

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund
Date: April 5, 2010
Re: Democracy and Power Fund Docket I

We look forward to discussing with you the first 2010 Democracy and Power Fund docket on Monday, April 12. The write-ups and a docket sheet are attached here.

As you know, the Democracy and Power Fund is intended to enhance U.S. Programs' issue-specific funding and to build the collective power of individuals, communities, and organizations to develop and demand solutions to advance open society in the United States. As we have witnessed with the challenging first 15 months of a new administration and the rise of a new cycle of right-wing populism, the need for strategic, collective action via public participation and community engagement may be more important than ever for the advancement of an open society.

To this end, we are pleased to note that Democracy and Power Fund grantees played particularly vital roles in recent policy victories on health care reform – with the Center for Community Change, Faith in Public Life, Gamaliel Foundation, PICO National Network, and USAction Education Fund conducting essential field and policy work in Washington and across the nation – and on student loan financing reform, with the United States Student Association playing a central role. D&P grantees are also actively engaged in advancing other key national priorities, including comprehensive immigration reform (the Center for Community Change along with many others), job creation (the Economic Policy Institute is leading broad scale efforts here as is the League of Young Voters on the Youth Promise Act), and foreclosure policy and financial regulatory reforms (with the Roosevelt Institute and National People's Action leading national policy and field efforts).¹

The Democracy and Power Fund is now solidly on track to implement its three year plan and has shifted significant funding resources into grassroots community, congregational, and constituency based organizing efforts that are connected to targeted policy outcomes. The Fund continues to refine its policy and idea generation portfolio to best support the development of a new economic paradigm for the U.S. and D&P staffers are playing key national leadership roles in efforts to develop strategies around non-partisan voter engagement, confronting the census undercount, supporting non-profit donor development and diversification, state-based capacity building, and cultural organizing. Lastly, D&P has spent considerable energy since the fall developing its new “building state-based power” program. Now that North Carolina and Texas have been selected as the Fund's two priority states, D&P staff – with USP colleagues – have traveled extensively to meet with over 100 leaders throughout the states. Our first North Carolina and Texas grantmaking recommendations will appear in our June docket and we

¹ OSI funded organizations are explicitly prohibited from using OSI funding for lobbying on legislation.

look forward to discussing state-based work with you and know that this was an important legacy of your long-time ACLU leadership.

In this first docket, the Democracy and Power Fund recommends funding for eleven organizations, including seven renewals, two new grantees, one add-on grant, and one transfer of previously approved funds. These recommendations total \$2,744,200, of which \$450,000 is co-funded from other USP programs and initiatives, including \$145,000 from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative; \$100,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund; \$100,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund; \$50,000 from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement; \$30,000 from the Transparency and Integrity Fund; and \$25,000 from the National Security and Human Rights Campaign.

Our eleven recommendations include six general support grants, four fiscally sponsored projects, and one project grant. Five have grant terms for more than one year and one, Americans for Informed Democracy, is recommended for a tie-off grant.

Lastly, we are pleased to introduce you to the Democracy and Power Fund's new program associate, Nashay Jones. Nashay joins us from Amnesty International USA where she worked in the Atlanta, GA office on several projects, including death penalty abolition, and in New York, where she served as executive assistant to the executive director.

Our recommended grantees for Docket 1 are:

Grassroots Organizing & Non-Partisan Voter Engagement:
Four recommendations, \$1,000,000

Gamaliel Foundation, Faith and Democracy Campaign

To support the Gamaliel Foundation, a Chicago-based confederation of 60 local and regional grassroots organizing affiliates in twenty states, which are collectively composed of 1,600 dues paying congregations representing more than one million clergy and laypeople of multiple faiths. Gamaliel builds independent grassroots faith-based community organizations so that ordinary people can have an impact on the political, social, economic, and environmental decisions that affect their lives. Using a “metro-equity” lens, affiliates work on a range of issues, including housing, education, jobs, health care, immigration, and criminal justice.

Jobs with Justice Education Fund

To support the Jobs with Justice Education Fund (JWJEF), a Washington, DC-based national network of 47 coalitions in 25 states comprised of both member organizations and over 100,000 individual activists that engage workers and allies in campaigns to win justice in workplaces and in communities where working families live. Since its founding in 1987, JWJEF has built a base of diverse constituencies at the local level and provided training, coordination, and networking at the national level to more effectively advance economic and social justice.

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund

To support the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO), a Los Angeles-based national network of over 6,000 Latina/o elected and appointed officials. NALEO facilitates full Latina/o participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service, through integrated strategies that include increasing the effectiveness of Latina/o policymakers, mobilizing the Latina/o community to engage in civic life, and promoting policies that advance Latina/o civic engagement. Responding to the historic immigrant's rights mobilizations of 2006, NALEO has spearheaded the "Ya Es Hora" campaign linking naturalization to census to voter participation under a single message: "it's time."

USAction Education Fund

To support the USAction Education Fund (USAEF), a Washington D.C.-based national network of 25 independent, state-based, grassroots, and multi-issue organizations that educate, engage, and empower people to participate in the democratic process. USAEF devotes its primary attention to multi-issue, multi-constituency organizations that are committed to empowering low- and moderate-income communities and individuals through issue advocacy campaigns for tax and budget fairness, health care reform, preservation of Social Security, expansion of Medicaid and Medicare, and creating jobs.

