
Your Foundation at Work in 2015

Your Foundation at Work in FY 2015 (June 2014 - May 2015)

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 in 2015. These are just a few highlights of that impact, and you can learn more about the important work you are making possible by visiting chicagobarfoundation.org.

2015 Investing in Justice Campaign Sets New Records Across the Board

Many thousands of people in the Chicago area will receive much-needed legal help thanks to the record-breaking success of the 2015 Investing in Justice Campaign. A new record of 147 law firms, corporate legal departments and other law-related organizations participated in the Campaign, chaired by Brett Hart, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for United Airlines, Inc. More than 4,700 individual attorneys and legal professionals contributed more than \$1.45 million, both new records for the Campaign.

100% of the individual contributions to the Campaign again went directly to CBF grants to more than 30 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 a total of more than \$4 million in grants in 2015. Learn more at chicagobarfoundation.org/campaign.

Justice Entrepreneurs Project Grows into National Model

In FY 2015, 18 lawyers from the JEP's first two classes successfully completed the program and became the first JEP alumni, the MacArthur Foundation recognized the program's great potential for developing innovative models with a significant grant, and the JEP was featured at a national summit on innovation in legal services.

The JEP is an incubator for newer lawyers to start their own socially conscious law firms. The goal is to expand legal services to low and moderate income people by developing innovative new models through which lawyers in solo or small practices can sustainably provide affordable services to these clients. Learn more at chicagobarfoundation.org/jep.

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Central Resource Center in Circuit Court and Expanded Justicecorps Help Tens of Thousands

The Circuit Court of Cook County Resource Center for People without Lawyers completed a very successful first year of service by helping tens of thousands of unrepresented people in the court. 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.

Three advice desks staffed by CARPLS and the Chicago Legal Clinic provided critical help for thousands of 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.

Many thousands more were helped by volunteers from JusticeCorps, an innovative program through which AmeriCorps volunteers serve as guides to make courts across Illinois more welcoming and less intimidating for people without lawyers by providing navigational and procedural assistance. The CBF first launched JusticeCorps in Illinois in 2009 and continues to direct the program in Cook County, and this past year helped expand the program statewide in partnership with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice and the Illinois Bar Foundation. Learn more at chicagobarfoundation.org/courts.

CBF Legal Aid Academy Features Major Trainings for Legal Aid Lawyers and Staff

The CBF Legal Aid Academy continued to deliver free, high-quality training and professional development opportunities to legal aid lawyers and staff.

Highlights from this past year included an interactive two-day program on designing and delivering effective trainings featuring a nationally recognized expert in legal skills education; an intensive two-day deposition training organized and hosted by Kirkland & Ellis LLP; and several highly regarded skills and strategy trainings provided by Pincus Professional Education. Learn more at chicagobarfoundation.org/legal-aid-academy.

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