

Minnesota State Bar Foundation 2009 Annual Report

The Minnesota State Bar Foundation exists for the express purpose of providing monetary grants to law-related programs and activities. These programs include legal assistance to the disadvantaged, improvements in the administration of justice, law-related education, and public interest legal work.

The Minnesota State Bar Foundation is organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation in the state of Minnesota and operates independently of the MSBA. The members of the Assembly of the MSBA serve as the members of the Foundation and elect the Foundation's directors. The directors of the Foundation for 2008-2009 were Linda C. Barbe, Duluth; James P. Barone, St. Paul; Edward J. Blomme, Minneapolis; Bruce P. Candlin, St. Paul; Robert F. Enger, Bemidji; Richard Hendrickson, Osseo; Juan G. Hoyos, St. Paul; Warren Ortland, Minneapolis; Erin E. O'Toole-Tomczik, Elk River; Jill LeBow Prohofskey, Minneapolis; Alan K. Ruvelson, Jr., St. Paul; Patricia A. Trask, Baxter; Gary L. Voegele, Faribault; Pamela J. Waggoner, Minneapolis; and the Hon. Lloyd B. Zimmerman, Minneapolis.

The Foundation Board meets to consider grant requests in March, June, September and December. The grant application form, on which all requests for funding must be submitted, is available from the MSBA office or at <http://www2.mnbar.org/barfoundation/>. Grant applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. in the MSBA office on the first working day of the month in which a Foundation Board meeting is held.

MSBA members and others are encouraged to promote applications to the Foundation for law-related bar and community projects. Those interested in pursuing funding for bar projects should contact their MSBA staff liaisons in advance to discuss whether the proposed project is of the type the Foundation is likely to support. To discuss proposed community projects, contact Foundation staff.

The Foundation's ability to fulfill its charitable purposes depends on the generosity of its donors. MSBA members are encouraged to contribute to the Foundation through the annual check-off on the MSBA dues statement and most of the Foundation's contributions come through this source. Only 27% of MSBA members contributed last year. A gift to the Foundation is a thoughtful way to commemorate the work, value or retirement of another lawyer. In memoriam gifts are excellent tributes. All gifts are tax deductible as charitable contributions. Contributions can be made to the Minnesota State Bar Foundation, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380, Minneapolis MN 55402.

Inquiries regarding the Foundation and grant application requests can be made to the MSBA Bar Foundation staff liaison at (612) 333.1183 or (800) 882-4722. Guidelines and an application form are available online at <http://www2.mnbar.org/barfoundation/>.

From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, the Foundation received 95 grant requests totaling \$415,900. Of those requests from July 1, 2008 to March 30, 2009, the Foundation awarded 41 grants totaling \$64,766. Of those receiving grants, one received a grant of the full amount requested. The average grant was \$1,579.66; the largest grant was \$7,500 and the smallest \$1,000. A more detailed listing of the grant awards for the first three quarters of 2008-2009 is attached.

Fulfillment of the Foundation's mission also depends on wise stewardship of our endowment resources. The Foundation has developed, adopted and implemented a prudent investment policy.

Examples of programs supported by the Foundation include the following:

Legal assistance to the disadvantaged, including support for:

- General operating funding to agencies whose purpose is to give legal assistance to the disadvantaged.
- To provide legal assistance to low-income Native Americans.
- Elder Law Advice, representation and community education seminars to adults with disabilities and adults 55 and older whose incomes do not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guidelines and whose assets do not exceed \$10,000.

Law-related education efforts, including support for:

- MSBA Mock trial program
- Family and Children's service to conduct outreach to educate low-income tenants on MS 504B and the other legal avenues available to tenants with housing-related problems.
- Funding legal education and resources to better represent low income refugee and immigrant clients.

Administration of justice efforts, including support for:

- Implementing an Anoka County Early Neutral Evaluation program to help divorcing parties resolve child custody and financial disputes more effectively and efficiently.

I want to express sincere thanks not only to our donors and the MSBA staff, but also to the Foundation Board members who have given generously of their time and talents during the past year. Particular thanks go to retiring Board Members The Honorable Lloyd Zimmerman, Robert Enger, Juan Hoyos, and Pamela J. Waggoner.

