

## PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access To Justice Since 1964

# 2019 Annual Report

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**Letter from the President** 

#### Dear Friends,

I have been working in the legal community for over three decades. During that time, I have seen first hand the value of pro bono service and the dedication of Philadelphia's civil legal aid community. Through our grantmaking, programs, fellowships, and awards, the Foundation works to promote equal access to justice for all individuals, families, and communities across Pennsylvania.

A few highlights from 2019, for me, include:

- The passage of the Right to Counsel bill in Philadelphia City Council, which guarantees low income tenants representation in eviction cases and furthers the progress of the Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project, a collaborative effort implemented by several legal service agencies in Philadelphia, including our nonprofit partners Community Legal Services (CLS), Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD), Philadelphia VIP, Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) and SeniorLAW Center (SLC).
- The Honorable Timothy K. Lewis's speech at our 2019 Access to Justice Benefit about the Equal Justice Center and why he believes it's "the most important endeavor ever undertaken" in achieving equal access to justice.
- The Bar Foundation was selected to participate in Philanthropy Network's Equity Cohort, a program designed to foster awareness, reflection, and institutional change regarding structural and systemic barriers to equity, particularly as they pertain to race.

Thank you to the Board and Staff of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for your continued commitment to our mission and values. Thank you to our nonprofit partners, who work tirelessly day after day to fight for equal access to justice in health-care, 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 2020.

Leslie E. John, Esq.



## **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**

- We believe all people should have equal access to justice and the right to legal representation.
- We believe in a just and fair society; when we work to provide an equitable and inclusive playing field, we make our legal system fairer.
- We believe in our responsibility to advocate for equal access to justice wherever possible, to drive change and provide legal services to underserved communities.
- We believe in recognizing, supporting, and celebrating the efforts of partners and collaborators who further these principles; the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts.
- We believe in amplifying the unique value that the Philadelphia Legal Aid community provides.

## **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.

### 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

## **2019 Board of Trustees**

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## 2019 Highlights

## Hon. Timothy K. Lewis highlighted the importance of the Equal Justice Center in an Op-Ed in The Philadelphia Citizen

Judge Lewis shared why the Philadelphia Equal Justice Center is "the most important endeavor ever undertaken" in achieving equal access to justice in an Op-Ed for The Philadelphia Citizen.

#### \$25,000 Grant Awarded from Eagles Social Justice Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation

The Eagles Social Justice Fund awarded a grant in support of the Equal Justice Center and other Philadelphia-area nonprofit organizations.

#### New Video About the Philadelphia Equal Justice Center

A new video was produced to highlight the Equal Justice Center project and the transformation of civil legal aid services in Philadelphia.

#### **New Renderings Revealed**

The 140,000-square foot Philadelphia Equal Justice Center will bring a new national standard of collaboration and efficiency for free and low-cost legal services.



THE

PHILADELPHIA

The Power of Endless Possibilities:

FOUNDATION



## www.PhilaEqualJusticeCenter.org

#### **Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival in Chinatown**

The Equal Justice Center team hosted a booth at Asian Americans United's 24th annual Mid-Autumn Festival in Chinatown.

#### Pro Bono Institute Spotlights the Equal Justice Center

Following their earlier spotlight on the Equal Justice Center, the D.C. based nonprofit discussed the project with the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Executive Director, Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, in the June/July edition of their newsletter, the Pro Bono Wire.

#### The American Institute of Architects Selects EJC for 2019 Emerging Professionals Exhibit

The Equal Justice Center was selected along with 15 other national projects to be featured in AIA's Emerging Professionals Exhibit: Designing for Equity.

#### The Legal Intelligencer Features the Equal Justice Center

The Legal Intelligencer recently ran a story about the Equal Justice Center's ground breaking set for October 2019.

# The Legal Intelligencer

#### David Cohen, Robert Heim, and Leslie Anne Miller Support the EJC in Inquirer Op-Ed

Influential Philadelphians David Cohen, Robert Heim, and Leslie Anne Miller shared their support for the EJC with an op-ed in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## The Philadelphia Inquirer



#### Pro Bono Institute Spotlights the Equal Justice Center

The Pro Bono Institute, a D.C.-based nonprofit, recently spotlighted the Equal Justice Center in their blog, the PBEye.

#### **Comcast Newsmakers Highlights Equal Justice Center**

Philadelphia Legal Assistance Executive Director, Anita Santos-Singh, spoke with Comcast Newsmakers about the Equal Justice Center project.

#### **CBS Philly Covers the Equal Justice Center**

In an interview with Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, CBS Philly reporter Greg Argos highlights how the Equal Justice Center will better connect Philadelphians to legal resources.

#### **WURD Radio Interviews Jessica Hilburn-Holmes**

WURD Radio host Solomon Jones interviewed Philadelphia Bar Foundation's executive director, Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, to discuss the Equal Justice Center.

#### The Equal Justice Center fetaured on WHYY

WHYY shares how the EJC hopes to be a "game changer" for Philadelphians facing economic hardship.

#### The Philadelphia Citizen Spotlights the Equal Justice Center

The Philadelphia Citizen highlighted how the EJC will function as a "one-stop shop" for low-income Philadelphians in need of civil legal aid.





## www.PhilaEqualJusticeCenter.org

#### 2019 Social Innovations Award Presented and the Equal Justice Center Highlighted

The Social Innovations Journal featured an article about the Equal Justice Center and Philadelphia Bar Foundation Executive Director, Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, was recognized as one of Philadelphia's top social innovators for her work on the EJC.

#### Greater Philadelphia Nonprofit Repositioning Fund Grant Awarded to the EJC

A \$25,000 grant funded an Administrative Cost Savings Analysis conducted by the Nonprofit Centers Network to further examine future collaboration within the Equal Justice Center.



#### Member Tenants Announced for the Equal Justice Center

The Philadelphia Equal Justice Center secured commitments from many of the city's leading civil legal aid agencies and social-service non-profits to become Member Tenants.

## **Events with Impact**

## 2019 Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Fundraiser

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 2019 Young Lawyers Division Fundraiser - Keep Calm & Play Ping Pong - was held at SPiN Philadelphia in September.

#### Thank you to our sponsors!

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## 2019 CLE: Estate Planning in Support of Legal Aid

"The Complete Story of Estate Planning, Retirement Planning and Support for Legal Aid Organizations in One Hour" was presented to provide an overview of basic estate planning and retirement planning concepts as well as ways to support charities by gifting during lifetime and by making gifts to charity at death by a Will or other means. The goal of the program was to answer questions about estate planning and to report on the progress of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Equal Justice Center project.



Panelists:

- Justin Brown, Esq., Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Probate & Trust Law Section, and Partner at Pepper Hamilton
- Kathryn H. Crary, Esq., Counsel at Gadsden Schneider & Woodward LLP
- Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Esq., Executive Director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation
- Robert H. Louis, Esq., Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Equal Justice Legacy Society, and Partner at Saul Ewing LLP
- Matthew Pritzkur, Senior Wealth Strategist for Bernstein

Support for this CLE program was generously provided by The Haverford Trust Company.

## **2019 Access to Justice Celebration and Awards Reception**

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 Celebration & Awards Reception, held at the Crystal Tea Room in November of 2019.

#### Thank you to our Unified Giving Partners who supported this event (see page 19).

#### 2019 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award

This award, originally established by the Apothaker family in honor of Louis D. Apothaker, recognizes a public interest attorney who is dedicating his or her life to promoting equal access to justice for all by working in the nonprofit legal services community.

2019 Award Recipient: Linda Peyton, Legal Clinic for the Disabled

#### 2019 Pro Bono Award

This award is presented annually to a Philadelphia law firm or legal department that demonstrates outstanding volunteer efforts in providing legal services to those in need.

2019 Award Recipient: Hausfeld LLP



## **2019 Philly Jeans for Justice**

Participants from offices around the city donate \$5 or more for the privilege to wear jeans or themed clothing at work for one day in support of equal access to justice. Proceeds from this fundraising program are directed to the Bar Foundation.

Office teams may choose to wear sports jerseys, hats or sweatshirts from alma maters, Halloween costumes, fun sneakers, or other creatively themed outfits.

#### Thank you 2019 participants!

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City of Philadelphia Law Department

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Weber Gallagher

White and Williams

## **Programs & 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

The memory of Judge Albert W. Sheppard, Jr. is honored annually through the Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Fund and its support for a year-long law student clerkship position with the 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). **2019 Fellow:** Michael Fitzpatrick

### **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 2019. **2019 Recipients:** Juan Baez, Stephanie Lubert, Lindsey Mossor, James Tiderington





## **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.

2019 ILLI Fund Recipient: Andrew J. Timmick

### 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. 2019 Fellows: Nicholas Chan, Lisa Riley

#### Samuel T. Gomez Award

In memory of Samuel T. Gomez, Esq., this award was established in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania to recognize law students who demonstrate a commitment and compassion for the underserved through community service. 2019 Recipient: Sarah Winston











## **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. In December 2019, an Evidence Training Program for 30 legal aid attorneys was hosted by Pepper Hamilton LLP in partnership with Rutgers Law School and Temple University Beasley School of Law, .





**Beasley School of Law** 

## BOARD OBSERVER PROGRAM

The Board Observer Program, created in partnership with the Philadelphia Bar Association, provides young lawyers with the opportunity to serve on Boards of local legal services and other nonprofit organizations, learning about Board service and developing leadership skills. This award-winning program serves as a model across the U.S. In 2019, 25 nonprofit organizations and 26 attorneys participated in this program.

## 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 and Relapse Prevention Court, supporting participants facing mental health issues and substance addiction. The Fund was established by Federal Judge Gerald Austin (Jerry) McHugh, Jr. and named in honor of one of his mentors, the late Alfred L. Luongo. 23 individuals received a total of over \$6,700 in assistance in 2019.

## **LexisNexis Research Grants Program**

The LexisNexis Research Grant Program provides online research time, tools, and training to selected grantees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. A total of nine nonprofit legal aid organizations benefited from this program in 2019.

#### 2019 Participating Organizations:

Justice at Work

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Regional Housing Legal Services SeniorLAW Center Support Center for Child Advocates

LexisNexis

Women Against Abuse

Women's Law Project



## **Diversity Summer Internship Program**

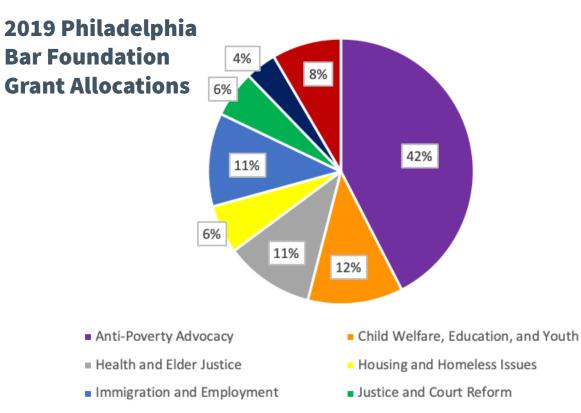
The Association of Corporate Counsel Greater Philadelphia (ACC-GP) sponsors an annual full-time, eight-week Diversity

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 six individuals participated in the program in 2019.

## **Grants for Legal Aid**

During 2019, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation provided grants and program support to 36 civil legal aid organizations. Our legal aid nonprofit partners provide access to justice for hundreds of thousands of individuals and families facing poverty, abuse, and discrimination.

#### 2019 Grant Total: \$371,030



Military, Veterans, and Consumer Issues
Women's Rights and Disability Rights

#### **2019 Grant Committee Members**

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## **Nonprofit Partners**

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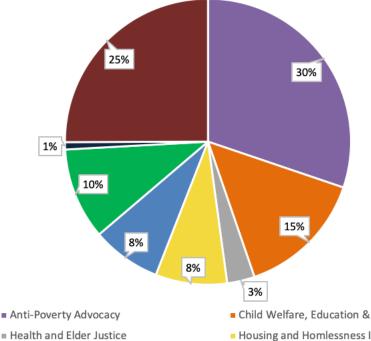
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**Community Legal Services** of Philadelphia

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## **Collective Philadelphia Law Firm Support**



- Immigration and Employment
- Military, Veterans & Consumer Issues
- Child Welfare, Education & Youth
- Housing and Homlessness Issues
- Justice and Court Reform
- Women's Rights and Disability Rights

**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

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Women's Law Project

Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project

## **2019 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 2019. 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 2019 donors:

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## **Cy Pres Awards**

Cy Pres funds that remain undistributed from class action lawsuits can 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.

## **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 2019 Unified Giving Partners:

## \$16,001 - \$25,000 Partnership

Cozen O'Connor Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

#### \$10,001 - \$16,000 Partnership

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### **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:

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