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Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005

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Fiscal Year 2005 was one of change and growth for The District of Columbia Bar Foundation. Contributions to the Foundation from private law firms and individuals helped the Foundation award a record-breaking \$1.1 million in grants in June 2005. June also marked former Executive Director Emily J. Spitzer's last weeks with the Foundation. Board members and those in the legal services community honored Ms. Spitzer as she left to work on a family member's political campaign. Her tireless work reaching out to the legal community has left its lasting mark on the Foundation and the providers it funds. In July, 2005, the Foundation welcomed Katherine L. Garrett as the new Executive Director, who comes to the Foundation after many years' work in the local legal community on issues of concern to legal services providers.

LAW FIRM CONTRIBUTIONS TOP \$500,000

More than 80 law firms and lawyers responded to the Bar Foundation's annual appeal for contributions to support community legal

services organizations, generously contributing \$523,214 to the Foundation. This represents an increase of roughly \$62,000 in contributions compared with fiscal year 2004. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom lead contributors, with a record-breaking gift of \$55,000, part of which came from fees the firm received in settlement of a *pro bono* case. A complete list of lawyers, law firms and others who contributed to the Bar Foundation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 accompanies this report.

IOLTA REVENUES MOVING UP

In past years, IOLTA funds provided up to eighty percent of the Bar Foundation's revenues. With the decline in interest rates, and the decision by some financial institutions to impose service charges on IOLTA accounts, revenues dropped dramatically. The Bar Foundation continues to work with financial institutions to encourage 'IOLTA-friendly' policies that waive service charges for IOLTA accounts, and publishes a list of the IOLTA Honor Roll banks on its website: www.dccbarfoundation.org/iolta. Attorneys and law firms should review this list and consider conducting business with those financial institutions that have IOLTA-friendly policies.

While interest rates in the economy have risen this past fiscal year, change is coming slowly to IOLTA account rates. As of June 30, 2005, the average rate of return on IOLTA accounts in participating financial institutions was roughly a low 0.4%.

As a result, IOLTA revenues have been climbing slowly: in fiscal year 2005, the Bar Foundation received \$595,804 in IOLTA revenue, compared with \$478,765 in fiscal year 2004.

JERROLD SCOUTT PRIZE AWARDED TO JEANNINE SANFORD

The 13th annual Jerrold Scoutt Prize of \$2,500 was awarded to Jeannine Sanford, the Deputy Director of Bread for the City, and the first Director of Bread for the City's Legal Clinic. The Jerrold Scoutt Prize is funded by an endowment and annual gift from the law firm of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger in honor of its founding partner, Jerrold Scoutt, a longtime supporter of legal services for the poor. Others contributing to the Scoutt Prize endowment fund include T. Coleman and Susan Andrews, Florence Kate Millar, and St. Margaret's Parish. Additional contributions are welcome.

The Scoutt Committee chooses the recipient of the Jerrold Scoutt Prize annually from among lawyers nominated by community organizations and individuals. Nominees must be attorneys employed by organizations that provide direct, hands-on legal services to poor or disadvantaged persons in the Washington area who have demonstrated compassionate concern for their clients while exhibiting a high degree of skill in acting on their behalf. The Bar Foundation presents the prize at the District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference in March.

\$1.1 MILLION GIVEN TO LOCAL LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

The Bar Foundation distributed a total of \$1.1 million to 30 legal services programs that provide or directly support legal services to low-income persons living in the District of Columbia. The

following programs received grants in June 2005:

Advocates for Justice in Education - \$25,000: AJE, based in Southeast D.C., provides representation, advocacy, and training to low-income families of children with disabilities and special needs in D.C. Public Schools. General support.

Archdiocesan Legal Network - \$55,000: ALN provides legal services in civil cases and matters, including family law and immigration, through referral to a pro bono network. General support.

