



MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

Keeping the promise of justice since 1964

2017/2018 IOLTA Grants Program Awards

Barnstable County

Organization: **Barnstable County Bar Association**

Program: Lawyer for the Day Program

Description: To provide direct legal assistance to pro se individuals, who are not otherwise represented, at the Barnstable Probate and Family Court. Funds will also support the Grandparent Advocacy Program. Services will be provided by approximately 33 volunteer attorneys.

Award: \$12,000.00

Website: www.barnstablecountybarassociation.org

Organization: **Barnstable County Bar Association**

Program: Pro Bono Conciliation Project

Description: To support a pro bono conciliation project that will seek to remove as many cases as possible from the Barnstable County Probate & Family Court trial docket. Pro bono conciliators recruited from the BCBA will focus primarily on pro se litigants.

Award: \$7,920.00

Website: www.barnstablecountybarassociation.org

Organization: **Cape Cod Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.**

Program: Cape Cod Court Mediation & Conciliation Program

Description: To provide no-fee mediation services in Barnstable and Nantucket Counties. Funds will be used to provide summary process mediation in Falmouth and Orleans District Courts, small claims mediation in Falmouth and Nantucket District Courts, and a new civil conciliation program in Barnstable District Court.

Award: \$12,400.00

Website: www.capemediation.org

Organization: **WE CAN**

Program: Legal Assistance Program

Description: To provide free legal consultations to low-income women of Cape Cod regarding primarily family law matters, including divorce, child support, and custody issues. Funds will also be used to provide attorney-led Divorce Boot Camps, Family Law Overview workshops, workshops on Legal Issues Facing Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and workshops on Child Support.

Award: \$13,368.00

Website: www.wecancenter.org

Berkshire County

Organization: **Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority**

Program: Housing Services & Mediation Program

Description: To provide legal counseling, informal mediation/negotiation services, and in-court mediation services to resolve landlord/tenant, neighbor, and some small claims disputes to all Berkshire County landlords, tenants, homeowners, and consumer disputants. Funds will also be used for community legal education programs.

Award: \$20,000.00

Website: www.bcrha.com

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Family Law Advocacy Project - Berkshire County

Description: To obtain protective orders, divorce, safe custody and visitation arrangements, and child support for low-income custodial parents. The project provides advice, representation, and community legal education sessions for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence or have other complex family law problems.

Award: \$28,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition**

Program: Berkshire Immigrant Center

Description: To assist low-income Berkshire County immigrants by providing advice, information, advocacy, referral and support on issues related to immigration, employment, citizenship, housing, and social services. Funds will be used to conduct a semi-monthly walk-in clinic offering clients consultation with an immigration attorney.

Award: \$16,500.00

Website: www.miracoalition.org

Bristol County

Organization: **Bristol County Bar Association**

Program: Pro Bono Conciliation Project

Description: To conduct a pro bono conciliation project that will seek to remove as many cases as possible from the Bristol County Probate & Family Court trial docket and to get the parties to self-determine case outcomes. Pro bono conciliators drawn from the BCBA will focus primarily on pro se litigants.

Award: \$7,920.00

Website: www.bristolcountybar.org

Organization: **Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.**

Program: Immigration Law Program
Description: To provide low and no-cost legal assistance for low-income refugees and immigrants, including legal services such as representation in court proceedings and interviews, multi-lingual community education forums, and outreach to local detainees and victims.
Award: \$90,000.00
Website: www.cssdioc.org

