

2009 Birdsall Impact Grants Awarded to Butler County and Franklin County Bar Associations

In March of 2008, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation launched the Birdsall Impact Grants program, an initiative created in honor of former PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur J. Birdsall and funded by the proceeds generated by the fundraising campaign conducted in association with Art's retirement party.

The grants program seeks to assist county bar associations in the furtherance of a charitable, educational, or pro bono program or project or the enhancement of an existing charitable, educational or pro bono program or project that succeeds in making an immediate impact on the way a county bar operates in service to its members, its court and its community. The program is open to all bar associations, with consideration given to those with limited needs.

In its second year, the program drew two requests. A committee comprised of Foundation members appointed by Foundation President George Gvozdich, Jr. and Conference of County Bar Leaders President Samuel T. Cooper III reviewed the applications and in some cases interviewed the applicants to gain additional insight into the grant requests. Ultimately, the committee opted to divide the \$1,000 annual award between the two applicants. The Franklin County Bar Association received \$700 to extend pro bono services to the growing low income Latino community through a collaborative partnership involving the Franklin County Bar, Franklin County Legal Services - the bar's designated provider/coordinator of pro bono services in Franklin County- and the Law Offices of Women In Need (WIN) Victim Services, the local provider of legal services to victims of domestic violence in Franklin County. The Butler County Bar Association received \$300 towards the purchase of Adobe Creative Suite software to enhance, support and accelerate the exchange of information between county bar members, its courts and its community via its website and the documents it publishes.

The awards were presented at the Foundation's Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Members held on June 3, 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA.

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

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.