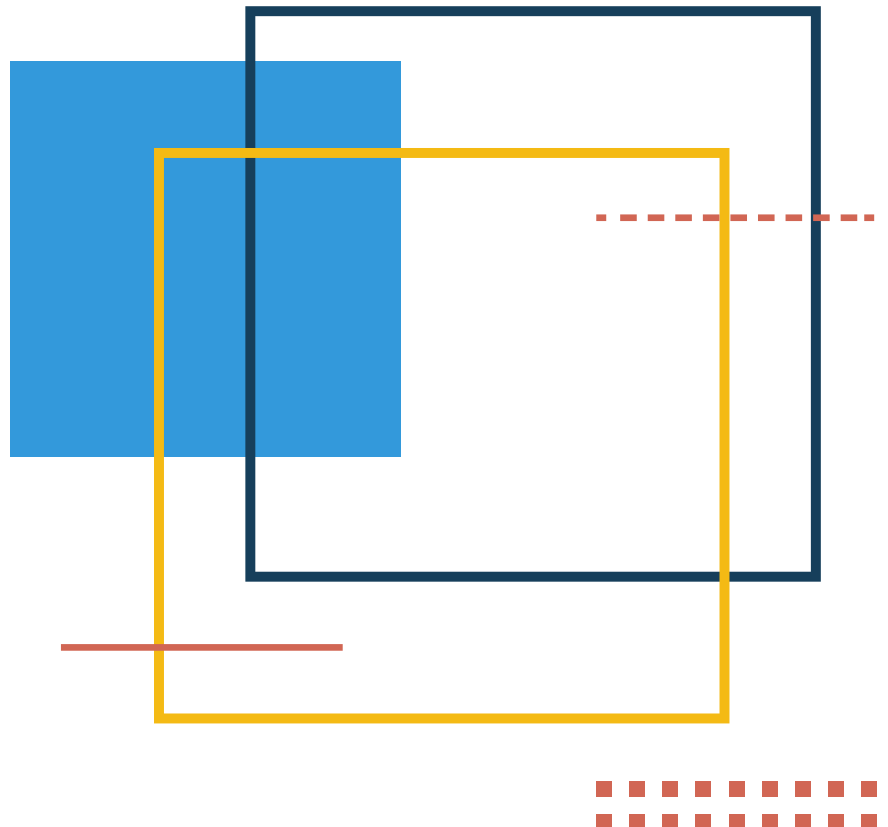




ILLINOIS BAR
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT

2023-2024



YOUR ILLINOIS BAR FOUNDATION

Our Mission

To ensure meaningful access to the justice system, especially for those with limited means, and to assist lawyers who can no longer care for themselves due to incapacity.



Helping attorneys in need

The Warren Lupel Lawyers Care Fund provides a lifeline to attorneys and their families with nowhere left to turn, offering financial aid to help them pay for day-to-day necessities during times of crisis.



Promoting access to justice for all

We distribute Access to Justice Grants to organizations around the state that provide civil legal aid services, educate individuals about their rights and responsibilities, and encourage pro bono work.



Offering navigational assistance for pro se litigants

Illinois JusticeCorps places trained volunteers in courthouses around the state to give navigational and procedural assistance to those facing the legal system without an attorney.



Supporting law school clinics, students and the people they serve

The Law School Clinics program provides grants to schools across the state to support the professional development of young attorneys while increasing access to justice for those who need it most.

Our vision is to be the statewide leader in advancing equal justice.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Mercedes Boykin, Program Manager, Illinois JusticeCorps

Jenna Kearns, Program Director, Illinois JusticeCorps

Jessie Reeves, Director of Events & Administration

Stephanie Tena, Development & Communications Assistant

Stacey Jonas Weiler, Director of Grants & Access to Justice

FY24 TOTAL DOLLARS INVESTED

\$939,000

IN ILLINOIS

52,000 Individuals Served



\$125,000

TO SUPPORT LAWYERS WHO CAN
NO LONGER PROVIDE FOR
THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES



\$255,000

TO FUND ORGANIZATIONS AROUND
THE STATE OFFERING CIVIL LEGAL
AID TO LOW-INCOME CLIENTS



\$470,000

TO PLACE TRAINED VOLUNTEERS IN
COURTHOUSES AROUND THE STATE
TO HELP THOSE WITHOUT
ATTORNEYS



\$50,000

TO SUPPORT LAW SCHOOL CLINICS,
STUDENTS AND THE INDIVIDUALS
THEY SERVE

\$39,000

IN SUPPORT OF STATEWIDE SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS & INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:

Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative
ISBA McAndrews & Bartylak Pro Bono Award Recognition Grants
Young Lawyers Division Children's Assistance Fund Grants
Jason E. Bellows Tuition Scholarship
M. Denny Hassakis Fund Juvenile Justice Grants



ACCESS TO JUSTICE GRANTS

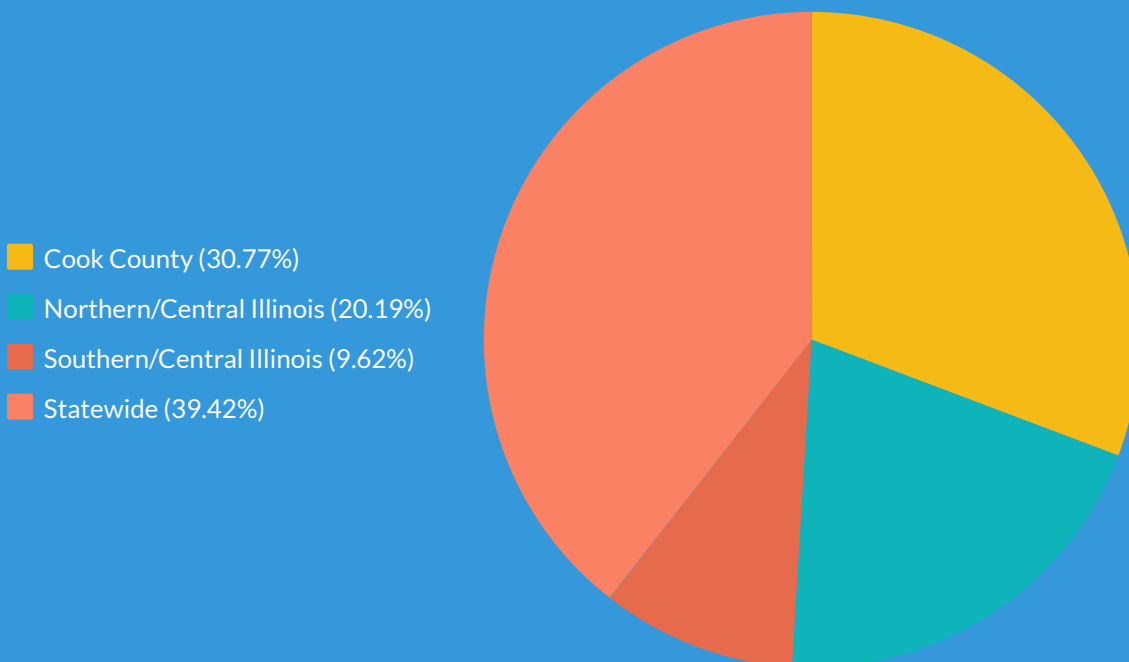
The Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF) is the only statewide, voluntarily-funded grant making organization in Illinois promoting access to justice. Thanks to the support of lawyers, law firms, and businesses serving lawyers, the IBF is able to award funding to legal aid organizations across Illinois which provide fundamental civil legal services to those who would otherwise not have equal access to justice.

The IBF, throughout its long history, has sustained and helped create many organizations that provide critical legal support to vulnerable individuals throughout Illinois. **Investing \$260,000 in FY24 to support 36 organizations throughout Illinois, these grants support services to those most vulnerable among us such as victims of domestic violence, families facing eviction, or asylum seekers.** Our thoughtful and targeted grantmaking process is trusted by many lawyers and law firms to put their charitable dollars to good use where they are needed most.