Organization: **JRI Health Law Institute**
Program: Serving the Underserved Closer to Home Project
Description: To provide legal services to indigent people living with HIV at the AIDS Service Organization near their homes in Southeastern Mass and Lowell. Collaborating ASOs are located in Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River, Plymouth, Taunton, and Lowell.
Award: \$7,500.00
Website: www.jri.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**
Program: AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Mass. Program
Description: To provide supplemental support to a major grant from the Corporation for National and Community Services that aims to bring 32 AmeriCorps volunteers into 18 legal aid programs throughout the state.
Award: \$28,000.00
Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**
Program: Elder Law Project
Description: To provide direct representation to low-income elders regarding the significant problems they are facing. SCCLS will focus on three pressing issues: affordable housing preservation, financial security, and access to appropriate health care and advanced directives.
Award: \$20,000.00
Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**
Program: Homelessness Prevention Project
Description: To provide direct representation to tenants and homeowners in Southeastern Mass. who are at risk of homelessness due to eviction, foreclosure, termination of rental assistance benefits, discrimination, and/or denial of access to subsidized housing or emergency shelter.
Award: \$31,142.00
Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **The Women's Center**
Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: To assist individuals seeking protection from abusive relationships by advising them of their options in regard to filing restraining orders and/or criminal charges, offering victims the information and resources needed to make informed choices, and by assisting them to access pro-bono legal services. Program serves the 12 towns and two cities that comprise the greater New Bedford/Fall River area.

Award: \$25,000.00

Website: www.thewomenscentersc.com

Essex County

Organization: **Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Inc.**

Program: Child & Adolescent Legal Services Program

Description: To provide a comprehensive approach to child advocacy, implementing a wide range of legal and related services to children in MA. Services include direct representation, information and referral, technical assistance and training to attorneys, parents, and youth-serving professionals; community outreach and education; and systemic advocacy.

Award: \$50,000.00

Website: www.clcm.org

Organization: **Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Inc.**

Program: The EdLaw Project

Description: Together with the Youth Advocacy Department, this program will provide educational advocacy to the state's highest risk children, as well as training and technical assistance to professionals and parents working with this population.

Award: \$7,500.00

Website: www.clcm.org

Organization: **Essex County Bar Association**

Program: Multi-Court Pro Bono Conciliation Program

Description: To remove as many cases as possible from the Essex County trial docket using over 165 pro bono conciliators from the ECBA to resolve conflict, at no cost to the parties or courts, prior to trial at six courthouses in Essex County.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.essexcountybar.org

Organization: **Essex County Bar Association**

Program: Probate & Family Court Lawyer for the Day Program

Description: To support low-income individuals in Probate and Family Court matters, such as divorce, custody, child support, visitation, guardianship, abuse prevention, and restraining orders. Attorneys volunteer their time at Essex County Probate Courts.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.essexcountybar.org

Organization: **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center**

Program: Domestic Violence Family Law Program

Description: To provide legal advocacy, direct representation, and support to low-income victims of domestic violence in Essex County with their safety and family law issues. Services are provided both by staff attorneys and a pro bono attorney panel.

Award: \$16,307.00

Website: www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org

Organization: **North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc.**

Program: Housing Law Program

Description: To reduce the backlog of pending cases in the Middlesex Probate and Family Court using pro bono conciliators. The conciliators will meet with the parties and counsel to provide guidance and insight into what a Judge may do on a certain issue or to provide a reasonable solution to an existing logjam in the negotiations.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.nscap.org

Organization: **North Shore Community Mediation, Inc.**

Program: Court and Community Mediation Program

Description: To provide pre-screening and mediation services at the small claims and summary process sessions in the Salem, Peabody, and Gloucester District Courts, to juvenile/CRA cases from the Essex County Juvenile Court, and complex divorce and separation cases from the Salem session of the Essex County Probate & Family Court.

Award: \$4,000.00

Website: www.nsmmediation.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**

Program: Consumer Law Project

Description: To stabilize neighborhoods and prevent homelessness and deepening poverty among low-income homeowners by providing specialized legal services. Funds will be used to provide direct representation, advice, screening and referral, and community outreach on consumer issues including foreclosure, predatory lending, bankruptcy, debt/debt collection practices, and more. Program makes a full evaluation of clients' legal and financial issues.

Award: \$16,000.00

Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**

Program: Domestic Violence and Helpline Project

Description: To provide individual service and representation to low-income individuals seeking abuse prevention orders in the Lowell District Court one day per week. Funds will also be used for a helpline staffed by pro bono attorneys to assist clients who may not meet the priorities of NLA's MLAC-funded Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Program.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**

Program: Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Project

Description: To provide direct representation to immigrants with inter-related immigration, domestic violence, and family law matters. A helpline will be used to provide consultations and advice telephonically.

