



2018 - 2019

GRATITUDE REPORT



Overview & Key Activities

It has been a very busy year here at the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and we are so grateful to all our volunteers and donors! Here are just some of the highlights:

In response to current impending legal needs in the community, our **Pro Bono Center** has helped create the **ACBA Immigration Lawyers Committee Pro Bono Asylum Law Project** and collaborated with Jewish Family & Community Services to train attorneys to represent immigrant children. With the addition of the **Christian Immigration Advocacy Center**, the Center now has **42** member projects and organizations which served over **6,000** individuals in 2018 in a wide variety of areas. Of those, the Pro Bono Center directly assisted, represented, or referred **1,213** individuals in need of legal help. We continue to remain a regional leader in providing and supporting free legal services to the those in need.

The Foundation's **Fellows' Grants Program** and the **Military Veterans and Elderly Fund** awarded **\$52,000** to **12** organizations to assist with furthering their pro bono and legal-related public services efforts.

The **Gismondi Fund** and the **Lawyers' Fund** awarded stipends to a combined **15** certified second-year law students through their **Summer Law Student Fellowship Programs**. These students had an opportunity to work for 10 weeks at organizations providing direct legal services to the poor. The fellowships provided much-needed assistance to the organizations and gave the students opportunities to gain real client experience inside and outside of the courtroom.

Our **Loans & Scholarships Programs** awarded **\$39,000** to **16** law students to assist with the ever-increasing law school debt.

We held **8** fundraising activities, including, **Attorneys Against Hunger, Fellows Program, Golf & Bocce Tournament, Annual Campaign, Jeans for Justice** and **Cocktails for a Cause!**

We celebrated and honored **34** new Fellows, **6** outstanding pro bono volunteers and **2** long-standing Lawyers' Fund Committee volunteers at the Foundation's Fall Reception in September 2018.

We are grateful for all of our Grantors and Donors, including **IOLTA, BNY Mellon, and Association**

of Corporate Council, and the **35** law firms who have joined together to be a part of our Leadership Circle! We would also like to give a big **Thank You** to our pro bono volunteers, Trustees and hard-working committee members. You helped to make all of these programs possible!

Thank you for another outstanding year!



Jennifer R. Andrade, Esq.
President



Lorrie K. Albert, Esq.
Associate Executive Director



2018-2021 Law Firm Leadership Circle

“Thank you so much! Attempting to navigate the divorce process on my own was daunting, overwhelming, and so expensive. It’s why I put off doing it for years. I discovered DLP through research on the internet and I’m so glad I did! My future is brighter and clearer and I feel free again. Thanks again!”

Anonymous

Pro Bono Center

The Center is grounded in a network of projects and organizations that work collaboratively to address the legal needs of individuals in Allegheny County with very low incomes. We work with our partners in the courts, social services agencies, legal aid organizations, and many others to identify areas in which individuals are in dire need of legal services and take steps to try to meet those needs.

Starting Life Anew

Assistance from the Pro Bono Center often means a chance for a new start in life for people who cannot possibly afford an attorney for the serious legal problems they are facing. Over the past year, the Divorce Law Project helped **98** people move on from their marriages. Through a grant from the John A. Meehan Citizenship Institute, a refugee from Burma was able to become a naturalized American. The Pro Bono Center also worked with other legal aid organizations to recruit and train volunteer attorneys to handle criminal records expungements, lowering barriers to employment and housing for hundreds of Allegheny County residents. ***This work changes lives.***

Supporting Our Profession...and Our Communities

The Pro Bono Center also helped several attorneys receive emeritus status under a 2018 Supreme Court rule that permits retired Pennsylvania attorneys to be licensed to practice solely for the purpose of providing free legal services.

We continue to provide CLE training, malpractice coverage, free online legal research through a grant from LexisNexis, and many other types of support with the goal of helping attorneys fulfill their professional responsibility to give back and to enhance equal access to justice for all.



2018 Pro Bono Achievement Awards and Volunteer Recognition



September 2018 Fall Foundation Reception

The ACBA/ACBF Public Service Committee presented the Pro Bono Achievement Awards at the Fall Foundation Reception to attorneys, judges, and organizations that demonstrated an outstanding commitment to serving those in need. All volunteers were celebrated at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in October 2018 which featured a gourmet coffee bar, door prizes, and presentation of state proclamations recognizing National Pro Bono Week. Pennsylvania's "Second Lady" Gisele Fetterman inspired attendees with her story of how volunteer attorneys helped her and her family become U.S. citizens.

