

# SEEDS OF CHANGE

Florida Bar Foundation Annual Report  
2013-14



# Changing Lives. Advancing Justice. Strengthening Legal Aid and Pro Bono.

The Florida Bar Foundation has sown the seeds of change for decades, and Florida has reaped an abundant harvest. The 30-plus legal aid organizations the Foundation supports have transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of low-income Floridians. Foundation-funded projects have helped improve Florida's justice system, while the legal services delivery system has attracted and retained talented professionals and grown stronger as a result of the Foundation's leadership and funding.

Your support of the Foundation makes YOU an AGENT of CHANGE. In these pages you can find out more about some of the changes you helped bring about in 2013-14.

And yet, there is much more work to be done, and much more change to come.



Leadership and Funding for Justice in Florida

## Mission

The mission of The Florida Bar Foundation, a charitable organization established in 1956 by The Florida Bar Board of Governors and the Florida Supreme Court, is to provide greater access to justice.

The Foundation accomplishes its mission primarily through funding of programs that:

- Expand and improve representation and advocacy on behalf of low-income persons in civil legal matters;
- Improve the fair and effective administration of justice;
- Promote public service among lawyers by making it an integral component of the law school experience.

## Message from 2013-14 President John Patterson

**M**y year as president of The Florida Bar Foundation was marked by change, both from within and from without, as the Foundation entered a new phase in its history.

After 32 years as the Foundation's first executive director, Jane Curran transitioned to an advisory role as executive director emeritus and the Foundation welcomed as its new CEO and executive director Bruce B. Blackwell. Jane led the Foundation to national distinction, having developed the organization charged with administering the nation's first Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) program. Florida is forever in Jane's debt for her three decades of exemplary leadership, and we are extremely fortunate that Bruce was willing to serve at this time of transition.

A highly accomplished lawyer, Bruce has demonstrated his passion and his commitment to the Foundation's mission — access to justice — in countless ways. Now he has selflessly given up an exceptional law practice to dedicate himself full-time to the cause.

Bruce has taken the helm just as economic forces beyond our control have severely impacted the Foundation. IOTA revenues

remain depressed by historically low interest rates that are expected to remain near zero through 2016, after which they will likely rise. We are most grateful to The Florida Bar Board of Governors, acting on behalf of the Bar's 100,000 members, for approving a \$6 million bridge loan to help sustain the Foundation and its grantees until then.

The Bar's support is vital. We know that the civil legal aid system, at peak funding, was meeting less than 20 percent of the legal needs of the poor and that even many in the middle class are priced out of justice. Your Foundation is part of a national movement to improve access to justice not only through funding, but also by examining how justice can be most effectively delivered. Your Foundation is engaged, and is engaging its grantees, in efforts to do more with less. And we are not alone.

I commend Past Florida Bar President Eugene Pettis, President Greg Coleman, President-elect Ramón Abadin and the Board of Governors for making access to justice a priority, along with Chief Justice Jorge Labarga of the Florida Supreme Court, who has engaged top leaders in this issue through



the newly formed Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice. Through this broad-based, collaborative effort, change for the better will come.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the Foundation and afforded me the honor of serving as its president, including my wife, Nora, my invaluable assistant, Ginger Pitts, my partners at Shutts & Bowen, the officers, directors and staff of the Foundation, my friends at The Florida Bar, and Florida's many legal aid and pro bono lawyers and staff, whose daily work brings our most vulnerable citizens justice and dignity.

## Bruce B. Blackwell, CEO & Executive Director

**O**rlando, Fla., attorney Bruce B. Blackwell began serving July 1 as the full-time CEO and executive director of The Florida Bar Foundation. A founding shareholder with King, Blackwell, Zehnder & Wermuth P.A. in Orlando, Blackwell is a past president of the Foundation, the 2011 recipient of its Medal of Honor Award and the 2013 recipient of the American Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award for outstanding service. Blackwell served on the Foundation's board for 10 years and on The Florida Bar Board of Governors for four years. As a private attorney, Blackwell

performed more than 500 hours of pro bono work a year, handling some of the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association's most difficult cases. He has raised money and lobbied Congress and the Florida Legislature to support legal services for the poor. As OCBA president and a member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, he persuaded other lawyers to serve the poor and increase their pro bono work. Blackwell graduated from Florida State University with his bachelor's degree in 1968 and earned his law degree from the FSU College of Law, graduating with honors in 1974. He replaces



Jane E. Curran, who had served as the Foundation's executive director since 1982 and is now executive director emeritus.

# THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CIVIL LEGAL AID

**Food. Shelter. Safety. Education. Health care.** These are life's most basic needs, the things that allow us all to thrive. And for people living in poverty, legal assistance often is the key to obtaining them. Civil legal aid provides basic access to justice for people who cannot afford it otherwise. Clients are often homeowners or renters trying to maintain a stable living environment; families needing help with adoption, custody, guardianship or divorce; victims of domestic violence, fraud or abuse; veterans, the disabled and others wrongfully denied federal government benefits; or children in need of legal help obtaining the education, mental health or medical services the law guarantees them. Many are the working poor, the people who clean Florida's hotel rooms, harvest its crops, care for its children and elderly, bus its tables, and ring its cash registers. And they all have problems that only a lawyer can solve.



