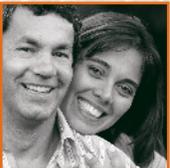




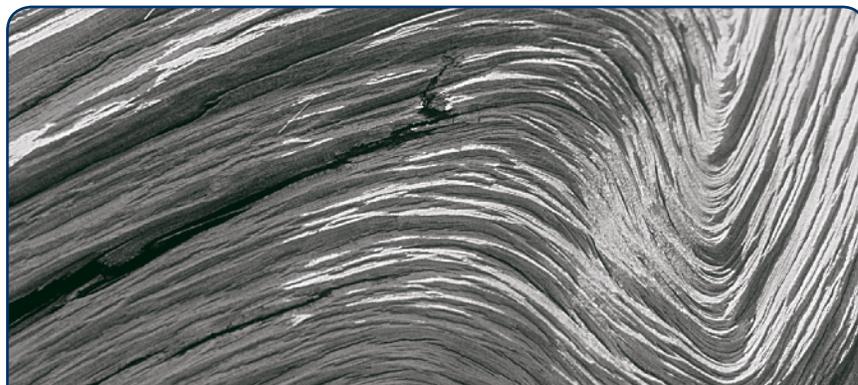
partnering for justice



annual report 2009



WISTAF
Funding Civil Justice



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part•ner•ship - noun

A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal.

Our Mission

The Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc. (WisTAF) is dedicated to equal access to the civil justice system, funding legal services for low-income persons through the fair and effective administration of Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Public Interest Legal Services Fund (PILSF), State of Wisconsin Low-Income Civil Legal Services Appropriation, and other sources.

President's Message

2009 descended on the civil legal service world, dragging with it the unwelcome economic baggage of 2008. While the challenges presented to WisTAF were numerous, I am able, with great satisfaction and gratitude, to report that these challenges – through the strength of *partnerships* – have resulted in an improbable success.

As Wisconsin's largest private funding source for civil legal aid programs, WisTAF exists to ensure that low-income people with non-criminal legal problems have access to information, advice and representation. WisTAF awarded grants to 15 civil legal aid programs spanning the state in 2009. Despite grave economic conditions due to the national recession, total 2009 grant disbursements reached their second highest level of the past decade. This feat was made possible by WisTAF's continued sound fiscal management; diversification of funding sources; and numerous partnerships both forged and fortified in 2009.

The following are just a few examples of such partnerships:

- WisTAF was named administrator of the low-income civil legal service state appropriation funding made possible by our partners in the Wisconsin Legislature and Governor's Office, as well as the legal service providers who fought so hard for its continued inclusion in the state's bi-annual budget;
- The Foundation developed and strengthened partnerships with over 230 IOLTA participating banks and credit unions through implementation of the amended trust account rule during the winter of 2009. These financial institutions recognize that WisTAF brings to the table: commitment to a social mission; access to a target customer base; experience in managing funding; and an opportunity to make a difference. And making a difference is exactly what these financial institutions are doing on a day-to-day basis;
- Additionally, those banks that have chosen to take their corporate citizenship to a higher level by joining the Prime Partner program (see page 9 for program details) are part of a win-win situation in which banks are able to advance their business goals, while WisTAF advances its organizational mission;
- Wisconsin's lawyers and judges continue to make a tremendous impact on civil legal service funding through the annual Public Interest Legal Services Fund (PILSF). A huge thank you is deserved by the many attorneys and judges throughout the state who donate so generously of their time and money to WisTAF and the agencies who benefit from available grants.

Without question, 2010 presents economic uncertainty. However, I'm confident that, together with our partners in the Wisconsin Legislature, Governor's Office, Bar, financial and legal aid communities, we will continue our mission of making sure that Wisconsin residents have equal access to the civil justice system – regardless of their lot in life.



John Bermingham, *President*



Advocates and Benefits for Health Counseling (ABC for Health, Inc.) was contacted by a couple – “Jim” and “Sarah” – who had hit tough times. Jim was hurt and couldn’t work, and Sarah had recently lost the job she had held for over 25 years. Both were experiencing significant health issues and were in need of medical attention. It had been years since either had health insurance. ABC met with the couple, screened them for disability issues and medical needs, and assessed their income situation. ABC then assisted the couple in navigating the new BadgerCare Plus Core Plan application process. Lengthy delays and inappropriate denials would have caused this couple to give up on the process, but ABC took that burden from the family and cut through the legal red tape. In the end, the couple received the benefits and care they were due, received appropriate reimbursements for their medical expenses, regulated their daily medications, and got back on their feet. ABC helped Jim get into a workforce training program and Sarah now has a job with insurance coverage. Due to such a positive turn of events, Sarah was able to relinquish her Core Plan, giving a spot to one of the 30,000 individuals on the program’s waiting list.

