A
s I look back on nearly a decade of service on The Florida Bar Foundation Board, including a year as president, it is almost hard to believe the transition I have seen the Foundation go through in that time. When I first became a member of the Board of Directors, annual IOTA revenues were at an all-time high. Soon after, the recession hit, interest rates plummeted and IOTA funds followed. Thankfully, the Board of Directors had the foresight to build up a healthy reserve during the good times, without which, weathering the downturn in the economy would have been nearly impossible.

While some may view the dramatic drop in IOTA funds as an obstacle too daunting to overcome, the Foundation, including its Board of Directors and staff, viewed the changing landscape as an opportunity to rethink how we meet the organization’s mission to provide greater access to justice in Florida. Thus was born the strategic reset, which has been heralded by national experts as an innovative new approach. If you are reading this Annual Report, you have no doubt read about this bold new direction, but if not, I invite you to do so at TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/what-we-do/strategic-reset/.

The first Board of Directors meeting of my year as president was cancelled due to the formation of Tropical Storm Irma, which rapidly intensified into one of the strongest hurricanes ever observed in the open Atlantic Ocean, with winds measured at more than 185 mph. This massive storm impacted nearly the entire state of Florida with hurricane-force winds that extended up to 80 miles from the eye and tropical storm force winds extending for nearly 400 miles. In response to Hurricane Irma’s devastating impact, the Foundation moved swiftly to award nearly $800,000 in disaster recovery grants and also created a Hurricane Irma Story Map that used data to show the impact of the storm on vulnerable groups. Additionally, we pioneered a disaster-related Legal Vulnerability Index, which determines factors in each Florida county that potentially increase residents’ legal risks after a natural disaster.

It would be hard to imagine our lives today without technology, with most (if not all) of us relying heavily on smart phones in all aspects of our life. Recognizing this new reality, the Foundation continues to leverage technology to further our mission. What started as a pilot program in Miami to allow legal aid programs to post pro bono cases online turned into Florida Pro Bono Matters. By the end of 2017, the website hosted cases statewide. And, by the end of my term, more than 338 pro bono lawyers had taken a case to help a Floridian in need.

In 2018, we said goodbye to Bruce Blackwell, only the second executive director in the Foundation’s history. During his tenure, Bruce oversaw the development, adoption and initial implementation of the strategic reset. He stepped up fundraising, including rebranding the Foundation’s Annual Dinner into a fundraising event. New emphasis was placed on pro bono partnerships, including the use of technology. All of the Foundation’s accomplishments under Bruce’s leadership were achieved despite the stark reality of diminished revenues. While we were sorry to lose him to retirement, we were delighted to welcome his successor, Donny MacKenzie, another past president of the Foundation.

In many ways I look back at a year that was quite literally a perfect storm. While we experienced many challenges, we turned those into opportunities, and I truly believe the Foundation is stronger now than ever. I am so very proud to have been at the helm during this time of unparalleled transition and growth. In more than 20 years of practicing law and serving numerous voluntary bar organizations, I have seldom had the opportunity to work with such a dedicated group of board members and staff and am thankful to have had the chance to do so!
PROVIDING GREATER ACCESS TO JUSTICE

HOW FUNDS WERE SPENT IN 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86.6%</td>
<td>$13,667,164 in Charitable Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>$1,692,837 in Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>$422,585 in Fundraising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Cy Pres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>Bank of America &amp; Chase Settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>IOTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>Contributions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017-18 FUNDING SOURCES

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017-18

- $6,371,839 - Community Economic Development
- $1,467,000 - Children’s Legal Services
- $1,581,000 - Disaster Recovery, including Equal Justice Works fellowships
- $862,289 - Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- $306,000 - Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program
- $300,000 - Pro Bono Transformation and Innovation
- $1,081,000 - Administration of Justice
- $102,672 - Summer Fellowships
- $220,946 - Law School Civil Clinics
- $20,311 - Legal Research for Grantee Programs

In addition to the grants awarded, the Foundation spent $1,354,106 in program support and other charitable activities that provided direct and indirect support to our grantees.

2017-18 New Fellows
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Florida Bar Foundation Fellows 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.TheFloridaBarFoundation.org/Fellow.

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Jessica M. Brown
Karen M. Buesing
James P. Curry
Brian Davey
Joshua E. Doyle
Lucas Fleming
Mariano Garcia
Christian George
Marcelo Gomez
Harvey L. Goldstein
Alexis G. Gonzalez
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James Kowalski
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Stephanie C. Myron
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Kara B. Rockenbach
Kimberly Sanchez
Kenneth Slater
Donald W. St. Denis
Dr. Lawrence W. Tyree
Dineen P. Wasylik
T. Roger White
Catherine E. York
The Legacy for Justice
Through February 22, 2019

The Legacy for Justice recognizes those who have included the Foundation in their estate planning, made a gift or pledge 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.

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The Batchelor Foundation
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The Florida Bar Business Law Section
The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section
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The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section
The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
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* Florida Bar Foundation Fellow
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Anonymous

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The Florida Bar Family Law Section
The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section
The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
Anonymous

Barrister’s Society ($100,000-249,999)
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The Florida Bar Business Law Section
The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section
The Florida Bar Family Law Section
The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section
The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section
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