Natasha De Synegub, right

*I think her satisfaction was to know that she helped someone.*

## Winning freedom from domestic violence

After 18 years of feeling like a prisoner in her own home and suffering – along with her six children – her husband's constant abuse, Natasha De Synegub finally managed to leave when pro bono attorney Natalie Weech helped her devise a plan. Weech, herself a domestic violence survivor, represented De Synegub through legal aid as part of her ongoing commitment to helping women “understand that they can be survivors and move on.” Weech helped De Synegub map out a strategy that included finding an apartment, gathering up her children's passports and birth certificates, getting herself and her children safely out of the house, and going straight to the courthouse to get an injunction. “I made a promise to God, and I said the day I get the keys, the next day I will leave,” De Synegub said. Weech went to trial to get her sole custody and child support. Since then De Synegub has found work as a medical translator, gotten therapy for herself and her children, and seen her oldest daughter off to college. “I call this my heart work,” Weech said. “A lot of lawyers go to law school wanting to change the world, and I truly believe that you can change the world one person at a time. And empowering women to know they have confidence and that they do have power over their own lives is an amazing, fulfilling feeling.” De Synegub said it makes her feel special to be one of Weech's many “heart” cases. “I don't know how many lawyers do pro bono, how many people are willing to help someone out freely, without expecting anything in return, and Natalie has never expected anything in return,” she said. “I think her satisfaction was to know that she helped someone.” De Synegub said her life is still far from perfect, “but at least I am free, and my kids are free.”

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Orlando

Florida lawyers reported to The Florida Bar that they did nearly 1.9 million hours of pro bono work and gave more than \$4.8 million dollars in donations to legal aid organizations during the 12 months ending in June 2014. The Foundation's grantees recruit, train and support volunteer lawyers and often facilitate their work by screening potential clients for financial eligibility and legal problems before making referrals.

Nearly 8 million days of paid work are lost in the United States annually because of domestic violence. This lost productivity costs the U.S. economy nearly \$1.8 billion. Including health-care expenses, the total costs of domestic violence exceed \$5.8 billion each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# A LEGAL AID NETWORK COVERING ALL 67 FLORIDA COUNTIES

The Foundation's Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program provides general support and special purpose grants to a network of organizations providing free civil legal services to low-income Floridians in all 67 Florida counties. One of several legal aid funding sources, the Foundation provided 19 percent of the \$85 million received by Florida's legal services organizations in 2013.

## Florida Bar Foundation Grants by Legal Aid Program

Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami	\$475,219
Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa	\$422,567
Brevard County Legal Aid, Rockledge	\$64,786
Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Plantation	\$123,000
Colombian American Service Association, Miami	\$25,000
Community Law Program, St. Petersburg	\$32,000
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Daytona Beach	\$501,735
Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Miami	\$39,000
Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Miami	\$365,172
Florida Equal Justice Center, Fort Myers	\$378,853
Florida Justice Institute, Miami	\$179,082
Florida Legal Services, Tallahassee	\$2,935,946
Florida Rural Legal Services, Lakeland	\$359,258
Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee	\$64,086
Florida's Children First, Coral Springs	\$114,460
Guardianship Program of Dade County, Miami	\$51,748
Gulfcoast Legal Services, St. Petersburg	\$697,939
Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Bartow	\$96,643
HIV Education and Law Project, Miami	\$25,000
Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Jacksonville	\$596,116
Lawyers for Children America, Miami	\$41,345
Lee County Legal Aid Society, Fort Myers	\$40,772
Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida, Sanford	\$293,435
Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association, Tallahassee	\$25,000
Legal Aid of Manasota, Sarasota	\$53,000
Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Plantation	\$709,643
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach	\$467,058
Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Orlando	\$398,642
Legal Services of Greater Miami, Miami	\$623,106
Legal Services of North Florida, Tallahassee	\$280,669
North Florida Center for Equal Justice, Tallahassee	\$108,056
Northwest Florida Legal Services, Pensacola	\$155,917
Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Longwood	\$44,956
Southern Legal Counsel, Gainesville	\$228,518
Three Rivers Legal Services, Gainesville	\$161,197
University of Miami School of Law, Miami	\$48,591

**Total\***

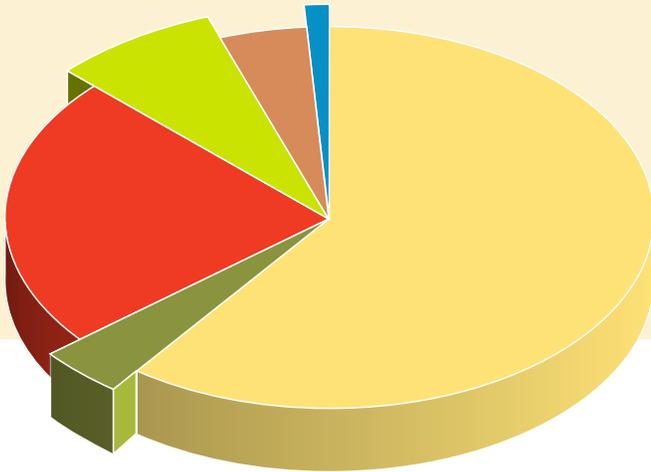
**\$11,227,515**

**\*Through its Loan Repayment Assistance Program, the Foundation made loans to 175 legal aid staff attorneys totaling \$512,567 in 2014. The loans, which must go toward repaying student debt, are forgiven provided the attorney continues to work for legal aid during the calendar year. The forgiven loans bring the total of the Foundation's 2013-14 Legal Assistance for the Poor funding to \$11.7 million.**

## Legal Assistance for the Poor Funding 2013-14 Grants by Grant Program

	General Support	\$6,729,359
	Special Projects	\$407,941
	Salary Supplementation	\$2,630,215
	Children's Legal Services	\$910,000
	Affordable Housing	\$500,000
	Small Programs/Special Needs	\$50,000
Total*		\$11,227,515

\*Through its Loan Repayment Assistance Program, the Foundation made loans to 175 legal aid staff attorneys totaling \$512,567 in 2014. The loans, which must go toward repaying student debt, are forgiven provided the attorney continues to work for legal aid. The forgiven loans bring the total of the Foundation's 2013-14 Legal Assistance for the Poor funding to \$11.7 million.

