

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Aryeh Neier  
**Cc:** Diana Morris  
**From:** Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy Fund  
**Date:** February 23, 2012  
**Re:** Democracy Fund, March 1, 2012 Docket Meeting

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We look forward to discussing with you the first Democracy Fund docket of 2012 on Thursday, March 1. The grant recommendations and a docket sheet are attached here.

As you know, the Democracy Fund expands on U.S. Programs' long-time support of efforts that inspire idea generation, voter participation, and the engagement of people of color, immigrants, young people, and low-income people in open society advocacy. Via grantmaking, thought partnerships with grantees, and strategic engagement in campaigns and funder collaboratives, the Fund invests in advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels to expand and defend open society.

We are pleased to introduce you to Nora Ranney, a new program officer with the Democracy Fund. Nora joins USP following 20 years of advocacy experience, including work at the ACLU's national office and at Progressive States Network, a grantee that seeks to fill a similar role for liberal interests that the American Legislative Exchange Council does for conservatives. Nora has also worked on economic and social policy advocacy in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Washington State.

In this docket, we bring 11 recommendations to you totaling \$3.05 million. Among the recommendations are four renewals, four new organizations, and one for a prior grantee. One is a co-funding recommendation with the Transparency Fund. Nine of the recommendations are to support non-partisan voter participation – including registration, education, protection, and mobilization – within Asian American, Black, Latino, and youth constituencies. Two recommendations are for projects for which Democracy Fund staff have collaborated closely with leading practitioners and funding peers in the conception and design. These recommendations include:

### **Idea Generation**

#### **Tax Revenue Project**

*\$500,000/ 11 months*

To support a new campaign to spotlight the need for idea generation and public engagement in raising new revenue at the federal and state levels. This campaign, led by several grantee partners, including the Center for American Progress and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, seeks to seize on the opportunities presented by the disconnect between policy inaction and rising public sentiment for raising taxes on the wealthy and closing corporate loopholes. The campaign will focus on research, strategic communications, and field-based public education. An OSF grant would match a grant from the Baumann Foundation and help to leverage support from other funders.

**Jewish Funds for Justice**

*\$250,000/ 1 year*

To support a project, co-initiated by the Democracy Fund, to identify best practices for the open society engagement of the white working class, estimated to be 23% of the nation's population and a frequent right-wing target. The Fund has partnered with Jewish Funds for Justice and the Nathan Cummings Foundation to build a project to research the roots of ongoing white working class conservatism and identify ways to better understand this sizable constituency at a time of rising economic inequality, shifting demography, and the decline of the labor movement. Since July, 2011, the project has: (1) built a 60 person learning community of academic, faith-based, labor, public opinion research, and rural leaders; (2) conducted 50 in-depth interviews with leading thinkers and practitioners to discuss the nature of this challenge; (3) hosted four invite-only convenings to discuss the white working class as it relates to the role of government and shifting American demography; and (4) identified pilot projects that will use field-based and scientific research to more effectively engage the white working class in open society advocacy.

**Voter Participation****League of Young Voters Education Fund**

*\$350,000/ 1 year*

To support the League of Young Voters Education Fund, a national network that builds the political power of Black, Latino, and low-income young people through year-round civic engagement. The League conducts programs that include outreach, leadership development, trainings, arts-based organizing, alliance building, and voter protection and engagement, with the goal of building the power and leadership skills of low-income youth and youth of color. The League fills an important niche as one of the only national voter engagement organizations that focuses on young people of color who are not in college.

**Mi Familia Vota Education Fund**

*\$200,000/ 1 year*

To support Mi Familia Vota, a leading national non-partisan voter engagement organization working to build power within Latino, immigrant, and allied communities, and to achieve social and economic justice through increased civic engagement. Mi Familia Vota works nationally, is one of five anchor groups of the new Latino Civic Engagement Table, and has regional offices in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Texas. Initially launched by the Service Employees International Union, Mi Familia Vota expands the electorate through non-partisan voter registration, census education, get out the vote work, issue organizing in key states, and increasing public support for the full civic participation of new Americans.

**National Asian American and Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Table**

*\$100,000/ 1 year*

To support the new Asian Pacific Islander American Civic Engagement Table to enable greater communication and strategic coordination between 501(c)(3) APIA community-based groups. The table includes leading national organizations that work in the East, South, and Southeast Asian communities, as well as local partner organizations, and will prioritize non-partisan voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization in APIA communities across the nation.

The 2010 U.S. Census revealed that the APIA community was the fastest growing major racial group in the nation, with a 43% increase from 2000 to 2010 and a population now approaching 15 million.

