



ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT
MAY 4, 2023 FMC TOWER CAFE

PROGRAM

AWARD PRESENTATION 6:00

BRENNAN AWARDS

Corporation

Toll Brothers

Large Firm

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Small Firm

Kreher & Trapani LLP

Solo Practitioner

Janet E. Bauman

VIP'S AWARDS

Trailblazing Partner

Accenture

Pro Bono Impact

Rodlena Sales

MVP of VIP

Mark Fidanza

CONCLUDING REMARKS

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT 7:15

DEAR FRIENDS:

Welcome to Philadelphia VIP's 2023 Awards Night!

The world of pro bono has faced more than its share of challenges in recent years. Life's demands on our volunteer attorneys increase every day, and our clients – the impoverished Philadelphia families and small businesses we serve – continue to struggle with unequal access to justice. There is always more work to do, but tonight, we are delighted to pause that work and simply celebrate with you.

The excellent attorneys, law firms, and corporate legal departments we recognize tonight have each gone above and beyond by deepening their commitment to VIP and delivering top-notch pro bono service to our clients. We extend to them our heartfelt appreciation and we are proud to honor them tonight.

Thank you also for joining us. Whether you're a new volunteer or a onetime VIP award winner yourself, you are an integral part of our mission. Please enjoy the evening and congratulate your award-winning fellow volunteers!

With gratitude,



Rida Haq

P R E S E N T E R S

MARC J. ZUCKER

Weir Greenblatt Pierce LLP
Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association



MEGAN E. WATSON

BKW Family Law
President, VIP Board of Directors



RIDA F. HAQ

Philadelphia VIP
Executive Director



KELLY J. GASTLEY

Philadelphia VIP
Managing Attorney



J U S T I C E W I L L I A M J . B R E N N A N , J R . A W A R D S

TOLL BROTHERS Corporation

Volunteer attorneys and paralegals at Toll Brothers donated an impressive amount of pro bono service last year, making them our corporate Brennan Award winner. After inviting VIP to host a deed drafting workshop, the Toll Brothers team cleared up seven VIP clients' tangled titles and stayed on to assist a client with further estate issues. We're grateful for these volunteers' dedication to Philly's low-income homeowners.

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BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC Large Firm

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC boasts two decades of pro bono engagement with VIP, but a renewed commitment in the last year netted them our Brennan Award for larger firms. The firm hosted a pro bono roadshow with VIP and introduced our work to their associates, many of whom signed up to volunteer across an array of legal problems including name change petitions, guardianships, and tort defense. Our clients are better off with the great volunteers at Buchanan by their side.

Buchanan

J U S T I C E W I L L I A M J . B R E N N A N , J R . A W A R D S

KREHER & TREPANI LLP Small Firm

Frank Trapani of Kreher & Trapani LLP ramped up his commitment to pro bono this past year. Frank volunteers as defense counsel for low-income Philadelphians in consumer debt cases. In 2022 alone, he took on six of these cases, giving six VIP clients more than a fighting chance in Municipal Court. Frank is a pro bono powerhouse, and we're proud to present him and his firm with this year's Brennan Award for small firms.

**KREHER &
TRAPANI LLP**

J A N E T E . B A U M A N Solo Practitioner

Janet Bauman started volunteering with VIP in 2020 by assisting small business clients. Last year, as she prepared to retire from her role as Managing Director at Hamilton Lane, she shifted her focus to clearing tangled titles and creating estate plans for low-income homeowners. She's made an impressive dent in Philly's tangled title epidemic and she continues to reach out to VIP for more work, a fact that has earned her the Brennan Award for solo volunteers.



AWARDS (CONTINUED)

ACCENTURE

Trailblazing Partner

Accenture's legal volunteers earned the corporation this year's Trailblazing Partner Award, which recognizes a notably deepened partnership with VIP. Teams of Accenture attorneys and paralegals took on VIP cases last year, including custody and probate matters, and a number of first-time volunteers got involved after a specialized estate planning training last summer. We're lucky to have Accenture as a partner and we're grateful for the time and talent of our volunteers there.



RODLENA SALES

Pro Bono Impact

Rodlena Sales is the deserving recipient of this year's Pro Bono Impact Award, which recognizes innovative approaches to pro bono advocacy. Rodlena helps Philadelphia families keep their homes by signing up for probate matters, including complex cases requiring extra legwork. She also helps these families hold onto their assets through careful estate planning. In addition to volunteering, Rodlena serves on the Tangled Title Fund committee: an arduous but necessary role that helps homeowners cover hefty costs as they resolve their title issues.



MARK FIDANZA

MVP of VIP

Mark Fidanza is an associate at Reed Smith and this year's MVP of VIP. In the last two years, Mark has volunteered over 150 hours for his VIP clients, almost all of whom are tenants facing eviction. In this high-need, high-stakes program area, Mark goes above and beyond for his clients by appealing unfair decisions and filing counterclaims against negligent landlords. His commendable advocacy makes him a go-to volunteer and more than earns him the MVP of VIP Award.



