






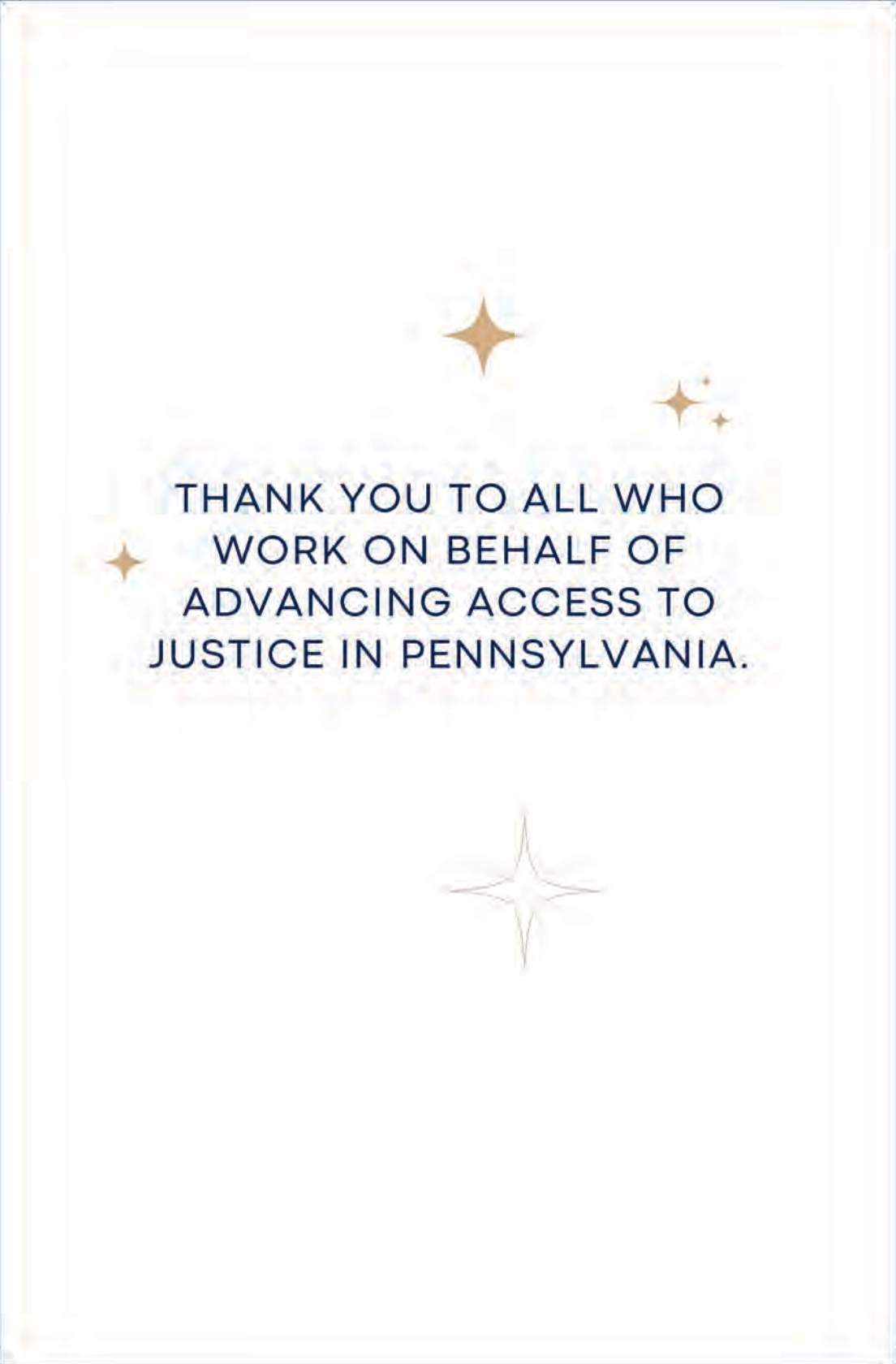
2024

**EXCELLENCE**


★ ————— AWARDS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024  
HILTON HARRISBURG



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO  
WORK ON BEHALF OF  
ADVANCING ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE IN PENNSYLVANIA.



## Social Reception

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Opening Remarks  
SAMUEL W. MILKES, ESQ.

*In Memoriam Reflection*

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Keynote Address  
AUSTIN A. DAVIS  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA

Acknowledgement & Appreciation  
SAMUEL W. MILKES, ESQ. & RHODIA D. THOMAS, ESQ.

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Excellence Awards Program  
SAMUEL W. MILKES, ESQ. & MAX W. LAUN, ESQ.

Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award  
DONNA ALLEN-ROSEMOND, ESQ.  
ERICA N. BRIANT, ESQ.

