



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024

SERVING THE LEGAL AND
RELATED NEEDS OF WOMEN
AND GIRLS IN THE DC
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

Women's Bar Association
FOUNDATION
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



MISSION

LEVERAGING THE GENEROSITY OF LAWYERS AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT NONPROFITS THAT SERVE THE LEGAL AND RELATED NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE DC METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thank you for your support of our mission to fund nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women or girls in the D.C. Metropolitan community. The Foundation held its **21st Wine Tasting and Silent Auction** this year. The event is the Foundation's primary fundraiser and the proceeds go towards funding grants awarded by the Foundation. The theme for the 2023 Wine Tasting was "**Revelry Until the Reveal – A Night of Mystery Wines.**" After holding several virtual events, we returned to our traditional format of holding this in person and what a triumphant return it was! Kirkland and Ellis, LLC hosted the event and thanks to the perfect weather, we were able to take advantage of the firm's patio space. The gorgeous views, delicious wines, and amazing auction items made this a phenomenal night!

A portion of the Wine Tasting proceeds also supports the Founders Fellowship which rotates among DC's six law schools. This fellowship allows a law student to work with local legal service providers on projects that benefit women or girls in our community. The 2023 recipient was **Emma Ratzman** from Georgetown University Law School. Emma was a Summer Legal Intern in the Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit at Legal Aid of the District of Columbia. During the Wine Tasting, Emma shared with us what she learned during her internship and how that experience will benefit her career.

We held our annual Grants Awards Ceremony in beautiful space at Sidley Austin, LLP in March 2024. During this ceremony, the Foundation awarded \$65,000 in grants to nine grantee organizations. With these awards, the Foundation's cumulative total funds given to the community exceeded \$1.3 million! The local organizations supported by the Foundation provide a wide range of legal services for at-risk women and children. Some specific examples include providing legal services for women or girls who have suffered domestic abuse, helping women in low-income jobs secure basic employment rights, and helping survivors of sex trafficking rings. The Foundation appreciates the opportunity to support the work done by these organizations and applauds the 2024 grantees: **Amara Legal Center, Ayuda, DC Kincare Alliance, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, First Shift Justice Project, Mothers Outreach Network, Safe Sisters Circle, The Network for Victim Recovery of DC's Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, and Tzedek DC.** These organizations provide crucial services that improve our community and the lives of countless individuals in the DC Metropolitan community. More information about our grantees and the work they do can be found on pages 5-8.

During the Grants Awards Ceremony, attendees were able to interact with representatives from our grantee organizations. They were also treated to remarks by keynote speaker **Dr. Michele Bratcher Goodwin.** Dr. Goodwin is a highly respected thought-leader, podcast host, and frequent commentator on MSNBC. She is a noted expert in constitutional law, reproductive justice, and the state of American democracy. In

continued on next page...

addition to all of these amazing accomplishments, Dr. Goodwin is a distinguished professor at Georgetown University. Everyone was captivated by her remarks during the Grants Awards Ceremony. Attendees did not want her to stop speaking as she inspired and motivated the entire room.

We also took the opportunity to honor **Nancy Long** with the third annual WBAF Champion Award in recognition of her stalwart support of the Foundation. Year after year, Ms. Long has generously given her time and talent to support the Foundation. She routinely reaches out to every new Foundation President to make sure that they feel supported. She also helps foster open communication and cooperation between the Foundation and the Women's Bar Association. Ms. Long's support of the Foundation goes back almost twenty years to when she served as the Executive Director of both the WBA Foundation and the Women's Bar Association from 2004-2007. She was a member of the Foundation Board during the 2013-2014 Bar year and then served as President from 2014-2016. She was also President of the Women's Bar Association from 1996-1997.

While competition for charitable donations is high, donors know that when they donate to the Foundation they can rest assured that their funds are being put to excellent use. The Foundation scrutinizes all organizations that receive a grant and only selects those that are doing vital work in the community. There are various ways to support the Foundation. Support can be provided via a one-time donation, recurring monthly donation, Wine Tasting and Silent Auction or Grants Awards Ceremony sponsorship, or by including the Foundation in estate planning. Information on how to support the Foundation via any and all of these options is available at www.wbadcfoundation.org.

