

# THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR FOUNDATION

FUNDING LEGAL SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED

## ANNUAL REPORT FY 2007

(JULY 2006 – JUNE 2007)

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**FY 2007** was an exciting year of growth for the District of Columbia Bar Foundation: we received a grant of \$3.2 million from the District of Columbia and awarded the District's first-ever publicly-funded grants for civil legal services; we launched the District's first loan repayment assistance program for poverty lawyers working in DC; we received increased contributions from local law firms and lawyers; and our continued success in recruiting DC IOLTA Preferred Banks, which pay strong rates on DC IOLTA accounts, helped generate record IOLTA revenues. The Foundation's new Director of Programs, Claudia Withers, helped build and run the expanded grant programs, leading the Foundation to award a

total of \$5.3 million in publicly and privately funded grants and loans, including the first DC poverty lawyer Loan Repayment Assistance Program award

### CITY COUNCIL FUNDS CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

In an historic step, the D.C. City Council appropriated \$3.2 million to support legal services and authorized the D.C. Office of Attorney General to grant these funds to the DC Bar Foundation to be used for grant awards to nonprofit organizations that deliver civil legal services to low-income people in the District and for the District of Columbia Poverty Lawyer Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

In keeping with priorities articulated by the DC City Council, the Bar Foundation awarded \$2.6 million of these funds to 10 organizations to expand the reach of legal services on housing issues and in underserved communities. As a result, positions for 31 new legal services lawyers were created and filled – and District residents can now find help for critical legal services needs in the courthouse, and in Wards 5, 7, and 8. A list of awards follows on page 2.

In addition, the Bar Foundation awarded \$300,000 to a collaborative effort among providers to develop a comprehensive interpreter bank for legal services programs. The collaborative project includes experts from Ayuda, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, Washington College of Law, and two community-based organizations that train interpreters and offer interpreter services -- Multicultural Community Services, and La Clínica del Pueblo.

Publicly Funded Grants FY2007	
<b><i>Interpreter Bank</i></b>	
•Ayuda (for project partners)	\$295,000
<b><i>Housing Grants</i></b>	
• Landlord-Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Collaborative (Bread for the City - Legal Aid Society - NLSP)	\$502,192
• DC Law Students in Court	\$85,800
<b><i>Underserved Communities</i></b>	
• Ayuda/APALRC ( <i>multilingual intake &amp; referral project</i> )	92,834
• Bread for the City ( <i>Ward 7 Community Lawyering</i> )	\$141,004
•Bread for the City ( <i>technology</i> )	\$45,000
• Children's Law Center ( <i>Southeast DC Health Access Project</i> )	\$193,031
•Legal Aid Society of DC ( <i>Ward 7 Community Lawyering</i> )	\$422,022
•Legal Counsel for the Elderly ( <i>Homebound Elders Attorney</i> )	\$81,756
•NLSP ( <i>Wards 5 and 7 Service Expansion</i> )	\$540,000
•University Legal Services ( <i>DC Jail Disabled Inmates Project</i> )	\$109,329
•WEAVE ( <i>Ft. Totten Victim Services Center Legal Office</i> )	\$263,836
•Whitman Walker Legal Clinic ( <i>Ward 7 Service Expansion</i> )	\$120,427

## LAW FIRMS & LAWYERS CONTRIBUTE OVER \$500,000

Nearly 90 law firms and lawyers contributed to the Foundation's annual private bar campaign for legal services. FY 2007 contributions totaled over \$530,000. That represents an 8% increase over FY 2006. Roughly one-third of

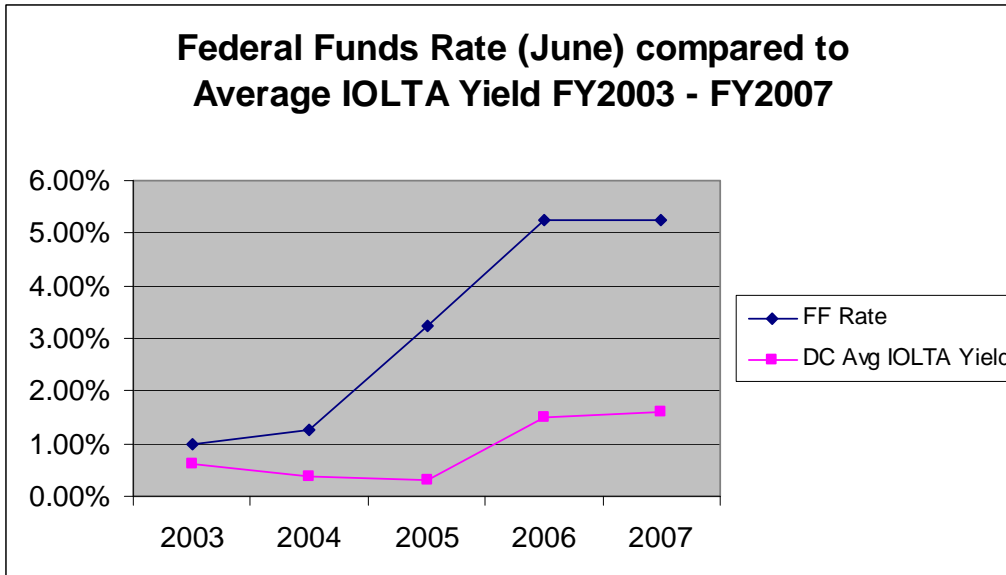
contributions came from firms with 100 or more lawyers in their DC office. Contributing firms included a mix of local firms and local offices of firms headquartered elsewhere. A complete list of contributors is attached to this report. One-hundred percent of private contributions went to legal services providers in the form of direct, challenge, or conditional grants. The Foundation is deeply grateful to the law firms and lawyers who continue to generously support legal services in the District of Columbia.

