June 2024

DUNLAP’S DOWNLOAD

Come Celebrate With Us!

As we enter the month of June, I want to invite you to join us at the Indiana Bar Foundation's Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon, set for June 21, 2024, at the Marriott Indianapolis North. The event promises to be a memorable one where we will be celebrating three exceptional people for their contributions to the legal field and civic education. This year, the Foundation will honor three outstanding individuals whose dedication and service have made significant impacts in their respective areas.

Marilyn Smith will receive the Indiana Bar Foundation’s Legend Award. Throughout Marilyn’s career, she has made significant strides to ensure a more accessible legal system for all Hoosiers. Marilyn’s dedication has been nothing short of extraordinary, and her illustrious career is marked by her profound influence and leadership within the legal profession. Her dedication to justice and mentorship has left an indelible mark, inspiring generations of legal professionals. We are proud to honor Marilyn and her many career accomplishments.

Justice Geoffrey Slaughter will receive the Foundation’s Champion of Civil Legal Assistance award, recognizing his unwavering commitment to providing access to justice for all. Justice Slaughter took the oath of office as Indiana's 109th Supreme Court Justice on June 13, 2016, and has served as the Chair of the Indiana Coalition for Court Access since July 1, 2018. His efforts have been instrumental in advancing civil legal assistance, making Indiana’s civil justice system more accessible, and ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the legal support they need.

The Foundation’s Champion of Civic Education Award will go to Mike Fassold, a retired World and US History teacher and a legendary We the People program teacher who taught countless Hoosier 8th graders at Fishers Junior High about US Government and the Constitution. Mike’s classes competed numerous times at the national level, where they excelled by bringing home the We the People National Invitational Championship trophy to Indiana five times.

Mike was also the driving force behind the development of the Foundation’s sixth-grade civics course materials, which are available to download for free on the Foundation’s website. These resources provide standards-aligned lessons and other class resources specifically for use in the new Indiana sixth-grade civics course. Since the course files were made available in December of 2023, they have been downloaded by Hoosier educators more than 30,000 times.

I invite you to join us to hear more about these three amazing Hoosiers and to celebrate the successes and accomplishments that so many supporters of the Indiana Bar Foundation have made.
possible this year. The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon not only highlights these remarkable individuals but also underscores the Foundation's commitment to being the premier statewide charitable organization and trusted partner in advancing civic literacy and the legal system. I promise that you will come away inspired and enjoy the opportunity to celebrate these achievements and the impact that the Indiana Bar Foundation has been able to accomplish with the help of partners like you!

RSVP Here

Overview of Civil Legal Assistance Events

Over the past month, the Foundation has had the opportunity to share information about our civil legal assistance programs with national and local audiences.

Foundation staff members Chuck Dunlap, Abbie Bush, and Mike Commons attended the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference in Detroit, Michigan. The conference provided an opportunity to learn more about civil legal assistance programs nationwide from legal aid organizations, law firms, court representatives, funders, and others working to improve access to justice. Chuck and Abbie also facilitated small group discussions with IOLTA programs from around the nation on “Recruiting and Retaining Legal Aid Lawyers and Other Special Grantee Projects” and “To Reserve or Not to Reserve.”

Government Information Day

Mike Commons participated in Government Information Day to educate librarians on the resources available at IndianaLegalHelp.org. Government Information Day is a biennial conference hosted at the Indiana State Library to promote government resources and improve information literacy.

Tenant-Focused Legal Panel

Mike also participated in a tenant-focused legal panel convened by The Corporation for Supportive Housing and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Along with partners from Pro Bono Indiana and Indiana Legal Services, Mike shared information about housing resources available on Indiana Legal Help, including the availability of the Indiana Legal Help Desk.

Indiana Legal Help Offers Free Legal Resources

Roughly 40,000 Hoosiers visit Indiana Legal Help
every month, seeking free legal assistance and self-help resources. Our President and CEO Chuck Dunlap said, “The Indiana Legal Help website is a crucial tool for all Hoosiers to use to access civil legal services throughout Indiana.”

