

Welcome to the Vermont Bar Foundation.



My name is Harry Parker, and I am the new President of the VBF Board of Directors. I grew up in Waterbury, Vermont, and attended the University of Vermont for my undergraduate studies. I completed the Vermont Law Office Study Program while working for Bauer Gravel Farnham, LLP and have been in private practice at the firm since my admission to the Bar in 2015. In addition to my legal practice and service on the VBF Board of Directors, I am the chair of the North Hero Select Board. I live in North Hero with Lauren, my wife, my daughter Evelyn, and Remy, our black lab.

I am very thankful that the Bauer Gravel Farnham, LLP partnership team encourages and supports community driven service. Practicing law with my father, Eric Parker, has also been a great gift.

Over the past year, I served as President Elect of the VBF. It is impossible to overstate the impact that Renee L. Mobbs of Sheehey Furlong & Behm P.C., had on the VBF during her term as President from 2021 to 2022. She was instrumental in the significant advances we made, particularly in strategic planning and hiring our new Executive Director, José M. Herrera.

Board service is one of the most difficult volunteer roles to fulfill, and Renee's service was marked by commitment, wisdom, and unyielding hard work. Because of her efforts, the Vermont Bar Foundation is a better organization.

The VBF is a nonprofit fundraising organization dedicated to increasing access to justice for low-income, underserved, and marginalized Vermonters. Donations to the VBF flow to local organizations that provide legal services to Vermonters who need them most. Some of our past grantee organizations include Vermont Legal Aid, the Vermont Law School Veterans Legal Assistance Project, Have Justice Will Travel, Steps to End Domestic Violence, and Children First!

A recent economic impact study commissioned to determine the impact of the dollars that flow through the VBF and are invested in our community showed that for every dollar donated, there is an \$11 return. This is a social impact return on investment of 1106%! Our grantees help low-income Vermonters with critical legal issues affecting their families, homes, incomes, jobs, and access to vital services. Receiving these services when they are needed most strengthens the most fragile elements of our community.

Today, we find ourselves in uncertain times. Just as we seem to be emerging from a global pandemic, recession concerns are paramount. We expect the need for the types

of services that our grantees provide to increase in the near term. Our goal is to increase our funding depth and breadth so that we are ready to increase funding to the incredible organizations doing this important work.

It has been an honor to serve on the Vermont Bar Foundation for the past five years, and I would like this next year to be our most productive yet. To achieve that goal, we need your help. As noted, every dollar has a big impact. Your donations lead directly to improving the quality of life of vulnerable Vermonters. Housing security for someone facing eviction leads to food security, transportation security, and so on.

As the VBF strives to adapt and respond to our communities' changing needs, I hope we can count on you to join us in our mission to ensure that all Vermonters have access to justice. Please consider donating at <https://vtbarfoundation.org/donate/>.

Thank you!