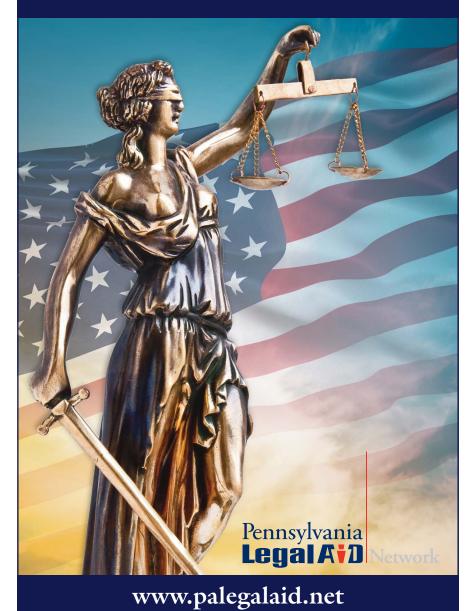
# 2019 Excellence Available Banguet MARCH 26 HARRISBURG HILTON

Pennsylvania Legal A†D Network

**#PLANExcellence** 

Civil legal aid provided by PLAN programs helps assure fairness for all in the justice system, regardless of how much money you have. We provide access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families.



Thank You

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network wishes to thank and acknowledge the following for their generous support and sponsorship of this evening's banquet:

### PREMIER SPONSOR

The Pennsylvania Bar Association



### **PRESENTING SPONSORS**

Jim & Linda DeAngelo

Pepper Hamilton LLP

### SUPPORTING SPONSORS

James K. Grasty, Esq.

The Hershey Company

Eve Biskind Klothen, Esq. & Kenneth Klothen, Esq.

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

Pennsylvania IOLTA Board

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network also expresses its appreciation to the many contributors who made generous donations in celebration and honor of the 2019 Excellence Awards.

## Pennsylvania Legal A†D Network

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jay W. Alberstadt, Jr., Esq., President The Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, President-Elect James K. Grasty, Esq., Treasurer Marsha White-Mathis, Secretary James P. DeAngelo, Esq., President Emeritus Carl Bailey The Honorable Ronald D. Castille The Honorable Bryan Cutler Brian V. Gorman, Esq. Rochelle Jackson Max W. Laun, Esq. Wesley R. Payne, IV, Esq. Bruce Perry

### **STAFF**

Samuel W. Milkes, Esq., Executive Director Carla Alfieri Kelly Bock Yeckley Natalie Bogerman Christine Kirby Henry Leone, Esq. Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Esq. Karen Stokes Rena Weaver

### **COMPLIANCE CONSULTANT**

### Susan J. Lucas

### PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK EXCELLENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

### Greetings

Samuel W. Milkes, Esq. Executive Director, Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network

### Acknowledgement of Sponsors

In Remembrance



**Dinner Buffet** 



#### Introduction of Featured Speaker

Rhodia D. Thomas, Esq. President, Pennsylvania Project Directors' Association Executive Director, MidPenn Legal Services

#### Featured Remarks

James J. Sandman, Esq. President, Legal Services Corporation



**Awards Program** 

Presentation of Outstanding Leadership in Support of Legal Services Award

Introduction of Honorees

Presentation of Excellence Awards



**Program Conclusion** 

### 2019 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES AWARD

### **Clean Slate Legislative Initiative**

Gene Barr

President & CEO • Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry • Harrisburg, PA

The Honorable Sheryl M. Delozier State Representative • Pennsylvania House of Representatives • Cumberland County, PA

> Sharon M. Dietrich, Esq. Litigation Director • Community Legal Services • Philadelphia, PA

Jamie Gullen, Esq. Staff Attorney • Community Legal Services • Philadelphia, PA

Holly Harris, Esq. Executive Director • Justice Action Network • Washington, DC

The Honorable Jordan A. Harris State Representative • Pennsylvania House of Representatives • Philadelphia, PA

Mark Holden, Esq. Senior Vice President & General Counsel • Koch Industries, Inc. • Wichita, KS

Michael Hollander, Esq. Former Staff Attorney • Community Legal Services • Philadelphia, PA

> Malcolm Jenkins Co-Founder • Players Coalition • Philadelphia, PA

> > **Ronald J. Lewis** Client Representative • Philadelphia, PA

Chris Long Governing Board Member • Players Coalition • Philadelphia, PA

Seth P. Lyons, Esq. Staff Attorney • Community Legal Services • Philadelphia, PA

**Beth Anne Mumford** State Director • Americans for Prosperity • Harrisburg, PA

Greg A. Rowe, Esq. Director of Legislation and Policy • Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association • Harrisburg, PA

> **Torrey Smith** Governing Board Member • Players Coalition • Charlotte, NC

Rebecca D. Vallas, Esq. Vice President, Poverty to Prosperity Program • Center for American Progress • Washington, DC

> The Honorable Scott R. Wagner Former State Senator • Pennsylvania Senate • York Township, PA

