
Your Foundation at Work in 2014

Your Foundation at Work in FY 2014 (June 2013 - May 2014)

The CBF is the one place where you can come together with your colleagues in Chicago's legal community and make a powerful impact that none of us could on our own. The CBF truly is your foundation for ensuring that the justice system is fair and accessible for everyone, and you can be particularly proud of the impact you made through the CBF in FY 2014. These are just a few highlights of that impact, and you can learn more about the important work you are making possible by visiting chicobarfoundation.org.

Investing in Justice Campaign Sets New Records Across the Board

The collective effort and generosity of Chicago's legal community made this year's Investing in Justice Campaign another resounding and record-breaking success. Under the exemplary leadership of this year's Campaign Chair, Patrick Fitzgerald, 146 law firms, corporate legal departments and other law-related organizations participated in this year's Campaign, and more than 4,300 individual attorneys and legal professionals contributed over \$1.3 million, all record amounts. Thanks to many generous matching contributions from participating firms and companies, the 2014 Campaign also set a new record for the overall total raised in the Campaign—\$1.81 million.

100% of the individual contributions to the Campaign again went directly to CBF grants to 34 pro bono and legal aid organizations. The Campaign funds helped to leverage substantially more funding from government and other sources, making it possible for the CBF to again award more than \$4 million in grants in 2014.

Justice Entrepreneurs Project Takes Flight

JEP is an incubator program for recent law school graduates to start socially conscious law practices providing affordable legal services to low and moderate-income people. The program was formally launched over the past year with local and national acclaim, and 29 dedicated and entrepreneurial lawyers now are building innovative law practices to provide much-needed legal help to a large segment of our community who too often do not have meaningful access to affordable help in the traditional legal market.

Central Resource Center Opens in Circuit Court

The Circuit Court of Cook County Resource Center for People without Lawyers opened in the Spring, 2014. The Center is a major milestone in the longer-term effort to make the court system more user-friendly and accessible for people without lawyers, a key goal of both the CBF and the Circuit Court. The Center includes three major legal advice desks—the Municipal Court Advice Desk, the Chancery Court Advice Desk, and the Domestic Relations Advice Desk—that are managed and staffed by lawyers from CARPLS and the Chicago Legal Clinic. These desks provide critical help for people coming into the courts on their own. Advice desk lawyers can triage the client's situation, give brief legal advice and assistance, and make a referral to pro bono and legal aid lawyers when necessary and available.

One of the many advantages for both clients and the advice desks in the Center is the presence of JusticeCorps, an innovative AmeriCorps program that the CBF first launched in 2009 and for the past two years has operated in partnership with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice. JusticeCorps volunteers, who are students and recent graduates, act as docents and provide other procedural and navigational assistance to people without lawyers.

CBF Legal Aid Academy Gives Valuable Help for Legal Aid Lawyers and Staff

The CBF Legal Aid Academy continues to provide free training and professional development opportunities for legal aid attorneys and staff. Highlights this past year included a NITA trial training, a comprehensive deposition training, and a number of valuable programs that collectively benefited hundreds of legal aid advocates.

The Legal Aid Academy strives to meet the core training and professional development needs of the approximately 300 legal aid attorneys in the Chicago area through pro bono contributions from the Chicago legal community, CLE providers and others. The CBF also partners with the CBA to provide free CLE Advantage memberships to all attorneys employed at CBF-funded organizations, providing unlimited access to CBA programming.

Innovative Funding Collaborative Expands Access to Legal Help for Immigrants

The CBF joined with 10 Illinois foundation partners and two national foundations to provide nearly \$800,000 in funding to support legal services and public education for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Organizations receiving the funding provide legal services and public education to youth and young adult immigrants who are eligible under DACA, the most significant new form of immigration relief since 1986.

When DACA started in August 2012, 49,000 young immigrants in Illinois were eligible to apply. One year later, 64% had applied and 56% had been granted Deferred Action, making Illinois one of the leading states in number of applications, percentage of eligible immigrants who have applied and approval rates.

Research shows that DACA opens the door to new, life-changing, though temporary, opportunities. Funding from the collaborative already has built significantly more legal aid capacity for assisting immigrants going forward as well.



chicagobarfoundation.org

The Chicago Bar Foundation
321 S. Plymouth Court, Suite 3B
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 554-1204
