

# **Access to Justice Awards Benefit**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

**Program Book** 

# Here's to justice for all.

Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, and we salute this year's award recipients.

> Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award Kelly J. Gastley, Esq. Managing Attorney, Philadelphia VIP

David Keller Trevaskis, Esq.
Pro Bono Coordinator, Pennsylvania Bar Association

Pro Bono Award
Comcast NBCUniversal
Dechert LLP



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### **Welcome from the President**

I am proud to join members of our legal community tonight as we celebrate our support of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

The importance of civil legal aid to the community could not have been clearer this past, unprecedented year due to the financial burdens caused by COVID-19 to Philadelphia citizens. Issues with income, family structure, discrimination, and housing have all increased during this time, which is why the Foundation, with all of your support, issued emergency grants in April. The Philadelphia community is still living through the pandemic and trying to meet the needs made evident by the social justice movement. We know that together, we can continue to improve equal access to justice and provide the legal help that these times require.



Our event tonight celebrates our Bar Foundation supporters and the outstanding public interest and pro bono attorneys that work in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. To those in need of legal aid services, your support is life changing. Research shows that for every dollar we invest in legal aid, that dollar results in at least an \$11 benefit for individuals, families, and communities. Legal issues that are successfully resolved result in improvements for those living in our community in family stability, safe housing, educational opportunities, health care, employment, increased income for food and clothing, and more. These results have far-reaching effects throughout our community.

It has been an honor to serve my two-year term as President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, thank you for your support during 2020, and thank you for your support tonight. Your commitment to sustain the work of the Bar Foundation is critical and essential to our city.

Leslie E. John

President, Philadelphia Bar Foundation

Partner, Ballard Spahr LLP

### **Welcome from the Benefit Co-Chairs**



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Access to Justice Awards Benefit.

While this year's gathering may be virtual, the principles it stands for are as real as ever. Equal access to justice, for all, is fundamental to our democracy. Yet it remains aspirational and elusive. We join together tonight to celebrate our community's commitment to advancing justice and to honor the special contributions of pro bono and public interest lawyers whose hard work and dedication bring us all closer to realizing our ideals.

Tonight we also express our deep gratitude to our 2020 Philadelphia Bar Foundation supporters who help make this work possible. These are trying times, and the need in the community is great. In this broken year, we are especially grateful to those who are supporting the Bar Foundation's work which, at its heart, is a repair mission.

Please enjoy your time attending. Engage with each other in the chat. Take a moment to appreciate the work of our amazing honorees. We are so thankful for your continued support and for the support of your law firms and businesses in helping the Philadelphia Bar Foundation fulfill its mission.

Sincerely,

ala C. Pan

Alan C. Promer

2020 Event Co-Chair

Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Foundation

Shareholder, Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller

Same P. Meren

Lauren P. McKenna 2020 Event Co-Chair

Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Foundation

Chancellor-Elect, Philadelphia Bar Association

Partner, Fox Rothschild LLP



### **Rosemary Connors**

We welcome Rosemary Connors, NBC10 Anchor/Reporter, as our event emcee.

A native of Wynnewood in Montgomery County, Rosemary received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania and holds a law degree from Temple University's Beasley School of Law. She has reported on the high-profile trials of former Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams, Bill Cosby, former Penn State Assistant Football Coach Jerry Sandusky, and many others.

Rosemary began her career in broadcast journalism as an intern at The Today Show and as an intern at NBC10. She worked as a reporter and anchor in Grand Junction, Colorado, and Fort Myers, Florida. Rosemary has won six Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards at NBC10 for her coverage of topics ranging from a deadly prison standoff in Delaware to school closures in Philadelphia.

She serves on the Board of Directors for MANNA and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Notre Dame in Villanova. She is also an active supporter of the Kyle Ambrogi Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes education and awareness of depression in teens and young adults.

Rosemary is the co-anchor of the 11 a.m. weekday newscast. You can also watch her live reports in the field during the afternoons.







### **Peter Shankman**

Best-selling author and entrepreneur Peter Shankman is tonight's special guest speaker.

Based in New York City, Peter is a marketing pundit for several national and international news channels, including Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC. He is frequently quoted in major media and trade publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and USA Today.

