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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seventh Annual CBF Investing in Justice Campaign Sets New Records Across the Board

Thousands of people in need will receive critical legal assistance thanks to the leadership and generous contributions of 137 Chicago-area law firms, corporate legal departments and other law-related organizations and more than 4,000 individual contributors

Chicago, IL – The 2013 Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) [Investing in Justice Campaign](#) set new records across the board while raising much-needed funds for pro bono and legal aid services in the Chicago area. [137 law firms, corporate legal departments and other law-related organizations](#) participated in this year’s Campaign—a 15% increase from 2012—and more than 4,000 individual attorneys and legal professionals contributed more than \$1.8 million, an almost 20% increase from last year.

Chaired this year by Daniel E. Reidy, partner at Jones Day, the Investing in Justice Campaign is a communitywide effort through which thousands of individual attorneys and legal professionals come together around a cause distinctly important to the legal profession—building the capacity of the overburdened pro bono and legal aid system. Over the seven years since its inception in 2007, the Campaign has more than doubled in size in the number of donors and dollars contributed, and collectively has raised more than \$8.5 million. Thanks to other year-round support of the CBF, 100 percent of the funds raised goes toward CBF grants to more than 40 pro bono and legal aid organizations. The [Campaign grants](#) enable these organizations to provide critical legal assistance to tens of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged people in the Chicago area.

“Because we lawyers hold the keys to the justice system, we uniquely understand the vast differences between the reality for those who can afford legal services and those who cannot,” Mr. Reidy said. “I was honored to serve as this year’s Campaign chair and I want to thank everyone who contributed. Just as the effect on a life can extend far beyond the immediate outcome of a case, so too does the impact of a donation. Each person helped and each dollar invested will result in exponential benefits and become part of the solution.”

Beyond the direct impact of these grants, donations to the Investing in Justice Campaign have an even greater effect.

- Contributions leverage several hundred thousand dollars in support from other foundations and government entities that would not otherwise be available to the organizations supported by the Campaign.
- In addition to the fundamental impact of ensuring access to justice, a recent study found that legal aid in Illinois produces almost a 2:1 monetary return on investment. The study’s sampled organizations alone produced economic benefits of more than \$70 million in one year.
- When people get the help they need to resolve legal problems before they spin out of control and require other social services, it saves significant amounts of money from overstretched safety net programs.

In making Campaign grants, the CBF gives priority to general operating support, which is crucial to these organizations, and support for innovative projects that leverage significantly more funding and pro bono resources for this work. The Campaign grants fund a continuum of services, ranging from web-based information and resources to legal aid hotlines, advice desks and clinics, to extended legal representation and larger impact litigation and advocacy.

The grants made possible by the 2013 Campaign will be distributed in the next few weeks. Details are available on the CBF website.

“The Chicago legal community has stepped up once again to make a significant difference in the lives of those who are in desperate need of legal aid services,” said Natalie Spears, President of The Chicago Bar Foundation. “Thanks to the leadership of Dan Reidy and the Campaign Leadership Team, the thousands of individuals who contributed so generously, and our many volunteers, this Campaign will make a huge difference for the growing number of people in need in our community.”

More information about the Campaign is available on the CBF website, www.chicagobarfoundation.org.

The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) mobilizes Chicago's legal community to ensure that everyone in the Chicago area has equal access to justice, particularly the low-income and disadvantaged people who most critically need the protections of the legal system. Through grants, advocacy, pro bono and partnerships, the CBF takes a system-wide approach to improving access to justice.

As the charitable arm of The Chicago Bar Association, the CBF's work is made possible by the generous contributions of thousands of dedicated individuals, more than 200 law firms and corporations, and many other committed partners. Thanks to that strong support, the CBF awarded more than \$4 million in grants in 2012 and continues to play a lead role in a number of innovative access to justice initiatives.

For more information about the CBF, contact Bob Glaves at (312) 554-1205 or bglaves@chicagobar.org, or visit www.chicagobarfoundation.org.

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