

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS

 **THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST
LAW CENTER**

2017 ANNUAL REPORT & 2018 STRATEGY

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN! WHAT A YEAR IT WILL BE!

Dear friends:

As we look back over 2017 we feel—dare we say?—hopeful. The courts did their jobs, striking down vicious immigration policies, rejecting attempts to roll back environmental regulations, and thwarting efforts to water down fair housing laws. Last fall, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court gave hope to our public school children when it revived our lawsuit designed to make public education funding fair and equitable. That same Court, in response to our gerrymandering lawsuit, held Pennsylvania's 2011 congressional district map unconstitutional, protecting all voters from a map that locked in election outcomes regardless of voter preferences.

We also drew inspiration from the millions of people who became civically and politically engaged, many for the first time. In Philadelphia neighborhoods, it was our privilege to help hundreds of people organize to contest changes being made in their neighborhoods without their consent, and sometimes without their knowledge. Mobilizing around our school funding and political gerrymandering cases, hundreds turned out for court hearings and rallies. Still more turned out for Philadelphia City Council hearings on the eviction crisis, which included testimony from our clients and resulted in \$500,000 in new funding for legal services and eviction prevention for low-income tenants.


With hope, though, comes a clear-eyed recognition that many of Philadelphia's deepest problems remain. Racism, poverty, and discrimination are deeply embedded, leading to persistent structural inequality. So, we've taken to heart Charles Darwin's admonition: "[I]f the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin." We continue to challenge institutions that tolerate widespread disregard of housing quality laws and grease the wheels for Philadelphia's 20,000 evictions each year. We challenged a policy in Philadelphia's Federal Detention Center that deprives people awaiting trial of the basic right to see their children. We've fought off attempts to create a segregated school for children with disabilities.

By the close of 2017 our staff remained in high gear, engaged in effective litigation and collaborations. The Board of Directors, too, ended the year operating at new levels of hard work and accountability, having committed to growing the organization and enhancing its own diversity.

In 2018, as we mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination, all of us, board and staff, are working harder than ever to meet his charge: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

And no recap of 2017 or vision for 2018 is complete without our heartfelt thanks to you: our donors, volunteers, partners, pro bono lawyers and friends. You showed up with your time and your talent in every aspect of our work. Our successes are truly yours too.

Sincerely,



Jennifer R. Clarke
Executive Director



Jennifer Clarke (third from left) with Take Action Philly founding members.

**1.7
MILLION**

students benefitting from a landmark Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision establishing that courts have a clear duty to consider alleged constitutional violations of the state legislature's school funding obligations

\$500,000

new public funding for lawyers to represent low-income tenants in Philadelphia facing eviction; secured in partnership with low-income tenants and community organizations

264,000

people served by 33 impact litigation and advocacy projects

5,489

people engaged through community education and presentations, up from 3,100 in 2016

by the Numbers

2017

2,020

likes on Facebook

411

individual donors

279

people attended our annual event

210

press hits, up from 174 in 2016 and 155 in 2015

138

pro bono attorneys, paralegals, volunteers and interns

18

Congressional districts in Pennsylvania's 2011 map declared unconstitutional as a partisan gerrymander and 18 new, more competitive districts installed in their place

