

Together for Justice



UNDERFUNDED SCHOOLS
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THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST
LAW CENTER

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT CARD

Basic Education Funding Commission

CRITERIA

Set adequacy target for ALL 500 school districts

Include pre-K, special education, facilities, and transportation

Set state share target

Reasonable timeline

CIRCLE GRADE

A B C D F

A B C D F

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CUTS TO A

PA
INVEST IN STUDENTS

I am pleased to present the Public Interest Law Center's 2023 annual report. Long before I joined the Law Center as the Executive Director in February 2024, I was an avid reader of these reports, which highlight the incredible work and impact of this amazing organization. Now that I have the honor to lead the Law Center and see first-hand the tireless efforts of our board and staff, I can attest that our yearly summary, while impressive, only scratches the surface of what goes on here every day.

2023 was an eventful year for the Law Center, both in terms of our legal work – including a monumental victory in our school funding litigation – and the organization's leadership. I am grateful to our former Executive Director, Brenda Marrero, and to our Legal Director Mimi McKenzie, who stepped up to serve as Interim Executive Director during our transition period and did an outstanding job. I am also beyond fortunate to be able to draw on the wisdom of Michael Churchill and Jenny Clarke, who between them led the Law Center for nearly fifty years.



I have been a fan of the Law Center for quite some time and was proud to serve as pro bono co-counsel alongside the talented lawyers here in seeking environmental justice for our clients. You can read more about my journey to the Law Center in an interview by former *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Washington Post* journalist Karen Heller appearing in this report. Suffice it to say that I am excited to have what is truly the opportunity of a lifetime to be a part of this storied civil rights organization and to help address poverty, discrimination, and inequality in the City of Philadelphia and beyond.

In the pages that follow you will of course read about our historic school funding win, which led to a bipartisan agreement recognizing for the first time that an adequately funded public education would require an additional \$4.5 billion per year, though much work remains to be done to ensure that this shortfall is filled in the years ahead. You will also read about our litigation to enforce the right of students to receive special education services through their 22nd birthday, the lawsuit we filed to challenge barriers to employment for workers with criminal histories, our work to stop discrimination against tenants who use Housing Choice Vouchers, and how we helped Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club – which has taught thousands of children and young adults how to ride and care for horses – find a new home.

But that's not all. This report details what the Law Center has done to stand up for community gardens and victims of gun violence and tells the story of how Renters United Philadelphia has been building renter power in our city for the past five years. And it describes our continuing fight to protect the right to vote, including through our successful 2023 suit against the Delaware County Board of Elections when it refused to count some voters' provisional ballots after initially rejecting their mail-in ballots, work that continues throughout Pennsylvania as the 2024 general election approaches. All of this, and much more.

We could not do any of this important work without your generous support. Thank you so much.

Brent Landau
Executive Director

Cover: Pennsylvania Students Rally for School Funding

By the Numbers

1,642
followers on Instagram,
@publicinterestlawcenter

160
tenant members of Renters
United Philadelphia, now
operating independently from the
Law Center after years of growth
and development.

55
pro bono
attorneys

15
volunteers
and interns

3,000+
rental units managed
by OCF Realty, against
which we filed a claim for
violating Philadelphia law
by discriminating against
renters who use Housing
Choice Vouchers.

10,000+
Pennsylvania voters whose ballots
were rejected in 2022 due to writing
an incorrect date, or no date at all,
on their mail-in ballot declarations.
We're working to ensure that trivial
clerical errors are not a barrier to the
fundamental right to vote.

809
donations from foundations,
law firms, businesses and
individual donors

\$4.5 billion
state share of school funding
adequacy gap acknowledged by the
General Assembly in the 2024-25 state
budget, following the Commonwealth
Court decision in our school funding
lawsuit finding that students in low-
wealth communities are denied a
constitutional public education.

88
vulnerable garden parcels protected
from sheriff's sale. After years of
advocacy we helped lead, the City
of Philadelphia pledged to acquire
third-party tax liens encumbering
dozens of community gardens.

The Public Interest Law Center uses high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social, and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality, and poverty. We use litigation, community education, advocacy, and organizing to secure access to fundamental resources and services.

Meet the Public Interest Law Center's executive director,

BRENT LANDAU

By Karen Heller

In late February, Brent Landau became executive director of the Public Interest Law Center, the seventh person to lead this storied, crucial organization celebrating its 55th anniversary.

Raised in Kingston, N.Y., Landau “wanted to be a lawyer because it was a way that I thought I could do some good in the world,” he says, sitting in the Law Center’s light-filled conference room eight stories above Love Park.

At Harvard Law School, “the one thing I was sure of was that I was never going to work for a law firm,” Landau says.

He went to work for a law firm – but only after “I discovered there was this thing called plaintiff firms.” Nobody had bothered to tell him that such a practice existed. Landau joins the Law Center after more than two decades as a plaintiffs’ attorney litigating human rights and antitrust class actions, work that appealed to him because “you weren’t defending big companies but actually standing up for people who were looking for justice.”

Much of Landau’s career was spent at Hausfeld, where he ultimately served as global managing partner, overseeing more than 170 lawyers in a dozen offices, including seven in Europe and the United Kingdom.



Brent at our 2022 annual celebration.

He was looking for the next challenge. “I had been thinking for some time that there was something else I wanted to do in my career even though I really loved the firm that we built,” he says. “At the same time, it’s still a law firm. I knew there was something else I wanted to do.”

Joining the Law Center “felt like a very natural step from the type of work that I was doing,” Landau says. “We were handling complex cases for people who were seeking justice. The Law Center, likewise, takes on massive cases and projects that frequently take years to resolve, and require the application of often very complex legal and factual analysis.”

This is the through line, the constant in Landau’s work, beginning in law school when he worked at a legal clinic advocating for tenants’ rights.

“Throughout my career in my private law firm practice, I felt that I was on the right side of the issues, working for people who needed my help,” he says. “At the Law Center, I feel that I can make even more of an impact. The legal rights that everyone has, if they’re enforced, are fundamental to the kind of society we want to live in.”

“Throughout my career in my private law firm practice, I felt that I was on the right side of the issues, working for people who needed my help,”

Despite Hausfeld’s size and scope, “I often thought of the firm as a startup,” much as it had been in 2008 when he helped launch the practice with 14 fellow attorneys: scrappy, determined, and client-centric.

“Our clients weren’t paying us by the hour. We would receive fees when our cases were settled, and they often would go on for years and years. That feeds into a certain way of budgeting,” he says.

Hausfeld has been a vital supporter of the Law Center. “I followed the Law Center’s work very closely, and always found it to be inspiring,” he says. Critically, Landau worked pro bono for the Law Center on a case representing [Southwest Philadelphia residents living next to a nuisance auto body shop](#), a sprawling, clamorous scrap heap littered with hazardous materials emitting noxious fumes.

“It provided a window into the important work the Law Center does,” says Landau, a resident of the Spring Garden neighborhood near the center’s offices. “I can’t imagine that anyone would attempt to open an illegal auto body shop near where I live or where many people live. It would be shut down almost before it started. But in Southwest Philadelphia, there’s a scourge of these nuisance businesses.”

Equity is critical to the mission and his work. “Everyone in this city deserves environmental justice. Nobody should have to live in that kind of environment just because their neighborhood doesn’t get the same attention that other neighborhoods get,” Landau says.

