

**Transparency and Integrity Fund**  
**Anticipated Grant Recommendations for July 24, 2009 Docket**  
**Sixteen grants totaling \$4,555,000**

**Information for Democracy, Equity & Action**

***Information and Data Visualization***

**American University (Collaboration on Government Secrecy)**

*\$100,000 over one year in project support (\$75,000 from TIF and \$25,000 from NSHR)*

This grant would provide renewal funding for the Collaboration on Government Secrecy (CGS). Run by former DOJ information policy attorney Dan Metcalfe, a highly respected authority on government transparency policy, CGS has spent the last year convening government officials and transparency advocates to identify and discuss issues of importance to the field. In 2010, CGS will continue hosting these convenings (including a 'one-year-later' analysis of the Obama administration's transparency policies) and develop a right-to-know report card for members of Congress. Due to strategic recalibration of TIF's priorities, this will be TIF's final grant to CGS.

***Media and Journalism***

**Center for Independent Media**

*\$100,000 over one year in project support*

The Center for Independent Media is dedicated to building an independent online news network to sustain public interest journalism at the state and national level. Launched in 2006, its network of six websites includes the flagship *Washington Independent* that produces reporting on the federal government, foreign policy, and the presidential elections. It also maintains websites in Colorado, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, and Iowa. All of the Center's sites combine professional and citizen journalism to produce investigative reporting, news analysis, and other stories that traditional media sources are increasingly unable or unwilling to support.

**Center for Investigative Reporting**

*\$200,000 over one year in general support*

The Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) was founded in 1977 to provide a home for investigative reporters to conduct in-depth, resource-intensive journalism. CIR has independently produced hundreds of investigations into campaign finance, government surveillance, tobacco smuggling, gun trafficking, environmental abuses, education, criminal justice and many other issues. CIR reports have reached millions in every state and overseas through television, print (newspaper, magazine and books), radio and the web. CIR has produced approximately 25 documentaries for PBS Frontline and Frontline/World. CIR's reports have sparked congressional hearings and legislation, United Nations resolutions, public interest lawsuits and change in corporate policies. A general support grant would enable CIR to expand its capacity, and thus its impact.

**Center for Public Integrity**

*\$75,000 over one year in project support*

The Center for Public Integrity (CPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and independent digital news organization specializing in original investigative journalism and research on significant public policy issues to provide greater transparency and accountability of government and other institutions. CPI, working closely with the Center for Investigative Reporting, has begun leading a collaborative movement among non-profit journalism organizations around the country. In response to the crisis in journalism, there has been a tremendous increase in new non-profit journalism ventures on local, regional and national levels. With long experience in the benefits of collaboration, CPI and CIR see how these organizations might come together to share resources, distribution channels and even funding, to the benefit of all. They would explore ways to work together to maximize the quality, audience and sustainability of journalism work on the state and local levels. They would explore collaborative content development (such as state capitol coverage schemes), shared resources (such as legal help, data analysis and research), collaborative fundraising (perhaps through shared mailing lists or development of a central fund), shared distribution (through a joint, national website that aggregates content), and revenue/sustainability options.

### **New America Media**

*\$200,000 over one year in general support*

New America Media (NAM) is the country's first and largest national collaboration of and advocate for 2000 ethnic news organizations. Over 51 million ethnic adults connect to each other, to home countries and to America through 3000+ ethnic media organizations – the fastest growing sector of American journalism. NAM is dedicated to bringing the voices of ethnic communities, immigrants, young people, and the elderly into the national discourse so that people will be better informed, better connected to one another, and better able to influence policy makers. NAM maintains a national AP-style ethnic media news exchange that integrates the ethnic media sector into more mainstream American journalism. The model is collaborative, linking ethnic media outlets to one another to develop a media grid connecting otherwise isolated and fragmented communities, building inter-ethnic, inter-racial and inter-generational communications and understanding.

