

Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Scholarship Relating to Litigation

The ABA Section of Litigation (the Section) announces the establishment of The Litigation Research Fund to support original and practical scholarly work that significantly advances the understanding of civil litigation in the United States. The Section anticipates making individual awards of between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Legal academics as well as social scientists and scholars from other disciplines are invited to apply.

The Section has funded various academic conferences and scholarship relevant to civil litigation such as research on the "vanishing trial" that was published in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, vol. 1, no. 3 (2004). The new Litigation Research Fund builds upon this commitment. The Fund will be administered by a Section task force chaired by Professor Bruce A. Green of Fordham University School of Law, and informed by advice from researchers convened by the American Bar Foundation, a leading research institute for empirical research on law.

The Litigation Research Fund will support research and writing projects in two broad areas: First, scholarship relevant to litigation policy (e.g., on issues important to rule makers, legislators, or courts, or helpful to the organized bar in developing guidelines and formulating positions); and second, scholarship bearing on litigation practice (such as writings addressing trial skills or other aspects of how litigators conduct their work). Funded scholarship may relate to judicial administration; judicial independence; rules and standards relating to litigation (e.g., ethics rules, rules of evidence, and rules of civil procedure); the assistance of counsel; trial and discovery practice; or the jury process, among others.

Preference will be given to works with an empirical foundation, although they need not involve original data collection. Position papers, comparative and historical scholarship, and other original academic work of practical significance to litigation and litigators will also qualify for funding. Works already in progress are eligible. Authors will maintain the copyrights in their works; however, the Section of Litigation will receive the non-exclusive right to distribute, publicize and quote from the completed works in order to make them available, as appropriate, to members of the Section of Litigation, courts, lawmakers and policymakers, and others.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail with the subject line "Litigation Research Fund" to Patsy Engelhard, Executive Director, ABA Section of Litigation, pengelhard@staff.abanet.org, with a copy to Robert Nelson, Director, American Bar Foundation, rnelson@abfn.org.

Applicants should submit a short statement describing the project and how it will be conducted; the form the final product will take (e.g., article or book); when it will be completed; the importance of the project in light of the above criteria; and a project budget. A curriculum vita including a list of the applicant's prior publications should also be submitted. While there is no deadline, and awards will be made on a rolling basis, priority consideration for the first awards will be given to submissions received by January 1, 2008. For additional information, contact: Professor Bruce Green, bgreen@law.fordham.edu.