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Co-sponsored by the United States Bankruptcy Court and the Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program, the CLE seminar, Updates in Bankruptcy Practice and Procedures, was held at the Rhode Island Law Center in April. Members of the Volunteer Lawyer Program and the Pro Bono Program for the Elderly, who accepted a pro bono case, attended the seminar free of charge. As a result, over 50 cases were placed for families in need. Both of these Pro Bono Programs are supported by the Bar Foundation.

Our Mission

Founded in 1953, the Rhode Island Bar Foundation is a non-profit, charitable Foundation with the following goals and objectives:

- To foster and maintain the honor and integrity of the profession of law;
- To study, improve and facilitate the administration of justice;
- To promote the study of the law, research therein, and the diffusion of knowledge thereof;
- To cause to be published and to distribute addresses, reports, treatises and other literary works on legal subjects;
- To promote suitable standards of legal education;
- To support the delivery of legal services to those without sufficient means to secure them otherwise.

Front Cover: Providence, Rhode Island by Brian McDonald



John A. Tarantino

2009-2010 President's Message

This past year has been one marked by both changes and challenges. In March 2009, changes to the Rules of Professional Responsibility dealing with Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) went into effect, mandating IOLTA accounts for all non-exempt attorneys, i.e., any attorney or law firm that holds client money must now establish an IOLTA account. The rules also were changed to ensure that the financial institutions where attorneys and law firms establish their IOLTA accounts pay the same interest rates on IOLTA accounts that they pay on non-IOLTA accounts so long as the accounts have the same minimum balance or other requirements. Consequently, attorneys and law firms must establish their IOLTA accounts in financial institutions with interest rate parity.

The rule changes have worked well; hundreds of new IOLTA accounts have been established. Despite what are still substantial problems in the real estate market (i.e., real estate transactions generate the vast majority of IOLTA interest) and historically low interest rates paid by financial institutions, we have been able to continue to fund many valuable programs that meet the Foundation's mission to educate people about the law and provide needed resources for legal services to the poor and underprivileged.

But there have also been challenges. The sour economy has forced the Bar Foundation to reduce its IOLTA funding to grantees. However, unlike some other bar foundations, we have been able to do so modestly rather than dramatically. Some foundations have had to close up shop, as the economy has devastated their funding and, consequently, their programs. Some predicted that the same tragic fate would befall our own Foundation. But just as William Faulkner "declined to accept the end of man" when he gave his speech upon receiving the

Nobel Prize, we have declined to accept the end of our Foundation and all of its good works. And just as Faulkner also predicted that "man will not merely endure, he will prevail," so, too, do we have the same foresight about our Foundation. With your help, support and hard work, we will not only endure, but prevail, continuing to make significant grants to provide legal services to the poor, improve the delivery of legal services, promote knowledge and awareness of law, and improve the administration of justice.

We pledge to do our best to ensure that our most significant sources of revenue, which come from attorney participation in the IOLTA program, as well as the annual contributions we receive from our Fellows, will be used wisely to meet these goals. Additionally, through the generosity of the Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established more than 20 years ago to support and foster legal practice standards, we will continue to assist Rhode Island residents who show the promise of one day become outstanding lawyers and leaders of the Bar, and who presently need financial assistance in order to continue their legal studies.

The Board of Directors and the Fellows of the Bar Foundation vow to continue these good works and we look forward to maintaining the strong relationships we have with our IOLTA grantees. We will work with them as we continue to hold these truths as self-evident: all men and women are not only created equal, but are entitled to equal access to justice under the law.

In closing, I thank the Bar Foundation Board of Directors, the Fellows and our excellent staff for all that they do. I am honored to work with you all and to serve as your President. Together we have faced the worst and we have endured.

John a. Tarantino



Membership as a Fellow is deemed a professional honor. Fellows shall be selected from those members of the Rhode Island Bar Association whose professional, public and private careers have demonstrated their outstanding dedication to the welfare of the community and maintenance of the objectives of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation.

* Denotes that member is a Lifetime Fellow. Lifetime Fellows are asked to contribute \$100 each year after their pledge has been paid in full.

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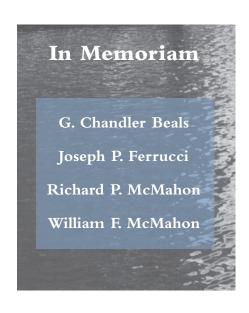
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The Rhode Island Bar Foundation

Founded in 1958, the Rhode Island Bar Foundation is the non-profit philanthropic arm of the state's legal profession. Its mission is to foster and maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession and to study, improve, and facilitate the administration of justice.

