

Legal Services of New Jersey

2022 EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS RECEPTION

*Celebrating Those Who Advance
Justice and Fairness Under the Law*



The Grounds for Sculpture
Hamilton Township, NJ
Tuesday, June 7, 2022

The New Jersey Legal Services System

Statewide Program

Legal Services of New Jersey

Offices in Edison and Newark

Coordinating and supporting the statewide network and providing statewide legal representation and advocacy through more than 15 specialized projects

Regional Programs

Central Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Mercer, Middlesex, and Union Counties

Essex-Newark Legal Services

Office in Essex County

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Offices in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties

South Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem Counties

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Legal Services of New Jersey is deeply grateful for the generous contributions of the following sponsors.

Equal Justice Leader



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Nicholas M. Insua, Esq.



Thank You to Our Sponsors

**The Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) Board of Trustees
is pleased to recognize fellow board member and former board chair,
Douglas S. Eakeley on his induction into the NJEJLA Circle of Honor.**

**Doug, you honor us with your gifts of empathy, compassion, knowledge, and
professionalism. Thank you for your many decades of dedicated service.
Congratulations on this well-deserved award!**



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President's Message

Good Evening and Welcome!

Thank you very much for joining us tonight. I am delighted to welcome you to Legal Services of New Jersey's Equal Justice Awards Reception. As we conclude our 55th year of service to low-income New Jerseyans, Legal Services is proud—and pleased—to recognize contributions from our community, including organizations, legislators, law firms, and many individuals, in the ongoing effort to ensure greater justice for all. With brief pauses—including, most recently, a necessary hiatus due to the global pandemic—Legal Services has hosted this annual, in-person event since 1983. Today, we take the opportunity to:

- Highlight and honor the contributions of pro bono volunteers across the state which, while always deeply valued as a supplement to the daily work of Legal Services attorneys, proved particularly important during a pandemic that exacerbated the existing need for services, created new and urgent client needs, and transformed nearly every aspect of life, including court access and proceedings.
- Recognize and celebrate those who have made valuable and noteworthy contributions to the mission of advancing justice for low-income people in New Jersey, via the presentation of three special awards to Chairwoman Eliana Pintor Marin, State Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman, and the New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation.
- Continue to document and memorialize those extraordinary individuals whose life's work helped bend the arc of progress toward justice in New Jersey, with the induction of Stanley Van Ness (posthumously) and Douglas S. Eakeley into the Circle of Honor of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive (NJEJLA).

I extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone honored tonight. Thank you for the time, effort, energy, and compassion you have invested in Legal Services' clients and mission.

This year, we also inaugurate the Melville “De” Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund fellowship with a special presentation in honor of the brilliant De Miller, the “father of Legal Services in New Jersey” and a visionary in the field of legal aid nationally. His relentless pursuit of justice and desire to improve the lives of the poor serve as an inspirational beacon to all.



President's Message

Yet, even as we celebrate incredible achievements this evening, we must bear in mind that today, as in 1966, our state and nation continue to confront a pervasive denial of access to justice in civil legal matters for those who cannot afford an attorney. According to a 2022 national study, 92% of low-income Americans do not receive “any or enough legal help for their substantial civil legal problems.” I hope tonight’s event serves as both a powerful occasion on which to recommit to issues of justice and equity and an important and inspiring reminder that the fight against poverty and injustice is, and must be, a collective effort. Thank you for joining us in this struggle. We hope to see you soon—at our ongoing Justice Series events, our 55th anniversary celebration later this year, or as a continuing—or first-time—volunteer.

Dawn K. Miller, Esq.
President
Legal Services of New Jersey
June 7, 2022



Order of Proceedings

5:30 – Reception

7:00 – Awards Ceremony

Opening Remarks

Cynthia M. Jacob, Esq.
Chairperson, LSNJ Board of Trustees

Presentation of Equal Justice Medals

Major Contributors

All of the major contributors are listed in the program. Each in attendance tonight received at registration an embossed attestation of their 2022 Equal Justice Medal as a major contributor. We will ask the contributors from each program to stand and be recognized.

Exceptional Contributors

The work of six exceptional contributors, one from each New Jersey Legal Services program, is described in the program. Each will be called to the stage to receive their award.

Significant Contributors

The work of six significant contributors, one from each New Jersey Legal Services program, is described in the program. Each will be called to the stage to receive their award.

Presentation of Special Awards

The Lipman-Franks Award

Eliana Pintor Marin

New Jersey Assemblywoman, 29th Legislative District



Order of Proceedings

The Lipman-Franks Award

Christopher “Kip” Bateman, Esq.

Former New Jersey State Senator, 16th Legislative District

The William J. Brennan Citation for Justice

New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation (NJBLF)

Charles Forman, President, and Carol-Ann Rose, Grant Administrator

Melville “De” Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund

Inaugural presentation of the Melville “De” Miller, Jr. fellowship

Presentation of Inductees into the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive Circle of Honor

Stanley C. Van Ness

(posthumously)

First Public Advocate, State of New Jersey

Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq.

Former Chairman, LSNJ Board of Trustees

Former Chairman, Board of Directors Legal Services Corporation

Closing Thoughts

Dawn K. Miller, Esq.

President, LSNJ



About the Awards

New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive Circle of Honor

For 55 years, Legal Services in New Jersey has been a central force in the struggle for civil legal justice in this state. With the creation of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive (NJEJLA), we have embarked on a mission to preserve key materials relating to the quest for equality in New Jersey, to serve as a resource for educators and all residents, with collections in both digital and physical formats.

A major component of the NJEJLA is the Circle of Honor, heralding those who have made extraordinary achievements in advancing equal justice, and whose efforts and lives stand as enduring paradigms for others to emulate. The Circle of Honor furthers the NJEJLA's historical, educational, and preservation goals, as well as a fourth key purpose—inspiration.

Tonight's honorees will be Circle of Honor inductees Stanley C. Van Ness (posthumously) and Douglas S. Eakeley. They join former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice James H. Coleman, Jr.; the late Robert Del Tufo, former attorney general of New Jersey; Kenneth C. Frazier, former president and CEO of Merck and Co., Inc. and current executive chairman of Merck's board of directors; former Governor Thomas H. Kean; the late Wynona M. Lipman, New Jersey's first Black female state senator; former New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz; Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman; Loretta Weinberg, former New Jersey Senate majority leader; and the late Robert N. Wilentz, former chief justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey.