The award winners were:

Allies for Health + Wellbeing
Organization Award

Mary Ellen Droll, Esq.
Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Attorney Award

Antoinette C. Oliver, Esq.
Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award

Hon. Christine Ward
Judge's Award

Devin A. Winklosky, Esq.
Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award

Yuanyou Sunny Yang, Esq.
Young Lawyer Award

Jeans for Justice



Duquesne Light Company

Over two dozen law firms and legal departments celebrated National Pro Bono Week in October 2018 with a Jeans for Justice day, raising over \$7,780 to support Pro Bono Center programs. Thanks to our participating organizations, their attorneys and staff, and other donors!

Alcoa, Inc.
Babst, Calland, Clements and
Zomnir, P.C.
Barbara Brumbaugh
Burns White LLC
Campbell, Durrant, Beatty,
Palombo & Miller, P.C.
Cipriani & Werner, P.C.
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Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP
Ogletree Deakins
Pepper Hamilton LLP
Pietragallo Gordon Alfano
Bosick & Raspanti, LLP
Raphael, Ramsden &
Behers, P.C.
Reed Smith LLP
Schnader Harrison Segal &
Lewis, LLP
Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.
Strassburger McKenna
Gutnick & Gefsky
Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
UPMC Health Plan

Educating Our Community



Zittrain Forums on Law & Public Policy

Held at the Omni William Penn Hotel on April 4, 2019, Professor Susan Benesch discussed “dangerous speech” and how it differs from “hate speech,” all while moving forward in the aftermath of the hate-motivated tragedy of October 27, 2018.

Cocktails for a Cause

On November 1, 2018, we held an Attorneys Against Hunger guest bartender event to benefit the Jewish Family & Community Services’ Squirrel Hill Food Bank.



Raising Funds for a Cause



Cocktails for a Cause

Elizabeth Hughes and Andrew Rothey were guest bartenders for an evening of fun at the Rivers Club that raised \$1,200 to support the Pro Bono Center's volunteer programs. It was held on April 25, 2019 during National Volunteer Month!



26th Annual Golf and 6th Annual Bocce Tournaments

Held at the Pittsburgh Field Club on October 8, 2018, over \$30,000 was raised to benefit both Neighborhood Legal Services and the ACBF. It was originally scheduled for July 23rd but was rescheduled due to weather.

Fellows Legal-Aid Grants Program

The ACBF awarded \$40,000 in grants this past year to support local organizations with their efforts to expand pro bono services to clients with low incomes.



Achieva was able to educate both attorneys and families on the concept of special needs planning which helped an elderly couple develop an estate and secure the future of their adult daughter who has been diagnosed with a mental illness.



A **Neighborhood Legal Services** team (lawyer, law student and social worker) helped an 85-year-old woman find safe, affordable housing after her existing landlord refused to make repairs to a very dilapidated home and threatened eviction.

Military Veterans and Elderly Fund Grants

This fund awarded \$12,000 to help veterans and the elderly with pending legal issues.



Neighborhood Legal Services hired a dedicated attorney trained to handle Veterans' claims which has solidified Neighborhood Legal Services' presence in the community to address housing and income maintenance issues related to veterans' benefits, social security and unemployment.

Summer Law Student Fellowship Programs

The Gismondi Fund sponsored 4 Fellowship positions to students who completed their second year of law school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and became certified to represent clients in accordance with the court rules of Allegheny County. The Lawyers' Fund sponsored an additional 11 Pitt and Duquesne law students. The student Fellows had the opportunity to earn real-world experience handling legal matters – including client contact – at public service organizations.



Allison Ware
*Lawyers' Fund Law Student
Summer Fellowship Program*

"This past summer, I had the privilege of working with **Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP)**. In my placement, I had the opportunity to directly serve a range of clients with various questions and concerns regarding disability related issues. DRP serves clients in the state of Pennsylvania who have a disability and the organization seeks to provide assistance for self-advocacy as well as legal representation when necessary.

