

MJF ANNUAL REPORT 2017



35th Anniversary
1982-2017

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year, as MJF celebrated its 35th anniversary and I my 13th year as Executive Director, I continued to be inspired and awed by the dedication and strength of Minnesota's pro bono community. Pro bono begins in law school and since MJF began keeping track of student volunteering in our database in 1999-2000, students have filled nearly 25,000 volunteer placements, providing over 700,000 hours of volunteer legal assistance to a quarter-million clients.

In addition to the essential services provided to clients who might otherwise have been unassisted, the thousands of volunteer students carried forward that ethic of public service into their careers as lawyers. Seventy-five percent of Minnesota's North Star Lawyers began volunteering in law school.

There has been a slight increase in local law school enrollment and we continue to work with our community partners to create opportunities for law students. Volunteering was up this past year; perhaps it was the image of lawyers at the airports working on their laptops to assist immigrants. Students are highly motivated to get involved in public service. As one student said, "This is a good time to be a lawyer!"

To all of you who believe in MJF's mission, thank you for another year of support! We could not do our work without you. We remain committed to our mission of instilling an ethic of pro bono service in the law student community. With your support we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,
Janine Laird

MJF SUMMER CLERKSHIPS

The Summer Clerkship Program is MJF's oldest program. Each year, MJF raises funds which are used to pay the stipends of law students who work full time at a legal service agency for the summer. During the summer of 2017, MJF funded twelve student clerkships in the metro area, and four in greater Minnesota:

Kari Beaudry (MHSL): Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights: Complaint Investigations Division
Kathryn Bjorklund (UMN): Minnesota AIDS Project
Leif Christopherson (UMN): Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Refugee, Immigrant and Migrant Services
Patricia Dana (UST): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Housing Discrimination Law Project
Mariah Gatzow (UMN): Tubman
Michael Ge (UMN): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Minnesota Disability Law Center
Nicole Faas (UMN): Neighborhood Justice Center
Lora Fike (MHSL): Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Government Benefits
Noah Finn (UMN): Standpoint
Michael Hagley (MHSL): Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota
Anna Heisler (UST): Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: Southwest
N. Georgette Marling (UMN): Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Megan Parks (UST): Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
Anna Street (UST): Central Minnesota Legal Services
Dorothy Summers (UST): Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: Youth Law Project
Robert Wild (UMN): Anishinabe Legal Services

STUDENT-FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS

MJF student chapters at each law school also raise funds for students to fill summer clerk positions in public interest: the Public Interest Law Fellowships (PILF) at Mitchell Hamline and the University of St. Thomas and the Public Interest Clerkships (PIC) at the University of Minnesota. Each of the law school student chapters have unique processes for selecting which PILF/PIC applications are funded, and they raise money in various ways, including silent auctions and chili cookoffs. During the Summer of 2017, seven fellowships were funded:

Melissa Bumanglag (UST): 1st Judicial District Public Defender's Office
Brandon Engblom (UST): Duluth City Attorney's Office
Hakeem Jackson (UST): US Attorney, Western District of New York
Hannah Martin (MHSL): 10th Judicial District Public Defender's Office
Nicholas Redmond (UMN): Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Snowden Steiber (UMN): 2nd Judicial District Public Defender's Office
Sara Thomas (MHSL): 2nd Judicial District Public Defender's Office

"Being a Minnesota Justice Foundation summer clerk is an experience that grounds advocacy in the reality of people's day-to-day lives. I have grown my patience, my ability to remain unassuming, and how to ask open questions so clients can provide the most important information. I talk about my experience both professionally and personally because I have grown as a future attorney but most importantly as a person."
- Lora Fike

"In my time at NJC I worked on cases ranging from traffic misdemeanors to serious felonies. My work included things like intensive legal research and memo writing, making court appearances on the record, negotiating with prosecutors, meeting with clients for both simple intakes and intensive departure interviews, and answering legal advice calls over the phone."
- Nicole Faas

