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.

The Foundation fulfills its mission 1) by making grants to organizations that undertake systemic, social justice litigation and 2) by coordinating direct, pro bono litigation through its High Impact Litigation Project.

The Need

Nonprofit organizations representing our country’s most vulnerable persons, defending their rights, and championing their causes very often lack the necessary funds to pursue even the most egregious cases.

In 2018, low-income Americans received inadequate or no legal help whatsoever for 86% of the civil legal problems they encountered because of a lack of resources (as reported by the Legal Services Corporation in The Justice Gap: Measuring the Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-income Americans).

This “justice gap” between legal needs and available services exacerbates our country’s systemic inequities and disadvantages especially our most at-risk populations.

Your gift to the Barbara McDowell Foundation helps fill this “justice gap,” making vital financial resources available to nonprofit organizations which undertake social justice litigation.

Your financial contribution benefits a diverse array of constituent populations and impacts a wide variety of social justice causes. Cases we have funded include efforts to:

- Stop discriminatory policing practices
- Ensure services to the disabled
- End racial discrimination in jury selection
- Provide adequate healthcare for female inmates
- Ensure fair access to public benefits
- Gain equal treatment for immigrants
- Improve conditions for children in detention
- Protect the voting rights of Native Americans

OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION >>>
Your Gift Matters

Each year, the Foundation receives many more grant requests than it can fulfill. With today’s legal, political, and economic climate, a significant and growing need exists for grantmaking to support social justice litigation.

As one of the very few nationwide sources for social justice litigation grants, the Foundation is raising additional funds to allow it to donate more money to more grantees, creating even greater impact.

GIVING LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVING LEVEL</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Circle</td>
<td>$20,000 and above</td>
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<td>Major Benefactor</td>
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HOW TO GIVE: You can make your gift through a check, or via PayPal. For more information on giving please see the Foundation’s **Donor Information Guide** at its website at [www.mcdowellfoundation.org/donate](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.org/donate).

Your gift to the Barbara McDowell Foundation demonstrates your commitment to social justice.

RECENT GRANTEES

2021
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Disability Rights New York (Disability Advocates, Inc.)
Gender Justice
National Center for Youth Law

2020
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

2019
American Immigration Council
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
Prisoner’s Legal Services of Massachusetts
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

RECENT HIGH IMPACT CASES

2019
Investigation of a School System’s Failure to Integrate Disabled Children into Normal Classrooms and Programs – In partnership with Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Disability Rights New York, Disability Rights Advocates, and Drinker Biddle.

Investigation of Landlords Violating Potential Tenants’ Housing Rights for Failure to Accept Section 8 Housing Vouchers from Persons of Color – In partnership with The Public Interest Law Center and Drinker Biddle.

Challenge to the Seizing Without Due Process By New York City of State Tax Refunds for Transit Violations – In partnership with The National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New Economy Project, and Drinker Biddle.

2018
Constitutional Challenge Regarding Termination of Parental Rights in Pennsylvania – In partnership with Drinker Biddle.

2017
Challenge to Segregation and Discrimination of Institutionalized Intellectually Disabled Persons – In partnership with Disability Rights North Carolina and Drinker Biddle.