Access to Justice Awards Benefit
Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Program Book
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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 need for civil legal aid services has never been so significant. Our nonprofit partners work tirelessly to provide free and low-cost legal services to individuals and families in Philadelphia, protecting them from losing their access to housing, education, healthcare, and more. The Bar Foundation is proud to be a source of unrestricted funding for these organizations, allowing them to pursue an array of strategies in order to best serve the direct needs of their clients, and to develop winning and innovative impact litigation tactics while having the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and pressing needs.

Our event tonight celebrates our Bar Foundation supporters, and the outstanding public interest and pro bono attorneys who 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.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, thank you for your support during 2021, and thank you for your support tonight. Your commitment to sustain the work of the Bar Foundation is critical and essential to our city.

Meredith S. Auten
Acting President, Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

www.PhilaBarFoundation.org
Welcome from the Benefit Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s 2021 Access to Justice Awards Benefit.

The fight for equal access to justice has never been more imperative than it is today. 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 2021 Philadelphia Bar Foundation supporters who help make this work possible. These are trying times, and the need in the community is great. In these divisive times, 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,

Christopher D. Durham
2021 Event Co-Chair
Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Partner, Duane Morris LLP

Wesley R. Payne, IV
2021 Event Co-Chair
Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Chancellor-Elect, Philadelphia Bar Association
Partner, White and Williams LLP

www.PhilaBarFoundation.org
We’re big fans of people who look out for people.

Congratulations to the 2021 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 to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for all your efforts, and keep making us stronger.

Liz Lambert
Senior Managing Director, National Settlements
(215) 568-2382
liz.lambert@huntington.com
We welcome Erin Coleman, NBC10 Anchor/Reporter, as our event emcee.

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Voorhees, New Jersey, Erin is passionate about telling stories and connecting with viewers. Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Brown University and holds a Master of Science degree from Columbia University’s School of Journalism.

Erin has worked in television for 17 years. She worked as a reporter and anchor in Atlanta, Georgia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Greensboro North Carolina; and Jonesboro, Arkansas. Erin has received multiple awards during her outstanding career including two Emmy Awards and the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award.

She is a member of the Junior League of Philadelphia and the National Association of Black Journalists. She is an active member of her community, often found hosting charity galas, walks, breakfast and lunch events, as well as supporting multiple nonprofit organizations across the country.

Erin is the anchor of NBC10 News Today from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. weekday mornings. She also co-hosts The Lineup, a digital newscast streamed on the NBC10 apps on Roku and Apple TV.
Attorney General Merrick Garland is tonight’s guest speaker.

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland was sworn in as the 86th Attorney General of the United States on March 11, 2021. As the nation’s chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Garland leads the Justice Department’s 115,000 employees, who work across the United States and in more than 50 countries worldwide. Under his leadership, the Department of Justice is dedicated to upholding the rule of law, keeping our country safe, and protecting the civil rights of all Americans.

Immediately preceding his confirmation as Attorney General, Attorney General Garland was a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Before becoming a federal judge, Attorney General Garland spent a substantial part of his professional life at the Department of Justice, serving in both career and non-career positions under five Attorney Generals.

In those roles, his responsibilities spanned the work of the Department, including criminal, civil, and national security matters. They also included direct supervision of investigations and prosecutions of national importance, including the Oklahoma City bombing, Unabomber, and Montana Freemen cases.

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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.

*Mere access to the courthouse doors does not by itself assure a proper functioning of the adversary process.*

--- Justice Thurgood Marshall

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.
We all deserve someone in our corner.

Ballard Spahr has a longstanding commitment to providing pro bono legal services to individuals and organizations in need of legal services.

We are proud to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the 2021 Access to Justice Awards Benefit.
Congratulations to the 2021 Award Recipients

William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr., Esq.
Nilam A. Sanghvi, Esq.
White and Williams, LLP
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 low-income 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.

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

Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award
Nilam A. Sanghvi
Legal Director at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project

Trailblazer for Justice
William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr.

