



PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access To Justice Since 1964



2023 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	3
About the Philadelphia Bar Foundation	4
2023 Board of Trustees	6
Nonprofit Partners	8
Programs and Partnerships	10
Access to Justice Awards Benefit	15
Equal Justice Center	20
2023 Donors and Supporters	21

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

2023 was a year for successful advocacy in our community. We saw many triumphs, both in our own region and across the country. Philadelphia voted in Cherelle Parker as the city's 100th Mayor- the first woman to hold the position. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation was able to broaden its scope of support for the legal aid community with an astounding \$755,987 in unrestricted grants. This was thanks to the incredible generosity of the legal community, a substantial Cy Pres distribution to benefit nonprofit organizations dedicated to employee rights and employee advocacy, and a generous anonymous grant directed to specific nonprofit partners. This abundance of gifts allowed us to increase our grant-giving capacity by almost 100 percent from 2022.



We also faced a lot of challenges this year, and we mourned the shocking loss of one of our most beloved and respected legal trailblazers, JoAnne Epps. In the face of challenges, it is more important than ever to stand united. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is proud to be an organization that brings together dozens of civil legal aid organizations, Philadelphia's public interest community, private organizations, and the legal community to promote reliability in the law, provide equal access to justice for all, and preserve basic human rights.

With the conclusion of my tenure as the President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, I am very proud to turn the leadership of this leading organization to the trailblazer Niki Ingram. I want to thank all of you for your commitment to justice and for your tireless support. As President John F. Kennedy, Jr. said: "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." Closing the access-to-justice gap is an ongoing challenge, but the Bar Foundation is determined to rally Philadelphia's legal and business communities around doing just that.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith S. Auten". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meredith S. Auten, 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 sustaining 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

- All people should have equal access to justice and the right to legal representation.
- When we work to provide an equitable and inclusive playing field, we make our legal system fairer and our society more just.
- It is our responsibility to advocate for equal access to justice, to drive change, and to provide legal services to underserved communities.
- It is our place to champion the unique value that the Philadelphia Legal Aid community provides our city and region.
- It is our privilege to recognize, support, and celebrate the efforts of partners and collaborators who further these principles and to show that the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts.

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 2021-2023 Strategic Plan

In 2018, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation identified opportunities for organizational growth and improvement and developed a 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the pivot of the Equal Justice Center, and the racial justice movement, the Foundation decided to revise its strategic plan. The Strategic Priorities identified for 2021-2023 were:

Philanthropy: Ground the Foundation’s fundraising and giving in race, social, and economic equity to enhance sector-wide capacity and stimulate systemic changes to remove inequities in the justice sector.

Sustainability & Capacity: Strengthen the Philadelphia 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: Center racial equity in identifying, understanding, and overcoming barriers to equal access to justice.