Outstanding Community Advocacy Award  
JANE A. DOWNING

Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award  
JANICE L. MEINERT  
GIGI NIKPOUR

Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy Award  
WINEBRAKE & SANTILLO, LLC

*Acknowledgement of The Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark*

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Closing Remarks

# Thank You!

We extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated sponsors for their unwavering support, which underscores the significance of our mission to ensure access to justice for all. Thank you for standing with us as champions of civil rights.

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## OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD

# DONNA ALLEN-ROSEMOND, ESQ.

STAFF ATTORNEY, NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

Donna has over 30 years' experience as an attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services. During that time, her responsibilities have grown to include overseeing a neighborhood branch office, managing paralegal staff, and being promoted to the role of senior staff attorney for the family law unit. Prior to her current role, Donna was awarded a two-year Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship.

Donna is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, where she serves as a family law section council member and co-chairs both the Mentoring Committee and Professionalism Committee. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Matrimonial Inns of Court, and Mentor for Protection from Abuse Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys.

Donna serves on the Domestic Violence Task Force, Court Relations Committee, the Green Book Initiative Committee, and the Subcommittee for Children's Issues. Donna is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a public service sorority.

In 2019, Donna was named one of New Pittsburgh Courier's "Women of Excellence" in recognition of her legal advocacy on behalf of survivors of domestic violence. In 2022, she was recognized as the Duquesne University Women's Law Association Woman of the Year. Donna earned her Bachelor of Science in Criminology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She received her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law.






## OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD



### ERICA N. BRIANT, ESQ.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & TRAINING,  
LEGAL AID OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Erica was appointed Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Director of Community Engagement and Training in January 2023. In this new role, Erica continues to take expungement cases and leads the Community Engagement Unit.


Erica's legal work helps clients gain a fresh start through a practice focused on mitigating the collateral consequences of criminal records and legal name changes.

In addition, she coordinates strategic outreach efforts across Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties. Her role in directing staff training includes developing a curriculum and identifying training opportunities outside the organization. She also works with community organizations and others who wish to have Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania staff provide training about legal aid services.

Prior to her current role with the organization, she held the title of Supervising Attorney of the Community Engagement Unit from 2019-2022, Staff Attorney from 2016-2019, and Equal Justice Works Fellow from 2014-2016.

Erica holds a J.D. from Drexel University School of Law, where she taught the Justice Lawyering Seminar as an adjunct professor from 2016-2018. She holds a B.A. from Reed College.

As a law student, Erica interned providing legal services related to immigration, domestic violence, anti-LGBT discrimination, and public benefits. Prior to starting law school, Erica was a community organizer in Philadelphia and a Peace Corps volunteer in Eswatini. Erica has traveled to 43 countries. She is currently based in Norristown.









## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD

### JANE A. DOWNING

FORMER SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER FOR  
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION



Jane recently retired as Senior Program Officer for Economic and Community Development at The Pittsburgh Foundation. Hailing from Maine and a proud graduate of Bates College, Jane's professional journey was shaped by a transformative advocacy campaign during her time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama City, Panama. There, she successfully secured homeownership for residents of a condemned tenement district, igniting her passion for facilitating voice and action in community betterment initiatives.

As a Senior Program Officer at The Pittsburgh Foundation, Jane presided over the first grants to fund Allegheny County's inaugural five-year plan to prevent homelessness, collaborating with activists, community-based organizations, development corporations, service providers, as well as city and county staff.

These initiatives facilitated eviction prevention mediation to grow in scale such that currently, after three years of operation, over 150 eviction prevention mediations occur each month within this mediation partnership, and 96% of landlord-tenant mediations reach agreements to settle their disputes.

Jane was a proactive force in supporting advocacy initiatives aimed at tackling housing challenges, championing the establishment of mediation programs in Magisterial District Courts, the revision of Allegheny County's housing section of the health code, and the augmentation of county eviction prevention services.

Jane received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.





## OUTSTANDING NON-ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD

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### JANICE L. MEINERT

PARALEGAL, PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH LAW PROJECT

Janice has provided advice, assistance, and direct representation to thousands of low-income Pennsylvanians throughout her nearly 25 years at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project. Joining the organization in 2000 as its first social worker, Janice embarked on the second chapter of her career, leaving her prior role supporting pregnant women, teen parents, and individuals with substance use disorders, to become an advocate for healthcare access in underserved communities.

It was by chance that Janice stumbled upon Pennsylvania Health Law Project's advertisement for legal professionals. Though she lacked experience as an attorney or paralegal, her master's degree in social work and extensive expertise in behavioral health were a perfect match for the organization's needs.