After the suit was filed in Philadelphia’s Court of Common Pleas, the business closed “almost immediately,” Landau says. The case could provide a model for other Southwest residents to take on illegal behavior by neighboring auto body businesses, Landau says. “There are many other shops like it. This really is high-impact work. We’re trying to establish a principle and a precedent.”

“Everyone in this city deserves environmental justice. Nobody should have to live in that kind of environment just because their neighborhood doesn’t get the same attention that other neighborhoods get,”

For a decade, Landau has taught legal ethics at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, where his wife reads applications for the admissions office. They are the parents of two teenage sons. Landau is treasurer of Congregation Rodeph Shalom, and a former trustee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Two issues, Landau says, are particularly critical to the Law Center’s mission this year: the November election and achieving fair funding for Pennsylvania’s public schools.

Voter suppression, barriers and obstacles to individual rights have surged in recent years. They’re rife in battleground states like Pennsylvania, which four years ago helped decide the presidential election. “The work the Law Center is doing and has done for the last decade or more in securing the right to vote in free and fair elections couldn’t be more crucial than it is this year,” Landau says. “I can’t imagine a more important place to be at this time.”

The school funding case presents additional challenges. “Despite [the major and hard-fought victory](#), [it now needs to be implemented](#),” Landau says. “That requires the state legislature to adopt a budget and a plan for funding schools in a way that complies with the state constitution.”

To guarantee fair educational funding for all Pennsylvania families, “the work doesn’t end with a favorable court decision,” Landau says. “In some ways, it only begins.” This year, “we’re going to be watching and advocating in terms of what happens next. There will be more work to ensure that it moves forward.”

As Landau embarks on his new role, “this really felt like the right fit,” he says. “I believed that the skills and experience that I had developed over the years could be applied here to make the greatest and most positive impact.”

Attending the Law Center’s spirited and joyous annual celebrations, “the full scope of the work inspired me,” he says. “Every time I would read about a case or advocacy or other efforts” in housing, employment and health care, [in all the Law Center’s areas of practice](#), [they always resonated with me](#). Without fail, I would think, “Well, that’s exactly the right kind of work. I felt complete alignment with the Law Center.”

“To guarantee fair educational funding for all Pennsylvania families the work doesn’t end with a favorable court decision. In some ways, it only begins. This year, we’re going to be watching and advocating in terms of what happens next. There will be more work to ensure that it moves forward.”

Landau recently visited [Brith Sholom House, a high-rise apartment building in Wynnefield where more than 150 senior residents dwell in deplorable conditions](#). [The Law Center has been supporting and advising the tenants’ council there](#) for years,” he says. “The housing work we do there and elsewhere is just critical for low-income people. Having safe and affordable housing is fundamental to almost anything else that someone would want to do or be able to do. If we don’t get that right, how can we do the rest?”

Since joining the center, Landau says “one of the things that makes me feel so grateful to be here, and also so energized and excited about the work, is that in every direction I turn there is really critical work that is being done,” he says.

“We could always be better resourced, but I think any organization might say that,” Landau says. “I think that speaks to the extraordinary skills and commitment of the people who work here, but also to the support that we get from outside.”

The Law Center is “small but mighty,” Landau says. “The whole team here is outstanding. I could see that as a fan of the Law Center. I could see that as a pro bono co-counsel. And I certainly get to see that now that I get to be a part of it,” Landau says. “Working every day in support of our mission is fantastic. It’s like I get to jump onto a moving train that is headed exactly where it needs to go, and I have the opportunity to help it get there in whatever way I can.”

Karen Heller is a journalist and a former national features writer for *The Washington Post*. Prior to joining the *Post*, she was both a metro and features columnist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, where she was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary.

Special Education age-out case win

STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Providing services to help students with disabilities prepare for adult life is critically important. The federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) is clear about public schools’ responsibility to support this transition: students with disabilities can receive a free and appropriate public education until they turn 22. But for years, Pennsylvania has been aging students out of special education services prematurely, terminating services at the end of the school year during which students turn 21. This early age-out can deprive students of many months of critical support they have a right to receive under federal law.

On July 11, 2023, we and Berney & Sang represented students with disabilities and their families in a federal class action lawsuit against the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), challenging the premature age-out policy. As part of a settlement reached before the start of the 2023-24 school year, Pennsylvania updated its age-out policy to allow students to receive special education services in public schools until their 22nd birthday.

Disappointingly, three school districts and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) immediately challenged the policy in state court—and on May 16, 2024, Commonwealth Court ruled that the policy was not valid because PDE failed to follow certain state law procedures. PDE filed an appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which automatically stayed the ruling overturning the policy. PSBA has challenged the stay, and litigation in state court is ongoing.

While parents and students wait for a clear resolution, federal law has not changed, and students with disabilities have the right to continue to receive public education until they turn 22.

We are continuing to work with families across Pennsylvania to ensure that this right is respected, and that students can receive the support they need.

Our attorneys Claudia De Palma (left) and Caroline Ramsey (right) with J.N., a client who could be impacted if Pennsylvania continues to prematurely end special education services.



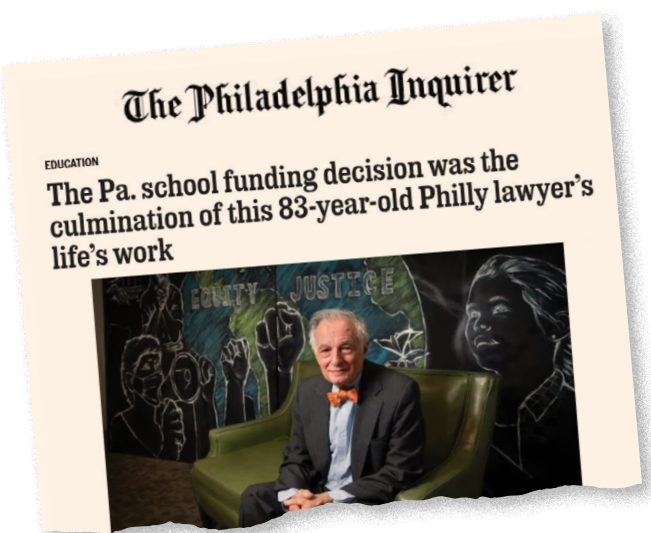
School Funding

EVERY CHILD, EVERY COMMUNITY

Making the Constitutional Promise a Reality for Public Schools

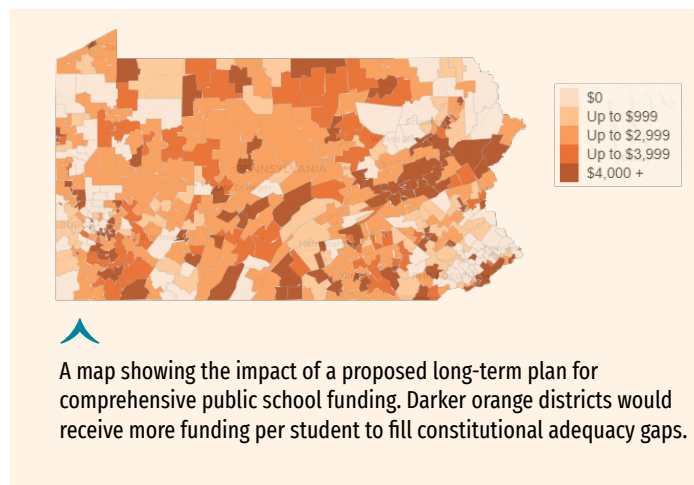
On February 7, 2023, Commonwealth Court recognized what families and teachers have known for decades: Pennsylvania's public school funding system leaves hundreds of thousands of students in low-wealth communities without the contemporary, effective public education guaranteed by our state constitution. In a 786-page decision in favor of our clients, President Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer ruled that this unconstitutional underfunding must end.

