



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR FOUNDATION

Co-sponsorship Application 2020 – 2021

Background Information

Deadline for applications: Friday, January 24, 2020

Maximizing the Impact of Public Education

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation (“NJSBF”) leads the nation in providing free law-related and violence prevention education to the public. By centralizing the legal community's public education effort through NJSBF, we have created one of the most progressive law-related public education initiatives in the country. Our programs reach out statewide and are aimed at all segments of the population, from school children to senior citizens. Some of our most successful programs are those in which we’ve combined efforts to cosponsor a project with another organization. For example:

- NJSBF with The Arc of New Jersey to fund a webinar series entitled, *Equal Justice for Victims, Witnesses and Defendants with Developmental Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System*. The focus of this program for service providers, case managers, family members, psychologists and social workers is to explore alternatives to incarceration on behalf of individuals with mental retardation, as well as address the needs of developmentally disabled victims and witnesses of crimes.
- For the past 30 years, we have worked jointly with the Community Health Law Project to present the award-winning annual *Law and Disability* conference, which has helped explain laws that affect individuals with disabilities.

- In order to bring programming to residents in all areas of the state, we also provide mini grants to county and specialty bar associations for Court Night and Law Day activities, which help to familiarize the public with the courthouse and justice system.
- Over the years, NJSBF has worked with a number of organizations to publish booklets explaining various aspects of the law to residents of New Jersey from *Disability Law: A Legal Primer*, a project of the Essex County Bar Association, to a booklet outlining the rights of students – the *Students' Rights Handbook*, developed by the ACLU – NJ. NJSBF publishes a series of booklets, created and written by the Education Law Center, on the topics of special education, school discipline and residency requirements. For the general public, we offer booklets on laws relating to bankruptcy, home renovation and construction, municipal court and elder law, all produced in conjunction with the New Jersey State Bar Association sections and committees.

These co-sponsorship programs are in addition to a wide slate of initiatives conducted directly by the NJSBF. Through these co-sponsorships, we remain committed to broadening our public education campaign so that free legal information is available to New Jersey citizens statewide. We invite you to work with us so we can accomplish this goal together.

IOLTA: Helping Us Lead the Way

Our programs are made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey (the "IOLTA Fund"), which in 1988 began disbursing money generated from interest on lawyers' trust accounts. NJSBF receives 12.5 percent of the net proceeds from the IOLTA Fund and uses the funds for its public education effort. (Legal Services of New Jersey receives 75 percent of the IOLTA Fund proceeds, and the remaining 12.5 percent is awarded to other worthwhile organizations.)

Co-sponsorship awards given by NJSBF are subject to NJSBF's policies, rules and guidelines, as well as those rules that apply to the IOLTA Fund grants. Court Rule 1:28A, established by the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1988, specifies that proceeds from the IOLTA Fund must be used for one of the following purposes:

- Legal aid to the poor;
- Improvement in the administration of justice;
- Education of lay persons in legal and justice related areas.

Pursuant to the Rule, NJSBF is obligated to report quarterly to the IOLTA Fund Board of Trustees how funds are allocated, financial information on the expenditure of funds and details on the progress of the projects supported by the funds. Therefore, we require regular reporting from Co-Sponsorship grantees as a requirement of funding so that we may fulfill our obligation to the IOLTA Fund.

2019-2020 Co-sponsorships

Last year, NJSBF awarded more than \$555,000 to the following organizations and programs:

- The ARC of New Jersey: Equal Justice Webinar Series; Law and Law Enforcement Summit
- Bergen County YWCA: Title IX Training Series
- Community Health Law Project: Law and Disabilities Conference
- Covenant House: Atlantic City Youth Advocacy
- Make the Road NJ Immigrants' Rights Project
- NJ Chapter of the National Association of Women Judges: Color of Justice Program
- NJ LEEP: Street Law Project
- PLAN/NJ: Legal and Estate Planning Education
- Pushcart Players: More Perfect Union
- Rutgers Law School Camden: Foreclosure Defense Clinic*
- Seton Hall Law School: Foreclosure Defense Clinic*
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network: Special Education Training
- Women in Transition: Family Law Workshops and Newsletters

*With restricted funds from Bank of America settlement.