



The Greater Richmond *Bar Foundation*

Promoting Service to the Public and the Legal Profession

www.grbf.org

2008
2008 Annual Report

Good Advice for Those Doing Good

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse, which matches non-profit organizations with legal needs to volunteer attorneys, was created when the legal community recognized the important role that non-profit organizations play. By providing free legal services to local charitable organizations, our volunteer attorneys know that they are helping to create a stronger community and make a real difference in greater Richmond.

“Bringing Richmond Area Children Together Through Song”

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse serves a wide range of non-profit organizations. One example is City Singers Children’s Choirs, whose mission is to inspire the highest level of artistic choral performance while bringing together youth of the greater Richmond area in a joyful appreciation of their ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. City Singers contacted the Pro Bono Clearinghouse looking for a pro bono attorney to help them with their incorporation. They were connected with Tom Nesbitt with the Office of the Attorney General. Tom helped them finalize their articles of incorporation and by-laws

and then agreed to guide them through the somewhat daunting process of acquiring their 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

By volunteering his time and legal expertise to City Singers, Tom was able to save them thousands of dollars in legal fees which could instead be committed to fulfilling their mission. David McCormick, Director of City Singers, said:

Tom Nesbitt has been a joy to work with, first with our Articles of Incorporation and our By-laws, and more recently with our application for 501(c)

(3) status. He is highly competent, to the point of knowing recent IRS rulings which saved us unnecessary information gathering, friendly, and very accommodating to our schedule. We fully expect that he, as our agent of record, will hear before the end of the first quarter that IRS has granted our request for non-profit status. We appreciate his expert advice throughout the process, and the courteous and efficient role of your organization in connecting us with him.



David McCormick presenting City Singers’ older children’s choir at Ashland’s 150th birthday celebration.

Our Mission

The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation serves the public and legal profession by supporting, facilitating and promoting the delivery of pro bono legal services for non-profit organizations through the Pro Bono Clearinghouse, by providing financial support to others in greater Richmond who provide pro bono legal services, and by involvement in and sponsorship of law-related educational and service projects that encourage public understanding of, participation in and access to our justice system. The work of the Foundation is made possible through the generous support of the community and members of the legal profession.

A Letter from Christopher M. Malone, President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is my great privilege to serve as the current President of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. In that position, I am able to witness firsthand the work of our organization and to gain some sense of the impact for good that is being achieved by our presence in our community. Broadly stated, our mission is to serve the public and the legal profession in the greater Richmond area. In support of that mission, we have focused on some new initiatives in this past year while continuing our prior programs. Thanks to the creativity and commitment of members of our Board and the hard work of our Executive Director, Carol Deitrick, we have maintained and expanded our services to meet current needs.

The Pro Bono Clearinghouse remains our signature program. Through a virtual law firm of over 160 volunteer attorneys from law offices throughout the Richmond area, we are able to respond to requests for pro bono services from charitable organizations on a remarkable array of non-litigation related legal matters. Thanks to the generosity of our volunteer lawyers, we were able to again provide well over \$100,000 in legal services to our charitable organization clients in 2008.

We continue to assist the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's office in administering three programs in Richmond's public high schools targeted at at-risk youth. In Febru-

substance abusers to achieve and self-sustain a productive, more meaningful post-incarceration life for themselves.

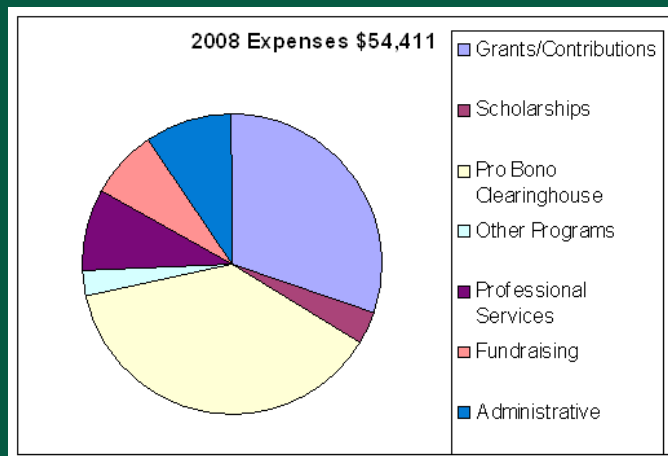
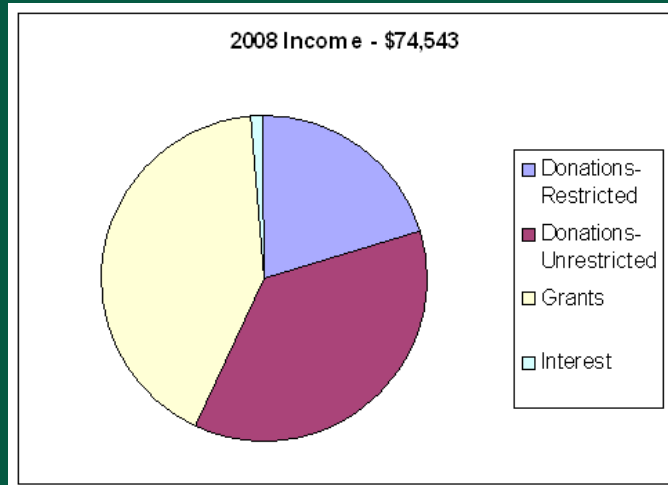
We continue to convene local bar leaders and our Advisory Board for