Access to Justice Grants are awarded to organizations throughout Illinois to support the following organizational objectives:

- ★ Enhance the availability of civil legal aid to those of limited means
- ★ Encourage pro bono legal work
- ★ Educate Illinois residents about their rights and responsibilities under the law

Grantees by Region Served



GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES



A story from

Equip for Equality

Funded by IBF:
Special Education Rights Clinic

Equip for Equality (EFE) represented the parent of 2nd grade student who was significantly struggling in school. The school district previously denied the student's Spanish-speaking parent's request for an evaluation. EFE renewed the request for an evaluation, with a bilingual evaluator, due to Spanish being the student's home language. The school district agreed to hire an independent bilingual psychologist and bilingual speech pathologist to complete the evaluations. EFE represented the parent at the meeting to review these evaluations, determine the student's eligibility for special education, and develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). **The resulting IEP included specialized instruction, speech and language services, and other extensive supports to ensure the student's success, now and in the future.**

A story from

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Funded by IBF:
Legal Services for
Survivors of Sexual Harm



In June of 2024, a survivor of sexual assault who is a student at a local university approached Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE). She was being sued for defamation by her perpetrator, who was expelled as a result of her successful Title IX case against him. The return date of the defamation summons was set for a mere two weeks after our client's case was accepted, a very stiff deadline. In those two weeks, CAASE was able to contact pro bono counsel at a prestigious Chicago area private law firm to represent our client. **CAASE is currently providing technical assistance in conjunction with this pro bono counsel on a motion to dismiss the defamation suit and allow this survivor to move on with both her education and her life.**

GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES

A story from
**Migrant &
Immigrant Community
Action Project**

Funded by IBF:
**General Operating Support for
Client Centered Services**



The Migrant & Immigrant Community Action Project (MICA) worked with a client who was eligible for a U Visa, a type of visa for noncitizen victims of certain crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are willing to assist law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. Her case needed some extra advocacy because the certification had to be requested from an Illinois family court judge that granted her an order of protection because she was the victim of intimate partner violence from the father of her children. MICA obtained the certification and was able to submit her U Visa packet in early June 2023. All of her children are US citizens, and they are dependent on their mom. **This U Visa provides her the hope of finally being able to have some sort of protection from ever having to leave her children alone and also for the chance to have work authorization and a social security number for the first time in her life.**



A story from
**Law Center for Better
Housing**

Funded by IBF:
Tenant Advocacy Project

"Hope" is the mother of a seriously ill infant. She had lived in her apartment building for some time and hoped that the management would work with her when she her ability to work was impacted by her pregnancy. However, the landlord filed an eviction and would not participate in rental assistance to help keep Hope in her home.

Law Center for Better Housing (LCBH) obtained a "pay to stay" check from the Illinois Housing Development Authority and delivered the check to the landlord. The landlord had no choice whether to accept and was compelled to dismiss its case, allowing Hope and her infant to stay in their home. LCBH also persuaded the judge to seal the eviction record and the landlord to waive some late fees. **Due to the efforts of LCBH, Hope was able to remain stably housed and focus her time and energy on taking care of herself and her child.**



WARREN LUPEL LAWYERS CARE FUND

The founding objective of the Illinois Bar Foundation in 1951, the Lawyers Care Fund remains at the core of our mission today.

Named after Past President Warren Lupel, this program provides financial aid to deserving members of the Illinois Bar during times of crisis, helping them pay for day-to-day necessities when they are no longer able to support themselves and their families.

The typical recipient has had a major medical or mental health crisis that prevents them from earning income. The related medical expenses often deplete savings and make maintaining a reasonable standard of living nearly impossible. The IBF offers a lifeline to help keep these attorneys and their families in their homes, buy groceries, and pay medical bills. In FY24, the IBF distributed approximately \$125,000 in financial aid to attorneys and their families in need throughout Illinois.



Bradley B. came to us for assistance during a harrowing year of medical complications following his cancer diagnosis. A young lawyer from southern Illinois, Bradley could not have anticipated that his emerging career as a social security disability attorney would be sidelined by the one-two punch of the COVID-19 pandemic and a diagnosis of abdominal wall cancer in 2021. Bradley's path to recovery was anything but straightforward, with a number of surgeries, infections and long hospital stays limiting his progress over the next two years.

Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide him with monthly support to help offset the costs of his ongoing medical care and living expenses as he transitioned back to work. Thankfully, Bradley is now cancer-free and has healed from the complications of his diagnosis, enabling him to get back to living his life fully, enjoying time with his family, and returning to work to fight for his clients to receive the benefits they deserve. Bradley graciously shared his story and this update to help us ensure that all attorneys in need know that we are here to help:

“Since the summer of 2023, I've received good health news, but it was a long hard road to get through, and the Illinois Bar Foundation Lawyers Care Fund really helped me with that process. With all the care and help from everyone, it really helped me out of the hole that I had fallen into mentally. I would personally like to say thank you. This fund has made a significant difference in my life, helping navigate such a stressful time with a little bit of relief from the financial stress associated with my medical care. You have made a difference in my life.

--Bradley B., Lawyers Care recipient
Shared with permission



If you know of a member of the Illinois Bar who is in need of financial assistance, please call the Illinois Bar Foundation at 312-726-6072 or email jreeves@illinoisbarfoundation.org for a confidential discussion and an application for assistance.



LAW SCHOOL CLINIC GRANTS

In FY24, the Illinois Bar Foundation's Law School Clinic Grants supported the work of Illinois law schools and their clinics that serve the crucial role of educating and training law students to become the future of the legal profession while meeting the legal needs of the most vulnerable members of the Illinois community. There are several objectives at the heart of the newly revamped Law Clinic Grants Program that are a continuation of the work of the former Post-Graduate Civil Legal Fellowship Program:

- ★ Increase the amount of civil legal services available in Illinois by providing efficient and effective civil legal services by qualified lawyers and law students under their supervision.
- ★ Develop additional legal, interpersonal, professional, and business skills to enable the clinic participants to obtain marketable legal skills and aid in their full-time employment after law school.
- ★ Help the participating law students develop professional networking skills and to establish their own professional network.
- ★ Enhance the legal profession by instilling in a young lawyer a commitment to pro bono and legal aid services to be provided to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Illinois Bar Foundation is proud to announce \$50,000 in Law School Clinic Grants in FY24.



We are excited to partner with **DePaul University College of Law**, **Loyola University School of Law**, **Northern Illinois University College of Law**, and **Southern Illinois University School of Law** during the 2023-2024 School year, supporting their clinics, students and the people they serve.



ILLINOIS JUSTICECORPS

**2023-2024
Illinois
JusticeCorps
Fellows
at their
swearing in**



In 2023, Illinois JusticeCorps (ILJC) received additional funding from both AmeriCorps and the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to expand to new host sites, bringing the new total to 17 sites. ILJC expanded to Adams, DeKalb, and Sangamon Counties, executing its traditional model of physically placing a JusticeCorps Fellow in one county courthouse within a judicial circuit. With the expansion, ILJC piloted a traveling model in the 1st and 4th Circuits, where a JusticeCorps Fellow travels between multiple counties within the circuit providing in person assistance across more than just one county courthouse.

As always, no matter where our Fellows and volunteers serve, ILJC provides appropriate resources and one-on-one assistance to people coming to court without lawyers. Courthouses are confusing and overwhelming places for people not familiar with the legal system, and those who receive assistance from ILJC report that they are better informed and better prepared to move forward with their cases. When court patrons were surveyed about whether their experience could have been improved, patrons overwhelmingly replied with comments such as, "I had a wonderful experience...[they] helped me find out what I need for my case," and "thank you for spending so much time with me today."

Where to Find Us



Adams County | Champaign County | Cook County | DeKalb County | Jackson County | Kane County |
Kankakee County | Knox County | Lake County | Madison County | Marion County | McHenry County |
McLean County | Peoria County | Sangamon County | Winnebago County



SPECIAL PROJECTS & OTHER INITIATIVES

ISBA YLD Children's Assistance Fund

Initially created to help open children's waiting rooms in courthouses across the state, the Children's Assistance Fund of the ISBA's Young Lawyers Division has since broadened its mission and today supports the ISBA YLD Internship at the Public Interest Law Initiative. This intern provides legal services to or on behalf of children at a PILI-participant legal aid agency, yielding tangible results for their agencies and the clients they serve through direct assistance, while also fostering a commitment to service and enhancing the legal aid community through the relationships and skills they build.



Jason E. Bellows Fund

In memory of her late husband, Hon. Carole Bellows created a scholarship fund to assist law school students in need. In Fiscal Year 2024, the University of Illinois College of Law received a \$2,500 grant to award one special first year law student a partial tuition scholarship.

