



# PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access To Justice Since 1964



## 2021 Annual Report

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# Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

2021 was another unprecedented year that tested our individual and collective strength. In Philadelphia, we are so fortunate to have such a vast community of dedicated individuals and nonprofit organizations committed to making a change in the City, the state, and around the country. The Bar Foundation's 36 nonprofit partners make life-changing impacts on the communities they serve each and every day.



The Bar Foundation believes that an equitable and well-resourced civil legal system is essential in the fight for a better society. Fortunately, in 2021 we witnessed an upswing in understanding and recognition of the critical value of civil legal aid services, both regionally and nationally. Philadelphia's Eviction Diversion Program, a collaboration that encompasses City offices, the courts, and a number of our nonprofit partners, is being lauded as a national model, and the Attorney General of the United States has restored the Office of Access to Justice, a standalone office within the Department of Justice that works to address the most urgent civil legal needs of communities across the country.

Nevertheless, the need for these services – especially in Philadelphia with its high rate of poverty – is still outstripping the capacity of the civil legal services system. We must do more to strengthen the capacity of the system and expand access to justice.

Thank you to our nonprofit partners, who work tirelessly day after day to fight for equal access to justice in healthcare, housing, immigration, and more. Thank you to our donors, Philadelphia's legal and business communities, for your support of our work and our mission. I look forward to serving again in 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith S. Auten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Meredith S. Auten  
President, Philadelphia Bar Foundation

# 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

In 2020, 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. In October, the Foundation received a Leadership Grant from the Philadelphia Foundation’s Ira Jewell Williams Fund to support the work of the Anti-Racism Taskforce.

## Philadelphia Bar Foundation 2021-2023 Strategic Plan

In 2018, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation identified opportunities for organizational growth and improvement and developed a 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the pivot of the Equal Justice Center and the racial justice movement, the Foundation decided to revise its strategic plan. The Strategic Priorities identified for 2021-2023 are:

**Philanthropy:** Ground the Foundation’s fundraising and giving in race, social, and economic equity to enhance sector-wide capacity and stimulate systemic changes to remove inequities in the justice sector.

**Sustainability & Capacity:** Strengthen the Philadelphia 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:** Center racial equity in identifying, understanding, and overcoming barriers to equal access to justice.