Award: \$34,500.00

Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**

Program: Northeast Housing Court Lawyer for the Day Program

Description: To provide legal aid, ranging from counsel and advice to full representation, in the Northeast Housing Court to low-income tenants and landlords. The service will be available in the Lowell, Lynn, and Lawrence sessions.

Award: \$40,000.00

Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Franklin County

Organization: **Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire, and North Quabbin Regions**

Program: Divorce & Family Mediation Program

Description: To offer low or no-cost divorce, post-divorce, custody, and relationship mediation services to low-income couples. Funds will also support the On-site Introductory Mediation Programs at the Franklin, Hampshire & Hampden Probate and Family Courts.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.mediationandtraining.org

Organization: **Franklin County Bar Advocates, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocates for Justice Program

Description: To support reduced-fee attorneys providing legal services to low-income children, elders, and victims of domestic violence who are at risk of exploitation, abuse, homelessness, and continued poverty. The Franklin Probate and Family Court encourages program participation to assist in dealing with the high volume of pro se litigants.

Award: \$38,000.00

Website: www.franklincountybar.org

Organization: **Quabbin Mediation**

Program: Mediation in Rural Courts in Central MA Program

Description: To provide free mediation services for small claims cases in Orange, Palmer, and Eastern Hampshire District Courts. The program will also provide free mediation screening and intake in the Franklin County Probate & Family Court's Orange sessions.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.quabbinmediation.org

Hampden County

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Housing Court Intervention Project

Description: To assist unrepresented tenants who appear in the Western Division of the Housing Court in response to summary process eviction summonses and to help low-income tenants prevent homelessness. Funds will be used to provide crisis legal assistance onsite at the court on summary process day and will provide additional casework beyond the day as needed.

Award: \$50,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Senior Partners for Justice - West Program

Description: To support the recruitment and coordination of pro bono attorneys who will represent low-income clients in family law cases. Funds will also be used to maintain the Limited Assistance Representation Project and a conciliation program, both of Hampden Probate & Family Court.

Award: \$17,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Volunteers for Justice Program

Description: To support an eviction advocacy and referral program that utilizes trained volunteers to screen, educate, and advocate for pro se tenant litigants in the Hampden session of Housing Court. The project refers cases that cannot be resolved with volunteer assistance to the WBF/HCBA Housing Court Lawyer for the Day program, Western New England University School of Law Rule 3:03 certified students, and CLA's own Volunteer Lawyers Service.

Award: \$7,500.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Hampden County Bar Association**

Program: Children's Law Project

Description: To provide legal representation for children involved in cases in the Probate and Family Court. Funds will also be used to recruit and train lawyers to serve as advocates at a reduced fee for children involved in family law cases.

Award: \$45,000.00

Website: www.hcbar.org

Hampshire County

Organization: **Center for New Americans**

Program: Citizenship & Immigration Legal Services Program

Description: To provide immigration legal services to low-income immigrants at low or no cost. Funds will be used to provide informational workshops, legal counsel, and application assistance.

Award: \$13,000.00

Website: www.cnam.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Family Law Advocacy Project - Hampshire & Franklin Counties

Description: To provide direct family law representation for families in crisis and to serve as a resource to other legal programs and professionals, as well as community residents, for legal information and consultation services.

Award: \$11,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Hampshire County Bar Association**

Program: Domestic Relations Program for Children

Description: To provide direct representation for children exposed to conflict in domestic relations cases and are ineligible for any other form of legal assistance. Funds will also be used to provide attorneys to children in the Hampshire Probate & Family Court's Family Resolution Specialty Court.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.hampshirebar.org

Organization: **Hampshire County Bar Association**

Program: Hampshire Elder Law Program

Description: To address the unmet civil legal needs of the low-income elders 60 years of age or older in Hampshire County. Local attorneys are paid on a reduced fee basis to represent elders referred to the program and each attorney takes at least one case pro bono.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.hampshirebar.org

Organization: **Safe Passage**

Program: Legal Advice and Referral Panel

Description: To support the legal program director who provides some direct representation for domestic violence victims in the Probate and Family Court, and to support a panel of reduced fee attorneys who provide legal consultation, advice, and representation to clients.

