

# SPEAKING OF JUSTICE

NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

Volume 10

Issue no. 1



JUDY WATSON TRACY

For almost five years, Ebony Townsend's school failed to provide accommodations for her disability, instead choosing to call the police and suspend her from her bus after she defended herself from a bully. With help from Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, which is funded in part by a Children's Legal Services grant through The Florida Bar Foundation, her father was able to access an attorney who fought for Ebony's rights.

## Keeping children with disabilities out of the school-to-prison pipeline

by Nancy Kinnally

**B**y the time she was 10, Ebony Townsend had been bullied at school and on the bus for years, handcuffed and taken away from school in the back of a police car when she cried out for help, and suspended from the bus for 45 days.

Profoundly deaf in one ear and painfully shy, Ebony also had learning disabilities in reading and math. None of her disabilities had ever been addressed by her Daytona Beach school, despite her father's best efforts. In fact,

she hadn't even been properly assessed.

"I had been everywhere trying to get help," said Ebony's father, Anthony Giddens, a single dad who works as a dishwasher and prep cook at Cracker Barrel. Giddens, who arranges his hours so that he can be home when Ebony gets off the bus, had attended parent-teacher conferences, pleaded with the principal for help, and eventually taken his concerns all the way to the school superintendent. He had once gone to court

to get a restraining order on a 9-year-old boy who wouldn't leave Ebony alone. And he'd tried to get private attorneys to represent Ebony, to no avail.

"I took her out of one school, put her at another school, took her off of one bus, put her on another bus. I tried everything possible that a parent could do. I had no help at all. It was very, very stressful," said Giddens, adding that it wasn't out of the ordinary for him to receive multiple calls from his daughter's

see **EBONY**, p. 6

## Message from the President

If you are reading this newsletter, then you are a friend of The Florida Bar Foundation and I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting access to justice in Florida. It is only through the collaborative support of partners like you that we are able to advance this mission.

I want to keep you updated on some recent changes at the Foundation. CEO Bruce Blackwell has retired after more than four years at the helm. Bruce was originally planning to serve as an interim director, but stayed with us longer than he expected. The Foundation has established a search committee, chaired by President-Elect Juliette Lippman, to undertake a nationwide search for Bruce's successor. While our schedule is ambitious, we expect the search to be completed in the next few months.

Only the second executive director in the Foundation's history, Bruce has maintained and strengthened the Foundation's relationships with The Florida Bar and its sections and with lawyers throughout Florida. During his tenure, a number of other notable accomplishments have been achieved:

- The Foundation stepped up fundraising, including staff's repurposing of the Annual Dinner into a fundraising event, raising more than \$86,000 in its first year alone
- Heralded by national experts as an innovative approach, the strategic reset was adopted by the board of directors and its implementation is well underway
- New emphasis was placed on pro bono partnerships, with a focus on using technology in new and innovative ways to match lawyers to cases

- In response to Hurricane Irma's impact on almost the entire state of Florida, the Foundation moved swiftly to meet Floridians' needs, awarding nearly \$800,000 in grants aimed at disaster recovery

- The Legal Aid Summer Fellowship Program was resurrected, helping the Foundation renew its commitment to promoting public service by making it a part of the law school experience.

These achievements were a combined effort of Bruce, our great staff and the volunteers who support us. They were accomplished despite the stark reality of unprecedented declines in revenue from Florida's Interest on Trust Accounts program.

Several other staff members have moved on to other opportunities. Despite these staffing changes, we



**Jewel White**

will continue to move forward with the strategic reset and ensure that this transition will be seamless. I believe a streamlined organization will provide a new executive director with great opportunities to shape a staff that best meets the needs of the organization.

The Foundation board remains focused on providing much-needed services to the community through grants and pro bono efforts. We appreciate your support and look forward to introducing you to the next executive director as we continue to drive the Foundation into the future.



Bruce B. Blackwell, Esq., speaking in 2014





**MEDAL OF HONOR  
AWARD FOR A LAWYER**  
HOWARD TALENFELD

# 42<sup>nd</sup> *The Florida Bar Foundation* ANNUAL RECEPTION AND DINNER

**Thursday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek**  
**Tickets \$175**  
**[www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/tickets](http://www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/tickets)**



**MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD  
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# Ebony's disability was invisible to school, to bullies, to police... but not to her lawyer.



