

MJF
ANNUAL
REPORT
2020



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings from MJF!

MJF's mission is to strive for justice by creating opportunities for law students to perform public interest and pro bono legal services. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, MJF aimed to identify opportunities for law students to be involved in remote work to support our partner agencies in continuing to serve their clients and advance access to justice for all during the global pandemic and following the murder of George Floyd. We believe that it is a privilege to be trained in the law, and that it is the duty of law students and lawyers to exercise that privilege in service to our communities. We are committed to supporting our partner organizations and law student volunteers as they continue the work of advancing racial justice in our communities. MJF's staff is evaluating our policies, procedures, and training opportunities to ensure that they align with our values, especially our commitment to advance racial and social justice.

Summer 2020 was the first year of operating the Summer Fellowship Program remotely. We appreciate the flexibility and adaptability of the fellows and host agencies in pivoting to this approach mid-year. Thank you to the many supporters of this program around the state, including specifically the Otto Bremer Trust for providing funding to increase the number of fellows from 17 to 19.

If you would like a law student volunteer to help with a public interest or pro bono project, please fill out this form:
<https://mnjustice.org/for-attorneys/volunteer-request-form/>.

Thank you to Ivan Fong, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the 3M Company, for serving as the keynote speaker at our 2020 Annual Awards Celebration. Please save the date for our upcoming 2021 Annual Awards Celebration, to be held on Wednesday, October 27th, featuring Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Natalie Hudson as the keynote speaker.

Sincerely,
Anna Beadle (UMN '10)
Executive Director

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

The Summer Fellowship Program (formerly 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 2020, MJF funded fourteen student clerkships in the metro area, and five in greater Minnesota:

Erin Abramovitz at the Children's Law Center of Minnesota
Hannah Stephan at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) — Housing
Yastril Nañez at Central Minnesota Legal Services
Morgan Twamley at Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Brenda Pfahnl at SMRLS — Immigration
Zoe Psiakis at Anishinabe Legal Services
Nicole Slusher at Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
Ashley Meeder at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (MMLA) – Housing
Max Tsai at MMLA Family/Government Benefits
Sarah Snebold at Legal Aid Services of Northeastern Minnesota
Kayla Billett at Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Mirissa Joi at American Civil Liberties Union — Minnesota
Haley Eustice at SMRLS — Mankato office
Hannah Kass at MMLA — Disability Law Center
Jordan Ziehr at Legal Assistance of Olmsted County
Cat Rios-Keating at the Office of the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender
Cecelia Burke at the 10th Judicial District Public Defender's Office — Washington County
Marisa Tillman at Standpoint
Hannah McCallum at SMRLS — Economic Justice

STUDENT-FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS

MJF student chapters at each law school also raise money to provide funds for students with unpaid summer positions in public interest through 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 2020, the student chapters funded five fellowships:

Berina Altshuler, University of St. Thomas School of Law, at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York
Alena Carl, University of Minnesota Law School, at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Eva Kendrick, University of St. Thomas School of Law, at the Volunteer Lawyers Network
Tim Miles, University of Minnesota Law School, at the 1st Judicial District Public Defender's Office — Dakota County
Jackie Rodriguez, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, at the American Civil Liberties Union in Indiana

LAW SCHOOL PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM

The Law School Public Service Program (LSPSP) is a collaborative effort of MJF, the Minnesota law schools, the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA), and legal service providers throughout Minnesota, to promote an ethic of public service in Minnesota law students and to increase access to justice for all Minnesotans.

MJF matches interested law students with volunteer opportunities in the Twin Cities metro area and in Greater Minnesota. Volunteer opportunities are available with varying time commitments, in a variety of legal subject areas. Students may also create their own volunteer placements at organizations within or beyond Minnesota, provided their volunteer work is: 1) law-related in subject matter; 2) public service or public interest-related; 3) unpaid; and 4) not for academic credit.

Volunteering through MJF introduces students to the real practice of law and gives them valuable experience and knowledge that helps them to become better lawyers. Volunteering also introduces students to practitioners in their fields of interest who can provide references, advice, and career guidance.