Pro Bono Award
White and Williams LLP

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Congratulations
to the 2021 Access to Justice Award Recipients and, of course, our own Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

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Cozen O’Connor proudly supports the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s Access to Justice Awards Benefit and our colleague Kathy Jaffari in her candidacy for Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Law for all.

We are proud to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and congratulate the 2021 Award Recipients.
2021 Award Recipients

*Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation*

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

*Trailblazer for Justice Award*
William T. Coleman Jr., Esq.
Duane Morris proudly supports the PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION and its Access to Justice Benefit

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Thank you to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for its tireless efforts to promote justice in our communities.

We are humbled to be recognized among tonight’s honorees with the 2021 Pro Bono Award and thank our pro bono partners, Homeless Advocacy Project, Philadelphia VIP, SeniorLAW Center and Support Center for Child Advocates.
White and Williams LLP has partnered with various civil legal aid organizations in Philadelphia to provide pro bono support for more than three decades. As a supporter of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s One Day Pledge, every firm attorney devotes 24 hours annually to pro bono and community service efforts.

Firm attorneys have volunteered with Philadelphia VIP for 35 years serving more than 100 clients with a myriad of different legal issues. In 2007, White and Williams launched their tangled title practice group to work on VIP’s more complicated probate and real estate cases. Collectively, the firm’s attorneys have made a tremendous impact through their homeownership and tangled title legal work allowing dozens of deserving Philadelphians to stay in their homes. According to an August 2021 study by Pew Charitable Trusts, majority Black neighborhoods in Philadelphia had the highest rate of tangled titles. This disproportionate impact extends further than just the headache caused by a tangled title – tangled titles prevent individuals from building generational wealth through homeownership and making necessary maintenance to their property, which leads to deterioration of the home and the neighborhood.

In partnership with the Homeless Advocacy Project’s (HAP) adopt-a-shelter program, the firm provides compassionate legal assistance to residents of Bethesda Project’s Our Brothers’ Place (OBP). White and Williams’ support and dedication through bi-monthly clinics has helped make it HAP’s most successful long-term legal clinic site. Firm volunteer attorneys and paralegals have provided legal representation to more than 870 vulnerable residents of OBP, advising them on matters such as veteran benefits, disability benefits, child custody, and housing. During the pandemic, the firm transitioned quickly to staffing virtual, remote HAP legal clinics. White and Williams has been a trusted partner to HAP for more than 25 years.

White and Williams has partnered with Support Center for Child Advocates for more than 35 years, representing children in abuse and neglect matters. The firm’s lawyers, paralegals, and support staff have represented more than 100 children in the dependency system. Numerous firm attorneys have served on the Child Advocates board, and three have been recognized with their Distinguished Advocates for Children Award.

White and Williams has been a critical partner to Chubb’s Pro Bono Program since 2015, assisting Chubb’s staff with running SeniorLAW Center’s estate planning clinics. Lawyers and paralegals dedicate many hours to the pro bono program, and the firm provides logistical support, including space for clients and clinics, notarization services, and technology.
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award

Nilam A. Sanghvi, Esq. is currently the Legal Director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, which works to exonerate individuals convicted of crimes they didn’t commit and to prevent innocent people from being convicted. The Project has helped secure the exoneration of twenty individuals and has secured the release of three individuals as they continue to fight for exoneration.

With a heavy litigation caseload, Nilam presents training sessions on wrongful conviction and exoneration that she has developed for law firms and in-house legal departments. She also teaches the seminars for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project’s exemplary externship program with most law schools in PA, which gives students an opportunity to get hands-on experience with evaluation, investigation, and litigation work and raises awareness among students about the importance of a career in criminal justice reform and fosters a deep commitment to pro bono service. Nilam is an Adjunct Professor at Penn State Dickinson Law and the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law. She was also recently elected to serve on the Executive Board of the Innocence Network.