Invest in Florida's children at

**[www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/children](http://www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/children)**

**Your donation to Children's Legal Services  
ensures access to civil legal aid  
for all of Florida's children.**

# Pro Bono Innovation and Transformation grants awarded

by Jessica Brown

Since the undertaking of the Foundation's strategic reset, pro bono work has become a priority. In hopes of increasing the number of pro bono hours reported by Florida attorneys, which dipped 4 percent last year, the Foundation will enable legal aid programs to boost their support of pro bono initiatives with new grants.

Four \$25,000 Pro Bono Innovation grants and two \$100,000 Pro Bono Transformation grants were approved by the Foundation's board at its March meeting in Orlando. The grants use Bank of America settlement funds.

Modeled after the Legal Services Corporations' Pro Bono grant program, the purpose of the new grants is to develop and enhance pro bono programs that serve low-income Floridians to improve the reach, quality, and effectiveness of the services clients receive.

Grant applicants were encouraged to collaborate with other programs and present innovative and replicable projects.

"As the need for civil legal services grows in Florida, the Foundation has a unique opportunity to lead a statewide push to improve pro bono," said Claud Nelson, the

Foundation's pro bono program officer. "It is our hope that by identifying, tailoring, and implementing best practices from across the country, our grantees will be positioned to leverage limited resources to expand access to justice."

Recipients of Innovation grants will focus on innovations serving unmet and well-defined client needs.

Transformation grant recipients will build comprehensive and effective pro bono systems through new applications of existing best practices.

## \$100,00 Pro Bono Transformation grants

### Legal Services of Greater Miami

- ♦ Centralizing its pro bono program under the oversight of a senior lawyer responsible for achieving program goals
- ♦ Collaborating with other pro bono programs to develop and implement a streamlined, client-centered intake and referral procedure
- ♦ Developing strategies to recruit and support pro bono activity by attorneys in small to midsize firms and solo practitioners
- ♦ Utilizing a Lean Six Sigma Blackbelt Business Process Analyst (BPA) in their program assessment

### Legal Services of North Florida and Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association

- ♦ Collaborative restructuring to streamline access for clients, eliminate duplication of services, and increase volunteers and the number of people receiving legal assistance
- ♦ Developing tools to obtain complete and timely case updates from volunteer attorneys
- ♦ Implementing a law student pro bono case management/attorney mentor system

## \$25,000 Pro Bono Innovation grants

### Bay Area Legal Services

- ♦ Addressing unmet legal needs of veterans in Manatee and Sarasota Counties utilizing assistance of pro bono attorneys
- ♦ Implementing an innovative collaborative approach to the pro bono delivery system utilizing the expertise of pro bono attorneys, Legal Aid of Manasota, Stetson Veterans Institute, local bar associations, and local health care partners

### Legal Aid Service of Collier County

- ♦ Improving access to justice for low-income residents through online web portal that matches pro bono attorneys with clients who need basic advice and counsel
- ♦ Creating a virtual clinic that fully automates the pro bono advice and counsel eco-system integrated into LASC's existing website

### Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

- ♦ Offering legal assistance including full representation, pro se forms assistance, and group information through the Landlord/Tenant Continuum of Pro Bono Services in private landlord matters to keep more families in affordable, safe housing
- ♦ Actively recruiting retired attorneys, attorneys with real estate and housing interest, attorneys who are primarily stay-at-home parents who want to remain active with pro bono legal assistance occurring primarily during school hours, and newly licensed attorneys

### Three Rivers Legal Services

- ♦ Increasing the availability of services to rural and hard-to-reach clients; increasing number of attorney and law student volunteers
- ♦ Offering volunteer attorneys the opportunity to provide services through video-conferencing from the comfort of their offices or homes, saving valuable time not traveling to rural locations to meet with clients



## Attorneys across Florida support The Florida Bar Foundation



The Family Law Section's \$75,000 contribution will enhance the reach of the statewide Children's Legal Services grant program. The Family Law Section has donated more than \$300,000 to the Foundation since 2012.



JASON NUTTLE

Foundation president-elect Juliette Lippman (left) and former executive director Bruce Blackwell (right) receive a \$70,000 cy pres award from the settlement of a suit won by attorneys Edward Zebersky (second from left), Valorie Chavin and Michael J. Higer.

### YOU CAN HELP: CY PRES AWARDS

Access to justice organizations, like The Florida Bar Foundation, are grateful and appropriate recipients of cy pres or residual fund awards in class action suits. Regardless of the case matter, group members were in search of justice. When full restitution to all members is either impossible or infeasible, courts can approve a charitable donation out of unclaimed class action funds. If you are interested in facilitating a cy pres award, contact Donna Marino Kirtland, CFRE, at 407-960-7000.

[TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/ways-to-give/cy-pres-awards](http://TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/ways-to-give/cy-pres-awards)

## Foundation staff write for pro bono edition of The Florida Bar Journal



For the second year in a row, the Foundation's communications staff wrote a cover story and set of features on pro bono work for The Florida Bar Journal (left). Out in May, Pro Bono 2.0 focuses on innovations making pro bono work easier and more effective. The Barry University School of Law Collaborative Family Law Clinic and a case involving a traffic stop gone wrong will be covered, as well as a story on pro bono work for hurricane survivors. The Foundation's Hurricane Irma story map (right), featured in the hurricane story, was chosen by Geographic Information Systems software-maker Esri as one of its 18 favorite community-produced story maps of 2017 out of more than 250,000. The story map includes a disaster-related Legal Vulnerability Index pioneered by the Foundation.



## EBONY, from p. 1

school in a single morning while at work.

Then one day, as he was driving down Orange Avenue in Daytona, he found he was in front of Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, and he remembered the civil legal aid organization had once helped his mother.

"It was like a sign from God saying, 'You've been everywhere, but you haven't been there,'" Giddens said.

Just 15 minutes after telling an intake coordinator his story, he got a phone call. Katie Kelly, supervising attorney for the Children's Rights Unit, would take Ebony's case.

Kelly's work is funded by a \$99,000 Florida Bar Foundation Children's Legal Services grant. She is one of only a few attorneys in Central Florida who handles cases like Ebony's, and hers is one of 14 varied Children's Legal Services projects statewide that the Foundation supports with nearly \$1 million in funding.

Kelly's project specifically seeks to stop a pattern in which young students like Ebony are handed off to law enforcement instead of being provided accommodations or individualized instruction in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

"It was a textbook case of the school-to-prison pipeline. Kids who struggle — especially kids who are poor, black or disabled — are not given these services, and they end up in this pattern of exclusion, and expulsion through suspension. And when those exclusions don't work, then oftentimes it rises to the level of kids being Baker Acted, which is an involuntary psychiatric hold, and arrested," Kelly said.

"Ebony was not supported. She was not given appropriate supportive services. And it all rose to a level that they felt comfortable calling the police instead of asking for a guidance counselor for her, or instead of evaluating her."

Years before, when Ebony was in preschool and kindergarten, school audiologists had reported that she was deaf in one ear, but the school never provided appropriate accommodations. Her teachers should have been using a lavalier microphone, checking to ensure she heard instructions, providing written instructions, and having her sit at the front of the class. Also, even though Ebony had been failing in school, she had been administratively

promoted to the next grade and had never been assessed for her learning difficulties.

Kelly saw to it that Ebony was evaluated through the school and that she had an independent evaluation. Those evaluations uncovered her learning disabilities.

Armed with this new evidence, Kelly worked with the school to develop an Individual Education Program (IEP) for Ebony to ensure she would receive the right kind of educational support. She also got her moved to another public school, where Ebony has blossomed.

"I remember getting her report card: three F's, a D, and all of a sudden she goes to a new school: six A's, one B," Giddens said.

Ebony, now 12 and active in Girl Scouts, recently celebrated making the A-B Honor Roll.

"If no one had really taught you for four or five years, if people had just passed you along and administratively promoted you from grade to grade, and you really could only hear a part of what everybody was saying, you're going to have gaps," said Kelly, who worked in public education for 20 years as a school psychologist, administrator and special education teacher before she went to law school. "What we're seeing now is, she's catching up. She's making tremendous progress, because she's got this individualized instruction that's helping her."

Meanwhile, Ebony has had no behavioral problems at her new school and is not being bullied anymore.

Giddens, who broke down in tears the first time he met with Kelly, said he never understood why he couldn't get anywhere with the school on his own.

"It's crazy, because you would think that when you're a parent, and you're involved with your child, that's what the school wants," he said, adding that he's grateful to Kelly, and to the Foundation for supporting Kelly's work.

"I love Katie Kelly. I really do, because it was like a weight lifted off my shoulders to finally get some help."

As gratifying as it is to see children like Ebony succeeding, Kelly does more than help one child at a time. She is advocating for multiple children through complaints to the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, and she provides advocacy training to groups like the



Katie Kelly, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

JUDY WATSON TRACY

*"For poor people, justice looks different. It's not the same kind of justice that most of us are used to. We just believe it's better for everyone to keep kids in school and out of prison. It's so much more cost-effective, and it provides better outcomes for kids."*

— Katie Kelly, Supervising Attorney,  
Children's Rights Unit

Guardian ad Litem program and the Florida Department of Children and Families.