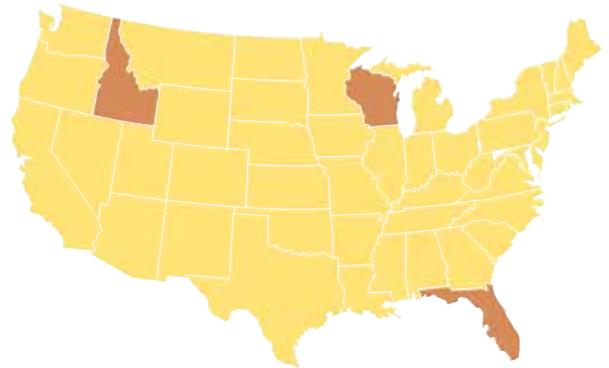


The federally funded Legal Services Corporation is now the largest funder of legal aid in Florida, providing 21 percent of all funding received by Florida's legal aid organizations in 2013. Many legal aid programs do not receive LSC funding and therefore rely more heavily on Foundation funding.

## Economic impact of legal aid

In 2013, the Foundation's legal aid grantees obtained \$53.6 million in federal client benefits and \$27.2 million in federal grant funds for their own operations, including \$17.7 million in federal Legal Services Corporation grants. The \$80.9 million in federal grants and benefits legal aid obtained for clients in 2013 circulates 1.54 times in the economy, providing \$124.5 million in economic impact and creating 3,052 jobs.

Foundation grantees documented direct dollar benefits to clients totaling more than \$89 million in 2013 from sources including child support and federal programs such as Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, which is designed to provide food, shelter and medical care to the elderly and disabled.



In spite of consistent bipartisan support and appropriations from the Florida Legislature, Florida is one of only three U.S. states that provide no state funding for civil legal services.



## Protecting the legal rights of children

Children's Legal Services grants fund projects that provide legal representation for foster youth and protect the rights of low-income children to special education, medical, developmental and mental health services that are guaranteed by law. Gifts from attorneys to the Foundation through the Children's Legal Services campaign on The Florida Bar annual fee statement help support these grants, along with proceeds from the Kids Deserve Justice license plate initiative. Florida lawyers have been generous in their support, with \$276,000 raised through the 2013-14 Children's Legal Services campaign.



**Drive justice home.** For information about the Kids Deserve Justice specialty license plate and how to order one, visit [www.floridabarfoundation.org/KDJ](http://www.floridabarfoundation.org/KDJ)

## Leo's life makes a 180-degree turn at Stanford

At 16, Leonardo Leal was nearly resigned to abandoning his college dreams and returning to his native Mexico. His stepfather had kicked him out of his family's cramped mobile home in Bradenton, Fla., for refusing to quit school and go to work. Essentially on his own, he thought he was out of options, in spite of having an academic record worthy of the Ivy League. He thought undocumented kids couldn't go to college. Little did he know that U.S. law had a special provision for immigrant children who have been abused or neglected – that there was, in fact, a solution. Then, he met a legal aid attorney supported by a Florida Bar Foundation Children's Legal Services grant, and she explained to him his legal rights and helped him become a permanent resident. Today, the former Braden River High School valedictorian is getting ready to graduate from Stanford University, where he is on a full scholarship and is majoring in economics, French and Chinese. He has studied in Paris and Beijing, had an internship at VISA and hopes to go to graduate school at Harvard and pursue a career in

management consulting. "Just four years ago, I had no direction. I was really lost," Leal said. "Starting school at Stanford really changed everything. My life has changed 180 degrees. It's about to change even more. There is no telling how far I can get." He realizes he wouldn't have the same career opportunities if he had remained undocumented. "I honestly had no idea I had rights at all," Leal said. "What you see on TV, it's all about the calamity that undocumented people have to face. Were it not for legal aid, I probably would have never known I had rights. That has made all the difference."

*Gulfcoast Legal Services, St. Petersburg*

*Were it not for legal aid, I probably would have never known I had rights. That has made all the difference.*



## Preserving affordable housing and preventing homelessness

Without stable housing, workers have trouble maintaining jobs, children have their education disrupted, and families can end up homeless. The Foundation's general support grants support legal aid efforts directed at helping clients avoid foreclosure and eviction, while affordable housing grants fund systemic advocacy that prevents the loss of affordable housing units and supports the development of new ones.



