



Since our last newsletter, the Bar Foundation has been busy implementing our most pressing priorities. In 2025, the Foundation

received its largest grant ever from the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board. Those funds are used to support the ever-increasing pro bono services of the Pro Bono Center. The Board of the Foundation also approved \$60,000 in grants to six legal service providers that our Fellows chose after hearing from many providers who asked to be considered for grants. The Attorneys Against Hunger campaign is back for another year raising much needed funds for hunger relief in Allegheny County.

Soon our Loans and Scholarships Committee will begin to consider applications for scholarships at Pitt, Penn and Notre Dame and low-interest loans for law students from Allegheny County. We are able to do all of these wonderful and critically important programs to help our community because of the generous support of our donors – YOU – and Leadership Circle law firms that support us every day. Thank you for all that you do to make us one of the preeminent bar foundations in the nation.

– Bryan S. Neft, President, ACBF

## Fellows GIVE Pitch Event



The 2025 Fellows GIVE Pitch Event was held on October 21, 2025 at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center in downtown Pittsburgh. The ACBF's Grants Committee received a record

twenty applications this cycle and had to narrow down the applicants to a pool of ten for the pitch portion of the grant process. Ten organizations were selected and then Fellows GIVE member attendees at the event listened to pitches from the organizations and voted on which six they wanted to receive funding. The six organizations with the highest number of votes after the event then received a \$10,000 grant to support legal aid services in Allegheny County.

**We look forward to continuing the tradition this year in October 2026.**



## AAH Outreach Event



On February 18, 2026, volunteers gathered at Allies for Health + Wellbeing to support an outreach event at their new location. Our team helped organize the first shipment to their food pantry and had the opportunity to tour the new facility, learning more about the expanded services they provide to our community. We are grateful for the chance to support their important work and look forward to a continued partnership. Outreach events such as this are an important part of Attorneys Against Hunger's mission to connect the legal community to individuals experiencing food insecurity in our communities.





ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
BAR FOUNDATION

*Pro Bono Center*

## Meeting Emerging Needs

Starting last year, federal law began requiring a REAL ID to fly within the U.S. or enter some federal buildings. Some Pennsylvanians found themselves without accurate identification to acquire the new IDs. One such person—whose income was very low—needed an official name change to match the name she had used her entire life. The Pro Bono Center was ready to help.

The case was assigned to our law student intern, who prepared the petition and filed it with the court, where we obtained a fee waiver. After arranging for fingerprints, a judgment search, and publication of the hearing date, the student appeared in Motions Court and presented the petition. With a court order establishing her official name, our client was able to live her life fully. Our client wrote to us: “I really can’t express how grateful I am to both of you. To be able to use my name legally is a blessing. Now I can get my REAL ID and travel.”

## Volunteers Celebrated this Month

In honor of **National Volunteer Month 2026**, the Pro Bono Center applauds the extraordinary volunteer attorneys, law students, paralegals, notaries, and dedicated community members whose service helps narrow the justice gap in our communities. Your commitment ensures that more individuals and families can access meaningful employment and educational opportunities, stable and safe housing, protection from domestic violence, and family lives rooted in dignity and stability.

At a time when many of our most vulnerable neighbors face growing uncertainty about their basic needs, your willingness to step forward makes a profound difference. The legal community holds a unique power to create pathways to safety, opportunity, and justice for families with low incomes – and you continue to answer that call with compassion and resolve.

This month, we celebrate you. Thank you for your service, your expertise, and your dedication. Please take a well-deserved moment to give yourselves a hand!

## Access to Justice Committee CLEs

Included in the mission of the ACBA/ACBF Access to Justice Committee is the charge to “investigate and study the problems affecting the delivery of legal services to indigent persons and recommend action to resolve those problems.” Chaired this year by Megan Lovette, the committee has organized two CLEs to educate the legal community on issues facing individuals with low incomes in need of help. The first will feature a screening of the short documentary “Pardon Me,” showcasing the stories of people who have suffered under the weight of their criminal record on May 5 at noon. The CLE will also train attorneys to handle criminal records clearing cases. Then, at the ACBA Bench-Bar Conference in June, the committee will present a CLE on “The Intersections of Law as Experienced by Unrepresented Litigants with Low Incomes,” an interactive program that will navigate a legal problem from the perspective of an unrepresented litigant while it alerts practitioners to intersections between criminal, family, housing, and immigration law.

