



# MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE SINCE 1964

## MBF UPDATE April 2009

### MBF Supports Civil Right to Counsel Pilot Project

The MBF Trustees proudly announce a grant of \$125,000 to support an innovative initiative entitled, "Providing a Right to Counsel in Certain Eviction Cases: A Cost/Benefit Pilot Project." The program seeks to demonstrate that creating a right to counsel in selected categories of eviction cases leads to more just outcomes in those cases, as well as significant savings to the Commonwealth.

The MBF joins the Boston Bar Foundation and the Boston Foundation in funding this important undertaking. Numerous members of the Massachusetts legal community collaborated to develop and now implement this pilot project, which was originally proposed by the BBA Task Force on Expanding the Civil Right to Counsel's report, *Gideon's New Trumpet: Expanding the Civil Right to Counsel in Massachusetts*.

The Boston Bar Foundation will manage the award which includes funding for legal services staff from both Greater Boston Legal Services and Neighborhood Legal Services in Lynn. Grant funds will support attorneys to provide representation to indigent litigants facing eviction who meet the program's criteria in the Quincy District Court, as well as the Northeast Housing Court.

"This pilot project provides an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the immense value in providing access to legal representation for clients facing civil legal issues who otherwise could not afford such assistance," noted MBF President Laurence M. Johnson of Davis, Malm & D'Agostine. "Access to justice is vital to the effective functioning of our legal system. We hope this project will lead the way to an expanded right to counsel in

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### Support Our Spring Appeal!

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Massachusetts and beyond."

## Support Our Spring Appeal!

We all know that the recession has brought devastating budget cuts to our legal aid programs at a time when, due to these same economic factors, the legal needs of low-income individuals and families are soaring.

Your gift to the MBF during our Spring Appeal will allow us to better help our grantees at a time when they need it the most.

Please click the "Donate" button to the right to make a donation to our Spring Appeal. All gifts are 100% tax deductible.

## MBF Society of Fellows

### Meet Our Newest Fellow

The Foundation extends a warm welcome to **John T. Lynch** of **Davis, Malm & D'Agostine** who recently joined the MBF Society of Fellows, and in doing so made a commitment to increasing legal aid for the poor in our state.



**John T. Lynch, Esq.**

### New Life Fellows

Congratulations to **Jennifer Cartee**, of the **Massachusetts Attorney General's Office**, and **John Fitz-Gibbon**, of **Green, Miles and Fitz-Gibbon** in Northampton, who recently became Life Fellows of the

Please call the MBF Development Office at 617-338-0647.

 **By Mail**

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Foundation by completing their fellowship pledges.



**Jennifer A. Cartee, Esq.**

*(Photo of John Fitz-Gibbon unavailable)*

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## **MBF Introduces Honor Gift Program**

An honor gift is a meaningful way to pay tribute to a family member, friend, or colleague while at the same time supporting the delivery of legal aid programs for the poor in our state.

Whether to recognize a law school graduate, mark a law firm milestone, or memorialize a colleague's legacy, an honor gift to the MBF will have a lasting impact in the legal community.

The MBF will acknowledge your generous gift with a personal note sent directly to your designee.

Consider making an honor gift during our [Spring Appeal!](#)

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## **Become an Anniversary Sponsor!**

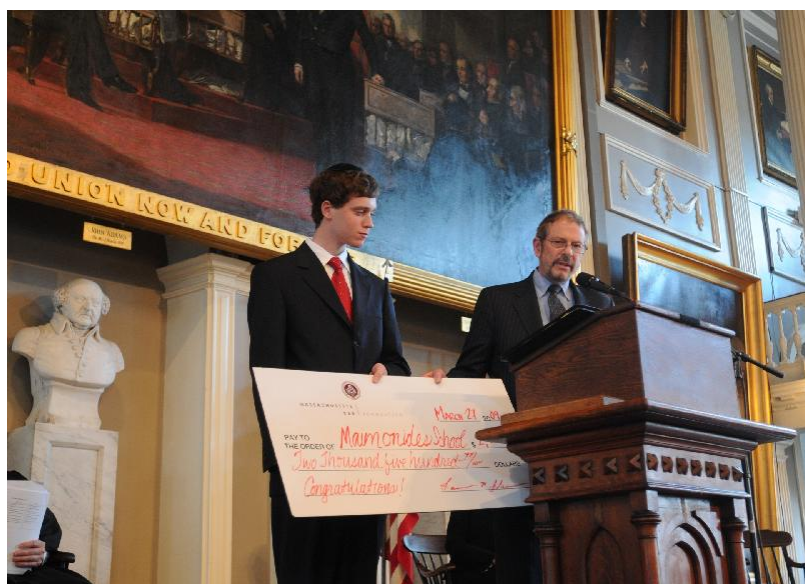
The MBF is celebrating its 45th anniversary with a yearlong campaign of fundraising activities to strengthen the Foundation's ability to fund legal assistance programs for low-income individuals and families in communities across the Commonwealth. We'll cap off the year with the MBF's Anniversary Gala Dinner and Fundraiser at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston, on January 14, 2010.

**The Foundation is currently seeking law firms, corporations, and individuals to assist in this effort by sponsoring the anniversary year.**

In addition to supporting a great cause, sponsoring the MBF's Anniversary Campaign presents a tremendous opportunity to get the word out about your organization to a focused audience of the legal community. Your sponsorship will be featured throughout the year in all campaign and event publicity.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a pdf of the MBF's sponsorship opportunity guide. To discuss opportunities further, call Susannah Thomas at 617-338-0647.

## MBF Awards Travel Grant to MBA Mock Trial Champs, Maimonides High School



MBF President Larry Johnson presented a check for \$2,500 to Michael Kosowsky of Maimonides High School in Brookline. Maimonides was the winner of the MBA's 2009 Mock Trial competition. The grant will help support the team's travels to the national championship competition to be held in Atlanta this May.

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