

The Chicago Bar Foundation

FY 2005 Annual Report

Introduction

Under the leadership of CBF Board President Jeffrey D. Colman, The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) had another very successful year in FY 2005, awarding record grants of more than \$750,000 and helping launch several innovative new projects. Over the past six years, the CBF has more than tripled its annual grants and its annual fundraising while increasing its net assets by more than 50%; and has been a leader in the development of a number of groundbreaking initiatives that will have made lasting improvements to the justice system.

The CBF's guiding vision continues to be that our nation's fundamental principle of equal justice for all becomes a reality for everyone in our community. While a new study released in early 2005 shows how far that we remain from this ideal, thanks to thousands of committed partners and supporters the CBF is making steady and lasting progress towards realizing our vision.

A few highlights of the CBF's FY 05 accomplishments follow below:

Engaging the Legal Community to Contribute Their Time, Money and Influence To Improve Access to Justice

The most fundamental part of the CBF's work—what makes the rest of its work possible—is to engage the legal community in the CBF's mission of improving access to the justice system. The CBF made substantial progress on this front by increasing its fundraising from the legal community to record levels in FY 05; promoting pro bono work through its Volunteer Support Program, a Pro Bono and Community Service Fair; and its Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon; and increasing the breadth of the legal community's activities in influencing systemic change to improve access to justice.

Supporting Legal Aid Organizations

In addition to providing record grants to support the work of more than 40 legal aid and public interest law organizations and related initiatives (see attached list), FY 2005 was highlighted by the expansion of the Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson Fellowship. The fellowship helps young attorneys to pursue careers in legal aid and public interest law by providing them with loan repayment assistance to defray the costs of fast increasing educational debt. Thanks to a generous commitment from Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, the Fellowship was expanded in 2005 so that each year it now will provide a young legal aid or public interest attorney with a five-year, \$25,000 fellowship that will help them remain in legal aid.

Making the Justice System More User Friendly and Accessible for the Public

In addition to its continued support of several innovative help desks in the courts, the CBF helped to launch a new assistance desk in FY 2005 to assist unrepresented litigants in debt collection cases in state court. The CBF also continued to work with the Circuit Court on expanding the availability of these resources to other divisions of the court.

Promoting Broader Community Support for Access to Justice

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the CBF's FY 2005 was the success of the Equal Justice Illinois Campaign, which helped set the stage for a significant increase in state funding for legal aid and access to justice initiatives from \$472,000 to \$2 million. The CBF was a founding, lead partner in the Campaign, and the Campaign's efforts over the past several years to educate legislators and policymakers about the need for increased state funding for this cause began to bear fruit. While this was a significant step forward, Illinois continues to rank last among the ten most populous states in state funding; the average state funding in these other states currently is \$6.8 million.

Overarching Access to Justice Initiatives

The CBF played a lead role in two overarching initiatives impacting access to justice in FY 2005. First, the CBF was a partner in a comprehensive study entitled "The Legal Aid Safety Net: A Report on the Legal Needs of Low-Income Illinoisans." The study, available on the CBF website, www.chicagobarfoundation.org, found that over the course of a year, tens of thousands of low-income Illinoisans were unable to obtain legal assistance that was often critical to their safety and independence, and hundreds of thousands more attempted to solve often complex legal problems on their own. The study produced a number of recommendations to bridge this gap in access to justice that will help guide the CBF's work for the next several years.

The second overarching initiative where the CBF played a lead role was the transition of Illinois Legal Aid Online (www.IllinoisLegalAidOnline.org) into an independent entity. Illinois Legal Aid Online previously was known as the Illinois Technology Center for Law and the Public Interest (ITC), and is a groundbreaking project both in Illinois and nationwide. With leadership and major funding from the CBF, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, and the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois, ITC was originally formed as an unincorporated statewide collaboration in early 2001 with 12 legal aid, academic and funding entities as partners. As a newly independent organization with a new name, Illinois Legal Aid Online's mission continues to be increasing access to justice for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents through the innovative use of technology to assist and educate the public and to train and support legal aid providers and pro bono attorneys.