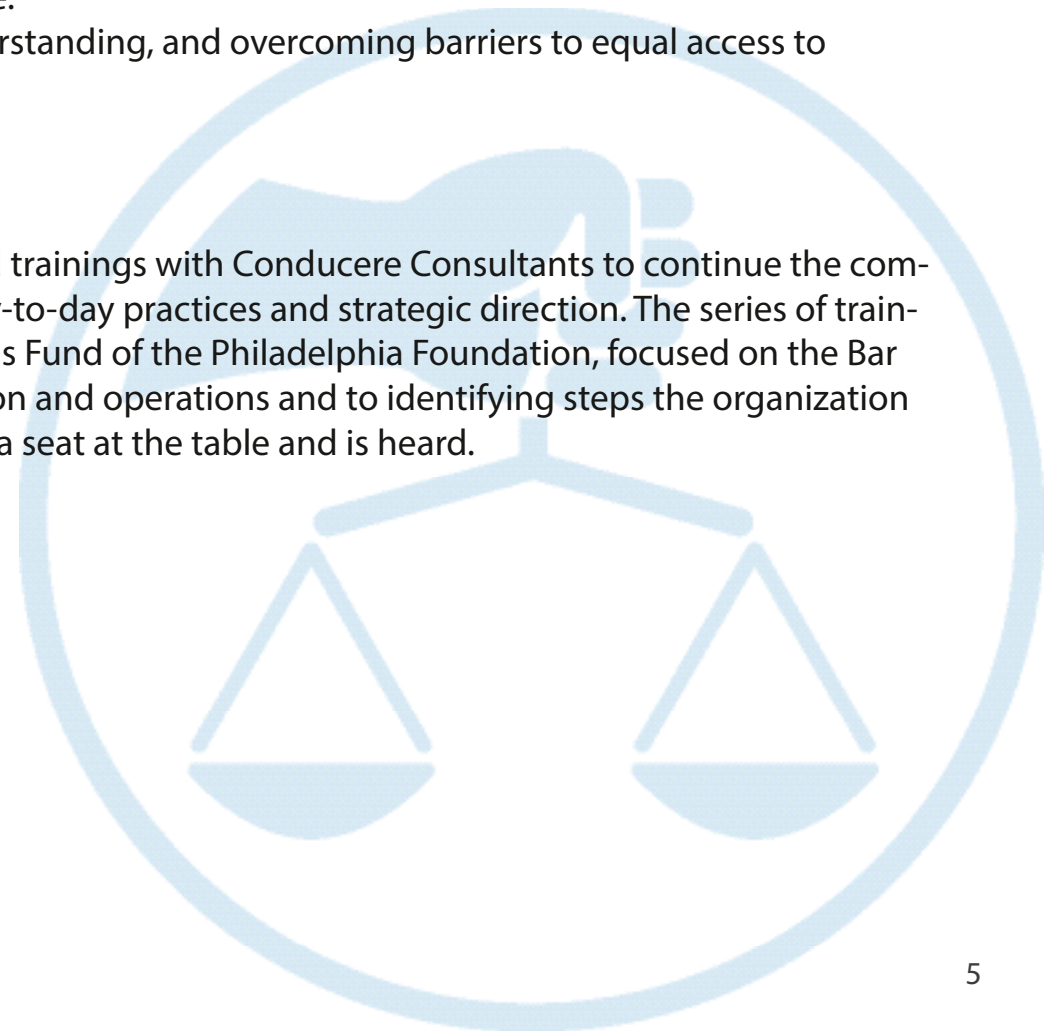
Philanthropic Reflection and Racial Equity

In 2023, Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board and staff completed trainings with Conducere Consultants to continue the commitment to embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into day-to-day practices and strategic direction. The series of trainings and workshops, which was funded by the Ira Jewell Williams Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation, focused on the Bar Foundation’s commitment to centering racial equity in its mission and operations and to identifying steps the organization can take to create more inclusive spaces in which everyone has a seat at the table and is heard.



