



PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access To Justice Since 1964



2020 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	3
About the Philadelphia Bar Foundation	4
2020 Board of Trustees	6
2020 Coronavirus Response	8
Nonprofit Partners	9
Programs and Fellowships	10
Virtual Events	14
Equal Justice Center	18
2020 Donors and Supporters	19

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2020, many of us will think of the changes to our lives brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many have lost family and friends, found themselves sickened, or suffered a loss of income. We have all experienced changes to the way we live, work, and socialize. Many of us will think of the racial justice movement that has brought with it an imperative to move forward, despite the pain that an examination of systemic racism brings.

As President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for the past two years, I am proud that our Foundation rose to the challenge, providing over \$250,000 in early emergency grants in 2020 to help keep our legal service organizations focusing on providing civil legal aid to those most in need.

I am committed to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's work with our nonprofit partners to examine racial justice and equity. We seek to clarify the Foundation's theory of change by applying an anti-racist lens and identifying explicit considerations and criteria that the Board of Trustees should apply when making decisions about its activities. I also am excited about the projects underway at the Foundation to be a change agent — through the innovative examination of technology, and the exploration of a legal incubator project and legal aid delivery via mobile units.

As I look back on the past two years, I am grateful for the efforts of the Trustees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, who worked both to raise funds and to keep the initiatives of the Foundation moving forward. I am humbled by the efforts of our staff at the Foundation, who kept their eyes on what matters most — seeking to secure funding for legal services organizations that keep people in their homes, fight for access to education, defend basic human rights to be free from discrimination and so much more — while striving to find innovative ways to make that funding go further. The spirit exhibited throughout the Foundation fills me with the hope that the path forward will indeed bring opportunities for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie E. John". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Leslie E. John
President, Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Partner, Ballard Spahr LLP

About the Philadelphia Bar Foundation

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 Vision

A Philadelphia community in which everyone has equal access to justice.

Our Core Values

- All people should have equal access to justice and the right to legal representation.
- When we work to provide an equitable and inclusive playing field, we make our legal system fairer and our society more just.
- It is our responsibility to advocate for equal access to justice, to drive change and to provide legal services to underserved communities.
- It is our place to champion the unique value that the Philadelphia Legal Aid community provides our city and region.
- It is our privilege to recognize, support, and celebrate the efforts of partners and collaborators who further these principles and to show that the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts.

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.

Philanthropic Reflection and Racial Equity

Following the murder of George Floyd, and in response to public demonstrations for racial justice, Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia (PNGP) issued a call to action to philanthropies in our region:

To our colleagues in philanthropy – a field, we remind you, that literally means “love of mankind” – we are at a crossroads. . . . [and must] reckon with philanthropy’s role in perpetuating the structural racism, injustice and white supremacy that people across the country are protesting.

At that time, the Bar Foundation was already participating in an Equity Cohort with PNGP and engaged in applying an equity prism to its investments and operations. Following this call-to-action, the Board was driven to more profound action. An Anti-Racism Taskforce was established to examine structural racism in the civil justice system in order to disrupt processes and practices that uphold or perpetuate systemic racism or white supremacist ideals and systems. An analysis of the Foundation’s operations continues with the goal of centering racial equity in our work by identifying best practices and adopting more equitable practices and processes. In 2020, the Board created an Officer position for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to ensure that we hold ourselves accountable to our equity goals.

Philadelphia Bar Foundation 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

In 2018, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation identified opportunities for organizational growth and improvement and developed a 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. This plan is the culmination of efforts with Philadelphia Bar Foundation leadership and Trustees to define a road map for the immediate and long-term future. The Strategic Priorities identified for 2019-2023 are:

- **Philanthropy:** Increase sustainability and consistency of financial support to legal aid partners
- **Sustainability & Capacity:** Strengthen the Bar Foundation by improving Organizational Sustainability
- **Partnerships:** Increase and strengthen transparent, mutually beneficial partnerships across all areas of the Bar Foundation including partnerships around the Equal Justice Center initiative
- **Advocacy & Awareness:** Transform the legal aid system through advocacy and awareness

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2020 Coronavirus Response

The coronavirus pandemic altered the state of the world, plunging us all into uncertain and unprecedented times. The onset of the pandemic revealed very clearly what the Bar Foundation and its supporters and partners have long understood: our most vulnerable community members need – and equity demands that we provide - our help.