<p>Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (LAFMC)</p> <p>LAFMC is the largest organization in Chicago and suburban Cook County providing free civil legal services to individuals and families unable to afford legal counsel. LAF provides comprehensive legal services on a wide range of civil legal topics through its six intake offices (five of which are neighborhood-based) and over a dozen special projects (ranging from family law, seniors, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence to health and home preservation).</p>	<p>\$25,000</p>
<p>Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR)</p> <p>CCR works with individuals, communities, courts and other institutions to manage and resolve conflicts. Every year CCR provides free mediation services in over 2,000 cases, trains hundreds of new mediators, and works with dozens of businesses, government agencies and organizations to create custom-designed dispute resolution systems and training programs.</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>
<p>Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic (CGLA)</p> <p>CGLA provides free legal services in the areas of housing, family and criminal law to low-income people in the City of Chicago, with preference given to the Cabrini Green community. CGLA also provides services to individuals applying for expungements and executive clemency.</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>
<p>Community Economic Development Law Project (CEDLP)</p> <p>CEDLP is dedicated to assisting Chicago's low-income communities in generating businesses, jobs, housing and other necessities. CEDLP staff and volunteer attorneys provide pro bono legal services to community-based organizations working in the areas of housing and economic development, and to individuals pursuing small business development to achieve economic self-sufficiency.</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>
<p>Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services (LAB)</p> <p>Founded in 1886, the Legal Aid Bureau is the second oldest legal aid program in the nation and continues to provide legal assistance to families who cannot afford a private attorney. Thousands of clients each year receive critical family law services at the Legal Aid Bureau, ranging from brief service and advice to full litigation.</p>	<p>\$15,000</p>
<p>Life Span</p> <p>Life Span provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their children. The core of Life Span's legal services includes legal advice, information, and representation in all family law matters, such as divorce, custody, child support, visitation, removal, and orders of protection. Life Span also provides immigration legal services to victims of domestic violence.</p>	<p>\$12,500</p>

<p>Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) CLAIM provides legal and educational services to help imprisoned mothers preserve their families. Through public advocacy, CLAIM also promotes policies and programs that benefit families of imprisoned mothers.</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) LCBH provides free legal services to low-income tenants with a goal of impacting the affordable housing crisis to the greatest extent possible. Today, LCBH serves nearly 3,000 tenants from all over Chicago each year on various legal issues relating to their housing.</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center (MIHRC) MIHRC serves thousands of low and moderate-income immigrants in the Midwest, without regard to legal status. Through a network of staff and volunteer attorneys, MIHRC provides comprehensive immigration legal services, including immigrant visas, deportation defense and political asylum representation.</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Evanston Community Defender The Evanston Community Defender is a public/private partnership providing law and social work advocacy to low-income youth in the community. The organization's legal practice involves juvenile and adult court matters as well as administrative advocacy in special education and school discipline matters.</p>	<p>\$7,500</p>
<p>AIDS Legal Council of Chicago The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago exists to preserve, promote and protect the legal rights of men, women and children in the metropolitan Chicago area living with HIV/AIDS. The Council provides legal services to persons affected by HIV/AIDS, educates the public about HIV-related legal issues and advocates for policies that ensure fair treatment for all people with HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) CDEL provides free legal services to the elderly and persons with disabilities located throughout the Chicago area through a vast network of volunteer attorneys, paralegals, law students, and social work students.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>Centro Romero Centro Romero is a community-based organization on Chicago's North Side that serves Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees. Services offered include legal representation, education and advocacy services in the areas of citizenship and naturalization.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	\$5,000
<p>The Coalition organizes and advocates to prevent and end homelessness based on the organization's expressed belief that housing is a human right in a just society. The Law Project provides civil legal services in select cases that advance the legal rights and remedies of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Law Project's Educational Rights Initiative works to ensure that public school systems do not wrongly bar homeless children from enrolling in and attending public schools.</p>	
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	\$5,000
<p>The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is a non-profit law and advocacy organization whose mission is to promote and protect the civil rights of poor, minority, and disadvantaged people in order to facilitate their participation in the social, economic, and political systems of our community and nation. The organization engages in both litigation and community advocacy in three areas: 1) the Employment Opportunity Project; 2) the Fair Housing Project; and 3) the Project to Combat Bias Violence.</p>	
Farmworker Advocacy Project	\$5,000
<p>The Farmworker Advocacy Project provides outreach, education and legal assistance to migrant agricultural and horticultural workers laboring in Cook County, IL and other nearby counties.</p>	
Health & Disability Advocates (HDA)	\$5,000
<p>HDA provides advice and legal representation to low-income Chicagoans on matters ranging from the loss of disability benefits to the coverage of emergency medical care. Through its policy, advocacy and legal work, HDA advocates for policies that promote economic security without eroding state and federal safety net programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Medicaid and Medicare.</p>	
Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA)	\$5,000
<p>LCA provides pro bono legal services to individuals and organizations in the arts. LCA advises artists and arts organizations in the full array of legal areas they encounter such as copyright and trademark issues; contracts of all kinds for their products and services; landlord/tenant and other personal issues such as collection of money due to them; and dispute resolution.</p>	
Midwest Center on Law & the Deaf (MCLD)	\$5,000
<p>MCLD helps deaf and hard of hearing people find attorneys willing to provide accessible legal services and advocates for the rights of deaf persons in the justice system. MCLD assists attorneys in providing sign language interpreters, real-time captioning, and any other modes of communication necessary for them to communicate with deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. MCLD provides information to the general public on the rights of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.</p>	