CONDUCERE

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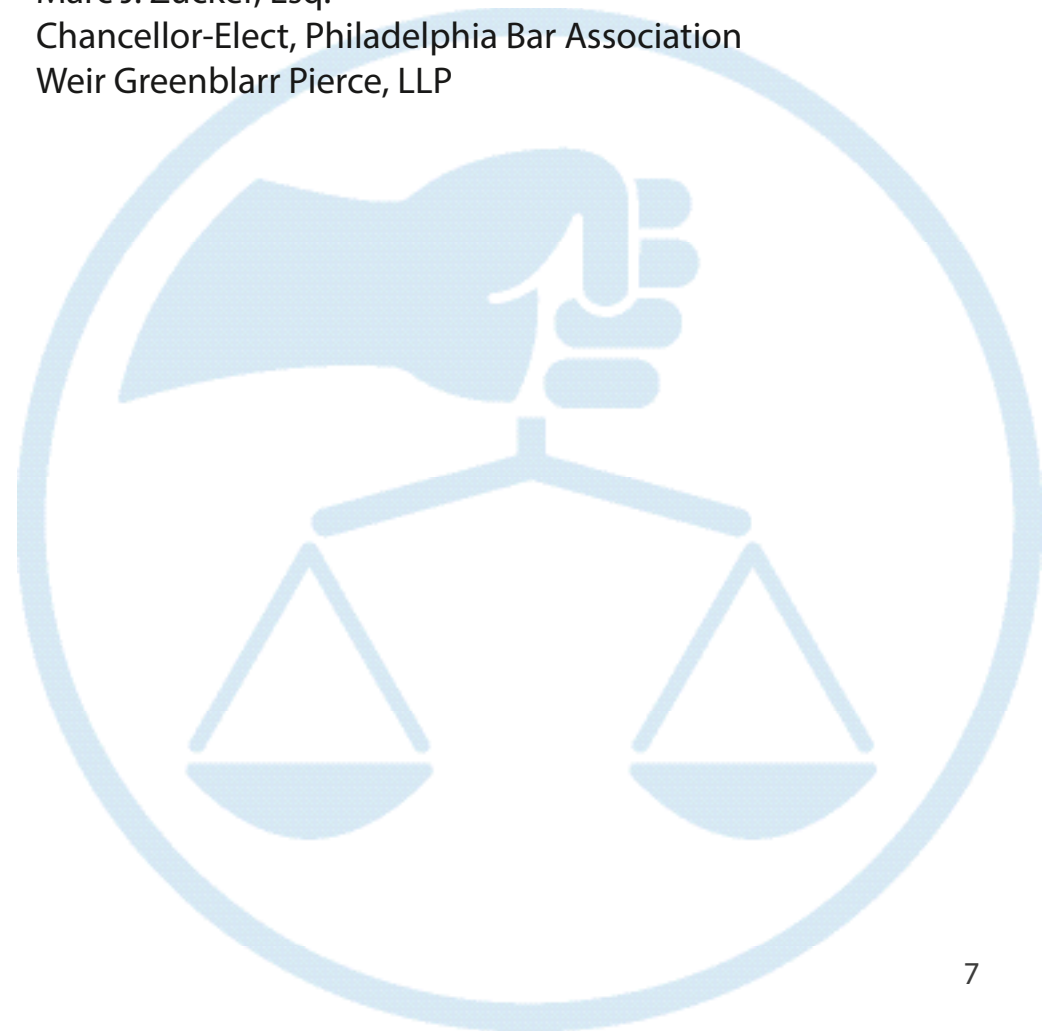
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Nonprofit Partners

American Civil Liberties
Union of Pennsylvania

AIDS Law Project of
Pennsylvania

Atlantic Center for
Capital Representation

CeaseFirePA

Community Legal Services
of Philadelphia

Consumer Bankruptcy
Assistance Project

CORA Good Shepherd
Mediation Program

Court Appointed Special
Advocates of Philadelphia

Disability Rights
Pennsylvania

Education Law Center

Esperanza Immigration
Legal Services

Face to Face Legal Center

Homeless Advocacy Project

Justice at Work

Juvenile Law Center

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Mazzoni Center Legal
Services

Nationalities Service Center

PA HIAS Indigent Immigrant
Legal Services

Pennsylvania Health
Law Project

Pennsylvania Immigration
Resource Center

Pennsylvania Innocence
Project

Pennsylvania Institutional
Law Project

Pennsylvanians for
Modern Courts

Philadelphia Lawyers
for Social Equity

Philadelphia Legal Assis-
tance

Philadelphia VIP

Philadelphia Volunteer
Lawyers for the Arts

Public Interest Law Center

Regional Housing Legal
Services

SeniorLAW Center

Support Center for Child
Advocates

Women Against Abuse

WOAR - Philadelphia Center
Against Sexual Violence

Women's Law Project

Youth Sentencing & Reentry
Project



PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION

Promoting Equal Access To Justice Since 1964

Our Nonprofit Partners



equal
justice
center



Programs and Partnerships

The Bar Foundation is Philadelphia's philanthropic hub for access to justice, and the Foundation's work and achievements involve far more than grantmaking. 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.

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 2023.

2023 Recipients: Ashli Giles-Perkins (Education Law Center), Jake Lee (Pennsylvania Health Law Project), Todd W. Nothstein, Esq. (Legal Clinic for the Disabled), P. Michael Jones, Esq. (Philadelphia VIP)

Samuel T. Gomez Award

To honor the memory of Samuel T. Gomez, Esq., this award was established in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania to annually recognize a law student who demonstrates a commitment to, and passion for, community service.

There was no Gomez Award Recipient in 2023.

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.

