



*THE BAR FOUNDATION FOR HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, INC.*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE BAR FOUNDATION OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, INC.**

*"Lawyers dedicated to excellence in law, justice, and community."*

**July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**

## **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2007—2008**

David S. Harvis, Esquire  
President

Mary Murphy, Esquire  
Vice President

Gerald M. Richman, Esquire  
Treasurer

Honorable Neil Edward Axel  
Secretary

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Honorable Neil Edward Axel  
Alan L. Fishbein, Esquire  
David S. Harvis, Esquire  
Ellen Koplw, Esquire  
Mary Murphy, Esquire  
Sang Oh, Esquire  
Gerald M. Richman, Esquire  
Bruce Rothschild, Esquire  
Fred Howard Silverstein, Esquire  
Honorable Donna Hill Staton  
John Willis Esquire  
Daniel H. Scherr Esquire  
Lisa Broten Esquire (ex- officio)

### **The Bar Foundation**

The Bar Foundation for Howard County, Maryland Inc was incorporated in March, 2001 as a non-profit 501(c) (3) qualified foundation for the purpose of improving the public's knowledge of the law, to improve the administration of justice in Howard County and to enhance and improve the image of attorneys and the legal system in Howard County. Among its goals as set forth in the Bar Foundation's Articles of Incorporation are:

1. to promote the better understanding of the law and legal system among members of the public;
2. to institute programs to improve the legal system and court systems in order to better serve the public;
3. to improve relations between the bench, the bar and the public;
4. to create better access to the legal system for low to moderate income

- individuals;
5. to foster and maintain the honor and integrity of legal education and legal practice; and
  6. to make distribution to the non-profit organizations and governmental agencies in furtherance of the Foundation's purposes.

The Fellows of the Bar Foundation consist of practicing attorneys, active and retired District and Circuit Court judges in Howard County, Masters in Chancery, and numerous appellate and United States District Court Judges. The Honorable Robert M. Bell, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, has been granted the status of an honorary member.

According to the Constitution of the Bar Foundation: "Being a Fellow shall be deemed a professional honor and distinction, and a recognition of outstanding dedication and contribution to maintaining the honor and integrity of the legal profession, the improvement and facilitation of the administration of justice, the work of The Howard County Bar Association, Inc. (the "Bar Association") and/or the organized Bar of the State of Maryland and civic leadership."

During this past year, the Bar Foundation elected the following officers and Trustees to serve for the 2008-2009 year:

President:	Mary Murphy, Esquire
Vice-President:	Bruce Rothschild, Esquire
Treasurer:	Gerald M. Richman, Esquire
Secretary:	Honorable Neil Edward Axel

Trustees:	Lisa Broten, Esquire
	Alan L. Fishbein, Esquire
	Ellen L. S. Koplow, Esquire
	Sang Oh, Esquire
	Bruce Rothschild, Esquire
	Daniel H. Scherr, Esquire
	Fred Howard Silverstein, Esquire
	Honorable Donna Hill Staton
	John Willis, Esquire

### **Bar Foundation Programs & Initiatives: July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008**

*Financial Investments and FY08 Grants:* The Foundation continues to benefit from its' election to become a designated Fund of the Columbia Foundation. This Fund affords our Foundation with sound investment management and strategies to help ensure our continued financial stability. This partnership with the Columbia Foundation greatly assists the Bar Foundation because it provides a vehicle to grow the Foundation funds and increase the amount of funds available for distribution as grants each year, and at the

same time give us access to the experience and expertise of one of the leading charitable organizations in the country.

*Fundraiser to Benefit Legal Aid Bureau:* The Bar Foundation will be having its second Fundraiser in March, 2009. The beneficiary is the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. It provides services to Maryland's neediest citizens in a multitude of areas including preserving affordable housing, stopping illegal evictions, helping those with disabilities get assistance to avoid institutionalization, representing abused and neglected children, helping homeowners bilked by foreclosure rescue scams, helping sick children, the disabled, and the elderly get medical assistance, helping parents obtain guardianships or adoptions for dependent children, assist getting protection from domestic violence, educating service providers, government and the public about farm workers rights and needs, such as language access to social services, job training and many other worthwhile and important areas for people who all too frequently fall between the cracks of the legal system because of their economic status.

In 2007, Legal Aid served over 800 people in Howard County who were unable to afford legal representation. This number was far less than the total number of individuals who applied for Legal Aid services. This year, one of the focuses of Legal Aid would be to help those affected by the mortgage crisis, which has swelled the ranks of those needing its services. We are hoping that we can make the next fundraising event as, or more successful than the first, where we raised in excess of \$25,000.00 for a new building for Grassroots. Through this project, we hope to continue to highlight the wonderful work done by the entire legal community in making significant monetary and non-monetary contributions to the community.

*Community Education and Partnerships:* The Foundation elected to apply to and was accepted as a member of the Association of Baltimore Area Grant makers. ABAG provides leadership, education and training for grant makers. As a member of ABAG, the Foundation is able to have access to information that could assist the Foundation in its operation, and could help to assist in publicizing our mission and improve our name recognition in the community.

