

## **2009 IOLTA Grants**

*The IOLTA program's success is due to the substantial participation by lawyers and law firms who have designated their trust accounts to be IOLTA accounts. The resources available to the IOLTA Grants Committee of the Foundation benefit legal service organizations, law-related education and similar worthy programs.*

*The Rhode Island Bar Foundation awarded its 2009 Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) grants totaling \$ 1,202,110.*

This year's recipients are:

**Rhode Island Legal Services** **\$ 731,760.00**

To help support the RI Legal Services' Family Law Unit and its handling of divorce, custody and visitation cases. Funds also contribute to the Battered Women's Project, Housing Hotline and Housing Law Center, Eviction Defense Clinic and Public Benefits Unit.

**International Institute of Rhode Island** **\$ 251,250.00**

Since 1987, IOLTA has funded the Immigration Law Project, to provide direct legal immigration services and grassroots outreach on immigration law issues to thousands of immigrants and refugees in Rhode Island. Additional funds were approved for the expansion of their statewide legal immigration initiatives in the State of Rhode Island.

**Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence** **\$ 27,750.00**

Funds are used to continue the Superior Court component of their Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program in order to help victims seek civil and criminal relief from domestic violence.

**Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless** **\$ 15,000.00**

To continue to fund the Homeless Legal Clinic, to enable homeless Rhode Islanders access to pro bono legal services through attorneys who volunteer at shelters and drop-in sites.

**Rhode Island Bar Association Legal Information and Referral Service for the Elderly \$ 49,350.00**

The primary objective of the Elderly Program is to make legal services readily available to senior citizens. Approximately 2000 seniors receive legal assistance on an annual basis. Pro Bono and/or reduced fee referrals are available for the income eligible. The Referral Service continues to coordinate 20 or more "Ask A Lawyer" and "Legal Clinic" programs on an annual basis at senior organizations throughout the state. This year, the existing Rhode Island Bar Association handbook relating to many of the legal needs of seniors and their families was updated and expanded. "A Guide for Getting Your Affairs in Order," is being distributed to senior agencies statewide.

**Rhode Island Bar Association Pro Bono Project** **\$ 36,000.00**

The Pro Bono Project responds to domestic violence and family law cases and accepts conflict or overload cases from RI Legal Services' Family Law Unit. Other areas of law accepted include guardianship, education, landlord tenant and collections. Cases are prioritized by the urgency of the request, taking into consideration the case type and assigned court dates. This year, legal clinics have been held at the Rhode Island Law Center in order to respond to the increase in the number of clients in need of advice and representation in the area of collections.

**Community Mediation Center of Rhode Island** **\$ 22,500.00**

To help support the landlord-tenant eviction prevention program.

**Day One** **\$ 26,250.00**

To help support the advocacy services program providing support and legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault, providing victims with information and legal advocacy as their case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

**Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership Program** **\$ 26,250.00**

To help support the 2009 Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament.

**Rhode Island Bar Association Law Related Education Project** **\$ 15,000.00**

To administer a statewide Law Day program, maintain a statewide law-related education website, and cooperate and assist the other law-related education providers in Rhode Island which depend on our volunteers to work with Rhode Island's youth and educate them about the legal system.

**The George Wiley Center** **\$ 1,000.00**

To help support the year-long "Rhode Island Utility Consumers' Bill of Rights: An Awareness Campaign."