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center - \$27,500: APALRC provides advocacy, litigation, and interpreter support and referral to low-income Asian Americans in D.C. The grant supports the Asian American Language Access Project and the Multilingual Legal Referral Hotline & Interpreter Project. General support.

Ayuda - \$65,000: Based in Adams Morgan, Ayuda provides a range of bilingual civil legal services and representation before courts and administrative agencies to low-income Spanish-speaking residents. General support.

Bread for the City Legal Clinic - \$60,000: This Clinic, based in the Shaw neighborhood, with a regional legal clinic in Southeast, provides broad-based civil legal assistance to complement the organization's holistic services program. General support for legal staff.

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition - \$50,000: CAIR Coalition coordinates immigration work for nearly two dozen legal services providers in the D.C. area, and provides direct legal services, primarily to detained immigrants. General support.

Central American Resource Center - \$25,000: Located in Adams Morgan, CARECEN provides bilingual legal services to low-income immigrants from Central America. General support for immigration legal services.

Children's Law Center - \$45,000: The Center's mission is to provide high-quality legal services for at-risk children and their families and caregivers in the District of Columbia. General support for legal services programs, including training and technical assistance.

Columbus Community Legal Services, Family Abuse Project - \$20,000: The Family Abuse Project serves low-income residents of the District. This law school clinical program staffs intake at the Domestic Violence Intake Center at the D.C. Courthouse and Southeast Community Hospital. In addition, the Project provides training to police, judges, and attorneys. General support.

Disability Rights Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$30,000: The Disability Rights Project provides pro bono legal services to disabled people living in the District of Columbia. General support.

D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence – SAFE Program - \$27,500: The Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment Program (SAFE) provides legal and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence seeking protection orders in court, through the Domestic Violence Intake centers at the D.C. Courthouse and Southeast Community Hospital. General support.

D.C. Employment Justice Center - \$35,000: The Employment Justice Center provides legal representation and advocacy on behalf of the working

poor in the District of Columbia. Intake clinics are held regularly in Northwest D.C. and in Anacostia. General support.

D.C. Law Students In Court - \$55,000: LSIC provides legal representation for low-income tenants in Landlord-Tenant court by law students from area law schools. General support.

D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project - \$65,000: The D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project works to protect the legal rights of individuals incarcerated under the laws of the District of Columbia. General support.

DV LEAP - \$5,000: The Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project is a collaboration among the National Network to End Domestic Violence, George Washington University Law School, and a network of area law firms offering pro bono representation. DV LEAP provides appellate litigation support in matters involving domestic violence law in the D.C. courts. General support.

EEO Intake Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$7,500: The EEO Intake Project provides investigative, evaluative, and advice and referral assistance to D.C. metropolitan-area workers on civil rights employment-related claims. General support.

Human Rights First – Washington, D.C. Asylum Representation Project- \$22,500: The Asylum Representation Project of Human Rights First provides free legal representation and counsel to indigent asylum seekers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. General support.

Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$20,000:

The Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project provides legal assistance through staff and pro bono attorneys to low-income individuals in D.C. on political asylum, immigration discrimination, and related cases. The Project also trains pro bono attorneys on asylum issues. General support.

Innocence Project of the National Capital Region - \$10,000: The Project uses pro bono lawyers and volunteer law students to provide post-conviction investigation and legal assistance to indigent inmates who claim they have been wrongfully imprisoned in the D.C. area. General support.

Lawyers for Children America – Washington DC Program: \$10,000: LFCA recruits and trains pro bono lawyers from law firms, government agencies, and other organizations to serve as court-appointed guardians ad litem to advocate for abused and neglected children. Matching grant/General support.

Legal Aid Society of D.C. – General Support - \$75,000: With offices in Northwest and Southeast D.C., the Legal Aid Society of D.C. provides general civil legal services to the city's indigent. General support.

Legal Aid Society of D.C. – Appellate Litigation Project - \$25,000: The Appellate Litigation Project handles cases and amicus briefs on appeal presenting issues of importance to the communities of the poor and disadvantaged in D.C. General support for Project.

