2019 Annual Report

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc.

Steps on our Journey to Justice

Make your donation at: https://fundforjustice.org/donate/

February 2020

Our 2019 Annual Report is dedicated to a founding *Fund* Director

Norman Lefstein, July 16, 1937 - August 29, 2019 was an inaugural Member of *The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc*. Board of Directors, and a Special Advisor to the National Association for Public Defense Steering Committee. Widely regarded as the architect of the modern indigent defense reform movement, we lost his wise advice upon his death in 2019. He dedicated his life to public defense. He is remembered for that prodigious work. His visionary effort is his enduring legacy. Norm was inducted into the NAPD Fund for Justice Hall of Fame June 3, 2019.

His vision for *The Fund* was: "The nonprofit will fund technical assistance to organizations working to reduce excessive workloads, the preeminent defender problem. The *Fund's* charitable activities will better equip overworked and underpaid public defenders and conflict attorneys with more knowledge through educational scholarships. This education will increase their ability and capacity to provide quality representation to clients."

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PO Box 211, Frankfort KY 40602

Steps in 2019 on our Journey to Justice: helping defenders, defender staff, and public defense programs succeed for clients

The NAPD Fund for Justice Inc. took its first step on July 9, 2018 being birthed by public defense leaders to advance the right to counsel nationally for people who are unable to afford counsel. In 2019, *The Fund* took another step by raising funds and providing financial assistance to defenders, defender staff and public defense programs.

In a short year and a half, *The Fund* provided tuition scholarship assistance for public defense training to 31 defenders and defender staff. *The Fund* also provided financial assistance to three public defense programs through creative advocacy grants.

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc.: good public defense makes a difference for clients

The NAPD Fund for Justice enhances the right to counsel and public defense in the United States so clients receive quality representation.

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc. putting your donations to work in 2020

Nationally, *The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc.* in 2020 will provide financial assistance for

- scholarships for leadership and skills programs
- creative advocacy grants
- technical assistance to local defender programs on issues such as reducing workloads, obtaining education for staff, procuring resources.

Our aspiration is to provide student loan repayment assistance in future years.

2019 Financial Report
January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
Client-centered, strategic use of donations

In 2019, our revenue increased and came from expanded sources, individual donors, CLE programs, and t-shirt sales. Our expenses remain low, costs for our web page, our charitable solicitation registrations in the various jurisdictions, end of year mailings. We had a significant donated assistance by top-notch, value-centered legal and IT professionals that has allowed *The Fund* to provide an increased amount of funding for tuition scholarships and advocacy grants.

Total 2019 Revenue
$ 56,458 from donations from more than 30 people and organizations, t-shirt sales, two CLE programs.

Total 2019 Expenses
$ 9,856 for expenses that included charitable organization registrations in states and D.C., web hosting, web electronic payment capacity, accountant, end of year mailing, and purchase of t-shirts to resell.

Available Funds
$ 30,499 funds available for 2020 expenses and scholarships.

2019 Individual and Program Financial Assistance
Tuition Scholarship Recipients

The Fund received hundreds of requests for help to attend education. In 2019, *The Fund* awarded 31 tuition scholarships to defenders, investigators, sentencing specialists, social workers, leaders:

- 5 scholarships Social Worker/Sentencing Advocate Conference Biloxi, Mississippi, April 2019
- 10 scholarships Team Mitigation Institute Atlanta, Georgia, May 2019
- 5 scholarships Team Mitigation Institute Boise, Idaho, August 2019
- 10 scholarships Social Worker/Investigator Conference Seattle, Washington, September 2019
- 1 to Executive Leadership Institute, Austin Texas, October 2019

Tuition scholarship assistance was provided to:

TMI Atlanta - May 2019	**Office Name**
Teresa "Michelle" Gillespie	Arkansas Public Defender Commission
Wendy G Cunningham-Sanders	Arkansas Public Defender Commission
Sarah Kelley	Arkansas Public Defender Commission
Jessica I Benjamin	Western Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office, GA
Kaitlin Rassett	Western Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office, GA
Brian Watson	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
Cindy Ramirez	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
Neal A. Connors	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
Morgan Faulkner	Richmond Public Defender's Office, VA
Zachary Miller	Richmond Public Defender's Office, VA
Biloxi - April 2019	
Tori Case	2nd Judicial Circuit FL, Public Defenders Office
Malcolm Lloyd	Orleans Public Defenders, LA
Sara A Jones	Orleans Public Defenders, LA
Shamina Jackson	MS Office of Capital Defense
Robin Young	Kanawha County Public Defender Office, WV
Seattle - September 2019	
Deanna Lynn-Steele	Yolo County Public Defender's Office, CA
Melinda Kay Leager	Kootenai County Public Defender, ID
Dede Minter	Orleans Public Defenders, LA
Alyssa Gunderson	Muskegon County Public Defender's Office, MI
Kingsley Rowe	New York Defender Services
Kartisha N Hurley	8th Judicial Circuit Public Defenders Office, SC
Jacob Carlsten	Wisconsin State Public Defender-Hudson
Eileen Pedersen	City of Olympia-Public Defense, WA

Monique Duplessis	Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Timothy A. Ambrose Jr.	Louisiana Center for Children's Rights

TMI Idaho - August 2019

Zaide Noel	Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Timothy A. Ambrose Jr.	Louisiana Center for Children's Rights
Janna Williams	16A & B, 19-D Public Defender's Offices, NC
Dayna Jones	Mescalero Apache Office of the Public Defender, NM
Stephanie Guerra	Mescalero Apache Office of the Public Defender, NM

Matilde Carbia
Capital Post-Conviction Project of LA
New Orleans, LA
Executive Leadership Institute, Austin Texas
"This program is providing me with tangible tools to take back to my office which will help bring us into our future and deal with the past years of budget and staff transitions."

