



PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access to Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia Bar Foundation Gives Record Amount In Grants To Legal Services Organizations

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Bar Foundation announced that for 2009 it will be distributing a record \$563,000 to 33 organizations that provide legal services to those who struggle with poverty, abuse and discrimination. The Bar Foundation is dedicated to providing equal access to justice for all and brings together the legal community in support of this ideal.

“The Board of Trustees felt that it was important to increase our funding commitment this year to the public interest legal community that struggled with overwhelming demands on their organizations because of the economy, while they faced their own unprecedented financial challenges,” said Amy B. Ginensky of Pepper Hamilton, the Bar Foundation’s president. . “We will strive to continue giving at this high level,” President Ginensky stated, “But we don’t know what 2010 will bring.” Funding for the 2009 grants came from law firm sponsorships of the Bar Foundation’s events, individual contributions to the Bar Foundation’s annual fund, cy pres awards and money taken from the board designated investment fund guided by the Bar Foundation’s spending policy.

The Bar Foundation funds a set of legal services priorities—Ensuring A Fair And Just Society, Helping The Poor, Caring For Our Children And The Elderly, Addressing Health And Disability Issues, Focusing on Issues Affecting Women, Improving Community Welfare—that are exemplified in the public interest agencies that received 2009 grants. These include Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program, Support Center for Child Advocates, Homeless Advocacy Project, SeniorLAW Center, Community Legal Services, Education Law Center, and Legal Clinic for the Disabled, among others.

Two new groups were added to the Bar Foundation’s network of grantee organizations: the Pennsylvania Innocence Project which provides legal services to incarcerated individuals with viable claims of wrongful conviction, and Face To Face, a community-based legal clinic located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Information about the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, including grant applications and criteria, are available at www.PhilaBarFoundationr.org. For more information, contact Gene Sirni, Executive Director of the Foundation, at gsirni@philabar.org.

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