



The year 2023 was one of tremendous success for the ACBF. Here are just a few ways that our donors and volunteers have helped. With Spring 2024 arriving, it is time to look forward to growing our programs and have an even more successful 2024. We are the Heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community and together with our donors and volunteers, we are promoting justice for all. Please help us to continue to make an impact by volunteering your time and/or being part of our Law Firm Leadership Circle, Fellows GIVE program, and contribute to Attorneys Against Hunger to help improve the lives of others in our community.

– Daniel Sinclair, President, ACBF

The Law Firm Leadership Circle



The Law Firm Leadership Circle is composed of a distinguished group of law firms whose outstanding generosity demonstrates a commitment to joining the bar foundation's efforts to increase the legal profession's impact in the community. In 2024, we are embarking on a new three-year campaign to continue our mission of being a driving force in promoting justice for all and improving the community through public service law-related programs. If you would like to learn more about the Law Firm Leadership Circle, please contact Lorrie Albert at lalbert@acba.org or 412-402-6640.

Fellows GIVE Pitch Event



The second annual Fellows GIVE Pitch Event took place on October 25, 2023 at Olive or Twist in downtown Pittsburgh. Fellows listened to pitches from ten different legal aid organizations and then cast their votes to select which six would receive a \$10,000 grant. The event allowed all active Fellows GIVE members the opportunity to connect more closely with the legal aid community while also giving the organizations a platform to speak about their work. For more information about joining the Fellows GIVE program so you can cast your vote, contact Lorrie Albert at lalbert@acba.org.

Active Fellows GIVE members voted for the following organizations to receive grants in the amount of \$10,000:



Thank You to Our Law 2021-2023 Firm Leadership Circle Members

Babst Calland
Bernstein-Burkley
Buchanan Ingersoll &
Rooney PC
Burns White LLC
Campbell Durrant Beatty
Palombo & Miller, PC
Clark Hill PLC
Dentons Cohen &
Grigsby, PC
Dickie, McCamey &
Chilcote, PC

Duane Morris LLP
Eckert Seamans Cherin &
Mellot, LLC
Fox Rothschild LLP
Frank, Gale, Bails,
& Pocrass, PC
Gismondi & Associates
Goehring Rutter & Boehm
Jones Day
K&L Gates LLP
Marshall Dennehey, P.C.

McCarthy McEnroe
Rosinski & Joy
Meyer Darragh Buckler
Bebenek & Eck, PLLC
Meyer Unkovic &
Scott LLP
Pollock Begg
Raphael, Ramsden &
Behers, PC
Reed Smith LLP
Schnader Harrison Segal
& Lewis LLP

Sherrard, German &
Kelly, PC
Strassburger McKenna
Gutnick & Gefsky
Thomas, Thomas &
Hafer LLP
Troutman Pepper
Hamilton LLP
Tucker Arensberg, PC
Vuono & Gray, LLC
The Webb Law Firm, PC
Zimmer Kunz, PLLC



ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

Pro Bono Center

Pro Bono Center Attorneys Support Volunteers



Pro Bono Center staff attorneys Patricia Jones, Barbara Griffin and Olivia Hilborn.

For the staff attorneys of the Pro Bono Center, a large part of their day is spent directly assisting people who are facing a legal issue. At the same time, they are supporting volunteer attorneys who graciously lend their time and skills to individuals who cannot possibly afford an attorney. You will find them on hand assisting volunteers at community legal clinics, offering shadowing opportunities at PFA court, presenting at CLE programs, and supervising law students who are preparing pardon applications. They also manage volunteer resources such as free online legal research, CLE credits for pro bono hours, and certification for emeritus status. “We try to take on the same types of cases that we ask volunteers to do,” says Barbara Griffin, Director of the Pro Bono Center. “That way we can share our actual experience with cases and let volunteers know what to expect.” Contact any Pro Bono Center staff attorney if you would like to know more about pro bono opportunities in Allegheny County.

Prepare a Pardon Application and Change a Life

What started as a limited, short-term project in 2020 has grown into an essential resource in Allegheny County for individuals seeking to get a fresh start in life by clearing criminal records through the pardons process. Since that time, the Pro Bono Center has filed **92** pardon applications and currently has over 40 open cases. Volunteer attorneys and law students have been an essential part of this work – and they make a difference. Our client “Robert” sought a pardon for an offense he committed over 40 years ago – the only case on his record. Robert had become a minister and had the support of community leaders, but his offense stood in the way of better employment opportunities. Volunteer attorney Kyle Black met with Robert to learn his story and prepare a statement to the Board of Pardons as to why he needed and deserved to have the slate wiped clean. After a hearing on his request, Robert received a unanimous 5-0 vote in favor of recommending a pardon, which Governor Wolf signed in February of this year.

