

# Bar Foundation

## A Sincere Thank You for Support in Hard Times

At this time last year, we were facing a year of economic uncertainty. As I said in my inaugural *Bar Reporter* article of January 2009, "It is a time to turn challenge into opportunity. We must remember the Foundation's grantee organizations that need us, and be there for them, whatever it requires."

By Amy Ginensky



pledges to our annual grants program.

Special-event fundraising has always been a key source of revenue for the Bar Foundation's grantmaking, and this posed a particular challenge in 2009: Can we hold special events in this economy? Again we looked at this as an opportunity and instituted

Our grantees struggled this year with overwhelming demands on their organizations because of the economy, while they faced their own unprecedented financial challenges. In response to this need, the Bar Foundation board and staff, and the Philadelphia legal community, fought against the economic odds to help the public interest legal organizations. At press time, the Bar Foundation Board of Trustees has not made a decision about funding levels for 2009 grants, but we are working our hardest to meet the needs of our grantees as well as our responsibilities as the financial stewards of the Philadelphia legal community's foundation.

We want to thank the law firms who have continued their support, 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

some cost-saving measures to ensure that the 21st Annual Bar Foundation Golf Classic, which clearly would not be able to have the sponsor support of businesses of the past, was a successful event. And for those who attended the 31st Annual Andrew Hamilton Benefit, you know that we downsized the formality of the event without sacrificing any of the fun. In fact, with our gracious "Dancing for Justice" volunteers – Mayor Michael Nutter and his wife Lisa, Bar Association Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov and her husband David, and City Solicitor Shelley Smith and her partner from the Society Hill Dance Academy – "Dancing with the Stars" acquired a new meaning and helped the Hamilton Benefit exceed the scaled-back budget we set for it.

And, finally, Cy Pres funds will, in this year of challenges, help fill in the gaps in other funding sources. Cy Pres awards allow us to support legal services that ben-

### In Tribute

**R. Nicholas Gimbel**, a partner at McCarter & English, LLP, a Philadelphia litigator and a man of varied talents, interests and friends. The following have made donations to the Bar Foundation's R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence in his memory: **Abelson Legal Search, Allison Bernstein, Jay H. Calvert Jr., Michael S.B. Churchman, Anthony B. Creamer III, Amy B. Ginensky and Andrew R. Rogoff, Lynn and Steven Gryll, William R. Herman, Vanda and Stephen Ingham, Henry R. Irving, Howard Kailes, Ruth Katz, Marina P. and Stephen E. Kauffman, David and Paulette Kessler, Edward F. Mannino, Samuel Mason, Lorelie S. Masters, McCarter & English, LLP, Margaret P. Moss and Dee Steinberg.**

In honor of **Deborah R. Gross**, vice president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, a donation was made by **Leonard A. Bernstein.**

efit 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 with these funds we establish a strong match between the nature of the case and constituencies in our community.

In addition to providing grants to our public interest legal community, the Bar Foundation worked in 2009 to support our grantees in other ways. Bar Foundation staff participated on two of the Bar Association's Delivery of Legal Services Committee subcommittees. Our staff provided administrative support for a series of weekly training sessions for new public interest attorneys and deferred associates who are working with the public interest organizations. And the Bar Foundation arranged for a session on nonprofit marketing skills for the DLSC Management Subcommittee. This program's success encouraged the subcommittee to schedule a second installment to be held this month.

Personally, in 2009, while there was much to feel good about, at the end of November, I lost a close friend, Nick Gimbel, a partner with McCarter & English. Those of us who knew Nick knew that his personal depth and strength complemented his formidable skills as an advocate. He demanded excellence in the practice of law from himself and his colleagues, whether writing a brief, winning a \$100 million jury verdict in an insurance coverage dispute or working on

a pro bono case for a death row inmate. When Nick passed away, those of us who knew him wanted to find an appropriate way to honor him. We decided to establish the Fund for Legal Excellence in his memory. This fund will be dedicated to providing training programs sought by the grantee organizations for the lawyers working at these organizations. These lawyers graduate at the top of their law school classes and are terrific, dedicated lawyers. Unlike their counterparts at private law firms, however, they don't have the same access to deposition, trial advocacy and writing programs to enhance their considerable talents. So in his memory, we have created a fund to help attain the goal of excellent representation, no matter how rich or poor you are. While you will see in the Tribute section there are many who have already contributed generously to the fund, additional contributions in honor of Nick, or for any other reason, will be put to good use.

While the economy may be emerging from recession, there is no doubt that next year our grantees and those they represent will need our support as well. Thank you for your generosity during 2009. I have no doubt that we can count on you again for the challenges ahead in 2010.

*Amy B. Ginensky (ginenskya@pepperlaw.com), a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.*

## DeCola Detectives Inc.

When You Need to Know

### We Offer

- Complete Investigative Services
- Surveillance
- Case Management / Review
- Criminal Defense
- Undercover Operatives
- Armed / Executive Protection
- Electronic Debugging / TCMS Sweeps

### Special Investigative Services

- Certified Master Investigator
- Certified Fraud Investigator
- Certified Security Consultant
- Expert Witness
- Intelligence Reports
- Tracking Units
- Lab Services

And Much More ...



1-800-466-7568 | [www.DeColaPI.com](http://www.DeColaPI.com)

A Confidential Consultation is Always Free of Charge!



## WebCheck

Please visit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's new web site at [PhilaBarFoundation.org](http://PhilaBarFoundation.org).