The Equal Justice Named Awards

Several named awards are given in recognition of outstanding achievements in advancing equal justice. The descriptions of the awards presented this year are given below. All prior Equal Justice Award recipients may be found at www.LSNJ.org/eja/award_recipients.

The Lipman-Franks Award is named for two esteemed state legislators, Wynona Lipman and Robert Franks, who, acting in a bipartisan fashion, played especially central roles in developing early financial support for Legal Services and in securing greater and more equal justice for the disadvantaged.



About the Awards

The William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice is reserved for those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to furthering the mission and work of the state's Legal Services programs, and can include prior award recipients who have continued to make significant contributions to the cause of equal justice that compel further recognition.

Equal Justice Medals

Equal Justice Medals were first awarded in 1983. They recognize and celebrate the pro bono efforts of individuals, law firms, and organizations that have made important contributions to securing greater justice for disadvantaged people, especially through legal processes and the judicial system.

Melville “De” Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund Fellowship

In its inaugural year, the Melville “De” Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund was established to honor De Miller, co-founder and president of Legal Services of New Jersey from 1972 to 2020, who died on March 1, 2021. Donations to the fund help underwrite a fellowship for current law students, recent graduates, or newly admitted attorneys drawn to public interest work. The fellowship seeks to continue De’s vision and commitment, and to honor his lifelong devotion to equal access to justice for all; abolishing racial and social injustice; raising public awareness of poverty; and alleviating its devastating effects on low-income individuals and families in New Jersey.

Initially, this year’s fellow will focus her work on two areas near and dear to De. Her particular emphasis will be on researching and exposing inherent biases in the child welfare system. De believed that the system must treat conditions of poverty with individualized services and benefits, and eliminate the risk of separation that poor children and families—disproportionately persons of color—currently face solely because they are poor.

“Society must no longer accept the status quo. We need to challenge the awful untruths about poverty. The stakes are high here; we can’t keep talking about poverty in the same way we always have been.”

Melville D. Miller, Jr.



Major Contributors

This evening we recognize individuals, law firms, and organizations that have made major contributions to Legal Services' pro bono programs throughout the state from March 2020 to February 2022. Major contribution for individuals is defined as 40 hours providing full representation on one or more pro bono cases; for firms, 100 hours collectively. A special designation is given for in-house volunteers to recognize those individuals who have spent more than 100 hours providing legal assistance to clients on a pro bono, uncompensated basis in a Legal Services office.

Central Jersey Legal Services

Scott Paul Borsack
Richard A. Goldberg
Allen I. Gorski
Robert Lytle

Mariann Murphy
Natalia Teper
Jennifer Zoschak

In-House Volunteer
Stanley Fink

Essex-Newark Legal Services

Patsyann DiGiacomo
Michelle Movahed
Joan Pransky

Becker
Arnold J. Calabrese

McCarter & English

Legal Services of New Jersey

Carl G. Archer
Edward G. Hanratty
Lee Martin Perlman
Victor G. Sison
Joan E. Switzer
M.K. Pauline Young

Merck & Co., Inc.
Tina Gonzalez Barton
Alysia Finnegan
Lisa Jakob
Lisa Mottes
John David Reilly
John Todaro
Yong Zhao

Verizon, Inc.
Karen M. Francis
Alycia Guichard
Sudha Kantor
Jerome Austin Karnick
John Schultz
Ade Oremosu
Anita Patankar-Stoll
Susan Vinci
Nicholas Vogt



Major Contributors

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Cristina Baragona
Diane S. Margolin
Mariann Murphy

Sunita Patel
Ann M. Pompelio

In-House Volunteer
Robert D. McLellan

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Russell Bershad
Brunilda Bonilla
Carolina Theresa Curbelo
Juan Madrid
Steven R. Rubenstein
Noah Zakim

JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Scura, Wigfield, Heyer,
Stevens, & Cammarota

In-House Volunteer
Georgene Sfraga Panza

South Jersey Legal Services

Andrew Thomas Archer
Prosper Andrew Bellizia
Ronald M. Block
Carrie J. Boyle
Jill T. Bryan
Brian Patrick Budic
Joseph Moller Casello
Jenkins & Clayman
Eric J. Clayman
William Clunn
Susan Radford Dargay
Gregory P. DeMichele
Richard A. DeMichele, Jr.
Alan Domers
Thomas Egner
David Esposito
Theresa Fleming
Donna L. Freidel
John S Gormally
Joni Gray
Robert A. Gleaner
Marta Gold

Peter M. Halden
Jeffrey Hark
Amy B. Harris
Brian Hoffman
Gary D. Hoffman
John G. Holl
David Huang
Charles M. Izzo
Scott Kaplan
Andrew J. Kelly
Talbot B. Kramer, Jr.
Mary Maggio
Ellen McDowell
Jennifer Cranston McEntee
Louis P. Nappen
Steven R. Neuner
Matthew James Norris
Thomas John Orr
Raymond Charles Osterbye
Nona L. Ostrove
Stephen M. Packman

Lee Martin Perlman
Masha R. Rapoport
Marianne Rebel-Brown
Daniel L. Reinganum
Kurt Reinheimer
Joseph Rogers
Rex Roldan
Neal M. Ruben
Laurie Ruben
Karen Paone Sampson
Daniel S. Siedman
Joel Spivack
Steven N. Taieb
Brian S. Thomas
Jill Marie Tribulas
Rachelle Ann Waitz
Jeanie Wiesner
Leonard R. Wizmur
Tamika Wyche

South Jersey Industries



Exceptional Contributors

The Exceptional Service category of Equal Justice Medals is for those individuals who have, in one year or over a number of years, made extraordinary pro bono contributions to their affiliate programs, with one awardee honored from each New Jersey Legal Services program.

Central Jersey Legal Services

Stanley Fink, Esq.

Stanley Fink has served as an in-house volunteer with the Union County office of Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS) since 2018. In that capacity, Fink has assisted clients in drafting wills, powers of attorney, and medical directives. Each week, he meets with clients at the CJLS Elizabeth location to discuss and advise them on their civil legal matters and to prepare legal documents. Fink has frequently met with clients, when necessary, in off-site locations such as in the public libraries and parks. Even during the pandemic, he was steadfast in delivering services to Union County clients.

Fink was the founding member and law partner at Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg, LLC, in Clark, NJ where he focused primarily on real property, mortgages, zoning and planning, and estate administration (probate). After retiring on December 31, 2017, Fink held other notable positions, such as the director of law and planning board attorney for the Township of Clark; title reader and closer for the Chicago Title Insurance Company, East Orange; and a court-appointed condemnation commissioner for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Union County.

