

The Legal Services of New Jersey

2017 EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS RECEPTION

**Celebrating Those Who
Advance Justice and Fairness
Under Law**

**The Grounds for Sculpture
Hamilton Township, New Jersey**

6:00–9:00 p.m.

June 7, 2017



THE NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES SYSTEM

Legal Services of New Jersey

Edison

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

South Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem Counties

Central Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Mercer, Middlesex, and Union Counties

Essex-Newark Legal Services

Newark

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Offices in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Offices in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties

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GOOD EVENING!

Legal Services of New Jersey is delighted to welcome you tonight. As we devote our 51st year of service to disadvantaged New Jerseyans, Legal Services is pleased to recognize, as we have since 1983, special contributions to advancing justice.

This evening we will first honor extraordinary efforts of many volunteer lawyers from all parts of the state. Their efforts in providing representation to lower-income residents are an important supplement to the daily work of Legal Services staff lawyers.

We then turn to three special named awards, honoring extraordinary contributions that have benefitted the Legal Services statewide system.

Finally, tonight we will announce the creation of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive, and within it the Circle of Honor, into which we induct the first five members as described later in this program. These two new institutions will serve important educational, historical, and commemorative purposes for the people of New Jersey, and we are proud to launch them as a public service.

Yet again, we gather at a time of special challenges to the Legal Services program. The threats exist at both the national and state levels. Beyond these immediate circumstances, our state and nation confront a pervasive denial of equal justice in civil legal matters for those who cannot afford or access attorneys. For over 90% of the civil legal problems that will confront lower-income New Jersey residents this year, no attorney will be available. A fundamental promise of our democracy—equal justice under law—is mere myth for most living in poverty. Even as we celebrate these individuals and their achievements tonight, we all must summon the determination to end, collectively, this continued mass denial of justice.

*Melville D. Miller, Jr.
President and General Counsel
Legal Services of New Jersey
June 7, 2017*

ORDER OF THE EVENING'S EVENTS

Welcome

*The Honorable James H. Coleman, Jr.,
Immediate Past Chair, Legal Services of New Jersey Board*

Presentation of Awards

Melville D. Miller, Jr., President, Legal Services of New Jersey

Presentation of Equal Justice Medals

Presentation of Special Awards

The Lipman–Franks Award

The William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice

The Richard J. Hughes Career Public Service Award

Inductions Into The Circle of Honor of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archives

Closing Thoughts

Melville D. Miller, Jr.

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

EQUAL JUSTICE MEDALS

Attorneys In Private Practice

Donald T. Bonomo
Lawrence A. Brodsky
Donald A. DiGioia
Arthur Guess
Yongmoon Kim
Eric LeBoeuf
Wanda Molina
Melissa Baggit Scott
William Singer
Douglas T. Tabachnik

Corporate Volunteers

Karen Ettelman
John Gough

In-House Volunteers

The Hon. Kathryn A. Brock (retired)
Lynn Gale
Robert D. McLellan
Shefali Saxena

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Lipman-Franks Award—Michael P. Torpey
The William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice—Ellen D. Ferrise
The Richard J. Hughes Career Public Service Award—Rafael V. Aviles

INDUCTIONS INTO THE CIRCLE OF HONOR OF THE NEW JERSEY EQUAL JUSTICE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

Wynona Lipman (posthumously)
Kenneth C. Frazier
Deborah T. Poritz

THE NEW JERSEY EQUAL JUSTICE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

Tonight LSNJ announces the creation of a new resource for state residents, the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive. The purposes of the Library and Archive are threefold:

History—As its collections increase, the NJEJLA will constitute a trove of material on the state’s continuous journey toward achieving greater justice for all people, with a special focus on those who have been the targets of discrimination, who are disadvantaged, or who are otherwise members of vulnerable populations. Researchers, future advocates, and members of the public will all find important data in personal collections, rare materials on major cases, background on key legislative and rulemaking, and more.

Education—As detailed chronologies of particular equal justice efforts are compiled, the NJEJLA will also be a resource for organized teaching in high school and college classes, and as adapted versions become available, in middle schools.

