

2010-2011 FCBA Foundation Annual Report

The Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation, celebrating its 20th anniversary, had a very successful year in providing charitable support for education and children's issues in furtherance of the goals set out in its Mission Statement to:

- 1) Support worthwhile communications-related and educational projects, as well as other community service projects, particularly those directed towards children and students, through financial contributions and through volunteer services provided by Foundation members and others.
- 2) Foster greater public awareness and understanding of the development of communications technology, resources and law.

Among this year's accomplishments, the Foundation raised over \$187,000 for the Internship and Scholarship Programs; including \$26,000 raised during the annual Charity Auction co-sponsored with the FCBA's **Young Lawyers Committee**, donating \$104,400 to **Project Wait No Longer** raised during the annual Charity Auction, and numerous volunteer activities. These activities, and the Foundation's overall success, is a direct result of the generous support of individual FCBA members, as well as their firms, companies and associations. This Annual Report summarizes the Foundation's activities during the recently completed 2010-2011 year.

TRUSTEES

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, most of whom are elected by the FCBA membership, but which also may include persons appointed in accordance with the Foundation's By-Laws. This year's Trustees were **Ann Bobeck**, **Kyle Dixon**, **David Don**, **Donna Epps**, **Natalie Roisman**, and **Rick Whitt**. The Foundation's Officers, as elected by the Board of Trustees, were: **Julie Kearney**, Chair; **Jennifer Warren**, Chair-Elect; **Jamie Hedlund**, Treasurer; **Karen Brinkmann**, Assistant Treasurer; **Anita Wallgren**, Co-Secretary; and **Henry Rivera**, Co-Secretary. All of this year's Trustees were elected by the FCBA Membership.

Two non-Board members worked extensively with the Board as co-chairs of the Volunteer Services Committee, **Joanna Georgatsos** and **Howard Weiss**. The FCBA's Executive Director **Stan Zenor**, Director of Member Services **Kerry Loughney**, Bookkeeper **Beth Phillips**, and **Wendy Parish** provided invaluable support to the Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundation's scholarship program is its most significant activity, both in terms of the funds awarded and in the amount of time required to administer the program. The scholarships and the laptops awarded to the scholarship recipients have the Foundation committing approximately \$190,000 to this year's scholarship program, helping these very deserving students attend the colleges of their choice.

Information and biographies of the scholarship recipients appear on page ____ of this issue of the FCBA News.

The scholarships are awarded based on a number of different criteria, including the student's predicted ability to succeed in college, past academic performance, participation in school activities, school attendance, service to the community, financial need, and other relevant factors that may apply to each individual applicant. The scholarship applicants are reviewed on the basis of a written application (including biographical information, academic performance and an essay) and a personal interview with members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees and other FCBA volunteers.

Ann Bobeck, Karen Brinkmann, Anita Wallgren, Rick Whitt, and Jamie Hedlund, served as the Foundation's Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs, overseeing the entire program. The Foundation received applications from high school students of diverse backgrounds from Bell Multicultural (Columbia Heights Educational Campus), Cardozo, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Friendship Collegiate Academy, McKinley Technology, Theodore Roosevelt, School Without Walls, Thurgood Marshall, and Woodrow Wilson High Schools in the District of Columbia. Seventeen of these high school students were then selected for interviews, and 13 emerged as the strongest applicants. Ten of these students were awarded scholarships; three, having received full scholarships from their colleges, are being assigned FCBA Foundation mentors in recognition of their qualifications. The scholarships (funded over four years) will assist these ten students as they move forward in their educational careers. In addition, all 13 of the recipients will be awarded laptop computers to assist with their studies and will be assigned mentors to help them advance academically and professionally.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundation's internship program awards stipends from the Chairman Robert E. Lee Scholarship Fund to law students serving in unpaid communications-related legal summer internships. The Foundation received 40 applications from students at law schools across the country. Eight students were selected to each receive a \$5,000 stipend to help defray expenses during their summer internships. In addition, the Foundation selected one student to receive the Max Paglin Award, representing an additional stipend of \$600.

Information and biographies of the internship stipend recipients appear on page ____ of this issue of the FCBA News.