**The Honorable Anthony H. Williams** State Senator • Pennsylvania Senate • Philadelphia, PA

6

### 2019 PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

### Rachel Garland, Esq.

Staff Attorney • Community Legal Services • Philadelphia, PA Nominated by: Debby Freedman, Esq., Executive Director, Community Legal Services

### Natalia Gomez and Benita Mejia

Paralegal • Community Justice Project • Hazelton, PA Paralegal • Community Justice Project • Reading, PA Nominated by: Peter Zurflieh, Esq., Executive Director, Larry Norton, Esq., Of Counsel, Marielle Macher, Esq., Staff Attorney, Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Esq., Staff Attorney, and Diana Bieber Locke, Esq., Staff Attorney, Community Justice Project; and William McLaughlin, Paralegal, North Penn Legal Services

### Betty Green

Paralegal • Philadelphia Legal Assistance • Philadelphia, PA Nominated by: Richard Friedman, Esq., Director of Intake and Service Delivery, and Maureen Olives, Esq., Managing Attorney, Philadelphia Legal Assistance

#### George Gvozdich, Jr., Esq. and E. Marie Queen

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program Nominated by: The Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program Advisory Committee

### G. Clayton Nestler, Esq.

Deputy Director • Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services • Washington, PA Nominated by: Brian Gorman, Esq., Executive Director and Adam Belletti, Esq., President, Board of Directors, Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services

#### Nancy R. Paul and Nancy O. Walsh

Executive Director • Montgomery Bar Association • Norristown, PA Special Project Development Manager • Montgomery Bar Association • Norristown, PA Nominated by: Shawn Boehringer, Esq., Executive Director, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

#### Stella L. Smetanka, Esq.

Pro Bono Counsel • Neighborhood Legal Services • Pittsburgh, PA Nominated by: Pamela Dalton-Arlotti, Esq., Director of Program Performance and Compliance, Neighborhood Legal Services

### Michelle R. Terry, Esq.

Managing Attorney • Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania • Chester, PA Nominated by: Shawn Boehringer, Esq., Executive Director and Nanci Hoover, Esq., Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

### ABOUT OUR 2019 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREES

This is a very special award celebrating Pennsylvania's enactment of Clean Slate legislation in 2018. PLAN has named eighteen honorees to share the award, all of whom played very important roles in the enactment. Those receiving the award are: **Gene Barr** (Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry), **Rep. Sheryl Delozier** (Pennsylvania Legislature), **Sharon Dietrich** (Community Legal Services), **Jamie Gullen** (Community Legal Services), **Holly Harris** (Justice Action Network), **Rep. Jordan Harris** (Pennsylvania Legislature), **Mark Holden** (Koch Industries), **Michael Hollander** (formerly of Community Legal Services), **Malcolm Jenkins** (Players Coalition), **Ronald Lewis** (former Community Legal Services client), **Chris Long** (Players Coalition), **Seth Lyons** (Community Legal Services), **Beth Anne Mumford** (Americans for Prosperity), **Greg Rowe** (Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association), **Torrey Smith** (Players Coalition), **Rebecca Vallas** (Center for American Progress), **Sen. Scott Wagner**, Retired, and **Sen. Anthony Williams** (Pennsylvania Senate).

The list of honorees itself, and the affiliations of those honorees demonstrates what a major accomplishment enactment of Clean Slate was, including conservative and liberal supporters, professional football players, an affected client, and representatives of a political range of supporting organizations. All share the core value that productive members of our society be able to reach their full potential.

All these people, and many more who stood behind them, worked to enact Act 56 of 2018, which passed the Pennsylvania House 188-2 and the Senate unanimously. It was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on June 28, 2018.

The Act gives people who have made a mistake in the past, and have been charged with a crime, found guilty of a lower level crime, or pled guilty to a lower level crime, and who have remained free of disqualifying convictions, a new chance at access to employment, housing, education, and other necessities of life, and to do other things from which a criminal record can block them. While certain records can still be expunged by petitioning the courts, this Act makes the sealing of a large variety of records automatic and not publically available, although still available to law enforcement.

We can be especially proud that Pennsylvania was the first state to enact Clean Slate, while other states and even the federal government consider following our lead.

### ABOUT OUR 2019 EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

Rachel Garland, Esq excels in her work as a legal services attorney with Community Legal Services (CLS) in Philadelphia. She began her career at CLS as an Equal Justice Works fellow and is now a staff attorney in the housing unit representing subsidized housing tenants facing a wide variety of housing issues including eviction, repairs, termination of subsidy, criminal barriers to housing, rent calculations, and disability accommodations. Rachel works extensively on legal issues at the intersection of housing and domestic and sexual violence, providing representation, community education, and legal advocacy. Her work on protecting the rights of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault ensures survivors have a safe place to live, away from their abusers. Rachel has worked closely with Regional Housing Legal Services and others to achieve major victories for survivors, including changing the law to prohibit eviction from all rental housing due to incidents of domestic violence or assault. In some gentrifying neighborhoods, landlords are illegally evicting entire buildings, shutting off the utilities, or sending tenants notices of immediate eviction. Rachel has fought these illegal mass evictions. Her work has prevented homelessness for countless clients, helping women become safe from their abusers, ensuring people with disabilities can live comfortably, allowing children to grow up in stable homes, and preserving neighborhood stability.