2023 Recipients: Meghan Termat (Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law), Kelyu Yu (University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Victoria Rosario (Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law)

The Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Fund

The memory of Judge Albert W. Sheppard, Jr. is honored annually through the Honorable Albert W. Sheppard Scholarship Fund's support of an academic year-long law student fellowship position with the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas - Commerce Division's world renowned 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).

2023 Fellows: Jamal Connelly, Caroline Narro, and Billy Febuary from Temple University Beasley School of Law



Jamal Connelly



Caroline Narro



Billy Febuary

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 and the greater Philadelphia area.

2023 Fellows: Neeraja Aravindan (Rutgers Law School), Guozhen Xiao (Penn State Law)

R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence

The R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence supports legal skills training programs, at no cost, for public interest lawyers in the Philadelphia area who practice at government agencies and organizations providing access to free or low-cost legal services.

2023 Participants

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Valerie Snow, Esq.

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RUTGERS
Law School



BOARD OBSERVER PROGRAM

The Bar Foundation created the Board Observer Program, in partnership with the Young Lawyer’s Division (YLD) and Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association, to encourage civic and community engagement and to help strengthen nonprofit boards in our region. The program provides YLD members an opportunity to serve on nonprofit boards, including the boards of the Bar Foundation’s nonprofit partner legal aid organizations. The program allows Observers to develop their leadership skills while learning more about their communities and gaining the knowledge and skills necessary for Board service. Participating organizations benefit from the energy and new ideas of these young lawyers. Twenty-four nonprofit organizations and 40 attorneys participated in this program in 2023.

AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania	Education Law Center	Main Line Art Center (MLAC)	Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Atlantic Center for Capital Representation	Healthy NewsWorks	National Society of Black Engineers	Rebuilding Together Philadelphia
Canine Partners for Life	Homeless Advocacy Project	Pennsylvania HIAS Indigent Immigrant Legal Services, Inc.	Regional Housing Legal Services
The Clay Studio	Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia	Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center	SeniorLAW Center
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia	Legal Clinic for the Disabled	Pennsylvania Innocence Project	Support Center for Child Advocates
CORA Good Shepherd Mediation	Library Company of Philadelphia	Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts	Tabor Services, Inc.
Council for Relationships	Lutheran Settlement House	Philadelphia Bar Foundation	Tiny Dynamite
			Village of Arts & Humanities

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 program and Relapse Prevention Court, supporting participants facing mental health issues and substance addiction. The Fund was established by Federal District Court Judge Gerald (Jerry) Austin McHugh, Jr. and named in honor of one of his mentors, the late Hon. Alfred L. Luongo. In 2023, the Fund distributed \$3,850 to assist six individuals.

LexisNexis Research Grants Program

The LexisNexis Research Grant Program provides online research time, tools, and training to grantees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Ten nonprofit legal aid organizations benefited from this program in 2023.



Justice at Work

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE)

Regional Housing Legal Services

SeniorLAW Center

Support Center for Child Advocates

Women's Law Project

Women Against Abuse

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. At a minimum, each intern is compensated \$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. The Bar Foundation has been a proud partner of this program since 2011. A total of fourteen individuals participated in the program in 2023.

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Annual Event

2023 Access to Justice Awards Benefit

Thank you to our sponsors (page 17) who supported this event and our Unified Giving Partners (page 22) for their year-round support.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation gives 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 Awards Celebration.

Originally established by the Apothaker family in honor of Louis D. Apothaker, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award recognizes a public interest attorney who is dedicating their life to promoting equal access to justice for all by working in the nonprofit legal services community. Professor Seth Kreimer received the 2023 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award. Seth Kreimer has taught at Penn Law for over four decades. His work has focused on civil rights, civil liberties, and access to justice issues. He has advised and mentored a generation of public interest lawyers as a community leader, public interest attorney, and educator.

The Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is presented annually to a Philadelphia law firm or in-house legal department that demonstrates outstanding volunteer efforts in providing legal services to those in need. Holland & Knight LLP received the 2023 Pro Bono Award. The firm was recognized for its remarkable effort in 2022 to provide training and pro bono services in support of thousands of Afghan asylum seekers, providing high-quality legal counsel with dignity and respect.

We were honored to have Joanna McClinton, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, join us as a featured speaker. We thank award-winning journalist and WHYY Afternoon Drive Host/news anchor Cherri Gregg for being our emcee of the evening.