The Foundation could not fulfill its charitable mission without support from our community partners. Thank you to all who contributed to the Foundation during the past Bar Year. We look forward to your continued support and to connecting with new supporters moving forward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kurt L. Wilkerson".

GRANTMAKING PROGRAM AND GRANTEE AWARDS CEREMONY

The first step in our grantmaking process is a request for Letters of Inquiry (LOI). The Foundation received thirteen LOIs in August 2024, requesting a total of \$127,515 in support. The Foundation’s Grants Committee reviewed the information in each submission and invited nine of the organizations to submit a full grant application.

The Grants Committee carefully reviewed each proposal received, made a recommendation to the full Board of Directors to fund a total of \$65,000 in grants to nine organizations (information about the projects funded can be found on pages X to X). Grantees are required to submit a final report of activities conducted under each grant. These reports are also reviewed by the Grants Committee.



On March 6, 2024, the WBAF hosted its annual Grant Awards Ceremony to honor our 2024 grantees. We are grateful to the law firm of Sidley Austin LLP for hosting this event in their beautiful atrium space. Demand for the event was high, and we sold out of available tickets.

A highlight of the evening was hearing from our keynote speaker, acclaimed bioethicist, constitutional law scholar, and prolific author **Dr. Michele Bratcher Goodwin**. Dr. Goodwin’s remarks masterfully wove together a wide range of contrasting points of view in law, policy, economics, and philosophy leaving the audience at the edge of their seats! Dr. Goodwin joined the faculty at Georgetown Law in the summer of 2023 as the Linda D. & Timothy J. O’Neill Professor of Constitutional Law and Global Health Policy as well as serving as the Co-Faculty Director of the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law.



Keynote speaker Dr. Michele Bratcher Goodwin

During the ceremony, we also recognized long-time Foundation leader and supporter **Nancy Long** as the 2024 WBAF Champion. A WBAF Champion is an individual who has consistently advanced the legal and related needs of women and girls in the Washington, DC area. **Hon. Deb Israel** of the DC Superior Court, a Foundation past-president, introduced Ms. Long. During her acceptance speech, Ms. Long riveted the audience as she described the power of women coming together and how the WBAF is a place for support, not only for our grantees doing the important work of assisting women and girls, but also as a resource to navigate personal and professional challenges.



WBAF president Kirsten Wilkerson with Nancy Long and Hon. Deb Israel

During the program, Foundation past-president Caroline Gately gave additional remarks in tribute of Foundation past-president Hazel Groman, who passed away in January 2024.

The Foundation awarded grants to nine organizations, each of which is committed to providing legal services to help women and girls: **Amara Legal Center, Ayuda, DC KinCare Alliance, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, First Shift Justice Project, Mother’s Outreach Network, Network for Victim Recovery of DC, Safe Sisters Circle, and Tzedec DC** received their grants at the event. Our 2024 grantee video, which we premiered at the event, features grantee representatives discussing their work and how the Foundation grant supports their efforts.

During the networking portions of the event, grantees, Foundation Board members, and Foundation supporters were able to meet each other and learn more about the missions of the Foundation grantees.



Representatives of the 2024 grantees



WBA and WBAF past presidents

2024 GRANTEES

The WBA Foundation grants program supports community nonprofit organizations in the DC metropolitan area that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. The Foundation’s grant recipients reach and serve some of the most vulnerable members of our community, individuals who are facing challenges ranging from homelessness to domestic violence and workplace discrimination.



AMARA LEGAL CENTER provides free legal services to individuals whose rights have been violated while involved in commercial sex, whether involvement was by coercion, necessity, choice, or otherwise, in the DC metropolitan area. Amara’s attorneys are trained in providing trauma-informed legal services and are devoted to providing comprehensive support, making sure that its clients know they are not navigating their cases alone. The WBAF grant will support survivors of sex trafficking with civil legal services, including civil protection orders, family law, criminal record relief, and victim witness advocacy.