*Natalia Gomez and Benita Mejia* joined the Community Justice Project in 2005 as paralegals to launch its Hispanic Outreach program connecting unrepresented communities and civil legal aid. Their objective was to learn from immigrants the issues of most importance to the community as a whole, so that CJP could address them through litigation or other advocacy strategies. They worked diligently to learn about public benefits, as well as how to screen for wage and hour, housing, immigration, language access, civil rights, and other legal problems. As a result, CJP has been able to bring numerous wage and hour cases on behalf of immigrant workers who were not paid minimum wage and or overtime and precedent setting language access at government offices, hospitals, child welfare agencies, and the courts. Natalia and Benita are involved in every step of these cases, interpreting for the lawyers and explaining the process.

**Betty Green** is an intake paralegal at Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA) serving low-income and vulnerable people since 1983. She first came to legal aid as a client of Community Legal Services (CLS) seeking legal help after being denied medical benefits. At CLS, Betty met intake paralegal Tom Burke, who was known to have a special knack for "seeing" the true character of a person despite his blindness. While Tom informed Betty that she was not eligible for the benefits, he could, however, offer her a job as his reader-assistant. Betty and Tom made a great team. Betty's attention to detail and thoroughness complemented Tom's creative problem solving, together providing excellent, empathetic legal assistance to people. Eventually their work moved to PLA. She is dedicated to her job and her clients, bringing decades of experience and knowledge to assist them. Betty has developed a sharp legal mind and is a great analyst and problem solver. Betty has built thousands of relationships over her legal aid career, always demonstrating what a special person she is: generous and steadfast, kind and no-nonsense, smart and funny, hard-working, and helpful.

George Gvozdich, Jr., Esq. has been actively engaged in the general practice of law in western Pennsylvania since 1980. His law practice encompasses the representation of local, regional, national, and international concerns. He has significant experience handling simple to complex commercial lending transactions, real estate transactions, purchases and sales of business interests, general corporate matters, wills and estates, municipal law matters, and general and commercial civil litigation. In addition to the general practice of law, he is actively involved in the legal community, holding various positions at the local and state level. Since 1989, he has served as a Bar Examiner for the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners. He is a delegate to the Pennsylvania Bar Association's House of Delegates and is also actively involved with the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, having served on its Board of Directors and served a term as President of the Board. He continues to serve as Chair of the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) Advisory Committee where he has worked to ensure the program's success.

*E. Marie Queen* served as the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation's first and sole full-time staff person and Executive Director, where she collaborated with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, the PBA, the Pennsylvania legal aid community, and law schools to implement and administer Pennsylvania's Loan Repayment Assistance Program. Marie provided day-to-day oversight and administered the complex program with efficiency. Many LRAP recipients have expressed the highest appreciation for Marie's competency and responsiveness.

G. Clavton Nestler. Esa. has served as the Managing Attorney for the Washington County Office of Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services (SPLS) for over thirty years, also serving as the SPLS Deputy Director. He has provided steady leadership and service to SPLS and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services Consortium, a collaborative effort of SPLS, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Laurel Legal Services. He has contributed in every facet, including needs assessments, daily operations, grant writing, reporting, policy writing, managing, and casework of every type. Clay has wide-ranging legal experience and has handled every kind of service the legal aid program has offered, from protection from abuse, child custody, landlord-tenant and foreclosure to disability, public assistance, debtor relief, employment and unemployment. Clay exemplifies professionalism, civility, and the highest character in the practice of law. In addition to his usual day-to-day responsibilities. Clay assumed management of SPLS' medical-legal clinic and developed a "high utilizer" program that targeted patients with repeated in-patient hospital stays, transforming the clinic from a fledgling project to a productive, well-run partnership. Clay is also an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law and supervises law students interning each semester with SPLS. Nothing propels a legal career like having a great mentor and Clay has provided numerous law students with guidance, wisdom, and consistent advice. He has served as the Washington County Bar Association President and has represented the county bar at the Conference of County Bar Leaders.

