

# Foundation Focus

from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation  
Fall 2017

## YLD holds Second Annual RYEse Against Hunger



Under the leadership of Shayna Raver and Chris Parker, the Young Lawyers Division held its second fundraiser to fight against hunger in our community on June 28, 2017 at *Wagle Whiskey Barrelhouse & Whiskey Garden* in the North Side. The event included games, music by *Scott and Rosanna*, food provided by *Pittsburgh Po'Boy* and *Popsburgh* food trucks, and a silent auction and raffle.

The event raised over \$500 to benefit the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Attorneys Against Hunger Campaign which provides annual grants to local hunger service agencies. Since its creation in 1993, Attorneys Against Hunger has distributed over \$1.4 million to fight hunger in Allegheny County!

Stay tuned for more information regarding the launch of this year's AAH Campaign and outreach opportunities in November 2017!



## New ACBF Programs and Projects Manager



Kim Cramer comes to us from LAF in Chicago, Illinois (formerly known as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago). While she may be new to Allegheny County, she is no stranger to our mission of being the driving force in promoting justice for all through public service law-related programs.

At LAF, Kim was a staff attorney in the volunteer services department where she managed LAF's projects and volunteers. In addition, she also provided direct services to low-income clients in food stamps and end-of-life planning cases. Kim has decided to make a career change, and instead of providing direct legal services, she is joining the ranks of attorneys in alternative careers and will become our first Programs and Projects Manager! Please stop by Kim's office and introduce yourself when you are at the ACBA headquarters/ACBF offices on the 4th floor of the Koppers Building.

## Veterans Leadership Program takes new focus on ACBF Grant

On August 23, 2017, the ACBF Grants Committee approved a request by the VLP of Western Pennsylvania to change the focus of its ACBF \$15,000 grant to provide much needed funding for its Veterans Mentor Program. This program will work directly with the Allegheny County Veterans Court to provide veteran mentors for veteran defendants involved with the criminal justice system. The grant will partially fund the development, implementation, refinement, and ongoing operations of the program.

Join  
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## Golf & Bocce Tournaments held at Nevillewood



The 25th Annual Golf Tournament and the 5th Annual Bocce Tournament were held on July 17, 2017 at one of our favorite courses, the Club at Nevillewood. The event was well-attended by 116 golfers who took to the greens at 12:15 sharp after enjoying lunch on the patio. Congratulations to the winners of James I. Smith, III Cup, the overall team competition based on “best two ball of four,” Kevin Lomupo, Brian Kadlubek, Forrest Fordham and William Gagliardino.

Our 5th Annual Bocce Tournament began at 1:00 p.m. with a quick lesson. Then the fierce competition began for 32 bocce players. Eight teams, which included novice and experienced players, competed for the title this year. While the ACBF brings its own courts, the Club set-up a first-rate bocce event, including tables, tents, drinks and special snacks. Bocce Tournament winners this year were Amy Carpenter, Kimberly Motley-Phillips, Bryan Neft, and Julie Neft.

After a beautiful day on the course, guests enjoyed cocktails, a silent auction, and dinner. We will definitely return to Nevillewood in the future.



## ACBF welcomes four new Board Trustees



*Jill Lipman  
Beck  
Three-Year*



*Jaclyn M.  
Belczyk  
Three-Year*



*Ronald J.  
Brown  
One-Year*



*Benjamin J.  
Gobel  
YLD*

The ACBF welcomes Jill Lipman Beck, Jaclyn M. Belczyk, Ronald J. Brown, and Benjamin J. Gobel to serve on our 2017-2018 Board of Trustees. Jill Beck and Jaclyn Belczyk began serving the first of their 3-year terms in July. Ronald Brown has been appointed to complete the one-year term left vacant with the resignation of Trustee Joseph Napoli when he relocated out of the Pittsburgh area. Ron will be eligible for a 3-year term upon completion of this year. The Young Lawyers Division Council nominated Benjamin Gobel to join the ACBF board for a 2-year term as the YLD Liaison. Ben’s important job is to help the ACBF stay actively connected to the YLD.

### ACBF Board of Trustees

*Patricia L. Dodge, President*

*Jennifer R. Andrade, Vice President*

*Paul J. Gitnik, Secretary*

*Jessica L. Crown, Treasurer*

*Richard S. Wiedman, Immediate Past-President*

#### *Members*

Mackenzie A. Baird

Jill Lipman Beck

Jaclyn M. Belczyk

Ronald J. Brown

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Jeffrey D. Heeter

Carol S. Mills McCarthy

Melinda Sala

Susan M. Seitz

Stanley M. Stein

Keith E. Whitson

Benjamin J. Gobel, *Young Lawyers Division*



## Pittsburgh a big hit for Equal Justice Conference



If you had an opportunity to talk with any of the nearly 1,000 people who traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the national Equal Justice Conference, you would have heard all the buzz about our great city and the hospitality of the ACBA Host Committee, which was on full display at the welcoming reception at the August Wilson Center. Attendees enjoyed live music from The Blues Devils, line dancing with Roland Ford, a drum circle, and plenty of food and drinks – including pierogies and a Pittsburgh Cookie Table! Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd, PBA President Sara Austin, and ACBA Past-President Melaine Shannon Rothery opened the conference with remarks about access to justice initiatives in Pennsylvania and the important work of the Pro Bono Center.



## Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership grows with new members and projects

The administrative board of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership – chaired by Antoinette Oliver of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott – continuously works with legal aid organizations, the courts, and others to identify areas of need for individuals with low incomes facing critical legal issues. The law firm of Blank Rome LLP is the newest member and will partner with member PNC Bank to help clients with the expungement and sealing of criminal records. The new Guardianship Project – led by Pietragallo Bosick & Gordon – will represent families in Orphans' Court to establish guardianships for their loved ones with severe mental or physical disabilities. And the Landlord Tenant Project expanded earlier this year to take on more cases from Neighborhood Legal Services Association. In recognition of the work their attorneys perform through this project, Alcoa, Arconic, and Meyer, Unkovic & Scott will receive an award from the Pro Bono Institute, which will be presented on September 28 in New York City. *Congratulations!*

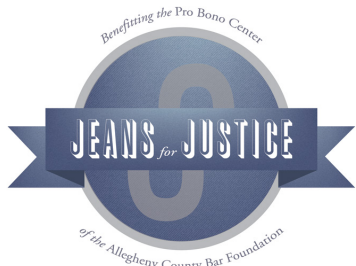
Want to learn more about the Partnership? *Save the date* for the annual meeting and reception which will be held on October 24, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., at the offices of Reed Smith.

## Grants help Divorce Law Project serve the most vulnerable

Individuals who wish to take the first step along the road to a new life by ending a marriage can be trapped by the inability to afford legal representation to pursue a divorce. Breaking the legal bond of marriage involves a complicated court process that is difficult for any person to navigate on his or her own. Especially for a physically or emotionally abused person, the interaction with a spouse that may be necessary to pursue a divorce can be intimidating and even dangerous.

Thanks to generous grants from the FISA Foundation and the Pittsburgh Foundation, over the past year the Divorce Law Project was able to increase outreach and substantially increased the numbers of domestic violence victims served by our staff and volunteer attorneys – from 43 in FY 2015-2016 to 71 in FY 2016-2017, in addition to hundreds of other clients. The FISA grant also helped the project expand into Beaver and Butler counties, where previously no such help was available. The foundation will seek a renewal of this funding so that we can continue to provide this critical service.

# Go casual for a cause – Jeans for Justice 2017



The Pro Bono Center invites you to celebrate National Pro Bono Week by holding a casual Friday to benefit the Pro Bono Center and its programs, which match volunteer attorneys with individuals with low incomes in desperate need of legal help.

This year's Jeans for Justice day falls on October 27, but you can choose whatever day is convenient for your office. And feel free to mix it up! Opt for Halloween costumes, Steelers gear, or any other theme – all for a great cause.

Don't miss out! To let us know that your firm or legal department will include Jeans for Justice in its fall plans, contact Jessica Pfauth at [jppfauth@acba.org](mailto:jppfauth@acba.org) or 412-402-6681.

## *Volunteer!*

The Pro Bono Center is always looking for volunteer attorneys to help low-income residents of Allegheny County with civil legal matters. Contact Barbara Griffin, Esq. at [bgriffin@acba.org](mailto:bgriffin@acba.org) for more information on how you can help.

## *Donate!*

Gifts of every size are important. Visit [www.acbf.org/Giving-Options](http://www.acbf.org/Giving-Options) for great ideas on how you can support the Foundation. Questions? Contact Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert, Esq. at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).

*Thank you!*

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## Save the Dates –

### Fall Foundation Reception

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017 | Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel

*Come celebrate with the foundation – and join us in honoring our pro bono award winners and Fellows and learn how the ACBF grants impact the community from our grantees and how you can get involved!*

### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ACBA Golf Tournament & 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Tournament

Monday, July 23, 2018 | Pittsburgh Field Club

*Benefits Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Neighborhood Legal Services Association*



### What Will Your Legacy Be?

Thanks to your gifts to the ACBF, thousands of people in our community have been able to access legal help that was otherwise out of their reach, hungry people have been fed, and our profession has been strengthened. Those gifts have done so much to help people today. But have you thought about making your impact last beyond today?

Consider joining the ACBF Legacy Society, and your generosity will make a difference in the long term, too. For more information, contact ACBF Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert, Esq. at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).

### Nominate a Fellow



Do you know a colleague who is committed to professionalism and public service? Consider nominating him/her to the Fellows Class. For more information, contact Lorrie Albert at 412-402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).