## Impact



Charitable Arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin



Leadership. Critical thinking. Problem-solving. Public speaking. Teamwork. Working under pressure.

These are valuable skills that can help in any career – and they are skills learned in high school mock trial.

Since 1983, the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial program has helped more than 45,000 students develop and test critical thinking and public-speaking skills while exposing them to the atmosphere of a real-life trial situation. Since the beginning, the Wisconsin Law Foundation has financially funded Mock Trial because you – our donors – have told us this is a valuable program you want to support because it had real impact on the lives of so many Wisconsin high school students, teachers, and lawyers.

#### 45k Changed Lives

In 1977, retired Superior lawyer **Ken Knudson** attended a local bar meeting where the president mentioned that a Superior High School teacher, **Bill Rehnstrand**, wanted ideas for a Law Day project. Knudson suggested a mock trial event at the high school. "I raised my hand, and it changed my life, literally," Knudson said.

Knudson invited a State Bar representative to observe Superior's mock trial event. "They set it up like we were doing it, and the rest is history," he said. "So many folks did so much to make this a great program."

#### Your Gift Impacts Thousands

Forty years ago, that single school project turned into a statewide legal education program developed and run by the Wisconsin Law Foundation and the dedicated lawyers who saw the importance of this type of

law-related education. Later, Mock Trial was handed over to the State Bar of Wisconsin to run the program, while the Foundation continues to annually fund the program by a generous grant from the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Mock Trial Designated Fund.

Thanks to member donations to the Mock Trial Designated Fund, the Foundation will be able to grant \$18,000 to Wisconsin Mock Trial Program in 2024. Since the majority of participants do not compete at the state level, most of the funds are spent to enhance the regional competitions of the program which enhances the mock trial experience for the maximum number of participants.

#### The Mock Trial Experience

Mock trial has helped shape the lives of countless students. Some go on to be lawyers, many do not. But the experience can only be

Continued on Page 3

## **Foundation Increases** \$18,000 \$17,258 \$17,022 **Mock Trial Program** Support by 300% in 12 Years \$14,169 \$13,445 \$12,400 \$11,000 \$10,500 \$10,500 \$10,000 \$10,000 \$6,000 2017 2018 2019 2020 2016

#### Your generous donations helps us make a direct impact on students all around the state.

Did you know that Wisconsin's Mock Trial Program was started 40 years ago by the Foundation? Today the Foundation continues to fully fund this important law-related education program. As student participation grew over the last 12 years, the Foundation increased support by 300%; so every team that wants to participate in Mock Trial, can participate.

#### Donate today!



WLF148 11/23



#### Mock Trial 40th Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

described as positive for those students who learn skills that help them throughout their careers. The program provides high school students with an opportunity to act as attorneys and witnesses in a court case developed by State Bar members.

The students argue a civil or criminal case before a panel of volunteer attorneys and judges in the regional competitions. Teams are scored on their knowledge of the rules of evidence, the quality of their direct and cross examinations, and opening and closing statements. The winners advance to the semifinals in Madison, and the two final teams appear in the Supreme Court Room before a panel of experienced volunteer judges. The winning team proceeds to the National competition.

#### How to Support Mock Trial

Your generous donation ensures that the future of Mock Trial remains strong. To make a donation directly to the Mock Trial designated fund:

- 1. Go to www.wisbar.org/wlfdonate:
- 2. At the top bar click on "Log In;"
- 3. Click on the box for "Wisconsin Law Foundation – State Mock Trial Fund;"
- 4. Select the level of donation (\$25 or \$100), then use the Quantity arrows to increase the amount. Click "Add to Cart:"
- 5. Complete the check out in "My Shopping Cart."

#### Mock Trial's Real Impact

How does mock trial shape legal careers? Here are three stories:

Amy L. Menzel is a partner at Hammett, Bellin & Oswald, LLC, in Neenah, where she practices in criminal defense, family law, personal injury, and civil litigation. She is currently an attorney-coach at Xavier High School in Appleton. Menzel was in mock trial all four years at Antigo High School. "I started as a shy freshman who could barely speak my part as a witness and went into my senior year as a lead attorney." The positive support of her coaches - Roibin Stowe and Hon. John Rhode – led to her career in law.

Menzel is still involved as attorney-coach not only to be involved in her community, but it also helps her evolve as a lawyer. "The analysis and discussion with the students have helped me become a better attorney. For example, when I am teaching the students about the rules of evidence, I am forced to rethink the application of the rules and brainstorm ways to work around them. On more than one occasion, the students have challenged me and helped me think differently."

