

**THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BAR FOUNDATIONS  
AWARD FOR BAR FOUNDATION EXCELLENCE  
IN PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMMING**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**DEADLINE: Thursday, April 30, 2010**

Name of Nominee: **The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Foundation**

Nominee's Address: **1615 S. Ingram Mill Road, Building D**

City, State, Zip: **Springfield, MO 65804**

Phone, Fax: **(417) 831-2783 phone, (417) 831-2842**

Executive Director or Senior Staff Person: **Crista Hogan, Executive Director**

Chair or President of Foundation: **Wallace Squibb, President**

1. What is the name of the program?

***Love Them, Don't Leave Them Wondering***

2. Please describe the program in one to two paragraphs.

The project *Love Them, Don't Leave Them Wondering*, was designed to assist individuals in understanding and completing medical directives, so that in the event of a medical emergency, their loved ones and care providers would not be left wondering about the patient's wishes. The project concept is unique in that it seeks not only to provide forms and information on health care decisions, but to go further and give step by step, in person, instructions on completing the forms, and provide notaries and witnesses to assist in executing the documents. The foundation's role was to develop the presentation, conduct volunteer attorney training, and produce clinics at libraries, churches, civic organizations and businesses throughout Southwest Missouri. The first clinic drew a standing room only crowd of 240 people at Springfield's Library Center.

The project's goal to facilitate the completion of 1000 health care directives in 13 months was reached in only four months. It is difficult to quantify the real impact, which is measured when loved ones, faced with difficult and heart-wrenching health care decisions, have had direction, and not been left wondering, about the wishes of the patient.

3. What is your relationship to the organization? How are you aware of the program?

I am executive director of the bar foundation and facilitated the design and implementation of this program.

4. To your knowledge, has this program received other awards or recognition?

\_\_\_ Yes  No If yes, please explain.

5. Below, please explain how it meets the criteria and why the foundation should be selected for this award. Please include in your description:

- The needs perceived and fulfilled by the program

**This project was designed to encourage people to consider their health care preferences and to complete advance directives so that their loved ones would not be left wondering what those wishes are in a health care emergency.**

- The creative and innovative aspects of the program

**Resources are readily available throughout the community and online for the purpose of drafting health care directives. However, the foundation's project sought to go one step further and actually provide materials, legal assistance and support to make it as simple as possible to understand, draft and complete the forms.**

- The results and outcomes of the program (quantitative and qualitative)

**The project goal was to facilitate the completion of one thousand directives in fourteen months. That goal was met and passed only three months into the project.**

**The first public clinic drew an audience of 240, a standing room only crowd. That clinic included a twenty minute presentation, a question and answer period and an opportunity to sign and complete the directives on the spot. There were also several volunteer attorneys on hand to answer questions after the presentation as more than two hundred people completed their directives. Upon completion, participants formed lines to the adjoining room where members of the paralegal association were stationed to witness and notarize the documents. The local NBC affiliate helped promote the event with a simultaneous healthcare directive Call A Lawyer in the studio and live remote at the Library Center.**

**Following the initial public clinic, SMBA members conducted twenty-five presentations of *Love Them, Don't Leave Them Wondering* at businesses, churches and civic organizations in the Springfield region. At last count (and we stopped counting in September 2005) a total of 1,411 health care directives had been completed through *Love Them, Don't Leave Them Wondering*. The program is revived every year on National Health Care Decisions Day when volunteer attorneys assist in completing advance directives at local libraries.**

- The various efficiencies that were realized, both from the foundation side as well as from the project/grant perspective

**Despite its significant impact, Love Them, Don't Leave Them Wondering has been extremely efficient and economical project. The total funds expended on the project only amounts to \$378, the cost of some brochures and signs. Despite the minuscule**

**budget, this project has arguably returned a value of nearly a quarter of a million dollars to the community (number of health care directives completed with an attorney's supervision: 1,500 x \$150 = \$225,000.) If you look at it another way, health care directives have been provided to members of our community at an out of pocket expense of less than 20 cents a piece.**

- An explanation of how the program or granting award outcome can be duplicated by other bar foundations around the country (In particular, please respond to the issues noted under the fourth award criteria. The potential for continuity and duplication of the proposed program

**This project is easy to administer, and can be duplicated by a bar of 50 or 5,000 members. It is very helpful to collaborate with key agencies such as the bar association, the legal support professionals association, the Chamber of Commerce, local media, the local libraries and Rotary clubs.**

**Volunteers needed: Planning committee members, Attorney-presenters, attorneys to assist in completing the forms, non-attorneys to witness, notarize.**

**Timing: National Health Care Decisions Day, April 16, is a convenient time to promote and implement a similar program.**

- Any other outstanding qualifications that would distinguish this candidate from others

**The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association has fewer than 900 members and the Springfield Metropolitan Bar Foundation is only five years old. This was the first project of the SMBF and it greatly exceeded expectations. It would be extremely easy to emulate by bar associations of any size.**

NOMINATED BY:

Name: Crista Hogan, Executive Director

Affiliation and Title: Springfield Metropolitan Bar Foundation, Executive Director

Address: 1615 S. Ingram Mill Road, Building D

City, State, Zip: Springfield, MO 65804

Phone, Fax: (417) 831-2783 phone, (417) 831-2842

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form to:**

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