Rural Practice Initiative

The IBF assists with the administration of the ISBA's Rural Practice Initiative, which aims to address the shortage of attorneys in rural areas of Illinois by connecting rural and small town law firms looking for law clerks and associates with law students and attorneys interested in practicing law in rural communities in Illinois.



M. Denny Hassakis Fund

Established by Mark and Janet Hassakis, the M. Denny Hassakis Fund focuses on improving the Illinois' juvenile justice system, through public policy changes and support of programs helping vulnerable youth. Recent projects include supporting criminal record expungement and sealing services at the Jefferson County Back to Work Summit with Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, supporting an Attorney Defender Panel at the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, and support for the Northwestern Prisoner Education Program

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

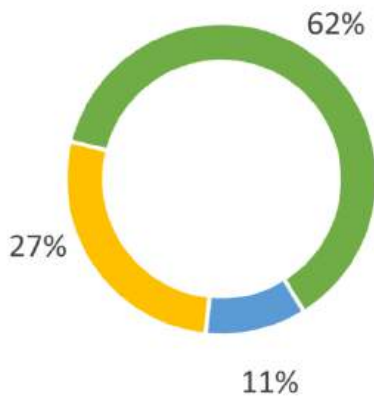
Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>		<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Undesignated</u>	<u>Designated</u>		
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Grants and contributions				
ISBA membership	\$ 222,217	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,217
Champions	6,893	6,893	91,249	105,035
Warren Lupel Fund	-	-	23,602	23,602
Memorials	400	-	-	400
M. Denny Hassakis Fund	-	-	500	500
Illinois JusticeCorps	-	-	1,034,926	1,034,926
Walter Durley Boyle Charitable Trust	-	-	11,122	11,122
Giving Circle	6,033	-	1,210	7,243
100% Club	40,280	-	3,286	43,566
Rural Practice Law Initiative	-	-	17,684	17,684
Other	23,243	-	-	23,243
Interest and dividends, net of fees of \$ 29,200	85,297	-	16,996	102,293
Unrealized gain on investments	152,697	-	105,800	258,497
Realized gain on investments	120,712	-	17,919	138,631
Ogden Brainard Residuary Trust	-	15,550	-	15,550
Young Lawyers Division	-	5,800	-	5,800
Gala	686,552	-	-	686,552
Receptions	34,610	-	-	34,610
Cy Pres Awards	126,750	-	-	126,750
Contributed nonfinancial assets	110,869	-	-	110,869
Special events	70,931	-	7,954	78,885
Other	9,196	-	-	9,196
Net assets released from restrictions and designations				
Satisfaction of Board's designations	24,672	(24,672)	-	-
Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,035,873	32,741	(1,068,614)	-
Total revenues and other support	2,757,225	36,312	263,634	3,057,171
EXPENSES				
Program services				
Grants and contributions	487,698	-	-	487,698
Lawyers Care Fund	200,283	-	-	200,283
Illinois JusticeCorps	939,956	-	-	939,956
Total program services	1,627,937	-	-	1,627,937
Supporting activities				
Management and general expenses	274,875	-	-	274,875
Fundraising expenses	712,000	-	-	712,000
Total supporting activities	986,875	-	-	986,875
Total expenses	2,614,812	-	-	2,614,812
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	142,413	36,312	263,634	442,359
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,270,098	1,021,741	2,493,206	5,785,045
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 2,412,511	\$ 1,058,053	\$ 2,756,840	\$ 6,227,404