With his extensive knowledge and boundless energy, Fink, known to all as simply “Stan,” has served as a lecturer for countless organizations and in leadership capacities with various bar associations and legal organizations. We are grateful for Stan’s expertise and experience in many areas of the law and his willingness to serve those who are unable to afford private attorneys. Every day, he proves his commitment to the belief that justice should be available to all.

Essex-Newark Legal Services

Arnold J. Calabrese, Esq.

Arnold J. Calabrese of Becker in Morristown assisted with an Essex-Newark Legal Services (ENLS) case involving a nonprofit organization that operates a daycare. The case involved site remediation and swindling by a contractor who took money, but



Exceptional Contributors

did not perform the work. The lack of remediation barred the daycare from operating and subjected the nonprofit to ongoing Environmental Protection Agency penalties. Becker took the case—a protracted litigation that resulted in an award. Notably, he connected the nonprofit to an expert, who assisted the daycare with the completion of the remediation. Becker not only received a judgment, but enforced it and collected damages for the nonprofit. Approximately 300 hours were donated over the course of three years.

Legal Services of New Jersey

Pauline M.K. Young, Esq.

Pauline Young is no stranger to Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ). A previous Equal Justice Medal recipient as a Major Contributor of Services, Young has been a tireless advocate for our clients for years. As a member of McLaughlin & Nardi, LLC, she handles a wide range of matters, including litigation, business formations and transactions, employment law, and environmental/waste transportation law. Young's previous Equal Justice Medal award led her senior partner to register with LSNJ in order to serve and assist our clients as well.

Following the implementation of LSNJ's reentry and expungement project, LSNJ began offering trainings for attorneys willing to assist with expungement of criminal records within the new rules and procedures for such applications. Young attended the training to update her skills and knowledge of the changes to the process in order to continue to assist clients.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Young stepped in to assist not just one client, but answered the growing need for many. In turn, she has helped remove barriers to housing and employment for numerous residents of New Jersey.

The success of the reentry and expungement program is, in large part, due to the dedicated assistance of members of the private bar as exemplified by Pauline Young.

Legal Services of Northwest New Jersey

Diane S. Margolin, Esq.

Diane Margolin is of counsel at Margolin & Neuner, a small, family-focused litigation and mediation firm on the border of Morris and Warren Counties. She was admitted to the bar in 1986. After four years of working at Bergen County Legal Services



Exceptional Contributors

and the Hackensack law firm of Galantucci & Patuto, Esq. LLC, Margolin moved to Warren County to start her own practice. For a short time, she was a part-time employee at Warren County Legal Services and thereafter a board member.

A Legal Services lifer, Margolin was the first president of the board of Legal Services of Northwest New Jersey (LSNWJ) and was board president from 2018 to 2021. She has been an active member of the board, generously lending her time and serving on various committees.

During COVID-19, Margolin was and still remains an active volunteer attorney serving survivors and victims of domestic violence. She also devoted significant time volunteering on tenancy matters as related to evictions. Her first priority is always the staff and clients of LSNWJ. Margolin never hesitated to jump in when there was a need. She has donated facial masks and her time to ensure the well-being of staff. Margolin truly embodies the meaning of an exceptional contributor.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Steven Rubenstein, Esq.

Steven Rubenstein, counsel and founding partner of Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli & Conte, P.A. has been a volunteer with Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) since 2018. He has lived in Bergen County most of his life, with his wife and two daughters. He graduated from Rutgers College with a B.A. in history and went on to receive his J.D. from Boston University School of Law where he served as an editor of the Law Review and graduated with honors. He is happily retired and a superstar volunteer with NNJLS.

Rubenstein has been always willing and able to provide counsel for family clients, stepping up throughout the pandemic to assist clients who are filled with anxiety and fear and often came to Legal Services as a last resort.

He has been terrific with the clients and has taken the time to help NNJLS think through best practices on how to work with the influx of family cases. Family cases have historically been the most difficult to place with volunteers, and, in response, one of our great successes of the pandemic was developing an advice session model for all family conflicts being sent to pro bono. This model was inspired by Rubenstein's work with our family clients. He remains a most reliable volunteer, always willing to



Exceptional Contributors

meet with clients even if a court date is pending, and together we developed a sustainable solution for assisting family clients. In our model, clients are scheduled to receive advice on their cases while our team works to find a volunteer attorney for full representation. Thanks to this new approach, combined with his seemingly endless willingness to meet with clients, an estimated 60% of clients who opened cases with NNJLS since October 2020 would not have been able to get an attorney were it not for the newly streamlined advice sessions.

“Legal Services clients need representation and, since retiring from my practice, I now have the time, so I’m happy to do it,” says Rubenstein. “If you have the time to devote to volunteering, this is a productive way to help people who need the expertise of attorneys. Volunteering allows me to have a sense of accomplishment, of purpose—of doing something not just for me.”

South Jersey Legal Services

Rachelle Ann Waitz, Esq.

Rachelle Ann Waitz of Rachelle Family Law has volunteered with South Jersey Legal Services (SJLS) and its Private Attorney Involvement Program for more than six years, working primarily with the Divorce Project and the Family Assist Project.

Between March 2020 and February 2022, Waitz accepted eight pro bono divorce cases through the SJLS Divorce Project. She also assisted with Family Assist Project advice appointments. Prior to the pandemic, she came to the SJLS Camden office on a near monthly basis and provided 30-minute advice consultations to individuals who needed family law advice. Waitz always asks for more cases and often multiple cases at a time. She diligently works with Legal Services clients, providing them with the same professionalism and dedication she gives to her paying clients. She’s always willing to accept cases with issues outside the Divorce Project if the client is in need and unable to proceed on their own behalf.

Waitz’s dedication to her pro bono clients is clear. She never looks for recognition or thanks in return. Her thanks is helping someone in need and fulfilling what she believes is her obligation as an officer of the court. SJLS is privileged to count Rachelle Waitz among the attorneys who selflessly give of their time to assist the low-income population in South Jersey.



Significant Contributors

Equal Justice Medals are being awarded this year to recognize and honor those firms, community organizations, board members, and individuals that made significant contributions to Legal Services and provided much need services to the low-income community over time and especially during the global pandemic.

Central Jersey Legal Services

Geleen G. Donovan

Geleen Donovan has worked tirelessly in the field of nonprofit management for more than 20 years and, since 2014, has served as the executive director of Family Promise, Union County, New Jersey.

