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## **DC Bar Foundation Awards \$2.79 Million of Public Funds for Civil Legal Services**

The DC Bar Foundation announced today \$2.7 million in publicly-funded grants to support civil legal services for the poor in the District of Columbia. This is the second year of the DC City Council's groundbreaking appropriation for civil legal services, which the Bar Foundation administers. The grants will continue support for programs launched last year to increase the number of lawyers working on housing issues and in underserved areas. A separate grant continues funding for the legal services Community Interpreter Bank.

The 13 legal services grants went to nine non-profit legal services organizations in the District. All the recipients had successfully launched publicly-funded legal services initiatives in 2007, bringing 31 new lawyers to work on housing issues or in communities that previously had no legal services lawyers. Today's awards include a grant of more than \$560,000 for the on-site lawyer program at DC's Landlord-Tenant Court, a collaborative effort by three legal services providers. The Foundation also awarded a grant to continue a novel program in which lawyers make house calls for the homebound elderly. "Public funds have helped bring legal services literally to the doorstep of those in need. These funds have helped non-profit legal services programs reach more clients, establish a presence in underserved communities, and effectively leverage private resources to expand their service further," said Robert N. Weiner, President of the DC Bar Foundation.

The DC Bar Foundation is grateful to the DC City Council for its recognition of the dire need for civil legal services in disadvantaged communities and its exemplary commitment to protecting the rights of the most vulnerable citizens of the District. The Foundation also thanks the DC Access to Justice Commission for effectively working with the City Council to secure this funding.

A complete list of FY2008 publicly-funded grants is available on the Foundation's website, [www.dcbarfoundation.org](http://www.dcbarfoundation.org).

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*The DC Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 1977 to provide a vehicle for members of the bar to contribute to legal services providers. Since 1985, the Foundation has also administered the District of Columbia's IOLTA program.*