2012
ANNUAL REPORT
FOSTERING LEARN-BY-DOING, ADVANCING ADVOCACY

the impact of Giving
President’s Letter

Dear Friends,

Our donors’ philanthropic spirit was steadfast in 2012, a signal of the loyal following by our growing NITA network and broadening groups of friends. The Foundation Board and each of NITA’s Board and staff thank you.

The NITA Foundation has an important and distinctive role. Accepting donations that serve the mission of the broader NITA organization, the Foundation spotlights ways to put those funds to good and sustainable mission-based use. We proudly serve NITA’s distinguished work in the interest of justice as the preeminent advocacy training resource for attorneys. All of NITA’s programs, publications, and activities reflect the organization’s impeccable track record for 42 years of training attorneys in unrivaled trial skills.

In 2012, sustaining contributions again fortified the ability of public service attorneys to join NITA’s landmark learn-by-doing programs. By providing scholarships based upon need or the nature of the public-service attorney’s practice, the Foundation directly contributes to excellence in advocacy that reaches clients in need – the indigent, disenfranchised, disabled, and children. The NITA Foundation proudly raised $145,015 in 2012, and awarded 161 scholarships.

The widely-recognized NITA learn-by-doing method advances justice by building advocacy skills for lawyers from commercial, government, and -- thanks in part to the Foundation -- public interest sectors. These newly-mastered skills encourage smarter, more efficient, more effective, ethical, just witness examination and argument. With this arsenal of skills, the trained advocate expresses competence, confidence, and impactful communication both in and out of the courtroom. In 2012, at home and abroad, 881 NITA faculty members shepherded advocates through 206 NITA programs teaching 3,701 participants. In many of these programs, scholarship winners worked as some of all the enrolled lawyers. In a number of the 206 programs, the entire program was public service-focused and funded through Foundation funds including generous grants. What is more, across the curriculum, faculty donated teaching time at a value of $3.7 million in 2012.

You can see the numbers throughout our colorful annual report for 2012. Please absorb every page. We wish we could do more. Please interact with us at www.nita.org/Donate. And please join these pages next year by helping us. We look forward to listing your name as a member of the NITA giving community!

On behalf of the NITA Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you for being an advocate of justice.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Lockwood, Esq.
President (beginning December 2012)

John T. Baker, Esq.
President (through December 2012)
By The Numbers

36 ➔ The number of advocates trained in trial skills by NITA to assist victims of domestic violence

161 ➔ The number of NITA Foundation program scholarships awarded in 2012

206 ➔ The number of NITA programs offered in 2012
- 24 Public Service programs
- 60 Public programs (including 4 new online programs)
- 122 Custom programs

3,701 ➔ The number of attorneys who attended 2012 NITA programs

$184,601 ➔ The amount of NITA Foundation scholarships awarded in 2012

$2,608,014 ➔ The amount of NITA Foundation scholarship assistance support since 2003

$3,720,366 ➔ The value of donated in-kind services to NITA in 2012
NITA Mission & History

NITA’s “learn-by-doing” teaching method became synonymous with our mission: To improve access, fairness, and credibility of adversarial justice systems through the training of effective, ethical, and efficient advocates.

NITA History

The National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is comprised of a dedicated team of professors, judges, and practicing lawyers who affirm that skilled and ethical advocacy is a critical component of legal professionalism and all systems of dispute resolution that seek justice.

With the support of the American Bar Association (ABA) task force and other interested groups, three professional organizations funded the creation of NITA in 1971: the Section of Judicial Administration of the ABA; the American College of Trial Lawyers; and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. The core concept for NITA was and remains, “learn-by-doing.” The 13 founding trustees from the three funding sources were: Philip H. Corboy, Jacob D. Fuchsberg, Peter H. Holme, Jr., Thomas S. Jackson, Hon. William J. Jameson, Hon. William B. Jones, Hon. Richard M. Markus, William L. Marbury, Hon. Frank J. Murray, Hon. John T. Reardon, Howard Silver, George A. Spiegelberg, and William B. West IV.