This decision was not appealed. Legislative leaders and the Governor have chosen to accept the court's clear order: determine what resources are needed to give students the education they deserve and are legally entitled to receive, and provide those resources in every small town, city and suburb in the commonwealth.



Since this historic victory, we and our co-counsel Education Law Center – PA and O'Melveny have worked to ensure that our elected leaders in Harrisburg meet their constitutional duty. Hundreds of parents, educators and advocates continue to make their voices heard in every corner of the state.

The work is far from finished, but the General Assembly has taken steps to do what it has avoided for many years: calculate, in dollars, how deeply our students have been shortchanged. Now, they must fill this gap in full.



The Basic Education Funding Commission

Throughout fall 2023, the Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC) held 11 public hearings across Pennsylvania. The bipartisan panel of legislators, joined by designees of Gov. Josh Shapiro, was charged with devising a new school funding system: one that gives every student, no matter what, the opportunity to receive an effective, comprehensive and contemporary public education.

Witnesses, including our clients, described the deep deprivations fueled by our current upside-down system. A new analysis from Penn State Professor Matthew Kelly found that the poorest districts were underfunded by billions of dollars. The commission also heard testimony about the vast untapped potential that could be unlocked by funding that lives up to students' fundamental right to education.

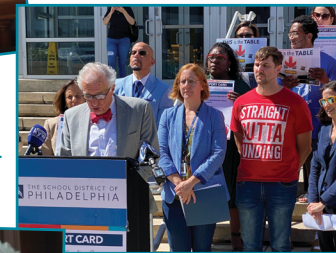
"I know Wilkes-Barre Area. All my life, I have seen the incredible things we can achieve when we are given the chance. The court's decision is clear: every child can learn, and it is up to us to make this promise a reality in Pennsylvania public schools. Invest in the future of Pennsylvania, and let our students show you what they can do."

— Our client Brian Costello, superintendent of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in testimony to the BEFC.



David McAndrew, superintendent of Panther Valley School District, our client in the school funding lawsuit, testifying to the BEFC.

Our attorney Michael Churchill speaking before the start of BEFC hearings in Philadelphia.



BEFC co-chairs Sen. Kristen Phillips-Hill and Rep. Mike Sturla.



A Transformative Plan in the Works

The BEFC's final majority report put forward a game-changing plan for public schools. The commission looked at what school districts who are meeting state academic goals currently spend, relative to the needs of their student body. They then calculated what it would cost to provide every community with that same level of resources, relative to their students' needs, recognizing that students in poverty, students learning English, and others require more support.

The BEFC found a \$5.4 billion constitutional adequacy gap between what schools have and what students need, and set out a plan for the state to fill 94% of this gap in underfunded communities within seven years. With bipartisan support and the Governor's endorsement, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill in June 2024 that would codify this plan as legislation.

"For too long, William Penn educators and students have had to 'do more with less:' less counseling, less remedial support, and opportunities that are less than any child deserves," said Dr. Eric Becoats, superintendent of William Penn School District. "But kids shouldn't have to 'do more with less.' They should have what they need. This plan would deliver it."

But the State Senate never considered the bill, and it failed to become law.

Unfinished Business

The 2024-25 state budget did not include a long-term plan to address unconstitutional underfunding. It does, however, calculate a target for how much additional state funding is needed for public schools. Even after artificially reducing the gap by undercounting students in poverty, both chambers of the legislature have now agreed that adequately funded public education would require, at minimum, an additional \$4.5 billion in state funding distributed to the communities that need it most.

The budget does begin to fill this gap with a new adequacy supplement, targeting critical resources to underfunded public schools. It is an encouraging and desperately needed change that recognizes the reality of our current system's deep inequality, and it will be used to hire the teachers, counselors and tutors that students deserve. But nearly 90 percent of the adequacy shortfall identified by the General Assembly itself remains, to be filled at some undefined date in the future, or not at all.

The Pennsylvania Constitution requires more. The governor and General Assembly have acknowledged the wide scope of the problem. Now, they must identify the timeline by which the students of Pennsylvania will receive the funding the Constitution demands, and do so with the urgency that children deserve.



On Nov. 14, 2023, we joined more than 500 educators, parents, students and advocates from across Pennsylvania, organized by PA Schools Work and Education Voters PA, at the State Capitol to demand constitutional funding for public education.



School Buildings in Philadelphia

PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL FACILITIES CRISIS HITS HOME

The average school building in Philadelphia is more than 70 years old, and decades of state funding shortfalls have resulted in billions of dollars in deferred maintenance. This has predictable, often disastrous, consequences, leading to frequent building closures for hazards like unsafe damaged asbestos.

In 2022, City Council passed legislation requiring the city to inspect all school buildings for asbestos. The law also creates a new advisory board for building safety—which would include parents and teachers—and requires the results of inspections to be posted publicly online. In 2023, the School District of Philadelphia filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn this law.

In March 2023, we represented Philadelphia parents, Lift Every Voice Philly, and PennEnvironment, who intervened in the case to join the city's defense of the law. "It is past time for the School District to focus on what parents want and students deserve: safe schools, and transparency," staff attorney Caroline Ramsey said. The district and the city reached a settlement in August 2023, which maintained the law's advisory panel and provided additional funding to the district for better management of data on environmental hazards.

In October 2023, the Philadelphia school facilities crisis hit home for our senior attorney Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg, when the district announced that his son's Southwark Elementary would be closed for several weeks, with students transferred to South Philadelphia High. Dan helped lead our lawsuit taking on unconstitutional underfunding of public schools.

"It's just one more instance of the reality of decades of disinvestment," he told a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "It just happens to be at my own child's school."

"It's just one more instance of the reality of decades of disinvestment. It just happens to be at my own child's school."

— Senior attorney Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg



Private Detective Act

TAKING ON BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR WORKERS WITH CRIMINAL HISTORIES



Criminal history can serve as a steep barrier to employment, and research makes clear that this bias is unwarranted. The risk of recidivism for individuals with criminal history over seven years old falls below the risk of arrest for the people without criminal records. Employment exclusions fall hardest on Black and Latino workers, who face the greatest impacts of over policing, mass incarceration, and employment discrimination.

In Pennsylvania, a 70-year-old law, the Private Detective Act, is exacerbating these barriers by blocking anyone who has ever been convicted of any felony and a long list of misdemeanors from working as security guards for life, with no exceptions.

In June 2023, our clients, two Philadelphia workers who lost their jobs as unarmed security guards due to convictions from more than 15 years ago, sued the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and District Attorney Larry Krasner, seeking an injunction to block enforcement of the law. We argue that the categorical ban imposed by the law violates our clients' right to pursue an occupation under the Pennsylvania Constitution. We were joined by co-counsel from Community Legal Services.

"An antiquated and irrational law is shutting qualified workers out of a growing field of employment for the rest of their lives based on unrelated criminal records," said our senior attorney Ben Geffen. "We should not impose a life sentence of bias and discrimination in the job market on workers who are seeking to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities."

The case is ongoing, and Commonwealth Court heard oral argument, led by Ben Geffen, on June 5, 2024.