As executive director, Donovan led the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by shifting its congregate shelter model to separate temporary emergency shelter apartments and has been instrumental in forming partnerships with landlords to ensure safe and secure housing for tenants. She also developed a curriculum called "Living with Loss, Healing from Homelessness," a workshop to help families and individuals understand the grief associated with the loss of a home.

Donovan's passion is helping the poor, especially those who are homeless. Through program innovation, she has employed her skills at Family Promise Union County to provide much needed services to families and individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Under her leadership, FPUC was the first in Union County to provide shelter diversion services.

Prior to her position with Union County, Donovan held the position of executive director of Family Promise of Hunterdon County for nine years. She has also worked with Catholic Charities and Division of Youth and Family Services.

During her tenure in Hunterdon County, Donovan served as co-chair of the local Comprehensive Community Assistance System (CEAS) committee, where she helped to form the Tri-County Continuum of Care of Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex. Family Promise was one of the first agencies to receive Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-Housing funding from the Department of Community Affairs through the consortium.



Significant Contributors

Essex-Newark Legal Services

The Reverend Dr. Jethro James, Jr.

Bishop James is the pastor of Paradise Baptist Church in the City of Newark. He heads the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen and he is also the co-chair of the Essex County Human Services Advisory Board.

Bishop James is a lifelong advocate for justice, particularly for people of color in this state and the poor. This includes advocating for resources to meet basic human needs during the pandemic. In mid-2020, his powerful voice rose warning against the mass eviction of residential tenants just as the Superior Court of Essex County Vicinage appeared poised to begin moving the tenancy calendar even as the pandemic was raging. One can credit to his speaking out that the moratorium on tenancy trials did not end until September 2021.

Legal Services of New Jersey

Frank Agostino, Esq. and Caren Zahn, E.A.

Frank Agostino, founder and president of Agostino & Associates, P.E. and Caren Zahn, enrolled agent with the firm, have, for over a decade, made themselves available to Legal Services staff for questions and assistance needed with regard to LSNJ's Tax Legal Assistance Project (TLAP). In addition to conducting tax trainings free of charge to Legal Services' staff, their mantra, "we're here to help you," has greatly encouraged pro bono referrals throughout the years. Agostino and Zahn always remember to include TLAP in important stakeholder trainings and networking events.

Agostino and Zahn have also provided hundreds of volunteer hours over the past decade for client representation. Because of their unfailing assistance, the TLAP clinic has grown in numbers and breadth of service over the years. Until this year, the Agostino firm was the sole source of referrals for taxpayers with a New Jersey state tax issue, and has now pledged its support for LSNJ's new project that will assist clients with state tax matters.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a large number of individuals sought assistance from the LSNJLAWSM Hotline to file tax returns in order to qualify for the economic stimulus funds. Agostino & Associates partnered with the Hotline and TLAP, and made available their entire staff, volunteer certified public accountants, and enrolled agents, to assist clients with filing returns online to facilitate the quick processing of



Significant Contributors

stimulus payments. With the assistance of the Agostino firm, LSNJ processed hundreds of returns in a few months' time. These returns collectively represent approximately \$1,140,000 in stimulus funds! On behalf of the TLAP, the LSNJLAWSM Hotline and low-income New Jerseyans in need of assistance with tax matters, a huge thank you to Frank Agostino and Caren Zahn for unselfishly giving of their time and energy.

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Morris County Department of Human Services

The Morris County Department of Human Services has provided tremendous support throughout the years. At the start of the pandemic, they took the lead in setting up handwashing stations in Morristown, increasing food aid, and providing COVID-19 shelter for vulnerable Morris County residents. Their efforts supported the client community and ensured their dignity and safety.

Anticipating the impending eviction moratorium expiration, the department awarded funding to LSNWJ to provide legal representation to Morris County residents facing eviction and other housing issues. For example, through the department's support, LSNWJ hosted an in-person legal clinic at Morris County Library to support residents impacted by the housing crisis.

The department further supports LSNWJ by offering space at its Morristown location to accommodate residents who appear in court and need legal assistance. When the department's Morristown office re-opened to staff, they provided temporary additional space to safely serve senior residents during the pandemic.

In recent months, the department's support has included survivors of domestic violence and those in financial crisis, while also supporting community outreach and legal rights education. They have allowed LSNWJ to aid older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, and vulnerable families.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

JPMorgan Chase

When the pandemic began, there was a fear that the volunteer program would fare the worst, but instead, it grew substantially. Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) is deeply grateful to the pro bono volunteers for the thousands of hours of advice and representation they provided, and for their willingness to adapt. A special



Significant Contributors

thanks to JPMorgan Chase—in particular, Leslie Harris, Esq., executive director and assistant general counsel; Robert B. Farrington, vice president, assistant general counsel; and their global team of committed attorneys and paralegal volunteers.

With their help, NNJLS piloted an innovative virtual clinic program that ensured continuity of services for clients in a time of real fear and uncertainty. The virtual model for pro se clinics, held in both English and Spanish, actually allowed the program to increase the number of clients served through clinics. Virtual sessions were used to train Chase volunteer attorneys and paralegals on specific legal issues.

Throughout the pandemic, Chase volunteers raised their hands to be trained on how to work with pro se clients on legal topics ranging from uncontested divorces, naturalization applications, and return of security deposits. By following these virtual trainings with one-on-one client meetings in Zoom breakout rooms, Chase volunteers got immediate hands-on experience in the material they had just covered, and clients benefited from freshly engaged and motivated volunteers. Chase provided volunteers from across the country and beyond, even bringing in Chase colleagues from offices in Latin America to work with Spanish-speaking clients. This program has been so successful that it will be folded into a hybrid approach, even as NNJLS offices reopen. NNJLS is deeply grateful for the leadership and flexibility of JPMorgan Chase and its volunteers.

South Jersey Legal Services

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Atlantic County has been an integral partner in the effort to seek equal justice throughout the pandemic, available whenever their assistance was needed. They are knowledgeable about programs and services that benefit SJLS clients, and treat clients in a competent, respectful manner. JFS takes a holistic approach to connect each person with wrap-around services. The housing stock in Atlantic County is varied, with many residents living in motel/hotels, trailer parks, and traditional apartments. JFS went above and beyond to ensure client safety. They sent teams out to SJLS clients for security deposits, back rent, clothing, and other necessities. Their contributions were a bright light to many in a dim time.