Congratulations to our 2023 Award Recipients!



2023 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Recipient:
Professor Seth Kreimer, University of Pennsylvania
Carey School of Law



2023 Pro Bono Award Recipient:
Holland & Knight

Thank you to our 2023 Access to Justice Awards Benefit Sponsors!

Equality Sponsor



Equality Sponsor



Diversity Sponsors



Opportunity Sponsors

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- KLDiscovery
- Kroll
- National Forensic Consultants, Inc

- PECO
- Rebuttal PR
- Rust Consulting
- Signal Interactive Media
- Taylor Trial Consulting
- Thrivest Message Agency

Justice Matters

In 2023, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation launched a new panel discussion series titled Justice Matters. The new program is designed to educate the community about the access to justice gap and pressing civil legal issues, as well as discuss solutions. Over the course of the year, we hosted discussions with experts on topics such as transgender rights, gun violence, and women's rights. More than 160 people attended Justice Matters events.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation and CeaseFirePA present:

Justice Matters: How the Courts Could Help End Gun Violence

**October 11, 2023
4:00-5:30 PM
Via Zoom**

Featuring:

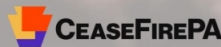
Jasmeet Ahuja, HoganLovells
Ben Geffen, Public Interest Law Center
Stanley Crawford, Black Male Community Council of Philadelphia
& lead plaintiff
Nancy Gordon, former President of CeaseFirePA
Alex Bowerman, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney
Lydia Furst, Divisional Deputy City Solicitor, City of Philadelphia
Law
Moderated by Adam Garber, Executive Director of CeaseFirePA



Scan to register



PHILADELPHIA BAR
FOUNDATION



The Philadelphia Bar Foundation and TransWork
present:

Justice Matters: Legal Threats and Protections for Our Transgender Community



Conversations About Law and Equity

**July 18, 2023
4:00-5:30 PM
Via Zoom**

2023 Philly Jerseys for Justice/Friends of the Foundation

Jerseys for Justice replaced our Philly Jeans for Justice Fundraiser when the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic closed our workplaces. This campaign was a way for offices, professional networks, or even groups of friends to help raise emergency relief funding for Philadelphia's legal aid agencies remotely. Over \$2,630 was raised from Jerseys for Justice in 2023.

Thank you 2023 participants!



2023 Updates

2023 was a big year here for the Equal Justice Center (EJC) following the 2020 decision to pivot from a physical building in Center City to a virtual hub. Nearly halfway through the year, project activities ramped up with the hiring of two full-time dedicated staff, a Project Manager and Community Liaison. With this positive forward momentum, the EJC Planning Committee was reengaged and the future of the EJC began to take shape.

With insights from Philadelphia Bar Foundation staff and EJC Planning Committee members, the EJC began drafting a robust project plan to develop and implement a virtual hub for civil legal services. As a project plan was being developed, it became increasingly apparent that community input would be vital to this initiative, which demonstrated a distinct need for community engagement activities.

In December, the EJC launched its initial community outreach efforts by hosting six virtual town halls for civil legal service providers to start gathering their feedback and insights on how the EJC could streamline their work. With 20 participants representing 17 organizations, these sessions provided EJC staff with insight into the needs of civil legal service providers across Philadelphia.

The virtual town halls were just the starting point for EJC's community engagement activities. In 2024, the EJC will embark on a comprehensive community outreach and engagement plan which will include a Community Needs Assessment and in-person Community Listening Sessions focused on the civil legal needs of Philadelphians. To capture the voices and needs of Philadelphia's residents, the EJC will continue to engage with service providers to develop a virtual resource center that promotes equal access to justice for all Philadelphians.

2023 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 2023. By supporting the work of the Bar Foundation, the Philadelphia legal community fulfills its responsibility to ensure equal access to justice and to help 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 2023 donors:

Brian S. Chacker, Esq.

Edward F. Chacker, Esq.

Carolyn M. Chopko Esq.

Joan D. Daly, Esq.

Emmanuel O. Iheukwumere, Esq.

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Vincent R. McGuinness, Esq.

Nicholas J. Renzi, Esq.

Magdalena M. Schardt, Esq.

