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Promoting Equal Access to Justice since 1964

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UPCOMING EVENTS

5th Annual YLD Comedy Night

Saturday, May 22nd at the Franklin Institute, 7 p.m.

Comedian Dan Cummins (*Last Comic Standing*) will headline this event which benefits the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

22nd Annual Golf Classic
Monday, June 21st at

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."
Bill Vaughn,

newspaper columnist.

If you use that quote as a gauge, I guess you could say I'm both an optimist and a pessimist. I did both as 2009 moved into 2010; I looked back, grateful for surviving a difficult year, and ahead to a new year of challenge and possibility.

At the beginning of last year, as I began my term as president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, our country faced an economic catastrophe unlike anything our generation had ever seen. As a result, the Bar Foundation faced substantial obstacles to raising funds to support our grantees; of course, our grantees needed that support more than ever. Given this reality, at the first meeting as president, the trustees recognized that: "The point of the Bar Foundation is that we are there for our grantees when others aren't, so we would need to work harder in 2009 to be there for them."

I am pleased to report that the Bar Foundation stepped up and was able to give a record \$563,000 in grants to 33 organizations

[Huntingdon Valley Country Club](#)

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the many [sponsors and patrons](#) of the **31st Annual Andrew Hamilton Benefit** who helped us raise more than \$210,000 toward grants for public interest legal services.

The Bar Foundation would also like to thank these early sponsors of the **2010 Golf Classic** to be held June 21st Huntingdon Valley Country Club:

- USI Affinity
- LexisNexis
- Blank Rome
- Montgomery McCracken
- Barroway Topaz Kessler Meltzer & Check
- HIRE Counsel
- Tactix Real Estate Advisors, LLC

that provide the vital pro bono legal services that make our city and state better, more just places to live.

For this achievement, we thank the law firms who continued their support of the Bar Foundation and its fundraising events, as well as individuals who are Hamilton Circle members, Hamilton Circle Life Fellows or Advocates of Justice. In addition, we are indebted to the many who helped in this tough time with contributions to the annual fund or who made multi-year pledges to our annual grants program. We also counted on Cy Pres funds to help fill in the gaps in other funding sources.

The Cy Pres awards, as well as the contributions we received, allowed us to support legal services that benefit people across the whole spectrum of the population—from young children to senior citizens—with issues ranging from personal finance, employment, consumer problems, housing and medical benefits.

So, while we all let out a sigh of relief that 2009 passed without negatively impacting the work that the Foundation does, we can't rest on our laurels. There are still people facing foreclosure, the loss of health benefits, abuse at the hands of another. The Bar Foundation and its board and staff are ready for the work ahead in 2010, and hope that you will continue to help us support the good work done by the grantees. Together, when the clock strikes midnight this year, we will be able to lift a glass to a job well done and know that because of all our efforts there are those in the community who can look ahead to a brighter, more just future.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

Meet Our New Grantees

In December 2009, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation announced the addition of two new public interest organizations to its network of grantee agencies—**The Pennsylvania Innocence Project**, which provides legal services to incarcerated individuals with viable claims of wrongful conviction, and **Face To Face Legal Clinic**, a community-based legal clinic located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Although different in purpose and scope, both organizations serve the mission of the Foundation by providing access to justice to those who would otherwise be without representation.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Golf Classic.

FAQS

For more information about the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, click [here](#) to go to our Website.



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[The Pennsylvania Innocence Project](#) opened its doors in early 2009 in response to a request from the New York Innocence Project which was unable to meet the demand for help from Pennsylvania. After much hard work, in 2009 the Pennsylvania Project became a reality, instead of just a good idea. Richard Glazer, retired managing partner of Cozen O'Connor and now executive director of the PA Innocence Project, who generously assumed the position for one dollar a year, commented "It's remarkable how many lawyers have stepped up to be trained by our program and how the law schools have collaborated to provide students. We are very appreciative."

The presumption of innocence and the ability of our citizens to trust our system of justice are fundamental to our sense of fairness and decency as Americans. With its work on behalf of individuals as well as its goal of addressing the systematic causes of wrongful conviction, the Pennsylvania Innocence Project advances the cause of justice for all.