AGENCY PARTNERS

Advocates for Human Rights
Al Otro Lado's Legal Clinic
American Civil Liberties Union- MINNESOTA Chapter
American Mock Trial Association
Anishinabe Legal Services
Asylum Law Project
Bain Law
Bushnell & Best
Children's Dental Services
Children's Law Center of Minnesota
City of St. Paul
Collaborative Community Law Initiative (CCLI)
Community Legal Collective
Community Mediation and Restorative Services
Conflict Resolution Center
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Criminal Justice League

Dakota County Attorney's Office
Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Eden Prairie High School Mock Trial Program
Footprint Project
Fox Rothschild LLP
Gender Justice
Great North Innocence Project
Hamline University
Hamline-United Family Medical Legal Partnership
Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Hennepin County District Court
HOME Line
Housing Justice Center
Human Rights Center
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
International Leadership Institute

AGENCY PARTNERS

James H. Binger Center for New Americans
Judicare of Anoka County
JustUs Health (formerly Minnesota AIDS Project)
Juvenile Justice Advocates International
(Justicia Juvenil Internacional, MÈxico A.C.)
Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota- Duluth
Legal Assistance of Dakota County
Legal Assistance of Olmsted County
Legal Rights Center
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota- Moorhead
Legal Services State Support
LegalCORPS
Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota
Maslon, LLP
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Minneapolis City Attorney's Office
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Minnesota Court of Appeals
Minnesota Department of Administration
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State
Minnesota Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis Office (SCRFA)
Minnesota State Bar Association
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
National Lawyers Guild
Neighborhood Justice Center
Network for Public Health Law
Office of the Federal Defender- District of Minnesota
Planting People Growing Justice
Prepare + Prosper
Public Defender- 10th District (Anoka)
Public Defender- 10th District (Stillwater)
Public Defender- 1st District (Hastings)
Public Defender- 2nd District (St. Paul)
Public Defender- 4th District (Hennepin County)
Public Defender- Appellate Office
Ramsey County Attorney's Office
Ramsey County District Court
Ramsey County Mental Health Court
Restorative Justice Community Action
Robins Kaplan LLP
Rochester City Attorney's Office
Safe Passage for Children of Minnesota
SCOTUS Notes Project
Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice
SMRLS- Mankato
SMRLS- Owatonna
SMRLS- Ramsey County Volunteer Attorney Program
SMRLS- Shakopee
SMRLS- St. Paul
SMRLS- Winona
Springboard for the Arts
St. Paul City Attorney's Office
Standpoint
(formerly Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project)
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP (FKA Briggs and Morgan)
The Center on Race, Leadership & Social Justice
(University of St. Thomas School of Law)
The Historyapolis Project
Tubman (formerly Chrysalis)
United States Attorney's Office - District of Minnesota
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
University of Minnesota Law School
University of St. Thomas School of Law
Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project
Veterans Defense Project
Violence Free Minnesota
(formerly the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women)
Volunteer Lawyers Network
Washington County Community Circles
World Without Genocide

STREET LAW

Street Law (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020) is a program of MJF in which law student volunteers teach legal rights, responsibilities, and resources to middle school, high school, and adult students. Many of the classrooms where the students teach are in alternative learning centers and charter schools. Some of the students in the street law classrooms have been or are court-involved. Additionally, there are some street law classroom students that have not been successful in a traditional school setting. A growing number of the street law classrooms are “AVID” classrooms. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Classrooms strive to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. All of these classrooms and students are an excellent fit for Street Law volunteers because, at the heart of the Street Law program, is the desire to prepare young people for a bright future – one where they are knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities and inspired that they can overcome obstacles.

Street Law is a unique program. The students in the classrooms learn practical knowledge about themselves, their rights, and responsibilities under the law, and they get exposed to a potential career path in the law. The law students emphasize the importance of education for young people, and they bring a number of Street Law classrooms to visit their law schools, making the idea of post-high school education and law school more accessible. Additionally, law students learn more about the law by teaching it to others, they begin to understand the importance of translating the language of law for their future clients, and they explore areas of law they might not otherwise think about for their own future career paths.

