

THE BARBARA McDOWELL AND GERALD S. HARTMAN FOUNDATION

DONOR INFORMATION GUIDE

Our Mission

To improve the economic well-being, social conditions, and civil liberties of disadvantaged persons and groups in the United States.

The Barbara McDowell Foundation fulfills its mission by making grants to organizations that undertake systemic litigation focusing on:

- Access to Benefits • Children's Rights • Civil Rights • Constitutional Rights
- Disability Rights • Discrimination • Domestic Violence • Healthcare
- Low Income Housing • Prisoners' Rights • Refugee and Immigration Rights
- Voting Rights • Veterans' Rights

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

2012 Grantee—National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty secured a ruling against the City of Dallas, Texas, which guarantees the rights of faith-based organizations to share food in public with people experiencing homelessness. The case serves as binding authority for all cities in Texas and a precedent in other states.

2016 Grantee—Center for Gender and Refugee Studies won asylum protection for a young Guatemalan domestic violence survivor seeking protection in Arizona. The extensive supporting materials developed in the case include model court submissions and reports on country conditions for use as evidence to corroborate asylum claims, which have been disseminated to thousands of attorneys representing domestic violence survivors nationwide.

2017 Grantee—Disability Rights North Carolina won a settlement on behalf of children who are dually diagnosed with mental illness and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. As a result, the state of North Carolina allocated \$12.4 million to increase its capacity to serve children with these complex needs, which includes a new state-operated clinic and developing provider training to improve services.

Our Giving History

Established in April 2009, the McDowell Foundation has distributed **\$1,000,000 in grants to 41 organizations** nationwide, with a steady increase in the amount of each annual grant **from \$2,500 per grant in 2010 to \$40,000 per grant in 2020.**



About Barbara McDowell

Barbara McDowell was an exceptional advocate for social justice reforms. During her decorated career, she served as the founding director of the *Appellate Advocacy Program* at the Legal Aid Society of Washington, DC, worked as the Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States, and spent ten years as a partner at the Jones Day law firm. Among her many successes, Barbara argued eighteen cases before the United States Supreme Court, including two on the same day!

Following her untimely death from brain cancer at the age of 56, Barbara's husband, Jerry Hartman, established the foundation in her name to honor and continue her extraordinary work.

RECENT McDOWELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

2020 Grantees

Fair Elections Center
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Veterans Legal Services Program
National Women's Law Center
North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.

2019 Grantees

American Immigration Council
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Immigration Project of
the National Lawyers Guild
Prisoner's Legal Services of Massachusetts

2018 Grantees

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Rights
Legal Services of Alabama
Public Interest Law Center
Sargent Shriver Center on Law and Poverty

2017 Grantees

American Immigration Council
Disability Rights North Carolina
National Immigrant Justice Center
Sargent Shriver Center on Law and Poverty
Western Center on Law and Poverty

2016 Grantees

Center for Gender and Refugee Studies
Children's Rights
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
Native American Rights Fund
North Carolina Justice Center
Texas Fair Defense Project

Board of Directors

The foundation's board of directors is comprised of lawyers, a law school professor, a CEO, a doctor, an educator, and a creative professional, all united by one common goal: fulfilling the foundation's mission to ensure the legacy of its namesake, social justice activist Barbara McDowell.

www.mcdowellfoundation.org

The McDowell Foundation Provides *Three Essential Services* for Potential Donors

#1 *In-Depth Vetting Process for Potential Grantees*

Nonprofit organizations interested in seeking a grant apply through the foundation's website. The foundation completes an in-house review of all potential grantees followed by board review using protocols developed over the last ten years, including rating criteria that consider:

- The application's **alignment with the mission**
- The **quality** of the proposed project
- The **capacity** of the organization to carry out the project
- The **urgency** of the proposed project
- The **financial health and stability** of the applicant organization.

This process ensures that donations to the foundation will be distributed to exemplary organizations, with sufficient evidence that their selected litigation can establish important legal precedent or effect immediate and lasting change.

#2 *Monitoring Selected Grantees during the Grant Period*

The McDowell Foundation sets itself apart from other foundations with frequent grantor/grantee communication to monitor the status of the grant. Grantee communications include:

- Submission of **quarterly timesheets by grantee** confirming the hours and names of each attorney working on the case for which the grantee received funds
- **Quarterly telephone calls with the grantee** to discuss the progress of the case
- A **six-month interim grantee report** detailing updates on the case and a **year-end report** summarizing how the foundation's funds were used throughout the grant period.

#3 *Quarterly Updates on the Status of Your Donation*

Donors receive quarterly updates on the progress of cases funded by the McDowell Foundation, including condensed versions of the information provided in the grantee reports.

Financial Transparency

Low Operational Expenses The McDowell Foundation has very low overhead and expenses, with no rent or secretarial costs. Office space is provided at the Washington, D.C. office of Drinker, Biddle & Reath, the former law firm of the foundation's president. It also provides support for the foundation's website and administrative needs. The officers and directors of the foundation receive no compensation or salaries, and all employees work part-time as independent contractors at a modest hourly rate.

Capital and Investments The foundation averages a 7% annual return on its investments by way of an established investment policy engaging a passive investment approach and using a professional investment advisor, with the aim of avoiding large market fluctuations. The foundation's investment policy and annual results are available for review by potential donors. The foundation files timely annual tax returns and complies with required state registrations for engaging in fundraising.

For more information, visit www.mcdowellfoundation.org

Telephone: (703) 919-0423

Email: mcdowellfoundation@mcdowellfoundation.org

HOW TO DONATE

Gifts by Check

Please make your check payable to:

The McDowell Foundation
3607 Whispering Lane
Falls Church, VA, 22041

Gifts by PayPal

Make a secure online donation
with your credit card at

www.mcdowellfoundation.org/donate

Schedule an In-Person Meeting

Foundation representatives are available to meet in person with potential donors.

To schedule an appointment with
McDowell Foundation President

Jerry Hartman, get in touch by email
jerry.hartman@mcdowellfoundation.org

or by telephone at (703) 919-0423.

THE BARBARA MCDOWELL AND GERALD S. HARTMAN FOUNDATION

SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL ACTION

A tax-exempt 501c3 organization Federal Tax Identification Number 27-0411226