Katelyn Skalski, Esq.

David E. Sternberg, Esq.

Cy Pres Awards

Cy Pres funds that remain undistributed from class action lawsuits may be donated to a charitable organization. These funds have made a significant impact on the Foundation's grantmaking capacity. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is uniquely positioned to be a highly appropriate recipient of Cy Pres in many cases. In 2023, we received a total of \$393,696 in Cy Pres fund.

Unified Giving

Our Unified Giving campaign seeks annual gifts from businesses (law firms or other companies) that provides 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 2023 Unified Giving Partners:

\$15,000 and Above	Fox Rothschild LLP	Saltz Mongeluzzi & Bendesky P.C	Below \$1,500
Cozen O'Connor	Hausfeld LLP	Weir Greenblatt Pierce LLP	Adams and Reese LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	HP Law, LLC		Akerman LLP
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders	Levin, Sedran & Berman LLP	\$1,500 - \$2,499	Brown McGarry Nimeroff LLC
		ADR Options Inc.	Flamm Walton Heimbach
\$10,000 - \$14,999	Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP	The Beasley Firm, LLC	McCarter & English LLP
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Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin P.C.	\$3,000 - \$4,499	MCG Law	
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Fox Rothschild LLP	Margolis Edelstein		
	Post & Schell		
	Raynes & Lawn		

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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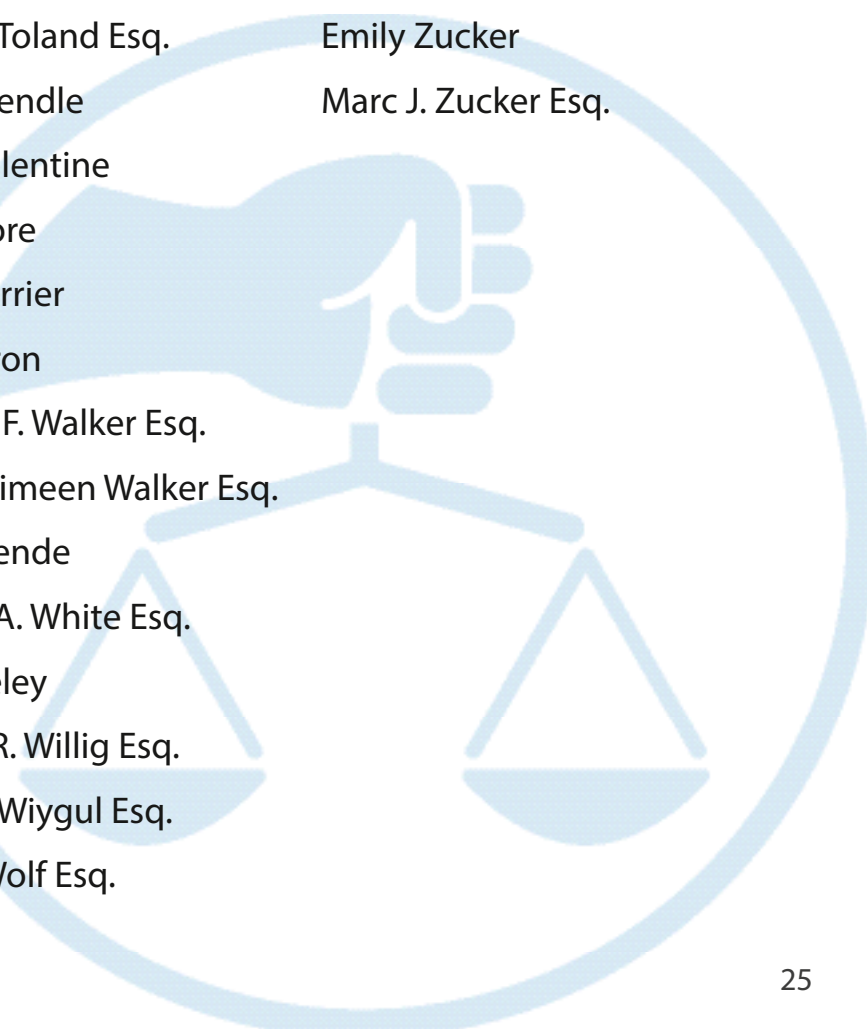
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