Prior to her work with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Nilam was a supervising attorney and teaching fellow in the Georgetown University Law Center Appellate Litigation Program, where she supervised law students representing indigent clients in appeals in federal courts, particularly in immigration cases. Before that, Nilam was a partner in the litigation services department at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. She received the firm’s 2010 Earl G. Harrison Pro Bono Award for her leadership and pro bono commitment in the homicide trial of William J. Barnes. Nilam supervised a team that spent hundreds of hours investigating, reviewing, and preparing for the trial, which resulted in an acquittal. While at Schnader, she devoted countless hours to this case and other important pro bono matters.

Nilam has dedicated her life to ensuring equal access to justice and served as a trustee to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors from 2011-2018. She is a co-founder of the Foundation’s award-winning Board Observer Program, allowing cohorts of young lawyers to sit as annual observers on nonprofit boards.
Trailblazer for Justice Award

William T. Coleman Jr. was born in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, and spent his career as an attorney in private and public practice fighting to advance civil rights in the United States. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he became the third black staff member accepted to the Harvard Law Review and the first to graduate first in his class.

Mr. Coleman began his legal career as a law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and went on to serve as the first black Supreme Court clerk. After his clerkships, he hoped to practice law in Philadelphia but was repeatedly rejected because of his race. Instead, he secured a position at Paul Weiss in New York with assistance from his good friend Louis Pollack. In 1952, six years after graduating from Harvard, Mr. Coleman accepted an offer from Richardson Dilworth to practice at Dilworth, Paxson, Kalish & Green where he later became a partner. Mr. Coleman was involved in many major civil rights cases before the United States Supreme Court over his legal career, out of nineteen cases argued before the Supreme Court altogether. He authored the legal briefs presented to the court in Brown vs. Board of Education, argued a case that led to the establishment of the constitutionality of interracial marriage and cohabitation, and successfully argued that segregated private schools should be barred from receiving federal tax exemptions.

Mr. Coleman served, in the Johnson administration, as co-chairman of the White House Conference on Civil Rights in 1966. Later, under President Gerald Ford, Mr. Coleman served as the fourth United States Secretary of Transportation and was the second African-American to serve in the United States Cabinet. In addition to decades of private practice, Mr. Coleman was President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF) for a year and Chairman for twenty years. In 1987, as co-Chair of the LDF, Mr. Coleman testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposition to the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. At the end of his lengthy testimony, then Senator Joseph Biden, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, remarked:

*Mr. Secretary, I must tell you . . . I have been more impressed by you as a witness today than any witness I have ever sat and listened to in any hearing. I knew you were a man of great integrity and passion and feeling, but I am amazed and impressed by the depth of your knowledge of the law, your reverence for the Constitution, and your facility to discuss it. . . .

Mr. Coleman received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1995. He passed away at 96 in 2017.
Faegre Drinker Helping To Expand Access To Justice

Faegre Drinker is proud to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s Access to Justice Award Benefit. We stand proudly with our colleagues who inspire the legal industry’s mission of providing access to justice for all.
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Thank you for all you do to secure access to justice.

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Jennifer L. Beidel, Partner
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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.

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Thank you to our 2021 Unified Giving Partners!
We congratulate this year’s award recipients and honorees for their achievements.

2021 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award
**Nilam A. Sanghvi**
Legal Director, Pennsylvania Innocence Project

2021 Pro Bono Award
**White and Williams LLP**

2021 Trailblazer for Justice
**William T. Coleman, Jr.**
We are proud to support The Philadelphia Bar’s 2021 Access to Justice Awards Benefit and we congratulate this year’s award recipients.

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Blank Rome LLP is honored to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

And, joins in congratulating the Access to Justice Award honorees:

Nilam A. Sanghvi, Esq.
White and Williams LLP
William T. Coleman, Jr., Esq.

For 75 years, Blank Rome has been committed to supporting community, civic, and professional organizations in the many communities where we work and live.

In addition to supporting nonprofit organizations directly, we encourage our attorneys and professionals to volunteer and provide pro bono legal services.
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 allows the Bar Foundation to provide unrestricted grants to our nonprofit partners, in addition to fostering 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 2021 award recipients!

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.

- W.E.B. DuBois
Thank you for your support of equal access to justice!