Leadership Pipeline and Youth Engagement:

Three recommendations, \$1,000,000

Americans for Informed Democracy

To support Americans for Informed Democracy, a Washington, DC-based youth engagement organization that empowers young people in the U.S. to address global challenges such as poverty, disease, climate change, and conflict through awareness and action. Through a network of 30 chapters and hundreds of individual activists on campuses across the U.S., AID promotes just and sustainable solutions at the campus, community, and national levels. AID has been a part of prior USP youth engagement funding but, despite its great work, is now an outlier to D&P's current youth organizing and engagement field building. As such, we are making a tie-off grant recommendation.

Social Justice Leadership (fiscal sponsor: Jewish Funds for Justice)

To support Social Justice Leadership (SJL), an innovative, Harlem-based organizational cohort model training program that started as a joint pilot project of the Rockwood Leadership Program and New York Jobs with Justice. Through its NYC cohorts and emerging cohorts in Miami and New Orleans, SJL provides high-quality leadership training to staff of community organizations, labor unions, and other grassroots social justice organizations.

Young Elected Officials Network and Young People For (fiscal sponsor: People for the American Way Foundation)

To support the Young Elected Officials Network (YEO) and Young People For (YP4), two leadership development programs housed at the People For the American Way Foundation. Led by Andrew Gillum, a 30 year old elected City Commissioner and

Mayor Pro Tem of Tallahassee, FL, each program is geared toward different phases in young people's personal, political, and professional development. YP4 is a leadership development program which identifies and trains leaders while they are still in college. YEO is a one of a kind national network that continues the pipeline of leadership development by providing support to more than 525 social justice minded local, state, and federal elected officials – from all 50 states – who are 35 and younger.

Innovative Social Engagement through Arts, Culture, or Technology:
One recommendation, \$300,000

Citizen Engagement Laboratory - Color of Change, Presenté (fiscal sponsor: League of Young Voters Education Fund)

To support the Citizen Engagement Laboratory (CEL), an Oakland, CA-based online organizing innovator, and its projects, Color of Change (CoC) and Presenté. CEL's programs are dedicated to developing innovative online vehicles to enhance civic engagement and amplify the advocacy voice of people of color communities. CEL uses digital media and technology to organize issue and identity-based communities, with a focus on amplifying the voices of underserved groups in order to make government more responsive and to bring about positive social change. With a base of 700,000 members (600,000 in Color of Change and 100,000 in Presenté), CEL projects have successfully activated bases around Jena Six justice system racism, confronting police brutality in the Oscar Grant case, spotlighting Sonia Sotomayor's judicial record, advancing immigrant's rights, and removing Lou Dobbs from CNN.

Paradigm-Shifting Policy Generation:
Three recommendations, \$444,200

American Rights at Work Education Fund

To support American Rights at Work Education Fund (ARAWEF), a Washington DC-based national organization that advocates for equality in the workplace through coalition-building, research, public relations, policy analysis, and organizing. ARAWEF investigates and exposes workplace discrimination and the inadequacy of U.S. labor law; stimulates debate about the state of workplace equality among journalists, policymakers, advocacy groups, and the public; researches policies that can lead to enhanced levels of unionization in the U.S.; and highlights public policy that protects workers from hostile employers and weak laws.

Applied Research Center

To support the Applied Research Center, a New York-based racial justice think/act tank and communications center for engaging critical constituencies in confronting structural inequality. This add-on grant would continue D&P's and the Equality and Opportunity Fund's co-funding of ARC's work in 2009 and would coordinate D&P's funding cycle of ARC with the Equality and Opportunity Fund, its USP lead.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

To support the merger of the New Vision Institute, a Washington, DC-based public policy organization and the Roosevelt Institute, a New York-based D&P grantee that focuses on the development of paradigm shifting economic policy. New Vision, funded from 2006 by the USP Progressive Infrastructure fund, sought to bridge the gap between academia and public policy by building the next generation of progressive public policy intellectuals. This work will now be subsumed into Roosevelt's Campus Network, composed of 8,000 members organized at 86 chapters across the country.

Full write-ups of each recommendation are attached. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let us know if there is further information we can provide in advance of the docket meeting on April 12. Thank you.

Criminal Justice Fund
Memo

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff

Date: 2 April 2010

Re: Criminal Justice Fund Docket I Grant Recommendations

The Criminal Justice Fund recommends 14 grants totaling \$3,991,820² for inclusion on U.S. Programs Docket I, scheduled for April 12, 2010. Eleven of these grants are renewals, six to longtime grantees addressing a range of key CJF priorities, **Correctional Association of New York, Grassroots Leadership, W. Haywood Burns Institute, Justice Strategies, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and Texas Criminal Justice Coalition**. Among the remaining five recommended renewals, the **Corporation for Supportive Housing** and **Corps Network** are key grantees supporting our efforts to remove unreasonable barriers to reentry; **Spitfire Strategies** is enhancing the communications capacity of indigent defense grantees; **Public Interest Projects (PIP)** supports our donor collaborative effort to challenge the sentence of juveniles to life without the possibility of parole (JLWOP); and the **Harm Reduction Coalition** is a key grantee in our evolving effort to develop and support a new approach to U.S. drug policy (we also join in a grant recommendation to **Color of Change** for drug policy reform work, which will be presented in the Democracy and Power Fund docket).