**Tim Samuelson**, director of the Office of Lawyer Regulation and a Wisconsin lawyer since 2012, participated as a junior and senior in mock trial in high school is Omaha, Nebraska. "My junior year American

History and Civics teacher required students to complete a project each term. I chose mock trial because I thought it would be easiest and least time consuming. Suffice to say I was wrong," he said.

What about mock trial inspired him to enter the legal profession? "The methodical planning and preparation," he said. He never knew any lawyers growing up but was a fan of the TV show L.A. Law. "Mock trial taught me that litigation is more behind-the-scenes prep work and less glamorous than it appeared on TV." And a specific lesson: "Witness preparation is time well-spent."

Alexandra Gregorski is a Marquette 2019 alum, and practices corporate law in Portland, Oregon. She competed as a witness on Appleton's Xavier High School mock trial team in 2010 and 2011. The 2011 Xavier team won the state finals and competed in the national tournament.

Gregorski heartily attests mock trial experience helped in law school and gave a boost to her career. "There is such value in the teambuilding aspect of mock trial, and in learning to think on your feet and be confident in any circumstance," Gregorski said. "These skills will prepare students for their careers, whether or not they go into law." Read more about Gregorski in the Spring 2020 issue of Impact.

#### PLEASE DONATE YOUR MILEAGE!

2023-24 Mileage Donations go to the Foundation Mock Trial Fund and the Primary Fund.



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#### Serving the Underserved: 2023 Belle Case La Follette Awards

The Wisconsin Law Foundation Belle Case La Follette Awards recognize three recent law school graduates who are State Bar of Wisconsin members, practicing law, and representing underserved populations, such as people of modest means and those who live in rural areas and have limited access to legal representation.

These awards are made possible through your generous contributions to the Law Foundation and help us support new lawyers working to ensure that everyone in our state has access to justice and fair representation.

Three outstanding new lawyers received the 2023 Belle Case La Follette Awards and a \$2,600 cash award to be used to pay down law school debt or build their practice. The award recipients are recognized for providing dedicated service in their communities for those who would not have had representation without their help. They were honored at the 2023 Fellows Recognition Dinner on Oct. 10, 2023.

The awards, along with our heartfelt thanks for their service to their communities, go to:

Edgar A. Beltran, Marquette 2019. From Cedarburg, Edgar is a State Public Defender in Washington and Ozaukee counties. Edgar typically handles 100 to 130 cases at any given time, from criminal matters to mental health placements, juvenile petitions, and more. He is a first-generation college graduate and the only Spanish-speaking attorney in his county, handling all the SPD's Spanish-speaking client cases. He said he is proud to serve the indigent and underprivileged population in rural Wisconsin.

**Imani Hollie**, Loyola 2020, Green Bay. Imani is the State Public Defender representative on the Youth



Recipients of the 2023 Belle Case La Follette awards are (from left): Edgar Beltran, Imani Hollie, and Michael Windle.

Treatment Court, focused on giving youth a chance to get needed treatment and diverting them away from the criminal justice system. Her clients struggle with poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues, and are disproportionately people of color - often vulnerable youth and young adults who need someone to listen to and advocate for them. In representing young people who face adult adversities, her advocacy must be innovative, and she is not afraid to push back on parts of the legal system that can be described as "how we've always done it."

Michael Windle, U.W. 2020. Michael works in a small firm based in Westby, a rural community in western Wisconsin with a strong need for affordable legal services. He practices in family law, estate planning, probate law, and civil litigation. A key service Michael provides is estate planning, where he charges a flat rate for wills, basic trusts, and powers of attorney. Michael is the only attorney in his firm doing family law. He knows that, without his assistance, some of his clients would not be able to afford representation. As corporation counsel in Vernon and Richland counties, he represents the Department of Human Services in mental health commitments, guardianships, and protective placements.

Congratulations to our Belle Case La Follette Award recipients!

#### How to Nominate Someone to be a Fellow:

- You must be a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation to submit a nomination.
- Nomination Form posted on Fellows page at <u>www.wisbar.</u> <u>org/aboutus/wisconsinlawfoun-dation/Pages/Nominate.aspx</u>
- Questions?
   Contact Beth Drake at WLF-Fellows@wisbar.org



#### Every Member, Every Year

Support the "Every Member, Every Year" campaign!

We are asking every member to give a donation of any amount to your Wisconsin Law Foundation at least once every year.

With the annual support of every State Bar of Wisconsin member, the Law Foundation will be in a strong position to respond to the need to promote civic understanding, leadership development, access to justice, and programming that raises up greater diversity and inclusion.