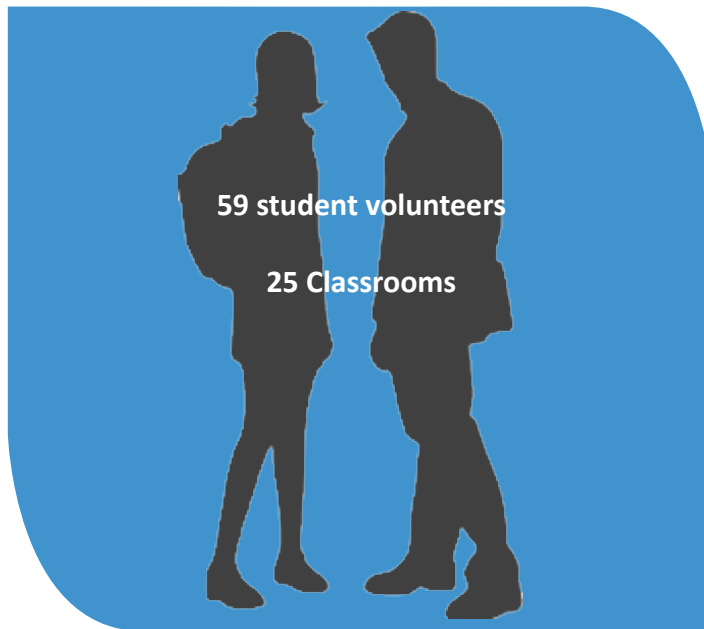
STREET LAW

Street Law is a program of MJF in which law student volunteers teach legal rights, responsibilities and resources to middle school and high school students. Many of the classrooms where the students teach are in alternative learning centers and charter schools. Some of the high school students have been court involved and/or have not been successful in traditional school settings. During the spring of 2017, 59 law student volunteers participated in the program, teaching in 25 inner city classrooms (at 15 schools) where they taught teens their rights and responsibilities in our society. The number of teenage students in each classroom averaged 20.

Prior to teaching, the law students attend an intensive two-day training covering substantive areas of law, guidance about how to create a lesson plan, and how to teach in an interactive and engaging way. After training, the law students are given access to an online collection of resources and lesson plan examples to prepare for teaching.

MJF and the students have been fortunate to have the assistance of volunteer attorneys to assist with teaching. The attorneys provided insight into areas of law that are very technical, such as immigration. It was also exciting for the classroom students to meet attorneys and learn about their career path.

Street Law is a “win-win” program. The young people earn practical knowledge; at the same time, law students learn more about the law by teaching it to others.



2017 Street Law schools

Brooklyn Center High School
Burnsville Alternative High School
Dakota County Area Learning School
Hennepin County Home School
Field Community School
High School for the Recording Arts
Lake Nokomis Community School, Keeywadin Campus
Metro Education for Future Employment
Minnesota Internship Center, Rondo
Sanford Middle School
Transitions Plus Services
Washington Technology Magnet
West Education Center Alternative
Oregon Residential Treatment Center

FUNDRAISERS



MJF's annual Attractive Nuisance Tour is a benefit concert to help local organizations provide legal services to the disadvantaged. Each band featured at least one lawyer in it. Since 2003, the Attractive Nuisance Tour has raised money the only way they know how—through maximum rock 'n roll!

ANT was held at the Crooked Pint Ale House in Minneapolis on Friday, May 19, 2017. The bands were: **Noisy Withdrawal**, **D.C. Higgs & Blue Volcano**, **Nuggets Hootenanny (w/ The Long Goodbyes)**, and **The Lockpicks**. The money raised by ANT supports MJF's summer clerkship program.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Premium Level

Fredrikson & Byron PA, Robins Kaplan LLP

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Top Shelf Level

Collins, Buckley, Sauntry and Haugh, PLLP

Call Level

Nichols Kaster

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On Monday, July 31, 2017, MJF hosted our annual "Legal-ish Trivia Contest" at Kieran's Pub in Minneapolis, emceed by local actor and comedian **Tim Uren**. Twin Cities law firms fielded a dozen teams, but only one of them could take home the coveted Golden Gavel, and that honor went to team Macro Aggressions, pictured here!



ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

At our 35th Anniversary Celebration, held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, MJF honored outstanding individuals in the Minnesota legal community.

The winners of the 2017 Outstanding Service Awards were:

Advocate Award: **Bridget Gernander**,
Minnesota Judicial Branch

Direct Legal Service Award: **Kathy Eveslage**,
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

Private Practice Lawyer Award: **Rebecca Schiller**,
The Academy Law Group, P.A.

Law Student Awards:

Lora Fike, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Nicole Faas, University of Minnesota Law School

Melissa Bumanglag, University of St. Thomas School of Law



Justice David Lillehaug.

Photos by George Byron Griffiths

Our keynote speaker at the Annual Awards Celebration was **Justice David Lillehaug**, who spoke on the topic of “The Minnesota Pro Bono Tradition.”

David L. Lillehaug has been an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court since his appointment by Governor Mark Dayton in 2013. He was elected to a six-year term in 2014. He is the only current Justice to come to the Court directly from private practice. He brought to the Court 30 years of litigation experience, including serving as United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, the federal government’s chief prosecutor and civil lawyer in the state. Deeply committed to pro bono, Lillehaug was one of the early members of MJF’s Board of Directors and chaired the organization’s first community fundraiser.