*Nancy R. Paul* has been the Executive Director of the Montgomery Bar Association and the Montgomery Bar Foundation since 1990. The Montgomery Bar Association has long been a champion of equal access to justice and civil legal aid. Widely recognized for her acumen as a tireless and creative leader, Nancy Paul is a driving force behind many awardwinning, homegrown initiatives that include nine National Association of Bar Executives' Luminary Award-winners. Ms. Paul has been a member of the Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania Board of Directors since 2009 and recently served as Board President. She has kept access to justice as a priority – ensuring the success of the annual spring golf outing to support LASP. One of her initiatives was the creation of the position of Special Project Development Manager. *Nancy O. Walsh* has worked as the Special Project Development Manager for the Montgomery Bar Association since 2015. She is in charge of leadership and professional development, membership engagement, diversity, community outreach, and access to justice initiatives. Nancy Walsh has advanced two significant projects: an annual Access to Justice Summit and the Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition that benefit legal aid and its clients. Ms. Walsh's work is grounded in her strong belief in the power of connection, authenticity, self-awareness, and empathy.

Stella L. Smetanka, Esq. has made significant contributions to providing free legal services to individuals and their families struggling to make ends meet in several capacities: law professor, clinic director, board member, donor, mentor, and pro bono volunteer. Since retiring as a Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Stella has been an active volunteer at Neighborhood Legal Services in Pittsburgh where she is appreciated for her legal acumen, knowledge of health law, kindness, grace, and compassion. She also continues to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, recommending grant awards that support the provision of free legal assistance to low income Pennsylvanians in civil matters where a basic human need, such as access to shelter, nutrition, or health care is at stake. Stella's volunteerism allows Neighborhood Legal Services in Pittsburgh to serve additional clients -- ordinary people experiencing legal problems who seek to protect their families, their homes, and their livelihoods. Stella has volunteered as a pro bono attorney since she retired from Pitt Law where she directed the law school's Social Security Disability Practicum and supervised its Health Law Clinic. She has long been involved in serving the poor in her volunteer associations. The Allegheny County Bar Foundation has awarded Stella a Pro Bono Achievement Award for her service and she is a past recipient of the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award.

*Michelle R. Terry, Esq.* has enjoyed a long and exemplary public interest legal career. She is the Managing Attorney of the Delaware County Office of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP), handling cases, supervising a large staff, and mentoring law students. Michelle's understated demeanor belies her fierce determination to bring justice for clients. She has represented clients in cases related to education, disability, unemployment compensation, SSI, housing, custody, protection from abuse orders, housing, and more over four decades. Michelle began her legal aid career student interning at Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) in Pittsburgh and then went on to earn a Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship. She began work in 1978 as a Reggie Fellow at Delaware County Legal Assistance Association, a predecessor program of LASP. She has served the legal aid program and the

client community as staff attorney, oversaw the Advice & Referral Unit, supervised law students, led the Children's Disability unit providing legal representation in education and children's Social Security cases and as Litigation Coordinator. Many of Michelle's cases have led to lasting change, including a 1987 Commonwealth Court decision, establishing that when people try their best at their jobs but cannot do the job, they are eligible for unemployment benefits since the client's "conduct did not rise to the level of willful misconduct sufficient to disqualify her for unemployment benefits." Michelle has also served as an adjunct professor at Villanova Law School where she supervised and mentored numerous law students, positively influencing their lives and careers by sharing her convictions and commitment to service.



### PAST EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

First Union Corporation Irv Ackelsberg, Esq. Jay W. Alberstadt, Jr. Esq. Kevin Alston^ Michael Anderson^ Arnold, Beyer & Homsher Mary K. Austin, Esg. Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll Carl W. Bailey Sandra A. Ballard, Esq. Sylvia E. Basich Helen Beck Judge Phyllis W. Beck Shirley Beer Edith Benson, Esq. Linda A. Bergman Judy Berkman, Esq. Philip A. Bertocci, Esg. Rachel Blake, Esq. Geoffrey Biringer, Esg. Claudia J. Bistyga John P. Bogdanovicz, Esq. Elizabeth Botti James C. Buckley, Esq. Valeria C. Bullock Thomas Burke Michael C. Campbell, Esg. Lois Carnell Catherine C. Carr, Esq. Ann Carson Carolyn L. Carter, Esq. Wendy Carter\* Valerie G. Case M. Francesca Chervenak, Esq. Patrick M. Cicero, Esg. Leo Clements Nancy Close\* Theresa M. Cocciolone Cheryl Coe Carol Collington Senator Jav Costa Michele T. Cole, Esg. Clara Coleman Bridget Covne, Esg.~ Barbara Custer Pamela Lynn Dalton-Arlotti, Esq. Robert Damewood, Esq.\* Susan K. Danforth Joseph R. DeCristopher. Esa. Karen Detamore, Esq. Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, PC & Thorp, Reed & Armstrong, LLP Sharon Dietrich, Esq.

