



THE CHICAGO BAR FOUNDATION

321 S. PLYMOUTH COURT CHICAGO IL, 60604

(P) 312-554-1204 (F) 312-554-1203

NEWS RELEASE

For Further Information:

Bob Glaves

Executive Director

Phone: 312-554-1205

Fax: 312-554-1203

bglaves@chicagobar.org

February 23, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CBF Receives Several Significant *Cy Pres* Awards

Residual funds from class action cases in state and federal courts help CBF sustain many innovative projects that improve access to justice for people in need

Chicago, IL –

Thanks to the leadership of dedicated lawyers at the following law firms, the CBF was fortunate to receive several significant *cy pres* awards over the past two months that provide critical funding for a number of innovative access to justice projects in the state and federal courts:

Anderson & Wanca

Bock & Hatch, LLC

Dykema Gossett PLLC

Goodwin Proctor LLP

Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP

Horwitz, Horwitz & Associates, Ltd.

Law Offices of Keith J. Keogh, Ltd.

Much Shelist Denenberg Ament & Rubenstein, P.C.

Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP

Cy pres awards are residual funds in class action cases (and occasionally in other types of proceedings like bankruptcy and probate matters) that, for any number of reasons, are unclaimed or cannot be distributed to the class members or beneficiaries who were the

intended recipients. Under the *cy pres* doctrine and Illinois law, courts can distribute these residual funds to appropriate charitable causes, and the CBF and the legal aid organizations and related initiatives the CBF supports are appropriate beneficiaries.

The CBF has been fortunate to receive a number of these awards over the past several years in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$2 million. These awards have made it possible for the CBF to significantly increase its annual grants to more than 35 pro bono and legal aid organizations and related initiatives, helping tens of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged Chicagoans each year to obtain critical legal assistance.

In addition, *cy pres* awards have provided the “venture capital” for a number of groundbreaking special projects and initiatives that have made lasting improvements to our justice system, and the CBF’s continued receipt of these awards makes it possible for the CBF to maintain our support for these projects for the long term. All *cy pres* awards the CBF receives are used to support the work of our community’s many outstanding pro bono and legal aid organizations, and these play a critical part in our ability to provide that support.

For more information about *cy pres* awards and how these awards can help improve access to justice in our community, visit www.chicagobarfoundation.org or contact Bob Glaves at 312-554-1205 or bglaves@chicagobar.org.

The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) mobilizes our legal community around a cause uniquely important to us as a profession: working to ensure that everyone in the Chicago metropolitan area has equal access to justice, particularly the low-income and disadvantaged people who are in most critical need of the protections of our legal system.

Through grants, advocacy and other programs, the CBF takes a system-wide approach to improving access to justice and focuses on objectives we can best achieve by coming together as a community. More specifically, the CBF:

- *Advances the work of our community’s pro bono and legal aid organizations;*
- *Enables dedicated lawyers to pursue careers in legal aid and helps pro bono attorneys most effectively supplement their efforts; and*
- *Makes the courts and legal system more user-friendly and accessible for all.*

As the charitable arm of The Chicago Bar Association, the CBF’s work is made possible by the generous contributions of thousands of dedicated lawyers and legal professionals, more than 150 law firms and corporations, and many other committed supporters. For more information about the CBF, please call Bob Glaves 312-554-1205 or email at bglaves@chicagobar.org.

-end-