We are excited about the new organizations we recommend for funding, **Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Children**, which enhances our funding in support of advocacy to challenge JLWOP by providing strategic support for this growing field; **Ohio Justice and Policy Center**, an impressive agency engaged in multi-issue reform work in the critical state of Ohio; and **Northwestern University Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth**, which we believe is another focused effort to address inappropriate police and prosecution practices related to juveniles. Collectively, these grants represent a balanced approach to advancing the Criminal Justice Fund's key goals of reducing mass incarceration, including through the development of a new approach to drug policy; eliminating harsh punishment; and eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable system of justice.

Reducing Mass Incarceration

² Of the \$3,991,820 of grants recommended in this docket, \$3,251,820 comes from the Criminal Justice Fund, \$5,000 is from the Seize the Day fund; \$100,000 is from the JEHT Emergency Fund; \$310,000 represents co-funding from the Equality and Opportunity Fund, and \$325,000 is from the USP Drug Policy Reform/IHRD Drug Policy Reform Budget.

Grassroots Leadership, Inc. (GL), \$150,000 general support grant renewal over one year. GL is a multi-racial team of organizers that supports Southern community, labor, faith, and campus organizations working to end abuses of justice and the public trust by developing and directing campaigns to abolish for-profit private prisons and immigrant family detention, to stop prison expansion, and to end the 287(g) program, which allows local law enforcement agencies to contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to act as ICE agents. Through offices and corresponding chapters in Charlotte, North Carolina; Southaven, Mississippi; Montezuma, New Mexico; and Austin, Texas; Grassroots Leadership directs projects that combine organization and field capacity building, grassroots organizing, direct action mobilizing, public education, media advocacy, and policy reform advocacy.

Reducing Mass Incarceration: Drug Policy Reform³

Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC), \$400,000 general support grant renewal over one year (\$162,500 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget, \$162,500 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget, and \$75,000 from Criminal Justice Fund budget). HRC challenges the stigmatization of people who use drugs and advances policies and programs that help people address the adverse effects of drug use including overdose, HIV, hepatitis C, addiction, and incarceration, through policy analysis, advocacy, public education, and technical assistance to service providers.

Eliminating Harsh Punishment

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY), \$170,000 project support over two years. Campaign for Youth Justice (CFSY) coordinates state-based campaigns working to end the practice of sentencing youth to life in prison without parole (JLWOP). CFSY will work to strengthen existing and nurture emerging state-based efforts to end JLWOP by improving and facilitating communication and collaboration among national and state advocates; providing technical assistance and training to advocates; coordinate reform efforts with litigators; expanding the national campaign by engaging new allies; and coordinating with advocates and litigators to respond to the Supreme Court's anticipated decisions in *Sullivan v. Florida* and *Graham v. Florida*. In review of these cases, the Court will address questions fundamental to the treatment of children in conflict with law in the United States. The outcomes of these cases are expected to provide a key moment of opportunity to move state-based JLWOP reform.

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), \$660,000 project support grant renewal over one year (\$300,000 from Criminal Justice Fund budget, \$260,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund, and \$100,000 from the JEHT Emergency Fund) to continue promoting justice reinvestment and systems integration across criminal justice, human service, and housing sectors to create and sustain Reentry Supportive Housing and to promote the reuse of foreclosed properties as supportive housing for populations that face severe barriers to housing and economic stability. OSI funding will enable CSH to

³ CJF also recommends \$100,000 in co-funding, from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget, to support a renewal grant to Color of Change, a recommendation presented in the Democracy and Power Fund Docket.

continue facilitating collaboration across criminal justice, human services, and housing sectors to develop flexible, integrated funding streams for the creation and operation of affordable reentry housing linked to supportive services for people returning from jail or prison, and to apply lessons learned from its pilot projects in Indiana and Illinois that target the acquisition and reuse of foreclosed properties as supportive housing and to bring technical expertise in supportive housing development to other jurisdictions receiving federal neighborhood stabilization funds.

National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (dba Corps Network), \$200,000 project support grant renewal over two years to continue providing oversight and programmatic and technical assistance to Civic Justice Corps (CJC) across the United States and to advance the Civic Justice Corps as a national service model for people with criminal records. CJC affirmatively recruits young people with criminal convictions and provides opportunities to learn about and work in the emerging green economy through projects designed to improve the places where they live and lead to living wage green collar jobs and careers. An OSI grantee since 2006, the Corps Network is an important advocate for youth and conservation corps and a valued member of the national coalition seeking major federal government investment in green collar job creation and training, which could help grow the CJC. Continued OSI funding will enable the Corps Network to continue supporting, monitoring, and coaching the CJC sites, connecting the sites to one another for peer support and information sharing, and connecting the CJC to national green collar job creation efforts.

Public Interest Projects, \$200,000 renewal grant over two years to support the Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) Sub-fund of the US human Rights Fund, a funder collaborative. The JLWOP Sub-fund supports the humane treatment of youth, targeting the U.S. as the only country in the world that continues to condemn youth as young as 13 to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The Sub-fund supports grassroots organizations, legal service advocates and strategic communications, and provides technical assistance to its grantees. It also acts as an important source of information for interested funders, as a liaison between the National Coordinator of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth and the funding community, and coordinates philanthropic responses to urgent requests from the field.

