



Beverly Hills Bar Association: A New Headquarters for the Common Good

The Beverly Hills Bar Association (BHBA) is renowned for its outreach and advocacy work well beyond the Westside of Los Angeles County. Founded in 1931 by lawyers who were turned away from other bar associations, the BHBA has developed a national and international reputation for advocating for justice and access to legal services, while also providing its members with opportunities for continuing education and networking.

The Bar's willingness to advance and promote the common good manifests itself in programs including the Seniors Legal Clinic, Citizens Law School and the Blue Car Project – a preventive law program that teaches high school students the basic principles of contract, tort, insurance and consumer law before they get behind the wheel of a car. One of the Bar's most notable endeavors, Public Counsel, has grown to become the largest public interest law firm in the nation. Another initiative, Wills for Heroes, ensures that local fire and police personnel have proper testamentary documents. Even overseas the BHBA has taken a leadership role, providing critical counsel in such far reaches as Pakistan and Vietnam.

With all of its extensive outreach and substantial growth, the BHBA continues to operate from the office it originally acquired at its founding 40 years ago. The space has long since outgrown its usefulness both in size and technological capability. The BHBA asked Graham-Pelton to conduct a planning study on its behalf for a fundraising campaign that would allow the Bar to acquire and outfit a 12,000- to 15,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art office facility in Beverly Hills. The group subsequently engaged Graham-Pelton to partner in the current campaign.