### **NAACP**

*\$300,000/ 1 year*

To support the NAACP's national, non-partisan civic engagement campaign. In recent years, the NAACP has typically conducted its voter participation work via its 501(c)(4) and through volunteers, including many activists who have done voting related work for decades. In 2012, reflecting the modernization of its leadership and professional staff, the NAACP seeks to complement its historically powerful volunteer base with a large scale, strategic, and professionally staffed c3 program. The program will be the largest in the nation to focus on the voter engagement and voter protection of Black and African American communities, with the NAACP projecting to register more than 600,000 new voters and conduct voter education and mobilization work to hundreds of thousands of new and infrequent voters in 12 states.

### **National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund**

*\$400,000/1 year*

To support the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO), a network of over 6,000 Latina/o elected and appointed officials. NALEO facilitates full Latina/o participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service, through integrated strategies that include increasing the effectiveness of Latina/o policymakers, mobilizing the Latina/o community to engage in civic life, and promoting policies that advance Latina/o voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization.

### **Rock the Vote**

*\$400,000/ 1 year*

To support Rock the Vote, a non-partisan voter participation organization that uses music, popular culture, and new technologies to mobilize young people to participate in elections. Since its founding, Rock the Vote has registered more than five million young people to vote and, through its online voter registration tools, is the largest voter registration platform in the nation. OSF funding would support two projects, including Democracy Class, a new project that will work in 3,000 high schools nationwide to introduce students to civic engagement via interactive, academically sound, and culturally savvy civics lessons that connect history to the present day and inspire eligible students to register to vote. OSF funding would also support Rock the Vote's work with the student Public Interest Research Groups to protect the youth vote through engagement in voting rights education, Election Day problem solving, and modernization of election systems.

### **Voto Latino**

*\$300,000 / 1 year*

To support Voto Latino's work to inform and motivate Latino youth to engage in civic participation, including voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization. Every month, 50,000 Latinos in the U.S. turn 18 and most are eligible to register to vote. Despite the size, rapid growth, and potential power that could come from this constituency, many traditional non-partisan voter engagement efforts do not understand and do not reach this fast-growing

population. Voto Latino, known for having launched the nation's first-ever national text message voter registration campaign, is at the cutting edge of engaging young Latinos by employing innovative new technologies, popular culture, celebrities, and the arts in voter engagement and issue advocacy campaigns.

### **Voter Participation Center**

*\$200,000/ 1 year*

To support the Voter Participation Center, a non-partisan voter registration organization that registers large numbers of new, lapsed, or recently moved voters at a low cost and a high rate of accuracy. The Voter Participation Center, formerly known as Women's Voices, Women Vote, and a Democracy Fund grantee in 2008, spotlights the importance of voter registration and engagement of what it has labeled the "Rising American Electorate," the emerging, potentially progressive U.S. majority that is comprised of people of color, unmarried women, and young people. The Rising American Electorate already comprises a majority of the nation's population, at 53%, but it lags as a share of those who vote, typically in the mid to high-40s as a percentage of overall voter turnout. The Voter Participation Center utilizes scientific and demographic research, data analysis, and engagement to reach the often highly mobile "RAE" population and the Center projects to register one million new or recently moved voters in 2012.

### **Wellstone Action Fund**

*\$100,000/ 1 year*

To support Wellstone Action Fund, a national center for training and leadership development for progressive community-based organizations. Wellstone Action trains thousands of community activists each year so that they may be better equipped to organize advocacy campaigns, become community leaders, or run for public office. OSF funding for Wellstone Action would support technical assistance provision for hundreds of organizations that are part of State Voices civic engagement tables across the nation, enabling them to be better able to maximize their non-partisan voter engagement impact.

Recommendations follow this memo. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let me know if there is further information that we may provide in advance of the docket meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**CC:** Diana Morris  
**FROM:** Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy Fund  
**DATE:** March 27, 2012  
**RE:** Democracy Fund, April 6, 2012 Docket

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We look forward to discussing with you the next Democracy Fund docket on Friday, April 6. The grant recommendations and a docket sheet are attached here.

As you know, the Democracy Fund expands on U.S. Programs' long-time support of efforts that inspire idea generation, voter participation, and the engagement of people of color, immigrants, young people, and low-income people in open society advocacy. Via grantmaking, thought partnerships with grantees, and strategic engagement in campaigns and funder collaboratives, the Fund invests in advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels to expand and defend open society.

In this docket, we bring 14 recommendations to you totaling \$5.7 million. Among the recommendations are eleven renewals and three new efforts. One is for a U.S. Programs anchor grantee, the Center for Community Change, and another, for Color of Change, is a co-funding recommendation with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. The latter will include work around Black male media representation.

Also in this docket, we make nonpartisan voter engagement recommendations, including five efforts that seek to expand participation from and protection of Asian American, Latino, and youth constituencies. The three new recommendations include: (1) a promising emerging advocacy campaign, called the "New Bottom Line," on financial reform, specifically to advocate for people of color and low- and moderate-income homeowners who are "underwater" with their mortgages in seeking redress; (2) a new project that seeks, similar to MoveOn or Color of Change, to build the online advocacy strength of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community nationwide, the nation's fastest growing racial or ethnic group according to the 2010 census; and (3) a rural advocacy organization that we believe will be an excellent thought partner to us in dissecting the challenges of reaching rural and white working class people in open society advocacy.