The Foundation receives support from members of the bar, other Foundations, and from honorary and memorial contributions. The Foundation invites you to join in meeting the challenges ahead by contributing to the Foundation's Tribute Program. The Foundation's Tribute Program honors the memory, accomplishments, or special occasion of an attorney, a friend, a loved one, his or her spouse, or another family member. Those wishing to honor a colleague, friend, or family member may do so by filling out the form and mailing it, with their contribution, to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, 115 Cedar Street, Providence, RI 02903. You may also request a form by contacting the Rhode Island Bar Foundation at 401-421-6541. All gifts will be acknowledged to the family.

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To contribute to the Rhode Island Bar Foundation in memory of someone who has died or in honor of a special occasion, please complete this form and mail it with your contribution. We will send a card to the person honored or to the family member of the deceased.

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All gifts are acknowledged in the Foundation's annual report.

Rhode Island Bar Foundation SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Amy E. Moses, Esq., 2001 Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholar, addressed the audience and met with the 2009 Scholarship recipients and guests



2009 Scholarship Recipients, Joshua Bouchard and Matthew Kimberlin, with Allan M. Shine, Esq., and R. Kelly Sheridan, Esq., at the annual meeting in June.



Joshua Bouchard with his mother, Alisha Mal and her guest, Scott DeGirolamo, at the annual meeting in June.

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation Scholarship Program was established to support "high legal practice standards by providing financial assistance to Rhode Island residents who show promise that they will become outstanding lawyers who will adhere to such standards and who need such assistance in order to study law at quality law schools." The Board of Directors of the Foundation grants annual awards for scholarship on the basis of a student's "demonstrated good character, scholastic achievement, and financial need."

In 1984, the trustees of The Horace A. Kimball and S. Ella Kimball Foundation contributed a substantial gift to the Foundation's Scholarship Program which established The Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund to memorialize Mr. Thomas F. Black, Jr., a lawyer and legal scholar (and former President of Old Stone Bank) with a well-earned reputation for integrity and participation in many civic and charitable causes. Since that time, the Board of Directors, through the Thomas F. Black Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, has awarded 44 scholarships to promising law students from Rhode Island, totaling many thousands of dollars. Students who have attended law school as Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholars are now practicing — many in their home state of Rhode Island — in private firms, with government agencies, and as corporate counsel.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the Scholarship Program has awarded three scholarship awards in the amount of \$15,000. Joshua Bouchard of Pawtucket, Jia Leung of Cranston, and Matthew Kimberlin of Westerly have each been awarded \$15,000 toward their first year of law school. Mr. Bouchard is attending the University of Connecticut Law School and Ms. Leung and Mr. Kimberlin are attending Boston University School of Law.



Matthew Kimberlin with his father, Keith Kimberlin, at the annual meeting in June.

Foundation Annual Meeting

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation held its Annual Meeting and Fellows Luncheon on June 18, 2009 at the Westin Hotel in Providence. President John A. Tarantino and the Board of Directors welcomed and thanked the Foundation Fellows who, through their professional, public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of the community and objectives of the Foundation. During the luncheon, the newest fellows of the foundation as well as representatives from organizations receiving 2009 IOLTA grants were recognized. This year, over \$1.2 million was granted for the provision of Rhode Island legal services and the administration of justice. The recipients of the 2009–2010 Thomas F. Black, Jr., Memorial Scholarship were also recognized.



President John A. Tarantino



Stephen A. Fanning, Esq., Rhode Island Bar Foundation and Rhode Island Bar Association Past President, City of Cranston Mayor Allan W. Fung, Esq., Fellow and 1992 Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholar, and James A. Jackson, Esq., Rhode Island Bar Foundation Treasurer.



R. Kelly Sheridan, Esq. Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Paul D. Lynch, Trustee of the Kimball Foundation, Joshua Bouchard, 2009 Scholarship recipient, Matthew Kimberlin, 2009 Scholarship Recipient, Norman D. Baker, Jr., Trustee of the Kimball Foundation, John A. Tarantino, President of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, and Thomas F. Black, III., Trustee of the Kimball Foundation. Scholarship Recipient Jia Leung was unable to attend the meeting.







