



SeniorLAW Center

Protecting the Rights of Older Pennsylvanians

MEDIA ALERT

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SeniorLAW Center Marks 40 Years of Fighting for the Rights of Older Americans

Annual Gala Honors Extraordinary Advocates and Partners, and Features the Stories of Brave Seniors and the Attorneys Who Fought for Their Rights

What: On May 19, 2018, the Center will host its *Four Decades For Seniors* Gala, paying tribute to the remarkable leaders, advocates, and elders who helped pave the way in recognizing the importance of elder justice throughout the past forty years. The celebration will include dinner, cocktails, live entertainment, auction, and special pop-up performances throughout the evening

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania's SeniorLAW Center – the state's first and only non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the legal rights of senior citizens. Older Americans and their families lose more than \$2.9 billion annually to financial exploitation and face staggering rates of abuse and security issues. Serving one of the nation's largest and poorest senior citizen populations, SeniorLAW has worked tirelessly toward justice for Pennsylvania's elderly.

Who: Founded in 1978 by members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, SeniorLAW Center has been committed to protecting the rights of older Pennsylvanians by providing free legal representation, education, and advocacy regarding elder justice for forty years. Since its start, SeniorLAW Center's staff of attorneys has advocated on behalf of over 400,000 senior citizens with various legal needs including, but not limited to:

- Survivors of elder abuse
- Grandparents who are raising grandchildren who have been abandoned, neglected or abused
- Seniors at risk of homelessness, eviction, and foreclosure
- Older veterans and other individuals over the age of 60 with various legal crises and needs

SeniorLAW Center is set to honor four valued partners at the *Four Decades for Seniors Gala*:

- [AARP](#) – From voting rights and grandparent rights to SeniorLAW Center's newly launched Pro Bono for Community Impact project, AARP has been a stalwart partner and supporter in advocacy work to change funders.
- [The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia](#) –The Barristers' Association helps address the professional needs and development of Black lawyers in the City of Philadelphia and surrounding areas through programs and services. SeniorLAW Center's pro bono partnership with this esteemed group of lawyers has increased services to and visibility of the needs of low-income seniors and their communities. They represent our pro bono volunteers and partners.
- [Peter A. Muhic, Esq.](#) – Peter is a former SeniorLAW Center board member, enduring champion and partner at Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check, LLP, with offices in Radnor, PA and San Francisco, CA, with expertise in prosecuting securities fraud, consumer actions, antitrust cases, and other significant class actions. The Center celebrates the leadership, ambassadorship, and contributions of all of its current and former board members.
- [The Chancellors of the Philadelphia Bar Association](#) – From their role in SeniorLAW Center's founding in 1978 as a small nonprofit located at the Bar Association's offices to current partnerships in pursuing access to justice for all, the Center honors the Association's diverse leaders and others who have supported legal services to the poor and the Center's work in access to justice. Former Chancellor William Fedullo currently chairs the SeniorLAW Center Board.



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SeniorLAW Center has had an historic expansion of services, staff and geographic reach, recently opened two new offices serving Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester counties specializing in services for victims of elder financial exploitation, and expanded services for senior veterans and seniors facing cultural and language obstacles. The Center, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, is leading a federally-funded project that aims to assess and enhance Pennsylvania's senior legal services and launched a partnership with AARP, *Pro Bono for Community Impact in Pennsylvania*, to use the power of pro bono attorneys to change systems that affect the lives of seniors.

When: Saturday, May 19, 2018 | 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Where: The Loews Hotel | 1200 Market Street | Philadelphia, PA 19107

Who Should Attend: Leaders of the legal, business, health care, aging services and community services sectors, and other individuals/ organizations interested in showing their support for elderly justice in PA are invited to attend this event. Those interested in supporting or attending can call 215-701-3209 or visit www.seniorlawcenter.org or [2018 Gala](#).