Award: \$13,220.00

Website: www.safepass.org

Middlesex County

Organization: **Community Dispute Settlement Center**

Program: Divorce/Paternity & District Court Mediation Program

Description: To provide mediation services to low and moderate income litigants in the Probate & Family and District Courts, both on-site at the courts and off-site at CDSC. Funds will be used to provide mediation to address issues related to married and unmarried separating couples, as well as small claims, summary process, and other complex civil issues.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.communitydispute.org

Organization: **Community Legal Services and Counseling Center**

Program: Domestic Violence & Child Support Advocacy Project

Description: To assist victims of domestic violence and their children in securing long-term protection from abuse, safe custody and visitation arrangements, child and spousal support, and access to health care. Funds will also be used to recruit, train, and supervise pro bono attorneys to handle domestic violence cases, as well as for various outreach activities.

Award: \$30,000.00

Website: www.clsacc.org

Organization: **Community Legal Services and Counseling Center**

Program: Homelessness Prevention Project

Description: To prevent homelessness by providing legal assistance to low-income families and individuals, people with disabilities, senior citizens, and victims of domestic violence in order to obtain or retain access to safe, affordable housing. Funds will also be used to recruit and train pro bono attorneys.

Award: \$7,500.00

Website: www.clsacc.org

Organization: **Community Legal Services and Counseling Center**

Program: Immigration Law Project

Description: To provide free immigration legal services to immigrants seeking political asylum, battered immigrants, and unaccompanied immigrant minors. Funds will also be used to conduct comprehensive asylum intake and referral to pro bono resources, to recruit and train volunteer attorneys, and to conduct systemic advocacy.

Award: \$45,000.00

Website: www.clsacc.org

Organization: **Housing Families, Inc.**

Program: Pro Bono Legal Services Program

Description: To assist low-income clients at-risk of becoming homeless by staffing the Lawyer for the Day Program at Malden District Court and providing weekly Eviction Defense Clinics. Funds will support the legal staff who, together with a 56 member pro bono panel, will provide legal representation, information, advice, and referrals to low-income clients who would not otherwise have access to legal services.

Award: \$25,000.00

Website: www.housingfamilies.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**

Program: Children's Education Advocacy Project

Description: To support an attorney who will provide advice, brief services, outreach, and representation to parents whose children are not receiving the services they need to succeed academically (either special education or discipline issues).

Award: \$20,000.00

Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**

Program: Domestic Violence Project

Description: To provide a full range of free legal services to low-income victims of domestic abuse in their contested family law cases, with highest priority given to custody and visitation cases.

Award: \$43,000.00

Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**

Program: Eviction Defense Project

Description: To provide advice, brief services, and full representation to low-income tenants in their summary process or subsidy termination cases, as well as to low-income homeowners facing foreclosure. Funds will also be used to hold weekly pro se clinics explaining the court process, relevant defenses, and mediation options, to tenants facing eviction.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Mediation Services, Inc.**

Program: Court Mediation Services Program

Description: To provide mediation services to individuals referred by the Framingham, Natick, Concord, and Marlborough District Courts, as well as the Middlesex County Juvenile and Probate and Family Courts.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.metrowestmediationservices.org

Organization: **Middlesex County Bar Association**

Program: Pro Bono Conciliation Program

Description: To reduce the backlog of pending cases in the Middlesex Probate and Family Court using pro bono conciliators. The conciliators will meet with the parties and counsel to provide guidance and insight into what a Judge may do on a certain issue or to provide a reasonable solution to an existing logjam in the negotiations.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.middlesexbar.org

Organization: **Somerville Community Corporation**

Program: Somerville Mediation Program Court/Community Project

Description: To provide alternative dispute resolution to low-income residents of Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Melrose, Needham, Norwood, Revere, Saugus, Wakefield, Winthrop, Norfolk, Walpole, Weymouth, and twelve other cities. Services are offered free of charge and focus on serving veterans, senior citizens, immigrants, and low-income residents.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.somervillecdc.org

Norfolk County

Organization: **DOVE, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: To provide direct legal assistance through advice, document preparation, and/or limited representation to domestic violence survivors.

