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MBF UPDATE

March 2010

New MBF Fellowship Levels Announced

Larry Johnson becomes charter Platinum Fellow

In 2007, the MBF Trustees began a strategic planning process that set forth goals to strengthen the Foundation and ensure that it thrives well into the future. To this end, we proudly introduce the MBF President's Circle- four new giving opportunities open to new members, as well as Life Fellows who are ready to renew their commitment to the MBF:

The MBF President's Circle

Bronze Fellow- \$10,000

Silver Fellow - \$25,000

Gold Fellow- \$50,000

Platinum Fellow- \$75,000

Past President Larry Johnson has responded to the challenge by pledging to become the Foundation's first President's Circle Platinum Fellow.



"Our profession's support of

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Thank You to our Newest Lead Fellows!

The following MBF Life Fellows increased their pledge levels recently to become Lead Fellows of the Foundation:

President's Circle/ Platinum Fellow:

Laurence M. Johnson, Esq.
Davis, Malm & D'Agostine
Boston

legal services and administration of justice programs is essential to fulfill our commitment to a society founded upon the rule of law and a system of justice that serves, and is accessible to, all of its members. Every lawyer believes in these ideals and it is a great pleasure to support the good work of the Foundation which every day greatly advances their realization."

In addition to new giving levels, the Foundation recently created the MBF Justice Circle, through which Fellows can choose to make an annual gift in perpetuity instead of committing to a particular pledge level.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the MBF's Fellows Program, and to make or increase your pledge on-line.

Additional charter members include:

President's Circle - Silver Fellows

Janet F. Aserkoff, Esq.
Stephen R. Delinsky, Esq.
Elaine M. Epstein, Esq.

President's Circle - Bronze Fellows

Richard J. Cain, Esq.
John F. Cogan, Jr., Esq.
Elisha W. Erb, Esq.
Francis A. Ford, Esq.
Kay H. Hodge, Esq.
Robert J. Marchand, Esq.
Norman M. Shack, Esq.
Craig E. Stewart, Esq.
Kenneth J. Vacovec, Esq.
Carol A. Witt, Esq.
Steven L. Wollman, Esq.

Mass. Black Lawyers Association to Hold 2010 Gala on April 22

MBF Fellow, Roscoe Trimmier, Jr., to be among the "Trailblazers" honored.

[Click Here](#) to register or sponsor:

President's Circle/ Bronze Fellow:

Robert J. Marchand, Esq.
Law Office of Robert J. Marchand
Fall River

Louis D. Brandeis Fellows:

Robert J. Ambroggi, Esq.
Law Office of Robert J. Ambroggi
Rockport

Martha Rush O'Mara, Esq.
Law Office of Martha Rush O'Mara
Melrose

Moira E. Tierney, Esq.
Law Office of Moira E. Tierney
New Bedford

Welcome New MBF Fellows!

The MBF offers thanks and a warm welcome to our newest Fellows:

Brandeis Fellow:

Monica Pastorok, Esq.
Law Offices of Monica Pastorok
Lexington

Foundation Fellows:

Faye B. Rachlin, Esq.
Legal Assistance Corporation of
Central Massachusetts
Worcester

Kevin J. Sullivan, Jr., Esq.
WilmerHale
Boston

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. [Click here](#) to view a video about the work of the MBF and its



Grantees.

**Thank you to our
 friends at**



**for donating countless
 hours to the pro-bono
 production of this video.**

Did you know that one of the best ways to support the MBF takes just a few minutes and doesn't cost you a cent?

**Recommend a Colleague to
 Join the MBF Society of
 Fellows!**

[Click here](#) to recommend a new Fellow today.

MBF Funds in Action: Grantee Spotlight

The MBF awarded a 2009/2010 IOLTA grant to **Western Mass. Legal Services** to support the **Housing Court Intervention Project in Hampden County** which helps pro se litigants in summary process cases.

WMLS program staff shared this story with us about a recent case:

"Ms. M. is a severely ill mother of three, who suffers from Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy, a progressive disease which affects the heart. By 37 years of age, she was recovering from a pacemaker insertion, constant fatigue and was under doctor's orders to avoid any strenuous activity. Compounding Ms. M.'s physical problems were the poor conditions in her apartment and her contentious relationship with her landlord. Ms. M. was a section 8 voucher holder with only her disability income with which to support her

family and to prepare them for a future without her. Her landlord took advantage of her tenuous position by demanding illegal side payments above her rental portion in order to continue to provide shelter for her family. He refused to make necessary repairs to conditions which adversely affected her health, and responded to complaints with retaliatory acts.

The HCIP advocate met Ms. M. at Housing Court on the day of her eviction trial for non-payment of rent. He accepted her case for full representation and was able to remove the case from the day's docket. Because Ms. M. had been so adversely affected by her tenancy, and needed to ensure safe housing for her children in the event she was suddenly debilitated, the HCIP advocate arranged for her to move to more adequate housing while contemporaneously filing a civil case against the landlord. The advocate successfully negotiated a \$3,000 settlement of claims against Ms. M.'s former landlord, which enabled her to settle her family safely in their new home."

For more information about WMLS, please visit www.wmls.org.

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