

**The Transparency Fund  
Planned Grants for Docket II  
June 1, 2012**

The Transparency Fund supports groups working to promote: 1) broad access to information, 2) high-quality accountability journalism on critical open society issues, 3) an impartial and diverse judiciary, and 4) broad and equitable access to the ballot. This Fund includes a portfolio of 65 grantees with a grantmaking budget of \$14.5 million in 2012. On this docket, we will present four grants for approval, totaling \$700,000. Please let us know if you have thoughts about any of these recommendations.

I. Broad and Equitable Access to Ballot

**Campaign Legal Center**

*General Support, \$200,000 over 2 years (renewal)*

Based in Washington, D.C., the Campaign Legal Center (CLC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in 2002, run jointly by Trevor Potter, former General Counsel to the McCain campaigns, and Gerald Hebert, a 20-year veteran of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's Voting Section. Renewal support would allow CLC to continue tackling issues of money in politics by focusing on reform of campaign finance, voter registration, transparency, ethics and lobbying. CLC is currently also providing legal support to voter protection groups to combat rapidly proliferating voter suppression and intimidation schemes. CLC's work advances the Transparency Fund's goal of reducing the influence of money in politics, and protecting citizens from unreasonable restrictions on the right to vote and of broadening access to the ballot for underrepresented and marginalized constituencies.

II. Fair, Impartial and Diverse Courts

**Defenders of Wildlife**

*Project Support, \$125,000 over one year (renewal)*

Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization that engages in advocacy, public education, and mobilization of the environmental community. Defenders seeks renewal funding for its "Judging the Environment" Project. The Project's primary output is a comprehensive, daily e-mail service compiling media mentions and discussions of judicial nominations issues from the mainstream media, blogs, the Congressional Record, etc. Many laud it as the single most valuable resource available to groups (across all issue areas) working on federal judicial nominations (including colleagues at OSPC). It is also important to White House and Senate staffers working in the nominations arena. It allows allies to keep on top of the key news on judicial nominations as well as better understand *how* the issue is being discussed across the country. The recommended grant would advance the Transparency Fund's strategic goal of ensuring fair, impartial, and diverse courts.

**American Judicature Society**

*General Support, \$250,000 over two years (renewal accrual)*

The American Judicature Society (AJS), founded in 1913, is a nonpartisan organization with a national membership of more than 5,000 judges, lawyers, and lay people interested in the

administration of justice. Headquartered in Des Moines, IA, AJS performs research, creates educational programs, advocates for court reforms, and publishes literature on: judicial independence; judicial conduct and ethics; judicial selection; court administration; and public understanding of the U.S. justice system. AJS is the primary national advocate for merit selection (as opposed to election) of state court judges and a key member of the Justice at Stake coalition. This grant would support AJS as it undertakes a major restructuring and strategic planning process, likely to result in becoming affiliated with a law school. This grant would advance the Fund's goal of sustaining funding to core judicial independence organizations working together to implement the Justice at Stake coalition's five-year strategic plan.

### **National Congress of American Indians Fund**

*Project Support, \$125,000 over one year (renewal)*

The National Congress of American Indians Fund (NCAIF) is the 501(c)(3) arm of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Founded in 1944, NCAI is the oldest and largest American Indian, Hawaiian Native, and Alaska Native membership organization, serving a diverse network of over 250 tribes representing more than three quarters of the national population of indigenous Americans. Renewal support would allow NCAIF to continue its work on the federal judiciary and federal nominations, including: mentoring Native American attorneys interested in federal court judgeships; meeting with circuit court judges to raise awareness and understanding of Indian law and culture, and; working with local tribes to develop connections to Senators. This funding will also support ongoing efforts to build active Native American constituencies for judicial nominations advocacy. The grant would advance the Transparency Fund's goal of supporting efforts to diversify the judiciary and support the development of effective models for grassroots education and organizing related to federal judicial nominations.