Our recommendations include:

### **USP Anchor Grantee**

#### **Center for Community Change**

*\$1,400,000/ 18 months*

To support the Center for Community Change, a U.S. Programs anchor grantee and well established resource center for grassroots social change organizations across the nation that advance economic equity, housing justice, and immigrants' rights idea generation and advocacy campaigns. The Center for Community Change, established in 1968 as a tribute to the legacy of

Robert F. Kennedy, has partnerships with hundreds of local and state-based organizations across the nation, with a particular emphasis on building the capacity of, and impact from, low-income, people of color, and immigrant communities. CCC facilitates large scale organizing, coalition building, voter participation, capacity building, and policy change work from its Washington, D.C. national office and through field offices across the country.

### **Idea Generation**

#### **American Rights at Work Education Fund**

*\$150,000/ 1 year*

To support the American Rights at Work Education Fund, a national organization that advocates for equality in the workplace through coalition-building, research, public relations, policy analysis, and organizing. American Rights at Work investigates and exposes workplace discrimination and the inadequacy of U.S. labor law; stimulates debate about the state of workplace equality among journalists, policymakers, advocacy groups, and the public; researches policies that can lead to enhanced levels of unionization in the U.S.; and highlights public policy that protects workers from hostile employers and weak laws. As workers' rights have come increasingly under attack across the nation, American Rights at Work has pivoted its campaign assets and infrastructure in support of efforts to fight back in state defensive battles.

#### **Economic Policy Institute, Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy**

*\$250,000/ 1 year*

To support the Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy within longtime USP grantee, the Economic Policy Institute. The Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy provides research and advances policies that ensure racial and ethnic minorities participate have the opportunity to fully and benefit equally as workers in the U.S. economy. The program has placed a special emphasis on documenting racial disparities in employment, drawing attention to the intersection of structural inequality and our economic system. The Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy is a reliable media resource on race and the economy that provides in depth reports and analysis on the economic crisis within communities of color.

#### **The New Bottom Line Campaign (Fiscal Sponsor: Alliance for a Just Society)**

*\$150,000/ 1 year*

To support the launch of The New Bottom Line Campaign, a nationally coordinated initiative that seeks federal investigation and renewed regulation of the financial industry. The campaign has an emphasis on bank accountability and bringing to justice those institutions responsible for the financial collapse. The New Bottom Line Campaign has won recent victories, including pushing for the formation of the federal Financial Fraud Task Force to investigate big bank fraud, an effort co-chaired by New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who is working closely with the campaign's leadership. The New Bottom Line is organized by a coalition of community, faith-based and labor organizing groups, including several Democracy Fund and Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative grantee partners.

#### **Young Elected Officials Network/Young People For**

*\$700,000/ 18 months*

To support People for the American Way Foundation's youth leadership programs, including the Young Elected Officials Network and Young People For, two projects that work together to develop young leaders to be effective social justice advocates. Young People For, a youth leadership development program, provides training and opportunities for youth to engage in advocacy training, public speaking, and strategic campaign development. The Young Elected Officials Network is the only organization of its kind, with 535 dynamic progressive elected leaders in its membership. All are 35 years of age or younger and serve as elected leaders in school boards, city councils, and state legislatures in all 50 states. The young leaders receive skills trainings to enable them to be more effective and accountable representatives for their constituents, establish issue advocacy partnerships with progressive groups and advocates, and develop model progressive policies on criminal justice reform, economic equity, educational access, housing justice, immigrants' rights, LGBT equality, and money in politics issues.

### **Non-partisan Voter Engagement**

#### **Asian Pacific Islander Project, at Citizen Engagement Laboratory**

*\$150,000/ 1 year*

To support a new project, housed at Citizen Engagement Laboratory, an OSF grantee, that is designed to stimulate long-term civic engagement in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, the nation's fastest growing racial and ethnic minority group. The project will launch an online hub, similar to Color of Change for the Black community or Presenté for the Latino community, that will serve pan-Asian communities nationally in facilitating non-partisan voter participation and protection, as well as issue advocacy engagement. This effort will work in close connection with local, on the ground advocates and organizations to identify thousands of new members, activists, and potential donors to translate the online advocacy work of this project into on-the-ground engagement.

