

Impact



WISCONSIN
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Charitable Arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin

Growing Our Next Generation of Leaders



The G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy Class of 2023-24.

Leadership development requires active, intentional investment. This was the firm belief of G. Lane Ware, a Wausau attorney whose long career was dedicated to mentoring future leaders of the legal profession – that you can't leave leadership succession to chance.

After his passing in 2014, Ware bequeathed a generous donation to the Wisconsin Law Foundation for State Bar of Wisconsin leadership training. His gift was the very first contribution to the Law Foundation's new endowment fund to support leadership development programs at the State Bar.

Inspired by Ware, the late Ralph Cagle – retired U.W. Law School professor and State Bar past president – was the visionary who founded the G. Lane Ware Leader-

ship Academy, building on Ware's commitment to leadership development.

Today, thanks to Lane and Ralph, two programs – the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy and the State Bar of Wisconsin Leadership Summit – focus on identifying up-and-coming leaders in the legal profession, providing them the skills, resources, inspiration, and connections needed to step into leadership roles in their communities and local bars as well as the State Bar.

More than 366 lawyers have participated in these two leadership programs, and most have gone on to volunteer with their local bars and in the civic life of their communities. Many have served – and currently serve – on State Bar committees and boards and on the Board of

Governors, including as officers. In addition, numerous nonprofit organizations throughout Wisconsin benefit from their leadership.

How You Can Help

As one generation prepares to retire, it is critical to develop the next generation of leaders who will step up and serve.

The Law Foundation seeks your financial help to grow these critically needed funds.

Our leadership development efforts have been highly successful. But like everything else, it takes resources to sustain these efforts.

Please consider making a donation that can be added to a permanent endowment that will fund our efforts into the future. Any amount you give will be greatly and deeply appreciated. To donate, visit wisbar.org/wlfdonate.

“The Leadership Academy gives lawyers real-life, practical skills to step up and become leaders in their communities and in the profession. This was an invaluable experience for me as I transitioned to a new leadership position in my organization,” said Choua Vang, class of 2019-20.

Law Foundation Grants Help Children, Families, and Access to Justice



The White House Digital Services Team and state officials visited ABC for Health in August 2023 to discuss their recommendations on Medicaid Unwinding. Pictured here outside the ABC for Health Madison office are, from left: Stephanie Dorfman, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Henry Barford, ABC health benefits advocate; Tim Hennigan, ABC staff attorney; Brynne McBride, ABC chief operating officer and attorney; Bobby Peterson, ABC former director, founder, and attorney; Izzie Zahorian, White House Digital Services Team; and Dani Wetter, ABC health benefits counselor.

Teen court youth, pro se family law litigants, and families in need of continuing medical coverage are among those helped through grants from the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

Thanks to your donations, the Law Foundation annually provides high-impact Truman Q. McNulty grants – \$1,000 to \$2,600 each – to charitable or educational programs or projects that promote greater public understanding of the law and improve the administration of justice, and to projects that directly impact Wisconsin residents.

One recipient is **ABC for Health, Inc.**, a nonprofit public interest law firm in Madison that promotes health equity and social justice and is dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families.

The grant awarded for 2022-23 supported the firm’s statewide project, Health Coverage Rights & Responsibilities during Medicaid Unwinding: A Community Legal Education Project. The project assisted those subject to Medicaid and BadgerCARE Plus renewals through 2023 and early 2024 during the Medicaid unwinding and returning to regular operations after COVID-19. The unwinding changes

impacted 1.65 million Wisconsinites.

“We created a series of accessible YouTube videos helping people understand critical timelines and rights in connecting to employer sponsored insurance, HealthCare.gov, SSI, SSDI, or other support programs,” said Brynne McBride, the firm’s chief operating officer.

The information created by ABC for Health, McBride said, filled important community educational gaps as the new Medicaid rules and

responsibilities emerged. Their McNulty grant covered the technology supporting the videos and getting the word out to their audience, “community members and health care service providers working with low-income, minority, and underserved communities.”

In fact, ABC for Health was recognized nationally in August 2023, when they hosted a visit by state officials and the White House Digital Services Team to discuss their recommendations on Medicaid Unwinding – the subject matter of their community legal education project supported in part by the Law Foundation McNulty grant. “Our advocates, counselors, and attorneys at ABC for Health compiled recommendations for improvement and shared this with state and federal representatives,” McBride said.

The impact? In 2023, their community education programs reached hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin families – thanks in part to the McNulty grant. The Law Foundation’s support “will continue to be an important catalyst to help our program move forward,” McBride said.

