

**CBF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD
FY16 GRANTS LIST**

Organization	Project	FY16 Grant Awards
Center for Disability & Elder Law	Serving Our Seniors	\$5,000
Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago	Lawyers in the Classroom Program	\$5,000
Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (benefitting Legal Prep Charter Academies)	Mock Trial Curriculum Project	\$2,000
LAF (project was formerly operated by Street Law)	Community College Workshops	\$2,500
Legal Prep Charter Academies	Law Program	\$2,500
Mikva Challenge	Democracy in Action Program (including Project Soap Box)	\$3,000
Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization	School Year Programming	\$2,500
Lawndale Christian Legal Center	Court Advocacy Apprenticeship/Mock Trial Program	\$2,500
Totals		\$25,000

BRIEF SUMMARIES OF THE PROJECTS THE YPB SUPPORTS

Center for Disability & Elder Law – Serving Our Seniors Project

The Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL), a CBF grantee, uses a network of volunteer attorneys to provide free legal services to vulnerable, low-income seniors and disabled persons. The YPB grant supports the Serving Our Seniors Project, a joint project with the YLS through which young lawyers provide legal advice to low-income seniors regarding the creation of basic estate plans, including powers of attorney for healthcare and property, living wills, and simple wills. The YLS program generally runs four to six times per year at senior centers or similar facilities. CDEL is responsible for the training and some of the logistics of setting up the events. The YPB grant is used to offset some of CDEL’s costs in partnering with the YLS on this project.

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago – Lawyers in the Classroom Program

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) strengthens American democracy by providing elementary and secondary students with hands-on learning about the Constitution to prepare them for informed civic engagement. The YPB grant supports the

Edward J. Lewis II Chicago Lawyers in the Classroom Program, which provides multiple, authentic opportunities for students to interact with legal professionals and learn about the Constitution, our legal system, their rights and responsibilities, and law-related careers. Attorney volunteers lead interactive lessons in elementary and middle school classes throughout Chicago and the suburbs. In 2014-2015, Lawyers in the Classroom partnered with nearly 800 attorneys and law students to bring the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to over 8,000 students at 82 schools in Chicago and suburban Cook County

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago – Mock Trial Curriculum Project

In partnership with the YLS and CBF, CRFC is in the process of developing a comprehensive mock trial curriculum for a junior year fall semester elective course at Legal Prep Charter Academies. The idea is that this course will prepare Legal Prep students to compete in the Citywide Mock Trial Competition that takes place in March each year. The YPB grant supports the development of this curriculum. The curriculum begins by introducing students to the history of the adversarial and jury system and why it matters, and then turns to concepts of evidence and the structure and mechanics of the various components of a trial. The course will close with a mock trial that utilizes some of CRFC's existing mock trial videos. CRFC is currently piloting the curriculum at Legal Prep. After building on and tweaking the curriculum this school year, CRFC plans to make the curriculum available free of charge to the other 50+ Chicago Public High Schools and charter schools that compete in the citywide competition. Currently only the fact pattern and rules are provided to participating schools, and to CRFC's knowledge, no other school has a comprehensive curriculum to assist both teachers and students with this difficult subject matter.

LAF – Street Law Community College Workshops

Street Law, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that creates classroom and community programs that educate students and communities about law, democracy, and human rights worldwide. Street Law's approach is practical, relevant, and experiential, blending legal content with innovative hands-on teaching strategies that actively engage students and program participants in the learning process. The YPB grant funds Street Law's innovative Community College Workshops, which are now run by LAF (who partnered with Street Law last year). Nearly 40% of Chicago Community College students live under the poverty line, and a significant number are just above that mark. Because there is a broad need and interest in learning legal survival skills among this population, Street Law and LAF have used the YPB's funds to develop a series of three workshops for City Colleges on subjects that are most relevant to the students. Street Law identified Truman College as a partner to pilot this program, and worked with Truman administrators and students to identify workshop subjects, which include 1) housing law, 2) small claims court, and 3) family law/child support. Street Law developed the curriculum for the workshops and trained attorneys from LAF to present at the workshops. Street Law hopes this project will serve as a national model and has already begun discussions to expand the workshops to other City Colleges in Chicago and beyond.