# 2021 Board of Trustees

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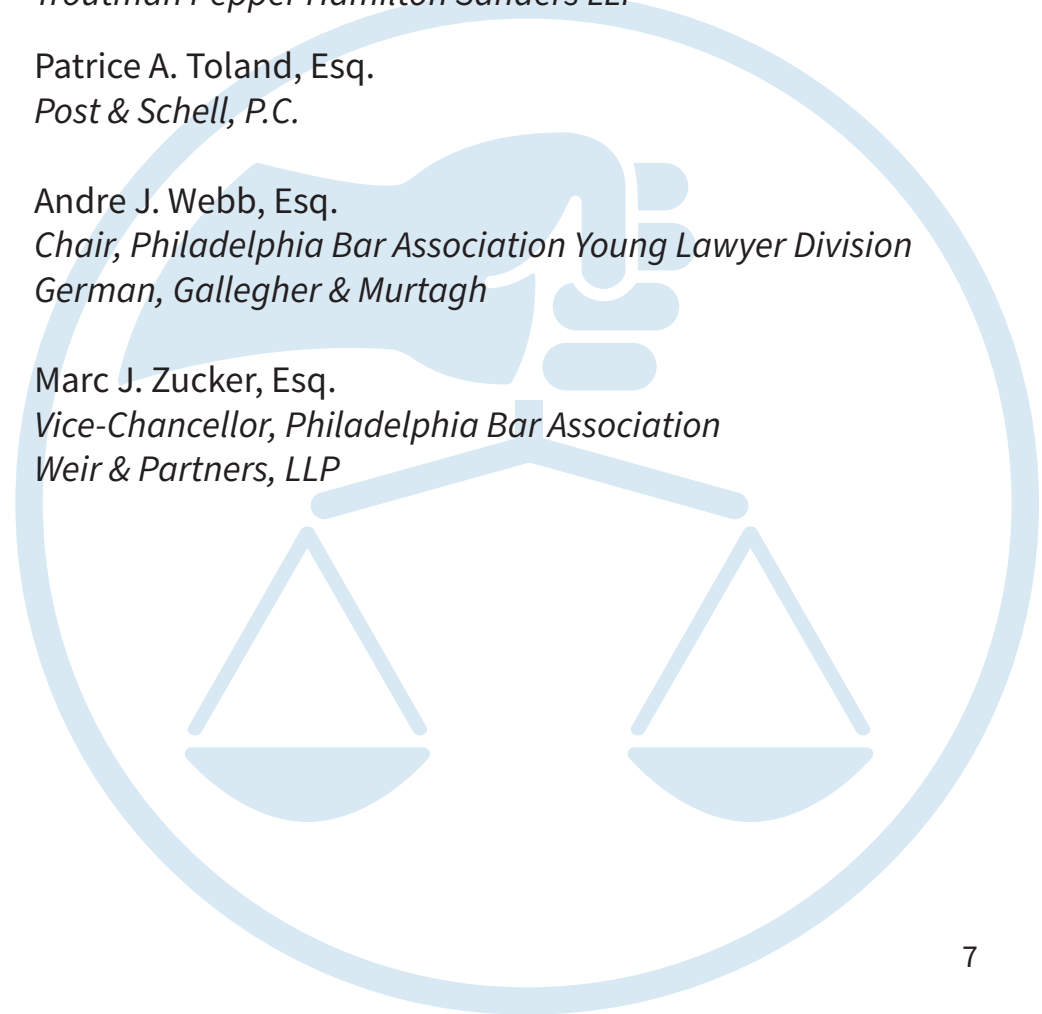
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# Nonprofit Partners

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

CORA Good Shepherd Mediation Program

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Philadelphia

Disability Rights Pennsylvania

Education Law Center  
Esperanza Immigration Legal Services

Face to Face Legal Center  
Homeless Advocacy Project  
Justice at Work

Juvenile Law Center  
Legal Clinic for the Disabled  
Mazzoni Center Legal Services