The Annual Awards Celebration was attended by over 200 people, representing over twenty Minnesota law firms, schools and other organizations. The event raised over \$65,000 for MJF’s work serving low-income populations.



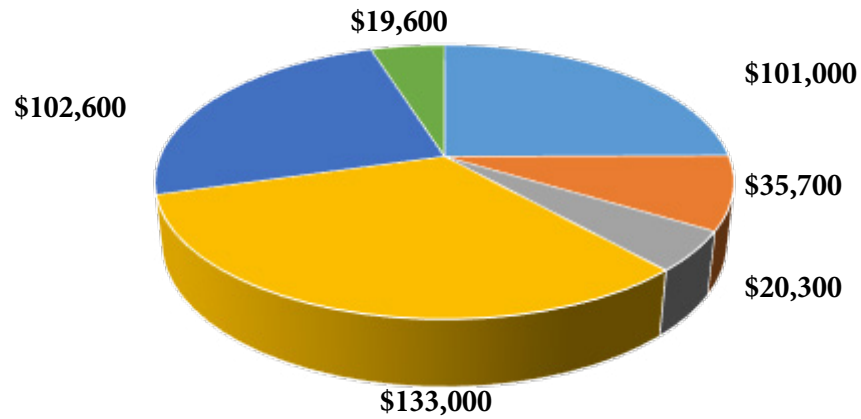
MJF Board President Archana Nath and Executive Director Janine Laird present the Outstanding Service Award to Bridget Gernander.

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS



MJF FINANCIALS

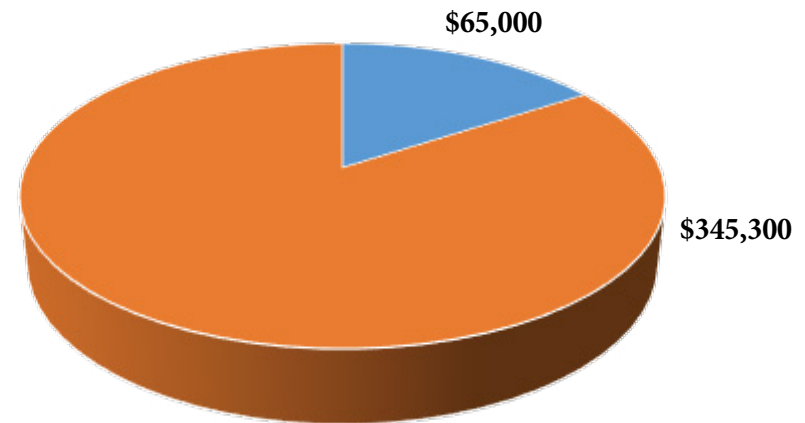
FY 2017 OPERATING INCOME



Total = \$412,200

- Law Firms
- Foundations
- Individuals
- Law Schools
- Government Grants
- Other Income

FY 2017 OPERATING EXPENSES



Total = \$410,300

- Management & Fundraising
- Program Expenses

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Photos by George Byron Griffiths

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5th District Bar Association
7th District Bar Association
9th District Bar Association
11th District Bar Association
12th District Bar Association
13th District Bar Association
14th District Bar Association
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18th District Bar Association
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Minnesota State Bar Association, Family Law Section
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University of Minnesota Law School*

Christy Botts

*Staff Attorney,
University of St. Thomas School of Law*

Susan Morrow

*Staff Attorney,
Mitchell Hamline School of Law*

Pat Harrigan

Development & Communications Associate

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Matthew Webster

Gray Plant Mooty

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

100 · Checking	86,173.09
110 · Money Market	40,395.04
111 · Bremer MMS 3120081478	72,133.39
120 · Certificates of Deposit	<u>120,110.86</u>
Total 120 · Certificates of Deposit	<u>120,110.86</u>

Total Checking/Savings	318,812.38
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Other Current Assets

175 · Prepaid Expenses	<u>1,500.00</u>
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Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,500.00</u>
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Total Current Assets	320,312.38
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Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>
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Total Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>320,312.38</u></u>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	9,196
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Total Current Liabilities	9,196
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Total Liabilities	9,196
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Equity

300 · Fund Balance-Unrestricted	314,839.98
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3900 · Retained Earnings	-2,246.39
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Net Income	<u>-1,476.94</u>
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Total Equity	<u>311,116.65</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>320,312.65</u></u>
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