Our Giving History
Established in April 2009, the Barbara McDowell Foundation has distributed $1,200,000 in grants to 44 organizations nationwide, with a steady increase in the amount of each annual grant from $2,500 per grant in 2010 to $50,000 per grant in 2021.

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

2020 Grantees
Fair Elections Center
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
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
Bazelon 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

Board of Directors
The foundation’s board of directors is comprised of lawyers, a law school professor, a doctor, and an educator, 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 Barbara McDowell Foundation Provides 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 Barbara McDowell Foundation has very low overhead and no rent expense. The former law firm of the Foundation’s President provides free support for the Foundation’s website and administrative needs. The officers and directors of the foundation receive no compensation or salaries. All foundation 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](http://www.mcdowellfoundation.org)
Telephone: (703) 919-0423
Email: mcdowellfoundation@mcdowellfoundation.org

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**How to Donate**

**Gifts by Check**
Please make your check payable to:
The Barbara 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](http://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 Foundation President,
Jerry Hartman, get in touch by email at jerry.hartman@mcdowellfoundation.org or by telephone at (703) 919-0423.

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**The Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation**

**Social Justice through Legal Action**
A tax-exempt 501c3 organization Federal Tax Identification Number 27-0411226