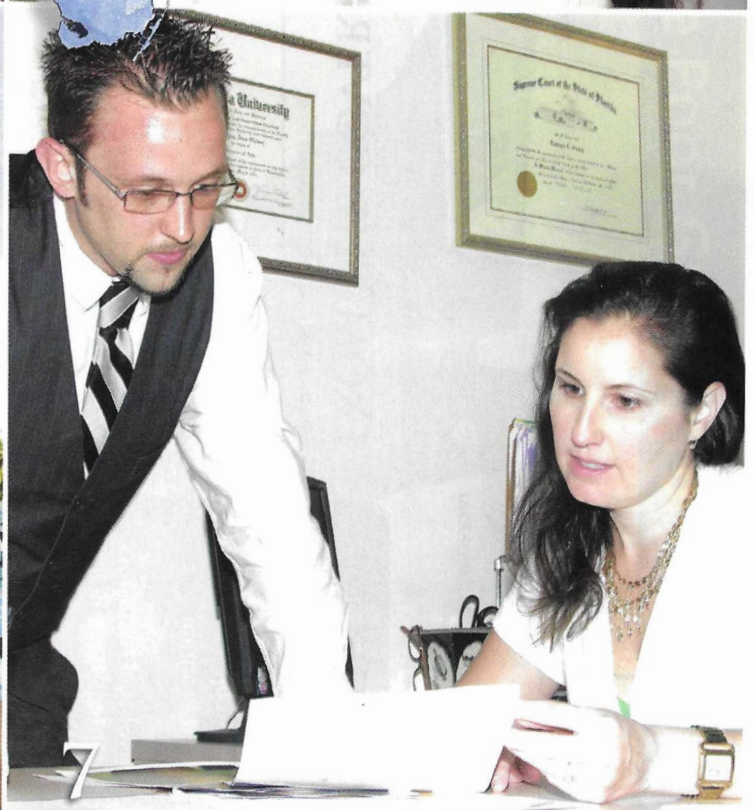
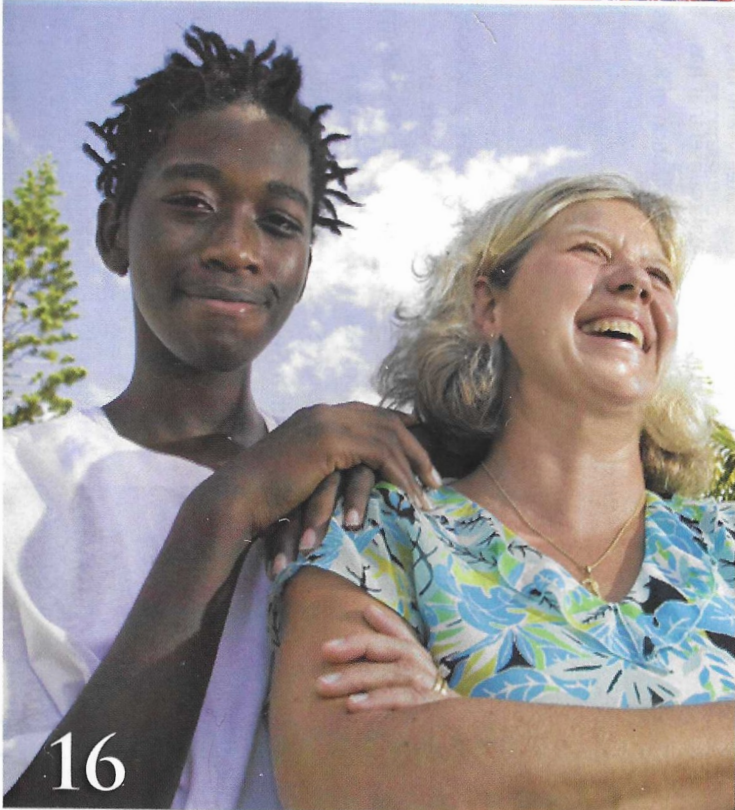


Your investments in The Florida Bar Foundation add up ...



Annual Report 2008-09

...to a more just society for Florida.

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FROM THE COVER

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Having lived in Overtown her whole life, Lois Rigby is looking forward to being a homeowner for the first time thanks to the help of attorney Shahrzad Emami at Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc., who is providing legal counsel that has been crucial to the revitalization of Rigby's housing complex.

5

On her own since she was in high school, Xiomara Medrano can now work and study at Hillsborough Community College without fear of deportation, having obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile Status with the assistance of her attorney at Gulfcoast Legal Services.

7

Through the Foundation's Legal Services Summer Fellows Program, law student Jarred Reiling learned first-hand from Legal

aid attorney Sandy D'Alemberte using the law to protect domestic violence victims from their abusers and give them a fresh start.

9

After 27 years in prison, William Dillon was freed through the use of DNA evidence with the help of his pro bono attorney Sandy D'Alemberte and the Innocence Project of Florida Inc., which receives a substantial portion of its funding from the Foundation's Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program.

16

As a fifth-grader, B.J. almost became a statistic of the juvenile justice system, but with help from Barbara Briggs at the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, whose work is supported by one of the Foundation's 23 Children's Legal Services grants, now he has the support and services he needs and is thriving in middle school.

17

Working with the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, pro bono attorney Jessica Parker helped Sandra Infante obtain legal temporary custody of her nephew and put her life back together at a time when she felt like she was "drowning."

The President's Message



learning environment in our schools. The ultimate goal of the Initiative is to develop approaches worthy of emulation throughout the state.

I am equally proud of another Foundation-funded project designed to help pro se bankruptcy filers in Florida navigate the bankruptcy process. The video and pamphlets created through this collaborative project have proven so successful in Florida that the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts modified the Florida video to create a national version. After being posted on the U.S. Courts' Web site, the national version has been viewed 92,000 times in less than a year. This project has exceeded the Foundation's original vision and has successfully utilized technology to leverage pro bono resources to provide legal information to assist those in need. These two projects provide just a glimpse of the Foundation's success in both addressing the legal needs of Florida's disadvantaged and improving the administration of justice in Florida and beyond.

The wide reach of the bankruptcy project gives me great hopes for the possibilities inherent in another Foundation initiative near and dear to me: the revitalization and expansion of pro bono service in Florida.

The Foundation has been at the forefront of efforts to expand pro bono work in Florida. The Florida Bar's "One" campaign, developed with Foundation support, was created to identify and address the reasons that the number of pro bono hours in Florida had become stagnant. Based on the slogan, "One: One client, one attorney, one promise," the campaign challenges every Florida attorney to take on one pro bono client as a way of fulfilling his or her professional obligation. In addition to providing funding support for the "One" campaign, the Foundation recently launched a new pilot grant program to assist the pro bono programs of legal aid grantees in their efforts to reach out to Florida attorneys and provide meaningful pro bono opportunities that match the skill set of their respective volunteer attorneys.

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to my fellow Foundation board members and to the Foundation staff, who have worked so diligently to turn these great ideas into reality.

As I close, I also would like to salute the thousands of Florida attorneys who embody and support the Foundation's mission. Chief among them is this year's Medal of Honor Award recipient, Sylvia H. Walbolt, who has dedicated enormous amounts of her time and energy over the course of her 45-year career to pro bono work, and who has served as a beloved mentor and a shining example to so many of her fellow attorneys, including me. Seeing Sylvia recognized for her lifetime of contributions to legal advocacy for the poor, the unpopular, the mistreated and the wrongfully convicted was the perfect end to my year of service as president of the Foundation.

Kathleen S. McLeroy
President, 2008-09

The economic crisis of the last 18 months has tested individuals and institutions all over the world. Some hallowed entities have collapsed; others have stumbled. Charitable institutions have not been immune from the riveting effects of the steep economic downturn and global financial crisis. Like their for-profit counterparts, many charitable organizations have been severely crippled or destroyed by the global recession and financial meltdown. A rare few charitable organizations have been able to meet the crisis head on and provide the same level of funding for their grantees.

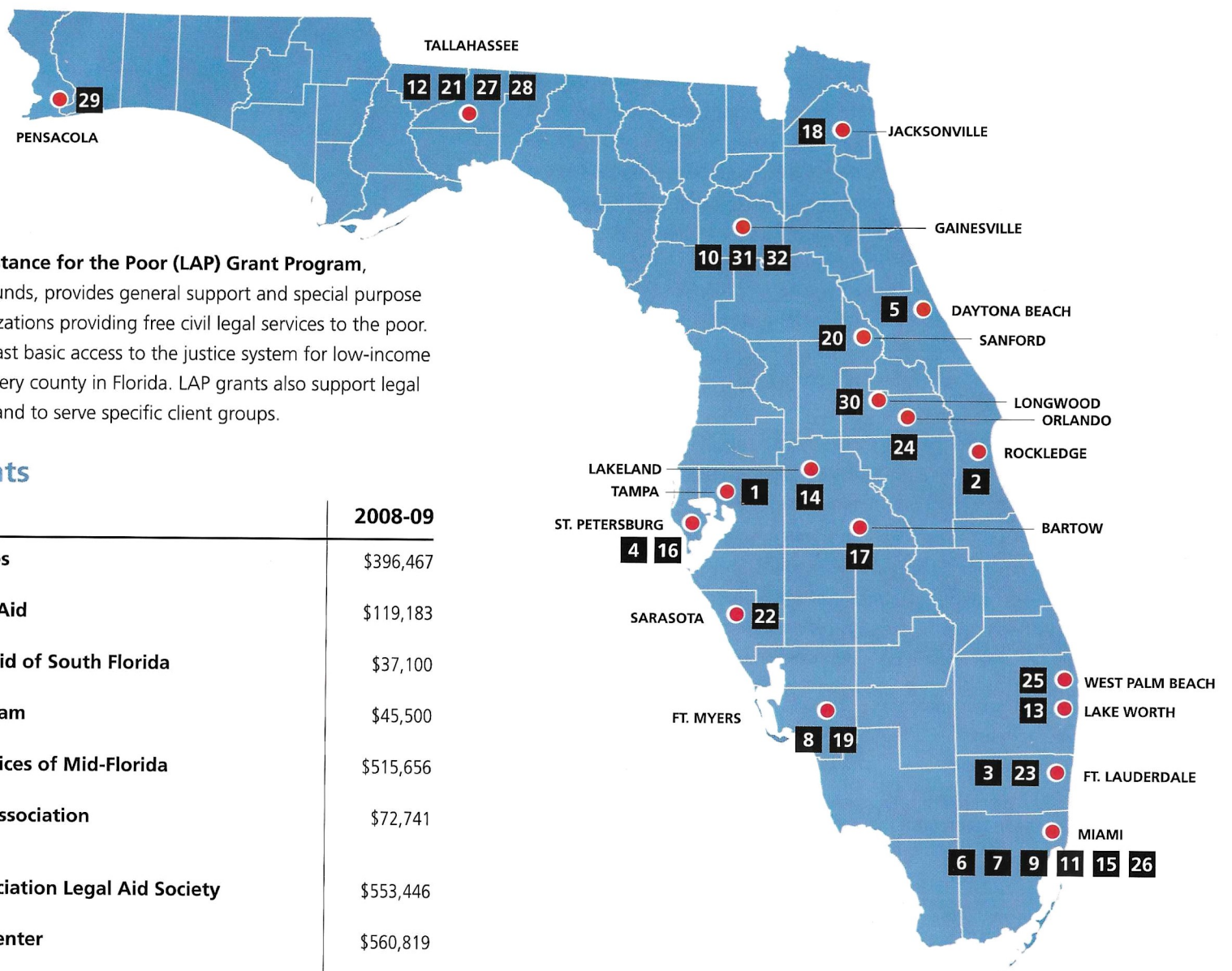
The Florida Bar Foundation falls into this latter category.

