



From the Foundation

by Martha Hardwick Hofmeister

Foundation Programs Support the Next Generation

Think back for just a moment to your high school

years. Before Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat, indeed before cell phones, apps, and even the Internet itself, our pressures and stresses were similar to those facing today's teenagers: SAT prep courses, Advanced Placement classes, transcripts and grade point averages. Extracurricular activities, community service hours, and part-time jobs. College applications, personal essays, financial aid forms, and deadlines. And adults everywhere asking, "So ... what do you want to do with the rest of your life?"

It's not easy being on the cusp of adulthood.

The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) funds a wide spectrum of programs and initiatives, and some of these programs and initiatives help teenagers navigate challenges and make decisions about their futures. As a result of these programs, we are making a small but potentially significant impact on the next generation.

Chapter Community Outreach Grants

The Foundation funds community service projects and pro bono activities that involve FBA chapter participation. The Chapter Community Outreach Grants program provides grants of up to \$5,000 each to FBA chapters' support projects related to the Foundation's mission to promote and support legal research and education. Some of the projects that have received funding from the Foundation have been specifically tailored to high school students. For example:

- A 2013 grant to the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter supported a series of events in six high schools across north-eastern and central Pennsylvania, reaching more than 250 students. FBA members volunteered their time to speak with the students about the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright* and what the "right to counsel" means in the U.S. court system. Each classroom was presented with educational DVDs, including *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Gideon's Trumpet*.
- A 2014 grant to the Chattanooga (TN) Chapter supported a two-day observance of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. This included a luncheon for 200 teenagers with inspiring remarks from several local attorneys on the historical struggles and triumphs in Chattanooga and the significance

of the legislation. Civil Rights-era music was provided by the Howard High School band, and artwork to commemorate the era was displayed. Although the chapter hoped to inspire the youth, the chapter itself was actually inspired by the kids who participated.

All FBA chapters are encouraged to apply for a Chapter Community Outreach Grant. The next deadline to apply for a grant is June 15. The application guidelines and a complete list of the projects that have received funding are available online at www.fedbar.org/foundation.

Public Service Scholarship Award

The Foundation established the Public Service Scholarship award to recognize and provide financial assistance to a graduating high-school senior who is the son or daughter of a current federal government attorney or federal judge and a current member of the FBA.

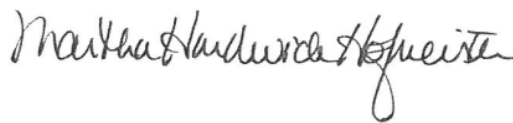
We recently heard from two of our past scholarship recipients:

- "I am so grateful to have been the 2012 recipient of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association scholarship," says Collette Berg. "My first semester at Fordham University, my textbooks cost well over \$500. As an 18-year-old living away from home for the first time, knowing that I had that money in my savings account made an immeasurable difference. I continue to purchase my textbooks each semester with that scholarship money."
- "Receiving the scholarship allowed me to focus on other things besides schoolwork and getting a job," says Ellie Johnston, who received the 2013 scholarship. "I became a tutor with D.C. Reads, where I traveled to the other side of D.C. every week and helped with a fifth-grade class. I opted to turn down the hourly wage D.C. Reads offered to work-study students, allowing the organization to hire another tutor. I could not have done this without the scholarship."

The Public Service Scholarship is \$5,000 and can be used for tuition, books, fees or housing. The deadline to apply for the 2015 Public Service Scholarship Award is April 30. Applicants are evaluated on the strength of their academic record, leadership skills and recognition, school/community activities and service, and essay response.

Vincent Van Gogh said, "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." Through the Chapter Community Outreach Grants program and the Public Service Scholarship, the Foundation of the FBA is providing a series of small opportunities

that together have the potential to make a great impact on many of today's high school students. ©



Take a Closer Look at the **FOUNDATION** of the Federal Bar Association



The Foundation of the FBA provides **Chapter Community Outreach Grants** of up to \$5,000 to support community service or outreach projects that involve FBA chapter participation. Projects must address the need for legal services in the community or fall under any component of the Foundation's mission.

Past grants have included funding for an oral history to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act; a legal writing program; a diversity seminar; a self-help legal clinic; a mentoring program and many others.

Programs such as these are made possible by gifts from FBA members like you. Take a closer look at the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association. Learn more about our initiatives and how you can support our work. Visit www.fedbar.org/Foundation today.

\$17,250
Granted to
FBA Chapters
in 2014