Eliminating Racial Disparities and Securing a Fair and Equitable System of Justice

National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), \$655,000 project grant renewal over two years (\$650,000 from Criminal Justice Fund and \$5,000 from the Seize the Day Fund). NLADA will support a variety of activities dedicated to developing a coordinated strategy to reform indigent defense systems throughout the nation. These efforts include the National Indigent Defense Collaborative (NIDC), the National Defender Leadership Institute (NDLI), Justice Standards, Evaluation and Research Initiative (JSERI), and the American Council of Chief Defenders (ACCD). Collectively, these initiatives will work to provide national leadership and management training for the public defense community; identify and address current gaps in public defense standards; provide states with comprehensive assessments and plans to guide state officials toward needed reform;

develop a blueprint to address reform approaches to end the practice of “no counsel” courts; and advance indigent reform efforts in at least seven states.

Northwestern University Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth (CWCY), \$280,000 project grant over two years. This grant would support CWCY’s reform effort aimed at increasing the reliability of juvenile convictions and preventing the wrongful convictions of youth. Through research, organizing, training, litigation, and public education, the Center seeks to change the procedures and practices of police and prosecutors who interact with youth, particularly during investigations and interrogations. CWCY identifies, investigates, and litigates credible innocence claims of wrongfully convicted young people, provides resources and support for actors in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and advocates for policy reforms that will decrease the likelihood that any youth will be wrongfully convicted.

Spitfire Strategies, \$169,320 project grant renewal over two years. Spitfire Strategies supports efforts to increase the communications capacity of advocates working to improve indigent defense systems in the United States. Spitfire will continue its strong working relationship with the National Indigent Defense Collaborative (NIDC) by increasing the communications knowledge and capacity of NIDC members and their access to specialized communications technical assistance. In particular, Spitfire will conduct national trainings and webinars for public defenders, as well as new allies spokesperson training designed to train non-expert community members to be credible spokespersons for indigent defense reform.

W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI), \$100,000 general support grant renewal over two years. BI is a San Francisco-based national nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and improve the lives of youth of color and poor youth and the well-being of their communities by reducing the adverse impacts of public and private youth-serving systems to ensure fairness and equity throughout the juvenile justice system. Through consultation, evaluation, and training, BI work in sites across the country to bring officials from law enforcement, legal systems and child welfare together with community leaders, parents and children, and lead them through a data-driven, consensus-based approach to change policies, procedures and practices that result in the detention of low-offending youth of color and poor youth. BI also operates the *Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY)*, a national network comprised of 140 community-based programs, grassroots organizations, service-providing agencies, residential facilities and advocacy groups in 21 states whose mission is to promote the availability of effective, culturally appropriate interventions for youth.

Grantees Addressing Multiple Criminal Justice Fund Priorities

Protex A Network for Progressive Texas (dba Texas Criminal Justice Coalition—TCJC), \$407,500 general support grant renewal over two years. TCJC is an Austin-based organization that engages in policy research and analysis, building effective statewide coalitions, and public education to promote effective management, accountability, and best practices that minimize the entry points into Texas’ juvenile and

criminal justice systems and lessen the devastating impact of the state's juvenile and criminal justice policies and practices have on families. TCJC operates five projects, including the *Juvenile Justice Initiative*, which promotes resources for community-based alternatives to incarceration and supports a network of family members of currently and formerly incarcerated young people; the *Public Safety Project*, which conducts research and public education that address best practices in law enforcement to equip communities and law enforcement agencies to work together to implement fair and effective police practices; the *Fair Defense Project*, which advocates for increased resources for an indigent defense system that provides timely and quality representation; the *Solutions for Sentencing & Incarceration Project*, which advocates for cost-effective solutions to reducing mass incarceration, including community-based diversions, treatment options for drug and alcohol addiction and mental health needs, and efficient probation and parole strategies; and the *Tools for Reentry*, which connects formerly incarcerated people with educational, training, housing, and other opportunities.

The Tides Center (Justice Strategies project—JS), \$300,000 project support grant renewal over two years (\$250,000 from Criminal Justice Fund and \$50,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund) to continue providing non-partisan research and technical assistance to inform grassroots organizations, advocates, and policymakers around reforming police policies and practices, downsizing prisons, ending immigrant detention, and abolishing private prisons. Through tailored and expert policy analysis and research, Justice Strategies—directed by veteran researcher and Soros Justice Fellow Judy Greene—promotes humane, just, and cost-effective approaches to criminal and juvenile justice, and law enforcement.

The Correctional Association of New York (Correctional Association), \$200,000 general support grant renewal over two years. The Correctional Association engages in policy development, advocacy, public education, and coalition building to create a more fair and humane criminal justice system and a more safe and just society. It operates four projects, including the *Juvenile Justice Project*, which seeks to reorient the juvenile and criminal justice systems away from a punitive approach toward a stronger emphasis on community-based prevention and alternatives to jail and prison for young people; the *Prison Visiting Project*, which carries out the Correctional Association's unique legislative authority to monitor prison conditions in New York State correctional facilities; the *Public Policy Project*, which previously coordinated the Drop the Rock Campaign to repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws and now focuses on ensuring Rockefeller reforms are implemented successfully; and the Women in Prison Project, which addresses the effects of the New York's criminal justice policies on women and their families.

Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC), \$100,000 general support over two years. OJPC is a Cincinnati-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit law office that promotes evidence-based, cost-effective policies to address root causes of crime, decrease recidivism, and promote successful community reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals. OJPC seeks to empower the formerly incarcerated to become productive members of society; to remedy unconstitutional and dangerous conditions of confinement in Ohio prisons; and to reduce racial disparities throughout the Ohio's criminal justice system. OJPC pursues these goals

through direct client services, impact litigation, public education, policy research and advocacy, and leadership development programs.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, and Hyon Seo Kwon
Date: March 31, 2010
Subject: National Security and Human Rights Campaign's April 2010 Grant Recommendations for Docket I of 2010

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign's first docket of 2010 is scheduled for May 3, 2010. However the Campaign is recommending two time-sensitive grants on the April 12 docket. In addition, the Campaign is recommending contributions to two grants that are being recommended on the April docket, one by the Democracy and Power Fund and the other by the Transparency and Integrity Fund.

To advance the Campaign's priorities of supporting credible voices in the ongoing battle to restoring an absolute prohibition against torture and holding government officials and private actors accountable for past abuses of detainees, the NSHR Campaign recommends support for the **Center for Victims of Torture's** Regaining Momentum Against Torture Project. The project will work to engage the public and policy makers in building a national consensus against torture; eliminate Appendix M of the Army Field Manual, which authorizes potentially abusive techniques in the interrogation of detainees; end the policy as well as the practice of indefinite detention of suspected terrorists; and create an independent, nonpartisan commission to investigate the use of torture and cruel and inhuman treatment in post-9/11 counterterrorism activities.

To further the Campaign's goals of strengthening the capacity of, and connections between, litigators working on national security and human rights issues, the NSHR Campaign recommends a grant to the **Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York** to support the Columbia University School of Law's Human Rights Institute as it convenes and provides coordinating support to litigators.

In addition, the NSHR Campaign recommends a contribution to a general support grant recommended by the Democracy and Power Fund to People for the American Way Foundation in order to support the work of the **Young Elected Officials Network**. The Campaign also recommends a contribution to a general support grant to **OpenTheGovernment.org** recommended by the Transparency and Integrity Fund. The Young Elected Officials Network offers training and access to its members to experts on a range of subjects, including national security. OpenTheGovernment.org works to reform national security secrecy policy and narrow the reach of the state secrets privilege.

The total amount for these four grants is \$350,000. Grant write ups and a financial summary are attached.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani and the Transparency and Integrity Fund
Date: April 5, 2010
Re: Transparency and Integrity Fund's April 12 Docket

We look forward to meeting with you on Monday, April 12, 2010, to discuss the first 2010 docket of the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF or the Fund). We respectfully seek approval of 13 grants in this docket (9 TIF recommendations, 3 JEHT Emergency Fund recommendations, and one Seize the Day Fund recommendation).

As reflected in its three year strategic plan (completed mid-2009), TIF's grant making and program strategies seek to promote government transparency and accountability, and access to information that promotes public engagement, by supporting:

- Media and government 'watchdog' groups, and the development and use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public involvement and access to information;
- Efforts to ensure broad and equal access to the ballot and the integrity of elections, as well as efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing journalism.

The grants recommended in this docket, and described in more detail below, include renewal support for key TIF grantees, such as the Government Accountability Project, the Justice at Stake Campaign and the Brennan Center for Justice. Our recommendations also include continued support for organizations working to build grassroots-level capacity to advocate for greater diversity - in all its forms - of the federal judiciary. Finally, we propose a handful of recommendations to help grantees we shared with the JEHT Foundation, and one Seize the Day Fund recommendation.

Transparency & Integrity Fund Grants

Information Access, Design and Regulation

The Fund supports groups working on the collection and dissemination of information as well as watchdog groups that increase access to the currently fast growing body of government information and monitor the regulation of public information.

This docket includes recommendations for support of three watchdog groups: the **Fund for Constitutional Government (OpenTheGovernment.org)**, which plays a vital role in ensuring collaboration between the many groups working on federal government transparency and oversight; the **Government Accountability Project**, which works to

support and defend whistleblowers; and the **Union of Concerned Scientists**, which is working to ensure that the White House Office of Management and Budget's Open Government Directive fulfills its promise of meaningful transparency. This last grant has been conveyed to the Union as a final grant because we are in the process of deciding whether or not to continue to focus on science agencies.

Independent and Diverse Judiciary

This portfolio's goals are to support efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary, emphasizing support for innovative approaches to grassroots organizing aimed at increasing the diversity of the federal judiciary in all its forms.

To these ends, TIF recommends five judiciary-related renewal grants that support judicial independence and nominations work in this docket. The **Justice at Stake Campaign** (JAS) is a key TIF grantee that currently works with more than 50 partner organizations to promote a better understanding of the role of the courts in our democracy and to advance reforms that protect the fairness and impartiality of the state and federal judiciaries. JAS is mid-way through leading and organizing a long-term field-wide strategic planning process that is in significant part designed to attract new funders (and with which TIF staff have been deeply engaged). The grant also comes at a time of tremendous forward movement for the field, with significant advances in the adoption of judicial public finance schemes in three states and great progress toward this reform in another two states. The **National Center for State Courts**, a key member of JAS given its active and substantive participation and deep ties to state court judges and administrators, is also recommended for a grant on this docket.

TIF also presents three recommendations aimed at supporting public education of select constituencies about the impact of the federal judiciary, and communications training and technical assistance to groups in the Coalition for Constitutional Values working on federal judicial nominations – all of which is structured to build sustainable capacity at the local level. The groups we propose grants for are the **National Congress of American Indians Fund**, the **National Council of Jewish Women** and the **Communications Consortium Media Center**.