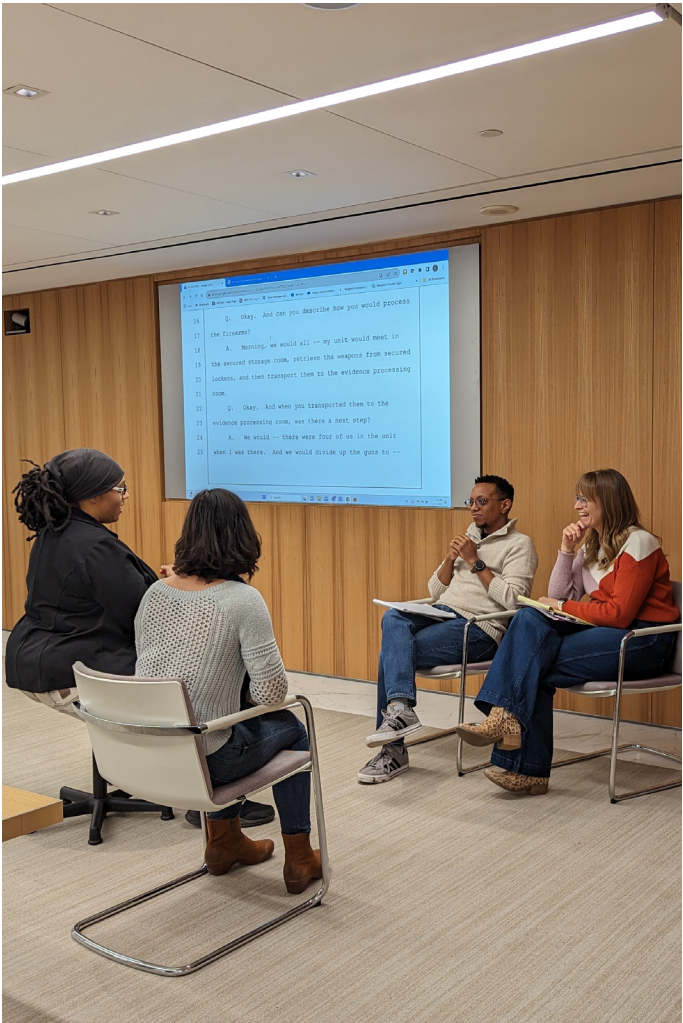
AYUDA advocates for low-income immigrants through direct legal, social, and language services, training, and outreach in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Ayuda offers a full range of integrated immigration and family law assistance, social services, and language access support for low-income immigrants from any country. The WBAF grant will support Ayuda’ efforts in providing culturally-specific legal services for immigrant girls and women who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, as well as abused, abandoned, and neglected children.



DC KINCARE ALLIANCE supports the legal, financial, and related service needs of relative caregivers, the majority of whom are women, who step up to raise children in their extended families in times of crisis when the children’s parents are not able to care for them. DC KinCare Alliance is the only organization in DC focused solely on serving relative caregivers raising DC’s at-risk children. The WBAF grant will support the KinCare Legal Defense Project, which provides legal help to relative caregivers to obtain the rights, benefits, and services needed to ensure a safe and stable home for children whose parents can no longer care for them..



The **DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT** provides free legal and support services to low-income domestic violence victims, at-risk children, and vulnerable immigrants. The WBAF grant will support clinics that serve women and other survivors of domestic and gender-based violence by providing legal assistance and advocacy on victim legal rights in housing, employment, and financial matters.



Ayuda’s Language Access Program hosted a Language of Justice training for interpreters. This specialized course is for professional interpreters working in out-of-court legal settings.



DC KinCare Alliance provides a free legal helpline for the community. Co-founder and Executive Director Marla Spindel (standing) leads a volunteer training session.



DCVLP began operating a new clinic location at Children’s, Shaw Metro location as part of its Medical Legal Partnership. Attorneys provide free legal consultations on domestic violence, family law, and immigration matters at the clinic.



FIRST SHIFT JUSTICE PROJECT empowers low-income pregnant women and parents to safeguard the economic security and health of their families by asserting their workplace rights. By receiving advice and representation, working parents are able to assert their rights before they lose their positions or before their workplace stress becomes untenable, First Shift helps them safely maintain their employment, their health and their family commitments. The WBAF grant will support efforts to empower workers in low wage jobs to exercise their rights related to caregiving and parenting.



