Message from the President

For the King County Bar Foundation, the year 2011 has presented a double whammy. Due to the weak economy and historically low interest rates, IOLTA funding — a major source of revenue — has declined to a fraction of what it was just a few years ago. Governmental assistance, both financial and in-kind, has been cut back due to severe budgetary constraints.

At the same time, however, the need for civil legal assistance among the poorest in our communities mushrooms in tough times, and minority law students who depend upon our scholarships to fulfill the dream of a career in law find themselves in a bind, as law schools are forced to impose tuition increases to cover their own funding challenges.

It is with pride — and sincere gratitude to those who have been so generous with both their time and their money — that the KCBF has managed, despite unprecedented challenges, to avoid significant cutbacks in pro bono legal services and in our minority law school scholarships and other diversity efforts.

In 2011, King County lawyers once again have donated more than 35,000 hours of free services to the needy through the bar’s six civil legal aid programs, helping us turn every contributed dollar into almost $7.00 of legal services. KCBF’s pro bono services unquestionably provide the biggest “bang for the buck” in civil legal aid.

At the same time, we have restored funding for minority scholarships at our two local law schools to pre-recession levels, and have strengthened our Future of the Law Institute, which encourages minority and disadvantaged high school students to consider law as a career.

Maintaining the quality and service levels of our programs has required belt-tightening, for sure, and the KCBA, which administers our programs, runs an admirably tight ship. However, it is your sustaining financial and volunteer support that makes it possible for us to weather hard times. Thank you all!

James L. Austin, Jr.
Bar Foundation Honors Outgoing President and Bids Farewell to a Departing Board Member

On June 16, 2011, the King County Bar Foundation (KCBF) held its last board meeting of the fiscal year. The mood was celebratory as the board honored Kathryn M. Battuello for her year of service as KCBF president. Battuello led the board through a successful year of raising funds in support of KCBF’s pro bono and diversity programs. In a heartfelt tribute Vice President James L. Austin, Jr. on behalf of the entire board, thanked Battuello for her tireless commitment and dedicated service to KCBF’s mission. Battuello will continue to serve on the board and participate on the executive committee as the immediate past president.

The end of the fiscal year also marked the conclusion of 9 years of board service for Daniel J. Dunne (Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe) who served as a trustee from fiscal years 2002-2011. Dunne was a gracious, thoughtful, and a wise addition to the board. His participation at board and committee meetings will be missed. Although he will no longer be on the board, Dunne remarked that he will continue to be involved in foundation activities.

New officers for the next fiscal year were also elected at the June meeting: James L. Austin, Jr. (Karr Tuttle Campbell), President; Harry H. Schneider, Jr. (Perkins Coie), Vice President; Mary Jo Newhouse (Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt), Secretary; and Benson D. Wong (Keller Rohrback), Treasurer.
Save the Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

The Westin Seattle | 1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101

Mara Liasson is the national political correspondent for NPR. Her reports can be heard regularly on NPR’s award-winning newsmagazine All Things Considered and Morning Edition. Liasson provides extensive coverage of politics and policy from Washington, D.C.-focusing on the White House and Congress-and also reports on political trends beyond the Beltway.

Each election year, Liasson provides key coverage of the candidates and issues in both presidential and congressional races. During her tenure she has covered four presidential elections-in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004. Prior to her current assignment, Liasson was NPR’s White House correspondent for all eight years of the Clinton administration. She has won the White House Correspondent Association’s Merriman Smith Award for daily news coverage in 1994, 1995, and again in 1997.

Funds raised at the Breakfast With Champions support the King County Bar Foundation access to justice and diversity programs. For sponsorship and registration information please contact Marzette Mondin, KCBF development director, at (206) 267-7007 or at marzettem@kcba.org.
The Future of the Law Institute held its tenth annual two-day program on November 18-19, 2011. Nearly 80 high school juniors and seniors 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 trial presided over by three Washington state 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.
Neighborhood Legal Clinics Volunteer of the Year:

Abbey Perkins

The Neighborhood Legal Clinics (NLC) annually honors an attorney with the Joseph M. Gaffney Award for Outstanding Service of an Attorney, and this year NLC recognizes Abbey Perkins.

Ms. Perkins consistently shares her talent and energy with NLC. She always takes the most challenging clients at clinic and takes her role as attorney and counselor seriously. She also takes the extra step to make sure clients know how to proceed. Ms. Perkins has presented at multiple continuing legal education seminars, contributed to the Pro Bono Services blog, Pro Dicta, and is a valuable member of both the Pro Bono Services and Neighborhood Legal Clinic committees.

Her compassion, dedication and whole-hearted service is recognized and appreciated by the King County Bar’s staff, clients and fellow volunteers.

Ms. Perkins received her B.A. from Hamilton College in 2002 and earned her J.D. from Syracuse University School of Law in 2005. She is a public defender with the Associated Counsel for the Accused and works as the lead attorney in the King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court. Ms. Perkins has previously served as an adjunct professor with Seattle University’s Mental Health Law Clinic and in 2011, the Washington Defenders Association awarded her the President’s Award for her contributions to indigent defense.

For more information about the King County Bar’s Pro Bono Services programs and how to volunteer, contact Ana Selvidge at anas@kcba.org.
King County Bar Annual Recognition Event

October 18, 2011 – The Bar’s Pro Bono Services program volunteers and donors were honored at the annual reception at the Women’s University Club.