

MBA NEWS



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WORCESTER PORTION OF THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT'S JUDICIAL YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM WILL EXPAND GROWTH MADE POSSIBLE BY A MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION FELLOWS GRANT OF MORE THAN \$50,000

BOSTON, Mass. — A fellows grant of \$53,319 from the Massachusetts Bar Foundation has made it possible to double to 20 the number of high school students who can participate in the Worcester portion of the Supreme Judicial Court's Judicial Youth Corps Program this summer. The program in Worcester will also be expanded from seven to 14 weeks.

MBA Executive Director Marilyn J. Wellington explained that the MBA is delighted that the grant will help to expand the Judicial Youth Corps program and provide us an opportunity to serve more students in Worcester. "The program's greatest benefit to young people is in the in-depth understanding of the justice system and how it impacts their lives and their communities that is gained by students participating in the program," she said. "This invaluable program both educates students and provides them with meaningful summer jobs."

A \$21,750 Fellows Grant from the MBF, the philanthropic partner of the Massachusetts Bar Association, last year returned the Judicial Youth Corps Program to Worcester after a long hiatus. Last year's program accepted 10 students and was conducted on an abbreviated seven-week schedule.

"The Foundation is so proud to play a role in supporting this innovative program. It provides the rare opportunity to expose these students to the law and to public interest work, and at the same time it helps them recognize their own professional potential," Massachusetts Bar Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth M. Lynch said. "It is truly a win-win for all those involved."

Designed for urban high school students, the Judicial Youth Corps program was established by the Supreme Judicial Court's Public Information Office in 1991. The program teaches young people about the judicial branch of government and fundamental principles of law. The four-month program consists of two educational components: a seven-week orientation to the court system and a seven-week courthouse internship session in July and August.

When the Judicial Youth Corps program originally began, high school students in Boston, Worcester and Springfield were eligible. In recent years, the program has been limited to Boston students due to financial constraints. The Boston Private Industry Council has funded the Boston portion of the program in recent years.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation is the Commonwealth's premiere legal charity. Founded in 1964, the MBF is the philanthropic partner of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Through its grantmaking and charitable activities, the MBF works to increase access to justice for all Massachusetts citizens.