With three startup launches and exits under his belt, Peter is recognized world-wide for radically new ways of thinking about the customer experience, social media, PR, marketing, advertising, ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), and the new Neurodiverse Economy. Peter is also an angel investor, specializing mostly in early-stage tech and social media companies.

He has written five books: Faster Than Normal; Zombie Loyalists; Nice Companies Finish First; Customer Service: New Rules for a Social Media World; and Can We Do That?! Outrageous PR Stunts That Work – And Why Your Company Needs Them.

Peter's clients have included American Express, Sprint, SAP, The US Department of Defense, Walt Disney World, Taj Hotels, Sheraton, United Airlines, Discovery Networks, and many others.





## **Meet our Nonprofit Partners**



Each year, nearly 40 non-profit legal aid organizations receive annual grants and other support from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, representing the full range of vital services for people in need.

# Please consider donating tonight to support unrestricted grants to our nonprofit partners!

#### **AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania**

Providing free legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; educating the public about HIV/AIDS-related legal issues.

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania**

Defending and expanding individual rights and personal freedoms throughout the entire state of Pennsylvania through advocacy, public education and litigation.

#### **Atlantic Center for Capital Representation**

Providing consultation and mitigation services, legal advocacy, education, and training to combat the death penalty and juvenile life without parole sentences in Pennsylvania.

### **CeaseFirePA**

Working to reduce gun violence and gun tragedies in our communities, stop the flow of illegal guns onto our streets, and keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

### **Community Legal Services**

Providing low income Philadelphia residents with advice and representation in civil legal matters, advocating for their legal rights, and conducting community education.

### **Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project**

Providing free legal advice and representation to low-income persons seeking relief from consumer debts.

#### **CASA of Philadelphia**

Training and supporting community volunteers to become sworn officers of the court to speak up for the safety, stability, health and well-being of abused and neglected children in the foster care system.

### **Disability Rights Pennsylvania**

Protecting and advocating for rights of people with disabilities so that they may live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and segregation.



## **Meet our Nonprofit Partners**



#### **Education Law Center**

Ensuring equal access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania by advocating on behalf of the most at-risk students; fighting for fair school funding; and stopping the school-to-prison pipeline.

### **Esperanza Immigration Legal Services**

Providing direct legal services, advocacy, and community education for underserved immigrants and their families.

### **Face to Face Legal Center**

Providing a safe environment and practical tools, which enable the people of our community to confront personal challenges, empower their lives, and fulfill their unique potential.

### **Good Shepherd Mediation Program**

Empowering Philadelphia community residents to creatively search for meaningful and lasting solutions to their conflicts without resorting to crime or violence.

#### **HIAS Pennsylvania**

Providing legal and supportive services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society.

### **Homeless Advocacy Project**

Providing free, high quality civil legal services to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Philadelphia.

#### **Justice at Work**

Supporting low-wage workers as they pursue economic and social justice by providing legal services, education, and advocacy.

#### **Juvenile Law Center**

Protecting and advancing children's rights in courts, legislatures, and executive agencies through litigation, appellate advocacy and submission of amicus briefs, policy reform, public education, training, and strategic communications.

### **Legal Clinic for the Disabled**

Providing free legal services to low-income people with disabilities and to the deaf and hard of hearing in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

#### **Mazzoni Center**

Providing direct legal services, and quality comprehensive health and wellness services, in an LGBT-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals served.



# **EXPERTISE**

### IS REFRESHING



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# **Meet our Nonprofit Partners**



### **Nationalities Service Center Legal Services**

Preparing and empowering immigrants and refugees in the Philadelphia region to transcend challenging circumstances by providing comprehensive client-centered services to build a solid foundation for a self-sustaining and dignified future.

#### **Pennsylvania Health Law Project**

Providing free legal services and advocacy to protect and advance the health rights of low-income and underserved Pennsylvanians eligible for publicly-funded health care.

### **Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center**

Providing access to justice for vulnerable immigrants, both adults and family members, who are held in civil immigration detention and who are victims of violence in the community.

### **Pennsylvania Innocence Project**

Exonerating those who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit, and preventing the innocent from being convicted.

#### **Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project**

Providing free legal assistance in civil matters to lowincome people who are incarcerated or institutionalized.