"I'm the luckiest person on Earth," Kelly said. "I am eternally grateful for the support we get from Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida and The Florida Bar Foundation."

## YOU CAN HELP

Lawyers can support The Florida Bar Foundation's Children's Legal Services grants through Florida Bar fee statement voluntary contributions, and anyone can contribute online.

[TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/children](https://TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/children)



# EJW Fellow creates framework for pro bono attorneys to help immigrants

by Nancy Kinnally

**K**rystin Montersil, a 2017-19 Equal Justice Works Fellow, is working on a project at Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami, to address a specific problem faced by undocumented immigrants with U.S.-born children.

She is creating training materials for pro bono attorneys and organizing pro se clinics to help parents complete emergency family preparedness plans in the event the parents are detained or deported.

Montersil, whose two-year fellowship is sponsored by The Florida Bar Foundation, hopes to involve pro bono attorneys in her project and create a replicable, statewide model.

"The goal is to create partnerships right now with firms or pro bono coordinators at firms that would be able to facilitate that training and put me in touch with that pool of potential pro bono attorneys," Montersil said.

The plans include identifying and establishing who would be the children's legal guardians and caregivers and creating a card the children can carry with the contact information for those individuals. Something as simple as that can prevent a child from being placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) instead of with his or her extended family or trusted friends.

"It really affects the stabilization for whole communities when you have families torn apart, children put into a system," Montersil said. "It creates a real strain on various services, so anything that can be done to prevent that and make it as stable and as seamless as possible for those parents and children is ultimately going to affect other parts of their lives and other communities that they come in contact with every day."

Emergency plans also reduce the trauma the children experience when their parents are removed from their homes.

"The children can continue to go to school with as little disruption as possible to their lives and daily routine," she said. "Also, if the child is placed with DCF it becomes extremely difficult for the parents to get information while they are detained about any proceedings that are

taking place at the state level for their children. A lot of times they won't really know what's going on and in the worst case, parental rights could potentially be terminated without the parents knowing because they are detained and don't have access to counsel or appropriate information."

She said pro bono attorneys need not have experience in immigration, guardianship or family law to help.

"It's something they can easily be trained to do confidently, efficiently, and it will have great ramifications for the clients they're going to serve," she said.

## 2018-20 Equal Justice Works Fellows Named



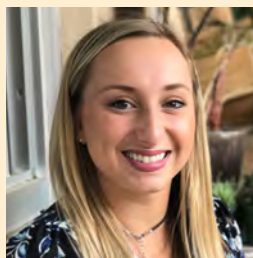
**Joseph E. Cordova, M.A.**  
**Florida Legal Services, Alachua County**  
Cordova will serve immigrant and migrant worker families by using education, outreach, policy advocacy and community lawyering to increase community power, socioeconomic opportunities and legal services. Cordova is expected to graduate from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in May.



**Teiya Emenike**  
**Legal Services of Greater Miami**  
In Liberty City, a historically black neighborhood in Miami with significant poverty, Emenike will work to improve housing stability by representing tenants facing eviction and enforcing their right to safe and habitable housing. Emenike is expected to graduate from the University of Miami School of Law in May.



**Taylor E. Greenberg**  
**Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa**  
Greenberg will provide direct legal representation, create a community-wide task force, and train attorneys to improve outcomes for teenagers in group home foster care in Hillsborough County. In May, Greenberg is expected to graduate from Stetson University College of Law.



**Anne Kanzow**  
**Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Daytona Beach**  
Kanzow will work to decrease the number of children with disabilities in rural areas entering the school-to-prison pipeline by engaging advocates and developing educational materials for students, parents and the community. Kanzow is expected to graduate from Stetson University College of Law in May.

Greenberg is funded by Greenberg Traurig and The Florida Bar Foundation. The other fellows are funded by the Foundation through its Bank of America grant program.

The Foundation also will fund three Equal Justice Works Disaster Recovery Fellows. The fellows, who will start 2-year disaster recovery projects in 2018, will be embedded at local civil legal aid providers.