During my time with DRP, I was fortunate to have experience with individual clients as well as large groups represented in class actions. The attorneys, advocates, and administration all seek to promote justice and help to provide those in our community with disabilities the rights and experiences that they deserve. This summer I worked with children, adults, and families in an effort to promote a better life for each of our clients. I found individual client

interactions to be especially powerful as well as coming to know the individuals that we represented as part of larger, class action cases.

This population is one that I have always been interested in serving and after my time with DRP, I am confident that my career will continue to be centered on serving individuals with disabilities. I am incredibly grateful for the Allegheny County Bar Foundation Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program as well as my colleagues at DRP for giving me such a fulfilling and life changing opportunity."

- Allison Ware, 2019 Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program Awardee



2019 Law Student Summer Fellows

"Our student, Allison Ware, provided valuable support at Disability Rights Pennsylvania through her participation in the Lawyers' Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program. She had direct client contact through our intake system, attended case strategy meetings, obtained the information for and drafted declarations, reviewed and summarized client records, and performed legal research. Her work allowed us to reach more individuals, provide better legal services, and meet otherwise difficult deadlines. DRP and our Pittsburgh staff greatly appreciate the Summer Law Student Fellowship Program. Our students report great benefit in skill development and our clients certainly benefit from their assistance. Thank you very much for making this possible."

*Cheryl Horowitz, Esq.
Disability Rights Pennsylvania*

ACBF Law Student Scholarship Programs

The Foundation awards several loans and scholarships every year through named-funds which have been created to honor past members and judges and as a way for ACBA Sections to award scholarships in their particular field of law. These scholarships are awarded each year to law students who meet the specific criteria in the named-fund agreements.



Franciso Blondet
F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund

“I started my legal career as a student at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. When Hurricane Maria hit my country, I decided to come to the United States to complete a semester at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law as a visiting student. The experience was so good that I ended up transferring and now I am a Pitt Law student. I love my new school for many reasons, among them the quality of its education and the treatment that I receive from the professors and the staff. The hardest part of this new adventure at Pitt has been the high cost of education and living. Being a recipient of the F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund gives me the peace of mind that I need to finish my last semester as a law student and concentrate on preparing for the bar. I would like to thank all the people responsible for making this happen for me. I would also like to request that you continue to provide this scholarship, because for people like me, this really is something to celebrate.”

– Franciso Blondet, 2019-20 F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund Awardee



Rocio Alers
F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund

“Being a recipient of the F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund has impacted me in two different ways. First, it has greatly reduced my financial burden, which has allowed me to focus on my schoolwork. Second, it has inspired me to keep believing that I can achieve my main goal – to be an excellent attorney. Since I started at Pitt Law, I have become more confident that I can achieve anything I set out to achieve. I have also grown as a professional and as a person in this pleasant and supportive environment. The F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund has helped me cherish my experience as a law student, and I will be eternally grateful to receive this award.”

– Rocio Alers, 2019-20 F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund Awardee

2018 Scholarship Recipients

F.C. Grote Scholarship Fund

Kaeleen Kosmo, Sima Lofti, and Gabriella Ravida

Gerald K. Gibson Memorial Award

Jared Quinn and Matthew Swenson

James I. Smith III Notre Dame Law School Scholarship

Jeremy Crites

Environmental & Energy Law Section Scholarship

Randa M. Lewis, Stephanie Novak, and Brendan J. Turley

Hon. Carol Los Mansmann Memorial Scholarship

Taylor Morgan

Lynette Norton Memorial Award

Margaret Mary Cooney and Amy M. Kerlin

“Starting with \$20,000 raised in 1993, Attorneys Against Hunger has now raised more than \$1,900,000 from the legal community, and 100% of that amount has been used to provide food for people in need. During the 2019-2020 campaign we expect to break the \$2,000,000 mark.”

*Bill Stang, Esq.
2018-19 AAH Co-Chair*

Attorneys Against Hunger



Thanks to the generosity of the Pittsburgh legal community, the 2018-2019 Attorneys Against Hunger campaign raised over \$116,000. Since its inception in 1993, AAH has raised over \$1,922,000 – every dollar going directly to help those of our community facing hunger and food insecurity.