[Face to Face](#) promotes access to justice in a different but similarly important way. It is a social service agency based in Germantown that has been helping low-income residents of the Germantown neighborhood since 1997. It offers a soup kitchen, nursing clinic, social work services, a summer camp and the Legal Clinic. Until 2007, the Legal Clinic was staffed by volunteer attorneys, but in 2007, the clinic expanded to meet the increasing legal needs of Face to Face's clients.

[Read more ...](#)

FEATURED DONOR:

Leslie Anne Miller



Leslie Anne Miller has been a community leader and an advocate for the underserved in Philadelphia throughout her distinguished legal career. Supporting the Bar Foundation, both as a donor and as a volunteer, is just one of the many commitments that she fulfills on a



regular basis.

Ms. Miller is currently a solo practitioner and serves as an advisor to the Honorable Michael Nutter, mayor of Philadelphia. A

Judge Pro Tempore in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Ms. Miller is a certified mediator in the Eastern District and Middle District Courts of Pennsylvania. She was the first female president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and has been active with the Philadelphia Bar Association for many years.

In 1989 she chaired the Andrew Hamilton Benefit, which is still the Bar Foundation's signature fundraising event and which at that time was the most important source of funds for the Bar Foundation. The theme was "Twenty-five Years of Giving" in honor of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. As chair, Ms. Miller not only coordinated everything it took to put on the event, but also spent the year soliciting funds from patrons and sponsors to support it.

[Read more ...](#)

AGENCY ATTORNEY PROFILE:

Marsha Levick, Juvenile Law Center



Marsha Levick co-founded the Juvenile Law Center (JLC) with Robert Schwartz in 1975 and served as its first executive director between 1975 and 1982. Currently JLC's Deputy Director and Chief Counsel, Marsha is a nationally recognized leader in juvenile law and has long been an advocate for juvenile and women's rights.

Under Marsha's direction, Juvenile Law Center has played a central role in the judicial corruption scandal in Luzerne County that the state Supreme Court called a "travesty of justice." JLC has worked on behalf of thousands of juveniles who were denied their legal rights in Luzerne County's court system and was successful in persuading the state Supreme Court to expunge the records of as many as 6,500 juveniles who had appeared before former judge Mark Ciavarella between 2003 to 2008.

Partly on the strength her work on the Luzerne County case, Marsha was awarded several honors in 2009—the Philadelphia Inquirer’s Citizen of the Year award (along with colleague Lourdes Rosado) and the Andrew Hamilton Award given by the Public Interest Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association. She has appeared on Tavis Smiley’s nationally broadcast radio program and was featured on ABC’s 20/20. In 2008, the Juvenile Law Center was a recipient of the prestigious McArthur Foundation’s Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

One of the big victories JLC had recently was that that the remaining unsettled cases in the Luzerne situation won’t be re-tried. Are there other issues JLC is working on in relation to Luzerne?

We were thrilled with the recent order by Judge Arthur Grim that the cases that were originally heard by former Judge Mark Ciavarella, one of the two judges indicted on corruption charges, were not to be re-tried. But there is still a lot of work to do on the Luzerne case. The state Supreme Court still has to issue formal orders vacating and expunging the records of thousands of the juveniles.

Juvenile Law Center is also co-counsel with attorneys from Hanglely Aronchick Segal and Pudlin in four law suits being heard in Federal court—two class actions and two individual actions. The work we’re doing with the Supreme Court involves vacating and expunging individual records while the cases before the Federal Court seek relief in the form of financial compensation for the hardships endured by the kids and their parents involved in this scandal.

Obviously, what you do as an attorney has a direct impact on the lives of the people you help. Could you talk a little about how your work in the Luzerne case has impacted the young people involved?

For some of these kids, this was like a personal civics lesson. Coming in contact with individuals who are dedicated to justice is a lesson that will stay with them, and we hope, will benefit them as they prepare for college and the future.

However, some of the others have been having more trouble getting back on track. This experience has distorted their sense of fairness, which is pretty acute in adolescents. It’s going to take time for them to process what was done to them by the system and by adults working in that system. To get these kids the help they need, Juvenile Law Center is working with other social service agencies.

It must have been an honor to be awarded the McArthur Foundation Award. What did that mean to you and Bob and JLC?

