



April 2026

DUNLAP'S DOWNLOAD



The Strength of Indiana Starts with You

There is something uniquely powerful about showing up, but right now, it is more than powerful, it is necessary.

Across Indiana, people come together every day to support one another and build stronger communities. But communities do not sustain themselves. They depend on individuals who are willing to step forward. As a self-described chronic volunteer, I have seen firsthand that service not only impacts those in need, it transforms those who choose to act. The question is not whether there is a need. The question is whether we will answer it.

One of Indiana's greatest strengths is how accessible volunteering is. You do not need special credentials or a perfect plan, just the willingness to raise your hand, offer your time, and be present. The opportunities are already there. What they are waiting for is you.

Start with what moves you. Whether it is education, civic engagement, mentorship, the arts, or legal assistance, there is a place where your time and energy can make a real difference. Some of the most meaningful experiences come from stepping outside your comfort zone and discovering passions you did not know you had.

If you feel called to support the Indiana Bar Foundation and our mission to advance civic education and expand civil legal assistance, we will welcome you. But wherever your path leads, the most important thing is to get involved. Your community needs you. Your neighbors are counting on you so don't be afraid to step up.

Volunteering is not only about giving. It is about connection, purpose, and perspective. It is about choosing to be part of something larger than yourself. In my experience, the return on that choice is immeasurable.

Life is short. We often tell ourselves we will get involved when things slow down or when the timing is right. But the truth is, the right time is now. The most fulfilling moments in life rarely come from what we achieve for ourselves, but from what we do for others.

So do not wait. Reach out. Show up. Invest in your community, whether for an hour or for something more sustained. What matters is that you begin. When you do, you will discover what so many already know: giving back is not just rewarding, it is essential.

Chuck

GIVING & RECOGNITION



Meet the 2026 Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon Honorees

The Indiana Bar Foundation is proud to announce the three esteemed honorees who will be recognized at the 2026 Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon for their outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to the Hoosier community.

- **Legend Award - Honorable Paul D. Mathias**
 - The Honorable Paul D. Mathias, a Fort Wayne native and judge on the Indiana Court of Appeals, has long championed civic engagement and civil legal assistance in Indiana. A dedicated volunteer with We the People and an active member of the Indiana Bar Foundation's outreach efforts, he continues to make a lasting impact on Hoosiers across the state.
- **Champion of Civil Legal Assistance Award - Monica A. Fennell**
 - Monica A. Fennell, Senior Pro Bono Counsel at Faegre Drinker, has dedicated her career to expanding access to justice through pro bono service. She leads pro bono initiatives across multiple states, serves on the Coalition for Court Access, and previously led the Indiana Pro Bono Commission as Executive Director.
- **Champion of Civic Education Award - Amanda Antey**
 - Amanda Antey, a teacher at Castle High School in Newburgh, has been a driving force in civic education through her work with both We the People and Mock Trial programs. She consistently supports student engagement by assisting with school recruitment and program materials, and she played a key role as lead author in aligning Indiana's social studies standards with the Mock Trial curriculum.

This year's event will be at the Westin in downtown Indianapolis on Friday, June 26 from 11 am to 1:30 pm. The Foundation is excited to celebrate our milestones and accomplishments from the past fiscal year. Registration for the event is open. Individual tickets are \$100 with sponsor tables available for purchase.

If you have any questions, please email Kim Berry at kberry@inbarfoundation.org.

[Register Today](#)

[Sponsor Today!](#)

CIVIC EDUCATION

Congratulations to our Mock Trial State Champion

The Mock Trial state competition concluded in early March with Claws for Appeal from Carmel High School becoming this year's state champion. They are moving on to represent Indiana at the national competition in Iowa in May.

To read the full list of schools from the state competition, click the button below.



[Learn More](#)

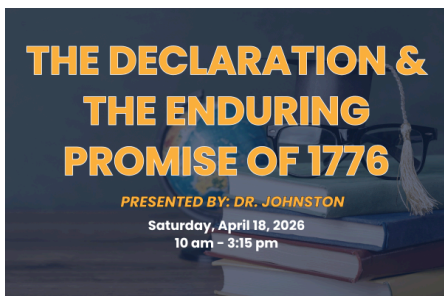
Your Civics Education Road Map Starts Here

Every great journey needs a roadmap—and when it comes to strengthening civic learning, we're here to help guide the way.

The Indiana Bar Foundation invites you to explore a series of free professional development opportunities designed to support educators at every stage of their civic education journey.



Whether you're building foundational knowledge or diving deeper into content and strategy, there's a path for you.



