



▶▶ GRANTS FROM THE IBF TOTALED \$235,000 STATEWIDE, WITH INDIVIDUAL GRANTS RANGING FROM \$5,000 TO \$17,500! OF COURSE, WE WANT TO DO MORE IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE NEED TO RAISE MORE MONEY TO FUND OUR ACCESS-TO-JUSTICE GRANTS PROGRAM. HOW DO WE RAISE MORE MONEY? THE IBF HAS MULTIPLE FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING UP THIS SPRING, AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.



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By Lisa M. Nyuli

## Bright Days Ahead

The Illinois Bar Foundation shares its ambitious plans for the next fiscal year and beyond.

**GREETINGS FROM THE ILLINOIS BAR FOUNDATION (IBF)!** As I write this, the temperature has plunged 40 degrees in one day—winter in Chicago is upon us. For some extra sunshine, I thought I’d talk about the IBF’s support of access to justice.

While the phrase “access to justice” is often bandied about, the IBF takes the notion seriously and invests in its implementation. We provide grants to statewide organizations that provide access to the civil justice system for people with limited means; civil legal aid services; *pro bono* legal work; and education for residents about their rights and responsibilities. In short, the IBF’s grants have sustained and helped to create many organizations throughout the years that provide critical legal support to vulnerable individuals.

In fiscal year 2021, the IBF supported 33 organizations around the state that assisted families facing eviction, asylum seekers, and victims of domestic violence. Some of the supported organizations help educate low-income individuals and families about their rights and responsibilities, provide *pro bono* assistance, and run legal-aid hotlines. We are currently reviewing grant applications and doing site visits for the upcoming fiscal year, and we can’t wait to share updates on the great work our grantees are doing for our neighbors around Illinois. For a list of our current grant recipients, and to read our fiscal year 2021 Impact Report showcasing how our grants made a difference, please visit our website, [illinoisbarfoundation.org](http://illinoisbarfoundation.org).

### Spring fundraising events

Grants from the IBF totaled \$235,000 statewide, with individual grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$17,500! Of course, we want to do

more in the coming fiscal year. To accomplish this, we need to raise more money to fund our access-to-justice grants program. How do we raise more money? The IBF has multiple fundraising events coming up this spring. We hope to see you there.

In April, the IBF will have our annual Lawyers Rock event at a new venue—details to come!

On May 20, 2021, we will be honoring J. Timothy Eaton, past ISBA president and partner at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister at our annual Gala. This event was rescheduled from October 2020 and October 2021 due to the you-know-what (I refuse to say the words!). The Gala celebrating Tim, raising money, and dancing up a storm will be held at the Four Seasons in Chicago. Get your tuxes and formal dresses ready! The Gala is our biggest fundraiser and, after all this time, it’s going to be a wonderful, successful evening.

For more information about these events, visit the IBF’s [website](http://www.illinoisbarfoundation.org).

### Strategic planning

The IBF Board of Directors is also currently participating in strategic planning to ensure that our mission is clear, we have identifiable goals to work toward, and the future of the IBF is bright. You may have received a survey regarding the IBF, as input from all ISBA members is welcome in planning for the IBF for years to come. As we look forward and set the IBF up for success, we can’t thank all of our supporters enough for helping us make a difference in the lives of those we serve around Illinois.

Hopefully, reading about the good works of the IBF and our upcoming events has added a little sunshine to your day. I sincerely hope that we will be together in person again very soon!

**IBF**