### **Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism**

*\$50,000 over one year in general support*

The Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism (WCIJ) works with its partners and mainstream and ethnic news media to improve the quality and expand the amount of investigative journalism in Wisconsin. The newly formed WCIJ is a first-of-its-kind alliance with public broadcasting journalists in six cities around the state, plus students and faculty of the journalism school at Wisconsin's flagship university. WCIJ will combine new technology with traditional journalistic techniques to increase government transparency and raise the quality of investigative journalism. WCIJ will produce investigative reports independently and in partnership with Wisconsin Public Broadcasting. WCIJ will assist commercial news outlets, including ethnic media, to pursue their own investigations or produce joint projects. WCIJ will also train citizens to investigate issues affecting trust in government and quality of life.

## **Government Accountability through Support for Key Institutions**

### ***Broad and Equal Access to the Ballot***

#### **Pew Charitable Trusts**

*\$500,000 over one year in project support (\$250,000 from TIF and \$250,000 from JEF)*

Pew Charitable Trusts' Center on the States is a "go to" source for authoritative analysis of experiments in the field and a trusted arbiter of nonpartisan reform. It is one of the strongest proponents for including the voices of state and local election officials in national discussions over electoral reform. The recommended grant would support Pew Center on the States' Voter Registration and Modernization Initiative. In the 2008 election, more than 40 percent of the complaints to the national Election Protection hotline concerned voter registration problems. The Initiative would advance state voter registration systems that are automatic and permanent and more efficient to administer. In effect, it would also help build the state infrastructure likely to be required by any federal action on the matter (TIF supports Rockefeller Family Fund's efforts to advance national voter registration modernization). While the demise of JEHT resulted in the loss of more than \$3 million in funding for Pew's Election Initiatives overall, it remains a leading resource of both election information and innovation.

### ***Independent and Diverse Judiciary***

#### **Bazon Center for Mental Health Law & Policy**

*\$200,000 over two years in project support – tie off grant*

The Bazon Center has been an important member of the Coalition for Constitutional Values (formerly the Coalition for a Fair & Independent Judiciary) for the past five years. Representing the interests and concerns of the mental health disability community, Bazon has brought an often overlooked perspective to discussions around the Federal judiciary. This grant includes a pass-through to Bazon's partner organizations, the National Council for Independent Living, a network of local advocates working with communities of people with disabilities. Due to cuts in TIF's Judiciary portfolio, this will be a tie-off grant to the organization but provide them with sufficient funding to continue their activities at this key moment for the future of the judiciary.

#### **Earthjustice (organizational placeholder: likely to be Defenders of Wildlife)**

*\$250,000 over two years in project support*

This grant would represent renewal funding for the "Judging the Environment" project. The project's primary output is a comprehensive, daily e-mail service compiling media mentions of judicial nominations issues from the mainstream media, blogs, the Congressional Record, etc. This may be the single most valuable resource available to the Coalition for Constitutional Values. It is also important to Senate staffers and members of the executive branch. 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. Earthjustice has decided that it no longer wishes to host a project on judicial nominations, and therefore, the project's staff is in the final stages of finding a new institutional home. That decision will almost surely be finalized in time to submit a recommendation with the July docket and thus assure no gap in funding.

### **Illinois Campaign for Political Reform**

*\$200,000 over two years in general support – tie off grant*

Located in a state that has recently become synonymous with political corruption, the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) remains a vital organization in both state and national campaigns for judicial independence and political reform. ICPR has become the leader of recent efforts to reform judicial selection and campaign finance rules in the state, working with a broad coalition that spans from grassroots groups to corporations. ICPR has worked closely with TIF's Justice at Stake coalition to share its knowledge and experience and coordinate across state lines in common cause. Due to a shift in TIF's strategic priorities, this will be OSI's last grant to ICPR. We are recommending a two year, general support tie-off grant as ICPR has been a long-time and highly valued asset in our efforts.

### **League of Women Voters Education Fund**

*\$330,000 over two years in project support*

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (the League) has long been an important partner in the Justice at Stake coalition. In the past four years, the League has conducted a broad public education campaign focused on the need for fair and impartial state courts. Building on those efforts, the League now wants to engage in a much more concentrated campaign to improve judicial diversity within a specific state. The League is currently looking at Colorado or Florida as options for this work. The recommended grant would be for work in Colorado, and would allow the Colorado League to hire a campaign manager to coordinate the 20 local League chapters in educating and persuading key decision-makers to push for greater diversity – in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender – on the state courts. The national League will provide the state League with technical assistance while also continuing more general public education activities in other states. The hope is that the state-based campaign will provide a model for other state efforts.