Lipman-Franks Award

Eliana Pintor Marin

Raised in Newark's East Ward, Eliana Pintor Marin is the daughter of factory workers who immigrated to the United States from Portugal in search of better opportunities for themselves and their families. She attended Mother Seton Regional High School before earning a bachelor of science degree in legal studies and a master of arts degree in government and politics from St. John's University. The first in her family to graduate college, she also holds a certificate in international relations and public administration.

Pintor Marin serves in the New Jersey General Assembly, where she has represented the 29th legislative district since 2013. She has served as chair of the budget committee since 2018 and currently is on the appropriations and joint budget oversight committees. During her tenure in the legislature, Pintor Marin has championed many issues of great impact and import to Legal Services' clients and working-class New Jerseyans, including public education, homelessness prevention, re-entry, and more. Her steadfast support of Legal Services and, in particular, its state funding has made essential legal assistance available to New Jersey residents living in poverty, helping secure greater access to justice.

Prior to her legislative service, Pintor Marin served on the Newark Public Schools Advisory Board. First elected in 2008, she served as financial chair for three years and in 2011, was re-elected to the board and selected as both board chairwoman and chairperson of finance.

Pintor Marin is the assistant county administrator for Essex County. She is a proud, lifelong resident of Newark and has long been active in the community, previously serving as director of the Portuguese School for the Portuguese Sports Club, district leader in the east ward, treasurer of the Newark East Ward Democratic Committee, and a member of the Açores Social Club. She resides in Newark with her husband and two daughters.

Christopher “Kip” Bateman, Esq.

Christopher “Kip” Bateman was born in Somerville, New Jersey, and grew up working for his father at the Messenger-Gazette newspaper. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science and history from Ithaca College before earning his J.D. at the Seton Hall University School of Law. His public service career began in Branchburg, where he served on the township committee from 1983 to 1988 and was elected mayor in 1986. He served on the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1988 to 1994, as both deputy director and director.

From 1994 to 2007, he represented the 16th legislative district in the New Jersey General Assembly (seven consecutive terms). He was assistant majority whip (1994-1995), majority whip (1996), chairman of the Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee (1996-2001), assistant Republican whip (2002-2003), and assistant Republican leader (2004-2005).

Bateman represented the 16th district in the New Jersey State Senate from 2008 to 2021. He was a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Environmental and Energy Committee, and Senate Law and Public Safety Committee, and was also Senate Republican Deputy Conference Leader. As a champion of environmental issues, he received the Sierra Club Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

In his 28 years in both the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly, Bateman consistently raised a thoughtful voice seeking fairness and equal justice on behalf of those living in poverty. His support for more adequate funding for the Legal Services program helped New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents access critical civil legal services.

Senator Bateman is currently a partner at DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. and serves as a prosecutor in Hillsborough and Branchburg townships. He is a member of the board of directors of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and has been a member of many community organizations, including HomeSharing Program of Somerset County, Special Olympics New Jersey, Branchburg Rotary Club, Midland Foundation, Somerville Elks, Somerset Medical Center, Branchburg Historical Society, Somerset Public Employees Charitable Campaign, United Way Board of Trustees, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, and the Wellness Community Board of Trustees.

The William J. Brennan Citation for Justice Award

New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation (NJBLF)

Charles Forman, President, and Carol-Ann Rose, Grant Administrator

The New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation was created in 2004 to raise funds from the bankruptcy bar and their associates to assist debtors and other financially distressed individuals. It is a privately funded, statewide, nonprofit organization committed to reaching out to individuals in genuine need of additional financial assistance. In addition to regular grants to applicants across the state, NJBLF generously provides emergency funds to allow LSNJ to respond nimbly to a variety of urgent client needs, such as home repairs, urgent cleaning, rent, furniture, legal expenses, prescription medication, transportation, utilities, food, clothing (including school uniforms), legal fees, moving costs/storage costs, toiletries and other basic necessities, and car repairs.

For many Legal Services' clients, NJBLF is the last stop when help cannot be secured from another nonprofit or government entity. Examples from the past year include:

- \$42 fingerprinting fee for a victim of sex trafficking to clear her record
- \$718 to cover rent arrears for a single mom who lost income when she lost childcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$78 charge for a birth and marriage certificate for a recently widowed disabled client, needed to complete an application for Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- \$98 for a hotel room for a single mom and two teenagers who had nowhere to spend the night after an agency that had committed to covering the cost did not come through, due to some unexplained error on their part

Under the leadership of Charles Forman, NJBLF has truly been a lifeline of support for hundreds of Legal Services clients throughout the state. Its extraordinary attention and promptness to our requests has provided an unparalleled flexibility and ease in helping clients during some of their most difficult times. Over the years, Carol-Ann Rose has been the steady and constant hand, providing the attention necessary in making sure the urgent requests are processed timely and efficiently. We owe her and all members of the NJBLF, a debt of gratitude.

Stanley C. Van Ness

Stanley Carlton Van Ness was born in Somerville, New Jersey, in 1933, graduated cum laude from Rutgers University, and subsequently served five years in the Air Force, attaining the rank of captain. He graduated with honors from Rutgers School of Law in 1963, became an assistant United States attorney in the District of New Jersey, and served as counsel to Governor Richard J. Hughes for two years before being chosen to head the public defender's office in 1969. In 1974, when Governor Brendan T. Byrne created the Department of the Public Advocate, Van Ness was chosen to head the department. It was the first of its kind in the country, and, with this appointment, Van Ness became the third African American to reach cabinet-level status in New Jersey.

In the words of the Honorable Laura Lehrich LeWinn, former deputy director of the New Jersey Division of Mental Health, "Stanley Van Ness was the only obvious choice to head this department, and it turned out to be a most prescient and beneficial choice on many levels."

Contentious issues pursued by the department included withholding government funds from nursing homes that failed to meet state standards and requiring shoreline municipalities to open their beaches to the public. In 1975, his office filed suit against the Boy Scouts of America after four troop members with muscular dystrophy were denied promotion to Eagle Scout because they could not earn merit badges in swimming and lifesaving. The move ultimately led to the adoption of revised guidelines by the Boy Scouts of America National Council allowing physically challenged scouts to meet alternative requirements.

Among the most memorable cases for Carl Bisgaier, former director of Camden Regional Legal Services (CRLS), who later worked in the public advocate's office under Van Ness, were the Mt. Laurel low-income housing zoning cases. Bisgaier had spearheaded the effort while at CRLS and led the effort in the public advocate's office as well. He describes it as "a bombshell"—when the public advocate sued 27 municipalities in Morris County, adding that Van Ness never wavered in his support for the staff. "Whatever was going on in the cabinet, and whatever the governor was thinking, and whatever pushback they were getting from municipalities ... Stanley just handled it all."