Respectfully submitted,

James Patrick Barone, President
Minnesota State Bar Foundation

September 2008-March 2009 Grants Awarded

Agency	Amount	Description
September 2008		
Legal Rights Center	\$3,000	General Operating funding to support LRC programs
MSBA Mock Trial Program	\$2,500	General Operating for Statewide Mock Trial program
Anoka County Bar Association	\$2,000	Implementing an Anoka County Early Neutral Evaluation program to help divorcing parties resolve child custody and financial disputes more effectively and efficiently.
Anishinabe Legal Services	\$1,500	To provide legal assistance to low-income Native Americans living on or near the Leach Lake, White Earth and Red Lake Indian Reservations.
Restorative Justice Community Action Inc.	\$1,000	Increase staff capacity so that RJCA can offer their services to any neighborhood with demonstrated need
Breaking Free	\$1,000	Support work with law enforcement and the legal system to help end human trafficking and prostitution
World Relief Minnesota	\$3,266	Legal education and resources to complete full accreditation from the Board of Immigration Appeals to better represent low income refugee and immigrant clients.
Project FINE	\$1,500	Educate new citizens about their legal rights and responsibilities as new residents and citizens of the US.
Kids Voting Minnesota	\$1,000	Help fund a judicial election program that will be offered in the Minneapolis high schools
Tubman Family Alliance & Chrysalis	\$2,000	Support the Legal Services Program which provides legal representation, advice, information, and advocacy with focus on low-income victims of domestic violence and women
Neighborhood Involvement Program	\$1,500	Continue providing services for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical society	\$1,000	Start-up funds to enable the Society to hire the expertise to construct an interactive website that will collect and disseminate historical information
December 2008		
Koochiching County Sexual Assault Program	\$1,500	Support Legal Advocacy program for sexual assault and domestic abuse victims in Koochiching and Lake of the Woods Counties.

HOPE Coalition	\$1,000	Expand a legal outreach program that serves men, women and children in domestic violence &/or child abuse situations
Resource Center for Fathers and Families	\$1,000	Help low-income and illiterate clients with legal help through family law clinics
Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County	\$1,000	Support legal advocacy services and staff education to victims of sexual violence
WATCH	\$1,000	Monitor CHIPS cases in Hennepin County Court over a 12-month period, compare findings in WATCH's 2001 CHIPS report, and make recommendations for improvements that would promote greater safety for children
Minnesota Justice Foundation	\$7,500	Support summer law clerks in poverty law and public interest agencies during the summer of 2009
Asylum Law Project	\$1,000	Provide first year law students the opportunity to work with refugees, asylum seekers and the attorneys representing them
Community Stabilization Project	\$1,000	Support the implementation of the Tenant Stability Program
Community Mediation Services	\$1,500	Support CMS's work of diverting low-level juvenile offenders from Juvenile Court through a restorative mediation process
Legal Assistance of Olmstead County	\$1,000	Free Family Law Clinics to educate the public on family law topics such as dissolution, custody, child support, and domestic abuse
Center for Homicide Research	\$1,000	Develop a law student internship program by identifying core competencies, developing specific curriculum, and constructing program specific tools to focus and support law student researchers
Mediation Works North, Inc.	\$1,500	Support reduced fees fro mediation and court for low income parents
Civil Society	\$1,500	Provide legal services to victims of international human trafficking
Famers legal Action Group	\$1,000	Provide legal services that support the revitalizing impact of new American Farmers in the communities and economies of rural and urban Minnesota
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project	\$1,500	Improve BWLAP's capacity to appeal cases
March 2009		
Range Women's Advocates	\$1,500	Support court advocacy, staff education, and training to facilitate access to the legal system

The Refuge Network	\$1,500	Help fund supportive legal services and training for legal advocates who help women in leaving abusers or abusive relationships
Advocates for Family Peace	\$1,000	Help maintain legal advocacy services for victims of domestic violence in Itasca County
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota	\$4,000	Funding to help meet the increasing needs for loan repayment assistance and to enable two new lawyers to take positions serving disadvantaged Minnesotans.
The Innocence Project	\$1,500	Provide free legal services to indigent and potentially wrongfully convicted prisoners and to educate
Rivers of Hope	\$2,000	Provide legal advocacy to victims of family violence in Wright and Sherburne Counties and to bring back training for law enforcement personnel and others who work with domestic violence victims
Indian Child Welfare Act Law center	\$1,500	Provide legal services to low-income American Indian families impacted by the child protection system and legal education regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act to court and child protection personnel
Neighborhood Justice Center of Minnesota, Inc.	\$1,500	Provide comprehensive criminal defense and crime prevention services for low-income persons, emphasizing outreach to communities of color, through its Legal Representation & Advice, Education, and Expungement programs.
Advocates for Human Rights	\$1,500	Provide free legal services to indigent asylum seekers in Minnesota
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers	\$2,000	Advertise regularly in Bench and Bar and to contract with professionals beyond the four individual and group therapy services now provided
The Council on Crime and justice	\$1,500	Funding for the Criminal Records Assistance Project increases access to pro-bono legal assistance to eligible persons looking to seal criminal records.
Sexual Violence Center	\$1,000	Raise awareness in Hennepin County about SVCs Free Legal Clinic that provides free sexual assault-specific legal advice to victims of sexual violence.