

Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Scholarship Relating to Litigation

Applications for the third round of funding are now being accepted.

DEADLINE: February 28, 2009

The ABA Section of Litigation invites applications to The Litigation Research Fund which makes individual awards of between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to support original and practical scholarly work that significantly advances the understanding of civil litigation in the United States. The Fund was established in 2007 to support research and writing projects relevant to litigation policy and practice, with preference given to works with an empirical foundation. Projects addressing issues of low-income individuals' access to civil justice are particularly welcome. So far, the Fund has awarded thirteen grants totaling approximately \$140,000. Priority will be given to applications received by February 28, 2009. Additional information is available at: <http://www.abanet.org/litigation/researchfund/>.

The Section has funded various academic conferences and scholarship relevant to civil litigation such as research on the "vanishing trial" that was published in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, vol. 1, no. 3 (2004). The new Litigation Research Fund builds upon this commitment. The Fund will be administered by a Section task force chaired by Professor Bruce A. Green of Fordham University School of Law, and informed by advice from researchers convened by the American Bar Foundation, a leading research institute for empirical research on law.

The Litigation Research Fund will support research and writing projects in two broad areas: First, scholarship relevant to litigation policy (e.g., on issues important to rule makers, legislators, or courts, or helpful to the organized bar in developing guidelines and formulating positions); and second, scholarship bearing on litigation practice (such as writings addressing trial skills or other aspects of how litigators conduct their work). Funded scholarship may relate to judicial administration; judicial independence; rules and standards relating to litigation (e.g., ethics rules, rules of evidence, and rules of civil procedure); the assistance of counsel; trial and discovery practice; or the jury process, among others.

Preference will be given to works with an empirical foundation, although they need not involve original data collection. Position papers, comparative and historical scholarship, and other original academic work of practical significance to litigation and litigators will also qualify for funding. Works already in progress are eligible. Authors will maintain the copyrights in their works; however, the Section of Litigation will receive the non-exclusive right to distribute, publicize and quote from the completed works in order to make them available, as appropriate, to members of the Section of Litigation, courts, lawmakers and policymakers, and others.

Applicants should submit a short statement (approximately 5 pages) describing the project with a project title and how it will be conducted; the form the final product will take (e.g., article or book); when it will be completed; the importance of the project in light of the above criteria; and a project budget. Please include grantee institution's name and contact person with e-mail and mailing address. The award is not intended to cover institutions' indirect costs. Awardees will be asked to sign the ABA grant conditions before the award is made. A curriculum vita including a list of the applicant's prior publications should also be submitted. Priority consideration for the next awards will be given to submissions received **by February 28, 2009**. For additional information, contact: [Professor Bruce Green](mailto:bgreen@law.fordham.edu) (bgreen@law.fordham.edu).

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with the subject line "**Litigation Research Fund**" to [Monica Cortez](mailto:cortezm@staff.abanet.org) (cortezm@staff.abanet.org), ABA Section of Litigation, with copies to [Robert Nelson](mailto:rmelson@abfn.org) (rmelson@abfn.org), Director, American Bar Foundation, and [Professor Bruce Green](mailto:bgreen@law.fordham.edu) (bgreen@law.fordham.edu).