In addition to decades of direct client work helping thousands of individuals access healthcare, Janice has played a pivotal role in advancing Pennsylvania Health Law Project's mission through various avenues. She has contributed numerous newsletter articles, presented dozens of trainings on a wide range of health-related topics, and developed a plethora of educational materials intended to empower consumers and advocates alike.

Among her most notable contributions are educational resources like "How to Access Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services in Pennsylvania," "The Many Doors to Consumer Empowerment," and "Person-Centered Service Planning: What Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Need to Know about Getting Long Term Services and Supports in Community HealthChoices."





## OUTSTANDING NON-ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD

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### GIGI NIKPOUR



PARALEGAL, EMPLOYMENT UNIT,  
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF PHILADELPHIA

Gigi is a paralegal in the Employment Unit of Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, where she assists clients with unemployment benefits, criminal records, discrimination, and wage theft issues. Between 2020 and 2021, Gigi helped over 173 unemployment claimants overcome technological and language barriers to access Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) after being unfairly denied.

Gigi also has experience working in the SSI, Aging and Disabilities, Intake, and Homeownership and Consumer Rights units. With this comprehensive knowledge, she is able to provide holistic assistance to clients and make them aware of additional benefits available to them.

Gigi became interested in justice work after she traveled as a volunteer to Turkey in 2009 to assist Iranian LGBTQ+ refugees seeking asylum in the US and Canada. In 2016, she joined the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on LGBT Affairs, formed an elder committee, and advocated for a long-term care bill of rights for LGBTQ+ seniors. She served as board president with Team Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Falcons Soccer Club, where she was inducted into the Soccer Club's Hall of Fame in 2010.

Gigi earned her B.S. in Information Systems from Carnegie-Mellon. She obtained her paralegal degree from Pierce College in 2013 and will receive her Master's in Public Policy (MPP) from Temple University this May.



## OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ADVOCACY AWARD

# WINEBRAKE & SANTILLO, LLC



Winebrake & Santillo, LLC, a Philadelphia-based firm specializing in employment law with a focus on wage and overtime claims for workers, is being recognized for its outstanding pro bono support, exceeding the requirements set by the class action residual distribution rule in its advocacy for civil legal aid in Pennsylvania.

Over the span of a decade, Winebrake & Santillo directed an impressive \$261,148 in class action residual distributions to the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board. This amount is in excess of the mandated 50% allocation required by Pennsylvania's Rules of Civil Procedure. The funding allocated to the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board supplements future grant awards to legal aid organizations within our Network and statewide. To date, their total contributions amount to \$392,949.

Their financial support has been pivotal in sustaining crucial legal aid services, particularly during a period marked by historically low IOLTA revenue due to prolonged low interest rates.

Central to their pro bono ethos is their dedication to handling cy pres cases, which often overlap with the client communities served by the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. Their dedication to fighting for workers' rights, ensuring fair wages, and recovering compensation for deserving families is evidenced by their cy pres support, which aims to further justice and equity through civil legal aid.

Additionally, Winebrake & Santillo has co-counseled numerous cases alongside Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, and were recently honored with an award at their Breakfast of Champions event.







## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# LT. GOV. AUSTIN A. DAVIS

Austin A. Davis is the youngest lieutenant governor in the country and the first Black lieutenant governor in Commonwealth history. Inspired by the history-makers who came before – leaders like Pennsylvania House Speaker K. Leroy Irvis and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Nix Jr. – Austin is determined to motivate a new generation of public servants to break even more barriers.



Austin's path to the second-highest office in the Commonwealth started in McKeesport, a former steel town in western Pennsylvania. Growing up, he watched his mom – a hairdresser for more than 40 years – juggle raising a family with putting food on the table, and he watched his dad work hard as a union bus driver.

At the age of 16, Austin was living in McKeesport when gun violence came to their doorstep. After a shooting in his neighborhood, he got involved in his community, starting a youth advisory council with the mayor and a youth gun violence prevention program at his high school. Austin went on to study political science at the University of Pittsburgh, becoming a first-generation college graduate and then pursuing a career in public service.

He returned to McKeesport to work for the Allegheny County executive. In that role, he helped create the first violence prevention office within the Allegheny Department of Health. By the age of 21, he had earned praise from the *Tribune-Review*, which called him "a veteran at the politics of helping others."

In 2018, Austin successfully ran for the state House of Representatives to represent the Mon Valley and his hometown of McKeesport, becoming the first African American to represent his legislative district.

As lieutenant governor, Austin presides over the Pennsylvania Senate, chairs the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, leads the Local Government Advisory Committee, and serves on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council. Gov. Josh Shapiro has also appointed Austin to chair the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. While serving as lieutenant governor, Austin is focused on combating the epidemic of gun violence, supporting small and minority-owned businesses, advocating for working-class Pennsylvanians, and being a champion for communities that feel like they've been left behind.

