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2023 WESTERN MASS. GRANTEE RECEPTION



**WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
SPRINGFIELD, MA**

October 4, 2023
4:30 PM

AGENDA

Welcome

Dean Zelda B. Harris

Western New England University School of Law
Springfield, MA

Opening Remarks

Angela C. McConney, Esq.

Overview of 2023 Grantmaking

Reflections from a Grantee

Brad Gordon, Esq.

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
Pittsfield, MA

Introduction of President's Award

Angela C. McConney, Esq.

President's Award Honoree Remarks

Jeffrey J. Trapani, Esq.

Pierce Davis & Perritano
Northampton, MA

Closing Remarks

Angela C. McConney, Esq.

2023 LEGAL INTERN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Created to inspire a future generation of public interest attorneys while increasing staff resources at MA legal aid organizations, this program is generously funded by the MBF Fellows, the Smith Family, and the MBA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.



Virginia Ambeliotis

Boston College Law School
Political Asylum/Immigration Rep. (PAIR) Proj.



Katherine Blankinship *(Smith Fellow)*

Boston University School of Law
MetroWest Legal Services



Sydney Blomstrom *(Smith Fellow)*

Boston College Law School
Volunteer Lawyers Project



Abby Gould

Boston University School of Law
MetroWest Legal Services



Timothy Scalona

Suffolk University Law School
Harvard Legal Aid Bureau



Ali Shafi *(MBA DEI Fellow)*

Boston College Law School
Prisoners' Legal Services of MA

2023 Grantee Speaker



Brad Gordon, Esq.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY
REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Pittsfield, MA

An attorney and trained mediator and conciliator, Brad Gordon has served as the Executive Director and Staff Attorney for the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority (BCRHA), where he administers housing counseling and homelessness prevention programs, for over 30 years. He has experience in housing law, poverty law, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and is the founder of BCRHA's Dispute Resolution Center. He also developed Berkshire County's first court connected mediation program.

In addition to his work with BCRHA, Brad serves on the Leadership Council of the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness and the Citizens Housing and Planning Association. He sits on the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance and co-chairs both the Massachusetts Regional Housing Network's Public Policy Committee and the Three County Continuum of Care's Board. Brad previously served on the Berkshire Bar Association's ADR Committee, on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on ADR, and on the Bench/Bar Committee of the Western Massachusetts Housing Court. He earned his BA from the University of Massachusetts and his JD from the University of Buffalo-School of Law.

Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority has been an MBF IOLTA Grantee since 1997. In that time, the organization has been awarded 28 grants totaling \$794,230.

2023 CHIEF JUSTICE GANTS JUDICIAL SCHOLARS

The late Chief Justice Gants was a champion of access to justice and equity in the Massachusetts legal system. This program was conceived in his memory to give Massachusetts law students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the judicial system, while also creating equity by increasing pathways to successful legal, public service and judicial careers.



Andrew Anderton

Emilia Ball

Daisha Bishop

Hui Chen

Lahela Delaney

Abigail Druhot

Nadia Eldemery

Aurouramary Estaba

Alexander Garcia

Jack Heavner

Tracey Kelly

Andrew Kish

Daniel Martinez

Emilee Morin

Micaela Partinico

Ian Phipps

Zachary Polen

Hannah Saturley

2023 SPECIAL GRANTS



Massachusetts Bar Association

MA Supreme Judicial Court
Judicial Youth Corps Program
\$40,000



Gann Academy

MA Mock Trial Championship
\$2,500

2023 President's Award

Jeffrey J. Trapani, Esq.



PIERCE DAVIS & PERRITANO LLP

Northampton, MA



Jeffrey Trapani is Of Counsel to Pierce Davis & Perritano LLP, where he concentrates in civil litigation, including insurance defense, employment law, municipal liability, business litigation, and professional malpractice. He also represents landlords in summary process action and housing discrimination claims and insurance companies in unfair settlement claims and coverage issues. Jeff often appears before the Federal and State Courts throughout Massachusetts, as well as various administrative agencies, including the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. In addition to trial work, Jeff represents clients in mediations and arbitrations.

When he is not in the courtroom, Jeff has participated as a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association's (MBA) House of Delegates, as a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil and Appellate Procedure of the Supreme Judicial Court, as a Representative for Hampshire County Bar Association on the MBA's Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Appointments, and as a Hearing Officer for the Board of Bar Overseers. He has been an active member of the Legislative Steering Committee of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, having served as Chairman.

Jeff earned his BA from Wake Forest University and his JD from New England School of Law. He is a Louis D. Brandeis Fellow of the MBF and has been a dedicated grant reviewer for the Western Mass. Regional Grant Advisory Committee.

2023/2024 IOLTA Grant Award Recipients

Barnstable County

Barnstable Cty Bar Assn., Probate & Family Court, \$19,920
Cape Mediation, Mediation & Conciliation Program, \$18,000
WE CAN, Legal Assistance Program, \$17,000

Berkshire County

Berkshire Cty Regional Housing Authority, Housing Services and Mediation Program, \$36,000
Berkshire Immigrant Center, Immigration Legal Services and Education, \$25,000
Health Law Advocates, Inc., Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids, \$20,000

Bristol County

Bristol Cty Bar Assn., Pro Bono Conciliation Prog., \$10,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fall River, Immigration Law Programs, \$110,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Bristol County, Immigration Law Programs, \$10,000
South Coastal Counties Legal Services, General Support Grant, \$221,768
The Women's Center, Legal Advocacy Program, \$30,000

Essex County

Children's Law Center of MA, Child & Adolescent Legal Services (CALs) Program, \$65,000
Essex County Bar Assn., Housing Program, \$20,500
Essex County Bar Assn., Multi-Court Pro Bono Conciliation Program, \$23,580
Essex County Bar Assn., Probate & Family Program, \$20,468

Grant Recipients (Cont'd.)