ABC for Health, Inc., Madison

2009 Year in Review

"We're starting to see glimmers of hope across the economy."

President Obama – April 2009

WisTAF Revenue: An Overview

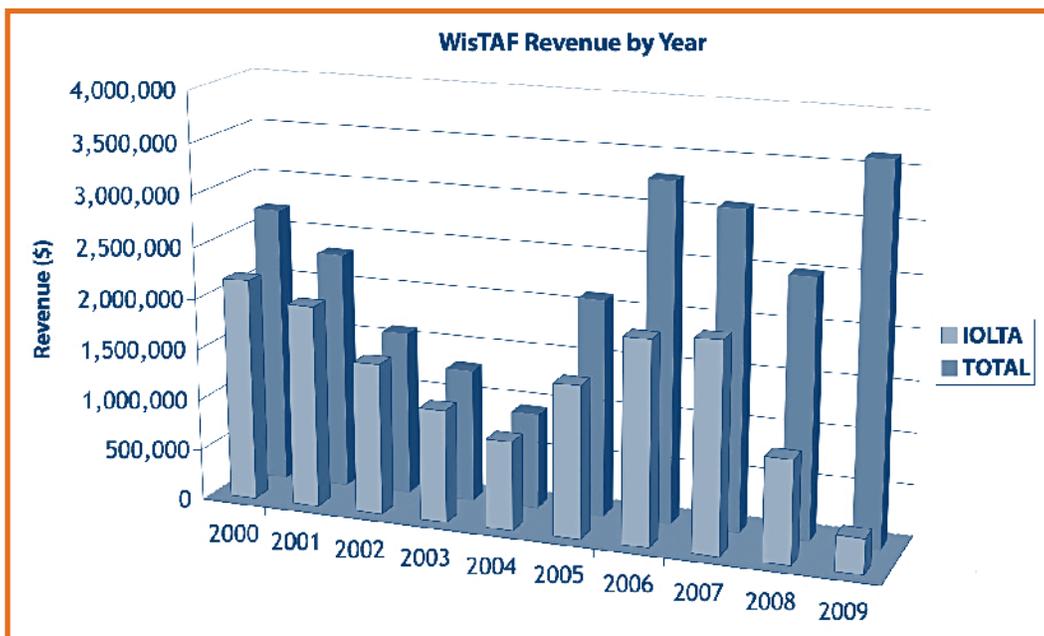
Currently, revenue for grants comes from three main sources: the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, the Public Interest Legal Services Fund (PILSF) program, and the State of Wisconsin low-income civil legal services appropriation.

The IOLTA and PILSF programs were established by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to make Wisconsin's justice system accessible to all, regardless of income. The IOLTA program is supported by participating financial institutions across the state, while all practicing Wisconsin attorneys and judicial members support the PILSF program.

For the first time in history, in its 2007-2009 budget, the Wisconsin legislature included \$1,000,000 for low-income civil legal services, to be administered by WisTAF. This amount was increased to \$1,958,600 and \$2,546,100 million, respectively in its 2009-2011 budget in an attempt to help fill the void in state funding for *civil* legal services.

In addition to these three main sources, WisTAF also was honored to disburse \$123,000 in grants on behalf of the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, Inc.

In 2009, WisTAF's IOLTA revenue was severely impacted by the national economic crisis. While the Federal Reserve Board kept the federal funds target rate at unprecedented low levels, resulting IOLTA income dropped 66 percent from 2008 – its lowest total in WisTAF's history at just under \$350,000. Fortunately, WisTAF's more stable PILSF and civil legal services state appropriation income sources resulted in the highest total annual revenue realized in the last decade – topping \$3.6 million. This means 2009 grant disbursements totaled the second highest amount since 2000. And, the Foundation did not need to dip into reserves during 2009.



On a further positive note, WisTAF's investment portfolio regained 33 percent of its value by the end of the year – an indication that the market was regaining some of its confidence by the close of 2009.

Over the past five years the WisTAF Board of Directors has worked diligently to identify and evaluate potential new income sources in an attempt to diversify grant revenue sources. The Board will continue to pursue this goal in an effort to mitigate future economic uncertainty.