MOTHERS OUTREACH NETWORK facilitates the power of Black mothers subject to systems of disempowerment, such as the family regulation and foster system, to upend a socio-economic structure that inadequately addresses their full potential for economic independence. It advances economic security for women and families through social justice education, mutual aid, grassroots mobilization, and legal advocacy, focused on disadvantaged Black women in Washington, DC. The WBAF grant will support efforts to empower Black mothers to achieve economic independence, security, and mobility, and equip them with the skills necessary to navigate DC's complex legal, criminal, and foster care systems.



The **NETWORK FOR VICTIM RECOVERY** of DC's Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) supports appellate litigation to reverse unjust trial court rulings and to protect the legal rights of women and children victimized by family violence. The WBAF grant will support DV LEAP, protecting the legal rights of women and children victimized by family violence.



SAFE SISTERS CIRCLE provides free culturally-specific, trauma-informed, and legal holistic services to Black women survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Rooted in Safe Sisters Circle is the belief that there is value in having an organization established for Black women and where the majority of service providers and leadership within the organization are also Black women. The WBAF grant will support the East of the River Women's Legal Services Project, which provides free legal services to Black women survivors of domestic and sexual violence living in Wards 7 and 8, and provides educational workshops for clients on making safe choices regarding their relationships, consent in sexual situations, and reproductive opportunities/justice.



TZEDEK DC's mission is to safeguard the legal rights and financial health of DC residents with low incomes dealing with the often devastating consequences of abusive debt collection practices and other consumer related issues. The WBAF grant will support the provision of trauma-informed legal assistance for women subject to financial abuse and coerced debt.



First Shift Justice Project Executive Director Laura Brown, with members of the DMV Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance.



NVRDC's Executive Director Bridgette Stumpf gives a Trauma-Informed Lawyering training at University of Baltimore's law school. Trainings are also provided to law firms, government agencies, and medical providers.



Mothers Outreach Network mom participants pose after a community outreach event at a James Creek DC Public Housing Community event.



Tzedek DC's Founding President and Director-Counsel Ariel Levinson-Waldman and Equal Justice Works Fellow Jennifer Holloway participate in a medical debt panel hosted by CFPB Director Rohit Chopra.

FOUNDERS FELLOWSHIP



The WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship was established in 2006 and is awarded annually to one of the six law schools located in Washington, DC. The fellowship is used by the school to support a student who is pursuing a public interest summer internship to advance the legal interests of women and children.

The 2023 WBA Foundation Founders Fellowship, in the amount of \$5,000, was awarded to Georgetown Law, which selected **Emma Ratzman** as the recipient. Ms. Ratzman was a Summer Legal Intern in the Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit of the Legal Aid of the District of Columbia. Fellows are required to provide an essay about their experience. Ms. Ratzman said:

“Although I have worked directly with survivors of domestic violence in the past, it was truly gratifying to be able to do so in a legal setting. I performed legal research, drafted legal memoranda, briefs, pleadings, motions, and letters, and assisted in the discovery process, to name a few of my tasks. One of the most exciting experiences was conducting intakes with applicants for Legal Aid DC’s family law services. I discovered that I truly enjoy interacting directly with survivors and family applicants – hearing their stories brought my work this summer into perspective and reaffirmed my passion for advocating for women and other historically marginalized groups.”

Summer’s full essay is posted on our website.

WBAF CHAMPION



Nancy Long with husband Ken Long

The WBA Foundation Board of Directors created the WBA Foundation Champion Award in 2022. The purpose of the award is to recognize a devoted WBA Foundation champion. The 2024 recipient of the award was **Nancy Long**.

Ms. Long’s unflagging support of the WBA Foundation began when she served as Executive Director of the Women’s Bar Association and the WBA Foundation from 2004-2007. She was a Director on the Foundation Board in the 2013-2014 Bar year and then served as President for two terms, 2014 - 2016. She served as Immediate Past-President on the Board from 2016-2018. She was also President of the Women’s Bar Association from 1996-1997.