Despite the struggling Florida economy, record unemployment and the increasing demand on legal aid organizations in Florida, The Florida Bar Foundation and its grantees have persevered and continued to provide legal representation for the ever-growing

As a director of the Foundation for the last 10 years, and its president for the last year, I am proud of the board's decision to establish a reserve fund to supplement grants funds in years when the Foundation's funding sources decline. The present recession caused precisely this type of decline in funding for the Foundation. Indeed, IOTA revenue, the Foundation's primary source of funding, declined 75 percent in one year, shrinking from \$44 million in 2007-08 to \$11 million in 2008-09. The reserve enabled the Foundation to maintain stable funding for Legal Aid at a time when the need for critical legal services was steadily growing. Given the prudence of this decision alone, it's no wonder that for three consecutive years, the Foundation has been awarded the highest possible rating by Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of nonprofits nationwide.

I am proud to report that despite difficult economic times, the Foundation continues to innovatively address systemic social problems through new collaborative programs such as its Initiative on Children's Issues, which was developed with the expertise of the Collins Center for Public Policy. Funded through the Foundation's Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program, this groundbreaking project will bring together academic experts, school administrators, law enforcement and judicial officials to devise and implement methods to reduce school referrals to the juvenile justice system while maintaining a safe and appropriate

Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program



The Foundation's Legal Assistance for the Poor (LAP) Grant Program, supported primarily by IOTA funds, provides general support and special purpose grants to a network of organizations providing free civil legal services to the poor. Together, this network provides at least basic access to the justice system for low-income individuals and families residing in every county in Florida. LAP grants also support legal assistance for specific client services and to serve specific client groups.

General Support Grants

Grantee (Main Office)	2008-09
1 Bay Area Legal Services <i>Tampa</i>	\$396,467
2 Brevard County Legal Aid <i>Rockledge</i>	\$119,183
3 Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida <i>Ft. Lauderdale</i>	\$37,100
4 Community Law Program <i>St. Petersburg</i>	\$45,500
5 Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida <i>Daytona Beach</i>	\$515,656
6 Cuban American Bar Association <i>Pro Bono Project Miami</i>	\$72,741
7 Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society <i>Miami</i>	\$553,446
8 Florida Equal Justice Center <i>Ft. Myers</i>	\$560,819
9 Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center <i>Miami</i>	\$1,213,618
10 Florida Institutional Legal Services <i>Gainesville</i>	\$839,648
11 Florida Justice Institute <i>Miami</i>	\$518,086
12 Florida Legal Services <i>Tallahassee</i>	\$3,042,033
13 Florida Legal Services <i>Migrant Farmworker Justice Project Lake Worth</i>	\$861,052
14 Florida Rural Legal Services <i>Lakeland</i>	\$617,969
15 Guardianship Program of Dade County <i>Miami</i>	\$92,572
16 Gulfcoast Legal Services <i>St. Petersburg</i>	\$1,447,130
17 Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society <i>Bartow</i>	\$160,631
18 Jacksonville Area Legal Aid <i>Jacksonville</i>	\$1,193,455
19 Lee County Legal Aid Society <i>Ft. Myers</i>	\$80,451
20 Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida <i>Sanford</i>	\$862,367
21 Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association <i>Tallahassee</i>	\$61,383
22 Legal Aid of Manasota <i>Sarasota</i>	\$45,500
23 Legal Aid Service of Broward County <i>Ft. Lauderdale-Naples</i>	\$1,285,642
24 Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association <i>Orlando</i>	\$763,294
25 Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County <i>West Palm Beach</i>	\$505,343
26 Legal Services of Greater Miami <i>Miami</i>	\$915,585
27 Legal Services of North Florida <i>Tallahassee</i>	\$321,264
28 North Florida Center for Equal Justice <i>Tallahassee</i>	\$107,350
29 Northwest Florida Legal Services <i>Pensacola</i>	\$560,943
30 Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society <i>Longwood</i>	\$93,197
31 Southern Legal Counsel <i>Gainesville</i>	\$448,592
32 Three Rivers Legal Services <i>Gainesville</i>	\$93,320
	\$18,431,337

Foundation Support for Pro Bono Services by Members of The Florida Bar

Members of The Florida Bar donated their time through organized pro bono programs in 2008 to help the Foundation close 12,000 cases that were closed by Foundation legal aid grantees. At an average hourly rate of \$120 an hour, this represents more than \$11 million of free legal assistance for low-income Florida residents.

Foundation funds support the intake and referral of cases to pro bono volunteer attorneys and provide such volunteers with backup support and training. There is a wide variety of pro bono service opportunities for Florida attorneys, including:

- Handling cases in family law, housing matters, immigration, etc.
- Transactional attorneys helping community groups develop affordable housing
- Providing advice and counsel through clinics
- Representing children in dependency proceedings
- Co-counseling cases with legal aid attorneys in housing and consumer law
- Assisting particularly vulnerable clients, such as the elderly, the disabled and the mentally ill

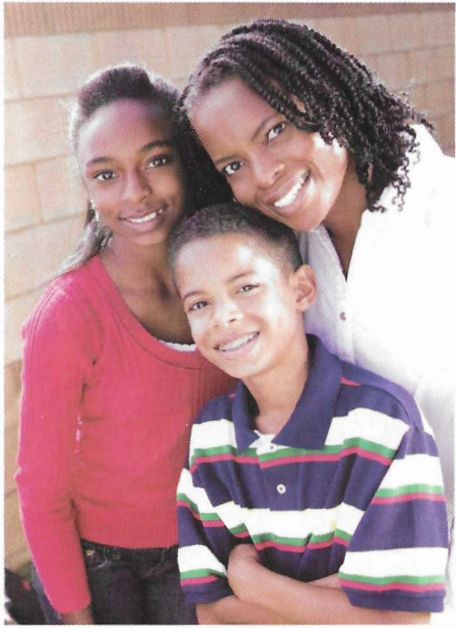
Not all pro bono work has to involve direct representation of clients. For example, pro bono attorneys can also:

- Provide substantive law and skills training to legal aid attorneys
- Serve as mentors to less experienced legal aid attorneys
- Do client intake
- Participate in community legal education programs such as being a panelist at a seminar on domestic violence or speaking to the elderly about protection of their homesteads

The benefits of involving members of The Florida Bar in serving the legal needs of the poor extend well beyond the positive outcomes for individual clients because attorneys make things happen. When talent and commitment are applied to removing the legal barriers poor people face in stabilizing their lives, entire communities benefit.

The Foundation has increased its support for pro bono in the 2009-10 fiscal year through a new Pilot Pro Bono Grant Program for new or enhanced pro bono projects at Foundation-funded legal aid organizations. It is also directing 2009-10 grants made through its Voluntary Bar Association Community Service Grant Program to bar association efforts to improve and expand pro bono in collaboration with their local legal aid programs. In addition, it is providing funding for the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service to develop and implement its "One" pro bono campaign and to increase its staff support through Florida Legal Services to help coordinate statewide efforts to expand pro bono.

How Legal Assistance Grantees Helped in 2008



Family Matters 34,209 (35%)

"Amy," a young mother of two children, one of whom is severely autistic, was referred to Legal Aid by a victim's advocate from the police department when she decided to separate from her abusive husband after he hit her in the head with a Pyrex baking pan, causing deep lacerations to her head and face.

The husband had tried to prevent Amy from calling 911 by pulling the phone cord from the wall and destroying her cell phone. She was only able to get help by slipping a note into her daughter's backpack when she went to school the next morning. The school alerted police, who came to the house and arrested the

husband.

At the final hearing, Legal Aid was able to secure a permanent domestic violence injunction for Amy, and her husband was ordered to attend a batterers' intervention program and undergo a psychological evaluation. He was also ordered to pay temporary child support, and visitation was limited and supervised. Amy was granted temporary, exclusive use and possession of the marital home.

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida



Housing Matters 18,412 (19%)

With his home in urgent need of repair, "Alan," a 34-year-old blind man, turned to a local agency for home repair assistance, only to be denied because his name wasn't on the property deed.

Believing the home was in the name of his deceased mother, who had adopted him as an infant, he came to Legal Aid for assistance. After investigation, Legal Aid determined that the property was not owned by his mother, but rather by one of her relatives, who was also deceased. Furthermore, Legal Aid found that Alan had never been legally adopted, and he was therefore not an heir. Meanwhile, a tornado hit his home and destroyed it.

Determined to help Alan with his housing needs, Legal Aid was able to locate an heir of the deceased owner, who agreed to sign a deed allowing him to live on the property for the remainder of his life. His attorney then forwarded the deed to the appropriate agency, and Alan was approved to have a new home built that would suit his needs.

Three Rivers Legal Services, Gainesville



Individual Rights Matters 12,943 (13%)

In a small village in Guatemala, three young children suddenly found themselves with no family to care for them when their grandmother was hit and killed by a truck on the way to the grocery store.

A friend took the children to the United States to be with their parents, but the children were stopped at the U.S.-Mexico border and placed in deportation proceedings. The father, "Alberto," came to Legal Aid in hopes of reuniting the family in Florida.

Legal Aid determined that the mother, "Rosa," was eligible for residency, and asked the court to terminate the deportation proceedings against the children while she applied. Once Rosa's residency was approved, Legal Aid succeeded in obtaining U.S. residency for the children as well, and they were spared deportation back to Guatemala.

Gulfcoast Legal Services, St. Petersburg



Consumer Matters 10,468 (11%)

"Ashley," a Panhandle area college student, showed up at Legal Aid in tears after her car, in which she had left all her textbooks, was repossessed by the credit union. She had just paid off her loan at the credit union through refinancing with a bank.

Unbeknownst to Ashley, the credit union had contacted the bank where she refinanced and sent them a loan payoff check along with a request that they return the title on the car. The credit union explained to the bank that Ashley's mother was a co-signer on the auto loan and had other loans with them that had cross-collateral agreements, and that they had made a mistake in accepting Ashley's payoff check. The bank complied with the credit union's request even though it had already accepted Ashley's first monthly payment.

When Legal Aid informed the bank of the numerous legal actions that could be filed against them and the financial liability for what they had done, the bank contacted the

credit union and reversed the transaction. They also agreed to cancel Ashley's new loan to avoid the financial liability they faced for actions taken against her. Ashley got her car back and was able to return to her school-work feeling justice had been served.

Northwest Florida Legal Services Inc., Pensacola



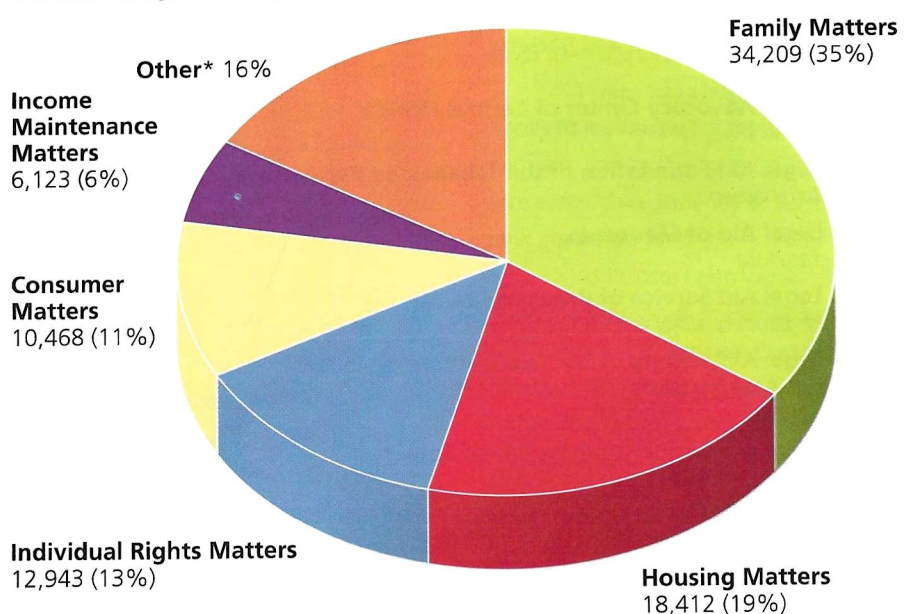
Income Maintenance Matters 6,123 (6%)

"Karl" worked as a busboy at a Miami restaurant, but when business slowed his employer removed him from the work schedule. After Karl applied for and received \$3,500 in unemployment compensation benefits, he received a notice that his employer was claiming he had not been laid off, but rather that he had quit. As a result, Karl was required to repay the \$3,500.

