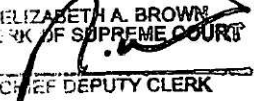




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ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

September 28, 2022

Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre
Nevada Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4702

Re: **MCLE Reserve Funds Grant Program**

ADKT 577

Chief Justice Parraguirre:

On behalf of the Nevada Bar Foundation, we write the Court to provide a report on the newly established Foundation Grant program, an initiative funded through reserve funds held by the Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education and authorized for use in January of this year.

As the Court may recall, more than \$530,000 in MCLE reserves were set aside to support this grant program, with ongoing grant funding to be provided through MCLE attorney and provider late fees. Using those dollars, we established a Foundation Grant Program dedicated to supporting educational, pipeline, and pro bono initiatives. A unique feature of this program calls upon grant recipients to leverage available funds by obtaining matching funds through their community support partners.

We were excited by the number of applicants, the quality of the requests, and the array of initiatives to be funded. This month, the Nevada Bar Foundation Board of Trustees authorized \$180,378 in direct grants, and up to another \$77,500 in matching funds. In arriving at its decisions, the Board of Trustees evaluated the requesting organization's ability to raise matching funds, and whether the request was for a one-time or on-going project. Three types of grant funding were approved:

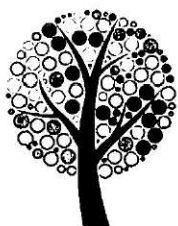
Grant only: Total approved funding will be disbursed; no additional funding is available should the organization leverage the grant dollars for additional donations. There is no restriction on the organization from pursuing other sources of funding for the identified program from other Nevada Bar Foundation or State Bar of Nevada grant programs.

Match only: The Foundation will release up to the dollar amount approved, upon receipt of documentation substantiating the donation(s) received; no initial funding is provided. The Foundation encourages organizations to seek additional support from the community. Therefore, matching dollars may not be solicited from other Nevada Bar Foundation or State Bar of Nevada grant programs.

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Grant and Match: The Foundation will fund the grant amount approved, and will release additional matching funds, *up to* the dollar amount approved, upon receipt of documentation substantiating the donation(s) received. The Foundation encourages organizations to seek additional support from the community. Therefore, matching dollars may not be solicited from other Nevada Bar Foundation or State Bar of Nevada grant programs.

An overview of the programs funded through the Foundation Grant Program follows, categorized as Educational, Pipeline, or Pro Bono programs.



**FOUNDATION
GRANTS**

Educational Programs Funded

Clark County Bar Association (CCBA): Awarded a one-year \$5,000 grant to fund its DICE CLE series, focused on diversity and inclusion. These CLE programs are offered at no cost to CCBA members and non-members. Should the CCBA successfully raise additional dollars, a matching grant of up to \$5,000 will be provided.

National Judicial College (NJC): Awarded a one-year \$10,000 matching grant to provide scholarships for attorneys to attend the NJC Bootcamp. The goal of this program is to promote diversity on the bench. Scholarships will be awarded to attorneys in northern, southern, and rural Nevada.

Neon Law Foundation: Awarded a one-year \$5,000 matching grant to fund a part time staff person to administer an externship program in privacy law, created in conjunction with the UNLV Boyd School of Law and UC Irvine. This program was created by a former UNLV Boyd Law student.

Pipeline Programs Funded

Clark County Law Foundation (CCLF): Awarded a one-time grant of \$14,500 to purchase a database, allowing the organization to track 200+ participants and volunteers in the Trial by Peers program.

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada: Awarded a one-year \$20,378 grant to support the creation of a Pipeline to Justice program, providing funding to recruit diverse students from underrepresented backgrounds, first generation law students, and those who speak other languages to begin a public interest law career. The grant funding will pay half the position salary, during which time the student may take paid time off to study for and take the Nevada bar examination.

National Judicial College (NJC): Awarded a one-year \$15,000 matching grant to fund the NJC Reading & Robes program, providing backpacks, books, and supplies for kids in Title I schools. The materials are distributed by judges who volunteer their time to address the students.

Nevada Center for Civic Engagement: Awarded a one-year \$7,500 matching grant to fund its Project Citizen program, including classroom materials, teacher training and student showcases.

Project REAL: Awarded a \$10,000 one-year grant to publish additional copies of its “Government, Independence, and You” publication. This 190-page guide is delivered to high school students and chapters are taught in a conversational style about how the law intersects with their responsibilities as young adults. Should Project REAL successfully raise additional dollars, a matching grant of up to \$20,000 will be provided for future print editions.

Pro Bono Programs Funded

Immigrant Home Foundation: Awarded a \$42,00 two-year grant to fund half the salary of a case worker supporting the U-VISA/Violence Against Women Act program. With the addition of this position, the Immigrant Home Foundation expects to serve another 100 individuals.

Northern Nevada Legal Aid: Awarded a one-year \$15,000 matching grant to fund the organization’s Immigration Unit. This program assists individuals who may not qualify for free legal services through existing grant funds.

Southern Nevada Senior Law Program: Awarded a \$65,000 one-time grant to fund a half-time Senior Advocates Pro Bono Program Coordinator. This position will staff a newly created pro bono program that provides group clinics on topics such as wills, probate, and estate planning, plus coordination of direct pro bono services.

Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans: Awarded a one-year \$23,500 grant to fund a half-time legal assistant supporting the Lawyer in the Lobby program, with a goal of expanding services to Winnemucca, Hawthorn, and Ely.

We thank the Court for the privilege of administering this valuable program and remain available should the Court have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Farmer

Kimberly K. Farmer

Executive Director

cc: Mark Brandenburg, President, Nevada Bar Foundation
Paola Armeni, President, State Bar of Nevada
Hon. Lynne Simons, Chair, Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education