

FOR: Illinois Bar Foundation

CONTACT: Maya Flores (312) 920-4688, mflores@illinoisbarfoundation.org

News Release

Two Rockford Nonprofits to Receive Grants from Illinois Bar Foundation

CHICAGO, IL, July 18, 2018 – The Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF), the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association, has approved a grant of \$17,500 to Prairie State Legal Services and \$5,000 to Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIFJON), both based in Rockford.

These grants ~~is~~ are ~~one~~ two of 33 grants totaling \$240,000, which the Foundation will distribute this year to nonprofit legal aid organizations statewide.

Prairie State's mission is to ensure equal access to justice and fair treatment under the law by providing legal advice and representation, advocacy, education, and outreach that serve to protect basic human needs and enforce or uphold rights. The IBF grant will support the cost of Prairie State's Telephone Counseling Service, which provides immediate legal advice and in some cases linkage to the branch offices for more extensive legal representation. This service helps increase access to legal assistance for vulnerable populations throughout Prairie State's 36-county service area in Northern and Central Illinois.

Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors' vision is a world where immigrants, refugees and other asylum-seekers are welcomed, supported and able to live without fear. The funding to NIFJON supports their mission to provide free, high-quality immigration legal services to low-income Illinois families through monthly legal clinics, which now include naturalization services at various locations throughout Northern Illinois.

The mission of the Illinois Bar Foundation is to ensure meaningful access to the justice system, especially for those with limited means, and to assist lawyers who can no longer support themselves due to incapacity. This fiscal year, the Foundation will distribute over \$820,000 in funding to help those without attorneys receive the legal assistance they need, support attorneys and their families who have fallen on hard times, and provide navigational and procedural guidance inside courthouses across the state.

The Illinois Bar Foundation is located at 20 S. Clark St., Suite 910, Chicago, IL 60603. Call (312) 726-6072 or visit www.illinoisbarfoundation.org.

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