

2003-2004 FCBA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Having successfully concluded its 13th year, the Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation remains an important vehicle for community service because of the continued support of individual FCBA members and their firms and companies. The Foundation's official mission remains to:

- (1) Support worthwhile educational and communications-related projects, particularly those directed toward students and younger children in the District of Columbia, through financial contributions and volunteer services; and
- (2) Foster greater public awareness and understanding of the development of communications technology, resources and law, and the role of communications law practitioners.

During the past year, the Foundation served these goals in numerous ways. It awarded **\$104,000** in college scholarships to students from four public high schools in the District of Columbia. The Foundation also awarded stipends to five law students working in summer internships at the FCC. In addition, the Foundation organized volunteers each month to make meals for the homeless at Martha's Table, and to deliver meals to the homeless through McKenna's Wagon. Foundation volunteers also arranged outings with the Martha's Table Youth Group.

TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees from the FCBA membership governs the Foundation. This year, our Trustees were **Paula Boyd, James Coltharp, Diane Davidson, Scott Delacourt, Brian Fontes, Praveen Goyal, Donna Gregg, Cheryl Leanza, Ruth Milkman, Maureen O'Connell, Mark Van Bergh, and Greg Vogt** and myself, **Tom Van Wazer**. Brian, Donna, Cheryl completed their final year on the Board along with me, and I thank them for their generous commitment of personal time and support. They leave a legacy at the Foundation that I am confident will be carried on by the new Trustees elected by the FCBA membership: **Joseph Di Scipio, Dee May, Loretta Polk, and Cara Voth**. **Greg Vogt** will serve as the Board's Chair for the coming year.

Special thanks to **Stan Zenor** and **Heidi Kurtz** for providing the Board with dedicated and professional support. Thanks as well to **Sandy Wilson** and the FCBA Executive Committee for their support of the Foundation. Finally, my personal thanks go to **Tami Smith**, my secretary, and **Sidley Austin Brown & Wood** for the continuous support they provided during my tenure on the Foundation Board.

FUNDRAISING

The Board of Trustees maintained its commitment to fund scholarships each year out of current donations rather than drawing down the Foundation's reserves. As a result, fundraising was at the forefront of this year's agenda. **Brian Fontes** and **Ruth Milkman** took the lead in a fundraising effort that resulted in a record level of donations to support scholarships in a single

year. Special thanks go to the following organizations for their generous contributions: **Verizon** (\$15,000); **Motorola** (\$12,000); **Comcast** (\$10,000); **CTIA the Wireless Foundation** (\$10,000); **Intelsat** (\$10,000); **Microsoft** (\$8,000); **Cingular** (\$5,000); **Verizon Wireless** (\$5,000) and **T-Mobile** (\$1,000).

FCBA members generously donated nearly \$4,500 to our annual giving campaign and contributed nearly \$11,000 through the membership dues check-off.

As usual, the Foundation also benefited from its two regular fundraising events – the Chairman’s Dinner and the annual Golf Tournament. The 17th Annual Chairman’s Dinner honoring FCC Chairman **Michael K. Powell** was held on December 4, 2003 at the Washington Hilton’s International Ballroom. Over 1,500 FCBA members and guests were in attendance. Special guests included FCC Commissioners **Kathleen Abernathy**, **Kevin Martin**, **Michael Copps** and **Jonathan Adelstein**. The event generated over \$30,000 for the Foundation.

The 8th Annual FCBA Foundation **Honorable Robert E. Lee Memorial Golf Tournament** was held on Friday, June 18, 2004. The group returned to **Bull Run Country Club** in Haymarket, Virginia, raising nearly \$20,000 for the FCBA Foundation's Scholarship Fund. The tournament is named in memory of former Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Robert E. Lee, who passed away in April 1993 after serving on the FCC for almost thirty years. Chairman Lee’s son, **Bobby Lee**, played and sponsored a team through his restaurants Mister Days and SoBe in Northern Virginia. The winning **Eagle Cup Trophy** team was from **Wiley Rein & Fielding, LLP**. **Mike Senkowski**, **Nancy Victory**, **Tom Antonucci** and **Brian Johnson** returned as champions after a brief hiatus from first place last year.

Special thanks go to the Golf Tournament planning committee chaired by **Alan Campbell** and included: **Robert Branson**, **Jonathan Cohen**, **Joe Cramer**, **Tom Dombrowsky, Jr.**, **Terri Granison**, **Laura Holloway**, **David Lacki**, **Phil Malet**, **Dee May**, **Alison Miller**, **Larry Movshin**, **Joy Ragsdale**, **Glenn Reynolds** and **Ryan Watts**.

The Foundation also continued to assist the Young Lawyer’s Committee in conducting the annual charity auction. The 14th annual auction was held on November 20, 2003 and raised over \$60,000 for the Spanish Education Center, a non-profit entity that provides educational programs for Spanish-speaking children to help them develop the skills essential to their future educational success, and to develop each child’s fluency in English. SED also provides child care for pre-school children in order to allow their parents to work or advance their own education. The Co-chairs of the Charity Auction Committee were **Ryan Wallach**, **Pam Slipakoff**, **Jennifer Warren**, **Carolyn Groves**, **Steve Hitchcock**, **Yaron Dori**, **David Don**, **Scott Delacourt**, and **Praveen Goyal**. Congratulations to the Committee and the countless volunteers who supported the Committee in making the 14th annual auction another smashing success. Thanks as well to **Heidi Kurtz** for her tireless efforts in support of the Auction.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