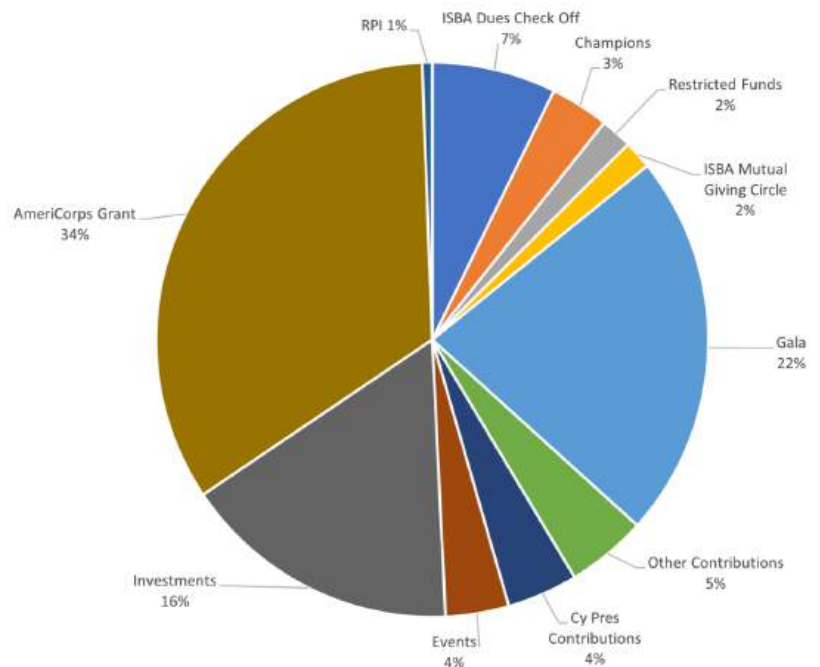
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 591,395	\$ 570,210
Investments	4,272,564	3,907,337
Pledges receivable, net	62,089	63,610
Other receivables	82,280	56,240
Prepaid expenses	<u>29,872</u>	<u>66,752</u>
Total current assets	5,038,200	4,664,149
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Equipment and software, net	9,659	3,666
Long-term pledges receivable, net	325,558	320,069
Walter Durley Boyle Charitable Trust	378,012	357,605
Ogden Brainard Residuary Trust	<u>1,027,696</u>	<u>964,970</u>
Total non-current assets	1,740,925	1,646,310
Total assets	<u>\$ 6,779,125</u>	<u>\$ 6,310,459</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 73,020	\$ 42,373
Grants payable	260,000	250,000
Law school clinics payable	50,000	-
Deferred revenue	35,750	141,021
Due to Illinois State Bar Association	<u>132,951</u>	<u>92,020</u>
Total current liabilities	551,721	525,414
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	2,412,511	2,270,098
Designated for special projects	<u>1,058,053</u>	<u>1,021,741</u>
Total net assets without donor restrictions	3,470,564	3,291,839
With donor restrictions	<u>2,756,840</u>	<u>2,493,206</u>
Total net assets	<u>6,227,404</u>	<u>5,785,045</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 6,779,125</u>	<u>\$ 6,310,459</u>



- Program Expenses
- Management Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses



OUR SUPPORTERS

Our sincerest gratitude to all the donors who contributed to the IBF during the 2024 fiscal year (*July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*). Below is a list of donors who contributed \$1,000 and above:

\$50,000 and above

Edelson PC
Patrick A. Salvi Family Foundation

\$30,000 and above

ISBA Mutual Insurance Company
Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.

\$20,000-\$29,999

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Making a Difference with Cy Pres Funds

Cy pres awards received by the Illinois Bar Foundation allow us to provide more aid to the grantee organizations and attorneys in need that we fund throughout the state of Illinois, and in some cases even allow us to fund new projects, such as our COVID-19 Lawyers Care Relief Fund or contributions to the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative.

Thank you to following firms for recommending the IBF for recent cy pres awards:

-Bailey Glasser, LLP

**-Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum &
Nagelberg LLP**

-Edelson PC

-Grassroots Law & Organizing for Workers

-Johnson Becker, PLLC

-Prince Law Firm

-Tycko & Zavareei LLP

-Stephan Zouras, LLC

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Below is a listing of Gold Champions and above in appreciation of the 10-year commitment these individuals have made to the IBF. A complete list of all of our generous Champions can be found on our website.

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Dr. Mary L. Milano
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July 2023: La Salle Golf Classic
Senica's Oak Ridge



September 2023:
Presidential Reception
honoring Rory T. Weiler
& Sandra Crawford





October 2023:
24th Annual Gala

*honoring
Patrick A. Salvi*

Chicago





November 2023: Veterans'
Week of Service
*Participating students show off their
additions for veterans' care packages
coordinated by Illinois JusticeCorps*



**March 2024: Lawyers Rock
Bottom Lounge, Chicago**



**May 2024: Lawyers Care Reception
honoring Michael J. Scalzo &
Hon. Russell W. Hartigan, Ret.**





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Contact Information

20 S. Clark St., Suite 810
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312.726.6072

424 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone: 800.252.8908

IllinoisBarFoundation.org