With your help, we will be empowered to continue to support critically needed programs and services at a time when demand and need has never been higher.

Please join us today by committing to make an annual contribution – in any amount.

#### Ways to Give

- include a donation on line 9 of your State Bar dues statement;
- donate online at wisbar.org/wlf-donate; or
- use your phone camera to scan the QR code below. (To scan the code, open the camera app on your phone, then point the camera at the QR code and a banner will appear. When you tap the banner, it opens the donation webpage on WisBar.org.)



#### What If?

Foundation Grants Committee Chair Kevin J. Lyons asked:

## What If All 25,759 State Bar Members Donated \$10 This Year?

A small donation by every member would allow us to double the amount of Foundation grants awarded to charitable or educational programs that promote access to justice or for law-related public service projects.

- That means more teen and peer courts could be funded keeping at risk youth out of the justice system;
- more schools could compete in Mock Trial for the first time with their tuition waved allowing rural and diverse schools an opportunity to take part in the program without cost; and
- more nonprofits could provide services in urban and rural areas where economics and language barriers prevent them from utilizing the mainstream legal system.



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#### Congratulations to the 2023 Class of Fellows

It was a night of laughter and celebration Oct. 10 in Madison as the Law Foundation inducted 43 new Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

These new Fellows "represent just about every type of law practice and career – from big firms to small firms, rural to urban, and more," said Law Foundation President Joseph Troy. "They have one thing in common: They have earned the respect of their colleagues. And they have all contributed significantly to the legal profession and to their communities."

The Annual Fellows Recognition Dinner was held at the Monona Terrace in Madison. More than 152 attended the black-tie optional dinner, which also celebrated Madison attorney Marsha Mansfield, recipient of the Law Foundation's 2023 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award, and the three recipients of the 2023 Belle Case La Follette Awards for service to underserved populations: Edgar A.



Beltran, Cedarburg; Imani Hollie, Green Bay; and Michael Windle, Westby.

#### Who Are the Fellows?

Membership in the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation is considered a professional honor and evidence of professional distinction. The program honors State Bar of Wisconsin members who have achieved significant accomplishments in their careers and contributed leadership and service to their communities. The Fellows membership is limited to 2.5% of the State Bar's total membership, and new members are nominated by current Fellows.

Fellows commit to providing sustained financial support to fur-

thering the mission and work of the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

## Congratulations to the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation Class of 2023:

- Jeanne Marie Armstrong, Middleton
- Jennifer Lyn Binkley, Madison
- Jesse Blocher, Waukesha
- Katie Jae Bosworth, New Richmond
- Elisabeth (Lisa) T. Bridge, Milwaukee
- Jane Ellen Bucher, Brodhead
- W. D. (Wendy) Calvert, Chicago, IL
- Catarina Anne Colón, Fitchburg
- James Michael Dash, Milwaukee
- Brian P. Dimmer, Racine
- Howard S. Erlanger, Madison
- Erin K. Fay, Waukesha

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### Congratulations to the 2023 Class of Fellows

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- Anne Eileen Flinchum, Green Bay
- Cindy L. Hangartner, Eau Claire
- Katherine Cole Harrell, Madison
- Kristine Louise Havlik, Milwaukee
- Jennifer Renee Imediegwu, Milwaukee
- · Jennifer L. Johnson, Milwaukee
- Emily Stever Kelchen, Clinton, Tennessee
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## TRUMAN Q. MCNULTY GRANTS

2024 Application Deadline: April 5, 2024

For more information: www.wisbar.org/wlf

## A very special thank you...



- to our Fellows Class of 2023 who pledged to support the Fellows. Welcome!
- to our Fellows who were able to attend the dinner on Oct. 10, 2023, at the Monona Terrace in Madison as we inducted our new Fellows and honored our award recipients.
- to our Fellows who were unable to attend the dinner this year yet sent in a dinner donation to show their support.

This event was made possible through generous support from the



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

SENIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

With additional support provided by:







#### We are Accepting Nominations for the Gordon Sinykin Award of Excellence

The Gordon Sinykin Award of Excellence recognizes a lawyer, law firm, or groups of State Bar of Wisconsin members, for their work on a recent or ongoing lawrelated education or public service project that promotes public understanding of the law, improves the administration of justice, or provides other law-related public service that impacts Wisconsin residents and/or State Bar members.

#### **DEADLINE:**

Nominations must be received annually by January 31.

#### **HOW TO NOMINATE:**

Find out more at wisbar.org/wlfawards.