# Foundation makes nearly \$1.5 million in Children's Legal Services grants

by Nancy Kinnally

The Florida Bar Foundation board March 9 approved \$1.47 million in grants to 21 Children's Legal Services projects that address the needs of foster youth, children with disabilities and health problems, children fleeing violence, LGBTQ youth, incarcerated minors and others. Several of the grants support the work of legal aid attorneys specializing in protecting the educational and civil rights of children in public schools and shutting off the school-to-jail pipeline.

For example, the Education Justice Collaborative, a joint project of Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc. (LSGMI) and Disabilities Independence Group, will protect the rights of

at-risk students and those with disabilities who are threatened with or have been subjected to a school-initiated Baker Act petition.

"Three times each school day, a student in Miami-Dade County is put in handcuffs and taken from school by the police because school personnel have initiated a Baker Act petition against the student," LSGMI wrote in the grant application, adding that of 2,300 Baker Act examinations of minors in Miami-Dade County, 700 were initiated at a school. A statewide task force on involuntary examinations of minors issued its final report in November, which found that children are inappropriately Baker Acted for behavior that does not meet Baker Act

criteria.

The project will provide outreach and education as well as direct representation of children by legal aid staff attorneys as well as pro bono attorneys. All of the educational materials created will be translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole.

"The outcome for children is that they will remain in school, avoid the stigmatization and harm caused by inappropriate Baker Act petitions, and will receive services necessary for school attendance and completion because their parents and other adults will have information to understand and enforce their legal rights," the application stated.

## 2018-19 Children's Legal Services grants

Organization(s)	Project or Initiative	Grant
Brevard County Legal Aid	Children's Legal Advocacy Project (CLAP)	\$35,000
Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami	Children Fleeing Violence	\$50,000
Community Law Program	Lawyers for Young Adults Project	\$25,000
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida	Safe Path Through Education; Educational Advocate Manual	\$100,000
Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project	CABA Immigrant Children's Program	\$45,000
Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society	Children's Legal Collaborative - Holistic Child Representation	\$50,000
Florida Legal Services	FILS Project: Ending Juvenile Solitary Confinement	\$75,000
Florida Legal Services	Children's Healthcare Access Project	\$80,000
Florida State University College of Law	Health, Special Education	\$80,000
Florida's Children First	Children's Systemic Initiative	\$175,000
Legal Aid Service of Broward County	Restorative Justice for Broward Children and Families (RJBCF)	\$125,000
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County	Education Advocacy Project - School to Jail Pipeline	\$61,600
Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association	Developmental Disabilities Advocacy; Guardian ad Litem Program	\$51,000
Legal Services of Greater Miami & DIG	Education Justice Collaborative - Baker Acts	\$139,000
Legal Services of North Florida	Children's Legal Representation Project - Holistic Child	\$74,900
Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society	Endless Dreams - Foster Youth to College	\$30,000
Southern Legal Counsel	Statewide Education Advocacy for Vulnerable Populations	\$90,500
Three Rivers Legal Services & Center for Children's Rights	Hope Pipeline - Collective Impact in Duval County	\$120,000
University of Miami School of Law	CYLC Children's Advocacy - LGBTQ, Immigrant, Holistic	\$60,000
		Total: \$1.465 million



# Contribution support revives Legal Aid Summer Fellows Program

by Nancy Kinnally

After a seven-year hiatus, The Florida Bar Foundation is reinstating its popular Legal Aid Summer Fellows Program, though which law students spend 11 weeks working at Florida civil legal aid programs in projects focused on specific goals such as preventing eviction, protecting the rights of children and adults with disabilities, and addressing the unique legal needs of immigrants who are victims of violence.

The Florida Bar Foundation board was able to approve 14 Summer Fellows for 2018 thanks to generous pledges and donations, including a