6

new staff members, including two fellows

1

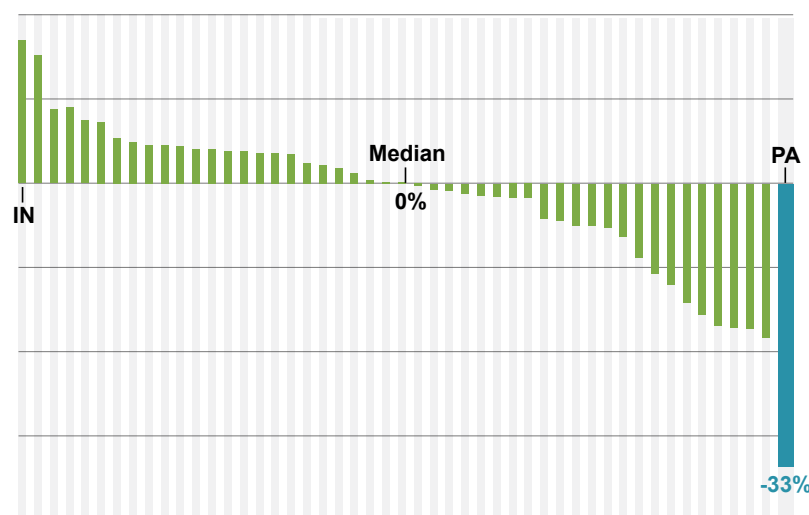
first-ever Legal Director hired

The William Penn School District

Petitioner in School Funding Lawsuit

Pennsylvania has the most inequitable school funding system in the country. Low-wealth communities have 33% less to spend on children than wealthier communities. Located in Delaware County, the William Penn School District is one of hundreds of schools across the state facing this inequity.

INEQUITY RANKING BY STATE



This chart shows just how much of an outlier Pennsylvania is in terms of school funding. Each bar represents one state. Indiana, for example, provides 17% more funding to poor school districts than wealthy districts. The median state is at equity. Pennsylvania, however, provides 33% less funding to poor school districts than wealthy districts.

The district has worked hard to increase local funding by raising property tax rates, but rate increases do not result in enough new money. The district's students still receive less funding than children who live nearby, even though the William Penn community taxes itself at far higher rates. For example, students just 12 miles away in Radnor, where the district enjoys a lower property tax rate, receive much more money. This disparity is unfair and doubly harms students in William Penn, where almost 50% of children live in poverty.

So the district joined our lawsuit challenging state officials' failure to comply with the Education Clause of Pennsylvania's Constitution, which requires the General Assembly to, "provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education," for all of Pennsylvania's schoolchildren. Our lawsuit also argues that these disparities amount to failure to comply with the state's equal protection provisions.

"We provide the best education we possibly can to our students in spite of our extremely limited state funding. But there are so many opportunities our students are missing out on. With more state funding, we would make sure our students have ongoing access to technology, a range of electives relevant to professional fields, and facilities that meet their needs."

— William Penn Superintendent Jane Harbert



William Penn Fourth Graders. Credit: William Penn School District

In September of 2017, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court delivered a major victory to the children at William Penn and hundreds of thousands of other children in public schools across the state when it ruled that Pennsylvania families could go forward with their claims that state officials are violating the state constitution. The Court's order overturned decades of precedent and agreed with our argument that the courts have a clear duty to review the state legislature's compliance with Pennsylvania's Constitution. Pennsylvania's students will finally have their day in court.



Together with our co-counsel, in June 2017, we were honored by the Philadelphia Public School Notebook for our education work.



William Penn Students at Honor Roll breakfast. Photo: William Penn School District

SCHOOL DISTRICT	WILLIAM PENN	RADNOR TOWNSHIP	DIFFERENCE:
Tax Burden	33.1 mills*	13.9 mills	
Local tax revenue per child	\$8,228	\$19,713	
State contribution per child	\$7,243	\$3,612	
State + local per child	\$15,471	\$23,325	
Students in poverty	46.6%	9.6%	
			\$7,854 per student

*mills: millage rate, or number of dollars of tax assessed per \$1,000 of property value

2018 Public Education Strategies

Move school funding lawsuit to trial as quickly as possible.

Continue working with statewide coalition to push state legislators to increase and sustain funding.

PARTNERS:
Education Law Center-PA

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

PA Schools Work

Lea Knight

Board Chair

In my day job, I am the Vice President for Finance of Janssen Supply Chain, a Johnson & Johnson company. Janssen Supply Chain is a global supply chain organization responsible for the supply of all of Johnson & Johnson's pharmaceutical and biologic products. I also have another important job: Chair of the Board of Directors of the Public Interest Law Center.

I joined the board in 2012 because I firmly believe that the organization has the power to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty as it helps people who face discrimination and poverty to secure greater access to resources. The Law Center touches the lives of people in our communities every day. I have heard their stories, witnessed their joy, and I know the work of the Law Center has positively changed their lives, forever.

As a Board, we are doing our part to keep the organization tightly focused on doing the most important work. Over the last few years we proactively helped the organization achieve a strong, stable financial base. But the realities of our time – intense and increasing poverty, educational disparity, development pressures in low-wealth neighborhoods, widespread discrimination, threatened elections – inspire us all to keep building momentum. We are called to invest deeply in organizations like the Public Interest Law Center so they can meet these realities head on.