## JERROLD SCOUTT PRIZE AWARDED TO DIANE WEINROTH

The 15th annual Jerrold Scoutt Prize of \$2,500 was awarded to Diane Weinroth, who has worked for more than 30 years focusing on child abuse and neglect matters and, in 2007, divided her time between the Women and the Law Clinic at American University's Washington College of Law, and the Children's Law Center.

The Jerrold Scoutt Prize was made possible 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. Additional contributions are welcome.

The recipient of the Jerrold Scoutt Prize is chosen annually by the Scoutt Prize Committee 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 prize is ordinarily presented at the District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference in March



## IOLTA REVENUES INCREASE

IOLTA revenues for Fiscal Year 2007 continued to build on the gains of the prior year. Citibank joined the Foundation's *DC IOLTA Preferred Bank Initiative* mid-way through FY 2007, substantially increasing IOLTA revenues. The Preferred Bank Initiative helps address the disparity between the Federal Funds Rate and rates paid on IOLTA accounts, illustrated above.

The initiative encourages banks to establish interest rates for IOLTA accounts that are more closely linked to the Federal Funds Rate. This is an effort to close the gap between standard short-term rates – which track more closely the Federal Funds Rate -- and rates paid on DC IOLTA accounts. The impact of this initiative has been significant: the highest rate available from a Preferred Bank was 4.5%, compared to an average high rate of 0.8% at banks that have not increased their rates as a result of the Preferred Bank initiative. IOLTA receipts for FY2007 were more than double the amount received in FY2006, and more than triple that received in FY2005.

The Foundation is grateful to the participating IOLTA Preferred Banks for their strong commitment to the DC community and to legal services. Law firms, lawyers, and others are encouraged to

look to these financial institutions for their IOLTA and other banking needs.

The Foundation worked on a comprehensive overhaul of the District's IOLTA rules, coordinating closely with the DC Bar in the development of changes that will strengthen the program, secure solid attorney participation, and generate much-needed revenue to support local legal services. The proposed rules revisions were forwarded to the DC Bar for its review and action in November 2007.

## DC POVERTY LAWYERS GET HELP WITH EDUCATION LOANS

Forty-three lawyers working in the District in FY2007 to provide free legal services in our community were the recipients of the first DC Poverty Lawyer Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) awards. Through companion programs funded separately by the DC City Council and the DC Bar Foundation, a total of nearly \$270,000 in loans was made to individual poverty lawyers, to help them repay their educational loans while working for non-profit legal services providers in the District. Loan awards ranged from \$1,300 to \$12,000, and averaged \$6,200. On average, LRAP recipients are repaying more than \$90,000 in educational loans each. The LRAP awards

have made it financially possible for these lawyers to work on behalf of the District's poor and underserved. As one recipient said when LRAP loans were announced: *"Thank you! I love my clients, I love my job, and now I can afford to keep them."* In addition to public funds, FY2007 LRAPs were made possible by private contributions and IOLTA funds. The Bar Foundation thanks the DC Bar Litigation Section for its seed grant of \$20,000, and public interest lawyer Corrine Yu, who contributed a challenge grant to support the LRAP.

## **\$2.1 MILLION IN IOLTA AND PRIVATE FUNDS GIVEN TO SUPPORT LOCAL LEGAL SERVICES**

Thanks to the generosity of area law firms and to the strengthened DC – IOLTA program, the Foundation awarded a record \$2.1 million to

support local legal services. Grant awards of IOLTA and private funds nearly doubled from FY2006, largely due to substantial increases in IOLTA revenues.

A list of grants awarded follows. Among a range of grants to support operations of legal services programs in DC, the Foundation funded a planning grant to three organizations to develop a legal services call center for the District; and a grant to enhance the internet-based resources on poverty law and pro bono legal services. Foundation grantees provide services to clients on matters relating to housing & homelessness, immigration, family issues, domestic violence, employment, special education, individual rights, and income maintenance. In addition, some of the grantees provide legal services to discrete, vulnerable populations, including the elderly, people who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS, current or recently-released prisoners, and various immigrant communities in the District.