An Outdated Law

The Private Detective Act, passed in 1953, includes a long list of misdemeanors that bar workers from employment in the security and protection industry for life. These include simple drug possession, pickpocketing, "sodomy or other lewdness," and a catchall category of "any offense involving moral turpitude." In reaction to the Act's broad prohibitions, most security employers do not hire workers with any kind of conviction history at all.



A California highway patrol car from 1953, the year the Private Detective Act was passed. Flickr user Don O'Brien.

Source of Income

TAKING ON SOURCE-OF-INCOME DISCRIMINATION

Housing Choice Vouchers, commonly known as “Section 8,” are one of the only forms of assistance available for low-income tenants. Renters often sit on a waitlist for years or even decades before receiving this help—only to face widespread and illegal bias when they try to use it. In Philadelphia, renters using vouchers, the vast majority of whom are Black, face widespread discrimination in their search for housing, with many landlords categorically refusing to consider a perspective tenant who uses housing assistance to pay rent.

This common practice is illegal under Philadelphia law, and since 2019 we have represented renters standing up for their right to fair treatment. On August 25, 2023, we took action against OCF Realty, one of Philadelphia’s largest real estate companies, after our client and testers from the Housing Equality Center were told that none of OCF’s more than 3,000 properties, including many affordable units, accept vouchers. We were joined by pro bono counsel from Dechert LLP.

We sat down with Madison Gray, our Independence Foundation Attorney Fellow, to talk about our work as the only Philadelphia organization directly challenging source of income discrimination.



Madison Gray, Independence Foundation Attorney Fellow

What key legal challenges have you encountered when representing clients who face source of income discrimination, especially those who also experience discrimination due to disability?

Discrimination against tenants with housing vouchers – especially those with disabilities – is often more complex than a straightforward no-vouchers policy. Landlords mask their biases behind neutral-sounding policies, like minimum income requirements that are functionally impossible for voucher-holders to meet, and pretextual denials. Frequently, landlords claim that they are “waiting for approval” to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program, rather than outright deny tenants. Landlords do not need to be pre-approved to accept a tenant with a housing voucher, but these kinds of misrepresentations and pretextual denials can introduce some ambiguity that makes discrimination more complicated to prove. Overcoming these challenges requires meticulous documentation and strategic legal arguments to demonstrate the unlawful discrimination occurring on multiple fronts.

Can you describe the role that community partnerships, like the one with the Housing Equality Center, play in supporting legal efforts against housing discrimination?

Community partnerships are crucial in our legal efforts. It can be difficult for one individual voucher-holder to document source-of-income discrimination during their housing search. Many tenants with housing vouchers are desperate to find a place to live and don’t have the time or capacity to carefully document each instance of discrimination, especially as landlords become more sophisticated in their efforts to avoid liability by refraining from communicating in writing or even by simply ignoring rental inquiries. Fair housing organizations like the Housing Equality Center play a vital role in exposing and documenting discrimination by conducting undercover testing to identify discriminatory practices. Beyond that, our community partnerships allow us to extend our reach, ensure a broader understanding of housing rights, and gather the necessary data to build strong cases against discriminatory landlords. Moreover, working closely with community organizations helps empower clients, giving them the tools and knowledge to advocate for themselves.

How does the intersection of race, disability, and source of income discrimination influence the experiences of your clients, and what strategies do you employ to address these compounded challenges?

From inaccessible physical structures to the legacy of redlining to enduring stigmas against “Section 8” tenants, our city’s private housing market is built to exclude and segregate tenants in ways that compound and complicate with each additional layer of marginalized identity. For instance, a tenant who uses a wheelchair will struggle to find accessible housing in a city with an aging housing stock and a severe shortage of accessible housing. If that tenant also relies on a housing voucher, her housing search will become even more complicated as she attempts to find an accessible unit where her voucher will be accepted in a city where voucher-holders are too often relegated to substandard, segregated housing that is unlikely to be accessible. And if that tenant is also Black, she will likely face both explicit discriminatory treatment as well as facially neutral policies that have a racialized impact. To address these challenges, we employ a multifaceted strategy that includes targeted legal action, community organizing, policy advocacy, and public education. We also work to ensure that our legal approaches consider the unique circumstances of each client, addressing the full spectrum of their experiences.

What are some common misconceptions about the Housing Choice Voucher program that contribute to discrimination, and how can legal advocacy help change these perceptions?

A prevalent misconception is that tenants using Housing Choice Vouchers are less reliable or more likely to cause property damage. These unfounded beliefs are flat-out untrue and often based in racism, classism, and ableism. In this way, voucher discrimination can often act as a proxy for race or disability discrimination. Moreover, many landlords claim that they can’t participate in the HCV Program because of its administrative burdens or because of the inadequacy of the rental subsidies. The administrative burdens are minor and only require the landlord to complete paperwork at the initial lease-up process. While landlords do need to complete a Housing Quality Standards inspection, the standards of these inspections are no more rigorous than the basic requirements of habitability and rental suitability under local and state law that all landlords in Philadelphia should already be satisfying. Legal advocacy is essential in combating these stereotypes by enforcing fair housing laws and challenging discriminatory practices in court. Additionally, through public awareness campaigns and partnerships with community organizations, we aim to shift public perception and educate landlords about the benefits of participating in the voucher program, thereby reducing stigma and encouraging more inclusive housing practices.



In your opinion, what systemic changes are needed to better protect vulnerable populations, such as low-income renters with disabilities, from housing discrimination in Philadelphia?

To better protect vulnerable populations, especially low-income renters with disabilities, we need robust enforcement of existing fair housing laws and the expansion of protections at both the state and local levels. Systemic changes should include increasing penalties for discriminatory practices, ensuring that all landlords are educated about their obligations under the law, and creating more accessible and affordable housing options. Additionally, we must advocate for policy reforms that address the root causes of housing discrimination, such as poverty and racial inequality, and promote greater accessibility for people with disabilities in all aspects of housing. Only through comprehensive legal, policy, and community efforts can we hope to create a more equitable housing landscape in Philadelphia.

“Our community partnerships allow us to extend our reach, ensure a broader understanding of housing rights, and gather the necessary data to build strong cases against discriminatory landlords”

Environmental Justice

PROTECTING COMMUNITY TREASURES IN PHILADELPHIA

Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club

Since 1980, Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club, founded in Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood by Ellis "El-Dog" Ferrell, has taught thousands of children and young adults how to ride and care for horses, and all the responsibility that entails.

In 2020, the Club began its search for new land for its horses to graze, after low-income senior housing was built on a vacant lot they had used as a corral. With pro bono co-counsel from Saul Ewing LLP, we represent the Club as they work to secure a new space. On November 21, 2023, we were on hand for the unveiling of brand-new stables at The Cliffs in East Fairmount Park. The new space will help ensure the Club can continue to serve the children of Philadelphia for years to come.

"Our city is full of local organizations like Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club that are the vision—and in the case of El-Dog—the life's work of our neighbors. But these groups can only exist based on their access to land, whether for horses to graze, or in the case of community gardens, to grow food and provide shade."

- Staff attorney Sari Bernstein at the unveiling of the new stables.

Staff attorney Sari Bernstein with Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club horses.



Scenes from the unveiling of new stables in November 2023.