V I P S T A F F

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JVC Volunteer Bri Eagan | Director of Operations Karna Laubenstein | Program Manager Joe B. Durkin |
| Administrative Assistant Tom Chaykun | Executive Director Rida Haq | Senior Staff Attorney P. Michael Jones |
| Communications and Content Manager Katie Pratt | Homeownership Project Administrator Leila Bagenstos | Small Business Coordinator Nina Josephson |
| Data and Contracts Manager Benjamin Willis | Legal Support Coordinator Susan Blissett | Staff Attorneys Erin Agnew Allie Robinson Vijaya Singh |
| Development Manager Jennifer Hwang | Managing Attorney Kelly J. Gastley | Supervising Attorneys Denise Lynch Lindsay Schoonmaker |
| Development Specialist Megan Shaefner | Pro Bono Case Managers Cassidy Gruber Baruth Janaya Lewinski Eliane Nieder | |

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| Germain DeMartinis Cozen O'Connor | Richard L. Scheff Armstrong Teasdale LLP | Ex-officio Members: Jennifer Coatsworth, Deborah Freedman, Harvey Hurdle, Katayun Jaffari, Anita Santos-Singh, and Marc Zucker |
| Donald P. DiCarlo Wilmington Trust M&T Bank | Doug Simon Tactix Real Estate Advisors, LLC | Young Lawyers Division Liaison: Ashley Taragna |

S I L E N T A U C T I O N

G U I D E L I N E S

Participate in our Silent Auction!

Please visit our Silent Auction table between 5:30-7:15 pm to place a bid on any of our items. The rules follow:

- Bids must meet the minimum increment
- Bidders may bid multiple times on the same item, as long as their bid meets the minimum increment
- The bidder with the highest bid for each item agrees to pay the full amount of their bid
- The bidder with the highest bid for each item must pay the full amount of their bid before their item can be retrieved

You can also support VIP with a donation by going to our website, phillyvip.org/donate, or by using the QR code below:



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Phillies v Nationals 4 Tickets

Section 120, Monday, August 7, against the Washington Nationals

Fair Market Value \$300

Phillies v Royals 4 Diamond Club Tickets

Diamond Club, Friday, August 4, against the Kansas City Royals

Fair Market Value \$1,600

Phillies v BRAVES 6 Tickets

Section 120, Tuesday, June 20, against the Atlanta Braves

Fair Market Value \$450

Phillies v Nationals 6 Tickets

Section 120, Monday, August 7, against the Washington Nationals

Fair Market Value \$450

Phillies v Diamondbacks 2 Tickets

Section 226, Tuesday, May 23, against the Arizona Diamondbacks

Fair Market Value \$200

S P O N S O R S

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S P O N S O R S

P L A T I N U M

Blank Rome LLP

Fox Rothschild LLP

G O L D

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I N K I N D D O N O R S

Thank You for Supporting
VIP's Mission

Erin Agnew
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BKW Family Law LLP
Germain DeMartinis
Stewart Eisenberg
FMC Corporation
David Jones
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We are proud to support

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and their tireless efforts in
expanding access to legal services
in our community.

We congratulate **Toll Brothers, Inc.**
and all of the 2023 award winners.

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Morgan Lewis

We are proud to support

PHILLY VIP

and salute the VIP volunteers who
work hard to ensure access to justice
for low-income Philadelphians.

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A photograph of the Philadelphia skyline at sunset, featuring the One Liberty Place, Two Liberty Place, and the KPMG building. In the foreground, a person is walking on a paved path next to a river, with a bridge and trees in the background.

We are so proud of VIP and its volunteers for countless achievements in providing legal services to low-income Philadelphians. Your leadership in our community is amazing!

- Bob and Didi Scott

TOGETHER, LET'S ENGINEER THE FUTURE.

As engineers, the future is ours to design and build.
Together, let's co-create a future we all can be proud of.

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TE Connectivity salutes the work
of Philadelphia VIP and its volunteers
as we celebrate the Annual Awards Night.
Congratulations to all!



Law for all.

We proudly support
Philadelphia VIP in their
efforts to expand access
to justice in Philadelphia.

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Proud to Partner with Philadelphia VIP

And to support Awards Night 2023. Thank you for working to provide quality volunteer legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.





AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY

For their dedication to providing quality volunteer legal services and ensuring access to justice for low-income Philadelphians. Barnes & Thornburg is proud to be part of the greater Philadelphia community and to sponsor Philadelphia VIP Awards Night 2023.



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(215) 665-2097 | vmcguinness@cozen.com

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Duane Morris is proud to support
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and its
Annual Awards Night

*We salute VIP for promoting equal access
to justice for low-income Philadelphians.*



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Duane Morris LLP, a law firm with more than 900 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally, is asked by a broad array of clients to provide innovative solutions to today's legal and business challenges.

For more information, please contact:

KATHARYN VOIT, Pro Bono Counsel
215.979.1879 | kvoit@duanemorris.com

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Proud to Support Philadelphia VIP!

Our Faegre Drinker colleagues were among the founders of Philadelphia VIP and have volunteered to serve hundreds of VIP clients for more than forty years. We share values with VIP, supporting the mission of expanding access to justice and we applaud the hard work that the staff, board, officers and volunteers bring to the protection of Philadelphia's most vulnerable citizens.



We are proud to support **Philadelphia VIP** and applaud this year's award recipients, including our own Mark Fidanza, for their dedication to VIP's mission to provide free, high-quality legal assistance.

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Marc Zucker and VIP client Essie

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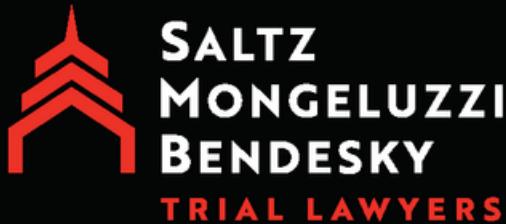


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Congratulations to all of tonight's award winners, including our Public Interest Program Manager Rodlena Sales!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CITY.



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VIP