Essex County (Cont'd.)

Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Domestic Violence Family Law Program, \$38,316

Northeast Legal Aid, General Support Grant, 159,066

The Resolution Center, Court & Community Mediation, \$9,000

Franklin County

Collaborative Resolutions Group, Family Mediation, \$20,000

Franklin Cty Bar Assn., Legal Aid Program, \$55,000

Quabbin Mediation, Four-County Mediation Services, \$30,000

Hampden County

Community Legal Aid, General Support Grant, \$179,558

Hampden County Bar Assn., Children's Law Project, \$70,000

Hampden County Bar Foundation, Legal Clinic, \$15,000

Western New England University School of Law Center for Social Justice, Consumer Debt Initiative, \$25,000

Hampshire County

Center for New Americans, Citizenship & Imm. Prog, \$20,000

Hampshire Cty Bar Assn., HELP & DRPC, \$15,000

Safe Passage, Legal Advice & Referral Panel, \$27,500

Middlesex County

Community Dispute Settlement Center, Divorce/Family/Juvenile District Court Mediation, \$17,500

De Novo, General Support Grant, \$150,170

Housing Families, Homelessness Prev. & Legal Svcs., \$30,000

Jewish Family & Children's Service, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, \$15,000

Grant Recipients (Cont'd.)

Middlesex County (Cont'd.)

Mediation Works Inc., Court Mediation Program, \$12,000

MetroWest Legal Services, General Support Grant, \$150,170

MetroWest Mediation Services, Court Mediation & Conciliation Services, \$20,000

Middlesex Cty Bar Assn., Pro Bono Conciliation, \$15,000

Saheli, Legal Advocacy Program, \$16,900

The Second Step, Steps to Justice, \$20,000

Norfolk County

DOVE, Legal Advocacy Program, \$25,000

Plymouth County

Pilgrim Advocates, Lawyer of the Day, \$12,000

Plymouth Cty Bar Assn., Probate & Family Court Conciliation Program, \$5,000

Suffolk County

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE), Free Legal Assistance for Environmental Justice, \$10,000

Boston CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children & Youth, \$15,000

Casa Myrna Vazquez, Legal Advocacy Program, \$50,000

Finex House, Legal Advocacy Program, \$23,000

Flaschner Judicial Institute, Education Programs & Publications for Judges, \$175,000

Greater Boston Legal Services, General Support, \$250,284

HarborCOV, Immigration Services for DV Survivors, \$10,000

Health Law Advocates, Medical-Legal Partnership for Immigrants, \$25,000

Grant Recipients (Cont'd.)

Suffolk County (Cont'd.)

Immigrant Family Services Institute, Legal Services, \$25,000

JRI Health Law Institute, Serving the Underserved: Closer to Home, \$15,000

Justice at Work, Immigrant Workers Project, \$30,000

KIND, Legal & Social Services for Children, \$25,000

Lawyers Clearinghouse, MA Legal Clinic for the Homeless & Low-Income Residents, \$20,500

Lawyers for Civil Rights, HealthJustice, \$10,000

Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice, Legal Rep., \$20,000

MA Advocates for Children, Children's Law Support & Education Justice Project, \$50,000.00

MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, 40-Hour Immigration Law Training, \$15,000

MA Law Reform Institute, Mass Legal Answers, \$10,000

MA Law Reform Institute, Statewide Equity, Stability & Justice Project, \$60,000

Pension Action Center, Helpline & Case Advocacy for Older Adults, \$15,000

Pine Street Inn, Homeless Court Program, \$15,000

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, Asylum & Detention Program, \$115,000

Prisoners' Legal Services, Health Equity & Brutality Proj, \$80,000

Rian Immigrant Center, Immigration Legal Services, \$50,000

Rosie's Place, Legal Clinics for Women, \$17,500

Third Sector New England, Family Law Project at the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, \$38,000

Veterans Legal Services, Legal Aid Services, \$60,000

Victim Rights Law Center, Pro Bono Enrichment Project: Improving Services for Marginalized Survivors, \$5,500.00

Women's Bar Foundation of MA, Family Law Project, \$25,000

Grant Recipients (Cont'd.)

Worcester County

Ascentria Community Services, Immigration Legal Assistance Program, \$75,000

CASA Project, Child Court Advocacy Program, \$50,000

Catholic Charities Diocese of Worcester, Immigration Legal Assistance Program, \$30,000

Community Legal Aid, General Support Grant, \$169,812

Dismas House of Central MA, BAR None Program, \$28,500

YWCA of Central MA, Court Advocacy, \$25,000

23/24 Grants At-A-Glance

- 75 grants awarded, totaling \$3.4 million.
- \$817,012 increase in funding over 22/23.
- Highest funding amount since 2012.
- 70 organizations funded statewide.
- 9 new programs funded.
- Awards totaling \$538,000 awarded to 13 Western MA organizations.
- Awards totaling \$380,000 awarded to 6 Worcester County organizations.
- 87 Grant Review volunteers participated.

Connect



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