First Stop: Civics Scholar Deep Dive - The Declaration & the Enduring Promise of 1776
Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10 am - 3:15 pm | Marian University

Start your journey by diving into the core ideals that shape American democracy. In partnership with the Jack Miller Center, this workshop features a lecture from Dr. Johnston on how the equality principle in the Declaration of Independence defines the American creed.

You'll explore its influence on the women's suffrage movement, abolition, and the Civil Rights Movement—then work alongside mentor teachers to translate these ideas into actionable lesson plans.

Participants receive:

- \$100 travel stipend
- 5 Professional Growth Points (PGPs)
- Lunch

[Register Today](#)

Second Stop: Introduction to We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 4-5:15 pm | Zoom

New to We the People? This introductory webinar gives you a clear roadmap for getting started. Learn about the program's instructional framework, simulated congressional hearings, and

classroom implementation strategies.

You'll walk away with practical next steps and a deeper understanding of how the program builds students' civic knowledge, critical thinking, and constitutional understanding.



Register Today



Final Stop: We the People Summer Institute

July 13–16, 2026 | Indianapolis

Take your journey further with this immersive summer experience. Gain the tools, lesson plans, and confidence to implement the We the People curriculum in your classroom.

This institute features America 250-themed content, mentorship from experienced educators, and sessions led by college faculty experts in civics education—setting you

up for success in the school year ahead.

No matter where you are on your path, each step along this roadmap is designed to help you bring civic learning to life for your students. Choose your next stop and register today!

If you have any questions please email Director of Civic Education Programs Amelia Miller at amiller@inbarfoundation.org.

Megan Jolly is Promoted to Program Operations Specialist

Megan Jolly is celebrating two exciting milestones at the Indiana Bar Foundation, and we're proud to share the news! As of March 31, she marks her one-year anniversary with the Foundation and has also been promoted to Program Operations Specialist.

Over the past year, Megan has played an integral role in the success of our civic education programs, helping lead the coordination and execution of more than 25 events. She is a valued member of our team and a dedicated contributor to our community, and we're thrilled to celebrate these well-deserved achievements.



CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Call Out for Sessions at 2026 Civil Legal Assistance Conference

The Indiana Bar Foundation and Coalition for Court Access invite partners in legal aid and pro bono to attend the 2026 Civil Legal Assistance Conference on Friday, October 23 at the Ivy Tech Conference Center in Indianapolis. This day-long event provides the chance to learn, share ideas, and build community through engaging breakout sessions and networking opportunities.



The conference planning committee is currently accepting session proposals for the 2026 conference. If you're interested in submitting a session proposal, you can do so by clicking the button below. Proposals will be accepted through June 5, 2026. Please feel free to share this opportunity with others who might be interested.

We appreciate your help making this year's conference a great success and hope to see you on October 23.

[Submit Here](#)

Civil Legal Aid Fund & IOLTA Applications Open through April 24

The Indiana Bar Foundation is accepting applications for the Indiana Civil Legal Aid Fund and Indiana Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program now through April 24.

The Civil Legal Aid Fund was established in 1997 to support Indiana organizations providing civil legal services to low-income Hoosiers. In partnership with the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana Bar Foundation distributes nearly \$3M annually to qualifying organizations around the state.

The IOLTA Program was also created in 1997 as a mechanism to enable low-income Hoosiers to have access to the civil justice system. This access is supported through annual grants to civil legal assistance organizations.

For more information, please contact Abbie Bush at abush@inbarfoundation.org.

NEWS BRIEF

WE'RE HIRING

Volunteer Engagement Manager

The Indiana Bar Foundation is seeking a Volunteer Engagement Manager to lead the strategy and execution of volunteer recruitment, training, coordination, and retention for its Civic Education programs. This role is responsible for building and sustaining a statewide network of volunteers, including attorneys, judges, educators, and community members, who support competitions, events, classroom activities, and other civic initiatives.

Apply online at www.inbarfoundation.org

Hiring: Volunteer Engagement Manager

The Indiana Bar Foundation is hiring a Volunteer Engagement Manager to help grow and support our statewide civic education programs!

This role will lead volunteer recruitment, training, and retention—building a strong network of attorneys, judges, educators, and community members who make our programs possible.

If you're passionate about civic education and creating meaningful volunteer experiences, we'd love to hear from you.

[Apply Today](#)

Freedom 250 American Heroes Student Art Competition

This national art contest invites students in grades 3-12 to reflect on the individuals who have shaped our country by creating original art inspired by one of the 250 heroes that will be in the

National Garden of American Heroes.

Submissions are currently being accepted through Friday, May 1, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET. One student from each grade category, representing 50 states and 6 territories, will be selected as the winner with the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., where their artwork will be featured at the Great American State Fair.

Share this opportunity with students that are interested!

[Learn More](#)

INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION | www.inbarfoundation.org



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