Nationalities Service Center  
PA HIAS Indigent Immigrant Legal Services

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

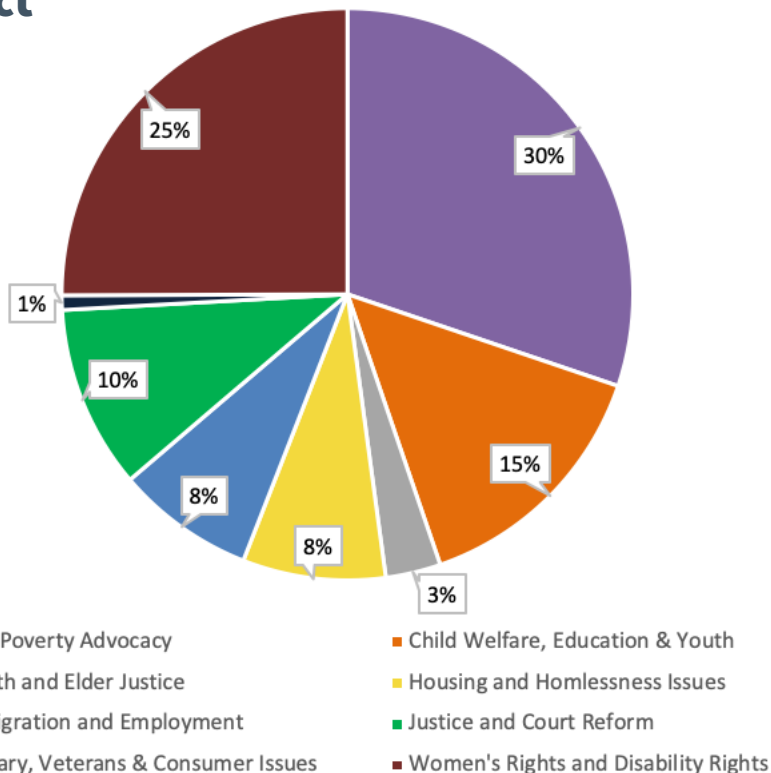
Women Against Abuse

WOAR - Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence

Women's Law Project

Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project

## Philadelphia Legal Community Philanthropic Impact







# Powering change Fighting for equity Advancing justice for all



# Programs and Partnerships

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.

## 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. Three legal aid attorneys from three organizations were selected as fellows in 2021.

**2021 Recipients:** Joanna V. Visser Adjoian, Esq. (Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project), Fareeda H. Brewington, Esq. (Women Against Abuse), Kadeem Morris, Esq. (Community Legal Services)

## 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.

*There was no Gomez Award Recipient in 2021 due to circumstances caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.*

## 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 2021 due to restrictions caused by the ongoing 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.

**2021 Fellows:** Livia Luan (Temple University Beasley School of Law), Tue Ho (Rutgers Law School - Camden)



Livia Luan



Tue Ho

## 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-long 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).

**2021 Fellow:** Myranda (Meng Xi) Zhou, Temple University Beasley 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 2021 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. Participating organizations benefit from the energy and new ideas of these young lawyers. 24 nonprofit organizations and 29 attorneys participated in this program in 2021.

## 2021 Participating Organizations:

Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia  
CASA Philadelphia  
Clery Center  
Disability Rights PA  
Girls Rock Philly  
Healthy Newsworks  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Independence Charter School - CC  
Interfaith Philadelphia

Juvenile Law Center  
Legal Clinic for the Disabled  
Lutheran Settlement House  
Nationalities Service Center  
Pennsylvania Innocence Project  
Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts  
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (PVLA)  
Philadelphia VIP

Public Interest Law Center  
Rebuilding Together Philadelphia  
SeniorLAW Center  
SquashSmarts  
Supportive Older Women's Network (SOWN)  
The Clay Studio

## 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 2021, nearly \$7,500 dollars were distributed from the Fund to assist a total of 31 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 2021.



### 2021 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. The Bar Foundation has been a proud partner of this program since 2011. A total of nineteen individuals participated in the program in 2021.



# Annual Event

## 2021 Access to Justice Awards Benefit

***Thank you to our sponsors (page 16) who supported this event and our Unified Giving Partners (page 20) for their year-round support***

2021 was another unprecedented year, and Philadelphia's civil legal agencies once again stepped up to provide critical services to communities across Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. 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 2021, the Foundation held the second-annual 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. Nilam A. Sanghvi, Esq., Legal Director at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, was the recipient of the 2021 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award.

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. White and Williams LLP received the 2021 Pro Bono Award.

Trailblazers for Justice are individuals who led the way in Philadelphia in creating equal access to justice for all. These honorees are historical role models and demonstrate the rich diversity of contributions that have made our community what it is today. In 2021, the Bar Foundation honored the late William T. Coleman, Jr. (1920 - 2017) with the Trailblazer for Justice Award for his extraordinary, life-long contributions to racial justice and the rule of law.

We were extremely honored to have U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland join us as a special speaker to honor his late friend William Coleman. We thank A.G. Garland and Erin Coleman, NBC10 Anchor/Reporter, our emcee for the evening.

