



A Historical Perspective

By David N. Hofstein, President

The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Academy. It was formally created on December 20, 1990 with the filing of Articles of Incorporation in Illinois. However, many of the original participants credit Donn Fullenweider with coming up with the concept: having watched the beginning, growth, and importance of the Texas Bar Foundation. As a member of the Academy Board of Governors, Donn spearheaded the motion to create a similar foundation. Specifically, on Donn's motion, on March 3, 1989, the Academy's Board of Governors approved the concept of the Foundation and, on March 4, 1990, the Board of Governors approved the expenditure of \$5,000 for filing and legal fees for the creation of the Foundation. Margaret Travers, Joy Feinberg and Arnie Rutkin spearheaded the effort to develop the Mission Statement.

The Foundation's first President was Joe DuCanto followed by Margaret Travers, Michael Ostrow, Beverly Groner, Leonard Loeb, Joy Feinberg, and Mike Albano, all luminaries of the Academy and the inspiration for those of us who have later served as President.

In 1992, the Foundation had an endowment of just over \$80,000. Over the next 25 years, it grew to the current endowment of over \$2,200,000.

In 1992, the Foundation awarded two grants: \$2,500 to the University of Missouri Law School to further legal writing and scholarship in family law and \$2,500 to fund a scholarship for a lawyer to attend the ABA's Family Law Advocacy Program.

Since its inception, the Foundation has provided over \$1 million in grants to worthy organizations throughout the United States. In 2017, the Foundation awarded a total of \$150,000 in 29 individual grants to eligible charities located in over 20 different states including the inaugural James and Lea Hennenhoefler grant to the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice in Newark, New Jersey for submitting the most innovative grant proposal. While most grants have been \$5,000, the Foundation Board has the discretion to award more than that and, in fact, has awarded \$10,000 on occasion.

In addition, the Foundation continues to sponsor the Leonard Loeb Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 2017, the Scholarship was awarded to Tiffany Fameree. For the past five years, the Foundation has also supported the Annual Joanne Ross Wilder Memorial Lecture during the annual meeting in Chicago. The speaker in 2017 was Michael Kaplan Esq., who spoke on traumatic brain injuries in abuse cases. The speaker for 2018 will be Dr. June Carbone who will speak on the creation of families through assisted reproductive technology.

There are a number of other memorable milestones. For many years, then President Joy Feinberg coordinated a dinner at Gibson's during the November meeting

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for people interested in the Foundation, which today has grown into the Wednesday night reception at the University Club. The reception now attracts over 400 fellows and guests. Under the leadership of Suzanne Harris, Arnie Rutkin and Anita Rodarte, who served as Presidents during the period of 2011 through 2017, the Foundation enjoyed exceptional growth. By 2013, we had grown large enough to hire Kim Scott as our administrator who has helped us continue to grow and prosper. On the fundraising side, Arnie Rutkin and Tom Wolfrum suggested the concept which has become the billable hour campaign, a critical part of our fundraising efforts. Most recently, President-Elect Larry Moskowitz and I have been attending chapter meetings and the Academy's Executive Committee meetings, as we continue to work closely with the leadership of the Academy. We have recently been to or will be joining chapters in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas.

As we look back at the last 25 years, we are just completing our Long Range Planning efforts to chart a course for the next 25 years. The success to date of the Foundation could not have happened without the extraordinary support of the 1650 Fellows of the Academy, many of the chapters that hold independent fundraisers to support the Foundation, and our generous sponsors, whose combined support allows us to give over \$150,000 each year to worthwhile eligible charities helping families in desperate need of our assistance.