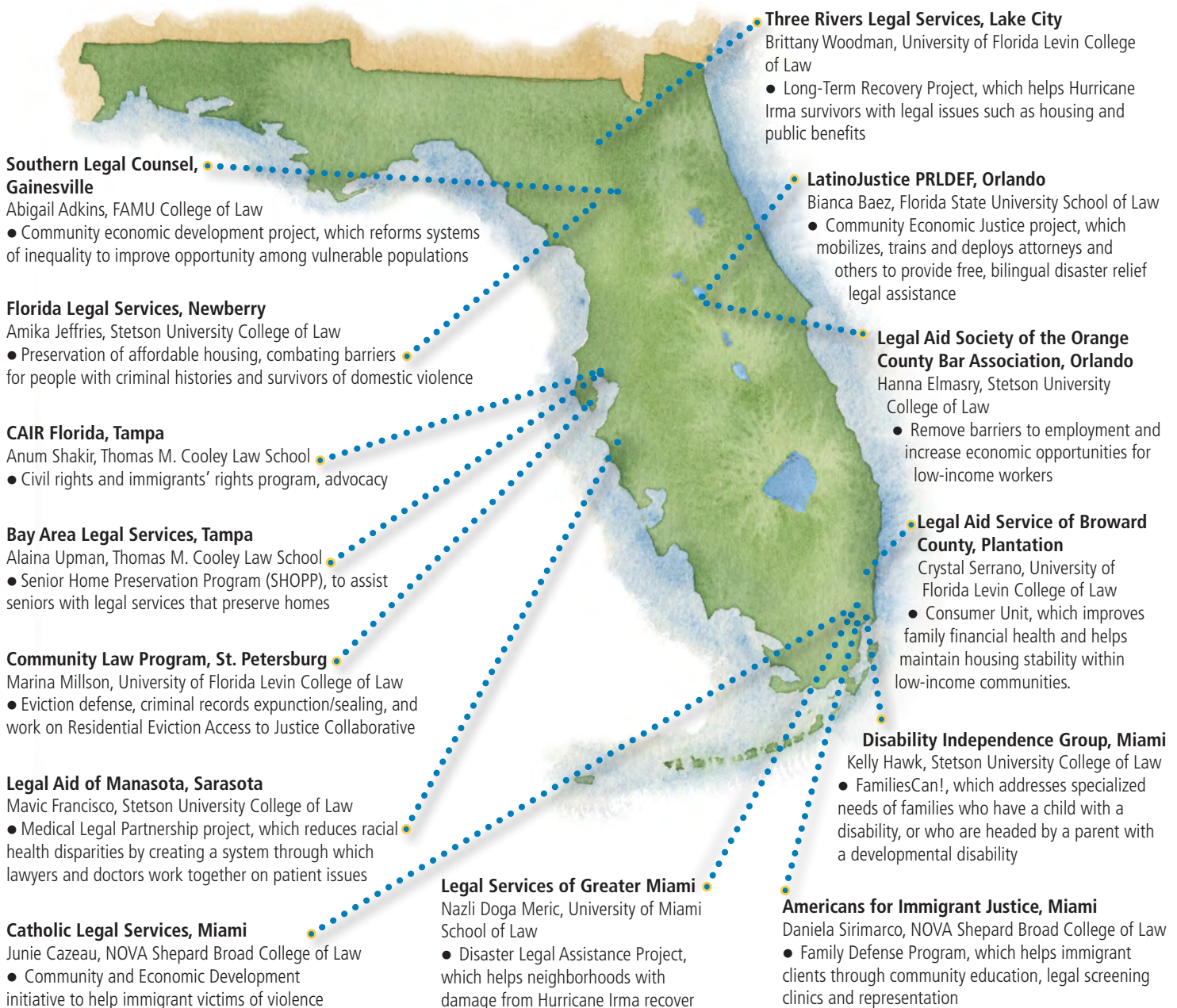
\$75,000 gift from the West Palm Beach law firm of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley P.A. and a \$50,000 pledge by Florida Bar Foundation board member David Prather of Clark, Fountain, La Vista, Prather, Keen and Littky-Rubin, also of West Palm Beach.

The program begins May 14 with a three-day training hosted by Akerman LLP in Miami. Trainers include Whitney Untiedt, Akerman's director of pro bono initiatives, and Florida Bar Foundation board member Angela Vigil, director of pro bono practice at Baker McKenzie.

Trenam Law is providing a \$3,000

education sponsorship to support training costs, including travel and accommodations for the fellows. Foundation board member Stephen Senn of Peterson & Myers in Lakeland is also supporting the program with a \$2,500 gift.

The program was established in 1995 but temporarily suspended in 2011 due to a lack of funding. Second-year law students receive a \$6,500 stipend, and third-year students receive \$8,250. The fellowship offers a meaningful summer-associate type legal experience while also helping those in the community.



PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO JUSTICE

# THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2016-17

## Message from 2016-17 President Matthew G. Brenner

**T**raditionally, the last privilege of Florida Bar Foundation presidents is to share a year-in-review message in the annual report. Looking back over 2016-17, it's hard to know where to begin, but I think in this instance it makes sense to start where the year ended.

On June 22, 2017, when the board of directors adopted a strategic reset, the Foundation officially embarked on a journey through which it has embraced a new role as a catalyst for systemic change and an expert facilitator for civil legal aid in Florida.