Austin currently resides in Allegheny County with his wife, Blayre Holmes Davis, and daughter, Harper.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

# SAMUEL W. MILKES, ESQ.

Samuel W. Milkes, Esq. was the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc., the umbrella for the statewide civil legal aid system, from 2001 to 2020. During his tenure, Sam advocated for funding and support from multiple sources, including the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and partnered with civil legal aid programs, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, private bar, and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. As a result of his leadership, the organization played a pivotal role in the enactment of the Access to Justice Act and its amendments, bills which provide an additional mechanism for helping to fund civil legal aid through very modest filing fee surcharges.

Sam previously served as Executive Director of the Community Justice Project (1993-2001), Central Pennsylvania Legal Services (1988-1992), and as Deputy Director of Legal Services, Inc. (1983-1988) – CPLS and LSI are now part of MidPenn Legal Services. He was also a part-time Public Defender in Cumberland County for ten years and a partner in the Carlisle firm of Jacobsen & Milkes. He has litigated many cases, including family law, public benefits, housing, and impact cases. Sam earned his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and his J.D. from Indiana University at Bloomington.



Currently, Sam engages in consulting with nonprofit organizations. He was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania IOLTA Board in 2020 and reappointed 2023.

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Award Winners. Through its Pro Bono Office,  
the PBA partners with PLAN to improve  
access to justice for the neediest among us.

**Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award**

*Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.*

*Erica N. Briant, Esq.*

**Outstanding Community Advocacy Award**

*Jane A. Downing*

**Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award**

*Janice L. Meinert, MSW*

*Gigi Nikpour*

**Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy Award**

*Winebrake & Santillo, LLC*



*Your Other Partner*



Pennsylvania Bar  
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Congratulations to the  
2024 Excellence Award  
honorees.

Thank you for your  
commitment to  
ensuring access to  
justice for all!

*Max Lunn, Esq. and Diana Petruska*

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Pictured Above: Bernard W. Smalley, Timothy R. Lawn, Stephen E. Raynes, Regina M. Foley\*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2024 AWARDEES

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\*REGINA M. FOLEY 2022 - 2024 PLAN President Elect • 2019 - Present - PLAN Board Member

# -GOLD SPONSOR-

**Congratulations**  
*to the 2024 Excellence Award Honorees*

**Outstanding Attorney Advocates**

Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.  
Erica N. Briant, Esq.



**Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocates**

Janice L. Meinert  
Gigi Nikpour



**Outstanding Community Advocacy**

Jane A. Downing



**Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy**

Winebrake & Santillo, LLC

Allen Harberg, Esq.