We actually got the notice that we received the award in April 2008, which was the same month we filed the first legal action in Luzerne. So this award was given for what JLC has done on behalf of juveniles for the last 35 years—not only litigating cases in state and federal courts, but helping develop public policy and advocating for reform of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems both locally and nationally. A lot of this work has gotten lost in the Luzerne County publicity, so it was extraordinarily rewarding to be recognized for what we’ve been doing for such a long time.

What else do you want people to know about Juvenile Law Center?

JLC is one of the few public interest law firms in the country that does individual client representation in addition to policy work. For example, for the last ten years we’ve been advocating for older teens who are

aging out of the foster care system. These are 18 to 21 year olds who are frequently discharged from foster care based on their age or the lack of resources available, not because they have achieved permanency or are ready to live on their own. It's a difficult and not particularly rational process.

Through our "Transitions to Adulthood" project, we've not only represented individual youth in Family Court and operated a legal clinic for older teens who were in the child welfare system and are now homeless but we've also promoted policies and practices that help the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to aid older youth in their transition out of these public systems.

SCORE CARD: *Fundraising Update*

31st Annual Andrew Hamilton Benefit: *Making the World Fair for Philadelphia*

The Andrew Hamilton Benefit was held on November 21, 2009 at Please Touch Museum, site of the first official World's Fair in the United States.

This year, because of the economic realities, we tightened our belts and the Benefit was less formal but still lots of fun. Mayor Michael Nutter and Lisa Nutter, Chancellor Sayde Ladov and David Ladov and City Solicitor Shelley Smith participated in, "Dancing for Justice," a showcase of their dancing skills. In addition to drinks and dancing, good food and good company, the evening included a raffle drawing for five exciting prizes.

Click [here](#) for a list of the 2009 Andrew Hamilton Benefit sponsors.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: *continued*

In addition to expanding the number of client intake days that are scheduled, Face to Face hired an executive director, Niki Ludt, who had volunteered in the legal clinic since its inception. Offering legal assistance on issues such as public benefits, landlord-tenant, consumer credit and identity theft and having the Legal Center based in Germantown is an essential to its success. Its clients are poor and many have physical or mental disabilities or are homeless. Going into Center City for intake is not an option for them. Without the neighborhood-based legal clinic, these people would not get the help they need.

As with the other 31 organizations that make up the Bar Foundation's network of legal service agencies, the PA Innocence Project and Face to Face Legal Clinic are the embodiment of the Bar Foundation's mission of promoting access to justice. We welcome them to the family of Foundation grantees.

FEATURED DONOR: *continued*

As she said at the time in her message to the attendees, “On a night like this, the chair of the Andrew Hamilton Ball is often bound to feel a little like Methuselah. Of course, it hasn’t been 969 years since the day that we started planning this gala event, but there were times when it did seem almost that long.” But, she went on, “The success of the event makes all of our efforts worthwhile and has filled me with joie de vivre. Methuselah himself should feel so young!”

In 1992, as an active member of the board of trustees, Ms. Miller (along with Lynn Marks, now the executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, a Bar Foundation grantee organization) was responsible for “rebranding” the Bar Foundation with a new logo (which is still in use) and for developing outreach and fundraising materials. That year, Ms. Miller also became one of the 50 inaugural Hamilton Circle members, pledging \$1,000 a year over 10 years for a total gift of \$10,000 to the Bar Foundation’s endowment.

But her generosity to the Bar Foundation did not end there. After completing her Hamilton Circle pledge, she became an Advocate of Justice, donating a total of \$25,000 toward the endowment, and is now continuing her Hamilton Circle commitment by being a Life Fellow, pledging an additional \$1,000 per year for 15 years.

“Contributing to the Bar Foundation is an integral part of my professional life. I’m pleased to be able to support the extraordinary contribution it continues to make to the Philadelphia Community.”

Given her many philanthropic commitments— chairing the Board of Trustees of Mount Holyoke College, serving as vice chair of the Board of the Free Library Foundation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy, among others — the Bar Foundation is honored to have Ms. Miller as a supporter. Little did she know when she helped develop the theme for the Andrew Hamilton Ball that “25 years of giving” would apply to her, as well.

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