#### SUBMIT TO:

WLF-Fellows@wisbar.org

#### Marsha Mansfield: Champion of Access to Justice

Looking back on her career thus far, Marsha Mansfield uses a quote from Helen Keller: "The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."

"As Helen Keller knew all too well, it's often 'the aggregate of tiny pushes' that makes all the difference in the world," Mansfield said.

Her "aggregate of tiny pushes" includes collaborations with individuals and organizations that have, over the course of her career, greatly increased access to justice for Wisconsin residents. It also includes facilitating pro bono work, mentoring young lawyers, and helping those who face civil legal barriers to housing, employment, and education.

"I am fortunate to have worked alongside others who are driven by passion and motivated by a desire for positive change," she said.

#### **Distinguished Service**

Mansfield is the 2023 recipient of the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. The award recognizes a lifetime of service to the profession and the community – and Mansfield's career is a great example of a lifetime of service.

Mansfield received the award at the Law Foundation's Fellows Dinner on Oct. 10 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

"I'm very honored and surprised" to receive the award, Mansfield said, "because so many people who have received this award are those I've admired and respected for many, many years. I am so proud to be among those who have made a significant contribution to our profession and to their communities."



Marsha Mansfield, 2023 Goldberg Award recipient, emphasized service and mentorship in her speech at the Fellows Dinner Oct. 10.

#### Deep Roots in Wisconsin

Growing up in the Milwaukee area, Mansfield's parents owned two children's clothing stores, giving her skills in retail, and that she loves shopping for clothes. Before law school, she was a learning disabilities teacher.

She is the first lawyer in her family - and law school brought her back to Wisconsin. A 1984 graduate of U.W. Law School, she practiced for 18 years as a litigator and in family law with Lawton & Cates in Madison. In 2002, she began work at U.W. Law School, combining her experience as a teacher with her legal career, working in the poverty and consumer law clinics, then developed and ran a family law clinic. In 2007, she became director of the Equal Justice Institute. Watching the students learn to become lawyers "is a very empowering experience - and fun," she said.

Along with Professor Ben Kempinen, she formed the U.W. Law School's Pro Bono Project and joined its steering committee. "We got funding and hired its first director," she said. The project offered more opportunities for law students to do pro bono work. Her work includes ethics training for pro

bono. "We wanted to imbue in law students the sense that pro bono is an inherent part of a professional career. The students in doing this work realize how meaningful it is and the difference they can make."

#### Pushing for Access to Justice

She gained her passion for enhancing access to justice issues before joining the law school, when she became involved in the Dane County Bar Association's Delivery of Legal Services Committee – which also led to work on the State Bar's Legal Assistance Committee.

Her passion also came from her experience as a litigator in the courtroom, witnessing the barriers pro se litigants have not only to just get to court, but also to present their cases. "What is easy for those of us with resources can be overwhelming or impossible for those without resources."

Something as small as a parking ticket can set off a cascade of issues that can become larger problems, interfering with work, childcare, and housing. "It infuriates me," Mansfield said. "I see these challenges and want to help create solutions."

Mansfield learned one of her strengths (or weakness) early on: "When people come up with good ideas, I get excited about them and want to do them. And there's been a lot I've been excited about making happen." That included work on a small claims assistance project – and eventually the founding of the Access to Justice Commission (ATJC).

The ATJC came out of an idea when Mansfield and two other attorneys heard about other states' commissions while they attended a national equal justice conference. "We decided we needed this

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in Wisconsin." It took drafting a petition, soliciting support, and presentations before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the State Bar - which offered financial support. "Mike Gonring, Jeff L. Brown, and I put in the hard work to get it up and running," she said. That was 2010. "That was a big step in Wisconsin."

#### Teacher, Organizer, Innovator

Mansfield became director of the U.W. Law School's Economic Justice Institute (EJI) in 2007, staying in the position through 2019. The institute houses the law school's six civil anti-poverty clinical programs, offering law students experience in practicing law. Mansfield helped get the Family Court Clinic started in response to the increasing number of pro se litigants in court, wanting to offer support without representation. "We were just helping them, then it evolved into outreach and representation."

Now a distinguished clinical professor of law emerita for U.W. Law School, Mansfield says one of the best parts of her work with students is seeing them - now practicing lawyers - develop into great attorneys.

In 2019, a project at U.W. Madison spearheaded by a team of attorneys that included Mansfield earned first place and a \$1.1 million grant from the Alliance for the American Dream, a national competition for innovative ideas to move more families into the middle class. The challenge was for universities to come up with a technology-based solution to help raise incomes of the most impoverished.