Cynthia Jacob, LSNJ Board of Trustees chair, and former attorney under Van Ness in the public defender's office, echos that sentiment, saying, "Stanley was without



NJEJLA Circle of Honor

question the best boss I ever had.” With regard to the political challenges, she adds, “He was right in there picking cases that were not popular but needed to be decided. And many of the cases that the public advocate did fed directly into what Legal Services has come to do.”

“He really occupies a special place in the history of New Jersey,” says the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez, who succeeded Van Ness as public advocate.

Upon leaving the public advocate office in 1982, Van Ness joined the private law firm Herbert, Van Ness, Cayci and Goodell in Princeton, becoming a partner in 1998. He was also a law professor at Seton Hall Law School, an adjunct professor at Rutgers University and Thomas Edison State College, and a lecturer for the Carnegie Mellon Series at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stanley Van Ness died in September 2007 at the age of 73, but “... his legacy continues through all of us who knew him and loved him,” says LSNJ Board of Trustees first vice chairperson and former Van Ness student, Karol Corbin Walker. “And it will continue forever.”



NJEJLA Circle of Honor

Douglas S. Eakeley, Esq.

Douglas Eakeley, born in Morristown and raised in Westfield, New Jersey, credits his parents and his Presbyterian upbringing for the empathy that has fueled his lifelong passion for justice. “Like many people in my generation,” he says, “I went to law school to keep my options open.” The Rhodes Scholar and 1968 summa cum laude Yale graduate earned a B.A. in jurisprudence from Oxford University (1970) before returning to Yale Law School for his J.D. (1972). There he became involved with Yale New Haven Legal Services, a forerunner of the Legal Services program, that was funded by the Ford Foundation. “That’s how I really got my taste for, or a sense of, what it was like not to have access to justice, and what it meant for people who did not have the means to hire a lawyer.”

Since that early exposure, Eakeley has never wavered in his commitment to access to civil legal justice. While working for Debevoise and Plimpton in New York City, he served on the boards of the Legal Aid Society of Manhattan and the Community Law Offices of East Harlem. Upon his return to New Jersey in 1980, he served on the board of Essex Newark Legal Services (ENLS).

Fellow Rutgers Law professor and former ENLS board member Lou Raveson says, “Doug was the voice of reason” during the time of funding challenges and staffing conflicts in the early days of the ENLS program.

Eakeley served as first assistant attorney general of the state of New Jersey during the administration of Governor James J. Florio. In 1993, he was appointed by President William J. Clinton to the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which he chaired until April 2003.

Friend and fellow LSC board member, the Honorable John T. Broderick, Jr., recalls, “I was so taken, not just by his intelligence, which we all know he has, but, by his heartfelt commitment to justice for people who had often been left behind and left out—it was palpable ... and by his temperament and his experience, but mostly by his commitment and resilience. Doug Eakeley may be the most resilient person I have ever met.”

“Doug is an icon in Legal Services, not just in New Jersey, but nationally as well,” says LSNJ President Dawn Miller. “He has been a constant steady hand through the best and worst of times and we are eternally grateful for his unwavering and consistent support.



NJEJLA Circle of Honor

Even when faced with tremendous political resistance, Eakeley never gave up the fight for increased federal funding. After the Reagan cuts of the 1980s and threats to the very existence of the board, he united the bipartisan board to demand more financial support. As board chair of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) from 1982 to 1990, he worked with former LSNJ President Melville D. Miller, Jr. to secure increased state funding and the adoption of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) mechanism for funding the Legal Services statewide system.

He is a founding trustee (1999) and former board chair of the New Jersey Institute of Social Justice (NJISJ). Fellow board member and Grammy Award winning host of Due Process, Sandra King, describes his time on the board of NJISJ and the New Jersey Network Foundation before that, as "Always available, always able to pull together a consensus, and always kind, and always generous—in every way."

After several decades in private practice specializing in complex commercial litigation and representing high-profile public officials, including the chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and the governor of New Jersey, Eakeley joined Rutgers Law School as the first Alan V. Lowenstein Chair in Corporate and Business Law in 2021. A Distinguished Professor of Professional Practice, he is the founder and co-director of the Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance and the founder and co-director of the Rutgers Law School Entrepreneurship Clinic.

"Doug is brilliant," says Raveson. "That same notion I have of Doug, as the voice of reason on the board of Essex Newark Legal Services—he's the voice of reason at the law school. ... Over the years, when I have needed to run some litigation issues that I've been involved in with another lawyer, I've always gone to Doug, and he's always been extremely generous with his time, brilliant in his advice. And I know personally that that's how everybody in the law school feels about him."

Says Miller, "As a person and lawyer who truly understand and believes in the mission of Legal Services, Doug has been and remains an important voice on LSNJ's board. We are grateful to be able to recognize Doug for his many decades of work on our behalf and on behalf of low-income New Jerseyans. We are blessed to call Doug a friend of Legal Services."

Reflecting on this lifetime of service, Eakeley shares, "Access to justice, and supporting organizations that provide that access and work to advance social justice, are sources of inspiration and energy. That's what keeps me going."

Full Representation Contributors

This evening we recognize individuals, law firms, and organizations that have provided full representation to at least one Legal Services referral between March 2020 and February 2022.

Central Jersey Legal Services

Sylvia A. Ayler
Paul Brandenburg
Rebecca A. Brazzano
Kristie L. Butler
Grisele Camacho
Valerie J. Camara
Anthony M. Campisano
Nicole Crincoli
Nikki J. Davis
Michael V. Dowgin
Howard Duff
Linda Ershow-Levenberg
Loren Flath
Eileen M. Foley
Richard Galex
Robert E. Goldstein
John R. Gorman
Emily Gosnell
Arlene R. Green
Sahar Hamlani
Alexander M. Hilsen
Rachel Holt
Bernice Martina Jalloh
W. Lois Kahagi
Eric G. Kahn
Gayla A. Kasprzyk
Philip R. Kaufman
Christopher Andrew
Kozlowski
Steven Kropf
Matthew B. Lun
Sarah Martynowski