Legal Counsel for the Elderly - \$25,000: LCE provides legal representation for elders in D.C. in crisis situations and on underlying issues that threaten their basic needs, including protective services. General support.

Neighborhood Legal Services Program - \$55,000: With offices in Northwest and Southeast D.C., NLSP provides legal assistance to low-income and indigent D.C. residents. General support.

Our Place, D.C. – Legal Services Clinic - \$15,000: The Legal Clinic at Our Place, D.C. provides representation, advocacy, and education for currently or formerly incarcerated women and their family members, typically on issues related to parole, institutions, medical care, landlord-tenant, and child custody. General support for Legal Clinic.

University of the District of Columbia School of Law – Community Development/Small Business Clinic - \$45,000: The Community Development/Small Business Clinic provides low-income D.C. residents with legal help in transactional matters, assisting residents establish effective small businesses. General support.

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless - \$70,000: The Legal Clinic provides representation and advocacy for the District's homeless, with staff and pro bono attorneys, through nine clinic intake sites located in shelters and soup kitchens. General support.

Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program - \$85,000: Whitman Walker's Legal Clinic provides legal services through staff and pro bono lawyers to people living with HIV/AIDS in the District, addressing issues concerning insurance, employment and health care discrimination, public benefits, immigration, wills, and powers of attorney. General support.

Women Empowered Against Violence - \$40,000: WEAVE's Legal Services Program provides long-term representation for domestic violence

victims in matters involving protective orders, divorce, custody, child support and other issues. WEAVE also has an Emergency Domestic Relations Project that helps domestic violence victims secure temporary protection orders. Support for EDRP and Legal Services Program.

The Bar Foundation also funded one cross-cutting grant:

Probono.net/dc - \$5,000:

Probono.net/dc provides high-quality, free, legal information on the web, targeting low income and indigent residents in D.C. and the pro bono and staff lawyers who assist them. Funds will be used to support *LawHelp*, a web-based referral and legal information service for the District. General support.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR FOUNDATION

The D.C. Bar Foundation, a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, was established in 1977 to provide a vehicle for attorneys and law firms to support organizations that provide direct “hands-on” legal services to people in the District of Columbia who cannot afford legal help. In 1985, the D.C. Court of Appeals gave the Foundation responsibility for managing the District’s Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. IOLTA funds that come to the Foundation are the result of interest earned on pooled client trust funds – funds that are nominal in amount or to be held for a short period of time, and that otherwise would not earn interest for the client. Foundation revenues thus depend upon law firm participation in the IOTLA program, the interest rates paid on IOLTA accounts, and, separately, upon direct support from law firms, individuals, and others.

www.dcbfoundation.org

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The District of Columbia Bar Foundation

Thanks Its FY 2005 Donors

Poverty locks people out of the legal system. According to a report issued by the D.C. Bar Foundation, we fail to address 90% of the legal needs of low-income residents in the District of Columbia. Those needs are often dire. They involve such essential issues as shelter, education, child support, and protection from violence. Denying access to justice imposes very real human costs and erodes the fundamental principles sustaining our legal system. We must expand the legal resources available to the poor.

The D.C. Bar Foundation helps narrow the gap between legal needs and available resources. Since 1977, it has provided critical funding to organizations that offer legal representation to the underprivileged in our community. This funding is not nearly sufficient, but every additional dollar helps extend legal services to those who otherwise would have no meaningful access to justice.

We thank the law firms and individuals who have contributed to legal services. The generosity of these donors allowed the D.C. Bar Foundation to award \$1.1 million in grants to legal service providers in Fiscal Year 2005.

Martin Luther King said that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Despite our efforts, despite your generosity, injustice continues in our community. Your contribution now can help fight it. Please join your colleagues in generously supporting the D.C. Bar Foundation's effort to open the doors of our legal system to the poor. Call 202-467-3750 or e-mail info@dcbarfoundation.org.

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