

Promoting the delivery of legal services to those in need and improving access to justice for residents of Hennepin County

**Hennepin  
County**



**Bar  
Foundation**

The charitable arm of the  
**Hennepin County Bar Association**

**2010-2011  
Annual Report**



# President's Message

Dear members of the bench and bar:

As I took the gavel to begin my year as president of the Hennepin County Bar Foundation last July, someone joked that serving as a nonprofit leader is quite like owning a boat. There are only two good days: the day you get it, and the day you get rid of it.

But nothing could be further from the truth in my case. I am honored by the opportunity to work closely with the foundation's distinguished board of directors, the bar association's excellent staff, the many transformative nonprofits the foundation supports, and the cornucopia of financial supporters – both individuals and firms – that allow the foundation to deliver on its mission year after year.

A foundation is a strange animal. Its express purpose is to raise as much money as humanly possible, and then to turn around and give away as much money as humanly possible. And in doing that, this foundation strives to fulfill a three-pronged mission by:

- 1.) Facilitating the delivery of legal services for the poor
- 2.) Educating the public about the legal system
- 3.) Contributing to the improvement of the legal system and the administration of justice.

The foundation's activities from this past year are, I think, neatly grouped into its four areas of expertise: 1) raising money; 2) giving money away; 3) recognizing deserving people; and 4) ushering transition. Please indulge me for a moment as I detail each a bit more below:

## THE RAISING OF MONEY

We are experts at raising money. First, some horn-tooting. This year, the foundation – with leadership from several local law firms and lawyers – secured the largest single gift in its history: a \$100,000 *cy pres* award from a class-action settlement. That award will support grants well into the future to nonprofits meeting the legal needs of women. It was a truly transformational award ushered in with leadership from Dan Gustafson, Vincent Louwagie, and Steven Pincus, and the HCBF's executive director, Larry Buxbaum. Extraordinary.

In March, the foundation held its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Bar Benefit. More than 450 members of the local legal community gathered to socialize,

bid on piles of silent-auction items, and recognize the recipients of the Pro Bono Publico Awards. The event raised more than \$124,000, and facilitated Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN) raising an additional \$18,800 for its programs.

In August, the foundation raised more than \$17,000 at its golf tournament. More than 95 golfers, 13 companies, and countless hours of staff and volunteer time were poured into its great success.

Finally, the Hennepin County Bar Foundation secured generous support from many attorneys through its annual fundraising campaign and the dues check off. For those of you who continue to write checks and encourage others to do so, please know that you are the lifeblood of this organization. Without you, the foundation would be unable to serve the needs in our community. Thank you.

## THE GIVING OF MONEY

By far the most enjoyable part of the foundation's work is the giving away of money. We're experts at it. We review, analyze, visit, and evaluate almost 50 nonprofit organizations yearly as part of the grant-making process. And this year, at the tail end of an historically-challenging economic valley, the foundation awarded \$108,950 in grants to 30 deserving law-related nonprofit organizations in our community. Since 1996, the foundation's grants have exceeded \$1.1 million.

And in the same year the foundation secured its largest gift ever, it also made its largest grant ever. An historic initiative is afoot between the Hennepin and Ramsey County Bar foundations and associations to create a single intake line for people seeking pro bono legal services. The Call For Justice initiative, under the leadership efforts of Tom Fraser and Mike Unger, recently reached its significant goal of raising \$250,000 in "new money." That success triggers matching grant offers made earlier by the Hennepin and Ramsey bar foundations. Over three years of this pilot project, our foundation will pay out more than \$167,000—its largest grant ever—to help make Call For Justice a success.

