

2011-2012, ISSUE V

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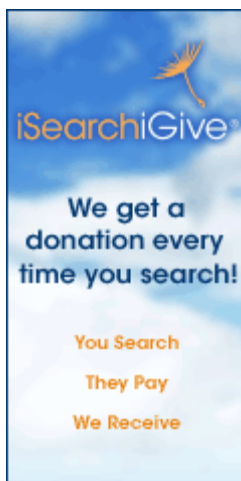
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Events

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

WBA/WBAF Annual Dinner

The annual gathering of WBA members and the legal community, will recognize the Woman Lawyer of the Year, Katia Garrett, Executive Director of the DC Bar Foundation, and the Janet Reno Torchbearer



WBA Foundation President's Letter



By Tracy-Gene G. Durkin

As the WBA Foundation closes out its 30th anniversary year, I'm proud to have served as President for the past two years. Our Board has accomplished so much: we have established a **strategic plan** to guide our operations for the next few years; evaluated and redefined our **mission**; streamlined our **grant process**; placed a renewed emphasis on our grantees and their contributions to the community; and published our first **annual report**.

We also celebrated our spring Grants Awards Ceremony, a networking event where WBA members and Foundation friends can meet and learn more about our grantees. Our second annual event was held in April, and we announced and recognized **the five amazing organizations we are supporting this year through our grants**. Your support of the Foundation enables us to in turn support organizations that are improving the lives of women in girls in our community. For that, we thank you.

Our Wine Tasting and Silent Auction fundraiser continues to be popular. The proceeds from that event support the WBAF Founders Fellowship, which this year was awarded to Rebecca Zimmerman, a 2L student at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Established by the Foundation in 2006, at its 25th anniversary celebration, the Founders Fellowship provides a stipend to allow a law student to work at a local non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the mission of the WBA Foundation. This summer, Ms. Zimmerman will be working at the Children's Law Center, helping to provide legal representation to at-risk children and families in the District of Columbia.

Finally, during the past year, the WBA Foundation made further progress with "**Uniting for Justice**," a fundraising and visibility campaign designed to deepen the WBA Foundation's impact and to strengthen the work of our current and future grantees. You will be hearing more about this campaign in the coming months.

When considering your charitable giving, we hope you make a special gift to the WBA Foundation. We want you to think of the Foundation as your philanthropy in greater Washington, DC – one that reflects your values and your interests. We are eager to hear from you about how you think the WBA Foundation can make a difference. We need your continued support to achieve our mission of leveraging the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community.

Award recipient, former FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair.

Friday, June 8, 2012

Golf Clinic

The WBA Golf Clinic will bring together attorneys, legal professionals, business partners, and vendors from the DC area for a day of recreation and networking. The event includes a networking breakfast, a Clinic instructed by Avenel's team of PGA teaching professionals, a lunch presentation by Rose Harper, President and CEO of The Grass Ceiling, and an opportunity to close the day by playing 9 holes.

As I pass the torch to the next WBA Foundation president, I want to thank the WBA Foundation Board for the time and talents they shared with me and with our donors and grant recipients. Their tireless efforts are making the WBA Foundation a more powerful force in the D.C. philanthropic community.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
WBA Foundation President 2011-2012

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WBA Foundation Awards 2012 Grants

About Us

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l-r: Andrea Charters, Rosetta Stone; WBA Board member Jessica Adler, The Law Offices of Jessica E. Adler; WBA Board member Yolanda Hawkins-Bautista, Freddie Mac; and WBA Past President Consuela Pinto, U.S. Department of Labor



Representatives from Courtney's House shared information about their programs with attendees.



The event was a great networking opportunity for the 120 people who attended.



WBAF President Tracy Durkin gave welcome remarks.

The WBA Foundation held its third annual Grant Awards Ceremony on May 2, 2012. The event was attended by WBAF supporters, WBA members, and grant recipients. The 120 people in attendance were able to learn more about the organizations supported by WBAF grants, both through brief remarks given by each grantee and at the information tables hosted by each organization.

This year, the WBAF awarded a total of \$30,000 in grants to five local nonprofits:

Break the Cycle believes everyone has the right to safe and healthy relationships, and its mission is to engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from domestic violence. They are the leading, national nonprofit organization addressing teen dating violence. The WBAF grant will support the improved delivery and expansion of Break the Cycle's legal services program. Through this program, they provide representation in campus administrative proceedings, as well as family, employment, and housing matters; accompany survivors to meet with policy

and/or prosecutors to report abuse and assist in criminal prosecution; and make appropriate referrals to social services.

Courtney's House is committed to providing a loving environment for girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 18 who are survivors of sex trafficking. They are dedicated to addressing the overlooked issues of domestic sex trafficking by providing essential services to survivors. The WBAF grant will support a conference for 150 to 200 attorneys that provides free training on domestic sex trafficking from a survivor's perspective.

The mission of the **Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project** is to provide a stronger voice for justice by fighting to overturn unjust trial court outcomes; advancing legal protections for victims of domestic violence and their children through expert appellate advocacy, training lawyers, psychologists and judges on best practices; and spearheading domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. The WBAF grant supports its DC project, DC LEAP.

Our Place DC supports women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community, resettle after incarceration, and reconcile with their families. The WBAF grant will support Our Place DC's legal services program which helps women resolve matters impeding their progress and chances at success in the facilities that hold them and in the community. The issues addressed relate to parole, prison conditions, medical care, housing, divorce, child custody, and appeals from denial of SSI/SSDI benefits.

Polaris Project is a leading organization in the United States combating all forms of human trafficking, using a holistic approach to serve men, women and children. With funding from the WBAF, Polaris Project is launching a legal network in the Washington, DC Metro area to recruit and train legal professionals to provide pro bono legal services for victims of human trafficking.

In addition to the presentation of grants, the event featured keynote remarks by **Martina Vandenberg**, a Fellow at Open Society Foundations. As an Open Society Fellow, Ms. Vandenberg is establishing a public law center called Civil Justice: The Human Trafficking Legal Resource Center. The center will serve as a clearing house, bringing together highly-qualified pro bono attorneys with human trafficking survivors seeking legal assistance. The organization will advocate to increase the range of legal options offered to trafficking victims in the United States. By advocating with nongovernmental organization leaders, training lawyers, and mentoring attorneys handling pro bono trafficking cases, Vandenberg hopes to increase trafficking victims' access to justice in the United States.

The WBAF wishes to thank **Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP**, for hosting the event and **Hilton Worldwide** for its underwriting support.



Kate Feola, Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment Appeals Project, and WBAF Board member Kathy Gunning.



WBAF Vice President Kirra Jarratt, American Bar Association and WBAF Secretary Amy Bess, Vedder Price P.C.



WBAF Treasurer Linda Jackson, Venable LLP (right) presented the grant check to representatives from Our Place DC.

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WBAF 2011-2012 Donors

Many thanks to our supporters! The following donors have made a gift the WBA Foundation between March 1, 2012 and May 15, 2012. These gifts will be used to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. For a list of all fiscal year donors and recognition of giving levels, visit www.wbadcfoundation.org.

Defender (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Kirkland & Ellis Foundation

Believer (\$100 - \$499)

Debra Jezouit
Consuela A. Pinto
Maureen Syracuse

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