#### **National Council of La Raza, Democracia-USA**

*\$500,000/ 1 year*

To support the National Council of La Raza's civic engagement program, including the ongoing integration of the Democracia-USA project. The National Council of La Raza is a leader in the civic engagement of Latino communities and conducts non-partisan voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization work, at large scale, across the nation. It also conducts leadership academies to train and educate local leaders to promote sustained civic engagement to keep Latinos engaged on issues and the political process beyond elections. Democracia-USA has registered and inspired the voter turnout of more than 100,000 new voters in each of the last two election cycles, in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Previously a fiscally sponsored project of the National Council of La Raza, Democracia-USA has now been integrated into NCLR's broader civic engagement work. This integration unites two models – NCLR's 300 largely direct service-based community affiliates and Democracia's field-based approach to engaging voters – and offers great potential to reach large scale impact while reaching deeper into communities across the nation.

#### **Service Providers and Civic Engagement Project**

*\$100,000/ 1 year*

To support the Service Providers and Civic Engagement Project, an innovative pilot project to conduct state-based experiments and develop best practices for voter engagement among direct service providers and their clients. The project will work in six geographically and demographically diverse states to build service provider voter participation tables and enhance the capacity of providers to reach their community clients with voter education materials and non-partisan voter mobilization. If successful, via its partnership with another Democracy Fund grantee, Nonprofit Vote, this project will awaken the civic engagement “sleeping giant” of direct service organizations. Such service providers reach millions of Americans from diverse backgrounds each year, including large numbers of low-income people, people of color, and immigrants, and often have a more direct and close connection with their clients than do typical advocacy or voter groups.

### **Working America Education Fund**

*\$400,000/ 1 year*

To support the Working America Education Fund, a national civic engagement network with more than three million online, non-dues paying members in 22 states who take strategic action on economic issues, including tax policy, jobs and wages, and public investment. Working America has developed a particularly effective model for reaching working class white people, who are typically more conservative in their worldviews, with messages and advocacy priorities consistent with open society values. This recommendation would complement the Democracy Fund’s efforts to better understand the white working class in order to help to make it a more constructive force for the advancement of a wide range of open society priorities.

### **Youth Engagement Fund (fiscal sponsor: Tides Foundation)**

*\$400,000 / 1 year*

To support the Youth Engagement Fund, a national, non-partisan collaborative table of youth civic engagement organizations that exists to provide technical assistance and re-granting to increase youth voter registration, protection, and mobilization goals. In 2012, the Youth Engagement Fund will develop a coordinated get out the vote plan for regions across the nation; provide objective and scientific evaluation of the work of the youth sector; and raise significant funding to re-grant to partner organizations for the upcoming election cycle.

### **Engaging Key Constituencies in Open Society Advocacy**

#### **Center for Rural Affairs**

*\$100,000/ 1 year*

To support the Center for Rural Affairs, a non-partisan, non-profit based in Nebraska that represents rural interests in predominantly rural states. The Center for Rural Affairs engages in grassroots advocacy with rural people on issues that range from economic and fiscal policies to farm, health, and immigration issues. With a national grassroots base of 30,000 individuals, and plans to add 30,000 new individuals to their national grassroots action network by 2017, the Center works to deepen the engagement of rural leaders in 12 target states so that they are able to affect changes and engage in policy debates that advance social and economic justice. The Center will place a special emphasis on engaging youth and new immigrants, and its work will also serve as a unique, field-based research opportunity to complement a new research project on the white working class, which the Democracy Fund has launched in partnership with Jewish Funds for Justice and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.



**Color of Change**

*\$600,000/ 2 years*

To support Color of Change, an online organizing group that advocates within and for the African American community on issues that impact the community, including criminal justice, media representation, racial justice, and internet freedom. With over 900,000 internet, non-dues paying members, Color of Change is the largest online political advocacy group representing African American issues. Its campaigns have creatively and effectively elevated the priorities and plight of African Americans, such as with the Jena Six case and the Oakland based murder of Oscar Grant by law enforcement. It has held media companies accountable for derogatory actions, including successful campaigns to oust Glenn Beck from the Fox Network and Pat Buchanan from MSNBC. This recommendation includes general and project support. Co-funding from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement will support a new Black Men and Boys Culture Project to promote fair, accurate, and positive portrayals of Black men and boys in mainstream news and entertainment media.

**Gamaliel Foundation**

*\$200,000/ 1 year*

To support the Chicago-based Gamaliel Foundation's "Faith of Fire: Rekindling Democracy" program, which engages 50 congregation-based grassroots organizing affiliates in 18 U.S. states, South Africa and the United Kingdom in civic engagement, policy advocacy and faith-based organizing. Gamaliel's 1,600 congregation, one million member grassroots network of faith-based organizations and congregations apply their faith and values to the pursuit of equal opportunity, shared abundance, and stronger more prosperous communities, including advocacy for economic equity, educational access, housing justice, and immigrants' rights. Gamaliel also houses the Transportation Equity Network, a USP grantee that advocates for public transportation policies that benefit urban communities' access to jobs and schools, high quality jobs for women and people of color, and more environmentally sensitive alternatives for transportation dollars.