John Dodds Kim Dolan, Esq.^ Michael Donahue, Esq. Donald Driscoll. Esg. Senator Jane Earll Jessie W. Edison Duane, Morris & Heckscher Hon. Dwight Evans Susan K. Evans Carla Falkenstein\* FedEx Ground Corporate Legal Department Senator Jim Ferlo Carv L. Flitter. Esg. Deborah L. Freedman, Esq. Hon. Jon D. Fox David Francis Kenneth C. Frazier. Esg. David Gates, Esg. 2^ Harry S. Geller, Esq. U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach Carol A. Gershon, Esg. ~ William E. Gibbons, Esq. Joseph K. Goldberg, Esq. Michael Goldberg, Esg. Sharon A. Goldsmith Elizabeth Goodell. Esg. William Gordon George Gould, Esq. Thelma M. Gradv Susan Graves Betsv Grbenick Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf Barbara Griffin. Esg. Phyllis E. Guillaume Mary Richardson Graham Ronell Guy **Gertrude Hastings** Louise E. Hayes, Esq. Celia Lopez Heffelfinger Jane Hepting, Esg. Catherine H. Herman Hon, Alan D, Hertzberg Jennifer L. Heverly Nadia Hewka, Esq. Gloria Hicks David L. Hill. Esg. Amy E. Hirsch, Esa. HomeWorks Project Nanci A. Hoover. Esg. Brian Hudson, Sr. John Hyson, Esq. Diana Ingersoll Cary Isard

\*Hardwood Estates Project Team ~Recipient for the Wood Street Commons Project Legal Team ^Recipient for the *Homeworks Project* (2009) · <sup>2</sup>Two-Time Recipient

### PAST EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS Continued

Leandre Jackson Marjorie Jackson Crowder Rochelle L. Jackson Wavne Jacobs Andrea Jacobsen, Esq. Mariorie A. Janoski, Esg. Hon, C. Darnell Jones Joseph Jones, Esa. Leodus Jones Margaret Jones Hon. Roxanne Jones Kenneth Joseph, Esg.\* Lea S. Judson John Kane, Esq. James Kearnev. Esg. William Keech^ Connie Kelley Jill Kelly McComsey, Esq. Kathryn M. Kenyon, Esg. Barbara Kern William Klaus, Esq. Eve Biskind Klothen, Esq. Kenneth L. Klothen, Esq. Matthew M. Kresock, Esg. Mark A. Krochka, Esg. Stephen Krone, Esq. Hon. Allen Kukovich Bruce N. Kuhlik, Esg. Matthew D. Lee, Esq. Michael Lee, Esq. Legal Aid of Southeastern PA **Centralized Telephone Helpline** Jess Leventhal, Esg. Mark E. Levin, Esq. Michael D. LiPuma, Esq. Minta J. Livengood<sup>2</sup> Yvette R. Lona Lycoming Law Association & Lycoming Law Assoc. Foundation Peter B. Macky, Esq. Representative Kathy M. Manderino Donald Marritz. Esg. Catherine T. Martin, Esq. John F. McKenna, Esg. William McLaughlin Merck & Co., Inc. Pro Bono Program Middle District of PA Bankruptcy Bar Assoc. Jeffrey A. Mills, Esq. Howard Miskey, Esq. Lori A. Molloy, Esq. James A. Montero

John J. Moody Linda Morris Suzanne Z. Moschini Suzanne Noble, Esq. Laurence E. Norton, II, Esg. Robert A. Oakley, Esq. Antoinette C. Oliver, Esg. Representative Frank Oliver Carl (Tobey) Oxholm, III, Esq. PA Department of Environmental Protection Safe Drinking Water Program\* Evelyn Pankey Kathy J. Parks Rebecca Peace, Esq. Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership Debra Jo Place William O. Prettyman, Jr. Elizabeth C. Price Philip Price, Jr., Esq. Mary Coyne Pugh, Esq. Jonathan Pyle, Esq. Robert V. Racunas, Esq. Arthur Read, Esq. Geraldine Redmond Thelma Reese Mel Reinhart\* Linda D. Renick Dorothy A. Richardson Danna Rich-Collins Hon. Estelle B. Richman Randi Riefner Sol Maria Rivera Hon. Annette Rizzo James Royal Catherine Rusk Sheila St. Amand Viola A. Sanders Caulene Sanford Charles G. Scalise\* Thomas B. Schmidt III, Esq. Mark Schwartz, Esg.~ Carolyn E. Sexton Beth Shapiro, Esg. Susan E. Sherman Patricia Shilling Hon. John Shumaker Morris M. Shuster, Esq. Donald F. Smith, Jr., Esq. Kerry Smith, Esq. Henry Sommer, Esq. Robert B. Sommer, Esq.