Prior to teaching Street Law, the law students attend an intensive two-day training. At the training, volunteer attorneys and former Street Law volunteers aid the MJF staff in teaching law students about substantive areas of law, provide guidance about how to create a lesson plan, and demonstrate how to teach in an interactive and engaging way. The training for Street Law volunteers also includes diversity and inclusion topics. Teams of Street Law volunteers begin brainstorming lesson topics, and most groups also engage their students and the classroom teachers in developing their custom Street Law syllabus.

During the spring of 2020, 49 law student volunteers participated in the Street Law program, teaching in 21 classrooms (at 14 schools in the metro area) where they taught students their rights and responsibilities in our society. However, the Street Law program was interrupted mid-semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic when classrooms and classroom teachers had to navigate the sudden transition to online distance learning. In response to the pandemic and in anticipation of the 2020 election cycle, MJF engaged a group of law students in summer 2020 to develop a fully virtual version of a special edition of Street Law to teach youth about elections and voting. The law student volunteers collaborated on developing a curriculum containing three lessons on the logistics of voting, the rights of voters, and historical and contemporary voting rights issues for use in virtual classrooms in the fall.

STREET LAW CLASSROOMS 2020

Anwatin Middle School
Augsburg Fairview Academy
Battle Creek Middle School
Brooklyn Center High School
Burnsville Alternative High School
Community Learning Project
Epsilon School
Franklin Middle School
High School for Recording Arts
Lake Nokomis Community School- Keewaydin Campus
MN Internship Center- Unity Campus
Sanford Middle School
Transitions Plus
Washington Technology Magnet

VIRTUAL ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

For the first time in our history, MJF hosted an online version of our Annual Awards Celebration! (The MJF website has a link to a video of the complete program.) Our guests joined us on September 30, 2020, for a quick virtual cocktail/mocktail lesson, then stuck around to watch keynote speaker Ivan Fong and to hear from the winners of our 2020 Outstanding Service Awards:

Direct Service Provider: Erin Osborne (CMLS)
Private Practice Pro Bono: Richard Allyn (Robins Kaplan LLP)
Advocate: Sothea Phea Poch (SMRLS)
Law Student awards:
Katherine Boland (University of St. Thomas School of Law)
Marisa Tillman (University of Minnesota Law School)
Dylan O'Brien (Mitchell Hamline School of Law)



Keynote speaker Ivan Fong



MJF Board President Jack Sullivan

In addition, MJF recognized the work done in 2020 by the Mitchell Hamline Reentry Clinic, in association with Mitchell Hamline Professors Jon Geffen and Bradford Colbert, University of Minnesota Professor Perry Moriearty, University of St. Thomas Professor Mark Osler, and students from all three law schools.

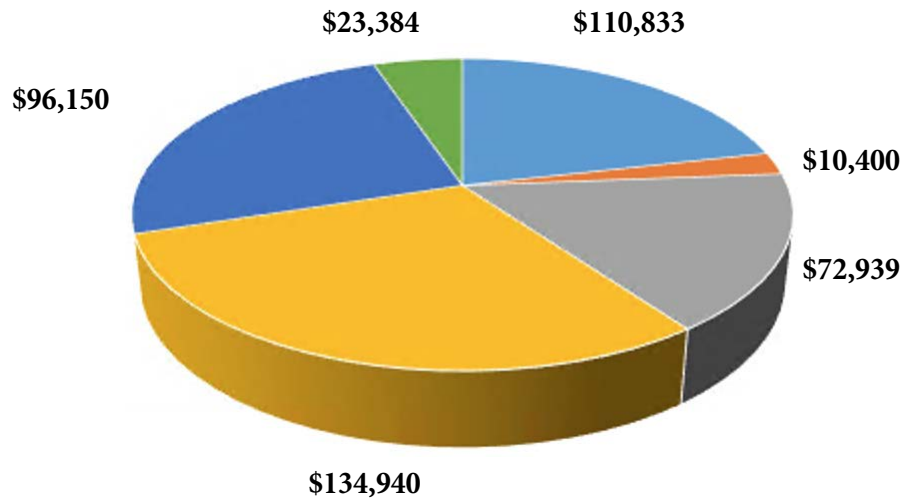
Our keynote speaker was Ivan Fong, Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary of the 3M Company. In that role, he oversees all legal, legal policy, compliance and global security matters for the company. Prior to joining 3M in October 2012, Ivan was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He was previously Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Cardinal Health, Inc.; Senior Vice President and General Counsel of GE Vendor Financial Services; and GE's first Chief Privacy Leader and Senior Counsel, Information Technology. Mr. Fong also previously served as Deputy Associate Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law, and a partner with the firm of Covington & Burling. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Abner J. Mikva of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr Fong's full bio, and the text of his speech, can be found at www.mnjustice.org.