Core Grantees

The **Brennan Center for Justice** is being recommended for general support as a core TIF grantee at a level of \$1 million a year.⁴ Its work on national security, criminal justice reform, judicial independence and electoral reform is considered a vital contribution to those fields. Previously, Brennan received project support from numerous USP funds and campaigns, most of it from TIF. The decision to locate the Brennan grant in a single

⁴ The Transparency & Integrity Fund is committed to providing \$1.5 million over 2 years, while the Criminal Justice Fund is contributing \$300,000 over 2 years and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign is contributing \$200,000 over two years. Due to related budget constraints, TIF could only commit \$750,000 in the 2009 fiscal year, and is now recommending an add-on grant of \$750,000 to bring the total funding to \$2 million over 2 years.

fund – and to now give it general support - is the result of a USP process to streamline its grant making.

JEHT Fund Grants:

This docket also includes three recommendations to current TIF grantees affected by the JEHT Foundation's closure. These grantees advance our goals of access to and dissemination of information, arguably advocates' most critical asset; diminishing the role of money in politics; and ensuring a fair and impartial judiciary. They are the **National Institute on Money in State Politics**, which engages in data collection, analysis, and dissemination of campaign finance data; the **Center for Political Accountability**, which addresses the role of corporate money in judicial elections by taking on corporate practice and management; and **MAPLight.org**, which is developing online research tools that illuminate the influence of special interest money on legislation. The **Justice at Stake** campaign is also recommended for a JEHT grant.

Seize the Day Fund Grant:

This docket includes a grant recommendation by the Seize the Day Fund, which is to support a convening of OSI grantees working in eight states to make the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act more equitable, accountable, and transparent. This grant would support **Good Jobs First** and its partners (including Equality & Opportunity Fund grantees including the **Center for Social Inclusion**) in organizing a three day conference on transparency and equity in Recovery Act spending at the state and local levels. Participants would include member organizations of OSI-funded state transparency and equity alliances.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson; Raquiba LaBrie; and EOF Staff
DATE: April 26, 2010
RE: EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND DOCKET I

The Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) embraces US Programs' grantmaking in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice. It also includes three special initiatives: Immigration Innovation; the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI); and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA).

Attached please find the EOF grant recommendations for Docket I of 2010.

Intersectional Grantmaking

To integrate grantmaking across its four core areas, EOF focuses on two goals that highlight the shared stake that people of color, immigrants, women and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The two goals are: 1) advancing and defending low-wage workers' rights; and 2) countering violence and harassment directed at people of color, immigrants, women, and LGBTQ people. Staff is engaged in an ongoing process of refining its priorities in these two areas. In this docket, we recommend our first grant aimed at advancing low-wage workers' rights. In later 2010 dockets, we plan to recommend grants aimed at countering violence and harassment directed at marginalized groups.

Low-Wage Workers' Rights

EOF decided to focus on low-wage workers' rights because of its potential to bridge the concerns of disparate constituencies and to improve the material conditions of the most vulnerable of EOF's core constituencies. A multitude of historical structural inequalities shape the labor market and the kinds of economic opportunities available to immigrants, LGBTQ people, women and people of color in the U.S. Factors that disadvantage these communities in the labor market include, but are not limited to: global labor market trends; employment-based immigration policies; ongoing discrimination towards women and LGBTQ workers; and a lack of inclusion in—or equal enforcement of—fair labor laws. As the structural problems related to employment (low wages, involuntary part-time work, lack of training, poor working conditions) intensify, they create opportunities for improved advocacy.

Comprehensive immigration reform provides just one vivid example of the way in which structural barriers that have historically divided groups can give rise to new, unified advocacy approaches. Immigrant rights advocates were among the first to recognize that protection of low-wage workers provided a solid platform for building alliances between immigrants and other excluded groups. To defend against factually incorrect, but surprisingly resonant anti-immigrant claims such as “immigrants are taking our jobs,” immigrant rights and racial justice advocates have begun to engage in active relationship-building efforts across constituencies. These efforts affirm that the workplace can be a place of opportunity as various marginalized groups learn how their fates are linked as low-wage workers. Thus, EOF's inaugural investment in this area is to support proactive initiatives to bridge African American and immigrant communities through the recommended grant to the **National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)**. NDLON is a membership organization comprised of 41 worker centers and member organizations in 14 states. EOF and the Democracy and Power Fund are jointly recommending a general support grant to fortify NDLON's ongoing efforts to promote the rights of day laborers and support its implementation of new strategies to strengthen relationships between Latino and African American advocates and to address gender equity within the day laborer movement.

Racial Justice, Immigrant Rights and Immigration Innovation

Because so many of EOF's immigrant rights grantees are tackling racial justice questions and *vice versa*, we have begun to group these grantees under a combined heading. In advancing its racial justice grantmaking, EOF has begun to partner with the Ford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies to consider how we can coordinate our efforts to support the racial justice field writ large. As a first step, we plan to survey our current grantees to determine what efforts currently exist to coordinate the work of racial justice organizations and what role funders can play to strengthen coordination within the field. We will use the survey results to determine next steps.

In this docket, EOF recommends funding for three leading legal defense funds – **LatinoJustice PRLDEF**, **the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)**, and **the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF)**. All three organizations continue to play an important role in defending and maintaining past civil rights gains and addressing structural inequality. These three organizations will also serve as critical respondents to the survey Atlantic, Ford and OSI are developing. Staff recognizes that the legal defense funds are often viewed as over-relying on litigation to advance social change. We have begun frank conversations with these grantees about their goals and strategies, and will continue to monitor their work to ensure that they are advancing a broad and inclusive multi-racial agenda using a diverse set of strategies to effect change.