\*Hardwood Estates Project Team ~Recipient for the Wood Street Commons Project Legal Team ^Recipient for the *Homeworks Project* (2009) · <sup>2</sup>Two-Time Recipient

## PAST EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS\*

Wesley S. Speary, Esq.\* Paul Sternberg **Phyllis Stevens** Lawrence A. Swanson Edward Van Stevenson, Jr., Esg. Harvey F. Strauss, Esq. Harold Swisher Joseph A. Tate, Esq. Hon. John Thomas Rhodia Thomas, Esg. David B. Tilove, Esq. Linda L. Timberlake, Esg. Ann S. Torregrossa, Esq. Joseph Torregrossa, Esg. Irwin L. Trauss, Esg. David Keller Trevaskis, Esg. Mary Ann Troper-Malley Paul J. Troskosky, Esq. Kenneth N. Try Thomas A. Tupitza, Esq. Karen Tyler

Hon. John C. Uhler Pamela Walz, Esg. **Ernestine Watlington** Joseph J. Watts Richard Weishaupt, Esq. Evalyn B. Welling, Esq. Alan M. White, Esq. Senator Mary Jo White John S. Whitelaw, Esq. Debra Wilev Judith E. Wilson, Esq. Hon. Harris Wofford Timothy Wolfson, Esq. Robert J. Woods Wood Street Commons Project Legal Team Eileen Yacknin, Esq. Dorothy L. Young Brenda Zimmerman, Esq. Merril L. Zebe, Esq. Peter Zurflieh, Esg.

### PAST OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Alfred J. Azen Louise Brookins Hon. Ronald D. Castille Hon. Joy Flowers Conti Jeffrey A. Ernico, Esq. Fulton Financial Corporation Hon. Stewart Greenleaf Clifford E. Haines, Esq. Maureen P. Kelly, Esq. Yvette R. Long Hon. Ronald S. Marsico Leslie Anne Miller, Esq. Hon. Gerald A. McHugh, Jr. Abraham C. Reich, Esq. Louis Rulli, Esq. Mark Schwartz, Esq. Andrew F. Susko, Esq. Hon. Dick Thornburgh Paul A. Tufano, Esq. David Unkovic, Esq.

### PAST EXCELLENCE AWARD IN CY PRES ADVOCACY

The following law firms have received the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award for their Cy Pres Support of Legal Services to the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board and its grantees:

- Barrack, Rodos & Bacine \*(Mark Rosen, Esq.), Philadelphia PA (2016)
- Donovan Axler, LLC\* (Michael D. Donovan, Esq.), Philadelphia, PA (2016)
- Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock, Dodig LLP,\* (Alan M. Feldman, Esq.), Philadelphia, PA (2016)
- Francis & Mailman, PC\* (James Francis, Esq.), Berwyn, PA (2016)
- Kessler, Topaz, Meltzer & Check, LLP\* (Lee D. Rudy, Esq.), Radnor, PA (2016)
- Wohl & Fruchter LLP\* (Ethan D. Wohl, Esq.), New York, NY (2016)

\*Hardwood Estates Project Team ~Recipient for the Wood Street Commons Project Legal Team ^Recipient for the *Homeworks Project* (2009) · <sup>2</sup>Two-Time Recipient



The Pennsylvania Bar Association salutes the 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Award Winners. Through its Pro Bono Office, the PBA partners with PLAN to improve access to justice for the neediest among us.

### 2019 PLAN Excellence Awards

Rachel Garland, Esq. Natalia Gomez and Benita Mejia Betty Green George Gvozdich, Esq., and E. Marie Queen G. Clayton Nestler, Esq. Nancy R. Paul and Nancy O. Walsh Stella Smetanka, Esq. Michelle Terry, Esq.

– Dremier Sponsor –



Your Other Partner

The PBA is proud to be partnering with Community Legal Services of Philadelphia on a pro bono initiative tied to Pennsylvania's new Clean Slate law. We join in celebrating those responsible for the new law.

Clean Slate creates a pathway to get criminal records sealed for people who have had minor run-ins with the law more than 10 years ago and who have paid all fines and court costs. Records eligible for sealing include nonviolent crimes such as theft, drunk driving and most simple assault convictions.

### 2019 Outstanding Leadership in Support of Legal Services Award

Gene Barr Rep. Sheryl M. Delozier Sharon M. Dietrich Jamie Gullen Holly Harris Rep. Jordan A. Harris Mark Holden Michael Hollander Malcolm Jenkins Ronald Lewis Chris Long Seth P. Lyons Beth Anne Mumford Greg Rowe Torrey Smith Rebecca Vallas Sen. Scott Wagner Sen. Anthony H. Williams

- Dremier Sponsor -

Congratulations!

## To all of the 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners

Jim & Linda DeAngelo

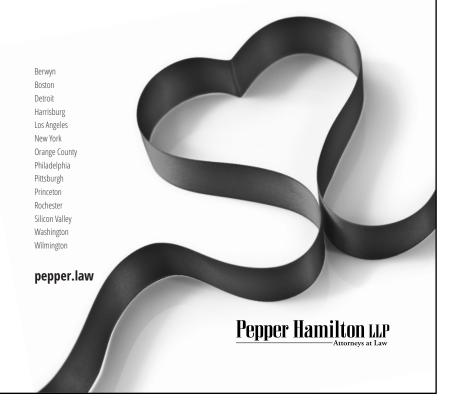


— Presenting Sponsor —

## THE POWER OF CARING

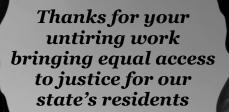
### PROUD TO SUPPORT PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK

We salute the 2019 Excellence Award honorees



— Presenting Sponsor —

## Congratulations Excellence Award Winners!





www.PHFA.org

1-855-U-Are-Home

Tom Wolf, Governor | Brian A. Hudson, Sr., Executive Director & CEO

- Supporting Sponsor —

## THE PENNSYLVANIA IOLTA BOARD Congratulates STELLA L. SMETANKA, ESQ.



for receiving a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award for her exceptional commitment and donation of time to the legal needs of low-income Pennsylvanians.

