

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

April 28, 2011

Members of the Board
The Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation
c/o Gerald S. Hartman
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Falls Church, VA 22041

Brennan Center for Justice
at New York University School of Law

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Dear Friends:

Thank you again for the Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation's \$5,000 grant to the Brennan Center for Justice to support our litigation that advances the Foundation's mission to promote a more just and equitable society. We are pleased to submit this 6-month report on the use of these funds.

We greatly appreciated your commitment to support our work on the *Farrakhan v. Gregoire* litigation. This case challenged Washington State's law disenfranchising citizens with felony convictions. The Ninth Circuit's decision in that suit was the first in the country to find that due to racial discrimination in the state's criminal justice system, a felony disenfranchisement law results in the denial of the right to vote on account of race. Unfortunately, an *en banc* panel of the Ninth Circuit, which convened in September 2010, did not share the position that Washington's law violates the Voting Rights Act. We will continue to pursue opportunities challenging felony disenfranchisement in court. Since we are now seeing a new wave of voting restrictions across the country, we sadly expect that opportunity to arise sooner rather than later.

The *Farrakhan v. Gregoire* litigation concluded before The Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation grant could be applied to that work. We are so grateful that the Foundation agreed to support other relevant litigation. We are preparing a case now and look forward to sharing more details with you in the near future.

Again, we very much appreciate the support of the Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation. We look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of our work. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Vivien Watts
Director of Development
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