



Break the Cycle



Polaris Project

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

serving the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC metropolitan community

Mission

Leveraging the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community.

From Our President

The 2011-2012 bar year marked the 30th anniversary of the WBA Foundation, and I am honored to have served as President during this hallmark year.

I am also proud of the accomplishments the WBA Foundation made over the past two years while I have been fortunate to serve as its President. Our grandest achievement has been the work done by our Grants Committee. By reengineering our grantmaking process, the committee not only increased our outreach, but also improved our application and selection process. This has allowed us to get needed grant money to our grant recipients faster than in years past. We also increased our minimum grant amount to \$5,000, deepening our impact on our grantees.

Unfortunately, the needs in our community far exceed our current capacity to provide grants to all who apply. The grim statistics underscore how wide that gap really is. Thirty organizations requested a total of \$281,577 in grants from the WBA Foundation during the 2011-2012 grantmaking cycle. We are gratified to have been able to provide a total of \$30,000 in grants to five of those organizations. However, somewhere in this area, there are at least 25 organizations serving the legal and related needs of women and girls in our community without the necessary resources to do so. We are grateful to our many donors who have helped us this year to close this gap.

This Annual Report provides an overview of what makes the WBA Foundation so important in our community. It highlights the support of individuals like you, who enable us to empower organizations that improve the lives of women and girls in the DC metropolitan community every day.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
2011-2012 President



Grantmaking Program and Grantee Awards Ceremony

The process began in the fall of 2011 with the release of a Request for Proposals. Interested organizations submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) and eight organizations were invited to submit a full application. For both submissions, the WBA Foundation used the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers Common Forms. Full proposals were reviewed and researched by the WBA Foundation Board of Directors, which made final funding determinations and awarded grants to five outstanding organizations. Each year, our grantees are required to submit a report of their activities conducted under the grant.

In May, the WBA Foundation hosted its third annual Grantee Awards Ceremony at the offices of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP and generously underwritten by Hilton Worldwide, Inc. This event served to unite our supporters and friends to celebrate our five grantees. Attendees were able to learn more about these organizations by listening to remarks by each grantee and by visiting their information tables. This year's event also featured remarks by Martina Vandenberg, a Fellow at Open Society Foundation.

These organizations are an inspiring amalgam of service providers and advocates for women and girls in our community. We look forward to deepening our relationship with these and other community-based organizations in the future.

Founders Fellowship

The Emma Gillett and Ellen Spencer Mussey Founders Fellowship, established by the WBA Foundation in 2006, was named to honor the two pioneering women who founded the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia in 1917. The Fellowship is awarded annually to support an area law student working for the summer with a local legal service provider on projects that benefit the legal needs of women and girls in our community. Proceeds from our Wine Tasting & Silent Auction have funded this fellowship for the past six years.

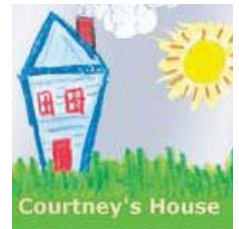
The 2012 WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship, in the amount of \$5,000, was awarded to The Catholic University of America Columbia School of Law student Rebecca Zimmerman. The Fellowship allowed Ms. Zimmerman to gain invaluable legal experience as a law clerk at the Children's Law Center, Family Permanency Project. The Project provides legal assistance to foster parents, grandparents, and others seeking to adopt or to obtain legal custody or guardianship of children trapped in the DC child welfare system or at risk of entering foster care.

2011-2012 Grantees

Break the Cycle Break the Cycle believes everyone has the right to safe and healthy relationships, and its mission is to engage, educate, and empower youth to build lives and communities free from domestic violence. They are the leading national nonprofit organization addressing teen dating violence. The WBA Foundation grant will support the improved delivery and expansion of Break the Cycle's legal services program in DC. Through this program, they provide representation in campus administrative proceedings, as well as family, employment, and housing matters; accompany survivors to meet with prosecutors to report abuse and assist in criminal prosecution; and make appropriate referrals to social services.



Courtney's House Courtney's House is committed to providing a loving environment for girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 18 who are survivors of sex trafficking. They are dedicated to addressing the overlooked issues of domestic sex trafficking by providing essential services to survivors. The WBA Foundation grant will support a conference in DC for 150 to 200 attorneys that provides free training on domestic sex trafficking from a survivor's perspective.



Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals

Project (DV LEAP) DV LEAP's mission is to provide a stronger voice for justice by fighting to overturn unjust trial court outcomes, advancing legal protections for victims of domestic violence and their children through expert appellate advocacy, training lawyers, psychologists and judges on best practices, and spearheading domestic violence litigation in the Supreme Court. The WBA Foundation grant supports its DC project, DC LEAP.



Our Place DC Our Place DC supports women who are or have been in the criminal justice system by providing the resources they need to maintain connections with the community, resettle after incarceration, and reconcile with their families. The WBA Foundation grant supports Our Place DC's legal services program which helps women resolve matters impeding their progress and chances at success in the facilities that hold them and in the community. The issues addressed relate to parole, prison conditions, medical care, housing, divorce, child custody, and appeals from denial of SSI/SSDI benefits.



Polaris Project Polaris Project is a leading organization in the United States combating all forms of human trafficking, using a holistic approach to serve men, women and children. With funding from the WBA Foundation, Polaris Project is launching a legal network in the Washington, DC Metro area to recruit and train legal professionals to provide pro bono legal services for victims of human trafficking.



Wine Tasting & Auction Benefiting Founders Fellowship

The WBA Foundation hosted its 9th annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction in February. This year's event, "Old World vs. New World Wines, Celebrating the WBA Foundation's 30th Anniversary" was hosted at Hogan Lovells US LLP. This tasting paired wine from some of Europe's best known growing regions (France, Italy, Germany, etc.) with wines made from the same grape, or made in a similar style, from a New World country. Representatives from The Curious Grape, a woman-owned business in Arlington, VA, selected the wines and guided guests through the tastings.

The annual Wine Tasting is the WBA Foundation's largest individual fundraising event and this year raised more than \$17,000.

Annual Dinner

Continuing a decades old tradition, the WBA Foundation once again joined with the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia to host a joint Annual Dinner in May 2012. This dinner is one of the largest gatherings in the DC legal community. The theme was "Re-envisioning the Path: Being a Woman Lawyer in the 21st Century," and Katia Garrett, the Executive Director of the DC Bar Foundation, was honored as 2012 Woman Lawyer of the Year. Former FDIC Chairman, Sheila Bair, was recognized with the 2012 Janet Reno Torchbearer Award, which recognizes exceptional women lawyers, their achievements, and the trails they have blazed for women.



2012 Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner also featured the unveiling of a video featuring the 2011-2012 grantees and their important work in the DC community. Representatives from each grantee organization were present at the Annual Dinner as guests of the WBA Foundation. The WBA Foundation is grateful for the generosity of over 90 organizations and individuals who sponsored this event.

Parlor Dinners

Continuing an initiative begun in 2010, WBA Foundation board members hosted "parlor dinners" in their homes and other intimate venues. The goal is to introduce the WBA Foundation to new friends and colleagues, and to engage them to support the work of the WBA Foundation. The program continues to be a success, raising over \$4,100 this year.

Uniting for Justice

The WBA Foundation funds grants and the Founders Fellowship with donations it receives from community supporters.

It is through the support of committed donors that the WBA Foundation can carry on its important work. The WBA Foundation extends its gratitude to the following supporters for their generosity.

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