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The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Announces their 2017 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award and Pro Bono Award Honorees

Uniting the Community for Legal Aid at the Access to Justice Benefit and Honoring the Work of Ayodele Gansallo, Esq. of HIAS Pennsylvania and Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

PHILADELPHIA, PA – August 7, 2017 - The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is thrilled to announce the winners of its two annual awards, highlighting the phenomenal efforts of Philadelphia lawyers to remove barriers to justice for those individuals and families facing poverty, abuse, and discrimination. This year's Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award honoree is Ayodele Gansallo, Esq. of HIAS Pennsylvania. This year's 2017 Pro Bono Award honoree is Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award and the Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation will be officially presented at the Access to Justice Benefit on November 4, 2017 at the Mütter Museum from 7 PM – 11 PM.

"The Philadelphia Bar Foundation and Pro Bono Awards, honoring Ayodele Gansallo and Drinker Biddle respectively, have been staples of the Bar Foundation's annual Benefit for over a decade. I am honored to be part of an organization that recognizes such significant contributions to providing access to justice for all of our citizens." - Thomas A. Brophy, President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and CEO of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.



*2017 Philadelphia Bar
Foundation Award*
Ayodele Gansallo, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney, HIAS
Pennsylvania

Drinker Biddle

*2017 Pro Bono Award of the
Philadelphia Bar Foundation*
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Ayodele "Ayo" Gansallo, Esq., is a senior staff attorney at HIAS Pennsylvania who has devoted her career to representing victims of persecution, abuse, and discrimination seeking asylum in the U.S. Ayo was selected to receive this year's award in recognition of her years of tireless service on behalf of some of the most vulnerable members of our population – immigrants and refugees. Carole Wilder, a pro bono attorney who volunteers at HIAS Pennsylvania stated, "Ayo's depth of knowledge and experience as an immigration lawyer has been invaluable, but it is her passion for her work and her willingness to give so much of herself and her time that is so extraordinary."

The **Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award**, originally established by the Apothaker family to honor Louis D. Apothaker, acknowledges exceptional leadership of a public interest attorney dedicating his or her life to equal access to justice.

Recent past recipients of the Bar Foundation Award include: Marsha Cohen, Homeless Advocacy Project (2016) and Michael Churchill, Public Interest Law Center (2015).

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP was selected to receive the Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for its thousands of hours of pro bono service and investment from their attorneys in providing direct service through legal aid agencies. “We encourage our lawyers to dedicate themselves and their considerable talents to causes that matter to them, and to those who would otherwise be voiceless,” said Andrew C. Kassner, Chairman and CEO of Drinker Biddle. “We are proud of the passion and focus our lawyers demonstrate when undertaking this commendable work, and are extremely grateful to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for this meaningful recognition.”

The **Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation** is given annually to a Philadelphia law firm or corporate legal department that delivers outstanding volunteer efforts in support of legal services to those in need.

Recent past recipients of the Pro Bono Award include: Peter (“Tad”) Levan, Jr. (2016) and North America Office of General Counsel of ACE Group (now CHUBB) (2015).

2017 marks the twelfth anniversary of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award and the fourteenth anniversary of the Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Hear the stories of dedication and volunteerism yourself when you attend the Access to Justice Benefit on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Mütter Museum. Register [NOW](#).

The **Philadelphia Bar Foundation** is the philanthropic hub of the legal community and is the only foundation solely dedicated to strengthening Philadelphia’s legal services system. The Bar Foundation’s philanthropy for justice is the embodiment of the Philadelphia legal community’s commitment to the fundamental principle of equal access to justice for all people. The Foundation works to strengthen the legal aid and pro bono systems, remove barriers to justice for individuals and families facing poverty, abuse, and discrimination, and support system-wide capacity-building, providing unrestricted grants, technical assistance, fellowships, and awards.

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