



## The State of Bar Foundations: 2010 Cumulative Impact Survey

From March to July, 2010, the National Conference of Bar Foundations (NCBF) conducted a survey of 55 bar foundations nationwide. “The State of Bar Foundations: 2010 Cumulative Impact Survey” (Survey) focused on the areas of value and impact, number of related bar association members, revenue generated, distribution of funds, economic changes, and collaboration. The responses were analyzed to gather comprehensive data related to the work and overall impact of bar foundations and other legal foundations nationwide, as well as compare 2008 results to present day results.

Bar foundations and other legal foundations are the visible charitable arms for bar associations and for the legal community. Foundations provide a mechanism for organized contributions to legal causes from related bar association members, the legal community, and the general public. Foundations generate revenue from a variety of sources, including donations from the legal community and general public, Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA), and endowments.

While both bar and IOLTA foundations saw a decrease in revenue, they were still able to maintain relatively strong distribution levels and further their missions. Bar foundations in 2009 were able to maintain donations from lawyers and IOLTA foundations were able to use their reserves to produce only a 12% decrease in distributions as compared to 2007 distributions.

### Key findings:

- Foundation revenue decreased by 66% between 2007 and 2009.
- Lawyer giving as a percentage of revenue source decreased by nearly 50% from 2008 to 2010.
- Responding foundations distributed \$183 million in 2009 toward law-related causes through grants, scholarships, loan repayment assistance, and other programs.
- In 2007, foundations with annual revenue of \$10 million or more distributed 60% of their revenue. Foundations in the same revenue category distributed 600% of their revenue in 2009.
- In 2009, foundations distributed less than 5% of their available funds to law-related education grants, whereas in 2007 foundations distributed less than 10% of their funds to law-related education grants
- 5% of foundations responding in 2008 had revenue less than \$20,000; 14% of respondents in 2010 reported having revenue less than \$20,000.

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