Recognizing the vital importance of civil legal aid, especially at a time like this, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees acted decisively to support our legal aid agencies. In April, just over \$250,000 was authorized for immediate distribution to our 2019 grantees to help alleviate some of the unexpected pressure on the public interest community. In addition, as part of this deliberative emergency response, the Board dispensed with the traditional grant application process for 2020. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the Philadelphia legal community, the Bar Foundation provided additional grants in December 2020 for a total of \$394,674 distributed for the year.

Our nonprofit partners provide access to justice for tens of thousands of individuals and families in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania. In 2020, they worked harder than ever to ensure that the individuals, families, and communities they serve had access to any information, resources, and services they may need to navigate the world during the pandemic. Here are just a handful of the incredible work done by our nonprofit partners in 2020:

- Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project and American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania fought for protections and health standards for incarcerated individuals throughout the state.
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Women Against Abuse, Women’s Law Project, and SeniorLAW Center created resources for domestic violence survivors on safety planning and how to obtain restraining orders during the stay-at-home orders.
- Community Legal Services, Good Shepherd Mediation Program, and Philadelphia Legal Assistance launched an eviction diversion program that helps landlords and tenants arrive at a resolution without going to court.
- Pennsylvania Innocence Project helped exonerate a man who was wrongfully incarcerated for 15 years.
- Disability Rights Pennsylvania, American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, SeniorLAWCenter, and Public Interest Law Center fought for voter rights and protections during the 2020 presidential election.

Nonprofit Partners

AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania

American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania

Atlantic Center for Capital Representation

CeaseFirePA

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Philadelphia

Disability Rights Pennsylvania

Education Law Center

Esperanza Immigration Legal Services

Face to Face Legal Center

Good Shepherd Mediation Program

HIAS Pennsylvania

Homeless Advocacy Project

Justice at Work

Juvenile Law Center

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Mazzoni Center

Nationalities Service Center

Pennsylvania Health Law Project

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center

Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Philadelphia VIP

Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Public Interest Law Center

Regional Housing Legal Services

SeniorLAW Center

Support Center for Child Advocates

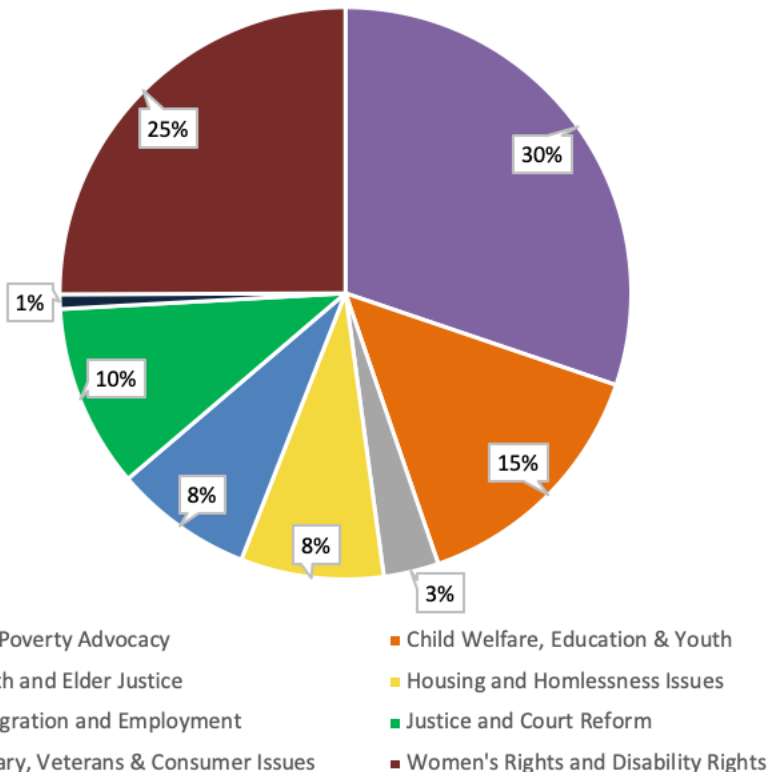
Women Against Abuse

WOAR - Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence

Women's Law Project

Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project

Collective Philadelphia Law Firm Support



Programs and Fellowships

The Bar Foundation is Philadelphia's philanthropic hub for access to justice, and the Foundation's work and achievements involve far more than grantmaking alone. The Bar Foundation addresses a wide variety of needs in the legal aid sector, providing training programs, fellowships, and assistance for technical and operational issues.

The Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Fund

The memory of Judge Albert W. Sheppard, Jr. is honored annually through the Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Fund's support of an academic year law student Fellowship position with the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas - Commerce Division's world renowned Commerce Case Management Program. The Fund was established by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Business Law Section's Business Litigation Committee (Philadelphia Bar Association).

There was no 2020 Sheppard Scholarship awarded due to restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Morris M. Shuster Fellowship

The Morris M. Shuster Fellowship provides forgivable loans each year to deserving public interest attorneys, up to \$5,000 or \$2,500 depending on the attorney's length of service, to help them retire their law school debt. Four legal aid attorneys from four organizations were selected as fellows in 2020.

2020 Recipients: Sarah Coyle, Esq. (Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity), Brenda Marrero, Esq. (Community Legal Services), Alexandra Muolo, Esq. (Homeless Advocacy Project), Kathleen O'Malley, Esq. (Women Against Abuse)

International Law Lyon Scholarship Fund

The Philadelphia Bar Association's International Law Committee and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation established the International Law Lyon Internship Fund (the "ILLI Fund") to provide stipends to Philadelphia area law students who participate in the Philadelphia Bar Association – Lyon, France Bar Association exchange program. Participating students intern at a law firm in Lyon for the summer, learning about the legal system in France and completing some pro bono service.

There was no Lyon Fund recipient in 2020 due to restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Judge William M. Marutani Fellowship

In memory of Judge Marutani and in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Marutani Fellowship provides a stipend to subsidize a summer internship position with a nonprofit public interest organization or with a federal, state or municipal government entity (including the judiciary) in Pennsylvania and the greater Philadelphia area.

2020 Fellows: Cary Zhang (Temple University Beasley School of Law), Danielle Kwock Phillips (Temple University Beasley School of Law)



Cary Zhang



Danielle Kwock Phillips

Samuel T. Gomez Award



To honor the memory of Samuel T. Gomez, Esq., this award was established in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania to annually recognize a law student who demonstrates a commitment to, and passion for, community service.

2020 Recipient: Jeffrey Simon (University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law)

R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence

The R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence utilizes proven examples of effective training programs and makes them available for local legal aid attorneys. NITA-style trial skills training is offered at no cost during an acclaimed three-day intensive program in conjunction with Rutgers Law School.

There was no Gimbel Fund programming in 2020 due to restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.



BOARD OBSERVER PROGRAM

The Bar Foundation created the Board Observer Program, in partnership with the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) and Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association, to encourage civic and community engagement and to help strengthen nonprofit boards in our region. The program provides YLD members an opportunity to serve on nonprofit boards including on the boards of the Bar Foundation's nonprofit partner legal aid organizations. The program allows Observers to develop their leadership skills while learning more about their communities and gaining the knowledge and skills necessary for Board service.



Judge Alfred L. Luongo Fund

The Judge Alfred L. Luongo Fund supports the “Supervision to Aid Reentry” or STAR Program of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, helping ex-offenders succeed in transitioning back to the community. The use of the Luongo Fund has been expanded to also benefit participants in two additional specialized courts in the Eastern District: the Mental Health Protocol program and Relapse Prevention Court, supporting participants facing mental health issues and substance addiction. The Fund was established by Federal District Court Judge Gerald (Jerry) Austin McHugh, Jr. and named in honor of one of his mentors, the late Hon. Alfred L. Luongo. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, funds were released from the Luongo Fund to purchase and distribute \$100 Visa gift cards to participants for necessities such as groceries, toiletries, and other essential items. Over the course of the year, just over \$10,376 dollars were distributed from the Fund to assist a total of 21 individuals.

LexisNexis Research Grants Program

The LexisNexis Research Grant Program provides online research time, tools, and training to grantees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. A total of ten nonprofit legal aid organizations benefited from this program in 2020.