Karl's Legal Aid attorney filed an appeal and succeeded in establishing that Karl had in fact been laid off due to a lack of work. As a result of the hearing, Karl remained eligible for unemployment compensation benefits and was not required to repay the money he had already received.

Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc., Miami

Total: 98,400 Cases



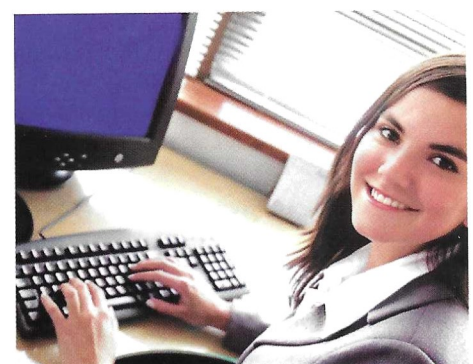
* Includes employment, health, children, education, etc.

Improved Technology for Legal Aid Programs

The Foundation undertook an assessment of the technology resources and needs of legal aid programs in Florida in 2006-2007. This assessment confirmed that the efficiency and effectiveness of many legal aid programs could be enhanced considerably by better

law firm technology. Working closely with its legal aid grantees, the Foundation set aside \$2.3 million in IOTA funds in 2006 to purchase and implement a uniform Internet-based case management system for each program. With the completion of the two-year project in fall 2009,

programs are now able to incorporate more accountability tools, improve the capacity and quality of their advocacy services, respond more accurately to information requests from their funding organizations, and communicate better among each other.



Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program

Affordable Housing Grants

The Foundation has sought to make an impact on the affordable housing crisis for low-income individuals and families through the implementation of a statewide-regional affordable housing project. The goal of the project is to undertake systemic advocacy to prevent the loss of affordable housing units and to support the development of new affordable housing units. Grants support multi-forum legal advocacy, including legislative advocacy, administrative advocacy, public policy advocacy and litigation on a statewide and local level. In 2008-09, the Foundation provided \$1,187,670 in affordable housing grants to seven regional projects, as well as a \$377,160 grant to Florida Legal Services for its work on affordable housing.



“Everything is moving in the right direction. After all these years, I’ll finally have something that I can say, ‘This is mine.’”

– Lois Rigby

Lifelong Overtown resident Lois Rigby is looking forward to owning her own home.

Saving Overtown’s “Little Oasis”

Lois Rigby has lived in Overtown’s Town Park Village for two decades, but long before the HUD complex opened in 1971, she remembers the little shotgun houses that occupied the neighborhood when her grandmother lived there.

Back then, you could walk to the store and get all the groceries you needed for \$30, and when the circus came to Miami, children gathered along Overtown’s streets to watch the elephants parade past. Black nightclubs welcomed celebrities like Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and Aretha Franklin.

Her memories reveal a deep connection rooted in a simple fact: Overtown is the only home she’s ever known.

“I don’t want to leave from here until I’ll be in a pine box,” Rigby says.

Rigby’s loyalty to her community has withstood riots, hurricanes, and more recently a fiery explosion that resulted in the leveling of one building in her housing complex and the boarding up of another.

Then came a challenge that seemed almost unsurmountable: Behind on its mortgage payments to the tune of \$800,000 and having failed more than one inspection, Town Park Village was about to get shut down by HUD.

Under a private, nonprofit management company, rent payments were collected from residents, none of whom knew where their money was going. Utility bills that were the responsibility of management went unpaid. The buildings, which had gone nearly 40 years with no rehabilitation, fell further into disrepair. HUD stopped receiving mortgage payments.

With eviction looming for the families and senior citizens residing in the 170 units of Town Park Village, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national nonprofit community development organization, went to HUD with a plan to revitalize Town Park Village and convert it from a limited equity co-op to a condominium form of ownership. This would enable residents, who were more like renters under the existing arrangement, to build equity in their homes and have more of a stake in the survival of their neighborhood.

But to do that, Town Park Village would need a lawyer.

LISC approached Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc., where Shahrzad Emami had been hired as a staff attorney using funds from The Florida Bar Foundation through its new Affordable Housing Advocacy Project Grant Program. In June 2008, Emami started working on the case and serving as the attorney for the Town Park Village board of directors. With Emami’s counsel, change happened fast.

First, the property management company: gone. Also out was the company that managed the laundry facility, where most of the machines were broken and a leaky water heater often flooded the floor. Next, the HUD mortgage: paid down to \$100,000.

Finally, after a series of evening meetings Emami held with residents to educate them about their ownership options: a 75-5 vote of residents in favor of converting to condominium ownership.

The complex is now undergoing a complete renovation, with new plumbing, electrical and flooring, and remodeled kitchens. Emami is helping make sure the project maintains the current composition of the Town Park Village community. Residents lacking the income usually required to become homeowners will receive grants.

Dana Milson, a teacher at Miami Norland High School and member of the Town Park Village board, believes the complex is on its way to regaining the stature it once held in Overtown.

“From the beginning when the complex opened in 1971, when it was brand new, everyone who lived in Overtown wanted to live here,” Milson said. “With the condo conversion I think it will be that way again – the little oasis.”

Rigby says she feels the change coming to Town Park Village.

“Everything is moving in the right direction,” Rigby said. “After all these years, I’ll finally have something that I can say, ‘This is mine.’”

Disaster Legal Assistance Grant Program

After a record-breaking hurricane season in 2004, Foundation leadership began a comprehensive plan to address the needs of low-income victims of natural disasters. The Foundation began providing annual training for grantees to improve their disaster plans and published a Legal Assistance Disaster Manual for grantee use. It also established a \$1 million reserve for future disaster assistance grants. The Foundation awards Disaster Legal Assistance Grants to Foundation-funded legal aid programs to restore and expand service capacity and to respond to increased legal needs of clients due to disasters. In 2009, the Foundation awarded \$40,000 to the Florida Equal Justice Center in Ft. Myers for disaster legal assistance in response to Tropical Storm Fay.

Statewide Special Project Grants

The following grants were made to support initiatives developed by Florida Legal Services on behalf of the legal aid community.

Project	2009
The Statewide Web site Internet-based resources provided to Foundation-funded legal aid and legal services advocates, volunteer attorneys who provide pro bono assistance to the poor, and the public. The web site provides access to legal information and referrals to Foundation grantee organizations.	\$167,000
The Statewide Pro Bono Project Provides staff support for the work of The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service. Half of these grant funds come from The Florida Bar.	\$108,000

Regional Grants

The Foundation helps grantees address significant unmet client needs on a regional level through grants that support collaborative efforts involving participation by at least two Foundation general support grantees serving within the same region. These special regional projects include employment benefits, access to health care, pro bono support, housing and immigration. In 2008-09, these regional grants totaled \$695,734.

Small Program Special Needs Grants

The purpose of this competitive grant program is to recognize and support small legal assistance programs with a long history of the provision of legal representation to special needs clients. The recipients are programs not otherwise supported by a Foundation grant. In 2008-09, the Colombian American Service Association and the HIV, Education and Law Project (HELP) Inc. received a total of \$142,000.



Children's Legal Services Grant Program

Since the early 1990s, The Florida Bar Foundation has funded special annual grants for legal assistance to children. Gifts from attorneys to the Foundation from the Lawyers' Challenge for Children on the annual Florida Bar Fee Statement help support these grants, along with proceeds from The Bar's Kids Deserve Justice license plate initiative. The Foundation's priorities for its Children's Legal Services grants include representation of foster care children and access to special education, medical, developmental and mental health services that are required under law.



On her own since she was 16, Xiomara Medrano used to live in fear of deportation. Now, with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, she is enrolled at Hillsborough Community College and working part-time on campus.

Legal Aid attorneys give immigrant children a voice

Just over a year ago, it seemed the doors of opportunity were always shut to Xiomara Medrano.

With her mother unable to support her, the 16-year-old Tampa high school student was living with strangers, working as a waitress to pay the rent. She lost her job because of her undocumented status, but she told no one, fearing she would be deported back to her native El Salvador.

Then one day in the middle of a fashion design class at Leto High School, Medrano broke down in tears.

"I could handle it for a little while. But the day I had to pay the rent was coming and I didn't have the money," Medrano said.

A social worker Medrano met through a high school counselor put her in touch with Gulfcoast Legal Services' Children's Immigration Legal Defense (GLS CHILD) last September.

"They gave me more freedom and opportunity to be here," Medrano said.

Medrano represents thousands of immigrant children who have traveled to the United States with their families or guardians in hopes of a better life. Some, like Medrano, end up struggling to make it on their own and living in constant fear of deportation. Others fare even worse, falling victim to abuse or neglect.

These children are often detained, then deported back to their home countries, unaware they are protected by the law and may be able to remain in the United States legally.

Since September 2007 GLS CHILD has been providing a voice for immigrant children who have fallen through the cracks in the Tampa Bay area. Supplemented with a \$72,100 Children's Legal Services grant from The Florida Bar Foundation, GLS CHILD represents immigrant children seeking asylum, as well as those who have been victims of crimes.

When GLS immigration attorneys Mariam Ahmedani and Adriana Dinis contacted The Florida Department of Children and Families, outreach centers, Guardian ad Litem and foster-care programs, and hospitals, the cases started pouring in.

The agencies were aware of the growing number of immigrant children walking through their doors, but had no idea what to do about it.

"No one knew who to call," said Ahmedani, who helped develop the project. "I imagine this is a problem all over this state. I almost feel we've just scratched the surface."

The two-attorney legal aid team is working through more than 70 cases, mostly special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS) cases, where the children have been abandoned, abused or neglected, which allows them protection and the right to stay in the United States.

In some cases, the children are adopted or go on to live in foster care.

Still on her own, Medrano has made great progress since she shed tears that day in class.

At the time, Ahmedani was serving for two years at Gulfcoast Legal Services as an Equal Justice Works Fellow with support from The Florida Bar Foundation. She has since been hired as a staff attorney, and she and Dinis have closed 64 cases through GLS CHILD to date.

An 18-year-old freshman at Hillsborough Community College, Medrano is living at a women's shelter in Tampa and recently landed a part-time job on campus.

"It's just amazing seeing the smile on these kids' faces when you tell them they have [legal] status," Ahmedani said. "That they can work, they can go to school. It's tremendously rewarding."