### Saving Keith and Vickki's dream home

Keith and Vickki Jordan's money woes started the way they do for many couples – with a job loss – and soon overtook them in a perfect storm of shrinking income and rising expenses that almost cost them their Jacksonville home. Not long after Vickki lost her job, Keith, a corrections officer since 1997, took two hits to his paycheck. His wages were suddenly being garnished due to student loan debt, and then the state of Florida began taking 3 percent of his pay to put into his retirement plan. Meanwhile, the couple's homeowner's insurance rates skyrocketed, taking their total monthly house payment from less than \$730 a month to more than \$1,000. Since purchasing their home in 1999, Keith, an Army veteran who served in Desert Storm, and Vickki, a private duty certified nursing assistant, had always made their mortgage payments, but soon they found themselves behind on their VA loan and being threatened with foreclosure by the lender. They turned to legal aid for help with their foreclosure defense, and got much more than that. While a legal aid attorney played the critical role of defending their foreclosure in court, a legal aid housing counselor put the Jordans on a savings plan once Vickki found a new job. In September 2014 the VA, through the lender, offered the Jordans a permanent loan modification that reduced their interest rate while not extending the length of the loan. They will still be able to pay off the mortgage in nine years, just when Keith is scheduled to retire. "Without legal aid we would have been dead in the water," Keith said. "The bank would have foreclosed on us, and we wouldn't have this house. I thank God legal aid was there because we didn't know what to do." Vickki said she would refer anyone in their situation to legal aid without hesitation. "Legal aid helped us save our house," she said. "Your house, that's your dream. That's something you are taught when you are little: 'Work hard, get your dream house, and enjoy it.' And now we can enjoy it."

*Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Jacksonville*

**"We look at legal aid as preventive medicine to reduce the burden on our law enforcement programs, our health and human services programs, and the Clerk of Court itself. When there are foreclosures and homes are lost, that is harmful to the community and the residents and taxpayers. The county recognizes that and supports legal aid to head off some of the worst of those negative consequences."**

Patrick McCormack  
St. Johns County Attorney

**A one percentage-point increase in the foreclosure rate can be expected to increase violent crimes in a census tract by 2.33 percent, according to a 2006 city of Chicago study. Several studies have indicated that a foreclosure diminishes the value of the surrounding homes by about 9 percent.**



# Putting food on the table for Florida seniors, disabled, poor

Thomas Mayer, 86, turned to legal aid when he received a form letter from the Florida Department of Children and Families saying that his income was too high and he would no longer receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Mayer was dumbfounded. His \$911 monthly income, all from Social Security, had not changed. Working together, legal aid attorneys from three different Florida Bar Foundation grantees found that the state had developed a policy that incorrectly interpreted federal law and hurt not only Mayer, but others in the same eligibility category. A successful rule challenge before an administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings resulted in the retroactive restoration of a \$16 monthly SNAP benefit to Mayer and more than 33,000 other Floridians, amounting to almost \$3 million in total benefits the first six months alone – all money that will be spent at Florida food retailers. Nationally, an estimated 41 percent of those receiving the minimum benefit at issue in the rule challenge are elderly, and an additional 25 percent, although not elderly, are disabled, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “Half of them are probably in pretty bad health on top of everything else,” Mayer said. “So, I’m glad I did something to help those people, too. It makes me feel great. It makes me feel like a hero.” For Mayer and others whose benefits have been restored, the \$16 a month is enough to pay for seven meals or more. “This is really a case where the system worked exactly as we envisioned,” said Ellen Cheek, an attorney with the Florida Senior Legal Helpline, which fielded Mayer’s initial call.

*Mayer’s case involved collaboration among Bay Area Legal Services’ Senior Legal Helpline, Legal Services of North Florida, and Florida Legal Services. The client’s name was changed to protect his privacy, but he agreed to be photographed.*



*“This is really a case where the system worked exactly as we envisioned.”*

**By protecting the rights of low-income Floridians, legal aid helps restore productivity, protect economic security, and stabilize communities and families. The benefits extend to all sectors of the economy, including Florida businesses where legal aid clients work and shop.**

## Statewide projects serve special populations and support legal aid providers

The Foundation helps fund statewide initiatives administered by individual grantees on behalf of the legal aid community. Several of these projects address the needs of special populations. The Florida Senior Legal Helpline administered by Bay Area Legal Services, with major funding from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, offers access to legal aid statewide for Floridians aged 60 and over through free, telephone-based legal advice, brief services and referrals. An immigration program administered by Americans for Immigrant Justice provides training and technical assistance to other immigration projects in Florida and assistance to immigrants in areas of Florida not otherwise covered. A migrant program administered by Florida Rural Legal Services and Florida Legal Services helps support legal services for eligible migrant farm workers under federal regulations, and assists with wage claims, landlord-tenant matters and other housing issues. Other statewide projects support the work of legal aid and pro bono advocates. A website ([www.floridaprobono.org](http://www.floridaprobono.org)) administered by Florida Legal Services provides resources to Foundation-funded legal aid attorneys, pro bono attorneys, and clients who need access to self-help legal information and legal aid referrals. The One Campaign ([www.onepromiseflorida.org](http://www.onepromiseflorida.org)) is a pro bono project jointly funded by The Florida Bar Foundation and The Florida Bar to provide staff support for the work of The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. Finally, supplemental training funds administered by Florida Legal Services provide training for staff members of Foundation-funded legal aid programs.

## Nurturing public service careers

Having determined that increasingly high law school loan debt combined with low salaries was often resulting in the loss of some of the best public interest lawyers to higher-paying careers, the Foundation created grant programs to address the legal services brain drain. These have included staff attorney salary supplementation and law school loan repayment assistance grants designed to protect and preserve a specialized workforce of legal aid attorneys. Unfortunately, salary supplementation grants were suspended in 2014-15 due to a lack of funding. Since 1999 the Foundation and its funding partners have provided matching funds for 71 Fellows in collaboration with Washington, D.C.-based Equal Justice Works. These Fellows have designed and led two-year legal assistance projects at Florida legal aid organizations in areas of identified need, including affordable housing, domestic violence, special education, homelessness, prisoner rights, veterans' legal services, and medical-legal partnerships. In many cases, Fellows have been hired on a permanent basis by the host legal aid organization after their fellowships, and their projects have become part of the organizations' ongoing services. A 2012 report by Equal Justice Works found that 81 percent of Florida's Equal Justice Works Fellows continued to work in public interest employment, and 68 percent remained in Florida.