2020 Participating Organizations:

Homeless Advocacy project

Justice at Work

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Pennsylvania Immigration
Resource Center

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity

Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers
for the Arts

Regional Housing Legal Services

SeniorLAW Center

Support Center for Child Advocates

Women's Law Project



Diversity Summer Internship Program

The Association of Corporate Counsel Greater Philadelphia (ACC-GP) sponsors an annual full-time, eight-week Diversity Corporate Summer Internship Program, aimed at increasing

diversity within corporate legal departments. Law students who are members of minority groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession are invited to apply to participate in the program. At a minimum, each intern is compensated a total of \$7,500.00 for participation in the program, though a company may elect to compensate an individual intern at a higher rate. All participants are also required to engage in some form of pro bono service. A total of fourteen individuals participated in the program in 2020.

Virtual Events

Events benefiting the Philadelphia Bar Foundation provide truly fun and meaningful opportunities for the legal community to come together for a great cause – equal access to justice for all. The onset of the coronavirus pandemic prevented us from meeting in person, but Philadelphia’s legal community still found ways to come together.

Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Virtual Happy Hours

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Philadelphia Bar Association shifted their monthly Happy Hours to a virtual format for most of 2020, but they still found a way to support civil legal aid in Philadelphia. The YLD hosted three raffles benefiting the Bar Foundation in 2020.



TAGLaw Spring 2020 International Conference



As a part of TAG Foundation’s efforts to give back to their conference host cities, and on the recommendation of Philadelphia TAGLaw member Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, TAG Alliances selected the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to be a recipient of a generous \$2,500 donation. Although the Spring 2020 International Conference in Philadelphia was transformed into TAGLaw’s first Virtual International Conference, Executive Director Jessica Hilburn-Holmes was able to virtually join the conference and discuss the Bar Foundation’s work in the Philadelphia community.

2020 Access to Justice Awards Benefit

Thank you to our sponsors (page 16) and Unified Giving Partners (page 20) who supported this event.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation issues awards each year acknowledging and promoting excellence and accomplishment in the legal profession for public interest service, pro bono service, nonprofit legal aid achievement, and historical role models for justice. These awards are presented at the Foundation's annual Access to Justice Event. In 2020, the Foundation held the first ever virtual Access to Justice Awards Benefit.

Originally established by the Apothaker family in honor of Louis D. Apothaker, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award recognizes a public interest attorney who is dedicating their life to promoting equal access to justice for all by working in the nonprofit legal services community. In 2020, a special tribute award was made in honor of Louis Apothaker's widow, Cathy Apothaker, who contracted COVID-19 and passed away in April. The Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is presented annually to a Philadelphia law firm or in-house legal department that demonstrates outstanding volunteer efforts in providing legal services to those in need.

Our 2020 awards event was unlike any other we have hosted. As we do every year, we celebrated our Bar Foundation supporters and the outstanding public interest and pro bono attorneys that work in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. The importance of civil legal aid to the community could not have been more evident in 2020. It was an unprecedented year due to the financial burdens caused by COVID-19 on Philadelphia citizens. Issues with income, family structure, discrimination, health, and housing increased during this time. As we lived through the pandemic and tried in addition to respond to needs made evident by the racial justice movement, we were able to join together for this event to reinforce the fact that a commitment to sustaining the work of the Bar Foundation is critical and essential to our city.

The Bar Foundation extends our deepest appreciation to our event supporters. With their generous sponsorships and donations, this event raised \$71,065.

We also thank Rosemary Connors, NBC10 Anchor/Reporter, for being our event emcee and best-selling author and entrepreneur Peter Shankman for joining us as a special guest speaker.

Congratulations to our 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***

Thank you to our 2020 Access to Justice Awards Benefit Sponsors!

Brotherly Love Sponsor



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PECO Energy Company/Exelon Corporation

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2020 Updates

Following the onset of the covid-19 pandemic that began in the spring of 2020, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation decided to not move forward with the groundbreaking and construction of a new building for the Equal Justice Center. The Foundation's non-profit partners could not responsibly commit to moving into a new building, due to both economic constraints and common uncertainty about the future of physical workspaces, particularly the safety of co-location.

The Foundation remains dedicated to securing another physical location in the future, and the vision of the EJC remains the same: equal access to justice. In addition, we are identifying, understanding, and overcoming bias and systemically racist practices. For now, the EJC has pivoted to focus on initiatives that support enhanced virtual collaboration among our partners and center racial equity, including:

Data and Technology Initiative

Assessing the data processes (and related technologies) of current legal aid and social service providers to identify areas for improvement and to allow our partners collaboratively to develop a virtual centralized intake and referral network.