THE FOUNDATION WELCOMED 14 NEW FELLOWS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Nominations for new Fellows are submitted to the Board of Directors by existing Fellows for recommendation each year. In considering any potential nominee, Fellows should keep in mind the standard for selection contained in the Articles as follows:

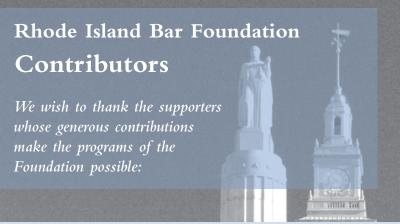
"those members of the Rhode Island Bar Association selected for such professional honor by the Board of Directors of the Foundation whose professional, public and private careers have demonstrated their outstanding dedication to the welfare of the community and maintenance of the objectives of the Foundation"

Fellows are asked to contribute \$1,500 over a five-year period. Payments can be made in full, \$300 annually or \$150 semi-annually.

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IOLTA

Created by the Rhode Island Supreme Court in 1985, the Rhode Island Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program generates interest that helps fund civil legal services for the poor, legal education for the public and improvements in the administration of justice.

On December 11, 2008, the Rhode Island Supreme Court approved a request (petition), filed by the Rhode Island Bar Foundation and Rhode Island Bar Association, to convert Rhode Island's IOLTA program from opt-out to mandatory. The new rule went into affect on March 11, 2009. All Rhode Island attorneys were notified of this change. The most significant change is a requirement that all Rhode Island attorneys who handle client funds are now required to open IOLTA accounts at eligible institutions.

All Rhode Island Bar Association members, who are not currently participating in IOLTA, must complete the mandatory Rhode Island Bar Foundation Certification and Compliance Form to insure their compliance with Rule 1.15 of the Professional Rules of Conduct. The Compliance Form is needed to open new accounts and may also be used to file to be exempt from the program.

What do I need to do?

- If you already maintain your pooled client funds in IOLTA accounts, nothing.
- If you need to convert an existing non-interest bearing client account to IOLTA, contact the Bar Foundation or your financial institution.
- If you are exempt from the program, and you have not already done so, you need to file the Certification and Compliance form with the Bar Foundation.

Bar members may also receive assistance concerning the new IOLTA requirements, by contacting the Rhode Island Bar Foundation office by telephone: (401) 421-6541 or email: gcaldwell@ribar.com. Compliance Forms and Information are also availabale on the Bar Association website; www.ribar.com

IOLTA

Entering its twenty-fifth year, the IOLTA program pools nominal or short-term deposits held by lawyers on behalf of their clients. These deposits, either because they are small or short-lived, would not otherwise generate a net return for the individual clients. In either of these situations, the interest that might be earned for a client would be less than the cost of establishing and maintaining a separate account. Traditionally, lawyers deposited these funds into combined, or pooled, trust accounts that contained other nominal or short-term client funds. Before state laws

and supreme court rules established IOLTA programs, trust funds pooled in this manner did not earn interest. Through the IOLTA program, attorneys who handle nominal or short-term client funds combine these funds in a single, pooled, interest-bearing trust account. Banks forward the interest earned on these accounts directly to the state IOLTA program. By aggregating these otherwise unproductive assets, the IOLTA program yields income to support the delivery of legal services for the poor, the administration of justice, and law-related education in this state.

Volunteer Attorney Frederic A. Marzilli conducted one of the Bar Association's new Health Care Durable Power of Attorney Clinics in North Providence. This was one of the 34 free community outreach legal assistance programs offered by the Bar Association's ProBono Program for the Elderly in 2009.



Bar Association President Victoria M.
Almeida (l) and Foundation President
John A. Tarantino (r) accepted the Rhode
Island Coalition for the Homeless 2009
Homeless Legal Clinic Award from
Coalition Board President Rabbi Alan
Flam, at the Homeless Coalition's
Annual Meeting in March



2009 IOLTA Grants

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation awarded its 2009 Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) grants totaling \$1,202,110.

This year's recipients are:

Rhode Island Legal Services

\$731,760

To help support the RI Legal Services' Family Law Unit and its handling of divorce, custody and visitation cases. Funds also contribute to the Battered Women's Project, Housing Hotline and Housing Law Center, Eviction Defense Clinic and Public Benefits Unit.