**-SILVER SPONSOR-**



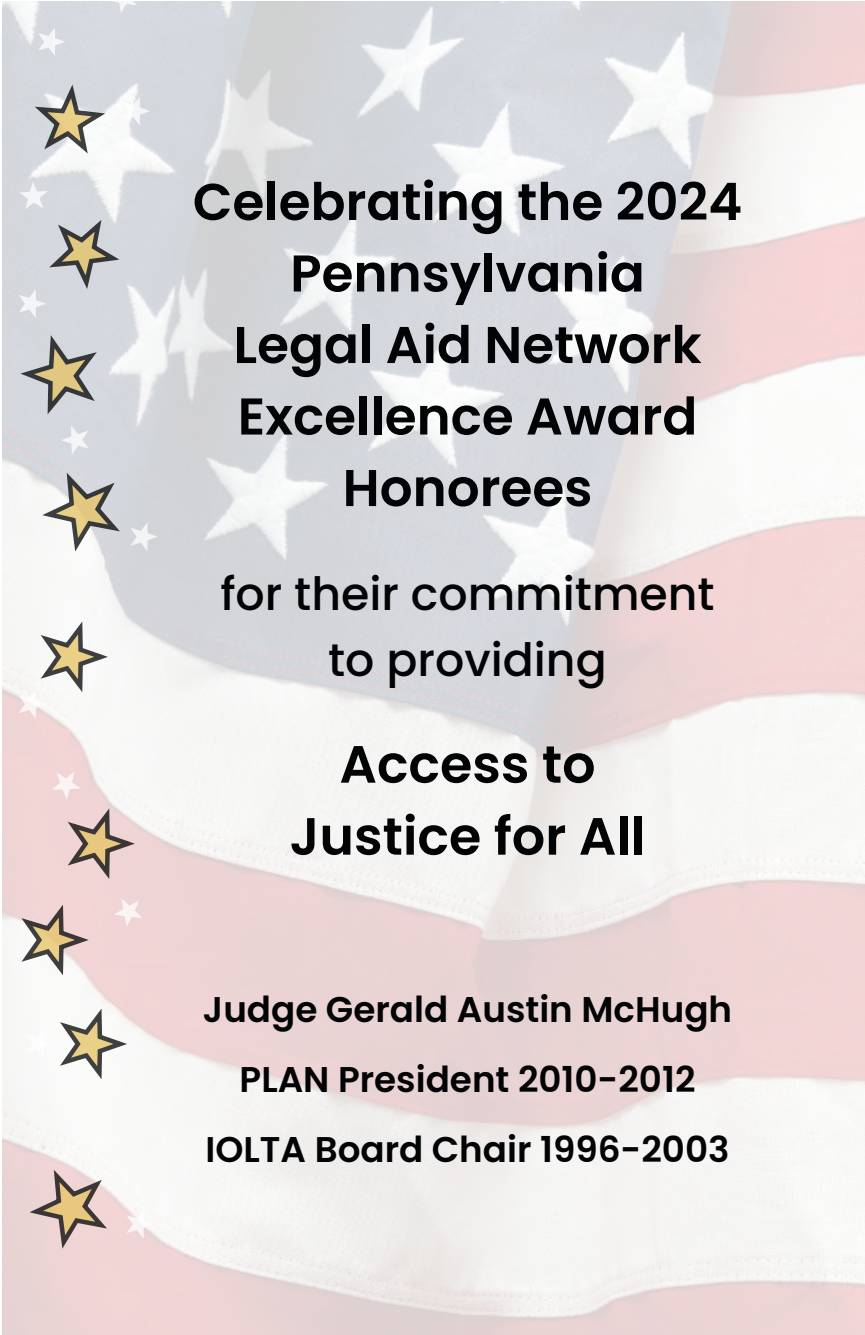
*Congratulations*



to all the  
2024 Award winners!

James and Linda DeAngelo

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**Celebrating the 2024  
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**Congratulations to the  
2024 PLAN Excellence  
Awards Recipients!**

**MaherDuessel**

**For over 30 years,  
Maher Duessel has provided  
audit, tax and consulting services to non-profits  
including organizations providing legal aid.**



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McNees Wallace & Nurick is pleased to sponsor the **2024 Excellence Awards** and congratulates the awardees for their tireless efforts to expand access to legal services to underserved communities.

**Dana Chilson**

*Current PLAN Board Member*

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**Jim DeAngelo • David Lehman • David Unkovic**

*Former Board Presidents of PLAN/PLS*

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Congratulations to the  
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honorees.

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“We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill

Thank you for your  
dedication.

Michael J. McDonald, Esq.

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## Celebrating the difference-makers in Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to the Awardees of the 2024 PLAN Excellence Awards! PNC is proud to partner with PA Legal Aid Network and to support our legal experts and change makers across the Commonwealth.


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**-SILVER SPONSOR-**

Jane Downing



**CELEBRATING**  
**THOSE WHO STAND UP**  
**FOR OTHERS**

The Pittsburgh Foundation staff and Board are proud to congratulate our esteemed friend and colleague, Jane Downing, along with all of the 2024 Excellence Award honorees. Your compassion, dedication and commitment to service inspire us all.



For a greater Pittsburgh.

[pittsburghfoundation.org](http://pittsburghfoundation.org)

**-SILVER SPONSOR-**



With the Greatest Respect and Appreciation for  
My Friend and Colleague

## **ERICA BRIANT**

Community Organizer, Peace Corps Volunteer,  
and Graduate of Drexel Law --

Listening to Her Clients, Thinking Creatively,  
Building Coalitions, Advocating Effectively,  
and Delivering Restorative Justice --  
Helping Bend the Arc of the Moral Universe

Tobey Oxholm  
Director, The Pardon Project



**-SILVER SPONSOR-**



# Buchanan

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**We congratulate  
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Excellence Award  
winners and thank  
them for their  
steadfast  
commitment and  
leadership in the  
public interest  
community.**



Eve Biskind Klothen & Kenneth L. Klothen

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***AND ALL THE***  
***2024 EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES***



*We applaud your steadfast commitment to extending the arm  
of justice to the less fortunate in our communities.*



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE 2024  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECIPIENTS  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

**OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD**

**Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esquire**

Senior Staff Attorney—Neighborhood Legal Services

**Erica N. Briant, Esquire**

Director of Community Engagement & Training—Legal Aid  
of Southeastern Pennsylvania

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD**

**Jane A. Downing**

Former Senior Program Officer, Economic & Community  
Development—The Pittsburgh Foundation

**OUTSTANDING NON-ATTORNEY ADVOCATE AWARD**

**Janice L. Meinert, MSW**

Paralegal—Pennsylvania Health Law Project

**Gigi Nikpour**

Employment Unit Paralegal—Community Legal Services of  
Philadelphia

**OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ADVOCACY AWARD**

**Winebrake & Santillo, LLC**



Judge Kim Berkeley Clark  
Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

**-BRONZE SPONSOR-**

**“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility.  
It’s easy to say, it’s not my child, not my community, not  
my world, not my problem.**

**Then there are those who see the need and respond.  
I consider those people my heroes.”**

- FRED ROGERS

Pennsylvania  
**Legal Aid** Network  
2024 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS!