Children's Legal Services Grant Awards

Grantee	2008-2009
Bay Area Legal Services <i>Tampa</i> L. David Shear Children's Law Center	\$164,800
Brevard County Legal Aid <i>Rockledge</i> Independent Living Project	\$51,500
Community Law Program <i>St. Petersburg</i> Transitioning Dependent Youth Project	\$44,000
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida <i>Daytona Beach</i> The Child Advocacy Project	\$175,100
Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society <i>Miami</i> Teen Legal Collaborative Project (Joint project with Lawyers for Children America)	\$103,000
Florida Equal Justice Center <i>Ft. Myers</i> Schoolhouse-Safehouse	\$113,300
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center <i>Miami</i> FIAC's Children's Legal Project	\$123,600
Florida Institutional Legal Services <i>Gainesville</i> Children in Custody Project	\$97,850
Florida International University College of Law <i>Miami</i> Children's Education Advocacy Clinic	\$113,300
Florida Legal Services <i>Tallahassee</i> Children's Statewide Litigation and Policy Advocacy Project	\$159,650
Florida's Children First <i>Coral Springs</i> Florida's Children First Children's Systemic Initiatives	\$285,150
Florida State University College of Law Public Interest Law Center <i>Tallahassee</i> Health Care Access/Special Education Project	\$159,650
Gulfcoast Legal Services <i>St. Petersburg</i> GLS Child (Children's Immigration Legal Defense)	\$72,100
Jacksonville Area Legal Aid <i>Jacksonville</i> Crisis in Duval Foster Care Education Systems Project	\$82,400
Lawyers for Children America <i>Miami</i> Teen Legal Collaborative (Joint project with Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society)	\$103,000
Lawyers for Children America <i>Miami</i> Miami Youth S.H.I.N.E.* Project *Striving High for Independence and Empowerment	\$72,100
Legal Aid Service of Broward County <i>Plantation</i> Children's Advocacy Program – Education Legal Rights Project, Broward and Collier	\$139,050
Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association <i>Orlando</i> Guardian Ad Litem Project	\$138,020
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County <i>West Palm Beach</i> Children's Educational Advocacy Law Project	\$144,200
Legal Services of Greater Miami <i>Miami</i> Special Education Advocacy Project	\$58,300
Legal Services of North Florida <i>Tallahassee</i> Children's Legal Representation Project	\$119,480
Southern Legal Counsel <i>Gainesville</i> Education Advocacy Project	\$154,500
University of Miami School of Law <i>Miami</i> Statewide Foster Children's Advocacy Project	\$133,000
Total	\$2,807,050

"It's just amazing seeing the smile on these kids' faces when you tell them they have [legal] status. That they can work, they can go to school. It's tremendously rewarding."

– Mariam Ahmedani, Immigration Attorney, Gulfcoast Legal Services

Fostering Public Service Careers

The Florida Bar Foundation offers a number of programs through its Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program to encourage law school graduates to choose and remain in public interest careers. This includes providing matching funds for Equal Justice Works Fellows who spend two years working on public service projects, as well as providing loan repayment assistance and salary supplementation to Florida's dedicated legal aid attorneys.

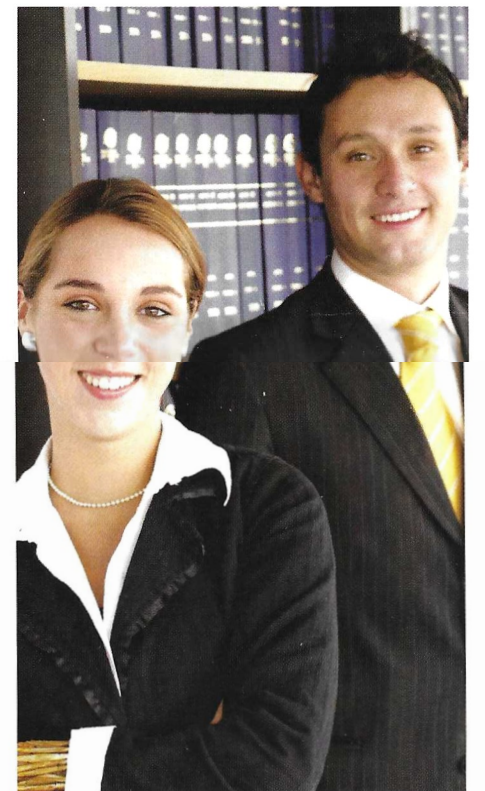
Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program

Since 1999, the Foundation and its Florida funding partners have provided matching funds for 58 Florida Equal Justice Works Fellows. Fellows have designed and led legal assistance projects in affordable housing, welfare to work, domestic violence, special education for disabled children, homelessness, immigration, prisoner rights, environmental justice and family preservation. These two-year public interest fellowships are sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Equal Justice Works. The Fellows are hosted by Foundation-funded legal assistance organizations. In addition to addressing the civil legal needs of the poor in Florida, the Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program enriches Florida's legal assistance community through the enthusiasm of individual Fellows who renew and enliven a host program's legal advocacy. In 2008-09, the Foundation approved matching funds for four Fellows in the Class of 2009-11 and was joined by its funding partners, the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, the law firm of Cobb & Cole, and The Florida Bar.



Equal Justice Works Fellowships Class of 2009-2011

Host Legal Aid Program	Fellow	Project
Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association	Erica Garcia	Advocate for services on behalf of the most vulnerable foster youth, those with developmental disabilities that will limit their ability to live independently when they age-out of foster care.
Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.	Kevin Probst	Resolve underlying legal issues contributing to health problems by partnering with pediatric medical providers to improve the overall health and welfare of low-income children and families.
Gulfcoast Legal Services	Peterson St. Philippe	Provide legal advocacy to increase Haitian refugees' and immigrants' awareness regarding their rights, immigration relief available, and provide quality immigration services to clients in West Florida.
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida	Shelly Campbell	Provide outreach and comprehensive legal services to low-income U.S. veterans residing in Central Florida.



Staff Attorney Salary Supplementation Program

In 2007 the Foundation released the results of an in-depth study titled, "The Quest for the Best: Attorney Recruitment and Retention Challenges for Florida Civil Legal Aid." Eighty-eight percent of the state's legal aid attorneys participated in the study through Web-based surveys, personal and telephone interviews and focus groups. The study found that the median starting salary for a licensed attorney in a Florida legal aid program was \$38,500 and that staff attorneys do not reach a median salary of \$50,000 until nine years after law school graduation. Common measures of a middle class lifestyle, such as home ownership, proved beyond the reach of legal aid attorneys in spite of their highly specialized and marketable skills. The study also found that "financial pressure due to low salary" was the number one reason legal aid attorneys left their jobs. In accordance with the recommendations of the study, The Florida Bar Foundation developed a plan to help increase staff attorneys' starting salaries beginning Jan. 1, 2008 to a minimum of \$43,500 with an increase to \$46,000 in 2010. It also established goals that attorneys with three years, six years and 10 years of experience would be earning a minimum of \$50,000, \$60,000 and \$70,000 respectively by 2010. To enable legal aid programs to implement these salary improvements, along with other professional development enhancements recommended by the study, the Foundation initiated a Staff Attorney Salary Supplementation Grant Program. In 2008, the program made grants totaling \$4.1 million to 28 legal aid programs. These grants also provided some matching funds to enable legal aid programs to start or improve retirement benefit plans for all of their employees.

Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program

The majority of law students today graduate with educational debt of more than \$100,000. The Foundation's 2007 "Quest for the Best" study found that one of the top three reasons attorneys were leaving public service careers was "financial pressure due to student loans." The study noted that salary increases alone will not be enough to deal adequately with the burden of debt payments on legal aid attorneys. In response, the Foundation strengthened its Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which now pays legal aid attorneys up to 80 percent of their annual payments on need-based law school debt for up to eight years. Annual payments are capped at \$7,500 and are in the form of one-year loans forgiven annually for attorneys who remain employed at a Foundation legal assistance grantee for the full 12-month period. In 2008-09, the Foundation committed \$921,769 to the program for benefits to 191 staff legal aid attorneys.



Law Student Assistance Grant Program

Foundation Law Student Assistance grants promote the concept of public service through financial assistance to eligible students at Florida's accredited law schools, and to out-of-state law students who work at Florida legal aid organizations in the summer.

Summer Fellows Grant Program

The Foundation administers an 11-week summer fellowship program for first- and second-year law students at Foundation-funded legal assistance programs. The Foundation awarded \$300,000 in 2009 to support the legal services Summer Fellows.

Forty law students from Florida's law schools and five out-of-state schools participated as 2009 Summer Fellows, having been selected from 485 applicants. As in years past, the Florida Legal Aid Project Directors' Association (PDA) sponsored a Terry Russell Summer Fellow to honor Terry Russell for his significant pro bono contributions to the delivery of legal services for the poor in Florida. This summer, the PDA sponsored Nicole Brisbane, the 2009 Terry Russell Summer Fellow, for an 11-week summer legal internship at Florida Justice Institute. Nicole participated in the 2009 Summer Fellows Program as a second-year law student from Emory University School of Law.



Nicole Brisbane, 2009 Terry Russell Summer Fellow

"I've always had an interest in doing public interest law, as a result of what brought me to law school in the first place. But working here this summer has solidified that."

– Jarred Reiling, Florida International University College of Law

Summer Fellow focused on helping victims of domestic violence

Jarred Reiling knows the face of domestic violence.

For nearly three months he heard the heart-wrenching stories of abused women – one so severely beaten that a judge called it the worst case he had ever seen.

Such emotionally gripping work isn't for everyone, but for Reiling, 23, it pushes him to take action.

"I have the ability to go home and not think about [domestic violence]. Some people don't," Reiling said. "It kind of fuels my fire to do my part and do what I can do."

For 11 weeks in the summer of 2009, Reiling, a second-year law student at Florida International University College of Law, worked as a Summer Fellow with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County's Domestic Violence Project.

He is one of 40 law students – about half of them minorities – who participated in The Florida Bar Foundation's 2009 Legal Services Summer Fellowship Program, where they explored their interest in public service law in legal aid offices throughout the state.

For Reiling, the fellowship added fuel to his passion for helping domestic violence victims, which has been burning since his days as an undergraduate at Florida Atlantic University and ultimately led him to law school.

The Lantana native received his bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and once worked as an intern at a domestic violence shelter in Pasco County.

While emotions can run high at a shelter, Reiling learned through his fellowship to focus on the methodical, meticulous and relatively emotionally detached legal process involved in protecting the legal rights of domestic violence victims.

At Legal Aid, Reiling did legal research the staff attorneys wouldn't have the time to do – given their enormous caseloads – and he frequently went to court with lawyers representing clients, an opportunity envied by his friends from law school.

Reiling's presence was also a tremendous benefit to the legal aid office, said supervising attorney Kathryn Oleksy, who heads the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County's Domestic Violence Project.

"With the economic crisis we have a real crunch as far as more clients than ever who need services. Jarred has been really good with helping prep our cases," Oleksy said.

Reiling hopes to follow law school with an Equal Justice Works fellowship and one day practice public interest law. If he ends up practicing at the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, he'd be one of several attorneys there who started along their career path by participating in the Legal Services Summer Fellowship Program.

"I've always had an interest in doing public interest law, as a result of what brought me to law school in the first place," Reiling said. "But working here this summer has solidified that."

Public Service Fellows Program

Through the Public Service Fellows Program, law students complete internships at legal aid offices, guardian ad litem programs and public defender offices, as well as human rights and other public service agencies. The program seeks to promote pro bono legal services by members of the legal profession, to provide law students with direct involvement in public service activities and to promote the concept of public service legal work on law school campuses. The grants are awarded to law schools, which distribute the funds to students. During the 2008-09 academic year, 113 students participated in the Public Service Fellows Program and contributed an estimated 24,780 hours of direct public service. Foundation funding for the program was \$332,415 in 2009.

Law School Civil Clinic Grant Program

The Florida Bar Foundation helps support law school civil clinics in an effort to:

- involve law students in the provision of civil legal assistance to the poor;
- provide an in-depth experience in representing the poor and working with individual clients and client groups in civil matters;
- encourage law students to pursue public interest careers representing the poor; and
- promote a commitment to pro bono representation of the poor

Cases handled through the clinics are predominantly in the areas of family law, children's legal services, homeless advocacy, public benefits (food stamps, Medicaid), immigration, community outreach and education. In 2008-09, the Foundation awarded \$25,000 each to support civil law clinics at the following law schools: Barry University, Florida A&M University, Florida International University, Florida State University, Nova Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, Stetson University, the University of Florida and the University of Miami.