Preservation—As an archive, the NJEJLA will maintain hard copy and digital versions of key materials, in accordance with archiving best practices and as dictated by the nature of particular items. Over time, the NJEJLA thus will maintain both digital and physical collections. Web availability of all digitized materials will greatly enhance accessibility for most New Jersey residents. Physical materials initially will be housed at Legal Services of New Jersey’s Edison offices. In time, it is expected a more permanent physical site will be identified.

THE NEW JERSEY EQUAL JUSTICE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE CIRCLE OF HONOR

Analogous to “halls of fame” for other institutions, the Circle of Honor memorializes those who have made extraordinary achievements in advancing equal justice, and whose efforts and lives stand as enduring paradigms for others to emulate. Detailed biographies, chronologies, and both short (as will be presented tonight) and long form videos will be assembled for each inductee. While the historical, educational, and preservation goals of the Library and Archive will each be served by this feature, these narratives and accompanying collections also will serve a key fourth important purpose as well—inspiration.

This Circle initially will exist entirely on the web, as a virtual resource.

Tonight’s final three honorees will be Circle inductees, joining former Governor Thomas H. Kean and former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice James H. Coleman, Jr., who were the first two inductees by virtue of their special recognitions at LSNJ’s 2014 Awards Reception.

THE EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS

The annual Legal Services of New Jersey Equal Justice Awards are conferred after a statewide nominating process. Not all awards are conferred each year. The descriptions of the awards presented this year follow. All prior Equal Justice Award recipients may be found at www.LSNJ.org/awardrecipients.

The Lipman-Franks Award is named for two esteemed state legislators, Wynona Lipman and Robert Franks, who played especially central roles in developing early financial support for Legal Services and in securing greater and more equal justice for the disadvantaged.

The William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice is reserved for those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the mission and work of the state's Legal Services programs, including prior award recipients who have continued to make significant contributions to the cause of equal justice that compel further recognition.

The Richard J. Hughes Career Public Service Award, named for former New Jersey Governor and Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes, recognizes individuals who—throughout a long period of public service, usually as a public official—have made exceptional contributions toward securing a more just society for disadvantaged people.

Equal Justice Medals were first awarded in 1983. They recognize and celebrate the efforts of individuals and organizations, with a special emphasis on volunteers, that have made outstanding contributions to securing greater justice for disadvantaged people, especially through legal processes and the judicial system.

NOTES ON TONIGHT'S HONOREES

The Circle of Honor Inductees

DEBORAH T. PORITZ

Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz was born Deborah Tobias in Brooklyn, New York, in 1936. Her father was a teacher and her mother was a social worker who was originally from Maine, but had moved to New York to finish college. Ms. Tobias attended James Madison High School and Brooklyn College before earning a Master's Degree in English and American Literature from Columbia University. She married Alan Poritz and the couple had two sons. Poritz taught composition and literature at Ursinus College for three years before deciding to go to law school.

In 1977, at age 40, Poritz received her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and shortly thereafter became a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety. She rose through the ranks to become Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Division of Law and was then named Chief Counsel to New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean in 1989. Poritz spent a short time in private practice until 1994, when she was nominated by Governor Christine Todd Whitman to be Attorney General. In 1996, Whitman nominated Poritz for the position of Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court—the first woman to hold that position.

“The Chief” quickly became a beloved figure to all around her—respected by her fellow justices for her consensus-building approach and exceptional writing skills, and recognized by judges around the state as an administrator with lofty goals and concrete plans to achieve them. Presiding over a court system with more than 10,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$350 million, she made it a point to welcome new judges and court staff and proactively solicit input. She also improved the court system by prioritizing the promotion of women and minorities and expanding the drug court program across the state.

Chief Justice Poritz authored 55 majority opinions, two concurring opinions, five dissenting opinions, and one opinion that was both a concurring as well as a dissenting opinion—many of which were controversial and involved fundamental rights. It has been noted that she often assigned the most controversial decisions to herself so that she would bear the brunt of

whatever political backlash might come. Majority decisions authored by Poritz include *Dale v. Boy Scouts of America*, which dealt with a gay Scout leader being expelled from the Boy Scouts; *State v. Fuller*, which prohibited peremptory challenges to exclude potential jurors based on clothing associated with a religious group; *Toll Brothers v. Township of Windsor*, which affirmed the Mt. Laurel decisions and held that the township had not provided a realistic opportunity in its zoning to provide affordable housing; *J.B. v. M.B.*, which dealt with whether frozen embryos could be used by a husband after the couple's divorce; and *Planned Parenthood v. Farmer*, a case in which New Jersey decided differently than the rest of the country in declaring the Parental Notification for Abortion Act unconstitutional.