IOLTA Initiatives

The latter half of 2009 witnessed a flurry of activity precipitated by the Wisconsin Supreme Court's order amending the trust account rule governing IOLTA accounts, SCR 20:1.15. Under the new rule language, which took effect January 1, 2010, an IOLTA account must be held at an "IOLTA participating institution." In order to assist attorneys in determining whether a particular financial institution meets the new rule requirements, WisTAF is required to publish on its Web site a list of the financial institutions that it has confirmed to be "IOLTA participating institutions." The list also identifies members of the Prime Partner program – those participating financial institutions that go above and beyond IOLTA participation requirements by choosing to pay interest rates on IOLTA accounts that are at least a half-percent higher than they pay on similarly situated non-IOLTA accounts. (See complete list on page 9 of this report.)

In the fall and early winter of 2009, WisTAF staff reviewed product, rate, and fee information for over 230 individual financial institutions in order to verify alignment with SCR 20:1.15. A process which, although substantial in scope, enabled the Foundation to develop and strengthen its relationships with Wisconsin's banks and credit unions serving the legal profession. In fact, representatives of the primary organizations representing members of the state's banking industry – the Wisconsin Bankers Association and the Community Bankers of Wisconsin – collaborated with WisTAF on the materials and tools used to implement the new rule. A prime example of how meaningful partnerships are the foundation for success.

Going forward, WisTAF will monitor financial institutions' ongoing alignment with the rule and update the list periodically, as well as conduct a comprehensive annual review of all the institutions, as required by the rule. WisTAF will work with any institutions that might fall out of alignment to ensure their opportunity to continue participation in the IOLTA program, if desired.

Grant Awards

Although WisTAF's IOLTA revenue suffered from the devastating economic conditions beginning in late 2008 and extending into 2009, grant disbursements for the year were at their second highest level of the decade. This feat was made possible by the Foundation's diversification of income sources and the inherent stability of the PILSF and State of Wisconsin low-income civil legal services appropriation.

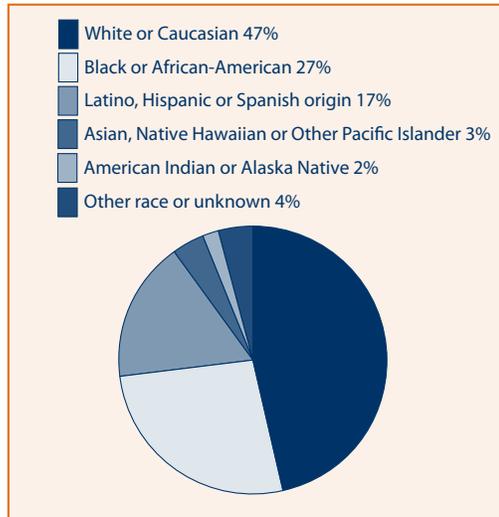
In 2009 WisTAF granted more than \$3 million to 15 legal services agencies. These grants included \$250,000 from WisTAF's IOLTA program, \$891,000 from the Public Interest Legal Services Fund (PILSF), and \$1,958,000 in state appropriation funding. WisTAF also was honored to disburse \$123,000 from the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, Inc.

It should be noted that while total grants exceeded nine of the past 10 years, funding fell short of the total amount requested by grant applicants by nearly \$1.9 million – further evidence of the growing need for civil legal service funding in Wisconsin.

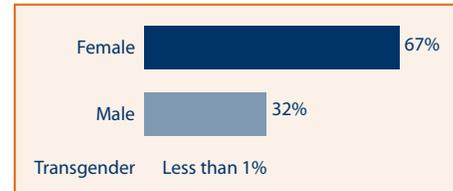
Service Delivery Statistics

Between January 1 and December 31, 2009, WisTAF-funded legal services programs provided assistance to low-income clients in nearly every Wisconsin county. Grantees report that over 18,000 individuals directly benefitted from legal assistance provided with WisTAF grant funding in 2009. These figures do not take into account numerous others who received helpful legal information and education but were not engaged as clients.

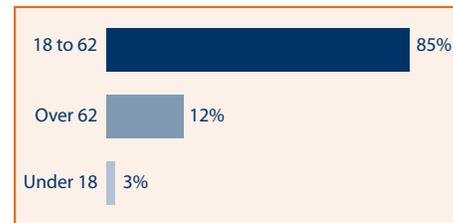
Who uses WisTAF-supported legal services?



