KCBF News
Summer 2014

KCBF Succeeds in Historic $1.1 Million Endowment Campaign

After a year and a half of planning, and two and a half more years of fundraising, the King County Bar Foundation is pleased to announce that its 125th Anniversary Campaign has successfully concluded, raising over $1.1 million to support pro bono and diversity programs.

The campaign was launched to honor the King County Bar Association’s 125th Anniversary, which occurred in 2011. While the Bar Foundation had long maintained a modest Endowment Fund, most fundraising efforts by our KCBF trustees were of necessity focused on immediate financial needs to support our programs – especially in recent years of the Great Recession. But leaders of our bar, including eventual Campaign Co-Chairs Kathryn Battuello and Harry Schneider, and notably past KCBF president Diana Carey, saw an opportunity to extend our annual fundraising successes and launch a one-time special campaign tied to the historic Quasquicentennial Anniversary.

Two events in the fall of 2011 helped kick start this successful campaign. First, KCBF learned that it was the beneficiary of an estate gift from Anita Moceri, a public defender who had passed away earlier in the year.

Second, KCBF Past President Diana Carey issued a challenge to the Endowment Committee. She pledged in late October 2011 a gift of $25,000 to the King County Bar’s 125th Anniversary Campaign if the Committee could secure an additional $50,000 in pledges by year end.

Everyone on the exploratory committee was inspired by Diana’s generosity and challenge. Within six weeks, all fifteen members of the committee had made significant pledges to give. When we added up the amounts, we were delighted that we exceeded the challenge and found ourselves with $141,000 in pledges from our fifteen person committee.

Our enthusiasm and commitment were now strong. KCBF reached $800,000 in pledges and cash during the silent phase, which was made up of donors from KCBF and KCBA current and past leadership. The public launch occurred about a year ago in an article published in the April 2013 Bar Bulletin.

The campaign ends this month with over $1.1 million in pledges and cash. In addition to the tremendous generosity of Anita Moceri, the bar is extremely grateful to William Neukom for an exceptionally significant leading gift to the campaign. These philanthropists will also be recognized on a plaque that will be proudly displayed at the bar office.

Dues Check Off Reminder
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.
Message from the President

This has been an exciting year to serve as President of the King County Bar Foundation. Over the past year, thanks to the generous financial support of individual donors, corporate supporters, and law firms, KCBF has been able to raise more funds to help ensure access to justice for all citizens, especially low-income individuals, and promote diversity in the legal sector.

Through the support and generosity of our community, over one million dollars were raised for the 125th Anniversary Endowment Campaign. This is a great success. This fund will help provide financial stability for the Foundation and the programs it supports regardless of changing economic conditions. An additional heartfelt thank you to each person who gave at the 14th annual Breakfast With Champions. The Breakfast raised a record amount—over $312,000 that will fund programs fostering access to justice and diversity in the profession.

Though many in our community may feel more financially secure as the economy continues to improve, the need for civil legal aid for low-income individuals still remains unmet. Thanks to the great work of our 1,300 volunteers, King County Bar Pro Bono Services (PBS) programs have assisted 10,026 clients who would not otherwise have been able to afford an attorney. PBS volunteers gave 36,317 hours of free legal assistance valued at $6.6 million.

Your donations helped provide new opportunities for fifty-four minority law school students at the University of Washington and Seattle University Law Schools. The generosity of donors enabled the Foundation to increase the minority law school annual scholarship fund to $136,000. In addition, your donor dollars supported the Future of the Law Institute, which provides a pipeline program for high school students, introducing them to opportunities in the legal sector. These programs help ensure that all members of our community, regardless of race or ethnicity, have a stake in our legal system.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for all your support during the past year. KCBF looks forward to working with donors, volunteers, and community members in the coming year. Enjoy the summer, and we look forward to our continued partnership furthering our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Newhouse

Mission

The King County Bar Foundation is dedicated to ensuring access to the legal system and encouraging diversity in the legal profession.

