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DC Bar Foundation Awards Records \$2.1 Million to Support Civil Legal Services in the District of Columbia

The DC Bar Foundation announced awards of more than \$2.1 million to support direct civil legal services for the poor in the District. This total nearly doubles the \$1.1 million awarded last year, and is the most money the Foundation has ever awarded in privately-funded grants over its 29-year history. These grants are in addition to the \$2.89 million the Foundation awarded in April 2007 with funding from the District government.

“The generosity of our legal community – and the responsiveness of area banks to our *DC IOLTA Preferred Bank Initiative* – has enabled the Foundation once again to increase our funding for legal services,” said Robert N. Weiner, President of the D.C. Bar Foundation. “We are pleased that legal services organizations can implement more of the creative, effective plans they have for eliminating barriers to justice and for bringing legal help to the people who need it most. Our legal community has historically met less than 10% of the legal needs of the poor in DC. We have made some progress, but have barely begun to narrow the gap between the legal needs of the poor and the resources available to meet them remains immense. We hope lawyers and law firms in DC will continue to recognize their unique obligation to fund legal services for the poor, and will help us and the legal service providers we fund in protecting the basic human rights of the most vulnerable among us.”

This year, the Foundation’s direct legal services funded 29 different programs that bring legal services to the homeless, the disabled, the elderly, as well as to children, victims of domestic violence, and many more of the less fortunate in our community. The Foundation also awarded cross-cutting grants to support web-based resources for legal services; development of a pilot centralized intake system for legal services; and the work of the DC Consortium of Legal Services Providers in coordinating the efforts of providers. The Foundation also allocated funds to support the educational loan repayment assistance program for DC poverty lawyers.

The Foundation awards grants annually, after a rigorous process requiring detailed applications and site reviews. A list of the grantees for Fiscal Year 2007 is attached.

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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.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR FOUNDATION

FUNDING LEGAL SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED

FY2007 Awards

Direct Legal Services

▪ Advocates for Justice and Education *	\$70,000
▪ Archdiocesan Legal Network	87,000
▪ Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	40,000
▪ Ayuda*	75,000
▪ Bread for the City Legal Clinic*	95,000
▪ Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition	75,000
▪ Central American Resource Center	35,000
▪ Children's Law Center	75,000
▪ Columbus Community Legal Services*	35,000
▪ Disability Rights Project , Washington Lawyers' Comm for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs	40,000
▪ D.C. Employment Justice Center	50,000
▪ D.C. Law Students in Court Program	70,000
▪ D.C. Prisoners' Project, Washington Lawyers Comm for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs	
General Support	75,000
Inmate Outreach Project	57,000
▪ DV LEAP	40,000
▪ EEO Intake Project, Washington Lawyers' Comm for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs	20,000
▪ Human Rights First	30,000
▪ Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project – Washington Lawyers' Comm for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs	
General Support	25,000
Day Laborer Outreach & Intake Project*	35,000
▪ Legal Aid Society of D.C. – General Support	100,000
▪ Legal Aid Society of D.C. – Appellate Litigation Project	75,000
▪ Legal Counsel for the Elderly	25,000
▪ Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project	25,000
▪ Neighborhood Legal Services Program *	65,000
▪ Our Place, D.C.	35,000
▪ SAFE	30,000
▪ University Legal Services*	25,000
▪ University of the District of Columbia School of Law -	
Housing Clinic	50,000
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic	20,000
▪ Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless – General Support	120,000
Homeless Access to Employment Project	45,000
▪ Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services Program	125,000
▪ Women Empowered Against Violence	50,000

Cross-cutting Grants

▪ <i>probono.net/dc - LawHelp.org*</i>	47,500
▪ DC Consortium of Legal Services Providers	10,000
▪ Call Center Collaborative Grant	62,250

Program Support

▪ DC Bar Foundation- Loan Repayment Assistance Program	200,000
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TOTAL AWARDS

\$ 2,138,700

**indicates a conditional or challenge grant*