The Foundation is the nation's second largest all-time funder of Equal Justice Works Fellows, with more than \$2.7 million in funding provided since 1999 to Fellows hosted by Foundation-funded legal assistance organizations.

## Improving the administration of justice in Florida

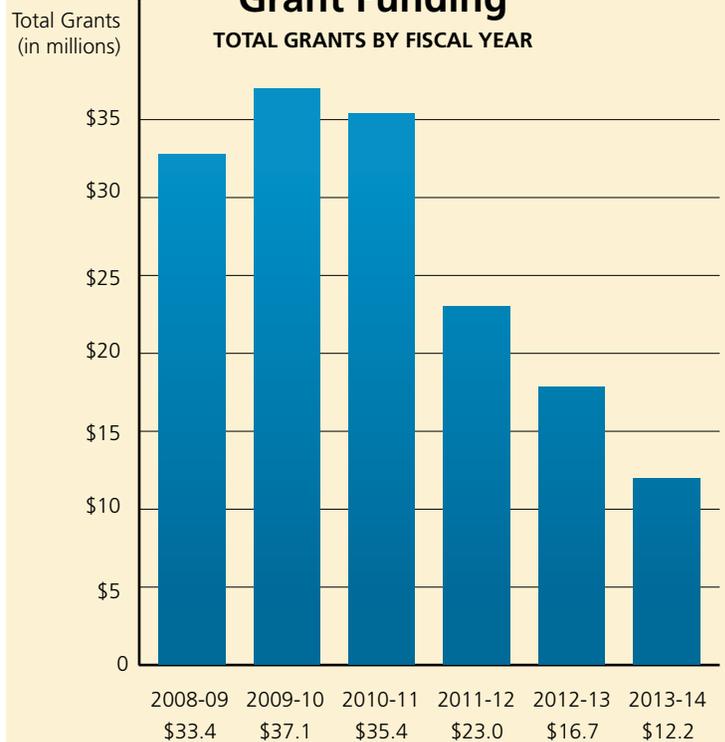
Through its Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program The Florida Bar Foundation continues to be the largest funder of the Innocence Project of Florida, which has used DNA evidence to bring about the exoneration of 14 Floridians who served a combined 268 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. The Foundation also has been a significant funder of the Florida Law Related Education Association, which teaches Florida students about democracy and the American legal system. The Florida Law Related Education Association received \$180,000 through the Improvements in the Administration of Justice Grant Program in 2013-14, including \$28,000 for the Justice Teaching Institute. The Innocence Project of Florida received \$297,516, including \$10,000 for its exoneree emergency fund based on a dollar-for-dollar match.

## 2014-16 Equal Justice Works Fellow Charlotte Joseph Cassel Florida Legal Services, Miami

Cassel's Equal Justice Works project will identify and resolve barriers to health-care access faced by low-income, disadvantaged populations in Miami-Dade County through a combination of direct representation, community outreach and training, and systemic advocacy. The international law firm of Greenberg Traurig and The Florida Bar Foundation are providing \$56,000 each to support Cassel's fellowship.



## Total Florida Bar Foundation Grant Funding



Foundation grants are based upon the net revenues of the fiscal year preceding the year being reported. These amounts may differ from the grants listed elsewhere in this report due to conditional and multi-year grants.

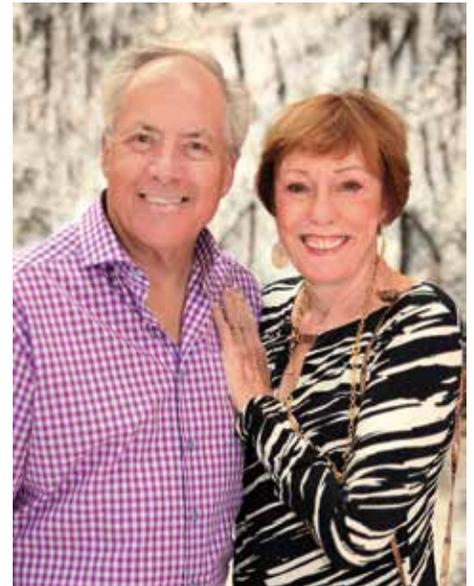
## Growing justice

Your gifts are the food, water and sunshine that make justice flourish. Without donors to provide continuous nourishment, many of the seeds the Foundation has planted through its grant programs would not have taken root. The Foundation is grateful for the care and feeding provided by its generous donors, particularly those groups and individuals who are members of the Legacy for Justice.

### The Legacy for Justice

The Legacy for Justice recognizes those who have included the Foundation in their estate planning, made a single planned gift of more than \$10,000, directed a significant cy pres award to the Foundation, or facilitated a colleague's major gift. We offer the members of this prestigious group our sincerest gratitude for their deep and abiding commitment to the Foundation.