Kyle Dixon and Donna Epps chaired the internship program. This included coordinating the distribution of notices of the Foundation's Internship Program to law schools throughout the country (a copy of the application also is posted on the Foundation's website), and then coordinating the review of the applications submitted. A group of Foundation Trustees reviewed the applications, evaluating the applicants' financial need, academic achievements, community service, and the relationship of their proposed internship to communications law. In addition, Foundation Trustees are serving as mentors to each of the internship stipend recipients.

CHARITY AUCTION

The 2010 Charity Auction was held on October 28, 2010. Co-sponsored by the Foundation and the FCBA **Young Lawyers Committee**, this year's event raised over \$104,400 to benefit Project Wait No Longer and \$26,000 to benefit the FCBA Foundation Scholarship Program. PWNL is a groundbreaking non-profit program that seeks to place foster children ages 6-17 with a "forever family," providing the love, nurturing and stability that these often forgotten and neglected children so desperately need. PWNL, run by the local non-profit organization The Barker Foundation, will use the Charity Auction proceeds to expand and strengthen its mission to find permanent, adoptive homes for older foster children in the Washington, DC area.

The Charity Auction planning committee members were **Micah Caldwell (Chair); Mark Brennan; Kyle Dixon; Justin Faulb; Paige Fronabarger; Stacy Fuller; Tarah Grant; Karen Henein; Catherine Hilke; Kerry Loughney; Jane Mago; Genevieve Morelli; Davina Sashkin; Josh Turner; Jennifer Warren; and Ron Whitworth.**

The sponsors of the 2010 Charity Auction were: **AT&T Services, Inc.; Consumer Electronics Association; Covington & Burling LLP; Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; DIRECTV; Google Inc.; Hogan Lovells US LLP; Kelley Drye & Warren LLP; Lockheed Martin Corporation; National Association of Broadcasters; Time Warner Cable; Wiley Rein LLP; Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP; and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Foundation continued its long-standing, monthly volunteer activities at Martha's Table and McKenna's Wagon. On the last Sunday morning of each month, volunteers helped prepare meals for the homeless at Martha's Table, and on the fourth Sunday of every month volunteers delivered meals to the homeless in the District through McKenna's Wagon (a mobile soup kitchen operated by Martha's Table). **Howard Weiss** was responsible for coordinating the Sunday morning meal preparation, while **Joanna Georgatsos** coordinated the McKenna's Wagon volunteers.

After thoughtful consideration, the FCBA Foundation Board has decided to retire its work with McKenna's Wagon. The FCBA Foundation will continue its volunteer activities with Martha's Table.

FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the FCBA's annual meeting and luncheon on June 10, the Foundation recognized **Joanna Georgatsos** as its Volunteer of the Year for her work and dedication to the FCBA Foundation and McKenna's Wagon over the years.

FUNDRAISING

The Foundation could not maintain or increase the level of services it provides without the funds needed to do so. The Board of Trustees remained committed to funding scholarships and internships using funds raised during the current year rather than drawing on the Foundation's

reserves. At the same time, the Board hoped to further build the Foundation's reserves towards eventually reaching a level at which income from the reserves is sufficient to help fund the Foundation's on-going work. Fundraising is, therefore, a critical element to the Foundation's ability to fulfill its mission. **Natalie Roisman** and **David Don** co-chaired the Foundation's Fundraising Committee, taking the lead in what was a very successful year for donations.

Special thanks go to the following companies, law firms and associations for endowing specific named scholarships for high school students: **2010 FCBA Charity Auction Committee** (\$26,000); **AT&T Services, Inc.** (\$10,000); **Comcast Corporation** (\$10,000); **Consumer Electronics Association** (\$10,000); **DIRECTV** (\$16,000); **Friends of Karen A. Kincaid** (\$24,000); **Google Inc.** (\$15,000); **Sidley Austin and the Sidley Austin Foundation** (\$8,000); **Time Warner Cable** (\$10,000); and **Verizon** (\$10,000). The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the companies, law firms, associations, and individuals (listed on page ___), who made significant contributions to the program this year. The Foundation also thanks **Microsoft** for providing free software for the laptop computers that the Foundation is awarding to its scholarship recipients. Thanks also to **Comcast Corporation** for underwriting the production costs of the video of this year's scholarship recipients that was shown at the June 10 FCBA luncheon.