Community Legal Navigators

Exploring the development and deployment of community-based justice navigators (volunteers or para-professionals trained by legal aid and social service practitioners) who can assist members of the community in accessing resources and accurate, up-to-date information. If necessary, navigators will refer visitors to appropriate providers of social, legal, or health services.

Legal Incubator Project

Partnering with area law schools and funders to launch a legal incubator that would accept an annual cohort of new lawyers and train them in the business of law, initially focusing on serving the needs of small/micro businesses in Philadelphia (the majority of whom are immigrant and minority-owned) but eventually helping to supplement the work of our nonprofit partners.

Mobile Units

Examining the feasibility, design, and launch of mobile units to bring social and legal services (and internet connectivity) into neighborhoods.

2020 Donors and Supporters

We express our deepest gratitude for the generous philanthropy of the many donors and supporters of the Bar Foundation who made our work possible in 2020. By supporting the work of the Bar Foundation, the Philadelphia legal community fulfills its responsibility to ensure equal access to justice and helps strengthen public trust in the legal profession.

Arbitration Fee Donations

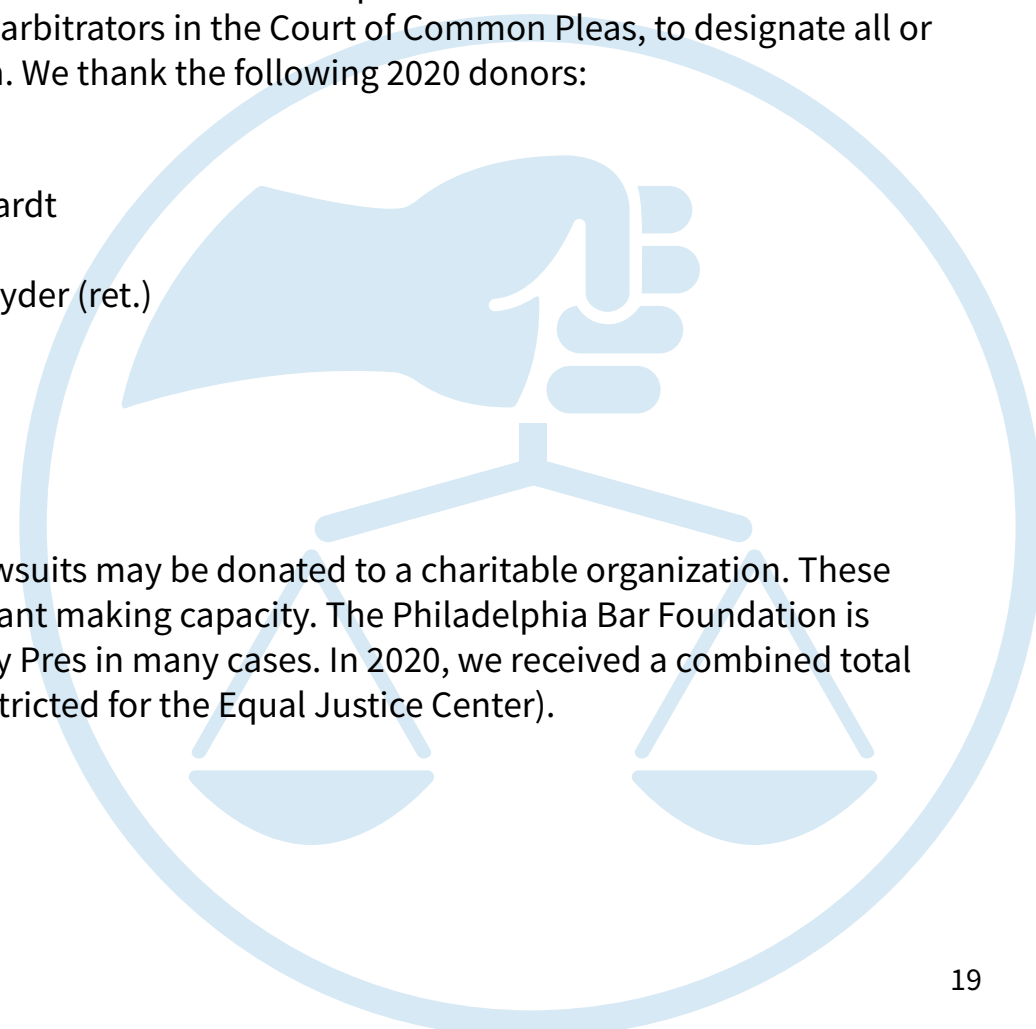
The Philadelphia Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas have made it possible for lawyers, who volunteer their services as arbitrators in the Court of Common Pleas, to designate all or part of their honorarium as a donation to the Bar Foundation. We thank the following 2020 donors:

John E. Caruso
Brian S. Chacker
Sean M. Fulmer
Bruce M. Ginsburg
Matthew Olesh
Maureen Rowan

Jason W. Rubin
Magdalena M. Schardt
Carolyn Schweizer
Hon. A. Michael Snyder (ret.)
David E. Sternberg

Cy Pres Awards

Cy Pres funds that remain undistributed from class action lawsuits may be donated to a charitable organization. These funds have made a significant impact on the Foundation's grant making capacity. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is uniquely positioned to be a highly appropriate recipient of Cy Pres in many cases. In 2020, we received a combined total of \$224,545 in Cy Pres funds (including \$109,732 that was restricted for the Equal Justice Center).



Unified Giving

Our successful Unified Giving campaign is an annual one-time financial gift from a business (law firm or other company) that provides sustenance to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for the whole year, and replaces the need for multiple requests for event sponsorships from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation throughout the year.

Thank you to our 2020 Unified Giving Partners:

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

Cozen O'Connor

Duane Morris LLP

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

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

Ballard Spahr LLP

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Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller

Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.

Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP

Up to \$5,000 Partnership

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2020 Philly Jeans for Justice/Friends of the Foundation

Friends of the Foundation replaced our Philly Jeans for Justice Fundraiser when the onset of the covid-19 pandemic closed our workplaces. This campaign was a way for offices, professional networks, or even groups of friends to help raise emergency relief funding for Philadelphia's legal aid agencies remotely.

Thank you 2020 participants!



Individual Giving

Every year, hundreds of lawyers, legal professionals, and other committed individuals support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation through unrestricted gifts, donations to our endowment, and responses to our fundraising appeals. Their philanthropy makes an important statement about ensuring equal access to justice for all members of our community.

We thank these generous donors for their personal philanthropy:

Neysa C. Adams	Leonard A. Bernstein	Stephanie Brown	Suzan Chau
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Bryanna Roos