Standing up for Community Gardens

Community gardens, established on vacant land that is often neglected and abandoned, provide a wealth of benefits. Research shows that these spaces provide better access to fresh produce, improve climate resiliency, and reduce violence in the immediate area. Two-thirds of Philadelphia's gardens are located in neighborhoods where a majority of residents are people of color and over 20% live below the poverty line. Despite these benefits, most gardeners have no guarantee that they will be able to preserve access to land they've stewarded for years. Through our Garden Justice Legal Initiative, we provide support for Philadelphians seeking to protect green spaces.

In June 2023, we helped secure action from the City of Philadelphia to protect more than 80 garden parcels incumbered by delinquent tax liens left by previous absentee owners. Throughout the year, we brought dozens of gardens together in coalition to advocate for their interests at the Land Bank and in City Hall. We held an October convening of more than 30 gardeners and advocates, who shared their concerns with then-candidate Cherelle Parker, now Philadelphia's mayor.



Law Center environmental justice organizer Ryan Gittler-Muñiz sharing testimony in Philadelphia City Council

"These valuable spaces reflect the work of community members who transformed neglected land around them, using their own labor and resources to make something beautiful for their neighborhood to enjoy. They deserve our admiration and support."

- Law Center environmental justice organizer Ryan Gittler-Muñiz



Photos from urban garden spaces maintained by the Norris Square Neighborhood Project (NSNP). We support NSNP in efforts to protect their continued access to the land they've stewarded for many years.



Voting Rights

PROTECTING OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT IN PENNSYLVANIA

The electoral process is the cornerstone of American democracy, giving every adult citizen a voice and a say in their government. In Pennsylvania, the right to vote is not only fundamental, but pivotal to national elections: in 2020, a margin of 1.17% of all votes cast in the Commonwealth was a deciding factor in the presidential race; in 2016, that margin was 0.72%. When every Pennsylvanian's vote matters, it is imperative to fiercely protect every Pennsylvanian's access to the ballot box.

In 2012, we struck down a draconian voter ID law that threatened to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters. In 2017, we challenged one of the most gerrymandered congressional district maps in history and won Pennsylvania voters a new, fairer map.

In 2020, amid a pandemic and a drumbeat of misinformation, the Law Center went to court time and again to fight off voter suppression efforts and ensure that millions of properly cast mail-in ballots were counted. We helped end a different kind of gerrymandering in 2022 through our successful advocacy to count incarcerated people as residents of their hometowns, rather than the districts where they are imprisoned. Help us in 2024 as we stay ready for the fights that lie ahead.



◀ Spiral Q

We know how much is at stake in every election. We have spent years making sure that every ballot counts and that communities are represented fairly. As the 2024 general election approaches and democracy comes under attack more than ever, this is one of the most crucial issues of the moment. The Law Center is working to do the following:

Challenge County-Level Suppression Tactics.

In Pennsylvania, many policies that disenfranchise voters are implemented "out of sight" at the county level. At the same time, some local politicians and public figures endorse conspiracy theories about voter fraud, and these false theories can quickly lead to policies that suppress legitimate votes. We work with a network of on-the-ground advocates to catch such policies early and stand ready to file litigation when necessary.

Protect Access to the Ballot Box.

The road to casting a vote begins long before election day, and so do barriers to voting. The Law Center is keeping watch year-round making sure every voter is ready to cast a ballot each cycle.

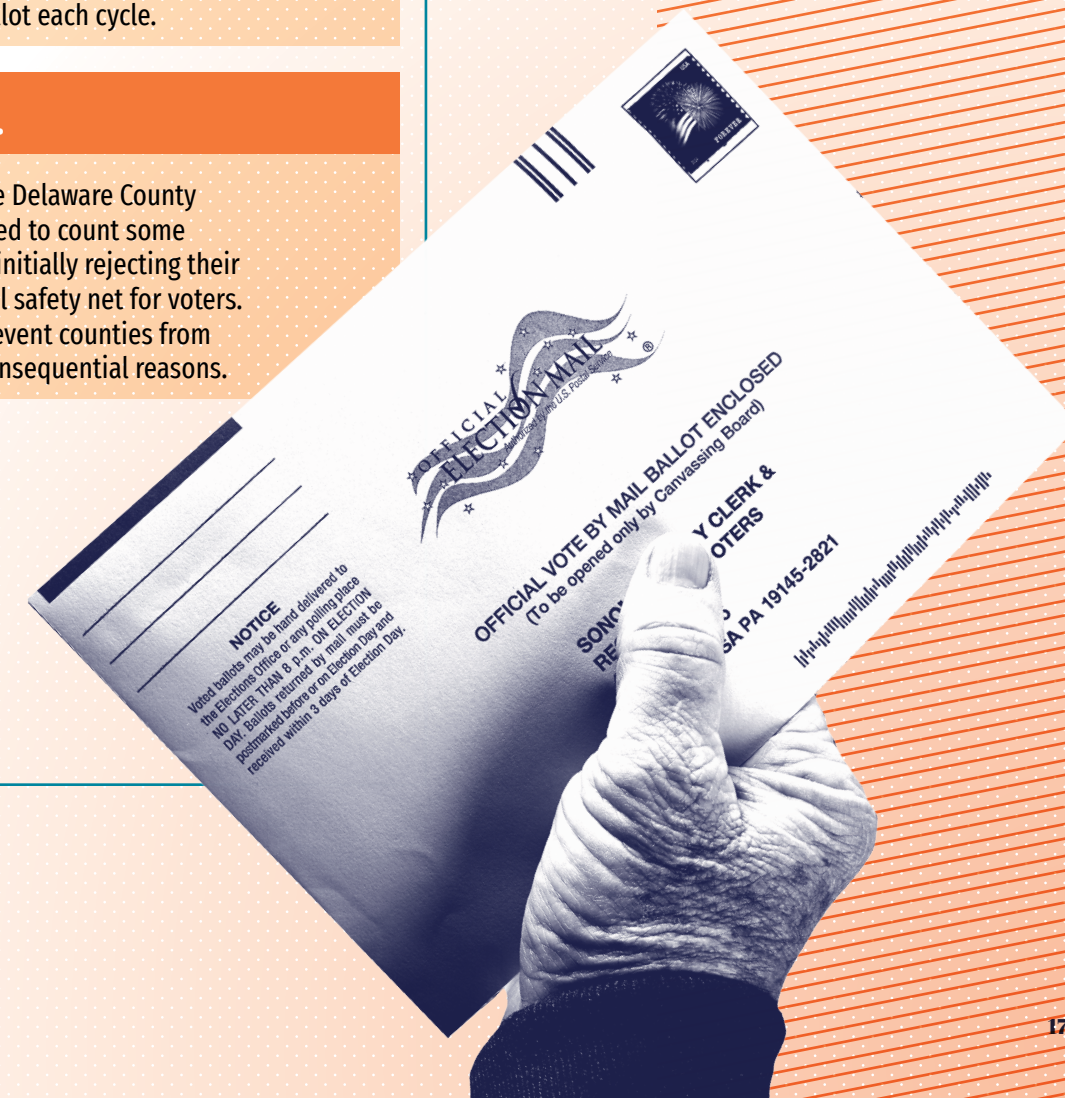
Make Every Vote Count.

In 2023, we successfully sued the Delaware County Board of Elections when it refused to count some voters' provisional ballots after initially rejecting their mail-in ballots, preserving a vital safety net for voters. This year, we will continue to prevent counties from rejecting mail-in ballots for inconsequential reasons.