The demand for NITA’s services has grown exponentially over the years. Its proven “learn-by-doing” teaching methodology has fostered lifelong mentoring opportunities among faculty and students. The faculty share in the concept of working together to meet a common good. Students also join the ranks of thousands of NITA alumni by continuing the NITA tradition of giving back to their communities – locally and globally.
About The NITA Foundation

Since its inception in 2003, the NITA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity, has provided public service scholarships for those who represent the disenfranchised and indigent, as well as need based scholarships. In addition, the NITA Foundation funds public service programs in areas such as *(but not limited to)*: child advocacy, domestic violence, death penalty defense, legal services lawyers, and tribal justice; and promotes rule of law programs in developing nations.

Giving back to our global community is a core value of NITA. Each year, NITA’s Publications Department sends thousands of our books and materials to be used worldwide by nonprofit partners such as: Lawyers Without Borders, the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiatives, and Justice Advocacy Africa, to promote justice in emerging democracies with evolving judicial systems. The Foundation builds upon this value through outreach programs and international partnerships in countries such as Kenya, Japan, Northern Ireland, Micronesia, Kosrae, and Macedonia. NITA Publications continues to donate case files and training materials in electronic format around the globe for mock trial and training programs.

$2.6

Since our inception in 2003, the Foundation has provided more than $2.6 million in financial support to scholarship recipients and public service programs.
Our Scholarship Program

Often attorneys engaged in the public interest are working with the most vulnerable of populations – the elderly, disabled, children, and disenfranchised – and with extremely limited resources.

The NITA Foundation awards scholarships to worthy applicants who have demonstrated financial need and/or a commitment to public service. Scholarships are awarded for all Public Trial Skills, Deposition Skills and Teacher Training Programs (excluding Deposition Skills: Online). Criteria to be considered for public service does not require demonstrated financial need, but is based upon the following:

- Advocates who serve indigent or disadvantaged populations including (but not limited to): legal aid, child advocacy, tribal court, criminal law, and domestic violence.
- Public agency lawyers who work in these areas would be eligible automatically.
- Private practice lawyers who work in these areas are eligible if at least 50% of their practice is devoted to providing legal services for clients who are indigent and unable to secure fee-based legal representation. Court-appointed work in these subject areas would be included in the 50% qualification.

When you make a gift to the Foundation’s scholarship program, your act of generosity is magnified by the work of each recipient in his or her community.

Jim Jeans Memorial Fund

Thanks to an anonymous donor, a generous gift began a fund in memory of Jim Jeans who was one of NITA’s pioneers and a well-known lawyer. This fund provides one scholarship each year for a public service attorney to attend the National Session, NITA’s premier training program. This particular honor is bestowed upon a lawyer championing the interests of his or her clients in the name of “justice for all.”

Alston Jennings Memorial Fund

Named after Alston Jennings, an invaluable member of the NITA faculty and former member of NITA’s Board of Trustees, this scholarship opportunity celebrates his work. Mr. Jennings fought tirelessly to improve the skills of attorneys, especially those working on behalf of the underserved and disenfranchised, specifically in the state of Arkansas.

Jim and Beverly Carrigan Scholarship Fund

Thanks to the generosity of donors who support the Jim and Beverly Carrigan Scholarship Fund, established in 2010, this annual scholarship opportunity funds the tuition of a NITA participant to attend the National Session Trial Skills Program. Funds are awarded to a need-based recipient in the Denver or Boulder area, giving strong preference to a lawyer in public service such as a deputy district attorney or public defender.

We proudly awarded 161 scholarships in 2012.

$184,601 The total amount of scholarships awarded in 2012.
Our Public Service Programs

NITA and the NITA Foundation support a variety of public service and specialty programs in the following areas: child advocacy, death penalty defense, tribal advocacy, legal services, domestic violence, and international Rule of Law programs.