During her time as President of the Foundation, she focused on strengthening the relationship between the Association and the Foundation. The strategic vision from these efforts remains today and Ms. Long continues to personally take steps to ensure that the two organizations support each other.

Ms. Long has played a key role in our annual Chef’s Dine-In fundraiser. She has helped coordinate the volunteer chefs for this event, which is hosted by WBAF 2023 Champion Paulette Chapman.

WINE TASTING & SILENT AUCTION



The Foundation’s 21st Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction was held on October 26, 2023. We were thrilled to be back in person this year, hosted by **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**. Our theme was “**Revelry until the Reveal - A Night of Mystery Wines**,” in which attendees sampled mystery wines. The evening culminated in a reveal led by Alison Marriott, owner & founder of Bon Vivant DC. Ms. Marriott is a Dame Chevalier in the Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne.

Attendees were able to bid for dozens of unique and unbeatable auction items, which were on display at the event. The auction was set up online, allowing anyone, anywhere to bid on the items. There was a lot of variety this year, including themed baskets curated by board members, jewelry, sporting event tickets, financial and estate planning services, a designer handbag, fitness packages, and more.

Attendees also were able to hear from this year’s Founders Fellow, **Emma Ratzman**, via video, about her experiences as a summer intern in the Domestic Violence/Family Law Unit at Legal Aid of the District of Columbia.

The program netted over \$50,000 to support the Foundation’s grants program. We thank all of the donors, sponsors, and attendees who contributed to making this event our most successful fundraiser to date.



Attendees enjoyed a variety of wines, including a sparkling option to kick off the evening



Foundation board members Kate Katz & Tracie Bryant



WBA past president Kathy Gunning reviews the auction basket selections



Neha Kanagaria, WBAF vice president Mary Ellen Kleiman, and Natalia Wilson

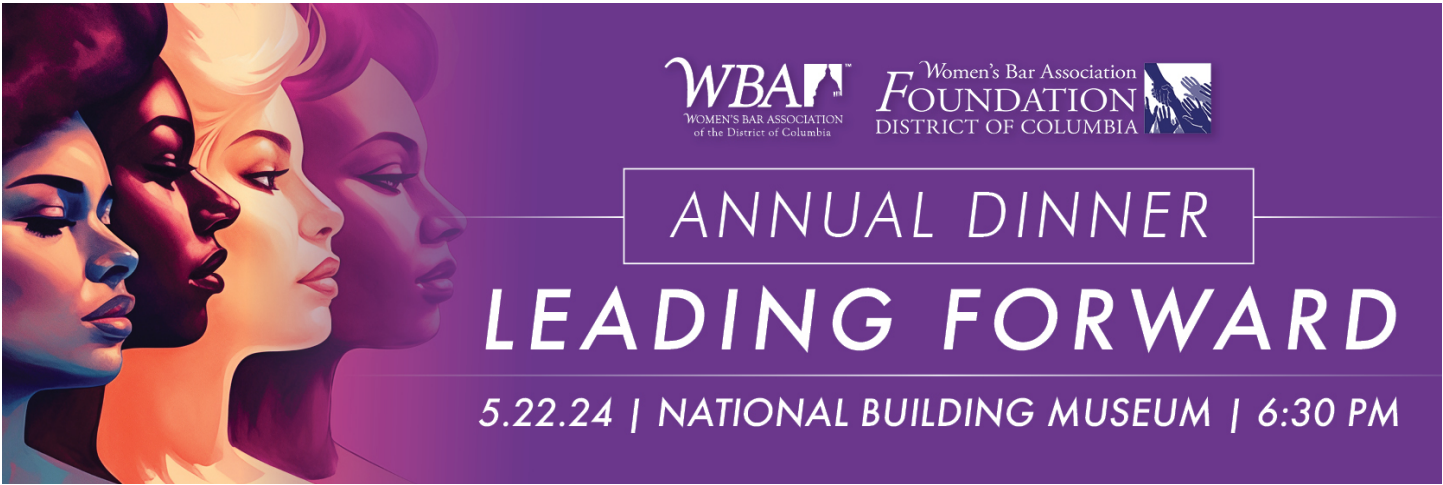


WBA past president Yolanda Hawkins-Bautista, WBA president Kandis Gibson & WBA president-elect Mary Blatch



Foundation board member and auction co-chair Sarah Surwit announced the door prize winners

WBA/WBA FOUNDATION ANNUAL DINNER



Sen. Amy Klobuchar addresses dinner attendees during the reception

Each year, the Foundation and the Women’s Bar Association jointly host their Annual Dinner at a festive gala. The event was held at the National Building Museum on May 22, 2024. Proceeds from the joint event support both the Foundation and the Association.