Learn more about our work standing up for voters in 2024 at pubintlaw.org

SPOTLIGHT PA

This Pa. county rejected voters' flawed mail ballots. Then it refused to count their in-person votes.
by Carter Walker of Votebeat | June 8, 2023



Firearm Preemption CHALLENGING BARRIERS TO GUN SAFETY AT THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

Gun violence warps everyday life in Philadelphia, and thousands have lost family and loved ones. In 2023, there were 375 firearm homicides in Philadelphia. More than 1,500 people—including 161 children—were shot.

Shootings are concentrated in neighborhoods that have faced deep disinvestment and segregation, and residents in Philadelphia's poorest communities are more than 25 times as likely to be killed by gun violence than their neighbors in wealthier areas. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Black men and youth between the age of 15 and 34 in Philadelphia.

Every strategy to address this crisis should be on the table. But in Pennsylvania, our state legislature has blocked local lawmakers from implementing even common-sense gun safety measures by maintaining firearm preemption laws, while refusing calls for statewide action.



Attorneys and clients in the case taking on state firearm preemption following oral argument at the PA Supreme Court. Jasmeet Ahuja of Hogan Lovells (center) led the argument.

“In the face of the everyday tragedy of gun violence, it is unconscionable for legislative leaders to maintain that an entire category of solutions—most local regulations on guns—are completely off the table. Pennsylvanians in communities that face endemic gun violence are demanding action. It’s time to clear the roadblocks.”

— Our legal director Mimi McKenzie

Mimi McKenzie, our legal director, speaking at our 2023 annual celebration.



Our client, CeaseFirePA, held a vigil outside Philadelphia City Hall on September 12, 2023, ahead of oral argument at the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.



“When individuals are afraid to leave their home, children are afraid to go to the bus stop out of fear of crossfire...no one wants to believe that someone would ignore that.”

— Jasmeet Ahuja during oral argument, as reported by WHYY.

Together with the City of Philadelphia, we took the General Assembly to court, seeking to dial back state firearm preemption and allow local lawmakers in our hardest-hit cities to enact the evidence-based gun safety laws—such as requiring a permit to purchase a handgun—that their constituents demand. Our clients include residents of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh who have lost family members to gun violence and CeaseFirePA. We are joined by pro bono co-counsel from Hogan Lovells.

On May 26, 2022, the Commonwealth Court dismissed our case in a fractured decision. We appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, asking the Court to send the case back to Commonwealth Court for trial. Oral argument was held September 13, 2023 at Philadelphia City Hall.

Jasmeet Ahuja of Hogan Lovells presented the argument for our clients. She made it clear that gun violence shatters hundreds of lives and undermines citizens' basic daily sense of safety—on the street and in their own homes—in communities where shooting are endemic. By refusing to give these communities access to the tools they need to address the crisis by tying the hands of their local representatives, the General Assembly is denying them their fundamental right to enjoy and defend life and liberty.

“This decision that we’re asking the court to make has nothing to do with your ideology, your politics, your philosophy. I don’t care if you’re Republican or Democrat. We’re talking about human beings.”

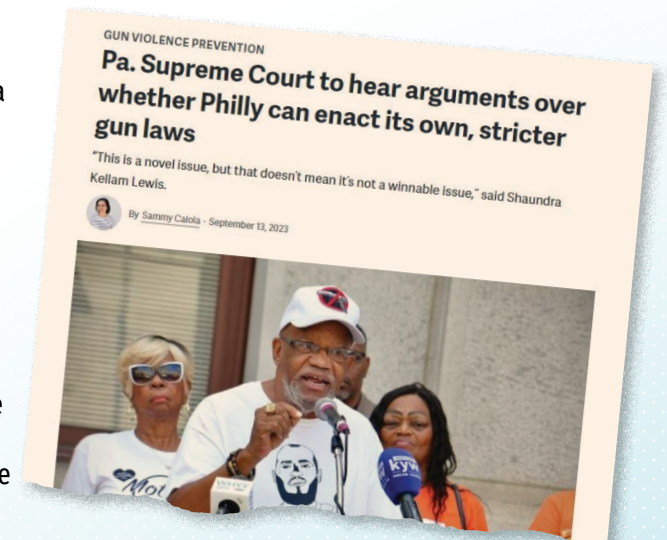
— Stanley Crawford. Reported by KYW on Sept. 13, 2023



Rosalind Pichardo, one of our clients in the case taking on state firearm preemption, speaking at our 2023 annual celebration.

“If we had the support of the General Assembly, these images would have been of my brother graduating or going to college, or my twin sister raising her kids and enjoying her grandkids. But instead this is all we have left, just images.”

— Rosalind Pichardo, recalling siblings she lost to gun violence at a vigil ahead of oral argument. Reported by WHYY on Sept. 13, 2023.



Stanley Crawford, one of our clients in the case taking on state firearm preemption, speaking at our 2023 annual celebration.



RUP timeline

BUILDING POWER FOR RENTERS



Renters in Philadelphia face a multi-front crisis—commonplace legal and illegal evictions, a dearth of affordable housing, and unhealthy living conditions. In 2019, we launched Renters United Philadelphia / Inquilinxs en la Lucha Philadelphia (RUP) to organize and educate renters so they can take on this crisis and fight for their rights to quality housing in the streets, in the courts, and in City Hall.

In 2023, after years of growth, RUP joined OnePA's citywide housing justice network and now operates independently from the Law Center. Join us as we look back on RUP's inspiring journey from an idea to a powerful member-led organization standing up for renters' rights across Philadelphia.



Renters' Rights Clinics

Law Center attorneys and legal interns continue to support RUP's free monthly Renters' Rights Clinic, providing pro bono consultations and know-your-rights trainings. The clinics are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-8 PM in Frankford.



Mary Beth Schluckebier, who was the founding community lawyer for Renters United Philadelphia, recently left the Law Center to become pro bono manager at Saul Ewing, where she continues to support RUP and its members. All of us wish her the best of luck and success in her new role!

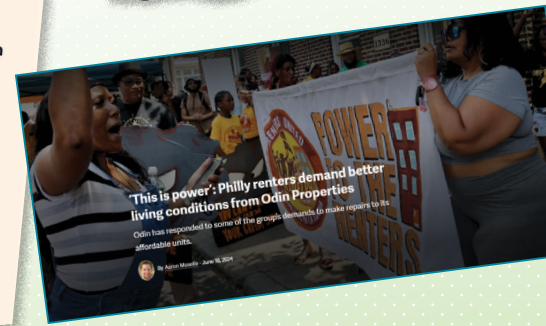


Cara Tratner left the Law Center in 2023 to join OnePA as a Philadelphia Renter Organizer, where they continue working to grow the base and power of RUP. All of us wish them the best of luck and success in their new role!

Nerva Nichols (right) with tenant organizer Ariel Morales at a Dec. 19, 2020 protest of arbitrary lease non-renewals.



RUP members and Law Center staff prepare for a field canvass to engage with new renters.



RUP members hold a protest for safe housing conditions on March 7, 2020



RUP members held an outdoor protest in May 2020 advocating for safety and assured housing stability during the pandemic.



2019 Building a Base in Frankford

RUP was first launched in 2019, supported by two Law Center staff members—community lawyer Mary Beth Schluckebier and tenant organizer Ariel Morales. They set out to organize renters who shared a building, a landlord, or a neighborhood, and began their work in the Frankford neighborhood with tenants of a large corporate landlord that owns 34 buildings across the city.