Summer Fellow Jarred Reiling and Supervising Attorney Kathryn Oleksy of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County review a domestic violence case.

Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program

Grantmaking Philosophy

A goal of The Florida Bar Foundation is to focus grants in areas where the funding can have a measurable impact. Toward that end, the Foundation concentrates grants for improvements in the administration of justice in five areas, with emphasis on how the courts can operate more effectively and expeditiously.

Areas of Funding

- Improvement in the operation and management of the court system;
- Improvement and reform of the criminal, civil and juvenile justice systems;
- Public education and understanding about the law, including law-related education;
- Promotion and support for public interest legal representation; and
- Promotion and support for voluntary bar association-sponsored community-service initiatives

The Foundation occasionally considers and seeks out projects in other subject areas related to improving the administration of justice in Florida.

Funding Criteria

Preference generally will be given to:

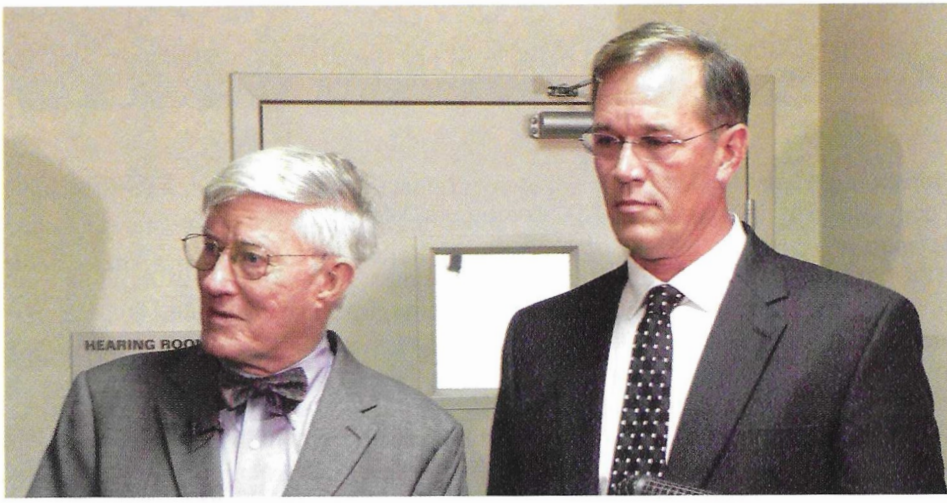
- Applicants seeking start-up funds or seed money over a one- or two-year period;
- Programs with demonstration value or replication potential; and
- Requests for matching funds.

AJ typically does not fund direct service programs (e.g., drug treatment or counseling), replicas of established programs, local community groups, or programs for which there is a governmental responsibility to provide funding and continuing program support.

2008-2009 Grant Awards

Grantee	Grant Award
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Florida, Inc. Rethinking Restoration of Civil Rights in Florida <i>Miami</i> (\$50,000 September 2008 – February 2009; \$50,000 March 2009 – February 2010) To continue providing direct assistance to ex-felons in the rights-restoration process, as well as expanding their training program by training trainers in order to increase the number of rights restoration assistance providers in communities across Florida.	\$100,000
Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida Pro Se Assistance Transition Project <i>Miami</i> To increase <i>pro se</i> assistance to bankruptcy filers in the Southern District through use of Spanish and Creole versions of the existing video available in English produced by Bay Area Legal Services and the Bankruptcy Court of the Middle District of Florida.	\$15,000
Collins Center for Public Policy Children's Initiative <i>Miami</i> In support of children's initiatives including restorative justice planning for the diversion of minor offenders, reduction of the "school-to-prison pipeline," and defining realistic alternatives for adult representatives (legal counsel, guardians-ad-litem and mentors).	\$350,000
Collins Center for Public Policy Expanding Constitutional Amendments Web site <i>Miami</i> In support of an interactive Web site providing text and visual information about the 2008 proposed amendments to Florida's Constitution, and interactive public forums to educate the public and help them become more informed voters.	\$75,000
Collins Center for Public Policy Florida Justice Summit <i>Miami</i> In support of a "Florida Justice Summit" of key public and private state leaders to map out future directions and specific plans for Florida's criminal justice system and future executive and legislative action.	\$160,000
Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. General Support <i>Tallahassee</i> (\$105,060 September 2008 – February 2009; March 2009 – February 2010) To provide general support for the development and expansion of model civic and law-related programs in Florida.	\$315,180
Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc. Justice Teaching Institute <i>Tallahassee</i> To provide funding for a four-and-a-half-day institute on the judicial branch taught by all seven Supreme Court justices to 25 Florida teachers to provide firsthand experience on the appellate process.	\$28,000

Florida Legal Services, Inc. Florida Attorneys Saving Homes (FASH) Foreclosure Defense Project <i>Tallahassee</i> (\$84,750 August 2008 – August 2009; \$84,750 August 2009 – August 2010) To recruit, train and assign clients to volunteer attorneys recruited by the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section (RPPTL) of The Florida Bar and the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar to assist homeowners facing foreclosure in Florida.	\$169,500
Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights Human Rights/Immigration Law Project <i>Tallahassee</i> In furtherance to providing pro bono immigration legal assistance, asylum and other human rights advocacy to immigrants in northern Florida, as well as support in establishing a Human Rights Immigration Law Project clinic with a full-time practicing attorney as program director. FSU law and graduate students will engage in research and preparation for the litigation of CAHR's immigration caseload.	\$50,000
Florida Supreme Court Historical Society <i>Miami</i> As partial support for Volume III, Florida Supreme Court History.	\$20,000
Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocacy Justice by the People Project in Florida <i>Dallas, Texas</i> Justice by the People is a Web-based, four-lesson curriculum that teaches young people the history, process and values of trial by jury.	\$50,000
Historical Museum of Southern Florida/11th Judicial Circuit History of Florida's 11 th Judicial Circuit <i>Miami</i> Matching grant to provide partial support for a comprehensive perspective in a 100-page book on the history of Florida's 11 th Judicial Circuit that will be published to coincide with the 11 th Judicial Circuit's centennial, as well as a year-long series of public events and programs.	\$10,000
Innocence Project of Florida, Inc. DNA Testing/Advocacy/Support <i>Tallahassee</i> To identify and free innocent inmates from Florida's prisons through DNA testing after screening and investigating cases where innocence claims are identified; secure DNA testing where biological evidence exists; advocate for the release of each inmate excluded from criminal responsibility; provide transitional aftercare services; and advocate for necessary criminal justice reform; including up to \$15,000 as match for new contributions to the Exoneree Emergency Fund.	\$319,600
Deaf Service Center of Palm Beach County/Manalapan Police Department Legal System Accessibility for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Project <i>Manalapan</i> To support the development of a "Train the Trainer" program to educate select legal system individuals who will later serve as trainers within their own organizations by educating them on how to communicate with hard-of-hearing individuals.	\$26,000
Office of the State Courts Administrator Long-Range Planning Focus Groups <i>Tallahassee</i> In support of surveys among the general public, court users, jurors, attorneys, and judicial officers/staff, as well as statewide public forums, justice system partner meetings, and focus groups. The groups will conduct long-range planning outreach efforts, and participants will be involved with recommending new goals and strategies for the long-range strategic plan of the judicial branch.	\$30,000
School District of Escambia County Discipline Alternatives to Zero Tolerance Pilot Project <i>Pensacola</i> To reduce the impact of zero-tolerance laws on students, this three-year pilot program tests alternative approaches to student discipline based on restorative justice practices that engage children in repairing harm instead of relying upon suspension, expulsion, and law enforcement involvement as primary responses to disruptive behaviors.	\$945,000
Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association, Hillsborough County Bar Association, Sarasota County Bar Association, Diversity Committee and George Edgecomb Bar Association 2 nd Annual Diversity Picnic <i>Tampa</i> To support the 2 nd Annual Diversity Picnic at the downtown Tampa Campus of Stetson University in February 2009 for minority law students from all law schools in Florida.	\$2,000
The Florida Bar Reporting on the Courts and the Law: A Workshop for Journalists <i>Tallahassee</i> A workshop to educate journalists in the basics of legal reporting.	\$10,000
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Matching Funds for Affiliate Public Service Projects <i>Tallahassee</i> To provide matching funds to the Young Lawyers Division to support public service projects of local young lawyer affiliate groups.	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$2,700,280



Pro bono attorney Sandy D'Alemberte and exoneree William Dillon.

"I still believe in the justice system."

– William Dillon, after serving 27 years in prison following a wrongful conviction

The long wait for justice

More than 28 years since lying to a jury to save his own skin, a jailhouse snitch wiped away tears and apologized to William Dillon, who was freed from prison last year for a murder he insists he did not commit.

"I'm very sorry for what's happened," Roger Dale Chapman, a mechanic from Bonifay, testified, after detailing how a detective removed him from the bull pen cell of the Brevard County Jail and told him, "Dale, I hold your freedom in my hand," and then coached him to testify that Dillon had confessed, even though he had maintained his innocence.

Dillon — sentenced to life in prison for first-degree murder at age 21 and now a 50-year-old man who said he still believes justice will prevail — accepted Chapman's apology.

"I know you were used," Dillon told Chapman.

It was the first time the two men had seen each other since the 1981 trial that Sandy D'Alemberte, Dillon's pro bono lawyer working with the Innocence Project of Florida, today describes as filled with lies, bogus evidence, inconsistent and recanted testimony, eye-witness identification that didn't match Dillon, an ignored alibi, and prosecutorial misconduct.

Finally, in 2008, the key that opened the prison door was DNA evidence tested from a yellow T-shirt worn by the killer and held in safekeeping for decades by the court clerk. A forensic scientist gave her expert opinion about the shirt splattered with blood that matched the victim, James Dvorak. Trace evidence of sweat and skin showed at least two individuals wore the shirt — but "very likely" not Dillon, the scientist testified.

The setting for the more recent meeting of the two men was a claims hearing in Tallahassee on November 2, 2009.

After the hearing, Dillon shook Chapman's hand and told reporters: "I forgive him because I know that he was perplexed, and I know he was pushed into a situation where it was easy to throw my life away."

Today, Dillon works for a DNA company, giving speeches extolling the virtues of DNA evidence. He also gives speeches to young lawyers and public defenders.

"I still believe in the justice system," Dillon said. "I just feel that certain individuals misuse it... and they need a public sentiment to say, 'OK, we got a killer off the streets.' In reality, they've had a killer walking around the streets for more than 27 years..."

The day after Chapman's testimony, Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker reopened the 1981 murder case, saying he wants to determine the truth.

Excerpted from an article by Jan Pudlow appearing in the Nov. 15, 2009 issue of The Florida Bar News.

The Florida Bar Foundation, through its Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program, has provided \$1.25 million in funding to the Innocence Project of Florida Inc. since 2004-05. In 2008-09, the Foundation's grant to the Innocence Project was \$319,600.

Voluntary Bar Association Community Service Grant Program

The Voluntary Bar Association Community Service Grant Program is an ongoing program of one-time grants of up to \$5,000 each awarded to voluntary bar associations in Florida to promote new or significant improvement in existing charitable, community-service projects. The goals of the Voluntary Bar Association Community Service Grant Program are:

- To increase community service by Florida's legal profession through voluntary bar association initiatives; and
- To serve as a readily accessible source of funding for a full range of voluntary bar association charitable, community-service projects.