Lea speaking at 2017 Annual Meeting.

Our Board is answering that call. We made the strategic decision that the Law Center must grow its impact in our region. We led the drive for a new strategic plan, which keeps us laser-focused. We established an endowment and rainy-day fund. We are now turning to our next big project: a responsible plan for the organization to boost its budget above the \$1 million mark, where it has hovered for the last two decades, in conjunction with our 50th anniversary next year.

We believe in the Public Interest Law Center. We are committed to continuing and expanding its decades-long quest for justice. On behalf of the Law Center's clients and staff, please join us!

Sincerely,

Lea D. Knight



Board members at 2017 Annual Meeting.

William Marx

Gerrymandering Petitioner

In June 2017, we filed a lawsuit on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and 18 individual voters challenging Pennsylvania's 2011 congressional map as a one of the most egregious partisan gerrymanders in history. Bill Marx was one of those voters.



Bill Marx (left) with his teenage daughter and fellow petitioners after first day of trial.

"At the time I signed onto this lawsuit, I was teaching AP U.S. Government. I was frustrated that my students were cynical about the fairness of the voting process. They questioned whether it was even important for them to vote when their representative would probably never change because of gerrymandering. I felt that gerrymandering was turning off our most impressionable citizens, creating low voter turnout rates, and increasing the feeling in our country that elections are pointless."

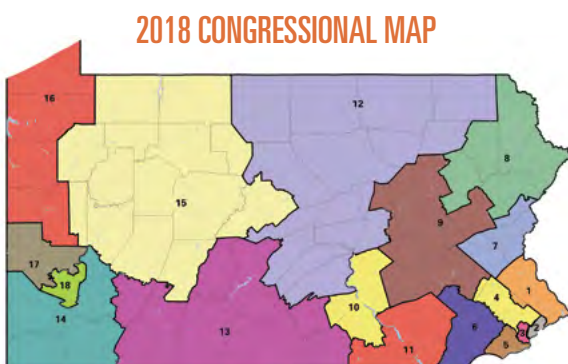
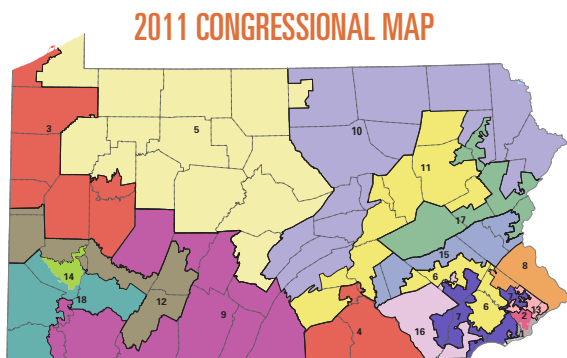
Bill Marx and family after his return from deployment in 2016.



“As a military member, I took an oath to serve my country and to defend it from all enemies. Some enemies do not have to shoot to destroy your country. Voter apathy and civic disengagement are both destructive to our political process and ultimately to our country. I felt it was my duty to fight for fairer elections.”

— Bill Marx

Bill Marx with
petitioners
after trial.



In partnership with a stellar pro bono team from Arnold & Porter, legal director Mimi McKenzie and staff attorneys Ben Geffen and Michael Churchill litigated this case to its successful conclusion in March 2018. In a major victory for voters, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared that Pennsylvania’s 2011 U.S. congressional map violated the Pennsylvania Constitution, enjoined the old map, and instituted a new, non-partisan map after the legislature failed to do so.

2018 Voting Strategies

Increase access to elections by fighting new challenges to fair elections.

Develop an approach to eliminate prison-based gerrymandering, the practice of artificially inflating the population and political influence of districts where prisons are located.

PARTNERS:

Arnold & Porter

**League of
Women Voters of
Pennsylvania**

Fair Districts PA

Common Cause PA



Cassandra Baker

Named Plaintiff in Housing Class Action Lawsuit

Cassandra Baker is a lifelong Philadelphian and a grandmother raising both her child and a young granddaughter. Shortly after moving her family into a house in 2014, Ms. Baker discovered it was not a healthy place to live.