In addition to the fundraising side of the campaign, AAH also hosts four outreach events during the campaign. These outreaches allow our volunteers to help our community meet its challenges in a hands-on way. We have helped to prepare and serve lunches to those in need, to pick up food donations from local businesses and deliver them to food pantries, and to sort and pack goods for pantry distribution days.

By partnering with 17 local hunger-relief organizations, Attorneys Against Hunger is able to make a significant positive impact for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.





These law firms continue to make a critical financial investment to the Foundation to ensure that our pro bono programs thrive and expand and we continue to provide much-needed support to our community and profession.

2018-2021 Campaign

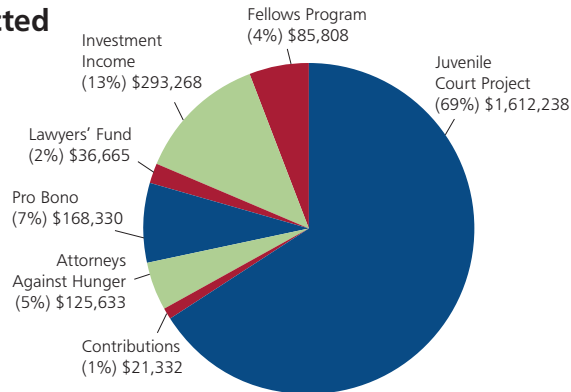
Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Burns White LLC
Campbell, Durrant, Beatty, Palombo & Miller, P.C.
Clark Hill PLC
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If your firm would like to learn more about the Law Firm Leadership Circle, please contact Lorrie Albert, Esq. at lalbert@acba.org or 412-402-6640.

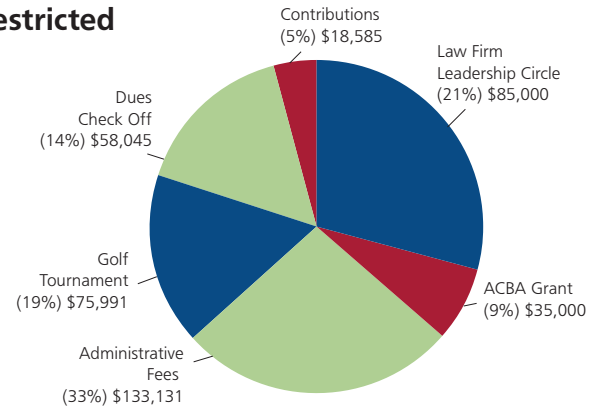
Financials at a Glance

Restricted

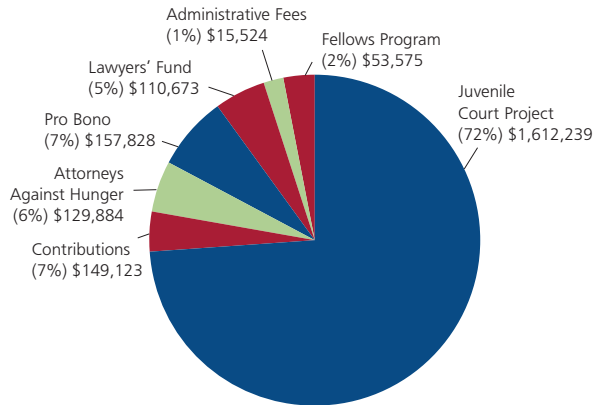


Total Revenue \$2,343,264

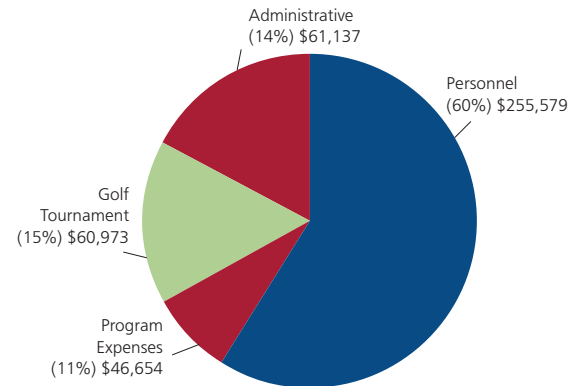
Unrestricted



Total Revenue \$405,752



Total Expenses \$2,228,846



Total Expenses \$424,343

Audited financials for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Please visit www.acbf.org to view a complete copy of the ACBF audited financial statement.

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The  *of Pittsburgh's Legal Community*[®]



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