That project became LIFT Dane and is now LIFT Wisconsin - Mansfield was director from 2020 until her retirement in March 2023. LIFT Wisconsin's mission, according to its website, is to "provide efficient, technology driven legal assistance to clear civil legal barriers to economic prosperity for Wisconsin families,

to transform legal and court systems to prevent economic drags, and to contribute to national reform movements to improve access to civil legal justice."

"It's really a cool tool," Mansfield said. "It has the potential to make a real difference, because people can use it themselves or with a helper, and deal with their basic civil legal problems that hamper their ability to work and find housing." There's nothing else like it in the country," Mansfield said.

#### Equal Footing

Currently, Mansfield is Of Counsel at Hawks Quindel in Madison, where she is heading a mentoring program. "I'm mentoring their family law attorneys."

Of all that she has accomplished, Mansfield is most proud of this: "That I'm one person in a cohort of people who have grown access to justice in Wisconsin. I'm proud of being part of a group of lawyers in Wisconsin who are just as committed to this as I am."

"Justice is supposed to be for everyone, but the justice system was developed for lawyers. There are a lot of people who realize that and work on equaling the footing (for non-lawyers), and I'm so proud to be part of that," she said.

> We are Accepting Nominations for the

#### Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award

Nomination Deadline: August 1, 2024

For more information: www.wisbar.org/wlfawards



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Your gift to a Designated Fund helps the Wisconsin Law Foundation fund valuable law-related education and public service projects every year. Contributions made since the last issue of *Impact*:

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#### Celebrate a Life

Honor someone special with a Memorial or Tribute Gift to the Foundation. Memorial Gifts to celebrate the memory of a deceased colleague, friend, or loved one; Tribute Gifts to honor a living person.

## These Memorial Gifts were made to the Foundation since the last issue of *Impact*:

- In Honor of 50 years of Legal Careers for: Charles Giesen, Madison, and Charles Hanson, La Crosse from Alan J Strohschein (Strohschein & Green, Columbus)
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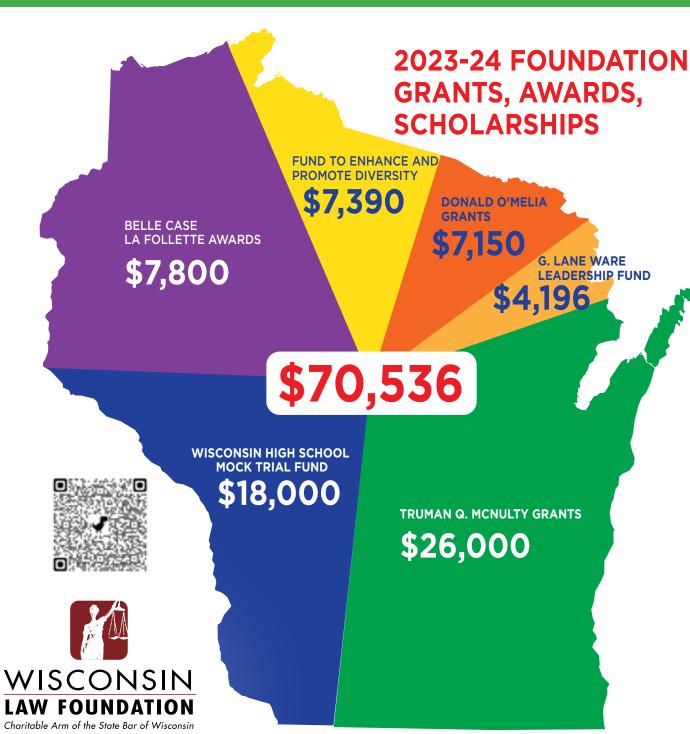
## Six Easy Ways to Give to the Wisconsin Law Foundation

- 1. By check to: Wisconsin Law Foundation, 5302 Eastpark Blvd., Madison, WI 53718
- 2. Online at: www.wisbar.org/wlfdonate
- 3. By calling (608) 250-6171 or (800) 444-9404 ext. 6171
- 4. On your annual membership form/dues statement
- 5. Designate a donation via your State Bar Author/Speaker reimbursement
- 6. Designated a donation via your State Bar mileage reimbursement



## Remember Us in Your End of Year Giving

See How Your Donation Impacts Wisconsin



To donate visit www.wisbar.org/wlfdonate

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#### Thank You for Supporting the Wisconsin Law Foundation

When you make a contribution to the Wisconsin Law Foundation, you become a Foundation Member. Your generous gifts support both public education projects and public service projects throughout Wisconsin. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following attorneys, judges, non-attorneys, and organizations for financially contributing to the Foundation since the last published newsletter.

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