### PENNSYLVANIA IOLTA BOARD

Gretchen L. Kelly, Esq., Chair Alan M. Feldman, Esq., Vice-Chair David S. Posner, Esq., Secretary Forest N. Myers, Esq., Treasurer Hon. Stephanie A. Domitrovich Vanessa Garrett Harley, Esq. Markita Morris-Louis, Esq. Barry M. Simpson, Esq. Stella L. Smetanka, Esq.

Congratulations to all the 2019 Excellence Award Honorees.

We applaud your dedication to extending the arm of justice to the less fortunate in our communities.

- Supporting Sponsor —

Congratulations

To all of the 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners, and special thanks to all who strive to make equal access to justice a reality.

Eve Biskind Klothen, Esq. and Kenneth L. Klothen, Esq.

- Supporting Sponsor —

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation

congratulates honoree

## STELLA SMETANKA, ESQ.

Pro Bono Counsel at Neighborhood Legal Services

and all the recipients of the

PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK 2019 Excellence Awards





www.acbf.org | www.pittsburghprobono.org







Nancy O. Walsh

Nancy R. Paul

The LASP Board of Directors & Staff congratulate 2019 PLAN Excellence Award recipients!

Michelle R. Terry

### Michelle R. Terry, Esq.

LASP Managing Attorney, Delaware County Division

for 40 years of dedicated service & leadership in providing civil legal aid for Delaware County residents.

### Nancy R. Paul & Nancy O. Walsh

Montgomery Bar Association

for their work supporting access to justice for lowincome residents of Montgomery County.



Providing free civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties since 2001. 리더

ē

Ľ

Congratulations

### TO ALL OF THE WORTHY RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Rachel Garland, Esq. Natalia Gomez and Benita Mejia Betty Green George Gvozdich, Jr., Esq. and E. Marie Queen G. Clayton Nestler, Esq. Nancy R. Paul and Nancy O. Walsh Stella L. Smetanka, Esq. Michelle R. Terry, Esq.

### AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLEAN SLATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE ON RECEIVING THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES AWARD

Gene Barr The Honorable Sheryl M. Delozier Sharon M. Dietrich, Esq. Jamie Gullen, Esq. Holly Harris, Esg. The Honorable Jordan A. Harris Mark Holden, Esq. Michael Hollander, Esg. Malcolm Jenkins Ronald J. Lewis Chris Long Seth P. Lyons, Esq. Beth Anne Mumford Greg A. Rowe, Esg. Torrey Smith Rebecca D. Vallas, Esq. The Honorable Scott R. Wagner The Honorable Anthony H. Williams

P<sup>1</sup>



Thanks for your inspiration and for helping those who have nowhere else to turn! SAM MILKES & JAN TERPENING

### 2019 PLAN EXCELLENCE AWARD CO-RECIPIENTS



NANCY R. PAUL Executive Director MONTGOMERY BAR ASSOCIATION



NANCY O. WALSH Special Project Development Manager MONTGOMERY BAR ASSOCIATION

### NANCIES! CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NANCY!

On behalf of the 2,100+ members of Montgomery Bar Association, we are extremely grateful for your ongoing dedication and contributions to justice in the communities we serve. Congratulations on your 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award, and thank you for being two of our bar association's shining stars.



Serving the Profession and the Community since 1885

Visit us Online at MONTGOMERYBAR.ORG



# CONGRATULATIONS

## to my friends:

## STELLA SMETANKA, Esquire

## and

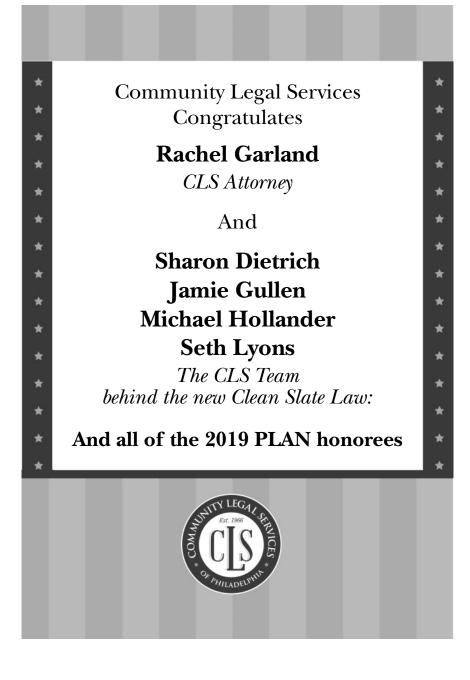
## **CLAYTON NESTLER, Esquire**

on their well-deserved

recognition and honor by the

## PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK

David S. Posner, Esq. Washington, PA





The Washington County Bar Association congratulates **CLAY NESTLER** on receiving a 2019 PLAN Excellence Award!