2008-2009 Grant Awards

Grantee	Award
Collier County Women's Bar Association <i>Naples</i> Living Will & Health Care Surrogate Project	\$4,000
F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association <i>West Palm Beach</i> CBA Community Law Project	\$2,000
George Edgecomb Bar Association <i>Tampa</i> GEBA Mentoring Program – Franklin Middle Magnet Pre-Law Academy	\$4,000
Haitian Lawyers Association <i>Miami</i> Community Legal Education	\$4,000
Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers <i>Tampa</i> Kinship Care CLE and Mentoring Training	\$4,500
Marion County Bar Association <i>Ocala</i> Law and Government in High School	\$3,000
Martin County Bar Association <i>Palm City</i> Basic Legal Seminars and Legal Research	\$3,000
Nassau County Bar Association <i>Fernandina Beach</i> Family Visitation Center	\$3,500
Palm Beach County Bar Association <i>West Palm Beach</i> Electronic Fieldtrip	\$2,000
Sarasota County Bar Association <i>Sarasota</i> Civics and Law in Education Program	\$2,500
Tallahassee Women Lawyers <i>Tallahassee</i> Professional Women's Exchange	\$2,500
The Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association <i>Tampa</i> TBHBA Pro Bono Initiative – Hispanic Pro Se Fliers	\$4,500
Virgil Hawkins Bar Association of Polk, Highlands and Hardee Counties <i>Bartow</i> Historically Black Colleges and Universities Jump Off: A College Recruitment Event	\$3,500
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association/Foundation <i>Miami</i> Historic Black Church Project	\$4,600
TOTAL:	\$47,600

Investing in Access to Justice

The mission of The Florida Bar Foundation is to provide greater access to justice. Foundation grants support leadership and funding for legal aid in Florida, improvements in the state's justice system, and programs designed to instill a spirit of public service in law students.

Many Floridians have nowhere else to turn but to a legal aid or pro bono attorney to help them when they are facing domestic violence, unlawful evictions, scams such as mortgage fraud, or denial of child support or public benefits to which they are legally entitled.

Although IOTA funds support the Foundation's mission, the need still far outstrips the capacity of legal services programs. Working together, we can do more to enhance the Foundation's mission and address the legal needs of the state's most vulnerable populations.

Your gifts can support current programs or can be added to The Florida Bar Foundation Endowment Trust as a permanent source of support for Foundation programs.

Florida lawyers – and the broader public – consistently demonstrate their sense of responsibility to care for those in need and their belief in the value of fairness in our justice system. We invite you to support the work of the Foundation and make your investment in access to justice.

To learn more about charitable giving opportunities at the Foundation, please contact me at the e-mail address or phone numbers below.

Tim Bachmeyer
 Director of Development
 tbachmeyer@flabarfndn.org
 (800) 541-2195 (Toll-free in Florida)
 (407) 843-0045

Our Network of Philanthropic Support

Through our half-century of existence, thousands of individuals and organizations have supported The Florida Bar Foundation with their charitable gifts. For many of them, their support for the Foundation has blossomed from their original Fellows gift into an ongoing commitment as part of a personal philanthropic tradition.

In gratitude for their dedication, and for their commitment to the Foundation's sustained success over time, we acknowledge our generous donors for both their lifetime (cumulative) giving and for their cash gifts in the most recent fiscal year.

Our lifetime giving societies pay tribute to the members at each giving level, recognizing the generosity they have shown since they made their first Foundation gift. Our Annual Giving Circles represent gift totals in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. Our Fellows list documents the name of every person who, with his or her gift or pledge of \$1,000, has committed to become a life member of the Foundation since its inception. Finally, our Legacy for Justice members have chosen to create a personal legacy on behalf of the Foundation with a significant commitment of resources to sustain the Foundation's future.

The Foundation is also grateful for the many gifts made through the Lawyers' Challenge for Children and End-of-Year campaigns, as well as those made in tribute or in memory of special friends and loved ones. For their philanthropic support, which has become so important to the Foundation's mission, we salute the following donors:

Legacy for Justice
 Lifetime Giving Societies
 Annual Giving Circles
 Lawyers' Challenge for Children
 Tribute & Memorial Gifts
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Florida Bar Foundation Development Committee Chair John Patterson and his wife Nora, members of the Legacy for Justice.

Legacy for Justice

For a special group of dedicated supporters, the mission of The Florida Bar Foundation is of such great personal importance that they have chosen to make a significant commitment of resources to ensure that the Foundation's work can be sustained well into the future. The Legacy for Justice recognizes those who have either included the Foundation in their estate planning, made a 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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 ** Deceased

Investing in Access to Justice

Annual Giving Circles

Gifts from Fellows and others made between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009

Barristers Circle \$100,000-\$249,999

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Community Foundation of Central Florida

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Kids Deserve Justice

Since April 2005 over 6,700 Floridians have purchased Kids Deserve Justice specialty license plates, amounting to over \$170,000 in support for Children's Legal Services. Proceeds from the sales of the plate are used to provide legal services to address the legal needs of low-income children, thereby protecting the rights of our most vulnerable

residents. The Foundation does not deduct administrative costs. For more information, call the Foundation at (407) 843-0045, ext. 117 or (800) 541-2195 (FL) or visit www.floridabarfoundation.org/KidsDeserveJustice.

Matching Gift Companies

Many corporations and law firms will match employee contributions to The Florida Bar Foundation. Some will match gifts made by their directors and spouses of employees. To encourage matching gift opportunities, The Florida Bar Foundation attributes matching gifts to the responsible donor. The recognition of donors is determined therefore by the donor's total annual gift – his or her personal contribution plus any resulting matching gift received during the fiscal year. Thanks to these matching gift contributors:

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Jesse H. Diner by Jill N. Berman
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Solomon L. Badger, Jr. by Jane Elizabeth Curran
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Cy Pres Awards

The cy pres doctrine is often applied in class action law suits in which full restitution to all injured parties is either impossible or infeasible. Under cy pres, the courts can approve a charitable donation out of unclaimed class action funds, or a direct grant in lieu of damages to an organization that could vindicate class member rights in the future. In many such consumer class action cases, the class of consumers is typical of the underprivileged Floridians who receive Florida Bar Foundation-funded legal assistance, making the Foundation an appropriate choice as the beneficiary of the cy pres award. In addition, the Foundation can direct grants funded by cy pres to specific geographic regions or for specific types of legal assistance to meet the requirements of a cy pres award. While it is up to the courts to determine whether the cy pres award recipient is appropriate, plaintiff and defense attorneys can each play an important role in directing cy pres awards to the Foundation. In 2008-09, the Foundation received \$339,435 in cy pres awards. Attorneys directing cy pres awards to the Foundation included John Yanchunis and Tom Loffredo.

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On behalf of the thousands of children served by the Foundation's Children's Legal Services grants, thank you for supporting the Lawyers' Challenge for Children. Your gift has been added to the Foundation's Children's Legal Services grant program to serve poor children throughout Florida. Donors to the Lawyers' Challenge for Children of \$100 or more are listed here. While donors of less than \$100 are too numerous to include in this report, we do wish to express our gratitude to them and have included them in our complete list at www.floridabarfoundation.org.

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First District Court of Appeals Judge William A. Van Nortwick, Jr. and his wife Maria Henderson, a consultant with Akerman Senterfitt, have served on the board of The Florida Bar Foundation for a combined total of 11 years. Between them, they have held 53 Foundation committee appointments.

Judge William A. Van Nortwick, Jr. and Maria Henderson go the extra mile to ensure access to justice

They met at a water station while training in Jacksonville, Fla., for the New York City marathon. He was a local business lawyer, and she was in the insurance business in Tampa.

Among the many things they soon discovered they had in common was a dedication to community service. Today, after 10 years of marriage, Maria Henderson and First District Court of Appeals Judge William A. Van Nortwick, Jr. practice that dedication largely through The Florida Bar Foundation.

"The Foundation is the single thing we care about the most," said Henderson, the Foundation's second vice president for 2009-10.

Both are firm believers in the Foundation's mission of access to justice. But beyond that, they are believers in the Foundation itself.

"First, I think the people who work at the Foundation are some of the most incredibly dedicated people I have ever met," Henderson said. "I mean they believe in the mission, they live and breathe it. They articulate it well. And obviously they spend very little money on operations and fundraising, so the bulk of the money can go to the grantees."

Van Nortwick points to the Foundation's uniqueness.

"It is the primary leader and funder in legal services in Florida and probably the leader and funder in innovation in terms of legal services in the United States," he said. "The Legal Services Corporation ... has basically not been appropriately funded, and Congress has adopted so many restrictions on their funding that it led the Foundation to really step up to the plate and even take a bigger leadership role. It's really looked to as an example by every legal aid funding organization in the United States."

Henderson agrees that the Foundation's innovativeness is part of what sets it apart.

"They don't just say, 'Let's give grants to these grantees and continue to serve the same population over and over and over,' knowing that they can only serve 20 percent of the need. They say, 'What is the problem, and can we solve that problem in some other way?' They say, 'I'll treat the back-end problem because it's there, and I've got to deal with that, but let me find what the systemic issue is so that I can come back and attack it that way and maybe eliminate the back end.' And that's not necessarily universally true with many organizations."

That's one of the reasons Henderson feels it's truly a privilege to serve on the Foundation board, an idea that first came to her when she attended the Foundation's annual dinner in 1998, the year Miami criminal defense attorney Neal Sonnett was president. Although not a lawyer, Henderson came away from the event inspired by Sonnett's remarks, and by the impressive stories of service by that year's Medal of Honor winners: the Rev. Fred L. Maxwell in the non-lawyer category and Burton Young in the lawyer category.

Henderson joined the board in 2004 as a public member, and since that time, she has lent her tremendous expertise and wisdom to financial, grantmaking and policy decisions through her various committee appointments and as a member of the board.

Although she and Van Nortwick no longer run marathons, they still exhibit tremendous endurance. They have served on the Foundation board for a combined 11 years and held a combined total of 53 appointments to Foundation committees. Henderson currently serves on five: executive, finance and audit, development, grant program, and the Administration of Justice Grant Program committee, which she chairs.

Meanwhile, Van Nortwick has continued his service on Foundation committees for more than a decade since stepping down from the board at the end of his term as president in 1994. He also chairs The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service, for which the Foundation and The Florida Bar fund annual staff support. The Foundation has increased its funding this year to facilitate the "One" Pro Bono campaign, and also funded the pro bono report that led up to it.

Besides being Foundation Fellows, Van Nortwick and Henderson continue to give generously and have even put the Foundation in their wills. Both are members of the Legacy for Justice, which recognizes those who have either included the Foundation in their estate planning, made a pledge or gift of more than \$10,000, directed a significant cy pres award to the Foundation, or facilitated a colleague's major gift.

For each of them, philanthropy and public service are a family tradition.

Van Nortwick traces his civic-mindedness to his grandparents, whom he describes as "old-time tithers," and to a physician father who spent many Saturdays providing free medical care to indigent patients in Jacksonville, Fla.

Not surprisingly perhaps, one of Van Nortwick's major pro bono projects from the days when he was a business lawyer involved the establishment of the Northwest Quadrant Community Health Center. An indigent medical clinic in a poverty-stricken area of Jacksonville, the health center became a medical home for people who had once had the emergency room as their only option. Besides helping with the center's articles of incorporation, lease agreement, malpractice insurance contracts and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement applications, Van Nortwick assisted Jacksonville Area Legal Aid in securing \$2 million in federal grants for the center.

For his more than 200 hours of pro bono service to the health clinic, he was recognized in 1995 with the American Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award.

Henderson recalls her mother's long hours spent volunteering at a Denver hospital, as well as an understanding in her house that if she got \$10 for her birthday, a dollar of it would go to charity.

A regulatory and financial services consultant with Akerman Senterfitt in Tallahassee, Henderson recently completed a pro bono review of the Foundation's risk management contracts and recommended changes she believes will save the Foundation money, a task she admits only a one-time insurance professional such as herself could describe as "fun."

Van Nortwick sees their contributions as a way of dwelling in possibility.