### **Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts**

Ensuring that all Pennsylvanians can come to our courts with confidence that they will be heard by qualified, fair, and impartial judges.

### **Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity**

Seeking a more equitable social environment for those with criminal records through individual representation, strategic litigation, community education, research, and legislative advocacy.

### **Philadelphia Legal Assistance**

Providing free, high quality, civil legal services, advice, and referrals for eligible low income people to help them navigate the legal system and understand and safeguard their rights.

### Philadelphia VIP

Leveraging the powerful resources of the community to provide quality volunteer legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.

### **Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts**

Providing legal services, educational programs, and community building events for artists, lawyers and cultural organizations.



### **Meet our Nonprofit Partners**



#### **Public Interest Law Center**

Using high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social, and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality, and poverty.

### **Regional Housing Legal Services**

Creating housing and economic opportunity in underserved communities in Pennsylvania and effecting systematic change for the benefit of lower-income households statewide.

#### **SeniorLAW Center**

Improving the lives of older Pennsylvanians and protecting their rights through legal representation, education and advocacy.

### **Support Center for Child Advocates**

Advocating for victims of child abuse and neglect with the goal of securing safety, justice, well-being and a permanent, nurturing environment for every child.

Please consider donating tonight to support unrestricted grants to our nonprofit partners!

### **WOAR - Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence**

Eliminating sexual violence through specialized treatment services, comprehensive prevention education programs, and advocacy for the rights of survivors of sexual assault; providing free counseling for women, men, and children who have experienced sexual violence.

#### **Women Against Abuse**

Providing quality, compassionate, and nonjudgmental services in a manner that fosters self-respect and independence in persons experiencing intimate partner violence and leading the struggle to end domestic violence through advocacy and community education.

#### **Women's Law Project**

Creating a more just and equitable society by advancing the rights and status of all girls, women, and their families by engaging in high-impact litigation and legal advocacy, working to influence public policy, and educating community members.

### **Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project**

Using direct service and policy advocacy to transform the experiences of children prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system, and to ensure fair and thoughtful resentencing and reentry for individuals who were sentenced to life without parole as children ("juvenile lifers").





### We're big fans of people who look out for people.

Congratulations to the 2020 Access to Justice Award recipients. Hard work doesn't always get the recognition it deserves, so when it makes a community better, we take notice. Thank you for all your efforts, and keep making us stronger.



## **2020 Award Recipients**



Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award – Special Tribute in honor of Cathy Apothaker David Keller Trevaskis, Esq.



Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award Kelly J. Gastley, Esq.



Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation



Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation



## Kelly J. Gastley, Esq.

### Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award

Kelly J. Gastley, Esq., currently serves as the Managing Attorney for Philadelphia VIP, one of the Bar Foundation's nonprofit partners. Kelly has dedicated her 15-year career to public interest work at VIP, securing representation for individuals, families, and organizations in need, including developing VIP's Tangled Title Project to stem the tide of Philadelphia's affordable housing crisis.

Kelly has spent her whole career with VIP, beginning as an Independence Foundation
Public Interest Law Fellow following her law school graduation in 2005. Through a series of
promotions, she worked her way up to Managing Attorney, where she leads VIP's legal team in
recruiting, training, and supporting hundreds of volunteer attorneys. She has provided extensive
Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training, community outreach, client education, and peer organization consulting
during her tenure at VIP.

Serving on the City Council Working Group that overhauled Philadelphia's real estate tax collection process for owner-occupants, Kelly also worked on the Philadelphia Bar Association's Fraudulent Conveyance Task Force. She tirelessly advocates with judges, policymakers, and public officials on behalf of homeowners. It is estimated that she has protected thousands of families in Philadelphia from homelessness.

Among legal services colleagues, Kelly is known as the "Tangled Title Queen," referring to her dedication to growing VIP's tangled title practice over the course of her career. Through her initial fellowship at VIP, which focused on tangled title issues, Kelly essentially created and implemented the procedures that continue to control most pro bono tangled title work in Philadelphia. In the years since, she has led VIP's volunteer-based Tangled Title Initiative and designed, and directly administers, the Tangled Title Fund, which provides grants to low-income Philadelphians to cover the costs needed to obtain a clean title.



