

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project awarded grant from the Impact Fund

The Impact Fund announced that it has awarded a grant of \$12,000 to PaILP to assist in the Williams v. Phila class action lawsuit. The case challenges conditions of confinement throughout the Philadelphia Prison System [PPS]. More specifically, it challenges the recent practice of triple celling in cells originally designed for one person and double bucked several years ago. The tripling is achieved by placing a temporary plastic boat/bed on the floor during night time hours. The Fund is a multi-faceted organization that fosters systemic change through an array of programs. Grants are awarded to non-profit public interest litigators. The Fund recognized that the non-profit law firms often encounter difficulties in terms of time and resources necessary to engage in strategic systemic litigation. Recent cuts in IOLTA funding have severely impacted PaILP. Thus, this grant will allow the Project to continue with this important challenge to persistent overcrowding at PPS.

This is the second grant that PaILP has received from the Impact Fund. The previous grant supported the Bowers litigation that successfully challenged the intake procedures for the PPS. [see 2007 US Lexis 5804]. ‘Given the recent budget cuts, this grant is indispensable in allowing this class action to proceed in a professional manner,’ said Angus Love, Executive Director of PaILP. ‘On behalf of our co-counsel Kariys and Rudovsky, Pepper Hamilton and the Disability Rights Network, we thank the Fund and hope that we can continue to work with them for many years to come,’ Love added.