

Foundation Focus

from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation
Spring 2017

Attorneys Against Hunger

Over \$1.7M raised and still fighting



Thanks to generous donors, this year's Attorneys Against Hunger campaign raised over \$108,000! Every dollar donated will be distributed to seventeen local hunger service agencies this

spring. Since 1993, Attorneys Against Hunger has raised over \$1.7 million to battle hunger in Allegheny County.

We couldn't do it without you!



AAH is proud to support the following agencies:

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&

The Honorable Raymond A. Novak

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Intersection

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North Hills Community Outreach

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

Rainbow Kitchen

Smithfield United Church of Christ

South Hills Interfaith Movement

Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry

St. Mary of Mercy

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Urban League Hunger Services



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Summer Fellowships

John P. Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

This summer, the John P. Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellowship Program will provide four students from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law with the opportunity to gain valuable courtroom experience while working at local legal services organizations. We are excited to announce that, in addition to sponsoring a fellowship at Neighborhood Legal Services Association, the Gismondi Program will also sponsor one fellowship at the District Attorney's Office and two fellowships at the Public Defender's Office.

Congratulations to the 2017 Gismondi Fellows:

Adam Garret, Pitt
Neighborhood Legal Services Association

Taylor Isaac, Pitt
District Attorney's Office

Miracle Jones, Pitt
Public Defender's Office

Aidan Kaplan, Pitt
Public Defender's Office

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 for more information on how you can help.

Donate!

Gifts of every size are important. Visit 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.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Lawyers Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program

The Lawyers Fund Law Student Summer Fellowship Program will sponsor 11 law students from Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh to work at legal service organizations throughout the area this summer. In addition to gaining valuable experience, the students will also help these agencies continue to make an impact on the lives of low-income residents in our community.

Congratulations to the 2017 Lawyers Fund Fellows:

Jalon Alexander, Pitt
Disability Rights Pennsylvania

Nicolette Blackwell, Duquesne
Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

Ashley Blakeney, Pitt
Office of Conflict Counsel

Adrienne Box, Duquesne
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Peter Claassen, Pitt
Jewish Family & Children's Service

Leah Cox, Duquesne
Juvenile Court Project

Ankur Sakaria, Pitt
Education Law Center

Kathryn Schaeffer, Duquesne
Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

Joelle Shanesy, Duquesne
Pro Bono Center

Drew Sheldon, Duquesne
District Attorney's Office

Andrew Yetzer, Duquesne
KidsVoice

Expungement Day

Over 300 people looking to clear their criminal records attended the county-wide expungement clinic on Nov. 14, 2016.

Photo By Partner4Work





Meehan Citizenship Institute launches first class of citizenship applicants

The John A. Meehan Citizenship Institute was established in 2015 to honor the memory of Jackie Martinez's husband, who among many other accomplishments served as an immigration officer. This spring, the Pro Bono Center partnered with the Institute to hold a CLE – "The Road to Citizenship" – which was designed to provide attorneys with the skills needed to represent clients through the naturalization process in front of the Department of Homeland Security-USCIS from initial intake to the citizenship ceremony. A group of 10 cases was referred from Jewish Family & Children's Service, and the volunteer attorneys met with their clients the following Saturday morning to begin representation. The volunteers will continue to get support from Jackie and other experienced immigration attorneys until the cases are completed.

Expungement Clinic aimed to open up opportunities

In October 2017, the Pro Bono Center partnered with Duquesne University School of Law and Neighborhood Legal Services Association to recruit and train volunteer attorneys to assist individuals with low incomes who wish to clear their criminal records. The volunteers attended a CLE program and then met with individuals at a county-wide expungement clinic on the day a new state law went into effect allowing for the sealing of certain records. Nearly 300 individuals sought help from the clinic that day. Volunteers continue to take referrals from NLSA through the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership.

Pro Bono Center Numbers at a Glance – for Calendar Year 2016

683 individuals provided with advice or representation by staff

578 individuals referred to other legal services providers

171 final divorce decrees entered by the Divorce Law Project

319 volunteers attended 10 CLE and training programs

Barbara Griffin wins PLAN Excellence Award



Pro Bono Center Director Barbara Griffin was named a recipient of a 2017 Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. This statewide award recognizes exceptional individuals, groups, and corporations who have demonstrated excellence in their efforts to expand access to justice to those who have nowhere else to turn for help when facing a critical legal problem. The award was presented to Barbara at a dinner in Harrisburg on March 28. *Congratulations!*

Pittsburgh Foundation

The Pro Bono Center received a \$30,000 grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation last fall to support the work of the Divorce Law Project. Two new laws were passed in Pennsylvania last year – one making it easier for victims of spousal violence to get divorced, and the other shortening the time of separation required for no-fault divorces – that have the potential to increase the volume of applicants. The Pittsburgh Foundation's generous grant will enable the DLP staff to continue to offer representation in these cases and ensure that the most vulnerable among us – victims of domestic violence – get the help they need to start their lives anew.

Strike Out Hunger



Strike Out Hunger Chairs Andria Krupa Voelker, Justin Papciak and Abby Steidl.



Justin Papciak and son hope for a strike.

Young Lawyers Division takes aim at hunger

On March 12, 2017, the ACBA Young Lawyers Division hosted its 3rd Annual Strike Out Hunger fundraiser. The event, held at Pines Plaza Lanes in the North Hills, proved to be the most successful yet, raising \$5,000 for Attorneys Against Hunger. Over ninety people attended the event which included three hours of bowling, food, drinks, and auction. **Thank you, YLD, for your continued support of Attorneys Against Hunger!**

Save the Date –
25th Annual ACBA Golf Tournament &
5th Annual Bocce Tournament
Monday, July 17, 2017 | The Club at Nevillewood
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.

Nominate a Fellow



Do you know a colleague who is committed to professionalism and public service? Consider nominating him/her to the Fellows Class of 2017. For more information, contact Erin Rhodes at 412-402-6641 or erhodes@acba.org.