**United States Student Association Foundation**

*\$600,000/ 2 years*

To support the United States Student Association Foundation, the tax exempt arm of the United States Student Association, the nation's oldest, largest, and most inclusive student organization. Via its national network of students from hundreds of public and private universities, community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic serving institutions, the United States Student Association organizes leadership development trainings and coalition building workshops for thousands of progressive students and organizations through on-campus and summer gatherings. The United States Student Association is the only student-led national organization that represents students on higher education issues and advances successful advocacy on issues relevant to students, including economic equity, college access and affordability, and immigrant student education.

Recommendations follow this memo. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let me know if there is further information that we may provide in advance of the docket meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Aryeh Neier  
**From:** Laleh Ispahani, for the Transparency Fund, and Nancy Chang, for the National Security and Human Rights Campaign  
**Date:** February 24, 2012  
**Re:** Transparency Fund & National Security and Human Rights Campaign, March 1 docket meeting

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We look forward to meeting with you on March 1, 2012, to discuss the grants described below, recommended by the Transparency Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. The Transparency Fund respectfully seeks approval of six grants in this docket, one of them a joint recommendation with the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. In addition, the Transparency Fund recommends a grant co-funded with and presented by the Democracy Fund on this docket. The National Security and Human Rights Campaign seeks approval for four grants, one of which would be co-funded with the Transparency Fund.

### **Transparency Fund Grants**

As reflected in its 2010-2012 strategic plan, the Fund's grant making and program strategies seek to promote government transparency and accountability, the integrity of the judicial and electoral systems, and informed public engagement by supporting:

- Media and government 'watchdog' groups and the development and use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public involvement and access to information;
- Efforts aimed at expanding access to the ballot and addressing the impact of *Citizens United*;
- Efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing journalism.

The Fund's total contribution to the grants it is recommending in this docket is \$3,065,000. Grant recommendations and a financial summary are attached.

### ***Access to Information***

This portfolio's goals are to support groups working to collect and disseminate information that empowers citizens as well as watchdog groups monitoring the regulation of public information and government practices. The Fund recommends two grants for this work.

The Fund recommends renewed general support to **The Government Accountability Project**. The Project is a leading defender of government and corporate whistleblowers. Its mission is to ensure government and corporate accountability by advancing occupational free speech, defending whistleblowers, and empowering citizen activists. Its major program initiatives focus on both government and corporate accountability related to worker health and safety, corporate

and financial accountability, nuclear and environmental oversight, food and drug safety, international anti-corruption reform, and national security.

We also recommend renewal support to **The Media Democracy Fund**. The Fund promotes a fair and open media and communications system that fosters freedom of expression and increases access to information and ideas. It was created to meet the need for collaborative grantmaking by foundations already involved in media, technology, and communications policy issues, and to provide a reliable re-granting vehicle for foundations and individual donors wishing to enter the field. The Fund is a particularly effective vehicle to support organizations engaged in public education and organizing at the state and local level, where significant media and information policy decisions are made and where there are often varied and important opportunities for public input. These efforts help reinforce public interest media policy work at the federal level. The Fund engages in ongoing field and policy analysis, and maintains a current, comprehensive perspective on this complex and fast-moving field. It is an important partner as OSF continues its support for civil society organizations working to improve the digital communications environment in which public debate over open society issues takes place and to defend a free and open media system as a bedrock element of an open society.

### *A Fair, Diverse & Impartial Judiciary*

Recognizing the central role the judicial branch plays in checking government power and providing access to justice for those most marginalized in our society, OSF has long supported work to advocate for a fair and independent judiciary. A robust judiciary – with a diversity of viewpoints and experiences, and a judiciary accountable to law and the Constitution rather than any rigid ideology or partisan agenda – is critical to advancing the many issues U.S. Programs addresses. OSF’s judiciary-related funding focuses on: (1) reforming state courts to ensure that they are as independent as possible from undue outside influence, and (2) fostering a diversity of viewpoints about the law and the Constitution. The Fund recommends four grants to further its work on the judiciary.

We recommend a renewal grant to **The American Bar Association**. The ABA is the world’s largest voluntary professional organization, representing the American legal profession. This grant will support its Standing Committee on Judicial Independence to continue its current public education and policy development activities in coordination with members of the Justice at Stake coalition. The Committee will focus on three projects: judicial disqualification, judicial diversity, and public education about the role of the courts in a democracy.

