Message from the President

The past few years have been challenging ones for the King County Bar Foundation, but thanks to the generosity of many individuals, law firms, and other organizations; the willingness of thousands of lawyers to donate their time; the skill and professionalism of a dedicated staff; and the determined efforts of our board of trustees, the Foundation thus far has managed to provide consistent funding in support of our two missions: Making access to justice available to those who cannot afford to pay for civil legal services and promoting diversity within the legal profession through financial aid to minority law school students and through our high school pipeline program, the Future of the Law Institute.

Again this year, the Foundation has helped fund 41,802 hours of volunteer legal services through the King County Bar’s Pro Bono Services programs, turning every donated dollar into $8.03 worth of professional services and helping 10,608 clients—the most vulnerable among us.

Again this year, the Foundation provided $125,000 in minority scholarships to our two local law schools, making it possible for many who otherwise could not afford a law school education to pursue the dream of a career in the law.

At a time when IOLTA funding is down—way down—it has been increased private contributions that have made these accomplishments possible. Our partnership with LAW Fund in the King County Law Firm Campaign for Equal Justice saw 121 law firms contribute more than a half million dollars in support of our work and the work of other providers of civil legal aid to the poor—a new record! Both sponsorships of our Breakfast With Champions and individual donations at that event exceeded what we had forecasted.

Your continued generosity is an inspiration to all of us, and we are sincerely grateful for it.

James L. Austin, Jr.
King County Bar Foundation held its 12th annual fundraiser, the Breakfast With Champions on Thursday, March 22nd at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle. The event attracted over 1,000 guests and raised $286,000 in sponsorships, cash, and pledges. Proceeds from the Breakfast support the Foundation’s pro bono civil legal aid and diversity programs.

The hour-long program emceed by Hon. Charles Burdell, Jr. (Ret.) included a witty and thought-provoking keynote by Mara Liasson. As National Public Radio’s political correspondent, Ms. Liasson’s reports can be heard regularly on All Things Considered and Morning Edition. Ms. Liasson provides extensive coverage of politics and policy with a focus on the White House and Congress. Ms. Liasson provides key coverage of candidates and issues in presidential and congressional races. At the Breakfast, she shared her insight on the changing face of American politics and provided commentary on the Republican primaries and her thoughts about the upcoming general election.

Zeshan Khan shared his experience as a volunteer for two of the King County Bar’s pro bono programs. He reminded Breakfast attendees that their contributions enable him and 1,300 others to provide much needed legal assistance to low-income King County residents.

The Foundation premiered a video that highlighted its Minority Law Student Scholarship program and profiled former and current scholarship recipients Hon. Ronald E. Cox (Washington State Court of Appeals, Division I), Jamila Johnson (Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt), and Anthony Thach (1L, University of Washington). Each year, the Foundation grants funds to the University of Washington and Seattle University for minority law student scholarships. Judge Cox, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Thach represent the nearly 700 students who have benefited from the program.

During a special portion of the program, James L. Austin, Jr., KCBF president, encouraged guests to make donations in support of the Foundation’s pro bono legal services and diversity initiatives. Last year, every dollar received by the Foundation resulted in $6.82 in legal services or helped leverage an education for a minority law school student.

The King County Bar Foundation thanks its sponsors, table captains, guests, trustees, staff, and volunteers for making the 2012 Breakfast With Champions a success. Special acknowledgement to the Breakfast strategists who volunteered their time to organize this event: Michael S. Schechter (Co-Chair), Megan S. Wells (Co-Chair), James L. Austin, Jr., Kathryn M. Battuello, Hon. Charles S. Burdell, Jr. (Ret.), Daniel J. Dunne, Curt Hineline, M. Colleen Kinerk, Christopher B. Wells, and Benson Wong.

**2013 Save the Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

The Westin Seattle | 1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101
KCBF Honors Bar Scholar Recipients at Annual Reception

King County Bar Foundation’s annual Bar Scholar Reception was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at the Seattle law offices of Karr Tuttle Campbell. Approximately 60 guests including donors, current and past recipients, KCBF and KCBA board members, college faculty and staff were on hand for the special occasion.

KCBF president, James L. Austin, Jr. of Karr Tuttle Campbell, welcomed guests. Dean Mark Niles (Seattle University School of Law) and Dean Kellye Testy (University of Washington School of Law) also gave remarks before introducing their class of bar scholar recipients. Jackee Walker (2L, SU) and Virak “Anthony” Thach (1L, UW) shared how the KCBF minority law student scholarship fund has enabled them to pursue a legal career.

The Foundation is one of the largest single providers of scholarships for minority law students in the state of Washington. Last year, $125,000 was distributed to University of Washington and Seattle University law schools for this purpose. Since 1970 a total of $1,687,850 has been awarded to more than 600 students. Fifty percent of these exceptional students are now practicing in King County.

The Minority Law Student Scholarships given annually by the Foundation represent one aspect of its three-pronged mission to increase diversity in the profession. The three-fold agenda is to increase diversity in the profession, provide financial assistance to minority law students, and increase retention of minority lawyers in King County law offices.
King County Law Firms Step Up for Fair Access to Justice

Every fall the King County Bar Foundation (KCBF) and Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund) team up to raise funds to support more than 20 civil legal aid programs across the state, including KCBF’s Pro Bono Services programs. This joint fundraising effort is called the King County Law Firm Campaign for Equal Justice. The programs supported by the Campaign provide access to free legal help for our state’s most vulnerable families and individuals.

The goal for the 2011-12 Campaign was $525,000, which not only was met but greatly exceeded with a total of $537,190 from 121 law firms. This is the first time in the joint Campaign’s eight year history that we’ve surpassed the $500,000 mark, with a record 52 law firms contributing at the Champions of Justice level: $250 per attorney at the firm.

Access to legal aid can mean the difference between safe housing or homelessness, adequate food or going hungry, safety for children and families or having to remain in a domestically violent situation. KCBF and LAW Fund thank all of the law firms who contributed to the 2011-12 Campaign.

To learn more about the Campaign for Equal Justice and to see the full list of contributing law firms please visit www.kcbf.org.

Please remember the King County Bar Foundation when paying your KCBA membership dues. Dues check-off contributions directly support the Bar’s pro bono civil legal aid and diversity programs.