## THE RECOGNIZING OF ARCHETYPES

As we do every year, the foundation awarded its Pro Bono Publico Awards at the Bar Benefit in March. The winners, without exception, deflected praise



### OFFICERS, 2010-2011

- President: Marshall Lichty
- Vice President: Andrew Mohring
- Secretary: Steven M. Pincus
- Treasurer: Jonathan A. Strauss

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- President: Andrew Mohring
- Vice President: Steven M. Pincus
- Secretary: Jonathan A. Strauss
- Treasurer: Girard Miller

The **MISSION** of the Hennepin County Bar Foundation is to achieve equal justice for all citizens of Hennepin County by:

- IMPROVING**  
the administration of justice
- INCREASING**  
public understanding of the law
- FACILITATING**  
the delivery of legal services



and encouraged us all to provide pro bono services every year in a meaningful way. They are the archetypes. Tom Tinkham received the Distinguished Service Award. Rick Macpherson received the award for Excellence by an Attorney in the Public Sector, and Keith Moheban was recognized with the award for Excellence by an Attorney in the Private Sector. We should all be grateful for their selflessness in securing the stability of our legal community by helping those most in need.

## THE USHERING OF TRANSITION

Finally, this was a year of transition. The foundation, like the association, will lose its fearless and omnipresent executive director, Larry Buxbaum, to retirement at the end of June 2011. His encyclopedic knowledge, enthusiasm, and personality will be dearly missed. But the foundation has been active in the process to find his permanent replacement. An executive search committee is charged with identifying the best candidate to lead us in the next transformative stage of the foundation's development.

It was not without some trepidation that the foundation decided not to participate in the Attractive Nuisance Tour fundraising concert. Having met my now wife at the event in 2006, it was hard to say goodbye. But every program has its limits, and every organization evolves. I'm proud to report that the foundation weathered this strategic decision without any impact on our grant-making capacity.

Finally, the foundation's board of directors spent meaningful energy to improve the foundation's administrative infrastructure. We convened board teams to engage in a strategic-planning process, to improve our grant-application and grant-making process, and to find and recruit the best candidates to populate the Board of Directors for the future.

This was an extraordinary year, highlighted by historically-large gifts, historically-large grants, an ongoing tradition of recognizing the most generous attorneys in our midst, and ushering momentous transitions across the foundation. I very much enjoyed my tenure, and I will look on as incoming-president Andrew Mohring continues the drive to improve the foundation and strives to increase its impact on our legal community. Obviously, we are not yet done. This economy and this community need each and every one of us to continue to lead. We at the foundation are experts in grant-making. You all are experts in the law. So let's keep building the foundation. Together.

## Introducing Your 2011-2012 HCBF Leadership

### Board Members

Hon. Stephen C. Aldrich  
Katherine Bruce  
Jonathan Bye  
Eric Cooperstein  
Joe Dixon  
Kelly Everhart  
David Forro  
Sarah Godfrey  
Jewelie Grape  
Bridget Hayden  
Brian Jarrells  
Thomas Jensen  
Katherine Johansen  
Michelle Jones  
Lisa Lamm Bachman  
Girard Miller  
Kati Mohammad-Zadeh  
Andrew Mohring  
Thomas Nelson  
Steven Pincus  
Michael Robles  
Miriam Rykken  
Jonathan Strauss  
Aaron Street  
Sharna Wahlgren  
Courtney Ward-Reichard

## 2010-2011 HCBF Grant Recipients

GRANT POLICIES AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT: [WWW.HCBA.ORG](http://WWW.HCBA.ORG)

### Asian Women United of Minnesota

(\$2,500) To provide victims of domestic violence in the Asian-Pacific Islander community with translators for accessible legal consultation on a weekly basis.

### Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project

(\$1,000) To fund the New Laws Training, which is designed to enhance the knowledge base on all aspects of domestic-violence-related law.

### Central Minnesota Legal Services

(\$1,500) To support the Noncustodial Parents' Access to Visitation Program, housed at the FATHER Project.

### Children's Law Center of Minnesota

(\$5,000) To support the program's direct representation and advocacy for state wards in Hennepin County.

### Civil Society

(\$3,500) To support legal services to trafficking victims in Hennepin County through the Minnesota Trafficking Victims Services Network.