These renters faced pest infestations, security problems, structural deficiencies, and arbitrary rent increases and fees. Led by an organizing committee of renters, RUP held call-in campaigns, wrote letters, and lobbied local elected officials to assert their rights and bring their landlord to the bargaining table. Their efforts culminated in a march and rally outside their landlord's Frankford office on March 7, 2020—just a week before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in earnest.

2020-21 Organizing Through a Pandemic

RUP kept organizing during the height of the pandemic, advocating for enhanced legal protections and support for tenants while standing up for the rights and safety of their members—many of whom are essential workers, or lost work due to COVID-19.

One of these renters is Nerva Nichols, a member of RUP's organizing committee. He lost work during the pandemic and faced a non-renewal notice on Jan. 31, 2021, after living in his apartment for five years, even though his landlord had accepted rental assistance payments covering his rent through March. After months of organizing, the landlord issued a lease renewal just nine days before he was set to be forced from his home.

"Everyone is living under the pressure of COVID-19, but the landlord doesn't care," he said. "That's why we created this organization, because together we can fight back. Together we can do something." - RUP Member

2022-23 When Renters Unite, Renters Win

RUP members continued to stand for quality housing, with added support from Law Center community organizer Cara Tratner. On Dec. 17, 2022, RUP held a "Fix our Homes of the Holidays" rally at the Frankford home of a member. Tenants demanded repairs for longstanding issues, City investment in programs to prevent displacement, and proactive enforcement of housing code from the City of Philadelphia to stop letting landlords off the hook. 6ABC reported on the action.

This campaign is just one example of how RUP members—living in communities that have borne the brunt of disinvestment and exploitation for decades—stand together to not only demand better for their families, but to fight for policies that will benefit renters across Philadelphia. Earlier that year, RUP organizing committee member Todd Abney shared testimony with City Council in support of proactive housing safety inspections. Philadelphia performs inspections reactively, only in response to formal complaints. As a result, less than 1 in 10 units receive an inspection from the Department of Licenses & Inspections each year.

Today A Force for Housing Justice

Today, RUP counts more than 160 renters as members and leads OnePA's citywide housing justice network. We are proud to have launched this powerful renter-led organization, and we look forward to many years of close collaboration in the fight for healthy, affordable and stable housing for all Philadelphians.

"As a PGW employee, I get to see that it's not only me that has problems," he said. "I have been in houses that are ready to collapse. It brings tears to my eyes because people are paying rent and landlords are doing absolutely nothing."

- RUP Member

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The Law Center board and staff following our 2023 annual meeting.

Several board members departed after years of service to the organization at our 2024 annual meeting. Thank you! From left to right: Virginia Gibson, of Hogan Lovells; Marc Topaz, of Kessler Topaz; Katherine Hatton, formerly of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Ellen Friedell, of FFG Law; Dana Trexler, of Stout; and Leigh Ann Buziak, of Blank Rome.



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Victoria Pena-Parr
Daniel Gurevitch
Kojo Danquah

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Hillary Shah
Saba Mengesha

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Nancy Machinist
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Hugh Roberts
Genevieve Tung



Staff at our 2023 annual celebration



The Time is Now: OUR 2023 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

On September 20, 2023, we welcomed more than 300 of our supporters and friends to our 2023 Annual Celebration, The Time is Now, at Water Works. We presented the Thaddeus Stevens Awards to our clients and co-counsel in our case taking on Pennsylvania's firearm preemption laws, which block most local gun safety laws.

Each of our ten individual clients has lost one or more close family members to firearm violence. By standing up and sharing their stories with bravery and resolve, they are helping to push for Philadelphia and cities across the state to be freed to take action and to fill the vacuum left by our state legislature's failure to address gun safety.

Nancy Gordon, a lawyer and activist who has spent over two decades working to reduce gun violence in Pennsylvania and nationwide, co-founded CeaseFirePA, the Commonwealth's leading organization dedicated to ending gun violence and our client in the preemption case. As our pro bono partner in the case, Hogan Lovells lawyers and staff generously devote their many talents pursuing this groundbreaking litigation—including, just a week before the annual celebration, at oral argument before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Our clients taking on firearm preemption

- Tracey Anderson
- Delia Chatterfield
- Stanley Crawford
- Aishah George
- Rita Gonsalves
- Maria Gonsalves-Perkins
- Wynona Harper
- Tamika Morales
- Cheryl Pedro
- Rosalind Pichardo



Jasmeet Ahuja of Hogan Lovells accepting the 2023 Thaddeus Stevens Award.