We also recommend renewal support for **The Constitutional Accountability Center**. The Center is a think tank, law firm, and action center dedicated to fulfilling the promise of the Constitution, using the document’s text and history to advance civil rights and equality, protect the balance between state and federal governments, appropriately limit the role of corporations in the democratic process, and guarantee access to justice for all. The Center is now implementing a three year strategic plan that aims to deepen its capacity and increase its influence. Central to this plan is the merger of the Federal Rights Project, led by attorney Simon Lazarus, with the Center. Funded by OSF since 2000, the Project’s mission is to oppose litigation and court decisions that restrict enforcement of federal civil rights and public benefit laws under the guise

of “federalism,” “pre-emption,” “standing,” and “state sovereign immunity.” The merger will allow for deeper collaboration and a more tightly focused strategy to challenge conservative jurisprudence and the direction of the courts.

As part of a renewed focus on federal judicial nominations, and particularly an emphasis on developing new models of grassroots-level education and organizing, we recommend renewal support to the **National Council of Jewish Women**. NCJW is the oldest Jewish women’s volunteer organization in the United States, with more than 90,000 members organized in a network of approximately 100 sections (local affiliates). NCJW seeks renewal support to sustain and expand its grassroots organizing work on federal judicial nominations. Building on education and organizing it has facilitated in three cities over two years – Omaha, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh – the project’s goal is to engage a diverse range of communities and organizations in building active and sustainable vehicles for action and advocacy relating to the future of the federal judiciary. NCJW will seed and build coalitions in three to six new cities over the coming two years.

Finally, we recommend support for **The National Constitution Center’s** Peter Jennings Project. Through a two-day intensive seminar, the Project will enable journalists to produce informed coverage of the debates surrounding the constitutionality of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act during the coming election season. It will also equip them with key critical thinking skills for reporting on other constitutional issues that arise this year by providing them with a special multi-platform series of focused, nonpartisan programs and resources before and after the Supreme Court’s late-March oral arguments and anticipated late-June ruling on the validity of the health care law.

### **National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grants**

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign seeks approval for four grants, one of which would be co-funded with the Transparency Fund, on this docket.

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign works to promote the acceptance of Arab, Middle Eastern and South Asian (AMEMSA) individuals and communities in American society. Vital strategies in this effort include supporting credible messengers to speak out against intolerance and empowering AMEMSA organizations to fight abusive national security policies that disproportionately target their communities. In light of these priorities, the Campaign recommends renewed support for two innovative projects.

A grant to the **Islamic Society of North America** will renew support for the **Shoulder-to-Shoulder Campaign**, an interfaith coalition of national religious organizations dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. Shoulder-to-Shoulder is governed by a steering committee that represents 27 Christian, Jewish, Muslim and interfaith groups. Renewed support will enable the coalition to expand its national media presence, deepen its collaboration with over 150 grassroots groups and local faith communities, and continue urging policymakers to denounce intolerance.

A renewal grant to **Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.** will enable Hattaway Communications to expand its research on messaging to improve perceptions of American

Muslims. During the first phase of this project, the Washington, D.C.-based strategic communications firm conducted public opinion research and developed a set of messages designed to propel a positive narrative of Muslims in America. Additional funding will allow Hattaway to create a more targeted and nuanced set of messages that speak directly to recent, ongoing and anticipated events and controversies focused on American Muslims. To ensure that these messages gain traction in current debates, Hattaway will engage and provide direct rapid response support to a broad range of organizations working to end anti-Muslim bigotry, including AMEMSA, religious and civil rights groups. It will also arm government leaders and military officers with research findings and tested messages to encourage them to speak out against profiling and discrimination. Finally, it will provide tailored communications capacity building services to Muslim Advocates, an organization poised to become a leading voice for adhering to civil liberties in countering terrorism.

The NSHR Campaign recommends renewed support for the **National Security Initiative** (NSI) for its project, *Liberty in Security: An Effective Partnership*. This project will advance fire of the Campaign's goals: shifting the national security paradigm away from the "war on terror" framework; promoting the voices of unusual allies who are advancing progressive national security policies; combating anti-Muslim bigotry; stopping the arbitrary and indefinite detention of terrorism suspects; and holding government officials and private actors accountable for past abuses and violations of law, including the use of torture. Based in Washington, D.C., NSI is the 501(c)(3) arm of the National Security Network, whose membership includes hundreds of foreign policy, security and counterterrorism experts. Through its *Liberty in Security* project, NSI will continue work it first undertook in 2009 with OSF support. It will encourage strategic alliances among security experts and civil liberties, human rights, interfaith, and Muslim, Arab, and South Asian advocates who share the conviction that the U.S. must maintain its commitment to human rights as it addresses the challenges posed by terrorism. By leveraging the complementary strengths of these unlikely partners and its own media and outreach capabilities, NSI will aim to shape a new national discourse that recognizes that U.S. counterterrorism measures are most effective when they respect rights.

