



AMERICAN BAR
FOUNDATION

Research Advancing Justice

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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INTRODUCTION TO THE American Bar Foundation

The American Bar Foundation (ABF) is a research institute committed to the principle that a deep understanding of the law is vital to a more just, equitable world. We conduct rigorous, empirical research that explores the intersection of law and society—creating insights that underpin today's most pressing issues and affect millions of people every day.

Our staunchly independent and proudly interdisciplinary approach yields nonpartisan and actionable research that people and institutions use to shape laws, inform policy, and influence society at large. The ABF is committed to the broad dissemination of its research findings to the organized bar, scholars, and the public. These findings are published in a wide range of forums, including leading academic journals, law reviews, and academic and commercial presses.

MISSION

The ABF seeks to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary, and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. To further this mission, the ABF will produce timely, cutting-edge research of the highest quality to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and society in the United States and internationally.

VALUE OF DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

The ABF is committed to fostering a robust intellectual community that expands knowledge and advances justice through rigorous empirical interdisciplinary research on law, legal processes, and legal institutions. Diverse voices and perspectives are a key part of our commitment to research with the capacity to inform the public and policymakers.

RESEARCH FACULTY

The research program of the ABF is implemented through projects designed and conducted by the members of the ABF's resident research faculty. ABF Research Professors are among the leading scholars in their disciplines, which include anthropology, economics, history, law, political science, psychology, and sociology. A research project is undertaken only after the completion of an extensive review process. The internal review committee, an external review panel, the Research Committee of the ABF Board of Directors, and ultimately the full ABF Board must conclude that the proposed study will make a significant contribution to the field and that the research can be carried out with the appropriate standards of integrity, human subject protection, and scholarship.

FUNDING

The ABF extends special thanks to the American Bar Endowment (ABE).

The ABE's grant of \$3.8 million in fiscal year 2024–25 makes the ABE the ABF's largest supporter. Founded in 1942, the ABE is a charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of justice in the United States by funding research, educational, and public service projects in the field of law. ABA members who participate in the ABE's group insurance programs can contribute to these efforts. Those members who participate in the ABE's insurance plans and allow the ABE to retain dividends payable on the group insurance policies provide essential support for the ABE's grant program.

The ABF would like to thank all the ABA members who participate in the ABE insurance plans and donate their dividends, along with the ABE, for the valuable funding they have provided.

Other supporters include the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation and private foundations and government agencies that award grants to support specific research projects and ABF programs. The ABF is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

THE FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation is an organization of lawyers, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars who have been elected by their peers to become members of the Fellows because of their outstanding achievements in the legal profession. The Fellows support the research work of the American Bar Foundation through their annual contributions and sponsor seminars and events of direct relevance to leaders of the legal profession.

Executive Director's Letter

I am honored to be serving once again as Interim Executive Director of the American Bar Foundation during a period of both momentum and transition. Having previously served as Executive Director and, more recently, as Interim Executive Director, I understand the importance of this role. As we prepare to search for the ABF's next Executive Director, I am excited for the next chapter of ABF leadership and encouraged by how much our community has already grown through the hiring of outstanding new faculty and through the process of strategic planning.

We welcomed two new Research Professors in Anthropology to the ABF this year: Alana Ackerman and Natacha Nsabimana. Ackerman's current book project considers how refugees navigate violence and displacement in spaces of purported refuge, particularly in Latin America, and Nsabimana is at work on a book examining the aftermath of violence in post-genocide Rwanda.

Six new research projects were approved by our Board of Directors this year. The new projects address a wide range of sociolegal issues—from tax reform to civil procedure reform, from the role of juries across the Americas to the role of podcasts in shaping narratives about justice. The After the JD project, in an important milestone, is beginning a fourth wave of surveys twenty-five years after this unparalleled study of lawyer careers began. These newly approved projects join the ABF's diverse portfolio of empirical research.

This year has presented new challenges for lawyers, law professors, and legal researchers, as many of the underpinnings of our democracy are being questioned or attacked. In the face of these challenges, our community has brought special attention to the importance of the rule of law. A CLE offered to Fellows at the ABA Annual Meeting in August featured a discussion with ABF Affiliated Scholar Aziz Z. Huq and David M. Driesen. The CLE explored threats facing democracy today and highlighted strategies and efforts to protect the rule of law. In November, Research Professor Emeritus Terence Halliday and Research Professor Jothie Rajah participated in a panel focused on the rule of law and the legal profession in Asia.

We plan to continue our advocacy for rule of law with more events in 2026. The third biennial William C. Hubbard Conference on Law and Education, to be held in Chicago this April, will focus on the theme "Restoring Faith in Democratic Institutions." Academics and practitioners from across the country will gather to examine such topics as misinformation and disinformation, political violence, authoritarianism, democratic decline, and the Voting Rights Act.

Like many nonprofit organizations, the ABF has faced unprecedented changes to our funding landscape over the past year. As we face these challenges, we are particularly grateful for the vital partnerships that make our work possible. The American Bar Endowment's generous annual unrestricted grant is an essential bedrock of support for the ABF. Our dedicated Fellows support our work with their generosity and advocacy. Our longstanding institutional partners, including the AccessLex Institute, have been particularly important to our mission as funding sources shift. Thank you all for your continued support.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryant C. Garth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRYANT GARTH
Interim Executive Director, American Bar Foundation

Highlights

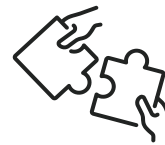
SEPTEMBER 2024

The ABF Receives Annual Grant of \$3.8 Million from the American Bar Endowment for the 2024–25 Fiscal Year

The American Bar Endowment has awarded annual grants to the American Bar Foundation since the 1950s. The grant is the largest source of support for the ABF's outstanding research program in law and society.



Jimmy Goodman, ABF Board Director, and Mark C. Suchman, then ABF Executive Director, are presented with the annual ABE Grant at the ABA Annual Meeting.



The ABF Access to Justice Research Initiative Launches Early-Career Workshop with First Cohort of Scholars

The ABF's Access to Justice Research Initiative is a hub for innovative research connecting scholarship, policy, and practices related to access to civil justice. In September, the program launched a new workshop aiming to support the next generation of researchers in access to justice. The workshop offers early-stage researchers opportunities for professional development, mentorship, and scholarly feedback within a community of engaged peers.

2024

OCTOBER 2024

Traci Burch Explores Barriers to Participation Ahead of the 2024 Presidential Election

In the lead-up to the 2024 US presidential election, the work of ABF Research Professor Traci Burch took on heightened importance. Burch's research considers how voter eligibility verification systems impact political participation—especially for marginalized communities. In an October 2024 interview with Mark Suchman, who was then the Executive Director of the ABF, Burch explained that bureaucratic hurdles can make it difficult or impossible for some people to vote even when they are eligible. Living in a rural community, being older, having a low income, or having a prior felony conviction can all make voting more difficult. "You might have a person who is eligible to vote and wants to participate," said Burch, "but due to the design of the process itself, it becomes really difficult. It's not the person's eligibility that's the issue—it's the administrative system excluding them."

The ABF Cosponsors Conference to Commemorate Twentieth Anniversary of New Legal Realism

In October, the ABF was a cosponsor, with the Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, of a conference on new legal realism titled **Widening**



Elizabeth Mertz introduces Dean Martha Minow and Professor David B. Wilkins at the Widening the Lens of Justice conference. (Credit: Riaz Tejani)

the Lens of Justice. The conference commemorated the twentieth anniversary of new legal realism, and focused on inclusion, identity, and ethics in legal education. The new legal realism movement began in the early 2000s and built on the previous legal realist framework of thought. The ABF was a cosponsor of the first conference on new legal realism (with the University of Wisconsin–Madison) in 2004; since then, the ABF and its scholars have been leaders in this interdisciplinary field of research.

MARCH 2025

The ABF and CJRI Host Joint Symposium on Plaintiff-Side Litigation for Scholars and Practitioners

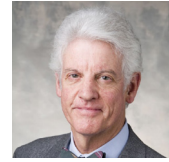
The ABF, in collaboration with the UC Berkeley School of Law Civil Justice Research Initiative (CJRI), with additional support from the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Robert L. Habush Endowment, hosted the symposium **Plaintiff-Side Litigation: Scholars and Practitioners in Dialogue** on March 7, 2025. The symposium facilitated sustained conversation between practitioners and scholars on the history of plaintiff-side practice and on the contributions of plaintiff-side practice to the legal profession and society. Among other topics, presentations and conversations addressed changes to the plaintiffs' bar throughout history, the relationship between plaintiffs' law and social justice, and the future of plaintiffs' law.



Erwin Chemerinsky and Robert A. Clifford in conversation at the Plaintiff-Side Litigation Symposium

JULY 2025

William H. Neukom Leaves Enduring Legacy at the ABF through Leadership and Philanthropy



William H. "Bill" Neukom, an esteemed Philanthropist Fellow, former ABF Board Member, and a tireless advocate for equality, justice, and the rule of law, passed away in July 2025. Throughout his career, Neukom made profound contributions to the legal profession and the institutions that uphold it. His longstanding relationship with the ABF reflected his belief in the power of research to drive progress. His pivotal lead investments established the William H. Neukom Fellows Research Chair in Diversity and Law in 2014 and the biennial William C. Hubbard Conference on Law and Education in 2020—both of which continue to foster innovative scholarship. Neukom served as the president of the ABA from 2007 to 2008 and received the ABA medal—the ABA's highest honor—in 2020 in recognition of his service. The American Bar Foundation is honored to have been a part of his extraordinary legacy.