Anonymous	John and Pam Noland*
Louie Adcock*	John* and Nora Patterson
Akerman LLP	Roderick N. Petrey*
Anonymous Fund Community Foundation of Central Florida	Polaszek, Berman, Hansen
Anonymous Fund Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc.	Ruden McCloskey Smith Schuster & Russell, PA
Tod Aronovitz*	John Woolslair Sheppard
The Batchelor Foundation	Larry* and Pat Stewart
James L. Bell*	Stroock Stroock & Lavin LLP
Bruce B. Blackwell*	The Florida Bar Business Law Section
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney   Fowler White Boggs	The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section
A. Hamilton Cooke*	The Florida Bar Family Law Section
Robert W. Fisher* **	The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section
Florida Lawyers Legal Insurance Corporation	The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company	The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section
Brian K. Gart*	The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
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Laird A. Lile*	Burton Young*
Tom Loffredo	* Fellow
Miles McGrane, III*	** Deceased
Mellon United National Bank	



*“We’re all supposed to have the same rights in this country. But if you don’t have access to justice, those rights are kind of meaningless. They vanish. Or they can’t be enforced.”*

- Larry S. Stewart, who together with his wife Pat donated \$20,000 to support the Foundation’s Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program in 2014.

## 2013-2014 Annual Giving Circles

### Barrister's Circle: \$100,000-\$249,999

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

### Counselor's Circle: \$50,000-\$99,999

The Florida Bar Business Law Section

The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section

### Gold Circle: \$10,000-\$24,999

Larry S.\* and Pat Stewart

### Silver Circle: \$5,000-\$9,999

Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company

### Bronze \$2,000-4,999

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney I Fowler White

Boggs

Eddie Farah\*

Dominic C. MacKenzie\*

John\* and Nora Patterson

David B. Rothman\*

### Leadership Circle: \$1,000-\$1,999

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Marcella Auerbach\*

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Hon. William A. VanNortwick\*

Carol A. Wherry\*

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\* Fellow

## Thank you to our Fellows

Florida Bar Foundation Fellows, our core supporters, pledge \$1,000 payable over five years, or over 10 years for young, government or nonprofit lawyers. To learn more about the Fellows Program, to make your Fellows pledge, or to see a list of Florida Bar Foundation Fellows, visit [www.floridabarfoundation.org/fellow](http://www.floridabarfoundation.org/fellow).



## Lending a helping hand

Several attorneys and other professionals contributed to our success in 2013-14 through pro bono services to the Foundation itself. In particular, we would like to thank:

Bruce B. Blackwell

King, Blackwell, Zehnder & Wermuth, P.A.

Matthew Brenner

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed,  
P.A., Orlando

Donna Chesteen

The Tech Law Firm, Orlando

Ava K. Doppelt

Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath & Gilchrist,  
P.A., Orlando

Jason Marsh

Marsh8, Orlando

Adriana Linares

Law Tech Partners, Winter Park

John Patterson

Shutts & Bowen

Donald Carlton Works, III

Jackson Lewis, Orlando

The Foundation has many donors to thank this year, but as we seek to economize, we have few pages on which to thank them, so we invite you to see our comprehensive donor listing at: [www.floridabarfoundation.org/donors](http://www.floridabarfoundation.org/donors).

*The Florida Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. While principal support for the Foundation's charitable activities comes from the Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) program implemented by the Florida Supreme Court in 1981, Foundation grants also are supported by gifts from Florida attorneys, law firms, corporations, foundations and other individuals.*

## Florida Bar sections continue to support the Foundation

"We see it as being in the best interest of all Floridians, including the business community, for people at all levels of our society to have access to our courts. And we see The Florida Bar Foundation as an essential institution in making sure that happens, not only through support of Florida's legal aid organizations but also in implementing positive change within our justice system in terms of fairness, effectiveness and efficiency."

– Stephen Nagin, 2013-14 chair of The Florida Bar Business Law Section, which contributed \$50,000 to the Foundation in 2014, shown at right with 2014-15 Business Law Section chair Judge William A. VanNortwick, left, and Florida Bar Foundation CEO Bruce B. Blackwell at the 2014 Annual Convention of The Florida Bar.



"The Trial Lawyers Section is so glad to have been able to match our \$75,000 in giving for a third year. We share the Foundation's mission of ensuring access to justice and are confident in the ability of its leadership not only to weather the extended IOTA revenue slump, but to innovate and emerge even stronger than before."

– Hector Moré, 2014-15 chair of The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section, whose gifts to the Foundation have totaled \$225,000 in three years.

Former Young Lawyers Division President Melanie Griffin and President-Elect Gordon J. Glover presented a \$10,000 check to Foundation Executive Director Bruce B. Blackwell at the Annual Convention of The Florida Bar. The Young Lawyers Division has contributed more than \$210,000 to the Foundation in three years.