The Montgomery Bar Association appreciates the work of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania and all of this year's Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners and contributors, throughout Pennsylvania. Thank you for being true heroes to all of us.



**MONTGOMERY**  
BAR ASSOCIATION

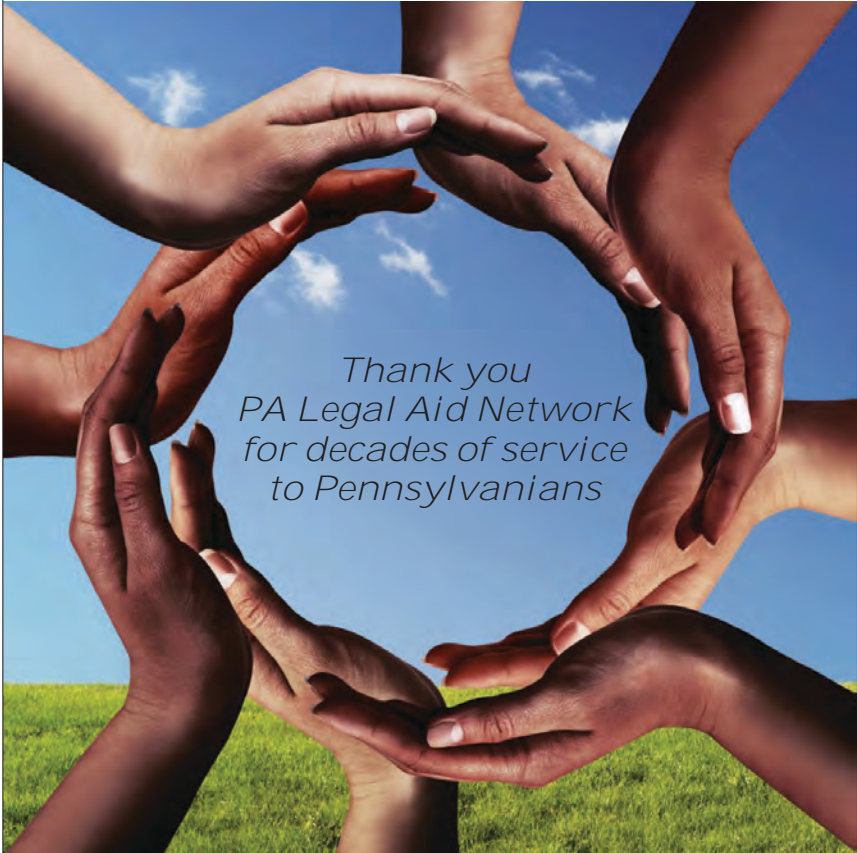
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# Congratulations Excellence Award Winners!



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for decades of service  
to Pennsylvanians*

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**Congratulations to the 2024  
Excellence Award honorees**

Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.

Erica N. Briant, Esq.

Jane A. Downing

Janice L. Meinert

Gigi Nikpour

Winebrake & Santillo, LLC

**Wes Payne, Esq.**

**-BRONZE SPONSOR-**

*Congratulations*

to

**DONNA ALLEN-ROSEMOND, ESQ.**

**JANE A. DOWNING**

**JANICE L. MEINERT**

and all the winners of the  
**2024 Excellence Awards**



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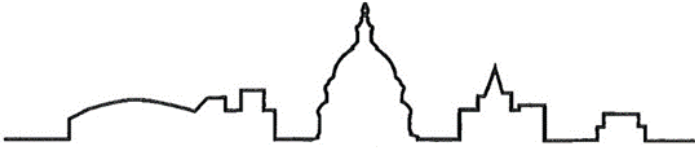
As a previous client of Erica's through LASP, and as a past Excellence Awards recipient through the Pardon Project/PLSE, I would like to share my sincere congratulations to Erica for being recognized by PLAN with the Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award. Erica was instrumental in my beginning stages of applying for a pardon. While pursuing my pardon she became not only an advocate, but a friend, forging an attorney-client relationship that I had never experienced.

To share an example of her commitment and compassion: during my pardon process, I was devastated by my grandmother's passing and moved out of the area, abandoning the steps to move my application forward. Though I was no longer a resident of Norristown, Erica reached out to express her deepest condolences as well encouraging me to continue the process. She went above and beyond by being there for my various speaking engagements on pardons, where I shared my lived experience. She is a shining example of leadership, dedication, and excellence as an attorney, and in my humble opinion, there isn't anyone more deserving of this award!

