

2008 Birdsall Impact Grants Awarded to Butler County and Lawrence County Bar Associations

When County Bar Services Director Arthur J. Birdsall retired from his post at PBA in 2006, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and Pennsylvania Bar Association decided to work together to create a program to commemorate Art's long tenure as the Association's link to the county bar association community.

The fundraising campaign conducted in association with Art's retirement party provided over \$13,500 to launch a grant program based on Art's wishes – to assist county bar associations in implementing a specific program, project or enhancement of an existing program or project that succeeded in making an immediate impact on the way county bar associations operate in service to their members, their court and their community.

With the additional caveat that the program/project have a charitable, educational or access to justice orientation, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation launched the Birdsall Impact Grant Program in March of 2008, with the intention of awarding grant(s) totaling no more than \$1,000, annually over the next 10 years.

Open to all bar associations, with consideration given to those with limited needs, the program drew seven applicants in the inaugural year. A committee comprised of five Foundation Life Fellows, three of whom were appointed by then Foundation President Karen Balaban and two of whom were named by then Conference of County Bar Leaders President Michele Dawson, thoroughly reviewed each application and concluded that the first awards be presented to Butler County to support low cost CLE for attorneys participating in the association's pro bono and modest means lawyer referral programs and Lawrence County to support the purchase of a laptop computer to provide access to PBI group casting CLE programs for members of the bar.

The awards were presented to Lawrence County Bar Executive Director Joellen Pastore and Marion Laffey-Ferry, Esq. accepting on behalf of the Butler County Bar at the Foundation's Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Members on June 5, 2008.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation's Birdsall Impact Grant Program, visit www.pabarfoundation.org



Marion Laffey-Ferry accepts Birdsall Grant Award on behalf of the Butler County Bar from Karen Balaban



Lawrence County Bar Executive Director Joellen Pastore and Karen Balaban

Support for Modest Mean Lawyer Referral Programs Available from the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation

The Cumberland County and Butler County Bar Associations have taken advantage of a matching grant program conducted by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation to assist county bar association in launching modest mean lawyer referral programs.

In the first year of a two year commitment, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation will provide a maximum of 10 matching grants each year of \$250 to county bar associations that establish modest mean lawyer referral programs following the guidelines promulgated by the PBA's Task Force on the Legal Needs of Middle Income People. The one time grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.