Legal Prep Charter Academies – Law Program

Legal Prep Charter Academies offers a free, legal-themed, college preparatory education to students in West Garfield Park, an under-resourced Chicago community. Legal topics are infused into the core subjects where appropriate and the school also provides law-themed courses and extracurricular activities. The YPB grant supports Legal Prep's Law Program, which pairs each Legal Prep student with an attorney or law student mentor. Over the course of this year-long program, the students and volunteers work through

negotiation problems using a series of structured lessons and activities that provide the students with a basic understanding of legal reasoning skills as well as exposure to legal professionals. The program allows students and volunteers to build a strong rapport and good mentor-mentee relationships.

Mikva Challenge – Democracy in Action Course/Issues to Action/Project Soap Box

Mikva Challenge is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to developing the next generation of civic leaders, activists, and policymakers. The organization helps low-income youth become meaningful actors in politics through elections, activism, and policymaking programs. Mikva Challenge youth participate in programs that focus on three areas of civic engagement: (1) Youth Policy Making; (2) Democracy in Action; and (3) Electoral Participation. The YPB grant funds programs within Mikva's Democracy in Action section, including **Issues to Actions**, through which students from more than 40 high schools engage in civic action projects that address local issues and advocate for policy change. Students identify issues in their communities (e.g., teen pregnancy, violence, substance abuse) and learn about local government and the political process through research, analysis, and the creation of action plans that tackle these issues. Students attend a Youth Activism Conference to gain essential advocacy skills and present their final action projects at the Annual Civics Fair in May. One component of the Issues to Action program is the annual **Project Soapbox** Public Speaking Competition, at which over 2,000 Chicago Public High School Students prepare and present speeches about the issues they feel are the most pressing for Chicago youth. Finally, **the Issues to Action Curriculum** is a comprehensive civics course curriculum that empowers students with the skills, knowledge and dispositions to be "superstar citizens." Currently, approximately 60 teachers use this year-long curriculum in Chicago Public High School classrooms across the city.

Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization– School Year Programming

Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization (formerly Just the Beginning Foundation) is a multiracial, nonprofit organization comprised of lawyers, judges, and other citizens. It is dedicated to developing and nurturing interest in the law among young persons from various socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds underrepresented in the legal profession and to supporting their continued advancement. The YPB grant supports JTBF's school year programming, through which JTBF staff and volunteers from throughout the legal community introduce legal concepts to low-income junior high and high school students in various public schools and plant the seed that the legal profession is attainable. Throughout the year, students participate in exercises on basic legal reasoning, case analysis, negotiations, and oral advocacy skills. In addition, JTBF taps its extensive network of legal professionals to expose students to the practice of law and enable them to form lasting mentorship relationships that will continue to encourage and enable them on their pipeline trek to the legal profession. The programming includes a mix of field trips (e.g., courts and law firms) and in-school lessons.

Lawndale Christian Legal Center – Court Advocacy Apprenticeship/Mock Trial Program

Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC), a current CBF grantee, provides holistic legal services to low-income, predominantly African American youth and young adults twenty-four years old and younger from North Lawndale who are involved in the juvenile or adult criminal courts. LCLC represents youth from the time of their arrest through their sentences of supervision, probation, or parole, while also providing social services and mentoring that remove the obstacles youth may encounter in successfully complying with their sentencing orders. The YPB grant supports LCLC's Court Advocacy Apprenticeship/Mock Trial Program, an 8-week (20 hours per

week) program through which youth learn about all aspects of the criminal justice system, develop critical thinking and communication skills, analyze real-life cases, and take on all the roles involved in trying and presenting a case before the public. The program culminates in community mock trial hearings. The Mock Trial Program is part of LCLC's larger jobs program, so participating youth are paid minimum wage for their participation and also receive 40 hours of job readiness training. LCLC's goal is for youth to develop transferable and soft skills that will help them build the skills necessary to obtain employment in the community.