“Once I moved in, I realized there were a lot of problems. To get heat I had to turn the thermostat to ninety degrees, and my gas bills went through the roof. A bedroom did not have any heat at all, no matter what I did. And so I had to share a bedroom and even a bed with my teenage daughter. My landlord just told me to buy an electric heater.”

After she asked her landlord to fix the heat, she received a letter from her landlord’s attorney, demanding back rent, late fees, and legal fees, and threatening to file an eviction lawsuit against her. Like tens of thousands of low-income tenants in Philadelphia, Cassandra Baker did not have a lawyer. And her landlord’s collection lawyer, like many landlord lawyers, attempted to evict her and force her to pay rent Philadelphia law says she did not owe.

In September 2017, we filed an innovative, consumer class action lawsuit on behalf of Ms. Baker and an estimated 300 other families to end these exploitative eviction practices and to ensure that low-income families in Philadelphia are able to live and thrive in safe, healthy, and affordable homes. This is the first such federal consumer law class action in Philadelphia.



Together with partners, we helped our clients prepare and give testimony to Philadelphia City Council on the need for more lawyers for low-income tenants. In June 2017, City Council allocated \$500,000 to fund more legal services.



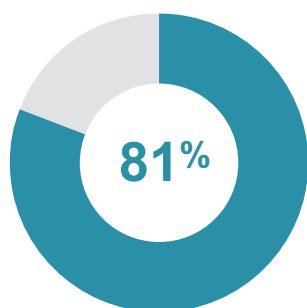
Cassandra Baker

“Even before I went to court, I came home one night, and we could not get back in. I realized that the lock was changed. All we had were the clothes we were wearing that day.”

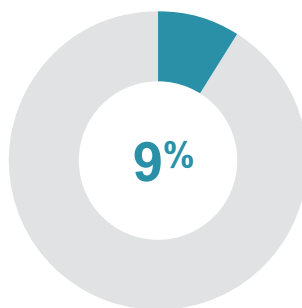
– Cassandra Baker

LEGAL REPRESENTATION DURING EVICTION PROCEEDINGS

Landlords with legal representation



Tenants with legal representation



Eviction filings in Philadelphia in 2017

24,000+



George Donnelly (right) and housing clients. George is a Penn Law Postgraduate Fellow, Funded by the Langer, Grogan & Diver Fellowship in Social Justice.



Tactix Real Estate Advisors, a premier tenant broker in Philadelphia, has partnered with us to create the Tactix Tenant Advocacy Project. This new venture will defend and enforce the rights of residential tenants in Philadelphia, and ensure they have decent living conditions and can remain in their homes.

2018 Housing Strategies

Continue advocacy and housing quality lawsuits to improve court procedures and enforce consumer laws, housing quality laws, the Fair Housing Act, and Philadelphia’s lead disclosure law.

Collaborate as a member of the Philadelphia Mayor’s Taskforce on Eviction Prevention and Response.

Advocate for bills that will improve the lives of tenants in Philadelphia, including Good Cause eviction and increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund.

PARTNERS:

Chimicles & Tikellis LLP

National Consumer Law Project

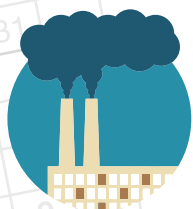
Community Legal Services

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

Tenant Union Rights Network

Philadelphia Bar Association Civil Gideon Task Force Housing Workgroup

Communities Facing Unwanted Development and Environmental Injustices



Residents in the Hawthorne neighborhood in South Philadelphia wanted to have a voice about the congestion that may ensue from a proposed new high rise, parking garage and shopping center.

Neighbors in Wynnefield in West Philadelphia have organized to ensure that their voice is heard in the planning process for an electrical substation proposed for construction in the middle of the neighborhood.

People in the African-American community of South Coatesville in Chester County are concerned about the health effects from noise and air pollution from four major industrial facilities.

In Eastwick, neighbors are monitoring the remediation of two hazardous waste sites and preparing to participate in the first-ever community-led planning process, after years of fighting for public control of land in the neighborhood.

Across Philadelphia, community gardens and farms are threatened by development pressures, gentrification, and patchy commitments from city officials to preserve and value urban agriculture.

We are working with groups within each of these communities to develop and implement responsive strategies as the futures of their neighborhoods are determined. We are negotiating Community Benefits Agreements, supporting community meetings, and organizing and litigating.



Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition
The Hawthorne Neighborhood's Nonprofit Community Organization



Logos from client community groups.



Ebony Griffin

Soil Generation, the black-led coalition of community gardeners we helped incubate and now support, received the SustainPHL Sustainable Communities Award and participated in the Philadelphia Art Museum's PHL Assembled program.



Soil Generation at SustainPHL awards.

In 2017 we said goodbye and best wishes to staff attorney Amy Laura Cahn as she relocated and we welcomed staff attorney Ebony Griffin to continue our environmental justice work.

At her goodbye celebration, Amy Laura Cahn received a citation from the City for her work on urban agriculture.



Amy Laura Cahn, pictured (right) with executive director Jennifer Clarke, Councilwoman Maria Quiñones-Sánchez, and Jennifer Kates.

We received the first annual Land Sovereignty Award from the North Central Philadelphia Community Development Corporation.



Ebony Griffin (standing right) with clients from New Jerusalem in one of their healing gardens.

2018 Environmental Justice Strategies

Provide legal and technical support to low-income, disinvested communities on advocacy around natural and built environment.

Promote land sovereignty and urban agriculture through community education, organizing and advocacy.

Prepare a cadre of pro bono lawyers to help threatened gardens.

PARTNERS:

Dechert LLP

**Steve Harvey Law
LLC**

Saul Ewing LLP

**Morgan Lewis &
Bockius LLP**

Soil Generation

Mira Baylson

Pro Bono Attorney

Mira Baylson is an associate with Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. This year, we partnered with her, her firm, and then-private practitioner Dana Bazelon, to file a federal class action lawsuit against the warden of the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia for maintaining a severely restrictive visitation policy.

One of our clients, Allen Woods, was held at the Federal Detention Center for more than a year and a half while he awaited trial. It had been over a year since he had seen his son, because the Detention Center's policy for pre-trial inmates permits only immediate family members to visit pre-trial inmates. While an inmate's minor children are part of his "immediate family," they are barred from visiting unless accompanied by an adult who is also a member of the inmate's immediate family. Allen Woods is not currently married to his son's mother, so the mother is not an "immediate family" member and is unable to bring their son to visit.

With help from Mira and our other partners, we asked the Court to step in, declare the policy unconstitutional, and order the Federal Detention Center to allow visits between all parents and their children.



Allen Woods and family.



Mira Baylson

"If we want to reduce recidivism, one of the best steps we can take is ensuring that people remain connected to their loved ones and to their support networks while incarcerated. I am proud to work on behalf of Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP, with the Public Interest Law Center and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, to ensure families remain families despite the corroding effects of incarceration."

-Mira Baylson, Associate, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Take Action Philly

Pro Bono Collaboration

In early 2017, we, along with lawyers from the City of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Bar Association, ACLU-PA, HIAS, Community Legal Services, and the Mazzoni Center sat down to plan for drastic, negative changes to the legal landscape that we knew were coming.

That first meeting led us to form Take Action Philly, a convening of hundreds of public and private lawyers throughout the city to address emergent and pressing legal issues. Take Action Philly hosted a forum of nearly 600 people about immigration; followed by forums on Medicaid and

race and policing. Each forum was accompanied by a call to action and specific activities, including pro bono service, for lawyers who wanted to get involved. We and our growing body of partners will continue to address emerging threats throughout 2018.



Take Action Philly

2018 Employment Strategies

Use litigation to increase employers' and employees' awareness of, and compliance with, Pennsylvania law prohibiting use of background checks.

Through trainings, advocacy and direct representation, increase the quantity and quality of transition services to help students with disabilities prepare for life and employment after school.

2017 Pro Bono Attorneys

Arnold & Porter

- MaryAnn Almeida
- Andrew Bergman
- Lindsey Carson
- John Cella
- John Freedman
- David Gersch
- Daniel Jacobson
- R. Stanton Jones
- Helen Mayer Clark
- Steven Mayer
- Sara Murphy
- John Robinson
- Troy Strunkey
- Elisabeth Theodore
- W. Stewart Wallace
- Gregory Wallace
- Jennifer Wieboldt
- Dylan Young

