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## **DC Bar Foundation Awards \$3.13 Million of Public Funds for Civil Legal Services**

The DC Bar Foundation announced today \$3.1 million in publicly-funded grants to support civil legal services for the poor and disadvantaged in the District of Columbia. This is the third year of the District of Columbia's groundbreaking appropriation for civil legal services. At the direction of the DC City Council, and pursuant to a Grant Agreement with the DC Office of the Attorney General, the Bar Foundation lends its expertise to the District of Columbia, identifying, awarding, and monitoring the publicly-funded grants. The FY2009 grants continue support for programs launched in 2007 to increase the number of lawyers working on housing issues and in underserved areas; continue funding for the legal services Community Interpreter Bank; and fund four new projects for lawyers to serve vulnerable communities in the District.

"District of Columbia funds have helped bring legal services literally to the doorstep of those in need across our community. These badly-needed funds enable non-profit legal services providers to reach more clients, establish a presence in underserved communities, and effectively leverage private resources to expand access to justice throughout the District of Columbia," said Stephen J. Pollak, President of the DC Bar Foundation.

Public funding provides critical direct support to bring vital legal services to the city's neediest communities.

A list of FY2009 publicly-funded projects and grantees is attached and also 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.*

**Publicly Funded Grant Recipients for Fiscal Year 2009  
DC Bar Foundation**

Ayuda – Shared Legal Interpreter Bank  
*(in collaboration with APALRC, La Clínica del Pueblo, Legal Aid Society of DC, Washington College of Law)*

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center – Housing and Community Justice Project\*

Bread for the City – Community Lawyering Project

Children’s Law Center – Southeast DC Health Access Project

Court-Based Legal Services Project – awards to Bread for the City, Legal Aid Society of DC, Neighborhood Legal Services Program

DC Employment Justice Center – Bilingual Worker Rights Project\*

DC Law Students in Court – Support for Court-Based Legal Services Project

Legal Aid Society of DC – Southeast Community Lawyering Project

Legal Counsel for the Elderly – Alternatives to Eviction\*

Legal Counsel for the Elderly – Project HELP

Neighborhood Legal Services Program – Northeast/Southeast Expansion

University Legal Services – DC Jail Project  
*(in collaboration with DC Prisoners Project of the Washington Lawyers Committee)*

USCRI – Center for Refugee & Immigrant Children – DC Foster Children Project\*

WEAVE – NE Lighthouse Center for Healing – Legal Services Project

Whitman Walker Legal Clinic – Southeast Legal Services Expansion

\*Newly funded project