As EOF seeks to scale up its support of on-the-ground advocacy to dismantle structural inequality, it is pleased to recommend a new grant to the **United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations (UCCRO)**. UCCRO was formed in 2005 to strengthen advocacy efforts to address the shared interests of multiple low-income communities and communities of color. With OSI support, it will prepare and disseminate a report card analyzing Illinois state legislators' voting records and begin to build a national network of groups working across the country to advance multi-racial organizing efforts. EOF also recommends renewed support for the **Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign** as it seeks to resolve the ongoing *Thompson v. HUD* litigation, which seeks to remedy over seven decades of enforced racial segregation by HUD, Baltimore City and its Public Housing Authority.

EOF recommends one Immigration Innovation grant to the **Migration Policy Institute**. This grant complements our other investments in advancing comprehensive immigration reform by developing policy recommendations for structuring and implementing a legalization program that would benefit the maximum number of eligible applicants.

LGBTQ Rights and Gender Justice

To reflect our staffing structure and nurture connections across issue areas, EOF is also grouping LGBTQ rights and gender justice under a shared heading. This move will in no way preclude us from funding efforts that are focused exclusively on the particular needs of the most marginalized within the LGBTQ rights advocacy arena or the gender justice advocacy arena.

As noted in past dockets, EOF is committed to extending our support for LGBTQ rights advocacy to areas beyond marriage equality to address other policies and that adversely impact the most marginalized within the LGBTQ community. To advance this aim, EOF recommends a grant to the **State Equality Fund**, a funder collaborative that supports state-level policy advocacy in the areas of non-discrimination, parenting rights, safe schools and family recognition. EOF's participation in this collaborative will allow us to work with other funders to develop coordinated strategies to strengthen state and national LGBTQ advocacy, as well as leverage OSI investments to make the large-scale investments needed to achieve systemic change in this area.

This docket includes EOF's first set of gender justice grant recommendations. We use the term "gender justice" to reinforce the idea that the freedoms of an open and just society should in no way be limited by a person's gender, gender identity or expression, or the degree to which they conform to traditional notions of masculinity or femininity.

EOF's gender justice grantmaking will include critical gender issues that affect the most marginalized women, men, and transgender individuals. Ultimately, the substantive focus of this portfolio will be broader than reproductive health and rights. However, this inaugural docket focuses its support on advocacy devoted to re-thinking and re-shaping the traditional reproductive health and rights framework that has driven much of U.S. gender-based advocacy.

The almost singular pro-choice focus of the U.S. reproductive rights and health movement has created an issue platform that fails to resonate with a broad spectrum of women. This has led to the absence of an organized base, isolation from other social justice movements, and the failure to engage and promote the leadership of women most affected by flawed reproductive health policies. Furthermore, the traditional reproductive health and rights movement has struggled to integrate an analysis of structural inequality that squarely addresses the root causes of race-based health disparities.

Against this backdrop, a number of organizations led by and for low-income women of color have begun to build a "reproductive justice" movement. This movement is inserting a gender dimension into issues traditionally seen as gender-neutral, such as cuts to public assistance; the passage of anti-immigrant, anti-youth and anti-gay legislation; and weakening environmental policies. By articulating the particular needs of women of color, immigrant women, and LGBTQ women across a range of social justice issues, the reproductive justice movement is creating an advocacy platform that not only enables but requires coordination with racial justice, immigrant rights and LGBTQ advocates.

EOF recommends three gender justice grants in this docket. The first is to the **Catalyst Fund: Resources for Women of Color in Reproductive Justice**. The Catalyst Fund was created to increase resources to U.S.-based women of color-led efforts in the reproductive justice arena in order to build a more inclusive and effective movement for reproductive health and rights. Through participation in the Catalyst Fund, staff will be able to learn about the range of advocacy funded by the leading funders in this area and to identify funding gaps where OSI resources can make a meaningful difference.

EOF recommends funding to the Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice to provide project support for **Expanding the Movement for Reproductive Justice (EMERJ)**. EMERJ complements the work of the Catalyst Fund by organizing regional, constituency and issue-based cohorts comprised of local reproductive justice organizations. EMERJ identifies the training and advocacy needs of these groups, and meets them through convenings and technical assistance.

The Democracy and Power Fund and EOF recommend joint support for **Choice USA**. This organization prepares young people to lead the reproductive justice movement through training, mobilization and collaboration. It works largely through its campus structure and online organizing and plays a critical role in linking reproductive justice advocacy to other open society concerns.

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

The Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative grants recommended in this docket advance a number of the initiative's goals, including 1) preventing foreclosures by overcoming the bottleneck in loan modifications; 2) supporting emerging efforts to improve the legal foreclosure process in order to improve outcomes for distressed borrowers; and 3) exposing and reversing the racial biases underlying the current mortgage crisis. The recommended grant to the **Center for Responsible Lending (CRL)** will support the organization's ongoing state and federal advocacy to prevent foreclosures, improve standards for mortgage lending and increase access to responsible and affordable forms of credit for lower income families and borrowers of color. The recommended grant to the **National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)** will renew support for its Foreclosure Mediation Project, which seeks to increase the use and effectiveness of mediation programs as an alternative to foreclosure.

