
Your Foundation at Work in 2019



COURT SYSTEM
ADVOCACY

LEGISLATIVE AND
POLICY ADVOCACY



Strengthening Innovation

COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP



Your Foundation at Work in 2019

Over the past year, your partnership and strong support of the CBF has continued to make big things possible to improve access to justice in our community. These are just a few highlights of the impact and innovation in the CBF's FY 2019. Learn more about the important work you are making possible at chicagobarfoundation.org.

Connecting Pro Bono Lawyers with Opportunities in New Ways

Last October, the CBF and Paladin, a legal tech startup, launched a new online version of the CBF Pro Bono Opportunities Guide, a long-time pro bono resource for the legal community. The new website (cbf.joinpaladin.com) allows lawyers and other legal professionals to easily search through more than 100 different pro bono opportunities organized by subject matter, client type, and scope of engagement. The statewide website provides a central hub for attorneys in Cook County and beyond to learn about and connect to the many different ways they can develop their legal skills and give back to the community.

Learn more at: cbf.joinpaladin.com

More than \$2.3 Million in CBF Grants Thanks to a Record-Breaking Investing in Justice Campaign

This year's Investing in Justice Campaign set new records while raising awareness and critical funding for more than 30 pro bono and legal aid organizations and related initiatives in Chicago. 150 law firms, corporate legal departments, and other law-related organizations participated in the Campaign, which was chaired by Linda Coberly of Winston & Strawn LLP. More than 5,200 individual attorneys and legal professionals joined together to contribute over \$1.56 million, the highest amount in the Campaign's 13-year history.

Thanks to several dedicated foundation and government partners, the CBF was able to leverage those Campaign contributions to make more than \$2.3 million in grants this year. These grants will enable tens of thousands of people in need to get critical legal help while strengthening our community's overall pro bono and legal aid system for the longer term.

Learn more at:

chicagobarfoundation.org/campaign

***Your skills can help people in need.
Find a pro bono opportunity today.***

The Chicago Bar Foundation and Paladin are proud to present our next generation Pro Bono Opportunity Guide - online tools that make it easy for you to find pro bono in Chicago and throughout Illinois.

The Chicago Bar Foundation Ensuring access to justice for all

× **Paladin**

Make a difference today
cbf.joinpaladin.com



Making the Courts More Welcoming and Accessible for People without Lawyers

As the number of people coming into the courts on their own continues to increase (nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of all civil cases has at least one unrepresented party today), the CBF continues to play a leadership role in making the system more welcoming and accessible for people without lawyers. The Illinois JusticeCorps program helped over 40,000 courthouse visitors in the Circuit Court of Cook County receive navigational assistance, referrals, and legal information, and last year the program expanded its operations to a third Cook County location: the George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse. By serving as a friendly face and an accessible resource for information about court cases and procedures, the fellows have made the courthouse a more welcoming and navigable environment.

The Circuit Court of Cook County Pro Se Advisory Committee continues to work in partnership with the CBF to update resources and create new ones to better connect members of the public with available legal and self-help services. This past year, new user-centric courthouse signs and referral sheets were designed and distributed based on feedback from court partners, the legal community, and members of the public.

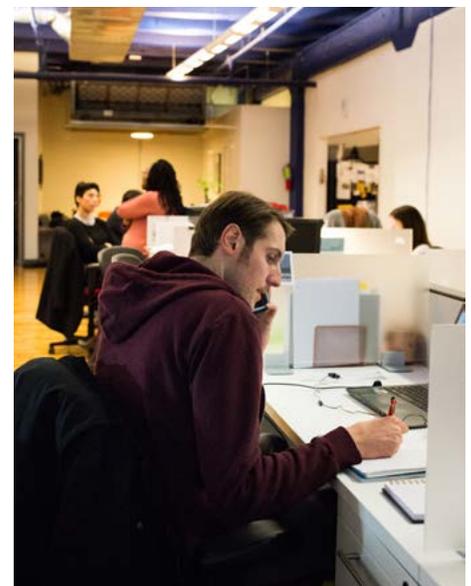
Learn more at: chicagobarfoundation.org/courts

Improving Access for the Middle Class through the JEP Program and More

The CBF Justice Entrepreneurs Program (JEP) continued to grow and thrive this past year. More than 50 lawyers in the JEP network helped over 5,000 clients last year and generated more than \$5 million in revenue in the process, further underscoring that market-based models are an integral part of the broader access to justice solution. The CBF continues to identify and promote promising practice models from the JEP in the Chicago area and beyond through toolkits, trainings, and leadership within the bar. This past year, the CBF partnered with a group of leaders in Colorado and helped them launch a new incubator program, Legal Entrepreneurs for Justice, that is modeled in large part on the JEP.

Learn more at:

chicagobarfoundation.org/jep



Top of the Class: Celebrating Ten Years of the CBF Legal Aid Academy

For the past ten years, the CBF Legal Aid Academy has provided free, high-quality training and professional development opportunities to legal aid attorneys and staff in the Chicago area. This innovative pro bono program harnesses the resources and expertise of Chicago's legal community to provide top-notch practice skills training for legal aid attorneys that would otherwise be beyond their limited budgets. This past year the CBF partnered with several law firms and other dedicated professionals on Academy programs. Topics included deposition and trial skills, coping with secondary trauma, and negotiation skills. The CBF also brought in a nationally renowned expert for an intensive "train-the-trainers" program that will improve the legal aid training landscape here for years to come.

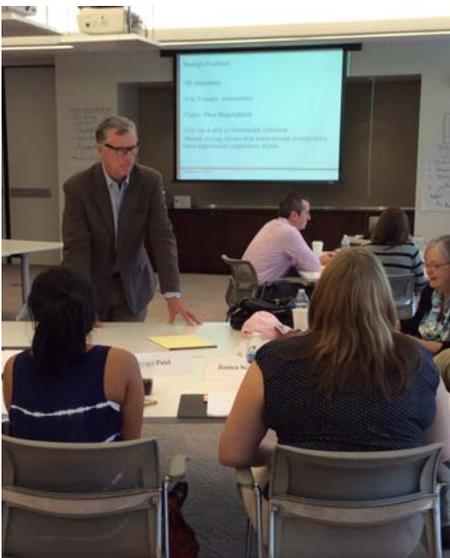
Learn more at chicagobarfoundation.org/legal-aid-academy



A Powerful Voice in DC, Springfield, and Beyond

The CBF's legislative advocacy work was in high gear this past year, helping to bring about some positive changes for access to justice at both the federal and state levels. On the federal level, the Legal Services Corporation saw an increase in funding thanks in significant part to the continued strong, bipartisan support from the Illinois congressional delegation. On the state level, the CBF continued its successful efforts to simplify both statutory language and court processes state-wide, advocating for the removal of unnecessary Latin and legalese from the Code of Civil Procedure. The CBF also worked with our partners toward a major reform to the court fees and fines regime in Illinois.

Learn more at: chicagobarfoundation.org/advocacy



chicagobarfoundation.org

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