Ballard Spahr LLP

- Patricia Cramer
- Thomas Eshelman
- Wendi Kotzen

Blank Rome LLP

- Peter Soloff

Boies Schiller Flexner LLP

- Carl Goldfarb
- Stuart H. Singer

Chimicles & Tikellis LLP

- Nicholas Chimicles
- Alison Gushue

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

- Michael Carroll
- Monty Wilson

Covington & Burling LLP

- Jonathan Cloar
- Rachel Fried
- Grant Johnson
- Jeffrey Lerner

Cozen O'Connor

- Traci Boyle
- Amanda Nelson

Dechert LLP

- Richard Berkman
- Diane Siegel Danoff
- Gary Green
- Rachel Rosenberg
- Derek Runyan
- Catherine Wigglesworth
- Barton Winokur

DLA Piper

- Kristina Neff Burland
- Mark Kasten
- Lauren Wilchek

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

- Mira Baylson
- Jordan DiPinto
- Ginene Lewis
- Chanda Miller
- Lucas Michelen
- Amanda Pasquini
- Paul Saint-Antoine
- Carol Trevey

Duane Morris LLP

- Erin Duffy
- Greg Duffy
- Katharyn Christian
McGee
- Daniel Mita

Education Law Center- Pennsylvania

- Alex Dutton
- Debra Gordon Klehr
- Cheryl Kleiman
- Maura McNerney
- Kristina Moon

Flitter Milz, P.C.

- Cary Flitter
- Andrew Milz

Gupta Wessler PLLC

- Deepak Gupta

Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller

- Michele Hangley

Kawalski, Fletcher & Kirkpatrick, P.C.

- Taylor Fletcher

Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP

- Robert Elwood

Langer Grogan & Diver, P.C.

- Irv Ackelsberg

Law Office of David J. Berney

- David J. Berney
- Morgen Black-Smith

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

- Jon Greenbaum
- Mateya Kelley
- Dariely Rodriguez

McAndrews Law Offices, P.C.

- Heidi Konkler-Goldsmith

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

- Meredith Auten
- A. Lauren Carpenter
- Franco Corrado
- R. Brendan Fee
- Timothy Geverd
- Kathleen Keyser
- Adria Lamba
- Michael Peterson
- Karl Schweitzer
- Richard Umbrecht

National Consumer Law Center

- Charles Delbaum
- Stuart Rossman

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

- Erin P. Andrews
- Brad Elias
- Theresa S. Gee
- Aparna Joshi
- Lynsey Ramos

Outten & Golden LLP

- Cheryl-Lyn Bentley
- Adam Klein
- Christopher McNerney
- Ossai Miazad
- Lewis Steel

Pepper Hamilton LLP

- Hedy Aryani
- Jared Burns
- Jacqueline Pearlman
- David Richman
- Kathleen Stephenson
- Erik Videlock

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity

- Michael Hardiman
- Michael Lee

Reed Smith LLP

- Kristen Ashe
- Alexis Cocco
- Jordan M. Ellis
- Michael C. Falk
- Joshua M. Peles
- Samantha Rocchino

Saul Ewing LLP

- Andrew Bollinger
- Carol Pane-Russell
- Ned Rahn
- Mary Beth Schluckebier
- Frederick Strober

Steve Harvey Law LLC

- Rachel Gallegos
- Steve Harvey

White and Williams LLP

- Thomas Fiddler

Willig, Williams and Davidson

- Ryan Hancock
- Danielle Newsome

Solo Practitioners and Others

- Dana Bazelon
- Paul Boni
- DeWitt Brown
- Michele Cohen
- Benjamin Hinerfeld
- Lawrence M. Otter

Claire Ewing

Summer Intern

Claire Ewing-Nelson is a senior at Yale majoring in History and Statistics & Data Science. During her internship in the summer of 2017, Claire helped research and draft a white paper on barriers to pediatric dental care. This fall, she heads to Oxford to start a Masters program.

Children enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania have very low rates of receiving dental care. In partnership with Dechert LLP and other pediatric dental stakeholders, over the last few years we have been working to break down the barriers that keep children from getting dental services. Through this coalition and Claire's efforts on the white paper, we successfully petitioned the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry to expand the settings in which public health dental hygiene practitioners can provide services, such as home visits.