## Pro Bono Rocks



Pro Bono Rocks returned on October 11, 2025, to City Winery after a 12-year hiatus, bringing together approximately 140 attorneys, legal professionals, and community supporters for an unforgettable night of live music in celebration of 45 years of banding together for justice. Featuring performances by The Dead End Streets, The Centralians, and Repo Man, the evening raised over \$23,000 to support the Allegheny County Bar Foundation Pro Bono Center and its critical legal services for neighbors in need. Thank you to our sponsors, bands, and attendees for making the return of Pro Bono Rocks such a success.

## Foundation Reception

The Fall Foundation Reception was held on September 25, 2025, at Hotel Monaco. The event honored the 2025 Pro Bono Award winners, as well as the Edward G. O'Connor Fellows Award recipient, and the Fellows GIVE Class of 2025. Jane Myhers received the Edward G. O'Connor Award for her work as a Senior Staff Attorney at KidsVoice. Jane's nominator, The Honorable Nicola Henry-Taylor, had this to say about her: "Jane represents the very best of what this award seeks to recognize – dedicated, compassionate, and skilled legal advocacy in service to vulnerable populations." The event was a major success in celebrating the achievements of the Foundation over the past year and honoring key supporters and volunteers. **We look forward to continuing the tradition this year on September 15, 2026.**



## 2025 Pro Bono Award Winners



Bradley J. Kitlowski, Esq.  
*Kathryn M. Kenyon Leadership Award*

Matthew Mohammad Roohollahi, Esq.  
*Jane F. Hepting Individual Attorney Award*

Dana Gold  
*Mary Ann Troper-Malley Partner in Justice Award*

Carnegie Legal Clinic Volunteers – Jorie Bagnato, Esq.,  
Morgan M. Bonekovic, Esq., Joseph Gray, Esq., Roger  
D. Horgan, Esq., Anita Astorino Kulik, Esq., Joseph  
Kulik, Esq., Matthew J. Morella, Esq., Jennifer Fox  
Rabold, Esq., and M. Farley Schlass, Esq.  
*Outstanding Pro Bono Project Award*

James Miller  
*Law Student Pro Bono Award*



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on how you can support the Foundation.

Questions? Contact Associate Executive Director  
Lorrie Albert, Esq. at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

# Powered by Leadership Driven by Purpose



Because of our steadfast Leadership Circle firms, our work does not pause when the need is greatest – it moves forward with strength and certainty.

This year, we are especially grateful for the firms that continue to stand beside the Foundation with unwavering commitment. Your leadership-level investment is more than a pledge; it is a declaration that access to justice, a strong legal profession, and a responsive Foundation truly matter.

We thank both our new and longstanding members for their support – including several that have partnered with us for more than a decade. That consistency speaks volumes. Your three-year commitments provide stability, foresight, and the confidence to plan boldly rather than operate cautiously.

Because of you, we can sustain and expand pro bono initiatives, support legal aid partners, invest in the next generation of lawyers, and respond to emerging community needs without interruption.

Quite simply, your unyielding support makes our work possible – today and in the years ahead.

## Golf Tournament

The ACBA Golf and Bocce Tournament was back in full swing on July 28, 2025, at Westmoreland Country Club. Golfers and bocce players came together for a day of friendly competition, networking, and fun, all in support of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services. Participants enjoyed time on the course and on the bocce courts while strengthening connections within the legal community and raising critical funds for two organizations dedicated to expanding access to justice in our region.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, players, and volunteers, the event was a success and will help sustain vital programs that serve our neighbors in need. **We look forward to continuing the tradition this year at South Hills Country Club on August 3, 2026.**



## Thank You to Our 2024-2027 Law Firm Leadership Circle Members

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