The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU	\$5,000
<p>The Roger Baldwin Foundation is the litigation arm of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. The organization’s legal work includes impact litigation to benefit minorities, women, seniors, homosexuals, disabled people, institutionalized persons and children in state custody. The CBF’s funding supports the Children’s Initiative, which serves as a legal advocate for the thousands of abused, neglected and troubled children being held in state and county custody in Illinois.</p>	
World Relief-Chicago	\$5,000
<p>World Relief-Chicago provides legal services to low-income immigrant families on a variety of immigration issues, including family reunification and work authorization.</p>	
Access Living	\$2,500
<p>Access Living uses the legal system to further its mission of independent living. The organization provides free legal representation to people who have been discriminated against based on disability in housing, public accommodations, government programs, health care, and other services and programs.</p>	
Center for Economic Progress	\$2,500
<p>The Center for Economic Progress increases economic opportunities for low-income families, children and individuals by improving access to public, private and non-profit programs and services. Through direct services, public education and advocacy, the Center challenges barriers facing its constituency, thus encouraging self-sufficiency and promoting economic prosperity. The CBF grant supports the Center’s Midwest Tax Clinic, which provides free representation for low-income taxpayers involved in income tax controversies with the IRS.</p>	
Equip for Equality	\$2,500
<p>Equip for Equality strives to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. It is the only comprehensive statewide advocacy organization providing self-advocacy assistance, legal services, education, and public policy initiatives.</p>	
Families’ and Children’s AIDS Network (FCAN)	\$2,500
<p>Through social work and legal services, FCAN’s Family Options Project provides permanency planning options to families affected by HIV/AIDS. HIV-affected birth parents and caregivers may obtain a range of services that facilitate 1) stabilizing and preserving the family; 2) securing a legal permanency plan for the future care of the children; and 3) implementation of the plan at the parent’s death, including the transition of the children into the new caregiver’s home, finalization of legal plans such as standby guardianships and standby adoptions and accessing public benefits to support the children.</p>	

<p>Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)</p> <p>ICIRR is a membership organization composed of more than 110 agencies. ICIRR educates and organizes immigrant and refugee communities to assert their rights and understand their responsibilities; promotes citizenship and civic participation; monitors and analyzes immigrant-related policy issues, and informs the general public about immigration issues.</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>John Howard Association</p> <p>The John Howard Association is an organization with an over 100-year history of working toward fair and effective correctional programs that are responsive to the needs of both offenders and the general community. The CBF's grant supports John Howard's Prisons and Jails Program, which recruits and trains citizens to monitor the conditions of confinement in prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers across Illinois. The organization receives, reviews and responds to requests for assistance, intervention and information from over 1,000 individuals (or from their family and friends) each year covering legal and medical issues, conditions, physical facilities problems (heating/cooling, rodents, etc.), grievances, allegations of brutality, release date calculations and planning and more.</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities</p> <p>The Legal Action program of Dr. Martin Luther King's Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities provides free investigations and legal services to those who may have experienced discrimination in their search for housing (rentals or home purchases), home loans, or other real estate-related services. In addition, the Council regularly monitors area real estate and lending practices.</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>Pro Bono Advocates</p> <p>Pro Bono Advocates provides free legal services and referrals to low-income Cook County residents who have been subjected to domestic violence to help them achieve safety from abusive relationships.</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center) is a multi-issue legal advocacy organization dedicating to lifting people out of poverty. The Shriver Center helps shape state law and federal policies into affordable mechanisms to eliminate poverty. The Center's work ranges from broad legal assistance to policy advocacy to public education to training of advocates to technology.</p>	<p>\$2,500</p>
<p>TOTAL:</p>	<p>\$312,500</p>

