

## 2021 Year-End Summary Report

The Foundation's efforts to accomplish social justice in 2021 included:

### Selection of 2022 Grant Recipients

The Foundation selected five organizations to receive \$50,000 each for a record total of \$250,000 in grant awards. The 2022 grantees and their funded cases, which were chosen from 62 applicants, were as follows:



[Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project](#) received a grant for its case challenging new rules proposed by the Trump administration that severely limit asylum seekers' ability to obtain work authorization.



Children's Legal Center

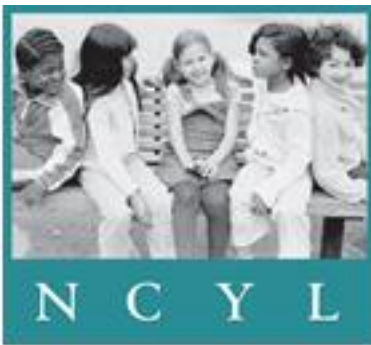
[Children's Legal Center](#) received a grant supporting its class action lawsuit against Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the seizure of personal documents of identification such as passports and birth certificates from 68 individuals who came into the United States seeking asylum.

THE BARBARA MCDOWELL  
AND GERALD S. HARTMAN  
FOUNDATION

SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL ACTION



[National Center for Lesbian Rights](#) received a grant to defend the state of Washington's law prohibiting licensed therapists from performing therapy that seeks to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity.



[National Center for Youth Law](#) received a grant for its lawsuit against the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to require DCYF to provide appropriate family preservation and reunification-focused supports, end the placement of children in hotels, offices, or other short-term stays, develop an adequate array of placements so children with disabilities receive foster care services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs, and institute a process for providing individualized needs assessments to children with disabilities in foster care.



[New Economy Project](#) received a grant to appeal the New York State court's decision in the case of a woman from New York who was unable to vacate a default judgement despite proof that she had never been served.

## Receipt of 2021 Grantees' Six-Month and Year-End Reports

The Foundation received from its 2021 Grantees their six-month and year- end reports outlining their accomplishments stemming from their grant funded cases. The 2021 grantees and their cases were as follows:



### Asian Americans Advancing Justice:

Received a grant for its case challenging an unconstitutional and racially discriminatory scheme of the Trump administration's plan to collect and provide incomplete citizenship data for purposes of redistricting.



### Disability Rights New York:

Received a grant supporting its lawsuit seeking relief from the New York State Board of Elections for excluding New Yorkers with disabilities from their Absentee Ballot program.



### Gender Justice:

Received a grant brought by a Minnesota woman living in a rural community who was illegally denied access to pregnancy related healthcare in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act based on sex.



### National Center for Youth Law:

Received a grant for its class action lawsuit seeking to enforce constitutional protections for unaccompanied immigrant children in federal custody.

## **The Pro Bono High Impact Litigation Project**

The Foundation expanded the [Pro Bono High Impact Litigation Project](#) in the following way:

- Placing a new case in the High Impact Litigation Project:
  - A partnership between [National Center for Law and Economic Justice \(NCLEJ\)](#) and [Winston & Strawn, LLP](#) to challenge the Louisiana Workforce Commission's failure to determine eligibility for unemployment benefits and provide unemployment assistance during COVID-19.

## **Fundraising and Marketing Efforts**

The Foundation continued to expand its reach and impact through growth in its fundraising and marketing efforts in 2021, which included the following highlights:

- Raised \$194,157.19 in 2021 from a variety of donors, with contributions ranging from \$10 to \$50,000.
- Bikram Yoga Alliance, a yoga studio with locations in Alexandria and Falls Church, Virginia held a fundraising event on behalf of the Foundation and raised close to \$1,000 in support of the Foundation's mission.
- In July, the Foundation was featured in an article in the leading online philanthropy publication, *Inside Philanthropy*. The publication has 55,000 paid email subscribers. The article discusses and highlights the Foundation's inception and strategic priorities. [Click here](#) to read the full article.
- The Foundation created an internal strategic marketing plan and timeline that aims to bolster the Foundation's external communications in a consistent and coherent way. Within the strategic marketing plan, the Foundation emphasized its use of the Foundation Blog, which will be revamped in 2022 to incorporate

feature stories, interviews with current and former grantees, spotlights on social justice issue areas, and opinion pieces on current and significant litigation.