Our clients accepting the 2023 Thaddeus Stevens Award



Our client Stanley Crawford



Our client Rosalind Pichardo

Nancy Gordon



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Katrina Le Blanc	Carol Miller <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Carl Geoffrey Roberts	Betsy Sheerr	Nicole White	\$20,000-\$39,999	Dechert LLP	Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation	Consilio	Incurable Eclectic Corp.
Jessica Lee	Chanda Miller	Lynne Roberts <i>In Honor of Michael Churchill</i>	Kevin Shmelzer	F. John White	Arnold & Porter	Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP	Chubb	DLA Piper	Levin Sedran & Berman
James Lemanowicz	Taylor M. Miller	Mary Catharine Roper	Lauren Katz Smith	Randal and Leanna Whitman	Berger Montague PC	GSK	Greenberg Traurig, LLP	Fine, Kaplan & Black, R.P.C.	Samuel Tabas Family Foundation
Lawrence Levine	Allan and Sandra Molotsky	Patricia Rose and Marta Dabezies	Paul Socolar	CJ Widenhouse	Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check, LLP	Hogan Lovells	Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller	Freed Kanner London & Millen LLC	Steve Harvey Law LLC
Jeffrey Lichtenstein	Andrea and Jonathan Moselle	Barbara Rosenberg <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Carl A. and Nancy M. Solano	Mark and Janet Widoff	The Mayer-Rothschild Foundation	Huntington National Bank	Holland & Knight LLP	Golkow Technologies	Willig, Williams & Davidson
Michael Lindy	Jack and Barbara Nagel	Richard Rosenblatt	Rachel Sommer	Lauren Wilchek	PhilaChange – Lindy Family	Impact100	Langer, Grogan & Diver P.C.	Grant & Eisenhofer P.A.	
Jan Linowitz and Tom Wadden	Priya Narahari <i>In Honor of CVB</i>	Keith and Silvia Rosenn	Marc Sonnenfeld and Ann Laupheimer	Patricia and Thomas Willis Jr.	The Philadelphia Foundation	Independence Foundation	PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center, Inc.	Hausfeld	\$1-\$999
Audrey Croley Little	Sharan Nirmul	Daniel Ross	Damaris Eloise South	Benjamin Wilson	Samuel S. Fels Fund	Leo & Peggy Pierce Family Foundation	Philadelphia Bar Foundation	Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial	Cohen & Gresser LLP
Jen Lutz and Jack O'Brien	Diane Nordheimer <i>In Honor of Michael Churchill</i>	Eric and Jill Green Rothschild	Jeremy Spiegel	Susan Windle and Wendy Galson	Stout Risius Ross, LLC	The McLean Contributionship	Walden Macht & Haran LLP	Itri Family Foundation	Fidelity Investments
Nancy Machinist	John O'Donnell	Jason W. Rubin	Frederick Stoss <i>In Memory of Barbara Macholz Grimaldi</i>	Ilene and David Winikur		Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	White and Williams LLP	Katz Banks Kumin	FJC
Lin and John Macholz <i>In Memory of Barbara Macholz Grimaldi</i>	Irene Oslick	Louis and Carolyn Rulli <i>In Honor of Daniel Urevick-Ackelsberg</i>	Seymour and Janet Stotland	Thomas and Roberta Winters		The Patricia Kind Family Foundation	Youman & Caputo, LLC	Lindy Communities	Germantown Jewish Centre <i>In Honor of Daniel Urevick-Ackelsberg</i>
Matthew Macken	George Overhiser	Wali Rushdan	Sarah Stuart	Tom Witt <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>		Pennsylvania IOLTA Board		Marcum	Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Samantha Madera	Erin Owen	Daniel Safer and Rachel Mausner	Glen Stuart	Shawn Wright		Seeger Weiss LLP		Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.	Levy, Baldante, Finney & Rubenstein, P.C.
William Madway <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Thomas D. Paradise, Esq.	A. Sagar	Addy Sugarman and Marsh Greenberg	Nancy Wygant		Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP		Raynes & Lawn	Pogust Goodhead
David and Kathy Mandelbaum	Diane Payne	Michael Salmanson	Aaron Suh	Mims Zabriskie		Wyncote Foundation		Ross Feller Casey	Rentschler Law LLC
Joseph Manko <i>In Memory of Lynn Manko</i>	James and Kathleen Pierson	Andrew Saltz and Steph Davis	Erin Sullivan	Juliet Zavon				Rust Consulting	Sheller, P.C.
Janice Manzi and Harold Cohen	Morgan Plant <i>In Honor of Michael Churchill</i>	Linda Samost and Ira Goldstein	Charnaë Supplee	Lauren Zeitlin <i>In Honor of Michael Churchill</i>				Sauder Schelkopf LLC	Yield Giving Open Call Fund
Heather Marcus	Mary Posner	Robert G. Sanders	Kelly Tannen <i>In Memory of Mary Brooks</i>	Where tributes are noted it means that some or all of that donor's gifts during the year were in honor or memory of the individuals listed.				Spector Roseman & Kodroff PC	
Lia Mastropolo	Rebecca Poyourow	James Sandman	Anne Taylor					Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP	
James and Deborah Maxwell	Lara Putnam and Douglas Wible	Teresa Sarmina	Michael Temin and Anne Hearn						
Dennis McAndrews	Rocky Query and Betsy Bates	Jeffrey and Carol Lee Savery	Patrice Temple-West <i>In Honor of Patrick F.E. Temple-West</i>						
Julia McGrath	Erin Randolph-Williams	Francis Schluckebier	William Toffey						
Maura McInerney <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Cindy Rappoport <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Maryanne Schluckebier <i>In Honor of Mary Beth Schluckebier</i>	Brett and Ellenmarie Topche						
Addie McKenzie	Melissa Rasman and Thomas Hurley	Theodore Schmiechen	Walter H. Tsou						
John McKenzie	Judith Ratner <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Amy Schuh	Judy Turetsky						
John and Susan McKenzie <i>In Honor of Mimi McKenzie</i>	Lisa M. Rau	Janet Schwartz, O.D. <i>In Honor of Nancy Bregstein Gordon</i>	Alex Urevick-Ackelsberg						
Katie McKenzie			Diego Vargas <i>In Honor of Lily Helen Vargas O'Connor</i>						
Lydie McKenzie			Kate Vasudevan						

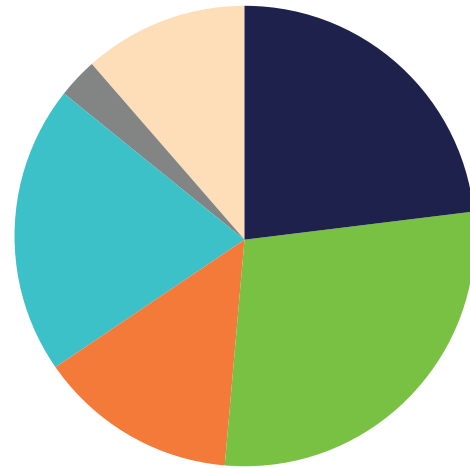
FINANCIALS

January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023. Figures from audited financial statements

SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES*

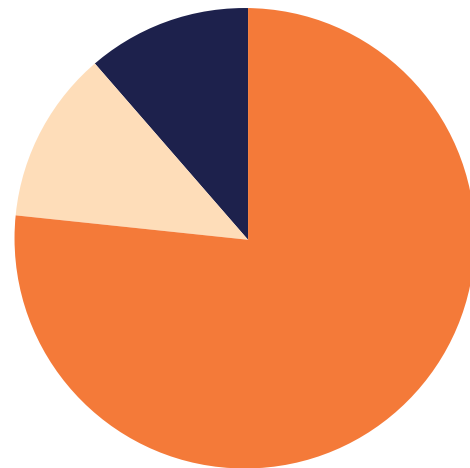
REVENUE

Grants & Contributions	\$662,905	■
Legal Community & Other Support	\$804,899	■
In-Kind Legal Services	\$402,473	■
Fee Awards	\$578,225	■
Contracts & Honorarium	\$82,806	■
Investment Income	\$320,143	■
Total Revenue	\$2,851,451	



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$2,182,323	■
General & Administrative	\$339,186	■
Fundraising	\$323,667	■
Total Expenses	\$2,845,176	



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	\$1,289,099
Other Assets	\$3,164,692
Total Assets	\$4,453,791
Current Liabilities	\$354,056
Prior Year Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,638,919
Change in Net Assets	\$6,275
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,453,791
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,370,181

*Audited financial statements are available on our website at pubintl.org/corporate-documents/

Two Additional Ways to Support the Law Center in 2024



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH EMPLOYEE MATCHING PROGRAMS

Did you know your donation to the Public Interest Law Center could go twice as far? Many companies offer employee matching programs, which means your generous contribution can be doubled, bringing even more resources to our fight for justice.

It's easy to participate! Simply check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program, then submit a matching request. Your support will help us continue to the most important work.

Together, we can create lasting change. Double your impact today and help us build a more just and equitable society!

For more information or assistance with matching gifts, visit our website or contact our Director of Development and Communications, Dena Driscoll at ddriscoll@pubintl.org

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Make a powerful impact with your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) by supporting the Public Interest Law Center. Your DAF donation fuels our work to protect civil rights.

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- 1. Recommend a Grant:** Request a grant distribution from your DAF to the Public Interest Law Center.
- 2. Inform Us:** Let us know about your gift so we can recognize your support and keep you informed about the difference you're making.
- 3. Amplify Change:** Your generosity helps us champion justice and equality for the communities we serve.

Every gift matters. Partner with us in the pursuit of justice by donating through your DAF today!

For more details or to notify us of your DAF contribution, visit our website or contact our Director of Development and Communications, Dena Driscoll at ddriscoll@pubintl.org



Two Penn Center
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Philadelphia PA 19102
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Donating to the Public Interest Law Center on **Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2024, is a powerful way to support our critical work in defending voting rights.**

Your contribution on this global day of giving will help us continue to fight against voter suppression, gerrymandering, and restrictive voting laws that threaten our democracy. By standing with us, you ensure that every voice can be heard and that the right to vote is protected for all. This Giving Tuesday, join us in creating lasting change—your gift will have a direct impact on advancing justice and equity in our electoral system.