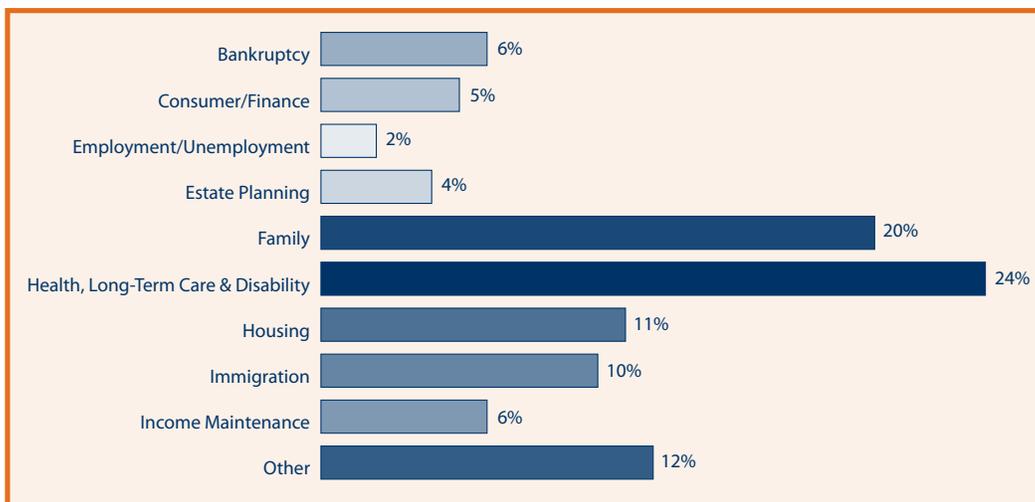
Gender



Age



Types of cases closed in 2009





“Jennifer” is a woman who, after 17 years of marriage, is seeking a divorce from her husband. Over the course of their marriage, Jennifer’s husband’s mental state deteriorated causing him to believe he possessed special powers and that outsiders often were “the devil.” Jennifer, who had no income and no other means for support, was completely controlled and isolated by him. The couple’s two children were home-schooled; all were forbidden to seek professional medical attention; and no one was to discuss the “religion” Jennifer’s husband had created and forced upon his family. Eventually, Jennifer found the courage to move out. Initially, she didn’t take the children with her for fear it would send her husband over the edge. Once out of the house, she began to see a counselor who diagnosed and began treating her for post traumatic stress disorder. It wasn’t long before her teenage sons complained that their father was not buying groceries or hygiene items for them. They soon were diagnosed with depression – and, as a result of his father’s influence, the oldest son developed violent tendencies toward Jennifer. Desperate for a better life for her family, Jennifer knew she needed legal help – but had no resources.

With the help of an attorney working for the Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, Jennifer was able to file a divorce action against her husband. She obtained a temporary order from the Court giving her sole legal custody in matters of health care and religion, as well as primary physical placement of her children. Jennifer is well on her way of achieving her goal of becoming stable enough to obtain employment in order to care for herself and her children independently.

Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse (CASDA), Superior

Meaningful Partnerships: The Foundation for Success

The great and important task of ensuring access to the civil justice system is possible if we join forces with meaningful partners – each one bringing complementary assets to the table.

WisTAF wishes to thank its many partners in 2009 – from Wisconsin’s financial institutions, legislators, and practicing attorneys and judges – on the funding side – to grantee agencies and individual providers – on the service side – for their dedicated efforts in this great collaborative effort.

Wisconsin’s Financial Institutions

Financial institutions provide the substance of the IOLTA program. Their commitment to the communities they serve is reflected in their participation in IOLTA. The interest earned on attorney IOLTA accounts is helping our friends and neighbors across Wisconsin.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the financial institutions that maintained IOLTA accounts in 2009.

Prime Partners

Membership in the Prime Partner program allows banks to fulfill the corporate value of “supporting the community.” And, Prime Partners understand that a stronger community is good for business.

Prime Partner institutions, listed below, are IOLTA participating financial institutions that go above and beyond IOLTA participation requirements by choosing to pay interest rates on IOLTA accounts that are at least 50 basis points (0.50 percent) higher than required under the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s IOLTA interest rate comparability requirement. The additional interest results in more funding for civil legal aid in communities throughout Wisconsin and, in return, Prime Partners receive special recognition from WisTAF.

Alliance Bank (New Ulm)
BLC Community Bank
First American Bank, NA
First Bank Financial Centre
First Business Bank (Madison)
First Business Bank (Milwaukee)
First National Bank of Hartford
Harris N.A.
Horicon Bank

Integrity First Bank
Mound City Bank
National City Bank
Peoples State Bank (Prairie du Chien)
River Valley Bank
The PrivateBank
Spring Bank
State Bank Financial

Attorneys and law firms can help sustain IOLTA and civil legal aid to low-income Wisconsinites by doing one of the following:

1. Bank at a Prime Partner financial institution.
2. If you do business with a non-Prime Partner, encourage the financial institution to become a Prime Partner by contacting the financial institution directly.

We are honored that these outstanding financial institutions have chosen to work with WisTAF to make an even larger positive impact on the lives of their neighbors in need.

syn-erg-y - noun

The idea that the value and performance of two companies combined will be greater than the sum of the separate individual parts.

