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MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE SINCE 1964

MBF UPDATE

September 2009

MBF Awards \$5 Million in IOLTA Grants For 2009/2010

The MBF proudly announces \$5 million in grants awarded through its annual Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Grants Program. This year's grants will fund 158 programs conducted by 107 nonprofit organizations throughout Massachusetts.

As a result of the economic downturn, available **funds for IOLTA grants were down more than 67% from last year**. Trustees of the Foundation voted to draw almost \$2.5 million from MBF reserve funds to help to fund the awards. MBF President **Laurence M. Johnson**, a partner at **Davis, Malm & D'Agostine** in Boston, notes, "The MBF Trustees recognize the dire impact this recession continues to have on so many individuals and communities across the state. We knew it was absolutely essential that we do whatever we could to help keep these vital services available to those in need."

Over 150 MBF Fellows assisted in reviewing grant applications, performing site-visits with applicants, and making grant recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

[Click here](#) to read the full press release.

[Click here](#) to view a complete listing of the 2009/2010 IOLTA grant recipients.

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Welcome New MBF Fellows!

The MBF offers thanks and a warm welcome to our newest Fellows:

Louis D. Brandeis Fellow:

Marc Breakstone
Breakstone, White & Gluck,
PC Boston, MA

Foundation Fellow:

Blaise Berthiaume
Berthiaume & Berthiaume, PC
Worcester, MA

Janet Aserkoff and Scott Foster Honored with 2009 MBF President's Awards



Janet F. Aserkoff, of **Rappaport, Aserkoff & Gelles** in Boston, was the recipient of the 2009 MBF President's Award at the Eastern Mass. grantee reception held in Boston on Sept. 23. **Scott W. Foster**, of **Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas** in Springfield, will receive the award at the Western Mass. grantee reception to be held in Springfield on October 1st.

The MBF President's Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service to the Massachusetts legal community through volunteerism, leadership and commitment to increasing the availability of legal services for low-income citizens of the state.

Both Aserkoff and Foster are active volunteers in the Foundation's IOLTA Grants Program. In doing so, they have donated countless hours to benefit the citizens of the Commonwealth by ensuring the judicious distribution of IOLTA funds to legal aid organizations across the state.

Aserkoff, an Oliver Wendell Holmes Life Fellow, has been an active MBF Fellow since 1980 and has participated in the grant review process for over a decade, lending her considerable knowledge and expertise to ensure that MBF funds are directed where they are needed most.

Foster, who joined the MBF in 2005, has not only been active in grant review activities since joining, but also stepped up to serve on the

Did you know that one of the best ways to support the MBF takes just a few minutes and doesn't cost you a cent?

Recommend a Colleague to Join the MBF Society of Fellows!

[Click here](#) to recommend a new Fellow today.

THE
Colonnade
HOTEL

SAVE THE DATE!

Help celebrate our 45th year at our anniversary dinner at the Boston Colonnade Hotel.

January 14, 2010

See old friends, meet new friends, and support a great cause!

Support the mission of the MBF!

To make a Contribution:

MBF Fellowship Committee and has been a champion of the Foundation in Western Mass.

Congratulations Janet and Scott and thanks for all you do to further the mission of the MBF!

Eastern Mass. Grantee Reception Brings Together Old Friends and New

On September 23rd, over 150 MBF Grantees, Fellows and friends covered at the MBA offices in Boston to celebrate the work of this year's IOLTA grant recipients. Also on hand were the MBF's 2009 Legal Intern Fellows- local law students who are pursuing careers in public interest law.



MBF Executive Director Beth Lynch, MBA President Valerie Yarashus, 2009 President's Award recipient Janet Aserkoff.



MBF President Larry Johnson, 2009 MBF Legal Intern Fellows Beth Goldstein and Heather O'Connor, and Brian O'Connor of South Coastal Counties Legal Services.

ONLINE:

Click the following button:



BY PHONE:

Please call Susannah Thomas at **617-338-0647**.

BY MAIL:

[Click here to download a mail-in contribution form](#)

2008 Annual Report Now Available!

It certainly had its ups and downs, but the Foundation is very proud of its accomplishments in 2008 and its ability to remain strong during a very difficult economic climate.

[Click here](#) to view a pdf of the MBF's 2008 Annual Report.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Find us on Facebook!

The MBF now has a cause page where visitors can learn about the mission of the MBF, click through to our website, and even make donations to support our efforts.

[Click here](#) to visit (or better yet

join) our cause page today!



MBF Fellow Hon. Patrick King, Sr. Lena Deevy of the Irish Immigration Center, MBF Trustee Hon. Wendie Gershengorn, and MBA President Valerie Yarashus



MBF Fellows Ken Vacovec, Tom Carey, and Jim Van Buren

For more photos, please [click here](#).

The Western Mass. grantee reception will be held on Thursday, **October 1, 2009**, from 4:30-6:30 pm, at the offices of Egan, Flanagan and Cohen in Springfield.

There is still time to RSVP for the Western Mass. reception. [Click here](#) to RSVP on-line today, or call 617-338-0648 to RSVP by phone.

[Click here](#) for directions to Egan Flanagan and Cohen.



45th Anniversary Campaign

Thank You to Our Anniversary Sponsors to Date!

The following firms have made a commitment to support legal aid

programs in our state through their sponsorship of the MBF's Anniversary Campaign:

GOLD SPONSORS

DAVIS MALM & D'AGOSTINE P.C.
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SILVER SPONSORS


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The Highest Level of Trial Advocacy

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 MEEHAN, BOYLE, BLACK
& BOGDANOW, P.C.

MINTZ LEVIN
MINTZ LEVIN COHN FERRIS GLOWACKI AND POPKO PC

 SKYWAYS
COMMUNICATIONS

Support the MBF's mission by adding your firm's name to the list!

[Click here](#) to download a pdf of the MBF's sponsorship opportunity guide.

MBF Seeks Silent Auction Donations!

Help the MBF raise more funds for legal aid by donating an item to our Anniversary Campaign's Online Silent Auction.

The auction will begin on December 14th and will conclude at our Anniversary Dinner on January 14th. To make this effort a success, we hope to include fun and creative items from all across the commonwealth!

Ideal auction items include:

- Tickets for a local sports team event
- Time at a vacation home
- Gift certificates to local restaurants, theaters, hotels, or spas
- Artwork, jewelry, and other collectibles

We will collect items from now until early December, but the sooner we receive your items the better. [Click here](#) to add your item to the auction. To discuss your donation, please contact the MBF development office at 617-338-0647.

New Fellow Spotlight



Boston attorney **Christopher L. Jefford** recently joined the MBF as a Foundation Fellow. Chris is a partner at **Bonner, Kiernan, Trebach & Crociata, LLP** where he represents individuals and companies in all areas of civil litigation, including major case personal injury actions, product liability, premises liability, construction defect, environmental claims, architects and engineers actions and contract disputes.

He was motivated to join the MBF because he found that his busy practice and young family afforded him little time to engage in pro bono or other charitable activities that he had hoped to pursue as an attorney.

"Becoming a member of the Foundation makes me feel like I'm giving back to the profession and helping others in some way,"

Chris explains. "While I do help my clients everyday, I am typically working with people who have the contacts and resources to bounce back from an adverse situation. By contributing to the MBF, I'm helping people who don't have the same resiliency. The help they receive may make the difference between hopelessness and a hopeful future."

Chris is an avid golfer, a loyal Notre Dame football fan, and a dedicated family man. He lives in Hingham with his wife, Carlyn, and their two children.

[Click here](#) to read Chris' full bio and learn more about his current practice.

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