Grants Awarded in 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023)

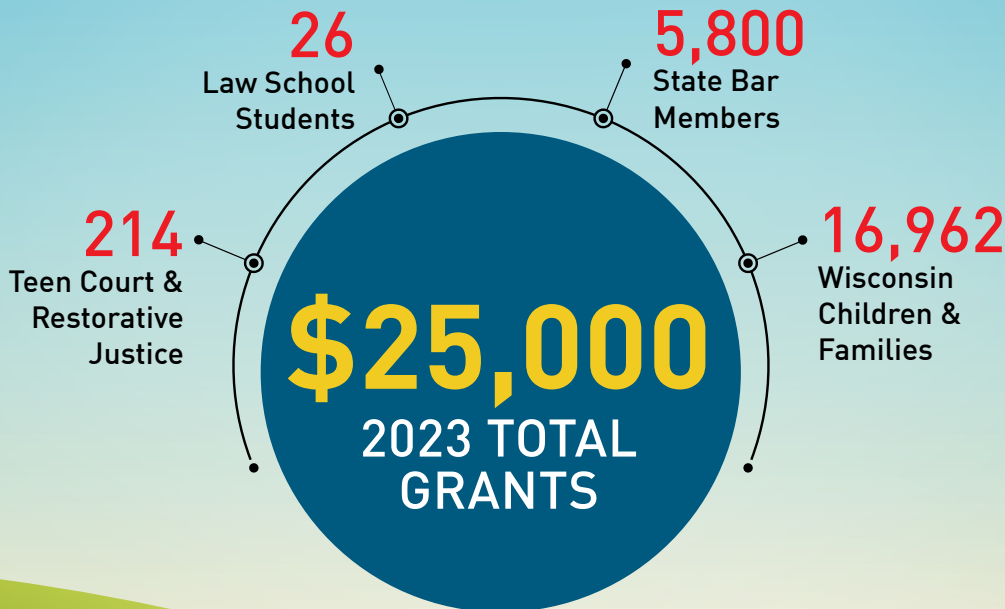
AWARDEE	AWARDED FOR
ABC For Health	Community Legal Education for Health Coverage Rights & Responsibilities During Medicaid Unwinding
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Centro Legal	Family Consultation Program
Crawford County Teen Court	Teen Court Program
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Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Inc.	Vera Court Neighborhood Center Legal Clinic
Wisconsin Teen Court Association	Restorative Justice Summit

Memberships and general contributions to the Wisconsin Law Foundation make charitable grants possible. Please consider [joining](#) the Foundation or making a [contribution](#) today.

Making a **BIG DIFFERENCE** in Wisconsin

23,002

Wisconsinites who were impacted through Truman McNulty grants.



WHY WE GIVE

Through McNulty grants, the Wisconsin Law Foundation transforms the lives of state residents by funding charitable and educational programs that promote citizen comprehension of the law, improve the administration of justice, and provide law-related public service.



**WISCONSIN
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Lifting Up and Empowering High School Students: The Legacy of Mock Trial



The Whitefish Bay mock trial team and their coaches are recipients of the 2024 Spirit of Mock Trial Award.

This past February, 89 teams with 1,068 Wisconsin high school students participated in the 2024 High School Mock Trial regional tournaments throughout Wisconsin. Of those teams, 20 competed in semifinal rounds in Madison, with the top two teams competing in the final round in early March for the first and second place titles.

The Wisconsin High School Mock Trial program happens because of your generous donations to the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

The impact: “Mock trial allows students to learn key life skills, including problem solving, teamwork, public speaking, and extemporizing. They also learn about career opportunities in law and related fields,” said Scott Campbell of the U.S. Department of Justice, an attorney coach since 2011 for the Whitefish Bay High School teams.

What is the impact on Wisconsin attorneys and judges who coach these teams?

“For coaches, it is thrilling to play a small part in the growth of students from knowing (and caring) nothing about the law to actually being ready to present a case in court,” said Chuck Kahn, a Whitefish Bay attorney coach and retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge.

“We all want to make a difference in life,” Campbell said. “Coaching mock trial has allowed me to do that: it has allowed me to teach high school students useful skills and life habits as well as important values – and to do so in a way that draws on my experiences as a lawyer.

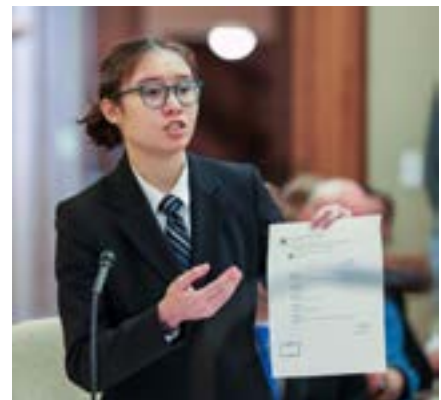
“Coaching mock trial has also made me a better listener and a better lawyer. And it has allowed me to form close friendships with my fellow mock trial coaches, many of whom have become among my best friends in life,” Campbell said.

