KCBF Honors Bar Scholar Recipients at Annual Reception

King County Bar Foundation’s annual Bar Scholar Reception was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, at the Seattle law offices of Perkins Coie. Approximately 70 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 Harry H. Schneider, Jr. of Perkins Coie welcomed guests. Dean Mark Niles and Associate Dean Donna Deming (Seattle University School of Law) and Associate Dean Mary Hotchkiss (University of Washington School of Law) also gave remarks before introducing their university’s Bar Scholars. Debra Ahkbari (3L, SU) and Lauren Jacobs (1L, 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, $125,000 was distributed to University of Washington and Seattle University law schools for this purpose. Since 1970 over 700 scholarships, totaling $1,937,850, 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-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.
Message from the President

I have the privilege of serving as the current president of the King County Bar Foundation. Your financial support over the past year has allowed KCBF to help fulfill our mission of ensuring access to the legal system for economically disadvantaged people and for encouraging diversity in the legal profession. I join my fellow KCBF trustees in thanking you for your generosity over the past year. With your support and the dedication of our many volunteers, we have accomplished much.

Over the past year, KCBF’s Pro Bono Services has mobilized over 1,300 volunteers, logging over 41,000 hours, to help low-income individuals and families in King County get access to legal services. Our volunteers donated legal services valued at $7.4 million to over 10,600 clients. In the coming year, we hope to do more as many residents of King County face legal challenges without representation.

In King County, people of color make up only six percent of our legal community. We work to increase this number by providing opportunities to students to get engaged in the legal field. Last month, KCBF helped fund the Future of the Law Institute (FLI), a program that brought together nearly 80 area high school students to learn about the legal profession. It was encouraging to see so many young people, especially young women of color, participate in this program. We are confident that FLI is the start of a career in the legal profession for many of the students. In addition, over the past year KCBF once again funded diversity scholarships at both the Seattle University and University of Washington schools of law for students who will further diversify the legal profession upon their graduation.

Over the coming year, I hope we can count on your continued support as we work to expand our reach in King County. This is not easy work, but it is important work. KCBF can only serve its mission with enthusiastic volunteers and charitable donors like you. I look forward to seeing you again at the Breakfast With Champions event on March 19, 2013, at the Westin Hotel. Best wishes for the holiday season and the New Year.

Sincerely,

Harry H. Schneider, Jr.

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 7:30 a.m.

The Westin Seattle | 1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Join over 1,000 attendees as we raise funds to support the King County Bar Foundation mission.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Joel Feldman, KCBF development manager, at 206-267-7005 or at joelf@kcba.org.

For more information on Dan Abrams, please visit www.qpbspeakers.com.
Future of the Law Institute Kicks Off 2012-2013 Program

The Future of the Law Institute (FLI) encourages high school students of diverse backgrounds to pursue higher education and seek careers within the legal profession.

Now in its eleventh year, FLI held its Two-Day Institute on November 16-17, 2012. Nearly 80 high school juniors and seniors were accepted into the year-long program that began with workshops and interactive presentations at the Seattle University and University of Washington law schools.

Using a “speed dating” format, students were introduced to many different areas of law, as well as other professional judicial support careers. Students also had the opportunity to tour Seattle University’s campus and identify legal issues at every corner and discover how the law is woven into everything we do. Students also enjoyed lunch with Federal Judge Richard Jones, Court of Appeals Judge Michael Spearman, and Superior Court Judge Lori Smith.

The Two-Day Institute concluded at the University of Washington School of Law with the ever-popular mock trials presided over by Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Debra Stephens, and Des Moines Municipal Court Judge Veronica Alicea-Galvan. After the juries returned their verdicts, each judge engaged the “parties” in discussions about the trial process. The day finished up as the judges provided inspiration and encouragement by sharing stories about their own pathways to successful careers in the law.

In the coming months, FLI students will participate in field trips to the US District Courthouse, several law firms, and corporations with large in-house legal departments. Students will also have the opportunity to compete for summer internships and college scholarships upon completion of the FLI program.
Recognition Event Celebrates Volunteers and Donors

The King County Bar celebrated its Pro Bono Services volunteers and donors at the annual Recognition Event on Thursday, September 27, 2012, at the Women’s University Club. KCBF President Harry H. Schneider, Jr. and Pro Bono Services Director Threesa Milligan opened the awards program and on behalf of the bar expressed heartfelt thanks for all the contributions made by the guests, volunteers and donors alike.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven C. Gonzalez and long-time advocate for civil legal aid continued the evening’s message of gratitude with his uplifting remarks about the value of service.

Will Ross, PBS Committee Chair, and Ms. Milligan presented KCBA’s Volunteer of the Year Award to Troy Courage, Leslie Garrison, Tami Hamalian, Gary Manca, Thomas Morningstar, Daniel Peters, Maria Fernanda Torres, and Kirk Wines for their service to the bar’s pro bono civil legal aid programs.

In 2011, the King County Bar mobilized over 1,300 volunteer legal professionals to provide 41,802 hours worth of free legal services valued at $7.4 million to assist 10,608 low-income King County residents. Every dollar raised provided $8.03 worth of legal services and every hour donated meant the world to the clients who received it.

For more information about the awardees, please follow Pro Bono Services’ blog at www.probonodicta.org.

KCBF Honors Outgoing President and Trustees

At the King County Bar Foundation’s final meeting of the fiscal year on May 31, 2012, the board of trustees honored outgoing president James L. Austin, Jr. for his outstanding leadership and his dedication to ensuring access to justice and increasing the diversity of the legal profession.


KCBF’s new officers were also elected at the May 31st meeting. Harry H. Schneider, Jr. (Perkins Coie LLP), president; Mary Jo Newhouse (Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt, PC), vice president; Benson D. Wong (Keller Rohrback LLP), treasurer; and Derek D. Crick (K&L Gates), secretary will begin their service as officers on July 1.