2025

JULY 2025

Bryant Garth Named Interim Executive Director Ahead of Upcoming Search



In July, the ABF announced the reappointment of ABF Affiliated Research Professor and University of California, Irvine School of Law Distinguished Professor Emeritus Bryant Garth as Interim Executive Director, effective September 2, 2025. Garth stepped into the role as Mark C. Suchman transitioned to focus full-time on research and teaching. Suchman is continuing as a Research Professor at the ABF and as a Professor of Sociology at Purdue University. This marks Garth's second term as ABF Interim Executive Director, a role he also held during a previous leadership transition from 2022 to 2023. Garth said his role will be to ensure the ABF maintains momentum. "Serving the ABF in this interim role is an honor. My focus will be on ensuring a strong handoff to the next Executive Director. What sets the ABF apart is its extraordinary interdisciplinary community and their integrity and passion for the work they do. I'm excited to carry that work forward and to support the next chapter," said Garth.

AUGUST 2025

The ABF Welcomes Two New Research Faculty Members in Anthropology

At the end of the fiscal year, two scholars of anthropology joined the ABF as Research Professors: Alana Ackerman and Natacha Nsabimana. Nsabimana, who is jointly appointed as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, is currently at work on a book manuscript examining the everyday aftermath of violence in post-genocide Rwanda. Ackerman's current book project considers how refugees navigate violence and displacement in spaces of purported refuge. The two join a robust community of researchers advancing understandings of law and society through empirical and interdisciplinary research at the ABF.



Natacha Nsabimana (left) and Alana Ackerman (right)

Research Impact

For more than seventy years, the ABF has conducted rigorous, groundbreaking research to inform and guide the legal profession, the academy, and society in the United States and internationally. Each ABF research project addresses one or more of the ABF's three research pillars:

Learning and Practicing Law: Research exploring legal education and practice, how the law is practiced in legal and non-legal settings, and legal careers.

Protecting Rights and Accessing Justice: Research examining the roles that laws have around the world, with a focus on protecting vital rights and access to justice.

Making and Implementing Law: Research analyzing the diverse ways laws are created and practiced in the US and around the world by legal professionals as well as by those who put the law into action.



This fiscal year, six new research projects join a strong portfolio of ongoing research. Look for the lightbulb icon to learn more about new projects.

LEARNING AND PRACTICING LAW

ANALYZING THE EXPERIENCES OF LAW PROFESSORS IN THE US

In a time when law schools and law professors are under intense scrutiny, **Elizabeth Mertz, Katherine Barnes, Frances Tung, Wamucii Njogu, and Meghan Dawe** explore how factors such as race, gender, and professional identity influence the experiences of tenured law professors in the United States in their project **Senior Status, Gender, and Race in the Legal Profession**. The researchers found that, among tenured professors, women and people of color were less likely to report feeling that their tenure process was fair. For these professors, compensation and job satisfaction were lower when compared to tenured professors who are not women or people of color. In a follow-up project, **The Language of Law Professors**, Mertz and Tung use linguistic analysis to examine the experiences of law professors. The project aims to consider what is most important to law professors as they educate the next generation of lawyers during tumultuous times.



ARE AI AND COVID CHANGING THE LEGAL PROFESSION?

In the last five years, the legal profession has been reshaped by unpredictable events, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of AI technology. In this time of rapid change, a group of ABF researchers led by **Robert L. Nelson** is expanding a decades-long study into the legal profession to understand how

today's lawyers are adapting to a rapidly changing legal landscape. The research team includes several coauthors of *The Making of Lawyers' Careers* (University of Chicago Press, 2023), a book sharing findings on the project's first twenty years, including **Ronit Dinovitzer, Meghan Dawe, and Bryant Garth**.

The newly-approved fourth phase of the **After the JD** project will re-survey the group of lawyers it has been following since they were admitted to the bar in 2000. At the same time, the project plans to survey a new group of lawyers who have been admitted to the bar more recently. By comparing two cohorts of lawyers against one another for the first time, the researchers will be able to understand how the challenges facing lawyers beginning their legal careers in 2025 are different from those which faced new lawyers in 2000. With this knowledge, law schools, law professors, law firms, and lawyers themselves can better understand and adapt to the ways in which the legal landscape is evolving.

RESEARCHING THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW IN CHINA

Researchers **Terence Halliday** and **Sida Liu** interviewed over three hundred criminal defense lawyers to understand how the work of these lawyers interweaves politics and practice. Their research project, **Criminal Defense in China**, considers how these lawyers function within a framework



From left to right: Bob Nelson, Elizabeth Mertz, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Mark Suchman

of international organizations, informal churches, and media organizations in their fight against an illiberal legal system. Halliday and Liu's 2016 book, *Criminal Defense in China* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) shares their findings with the public.

CAN ALTERNATIVE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS BRIDGE THE JUSTICE GAP?

Accessing the civil justice system can be challenging, expensive, and time consuming, creating a gap between those needing the system and those who are able to use it. To address this justice gap, some states have created programs which license non-lawyer professionals to perform certain kinds of legal services without the supervision of an attorney. In his research project **Alternative Legal Professionals**, **Stephen Daniels** examines the origin, development, characteristics, and outcomes of Limited Licensed Legal Technician programs in Washington State, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. Daniels's research aims to understand the impact of these programs and their role in addressing the justice gap.

JURY TRIALS ARE CHANGING IN THE AMERICAS

North America, until recently, has been the primary hub of jury trials in the Americas. Now this is changing: New jury systems are emerging or under consideration in South America, and jury systems in the US and Canada are being

reformed as they face increasing public skepticism. To examine the historical roots, current cultural influences, and legal reforms shaping jury systems, **Shari Seidman Diamond** and **Valerie P. Hans** convened a conference at the ABF in May 2025 which gathered experts from across the Americas. As juries are one of the primary ways in which ordinary people participate in the justice system, this project raises important questions about how the role of juries is shifting to adapt to changing legal needs and ideals across the Americas.

EXPOSING BARRIERS FOR ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The number of Asian Americans serving as federal judges, general counsels, and US attorneys has increased in the past ten years. At the same time, Asian American lawyers continue to have the highest attrition rates and lowest ratio of partners to associates at major law firms; outside of major firms, a similar pattern exists. These are among the findings of **Ajay K. Mehrotra** and **Hon. Goodwin Liu**, who led the second wave of **Portrait Project 2.0: Asian Americans in the Legal Profession**. Portrait Project is a study aiming to understand the empirical causes of challenges facing the Asian American legal community. With a data-based understanding of these challenges, this research lays the foundation for greater equity for Asian Americans in legal leadership, in law schools, and across the profession.

DO UNDERGRADUATES UNDERSTAND TITLE IX?

Since the 1972, Title IX has prohibited sex-based discrimination in publicly funded education, providing students legal protection against sexual assault. **Laura Beth Nielsen's** project **Consent to Sex on Campus** explores how the reality of Title IX may differ from its goals. In an experimental setting, Nielsen found that policies set by colleges and universities are often too complex and difficult to navigate for undergraduates to understand. The research project has also examined how the idea of “brotherhood” can be used to institutionalize sexual violence between men who are members of fraternities.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF CORPORATE POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Imagine that an electric company chooses to publicly recognize climate change as a major issue and commits to mitigating their own greenhouse gas emissions. Does this increase public support for environmental regulation, or does it make regulation seem unnecessary? **Janice Nadler's** research project **Public Opinion, Private Governance, and Influence of Source Credibility** aims to understand the impact of these kinds of political endorsements made by large corporations and how the impact compares to governments making these policies law. In an era of increasing political polarization, this project highlights the role of corporations in shaping public policy and discourse. Nadler's research has suggested that changes in corporate practices can increase public support for regulation, but the effect can differ based on a person's politics.

RENTAL INDUSTRY REGULATION IN A CRISIS

Housing affordability is a significant problem facing American cities, including Chicago. **Anna Reosti**, in her project **Regulating the Crisis**, examines how small-scale landlords—many of whom own affordable units—are changing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressures it placed on the rental industry. While Reosti found that the majority of these landlords did not change their policies in response to the pandemic, a sizable minority (about one-fifth) chose to impose stricter tenant screening

processes and to be less lenient with late or missed payments, with some landlords describing plans for tenant screening which were impractical or illegal. This suggests that landlords can become more strict in reaction to financial shocks, and that emergency policies do not necessarily prevent landlords from passing costs and risks down to tenants. The research also suggests interventions such as the housing choice voucher program or court-assisted mediation (in place of costly eviction proceedings) could improve housing security and availability.

WHAT KEEPS VOTERS FROM VOTING?

At a time when voting rights are highly contested, **Traci Burch's** research asks timely and urgent questions about the obstacles preventing people from accessing their voting rights. Her project **Policing and Political Participation** aims to understand how problem policing, including officer-involved killings and police misconduct, impacts political protests and voter turnout. Her research suggests that young black women and men become more interested in politics and more likely to vote when exposed to problem policing, but they also become less likely to engage in riskier political actions, such as attending a protest. In another project, **Verification of Voter Eligibility: The Process of Disenfranchisement**, Burch explores how methods of voter verification become forms of voter suppression when people who are qualified to vote are barred from voting because the voter verification process is too complex, unclear, or demanding for the voter. Burch's two projects make visible the obstacles facing many Americans seeking to access their basic rights and raise important questions about how well our democracy is functioning today.

