



THE CHICAGO BAR FOUNDATION AND *CY PRES* AND RESIDUAL FUND AWARDS

Support Pro Bono, Legal Aid and Access to Justice

- Lawyers and judges can advance access to justice by directing awards of residual funds to The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) or one or more of the many outstanding pro bono and legal aid organizations the CBF supports.
- In addition to the CBF being an effective vehicle to support all of the major pro bono and legal aid organizations serving the Chicago area, *cy pres* awards enable the CBF to develop and provide ongoing support for a number of innovative initiatives that significantly improve access to the courts.

The Chicago Bar Foundation's Impact

- The CBF mobilizes the legal community to improve access to justice for people in need. Through grants, advocacy, pro bono and partnerships, the CBF takes a system-wide approach to improving access to justice and focuses on those objectives that are best achieved by the legal community working together.
- The CBF is the one place where *cy pres* awards can be directed to efficiently and effectively support the entire pro bono and legal aid system serving the Chicago area and respond to emerging issues in access to justice.
- As detailed more on the reverse side, *cy pres* awards have made it possible for the CBF to:
 - Help launch and then provide consistent and long-term support for a number of successful court-based advice desks and pro bono projects in the state and federal courts
 - Provide the “venture capital” to launch a number of innovative CBF initiatives that are making lasting improvements in access to justice in Chicago and throughout the country
 - Provide a comprehensive array of support for more than 40 pro bono and legal aid organizations serving the Chicago area and an effective means to respond to emerging issues, in the process helping to leverage significantly more resources for this cause

An Ideal Match for *Cy Pres* Awards

- ***The CBF's Mission:*** The CBF's mission of improving access to justice for those less fortunate makes it a perfect match for class action *cy pres* awards, as one underlying premise for all class actions is to make access to justice a reality for people who otherwise would not be able to obtain the protections of the court system. For state court cases, the CBF is an effective place to distribute residual funds as required by 735 ILCS 5/2-807, and federal courts within the 7th Circuit have approved *cy pres* awards to the CBF in dozens of cases.
- ***The CBF's Service to the Courts:*** The CBF provides a valuable service to the courts through its leadership in developing a number of court-based pro se assistance desks and its steady support of pro bono legal services and mediation programs that are critical to the fair and efficient administration of justice.
- ***The CBF's Comprehensive Focus, Expertise and Flexibility:*** With its system-wide focus and its widely recognized expertise, the CBF strategically and objectively allocates its resources to support a wide variety of outstanding pro bono and legal aid organizations and related access to justice initiatives, ensuring accountability while promoting innovation and efficiency. The CBF also has the flexibility to target a *cy pres* award towards a specific access to justice initiative.
- ***The CBF's Freedom from Potential Conflicts:*** The CBF does not file lawsuits or represent parties in court, and thus is free of any potential conflict that otherwise might arise for the court or the defendant in a class action. The CBF's mission of promoting equal access to justice is as American as apple pie.

*To learn more about how you can make an impact by directing an award of *cy pres* or residual funds to the CBF, visit www.chicagobarfoundation.org or contact Bob Glaves of The Chicago Bar Foundation at (312) 554-1205 or bglaves@chicagobar.org.*

(See Reverse Side for More Information)



THE CHICAGO BAR FOUNDATION AND CY PRES AND RESIDUAL FUND AWARDS

The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) has been able to make a tremendous impact thanks to a series of *cy pres* and residual fund awards the CBF has been fortunate to receive in recent years. The CBF is the one place where *cy pres* awards can be directed to efficiently and effectively support the entire pro bono and legal aid system serving the Chicago area and respond to emerging issues in access to justice. In all, the CBF has received more than 50 of these awards over the past eight years, in amounts ranging from less than \$2,000 to as much as \$2 million. Highlights of what these awards are making possible include:

A Comprehensive Network of Advice Desks and Pro Bono Projects in the State and Federal Courts

- Seed funding and necessary ongoing support for a first of its kind advice desk for the federal court for the Northern District, a comparable program for the federal Bankruptcy Court in Chicago, and a network of similarly innovative projects serving the state courts in a variety of areas. Last year alone, these programs helped more than 60,000 people in need.
- Key support for a number of successful court-based pro bono projects in the state and federal courts that complement and work hand-in-hand with the network of advice desks in the courts.
- Looking ahead, these awards are making it possible for the CBF to work with the Circuit Court, several pro bono and legal aid organizations and other partners to launch the first central resource center in the Daley Center for people without lawyers. Given the huge volume of people without lawyers who enter the Daley Center (numbering in the hundreds of thousands over the course of each year), this central resource center will be one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country.

Groundbreaking Projects to Significantly Improve Access to Justice in the Chicago Area

- Seed funding for the Illinois JusticeCorps program, which trains and supervises college and law school student volunteers to help people without lawyers navigate the court system. The program is a partnership with various colleges, universities and law schools, the Circuit Court, the Cook County Law Library, several area legal aid organizations, and other partners. The CBF piloted this program and the CBF's ongoing funding was critical to leveraging a major Americorps-funded grant from the Serve Illinois Commission.
- Looking ahead, these awards are providing the critical seed funding for a groundbreaking new initiative, the CBF Justice Entrepreneurs Project. This innovative new program addresses the intersection of two serious problems, helping new lawyers unable to achieve meaningful employment in this challenging job market to incubate sustainable law practices focused on serving low and moderate income people who are unable to get necessary legal help.

A Diverse Array of Support for the Dozens of Pro Bono and Legal Aid Organizations Serving the Chicago Area and an Effective Means to Respond to Emerging Issues

- Help for all of the pro bono and legal aid organizations serving the Chicago area and their lawyers and staff, such as the groundbreaking CBF Sun-Times Fellowship program (which provides critical loan repayment assistance to dedicated legal aid lawyers throughout the State) as well as an ongoing series of trainings and programs for legal aid advocates serving the Chicago area.
- Several impactful reports and studies about legal aid and access to justice in the Chicago area.
- In addition, these awards enable the CBF to be responsive to emerging access to justice issues in the Chicago area such as the foreclosure crisis, ultimately making it possible for the CBF to leverage significantly more funding and resources from other partners to respond to these issues.

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