**Read More**

Three Hoosier Schools Secure Unit Awards at the 2024 We the People National Invitational

The Foundation is pleased to report all three Indiana schools that competed at the 2024 We the People National Invitational received Unit Awards.

Fall Creek Junior High won the Unit 1 Award, Fishers Junior High won the Unit 3 Award, and Woodside Middle School won the Unit 5 Award.

Congratulations to these schools, teachers, and especially students for their hard work and dedication!

**Watch The Announcements**

**We The People Summer Institute, June 23-27**

Come join the Indiana Bar Foundation as it holds its multi-day professional development workshop for educators wanting to learn more about the We the People program.

**Civics That Empowers All Students (CEAS) Project Application**

The Indiana Bar Foundation is welcoming 16 Hoosier educators to the 2024-25 Civics Empowers All Students Fellowship. Over the year, they will receive 52 hours of We the People training, starting with a five-day
Indiana high, middle, and elementary school teachers can join the Foundation to learn in-depth content and teaching strategies for important concepts they’ll be teaching in government, history, or social studies classes. These topics will also aid We the People teachers in presenting the curriculum and preparing for the simulated congressional hearing authentic assessments, which will be focused on during the institute.

Learn More/Register Here

The Bar Foundation is still looking for additional teachers to serve as control teachers for the civic education research study this is based on. If interested, please contact either Tim Kalgreen or Joseph O’Connor.

United States Senate Youth Program

The Indiana Bar Foundation will begin accepting applications for the United States Senate Youth Program starting July 1st!

Two Hoosier students will be selected to represent the State of Indiana as Delegates during Washington Week 2025. They will experience national government in action and meet Senators, Justices, and leaders throughout government.

Learn More

Support The Foundation In Many Ways

Would you like to join the group of distinguished Foundation Supporters — but can’t attend our Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on June 21? Even if you cannot be with us in person that day, Director of Development Kim Berry would love to share the many ways to support our mission. There are endless ways to impact the Foundation through volunteering and giving.

You can volunteer for We the People and Mock Trial Competitions or join a committee. And you or your organization can support the Foundation financially at the following levels:

- **Keystone Society** ($1,000-$10,000)
- **Sponsorship** ($2,500-$25,000)
- **NEW President’s Circle** ($100,000 pledged over 4 years)

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting — but even if not, contact Kim at kberry@inbarfoundation.org or click the button below to schedule coffee or lunch!
2024 Indiana Civil Legal Assistance Conference

Save the date for the 2024 Indiana Civil Legal Assistance Conference on Friday, October 18 in Indianapolis. The conference is intended for civil legal assistance providers, pro bono lawyers, paralegals, law students, academics, members of the judiciary, and other professionals who assist in the delivery of civil legal assistance to low-and modest means Hoosiers in Indiana.

Civic Education & The Influence of Teaching

We the People Educator Adam Williamson was recently interviewed by Chalkbeat Indiana about the vital role of civic education and the profound influence of teaching. “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is, without a doubt, the most rewarding and effective curriculum I’ve ever used. I underwent training for the program at the annual summer institute as soon as I finished student teaching and soon after began teaching it at my first job in middle school.”

You are Invited to the 2024 Civic Learning Symposium

Registration for the 2024 Civic Learning Symposium on September 27 and 28 is now open. This year’s theme revolves around the need to build bridges across diverse perspectives, promote understanding, and cultivate a culture of civic agency. You will have the chance to hear from Freeman A. Hrabowski, III: President Emeritus of UMBC, and Harry Boyte, Author and Senior Scholar in Public Work Philosophy.
We are proud to welcome the newest member of our team and want to introduce him to you!

Please take a moment to get to know our Marketing & Communications Specialist Rachon Lucio.

Learn More About Rachon