luncheon meetings throughout the year to discuss legal issues and developments important to our community. Recent speakers have included John G. Douglass, Dean of the T.C. Williams School of Law, and the Honorable Robert McDonnell, then Attorney General of Virginia. We thank each of our firm sponsors of these gatherings for their generous contributions to these events.

As you can see, much has been accomplished by the Foundation in the past year. Much yet remains to be done in the coming years. We are working hard to ensure that the Foundation will be positioned well to continue to grow and to better fulfill its mission to serve the greater Richmond area in the future. We thank you for your past support and guidance. As we move forward, we know we

can rely on your generosity in giving of your time and financial support to help the Foundation continue to serve its mission.

Christopher M. Malone
President
Greater Richmond Bar Foundation



ary, we were pleased to co-sponsor the Attorney General's annual youth awards program. We will again co-sponsor the Hill-Tucker Scholarship Dinner with the Old Dominion Bar Association on April 30 of this year. Our newest initiative involves funding and support for the SCORE (Second Chance Offender Rehabilitative Effort) Program which will provide the means, opportunity, and inspiration for

Alternative Education Programs for City Youth

The Foundation is pleased to report its continuing partnership with the Richmond Commonwealth Attorney's Office in the administration of three high school programs designed to encourage and redirect at-risk youth: a Mock Trial Championship Team, a Youth Court, and an Urban Debate League. The mock trial team recently earned two individual awards at a regional competition, one for best overall attorney and one for best overall witness. The team itself was very competitive, winning one of the four rounds of the competition and coming within a few points of the leaders in two other rounds. We look forward to providing our supporters with exciting updates on the progress of all three programs as we assist the Commonwealth Attorney's Office in its goal to expand them to all city high schools.



Community High School Mock Trial Championship Team

SCORE Program

Over the past few years, the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation ("GRBF") has been studying the problem of recidivism in jails and prisons in Virginia. We have come to find that recidivism is the result of a number of factors, including substance abuse. The cost of recidivism is high. This can not only be measured in terms of what it costs to house a state or federal inmate, but also in terms of the destruction of the lives of these offenders and their families.

The GRBF has been instrumental in helping the United States Probation Office and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia implement the SCORE Program (Second Chance Offender Rehabilitation Effort). The SCORE Program functions as a drug court and provides support to offenders on parole or supervised release. The GRBF has partnered with The University of Richmond School of Law and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work to provide interdisciplinary support to the offenders in the SCORE Program. Through this partnership, offenders in the SCORE Program will have better access to substance abuse treatment, job training, housing, legal representation and other beneficial services provided by resource groups throughout Central Virginia. With this help, we will increase their chance of successful assimilation back into the community.

Please visit our website at www.grbf.org and click on the links to the SCORE Program. We hope you will support this program as it progresses and grows.

Ben R. Lacy IV receives Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award



Ben Lacy of Sands Anderson Marks & Miller was awarded the Foundation's first Pro Bono Clearinghouse Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes exemplary service through the Pro Bono Clearinghouse program, was presented to Mr. Lacy at a reception on September 23, 2008. The reception, which was hosted by Hirschler Fleischer at their new offices, was held to give nonprofit executives and board members an opportunity to learn more about the Pro Bono Clearinghouse program and meet with some of the attorneys who volunteer through the program.

Due to the efforts of Mr. Lacy and other volunteers, the Pro Bono Clearinghouse has been able to make a real difference in the lives of the many thousands served by the various nonprofit organization that have been provided pro bono legal assistance through the program.

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