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THE IMPACT FUND AWARDS \$70,000 IN PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION GRANTS IN CIVIL RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND POVERTY CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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The Impact Fund, the nation's only foundation devoted to funding complex public interest impact litigation, has awarded \$70,000 in new grants to non-profit organizations and public interest law firms across the nation. The Fund, now in its fourteenth year, has granted over \$4.28 million since its inception.

The new awards, which cover the expenses of the litigation are:

Human & Civil Rights:

\$10,000 to San Francisco-based Equal Rights Advocates for their suit to protect female employees of the Thunder Valley Casino in rural Placer County, California from sexual harassment, discrimination and violations of wage and hour laws. While the Casino is Native owned, it is managed by a non-Native Las Vegas corporation. *Medina v. Station Casinos, Inc.*

\$10,000 to Oakland-based National Center for Youth Law for its class action against Nevada officials for failing to protect the health and safety of foster care children in its child welfare system. *Clark K. v. Willden.*

\$5,000 to the New York-based Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund for its action against Hazelton's extreme anti-immigration law. *Lozano v. City of Hazleton.*

\$5,000 to Centro Legal, Inc. of St. Paul, Minn. for its proposed litigation against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) for raids of Swift & Co. meat plant that resulted in unconstitutional searches, seizures and due process violation of worker's rights. *Nicolasa Ramos v. Alberto Gonzalez.*

Environmental Justice:

\$10,000 to Colorado-based Dine CARE for its action against operators of a coal-burning plant in the Navajo homeland. *Dine CARE v. Arizona Public Service.*

\$10,000 to Western Environmental Law Center of Eugene, Oregon for its potential case against Los Alamos National Laboratory for releasing contaminants into the Rio Grande and ground

water. *Tewa Women United v. Department of Energy*.

\$10,000 to Colonias Development Council of Las Cruces, New Mexico for its challenge to a waste disposal permit in Chaparral, New Mexico, a mostly poor and Latino area. *Colonias Development Council v. Rhino Environmental Services, Inc.*

\$2,500 to Albuquerque-based Community of Cleveland, NM for its challenge to attempt to open a gravel plant in a poor, Hispanic area. *The Community of Cleveland, NM v Sangre de Cristo Gravel Products*.

Poverty:

\$7,500 to Mexican-based The Project on Economic, Social and Culture Rights for their proposed action against Wal-Mart's Mexican operation for failing to pay child laborers.

“Once again our grantees from around the country and beyond are fighting back, using the law as an important part of their struggle.” says Impact Fund Executive Director Brad Seligman.

The Impact Fund provides grants, technical support, and counsel nationwide. Grants are made quarterly. Its most recent annual report and other information may be accessed at its web site: <http://www.impactfund.org/>