"It'd be great to solve the poverty problem, but I'm not sure that's something I can contribute to solving," he said. "I can contribute to try and see that as many people can have legal representation as possible. And we're not anywhere near achieving that, but it's a part of our responsibility as members of the legal profession to see that the system works for everyone, not just people who are wealthy enough to afford it."



"It'd be great to solve the poverty problem, but I'm not sure that's something I can contribute to solving. I can contribute to try and see that as many people can have legal representation as possible."

— Hon. William A. Van Nortwick, Jr.



B.J. enjoys a light moment with Barbara Briggs, his attorney from the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. B.J. is one of many students now benefitting from a recent settlement agreement Briggs helped negotiate with the Palm Beach County School Board.

Settlement agreement brings needed changes to Palm Beach County schools

An eighth-grader at a West Palm Beach, Fla., middle school, B.J. is a popular student known for his dancing at pep rallies.

“He’s doing great,” said his mother, Staci Pearson. “He likes school. He reads better. He likes to stay after school.”

But it wasn’t always that way.

As a fifth-grader, B.J. was arrested three times at his elementary school, where his reading had not progressed beyond a first-grade level.

According to a complaint filed with the Florida Board of Education against the School Board of Palm Beach County by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Southern Legal Counsel and the Southern Poverty Law Center, all three incidents involved situations in which B.J. allegedly responded to situations physically – by slapping, kicking or kneeling people.

But there is more to the story.

In one case, the complaint says, a school police officer charged B.J. with battery for slapping a student who had been using racial slurs against him all morning and had thrown tape at him.

A violence prevention expert who later reviewed the case compared the school’s response with “prosecuting the victim of a hate crime.” Also, B.J. was not receiving the special education and related services to which he was legally entitled. When he later received those services, which provided him with emotional and behavioral support, he demonstrated significantly improved behavior.

Pearson credits Barbara Briggs, supervising attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County’s Educational Advocacy Project, with turning B.J.’s situation around.

“If it wasn’t for Ms. Barbara I would have gotten nowhere at all,” Pearson said. “And he would have never gotten help.”

Some people say B.J. has changed, but Briggs doesn’t think so.

“I think people started reacting to him differently and allowed the B.J. who was always there to come forward,” Briggs said. “And instead of looking at him as a difficult kid with problem behavior, they look at him as a kid with challenges they can help improve. And that’s what positive behavioral intervention does.”



“I think the positive outcomes of something like this can be seen in more kids staying in school, more kids graduating and reducing the stress on families, because it’s incredibly stressful when your child is suspended or arrested.”

– Barbara Briggs
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County

For Briggs, whose work is funded by one of The Florida Bar Foundation’s 23 Children’s Legal Services grants, B.J.’s story was nothing new. In fact, when his case came to her attention, she was already working on the state complaint as a systemic means to counter a trend in schools – a trend toward dealing with children with emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities by referring them to the juvenile justice system. Instead, schools are supposed to be providing these kids with counseling, social work and psychological services and applying positive behavioral interventions in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The complaint cites telling statistics from Palm Beach County:

- Data discovered through a 1997 case against the school board showed that students with disabilities received school-related referrals to the juvenile justice system at more than five times the rate of students without disabilities.
- Between the school years beginning in 1999 and 2004, the number of out-of-school suspensions in Palm Beach County had risen by 14 percent, while the student population had increased by only 8.3 percent.
- In 2006-07, 10 percent of all juvenile court referrals in Palm Beach County were school-based.

In many cases, such as that of 12-year-old Pascal, schools were simply ignoring students’ individualized education plan (IEP), which is required by the IDEA.

Eligible for the gifted program as well as social/emotional services, Pascal got neither when he enrolled in middle school because the school for which he was zoned didn’t offer them. Instead of sending Pascal to a school that did, school officials simply removed those services from his IEP.

Pascal’s mother Ellen Hollingworth says her son was the victim of repeated bullying at the school, but whenever things escalated, he was always the one punished. By the end of the school year, he had been suspended for 33 days. Although she had tried to express her concerns to school officials, nothing changed until Briggs took the case.

“After she got involved, things started getting done,” Hollingworth said. “Things got better, way better. He got put in his proper classes.”

Once he was enrolled in the gifted program at a new middle school, where he also received social/emotional support, Pascal was soon recognized as a model student. At his teachers’ recommendation, he was inducted into the National Achievers Society, an academic honor society for minority students.

“This is the kind of kid we should be investing in,” Briggs said. “He’s our future. I mean, he’s very bright. He can be an engineer, a scientist, a physicist.”

In Palm Beach County, the outcome of the state complaint was a settlement agreement that will fundamentally change the way children like B.J. and Pascal are served in the school system. In keeping with the agreement, the school board has contracted with a consultant who is providing technical assistance and training in positive behavioral interventions and supports. Federal stimulus money is being used to train about 200 school staff members, including principals, assistant principals, teachers, support staff, and even bus drivers and cafeteria workers.

“The school district came to the table willing, ready and interested in settling,” Briggs said. “They really are looking to improve the educational outcomes of the kids and to reduce out-of-school suspensions and punitive consequences, especially for kids with disabilities.”

She expects future statistics to reflect these improvements. And she believes there will be a drop in the costs to the juvenile justice system of children being referred to court and delinquency programs.

“I think the positive outcomes of something like this can be seen in more kids staying in school, more kids graduating and reducing the stress on families, because it’s incredibly stressful when your child is suspended or arrested,” Briggs said.

Positively Pro Bono



Working with the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, pro bono attorney Jessica Parker, left, of Baker Hostetler helped Sandra Infante obtain temporary legal custody of her nephew, then 12, after the boy's mother, grandmother and stepfather died unexpectedly within a few months of each other.

Real estate attorney becomes a lifeline for a woman and a young boy

Within three months' time, Sandra Infante lost her mother, her sister and her brother-in-law, and not too long after that, her job.

Adding to her emotional strain, at the age of 51 she had suddenly found herself the unofficial guardian of her 12-year-old nephew, the sole survivor of a household wiped out by a combination of illness and old age.

"I felt like I was drowning," Infante said. "Had I not been helped, I don't know what I would have done."

In the end, it was Jessica Parker, a pro bono attorney assigned to Infante's case by the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, who helped Infante keep her head above water.

"She saw past a lot of stuff," Infante said. "She just heard my need."

Parker had a long list of legal hurdles to overcome on the way to helping Infante achieve legal temporary custody of "John," who arrived in Orlando from The Bronx, N.Y., in March 2007 without the documentation necessary for Infante to enroll him in school or even take him to see a doctor.

With John's mother and step-father deceased and the whereabouts of his biological father unknown, Parker knew it would take a minimum of four months for Infante to obtain custody of her nephew. But the school year was about to start and he had already missed two months at the end of his seventh-grade year because of the legal limbo surrounding his guardianship.

Meanwhile, Infante's money had run out, so Parker recommended she apply for Social Security survivor's benefits for her nephew.

"Had it not been for that, we would have been homeless," Infante said.

While John's custody case was still pending, Parker – with the help of the Legal Aid Society – was able to convince the school district to allow him to start eighth grade.

Now in high school, he is excelling academically and playing trumpet in his high school band, with his sights set on attending college. And in order to begin a new career, Infante herself has returned to school.

The Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association is one of 32 Florida Bar Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor General Support grantees throughout Florida. About 30 percent of the funds received by these legal aid organizations each year comes from The Florida Bar Foundation and is used to support the work of pro bono and legal services staff attorneys.



"I felt like I was drowning. Had I not been helped, I don't know what I would have done."

– Sandra Infante

Medal of Honor Awards

The Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor Award Program was established in 1977 to recognize outstanding achievements in improving the administration of justice in Florida in two categories.

The first category is for a member of The Florida Bar who has demonstrated his or her dedication to the objectives of the Bar as set out in the rules regulating The Florida Bar: "to inculcate in its members the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of jurisprudence."

The second is for a non-lawyer or person not actively engaged in the practice of law who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice through research, writing, or other deeds of such character and quality that, in the judgment of the Foundation, warrant the highest award that can be bestowed by the Foundation.

In 2009, the Medal of Honor Award was given only in the lawyer category.



Sylvia H. Walbolt receives the 2009 Medal of Honor Award from Foundation President Kathleen S. McLeroy at the Foundation's annual dinner.

"Pro bono work is the most satisfying part of my professional life; there is nothing else quite so rewarding."

– Sylvia Walbolt

Walbolt receives Medal of Honor for 45 years of service

In recognition of 45 years of providing free legal services to clients ranging from Guantanamo detainees to a St. Petersburg organization that feeds the hungry, Sylvia H. Walbolt received the highest honor bestowed upon a lawyer by the legal profession in Florida.

The Florida Bar Foundation presented Walbolt, a shareholder with Carlton Fields in Tampa, with its Medal of Honor Award June 25 at the organization's 33rd annual reception and dinner, held in conjunction with The Florida Bar Annual Convention at the Orlando World Center Marriott.

Walbolt's wide-ranging pro bono work also has included obtaining a settlement for the widow of a migrant worker killed in a trailer fire, helping exonerate the wrongly convicted in death penalty cases, and successfully challenging the inhumane conditions of prisoners in Florida's "close management," or solitary confinement system.

"Unlike a lot of lawyers who – when someone comes to them with a problem – they'll volunteer to help for no fee, Sylvia's approach is a little different," said Kathleen McLeroy, immediate past president of the Foundation.

"She'll read about something in the paper and say, 'This is wrong. We should take care of this.' She is not just helping people who come to her with a problem, but identifying the problems and figuring out a solution, sometimes before people even ask. To me, that is what makes her very special."

Known statewide and nationally for her legal skills and commitment to pro bono, Walbolt was called upon numerous times by Chief Judge Hatchett of the Eleventh Circuit Court as well as the Florida Supreme Court for assistance in pro bono matters. She also has served as chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the board of the nonprofit Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

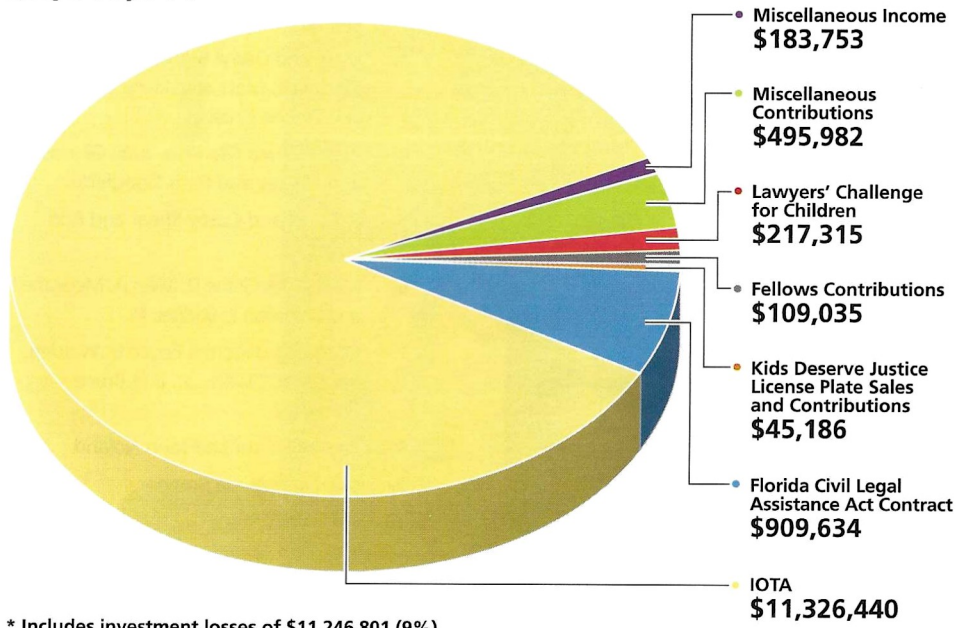
"Pro bono work is the most satisfying part of my professional life; there is nothing else quite so rewarding," Walbolt said.