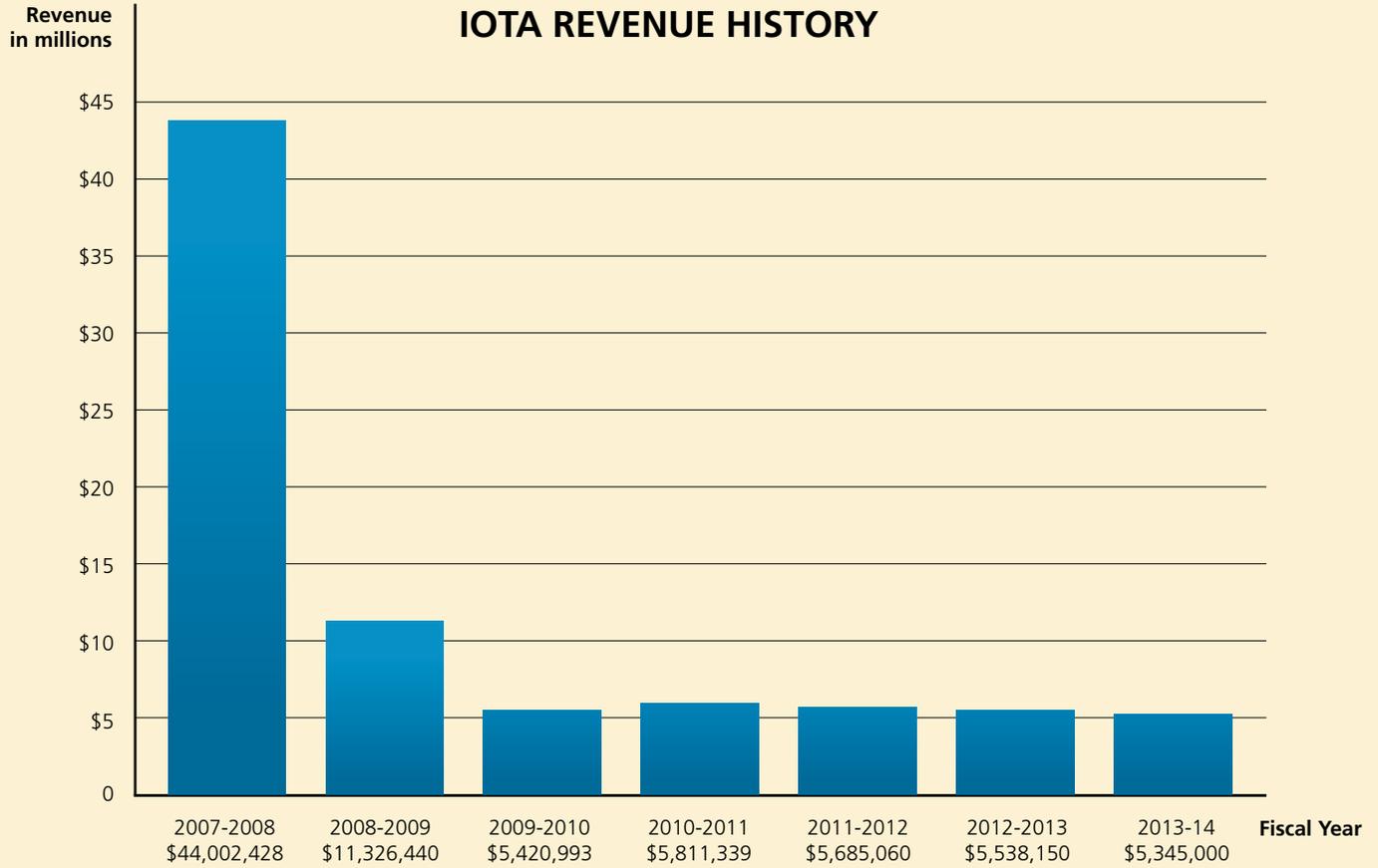


## Batchelor Foundation renews its support

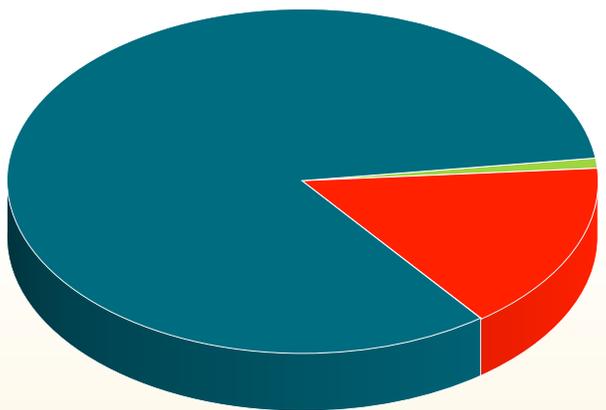
"I want to become well known and successful so that I can use my life as an example of how you can pursue your dreams when the odds are against you."

– Stephanie Davis (not her real name), a client of the Children & Youth Law Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law, which benefited from a \$100,000 gift to The Florida Bar Foundation from the Miami Beach-based Batchelor Foundation. The Batchelor Foundation has renewed its support with another \$100,000 gift in 2014-15. Davis made it to the prestigious School of Visual Arts in New York with help from the law clinic after her father committed suicide and she ended up in foster care.

## IOTA REVENUE HISTORY



### 2013-14 EXPENSES \$14,793,905

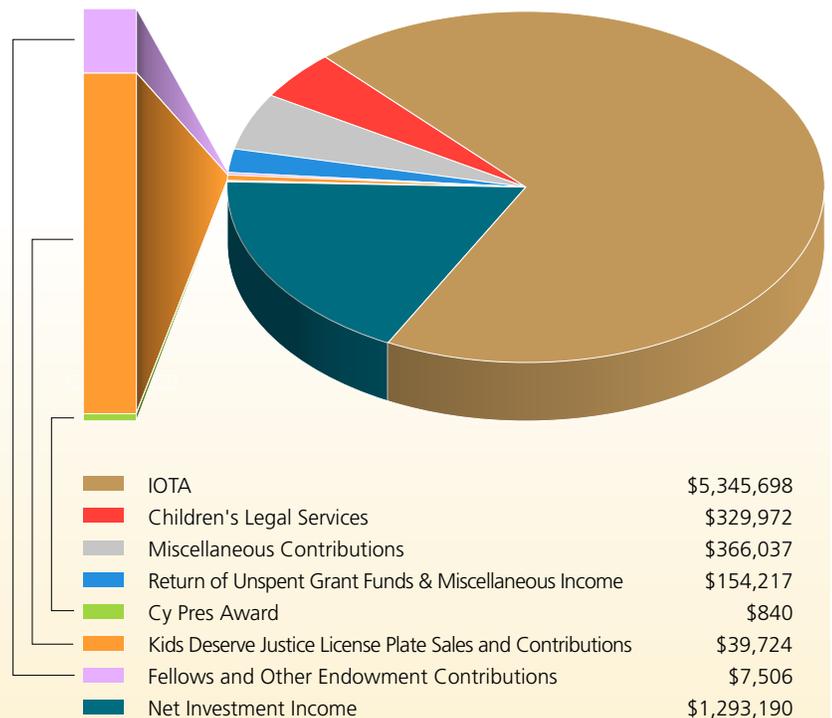


Foundation Grants and Related Activities*	\$12,475,218
Fundraising	\$112,530
Management and General	\$2,206,157