*With gratitude,  
Akeem Sims  
Pardon Project Steering Committee, Chair*



Chief Justice Emeritus  
Ronald Castille  
congratulates all of the  
Excellence Award Honorees  
for the great work they do to  
promote access to justice.

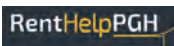


## **Dauphin County Bar Association**

213 NORTH FRONT STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17101 (717) 232-7536 FAX (717) 234-4582

The Dauphin County Bar Association  
congratulates the recipients of the  
2024 PLAN Excellence Awards  
and thanks the  
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network  
On another year of  
**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE**  
in expanding access to legal services  
across the Commonwealth.





## JANE DOWNING

### Congratulations Jane!

You set the standard for leadership in affordable housing and were instrumental in creating a model eviction prevention system in Allegheny County.

Your dedication to ensuring access to justice and housing for all is truly commendable. Enjoy your retirement!

#### Your Eviction Prevention Collaborative Partners:

The Community Justice Project, Just Mediation Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services, Regional Housing Legal Services and Rent Help Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania  
**Legal Aid** Network

SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE  
TEENTH**  
GYMBOREE

**JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

We're hosting our first ever  
Juneteenth Gymboree!

This 3-day extravaganza is packed with programs dedicated to fundraising for DEIB initiatives, fostering community engagement, and celebrating the spirit of Juneteenth.



Justice at Work congratulates  
**Winebrake & Santillo, LLC**  
on receiving the Outstanding  
Pro Bono Advocacy Award.

Thank you for your work to  
ensure access to justice for low-  
wage workers across  
Pennsylvania!

The LASP Board of Directors & Staff congratulate

# Erica N. Briant on the 2024 PLAN Excellence Award for **Outstanding Attorney Advocate**



Erica Briant is Legal Aid of Southeastern PA's Director of Community Engagement & Training. She started at LASP in 2014 as an Equal Justice Works fellow and then served as Staff Attorney and Community Engagement Unit Supervising Attorney.

**Her legal work helps clients gain a fresh start** through a practice focused on mitigating

the collateral consequences of criminal records and helping clients obtain legal name changes.

She and some of the Community Engagement Unit team are filing petitions for clients under **Clean Slate 3.0** in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties and have held several CLEs to train attorneys and encourage pro bono volunteer participation. The CEU also encompasses **disaster legal aid** and the **Regional Disability Advocacy (DAP) Program**.



LASP serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery counties. [lasp.org](http://lasp.org)



**DONNA ALLEN-ROSEMOND**

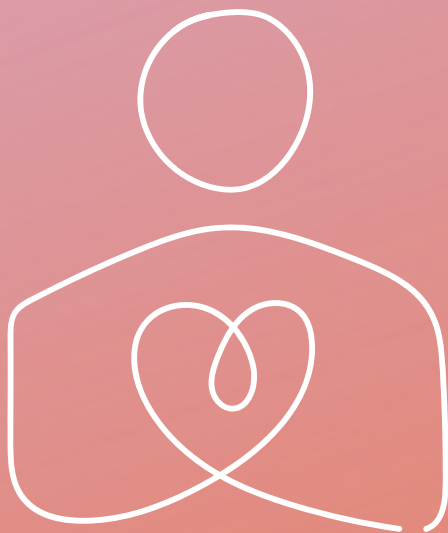
**Congratulations!**

on receiving the 2024 Pennsylvania  
Legal Aid Network, Inc. Outstanding  
Attorney Advocate Award!

Congratulations to all of the  
PLAN Excellence Award Honorees!



*Congratulations to the  
2024 Excellence Awardees!*



*Philadelphia Welfare Rights  
thanks this year's honorees  
for their commitment to  
excellence and advocacy for  
those in need.*



PENNSYLVANIA  
**Health Law**  
PROJECT

*Congratulations*

**Janice L. Meinert, MSW**  
PARALEGAL

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**Thank you for 23 years  
of dedicated service  
and commitment to  
our clients and the  
PLAN community!**

— PHLP Staff & Board

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**CHEERS TO ALL  
OF THE 2024  
AWARDEES!**



## Congratulations to the 2024 Excellence Award Recipients!

PLAN, Inc. is honored to recognize these outstanding advocates for their dedication to helping disadvantaged and underrepresented clients across the Commonwealth.



**Outstanding  
Attorney Advocates:**

**Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.  
Erica N. Briant, Esq.**

**Outstanding  
Non-Attorney Advocates:**

**Janice L. Meinert  
Gigi Nikpour**

**Outstanding  
Pro Bono Advocacy:**

**Jane A. Downing**

**Outstanding  
Community Advocacy:**

**Winebrake & Santillo, LLC**

Your generous advocacy helps us advance our goal of collaborative communities, equitable justice, and strong futures in Pennsylvania.