# David Keller Trevaskis, Esq.



### Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award

### Presented as a Special Tribute in honor of Cathy Apothaker

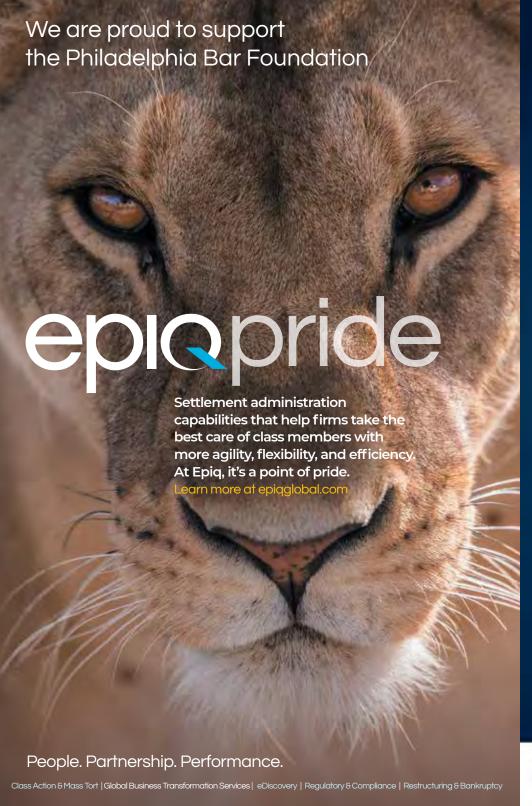
David Keller Trevaskis, Esq. is a champion of access to justice, pro bono service, and public interest work. The first and only full time Pro Bono Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Bar Association since he was hired in 2001, David coordinates civil legal aid services and clinics for thousands of Pennsylvanians in need each year.

David has worked tirelessly through his notable career to build bridges between the Philadelphia legal aid, pro bono community, and similarly focused communities across Pennsylvania. He was deeply involved in the development of web-based technologies to promote access to justice and pro bono service at www.palawhelp.org and www.paprobono.net. David has served as a mentor to countless members of the Pennsylvania legal community and is consistently honored for his work in mediation, veteran support, anti-violence programs, anti-bullying work, youth education, and community service.

Prior to his time with the Pennsylvania Bar Association, David worked as a law student, Staff Attorney and Executive Director at Temple University Beasley School of Law's Law, Education and Participation Project (Temple-LEAP), using law-related education as a means of expanding access to justice. He also developed and implemented transformative youth educational programs in hundreds of Pennsylvania schools. An activist for conflict resolution through non-violence, David designed and launched Project PEACE (Peaceful Endings through Authorities, Children and Educators), a peer mediation, anti-bullying, and youth court program.

Established in 1979 as the Louis D. Apothaker Award, this honor memorialized the legal accomplishments and community work of the late Louis D. Apothaker, a past president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. The award, which was renamed in 2005, continues to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the pursuit of equal justice in our region. David is receiving the Philadelphia Bar Foundation award as a special tribute in honor of Louis Apothaker's widow, Cathy Apothaker, who contracted COVID-19 and passed away in April 2020.







CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

2020 ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS HONOREES



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### **Comcast NBCUniversal**



### Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation



Comcast NBCUniversal's law department has made exceptional contributions to the Philadelphia community through its Pro Bono Program. Launched in 2016, the program connects the company's in-house legal department with a variety of pro bono opportunities. In the program's first year, more than half of Comcast's lawyers participated, logging over 400 hours of pro bono service. In 2019, 85 percent of Comcast's lawyers

participated, providing an estimated 1,000 hours of pro bono service.

Prior to the launch of the formal program, members of the Comcast law department already were actively involved in Philadelphia's pro bono community. In 2013, in partnership with Ballard Spahr and the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), Comcast hosted bi-monthly legal clinics at the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission to assist Philadelphians experiencing homelessness with legal issues related to obtaining birth certificates, Social Security, and green card replacement. The next year, Comcast NBCUniversal partnered with Ballard Spahr and HAP to launch the SSI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Initiative in response to the most pressing needs encountered at these legal clinics.