Project/Emerging Issue Grants

Through its *Project/Emerging Issue Grants*, the CBF provides significant financial support for projects and initiatives that (1) address systemic barriers to access to justice, by improving the overall system of justice or enhancing the overall legal aid delivery structure; and/or (2) tackle pressing emerging issues in the realm of access to justice (e.g., addressing gaps in the legal aid delivery system, fostering innovative approaches to increasing access to justice). In FY 2005, the CBF made the following project/emerging issue grants:

Illinois Legal Aid Online (formerly Illinois Technology Center for Law & the Public Interest) <i>(for continuing support of groundbreaking web-based technology project to improve access to justice for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents)</i>	\$50,000
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services <i>(to support the Pro Se Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk)</i>	\$40,000
Equip for Equality <i>(to support a new special education legal project that will assist low-income children and their families facing critical special education issues by providing advice and referral services, training materials and legal representation)</i>	\$20,000
Chicago Legal Clinic <i>(for support of Chancery Court Pro Se Assistance Desk project)</i>	\$15,000
DePaul College of Law Legal Resource Project for Immigration Services <i>(year three of a project to provide legal and technical assistance to community-based immigrant service organizations)</i>	\$15,000
Community Economic Development Law Project <i>(for a small business education program with Jane Addams Hull House and the Center for Economic Progress for immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs; co-funded with the Boeing Corporation)</i>	\$10,000
Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS) <i>(to support the Pro Se Assistance Desk for litigants in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County)</i>	\$10,000
Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS) <i>(to launch the Pro Se Post-Judgment Assistance Desk in the First Municipal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County)</i>	\$10,000
Equal Justice Illinois Campaign <i>(to support the Equal Justice Illinois Campaign, an educational campaign to raise awareness of the need for increased state funding of legal aid)</i>	\$10,000

Health and Disability Advocates Medical-Legal Collaborative <i>(to support the provision of legal services through a Medical-Legal Collaborative located on-site at hospitals in low-income neighborhoods)</i>	\$10,000
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation <i>(for staff support for the entity that distributes state funds for legal aid and access to justice initiatives)</i>	\$10,000
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois <i>(continuing support for year two of the two-year Illinois Legal Needs Study, a comprehensive assessment of the legal needs of low-income residents of Illinois)</i>	\$10,000
Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services Southwest Side Community Initiative <i>(to support LAB's new Southwest Community Initiative, which will provide legal services in areas including housing, immigration and domestic violence, to low-income residents on the Southwest side of Chicago)</i>	\$10,000
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago <i>(to support the Juvenile Court Pro Se Assistance Project, which provides legal assistance to persons seeking to end adoptions and guardianships)</i>	\$10,000
Public Interest Law Initiative <i>(to support PILI's Pro Bono Initiative, which is working to increase pro bono among law firm and corporate lawyers)</i>	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$232,500

Fellowship and Scholarship Grants

The CBF provides significant funding for a number of Fellowships and Scholarships that help make it financially feasible for law students and young lawyers to pursue careers in legal aid and public interest law. This year's grants for this purpose include:

Equal Justice Works <i>(to support two Equal Justice Works two-year Fellowships: one at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago to work on day labor & worker's rights issues (Hina Sodha); and one at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless to work on legal issues involving homeless young people (Zenaida Alonzo))</i>	\$54,000
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Public Interest Law Initiative \$22,000
(to support four summer internships for law students to work at area legal aid organizations)

Moses Fellowship \$20,000
(to University of Chicago Law School for third year of three-year public interest law student scholarship to James Brand totaling \$45,000)

Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Law Scholarship \$15,000
(for the second year of three-year public interest law scholarship to Dennericka Brooks and for the first year of a three-year public interest law scholarship to Sarah Baum; each scholarship will total \$30,000)

