

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2013
Contact: Katherine L. Garrett
202-467-3750 ext. 12
garrett@dcbarfoundation.org

DC Bar Foundation Awards \$3.17 Million to Support Access to Justice

The DC Bar Foundation announced today \$3.17 million in publicly-funded Access to Justice grants to support civil legal services for the poor and disadvantaged in the District of Columbia. This is the seventh year the District of Columbia Council has appropriated funding to expand legal services for the neediest in the District. At the direction of the DC Council, and pursuant to a Grant Agreement with the District of Columbia, Office of Victim Services, the Bar Foundation lends its expertise to the District of Columbia, identifying, awarding, and monitoring the Access to Justice grants. The FY2013 grants continue support for successful programs that have increased the number of lawyers working on housing issues and in underserved areas; fund the District's model legal services Community Legal Interpreter Bank; and this year fund new projects for lawyers to serve vulnerable communities in the District. Among other strong programs funded this year, FY13 ATJ Grant awards include a ground-breaking project, run by Ayuda, to end fraudulent practices by *notarios* who prey on vulnerable immigrant communities in DC; and funding to anchor legal services to low-wage workers in Southeast DC, through the DC Employment Justice Center.

"We are very excited to be able to fund new projects this year that will reach into even more underserved communities in our city. All the projects continue the creativity and collaboration that have been the hallmark of this flagship grant program. The District's Access to Justice funds have been absolutely critical in making access to justice a reality for some of the most vulnerable in our community. The Council's leadership continues to leverage private resources, and solidify effective partnerships, that are truly reaching across our city," said Emilio W. Cividanes, DC Bar Foundation President, in announcing the awards.

A list of FY2013 Access to Justice projects and grantees is attached and also available on the Foundation's website, www.dcbarfoundation.org.

#

The DC Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 1977 to provide a vehicle for members of the bar to contribute to legal services providers. Since 1985, the Foundation has also administered the District of Columbia's IOLTA program.

**Access to Justice Grant Recipients for Fiscal Year 2012
DC Bar Foundation**

Brief Services Unit *– Neighborhood Legal Services Program	\$67,725
Community Legal Interpreter Bank – Ayuda	\$255,000
Child Support Court-Based Legal Services Project – Bread for the City & Legal Aid Society of DC	\$265,000
Domestic Violence Community Legal Services – Bread for the City	\$130,500
Domestic Violence Underserved Community Response – Legal Aid Society of DC	\$137,000
DC Jail Access Project -- University Legal Services	\$115,500
Generations Teen Parent Access Project – Children’s Law Center	\$26,000
Housing and Community Justice Project -- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	\$38,000
Landlord-Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Project – Bread for the City & Legal Aid Society of DC	\$570,000
Landlord-Tenant Court Project Support -- DC Law Students in Court	\$85,000
Reentry Community Legal Services – Our Place, DC	\$75,000
Project END* - Ayuda	\$74,115
Project HELP --Legal Counsel for the Elderly	\$85,000
School Discipline Legal Services Project – Advocates for Justice and Education	\$90,000
Southeast Community Lawyering Project -- Bread for the City	\$43,000
Southeast DC Healthy Together Project -- Children’s Law Center	\$249,000
Southeast Legal Services Expansion – Whitman-Walker Health	\$175,000
Southeast Neighborhood Access Project -- Legal Aid Society of DC	\$385,000
Southeast Workers Rights Clinic* – DC Employment Justice Center	\$31,610
Ward 7 – Polk Street Office – Neighborhood Legal Services Program	\$280,000
<i>*Newly funded project</i>	