## Congratulations to our 2021 Award Recipients



***Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award***  
**Nilam A. Sanghvi, Esq.**



***Trailblazer for Justice Award***  
**William T. Coleman Jr., Esq. (1920 - 2017)**



***Pro Bono Award of the  
Philadelphia Bar Foundation***

## Thank you to our 2021 Access to Justice Awards Benefit Sponsors!

### Equality Sponsor



### Equality Sponsor



### Diversity Sponsors



### Media Sponsor



### Integrity Sponsors



### Freedom Sponsors

The Haverford Trust Company

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PECO Energy Company/Exelon Corporation

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Rust Consulting and Kinsella Media

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## 2021 Updates

In May 2021, we engaged Novus Insight (Novus) to examine ways of improving interagency collaboration and data sharing among our legal aid service providers and other organizations involved in the legal aid ecosystem. This “Needs Assessment and Technology Feasibility” project explored how best to align data across the network of service providers and other organizations involved in the legal aid ecosystem.

During this first project phase, Novus conducted interviews to (1) understand each agency’s use and collection of data, learn what data systems are currently in use, and (2) explore how individuals journey through each organization and the type of information/data that follows them throughout that process.

In Phase 2, the Foundation is looking forward to working with our legal aid nonprofit partners to design a framework for system navigation, and to explore the development and use of legal aid navigators. This endeavor will involve exploring the establishment of accessibility, data sharing, and data privacy standards to which all partners would agree to adhere. At the same time, the Foundation intends to ensure that those most impacted by the inequities of the status quo, are included in the process of defining and designing these innovations.

By realizing our shared goals of efficiency and collaboration, we will significantly reduce barriers to justice for thousands of individuals and families. By reducing duplication of efforts among legal services organizations regarding intake and referral procedures, we aim to ameliorate the chronic under-funding that impacts their ability to meet the seemingly limitless need for client services. This initiative will empower legal aid organizations to increase vital resources for staffing, programs, and client services.

Our aim is to permanently transform the capacity of the city’s legal aid system to improve and sustain operations to better meet client needs. Currently, there is no central point of coordination which is alienating for potential clients and creates inconsistent, repetitive methods of collection, assessment, and information exchange – exactly the problems that technology is designed to address. We will redesign existing process maps to reflect a future in which there is a ‘one-stop shop’ for civil legal information, assistance, and referrals through better integration of higher quality data. This will facilitate work on a further strategic objective of co-creating community-based justice hubs to breakdown systemic barriers and further improve access to justice for all Philadelphians.

# 2021 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 2021. By supporting the work of the Bar Foundation, the Philadelphia legal community fulfills its responsibility to ensure equal access to justice and to help 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 2021 donors:

Brian S. Chacker

Kenneth M. Kapner

David E. Sternberg

Edward F. Chacker

Vincent R. McGuinness

Divya Wallace

John DeFeo

Matthew Olesh

Arthur P. Fritzinger

Maureen Rowan

Sean M. Fulmer

Magdalena M. Schardt

Kyle M. Heisner

Jeffrey Solomon

## 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 2021, we received a combined total of \$61,873.69 in Cy Pres funds.

## 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 2021 Unified Giving Partners:

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

Cozen O'Connor  
Duane Morris LLP  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders  
White and Williams LLP

#### **\$8,001 - \$10,000 Partnership**

Ballard Spahr LLP  
Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  
Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller  
Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.

#### **\$5,001 - \$8,000 Partnership**

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#### **Up to \$5,000 Partnership**

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Weir & Partners LLP

Willig, Williams & Davidson

## 2021 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 2021 participants!***



## 2021 Pennies for Pearls Pop-up Fundraiser

Launched by the Bar Foundation's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Niki Ingram, the Pennies for Pearls campaign was created to celebrate our first female African American and South Asian American Vice President, Kamala Harris. Participants donate a small amount and snap a photo of themselves wearing pearls to honor all women, past and present, who have worked tirelessly (and continue to work tirelessly) to make this world and our country a better place.

***Thank you 2021 participants!***



**Join me and wear Pearls in support  
of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation!**  
[www.philabarfoundation.org/pearls](http://www.philabarfoundation.org/pearls)


## 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:**

David F. Abernethy	Alan D. Berkowitz	Anita B. Brody	Austin Cohen
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Gulam Zade

Debra Zayas

Marc J. Zucker



***“Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists .”***

***– Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)***



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