The Bar Foundation continued its work with the Howard County school system to better educate Howard County students about the legal system. This year, the school system decided not to conduct its "We the Jury" program in which Bar Foundation fellows and Bar Association members supervised Howard County High School students in a program designed to teach about the importance of juries in our civil and criminal justice system. The Bar Foundation is continuing to work with the school system to revive that program and the Foundation's participation in the coming year. In addition, again this year, in collaboration with other Bar Associations, Bar Foundation fellows, and Bar Association members served as members of congressional committees in numerous elementary schools as part of the school system's "Simulated Congressional Hearings Program." The Simulated Congressional Hearing Program is a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is a valuable part of the fifth grade social studies curriculum. The Bar Foundation's continued participation in these programs is in furtherance of its goal to help promote the better understanding of the law and legal system among members of the public.

*Annual Meeting of Fellows and Recognition Awards Luncheon:* This year's Annual Meeting of Fellows took the form of a luncheon meeting, at which the Bar Foundation publicly recognized and honored the many contributions made by the law firm of Reese and Carney LLP, as well as those made by Barbara M. Cook, Esquire, former County Solicitor for Howard County. Reese and Carney LLP was recognized for the firm's service to the legal community; its long-term commitment to community involvement that has improved the quality of life for Howard County residents; and the firm's role and example as a leader and community catalyst. Ms. Cook was recognized for her leadership and professionalism in the legal community; and her efforts to provide legal representation on behalf of the citizens of Howard County in her many years of outstanding public service.

*Awarding of Grants and Community Activism:* The Bar Foundation authorized the award of grant funding to help provide money for the establishment and operation of a supervised child visitation/exchange center in Howard County. The project was implemented by the Circuit Court for Howard County and, with the Bar Foundation's input, a partnership with County Government, the Domestic Violence Center and the Association of Community Services was being studied by all parties and the grant will be available upon application. The Bar Foundation also authorized the award of a \$2000 grant to FIRN for the implementation of a series of clinics on law related topics.

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

Revenues	
Dues	\$ 5,550.38
HCBA Dues Check off	\$ 370.00
<i>Shoot the Bull</i> Pledge Receipts	\$ 1,500.00
Annual Luncheon Meeting	\$ 1,995.00
Interest on Checking Funds	\$ <u>342.75</u>
Total Revenue	\$9,758.13
Expenses	
Insurance	\$ 218.00
Rental Deposit ( <i>Shoot the Bull</i> )	\$ 250.00
Annual Luncheon Meeting	\$ 911.43
Investment Management Fees	\$ 269.00
Retreat	\$ 169.88
ABAG Membership	\$ <u>150.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1,968.31
Net Revenue	\$7,789.82

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**As of June 30, 2008**

Assets

Checking Account – Susquehanna Bank	\$ 11,530.00
Columbia Foundation Funds	<u>\$36,106.00</u>
 Total Assets	 \$47,636.00

Liabilities

None

## FELLOWS OF THE BAR FOUNDATION

### Charter Fellows

Tobey G. Brehm, Esq.  
Honorable J. Thomas Nissel  
Honorable Pamela Brown  
David A. Carney, Esq.  
Ronald M. Cherry, Esq.  
Michael W. Davis, Esq.  
James K. Eagan, Esq. (Deceased)  
Robert D. Earle, Esq.  
M. Albert Figinski, Esq.  
Honorable Robert Fischer  
Alan Fishbein, Esq.  
Honorable Lenore R. Gelfman  
Robert W. Guth, Esq.  
Honorable Raymond J. Kane, Jr.  
Jeffrey A. Krew, Esq.  
Honorable Diane O. Leasure  
Jonathan Z. May, Esq.  
Sang W. Oh, Esq.  
Gerald M. Richman, Esq.  
Honorable R. Russell Sadler  
Honorable Donna Hill Staton  
Kerry D. Staton, Esq.  
Honorable James N. Vaughan

### Life Fellows

Ann Balcerzak, Esq.  
Lisa Broten, Esquire  
Honorable James B. Dudley  
Charles Fuller, Esq.  
Master Mary Kramer  
Master Elaine Patrick  
Honorable Mary C. Reese  
Lillie Price Wesley, Esq.

### Associate Fellows

Honorable Neil Edward Axel  
Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera  
Honorable Lynn Battaglia  
Honorable Louis A. Becker  
Honorable Richard Bernhardt  
Ava Lias Booker, Esq.  
Honorable Wayne Brooks  
Alan C. Cason, Esq.  
Honorable Alice P. Clark  
Bernard Cook, Esq.  
Honorable Sue Ellen Hantman  
David S. Harvis, Esq.  
Richard M. Karceski, Esq.  
Ellen Koplów, Esq.  
Ann Kelly Laynor, Esq.  
Andrew Levy, Esq.  
Terrance McAndrews, Esq.  
Honorable Timothy J. McCrone  
Mary V. Murphy, Esq.  
E. Josephine Nippard, Esq.  
Cecilia Paizs, Esq.  
Lonnie R. Robbins, Esq.  
Ria P. Rochvarg, Esq.  
Bruce Rothschild, Esq.  
Daniel H. Scherr, Esq.  
Ron Schimel, Esq.  
Jason Shapiro, Esq.  
Barry Silber, Esq.  
Fred Howard Silverstein, Esq.  
Honorable Dennis M. Sweeney  
Master William V. Tucker  
Louis Jay Ulman, Esq.  
Jolie G. Weinberg, Esq.  
John Willis, Esq.