"In today's world there is an expectation that business has a responsibility to give back to society, and the best way to do that is in collaboration with other organizations. In an ideal partnership, we are able to address business needs and be a good corporate citizen at the same time."

Corporate Leader

Eligible IOLTA Participating Financial Institutions (asterisks denote Prime Partners)

Effective January 1, 2010, the Wisconsin Supreme Court amended the Rules governing the state's IOLTA program. The following financial institutions have certified and received WisTAF verification that they are in alignment with the amended Wisconsin Supreme Court Rule 20:1.15 and are therefore eligible to hold IOLTA accounts in Wisconsin. **Institutions listed in bold generously waived service fees on IOLTA accounts (as of Dec. 31, 2009), allowing all interest earned to go directly to their neighbors in need.**

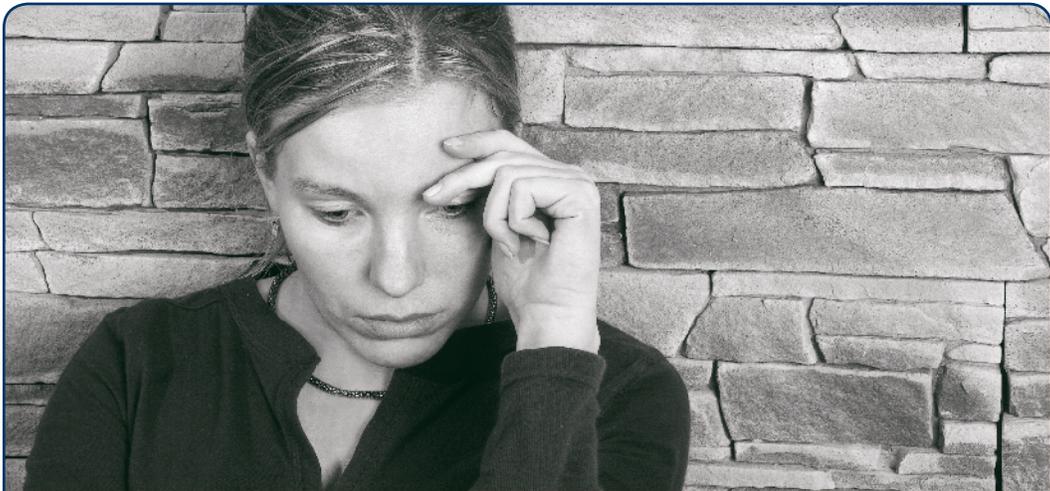
- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Abby Bank | Chippewa Valley Bank | First Bank Baldwin | Investors Community Bank |
| Alliance Bank - Cochrane | CIBM Bank (Marine Bank) | First Banking Center | Jackson County Bank |
| *Alliance Bank - New Ulm | Citizens Bank of Mukwonago | *First Business Bank (Madison) | John O. Melby & Co. Bank |
| AMCORE Bank | Citizens Community Federal | *First Business Bank (Milwaukee) | Johnson Bank |
| American Bank | Citizens First Bank | First Citizens State Bank | JPMorgan Chase Bank |
| American Bank & Trust Wisconsin | Citizens Republic Bancorp | First Community Bank | Lafarge State Bank |
| American National Bank Fox Cities | Citizens State Bank | First Community Credit Union | Laona State Bank |
| AnchorBank | Citizens State Bank of Clayton | First National Bank | Layton State Bank |
| Associated Bank | Citizens State Bank of Loyal | First National Bank & Trust (Barron) | Legacy Bank |
| Badger Bank | Clare Bank N.A. | First National Bank & Trust Company | Lincoln Community Bank |
| Badger State Bank | Collins State Bank | First National Bank at Darlington | Marathon Savings Bank |
| Bank First National | Commercial Bank | First National Bank of Bangor | Marine Bank (CIBM Bank) |
| Bank Mutual | Community Bank & Trust | First National Bank of Berlin | Markesan State Bank |
| Bank of Alma | Community Bank of Cameron | First National Bank of Eagle River | M&I Bank |
| Bank of Brodhead | Community Bank of Central Wisconsin | First National Bank of Fox Valley | Marshfield Savings Bank |
| Bank of Deerfield | Community Bank of Northern Wisconsin | *First National Bank of Hartford | McFarland State Bank |
| Bank of Galesville | Community Bank of Delavan | The First National Bank of Niagara | Middleton Community Bank |
| The Bank of Kaukauna | Community Business Bank | First National Bank of Park Falls | Mid-America Bank |
| Bank of Lake Mills | Community Financial Bank | First National Bank of Platteville | Mid-Wisconsin Bank |
| Bank of Luxemburg | Community First Bank | First National Bank of River Falls | Mitchell Bank |
| Bank of Mauston | Community Credit Union | First National Community Bank | Monona State Bank |
| Bank of Milton | Community State Bank | First State Bank | *Mound City Bank |
| The Bank of New Glarus | Cornerstone Community Bank | Gateway Community Bank | National Bank of Commerce |
| Bank of Poynette | Coulee Bank | Grand Marsh State Bank | The National Bank |
| Bank of Prairie du Sac | Dairy State Bank | Greenwoods State Bank | The National Bank of Waupun |
| Bank of Sun Prairie | Dairyland State Bank | Guaranty Bank | *National City Bank |
| Bank of Wausau | Denmark State Bank | *Harris Bank | National Exchange Bank & Trust |
| Bank of the West | DMB Community Bank | Hartford Savings Bank | The Necedah Bank |
| Bank of Wisconsin Dells | Eagle Valley Bank | Headwaters State Bank | Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank |
| Banks of Wisconsin | The Equitable Bank | Heritage Bank | Nicolet National Bank |
| Banner Banks | Evergreen State Bank | Hiawatha National Bank | North Shore Bank |
| The Baraboo National Bank | Farmers & Merchants Bank (Berlin) | Hometown Bank | Northern State Bank |
| Baylake Bank | Farmers & Merchants Bank (Tomah) | Home Savings Bank | Northern Trust Bank |
| Benton State Bank | Farmers & Merchants State Bank | *Horicon Bank | Northwestern Bank |
| Black Earth State Bank | Farmers & Merchants Union Bank | Independence State Bank | Oak Bank |
| Black River Country Bank | Farmers Savings Bank | *Integrity State Bank | Park Bank in Holmen |
| Blackhawk Community Credit Union | Farmers State Bank (Hillsboro) | Intercity State Bank | Park Bank in Milwaukee |
| Blackhawk State Bank | Farmers State Bank (Markesan) | ISB Community Bank | Peoples Bank |
| *BLC Community Bank | Fidelity National Bank | The International Bank of Amherst | Peoples Bank of Wisconsin |
| Bonduel State Bank | *First American Bank NA | Investors Bank | The Peoples Community Bank |
| Bremer Bank | First Bank | | Peoples State Bank (Boyceville) |
| Bull's Eye Credit Union | *First Bank Financial Centre | | *Peoples State Bank (Prairie du Chien) |
| The Business Bank | | | Peoples State Bank of Bloomer |
| Calumet County Bank | | | |
| Cambridge State Bank | | | |
| Capitol Bank | | | |
| Charter Bank (Eau Claire) | | | |