TRACKING THE LONG-TERM AND WIDESPREAD IMPACTS OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION

About half of the approximately 1.2 million incarcerated people in the United States are parents of minor children. Researchers **Holly Foster** and **John Hagan** take a broad look at the impacts of parental incarceration in their research project **Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Parental Imprisonment, Investment in Families and Schools, and Child Educational Inequality**. The project



From left to right: Christopher W. Schmidt, Carol Heimer, Jothie Rajah, and Anna Reosti

considers how family trajectories after parental incarceration differ for Black and Latinx families versus white families. Foster and Hagan are also interested in understanding how patterns of racial profiling in the policing of youth perpetuate negative life outcomes across generations. Among other findings, the researchers demonstrated that the negative effects of incarceration are spread beyond the children of incarcerated parents, affecting other children living in the same communities.

A HIDDEN HISTORY BEHIND TODAY'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

In the twentieth century, specialized courts and reform prisons for women and girls emerged. These institutions were part of a system that criminalized women and girls for violations of Victorian norms of femininity—offences ranging from prostitution to riding in cars with boys. **Tera Agyepong**, in her project **Constructing Feminized Courts and Carceral Institutions: Gender, the Legal Regulation of Race, and the Making of Modern Criminal Justice**, examines the advent of these courts and prisons in New York, Pennsylvania, California, and Illinois. The project investigates the long legacy of these courts and considers how the ideals they enforced—about race, gender, and propriety—continue to shape today's criminal justice system.

WHAT KEEPS SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS OUT OF THE COURTROOM?

Scientific and engineering experts play a central role in modern litigation—but making the most productive use of competent experts with relevant expertise is a challenge for attorneys and the legal system. **Shari**

Seidman Diamond, with her collaborator **Richard O. Lempert**, is seeking to understand what experts and attorneys expect of each other in court, and how their interactions with each other play out. Diamond's research project **Science and the Legal System** finds that a majority of scientists are willing to assist lawyers with litigation. A lack of time, relevant expertise, or mismatches between expertise and requests received from lawyers were more often obstacles to collaboration with an attorney than simple unwillingness.

A COMPLEX LOOK AT THE LEGACIES OF BLACK FREEDOM AND FORMER SLAVE SOCIETIES

The Least of These, **Reuben Miller's** research project, is a historical exploration of Black emancipation and the legacy of slavery across four historical slave economies: the US, the UK, Cameroon, and Nigeria. Taking a novel approach to historical research, the project draws on archival research, oral histories, and interviews, as well as Miller's own lineage and lived experiences. These primary sources come together to develop a narrative about the "freedom-making" of Black communities in the face of law and public policy shaped by the fear of Black violence. While Miller's work is historical, the papers and book Miller aims to publish as a part of this project speak to pressing contemporary issues with nuance and novel insights.



UNDERSTANDING HOW TRUE CRIME PODCASTS REPRESENT JUSTICE

True crime podcasts—podcasts discussing real crimes—are increasingly popular, and they're making an impact on the ways Americans think about crime. While true crime podcasts have rapidly gained popularity, there is little empirical research that has sought to understand how these podcasts shape narratives about crime and justice. **Laura Beth Nielsen's** research project **Representations of Vengeance, Justice, Expertise, and Emotion in True Crime Podcasts** aims to fill this gap in research by systematically examining a sample of true crime podcasts and exploring how these podcasts deploy personal voice, legal commentary, moral judgement, and emotion to make sense of crime, punishment, and legal authority.

HOW DO LANGUAGE AND LAW SHAPE THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT TERRORISM?

In her project **Rule of Law Discourses**, **Jothie Rajah** studies the bearing of 9/11 and the War on Terror on the rule of law. Her newest book, *Discounting Life: Necropolitical Law, Culture, and the Long War on Terror* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) exposes how legal frameworks and mass culture evolved after 9/11 to justify extrajudicial killings of civilians during the War on Terror. Rajah's work considers how the justifications produced for these killings discount the value of human lives, and how lives are discounted any time the law strips people of their dignity, sociality, and rights. In a related project, **Branding Law: Genre, Rule of Law, and US Federal Public Legislation**, Rajah explores the use of certain forms of political discourse to appeal to the public through melodramatic political discourse and declarations of rights. By focusing on the use of the keyword "freedom" in legislation, Rajah's project considers whether this language obscures the reality of the politics of law from the public's understanding.

BUDDHISM'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Buddhism and Comparative Constitutional Law is the first comprehensive investigation of the ways Buddhism and constitutional ideals have interacted in the legal systems of Asian countries like Japan, Korea, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. **Tom Ginsburg**, who collaborated with an international team of experts on the project, coedited the book *Buddhism and Comparative Constitutional Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). The book explores historical and contemporary examples of the "Buddhist-constitutional complex," in which constitutionalism and Buddhism mutually shape—and are shaped by—one another.

WHAT MAKES AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION?

International organizations (IOs) are organizations formed under international law which are made up of multiple states and are major actors on the international stage. These organizations are responsible for addressing many complex and pressing global challenges, including climate

change, pandemics, wars, and refugee crises. In his research project **Legal Characteristics of International Organizations**, **Tom Ginsburg** aims to examine the legal characteristics of IOs in part by creating the first publicly available database of the legal characteristics of IOs. Centrally collecting and organizing characteristics such as IO powers, voting rules, budget processes, and immunities will contribute to a clearer understanding of what IOs are and how they relate to democracy and international law.

WHY DOES THE US SAY NO TO THE VAT?

Unique among industrialized nations, the United States does not have a value-added tax. Also known as a VAT, this consumption tax applies to the value added to a product at each stage of production or distribution. **Ajay K. Mehrotra's** research project **The VAT Laggard: A Comparative History of US Tax Resistance to the Value-Added Tax** explores why the US has rejected broad-based, national consumption taxes which, in many countries, make robust social welfare spending possible. Mehrotra's research considers three key historical turning points in the US's relationship with the VAT in order to understand not only Americans' rejection of the VAT, but also Americans' ideas about taxes and government spending in general.

RULES AND REGULATIONS IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES

Over the years, HIV clinics in resource constrained countries have been increasingly regulated by rules dictated by richer countries (usually the United States) without regard to differences in resources or culture. These rules can unintentionally create complications in healthcare delivery and research. In **The Legal Transformation of Medicine: How Rules Work in the International World of HIV/AIDS**, **Carol Heimer** examines the impact of regulation on HIV/AIDS research and treatment in the United States, Thailand, South Africa, and Uganda. Drawing from her years of research, Heimer wrote the book *Governing the Global Clinic: HIV and the Legal Transformation of Medicine* (University of Chicago Press, 2025). The book asks readers to consider the unintended consequences that can arise when the law is used to govern social life.



DEPLOYING AI TO MAKE TAX ADMINISTRATION FAIRER

The annual tax gap—the difference between taxes owed by taxpayers and taxes received by the federal government—was projected by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to be around \$696 Billion in 2022. This gap is logistically challenging to address in part because the IRS lacks the technology needed to accurately estimate the risk of taxpayer noncompliance and allocate enforcement resources accordingly. **Jacob Goldin**, in his research project **Modernizing Tax Administration with Predictive Algorithms**, takes a novel approach to supporting the efficiency and fairness of IRS tax enforcement. Using artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, including data-driven machine learning and predictive algorithms, this project aims to significantly improve the accuracy of IRS audit selections. The project also hopes to make the process of audit selection fairer for all taxpayers, and to more accurately identify complex forms of business tax evasion.

EXAMINING AMERICA'S CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPREME COURT

In his research project **Our Court**, **Christopher W. Schmidt** asks why, in the period from 1930 to today, the Supreme Court went from being an institution generally understood as standing apart from the American society to an institution that politicians and the public treat as an integral component of American political and cultural life. Going beyond popular discussions about the partisanship of the Court, Schmidt aims to provide a nuanced, historically grounded exploration of how Americans' ideas about the Court have been shaped by many external political and cultural forces over the last one hundred years.



WHAT KINDS OF CIVIL PROCEDURE REFORM ACTUALLY WORK?

It's a common view that market-based processes are at odds with justice and equality—but are there ways that markets can actually serve the ends of justice in the legal system? **William H. J. Hubbard** and **Ronen Avraham**, in their research project **Modest Proposals? Exploring the Potential of Markets and Technology to Promote Access to**

Civil Justice, seek to challenge assumptions about markets by convening a conference to explore the roles market forces and new technologies could play in promoting, rather than hindering, access to justice in civil procedure. The conference, which took place in summer 2025, focused on courts, civil procedure, and how the operation of these legal institutions could be improved in terms of cost, delay, and substantive outcomes for litigants. In a separate project, **When Do Procedural Rules Matter? Empirical Legal Studies of Civil Procedure Reform**, Hubbard uses innovative data analysis to assess which changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure over the past four decades have meaningfully improved outcomes in the civil justice system, helping to inform future reforms. Both projects will provide a foundation for more empirically based reforms to civil justice, aiding in the creation of a more equitable and accessible civil legal system.

THE ROLE OF GRUESOME PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE COURTROOM

The ubiquity of cellphone cameras has sparked an explosion of visual evidence, much of which is gruesome or emotionally charged. Meanwhile, empirical knowledge of the effects of such evidence has lagged behind. **Janice Nadler's** project, **The Probative Versus Prejudicial Effect of Gruesome Photographs in Court**, tests individual and group responses to gruesome or emotionally charged photos and video shown as evidence. Nadler's research has found that jurors shown gruesome photographs were 16 percent more likely to return guilty verdicts, even when the photographs added no new factual information. The research also suggests that gruesome photographs can increase racial bias in the courtroom. In light of these findings, Nadler's research also considers the efficacy of legal safeguards, such as substituting black-and-white photographs or instructing juries on the potential prejudicial influence of photographs.

Law & Social Inquiry



The ABF Sponsors *Law & Social Inquiry (LSI)*, a quarterly peer-reviewed journal of international standing. *LSI* examines pressing sociolegal issues across multiple disciplines, including anthropology, criminology, economics, history, law, philosophy, political science, sociology, and social psychology.

