

Philadelphia  
**VIP**

# ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

CITY HALL | MAY 15, 2025



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

# ABOUT PHILADELPHIA VIP

VIP leverages the powerful resources of the community to provide quality volunteer legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.

Each year, our staff team supports and trains over 1,200 volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and other legal professionals ...



... to represent Philadelphia neighbors, families, and businesses who need a lawyer but cannot afford one ...

.... in civil legal matters ranging from tangled title to family law, eviction defense, counsel for low-income small businesses and small nonprofits, and much more.



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Philadelphia VIP's 2025 Awards Night!

Tonight, we come together to celebrate not only the remarkable achievements of our award recipients, but also the collective impact of all our volunteers.

We at VIP understand the significant personal sacrifices you make to represent our clients pro bono. Each of you has had to carve out time in a busy schedule, balance VIP matters with competing professional demands, or simply work later than you'd like to serve our clients.

Yet you still choose to prioritize pro bono, knowing that each hour you devote and each case you accept represents a beacon of hope for a Philadelphian in need. Your willingness to stand up for justice and lend your time and expertise to our neighbors is what sets you apart.

As we applaud the outstanding volunteers and firms who are accepting awards tonight, please know that our gratitude extends to every person in this room. Your contributions make our mission a reality, and we—and our clients—value them greatly. We cannot do it without you.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rida". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "R" and "I" being particularly prominent.

Rida Haq  
Executive Director

# 2025 AWARDS NIGHT HONOREES

## JUSTICE WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR. AWARDS

Solo Practitioner Award:  
Gregory S. Hyde, Esq.

Law Firm Award:  
Dechert LLP

## TRAILBLAZING PARTNER AWARD

Vanguard

## OUTSTANDING NEW VOLUNTEER AWARD

Ryaan A. Ibtisam, Esq.  
*Cimphony*

## PRO BONO IMPACT AWARD

Donna Brown, Esq.  
*Accenture*

## MVP OF VIP AWARD

Lisa Ann Zolna  
*White & Williams LLP*

## 2025 HALL OF FAME

Alfonso Madrid, Esq.  
Billie Schnall, Esq.  
Mark-Allen Taylor, Esq.

# SUPPORT PHILADELPHIA VIP

We depend on your generosity to fund our mission of expanding access to justice in Philadelphia.

Please consider supporting VIP financially tonight by donating or participating in our silent auction!

Visit the auction table or register using the QR code or URL below to view tonight's prizes and place your bids.



[phillyvip.org/auction](http://phillyvip.org/auction)

## Auction rules:

- Bidding online only; requires registration
- Bids must meet 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
- Bidding ends at 6:45 pm

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



# SILENT AUCTION

## **Golf for Three at Philadelphia Cricket Club**

Wissahickon Course

Fair Market Value (FMV): \$900



## **Philadelphia Museum of Art: Special Exhibit Tour**

Tour of *Boom* and gift package for eight

FMV: \$500



## **Eagles Tickets for Two**

Club Level seats at a 25-26 regular home game

FMV: \$600



## **Custom Jewelry Design with Brian Joseph Jewelry**

\$1,000 credit towards final custom piece

FMV: \$1,000



## **Pizza Making Class for Four**

Merzbacher's Bakery

FMV: \$400



## **Her Place Supper Club Priority Booking & Welcome Drinks**

Book before reservations open to the public

FMV: \$65



## **Philadelphia Flower Show Tickets for Four**

Tickets for 2026 show

FMV: \$220



## **Flyers Tickets for Four**

25-26 regular home game

FMV: \$625



## **Autographed Flyers Jersey**

Signed by Sean Couturier #14

FMV: \$500

## **Phillies vs Braves**

### **3 Front Row Tickets**

Wednesday, May 28

FMV: \$290

## **Phillies vs Brewers**

### **4 Suite Tickets**

Sunday, June 1

FMV: \$725

## **Phillies vs Cubs**

### **4 Club Tickets**

Monday, June 9

FMV: \$560

# JUSTICE WILLIAM J. BRENNAN, JR. AWARDS

SOLO

GREGORY S. HYDE, ESQ.

Gregory is the founder of the Hyde Law Firm, P.C., where he focuses on helping individuals and families navigate complex family law matters. He brings both heart and skill to his VIP custody, divorce, support, and other family law cases.

“Pro bono work is not about doing a good deed for the day. It’s about showing up for people who are outmatched, overlooked, and overwhelmed.”