Peoples State Bank of Wausau
 Peshtigo National Bank
 Pioneer Bank
Pioneer Bank of Wisconsin
Port Washington State Bank
 The Park Bank (Madison)
The Portage County Bank
Premier Community Bank
PremierBank
***The Private Bank**
Pyramax Bank
 The Pineries Bank
River Bank
The River Bank
 River Cities Bank

River Falls State Bank
 *River Valley Bank
Royal Bank
 Royal Credit Union
Rural Amerian Bank (Luck)
 Securant Bank & Trust
 Security Financial Bank
Security State Bank
Shell Lake State Bank
 Southport Bank
 *Spring Bank
 *State Bank Financial
State Bank of Arcadia
State Bank of Chilton
State Bank of Cross Plains
State Bank of Drummond

State Bank of Florence
 Stephenson National Bank & Trust
 Sterling Bank
 Summit Credit Union
Sunset Bank & Savings
Superior Savings Bank
 TCF National Bank of Wisconsin
Timberwood Bank
Tomahawk Community Bank
Town Bank
 Tri City National Bank
Union Bank & Trust Company
 Union Bank of Blair
Union National Bank & Trust Company
Union State Bank

Union State Bank of West Salem
 United Bank
 Unity Bank
US Bank
Walworth State Bank
 Waukesha State Bank
Waumandee State Bank
 Wells Fargo Bank
Westbury Bank
 West Pointe Bank
 WESTconsin Credit Union
 Wisconsin Community Bank
Wolf River Community Bank
Woodford State Bank
 Woodtrust Bank
WPS Community Bank



Like many victims of domestic violence, “Kelly” found herself in the cyclical pattern of abuse from her husband. Several times she convinced her husband to seek counseling, but each time he would eventually drop out and continue the acts of violence. After an incident where her husband threatened to destroy their house and kill her, Kelly fled for her life. She worked with police and the district attorney to criminally prosecute her husband, but she lacked the funding for a proper divorce. Kelly tried to secure the divorce on her own; however, she made some errors during the process and her husband was able to reopen the case and vacate the divorce judgment. Soon he made demands for child visitation and property.

