

FOOD FROM THE BAR

The Legal Community Fights Hunger Across the Nation

April 19 – May 14, 2010

FOOD FROM THE BAR



The National Conference of Women's Bar Associations encourages your community to participate in the annual *Food from the Bar* campaign to fight hunger among children in our communities. The *Food from the Bar* program is modeled after a program that has proven successful in San Francisco to replenish food bank supplies to meet the increased need for food during the summer months. *Food from the Bar* features a month-long effort in the spring among law firms and legal offices in which participants can contribute money, donate food, and/or volunteer time sorting and packing food at the local food banks in their communities.



Many children in our communities face hunger when summer vacation begins

When schools close for the summer, thousands of children are not able to access school breakfast and lunch programs, a critical source of nutrition. With the economic recession, more local families are faced with the choice of paying the rent or buying food for their children.

Local food banks distribute food for those who need it most in our communities through a network of dozens or hundreds of charitable agency sites (soup kitchens, food pantries, community groups). Food banks rely on the support of foundations, individual and corporate donors and volunteers. For every \$1 donated, food banks typically can distribute food for 4 or 5 meals.

Your community desperately needs a program like *Food From The Bar*. Demand for food from food banks and pantries was up 41% in 2008 and continues to grow as the economic crisis deepens. Now, too many in our communities regularly face challenges meeting their family's basic food needs, and the demand for food assistance threatens to outstrip the food banks' supplies.

How You Can Help

Initiate a *Food from the Bar* campaign in your community. It's easy:

1. Find your local food bank by entering your zip code on this site <http://feedingamerica.org/>. The results will give you not only the identity of your regional food bank, but also the e-mail and telephone contact info of the executive director or marketing person.
2. Call up the food bank and tell them that the local legal community would like to have a *Food from the Bar* campaign to run from April 19 to May 14, which will consist of three elements: collection of food, monetary donations, and volunteer hours. The local food bank will provide the infrastructure (e.g., food collection bins, marketing materials, administrative support).
3. Publicize and get buy-in and support from your local legal community. Get "champions" or "liaisons" in firms and other legal organizations (e.g., gov't offices, judges, prosecutors, legal dep'ts of companies, other bar leaders) to lead the FFTB effort. Set goals, issue challenges, have a kick-off event, and/or give awards.

Please spread the word about the *Food from the Bar* program to your colleagues, fellow attorneys, family and friends. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the program, contact Kathleen M. McDowell, kathleen.mcdowell@mto.com, 213-683-9134. For more information and specifics about the *Food from the Bar* program in Los Angeles, please visit https://www.lafoodbank.org/ssl/food_from_the_bar.htm.