Campaign for Black Male Achievement

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA or the Campaign) recommends grants in this docket that touch upon virtually every one of its goals. To advance its goal of strengthening low income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives and eradicating barriers facing single mothers raising black boys, the Campaign recommends two grants. The first grant is to the **Center for Research on Fathers, Children, and Family Well-Being** at Columbia University. This grant will support completion of a qualitative and quantitative study on the New York State Earned Income Tax Credit for non-custodial parents as well as provide core support to the Center. Currently, legislation is pending in Congress that would expand the federal Earned Income Tax Credit for non-custodial parents. This federal legislation is modeled on New York State's policy, which is progressive but imperfect. Investment in the Center's research and analysis is especially critical in ensuring that federal policy does not replicate the flaws of New York's policy. The second grant in this area is to the **Urban Leadership Institute**, to expand its *Raising Him Alone Campaign*, which serves as a resource network and on-line learning community for single mothers seeking to ensure the positive educational and social development of their sons. With renewed OSI support, the Urban Leadership Institute will expand its efforts to two of CBMA's target cities – Chicago, Illinois and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

To promote educational equity for black males, CBMA recommends a grant to the **Eagle Academy Foundation** and the **Congressional Black Caucus Foundation**. The Eagle Academy Foundation grant will support expansion of its three-day Professional Development Institute for teachers, school administrators, school superintendents, and other stakeholders to disseminate effective strategies for teaching and engaging young men of color. The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation grant will support development and dissemination of its research on personal, family, social, and school-related factors associated with black male achievement.

As referenced above, because many of the policies that perpetuate black male exclusion are state and local policies, CBMA adopted a place-based grantmaking approach for the majority of its work. CBMA's target regions are as follows:

- The Midwest, with a focus on Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin;
- The Gulf Region, with a focus on New Orleans, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi; and
- The Mid-Atlantic, with a focus on Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

To support leadership development for young black males, CBMA recommends a collection of grants, each of which also advances its place-based grantmaking strategy. The recommended grant to **The Brotherhood/Sister Sol** will enable it to share its youth development programming with CBMA grantees working in all of its target regions. **Public Allies** is a nationally recognized national service program committed to cultivating community leaders. CBMA funding will help Public Allies to expand its leadership and workforce development strategy in Baltimore, Chicago, and Milwaukee. Support for the **Kenwood Oakland Community Organization** will advance its efforts to organize and develop the leadership skills of black male youth leaders between the ages of 13 and 24 advocating for youth summer job creation in Chicago and throughout the state of Illinois. Recommended general support for the **Urban Underground** will support its work as a leading voice in Milwaukee for advancing educational outcomes for black youth through civic engagement and promotion of arts and culture as a tool for social change. To deepen its investment in the Gulf Region, CBMA recommends a grant to the **William Winter Institute for Race and Reconciliation**. The Winter Institute proposes to facilitate a series of strategy conferences for Mississippi leaders and advocates who are working for school reform and economic justice for black males in the state of Mississippi.

A leading priority for CBMA is the integration of strategic communications throughout its grantmaking and promotion of positive frames and messages about black men and boys. Three grants in this docket advance this goal. The recommended grant to **Forwardever Media** will support its 2025 Digital Griots Program, a national digital storytelling and media literacy program committed to reframing the images of African American males. The program will focus on producing a series of first-person video journals by black men and boys. This work will be incubated in community-based organizations in Chicago, New Orleans, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia. Funding for the **Opportunity Agenda** will enable it to conduct media and public opinion research aimed at reshaping public perception of black males, as well as provide general

support for the organization. A grant to **Washington Koen Media Productions** will support screenings of *Beyond the Bricks*, a documentary that critically examines the educational crisis facing black boys and highlights the efforts of leaders working to address the crisis. The grant will also support community forums and development of a toolkit to guide community advocates in developing action plans to promote educational equity.

To leverage OSI funding to generate additional private and public funds for the black male achievement field, CBMA recommends a grant to the **Community Investment Network (CIN)**. This grant will support replication of CIN's "giving circle" model to increase investments in efforts to improve the life outcomes of black males in New Orleans, Jackson, and Milwaukee.

We look forward to meeting with you on Monday, May 3, to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

SPECIAL NOTE RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST: OSI's General Counsel's office instructed us to disclose to you that Luna Yasui, the EOF program officer responsible for the LGBTQ rights and gender justice portfolios, once worked for the Tides Foundation. The Tides Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for two grants recommended in this docket for which Luna has primary responsibility. They are the grants to the State Equality Fund and the Catalyst Fund. When you make your determination regarding this docket, the General Counsel's Office asks that you confirm that you a

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson, Erlin Ibreck
DATE: April 26, 2010
RE: Strategic Opportunities Fund – May 3, 2010 Docket Recommendation

Attached is a recommendation to support the Free Expression Campus Coalition (FECC) for your review and consideration. (FECC), launched with OSI support, defends free expression on campus from ideological and political restrictions in order to ensure open intellectual discussion in higher education. This grant stems from a prior U.S. Programs' focus and interest in preserving academic freedom through the formation of a counter weight to the ongoing assaults on free exchange on campuses that intensified in 2006 and has continued in various forms and levels of intensity. Because of complications stemming from the accounting practices of the grantee, discussed in the write-up, this final grant is necessary to make good on the original grant commitment OSI made in 2007. We have consulted with legal counsel and grants management to ensure the grant term is acceptable to OSI and they have indicated that the extenuating circumstances detailed in the write-up justify this grant term.

We look forward to responding to any comments or feedback you may have.