

**WIIT Charitable Trust  
Annual Report  
2008-2009**

Now in its seventh year, the WIIT Charitable Trust is continuing to identify ways to expand its educational efforts at all levels and its partnerships with similarly oriented organizations, corporations and educational institutions.

In the latter half of 2008, we continued with our corporate sponsored programs to educate Capitol Hill staff about trade concepts. On July 14, we held a program entitled "Trade Remedy Law: Leveling the Playing Field" featuring speakers Cathi Jones, a specialist in International Trade and Finance in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service; Laura Baughman, President of the Trade Partnership, a trade and economic consulting firm she started in 1991; and Steve Charnovitz, an Associate Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School who writes and lectures on international trade, international organizations, and environmental sustainability. Peggy Clarke, a partner at Blank Rome which was the sponsoring organization, moderated the program. As part of the program, the WIIT Charitable Trust and Blank Rome LLP produced and distributed a glossary of Trade Remedy terms, which is available on the WIIT Charitable Trust website.

On August 12, the WIIT Charitable Trust and co-sponsors Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and Williams Mullen LLP held a Capitol Hill briefing concerning U.S. port operations. The talk, entitled "Ports 101," featured VPA Director of Business Analysis and Strategy Kevin Burwell with an introduction from WIIT member Evelyn Suarez. The presentation gave rise to a lively discussion among industry and the executive and legislative branches, as well as numerous questions about how our nation's ports actually work. The purpose of the presentation was to provide some basic information on the nuts and bolts of transportation and logistics associated with moving international cargo through our ports and terminals. As part of the program, the WIIT Charitable Trust and the co-sponsors produced and distributed a glossary of commonly used terms as well as the actual presentation, which is also available on the WIIT Charitable Trust website.

In October, the WIIT Trust teamed with the WIIT Legislative Initiatives Section for a WIIT-wide luncheon entitled "U.S. Trade Policy Under a New Administration" featuring Presidential campaign representatives. Scott Lincicome represented the McCain campaign and Lael Brainard represented the Obama campaign. The event was well attended with about 70 persons and the issues were very interesting to the WIIT members.

The early part of 2009 was focused primarily on finalizing the merger between the Consumers for World Trade Education Fund and WIIT Trust fund. Numerous conference calls were held and drafts of legal paperwork were reviewed. Finally, we merged the two funds resulting in the WIIT Trust now serving as the caretaker of the international trade library on line.

The downturn in the economy has made finding sponsors for our educational events on the Hill more challenging but we are energized and hopeful that for the remainder of 2009 we will host several more programs for the Hill. We are also going to work with the Commerce Department in possibly using our education modules in their outreach programs and contact the George Washington University CIBER unit to determine if there are some synergies where we can work together.

This year also saw the departure of the very involved Mary Alexander as she retired from her position on the Trust. Mary was one of the founding members and her energy and drive greatly assisted us in moving the goals of the Trust forward. While she is not an everyday presence now, she promised to keep involved at some level.

We have a couple of new members on the committee and invite others who are interested to please contact one of the members to see how you can help on one or more of our activities.

Submitted by:

Nicole Bivens Collinson