

South Carolina
BAR FOUNDATION
Lawyers Sustaining Justice

TO: Potential Applicants for IOLTA Grants
FROM: Shannon Willis Scruggs, Executive Director
DATE: January 8, 2010
RE: 2011 IOLTA Grant Cycle

IOLTA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By Order dated October 10, 1985, the Supreme Court of South Carolina adopted the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts program (IOLTA). This program permits lawyers and law firms to deposit nominal or short-term client funds in interest-bearing checking accounts. The interest generated by IOLTA accounts is forwarded by participating financial institutions directly to the South Carolina Bar Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization. In 1987, the Board of Directors of the Foundation began making grants from the IOLTA fund.

IOLTA grants may be awarded for three purposes:

- (1) to provide **civil legal services** to indigents in South Carolina;
- (2) to offer **law related education** to the public in South Carolina and
- (3) to improve the **administration of justice** in South Carolina.

Since the inception of the IOLTA program, more than \$41 million in grant funding has been provided to promote access to justice throughout South Carolina. For the period July 2009 through June 2010, the Bar Foundation awarded \$2.6 million in IOLTA and opt-out funding for a variety of law related projects to the following organizations:

Administration of Justice: Children's Law Center, Law In Action, the National Judicial College, Richland County CASA, the SC Access to Justice Commission, the SC Bar *Pro Bono* Ask-A-Lawyer Program, the SC Center for Fathers and Families and the Upstate Community Mediation Center

Civil Legal Aid: Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA), Crisis Ministries, LowCountry Legal Aid, SC Applesseed Legal Justice Center, the SC Bar *Pro Bono* Program, SC Legal Services and Sistercare

Law Related Education: SC Bar Law Related Education Division, SC YMCA Youth in Government and USC *Pro Bono* Program

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- ❖ The documents in addition to this memo that you should review are:
 - IOLTA Grant Policies (PDF)
 - Conditions and Agreement (PDF)
 - Application (Word or PDF)
 - Financial Forms (Excel documents with **three** tabs)
 - Financial Instructions
- ❖ Please submit one original application in a three-ring notebook. This copy should include an original signature of a person who has authority to bind the organization to the proposed obligations established by the Foundation.

- ❖ Submit one complete copy of the application (three-hole punched; this should not be in a three-ring notebook or stapled)
- ❖ Submit eight copies of the narrative and financial documents (three-hole punched; NOT in notebooks or stapled).
- ❖ One electronic copy of the complete application including attachments. You may submit this via a CD or e-mail to jenny.brown@scbar.org.
- ❖ For all submissions, please use 8 ½ by 11 paper, a 12-point font and no less than a one-inch margin.

Regular Postal Service

The South Carolina Bar Foundation, Inc.
 IOLTA Grant Application
 PO Box 608
 Columbia, SC 29202-0608

Mail Delivery/Overnight Mail/Courier

The South Carolina Bar Foundation, Inc.
 IOLTA Grant Application
 950 Taylor Street; First Floor
 Columbia, SC 29201

Applications must be received in the Foundation office by 3:00 p.m., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010. Late applications will not be considered.

Shortly after the application submission deadline, the Foundation begins the process of evaluating all requests for funds. Applicants and organizations must refrain from lobbying individual members of the Board of Directors or Foundation staff during the evaluation process. You will be contacted by the Foundation if there are questions regarding your application. All applicants will be notified of the Board’s decision by e-mail prior to June 1, 2010 and funding will begin July 1, 2010. **Though Rule 412 has been amended by the Court to include interest rate comparability, increased revenues are not expected until 30 days after the June 15, 2010 effective date. As such, funding for the 2011 cycle remains limited. Applicants should expect that less funding will be awarded in FY 2011 than FY 2010.**

Thank you for your interest in the IOLTA program. Please contact Shannon Scruggs or Jenny Brown if you have any questions.

Shannon Willis Scruggs
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 shannon.scruggs@scbar.org

Jenny Brown
 Program Associate
 jenny.brown@scbar.org

Phone: 803-765-0517 (Columbia)
 877-SC-IOLTA (toll free)

IOLTA Application Checklist

Please return these items:

- *Conditions & Agreement – SIGNED
- *Application with all required attachments
- *Financial forms