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MBF UPDATE

August 2010

Foundation Awards \$4.5 million in IOLTA Grant Funding for 2010/2011

The Trustees of the MBF recently awarded \$4.5 million in IOLTA grant funding to nonprofits across the state that provide civil legal assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. Over 130 MBF Fellows volunteered their time to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Trustees.

Grants will support civil legal service programs including domestic violence programs, special education advocacy, consumer debt counseling, and homelessness prevention projects. Grants will also support the administration of justice through such efforts as court-linked mediation and lawyer-of-the-day programs.

These grants are particularly critical today as the recession continues to impact grantee organizations who are facing cuts to both public and private funding sources, while at the same time experiencing an increased

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Save the Dates for the 2010 MBF Grantee Receptions!

Boston

September 30, 2010
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Burns & Levinson, LLP
125 Summer Street, Boston

Springfield

October 14, 2010
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

demand for legal assistance.

MBF Trustees voted for a second year in a row to utilize the Foundation's reserve funds to supplement declining IOLTA income, in an effort to mitigate the impact to grantees. Thus, the total award amount for this year is just ten percent lower than last year, despite the precipitous decline in IOLTA revenue.

MBF President Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq. acknowledged the dire impact the recession has had on individuals and families across the state who will increasingly rely on the legal aid programs provided by MBF grantees. "We knew we had to do whatever we could to help keep these vital services available."

This year's MBF IOLTA grant awards will support 140 programs conducted by 97 nonprofit organizations throughout Massachusetts. Award amounts range from \$4,480 to \$98,000, with an average award of \$32,000, and will run for one year, from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011.

Funds for these grants are provided by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. The MBF is one of three charitable entities in Massachusetts that distributes IOLTA funds.

[Click here](#) to view a complete listing of the 2010/2011 IOLTA grant recipients.

MBF Support: Real Words - Real Impact

Here's what just a few grantees are saying about the support they receive from the MBF:

"Navigating the legal system is difficult for most everyone, but additionally complicated for families who may be immigrants and refugees, non-English speakers, and impacted by domestic violence. MBF's support of our legal advocacy program - particularly in these

Bulkley Richardson & Gelinas
1500 Main Street, Springfield

Come gather with colleagues and friends as we celebrate the accomplishments of this year's IOLTA Grant recipients and Legal Intern Fellows!

Recommend a Colleague to Join the MBF Society of Fellows!

One of the best ways to support the MBF takes just a few minutes and doesn't cost you a cent.

[Click here](#) to recommend a colleague for Fellowship.

To make a Contribution to the MBF:

 **Online**

Click the following button:



 **By Phone**

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

 **By Mail**

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

difficult economic times - helps ATASK in fulfilling its mission of preventing domestic violence in Asian families and communities and providing hope to survivors."



--Linda Chin
President, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence



"We know that there are many worthy organizations that seek your support...We can assure you that the vulnerable women in Boston have been well-served by this generosity."

--Sharon Reilly
Executive Director, Women's Lunch Place

"Out of our main office in Lynn and a project office in Lawrence-the latter of which has been made possible primarily through MBF support-we have been able to serve thousands of the region's most marginalized children and youth caught up in education, child welfare and juvenile justice disputes."

--Jerome McManus
Executive Director, Children's Law Center of MA

MBF 2009 Annual Report Now Available



2009 was another difficult year economically

for the Foundation and for the many grantee organizations we support. But as we marked our 45th anniversary of supporting legal aid programs across the state, we also had much to celebrate.

[Click here](#) to view the MBF's 2009 Annual Report.

Please note: In the interest of limited resources and environmental concerns, the MBF's 2009 annual report is being distributed only electronically. To request a paper copy, please [contact the MBF](#) directly.

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