LAW FIRM

DECHERT LLP

Dechert stood out among law firms not only in terms of total volunteers engaged and clients served, but also for its particular commitment to VIP's eviction defense program and innovative pro bono "boot camp" for first-year associates.

“We are incredibly grateful for the work of the VIP team which, through well-screened cases, training, and mentoring, enables us to serve low-income Philadelphians.”

**Dechert**  
LLP

# AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## TRAILBLAZING PARTNER

## VANGUARD

The team of legal volunteers at Vanguard significantly ramped up their commitment to VIP's transactional pro bono projects while working to foster a culture of volunteerism at their workplace.

**Vanguard**

"Vanguard is grateful for our pro bono partnership with VIP, whose dedication to the work inspires our team."

## OUTSTANDING NEW VOLUNTEER

## RYAAN A. IBTISAM, ESQ.

Ryaan, a Co-Founder and Head of Legal at Cimphony, connected with VIP in 2023 while working at a Philadelphia law firm. Since then, he has served pro bono clients in eviction and consumer debt defense, family law, and small business assistance.

"VIP has offered me the privilege to support our community and has been a reminder that the law should serve everyone, not just those who can afford it."



# AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## PRO BONO IMPACT

DONNA BROWN, ESQ.

In addition to handling her own VIP matters for small business and estate planning clients, Donna regularly provides pro bono shadowing and mentoring opportunities for her non-attorney colleagues at Accenture, enabling them to volunteer with VIP.

“Volunteering requires just a small investment of time to make a lasting impact on a client’s life.”



## MVP OF VIP

LISA ANN ZOLNA

Lisa is a Tax & Fiduciary Administrator at White & Williams LLP, where she has volunteered in the firm’s tangled title practice group for over a decade. She carried the heaviest caseload of any VIP volunteer last year.

“I consider it a responsibility and an honor to do my part to support individuals who need title to their homes, not only to correct title, but to help them repair their homes and have a decent roof over their heads.”



# HALL OF FAME

While our annual awards recognize extraordinary pro bono service over a period of one or two years, the purpose of our Hall of Fame is to honor volunteer attorneys who have consistently gone above and beyond for VIP clients over **at least ten years.**

Taken together, these three volunteers have donated countless pro bono hours on just shy of **300 VIP matters.** Please join us in thanking them for their service!

2025

## VIP HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### **Alfonso Madrid, Esq.**

Volunteer since 1997

### **Billie Schnall, Esq.**

Volunteer since 1993

### **Mark-Allen Taylor, Esq.**

Volunteer since 2012

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Special thanks to James Becker for arranging professional photography services.

# Relentlessly invested in **our community**

We're proud to support Philadelphia VIP  
and congratulate tonight's honorees:

Donna Brown, Esq.  
Gregory S. Hyde, Esq.  
Dechert LLP  
Vanguard  
Ryaan A. Ibtisam, Esq.  
Lisa Ann Zolna

**Barnes &  
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*Our firm is proud to support*

*Philadelphia*  
**VIP**

*and*

**Congratulations**  
TO ALL  
AWARD WINNERS



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**Philly VIP** for its  
partnership in our  
work to bridge the  
justice gap.

[saul.com](http://saul.com)



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**SAUL EWING**

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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](http://te.com/ecc)

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

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**TOGETHER,  
LET'S ENGINEER  
THE FUTURE.**

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# Morgan Lewis

We are proud to support

## PHILADELPHIA VIP

and its work to ensure  
community access to justice

**[www.morganlewis.com](http://www.morganlewis.com)**

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**White and Williams joins Philadelphia VIP  
in celebrating their 2025 Awards Night.**



**Congratulations to  
Lisa Ann Zolna,  
Tax and Fiduciary  
Administrator, named  
“MVP of VIP,” and all  
of this year's  
award recipients.**

**CT | DE | MA | MD | NJ | NY | PA | RI**

[whiteandwilliams.com](http://whiteandwilliams.com)

Duane Morris is proud to support  
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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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We are proud to support  
**Philadelphia VIP** and applaud  
this year's award recipients for  
their dedication to VIP's mission  
to provide free, high-quality  
legal assistance.



# 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.

# Making a difference

We proudly support  
**Philadelphia VIP** and their  
mission to expand access to  
justice in Philadelphia.

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# Thank you for your leadership and service in our hometown.

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## Philadelphia VIP

in their unwavering  
commitment to expanding  
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in our community.



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and its ongoing mission to strengthen  
and improve the lives of our neighbors  
through pro bono service.

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