NSHR's final recommendation for this docket is a renewal general support grant for the **Government Accountability Project** (GAP), which we would co-fund with the Transparency Fund. GAP's work aligns with the Campaign's goal of reducing government secrecy in national security policy, and we have been particularly impressed with its defense of national security whistleblowers. One notable example is GAP's recent success in the case against Thomas Drake, a former senior official of the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) who exposed serious cost, efficacy, and security problems with an NSA technology program designed to monitor and analyze computer data, cell phone records and email. Initially indicted on ten felony counts under the Espionage Act—which could have resulted in a 35 year prison sentence—Drake saw all of the original charges against him dropped after GAP launched an aggressive media and public advocacy campaign on his behalf. He eventually pleaded to one misdemeanor count for unauthorized computer access and received probation and community service. The total NSHR contribution to the four grants it is recommending in this docket is \$845,000. NSHR's four grant recommendations and a financial summary are attached.

**We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you on March 1, 2012.**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Erlin Ibreck, for the Strategic Opportunities Fund via Diana Morris  
**DATE:** March 27, 2012  
**RE:** Strategic Opportunities Fund Docket Meeting April 6, 2012

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Attached for your review and approval is one grant recommendation together with the grant summary sheet.

The recommended grant to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is part of a discrete initiative to reduce the inappropriate and harmful use of suspensions, expulsions, and arrests in public schools in an effort to address harsh discipline practices that reinforce the school-to-prison pipeline. NCJFCJ is the leading national convener of judges and other professionals working in juvenile justice. These are the individuals who deal on a daily basis with the real consequences of over-reliance by public school officials on “zero tolerance” policies that result in referrals to the juvenile justice system. These referrals have increased rapidly and expansively especially since the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994. This project aims to engage field leaders such as Judges Teske and Huff who have applied innovative and successful approaches to resisting and reducing referrals from schools to destabilize the school to juvenile justice pipeline within their jurisdictions. These leading judges will work in collaboration with NCJFCJ to develop curricular modules, training and support protocols to share their best practices with the national field of adjudicators.

NCJFCJ’s project will complement an earlier SOF grant for the *National Judicial Leadership Summit on School-Justice Partnerships*, a conference that was coordinated by retired Judge Judith Kaye of New York in New York City and that took place on March 11-13. We look forward to any questions or feedback you may have about this recommendation.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**CC:** Diana Morris and Leonard Noisette  
**FROM:** Andy Ko and Kima Taylor  
**DATE:** March 30, 2012  
**RE:** Campaign for a New Drug Policy, April Docket Meeting

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The Campaign for a New Drug Policy recommends one grant to **Community Studies of New York (CSNY)** for the April 2012 Docket. CSNY proposes to research and publically disseminate information regarding racial biases in drug related arrests involving marijuana in New York City and in other large communities across the United States. This grant would advance the Campaign's goal of promoting alternatives to punishment-based drug policies.

This would continue OSF's past support of work by City University of New York professor Harry Levine, which contributed in 2011 to a number of reform efforts, including a formal resolution by the NAACP opposing punitive and racially disparate drug policies and opposition to the more than 50,000 marijuana possession arrests annually in New York City. Levine and his staff propose to continue and greatly expand this work in the coming years.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**CC:** Diana Morris  
**FROM:** Leonard Noisette, for the Criminal Justice Fund  
**DATE:** March 30, 2012  
**RE:** Criminal Justice Fund, April 6, 2012, docket meeting

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The Criminal Justice Fund recommends sixteen grants for U.S. Programs' Docket II, scheduled for April 6, 2012, totaling \$4,610,000. These grants, which include fifteen renewals, represent support for work across our three core goals of Reducing Mass Incarceration, Eliminating Harsh Punishment, and Eliminating Racial Disparities and Securing a Fair System of Justice.

### **Reducing Mass Incarceration**

We recommend four grants, totaling \$1,100,000, which will support a range of activities to advance the Fund's programmatic goal of reducing mass incarceration. The grant to **Corporation for Supportive Housing** will support strategic work across government systems to address the unnecessary and frequent jailing of individuals by better addressing mental health and lack of housing issues that lead to their repeated justice system involvement. Support to **Ohio Justice and Policy Center** and **Correctional Association of New York** will challenge unnecessary and excessive imprisonment and promote successful reentry through a variety of policy reform efforts. In addition to these three grant renewals, we also recommend a first time grant to **Partnership for Working Families** to support its *In the Public Interest* project, which is developing and providing campaign assistance to a diverse national coalition to focus renewed energy to challenge growing efforts to privatize prisons and immigrant detention centers.

### **Eliminating Harsh Punishment**

We recommend eight grants, totaling up to \$2,400,000, that advance our goal of eliminating harsh punishment. One grant, to **Voice Of The Ex-offender**, would address the collateral consequences of criminal convictions by supporting efforts to expand employment opportunities for people with criminal records in New Orleans, Louisiana, part of our broader reform efforts in that region.

