Message from the Executive Director

The King County Bar Foundation’s Community Legal Services programs depend on both volunteer and financial support to make access to justice a reality. Donor contributions are leveraged with the time and talent of our volunteers and make it possible for us to assist the most at-risk members of our community with much needed legal assistance. Last year, 1,550 volunteer attorneys and 180 other volunteers provided 34,503 hours worth of free legal assistance valued at $7.2 million to 10,407 King County residents. For every $1 raised, we provided $7.26 of legal services.

Last fall, KCBF celebrated its donors and pro bono volunteers at a special reception hosted in their honor. It is our small way of saying thank you for partnering with us to provide a legal safety net in King County. In this edition, we hope you will enjoy reading about some of our amazing volunteers, a showcase of one of our programs, and viewing photos from recent Foundation events.

Legal Services for the Homeless in a Nut Shell

Access to legal services is difficult for low-income people and if a client is homeless without a phone or mailing address, obtaining these important legal services can be overwhelming and at times impossible. Legal Services for the Homeless (LSH) at the King County Bar works to eliminate barriers homeless individuals face in accessing legal services and is unique in its ability to provide direct representation to the homeless population.

Each year hundreds of homeless clients are directly represented by attorneys through LSH. Clients are served in three ways.

- Law firms are paired with shelters and take cases through regularly scheduled intake sessions. The firm’s volunteer attorneys meet with and screen shelter residents to evaluate the validity of potential legal claims. In many cases, the shelter resident’s problem is handled with on-site consultation. Other times, the resident’s problem necessitates direct legal representation. The paired law firms attempt to place these cases.
  - If, due to conflicts, the law firm cannot represent a particular resident, the law firm informs the King County Bar for possible placement with an attorney on one of the King County Bar’s volunteer panels.
  - Case managers can refer their homeless clients to LSH. Case managers play an important role in aiding and advocating for their clients. Often times, the case manager is the go to person in making and maintaining contact with the client and guiding the client through the complex legal system.

CLINIC PARTNERSHIPS

Firms and Shelters
K&L Gates & Aloha Inn
Davis Wright Tremaine & Downtown Emergency Service Center
Karr Tuttle Campbell & Seattle Emergency Housing Services
King County Prosecutors Office & Plymouth Housing Group
Riddell Williams & William Booth Center
Perkins Coie & Compass Center
Kinship Care Solutions Project Volunteer of the Year: Janina Duling

The Kinship Care Solutions Project provides pro bono representation to relatives and other caregivers in nonparental custody actions. In increasing numbers, children are living with caregivers other than their parents, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, adult siblings, and family friends. Children live in kinship care due to a variety of factors including abuse and neglect by the parent, incarceration, substance abuse, mental or physical illness, or death of the parent. Janina Duling was presented with the Kinship Care Solutions Project volunteer of the year award.

Janina graduated in 1994 from the Seattle University School of Law in order to pursue a profession where she could make a difference in the lives of those who are most vulnerable. She fulfilled this goal in her pro bono representation of a client for the Kinship Project. Janina assisted a client in her efforts to obtain custody of her minor siblings after their mother passed away. The client had provided all the care for the children during their mother’s long illness and was nominated in their mother’s will as the children’s custodian. The father, who had been absent for several years, had a criminal history and history of domestic violence.

Janina diligently responded to the needs of the case, including obtaining a restraining order after the father attempted to remove the children from their home. The case became highly contested with many twists and turns requiring Janina’s patience, empathy, and persistence. The case culminated into a two-day trial. Paul McVicker, the Kinship Project’s 2008 volunteer of the year, assisted Janina during the trial. Paul described Janina as “enthusiastic, smart, and willing to do whatever was necessary to conclude the case.”

With her commitment and compassion, Janina provided the representation needed for the client to safeguard the welfare and stability of her siblings.
Bar Scholars Reception | November 10, 2009

Approximately 50 guests, including donors, former scholarship recipients, board members, and college faculty and staff were on hand to honor the 2009/2010 Bar Scholar recipients at K&L Gates.

KCBA/KCBF Gratitude Celebration | October 29, 2009

The Bar’s Community Legal Services program volunteers and donors were honored at the annual reception at the Sheraton Seattle hotel.

Future of the Law Institute | November 20 & 21, 2009

One hundred high school students attended the two-day seminar at Seattle University, King County Superior Court, and the University of Washington.

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