Claire Ewing-Nelson

"Interning at the Law Center gave me the invaluable opportunity to observe and contribute to the day-to-day work of community-based impact litigation. Getting to work with the generous, talented, and committed team made my internship incredibly rewarding and fun. I have the Law Center to thank for showing me how the law can be leveraged to create change, and for inspiring me to pursue a public interest career."

– Claire Ewing-Nelson



2017 Summer Interns.

For more information on volunteering or internships, visit our website – www.pubintlaw.org – and click “Get Involved.”

2017 Interns & Volunteers

Emmanuel Allison
Jason Bark
Montrel Bell
David Byron
Logan Dalton
Anabel Danon
Nina Datlof
Irvin Dinkins
Darlene Dool
Meg Dunlap
Berto Elysee
Claire Ewing-Nelson
Jeremy Gagas
Jennifer Garfield
Miguel Gatmaytan
Blair Gerold
Eliza Gresh
Helene Henry
Emma Howeler
Ally Johnson
Stephanie Kao
Younghwan Kwon
Anthony Mariani
Michael Masciandaro
Anea Moore
Rosa Nanasi Haas
Beth Robinson
Ben Rowles
Clarke Schaffner
Nick Seaman
Shannon Seelye
Miles Shinohara
Sahar Siddiqi
Wewe Sie
Alexandra Sobieski
Rachel Sommer
Dionysia Sotiropoulou
Aaron Tennant
Kuwanna Thompson
Michelle Tolodziecki
Stephen Valero
John Volpe
Ian Wahrenbrock
Rita Woods
Weixin Yang
John Young

PARTNERS:

Dechert LLP

Liberty Resources

Vision for Equality

**Pennsylvania
Coalition for Oral
Health**

2018 Healthcare Strategies

Work with coalition to continue to improve rate at which Pennsylvania children enrolled in Medicaid see a dentist.

Participate in collaboration to investigate solutions to gun violence.

Advocate with legal services partners to ensure people who lose their public benefits upon incarceration have them properly reinstated when they are released.

Karen Vaughn and Phil Wilson

Board Members and Co-chairs of Communications Committee

In their day jobs, Phil is a Claims Consultant for CNA Financial Corporation and Karen was the Associate Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. As board members, in 2017, Karen, Phil, and the Communications Committee of the Board of Directors teamed up to put on the committee's first-ever event: a panel on partisan gerrymandering attended by 85 people. The committee used the occasion of the event to premiere our new promotional video.



Visit www.pubintlaw.org/about-us/ to view the full video.



"I am on the Board because of the mission and the people. My involvement with the Law Center gives me opportunities for service, civic engagement, and making impactful change that are hard to find elsewhere. Serving with the exceptional group of volunteers and staff on the Communications Committee has given me a much-needed outlet for creativity and collaboration while spreading the good word about the Law Center's work."

– Phil Wilson

"I'm delighted to serve on the board because I have the utmost respect and admiration for the Law Center's unbridled, sincere commitment to social justice and to the use of impact litigation and other forms of advocacy to equalize access to fundamental resources and services. I'm inspired by the positive energy that the Board exhibits and really enjoy working with the Communications Committee as we step out of our respective comfort zones to design projects that lift up the Law Center's outstanding work to the community at large."

– Karen Vaughn



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Thomas M. Chapin Mill Creek Capital Advisors, LLC	Howard Langer Langer, Grogan & Diver P.C.	Hyung Steele Pepper Hamilton LLP	Priscilla Jimenez Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania
Nicholas E. Chimicles Chimicles & Tikellis LLP	Robert J. LaRocca Kohn Swift & Graf, P.C.	Karen J. Vaughn	Mary F. Platt Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association
Lisa W. Clark Duane Morris LLP	Shannon E. McClure Reed Smith LLP	Phillip E. Wilson, Jr. CNA Financial Corporation	A. Michael Snyder Vice Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association
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Joanne Epps Temple University	Arthur Newbold Dechert LLP
William Ewing	Michael Reed Pepper Hamilton LLP
Monique Myatt Galloway Federal Transit Administration	Sister Mary Scullion Project HOME
James Giles Blank Rome LLP	Rayman Solomon Rutgers Law School

**Special thanks to
board members who
completed their terms in
2017 or early 2018.**

Lloyd Freeman
Deborah R. Gross
Aneesh Mehta
Jeffrey S. Moller
Carlos Montoya
Matthew Olesh
Paul H. Saint-Antoine
Jenai St. Hill

Public Interest Law Center Donors

Donors and supporters gathered to celebrate and Rise Up at our 2017 Annual Event. We honored then-Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Deborah R. Gross, disability rights lawyer Stephen Gold, and our housing clients Gerrell Martin, Cassandra Baker, Yazmin Vazquez and their families.