The season begins in October when the case is announced, continues into January with scrimmages

and practices among the teams, leading into the regional tournaments – 10 around the state in 2024 – and the semifinals and finals in early March. The state finalist team competes in May in the national tournament.

Campbell’s teams at Whitefish Bay received the 2024 Spirit of Mock Trial Award, given to the team that fosters teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation among teams and the mock trial community.

Whitefish Bay’s efforts “increase the overall success of competitions and scrimmages,” said Kristen Lonergan, chair of the Mock Trial Writing Committee. The teams, she said, unhesitatingly provide judges to step in when needed, or to step up when help is needed for any of the tournament tasks. “At scrimmages, they’ll take time to provide meaningful feedback and lift up students that are not on their own teams. Together, they elevate the mock trial program by ensuring it’s a learning experience for everybody by helping other teams gain in skills.”



Madison West student-attorney Emily Fenske discusses an exhibit during the state finals round on March 3, 2024.

Why does Campbell continue to devote time to mock trial? “I think our biggest legacy is that we teach students how to become better people and how to gain those skills that help other people become better people. And that’s really how we pay it forward,” he said.

“Having the opportunity to teach these life skills through a fun, cre-

ative, team-oriented process is also what makes coaching mock trial so rewarding,” Campbell said.

If you would like to support the State Mock Trial program and help more teams participate, you can make a donation at wisbar.org/wlfdonate (click on the Wisconsin Mock Trial designated fund tile).

Every Member. Every Year.

With a donation line on this spring’s annual dues membership renewal, the Wisconsin Law Foundation is once again highlighting the **Every Member. Every Year** campaign to support and expand our mission and work.

Simply put, we are asking every member to give a donation of any amount to your 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.

Your Law Foundation was able to respond to these needs because of the past generosity of donors like you. With the annual support of all 25,000 State Bar members, we will be empowered to continue to support critically needed programs and services at a time when demand and need has never been higher.

Our efforts are ambitious, but we cannot do it without the support of every member of Wisconsin’s legal profession. Your support today and every year is critical to your Law Foundation’s ability to address and expand its reach to support worthy projects and programs in every corner of our state.

Please join us by committing to make an annual contribution – in any amount. You choose when, you choose how much. With the support of **Every Member. Every Year** our impact will continue to grow ever stronger into the future.

Ways to Give

- include a donation on line 9 of your State Bar dues statement;
- donate online at wisbar.org/wlfdonate; 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.



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Cassel Villarreal: Outstanding Leader in Wisconsin's High School Mock Trial Program

There is no question in Cassel Villarreal's mind: High school mock trial – a program originally started and funded primarily by the Wisconsin Law Foundation – is a critically important opportunity for students to develop leadership skills, critical thinking, problem-solving and public speaking, while working under pressure and as part of a team. For nearly two decades, Villarreal has dedicated hours volunteering as the Juneau coordinator for the High School Mock Trial Regional Tournament. “Every year I am impressed with the hard work and time students and their coaches have put in, and I enjoy watching students progress as their skill level increases over the years of competition.”



Troy, Wisconsin Law Foundation president.

Villarreal has been a regional coordinator since 2005. Previously, she had assisted the Beaver Dam team and volunteered as a scoring judge, beginning in 2002.

A family law attorney and mediator with Derr & Villarreal, LLC, in Beaver Dam, Villarreal said she is honored to receive the award. “This moment wouldn't be possible without also acknowledging all the volunteers who have helped me be a successful coordinator of the regional mock trial.”

Villarreal is one of about a dozen volunteers who step up and coordinate the 10 regional mock trial tournaments held around Wisconsin the first weekend each February. She supervises 30 attorneys who volunteer as tournament judges for the 10 competing teams in the Juneau region.

“I don't think people realize how many volunteers it takes for the High School Mock Trial competition to happen every year,” Villarreal said. Volunteers are needed to write the case, which is “no small task.” Additional volunteers are teachers and attorneys who give their time to coach the students. And judges and attorneys also volunteer on the day of the regional and state tournaments.

“The support of the State Bar and its dedication to public education is also vital to the long-term success of mock trial,” Villarreal said. “As is the financial support of the Law Foundation.”

Villarreal is recipient of the Law Foundation's 2023 Gordon Sinykin Award of Excellence. The award recognizes a lawyer, law firm, or groups of State Bar of Wisconsin members, for their work on a recent or ongoing law-related 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.

“As Wisconsin Mock Trial celebrates its 40th anniversary, we are proud to honor a Wisconsin attorney who has volunteered her passion and personal time to the program for 22 years. Thank you, Atty. Cassel Villarreal. Its volunteers like you who make the program the success it is today,” said Hon. Joseph M.

Why I Donate ...