The journal combines empirical and theoretical scholarship with critical appraisal of the latest sociolegal scholarship, making *LSI* an indispensable source for legal scholars and practitioners. ABF scholars play a critical role in maintaining *LSI*'s excellent standards for sociolegal scholarship through their service as editors, peer reviewers, and authors.



2025 GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNER

Ming-hsi Chu
PhD Candidate in History at
Northwestern University

“Taxing Aliens and International Law: Nationalist China’s (1923-1949) Income Tax Negotiations with Treaty Powers”

Each year, *LSI* holds a competition for the best journal-length paper in the field of law and social science written by a graduate or law student.

This year’s winning paper explores how Chinese lawyers during the Nationalist period used international law to assert fiscal sovereignty with income tax reform. Chu’s paper illustrates how Western-trained Chinese lawyers sought to use international legal doctrine as a tool for modernization and as a means of challenging imperial structures.

MOST CITED *LSI* ARTICLE OF 2024-25

“How the Public Became the Caller: The Emergence of Reactive Policing, 1880-1970”

Jessica W. Gillooly and David Thacher

In the United States today, many social problems are problems to be solved by policing. How have the police come to take on such a broad role in society? This article considers the degree to which the call-for-service system of policing and changes to communications technology throughout the twentieth century have marginalized political control over police strategy, putting that authority instead into the hands of private individuals. By focusing on these sociotechnical changes, this article sheds new light on the factors that shape the police role and the role the public plays in defining it.

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The Access to Justice Research Initiative

The [ABF/JPB Foundation Access to Justice Scholars Program](#), directed by ABF Faculty Fellow and MacArthur Fellow Rebecca Sandefur and in partnership with the JPB Foundation, supports scholars engaged in empirical access to civil justice research projects. By facilitating the translation of research into policy and practice, the program promotes and amplifies effective approaches to reducing poverty and inequality in the United States and beyond while also growing a network of empirical access to justice scholars.

MEET THE 2024–25 ACCESS TO JUSTICE SCHOLARS



Cassie Chambers Armstrong is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. Her research at the ABF compared civil protective order processes in rural and urban courts and their similarities and differences.



Amy Widman is a Professor of Law at Rutgers University. She explored non-lawyer representation in administrative decision-making and analyzed what these justice workers do, how their work is regulated, and how it is understood by other hearing participants.



Alyse Bertenthal is an Associate Professor of Law at Wake Forest University. Her research project explored access to justice issues that surface in environmental courts and tribunals across the United States.



Danny Wilf-Townsend is an Associate Professor at Georgetown Law. He examined the use of bank account garnishment as a debt collection tool in civil litigation courts.



Deisy Del Real is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California. She examined how various immigration policies and political contexts impact Venezuelan migrants' legalization processes and socioeconomic incorporation into the United States, Colombia, Chile, and Argentina.

A NEW WORKSHOP HELPING RESEARCHERS BUILD THEIR CAREERS

New this year at the ABF is the **Access to Justice Research Initiative Early-Career Workshop**, launched in September 2024 in partnership with the JPB Foundation. This program offers researchers beginning their careers opportunities for professional development, mentorship, and scholarly feedback within a community of engaged peers. The inaugural cohort took part in monthly workshops focused on providing feedback. They also received a research stipend, attended a two-day in-person conference, and presented their work at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association in May 2025.

"We're excited to launch this new phase of the Access to Justice Scholars program, supporting emerging researchers who will produce rigorous and impactful discoveries that reveal how access to justice is critical to fighting poverty, improving lives, and making a world where everyone can engage and contribute."

Rebecca Sandefur

Founding Director of the Access to Justice Research Initiative

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program

The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program offers students the opportunity to spend a summer at the ABF exploring sociolegal research and the practice of law in the private and public sectors. Since 1988, a highly competitive application process has brought more than 150 undergraduates from across the country into the program.

Each fellow is partnered with an ABF Research Professor, who they assist in an ongoing research project—an unparalleled opportunity for mentorship. Fellows also attend a weekly seminar on social science research and have opportunities throughout the summer to gain insight into a career in law through visits to law firms, nonprofits, legal clinics, and law schools in Chicago.

2025 FELLOWS

Leila Diallo (*Howard University*) worked with ABF Research Professor Ajay K. Mehrotra on his VAT Laggard project, contributing to his research on value-added tax systems and comparative fiscal policy.

Blair Peng (*University of Chicago*) worked with MacCrate Research Chair in the Legal Profession Robert L. Nelson on the After the JD project.

Brooke Qiao (*University of Texas at Austin*) worked with ABF Research Professor William H. J. Hubbard on a project exploring how market forces intersect with litigation to advance economic equality.

Ava Roots (*University of Minnesota Twin Cities*) worked with ABF Research Professor Laura Beth Nielsen on her projects concerning True Crime podcasts and Title IX on campuses.

Xinyuan "Sophie" Zhang (*Northwestern University*) worked with ABF Research Professor Jothie Rajah on her project examining President Trump's day-one executive orders as law, text, and event.



SURF program participants, from left to right: Brooke Qiao, Ava Roots, Sophie Zhang, Leila Diallo, Blair Peng

"I gained so much from this program—mentorship, career guidance, and a real sense of direction. The weekly seminars, panels, and site visits gave me tools and insight I'll carry into my JD/PhD journey, and the one-on-one conversations with fellows and faculty left me feeling more confident, supported, and prepared for what's ahead."

Leila Diallo (2025 Fellow)

SURF ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

33%

are now legal professionals

11%

are CEOs or founders of companies

8%

are professors

14%

are currently pursuing a degree

Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

The ABF's Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship program is dedicated to fostering the next generation of scholars in law, social science, and higher education. Fellows benefit from both financial and institutional support to complete their dissertations or book projects under the guidance of ABF faculty mentors and alongside a cohort of peers at similar stages in their careers. Regular workshops provide a forum for feedback on works in progress while practice job talks offer the opportunity to refine presentation within a supportive community of scholars looking at issues in law and society from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

The Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship program opens doors to lifelong professional and personal connections within a global network of scholars who have been a part of the ABF and its programs. Fellows draw on this network as they move on to promising careers: Former Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows are now tenure-track professors, legal professionals, and applied researchers.

PROGRAM ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows go on to tenure-track positions at universities.

Hardeep Dhillon (2021–22 ABF/NSF Postdoctoral Fellow) is currently Assistant Professor in Asian American History and core faculty in the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Former Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows produce high-quality research that contributes to our understanding of the advancement of justice. **Kumar Ramanathan** (2020–22 ABF/NU Doctoral Fellow) recently published the paper "Experiences of Policing in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: Evidence from Chicago," which explores the relationship between patterns of unequal policing and gentrification in Chicago neighborhoods.

DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



Kyneshawau Hurd was named an ABF/AccessLex/LSA Postdoctoral Fellow in Law & Inequality. She is a social psychologist and psychology and law scholar studying the intersections of diversity, dominance, and discrimination. She completed her JD/PhD in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at Berkeley Law.



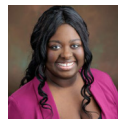
Joshua Aiken was named an ABF/LSA Doctoral Fellow in Law & Inequality. He is a PhD Candidate in African American Studies and History at Yale University. His research considers the history of the legal treatment of guns, gun manufactures, and gun owners in the United States, and how shifts in this treatment relate to a racialized distribution of harm.



Sino Esthappan was named an ABF/Northwestern University Doctoral Fellow in Law & Social Science. He is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University. His research has focused on risk assessment in criminal courts, asking questions about how these assessments reinforce inequalities and how risk is constructed and codified by state actors.



Robert Gelles was named an ABF/University of Chicago Doctoral Fellow in Law & Social Science. He is a PhD Candidate in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology at the University of Chicago. His research is concerned with the ways in which conservative legal scholars develop and spread their preferred forms of legal interpretation throughout the legal academy and the legal profession.



Ewurama Okai was named an ABF/AccessLex Institute Doctoral Fellow in Legal & Higher Education. She is a JD/PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University. Her research explores how actors in the civil rights field construct visions of what is possible, necessary, or inevitable in the legal landscape.

The William H. Neukom Fellows Research Chair in Diversity and Law

The Neukom Chair is a yearlong visiting position that supports an exceptional scholar conducting research on legal and social issues contributing to inequities in law and the legal process. The Neukom Chair is named for William H. Neukom, a Philanthropist Fellow and former ABF Board Member, who made pivotal lead investments to establish the Chair in 2014.

Each Neukom Chair has investigated the experiences of vulnerable groups—women, people of color, LGBTQ people, and other groups—with all projects converging around the theme of promoting a more just society.

2024 NEUKOM CHAIR: JOHN M. EASON



John M. Eason was named the Neukom Chair for the 2024-25 academic year. Eason is the Watson Family University Associate Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs at Brown University. His empirical research focuses on health, race, punishment, and rural/urban processes, with the aim of creating policy-relevant research. His most recent book, *Big House on the Prairie* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), explores the prison building boom in the United States, which began in the 1970s, offering insights into rural prison demand.

While at the ABF, Eason worked on crafting a new narrative on prison abolition while working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled “Bringing Down the Big House: From the Invisible Land to the Upcycled Place.” Additionally, Eason managed quantitative analysis on the impact of prison closures and conducted field research across two rural communities in California where prisons are closing. Eason complemented this research with archival work focused on his own family’s history and historical shifts in the criminal legal system.

ABF Visiting Scholars Program

The ABF’s Visiting Scholars Program invites scholars from around the world to join the ABF’s intellectual community on a temporary basis. The program provides scholars on leave or sabbatical, as well as early career scholars, with an opportunity to take advantage of the ABF’s diverse sociolegal community. During the 2024-25 academic year, the ABF welcomed three visiting scholars.