VOLUNTEER STATISTICS 2019-2020



FINANCIALS

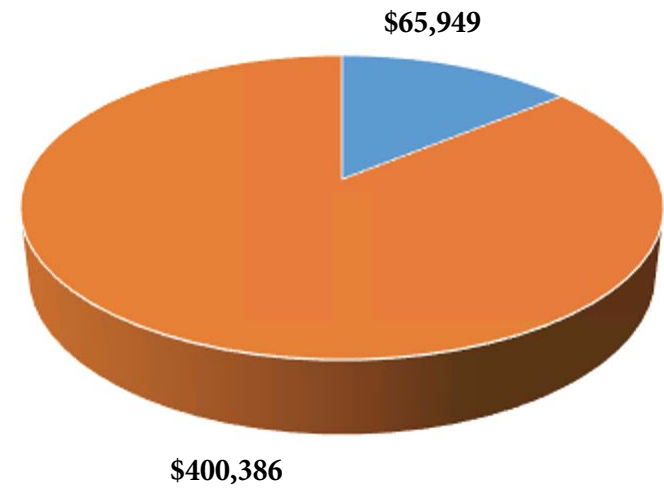
FY 2019-2020 OPERATING INCOME



Total = \$448,646

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

FY 2019-2020 OPERATING EXPENSES



Total = \$466,335

- Management & Fundraising
- Program Expenses

ORGANIZATIONAL DONORS

1st District Bar Association
3rd District Bar Association
5th District Bar Association
7th District Bar Association
13th District Bar Association
14th District Bar Association
18th District Bar Association
Ballard Spahr LLP
Best & Flanagan LLP
Collins, Buckley, Sauntry, & Haugh, PLLP
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Felhaber Larson
Fox Rothschild LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Greene Espel PLLP
Hennepin County Bar Foundation
Larkin Hoffman
Lathrop GPM LLP

Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP
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Minnesota Chapter, Federal Bar Association
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Van Lengerich Family Foundation

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator*

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Norton Rose Fulbright

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Bridget Welter Cockriel
Fredrikson & Byron, PA



Our Mission

MJF strives for justice by creating opportunities for law students to perform public interest and pro bono legal services.

Our Core Values

Social Justice

We recognize that many people in our society are unable to protect their rights and to obtain justice due to their inability to afford legal services.

Professional Responsibility

We believe that it is a privilege to be trained in the law, and that it is the duty of law students and lawyers to exercise the privilege in service to the community.

Inspiration

We seek to instill in law students, and in all lawyers, an ethic of providing high quality public interest and pro bono legal services.

Integrity

We uphold high ethical standards and vigilantly protect MJF's role as an honest broker of public interest and pro bono opportunities among law students, law schools, public interest agencies, and law firms.

Autonomy

MJF was founded by law students and derives its energy and direction from students. We value MJF's autonomy from any particular law school, its administration, and its faculty and from any particular public interest agency.

Diversity

Diversity is central to MJF's strength. A diverse board of directors brings a broad range of personal, professional, and cultural perspectives to bear on decisions. A diverse staff reflects the diversity among the law students and service providers whom MJF serves. Diversity among volunteers ensures that service opportunities are available to all interested students, chosen only by ability, interest, and performance.

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651-962-4859

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651-290-8658

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