

2013 Annual Report



The Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr.
Appellate Advocacy Fellowship

*“If a theme runs through
Francis D. Murnaghan’s career,
it is using the law
to realize the American people’s
constitutional freedoms.”*

—The Baltimore Sun



Sheila Murnaghan, Hiram (Woody) Woodward, Diana Edwards Murnaghan and Hugh Gordon welcomed incoming Fellow Ilana Gelfman at the annual reception graciously hosted by Diana Edwards Murnaghan

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Dear Friends,

Were I pressed to reduce to a single word the overarching sense of the family, friends, steering committee, and board of directors who envisioned, created, and manage the Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. Appellate Advocacy Fellowship, that word would have to be "awe."

We are in awe that the Fellowship is now in its fourteenth year, with an endowment of more than \$1 million; in awe of the character and brilliance of the thirteen fine young lawyers that have been our Fellows to date; in awe of the depth of their commitment to poverty law, civil rights, and public service; in awe of the impressive career paths those Fellows have since taken; in awe of the unflagging support the Fellowship's purpose and mission has received from Judge Murnaghan's family, clerks, friends, and the Fellows themselves; and in awe of the extraordinary and repeated generosity of the many donors who have made the Fellowship's endowment, and the Fellowship itself, what it is today.

We hope that this annual report helps to inspire just a little of that awe in all of you, and leaves you assured that your support, and continued support, of the Fellowship is an investment of unequalled and invaluable return. Through your extraordinary efforts, you have provided, to those who may otherwise have had no voice, critical access to appellate courts that provide substantial impact not only to the litigants at hand, but to thousands of others. And you have contributed to the creation of an ever-growing cadre of talented, energized Fellows who will spend the rest of their legal careers devoted to achieving those same results.

On behalf of the entire Murnaghan "family," please accept our unending thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey E. McFadden
President



Right: 2013-14
Fellow Ilana
Gelfman chats
with longtime
supporter
Senator Paul
Sarbanes. Far
right: Ilana
Gelfman



Welcome Ilana Gelfman 2013-14 Murnaghan Fellow

Ilana Gelfman is thrilled to be the Murnaghan Fellow for 2013-14. She joins us following two years as a judicial clerk: she worked in the chambers of Judge Douglas P. Woodlock of the District of Massachusetts in 2011-12 and in the chambers of Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the Second Circuit in 2012-13. Prior to clerking, Ilana served as a Skadden Fellow at Greater Boston Legal Services. There, she came to appreciate the importance of anti-poverty and civil rights appellate advocates, who ensure that the judiciary recognizes the impact of its decisions on the lives of those who most need the law's protection. Following her year with the PJC, Ilana will be clerking for Justice Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court. Ilana is extraordinarily grateful for the opportunity to practice anti-poverty and civil rights appellate law, and she is looking forward to an exciting year.



2012-13 Fellow Jean Zachariasiewicz reflects on her past year during the annual reception.

Farewell Jean Zachariasiewicz 2012-13 Murnaghan Fellow

In my year as the Murnaghan Fellow, I filed two amicus briefs in the Maryland high courts, two petitions in support of certiorari to the Maryland Court of Appeals, two memoranda of law in Maryland circuit courts, three appellants' briefs in the Maryland high courts, and one appellant's brief in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I also had the opportunity to represent two plaintiffs in Maryland Public Information Act actions in state circuit courts.

As I look back over this year and the work I did, I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to engage in substantively challenging and personally fulfilling work as a young lawyer. I am able to see how my writing and advocacy skills improved, as did my confidence. This is largely due to the leadership at the Public Justice Center, and the mentorship provided by my colleagues there. I feel very fortunate to have worked with such committed and inspiring people, and will always look back on this year as a formative one in my career as a lawyer.

I began a position as a Litigation Associate at Relman, Dane and Colfax, a civil rights firm in Washington, D.C. upon ending my fellowship. I know that the Murnaghan Fellowship has prepared me well for this next professional step, and I am honored to have had the support of such a tight-knit group of people as I start my legal career. I look forward to continuing to work towards a more just society, and I am forever indebted to the Murnaghan Fellowship community for giving me this opportunity.





Introducing the Murnaghan Legacy Circle

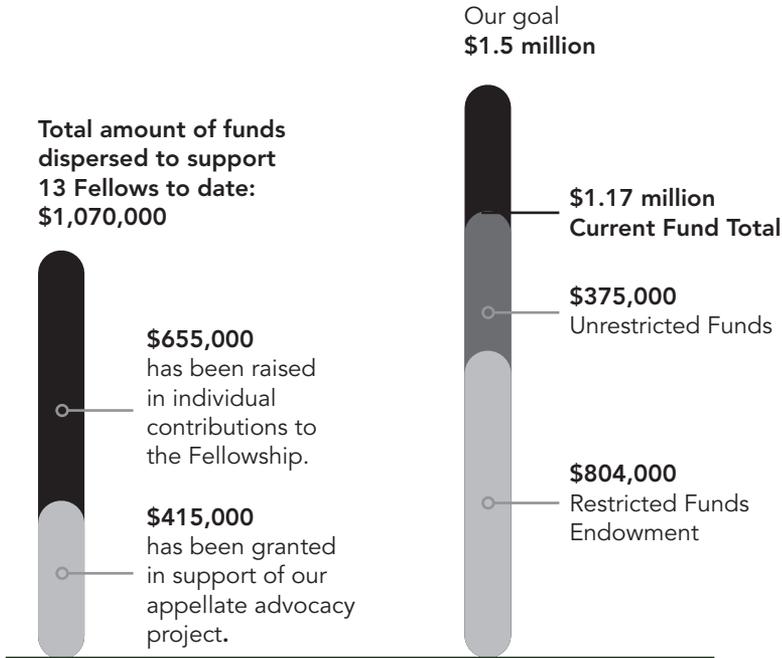
The Board of the Murnaghan Fellowship invites you to join the Murnaghan Legacy Circle, a group of supporters of the Murnaghan Fellowship who have made provisions as part of their estate planning for substantial gifts to the Fellowship. Our Endowment is substantial and growing. The Fellowship has become an institution that we know will continue and thrive well into the future. A gift made through your estate plan will have a strong and substantial impact on assuring the continued health of the Fellowship in the future; joining with others in the Murnaghan Legacy Circle to aggregate planned gifts will assure that the Fellowship continues in perpetuity. If you would like more information on joining the Murnaghan Legacy Circle, please do not hesitate to contact Warren Hamel directly.

Warren Hamel can be reached at:

Warren Hamel
Venable LLP
750 E. Pratt Street, Suite 900
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 244-7563

Moving Towards Our Goal in FY2013

Because of your generosity, we have been able to support 13 Fellows while growing the endowment which will allow the Fellowship to continue in perpetuity. With your continued efforts we will grow the Fellowship endowment to \$1.5 million in order to sustain Judge Murnaghan's legacy.



**Murnaghan Fund as of
September 30, 2013**





The Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr.
Appellate Advocacy Fellowship

The Public Justice Center
1 North Charles St., Suite 200
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(410) 625-9409