Recent efforts have included hosting, staffing, and sponsoring various clinics such as citizenship clinics in partnership with HIAS-PA, Duane Morris, and Lutheran Settlement House, birth certificate clinics for homeless individuals in partnership with HAP, and planning document clinics for disabled individuals in partnership with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled. Additionally, Comcast's Pro Bono Program supports individual client work related to protecting the rights of children and seniors in partnership with the Support Center for Child Advocates and the SeniorLAW Center.

Comcast's Pro Bono Program has taken innovative approaches to expand pro bono participation, including hosting legal clinics at the Comcast Center and executing events throughout National Pro Bono Week. Amid the global pandemic, Comcast NBCUniversal continues to encourage and enable pro bono service, including offering virtual trainings and supporting virtual-based representations. Recent efforts have included preparing attorneys and staff to assist low-income residents with U.S. Citizenship and Immigrant Services applications, partnerships with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project and Pennsylvania Lawyers for Social Equity and working with the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund.



### **Dechert LLP**



### Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation



Dechert LLP has a longstanding history of pro bono legal service, which is evidenced in their significant contributions to protecting civil rights and civil liberties of marginalized residents in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. Across the firm, Dechert lawyers participate in at least 25 hours of mandatory pro bono work per year, resulting in thousands of hours of annual pro bono service in our communities. In 2019,

Dechert attorneys logged over 90,000 hours of pro bono service and were ranked #1 for international pro bono service and #11 for U.S. pro bono service by The American Lawyer.

In 2020, Dechert has worked tirelessly to protect the rights and lives of our most vulnerable neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Firm attorneys are providing a substantial commitment of time, resources, and litigation support to assist those who are incarcerated in jails or held at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. Many of these individuals are unable to social distance or practice proper hygiene, putting them at increased risk for contracting COVID-19. This essential, demanding work to protect lives is conducted with the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania (ACLU-PA) and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP), two of the Bar Foundation's nonprofit partners. Dechert attorneys joined these nonprofit partners in a number of federal court lawsuits, three of which are class actions, in March and April of 2020.

The cases, all filed in just two months, build upon Dechert's history of advocating for Pennsylvanian's civil rights and civil liberties. For example, Dechert attorneys were instrumental in the case that resulted in a 2016 Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that public defender clients have the right to sue counties to force them to provide adequate funding to their public defender offices. The United States Supreme Court will hear a case this Fall in which Dechert joined the national ACLU and ACLU-PA, Support Center for Child Advocates, and Philadelphia Family Pride, to protect the rights of LGBTQ+ couples who wish to be foster parents. Dechert attorneys also joined PILP in the fight for the rights of individuals detained in ICE facilities and state jails. They continue to work on securing equitable access to a lifesaving Hepatitis C treatment for individuals incarcerated in Pennsylvania jails.



# **Unified Giving Partners**



### Thank you to our 2020 Unified Giving Partners!

Through our **Unified Giving** campaign, law firms provide an annual one-time financial gift that provides sustenance to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for the whole year. The Bar Foundation relies predominantly on this campaign to support our annual grants.

### \$10,001 - \$25,000 Partnership

Cozen O'Connor

**Duane Morris LLP** 

### \$5,001 - \$10,000 Partnership

**Ballard Spahr LLP** 

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Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.

Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP

### Up to \$5,000 Partnership

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### **Event Sponsors**

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### A PROUD PARTNER



PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION



We congratulate tonight's honorees!

# Thank you for joining us!



The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is the only foundation in Philadelphia solely dedicated to supporting and strengthening the delivery of high quality civil legal aid services across the full spectrum of need. Support from our generous donors has allowed the Bar Foundation to provide unrestricted grants to our nonprofit partners, in addition to supporting important partnerships that strengthen the public interest and pro bono communities.

### **Our Mission**

Through programs, grants, and partnerships, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation removes barriers to justice, engages the community in support of civil legal aid, and builds system-wide capacity in order to strengthen the provision of quality legal services and to ensure that all individuals understand their rights to equal justice under law.

### Congratulations to all of the 2020 award recipients!

Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not quaranteed. You can lose it.

- Representative John Lewis





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www.PhilaBarFoundation.org

Thank you for your support of equal access to justice!