

The information in this advertorial was provided by Indianapolis Bar Association members and staff. Opinions expressed are those of the association.

Foundation announces 2009 grant recipients

The Indianapolis Bar Foundation has shown five worthy organizations the money, awarding grants totaling \$27,000 in April 2009 to assist the community with legal issues. In the next few issues of this IBA newsletter, we will profile those organizations.

The Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic (NCLC) in Indianapolis helps low-income and immigrant families with pro bono legal representation and preventive education. Families like those of a Burmese woman who faced religious, ethnic, and political persecution from her own government. She endured arrest, torture, and imprisonment without trial for advocating democracy in Myanmar. Her brother had been arrested and was never heard from again.

The woman escaped a similar fate when her family bribed prison guards to release her. After escaping, she made her way to the U.S.; it was through NCLC's efforts that she was finally able to receive asylum protection through the immigration court in Chicago. The woman is now living in the U.S., working and worshiping without fear for her personal safe-



The Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic staff.

ty or security.

NCLC was awarded \$10,000 by the Indianapolis Bar Foundation to continue its current legal educational workshops and publications, translate current education material into Burmese languages and provide workshops specifically geared to the Burmese immigrant community in Indianapolis.

"The members of the grants committee of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation were very pleased to see the quality of applicants for grant awards that will benefit those in need in our community.

Organizations such as the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic are to be admired for the innovative ways they provide legal education and services to low-income families in Indianapolis," said Michael J. Hebenstreit, Whitham Hebenstreit & Zubek LLP, committee member.

In addition to continuing its current preventive legal education programs, NCLC also sought the IBF funding in order to expand its educational programming into the area of expungement and sealing of individuals' criminal records.

Old arrests on a person's criminal record can be a significant barrier to obtaining employment.

NCLC has discovered that few people with criminal histories understand their rights with regard to expungement, sealing and pardon requests. The organization plans to work to raise awareness of what the options are by reaching out to ex-offenders and to those with criminal histories who may qualify for expungement, sealing, or pardon.

In 2008, NCLC served 3,560 people through 136 educational

workshops and anticipates expanding the number of workshops offered and clients served through them in 2009, according to the organization's grant application. The clinic is celebrating its 15th year of operation and recently relocated its offices to 3333 N. Meridian, a location that is more accessible and convenient to clients.

Client intake takes place in Indianapolis and surrounding communities at Madison Avenue Baptist Church, St. Vincent Primary Care Center, Vida Nueva United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville, John Knox Presbyterian Church, Southeastern Church of Christ, La Plaza, Shepherd Community Center, NCLC offices and the Rialto Center in Fort Wayne.

The mission of the Indianapolis Bar Foundation is to advance justice and lead positive change in Indianapolis through philanthropy, education and service. Requests for funding may be submitted at any time, though grant proposals are reviewed and funding decisions are made two times a year. For more information, visit www.indybarfoundation.org.

BARKER

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African-American Assistant U.S. Attorney. Then James B. Young came along as the U.S. Attorney and he moved me up to the position of First Assistant U.S. Attorney which meant more administrative responsibilities. Notice all three of these mentors were men. That's how it worked in those days. I've always been glad that they were around when I became a judge.

IBA: Who is your favorite TV or movie lawyer, and why?

Barker: Atticus Finch, for obvious reasons.

IBA: What would you tell a five-year-old if he or she asked "what is a judge?"

Barker: The truth is, most kids already know what judges do because of TV. But I explain it to children when they come to my courtroom in this manner: When you have a squabble at school, I ask, who settles your dispute? And they say, "the teacher." When you

have a disagreement at home with a brother or a sister, who settles it? "Mom and Dad." Who do you think resolves squabbles between adults that wind up in court? Often a judge does when those issues arise under law. Judges are helpful authority figures, just like teachers and parents.

IBA: Apple pie or chocolate cake?

Barker: Pie, but it would more likely be rhubarb or peach. But it would always be pie.

IBA: What do you like best about living in central Indiana?

Barker: Well, first, Indiana is home. I like the fact that it's still possible to enjoy a manageable lifestyle here – we're not overwhelmed by people and traffic. Also, I like it here because we value each other as people. It's a large enough place to have the excitement and stimulation and fun offerings of a big city, but small enough to enjoy the nice friendly aspects. As a judge, I like it because in the Midwest, people still believe in the institutions of government.

When a person is called to serve as a juror or a witness, he goes and does his duty. It's a wonderful place to be a judge and to be involved in public service.

IBA: I am involved in the IBA because...

Barker: I have been involved in bar activities since the very beginning of my legal career. I enjoy the opportunity to work with lawyers and other judges on projects that don't require me to adjudicate a particular dispute, and I really enjoy the companionship of lawyers and my fellow judges.

IBA: Name one thing on your desk that you can't live without.

Barker: The pictures of my grandchildren.

IBA: What keeps you busy away from the office?

Barker: Lots and lots of things: board and church responsibilities, family activities, hobnobbing with friends, a little bit of gardening and a little bit of photography, going to plays and concerts, and hanging out with my best friend, Ken Barker. •



Mayoral proclamation

A group of participants in the 2008-09 Bar Leader Series succeeded in having May 20 declared Lead Remediation Awareness Day by Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard in recognition of their efforts to educate property owners about the dangers of lead paint. Showing the proclamation are from left, David J. Duncan, Tabbert Hahn Earnest & Weddle LLP; M. Kristin Glazner, Baker & Daniels LLP; Liberty Roberts, Collier-Magar & Roberts PC; and Heather H. Macek, Barnes & Thornburg LLP. Missing is Adam Carroll, Golden Rule Insurance. The group prepared a flyer that will be mailed to 1,000 Marion County residents about lead paint hazards and will offer free legal advice concerning homeowners' legal obligations and available help to remediate the lead paint.

Applied Professionalism Course For new attorneys

Friday, October 2, 2009 • 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hilton Indianapolis

Register at www.indybar.org