The FCBA's 24th Annual Chairman's Dinner, honoring FCC Chairman **Julius Genachowski**, was held December 9, 2010 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The support of law firms, companies, and associations that purchased sponsor tables raised **\$40,000** for the Foundation.

The 15th Annual FCBA Foundation Honorable Robert E. Lee Memorial Golf Tournament, held on Monday, June 20, 2011 at the Woodmore Country Club in Mitchellville, MD, raised close to \$12,000. It is named in memory of former FCC Chairman Robert E. Lee, who passed away in April 1993 after serving on the FCC for almost 30 years. Thanks to **Robert Branson, Alan Campbell, Jonathan Zenas Choi, Jonathan Cohen, Peter Corea, Joe Cramer, Tom Dombrowsky, Jr., Steve Goodman, Phil Malet, Larry Movshin, Lee Petro, Joy Ragsdale, Glenn Reynolds (Chair), Michelle Sclater, and Larry Walke** who served on this year's planning committee and once again made the tournament a success.

FOUNDATION TASK FORCE ON MISSION

In light of the Foundation's 20th Anniversary, the current Board of Trustees decided that it was time to take a fresh look at the Foundation's activities and goals going forward. Under the leadership of trustees Jennifer Warren and Anita Wallgren, a Task Force was formed to review the Foundation's mission, achievements, and current activities and to make a report containing any recommendations for changing or maintaining the status quo. The Task Force included a broad cross-section of FCBA members and leadership and also included a consultative session with former Foundation presidents. In addition to the co-chairs, members of the Task Force included: Jim Coltharp, Rosemary Harold, Catherine Hilke, Luisa Lancetti, Paul Margie, Henry Rivera, Mark Schneider, Ryan Wallach, Howard Weiss, and Sheryl Wilkerson. The support and enthusiasm of the Task Force members and past presidents in completing this fundamental review was phenomenal. Most importantly, the Task Force recommended that the Foundation

maintain its current mission and objectives, but it offered several recommendations for improvement. Based on these recommendations, the Foundation Trustees have put together an aggressive Action Plan for implementation. Specifically, the Foundation has formed four new committees that will be comprised of Trustees and non-Trustees so that the Foundation may draw on the expertise of the entire FCBA. The committees include:

Financial Strategy Committee – to guide the long-term financial healthy and strategy of the Foundation.

Mentor Program Committee – to facilitate communications with Scholarship winners and FCBA members to maintain an ongoing relationship.

Communications Committee - coordinate communications between the Foundation and the FCBA membership regarding Foundation activities.

Staffing and Administrative Committee - this committee will review the findings of the Task Force and determined what, if any, steps are needed to gain additional staff support for the Foundation.

As of June 30, many of the items in the Action Plan have been successfully completed. The longer-term items will be reviewed and implemented by Jennifer Warren, Foundation Chair for 2011-12.

CONCLUSION

The Foundation's Board of Trustees worked hard this year to successfully fulfill the Foundation's mission and to build upon the success of past years. The continued generosity and dedication of FCBA members greatly contributed to making this another successful year for the Foundation, helping to touch the lives of students, children, and the DC community who are the direct beneficiaries of the Foundation's programs. As of June 30, four Board members have completed their three-year terms on the Foundation (**Henry Rivera, Natalie Roisman, Rick Whitt and Julie Kearney**), one member has retired after the second year of her term (**Anita Wallgren**), while four new members have been elected to serve three-year terms (**Christine Crowe, Lisa Fowlkes, Alison Minea, and Mark Schneider**). Let me close by reminding you that every member of the FCBA is a member of the Foundation. It is YOUR Foundation. The work we do and the lives we touch are made possible through your donations of time and resources. With your ongoing financial generosity AND your commitment of time and expertise, the Foundation will continue to positively impact the DC community for many years to come. Thank you!

Julie Kearney
Chair, 2010-2011
FCBA Foundation