

Washington County Bar Foundation

CIVIC EDUCATION • COMMUNITY GIVING • ACCESS TO JUSTICE

MISSION

The Washington County Bar Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, was established in 1989 to serve as the charitable arm of the Washington County Bar Association. The mission of the Bar Foundation is to further cultivate the science of jurisprudence, improve the legal and judicial system and facilitate the administration of justice. It fulfills this mission by supporting pro bono efforts, legal services for the poor, law-related education and scholarships, and public information and educational initiatives.

CIVIC EDUCATION

The Bar Foundation promotes law-related education in the public schools and community of Washington County, and provides assistance to the county's public libraries. In cooperation with the Bar Association, the Foundation provides programs such as the annual Law Day Celebration, "I Signed the Constitution!" and "Legal Issues Now that you are 18" programs, People's Law School multi-week series, Courthouse tours, speakers bureaus, "Justice Day" program for Leadership Washington County, voters' guides and forums co-hosted with the League of Women Voters, and more. Several programs have received national awards and recognition.

COMMUNITY GIVING

The Bar Foundation provides grants to a variety of local agencies for law-related programs, most significantly to Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA and to CASA for Kids Inc. (Court Appointed Child Advocates), as well as financial and volunteer support for projects such as "Law Works 4 You," a year-long justice awareness program for youth at the LeMoyne Community Center. Through its Holiday Gift Drive for Children, it provides thousands of dollars each year to help children in temporary placement, foster care and homeless shelters. With regard to the legal community, the Foundation created a fund for attorneys who are experiencing a health- or emergency-related crisis.

Two \$1,000 law school scholarships are funded each academic year, one for a Washington County resident enrolled in law school at the University of Pittsburgh, and one at Duquesne University. The Bar Foundation also promotes the advancement of continuing education for those in the legal profession, and maintains an Educational Assistance Fund for scholarships for attorneys new to the profession.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Bar Foundation enhances access to justice by fostering programs that deliver legal services to the poor. It works closely with Southwestern Pennsylvania (SWPA) Legal Services to secure legal representation for eligible clients in cases where conflicts of interest occur. The Bar Foundation also creates opportunities for members of the legal profession to provide pro bono representation to the needy, such as its Pro Bono Limited Representation Custody program. It also provides direct grants to SWPA Legal Services.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION, INC.

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The Washington County Bar Foundation, in cooperation with the Bar Association, provides many programs throughout each year to help the public understand the importance of the rule of law to our society, American civic values, our courts and our system of justice, and the meaning of our democracy in a diverse society.

Photo Gallery



Courthouse Tours for the public at the Whiskey Rebellion Festival, for local leaders through Leadership Washington County's Justice Day, and for schoolchildren and community organizations.

Attorneys and judges worked with LeMoyné Community Center students each week for a year, teaching them about the legal system. This "Law Works for You" program culminated in a Fairy Tale Mock Trial at the Courthouse.



In-school "I Signed the Constitution!" programs, a reading of the U.S. Constitution on the Courthouse steps, and other educational programs are held throughout the year.



A season of Law Day activities each year includes contests for students grades 2-12, speaking engagements at schools, a public ceremony at the Courthouse and a speaker series for the public.



High School mock trial tri-county competitions give students hands-on experience with the legal system. The Bar Foundation has financially supported team travel to state and national mock trial competitions.

An annual Holiday Gift Drive for Children provides thousands of dollars (and a van load of gifts) each year to help children in temporary placement, foster care and homeless shelters.