Award: \$18,000.00

Website: www.dovema.org

Plymouth County

Organization: **Greater Brockton Center for Dispute Resolution**

Program: Brockton District Court Conciliation Project

Description: To support a pro bono conciliation project that will seek to remove as many cases as possible from the Brockton District Court Civil Division.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.gbcd.org

Organization: **Pilgrim Advocates, Inc.**

Program: Lawyer of the Day Program

Description: To support a Lawyer for the Day in the Plymouth and Brockton Probate and Family Courts every court day of the year, as well as two attorneys one day a week in the Brockton Housing Court.

Award: \$12,000.00

Organization: **Plymouth County Bar Association**

Program: Plymouth County Probate & Family Court Conciliation Program

Description: To support a pro bono conciliation project that will seek to remove as many cases as possible from the Plymouth County Probate & Family Court trial docket. Funds will be used to train pro bono conciliators drawn from the PCBA and to support the program coordinator.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.plymouthcountybar.com

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

Program: Immigration Law Project

Description: To provide direct representation immigration legal services to eligible clients in the Greater Brockton area. Services have recently expanded to providing assistance to unaccompanied minors residing in Bristol County and to adding Know Your Rights trainings throughout the region.

Award: \$45,000.00

Website: www.sccls.org

Suffolk County

Organization: **Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: To provide legal representation, information and referral, legal counseling, court accompaniment, outreach, and education to victims of domestic violence who are shelter guests, community clients, and hotline callers. Funds would also be used to support a medical-legal partnership program at MGH and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and an anti-trafficking program through the EVA Center.

Award: \$50,000.00

Website: www.casamyrna.org

Organization: **Finex House, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: To provide in-house, comprehensive legal services to survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The staff attorney will assist clients with family law issues such as divorces, spousal support, child custody and support, benefits, housing advocacy, and immigration issues.

Award: \$14,000.00

Website: www.finexhouse.org

Organization: **Flaschner Judicial Institute**

Program: Education Programs for Judges

Description: To provide educational programs designed specifically for the Massachusetts Judiciary.

Award: \$135,000.00

Website: www.flaschner.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Affordable Housing, Shelter Access & Foreclosure Prevention Project
Description: To preserve affordable housing for a large number of low-income individuals and families by conducting legal advocacy to preserve affordable units that are at risk of being lost to market rates due to "expiring use protections." The project will also assist low-income families impacted by the foreclosure crisis, as well as by the emergency shelter policies.
Award: \$29,241.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Family Work and Welfare Project
Description: To protect families from economic destitution and increase opportunities for economic stability through enforcement of rights and protections in the welfare laws. Funds will be used primarily to support individual representation, GBLS will continue to pursue administrative advocacy and litigation to address harmful agency policies and practices.
Award: \$25,000.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Pro Bono Employment and Healthcare for Low-Wage Workers Advocacy Project
Description: To leverage the resources of the private bar to ensure a high quantity of legal representation to low-wage workers in employment-related cases. The project provides pro bono attorneys and trained law students to secure unemployment compensation, training, and health insurance benefits for qualified individuals and their families.
Award: \$32,500.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Refugees and Immigrants Protection Project
Description: To address emerging and ongoing asylum and immigration needs of low-income refugee and immigrant communities in Massachusetts. Funds will be used to provide individual case representation, community legal education programs, and training and systemic advocacy at local and national levels.
Award: \$55,241.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Health Law Advocates, Inc.**
Program: Transgender Health Care Access Project
Description: To improve access to health care services for transgender clients in Mass. by providing direct legal services to low-income clients who have been denied access to health care, as well as brief advice and referral to additional clients. Funds will also be used for training the private bar and other advocates on how to use the law to access health care for transgender individuals.
Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.healthlawadvocates.org

Organization: **Irish International Immigrant Center**

Program: Immigration Legal Services Program

Description: To assist low-income immigrants by providing a full range of legal services, beginning with consultation at the program's weekly legal clinics. Staff attorneys and BIA accredited representatives provide immigrants, asylees, and refugees with legal advice and/or full representation.

Award: \$24,000.00

Website: www.iicenter.org

Organization: **Justice at Work**

Program: Small Claims "Wage Theft" Project

Description: To assist low-income workers in utilizing small claims court as an effective tool to rectify, punish, and deter wage theft (a situation in which an employer does not pay an amount of an employee's regular wages over time). Funds would be used to train law students, advocates, and staff; provide legal advice; and represent workers in small claims court.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.jatwork.org

Organization: **Lawyers Clearinghouse**

Program: Community Legal Referral Program

Description: To match volunteer lawyers with nonprofit organizations in need of, but unable to afford, legal assistance. Pro bono assistance will be provided to eligible organizations that serve low- to moderate-income people or serve a compelling community need.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.lawyersclearinghouse.org

Organization: **Lawyers Clearinghouse**

Program: Mass. Legal Clinic for the Homeless Program

Description: To conduct legal services clinics to the homeless and near homeless using volunteer attorneys at several area homeless shelters, including the Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House, Medeiros Center, and Bridge Over Troubled Waters. Funds will also be used to provide training to volunteer attorneys.

Award: \$7,500.00

Website: www.lawyersclearinghouse.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Advocates for Children**

Program: Children's Law Support and Education Justice Project

Description: To address the legal needs of Massachusetts children from low-income families who face barriers to equal educational opportunities. Funds will be used to provide in-house and pro bono legal advice and representation. Funds will also be used to conduct systemic advocacy as well as training and support to private attorneys and advocates.

Award: \$34,000.00

Website: www.massadvocates.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**

Program: Mass. Legal Answers Online Project

Description: To support a virtual legal helpline. Through a secure website, low-income clients statewide pose questions regarding civil legal issues that will be answered online by pro bono attorneys. Attorneys and clients can access the site at anytime, as long as there is an internet connection. This program is part of an ABA effort to launch virtual legal helplines in every state.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.mlri.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**

Program: Statewide Immigration Crisis Response Project

Description: To defend and protect the rights of low-income immigrants by developing systemic responses to challenge unlawful/harmful policies; developing local and state policies to mitigate federal-level impacts; and providing guidance, trainings, and substantive expertise on changing laws, policies, and regulations to legal aid advocates statewide.

Award: \$20,000.00

Website: www.mlri.org

Organization: **Pine Street Inn**

Program: Homeless Court Program

Description: To support an onsite coordinator for the Homeless Court, which is currently held at the Pine Street Inn. This specialty court assists homeless individuals in the removal of default warrants for low level felonies which are legal barriers that impede their ability to secure housing, employment, and substance disorder treatment.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.pinestreetinn.org

Organization: **Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project**

Program: Detention Center Initiative

Description: To advise and represent detained immigrants seeking asylum, waivers, and other relief in Immigration Court, and release on bond, parole, and habeas corpus petitions in federal court. Program also conducts presentations to detainees three times per month, refers to its pro bono and reduced fee panels, and trains attorneys on detainee issues.

Award: \$34,000.00

Website: www.pairproject.org

Organization: **Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project**

Program: Pro Bono Asylum Project

Description: To represent immigrants seeking political asylum by combining the resources of the private bar, law schools, and nonprofit agencies. Program also compiles an extensive training manual and conducts numerous training sessions for its pro bono attorney panel.

Award: \$60,000.00

Website: www.pairproject.org

Organization: **Prisoners' Legal Services**

Program: Chronic and Infectious Disease Program/Prison Health Care Project

Description: To ensure that prisons and jails identify, provide treatment for, and accommodate prisoners with chronic illness and mental health issues, including Hepatitis C, HIV, MRSA, MS, diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and many others.

Award: \$42,000.00

Website: www.plsma.org

Organization: **Prisoners' Legal Services**

Program: Prison Brutality and Civil Rights Program

Description: To provide advocacy to prisoners who have been assaulted by correctional staff. The project creates documentation of all instances where force or other acts of staff misconduct are used in a manner that violates prison regulations and other significant prisoners' rights. In cases involving mentally ill prisoners, program advocates to have clients transferred to specialized mental health units.

Award: \$27,500.00

Website: www.plsma.org

Organization: **Third Sector New England**

Program: Clubhouse Family Legal Support Project

Description: To provide legal representation to low-income parents with mental illness who are at risk of losing custody and all contact with their children. This project is a collaboration between Employment Options and the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee.

Award: \$23,741.00

Website: www.tsne.org

Organization: **Veterans Legal Services**

Program: Veterans Legal Services Program

Description: To hold walk-in clinics on-site at various agencies, shelters, and churches, utilizing law students to conduct intake, and provide direct legal assistance and representation on issues including housing, family law, disability, employment, elder law, veterans benefits/public benefits, and consumer disputes.

Award: \$20,000.00

Website: www.veteranslegalservices.org

Organization: **Women's Bar Foundation of MA**
Program: Family Law Project for Battered Women
Description: To provide referrals for pro bono legal assistance to low-income battered women and their children in contested family law litigation. The project recruits and provides ongoing training and mentoring for volunteer attorneys in the areas of domestic violence, divorce, child support, custody, and visitation.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.womensbar.org

Worcester County

Organization: **Ascentria Community Services, Inc.**
Program: Immigration Legal Assistance Program
Description: To provide free legal services, including direct representation, managed referrals, and pro se assistance, to low-income political asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and victims of trafficking, violent crime, domestic violence, and labor exploitation.
Award: \$40,000.00
Website: www.ascentria.org

Organization: **CASA Project, Inc.**
Program: Child Court Advocacy Program
Description: To provide volunteer CASA court advocates for abused and neglected youth in the Worcester County Juvenile Court, to ensure they receive needed services while in litigation, and to help them move quickly to safe, permanent homes. Funds will be used to monitor each case assigned and volunteers serving in the program.
Award: \$37,000.00
Website: www.casaworcestercounty.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: District Court Debt Collection Project
Description: To coordinate a pro bono program that assists low-income litigants in debt collection cases in the Worcester District Court. Volunteer attorneys would provide Limited Assistance Representation to eligible litigants including advice, forms preparation, negotiation with adverse parties, and representation at a hearing.
Award: \$12,500.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Pro Se Litigants in Family Court Program
Description: To limit the time and assistance needed from the court by pro se litigants by providing lawyers to advise clients (Lawyer for the Day Program), and representing clients in uncontested divorces (Uncontested Divorce Project).
Award: \$35,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**

Program: Zarrow Homeless Advocacy Project

Description: To support a staff attorney who will provide legal counsel and advice to clients and residents of homeless shelters and other imminently homeless individuals and families in order to reduce or prevent the incidences of homelessness. Full representation will be provided in cases where pro se advice is inadequate to resolve a client's problem.

Award: \$53,000.00

Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Dismas House of Central Massachusetts**

Program: BAR None Program

Description: To provide legal assistance to recently released ex-prisoners on any outstanding civil legal issues that are barriers to successful community reintegration. All assistance is provided free of charge to the client.

Award: \$18,500.00

Website: www.dismasisfamily.org

Organization: **Worcester County Bar Association**

Program: Reduced Fee Program

Description: To provide civil legal representation to individuals whose income is just above the nation's poverty line, and thus not eligible for free services, yet not sufficient to hire a private attorney at their regular rate of compensation.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.worcestercountybar.org

Organization: **YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

Program: SAFEPLAN Court Advocacy Program

Description: To provide certified advocates onsite in the district and probate courts to provide advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence seeking intervention and protection through the courts. The program serves Worcester Probate and Family Court, as well as the District Courts in Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Winchendon, and Worcester.

Award: \$27,000.00

Website: www.ywcacentralmass.org