\* Of the \$12,475,218 in grants and related activities, \$11,974,101 (96%) was expended on Legal Assistance for the Poor and \$501,117 (4%) was expended on Improvements in the Administration of Justice grants. Management, general and fundraising expenses represent 15.68% of the Foundation's total expenses for 2013-14.

Audited financial statements and the IRS Forms 990 for both the Foundation and The Florida Bar Foundation Endowment Trust are available on the Foundation's website at [www.floridabarfoundation.org/finance](http://www.floridabarfoundation.org/finance)

### 2013-14 REVENUES \$7,537,184



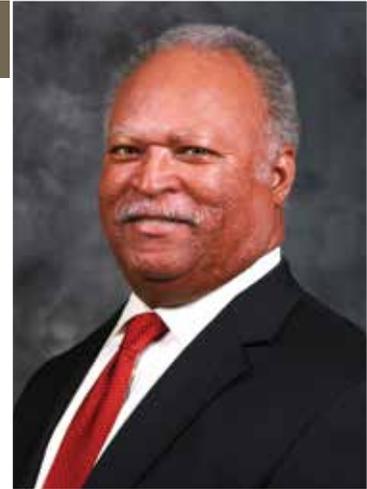
## Message from 2014-15 President Emerson R. Thompson, Jr.

For many, the Foundation's 2013-14 fiscal year will be remembered as one of traumatic change: reduced IOTA funding and a petition to increase Florida Bar dues to raise money for legal services. However, it is my hope that 2014-15 will be remembered as a time of rebirth.

These have been the worst of times for the Foundation and for legal aid, but they have the potential to bring us to the best of times as we galvanize Florida leaders to address the issue of access to justice.

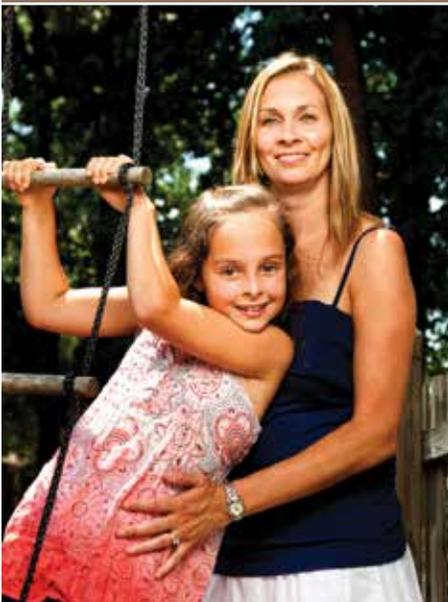
We have cut our Legal Assistance for the Poor grants to a 24-year low of \$7.7 million in 2014-15, but we have developed an unprecedented commitment from The Florida Bar and the Florida Supreme Court. Their goal is to find long-term solutions that will reduce the barriers impeding the path to justice in Florida. Also, this will open new avenues through the expanded use of technology and the streamlining of court processes.

The Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice, authorized by Florida Chief Justice Jorge Labarga and supported by Florida Bar President Greg Coleman, will focus leaders from the three branches of government, the legal aid community, the business community – and of course the Bar and the Bar Foundation – on finding innovative ways to improve and strengthen the system. The results will benefit low- and moderate-income Floridians who are priced out of the legal market. The Florida Bar Foundation is a major partner in this effort. The Foundation will be represented by me, President-elect Donny MacKenzie and past presidents Kathy McLeroy and William A. VanNortwick, with Foundation staff playing important roles as the commission develops solutions to serving those who can least afford an attorney to make their lives livable. Through this dedicated commission, equitable legal services delivery will happen in Florida. The members of the commission



will lead this effort; its workgroups will develop the deliverables; and together we will move Florida toward realizing a vision of equal access to justice for all Floridians.

I recognized as a young man that the courts are designed to protect the lives and rights of residents and citizens of the United States. Many changes have happened during my lifetime because people had access to the courts. We must see to it that current and future generations enjoy that same right. We must have a rebirth of civil justice in Florida.



**Please consider a charitable donation to help provide legal assistance to Florida's most vulnerable children. The Florida Bar Foundation's Children's Legal Services grants support legal assistance to poor children in critical areas that affect their safety, well-being and future development. Children's Legal Services include help for foster children and children in need of health benefits or special education services. Anyone can give online at [www.floridabarfoundation.org/kids](http://www.floridabarfoundation.org/kids). Florida lawyers can also give to Children's Legal Services on their Florida Bar annual fee statement.**

100% OF EACH CONTRIBUTION IS RETAINED BY THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (#SC-1897) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING ONLINE AT [WWW.800HELPFLA.COM](http://WWW.800HELPFLA.COM). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

If you have questions about making a gift to the Foundation, please contact The Florida Bar Foundation development team at 1-800-541-2195 or contact us by email. Contributions to the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, are deductible as permitted by law.

One of every four  
Florida children lives  
in poverty.



When you help a child  
overcome barriers, you unleash  
a lifetime of potential.



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