As noted above, the Foundation awarded eight college scholarships this year to students from four D.C. public high schools. This year's recipients are **Jacob Aladejobi** from Cardozo Senior High School – \$12,000 Motorola Scholarship; **Mercedes Burke** from Spingarn Senior High School – \$10,000 Comcast Scholarship; **Sandy Nyunt** from Bell Multicultural High School – \$8,000 scholarship; **Hevert Rios** from Bell – \$20,000 scholarship; **Myo Sabai Aye** from Bell – \$10,000 Intelsat Scholarship; **Olawale Williams** from Cardozo Senior High School – \$20,000 scholarship; **Brandon Thomas** from Roosevelt Senior High School -- \$8,000 CTIA the Wireless Foundation Scholarship; **Victor Mwimanzi** from Roosevelt -- \$8,000 Microsoft Scholarship; and **Antwonye Kirkpatrick** of Roosevelt -- \$8,000 scholarship. Foundation Board members attended the awards ceremonies at Cardozo, Roosevelt, Spingarn and Bell to present these scholarships in person.

The Foundation's college scholarships are awarded based upon a number of criteria, including the student's academic success, attendance record at school, participation in school activities, service to the community and financial need. Many of the applications tell unforgettable stories of young people who overcame obstacles in their lives to prosper in school and give back to their community. Each year, a group of Trustees interview candidates in person before selecting scholarship winners. Special thanks to **Diane Davidson**, the head of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, who oversaw the entire scholarship award process. Following the interviews, Diane effectively became a surrogate mother to a number of this year's winners. Diane was ably assisted by **Mark Van Bergh**, who participated in all the interviews and worked-up the excellent two-page spread in the June newsletter that introduced this year's winners to the FCBA membership. Finally, **Brian Fontes** and **Cingular Wireless** generously provided us with facility to conduct these interviews.

Once again, **WBDC-TV**, a **Tribune Company** station in the District of Columbia, provided production assistance to create a special video that featured this year's scholarship winners. The video was shown at the June 24th FCBA luncheon featuring Commissioner Abernathy. Special thanks go to **Shannon Days** of WBDC, the producer of these videos for the last three years, for her commitment and dedication to the scholarship winners and to **Jerry Martin**, who was General Manager at WBDC, for generously making his staff available to the Foundation in the last three years. We wish Mr. Martin well in his new assignment as the General Manager of Tribune's stations in Indianapolis.

The Foundation also continued its mentoring program for scholarship winners. Each scholarship recipient was paired with an FCBA member as his or her personal mentor. These mentors are available to help support these students in their transition to college. The program was administered this year by **Scott Delacourt**. Thank you to all FCBA members who volunteered to serve as mentors this year.

STIPENDS FOR SUMMER INTERNS

As noted above, the Foundation also awarded \$15,600 in stipends to five law students who worked as summer interns in various bureaus at the FCC. These awards were made in part from

the Chairman Robert E. Lee Scholarship Fund, established in memory of the former FCC Chairman and Commissioner who passed away after nearly thirty years of service at the agency. This year's winners were: **Stefanie Zalewski, Ryan Harrington, Ann Lawrence, Anjali Patel, and Marjorie Manne**. In addition, **Stefanie Zalewski** received an additional \$600 as the winner of the Max Paglin award, which is given annually to the Foundation's outstanding summer law student stipend winner. The award was established in the memory of Max Paglin, a former FCC General Counsel who founded the Golden Jubilee Commission on Telecommunications that compiled a definitive legislative history of the Communications Act. Special thanks to **Ruth Milkman** for heading-up the Board's subcommittee that reviewed this year's applications and selected the five winners. Ruth helped persuade the Board to increase the number of stipends awarded from four to five and increase each stipend award to \$3,000.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Continuing a rich tradition, the Foundation sponsored numerous volunteer events for FCBA members over the past year. Volunteers organized by **Howard Weiss** and **Chris Wood** continued to make meals for the homeless at Martha's Table each month. In addition, volunteers organized by **Cara Voth** and **Tom Van Wazer** continued to deliver meals to the homeless in the District each month through McKenna's Wagon, a mobile soup kitchen operated by Martha's Table. Thanks to the following regular McKenna's Wagon volunteers: **Karen Brinkman** (and daughter **Lisa**), **Buz Brinig, Dan Brenner, Jessica Davidson, Matt Perry, Amanda Tyler** and **John Wester**. Matt, Amanda and John are only honorary FCBA members who volunteered through **Sidley Austin Brown & Wood**. Finally, special thanks to **Peggy Greene** for her efforts in recruiting and organizing a new group of volunteers from the FCC.

At the luncheon on June 24th, **Cara Voth** was recognized as the Foundation's Volunteer of the Year. Cara is an active volunteer in McKenna's Wagon and was also recently elected as a Trustee to the Foundation's Board.

CONCLUSION

As I said at the June 24th luncheon, working for the Foundation is, in my view, the best job anyone could have in the FCBA. Meeting with and getting to know our scholarship winners is an unforgettable, uplifting experience. The knowledge that you were a member of an organization that helped these remarkable young people go to college is enormously rewarding. Preparing and distributing food for the homeless provides a sense of personal satisfaction that no legal or regulatory victory can match. I urge everyone in the FCBA make the time to volunteer for Foundation activities to experience first-hand the special satisfaction that comes from helping to make a difference in the lives of people far less fortunate than we are.

Thomas P. Van Wazer
Chair, 2003-2004
FCBA Foundation