Message from the Development Director

Thanks to you and our many supporters, the King County Bar Foundation raised $1.4 million last year in support of our access to justice programs and diversity efforts. That’s no small feat during these tight economic times! Your contribution has made a tremendous difference in our community and here’s a snapshot of your dollars at work:

• 10,972 low-income King County residents received legal aid for housing, predatory lending, debt, wage claims and family law issues.

• 100 minority and low-income high school students attended the Future of the Law Institute and were inspired to pursue careers in the law.

• 46 minority law students received scholarships at Seattle University and the University of Washington.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this edition of the King County Bar Foundation newsletter. Recently the Bar hosted our annual reception to honor donors and pro bono volunteers. In this newsletter we are showcasing one of those dedicated volunteers, Ronald Mattson. We’re also highlighting our high school diversity pipeline program, the Future of the Law Institute. And as always, we have included photos from other recent Foundation events on the back page.

We appreciate your commitment to supporting civil legal aid and increasing diversity in the legal profession. We are proud to partner with you in these important efforts and we remain grateful for your continuing support.

KCBF Honors Outgoing President and Bids Farewell to Departing Trustees

On May 20, 2010, the King County Bar Foundation (KCBF) held its last board meeting of the fiscal year. In honor of President Stephen Ellis’ leadership over the year, the board of trustees presented him with a donation of $2,500 to the KCBF Endowment Fund, a gift made possible by their contributions. The end of the fiscal year also marked the conclusion of a combined 13 years of board service for two KCBF trustees, Constance L. Proctor (Vandeberg, Johnson & Gandara) who served from fiscal years 2001-2010 and Linda J. Strout (Attorney at Law) who served from fiscal years 2005-2010. Each departing trustee received a plaque to commemorate their service and acknowledgment for the unique perspective and talents that they brought to the work of the foundation.
Future of the Law Institute

The Future of the Law Institute held its ninth annual two-day program on November 19-20, 2010. More than 100 high school students were accepted into the year-long program that began with workshops and presentations at the Seattle University and University of Washington law schools. Events included a visit to the King County Courthouse and concluded with the ever-popular mock trials presided over by three Washington State Supreme Court justices.

FLI encourages high school students of diverse backgrounds to pursue higher education in the law by:

- Providing access to legal professionals as role models through workshops, mentoring and internships

- Improving post-secondary enrollment through scholarships, higher education planning for families and financial aid workshops; and

- Increasing law school enrollment by providing scholarships and access to college/university partners.

Self Help Plus Program Volunteer of the Year: Ronald Mattson

In 2009, the Self Help Plus program (SHP) started a pilot program using volunteer attorneys to review paralegal-drafted family law pleadings for pro se clients. Ronald Mattson was the first attorney to join SHP and has been truly instrumental in helping to make the pilot a success. Ronald has provided excellent feedback and is always available to assist when questions arise. Ronald always goes above and beyond and is a dedicated volunteer. His passion and commitment for assisting clients in family law matters is apparent, as is his dedication in helping make the legal pathway for low-income individuals less complicated. Ronald also volunteers at the Neighborhood Legal Clinics and the Family Law Mentor program. He has been actively involved at the King County Bar Association since 1993, participating in the Family Law Section, Small Practice Section, and as a member of the board of trustees and with the foundation, both as a trustee and as its secretary for several years.

Ronald is currently a partner at Wechsler Becker, LLP. Since joining the firm in 2006, his practice is entirely focused on family law. Ronald is dedicated in all areas of his volunteer work and usually has at least one direct pro bono case open at all times.
King County Bar Annual Recognition Event  
September 21, 2010

The Bar’s Pro Bono Services program volunteers and donors were honored at the annual reception at the Women’s University Club.

Bar Scholar Reception  
November 3, 2010

Over 75 guests, including donors, former scholarship recipients, board members, and college faculty and staff were on hand to honor the 2010/2011 Bar Scholar recipients at the reception hosted by Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt.