

ABOUT OUR 2013 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Judy Berkman, Esq. is a Managing Attorney for Regional Housing Legal Services in Glenside, PA. She has several decades of experience in public interest law, including Regional Housing Legal Services and Community Legal Services. Ms. Berkman continually strives to find practical solutions to difficult problems and for the past several years, she has worked tirelessly to help families maintain their homes and resolve pre-existing lien issues with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Agency, the City Solicitor's Office, the City Department of Revenue, mortgage companies and title companies. She has dedicated herself to this complicated detailed legal work and in each case in which she has gotten involved, the family's home has been preserved. Ms. Berkman has also worked with attorneys at Community Legal Services in successfully advocating for policies which prevent victims of domestic violence from becoming homeless.

Cary L. Flitter, Esq., is the founding partner of the Montgomery County firm Flitter Lorenz, P.C. He is a leading consumer protection lawyer and has trained many legal services attorneys in consumer law issues; has paid for legal services attorneys to attend consumer law training conferences; and he has directed nearly \$2,000,000 in *cy pres* funds to support consumer law practice at legal aid programs in Pennsylvania. Mr. Flitter has worked personally with MidPenn Legal Services to set up a position and train staff on consumer law issues. In 2010, he initiated, designed and provided training for legal services programs on claiming and collecting attorney fees, once the Legal Services Corporation's ban on such fees was lifted.

Elizabeth C. Goodell, Esq. and Kerry Smith, Esq. epitomize what legal aid attorneys should be: smart, caring, diligent, and committed to overcoming the problems which plague our clients. They were co-nominated for the work they have done, especially this year, to advance the rights of low-income homeowners and consumers throughout Pennsylvania. Ms. Goodell manages Community Legal Services' Homeownership and Consumer Unit and Kerry Smith is a Community Legal Services attorney in the unit. Ms. Goodell was a leader in the effort to persuade the Pennsylvania Attorney General to use settlement funds from a national lawsuit against the five largest U.S. banks to fund HEMAP, housing counseling and legal services, ultimately leading to legislative funding of HEMAP and legal services. She has also been a leader in promoting successful mortgage foreclosure diversion programs across the state. Ms. Smith dedicated an intense effort to derail the re-establishment of payday lending in Pennsylvania in 2012. Combined with her direct service, it is no exaggeration to say that she has helped thousands of Pennsylvanians. Both Ms. Goodell and Ms. Smith have not only worked to advance the interests of their clients in Philadelphia, but they have partnered with other advocates and community based organizations to advance the interests of low-income families throughout the Commonwealth.

Kathryn M. Kenyon, Esq. has been an attorney for 14 years and is a partner with the law firm of Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick and Raspanti in Pittsburgh. She is the firm's pro bono coordinator, working with a coordinator in the firm's Philadelphia office. Ms.

Kenyon is the chair of the Administrative Board of the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, an association of law firms, corporate and government legal departments, the Allegheny County Bar Association, and Neighborhood Legal Services Association. The Partnership Board identifies legal needs of the poor and develops signature projects to meet those needs. It has achieved national attention for its contribution to legal services for the poor in Allegheny County. Under Ms. Kenyon's term as chair, the Partnership has continued to expand the number and type of projects through which it provides this legal assistance. Ms. Kenyon serves on the Board of Neighborhood Legal Services Association and has become one of the organization's most faithful and long-term volunteers for the Protection from Abuse referral project.

The Lycoming Law Association and the Lycoming Law Foundation represent a commitment to pro bono services and the delivery of legal services that is outstanding. The Law Association has a membership of 220, representing active, inactive or retired members. Approximately two-thirds of the Law Association members are engaged in active private practice. The Lycoming Law Association, with support from the Judges of the county, mandates that each of its members take up to three pro bono referrals per year from North Penn Legal Services. In an opt-out program, members are considered to be participating unless they affirmatively opt out of the program. To date, fewer than 10 attorneys have opted out. The Lycoming Law Association Foundation is the charitable arm of the Association. Its mission is to "provide funding for worthwhile law-related community projects and activities and also to support the Williamsport Office of North Penn Legal Services." Most recently, the Law Association Foundation gifted \$6,000 to North Penn Legal Services to fund an AmeriCorps position in the Williamsport Office for one year.

Sol María Rivera is described as the "backbone" of Friends of Farmworkers and has dedicated her career to working on behalf of legal services clients. She is responsible for client intake, client interviews, outreach and education to client populations across the state, education and training of law students and volunteers, and interpretation and translation for limited English proficient clients. As the sole paralegal for four attorneys, Ms. Rivera does not hesitate to work long hours or travel long distances for client meetings. Since most of Friends of Farmworkers' clients work outside of Philadelphia, and many can only speak with the office after work hours, she regularly works late in the office to take phone calls and speak to clients from home on evenings, weekends, and even while on vacation. Despite her very heavy caseload, Ms. Rivera has the unique ability to instill trust and confidence in her clients, who live and work in an environment replete with fear and intimidation.

David Keller Trevaskis, Esq. is the Pro Bono Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He worked in public education regarding the law since he was a law student at Temple Law School and until 2001 as a law school administrator with the Temple-Law, Education and Participation Project. Mr. Trevaskis has worked to create a safety net for the neediest among us in Pennsylvania through the Pro Bono Office, which annually receives and handles more than 6,000 inquiries from those seeking legal services. He has effectively utilized and promoted the PALawHelp.org website to make it the single most

used legal reference in the state for civil legal aid. Mr. Trevaskis has used his skills at teaching to craft a series of CLE programs that provide valuable information for attorneys, while using free CLEs and speaking engagements as recruiting devices for getting more pro bono attorneys into the fold. He has worked to develop and foster bar and legal aid connections across the state and has secured funding for pro bono events and to support legal services.

Debra Wiley is an extraordinary legal secretary in the Bedford office of MidPenn Legal Services. Ms. Wiley has over 32 years of experience working as a secretary in a legal services office and for a considerable time, she not only ran the legal aid office in Bedford, she *was* the office. Ms. Wiley represents MidPenn at various human services events as well as at United Way of Bedford County functions. As a Notary, she accompanies staff attorneys to notarize legal documents for senior citizens and others, streamlining the process on behalf of clients and ensuring that those who have difficulty traveling have full access to MidPenn's services. In addition to her commitment and stalwart support of legal services, Ms. Wiley's love for what she does shines brightly. She is the "heart of legal services" and is respected by colleagues both inside and outside of the MidPenn family.

The Honorable Ronald D. Castille is the recipient of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network's *Outstanding Leadership in Support of Legal Services Award*. He has served as a Justice since 1994 and as Chief Justice since 2008. During his tenure on the Court, and especially since assuming his current office, Chief Justice Castille has promoted the importance of access to justice and access to civil legal services, in word and in deed. He has regularly spoken about the importance of access to civil legal services, including on a national scale, at national leadership meetings and within Pennsylvania, including presentations where he has presented the Court's own funding needs. Chief Justice Castille has led the Supreme Court in adopting such measures as a very recent *cy pres* rule, which directs some of the residual funds in class action cases to legal aid; requiring banks to pay fair returns on IOLTA accounts; assessing a modest amount for lawyers to contribute to legal aid at the time of their annual registration; assessing a fee on out-of-state lawyers who enter an appearance *pro hac vice* in any case; and supporting funding of civil legal aid by the state. He is also a strong supporter of pro bono services.

Yvette R. Long is the recipient of Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network's *Outstanding Leadership in Support of Legal Services Award*. She has served on the Board of Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network for many years, including two years as President and two years as President Emeritus. An eligible client of legal services, Ms. Long is very active in advocating for client interests by advising and advocating with Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare. She is the Chair of the Income Maintenance Advisory Committee and its subgroup the Employment and Training Advisory Committee. Ms. Long also chairs the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee. As part of this advisory process, Ms. Long has affected state policies, and brought major impacts for residents across the state in the areas of cash assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, subsidized childcare, and other public benefits critical to low-income families. She has served on the Board of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA), and she has been a

volunteer with the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organizations since she was old enough to be an eligible member. In 2010, NLADA recognized Ms. Long as a national leader by honoring her with their Mary Ellen Hamilton Award.