### Conflict Resolution Center

(\$3,000) To fund the School Restorative Services Program, which serves as an alternative to exclusionary discipline processes.

### Division of Indian Work

(\$3,000) To support The Family Violence Program at the Division of Indian Work providing a comprehensive continuum of care services to American Indian victims of domestic abuse, as well as anger management counseling to men and women.

### Emerge Community Development

(\$2,500) To support a two-year pilot project that creates opportunities for youth involved in gangs to reduce youth crime and violence.

### Hennepin County Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service

(\$1,200) To bring an interpreter into Lawyer Referral and Information Service phone conversations when there is a need, to facilitate access to justice for non-English speakers.

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## 2010-2011 HCBF Grant Recipients

### **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota**

(\$5,000) To fund the New Beginnings project that provides legal representation before the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and in Immigration court to women and children who are eligible for special immigration benefits, along with education about rights and responsibilities.

### **Innocence Project of Minnesota**

(\$1,000) To support and continue work on the project's education, review, and research into wrongfully convicted and imprisoned individuals.

### **Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers**

(\$4,000) To fund marketing and website development to help clients in Hennepin County easily access information regarding LCL programs and services.

### **Legal Rights Center**

(\$5,000) To provide free and community-based representation services to low-income Hennepin County residents primarily in criminal and juvenile defense.

### **LegalCORPS**

(\$1,500) To provide legal services to low-income owners of small business and small nonprofits, develop an effective patent law pro bono program, and increase the capacity of providing transactional assistance.

### **Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota**

(\$3,000) To provide funding for education loan repayment assistance to a recently graduated attorney representing low-income clients in Hennepin County.

### **Minnesota AIDS Project**

(\$1,000) To fund MAP's legal services, which works toward eliminating legal barriers to maintaining the health and financial security of individuals living with HIV and to securing the support of their families and communities.

### **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**

(\$3,000) To support the VETLAW program providing civil legal services to homeless and in-crisis veterans in Hennepin County.

### **Minnesota Justice Foundation**

(\$5,000) To support the law student volunteer component of the Law School Public Service Program that encourages law students to perform 50 hours of pro bono legal services during their law school career.

### **Neighborhood Involvement Program**

(\$2,500) To support the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, which provides victims with with legal services.

### **Operation de Novo**

(\$2,000) To sustain the agency's core programs relating to youth, adult, and drug diversion.

### **Restorative Justice Community Action**

(\$2,000) To fund RJCA's Youth Community Conferencing Program, engaging youth in a restorative process.

### **Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership/ Seward Neighborhood Group**

(\$1,500) To sustain the provision of restorative justice services to 100 percent of the youth referred by Hennepin County Juvenile Prosecution Division.

### **Somali Benadiri Community of Minnesota**

(\$1,250) To assist Somali Benadiri refugee and immigrant families in integrating into American life through the provision of legal services in immigration law and related issues.

### **Somali Community Legal Education Project**

(\$5,000) To support the translation and audio recording of a variety of CLE Project poverty law fact sheets into Somali.

### **The Advocates for Human Rights**

(\$1,000) To support legal services for low income asylum seekers living in Hennepin County.

### **The ICWA Law Center**

(\$3,000) To fund the Indian Children's Stability Program, which provides legal representation and services for Indian parents impacted by the child protection system working to preserve their families.

### **Tubman**

(\$1,000) To support the Pro Bono Safety Project, which provides pro bono representation to low-income victims of family violence at OFP and HRO hearings.

### **Volunteer Lawyers Network**

(\$35,000) To support services to the economically disadvantaged and to increase staff capacity to meet demonstrated needs.

### **Volunteers of America - Minnesota**

(\$1,000) To support the Estate & Elder Law Service, which provides elder law advice and representation to qualifying clients at no cost or a reduced rate.

### **YMCA of Metro Minneapolis - Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government**

(\$2,000) To support program scholarships for the Youth in Government Program, which builds leadership skills and promotes civic responsibility.