Walbolt is a former president of The Florida Bar Foundation and recipient of the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award, given annually by the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court to the attorney in Florida who has given the most outstanding pro bono service. She earned her juris doctor from the University of Florida in 1963.

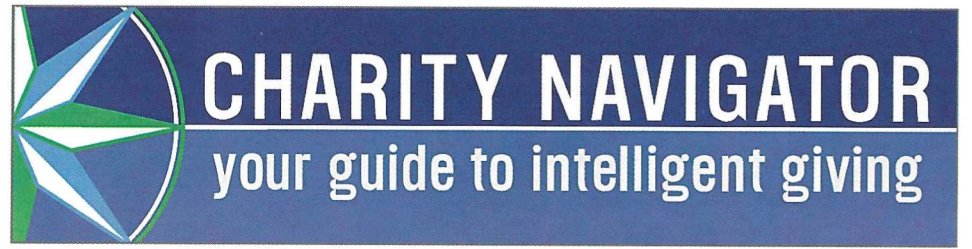
Financial Information (combined for Foundation and Endowment)

2008-09 Revenues

\$2,040,544*



* Includes investment losses of \$11,246,801 (9%)



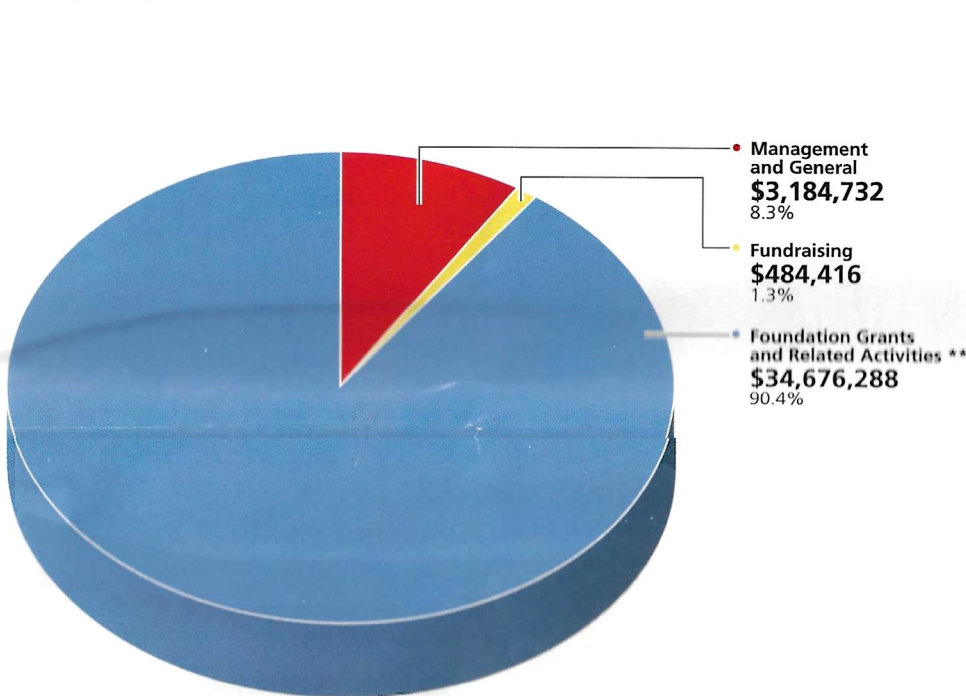
The Florida Bar Foundation is a four-star charity. Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of nonprofits nationwide, has given the Foundation its highest possible rating for three straight years.

Be Sure to Thank Your Banker

September 1981 marked implementation by the Florida Supreme Court of the country's first IOTA program and the beginning of an important source of support for civil legal assistance to the poor, projects to improve Florida's justice system and programs to promote public service by law students. While we often mark that milestone and thank those responsible, we don't publicly recognize often enough Florida's banking community. IOTA works because of the support and cooperation of Florida banks – from the superb bank staff who make sure monthly remittance information and interest gets to the Foundation, to the teams who worked so closely with the Foundation to implement the interest rate comparability rule, to the leaders of the Florida Bankers Association who step up to the plate and help IOTA achieve its full potential. The Foundation, its grantees and those they serve are very grateful for the successful partnership between the legal and banking communities that is Florida's IOTA program.

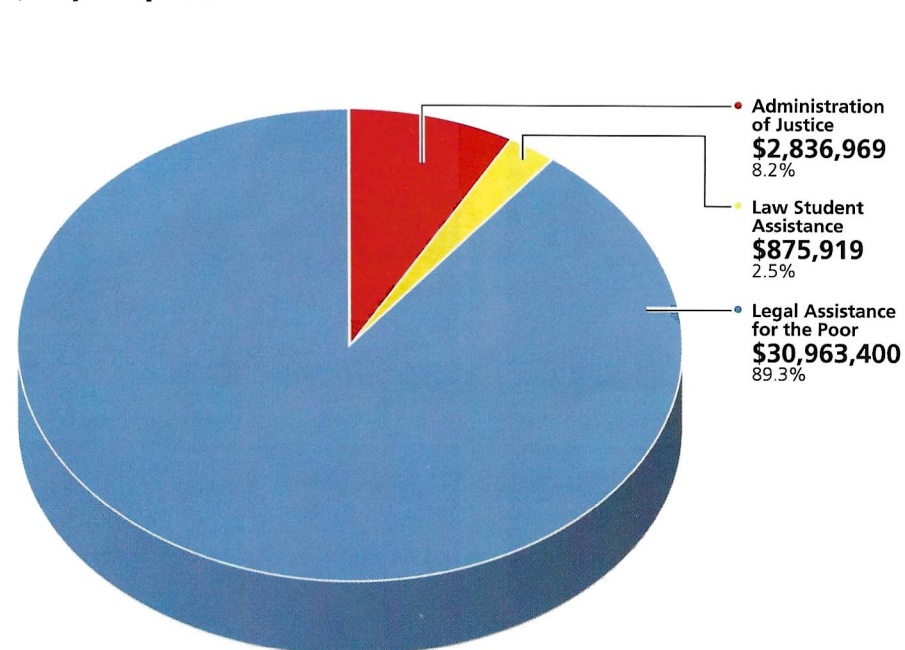
2008-09 Expenses

\$38,345,436



2008-09 Breakout of Grants and Related Activities **

\$34,676,288



The Foundation Thanks You

Many attorneys, law firms and other organizations contributed to our success in 2008-2009 through pro bono services and other in-kind support for the Foundation itself.

Dominic C. MacKenzie, Esquire
Rupesh J. Patel, Esquire
Holland & Knight
Jacksonville

Virginia B. Townes, Esquire
Akerman Senterfitt
Orlando

Donald Carlton Works III, Esquire
Jackson Lewis et. al.
Orlando

Florida Trend
Miami

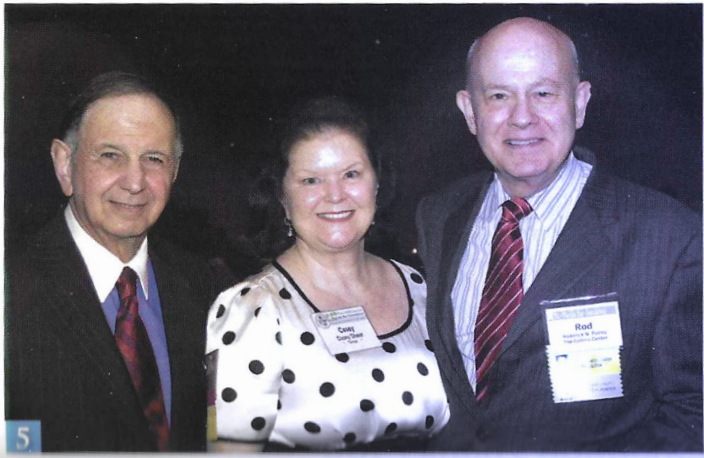
Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company
Orlando

Fundraising and management expenses represent 9.6% of the Foundation's total activities in 2008-09.

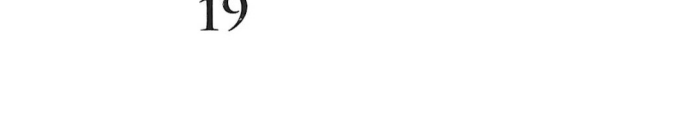
Audited financial statements are available from the Foundation upon request. The Foundation's IRS Form 990 is available on the Foundation's Web site at www.floridabarfoundation.org

** Foundation grants are based upon the net revenues of the fiscal year preceding the year being reported. These amounts may differ from the grants listed elsewhere in this report due to conditional and multi-year grants.

2009 Annual Dinner Photos



1. Al Whelan, Kathleen McLeroy and Wm. Reece Smith, Jr.
2. Alan G. Greer, Judge Patricia A. Seitz, and Miles A. McGrane, III
3. Mary and Darryl Bloodworth, Bruce Blackwell, Matt and Alana Brenner, and Donna Krusbe
4. Rep. Richard Glorioso, Judy Glorioso, and Dudley and Barb Goodlette.
5. L. David and Casey Shear and Rod Petrey
6. Miles A. McGrane III, Miles A. McGrane IV and Solomon L. Badger, III.
7. Outgoing directors Royce B. Walden, Robert N. Clarke, Jr., and Bruce Blackwell.
8. Paul Hill, Pam and John Noland.
9. Matt and Alana Brenner
10. Randall C. Berg, George F. Knox, Jr. and Kent Spuhler
11. Scott Stone, Steven Bogdanoff, Rep. Elynn Bogdanoff, Beth Stone, and Anita Byer
12. Foundation President Kathy McLeroy recognized Rep. Richard Glorioso and Sen. Mike Fasano (not pictured) at the annual dinner for their key roles in securing \$1 million in funding for the Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Act during the 2009 legislative session.
13. Ruth McDonald, Robert M. Ervin and Kathy Arrant
14. Retired Judge Emerson R. Thompson, Jr., Matthew J. Conigliaro, Sylvia H. Walbolt, 1st DCA Judge Peter D. Webster, and Richard H. Levenstein
15. Royce and Eddy Walden



The Florida Bar Foundation

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President-Elect
Adele I. Stone

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John A. Noland

Second Vice President
Michele Kane Cummings

Immediate Past President
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Jane Elizabeth Curran

Every day, in every city in Florida, we help Legal Aid help those least able to afford a lawyer. We are The Florida Bar Foundation, and we believe the system works best when it works for everyone.

Governance

The Florida Bar Foundation is a charitable organization established in 1956 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors under the authority of the Florida Supreme Court. Its mission is to provide greater access to justice. Membership is open to all individuals interested in supporting the mission of the Foundation. Members are eligible to hold office and serve as directors of the Foundation. Participants in Florida's Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) program, administered by the Foundation, are automatically entitled to membership. Membership also is available through annual Foundation dues or through the Foundation's Fellows Program. Both annual dues and Fellows payments are charitable contributions to the Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a 33-member board of directors, which meets quarterly. The board conducts its work through standing and ad hoc committees. The board

comprises the officers of the Foundation, six directors by designation (two judicial officers appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the president, president-elect, and immediate past president of The Florida Bar, and the president of Florida Legal Services which provides coordination, training and other support services to legal aid programs across the state), at least two but not more than four public members and 18 at-large directors. At-large directors serve a maximum of two, three-year terms, with one-third selected by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, one-third by the board of directors of the Foundation, and one-third by the Florida Supreme Court. Committees are appointed annually by the board of directors at the request of the president, and include Foundation directors, members of the bar generally, and the lay public. An executive committee appointed annually by the board meets between meetings of the board.



Leadership and Funding for Justice in Florida

The Florida Bar Foundation

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