Tatiana Shirasaki Dodge County Assistant Corporation Counsel

I have seen first-hand the impact of the Wisconsin Law Foundation programs have in our state. I value the opportunity to be part of a community of like-minded individuals who are committed to making a positive impact on the legal profession and our society.

I am especially passionate about the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial program, which is funded by the Law Foundation. I believe that many students find their passion for the legal profession during the process of the competition. Mock trial reaches high school students from all around the state, in large cities, small towns, and urban and rural areas. It brings together students of diverse backgrounds. And it is fascinating to watch. If you have not participated, I invite you to volunteer. Start a team at your local high school, become a coach, sign up as a tournament judge, or just stop by a competition to witness the dedication and passion of these students. Your donations will help to keep this wonderful program funded. I am grateful that I am able to support our Law Foundation and am honored to be a Fellow.

I believe in the mission of the Law Foundation. Please consider supporting it with your donations.

Law Foundation Honored by Gift of 'Lady Justice' from LaRowe & Gerlach of Reedsburg



Standing in front of the Lady Justice medallion at the State Bar Center in Madison (from left): James Gerlach, Rosemary LaRowe, and State Bar Executive Director Larry Martin.

In 1976, Myron LaRowe and James Gerlach established LaRowe & Gerlach, S.C., on Main Street in downtown Reedsburg. That same year, a beautiful medallion of Lady Justice carved of California Red Oak was commissioned, and prominently displayed on the front of the firm's building. For the next 47 years, the carving by Wisconsin artist Ronald J. Kinart would be a symbol of the commitment and dedication to advancing justice that occurred inside every day.

In February 2023, upon the closing of their practice and in a gracious act of generosity, Myron and Rosemary LaRowe and James and Jan Gerlach gifted the exquisite carving and its accompanying pen

and ink drawing to the Wisconsin Law Foundation. After restoration funded by the State Bar of Wisconsin, the "Justice on Main Street" display is now prominently residing in the rotunda of the State Bar Center. It is a powerful symbol of the legacy that Myron, Jim, and all "Main Street" attorneys continue to play in the pursuit of justice and the strengthening and support of community.

Their dedication to the practice of law and tireless commitment to improving access to justice inspired – and continues to inspire – countless others within the legal profession through their decades of service and leadership.

We are Accepting
Nominations for the

Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award



Description

The Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to one lawyer in recognition of lifetime service in the public interest.

Criteria

Nominees should be individual Bar members who will be judged based upon their accomplishments in the law, service to the profession and service to the community as a whole over an entire career.

Deadline

Annually by August 1st

Information and Past Recipients

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.

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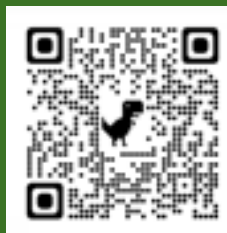
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- Online at: www.wisbar.org/wlfdonate
 Click on the WLF donate button;
 Select the level of donation and payment (you'll be asked to log in);
 Forward a copy of your confirmation email to WLF-Fellows@wisbar.org and type the name of the designated fund in the email's subject line.

PLEASE DONATE YOUR MILEAGE!

Help support Mock Trial by checking the box on your State Bar mileage reimbursement form. Currently all mileage donations go to the Mock Trial Fund.



**WISCONSIN
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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 or Tribute Gifts were made to the Foundation since the last issue of *Impact*:

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- **In Honor of Kathy Vick Martini** (Retired teacher and Rhinelander High School Mock Trial coach. 17- time winner, State Mock Trial Championship) from Hon. Robert E. Kinney (The Settlement House, Mequon)
- **In Memory of Truman McNulty from:**
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- **In Honor of John L. Wright Jr.** from Prof. John Olson & Carla Olson (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)



Save the Date

the FELLOWS

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2024 RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, October 10, 2024 ♦ 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Wisconsin Country Club, 6200 W. Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee, WI

WLF-Fellows@wisbar.org ♦ 800-444-9404, ext. 6171

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Fostering Mock Trial



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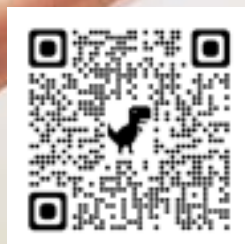
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With the support of **every member, every year**, your Wisconsin Law Foundation can continue to support critical programs that promote civic understanding, leadership development, access to justice, and diversity and inclusion initiatives across Wisconsin - even in tough economic times. Your investment of any amount helps fund critically needed programs and activities, furthering the cause of justice throughout Wisconsin.

To make a donation, **fill in Line 9 of your State Bar dues statement** or call (800) 728-7788 ext. 6171. For Foundation giving options, visit www.wisbar.org/wlf; to donate by credit card, visit www.wisbar.org/wlf/donate, or scan the QR code on the page.



Thank you for your
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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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