



SeniorLAW Center

Protecting the Rights of Older Pennsylvanians

MEDIA ALERT

Honoring Our Older Veterans: Stories of Liberation, Diversity, & Courage Nonprofit SeniorLAW Center Celebrates its Work Seeking Justice for Pennsylvania Seniors and Honors WWII Veteran and Buchenwald Liberator Dr. Leon Bass, Advocates, and Those Who Valiantly Served Our Country

What: SeniorLAW Center's Gala, *Honoring Our Older Veterans*, takes place on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 5:30-9:00pm at the Ballroom at the Ben in Center City, Philadelphia, and pays tribute to all veterans who have valiantly protected our freedoms.

Patrick Murphy, former Congressman, Iraq war veteran, and MSNBC host will serve as Master of Ceremonies. **Ronald Shaffer**, SeniorLAW Center Board leader and partner, Fox Rothschild LLP and **Debbie Shaffer** are 2014 Gala Co-Chairs.

This year's annual event will feature the stories of service and courage of older veterans, including those who fought in WWII, and the work of SeniorLAW Center to improve their lives. SeniorLAW Center will honor Dr. Leon Bass, WWII Veteran, African American soldier and liberator of the Buchenwald concentration camp; the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, which helps fight contractor fraud of low-income senior homeowners, and will induct two new members into the new SeniorLAW Hall of Fame: Joseph B. Silverstein, Esq., and Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. This is an event for all ages, featuring compelling stories, video and program.

Who: The Gala benefits the nonprofit SeniorLAW Center and its work seeking justice for Pennsylvania's seniors. Based in Philadelphia, SeniorLAW Center protects the rights of older Pennsylvanians through free legal representation, education and advocacy, including its statewide SeniorLAW HelpLine, serving over 300,000 older Pennsylvanians since its founding in 1978, including survivors of elder abuse, grandparents raising grandchildren, seniors at risk of homelessness, eviction and foreclosure, and other elders 60 -100+ years old.

Why: 1 in 5 Pennsylvanians are now senior citizens, and by the year 2020, 1 in 4 of our residents will be 60 and older. Philadelphia has the largest percentage of seniors of the 10 largest cities in the country, and one of the poorest. Issues of aging will affect us all dramatically, both professionally and personally, in every sector of business and human service, our work and our families.

Who Should Attend: Leaders of the legal, business, health care, aging services and community services sectors and other individuals and organizations who want to show their support for older veterans and older Pennsylvanians are invited to attend this event.

Companies, foundations, law firms and individuals interested in supporting or attending the Anniversary Gala can call 215-701-3203 or visit www.seniorlawcenter.org.

When: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: The historic Ballroom at the Ben, 834 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107

Honoring:

Dr. Leon Bass as the **2014 Champion of the Year:** WWII veteran, African American soldier, liberator of the Buchenwald concentration camp, former Philadelphia school teacher and principal, and national and international advocate for justice.

Cozen O'Connor as the **2014 Partner of the Year.** Cozen O'Connor lawyers are leaders in advancing the mission of SeniorLAW Center through pro bono service, taking a leading role in representing older veterans and other low-income seniors who have been victimized by contractors, threatening the safety and habitability of their homes and economic survival.

The 2014 inductees into the SeniorLAW Center Hall of Fame: champions for seniors, leaders in the founding and success of SeniorLAW Center, and tireless advocates for improving the lives of older Pennsylvanians.

- **Joseph B. Silverstein, Esq.,** Green, Silverstein & Groff, LLC, long-serving SeniorLAW Center Board Member and Officer, outstanding ambassador and fundraiser, and volunteer attorney;
- **Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA):** SeniorLAW Center funder for over 30 years and collaborator in the fight against senior poverty and elder abuse and exploitation through initiatives such as the Financial Exploitation Task Force, minority aging groups and the Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians. PCA is a private, non-profit organization serving as Philadelphia's Area Agency on Aging since 1973, and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Philadelphians who are older or who have disabilities.

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