Philadelphia Mayor Kenney speaks at event.

Photos:
Zivadin Katanic



Honoree Deborah Gross



Gerrell Martin accepts award on behalf of housing clients.

2019 marks the Law Center's 50th anniversary. Stay tuned for more details on celebrating this milestone!



Honoree Steve Gold

Donors

INDIVIDUALS

\$10,000+

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Kenneth and Andrea
Frazier
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At the core of the organization is our creative, talented and fierce staff. Once a week, we gather to share victories and brainstorm about roadblocks. We review new requests for help: is this the one—from the dozens we receive each week—that we should take on? What are the best strategies to solve this problem? Who else could do the work or is already doing it? We exchange ideas about who could help. We have fun.

From this remarkable mix of talents and perspectives, we have formed a solid, cohesive team, prepared to step in when new crises present themselves.

In Summer 2017, for example, we learned that the School District of Philadelphia was considering a contract with a for-profit education company to create a segregated school for hundreds of students with disabilities. We worked with partners, testified, led

meetings, and ultimately forced the District to scale back the proposal and focus on integration. Also last year, we jumped in after the state Department of Education badly failed in its investigation of widespread vacancies in special education positions in the School District of Philadelphia. As a result of our pressure, the Department has changed its investigation procedures.

Staff take a break to view the eclipse.





Staff at weekly meeting.

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*Legal Director
Mimi McKenzie at
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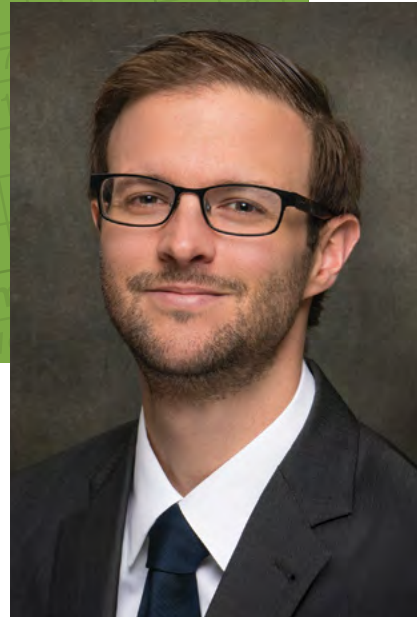
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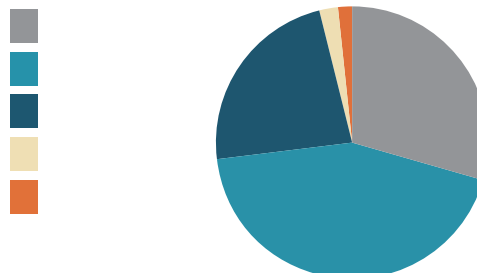
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January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES*

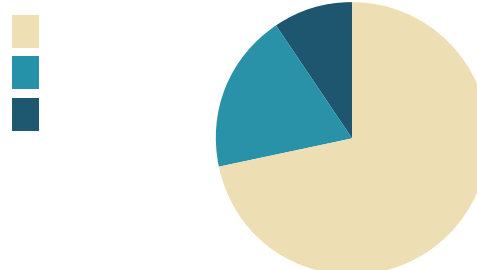
REVENUE

Foundations & IOLTA	\$469,425
Legal Community & Other Support	\$691,613
Fee & Out of Pocket Awards	\$361,966
Contracts & Honorarium	\$34,466
Interest & Other Income	\$26,327
Total Revenues	\$1,583,797



EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,003,919
Fundraising Expenses	\$261,868
General Expenses	\$131,049
Total Expenses	\$1,396,836



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	\$1,045,614
Other Assets	\$1,558,848
Fixed Assets (net of depreciation)	\$15,326
Total Assets	\$2,619,788
Current Liabilities	\$95,572
Prior Year Net Assets	\$2,334,576
Current Year Change	\$186,961
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,619,788
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,252,751

*Audited financial reports are available on our website.
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