2024-25 VISITING SCHOLARS



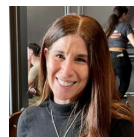
Aaron Z. Pitluck is a Professor of Sociology at Illinois State University. Drawing on economic sociology, anthropology, and cultural analysis, his

research interests center on financial actors, organizations, markets, and institutions, particularly in the Global South. While at the ABF, he worked on an interdisciplinary book describing how investment bankers, Shariah scholars, and the state are co-producing Islamic banking and finance in Malaysia.



Michelle Brown is a Professor and an Associate Head of Sociology at the University of Tennessee. During her time at the ABF, she worked on her book

manuscript, “Streaming Justice: Movements, Media, and the Problem of Crime,” which argues that the problem of crime and the crisis of the criminal legal system are inseparable from a media universe with intensified and conflicting claims about narrative control.



Hila Keren is the Associate Dean of Research and the Paul E. Treusch Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles. Her

primary research interests are in contract law, feminist jurisprudence, critical race theory, and the emerging field of law and emotions. While at the ABF, she was at work on a book exploring the interrelationship of contract law and emotions.

The Fellows Research Advisory Committee

MISSION

The Fellows Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) serves as a bridge between the research program of the ABF and the legal profession, including the practicing bar, the judiciary, and legal educators. Through interaction with the researchers and the leadership of the ABF, the Committee strives to bring the interests and concerns of the legal profession to the attention of ABF researchers and to inform the profession about the breadth and quality of ABF research through seminars and other activities.

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Kevin L. Shepherd

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Viola J. Taliaferro*

Reginald M. Turner

*Deceased



The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation comprise a global honorary society of attorneys, judges, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to the welfare of their communities.

Established in 1955, Fellows support the research of the ABF through annual contributions and donations to funds. They also sponsor seminar programs on topics of direct relevance to the legal profession. Membership in the Fellows is by invitation only and limited to 1% of licensed attorneys.

NATIONAL EVENTS

The Fellows held several events during the 2025 ABA Midyear Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The Midyear Continuing Legal Education (CLE) session, titled “The Age-Old Question Facing All of Us – Deny People Any Help or Allow Some Help by Non-Lawyers: An Innovation’s Odyssey,” featured ABF Research Professor Emeritus **Stephen Daniels**. The CLE focused on access to justice and various states’ experimentation with authorizing licensed non-lawyers to deliver certain legal services without attorney supervision. The panel also featured ABF Affiliated Scholar and Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School **Michele Statz** and Executive Director of DNA-People’s Legal Services **Rodolfo D. Sanchez**, as well as ABF Patron Fellow **Don Bivens**, who moderated the discussion.



Fellows leaders and award winners at the 69th Annual Fellows Awards Reception and Banquet. From left to right: Jennifer L. Parent, Frank X. Neuner, Jr., Julianne P. Blanch, Myles Lynk, Mario L. Barnes, Laura V. Farber, and Erwin Chemerinsky.

Later that night, the Fellows gathered for the Opening Reception at the Arizona Diamondbacks 20th Anniversary Experience at Chase Field. Special thanks to Gold Sponsor **Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz** and to Silver Sponsors **Cohen, Dowd & Quigley** and the **Jie Ti Foundation** for their contributions to this event.

Saturday featured a Fellows Tour of Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright’s winter home and desert laboratory. The tour was followed by the 69th Annual Fellows Awards Reception and Banquet, with keynote remarks from Howard R. Lamar Professor of History at Yale University **Ned Blackhawk**, author of *The Rediscovery of America* (Yale University Press, 2023). The Fellows celebrated the contributions of the following honorees:

Outstanding Service Award:
Myles Lynk

Outstanding Scholar Award:
Erwin Chemerinsky

Outstanding State Chair Award:
Julianne P. Blanch, Utah

Special thanks to Silver Sponsors **Greenberg Traurig, Snell & Wilmer, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law**, and **DC Bar** and to Bronze Sponsors **Laura V. Farber, NeunerPate, McLane Middleton**, and **Perkins Coie** for making this event possible.

In May, the Fellows hosted “Defying the Supreme Court: Historical Perspectives on a Looming Constitutional Crisis,” a national webinar on the Rule of Law featuring the work of ABF Research Professor **Christopher W. Schmidt**. After the presentation, Schmidt was joined by ABF Board Member and Senior Counsel for Campaign Legal Center **Paul M. Smith** and ABF Board Member and Indiana University Maurer School of Law Professor Emerita **Lauren K. Robel** for a question and answer session moderated by Robel. The Fellows also hosted a reception at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Annual Meeting in November featuring remarks from California Supreme Court Justice **Goodwin H. Liu**. During the National Bar Association’s 100th Annual Convention in July, the Fellows hosted a reception event, as well as a CLE program entitled “Diversity in the Law: How Race and Gender Shape Legal Careers.”

FELLOWS RECAP: 2024-25

540

new Fellows

559

Fellows completed
their pledges

107

Fellows featured
in the news

In August, the Fellows convened in Toronto, Ontario for the 2025 ABA Annual Meeting. This meeting's CLE, titled "Safeguarding Democracy," featured a panel discussion exploring the evolving tactics and tools used to weaken democratic institutions, offering a critical look at the resilience of democracy and the efforts required to protect it. Participants included ABF Collaborating Scholar and Frank and Bernice J. Greenberg Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School **Aziz Z. Huq** and University Professor Emeritus at Syracuse University College of Law **David M. Driesen**, who were joined by moderator **Deborah Enix-Ross**, who is a Past ABA President and Senior Advisor at Debevoise & Plimpton. The weekend's events continued with the Opening Reception at the rooftop terrace of Malaparte, with appreciation extended to Gold Sponsor **Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz** and to Bronze Sponsor **McLane Middleton** for their contributions to the event. The Annual Business Breakfast the following morning featured keynote remarks from President of the Legal Services Corporation **Ronald S. Flagg**. The Fellows thank Gold Sponsor the **Jie Ti Foundation** for their generous support of the breakfast.

STATE EVENTS

West Virginia held a virtual event to honor and introduce their newest class of Fellows nominees. The event featured remarks from National Fellows Chair **Frank X. Neuner, Jr.** and West Virginia University College of Law Professor Emeritus **Jack Bowman**.

The New York Fellows hosted a variety of events over the year, including a reception honoring ABA President-Elect **Michelle Behnke** and a lunch presentation from Manhattan District Attorney **Alvin Bragg**.

Illinois Fellows had the opportunity to learn about Operation Greylord, a 1980s FBI investigation aimed at rooting out corruption in Cook County courts, from two Illinois legends of the bar, **Terrence Hake** and **Sergio E. Acosta**.

Alabama Fellows gathered for a dinner featuring *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author and ABF Life Fellow **Robert Bailey**. Additional regional Fellows events were hosted by the State Chairs of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Utah, Washington, Mississippi, New Jersey, Louisiana, South Dakota, Washington, DC, and New Mexico.

2024-25 FELLOWS OFFICERS



Frank X. Neuner, Jr.
Chair of the Fellows
Neuner Pate
Lafayette, LA



Jennifer L. Parent
Chair-Elect of the
Fellows
McLane Middleton
Manchester, NH



Mario Barnes
Secretary of the Fellows
University of California,
Irvine School of Law
Irvine, CA



Laura V. Farber
Immediate Past Chair
of the Fellows
Hahn & Hahn LLP
Pasadena, CA

"Being an ABF Fellow is a tremendous honor. It allows me to support directly the vital, empirical research conducted by the American Bar Foundation. I believe this work is crucial for advancing our justice system and ultimately making a positive impact on people's lives."

Jennifer L. Parent,
New Hampshire Patron Fellow and Chair-Elect of the Fellows

Life Fellows Contributions to the American Bar Foundation

Each year, Life Fellows of the ABF provide contributions that support the innovative and influential research being conducted by the American Bar Foundation. Their continued financial support is vital to the ABF's work.

LIFE FELLOW GIVING SOCIETIES*

Giving Societies are composed of Life Fellows whose enduring commitment to advancing justice and understanding of law is reflected through their contributions to the ABF beyond their initial pledge of support.

Giving societies are as follows:

A Life Fellow who contributes an aggregate of **\$50,000** will be named a **Philanthropist Fellow**.

A Life Fellow who contributes an aggregate of **\$25,000** will be named a **Visionary Fellow**.

A Life Fellow who contributes an aggregate of **\$17,500** will be named a **Leadership Fellow**.

A Life Fellow who contributes an aggregate of **\$10,000** will be named a **Benefactor Fellow**.

A Life Fellow who contributes an aggregate of **\$5,000** will be named a **Patron Fellow**.

SUSTAINING GIVING FOR LIFE FELLOW GIVING SOCIETIES

A Life Fellow who continues to contribute at the level listed below will be designated **Sustaining**.

<u>Giving Level</u>	<u>Annual Giving Amount</u>
Philanthropist Fellow	\$1,000
Visionary Fellow	\$1,000
Leadership Fellow	\$1,000
Benefactor Fellow	\$500
Patron Fellow	\$500
Life Fellow	\$300

**Changes to aggregate amounts were made in 2002 and 2017.*

We extend our appreciation to the many Philanthropist, Visionary, Leadership, Benefactor, Patron, and Sustaining Life Fellows who invested in the ABF between **September 1, 2024 and March 11, 2026**. Their generosity furthers the longstanding culture of philanthropy that has supported the ABF's empirical research. Contributions can be pledged over a period of years. Life Fellows who contribute annually at the Sustaining Life Fellows Level and higher are recognized in the ABF Annual Report, at Fellows events, and on the Fellows website.