Our Domestic Violence Advocacy Skills Program

NITA recognizes the urgent need to combat violence against women. We offer training to lawyers who assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Our program is uniquely designed to assist these advocates, many of whom are working under the most difficult of circumstances in shelters and safe houses, to effectively represent these victims in the legal system.

NITA offered the following public service programs:

- California Association for Parent-Child Advocacy Trial Skills: Los Angeles, California
- Florida Legal Services Basic Trial Skills: Tampa, Florida
- Louisiana Legal Services: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- National Disability Rights Network: Baltimore, Maryland
- Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Family: Hempstead, New York

NITA Programs offered through State Court Improvement Programs included:

- Maryland Child Advocacy Training Institute: Baltimore, Maryland
- Basic Child Advocacy Trial Skills: Albuquerque, New Mexico

The NITA Foundation offered the following public service programs through donor generosity:

- Basic Advocacy Skills Program: Topeka, Kansas
- Florida Legal Services Teacher Training: Tampa, Florida

In 2012, NITA trained 36 advocates assisting victims of domestic violence in a Basic Trial Skills program. This program was funded by a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.
Our International Support

Since NITA’s inception in 1971, we have supported the work of attorneys and activists across the world to promote the pursuit of justice and to provide human rights for all. We have provided “learn-by-doing” training for attorneys, barristers, solicitors, solicitor advocates, magistrates, and judges throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. This support also includes many NITA program faculty who donate their pay or honorarium to the NITA Foundation.

In 2012, NITA and the NITA Foundation supported the “learn-by-doing” training of legal advocates from Kenya. Through our relationships with the U.S. Department of Justice, Lawyers Without Borders, and other legal organizations, the NITA Foundation continues to donate program design and materials for the programs. For these International Rule of Law programs NITA also supports the provision of trained NITA teaching faculty for the programs held in the United States and abroad. NITA faculty members continue to share their time to teach in virtually all of these programs and some donate their own travel expenses.

2012 International NITA Book Donations

**Steve Fury for Advocacy Africa (JAA)**
- Uganda – Modern Trial Advocacy texts
- Kenya – Modern Trial Advocacy texts

**Lawyers Without Borders**
- *Children in the Courtroom: Challenges for Lawyers, 2nd edition*
  - Kenya – Modern Trial Advocacy texts
  - Ghana – Modern Trial Advocacy texts

2012 International NITA Programs and Presentations

**Africa**
- Trial Advocacy Skills: Nairobi, Kenya

**Asia**
- Online Teaching Presentation by Japanese professors: Boulder, Colorado
- Presentation on Jury Trials: Tokyo, Japan
- Direct and Cross Examination Programs, Teacher Training Programs: Japan
- CLE presentation: Japan

**Europe**
- Trial Advocacy Skills: Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Teacher Training: Dublin, Ireland
- Trial Advocacy Skills: Kosrae
- Trial Advocacy Skills: Micronesia
- Teacher Training: Macedonia
“I’m writing again to thank you for the scholarship to the NITA Trials Course. I attended the course in Seattle and it was nothing less than amazing. The faculty was awesome in both their skill and helpfulness. I now feel like I can walk into a courtroom not only with confidence, but also with excitement. I hope that one day soon I can start making donations to the NITA Foundation so others like me can also attend.”

- Jill Gibson Odell, Gibson Law Firm, Portland, Oregon

“I am honored and truly grateful for this award. And I promise to put the training to use advocating for disadvantaged communities and the plants and animals that accompany us in Earth! Hopefully we’ll make you proud!”

- Brent Plater, Wild Equity Institute, San Francisco, California

“Donations to the NITA Foundation support not only attorneys who receive scholarship assistance but also all the clients they serve. Now, we can advocate effectively and confidently for everybody who comes through our doors.”