# Thank You!

The DC Bar Foundation gratefully thanks those who volunteered in our offices during FY2007:

Alicia Balzer  
Alex Berz  
Alix Murdoch  
Maggie Salah

Thanks also to the legal assistants who served as note-takers in our site visits:

Goodwin Procter  
Sarah Conkwright  
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom  
Christine Benha           Katie Coughlin  
Elizabeth Edenberg       Anne Gooch  
Matt Gorden               Maggie Graham  
Mark Hauser               Chelsea Kanyer  
Lauren Regan              Amy Tristan

**DC Bar Foundation FY 2007 Grants Awarded**

Advocates for Justice in Education - \$70,000*	Disability Rights Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$40,000	Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project - \$25,000
Archdiocesan Legal Network - \$87,000	DV LEAP - \$40,000	Neighborhood Legal Services Program - \$65,000*
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center - \$40,000	EEO Intake Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$20,000	Our Place, D.C. – Legal Services Clinic - \$35,000
Ayuda - \$75,000	Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project – Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$60,000	SAFE - \$30,000
Bread for the City Legal Clinic - \$95,000*	Human Rights First – Washington, D.C. Asylum Representation Project - \$30,000	University of the District of Columbia School of Law Housing Clinic - \$50,000*
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition - \$75,000	Legal Aid Society of D.C. – General Support - \$100,000	University of the District of Columbia School of Law Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic - \$50,000
Central American Resource Center - \$35,000	Legal Aid Society of D.C. – Appellate Litigation Project - \$25,000	University Legal Services - \$25,000*
Children's Law Center - \$75,000	Legal Counsel for the Elderly - \$25,000	Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless - \$120,000
Columbus Community Legal Services, Family Abuse Project - \$35,000*		Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless – Access Employment Project - \$45,000
D.C. Employment Justice Center - \$50,000		Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program - \$125,000
D.C. Law Students In Court - \$70,000		Women Empowered Against Violence - \$50,000
D.C. Prisoners' Project - Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs - \$132,500		
<b>CROSS-CUTTING GRANTS:</b>		
DC Consortium of Legal Services Providers		\$10,000
Call Center Planning Grant		\$62,250
Probono.net/dc		\$47,500
<b>PROGRAM SUPPORT:</b>		
Foundation FY08 Poverty Lawyer Loan Repayment Assistance		\$200,000

\* Indicates full or partial challenge or conditional grant

More information about the Foundation's grant process is available at [www.dcbarfoundation.org](http://www.dcbarfoundation.org)

**DC BAR FOUNDATION SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION**  
**Year ending June 30, 2007**

**ASSETS**

Cash & cash equivalents	\$976,771
Accounts receivable	257,036
Investments	151,259
Fixed assets, net	4,198
Deposits	1,650
Total Assets	\$1,391,493

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$6,053
Grants payable	532,014
Total Current Liabilities	\$538,067

Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Undesignated	\$637,389
Board designated	25,000
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$662,389
Temporarily Restricted	
Total Net Assets	\$191,037
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$853,426
	\$1,391,493

**REVENUE**

Contributions	\$544,055
IOLTA Program	2,188,401*
Grants received	3,343,836
Interest	46,536
Other income	200
Total Revenue	\$6,123,028

**EXPENSES**

Grants and LRAP Awards	\$5,409,455**
Grantmaking/Program Support & Gen'l Admin	\$124,072
Fundraising	\$30,601
Total Expenses	\$5,564,128

*\*This figure does not include IOLTA income earned in June 2007, but received in July 2007, although estimated income for June 2007 was allocated for conditional and challenge grants.*

*\*\*FY2007 Grant expenses include payments of FY2006 conditional and challenge grants that were met during FY2007. The Foundation records conditional and challenge grant awards only when met and paid out.*

## The District of Columbia Bar Foundation Thanks Its FY 2007 Donors

Every day, legal services lawyers are on the front lines of battle to secure access to justice for underprivileged District of Columbia residents. They help fight for shelter, education, child support, and protection from violence. But they can reach only a fraction of the people in our community who need assistance. Denying access to justice imposes very real human costs and erodes the fundamental principles sustaining our legal system. All lawyers must work to 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. Every additional dollar translates into 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. Your generosity allowed the D.C. Bar Foundation to award \$2.1 million in grants to support legal services for District of Columbia residents in June 2007.

Martin Luther King said that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Despite our efforts, despite your generosity, injustice continues in our community. You can help fight it. Please join your colleagues in generously supporting the efforts of the D.C. Bar Foundation 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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### THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR FOUNDATION

FUNDING LEGAL SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED

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## 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 IOLTA program, the interest rates paid on IOLTA accounts, and, separately, upon direct support from law firms, individuals, and others.

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Director of Programs

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The DC Bar Foundation acknowledges with special appreciation its **DC-IOLTA Preferred Banks**:

**Adams National Bank**

**Citibank**

**CityFirst**

**Colombo Bank**

**SunTrust**

We encourage lawyers to look to these banks for their banking needs.

*Other banks authorized to hold DC IOLTA accounts are listed on the Foundation website.*

[WWW.DCBARFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.DCBARFOUNDATION.ORG)