Poritz's dissents were equally courageous and, in some ways, more telling of her principles and integrity. One was *Lewis v. Harris* (2006), in which the majority decided to permit "civil unions" in New Jersey, allowing the same benefits to same-sex couples as to heterosexual married couples, without the title of marriage. She agreed, but dissented on the issue of naming the relationship a "civil union" rather than a marriage, arguing:

We must not underestimate the power of language. Labels set people apart as surely as physical separation on a bus or in school facilities. Labels are used to perpetuate prejudice about differences that, in this case, are embedded in the law. By excluding same-sex couples from civil marriage, the State declares that it is legitimate to differentiate between their commitments and the commitments of heterosexual couples. Ultimately, the message is that what same-sex couples have is not as important or as significant as "real" marriage, that such lesser relationships cannot have the name of marriage.

New Jersey was later required to revise its terminology when the United States Supreme Court essentially agreed with Poritz in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), which guaranteed same-sex couples the right to marry.

Another notable dissent came in *Gerety v. Hilton Casino Resort*, in which a woman was fired after exceeding the permissible family and medical leave time of 26 weeks set forth by her employer. Mrs. Gerety's medical need to be out of work for more than 26 weeks was uncontested, due to a high-risk pregnancy in which her doctor ordered bedrest for most of her pregnancy. The New Jersey Court decided there was nothing discriminatory about this firing, since the 26-week limit applied to everyone equally, but Chief Justice

Poritz dissented from her peers stating that the disparate impact of the rule on women violated New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination:

I would hold a facially neutral leave policy that has a disparate impact on women violative of N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(a). That there is a disparate impact is obvious and self-evident. We do not need a statistical study or the marshalling of examples to tell us that only women will use their leave for pregnancy-related conditions and that, therefore, only women will need accommodation because of pregnancy-related conditions in order to even the playing field for men and women.[4] Indeed, this case is illustrative of that need. The facts graphically illustrate the disparate impact of Hilton's facially neutral leave policy: both Mr. and Mrs. Gerety work for Hilton; Mrs. Gerety carried the couple's children and Mr. Gerety kept his job.

Chief Justice Poritz retired from the Court at the mandatory age of 70 in 2006, but she didn't slow down or stop fighting for a more just society. She joined the Princeton office of Drinker Biddle & Reath in 2008; joined Rutgers School of Law in Newark and in Camden as a resident professor in 2011; and was a member of the Judicial Advisory Panel from 2006 until 2010, when the four former Justices on the panel resigned to protest Governor Christie's decision not to re-nominate Supreme Court Justice John Wallace. They cautioned against political influence on the court, stating in a letter to the governor that his views were "inconsistent with an independent judiciary." On that, Poritz says,

We felt that this was a blow to judicial independence—that judges couldn't spend the first seven years of their lives on whatever court they were sitting on, worrying about whether they didn't make the right political decision or didn't please some senator or whatever it was, that they would then be thrown out at the end of seven years. That was the antithesis of judicial independence. ... I worry all the time. I worry about states where judges are elected, I worry about states where there is the potential to do what the governor here did and I think that if we are ever to see a truly independent judiciary, we need to be very aware of those issues and think of ways that we can safeguard judges.

In yet another demonstration of her commitment to equal justice, Chief Justice Poritz joined the Board of Legal Services of New Jersey upon her

retirement from the Court, where she has become an outspoken advocate of public funding for the program. She served as the Board Chair from 2007 to 2017 during a time of significant funding cuts and ensuing programmatic challenges, and volunteered countless hours to provide written and verbal testimony in support of the institution. In short, in the words of friend and colleague Justice Virginia Long, “She has been like the drum majorette for equal justice. That’s because she understands that there is no such thing as justice for just some of the people in society and that a justice system which operates in a way that rich people get different outcomes from poor people is not a justice system at all.”