Centro Legal was able to represent Kelly at no cost as part of its domestic abuse program. Assisted by a Centro Legal attorney, Kelly secured a complex settlement that met her needs and protected her children. Centro Legal also connected Kelly to other community resources to help her deal with the stress and toll of the case. She knew there were many challenges remaining, but felt she could confidently address them because the divorce was final.

Centro Legal, Milwaukee

Wisconsin's Legal Practitioners and the State Bar of Wisconsin

While banks provide the substance of the IOLTA program, attorney participation provides the backbone.

In addition, funding for the Public Interest Legal Services Program (PILSF) is directly attributable to Wisconsin's attorneys and judges. PILSF funds are distributed geographically throughout the ten state judicial districts in proportion to the poverty populations in each district. That means that judicial districts with a large number of attorneys and a relatively low poverty population provide funding for judicial districts with few attorneys and many poor people – ensuring that rural populations receive an equal share of PILSF funds. Since its inception five years ago, PILSF funds have helped low-income people in all Wisconsin counties.

WisTAF also works collaboratively with State Bar of Wisconsin leadership on issues affecting the delivery of legal services to low-income residents. In 2009, this partnership resulted in the mutual support of petitions heard by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Deserving special recognition are the State Bar's Legal Assistance Committee, which studies and recommends methods for making civil legal services more accessible to low-income persons, and the Public Interest Law Section, which provides a forum for public interest lawyers to discuss common issues and concerns. These sections also provide education opportunities by sponsoring seminars at State Bar conventions, and encouraging law students at the state's two law schools to consider employment in public interest law.

Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, Inc.

The Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund (WEJF) is a nonprofit agency formed by attorneys to help increase funding for Wisconsin's civil legal services programs. Individual attorneys, law firms, Wisconsin corporations and non-attorney individuals support WEJF's members through donations and the annual Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner in Milwaukee.

WEJF has raised nearly \$2 million for civil legal services programs that serve Wisconsin's low-income families.

Wisconsin Legislature and Governor's Office

Prior to July 1, 2008, Wisconsin was one of only six states in the U.S. that did not fund legal services to enable the state's low-income residents to access the civil court system. While Wisconsin has funded legal representation for low-income residents accused of criminal offenses through the Public Defenders Office for decades, similar court access for low-income civil victims of unlawful activities such as domestic violence, illegal evictions and consumer fraud remained financially inaccessible to over half a million Wisconsin residents.

The Legislature corrected that oversight in its 2007-2009 budget, signed by Governor Jim Doyle, which included \$1,000,000 for low-income civil legal services. The appropriation was increased to \$1,958,600 (2009-10) and \$2,546,100 (2010-2011) in the Legislature's 2009-2011 budget, signed by Governor Doyle on June 29, 2009.

WisTAF was honored to be named as the appropriation's administrator under oversight of the Department of Administration.

Wisconsin Supreme Court

Since creating WisTAF in 1986, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has entrusted WisTAF to identify income sources to be used for improving access to the civil justice system. When WisTAF identified improved IOLTA management options, the court heard and approved WisTAF's petition to amend the Supreme Court Rule governing trust accounts. Implementation of the rule change means additional resources will be available for those needing civil legal help as interest rates rise, nationally, in the years ahead.

“Every man must decide whether he will walk in the creative light of altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgement. Life’s persistent and most urgent question is ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

2009 Grant Recipients

In 2009, WisTAF granted more than \$3 million to 15 legal services agencies. 2009 grants included \$250,000 from WisTAF’s IOLTA program, \$891,000 from the Public Interest Legal Services Fund (PILSF), and \$1,958,000 in state appropriation funding. WisTAF also was honored to disburse \$123,000 from the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, Inc. These grants have boosted WisTAF funding to a phenomenal \$37 million over the past 23 years. But as the following grantee agencies would affirm, more is needed. In fact, it’s estimated that more than \$30 million would be needed each year to meet the civil legal services needs of Wisconsin’s low income families.

WisTAF is honored to support our grantees’ dedicated efforts to providing equal access to legal services in the face of inadequate funding and challenging economic times.

ABC (Advocacy and Benefits Counseling) for Health, Inc. is a nonprofit public interest law firm serving families throughout Wisconsin on legal issues related to health care access and financing.

“Funding dollars from WisTAF are critical to AIDS Network Legal Services and its ability to maintain and improve legal resources for our low-income and vulnerable clients.”