Six grant renewals would support our ongoing participation in efforts to abolish the death penalty, through the coordinated national Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025. **Death Penalty Information Center** provides information and analysis on the use of capital punishment in the United States and is one of the most widely cited sources of information on the death penalty in the media. **Equal Justice USA** and **National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** are the two leading national advocacy organizations that provide critical strategic support, technical assistance and training to state-based campaigns aimed at abolishing the death penalty. The *Death Penalty Mobilization State Strategies Fund*, housed at the **Tides Foundation**, re-grants pooled donor funds to state-based grassroots organizations that are often overlooked by national foundations but are critical to the success of the fight to end capital punishment. **The Constitution Project's** *The Clearinghouse for New Voices on the Death*



*Penalty* is a national network of influential and unlikely spokespersons to which allies can turn for critical assistance with specific campaigns and litigation support. **Witness to Innocence** supports national reform efforts by elevating the voices of exonerated death row survivors through organizing and training to change public opinion through educational outreach about wrongful convictions.

A final grant, to **Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)**, would provide continued support for EJI's full range of activities challenging the inappropriate use of the death penalty and juvenile life without parole, as well as inadequate legal counsel and racial bias in the criminal justice system in the South that contribute to these harsh punishment practices.

### **Eliminating Racial Disparities and Securing a Fair and Equitable System of Justice**

We recommend four grants totaling \$1,110,000 that would advance CJF's goal of securing a fair and equitable system of justice and eliminating racial disparities through reform of our nation's indigent defense systems. Two grants would support national efforts. Funding to the **National Legal Aid & Defender Association** supports three projects designed to build the capacity among indigent defense leaders to utilize evidence- and research-based approaches to advocating for increased government resources and promoting sound criminal justice and indigent defense policies. **Southern Public Defender Training Center** provides training to new and inexperienced public defenders, and leadership training for defender managers, in order to build a community of zealous, committed defenders that will raise the standards of representation and become leaders in the criminal justice policy arena in the southeastern United States, and ultimately, across the nation.

Two remaining grant renewals support targeted state-based efforts. Continued funding to the **Defender Association of Philadelphia** for its *Indigent Defense Representation Project* would sustain efforts to reform Pennsylvania's underfunded and politically dominated system of criminal and juvenile indigent representation. A renewal grant to **Juvenile Regional Services** will support a strategic planning process which will strengthen the organization as it seeks to export its model of juvenile representation, training, and policy advocacy across Louisiana, part of our larger effort to reform criminal justice practices in New Orleans and statewide.

## **Equality and Opportunity Fund – Out of Docket Grants**

### **Asian Americans – Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy**

Purpose of Grant: To support the Queer Justice Fund.

Grant Description: A project grant to Asian Americans – Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) will support the Queer Justice Fund. The Queer Justice Fund aims to increase philanthropic resources for LGBTQ Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations. Founded in 1990, AAPIP is a national philanthropic advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Through grantmaking, research, and donor education, AAPIP highlights opportunities to support community organizations serving vulnerable Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at a decreased annualized amount, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

\$50,000 (T1: 24450) over one year, beginning October 1, 2012

### **Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation**

Purpose of Grant: To conduct an assessment of the campaign plan to defeat a referendum of Maryland's DREAM Act

Grant Description: A project support grant to the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation (BISCF) will fund an assessment of campaign plans to defeat a referendum aimed at repealing Maryland's DREAM Act, which would grant in-state college tuition to undocumented immigrants. This assessment will help funders and advocates determine appropriate next steps in considering whether and how best to defend the Maryland DREAM Act. BISCF is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that provides social justice organizations with education, research, and strategic assistance on ballot initiatives and referenda. In the two dozen states where the initiative and referendum process is permitted and most utilized, BISCF provides essential support for organizations seeking to expand rights through the citizen initiative process or to help them expose proposals that threaten open society. This grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund's goals of advancing sound and humane immigration reform and stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants.

\$20,000 (Equality and Opportunity Fund Immigrant Rights, T1: 24449) over three months, beginning March 1, 2012

## **Campaign for Black Male Achievement**

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

**Grant Description:** A project support grant to assemble and facilitate the work of the Black Male Achievement Research Collaborative, a group of quantitative and qualitative researchers, policy analysts, and educators dedicated to producing and disseminating research that reveals personal, family, social, and school-related factors associated with black male educational achievement. The Collaborative will organize its semi-annual meetings to coincide with national educational research and policy conferences to maximize the reach of its research. The two years of the Collaborative will culminate with a research-practice-policy report and a special issue of the newly renamed Journal of Black Education (formerly the Journal of Negro Education) focused on Black Male Achievement. The Collaborative will also produce and disseminate *Breaking Barriers 3: Plotting the Path to College and Career Readiness among School-age African American Males*. In addition to supporting the work of the Collaborative, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will provide expertise and technical assistance to the Expanded Success Initiative of the NYC Young Men's Initiative.

\$330,000 over two years, beginning March 1, 2012