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 Sharon Stewart Armstrong

~ Deceased

+ Sustaining Fellow during the September 1, 2024 to March 11, 2026 period

^ New to the giving level

LIFE FELLOWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Rosemary E. Armstrong	Michael W. Bien	Christine M. Castellano	Paul R. D'Amato
Walter P. Armstrong, Jr. ~	Donald W. Bivens +	Lauren James Caster +	Marvin S. C. Dang +
E. Clarke Arnold ~	Jerry W. Blackwell	Ann Cathcart Chaplin	Sheila Kearney Davidson +
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Scott J. Atlas	Bruce H. Bokor	Daniel P. Chesire	Paul R. DeMuro ^
Morris Atlas ~	Daniel I. Booker	Robert L. Childers	Morton Denlow ^
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Del William Atwood +	Joseph W. Boucher	Sylvia Fung Chin +	David M. deRubertis
Thomas L. Ausley	Willard L. Boyd III ^	James L. Chosy ^	Clinton E. Deveaux ^
Russell James Austin +	John P. Bracken ~	Donald J. Christl	Ellen Conedera Dial
Sara A. Austin	D. C. Bradford III	Patricia J. Chvatal +	A. Darby Dickerson
Alan L. Austin ~	Steve A. Brand ~	Thomas P. Cimino, Jr. ^	Robert J. Diehl, Jr. +
E. Osborne Ayscue, Jr.	Katherine D. Brandt	Joseph E. Cirigliano	Dean R. Dietrich
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Sylvia Bacon	Howard H. Braverman ~	William Northington Clark	C. Edward Dobbs
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Burck Bailey ~	Charles Bridges ~	Bradley G. Clary +	Anna E. Dodson
C. Ronald Baird	James M. Brogan	William H. Clendenen, Jr.	Bernice B. Donald, Ret. +
Stuart D. Baker +	Steven H. Brose	Glenn R. Coates ~	Arthur Thomas Donato, Jr.
John G. Baker	Charles N. Brower	Peter V. Coffey ^	David S. Doty
Gail Dyer Baker	Sharie A. Brown +	William F. Coffield IV ^	Edward L. Dowd, Jr. +
James Joseph Banks	William H. Brown III	John F. Cogan, Jr. ~	Kimberley S. Drexler ^ +
Richard A. Barber ~	Stanley M. Brown ~	Nancy L. Cohen +	Joanne R. Driscoll
Arlena M. Barnes	Louis M. Brown ~	Richard P. Cole +	John P. Driscoll, Jr. ~
Deborah Ann Browers Barnes	Charles Earl Brown ~	Thomas A. Cole	Conrad B. Duberstein ~
Curtis H. Barnette	Peter Bubenzer	William K. Cole ~	George H.T. Dudley
Daniel Clayton Barr ^ +	John G. Buchanan III	Nat R. Coleman, Jr. ~	Brian C. Duffy
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James Bartimus	John P. Burton ^	Ian M. Comisky	H. Mitchell Dunn, Jr. ~
Ernest T. Bartol ^	Peter Buscemi +	Christy D. Comstock +	John R. Dunne ~
Janet Ellen Barton	John Wm. Butler, Jr. +	Roxanne Barton Conlin +	Donald R. Dunner ~
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William R. Bay +	Luis A. Cabassa +	David M. Cook	Marcia M. Eason +
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Lawrence E. Bechler +	Elwood F. Cahill, Jr. ^	John G. Corlew ~	Paul F. Eckstein +
Philip S. Beck	Guido Calabresi	Margaret A. Costello ^	Peter B. Edelman
David J. Beck	David K. Callahan	Stephen A. Cozen ~	Gerald M. Edenfield
Nancy A. Becker +	Larry A. Campagna +	Thomas William Cranmer	Thomas S. Edwards, Jr. +
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Martin D. Beirne	Levin H. Campbell	Bernardo M. Cremades	Warren W. Eginton ~
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Richard O. Berndt +	Francis D. Carter	Stephen J. Curley	Adam O. Emmerich +
Lalit Bhasin	James R. Carter	Barbara A. Curran ~	Deborah Enix-Ross +
J. Truman Bidwell, Jr. ^	James J. Casey, Jr.	Harvey P. Dale	Pamela Chapman Enslin +

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Michael G. Ermer	Grant Peter Gilezan ^	John R. Haworth	Robert E. Juceam
Robert M. Ervin ~	Nathalie P. Gilfoyle	Harry J. Haynsworth IV	Susan L. Karamanian ^+
Charles R. Eskridge III ^	James H. Gilliam, Jr. ~	Thomas Z. Hayward, Jr.	Paul A. Kastler
Allen D. Evans +	Edward J. Gilliss ^	Henry L. Hecht	David A. Katz +
Haliburton Fales II ~	Ruth Bader Ginsburg ~	Ben W. Heineman, Jr.	William M. Katz, Jr.
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Laura Viviana Farber +	Donald W. Glazer ~	William D. Heinz Charitable Fund	Robert E. Keeton ~
Hubert A. Farbes, Jr. +	Richard C. Godfrey +	John J. Held	Stanley Keller
Susan Beth Farmer +	Jeffrey Bruce Golden	Cornelius D. Helfrich	Peter M. Kellett
Sue Seibert Farnsworth +	Joan L. Goldfrank ^	Donna Nelson Heller ^	Erin E. Kelly
Juli Farris	Stephen Goldspiel	Glenn P. Hendrix	David E. Keltner
Joseph A. Fawal	Ronald Kinnan Golemon	Stephen J. Herman	James A. Kenney III +
Robert R. Feagin III	Joseph S. Goode +	Andrew L. Herz	Alfreida B. Kenny ^
Michael K. Fee ^	Thomas A. Gottschalk +	James W. Hewitt ~	Ted M. Kerr
John D. Feerick & Emalie Platt Feerick	William Andrew Gowder, Jr. +	Robert B. Hiden, Jr. ~	Michael P. Kessler
James D. Fellers ~	Maurice B. Graham	Benjamin H. Hill III	Philip J. Kessler
Blair C. Fensterstock ~	Mark E. Grantham	Donald B. Hilliker ~	Henry S. Keuling-Stout
Mark E. Ferguson	Melanie Gray	Jeffrey L. Hirsch	George H. Kidder ~
Lucas A. Ferrara +	John A. Grayson ~	Robert Edward Hirshon +	Nicholas Jae-Ryoung Kim +
Henry L. Feuerzeig ~	Sibylle Grebe	Eric L. Hiser +	Dale A. Kimball +
Edward Ridley Finch, Jr. ~	Bruce A. Green +	James R. Hobbs	Lawrence R. King ~
Robert Dean Fisher +	Roger B. Greenberg ^	Jennifer Bruch Hogan	Charles C. Kingsley
Jeffrey D. Fisher	Sandra P. Greenblatt	John R. Holden ~	William W. Kinsey ^
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Elizabeth C. Flanagan ^	George William Gregory~	James J.S. Holmes	Robert D. Klausner +
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Don P. Foster	Janice C. Griffith ^	L. Tyrone Holt	Rodney C. Koenig +
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Merrill R. Francis ~	Renie Yoshida Grohl	Zona F. Hostetler	Henry A. Korman ^
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Ronald J. Freeman	Michael Donwell Gunter	Barbara Kerr Howe +	Jane Kreuzer-Walsh
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Michael Fricklas +	Howard Fredrick Hahn ^	Edwin E. Huddleson III	William F. Kroener III
Herschel H. Friday, Jr. ~	James T. Haight +	W. Stell Huie ~	Jeffrey R. Kuester
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Donald Fried	John H. Hall +	J. Nelson Irvine ^	William F. Kuntz II +
Eric Jonathan Friedman ^	Leon P. Haller	Sharon A. Israel ^	Donald J. Kunz
Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman	Jason Michael Halper +	Spiwe L. Jefferson +	Kenneth R. Kupchak
W. Royal Furgeson, Jr.	Philip M. Halpern	Wallace B. Jefferson +	Stephen Thomas LaBriola +
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Keith Edwin Galliher, Jr. ^	Sam and June Hamra	Earl Johnson, Jr.	Thomas R. Lalla, Jr.
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Kenneth W. Gideon ~	Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr.	Hugh R. Jones ~	Ann B. Lesk