## **Board Governance and Organizational Structure**

### **Board of Directors Reorganization and Committee Structure**

In March, the Foundation revised its organizational structure by amending its by-laws to better allow the Foundation to achieve its mission of social justice through legal action. The new structure created several Board committees, which provide the strategic direction needed to ensure the Foundation’s impact and sustainability. The new committees include the Executive, Finance, Grant, and Advisory Committees.

The Advisory Committee includes prior members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. The Grant and Advisory Committees are tasked with the annual grant application review and grantee selection process.

### **Recruitment of New Board Members:**

The Foundation announced after approval by the Board of Directors of the addition of four new board members on Tuesday, May 11, 2021:

- **Jennifer Giordano:** partner at Latham & Watkins LLP
- **Billy O’Reilly:** retired partner at the Jones Day law firm
- **Deborah Shefler:** retired attorney for the Law Department of Pacific Gas & Electric Company and former attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department.
- **Laura Shores:** partner at Arnold & Porter

To read the full biographies of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, [click here](#).

### **Addition of New Advisory Committee Members:**

In August, the Foundation added the following three members to its Advisory Committee:

- **Michael Cleveland:** retired attorney who practiced labor and employment law at Vedder Price P.C. for 41 years.
- **Jim Kilbourne:** Section Chief of the Appellate Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice.
- **Richard Ugelow:** retired faculty member of American University Law School and former attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department.

To read the full biographies of the Foundation's Advisory Committee, [click here](#).

### **New Foundation Staff:**

In October, the Foundation hired a new staff member to serve as the Foundation's Operations Director:

- **Katie McDonald** manages and oversees all operational and administrative function of the Foundation, including its grant processes, external relations, and internal systems.

The Foundation has also created the role of Development Director that is anticipated to be filled in early 2022.

To read more about the Foundation's Executive Leadership & Staff, [click here](#).

### **Financial Results**

The Foundation's portfolio began the calendar year with \$1,138,949.11. The portfolio witnessed total gains of \$132,049.14. As of December 15, 2021, the Foundation's portfolio ending value was \$1,106,398.31, which includes \$128,146.02 in contributions to the Foundation's capital account, withdrawals of

\$250,000 for annual grant distributions in September, and \$42,746.37 in expenses and fees.

Since the Foundation's new portfolio manager, Raffa Investments, took over on June 26, 2020, the Foundation's portfolio has seen an 18.88% return as of December 15, 2021, driven by the portfolio's equity holdings in United States and foreign stocks, which was above the Foundation's benchmark of 17.74%. The portfolio has a conservative growth emphasis with an asset allocation target of 60% equities to 40% fixed income. The Foundation has witnessed a 13.79% return for the last 12 months against the Foundation's benchmark of 12.57%.

### **Creation of The Barbara McDowell Public Interest Law Center**

On December 15, 2021, the Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously approved the Resolution proposing the reorganization of the Foundation's structure to establish the Barbara McDowell Public Interest Law Center – a 501(c)(3) public charity that will conduct social justice litigation cases across the country. The Public Interest Law Center will share common Board members and administration of the Foundation and will be operational in 2022.

Additionally, the Board of Directors voted to restructure the Foundation as a 509(a)(3) type II supporting organization to ensure the continuation of its grantmaking and High Impact Litigation Project while also allowing for the shared governance of the Public Interest Law Center.

Bob Sims will join the Barbara McDowell Public Interest Law Center as its first Litigation Director. Bob is a recently retired partner at Latham & Watkins. His biography appears [here](#).

Katerina Kyselica, a well-known design consultant has been engaged to design the website of the Barbara McDowell Public Interest Law Center.