



ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT
MAY 4, 2023 FMC TOWER CAFE

P R O G R A M

A W A R D P R E S E N T A T I O N 6 : 0 0

B R E N N A N A W A R D S

Corporation

Toll Brothers

Large Firm

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Small Firm

Kreher & Trapani LLP

Solo Practitioner

Janet E. Bauman

V I P ' S A W A R D S

Trailblazing Partner

Accenture

Pro Bono Impact

Rodlena Sales

MVP of VIP

Mark Fidanza

C O N C L U D I N G R E M A R K S

A U C T I O N A N N O U N C E M E N T 7 : 1 5

D E A R F R I E N D S :

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rida". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'R' being large and prominent.

Rida Haq

P R E S E N T E R S

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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.



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.

The logo for Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, consisting of the word "Buchanan" in a white serif font, centered within a solid dark blue square.

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

JANET E. BAUMAN 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.



A W A R D S (C O N T I N U E D)

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

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Tom Chaykun

Communications and Content Manager
Katie Pratt

Data and Contracts Manager
Benjamin Willis

Development Manager
Jennifer Hwang

Development Specialist
Megan Shaeffer

Director of Operations
Karna Laubenstein

Executive Director
Rida Haq

Homeownership Project Administrator
Leila Bagenstos

Legal Support Coordinator
Susan Blissett

Managing Attorney
Kelly J. Gastley

Pro Bono Case Managers
Cassidy Gruber Baruth
Janaya Lewinski
Eliane Nieder

Program Manager
Joe B. Durkin

Senior Staff Attorney
P. Michael Jones

Small Business Coordinator
Nina Josephson

Staff Attorneys
Erin Agnew
Allie Robinson
Vijaya Singh

Supervising Attorneys
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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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Breadmaking Experience

Breadmaking Experience with Germain DeMartinis

Fair Market Value \$250

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

P R E S E N T I N G

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Bob and Didi Scott

TE Connectivity

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Ballard Spahr LLP

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Cozen O'Connor

Duane Morris LLP

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Reed Smith LLP

Marc and Karen Zucker

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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A photograph of the Philadelphia skyline at night, with various skyscrapers illuminated against a dark blue sky. The buildings are reflected in the water in the foreground.

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TO ALL AWARD WINNERS



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Philadelphia VIP
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 dusk, viewed from a bridge over the Schuylkill River. The city's skyscrapers are silhouetted against a twilight sky with soft orange and purple hues. The river's surface reflects the city lights and the bridge's structure. A lone figure is visible walking on the bridge's path.

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.

te.com/ecc

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



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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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PHILADELPHIA VIP AND ITS 2023 AWARDS NIGHT

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

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