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King County Law Firms Raise the Bar to a New High for Equal Access to Justice

This past October, the King County Bar Foundation (KCBF) and Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund) teamed up for the Annual King County Law Firm Campaign for Equal Justice to raise funds to support more than 22 civil legal aid programs across the state, including KCBF’s Pro Bono Services programs.

This year’s shortened campaign raised over $560,000, a record amount for the joint campaign. The campaign total for 2013-2014 is $561,189 with 120 law firms participating, 61 of which contributed at the Champions of Justice level ($250 per attorney at the firm). 24 firms gave for the first time and 21 firms increased their gifts. Not only did King County firms far exceed our 2012 result of $512,000 from 112 firms, it was the first time the campaign exceeded the $550,000 fundraising goal.

Access to legal aid can mean the difference between safe housing or homelessness, adequate food or going hungry and 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 2013-14 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.

KCBF Honors Bar Scholar Recipients at Annual Reception

King County Bar Foundation’s annual Bar Scholar Reception was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2013, at the law offices of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt. Approximately 60 guests including donors; current and past Bar Scholars; KCBF, KCBA, and YLD trustees; and college faculty and staff were on hand for the special occasion.

KCBF President Mary Jo Newhouse of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt welcomed guests. Dean Kellye Testy (University of Washington School of Law) and Dean Annette Clark (Seattle University School of Law) gave remarks before introducing their Universities’ Bar Scholars. Derek Chen (2L, UW) and Alisha Trotter (3L, UW) shared how the KCBF Minority Law Student Scholarship Fund has enabled them to pursue a law degree.

The Foundation is one of the largest single providers of scholarships for minority law students in the state of Washington. Last year, $130,000 was distributed to University of Washington and Seattle University law schools for this purpose. Since 1970 over 700 scholarships, totaling over $2 million have been awarded. Fifty percent of scholarship recipients are now practicing in King County.

The Minority Law Student Scholarships given annually by the Foundation represent one aspect of the Foundation’s 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.
Donors Give Over $312,000 for Access to Justice and Diversity at Breakfast With Champions

Nearly 1,000 guests joined the King County Bar Foundation at the 14th annual Breakfast With Champions on Wednesday, March 19, at the Westin Hotel, Seattle. This year’s Breakfast raised over $312,000 for KCBF’s mission of pro bono legal aid and diversity programs.

The guests were welcomed by Hon. Charles S. Burdell, Jr. (Ret.), who emceed the program, and by King County Bar Foundation President, Mary Jo Newhouse, who honored the Foundation’s accomplishments over the past year including celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Neighborhood Legal Clinics.

The crowd also heard University of Washington senior lecturer Kimberly Ambrose who, as a past recipient of a KCBF minority law student scholarship, shared her personal story of growing up, her family and her legal career. She highlighted the importance of diversity in the legal sector and discussed the lasting impact that contributions to KCBF’s diversity programs have on the local legal community.

The Foundation also premiered a video about a Housing Justice Project client, Ronica and her family, who were facing eviction and homelessness while her military husband was deployed overseas. Thanks to the work work of KCBA volunteer attorney, Kelli Smith, Ronica and her family were able to stay in their home. The video can be seen at the www.KCBF.org under the Breakfast With Champions link.

Later in the program, the crowd heard a 30 minute inspirational speech from keynote speaker Professor Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law. Prof. Ogletree provided personal stories and examples encouraging the crowd to work towards a goal of an equal and fair justice system.

The King County Bar Foundation gratefully thanks the Breakfast With Champions sponsors, table captains, guests, and volunteers for making the 2014 Breakfast a success, particularly the Breakfast planning committee who volunteered their time and energy to organize this event: Eric P. Gillett (Chair), Kathryn M. Battuello, Hon. Charles S. Burdell, Jr. (Ret.), Vanessa S. Power, Hon. John R. Rhul, Donald B. Scaramastra, Michael S. Schechter and Scott A. Smith. For more photos and information about the 2014 Breakfast With Champions and the King County Bar Foundation, please visit www.kcbf.org or call 206-267-7005.