- Becky, NITA program attendee, Public Service Trial Skills
Our Generous Donors, Fiscal Year 2012
(January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012)

The support of our donors enables us to award scholarship and public service program support for attorneys and organizations committed to strengthening their legal advocacy on behalf of the underserved. This list that follows represents supporters who gave a gift to the NITA Foundation between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Thank you to all our loyal donors.

We have carefully reviewed the names that are listed. However, if you find an inadvertent error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact us at (303) 953-6845 so that we may correct our records.

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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In January 2012, the Denver-based civil litigation firm of Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell (WTO) donated $10,000 through its charitable foundation to the NITA Foundation to support scholarships. NITA is grateful to the firm for its generosity and commitment to advocacy skills training. WTO’s gift to the NITA Foundation is being used to fund the tuition of 10 public service attorneys to attend NITA’s Colorado public programs including: Building Trial Skills-Rocky Mountain; the National Session; and Deposition Skills-Rocky Mountain. In addition, WTO’s donation provides need-based travel accommodations for scholarship recipients.
NITA Advocates Society

The NITA Advocates Society (NAS) includes judges, lawyers, law professors, and all friends of NITA. Members of the NAS make up some of the best advocates in the world, and further our work in the legal community by being integral to the mission of fostering effective and ethical advocacy. NITA Advocates support the work of the Foundation with charitable giving above the basic dues and membership fees, and all members receive benefits such as discounts on publications. In past years, NAS members also sponsored courtrooms, offices, and conference rooms at NITA.

**Lifetime Members**

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** Women of the Board

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**NITA Advocates Society**

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- Mike Ginsberg
- Robin Weaver

**NITA Foundation Staff**
- Karen M. Lockwood, Esq., President
- Whitney Cortner, Development Director
- Megan DeBruyn, Intern
Community Involvement

**iGive.com**
Every day, folks just like you support the causes that they care about most on iGive. Members of iGive join for free and generate donations to their favorite charity, like the NITA Foundation, by shopping at any of the participating 1,195 stores, or by using iGive’s built-in search engine. There is no cost, obligation, or hidden fees. Each time a purchase is made at one of the merchants connected with iGive.com, a percentage of the amount purchased is donated to the NITA Foundation. Money is also raised using www.iSearchiGive.com, a Yahoo!-powered search engine where each qualified search earns a penny (or more!) for the NITA Foundation. For more information visit: www.igive.com.

**Givingfirst.org**
The NITA Foundation is proud to be one of 529 local charities to benefit from Colorado Gives Day. Each year, the Community First Foundation joins with FirstBank in collaboration with the annual Colorado Gives Day. In 2012, the event took place on December 4, 2012 and was themed, “Give Where You Live”. The mentality of the day is to increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The initiative also encourages the community to better educate themselves on the many nonprofits in operation by browsing the profiles available on www.givingfirst.org or visit: http://www.givingfirst.org/NITAFoundation.
Since the NITA Foundation’s inception, $2,608,014 has been spent for scholarships, primarily funded through generous donations of $2,300,488.

Financial Snapshot

We will forward the 2012 IRS Form 990 upon request. If you require further information or audited results, please call Whitney Cortner at (303) 953-6845. Email your request to development@nita.org.

NITA Foundation’s Expense for the year ended December 31, 2012

In 2012, donations helped fund $184,601 in expenditures for Scholarships to NITA programs. In addition, the Foundation supported $4,983 in costs for the NITA International Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programs. This snapshot is derived from audited financial statements as of December 31, 2012. The Foundation will continue its practice to allocate 100% of donations to direct Scholarship and Program costs.
“We have an ethical and moral obligation to do the best work possible and provide the best service possible and you can only do that with support, education, and training.”

Stephanie Smith Ledesma, MA, JD, CWLS, Attorney in Sugar Land, Texas
NITA faculty member (and past NITA program attendee)