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Ava E. Lias-Booker	Cyrus D. Mehta ^	Angela Onwuachi-Willig +	Daniel Reidy
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Jeffrey Alan Lipps	Michael J. Mestayer	Kenneth G. Ottenbreit	Jay J. Rice
Jennifer Michelle Litwak	Charles G. Meyer III ^	Joe Sam Owen	Joseph F. Rice
Diana C. Liu	Bernard S. Meyer ~	Jennifer L. Parent +	Julian C. Rice ~
Pierce Lively ~	Albert J. Mezzanotte, Jr. ^	David K. Park ^	Paul F. Richard
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Evan L. Loeffler	Jane I. Milas ^	Donald F. Parsons, Jr.	Lauren Stiller Rikleen
Raymond S. Londa	Richard W. Millar, Jr.	Kathy D. Patrick	Dorothy Comstock Riley ~
Deborah J. Long	Judith A. Miller +	Cecil B. Patterson, Jr. +	James F. Rill
Robert A. Longhi	Retta A. Miller	Perry L. Pe	James C. Rinaman ~
Robert Henry Louis	Robert W. Minto, Jr.	Richard Pena	Christopher S. Rizek +
Kent M. Lucaccioni +	Delmer R. Mitchell	Peter N. Perretti, Jr. ~	Nelson Roach +
Thomas L. Ludington	Thomas J. Moloney +	Jimmie Cecil Peters +	Kim M. Robak +
James E. Ludlam ~	David C. Moody	Patricia Schuett Peterson ^	Kathryn E. B. Robb
Richard Charles Luis	Rachel F. Moran +	Roderick Norman Petrey	David W. Robbins +
Juanita B. Luis	James C. Mordy	Christopher John Pettit	Pamela Jane Roberts
Christopher H. Lunding	Mark C. Morrill ^ +	Hugo M. Pfaltz, Jr. ~	J. Robert Robertson +
Graydon Dean Luthey, Jr.	W. Carloss Morris, Jr. ~	Philip John Pfeiffer	R. Eric Robertson
Barbara M.G. Lynn +	John H. Morrison	Steven F. Pflaum ^	Barbara Paul Robinson +
Ted B. Lyon, Jr.	Patrick C. Morrow	Joy Lambert Phillips	Nicholas A. Robinson
Barbara N. Lyons	Judy Hamilton Morse ~	Carter G. Phillips	Joseph Francis Roda
Eric N. Macey	Darrell G. Mottley ^	John D. Phillips ~	Angela E. Rodante
Arthur W. Machen, Jr. ~	Robert Thompson Mowrey	Irving H. Picard	Carlos A. Rodriguez-Vidal
Helena S. Maclay ^	John C. Moylan III ^	Anna Theresa Pinedo	Patrick G. Rogan +
Steven G. Madison +	David Bond Mueller	N. Michael Plaut ~	William A. Rogers, Jr.
Cynthia Maria Maleski ^	Margarita P. Muina ^	Thomas W. Pomeroy, Jr. ~	Harry J. Roper
James R. Malone, Jr. +	Mary Mullarkey ~	Lester M. Ponder ~	Charles Patrick Rose ^ +
Marc J. Manderscheid	William A. Munck ^	Rebecca G. Pontikes +	Jon Howard Rosen
H. Alexander Manuel	Robert H Mundheim +	William Poole ~	Lawrence David Rosenberg ^
Frances S. Margolis	Earl H. Munson, Jr.	Harold D. Pope III ^ +	William Rosenberger, Jr. ~
Amy Cashore Mariani	Linda Strite Murnane, USAF +	Maury B. Poscover	James B. Rosenblum
Wendy K. Mariner +	Robert B. L. Murphy ~	Edward M. Posner ~	Laura Ann Rosenbury
John Robert Marks III	Kay C. Murray ~	Jennifer Poteat	Mitchel S. Ross
Thurgood Marshall, Jr. +	Norman H. Nachman ~	Michael Vance Powell ^	Barbara M. Rossotti
Heman A. Marshall III	Gary Philip Naftalis	Norman M. Powell	Jack A. Rounick
Charles Arthur Marvin	Cynthia E. Nance +	Joseph A. Power, Jr.	Hedy Silver Rubinger
John C. Mascelli +	Joseph G. Nassif	John B. Power	Carmine A. Rubino
William D. Massey	Rajsekhar Natarajan	Lonnie A. Powers ^	Robert F. Ruckman +
Raymond Lee Massey	George M. "Jack" Neal, Jr.	John Dale Powers	David S. Ruder ~
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Barbara Mendel Mayden +	Amy Lynn Neuhardt	Roger A. Putnam ~	Gerald L. Rushfelt
Michele Coleman Mayes +	Tram Nguyen +	Charles J. Queenan, Jr.	Robert G. Russell ~
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Robert M. McAnerney~	John S. Nolan ~	Alan S. Rachlin +	Harold J. Ruvoldt, Jr. ~
Milford McBride, Jr. ~	Paul R. Norman	Roshan N. Rajkumar +	Edward F. Ryan
F. Wm. McCalpin ~	Harold Lebron North, Jr. ^	Bruce M. Ramer +	Robert W. Sacoff +
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Holiday Hart McKiernan	John J. Okray	Michael H. Reed +	John L. Savva
Vincent L. McKusick ~	Jack H. Olender	Patricia Lee Refo +	Deborah A. Scalise
Edward R. McNicholas	John F. Olson	Abraham Charles Reich	Michael L. Schler +

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+ Sustaining Fellow during the September 1, 2024 to March 11, 2026 period

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Sanford J. Schlesinger +
 Donald K. Schott ^
 Andrew M. Schpak ^
 Ellen L. Schulhofer ^
 H. Richard Schumacher
 Peter H. Schwartz +
 Stuart Schwartz
 David A. Schwartz
 Russell Kenneth Scott
 Charity Scott
 Richard Seabolt
 Marvin Sears
 Jon M. Sebaly
 Edgar T. See ~
 Christopher A. Seeger
 Scott S. Segal
 Adam Seiden +
 David J. Seipp
 Marc M. Seltzer +
 Manish S. Shah ^
 Floyd Shapiro +
 Margaret M. Sheahan ^
 Rita A. Sheffey
 Myron M. Sheinfeld ~
 Leopold Zangwill Sher
 Kathleen R. Sherby ^
 Kenneth J. Sherk
 John A. Sherrill
 Monica Jill Shilling +
 David E. Shipley +
 Martin B. Shulkin
 James M. Sibley ~
 Joel D. Siegal ~
 Charles S. Siegel ^
 Lewis R. Sifford ^
 James R. Silkenat
 Carole Silver +
 Lee T. Silver
 Irving Silver
 George M. Simmerman, Jr. +
 David N. Simmons ^
 Georganna L. Simpson +
 Sarah M. Singleton ~
 Woon-Wah Siu
 Herbert D. Sledd ~
 Don Slesnick +
 Marvin S. Sloman ~
 Thomas J. Smedinghoff +
 Thomas F. Smegal, Jr.
 Steven L. Smith +
 Edwin E. Smith
 Mary L. Smith
 William Reece Smith, Jr. ~
 Thomas W. Snook
 Rodney G. Snow
 David Solomon ~
 Neal R. Sonnett ~
 Steven Robert Sorenson +
 Susan S. Soussan +

Thomas E. Spahn
 Richard E. Speidel ~
 Horace E. Stacy, Jr. ~
 Michael G. Stag +
 Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.
 Justin A. Stanley ~
 Walter K. Stapleton ~
 Joan N. Stern
 Robert L. Stern ~
 Brian K. Stewart
 Lisa T. Stewart
 Paul J. Stichler ~
 Margaret Deborah Stock +
 Pamela Stokke-Ceci ^
 Alan J. Stone
 Charles A. Storke +
 Malcolm B. Street, Jr.
 Sidney A. Stubbs, Jr.
 Jeffery V. Stuckey ^
 James M. Sturdivant ~
 William F. Stutts
 Henry C. Su
 Kimberly Anne Summe ^
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 John A. Sutro ~
 Thomas P. Sweeney
 Ronald J. Tabak ~
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 Blake Tartt ~
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 Christopher Tayback
 Timothy Scott Taylor ^
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 Stanley L. Temko ~
 Larry E. Temple
 Harvey Mandell Tettlebaum
 Joseph Patrick Thacker
 Matthew B. Thiel +
 Richard L. Thies ~
 Lott H. Thomas
 Charles M. Thompson
 Betty A. Thompson ~
 Bradley J. B. Toben
 Margaret Lynch Tomlinson ^
 Preston McCullough Torbert
 James E. Torgerson +
 Mary T. Torres ^
 Mitchell A. Touns +
 J. David Tracy
 Michael Lloyd Tuchin +
 Marna S. Tucker
 Mark Logan Tuft
 Don H. Twietmeyer
 Herbert G. Underwood ~
 Lynne Ann Ustach +
 Allan Van Fleet
 Amy Van Horne
 Palmer Gene Vance II +
 Michael J. VanZandt +

Herbert W. Vaughan ~
 Linda Lea M. Viken
 Patricia Jane Villareal
 Betty M. Vitousek ~
 Paul Vizcarrondo, Jr.
 Stephen R. Volk ~
 Donald J. Volkert, Jr.
 James L. Volling ^
 Mary Kay Vyskocil
 Norman M. Waas
 Sol Wachtler
 Bill Wagner
 Ira J. Waldman ^
 Wesley M. Walker ~
 Howard T. Wall III +
 Liza M. Walsh
 Owen B. Walsh
 John Bronson Walsh ~
 H. A. Walther
 Steven T. Walther
 T. John Ward, Ret.
 Roger E. Warin +
 Wilbur W. Warren III
 Mindee Wasserman
 Richard C. Watters
 Mark L.D. Wawro
 Pauline A. Weaver
 Martin H. Webster ~
 Corey Frank Wehmeyer +
 Stewart M. Weintraub
 W. Scott Welch III ~
 Charles I. Wellborn
 Theodore V. Wells, Jr.
 H. Thomas Wells, Jr. ~
 Willis P. Whichard
 Thomas W. White +
 Patricia D. White ^
 Michael A. White
 H. Blair White ~
 Beth R. K. Whittenbury
 Richard S. Wiedman
 Paul L. Wilbert ~
 Clay R. Williams ~
 J. Gaston Williamson ~
 Marguerite Willis +
 Richard Wilmer ~
 Frank Moseley Wilson
 Benjamin F. Wilson
 Barbara C. Wingo +
 Charles William Wirken
 Phillip A. Wittmann
 Charles B. Wolf
 William D. Wood
 Travers D. Wood
 James Jerry Wood
 Daniel James Woods
 Walter A. Wright III
 Kathryn D. Wriston ~
 L. Kinvin Wroth

Ellen G. Yost
 Stephen P. Younger
 Stephen N. Zack
 Philip Zhang
 Jia Zhao
 Andrea Zopp
 Howard Zucker