The ultimate destination – the Foundation's mission of providing greater access to justice – did not change, but our aim is to move from clogged highways to high-speed rail as we pursue that end. We have positioned ourselves to be a driver of innovation and efficiency, connecting communities of thought-leaders with communities in need.

And by 2017 that train had clearly left the station.

The Foundation applied the strategic reset to the release of \$1.5 million in its Bank of America Community Economic Development grants. Funds went to seven projects in the areas of affordable housing, legislative advocacy, medical-legal partnerships, expungements, identity documentation, LGBTQ inclusion, and the legal needs of migrant and agricultural workers. In addition, the Foundation funded four Equal Justice Works fellows to work at civil legal aid organizations where their two-year projects focus on community economic development in under-

served communities from inner-city Miami to rural Apopka. All the projects funded use collaborative, sustainable and – it is hoped – replicable models for serving greater numbers of people.

Simultaneously, the Foundation launched FloridaProBonoMatters.org, a new website that enables lawyers to search for pro bono cases across multiple legal aid organizations. In its first year, which began with a Miami-Dade County pilot and ended with the completion of a statewide rollout, this new marketing tool for pro bono generated more than 200 interest forms from lawyers wanting to help specific clients. Meanwhile, the Foundation's communications staff provided Florida lawyers with a host of compelling reasons to engage in pro bono work through a cover story and several features in the March 2017 issue of The Florida Bar Journal.

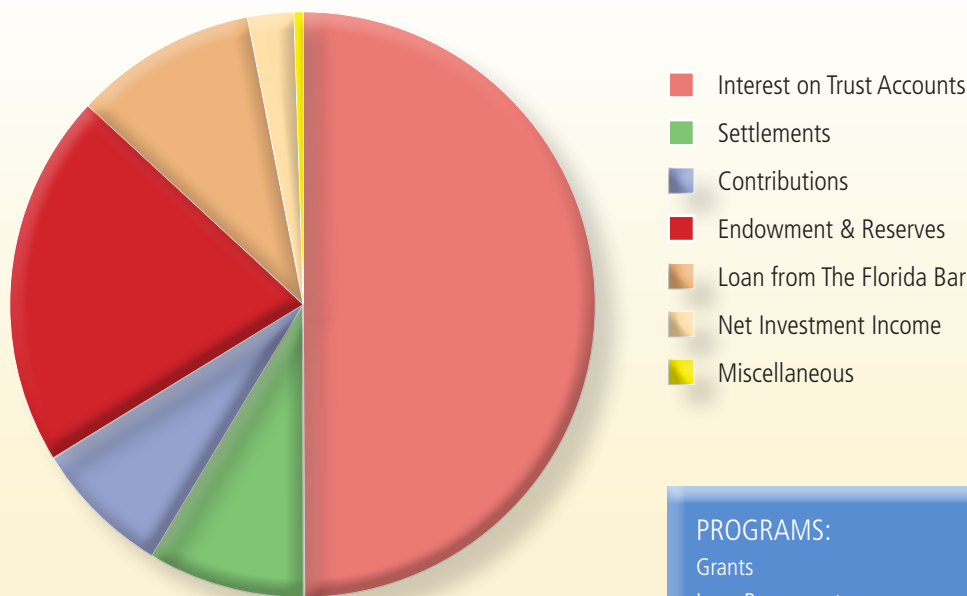
Also in 2017, the Foundation released the results of a study it commissioned on the economic impact of civil legal aid, which found a \$7 return on investment for every dollar spent. The study results were touted in op-eds and at press conferences throughout the state, where the spokespeople included then-ABA President-elect Hilarie Bass and then-Florida Bar President Bill Schifino, as well as Florida Chief Justice Jorge Labarga. The study has provided the Foundation, and the legal aid organizations it helps fund, with more evidence to support fundraising and advocacy efforts moving forward. The release of the study was immediately followed by a groundbreaking advocacy project for ABA Days in Washington



D.C. that enabled Foundation, Florida Bar and ABA leaders and Chief Justice Labarga to show members of Florida's congressional delegation the impact of Legal Services Corporation-funded programs on their constituents. Using Geographic Information Systems, the Foundation produced information specific to each lawmaker's district on the number of veterans, domestic abuse survivors and seniors who were served by federally-funded legal aid programs, as well as the number of people who were assisted with housing matters.