### **National Partnership for Women & Families**

*\$250,000 over two years in project support – tie off grant*

The National Partnership for Women & Families (NPWF) has played a prominent role in the Coalition for Constitutional Values, working closely with Coalition leadership to plan and execute a strategy to reorient the Federal judiciary from its rightward shift back towards the center. NPWF is a trusted ally of women's organizations across the country, working to educate and coordinate those groups around judicial nominations. Due to cuts in TIF's Judiciary portfolio, this will be a tie-off grant to the organization but will provide them with sufficient funding to continue their activities at this key moment for the future of the judiciary.

### **National Senior Citizens Law Center**

*\$650,000 over two years in project support*

This recommendation would provide renewal funding to the National Senior Citizens Law Center's (NSCLC) Federal Rights Project. Over the past four years, the Project has been a critical if behind-the-scenes player in the effort to transform the conversation about the Constitution and the courts. Through well-placed articles and op-eds, personal meetings with advocates, and trusted connections to the Senate Judiciary Committee (on non-lobbying matters), NSCLC has been essential to the retooling of thinking and messaging about the federal courts. In its current grant period, NSCLC received \$420,000 over one year. Thus, this current recommendation represents a step-down in funding.

### **National Women's Law Center**

*\$300,000 over two years in project support – tie off grant*

National Women's Law Center (NWLC) has long been a go-to resource and key player in federal judicial nominations battles. Led by Marcia Greenberger for over three decades, NWLC speaks out on the concerns of women in discussions of judicial nominations and confirmations. In the past two years, NWLC led the successful effort to educate and engage the public about the *Ledbetter* decision and the need to correct the Supreme Court's disturbing decision in that case. Due to cuts in TIF's Judiciary portfolio, this will be a tie-off grant to the organization, but will provide them with sufficient funding to continue their activities at this key moment for the future of the judiciary.

## **State and Local Strategies**

### ***Texas***

#### **Public Justice Foundation of Texas**

*\$75,000 over one year in general support*

Public Justice Foundation of Texas is the 501(c)(3) arm of Texans for Public Justice (TPJ). Part of a community of government watchdog and investigative journalism groups in Texas, TPJ has done important work to track and publicize corruption in Texas government. TPJ located and brought forth the evidence that led to the resignation of Tom DeLay, and exposed the existence of pay-to-play justice in the Texas Supreme Court. One of its current projects, "Watch Your Assets," tracks what impact privatization of government functions has on government as well as other government giveaways to the private sector.

#### **Texas Democracy Foundation (Texas Observer)**

*\$125,000 over one year in general support*

A highly respected state-based publication, the *Texas Observer* has built its reputation on hard-hitting investigative reporting. Over the last year, the Observer has pursued investigations on privatization, vote suppression, prison policy, and poverty in Texas. The *Observer* has written on cross-cutting themes such as the treatment of women in immigration detention centers. A general support grant would allow the Observer to broaden its coverage and its reach at a time when the mainstream daily media across Texas are scaling back. The *Observer* now has one of the largest reporting staffs covering the Texas Legislature and state government, bigger than most of the state's daily newspapers. The *Observer* has collaborated with Texans for Public Justice in its work. This grant and that to the Public Justice Foundation of Texas would be part of a developing strategy to focus TIF state-level support on specific states where there exists a collaborative network of institutions dedicated to transparency and integrity.

## **Core Grantees**

#### **Brennan Center for Justice**

*\$1.25 million over two years in general support (\$750,000 from TIF, \$300,000 from CJF, and \$200,000 from NSHR)*

The Brennan Center's work is central to many USP Funds and Campaigns, and it is a core grantee of the Transparency & Integrity Fund. Its work on national security, criminal justice reform, judicial independence, and electoral reform issues has been and remains vital to those fields. Attempting to take advantage of growing staff expertise in federal policymaking, Brennan is currently expanding its federally-focused activities, which will allow it to seize opportunities to affect fundamental change on this range of USP concerns. Brennan has been promised \$2 million over two years. Due to budget limitations, TIF would make half of its two-year contribution now and the second half in the first docket of 2010 through an add-on grant.