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 R. Miller Adams
 Steve J. Adnopoz
 Thomas R. Ajamie
 Jeffrey H. Albright
 Amanda Green Alexander
 John C. Allen IV
 Mark A. Andersen
 Marcine Anderson
 Alan M. Anderson
 Peter Maitland Angulo
 Sidney F. Ansbacher
 Russell M. Aoki
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 Aaron M. Beim
 Scott Alan Bennett
 Daniel J. Bergeson
 Robert R. Berluti
 David D. Biklen
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 Suzanne Bocell Bradley
 Patricia Breckenridge
 Mark J. Bremer
 Joseph E. Bringman
 Stacy A. Broman
 Daniel H. Bromberg
 Eric L. Brossman
 D. Randall Brown
 Thomas Michael Bruen

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Joan R. M. Bullock	Jessica Kirk Drennan	Michael Giudicessi	Christopher Kao
Aaron Vaughn Burrell	Eric Y. Drogin	Sidney L. Gold	M. Keith Kapp
Randall K. Calvert	Gentner Drummond	Gerald Harris Goldstein	Ann M. Kappler
E. Colby Cameron	Fernande R. V. Duffly	Angela Gomes	Debra S. Katz
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Richard J. Cohen	Miriam L. Fisher	Carolyn Patricia Hermon-Percell	Tiffani G. Lee
Jonathan Jacob Cole	Mark R. Fitzgerald	Michael J. Hernandez	Joan Humphrey Lefkow
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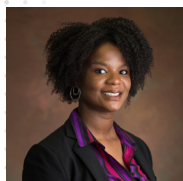
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Joint Appointment: Deputy Dean and Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics, University of Chicago Law School

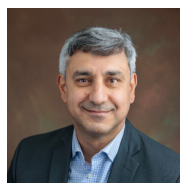
ABF Research Projects: Modest Proposals? Exploring the Potential of Markets and Technology to Promote Access to Civil Justice; When Do Procedural Rules Matter? Empirical Legal Studies of Civil Procedure Reform



Shari Seidman Diamond

Joint Appointment: Howard J. Trienens Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

ABF Research Projects: Science and the Legal System; Juries in the Americas: Variation and Change



Ajay K. Mehrotra

Joint Appointment: Stanford Clinton Sr. and Zylpha Kilbride Clinton Research Professor of Law, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

ABF Research Projects: The VAT Laggard: A Comparative History of U.S. Resistance to the Value-added Tax; Portrait Project 2.0: Asian Americans in the Legal Profession



Tom Ginsburg

Joint Appointment: Leo Spitz Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Chicago

ABF Research Projects: Buddhism and Constitutional Law; Legal Characteristics of International Organizations; Anti-Corruption and Illiberalism in the Global South



Elizabeth Mertz

Joint Appointment: John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law Emerita, University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School

ABF Research Projects: Senior Status, Gender, and Race in the Legal and Liberal Arts Academies; The Language of Law Professors



Reuben Jonathan Miller

Joint Appointment: Associate Professor, University of Chicago

ABF Research Project: The Least of These: Violence, Freedom, and the Promise of a New World



Natacha Nsabimana

Joint Appointment: Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago

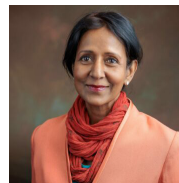
ABF Research Project to Come



Janice Nadler

Joint Appointment: Nathaniel L. Nathanson Professor of Law, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

ABF Research Projects: Public Opinion, Private Governance, and the Influence of Source Credibility; The Probative Versus Prejudicial Effect of Gruesome Photographs in Court



Jothie Rajah

ABF Research Projects: Branding Law: Genre, Rule of Law, and U.S. Federal Public Legislation; Rule of Law Discourses



Robert L. Nelson

Joint Appointment: Professor of Sociology and Law, Northwestern University

ABF Research Projects: After the JD: A National Study of Lawyer Careers; The Hero and the Monsignor: Law, Sexual Violence, and the Catholic Church



Anna Reosti

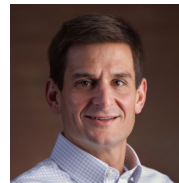
ABF Research Project: Regulating the Crisis: An Exploratory Study of Landlord Responses to Pandemic-Era Tenant Protection Regulations



Laura Beth Nielsen

Joint Appointment: Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition Chair and Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University

ABF Research Projects: Consent to Sex on Campus: How Undergraduates Understand and Enact Sexual Consent in the Title IX Era; The Hero and the Monsignor: Law, Sexual Violence, and the Catholic Church; Representations of Vengeance, Justice, Expertise, and Emotion in True Crime Podcasts



Christopher W. Schmidt

Joint Appointment: Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law

ABF Research Project: Our Court: A New History of the United States Supreme Court



Mark C. Suchman

Joint Appointment: Professor of Sociology, Purdue University

ABF Research Project to Come

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Anthony Mangini, Executive Assistant

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Dianna Garzón, Program Associate

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Colleen Hannon, Director of Accounting

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Jack Werner, Development Associate

Robi Gonzales, Development Coordinator

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Solange Vazconez, Grants Manager

Access to Justice Research Initiative

Rebecca L. Sandefur, Faculty Fellow and Director

Matthew Burnett, Director of Research and Programs

James Teufel, Senior Researcher

Elizabeth Mucha, Senior Program Manager

RESEARCH SUPPORT STAFF

Abigail Bohrer

Ethan Chen

Hannah Ragnone

Kris Rosentel

Evelyn Smith

Frances Tung



ABF Staff, January 2026

Financial Report and Allocation of Funding

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Years Ended August 31, 2024 and August 31, 2025

	August 31, 2025	August 31, 2024
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,557,345	\$ 1,560,794
Long-term investments	35,550,245	33,227,434
Lease assets	2,659,109	3,273,856
Receivables and other	4,147,368	4,009,939
Prepaid expenses	35,504	41,586
Property and equipment	26,320	43,807
Total Assets	\$ 43,975,891	\$ 42,157,416
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	404,149	507,757
Deferred revenues and refundable grant advances	524,926	460,405
Lease liabilities	2,909,830	3,531,543
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,838,905	\$ 4,499,705
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	25,198,642	23,630,922
Donor Restricted	14,938,344	14,026,789
Total Net Assets	\$ 40,136,986	\$ 37,657,711
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 43,975,891	\$ 42,157,416

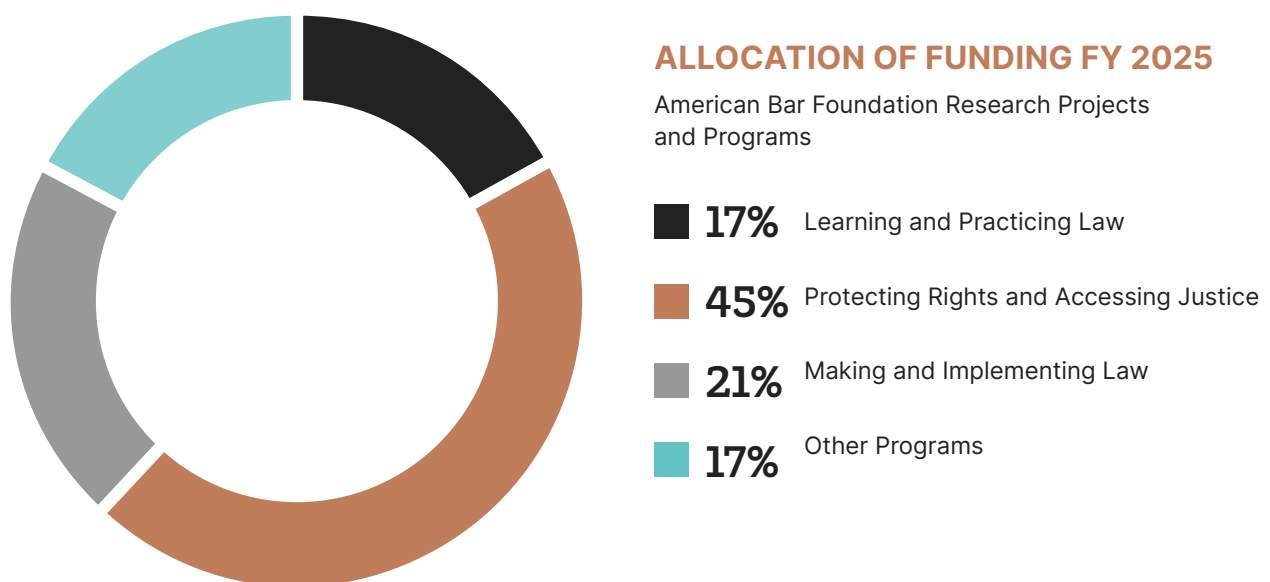
Note: This information is abstracted from the ABF's 2024 and 2025 financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Years Ended August 31, 2024 and August 31, 2025

	August 31, 2024	August 31, 2024
Revenues		
American Bar Endowment grant	\$ 3,830,000	\$ 3,697,357
The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation	2,070,855	2,088,632
ABF Endowment annual spending allowance	1,048,449	1,014,420
Grants, contributions and other support	1,730,909	1,570,228
Total Revenues	\$ 8,680,213	\$ 8,370,637
Expenses		
Research activities	4,208,960	4,203,917
Fellows' services	530,158	476,048
<i>Law & Social Inquiry</i> Journal	124,933	131,152
Academic affairs and fellowships	759,686	723,945
Development and fundraising	767,022	828,435
Administration and facilities	2,287,719	2,015,779
Total Expenses	\$ 8,678,478	\$ 8,379,276
Results from Operations	\$ 1,735	\$ (8,639)

Note: This information is abstracted from the ABF's 2024 and 2025 financial statements.





750 North Lake Shore Drive, 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611-4557

www.americanbarfoundation.org