“I decided to volunteer for the Pardons Project because I wanted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to recognize the personal growth and public contributions these individuals have made, and make it so that their past mistakes do not continue to be a present and future hinderance.” – Kyle Black

If you’d like to help change a life, attend the upcoming CLE, which is free for attendees who volunteer to take a case:

Pardon Me

CLEARING CRIMINAL RECORDS
IN PENNSYLVANIA

Friday, April 12 | Noon | Live Webinar

One of every three Americans has a criminal record, which impacts their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

This program will explain clearing Pennsylvania criminal records through the pardon process and train attorneys to prepare pardon applications for individuals with low incomes.

**This CLE is free for ACBF volunteers who agree to take a pro bono pardon case.*



Barbara Griffin
Allegheny County
Bar Foundation



Olivia P. Hilborn
Allegheny County
Bar Foundation

1 Subst.
ACBA
CLE

Foundation Reception

The Fall Foundation Reception held at LeMont Restaurant on September 20, 2023, was an opportunity for the ACBF to celebrate past board members, the new Fellows GIVE Class of 2023, and Pro Bono Awardees. The Edward G. O'Connor Award was presented to Eileen D. Yacknin, Esq. of NLS for years of tireless dedication and commitment to equal justice and her clients. Carol S. Mills McCarthy received the prestigious Presidential Merit Award for providing countless hours of professional time and family law expertise to clients with low incomes and survivors of domestic violence through her pro bono work. Attorney Britney Conkle from the Women's Center and Shelter and her client shared a very moving story on how receiving a Fellows GIVE grant made it possible to resolve her client's complicated legal issues.



Edward G. O'Connor Award recipient Eileen Yacknin paused for a photo with her nominators Judy Hale, Daniel Vitek and Kyle Webster.



ACBF Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert and Judy Hale from Neighborhood Legal Services pause for a photo with Presidential Merit Award recipient Carol Mills McCarthy.

2023 Pro Bono Award Winners



2023 Pro Bono award winners paused for a photo. Left to Right: Rafael Bullones, Michael DiSantis, Ryan Estatico, David Oakley, Meghan Tighe, Luke Torrance, Christina McKaveney-Malkin and Nicklaus Oliver.

Michael J. DiSantis, Esq.
Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award

Christina E. McKaveney-Malkin, Esq.
Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award

Nicklaus Oliver, Esq.
Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award

Meghan Tighe, Esq.
Lorraine M. Bittner Public Interest Attorney Award

Neighborhood Legal Services and The University of
Pittsburgh School of Law Rural Legal Clinic
Special Service Award

Community Justice Project
Public Interest Special Achievement Award

2024 SAVE THE DATES

- 30th Golf/10th Bocce Annual Tournament
Longue Vue Club – Monday, July 22
- Fall Foundation Reception
Hotel Monaco – Wednesday, September 25
- Fellows GIVE Pitch Event
Olive or Twist – Wednesday, October 23

Golf Tournament

The 29th Annual ACBA Golf Tournament and 9th Annual Bocce Tournament took place on July 24, 2023 at Diamond Run Golf Course in Sewickley. More than 100 golfers and more than 40 bocce players gathered on a sunny Monday morning to support the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services and had fun while doing it! The event was a huge success, raising much needed support for both organizations and bringing more awareness to their causes.



Kathy Ellis, Peter Ellis, Mary Lu Donnelly and Edward Donnelly pause for a photo during the 29th Annual ACBA Golf Tournament at Diamond Run Golf Club.



Jeff Pollock plays in the championship game of the 9th Annual Bocce Tournament at Diamond Run Golf Club.

Join the Access to Justice Committee at this year's ACBA Bench-Bar Conference for a CLE on Innovative Ways to Close the Justice Gap: Pro Bono Practice Rules, Technology, and More! Friday, June 14, 2024, 11:30 am.

Welcome Mya Ras to the ACBF Team



Mya Ras



Mya's dog Peri

Ms. Ras joined the ACBF team in January 2024 and already has made an impact with her positive attitude and team spirit. She most recently worked at Westinghouse Arts Academy as the Fundraising Coordinator, and she studied Marketing at West Virginia University. At WVU she was the Vice President of Community Relations for her sorority, Pi Beta Phi. Mya originally hails from Erie, PA, but has also lived in Morgantown, WV, Park City, UT, and Georgia. She currently lives in Oakmont with her adopted dog Peritas, also known as "Peri." The ACBF team is happy to have her on board learning the ropes and lending some much-needed help with nearly every aspect of the day-to-day functions of the Foundation.

Donate! Gifts of any size are important.

Visit www.acbf.org/Giving-Options for great ideas on how you can support the Foundation.

Questions? Contact Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert, Esq. at 412-402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!