Kimball R. and Karen G. Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship \$12,000
(to provide loan repayment assistance to Elizabeth Berrones, a staff attorney at DuPage County Legal Aid Service, and Sherizaan Minwalla, a staff attorney at the Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center. Each Fellow will receive a total of \$25,000 over a five-year period)

TOTAL: \$123,000

Pro Bono and Public Service Award Grants

Thomas H. Morsch Award \$10,000
(to Susan Kaplan of Community Economic Development Law Project)

Special Thomas H. Morsch Award \$10,000
(awarded posthumously to Andy Cohen of Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago)

The Richard J. Phelan Public Service Award \$5,000
(to Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic in honor of Michael Morrissey)

The Leonard Jay Schragger Award of Excellence \$3,500
(to Northwestern University School of Law Center on International Human Rights in honor of Douglass Cassel)

The Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award \$3,000
(to Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in honor of Catherine Burkhardt)

The Exelon Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award \$3,000
(\$1,500 to Community Economic Development Law Project and \$1,500 to Public Interest Law Initiative in honor of Steven Cook of Sears, Roebuck & Co.)

The Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award <i>(\$1,000 to Center for Disability and Elder Law and \$1,000 to Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center in honor of Richard Johnson)</i>	\$2,000
Chicago Legal Clinic <i>(in honor of Gretchen Cepek, 2005 CBA/CBF William White Award Recipient)</i>	\$1,000
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services <i>(in honor of Mary Pat Benz, 2005 CBA/CBF William White Award Recipient)</i>	\$1,000
Community Economic Development Law Project <i>(in honor of Susan Kaplan, 2005 Thomas H. Morsch Award Recipient)</i>	\$1,000
Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center <i>(in honor of Sherizaan Minwalla, 2005 Anderson Fellowship Recipient)</i>	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$40,500

Other Special Grants

In addition to its Projects/Emerging Issues Grants, the CBF occasionally makes other special grants during the year for various purposes. Other special CBF grants in FY 2005 include:

Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services <i>(special Robertson fund grant)</i>	\$10,000
Chicago Bar Association Wolf Fund <i>(special James Hamilton Lewis Fund grant)</i>	\$2,500
Corporation for Supportive Housing <i>(for collaborative project to develop legal resources and training on issues affecting homeless clients as part of the Chicago Continuum of Care, the City's plan to end homelessness within 10 years)</i>	\$1,500
Developing Justice Coalition <i>(to support an event featuring discussion about sentencing reform for non-violent offenders in Illinois)</i>	\$1,500
Donors Forum of Chicago <i>(for support of community philanthropic initiatives)</i>	\$1,500

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law <i>(for support of special publication on legal issues facing immigrants)</i>	\$1,500
Chicago Legal Clinic <i>(special grant made possible by an anonymous donor)</i>	\$1,500
Chicago Metropolis 2020 <i>(for support of CLEAR Initiative, a comprehensive effort to review and improve the Illinois Criminal Code)</i>	\$1,000
Jane Addams Juvenile Court Foundation <i>(for support of initiatives with Cook County Juvenile Court)</i>	\$1,000
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago <i>(special grant in memory of George Overton)</i>	\$1,000
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago <i>(special grant in memory of Andrew Cohen)</i>	\$1,000
Northwestern University School of Law's Public Service Fellowships Program <i>(special grant in memory of Michael Lefkow)</i>	\$1,000
Public Interest Law Initiative <i>(special grant in honor of Roslyn Lieb)</i>	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$26,000

CBF Young Professionals Board Grants

Fat Tuesday Challenge Grants <i>(Grants made on behalf of winners of various challenge events held in conjunction with the 5th Annual Fat Tuesday Challenge co-hosted by the CBF Young Professionals Board and the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators)</i>	\$5,400
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic	\$2,625
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	\$1,500
Midwest Center on Law & the Deaf	\$ 750
Farmworker Advocacy Project	\$ 425
CARPLS	\$ 100

CBA Young Lawyers Section \$5,000
(for update and reprinting of four brochures designed to provide information on specific legal issues to the public)

CBA Law Explorers Program \$4,200
(Special Grant From CBF Gray Fund)

TOTAL: \$14,600

GRAND TOTAL: \$749,100