Message from the Executive Director

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the King County Bar Foundation. In the early 1970s, KCBA responded to a request from the University of Washington School of Law to provide scholarship funds for students of color who had begun to enter the school in larger numbers. Many of these well-qualified candidates would not have been able to attend the law school without the financial aid that these targeted scholarships provided. The Association’s initial contribution was $10,000. In 1979, the Foundation was established to assume the role the Association had performed up to that time of providing scholarship funds to students of color at UW’s law school. Over time, the program expanded to benefit students at the Seattle University School of Law as well.

From those humble beginnings three decades ago, the Foundation has grown into a vibrant organization, still true to its original purpose, but expanded to provide a legal safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community. Last year, the Foundation awarded $112,500 to the University of Washington and Seattle University law schools for minority student scholarships and also granted $800,000 to the Association’s Community Legal Services’ pro bono civil legal aid programs.

The Foundation is completely dependent upon the generous contributions from donors like you. We’re thankful for all your support along the way!

Foundation Bids Farewell to Departing Board Members

May 31, 2009, marked the end of a combined 38 years of board service for six King County Bar Foundation trustees. The mood was celebratory as President Marcella Fleming Reed honored the departing members during a special segment of the last official meeting of the fiscal year on May 21. Each received a plaque to commemorate their service and acknowledgement for the unique perspective and talents that they brought to the work of the Foundation. Their commitment to justice and equality has helped mold and guide the Foundation over the years into what it is today.

Honored were Peter S. Ehrlichman (Dorsey & Whitney) who served from 2001-2009, Douglas W. Greene (Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati) who served from 2001-2009 and was Secretary from 2004-2006 and Treasurer in 2007, M. Colleen Kinerk (Cable Langenbach Kinerk & Bauer) who served from 2000-2009 and was President in 2008, Benjamin G. Porter (Porter Kohli & LeMaster) who served from 2006-2009, Suzanne Thomas (K&L Gates) who served from 2006-2009, and Christopher B. Wells (Lane Powell) who served from 2002-2009.

New officers for the next fiscal year were also elected at the May meeting: Stephen C. Ellis (Davis Wright Tremaine), President; Kathryn M. Battuello (Attorney General’s Office), Vice President; Megan McCloskey (Rafel Law Group), Secretary; Megan Wells (Navigant Consulting), Treasurer; and Marcella Fleming Reed (MFR Law Group), Immediate Past President.
Future of the Law Internship Program

The Future of the Law Institute (FLI) Summer Internships are part of FLI’s year-round program that introduces minority and economically disadvantaged high school students in King County and surrounding areas to a legal career. FLI kicks off in the fall with a two-day seminar at the King County Superior Court, Seattle University School of Law, and the University of Washington School of Law. At the end of the academic year, FLI students are encouraged to apply for intern positions through a competitive selection process.

Participating law firms, law offices, and corporate legal departments employ one or more FLI students for six to eight weeks in the summer. Employers review resumes and conduct interviews to select their preferred candidate. FLI staff and volunteers provide all interns with a pre-internship orientation. During the internship, FLI students perform suitable administrative support and research tasks. They also job-shadow attorneys and support staff at depositions, trials, and other firm matters. The purpose of the internship program is to provide the employer with quality administrative support while providing the student with inspiration to pursue a future in the law. Employers who provide FLI internships are investing in a more diverse legal profession.

This summer, FLI partnered with Forsberg & Umlauf, Helsell Fetterman, Ogden Murphy Wallace, and the King County Superior Court to provide five summer internship positions to highly motivated students. The employers agreed that the summer internship program was a positive and rewarding experience, and as a result, they plan to hire a FLI intern again. Meghan Eagan, Bailiff to Hon. Mary Yu at the King County Superior Court, found the program to be a wonderful opportunity to work with great students. She remarked, “Marie Angeles (her FLI intern) was organized, intelligent, kind, and collaborative. She sets high goals for herself and works hard to obtain them!”

For more information on how your firm can participate in the FLI internship program, please contact Chris Gates, FLI Program Coordinator, at chrisc@kcba.org or at (206) 267-7034.
KCBA/KCBF Past Presidents’ Breakfast | MAY 13, 2009

Almost 40 former presidents of the King County Bar Association and Foundation were on hand for their annual reunion.

KCBA Annual Awards Dinner & Auction for Justice | JUNE 24, 2009

During a break between award presentations, guests at the KCBA Annual Awards Dinner were invited to make bids on live auction items to support justice and diversity. Auction proceeds benefited the Foundation’s Endowment Fund.

Community Legal Services Continuing Legal Education Seminar | AUGUST 24, 2009

Fifty-six KCBA Community Legal Services program volunteers attended the More than Just a Legal Issue CLE. Volunteers participated in panel discussions on cultural competency, racial oppression, and mental health and took part in a poverty simulation as a way to help them understand the realities faced by clients living in poverty.