*from the staff at Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to the recipients of  
the **2024 Excellence Awards**

Outstanding Attorney Advocates:

**Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.**

**Erica N. Briant, Esq.**



Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocates:

**Janice L. Meinert**

**Gigi Nikpour**



Outstanding Community Advocacy:

**Jane A. Downing**



Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy:

**Winebrake & Santillo, LLC**

**You make a difference in people's lives.**



*Sam Milkes and Jan Terpening*

**Welfare Pride, Inc. thanks the  
2024 Excellence Award Honorees  
for their dedication to helping  
underrepresented Pennsylvanians.**





Community Legal Services  
congratulates

*Gigi Nikpour*

*Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award*  
and all of the other recipients of the  
2024 PLAN Excellence Awards.

DISCOVER  
WHAT  
MAKES  
LEGAL AID  
THE BEST  
JOB EVER!



Work with us to help secure justice, equity, and hope for those in need. Scan the QR code to view openings at legal aid offices throughout the state.

Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.  
Neighborhood Legal Services  
**Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award**

Jane A. Downing  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
**Outstanding Community Advocacy Award**

Gigi Nikpour, Paralegal  
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia  
**Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award**

Erica N. Briant, Esq.  
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania  
**Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award**

Janice L. Meinert, Paralegal  
Pennsylvania Health Law Project  
**Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award**

Winebrake & Santillo, LLC  
**Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy Award**

## Congratulations to the 2024 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners



## Congratulations to the 2024 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award Winners

Donna Allen-Rosemond, Esq.  
Neighborhood Legal Services  
**Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award**

Jane A. Downing  
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**Outstanding Attorney Advocate Award**

Janice L. Meinert, Paralegal  
Pennsylvania Health Law Project  
**Outstanding Non-Attorney Advocate Award**

Winebrake & Santillo, LLC  
**Outstanding Pro Bono Advocacy Award**

## Pennsylvania Project Directors Association

ABOUT OUR VIDEOGRAPHER

# ROLLING LEMON

**Mission-driven media  
production.**

Rolling Lemon is a Pennsylvania based visual storytelling studio that helps advocates build narrative power with integrated media production, creative strategy, and DIY training.

Rolling Lemon is registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion and Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO).



[rollinglemoncreative.co](http://rollinglemoncreative.co)





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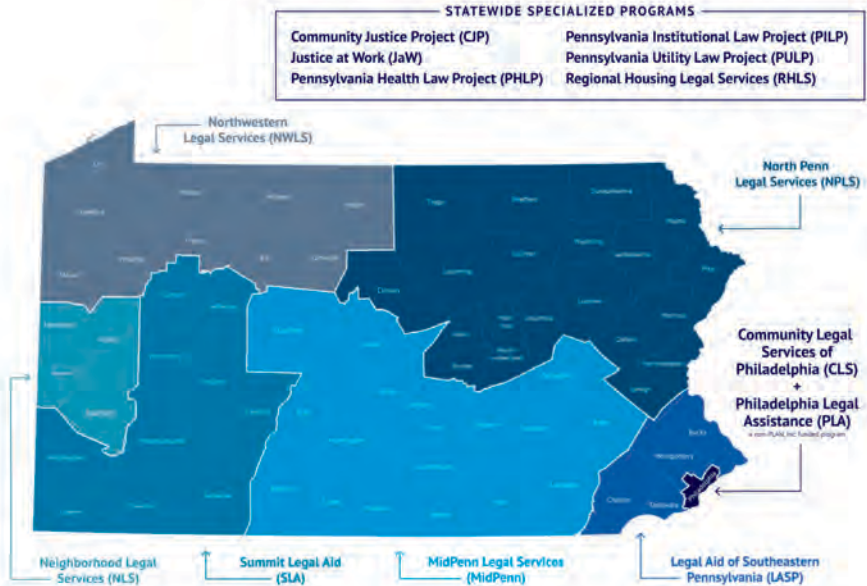
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Lacy Toline

Rena Weaver

# ABOUT OUR NETWORK



The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network is a statewide system made up of fourteen legal aid organizations that provide free civil legal services, advice, and representation to underserved families across Pennsylvania. Our eight regional legal aid programs provide general legal assistance to low-income families and domestic violence survivors. At our six specialized legal aid programs, attorneys operate statewide, addressing specific issues such as housing, health, utilities, workers' rights, and the rights of institutionalized individuals.

Our distinctive coordinated approach sets us apart from other civil legal providers in Pennsylvania, playing a crucial role in fulfilling our mission of providing access to legal remedies and support for low-income residents in every county of the state.

## PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL AID NETWORK, INC.



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