



BARBARA MCDOWELL  
GERALD S. HARTMAN  
FOUNDATION

CASE  
FOR  
SUPPORT

## OUR MISSION

The Barbara McDowell Foundation's mission is to achieve social justice and to improve the economic well-being, social conditions, and civil liberties of disadvantaged persons and groups in the United States.



Barbara McDowell

## OUR LEGACY

We were established to honor the work and legacy of Barbara McDowell, an exceptional advocate for social justice reforms who had a decorated legal career. She was a highly respected appellate lawyer in the Office of the Solicitor General of the United States Justice Department and a partner at the law firm of Jones Day. Barbara also started the Appellate Advocacy Project at Legal Aid of DC in 2004. She died of brain cancer at the age of 56 in January 2009.

## OUR METHOD

We make grants to fund high-impact social justice litigation. We utilize a rigorous application process to determine which cases to fund. Once selected, we review grantees quarterly to ensure that their legal cases are achieving their goals.

## OUR IMPACT

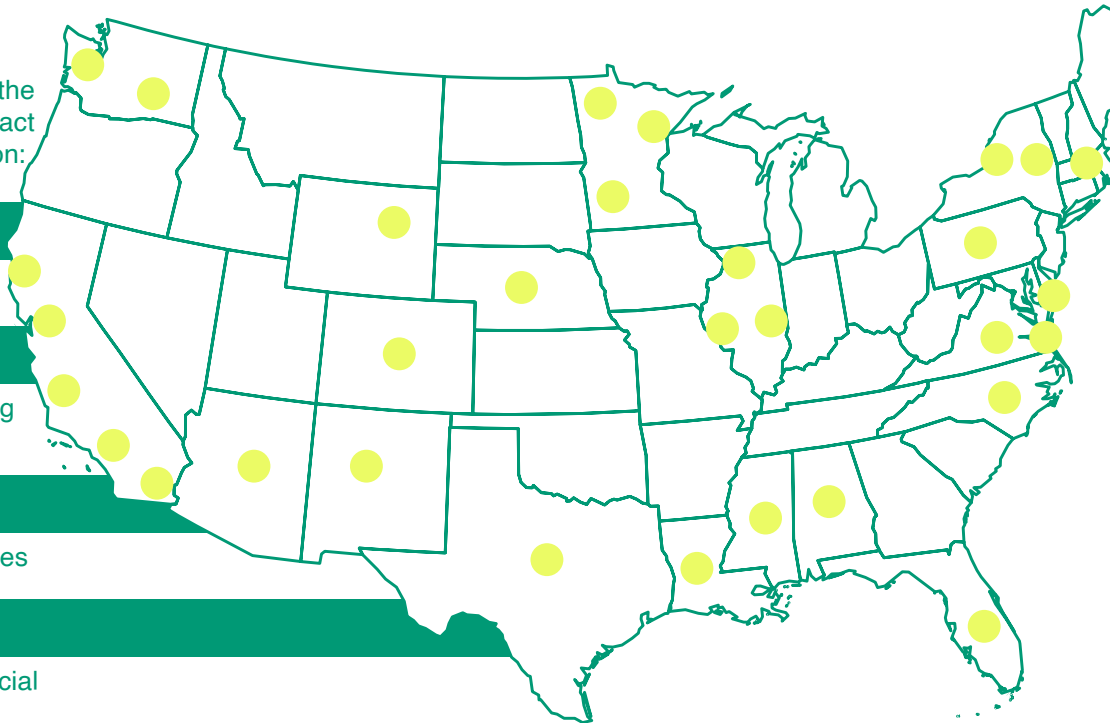
Since its inception in 2009, the Foundation has made a major impact in supporting social justice litigation:

**\$1.6M**  
distributed grants

**52**  
nonprofit organizations receiving foundation grants

**70**  
high-impact litigation funded cases

**22**  
states grantees have litigated social justice cases



## OUR SUCCESSES

### IMPROVING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Invalidated a City of Dallas ordinance that imposed burdensome and costly restrictions that inhibited religious organizations from providing food to homeless persons living outdoors.

### INCREASED ACCESS TO VOTING FOR THE DISABLED

Litigated for the successful implementation of a New York state-wide absentee ballot system that allows voters with print disabilities the ability to request, receive, and mark an absentee ballot in an accessible way.

### RESTORING ACCESS TO BENEFITS

Improved the hearing process for 15,000 participants in the Navajo Nation's Cash Assistance Program when their benefits were denied or terminated. Prior to the lawsuit, no participant had ever received a formal hearing.



Grant funding from the **Barbara McDowell Foundation** allowed us to **resolve critical issues** impeding access to cash assistance to families living and work on the **Navajo Nation**.

— NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR LAW AND POVERTY



## THE NEED

In today's political and economic climate, the civil rights of the underserved and underrepresented continue to be threatened and at-risk. High-impact litigation is an incredibly effective, yet often overlooked, tool to accomplish social justice. We are one of the few nationwide sources directly funding social justice litigation. However, we receive more requests for funding than we can fulfill each year.

## TO DONATE

- Visit [mcdowellfoundation.org](http://mcdowellfoundation.org)
- Click the **"Donate"** button on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/themcdowellfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/themcdowellfoundation))
- Mail a check to: **The Barbara McDowell Foundation**  
3607 Whispering Lane, Falls Church, VA 22041.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Your** contribution will allow us to expand our work to advance social justice through increasing the amounts and number of our grants.