

## **Transparency & Integrity Fund**

**Blurbs for Docket I, April 12, 2009 (circulated February 12, 2009)**

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*TIF is making 11 grants in Docket 1, grants that span all our portfolio areas.*

### *Core Grantees*

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

\$750,000 over one year, general support

The Brennan Center is a key grantee of many funds in U.S. Programs. Its work on national security, criminal justice reform, judicial independence, and electoral reform is considered a vital contribution to those fields. Brennan is currently expanding its federally-focused activities, attempting to take advantage of growing staff expertise in federal policymaking as well as the new opportunities for fundamental change. Brennan was promised a grant of \$2 million over two years in 2009, with TIF contributing \$1.5 million and NSHR and CJF making up the rest. Due to TIF's budget limitations last year, we could only make one-half of our commitment to Brennan and are therefore now making the second half of our \$1.5 million commitment.

### *Government Watchdogs*

#### **Open the Government.org**

\$100,000 over one year, general support (likely co-fund with NSHR)

OTG plays a vital role in ensuring collaboration between the many groups working on federal government transparency and oversight. Many TIF and NSHR grantees are active members of OTG including OMB Watch, POGO, the Federation of American Scientists, National Security Archive, and the Electronic Frontier Foundation. In 2010, OTG will coordinate efforts to shape the implementation of the Open Government Directive, to ensure preservation of electronic records, to promote a culture of openness at the department and agency level, and to press for reform of state secrets policy. We are recommending only one year of support as we have concerns about OTG's staffing that we would like to see addressed before making a longer-term commitment.

#### **Center for Political Accountability**

\$100,000 over one year, general support (JEHT)

This grant would provide general support to CPA, a small organization hit particularly hard by the JEHT Foundation's collapse. CPA is dedicated to bringing transparency and accountability to corporate political spending. Its goal is to make political disclosure and oversight a basic corporate governance standard. By conducting investigations and issuing reports, CPA makes the case for why corporations need to change their disclosure policies. CPA leads a coalition of 26 partners in engaging companies and filing shareholder resolutions to get companies to adopt disclosure of their political spending as company policy. By the end of 2009, CPA had persuaded over half the corporations in the S&P 100 to disclose their political spending and require board oversight. CPA then monitors each company to ensure compliance.

#### **National Institute on Money in State Politics**

\$145,000 over one year, general support (JEHT)

This recommended grant would provide support to NIMSP for its work related to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of campaign finance data. NIMSP is the only organization in the

nation that collects all campaign contribution data for every state-level election in the country, including judicial elections. NIMSP's work will be particularly significant following the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* that left disclosure and transparency as the only remaining bulwark against the growing influence of money in politics.

### **Government Accountability Project**

\$425,000 over two years, general support

Founded in 1977, the Government Accountability Project (GAP) is a leading defender of government and corporate whistleblowers. GAP has made an extraordinary impact in the fight to expose corruption and hold the federal government and corporations accountable to the highest standards of justice, transparency, and scientific integrity. From prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison to the dangers of Vioxx, some of the most significant revelations of corporate and government wrongdoing have come from insiders who come forward at enormous personal and professional cost. Although whistleblowers' actions often save lives and bring to light threats to public health, safety, and the environment, these individuals are vulnerable to retaliatory investigations, harassment, intimidation, demotion, and dismissal. GAP's mission is to ensure government and corporate accountability by advancing occupational free speech, defending whistleblowers and empowering citizen activists. GAP's major program initiatives focus on both government and corporate accountability related to worker health and safety, nuclear oversight, environmental oversight, food and drug safety, international anti-corruption reform and national security.

### *Judiciary*

#### **Justice at Stake**

\$625,000 over one year, general support

\$175,000 over one year, general support (JEHT Emergency Fund<sup>1</sup>)

Justice at Stake remains TIF's primary grantee in the judicial independence field, coordinating a nationwide coalition of legal, good government, business, and grassroots groups. The need for JAS' work has become increasingly acute in the wake of two recent landmark Supreme Court decisions: *Caperton* and *Citizens United*. In 2010, JAS is leading a field-wide strategic planning process as well as an effort to bring new donors into the field. This process will demand significant resources but will lead to a more vibrant and effective coalition.

#### **National Center for State Courts**

\$150,000 over one year, project support

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has long been a core member of the Justice at Stake coalition, bringing to that group a deep connection to state court judges and administrators. NCSC coordinates the Conference of Chief Justices, which filed an invaluable amicus brief in the *Caperton* case in 2009. This grant would provide a single year of renewal funding to NCSC to support its ongoing work: 1) providing litigation assistance to states where judicial canons are under attack; 2) coordinating judicial campaign oversight committees in states with big money judicial elections; 3) helping state judiciaries better defend themselves against attack; and 4) coordinating state court officials' participation in Justice at Stake activities. This grant is a one

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<sup>1</sup> TIF, NSHR and CJF are participating in a final round of JEHT grant making, and although the allocations among TIF, NSHR and CJF has not been finalized, the grants TIF allocated here to the JEHT Fund will not disturb the provisional allocations to CJF and NSHR.

year grant because the JAS strategic planning process, which ends in December 2010, will better dictate what roles its constituent organizations play, including NCSC. Based on a better understanding of the role NCSC will play, TIF would make NCSC a multi-year grant in 2011.

#### **National Congress of American Indians Foundation**

\$200,000 over two years, project support

This renewal grant will allow the NCAIF to continue its work on the federal judiciary and federal nominations. NCAIF occupies an important and unique place in the judicial nominations coalition, chaired by the Leadership Conference. Its efforts include 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 work. NCAIF is beginning to collaborate with the Justice at Stake coalition's judicial diversity working group.

#### **National Council of Jewish Women**

\$200,000 over two years, project support

This recommended grant would provide renewal support to NCJW, a chapter-based national organization of Jewish women. In the past eight years, NCJW has specifically organized Jewish women around judicial nominations and the impact of the federal courts on this community's concerns. In the past year, with OSI support, NCJW has built coalitions on nominations that include a diverse set of constituencies in Lincoln, NE; Pittsburgh, PA; and Cleveland, OH. These local coalitions could serve as models for local organizing by multi-issue coalitions on judicial nominations. This grant would continue the shift of OSI judicial nominations funding from DC-based and focused organizations toward groups innovating in this area by building grassroots engagement.

#### **Communications Consortium Media Center**

\$100,000 over one year, project support

This renewal recommendation would fund CCMC's provision of communications support to local coalitions and smaller members of the Coalition for Constitutional Values. Over the past few years CCMC has traveled to states around the country to train local activists (such as NCJW chapters and the Infinity Project) engaged in designing local media strategies on nominations. CCMC has also provided communications support to smaller coalition members (such as grantees the National Coalition for Disability Rights and the National Congress of American Indians), assisting them draft op-eds, and place media in print and radio outlets. They would continue this work in coordination with the Coalition and other OSI-funded partners.

#### *State-based work*

#### **Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana**

\$50,000 over one year, project support

This grant would provide additional, needed support for PAR's role in the New Orleans Coalition on Open Governance. PAR brings to the coalition research expertise on matters of open records and open meetings law and process. It also brings a deep understanding of state

legislative and executive branch ethics and budget operations. PAR was not adequately funded in the initial NOCOG grant made in 2009. With this grant, PAR will be able to fully participate in NOCOG.