Andrew S. Maze
Robert McCutcheon
Lindsey Moskowitz Medvin
Raul E. Menar
Gail Mitchell
Ashley E. Morin
Paul J. Nemergut, III
Shaun S. Peterson
Donald Pierce
Mitchell H. Portnoi
Joseph M. Powell
David C. Ricci
Michelle Roman
Deborah A. Rose
Julio David Sanchez
Ross Schmierer
Bhavini Tara Shah
Emerald Sheay
Ryann Siclari
Carol Stanton Meier
Edward N. Testino
Joan Thomas
Frances A. Tomes
Frank E. Tournour
Daria Anne Venezia
Mark Watson
Charles Whelan

Legal Services of New Jersey

Carl G. Archer
Tina Gonzalez Barton
Michael B. Blacker
Louis W. Boltik

Brunilda Bonilla
Michael G. Boyd
John Michael Breslin
Peter J. Broege
Warren Brumel
Kristine Carranceja-Gurski
Graig P. Corveleyn
Nikki J. Davis
Richard A. DeMichele, Jr.
Maria L. Dooner
Victor Druziako
Michele M. Dudas
Kirsten B. Ennis
Lisa M. Fadini
Milica A. Fatovich
Robert J. Ferb
Alysia Finnegan
Shamala S. Florant
Karen M. Francis
Daniel A. Frischberg
Gloria Fuentes
Joseph Galardi
Stuart D. Gavzy
Justin M. Gillman
Charles W. Goeke
Stephen M. Goldberg
Allen I. Gorski
Anne Gowen
Chelsea-Lee Hanke
Andrew C. Hannwacker
Edward G. Hanratty
Warren Hare
Ryan Heeth
Lisa A. Jakob

Full Representation Contributors

Fernando J. Jimenez
Marylizette Jimenez
Robert H. Johnson
Sudha Kantor
Jerome Karnick
Carol L. Knowlton
Katharine Anne Lechleitner
Lawrence K. Lesnik
Bruce Levitt
Robert F. Long, Jr.
Jay Steven Lowenthal
Carl Lucas
Karina Lucid
John S. Mairo
Monika Mazurczyk
Stephen B. McNally
Maurice W. McLaughlin
Suzanne M. McSorley
Ira J. Metrick
Barry S. Miller
Kenneth W. Miller, Jr.
Victor Monterrosa
Tina Moss
Lisa M. Mottes
Michelle Movahed
Diane R. Moxley
Lucas Nascimento
Timothy P. Neumann
Kelly Newman
Cassandra C. Norgaard
Ade Oremosu
Rosa Ortiz
John Passante
Anita Patankar-Stoll
Paul Pflumm
Sari B. Placona
Don Randall
John Reilly
Michael J. Riela

Jacqueline R. Rocci
Robert S. Roglieri
Angenny Rosario
Susan Roy
Cassandra T. Savoy
John Schultz
John J. Scura, III
John C. Shamy
David E. Sklar
Mark R. Silber
William S. Singer
Shelley Slafkes
Anthony Sodono, III
Victoria A Steffen
Mikhail Sterlin
Sarah Jesslyn Suozzo
Katherine A. Suplee
Joan E. Switzer
Douglas T. Tabachnik
Frances A. Tomes
Gina M. Trimarco
John Jacob Van Dyken
Elizabeth Vengen
Susan Vinci
Nicholas Vogt
Eric D. Walstrom
Richard E. Weltman
Dorothy L. Wright
Pauline M. Young
Yong Zhao
Edward J. Zohn

Durmeriss Lavette Cruver-Smith
Scura, Wigfield, Heyer,
Stevens, & Cammarota
LLP

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Arlene F. Albino
Sylvia A. Ayler
Cristina Baragona
Tina Gonzalez Barton
Robert G. Bee
Charles Bonin
Matthew R Bradley
Colleen Brady
Neil Brazer
Jamie Cicerelle
Douglas Cole
Pamela M. Copeland
William Courtney
Jack C. Feinstein
Matthew D. Fielding
Catherine D. Fitch
Kimberlie Flammini-Pezzuto
Walter J. Fleischer, Jr.
Joanne Gardner
Laura M. Ginkel
Scott J. Goldstein
Carolyn Hand
Michael J. Hanifan
Ever Hess
Heidi Hilgendorff
Jon Huston
Wayne R. Janke
Dorothy J. Kenney
Mary Ellen Koscs-Fleming
Larissa Koshatka
Steven B. Lieberman
Paul H. Loeffler
James Loewen
Diane S. Margolin
Robert D. McLellan
Stephen McNally

Full Representation Contributors

Deborah McNeil
Mariann C. Murphy
Matthew A. Nemeth
Richard Parr
Sunita Patel
Dianne Pecoraro
Richard and Ann M.
Pompelio
Lawrence M. Rolnick
Kristen Nicole Roshto
William Rudnik
Sharon O. Small
John Smith
Dawn M. Solari
Robert Spengler
Kaitlyn E. Stone
Stephanie P. Tettemer
Nichole M. Valeyko
Greyson K. Van Dyke
Christopher Walsh
Stephen Zapf

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Mary Acevedo
Luis Alum
Rosemarie Anderson
Santo V. Artusa
Jahad B. Atieh
Susan C. Berger
Russell Bershad
Brunilda Bonilla
Donald T. Bonomo
Lamouria Boyd
Elton Bozanian
Jordan P. Brewster
James Browning
Matthew Cabrera
Ashok Cherian

Jeffrey David Coots
Ronda Cotroneo
Carolina Theresa Curbelo
Mark P. Denbeaux
Sonica R. Dixon
Robert Farrington
Virginia Fortunato
Matthew Michael
Fredericks
Eugenio Genise
Maurice Giro
Krista L. Haley
Gregory J. Hazley
Gozde Hobstetter
Mark Kaplowitz
Karl A. Kazmierczak
Leonard P. Kiczek
Yongmoon Kim
William LaTourette
Diana-Marie Laventure
Juan Madrid
Karan Malhotra
Carlos Martinez
Stephanie K. Mendelsohn
Moreno
Gerald Miller
Wanda Molina
Doris M. Masse
Steven Muller
Chioma Nelson
Cassandra C. Norgaard
Michael Ross Noveck
Georgene Sfraga Panza
Elizabeth Percontino
Catherine Rhy
Risa T. Rohrberger
Jamal Romero
Denise Rosado
Zachary Rosenberg

Steven R. Rubenstein
Robert Sainvil
Cheryl Schechter
John J. Scura, III
Roshni Shah
Victor G. Sison
Kirk Benjamin Stadnika
David L. Stevens
Fumiko Takada
Erin Thompson
David E. Tider
Jose R. Torres
Patrick Trainor
John C. Uyamadu
Dionne L. Wade
Jennifer N. Weil
David Wolinsky
Woojin Won
Noah Zakim

JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Scura, Wigfield, Heyer,
Stevens, & Cammarota
LLP

South Jersey Legal Services

Steven Abelson
Joseph Albanese
Stephanie Albrecht-Pedrick
Andrew T. Archer
Jennifer Armstrong
Alan Arsenis
Donna Bahnck
Laurie J. Bahr
Cristina Baragona
Adam Barker
Prosper A. Bellizia
Linda Best

Full Representation Contributors

Gregory J. Bevelock
Ronald Block
Gary Boguski
Lisa Bond-Holland
Gary Borger
Robert Bowman
Carrie J. Boyle
Cathy Brackin
Sylvia Breitwich
Warren Brumel
Edward Bruton, Jr.
Jill T. Bryan
Mandi Bucceroni
Brian P. Budic
Steve J. Bushinsky
Marc C. Capone
Dan Carlin
Amelia Carolla
Kristine Carranceja-Gurski
David Casadonte
Joseph M. Casello
Elizabeth F. Casey
Charlene Cathcart
Elizabeth Chierici
Antoinette E. Chiulli
Eric J. Clayman
William Clunn
Steven Cocchi
Michael J. Collis
Rachel S. Cotrino
Sarah L. Cranston
Alice Cupaiuolo
Maury K. Cutler
Susan Dargay
Justin Davis
Andrew K. de Heer
Gregory P. DeMichele
Richard A. DeMichele, Jr.
Michael S. Di Croce

Alan Domers
James Donnelly
Kathleen M. Dotoli
Thomas E. Dowey
James Drake
Cynthia S. Earl
Ashley Edwards
Thomas Egner
Donald N. Elsas
David C. Epler
David G. Esposito
Brenda Eutsler
Joseph F. Fabian
Michael Ferrara, Jr.
Catherine E. Finnerty
Frank J. Fischer
Theresa Fleming
Deborah Franco
Donna Freidel
Ronni Fuchs
Megan P. Gable
Angie Gambone
Jorge Garcia
Regina Gelzer
James Gentile
Sarina Gianna
William Gilson
Robert A. Gleaner
Charles W. Goeke
Marta Cruz Gold
Erika L. Goldberg
Carol N. Goloff
John Gormally
Walter Gouldsbury
Joni Gray
Danielle Gross
Lauren Guzzo
Carol Haig
Peter Halden

Edward G. Hanratty
Warren Hare
John Hargrave
Jeffrey S. Hark
Amy B. Harris
Kristen S. Henninger
Brian D. Heun
Brian L. Hoffman
Gary D. Hoffman
John Holl
Melvin Holloway
Ali Homayouni
Jeff J. Horn
Timothy Horn
David W. Huang
Danielle Hughes
S. Daniel Hutchison
John C. Iannelli
Charles M. Izzo
Jeffrey R. Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Scott Kaplan
Dimitry Karapelou
Matthew Kalwinsky
Jenny Kasen
Glenn Kassman
Jeffrey Kasten
Andrew Kelly
Courtney A. Reed Keren
Christopher J. Kern
Timothy King
Amy L. Knapp
Carol L. Knowlton
Talbot B. Kramer
Carolyn G. Labin
Anthony Landolfi
Bonnie Laube
Douglas Leney
Danielle Liberman

Full Representation Contributors

Jeffrey R. Lindsay
David Lipshutz
S. Joseph Litvak
Robert A. Loefflad
Jay Lowenthal
Eugenia Lynch
Mary E. Maggio
John Makowski
Sarah Martynowski
Gary L. Mason
Leon Matchin
Monika Mastellone
Christine Matus
Monika Mazurczyk
Ellen M. McDowell
Jennifer Cranston McEntee
Thomas McKay, III
Andrew McNalley
Vanessa Mendelewski
Georgette Miller
Barbara B. Moore
Lou Nappen
Geoff Neumann
Steven R. Neuner
Jeffrey Newby
Paul E. Newell
Emeka Nkwuo
Gabrielle Nonnenberg
Ronald E. Norman
Matthew J. Norris
Katherine O'Brien
Kathleen O'Brien
Thomas J. Orr
Raymond C. Osberbye
Nona L. Ostrove
Carol Otvos
Stephen Packman
Edward L. Paul
Mike Pender

Lee M. Perlman
Anna-Maria Pittella
Alan Polonsky
Bonnie D. Putterman
Lisa Radell
Masha Rapoport
Marianne Rebel-Brown
Dan Reeves
Daniel Reinganum
Kurt E. Reinheimer
Dianna Reuter
Michael Riela
Joseph J. Rogers
Rex J. Roldan
Susan M. Romeo
Mary L. Rose
Janet Silver Rosen
Robert Rosenberg
Laurie Ruben
Neal Ruben
Karen Sampson
Sydney R. Schecter
Adam Schneider
Joel Schwartz
MaryBeth Schroeder
David Shaver
Chad M. Sherwood
Stephanie Shreter
Cory Sidelsky
Daniel Siedman
Mark Silber
Steven A. Silnutzer
David Simon
Jonas Singer
Fred Sisto
Jacquie B. Smith
Julie C. Smith
David A. Snyder
Joel Spivack

Christopher Stanchina
Douglas Stanger
Victoria Steffen
Eric Stein
Daniel E. Straffi
Thomas Subranni
Douglas T. Tabachnik
Steven N. Taieb
John R. Tatulli
Elana G. Tawil
Brian S. Thomas
Gregory Thomlison
Robert C. Thurston
Melissa P. Tomaino
Steven Traub
Jill M. Tribulas
Terry G. Tucker
Amy M. Vanni
Kathleen M. Vella
Rachelle Ann Waitz
Edward R. Wiercinski
Jeanie Wiesner
Kimberly A. Wilson
Scott Wilson
Leonard Wizmur
Randolph H. Wolf
Tamika Wyche
Juliet Wyne
Clifford Yannone

Thank you for joining us this evening!

We hope you will also join us for the upcoming Melville “De” Miller, Jr. Justice Series “Conversation on Discrimination and Bias in New Jersey,” on Wednesday, June 15.

Organized in partnership with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, this workshop will analyze early data on increasing reports of bias incidents and the various responses to it.

Also, keep an eye out for more details on the 55th anniversary of New Jersey Legal Services programs to come later in the year. Visit our website, LSNJ.org, for details.



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New Jersey
Legal Services 1966-2021



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