"It's been extremely helpful as a second-year mitigation specialist to come to this event and learn more about mitigation and to see the passion of the speakers and how they have helped their clients and then giving that information back to us."

"I learned how to push myself more and to check my own biases and do the best work that I can for my clients."

"I'm excited to better differentiate my client's story from all the other cases that come across the judge's desk and specifically learn how to turn those what might be seen as an aggravating circumstance into something that can be used to mitigate."

"The most important thing is connecting with other people who are seeing the same type of really, really severe problems that we're seeing and we're trying to address through public defense and getting a sense of hope that people are making our practice better—more about equity, more about justice, more about anti-racism—that makes me feel more hopeful for what we do."

"I'm just so fortunate to be able to attend this conference to learn more about mitigation strategies; ones that we've been trying to implement in our office and our system and other new ones that I think are going to make a big impact to our clients."

"I brought a case with me hoping to learn how I might be able to tell my client's story better and I have learned some new tools that I'll be able to implement in that case but more importantly be able to implement it into other clients stories…and be able to use the resources our office has that I feel like we weren't taking advantage before. "

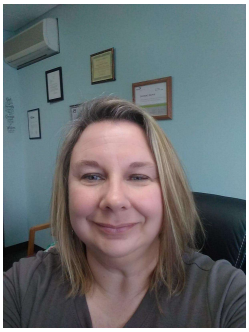
Without this financial assistance, these public professionals would not have been able to receive this education.

Program Recipients

The NAPD Fund for Justice Creative Advocacy Grant was begun in April 2019 to provide support to public defense initiatives to help clients. Grants are made in honor of *The Fund's* Hall of Fame Members, Jeff Adachi and Norman Lefstein. Each of these Public Defense Leaders set a national standard for high quality public defense. *The Fund* received 14 Creative Advocacy requests for financial help. *The Fund* Board found all of the applications for an advocacy grant and scholarship assistance to have merit. The Board was frustrated it could not help all those who applied. In December 2019, *The Fund* provided financial assistance to three Creative Advocacy initiatives:

Keisha Hudson, Montgomery County Pennsylvania Marijuana Pardon Initiative
Thomas K. Maher, Statewide Advocacy Campaign to Achieve Fair and Just Outcome for Clients
Jennifer J France, Michigan Chippewa County Rural Training of Local Attorneys

Thomas K. Maher
Executive Director
North Carolina Indigent
Defense Services
Durham, NC



Jennifer J France
Chief Public Defender
Chippewa County
Sault Ste Marie MI

Keisha Hudson
Deputy Chief Public Defender
Montgomery County
Office of the Public Defender
Norristown PA

The *NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc.* is tax exempt

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a public charity exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code 501(3)(c). Donors can deduct contributions they make under IRC Section 170. *The Fund* is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, 2522.

Donor Honor Roll

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc.

This Roll is published to express our public appreciation to those who provided support to *The Fund* in 2019.

Please contact us at admin@fundforjustice.org with any updates or corrections.

Thurgood Marshall Advocate: $1,000 - $4,999

- Kate Mason, in honor of Howard and Kitty Mason, Charles and Alfretta Mason, Grove and Katherine Moler, Clyde and Mattie Lee.
- Cait Clarke
- The National Association for Public Defense
- Jim Bethke
- Paul DeWolfe
- Stephen Hanlon, in memory of Norman Lefstein
- Suzanne Sherr
- Ed Monahan
- Stephen Hanlon
- Ernie Lewis

Freedom Fighter: $100 - $999

- Nancy Bennett
- Bill Ward
- Michael Stout
- Fred Friedman
- Teri Moore
- Nadine Wettstein
- Elizabeth Miller
- Anthony Benedetti
- Catherine Clarke
- Robert Boruchowitz
- Tina Hunt
- Meredyth Yoon
- Claudia Saari
- Phyllis Subin

Sixth Amendment Litigator: $25 - $99

- Tina Luongo
- Issac Merkle
- Alexander Bunin
- Tim Young, on behalf of the Ohio Public Defender

Outstanding Contributed Services

We exist because of the generous assistance of many people, especially Issac Merkle, Eddie Williams, Morris Miller, our Board of Directors and Officers, and the generosity of those who have made a financial donation.