The Law Office Forest Myers is proud to support the 2019 PLAN Excellence Award recipients. ∞∞

 $\infty$ 

### FOREST N. MYERS

137 Park Place West • Shippensburg PA 17257 717.532.9046 fnmyers@lawofficeforestmyers.com www.lawofficeforestmyers.com



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR ALL.

# Congratulations to all of the 2019 Excellence Award Recipients!

MACDONALD, ILLIG, JONES & BRITTON LLP 100 State Street, Suite 700, Erie, pa 16507 814-870-7600

WWW.MACDONALDILLIG.COM



Congratulations, Benita and Natalia!

From your CJP family



Non-Profit Civil Legal Assistance in Pennsylvania



MidPenn Legal Services Board, Staff & Client Community



Critical Help for Critical Moments

Serving Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Centre, Clearfield, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Schuylkill and York Counties.

> 213A North Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Congratulations to the 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners

George Gvozdich, Esq. & E. Marie Queen Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program

### Congratulations To The 2019 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners

Rachel Garland, Esq. Natalia Gomez and Benita Mejia Betty Green George Gvozdich, Esq. and E. Marie Queen G. Clayton Nestler, Esq. Nancy Paul and Nancy Walsh Stella Smetanka, Esq. Michelle Terry, Esq.

### Outstanding Leadership in Support of Legal Services Award:

Gene Barr, Representative Sheryl M. Delozier, Sharon Dietrich, Jamie Gullen, Holly Harris, Rep. Jordan Harris, Mark Holden, Michael Hollander, Malcolm Jenkins, Ronald Lewis, Chris Long, Seth Lyons, Beth Anne Mumford, Greg Rowe, Torrey Smith, Rebecca Vallas, Sen. Scott Wagner and Sen. Anthony Williams for the Clean Slate Legislative Initiative.

### THE PENNSYLVANIA PROJECT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law

onghatulates

The **2019 Excellence Award Recipients**, including our graduates:

G. Clayton Nestler, Esq., '79 Stella Smetanka, Esq., '80 Michelle Terry, Esq., '78

### **Congratulations to**

**PittLav** 

George Gvozdich, Esq., and E. Marie Queen

George and Marie are being honored for helping establish the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation – PA IOLTA Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) which helps attorneys employed at IOLTA-funded legal services organizations across the state better manage their undergraduate and law school student loan debt so they can afford to remain in public service; and helps IOLTA-funded legal aid organizations recruit and retain the best and the brightest attorneys for service in the public good.



## Chief Justice Emeritus Ronald Castille

congratulates all of the Excellence Award Honorees for the great work they do to promote access to justice.

Special congratulations goes to the Outstanding Leadership in Legal Services Awardees for their combined efforts on the passing of the Clean Slate Legislation.





Ellents Council of Pennsylvania salute the 2019 Excellence Awards Winners and Outstanding Leadership Honorees. Because every voice should be heard and **equal** access to justice is worth defending

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Save the Date Source the Date acco Excellence Awards March 31, 2020 · Harrisburg Hilton Hotel visit www.palegalaid.net for details "VALUES ARE LIKE FINGERPRINTS. NOBODY'S ARE THE SAME, BUT YOU LEAVE 'EM ALL OVER EVERYTHING YOU DO." - ELVIS PRESLEY



## Betty Green 2019 Excellence PLAN Award Recipient

Congratulations from your friends at Philadelphia Legal Assistance THE

### DELAWARE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

### congratulates

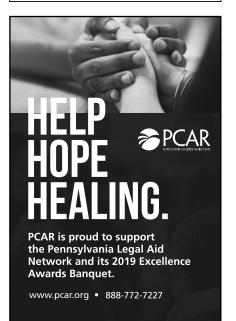


for her many years of dedicated service at LASP



### Congratulations To All Of The Excellence Award Honorees

Thank you for your tireless service seeking justice for all for those who have nowhere else to turn.



Stay connected with us!

Pennsylvania Legal AiD Network



Like our Page on Facebook



Use the #PLANExcellence on your social media posts

# EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW IS A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE



#CivilJusticeCrisis www.AllRiseForCivilJustice.org



Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. is a client centered organization that provides leadership, funding, and support to improve the availability and quality of civil legal aid for low income people and victims of domestic violence in Pennsylvania.

> Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. The Louise Brookins Building 118 Locust Street Harrisburg, PA 17101 800-322-7572

> > www.palegalaid.net