Daniel Guinn, Director of Client Services (AIDS Network)

AIDS Network provides advocacy, legal assistance and referrals to help persons with HIV/AIDS find access to public benefits, housing, medical benefits/access to medical care, family law and other legal issues.

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin provides help to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS, so they can find the legal help they need to live with dignity.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization serving over 13,000 families annually in the areas of Adult, Family & Children, and Social Ministries.

Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA) provides free services to individuals hurt by domestic, sexual or child abuse, as they advocate for a community effort to end violence.

Centro Legal is a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to provide legal representation to the poor and those with limited resources for a reasonable and accessible price in the Milwaukee area.

Community Justice, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that provides legal services to Madison-area low-income families and individuals on a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines.

Disability Rights Wisconsin defends the rights of people residing in Wisconsin’s public and private institutions, and represents individuals under the Americans with Disabilities act through information and referral, direct legal representation, and in limited situations, class action litigation.

Door County Legal Aid Society is a volunteer organization that operates primarily as a screening and referral source to coordinate legal services through local pro bono attorneys.

“Community Justice, Inc. would all like to thank WisTAF for the opportunity to increase its impact on the justice gap in Wisconsin. The grant has given [us] the resources to focus attorney time on fulfilling its mission to serve otherwise unrepresented individuals.”

Mara Bridgman Sheridan, Executive Director (Community Justice, Inc.)

Kids Matter, Inc. provides legal services and other advocacy for children in foster and kinship care in the greater Milwaukee area.

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. serves low-income clients in the areas of family law and domestic violence, housing, public benefits, special education and economic development.

“The unmet need for legal services in northern Wisconsin is huge ... We were astonished to see the number of requests for advocacy in 2009 increase to almost double the number of requests we received in 2008.”

Lynn Breedlove, Executive Director (Disability Rights Wisconsin)

Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee provides family law, public benefits, landlord-tenant, consumer, municipal ordinance defense and civil rights law to low-income people in Milwaukee.

People Against Sexual and Domestic Violence of Jefferson County provides legal advocacy and representation to victims of domestic and sexual abuse in Jefferson County.

Portage County Legal Aid Society is a volunteer attorney legal service that addresses the need for pro bono civil legal services for indigent persons in Portage County.

Wisconsin Judicare, Inc. provides civil legal services to nearly 3,000 low-income northern Wisconsin residents each year with the help of 400 private practice attorneys and eight staff attorneys.

Schedule of Grants – January 1 through December 31, 2009

	IOLTA Grants	PILSF Grants	State of Wisconsin Low-Income Civil Legal Services Appropriation	Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund Grants
ABC for Health, Inc.	11,000	23,200	146,900	-
AIDS Network	11,700	-	40,000	-
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin	13,300	-	19,600	-
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Inc.	16,500	-	24,500	-
Center Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse, Inc.	-	19,700	39,200	-
Centro Legal	37,500	-	62,500	-
Community Justice, Inc.	-	11,700	39,200	-
Disability Rights Wisconsin	29,400	43,400	299,550	24,600
Kids Matter, Inc.	10,000	-	-	-
Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.	67,305	569,664	733,800	77,126
Legal Aid Society of Door County	-	5,400	-	-
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee	34,700	43,000	299,550	-
People Against Sexual & Domestic Abuse	-	8,000	-	-
Portage County Legal Aid Society	-	10,000	4,000	-
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.	18,595	157,107	249,800	21,274
Totals	250,000	891,171	1,958,600	123,000

“For poor children, obtaining the basic necessities requires a high level of motivation, information and advocacy on the part of the caregiver ... Legal assistance is crucial because fundamental interests are at stake. Kids Matter, Inc. is committed to finding new and better ways to ensure that equal justice is a promise kept for our poorest children.”

Susan Conwell, Executive Director (Kids Matter, Inc.)

Financial Statements

	2009*	2008
Assets		
Total Current Assets	809,613	959,106
Fixed Assets	1,958	2,671
Investments	1,335,811	1,006,292
Total Assets	2,147,382	1,968,069
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Total Liabilities/Line of Credit	150,000	150,000
Total Net Assets	1,997,382	1,818,069
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,147,382	1,968,069
Statements of Activities		
Revenues	3,628,640	2,508,637
Expenditures		
Grants Awarded	3,222,771	3,746,335
Support Expenses	226,556	239,012
Total Expenditures	3,449,327	3,985,347
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	179,313	(1,476,710)
Net Assets – Beginning of Period	1,818,069	3,294,779
Net Assets – End of Period	1,997,382	1,818,069
*These are audited figures for the period ending December 31, 2009. Audit available upon request.		



partnering for justice

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