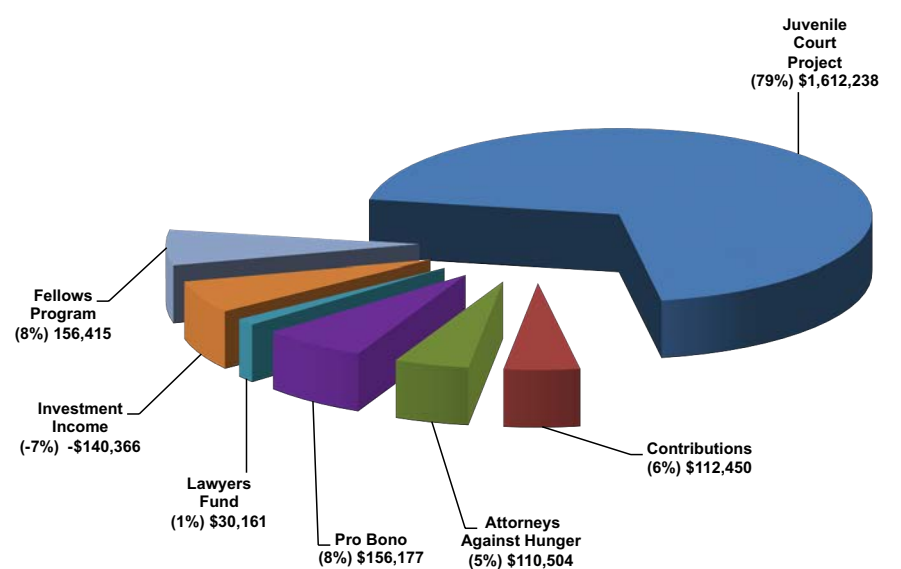
Unrestricted - Operating
Total Revenue \$437,279



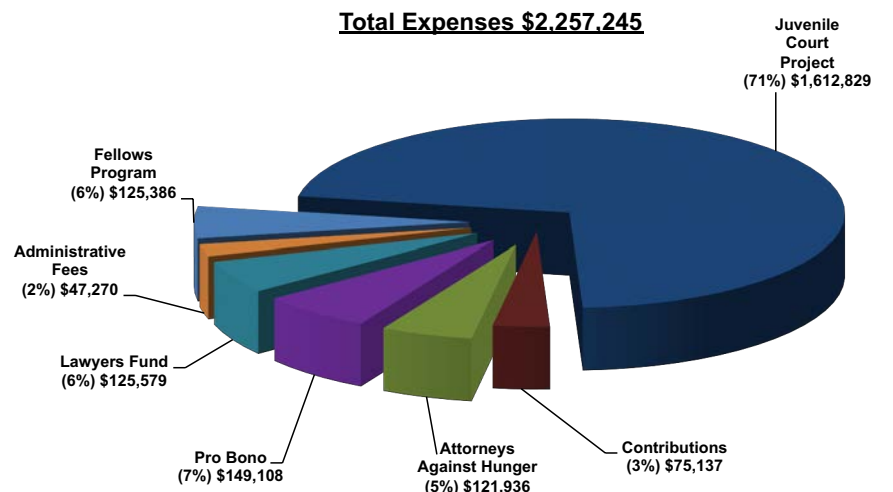
Total Expenses \$384,506



Restricted
Total Revenue \$2,037,579



Total Expenses \$2,257,245



Help make someone's holiday season a little brighter by supporting the 2016-17 Attorneys Against Hunger campaign.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, every dollar donated will go directly to 17 local hunger agencies throughout Allegheny County.

Please make a tax-deductible gift online at www.acbf.org by clicking on "Make a Donation." You may also mail your tax-deductible gift, payable to Allegheny County Bar Foundation, to: ACBF, 400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Lead Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



The Honorable Raymond A. Novak



Thank you for standing up against hunger this holiday season!





Annual Report written by:
Erin Rhodes, Barbara Griffin and Lorrie Albert



Lorrie Albert, Patricia Jones, Anthony Kuzma, Erin Rhodes and Barbara Griffin of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

Volunteer!

The Pro Bono Center is always looking for volunteer attorneys to help low-income residents of Allegheny County with civil legal matters. Contact Barbara Griffin, Esq. at bgriffin@acba.org for more information on how you can help.

Donate!

Gifts of every size are important. Visit www.acbf.org/Grants/Giving-Options.asp for great ideas on how you can support the Foundation. Questions? Contact Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert at 412-402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

Thank you!

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Thanks to your gifts to the ACBF, thousands of people in our community have been able to access legal help that was otherwise out of their reach, hungry people have been fed, and our profession has been strengthened. Those gifts have done so much to help people today. But have you thought about making your impact last beyond today?

Consider joining the ACBF Legacy Society, and your generosity will make a difference in the long term, too.