Issac Merkle	Eddie Williams	Morris Miller
IT Guru Extraordinaire	Partner	Partner
Nashville Public Defender Office	Holland & Knight LLP	Holland & Knight LLP

Issac Merkle designed and built the *NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc*. website and mail services, and provides ongoing maintenance and technical support.

Holland & Knight's **Eddie Williams** and **Morris Miller** provided substantial pro bono legal assistance for corporate formation of *The NAPD Fund for Justice*, Inc., preparation and submission of the application for tax exempt status recognition with the IRS, along with ongoing legal advice to the Board and Officers.

The Fund's Governance
highly experienced professionals and client-centered public defense leaders

The *NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc*. Board of Directors provides passionate, visionary leadership. Each Director has devoted their career to advancing the right to counsel for those accused of a crime.

Jim Bethke
Board Member and Board Secretary
Director, Justice Administration Department in Harris County, Texas, formerly Executive Director Lubbock Private Defender Office, a 501(c) non-profit corporation; Adjunct Professor at the Texas Tech University School of Law. He serves on the following boards: Indigent Defense Research Association, the Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit, and Remember Our Heroes Lubbock. He is a U.S. Army veteran from the 101st Airborne Division and former Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

Cait Clarke
Board Member
Chief of the Defender Services Office in the Administrative Office of US Courts, Washington, DC; formerly staff at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and director of federal programs at Equal Justice Works. Cait was a law professor at Loyola Law School, New Orleans, before earning her doctorate of law (SJD degree) at Harvard Law School. Cait was also the founding director of the National Defender Leadership Institute (NDLI).

Fred T. Friedman
Board Member
Public Defender since 1973. Chief Public Defender Minnesota Sixth District 1986-2014. Associate Professor University of Minnesota, Duluth 1975-present. Chair, NAPD Strike Force Committee.
families to safe, affordable transportation options; and advancing criminal justice reforms that protect the rights of all people while making communities safer.

Stephen F. Hanlon
Board Member
General Counsel, National Association for Public Defense, St. Louis, MO; former partner at Holland and Knight; Past Chairman, The Florida Bar, Public Interest Law Section; Past President, Florida Legal Services; Past Chair of the Executive Council, American Bar Association, Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section; Past Chair, American Bar Association, Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project; Chair, Indigent Defense Advisory Group, Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense, American Bar Association.

Mark Stephens
Board Member
The Law Office of Mark E. Stephens; former District Defender, Knox County Public Defenders Community Law Office, Knoxville, TN; Stephens served as President of the Tennessee District Public Defender's Conference, Chair of the Tennessee Supreme Court's Indigent Defense Commission, and Chairman of the National Association for Public Defense. He served eight years as a member of the Board of Directors for Gideon's Promise.

Ernie Lewis
Board Member, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer
Executive Director, National Association for Public Defense, former Public Advocate, Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, Frankfort, KY; KY Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers president and lobbyist, chair of NLADA American Council of Chief Defenders.

Rodney Ellis
Board member
Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis was born and raised in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood. The proud son of a yardman and a maid, Ellis attended Texas public schools from grade school through law school. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commissioner Rodney Ellis currently represents the diverse communities of Harris County Precinct One in Houston, Texas. He believes the role of government is to guarantee that all people have the opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves and is committed to delivering responsive public services to his constituents while advocating for policies that advance fair opportunity and equal justice for all people. He began his career as a public servant working as Chief of Staff for the late Congressman Mickey Leland and served 3 terms on the Houston City Council before joining the Texas Senate, where he served for more than 25 years before being elected to his current position in 2016. During his tenure in the Texas Senate, he successfully passed more than 630 pieces of legislation championing criminal justice reform, civil rights, education, health care, economic opportunity, fair elections and many other vital issues impacting underserved communities. His top Precinct One priorities include developing inclusive economic growth policies that lift up all communities; increasing access to parks and greenspace in underserved neighborhoods; implementing a mobility plan that connects

Ed Monahan
Executive Director, Treasurer, Board Member
former Public Advocate, Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, Frankfort, KY; KY public defender for 34 years; Director of Catholic Conference of Ky for 4 years; member of a KY legal services board for 9 years and board's fundraising chair, chair of NLADA American Council of Chief Defenders for 2 years.

Donors,

We are grateful for your generosity.

Your financial support helps us take more steps on our Journey to Justice.

As Felix Frankfurter reflected, “Gratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions, especially when it is deep.”

Sincerely,

Jim Bethke, Board Member; Director, Justice Administration Department in Harris County, Texas

Cait Clarke, Board Member, Washington, DC

Rodney Ellis, Board Member, Harris County Commissioner, Former Texas State Senator

Fred T. Friedman, Board Member, Retired Chief Public Defender Minnesota Sixth District and Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Stephen F. Hanlon, Board Member, General Counsel, National Association for Public Defense, St. Louis, MO

Ernie Lewis, Board Member, NAPD Executive Director, Former KY Public Advocate, Frankfort, KY

Edward C. Monahan, Executive Director & Board Member, Former KY Public Advocate, Frankfort, KY

Mark Stephens, Board Member; Law Office of Mark E. Stephens; Former District Defender, Knox County Public Defenders Community Law Office, Knoxville, TN