These sorts of collaborative efforts – further supported by the now-permanent Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice – are at the heart of the Foundation's new approach to fulfilling its mission. While most of the credit for these achievements is because of the Foundation's extremely talented staff, it was my distinct honor to lead the Foundation through this period of rapid advancement. I would like to thank the staff for their dedication, and my colleagues on the board for their earnest deliberations that led us into this new era.

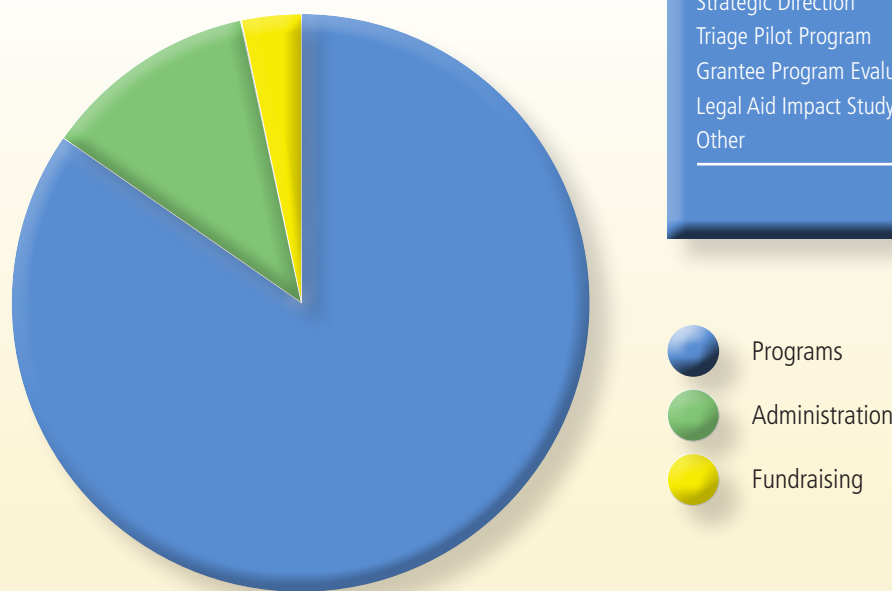
2016-17 FUNDING SOURCES



PROGRAMS:

Grants	\$9,344,751	81.6%
Loan Repayment	\$806,300	7.0%
Pro Bono	\$443,237	3.9%
Grantee Capacity Building	\$307,442	2.7%
Strategic Direction	\$220,396	1.9%
Triage Pilot Program	\$141,066	1.2%
Grantee Program Evaluations	\$74,004	0.7%
Legal Aid Impact Study	\$54,000	0.5%
Other	\$54,807	0.5%
	\$11,446,003	100.0%

HOW FUNDS WERE SPENT IN 2016-17



2016-17 New Fellows

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Florida Bar Foundation Fellows, our core supporters, pledge \$1,000 payable over five years, or over 10 years for young, government or nonprofit lawyers. To learn more about the Fellows Program, to make your Fellows pledge, or to see a list of Florida Bar Foundation Fellows, visit [www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/Fellow](http://www.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/Fellow).



Prof. Paolo Annino	Joseph M. Goldstein	Sarah Lahlou-Amine	C. Richard Nail	Peter J. Sweeney, Jr.
Jay R. Beskin	Hon. Yolonda Y. Green	Rachel A. Lowes	Carly M. Newman	Anais M. Taboas
Christie L. Bhageloe	Raleigh (Billy) Greene	Brittany Maxey	Erin A. O'Hara O'Connor	Angela C. Vigil
James A. Bonaquist, Jr.	Carlos Halley	William B. McQueen	Zelica M. Quigley	Donald A. Workman
Carl J. Domino	Patricia Jaramillo	Katherine H. Miller	Maritza Ramirez	
Marisa R. Dorough	Amber Jade F. Johnson	Mindy Mora	Wayne L. Smith	
Natasha B. Dorsey	Jay Kim	Jack Moring	Pedro Sotolongo	

PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO JUSTICE



# The Legacy for Justice

Through March 26, 2018

The Legacy for Justice recognizes those who have included the Foundation in their estate planning, made a gift or pledge of more than \$10,000, directed a significant cy pres award to the Foundation, or facilitated a colleague’s major gift. We offer the members of this prestigious group our sincerest gratitude for their deep and abiding commitment to the Foundation.

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With his generous gift of stock, Domino contributed more than \$11,000



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Goodall named The Florida Bar Foundation as a beneficiary in her life insurance

Not pictured: **Valorie S. Chavin, Michael J. Higer and Edward H. Zebersky.** See photo on p. 5.

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