Keynote remarks were given by **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), the first woman elected to represent the State of Minnesota in the U.S. Senate. The 2024 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award was presented to **Ellen Jakovic**, Of Counsel, Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. Ellen is a past president of both the Association and the Foundation and has a tireless commitment to advancing women lawyers in the profession and to improving access to justice for those who cannot afford legal assistance.

The evening also included remarks from the 2023-2024 WBA President, **Kandis Gibson**, 2023-2024 WBA Foundation President, **Kirsten Wilkerson**, and 2023-2024 WBA President-Elect, **Mary Blatch**. Ms. Gibson recognized Ms. Wilkerson’s two-year tenure as Foundation president.



Kandis Gibson & Kirsten Wilkerson



Foundation board members Dawn Dalton, Rachel Hardwick (immediate past president), Sarah Surwit & Mary Ellen Kleiman (vice president)

ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

The Foundation participated in two online giving campaigns each year: Giving Tuesday and Do More 24. The campaigns are promoted through social media and board member outreach to their personal networks. 2023 Giving Tuesday graphic



Giving Tuesday is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It's a day where people are encouraged to do good and give generously. The November 28, 2023 fundraiser raised over \$4,020, from 26 donors; an increase of more than \$1,000 from the prior year. 2024 Do More 24 graphic



Do More 24 was held on May 15, 2024. Over 500 nonprofit organizations signed up to be a part of this 24-hour online fundraiser coordinated by the United Way of the National Capital Area. The May 2024 fundraiser raised over \$2,572 from 12 donors; an increase of more than \$1,500 from the prior year.

PLANNED GIVING

To effectively pursue the WBA Foundation's mission of meeting the legal needs of women and girls in the DC area, we must ensure the Foundation's long-term financial vitality. Planned gifts can help support the Foundation and its mission in a significant way in the future without affecting current income or savings. Gifts to the Foundation that cost nothing during your lifetime can be made as part of the legacy you leave behind. Options include:

- Name the WBA Foundation as a beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, a retirement or investment account, or a charitable annuity;
- Establish a bequest through your will or trust;
- Establish a charitable trust that supports the WBA Foundation and your loved ones.

The growth of the Foundation's endowment depends primarily on gifts from bequests. An attorney or financial planner can help to identify other ways to support the WBA Foundation and provide tax savings while possibly leaving more assets to heirs.

Sustaining Legacy Circle members are incredibly generous supporters who have named the WBA Foundation in their estate planning and/or have already made a bequest to the Foundation.

SUSTAINING LEGACY CIRCLE (as of May 31, 2024)

- Candace Beck
- Gaffar Chowdhury
- Grace Parke Fremlin
- Rachel & Matt Hardwick
- Mary Ellen Fleck Kleiman
- Bridget Bailey Lipscomb
- Nancy A. Long
- Susan Kovarovics
- Elizabeth Sinnott Medaglia
- Sadina Montani
- Monica G. Parham* (bequest funds received in 2022)
- Suzanne Reifman
- Suzanne Richards* (bequest funds received in 2018)
- Joseph H. Sinnott
- Kirsten L. Wilkerson
- Natalia C. Wilson

*deceased

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

It is through the support of committed donors that the WBA Foundation can carry on its important work. The WBA Foundation extends its gratitude to the following donors for their generosity. (Note: this list represents direct donations from those listed; it does not reflect contributions made via event sponsorship, which are listed on pages X-X.)

\$7,500
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Contributors listed in this list participated between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If we have made an error, please accept our apology. You may call us at 202 639 8880 so that we can correct our records.

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