International Institute of Rhode Island \$251,250

Since 1987, IOLTA has funded the Immigration Law Project, to provide direct legal immigration services and grassroots outreach on immigration law issues to thousands of immigrants and refugees in Rhode Island. Additional funds were approved for the expansion of their statewide legal immigration initiatives in the State of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence \$27,750

Funds are used to continue the Superior Court component of their Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program in order to help victims seek civil and criminal relief from domestic violence.

Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless \$15,000

To continue to fund the Homeless Legal Clinic, to enable homeless Rhode Islanders access to pro bono legal services through attorneys who volunteer at shelters and drop-in sites.

Rhode Island Bar Association Legal Information and Referral Service for the Elderly \$49,350

The primary objective of the Elderly Program is to make legal services readily available to senior citizens. Approximately 2000 seniors receive legal assistance on an annual basis. Pro Bono and/or reduced fee referrals are available for the income eligible. The Referral Service continues to coordinate 25 or more "Ask A Lawyer" and "Legal Clinic" programs on an annual basis at senior organizations throughout the state.

Rhode Island Bar Association Pro Bono Project \$36,000

The Pro Bono Project responds to domestic violence and family law cases and accepts conflict or overload cases from RI Legal Services' Family Law Unit. Other areas of law accepted include guardianship, education, landlord tenant and collections. Cases are prioritized by the urgency of the request, taking into consideration the case type and assigned court dates. This year, legal clinics have been held at the Rhode Island Law Center in order to respond to the increase in the number of clients in need of advice and representation in the area of collections.

Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island

\$22,500

To help support the landlord-tenant eviction prevention program.

Day One \$26,250

To help support the advocacy services program providing support and legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault, providing victims with information and legal advocacy as their case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership Program \$26,250

To help support the 2009 Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament.

Rhode Island Bar Association Law Related Education Project \$15,000

To administer a statewide Law Day program, maintain a statewide law-related education website, and cooperate and assist the other law-related education providers in Rhode Island which depend on our volunteers to work with Rhode Island's youth and educate them about the legal system.

The George Wiley Center

\$ 1,000

To help support the "How to Access Utility Assistance" brochure and to continue and expand the utility consumer rights' knowledge and awareness campaign.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the financial institutions that maintained IOLTA accounts this year:

Bank of America Freedom National Bank
Bank Newport Independence Bank

Bank Rhode Island Milford Federal Savings and Loan Assoc.

Bristol County Savings Bank Newport Fed

Centreville Savings Bank
People's Credit Union
Citibank, N.A.
Randolph Savings Bank

Citizens Bank Rockland Trust Company

Coastway Community Bank

Columbus Credit Union

Sovereign Bank

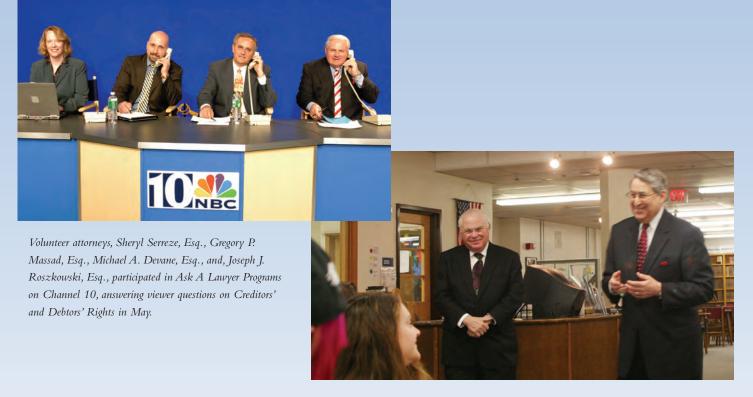
The Washington Trust Company

Dexter Credit Union UniBank

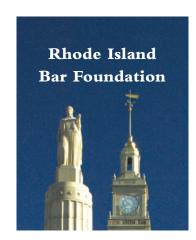
Dime Bank Webster Bank

Domestic Bank Westerly Community Credit Union

First Trade Union Bank



Rhode Island Family Court Magistrate Edward H. Newman and retired Rhode Island Family Court Associate Justice Howard I. Lipsey engaged in an animated give and take with teacher Tammy McMichael's Barrington High School students during the 2009 Rhode Island Law Day classroom program. This was one of over 50 presentations delivered by volunteer teams of lawyers and judges to upper and middle school classrooms throughout Rhode Island.



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