Jim Rosen

Bruce Alan Rosenfield

Lewis Rosman

Peter G. Rossi

Michael J. Rugnetta

Louis S. Rulli

Christopher Rupp

Melissa Ruth

Lisa M. Salazar

Caren Schiffman

Karen E. Schneck

Cyn Schneider

Lindsay Schoonmaker

Mark Schwartz

Stacey Scrivani

Nicole Seawright

Daniel Segal

Jane Seu

Stephen Shapiro

Mark B. Sheppard

Lisa Sheppard

Kristin Elizabeth Shicora

Toi A. Shields

Erin M. Siciliano

Daniel Siegel

Jane Siegfried

Lauren Silverang

David Smith

Erica Smith-Klocek

Joshua Snyder

Christine Snyder

Maya Sosnov

Gregory J. Spadea

Dee L. Spagnuolo

Lora Spencer

Wesley Stevenson

Mark S. Stewart

John F. Stillmun

Julie Stoiber

Craig Straw

David R. Strawbridge

Alesia S. Sulock

John S. Summers

Robin P. Sumner

Lisa Swaminathan

Lisa A. Swiatek

Anne Taylor

Jeremy Teaberry

Chris Teixeira

Ralph J. Teti

Celia Thomas

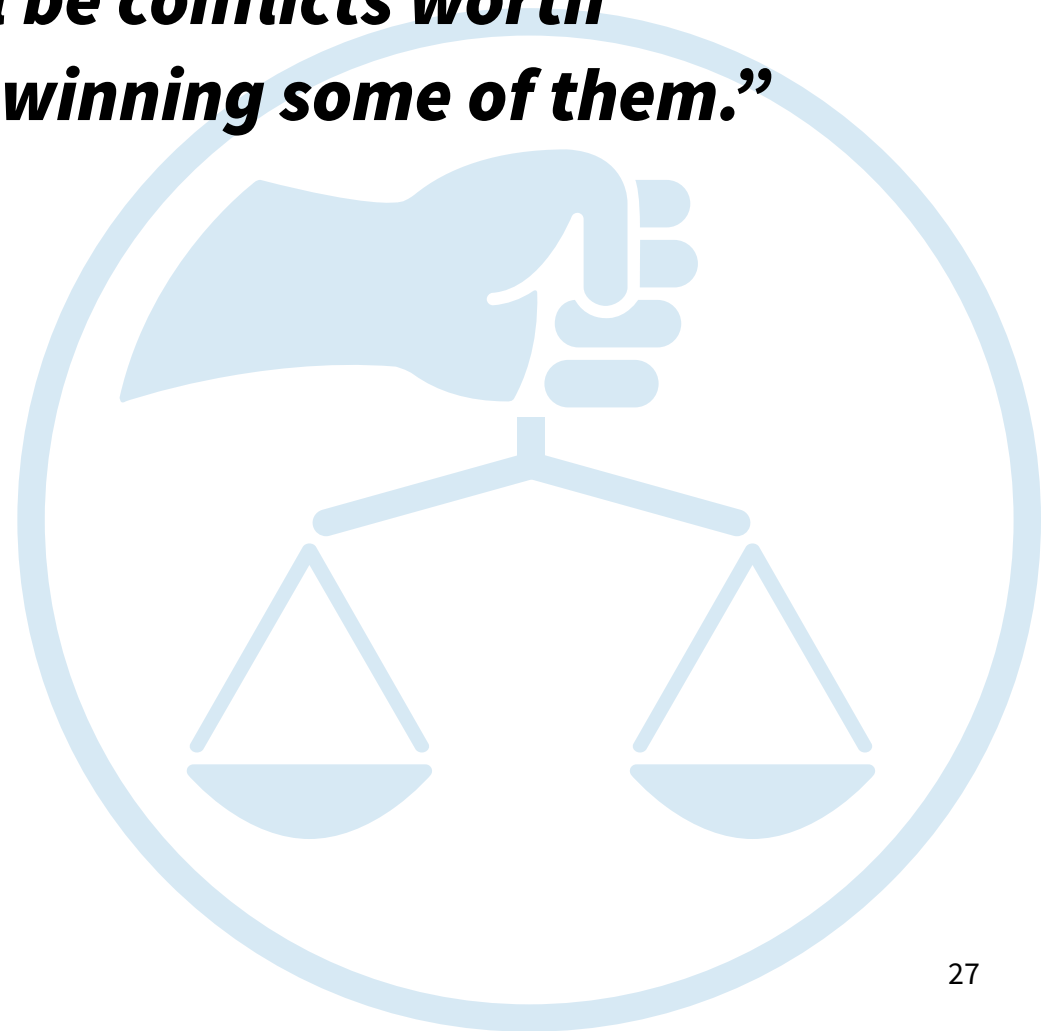
Pamela Elchert Thurmond

Richard Ting

Individual Giving *(continued)*

William Todd	Lisa Whiteley
Jill Tolotta	Russell W. Whitman
Tam Tran	Deborah R. Willig
Djung Tran	Robert Wiygul
Thomas Tran	Elisa Wiygul
David Keller Trevaskis	Robert A. Wiygul
Mayra Troendle	David S. Wolf
Kristel Tupja	Su Ming Yeh
Althea J. Udo-Inyang	Nastassia Yike
Cynthia Utz	Kevin Yoder
John Vanore	Debra Zayas
Emilia McKee Vassallo	Jeffrey P. Zeelander
Lawrence F. Walker	Lindsey Zions
Rebecca Walters	Lauren Zrillo
Ludwig Wang	Marc J. Zucker
Bridget Warner	James J. Zwolak
Andre Jamar Webb	
Ralph G. Wellington	
James Wellons	
Anne E. Whitcombe	

“Hope is not optimism that everything will be fine regardless. Hope offers us clarity that, amid the uncertainty ahead, there will be conflicts worth joining and the possibility of winning some of them.”
– Rebecca Solnit





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