

WLALA FOUNDATION

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Dear Sir or Madam:

The WLALA Foundation of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications for its Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant program. Fran Kandel was WLALA's Past President (1989-1990) and the recipient of the 1999 WLALA Distinguished Service Award. As a member and president of our organization, Ms. Kandel helped form the public interest grant program and helped select the early recipients of the award. Since 1985, the grant program has awarded over 30 grants to law students totaling over \$120,000.

The Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant (the "Grant") will fund one or two projects to be completed during the summer of 2016. The Foundation will make grants to law students for projects that make governmental and social service agencies more accessible and responsible to individuals or groups whose needs are not adequately met. The maximum amount of the Grant is \$5,000. The Grant may be received in addition to school-based or other summer public interest funding, but may not be used to duplicate a project that would otherwise already be covered by existing funding.



The WLALA Foundation is specifically interested in proposals that will produce some tangible materials or other "product," such as information booklets, brochures, educational curricula, and videos. The WLALA Foundation will not consider proposals for law review articles or other purely academic research projects. Projects must benefit residents of the greater Los Angeles area. Strong preference is given to applicants who have the support of a sponsoring organization, but the Grant is not intended to fund a summer clerkship or externship at an organization. It is advantageous, however, for an applicant to have arranged in advance for an organization or suitable individual to supervise and guide his or her work on a project.

Please help the WLALA Foundation by announcing the Grant program in relevant publications and by making available the enclosed Grant information packet to individuals who may be interested in applying for a grant for the summer of 2016. The application form may be photocopied. Grant applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2016. Questions about the Grant or the application process should be directed to Meehan Rasch (meehan.rasch@jud.ca.gov/(213) 830-7317) or Ruth Pinkel (ruth.pinkel@usdoj.gov/(213) 894-6077).

We appreciate your help in publicizing the WLALA Foundation's Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant.

Very truly yours,

Ruth Pinkel

Meehan Rasch

Co-Chairs

Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant Committee

WLALA FOUNDATION FRAN KANDEL PUBLIC INTEREST GRANT

The WLALA Foundation is a non-profit charitable corporation established by the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (“WLALA”) to increase the utility of the law as an instrument of social justice. The WLALA Foundation awards the Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant (formerly known as the WLALA Foundation Public Action Grant) to law students for projects that make governmental and social institutions and agencies more accessible and responsive to members of society whose interests are not otherwise adequately recognized or asserted. Since its incorporation in 1985, the WLALA Foundation has funded projects with a strong emphasis on public service. Through its activities, the Foundation seeks to achieve three specific goals:

- Provide help to the disadvantaged by funding projects that will directly benefit the under-represented in the greater Los Angeles area;
- Educate and expose law students to legal concerns affecting the disadvantaged in areas outside of traditional legal practices; and
- Encourage the legal community's involvement in public interest law by funding students who show the capability of and commitment to assisting those in need.

Recent representative grant projects have included:

- Preparation of an educational video and presentation for young women informing them of their rights to equal access to sports under Title IX;
- Preparation of a resource guide for parents and presentation regarding special education services available to children with cancer;
- Creation of a pamphlet and presentation to help families resolve student truancy citations and to provide resources regarding truancy-related issues;
- Preparation of a resource guide and presentation regarding California’s Right to Know End-of-Life Options Act and available, legal end-of-life options;
- Creation of a video to guide victims of domestic violence through the process of obtaining a restraining order pro se;
- Compilation of a resource guide for adult children caring for elderly parents in the Los Angeles area;
- Production and distribution of an easy to understand “roadmap” to assist self-represented litigants with their divorce and child custody cases in the Los Angeles Superior Court;
- Production of a “know your rights” handbook for employment discrimination issues faced by gay, lesbian and transgender individuals;

- Creation of an educational coloring book to teach children in the dependency court who lawyers are and why they have one;
- Creation of a flyer informing expecting parents about a 2003 California law permitting parents to surrender babies within three days of birth without any negative legal ramifications to the parents;
- Production of a manual informing parents of children with medically induced learning disabilities of their rights to special educational benefits under California law;
- Creation of a pamphlet entitled: “Straight Talk to Teens in Foster Care About Mental Health Options in Los Angeles County;”
- Development of a resource manual for child victims of sexual abuse;
- Preparation of materials informing AIDS-afflicted workers of their rights in the workplace;
- Production of materials to help homeless families receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits to provide temporary shelter and permanent housing;
- Development of a concise Spanish-language booklet to educate Central American refugee women about their legal rights and available resources;
- Production of “know your rights” brochures in English, Spanish, and Chinese addressing the needs of, and community resources available to, immigrant and refugee battered women; and
- Production of a resource guide for domestic violence survivors.

The WLALA Foundation’s Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant program enables law students to devote time to public interest projects and exposes them to legal and social concerns of disadvantaged citizens that are not ordinarily experienced in traditional law practices. The Grant program is designed not to support a summer public interest job, as worthy as one is, but rather to fund a particular project with a tangible outcome.

All right, title, and interest in and to the final work product developed as a result of the WLALA Foundation’s Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant program will be held by WLALA, subject to limited rights of the law students who develop the work product.

Questions about the WLALA Foundation’s 2016 Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant should be directed to either of the Co-Chairs of WLALA’s Grant Committee:

Ruth Pinkel
Tel.: (213) 894-6077
ruth.pinkel@usdoj.gov

Meehan Rasch
Tel.: (213) 830-7317
meehan.rasch@jud.ca.gov

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Please return to:

Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles
634 S. Spring Street, Suite 617
Los Angeles, CA 90014
info@wlala.org
(213)892-8982

Note: Applications may be submitted by email or mail so long as received before the deadline of March 10, 2016. Grant applications that do not comply with the requirements detailed herein will not be included in the evaluation process. Lack of approval should not be considered a reflection on the project's merit.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone _____

Email address: _____

Law School: _____ Year _____

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Brief Description of Proposal:

Sponsoring Organization or Individual (if any): _____

Supervising or Contact Person (if any): _____

Supervising or Contact Person's Title (if any): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Fax: _____

III. REFERENCES

1. *Academic Reference:* _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

2. *Personal Reference:* _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

3. *Work Reference:* _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

IV. ESSAYS

Devoting no more than 500 words to each, please discuss:

A. Your specific proposal, including: (i) the goals and intended tangible results; (ii) the target population and what need(s) the proposal will meet; (iii) if you will be working under an organization's auspices, information about the organization; (iv) the activities that will accomplish the proposal's objective; (v) what makes your proposal worthy of funding; and (vi) information about similar materials currently available in the greater Los Angeles area and how your proposal's intended tangible results differ. Please also assess the need for and/or the likelihood of the project enduring beyond the summer, and how you might ensure that it does.

B. Your background - personal, educational, and professional - in light of your proposal. Discuss experiences that you believe demonstrate your commitment to the public interest; indicate what you expect to learn from your project and how it ties in with your career goals. Include any other information you believe makes you and your project appropriate for a Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant from the WLALA Foundation.

Please type your essays, single-spaced, on separate sheets of paper. Put your name and the essay letter at the top of each page. We urge you to carefully proofread your essays.

V. BUDGET

Grant funds may be requested for a stipend for you (generally no more than half the total grant request), as well as for costs of your project. Previous grants have been awarded for amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Provide a specific breakdown of the expenses you intend to incur (i.e., printing, telephone, word processing, etc.), with a brief explanation of each cost.

VI. RESUME Please attach a copy of your resume to our application.

VII. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION Please attach two letters of recommendation.

Date: _____ Applicant's Signature: _____