

Who We Are and What We Do: A Look at the Fairfax Law Foundation

By: Timothy J. McEvoy, President 2009

The Fairfax Law Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt charitable organization founded and run by attorneys for the benefit of the public at large. The essence of the Foundation is to teach people, and especially our children, how our legal system really works and what it means to have a system built on the Rule of Law. It is also to serve underrepresented populations who have legal needs that would go unaddressed without assistance from *pro bono* lawyers and volunteers. To promote these goals, the Foundation has many well-established and incredibly valuable programs in place.

The Foundation promotes education about the courts and the Rule of Law through a number of annual programs. Among these is the Law-Related Education Court Tour Program, which every year introduces local students to real judges and attorneys at the Fairfax County Judicial Center. A Chocolate Lover's Festival introduces participants to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and mock trials help students learn how a real trial works. Looking ahead, the Foundation plans to expand its offerings to students through various media initiatives designed to educate young people about their rights with respect to a number of contemporary issues.

Beyond education, a central component of Foundation's mission is to promote and sponsor *pro bono* efforts. The Foundation funds substantial efforts in this regard, including support for local organizations and attorneys who provide free advice and representation for persons in difficult personal circumstances who could not otherwise afford counsel. While the diversity of matters handled is broad, substantial emphasis is placed on matters related to family and domestic relations and housing issues.

The Foundation is also pleased to sponsor and/or support a number of exceptional programs for attorneys and the public generally. Among these are the annual *Jazz for Justice* program at George Mason University in the Fall and the newly-launched Stitt Cup, a volleyball tournament that honors the late Hon. David T. Stitt, judge of the Fairfax Circuit Court. New this year is a 5K race sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Fairfax Bar Association. In addition to being fun, these programs raise money and awareness for the programs sponsored by the Foundation and the Fairfax Bar Association.

In sum, the Fairfax Law Foundation exists to promote knowledge about, and respect for, the judicial system. We are very pleased that you have taken the time to navigate to our website, and we hope that you will carefully consider a contribution of time or money to help advance our common cause.