KENNETH C. FRAZIER

Kenneth Carleton Frazier was born in 1954 in North Philadelphia to Otis and Clara Frazier. Clara passed away in 1967 when Ken was 12 years old. Otis, a janitor and shop steward for UPS, modeled strong advocacy for his son at a young age—acting, in Ken’s words, as “a poor man’s lawyer” on behalf of his coworkers. Otis filed grievances for people when they were suspended and often advocated on their behalf to make sure that they were being treated fairly and honorably on the job.

Frazier graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1975. Inspired by the contribution of lawyers to the civil rights movement, he decided to attend Harvard Law School, where he earned a J.D. in 1978. Shortly thereafter, he joined Drinker Biddle & Reath as a litigation associate. The initial adjustment to a primarily white, upper class environment posed some challenges for this young, black, lawyer from North Philadelphia but, within a short period of time, he rose to become a partner in the firm and one of the most sought-after trial lawyers in the practice.

Frazier credits his parents with teaching him that all people deserve to be treated with respect and compassion—a value that became a factor in his desire to help others through legal advocacy, even if they could not afford to pay. He found support for this desire at Drinker Biddle—a firm known for its strong commitment to pro bono service. “We all go to law school, I think, fundamentally thinking that we’re going to help people,” he says. “I often found that those [pro bono] cases gave me a greater sense of reward as a lawyer.” The CEO of a major global pharmaceutical manufacturer, he also insists that equal access to justice makes good business sense:

[C]orporations require that the rule of law be in place. Everything we do—the contracts that we sign, every legal arrangement that

we have—actually presumes that people believe that there is a good, fair legal system. And so, it's not enough just for corporations themselves to have access to the courts when they have issues, but for everybody to have access to the courts when they have issues of redress. And I think for corporations, that stability of society is important, and part of that stability of society is equal justice and respect for the rule of law.

One of Frazier's most memorable pro bono experiences came when he participated in an American Bar Association program whose mission was to level the playing field between white and black attorneys in apartheid-era South Africa. He spent four consecutive summer sabbaticals in the mid-1980s teaching trial skills to young black lawyers in South Africa who, he came to realize, were not being offered a solid legal education. The program offered an incredible opportunity to live and work in Soweto and to teach with other "all-star" American lawyers like Mike Tigar and the late Judge Higginbotham. One of the lawyers trained by Frazier went on to become chief counsel for President Mbeki years later.

By 1991, Frazier had a reputation at the firm for being very committed to pro bono service, and Esther Lardent of the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Representation Project thought him the obvious choice for the James Willie "Bo" Cochran case. It took some convincing, given Frazier's heavy workload and new baby at home, but Lardent and two junior associates at the firm, Michael Holston and Seamus Duffy, did just that. They convinced Frazier to represent this death row inmate in Alabama, and he did so for the next six years, even after his departure from Drinker Biddle. Initially, the team thought they would explore legal arguments to get Cochran off of death row. They could not have anticipated the change of course that was to come with the realization that Bo Cochran was innocent. He had been twice been found guilty of capital murder, and, in 1991, had already spent 18 years on death row. *Batson v. Kentucky* (1986)—a decision that held that prosecutors could not use peremptory challenges to exclude jurors based on their race—ultimately provided the winning argument and led the United States 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Cochran's conviction in 1995. Evidence of a police cover-up cleared his name at a retrial in 1997. The jury deliberated for just an hour before finding Cochran not guilty.

Speaking of this experience at a gathering of the American Law Institute, Frazier said:

I firmly believe that if one looks objectively at how our criminal justice system dispenses justice to the poor, the disadvantaged, to the poorly represented, and to people of color, one cannot easily discount the unacceptably high risk of wrongful death penalty convictions or the hideous implications of their finality.

Frazier worked on cases for Merck while at Drinker Biddle and, in 1992, was offered a position as vice president, general counsel, and secretary of the Astra Merck Group. From there, he was promoted in 1994, 1997, and 1999. In 2006, he became executive vice president and general counsel of Merck. As general counsel, Frazier greatly expanded Merck's pro bono program, which had been initiated by his predecessor, Mary McDonald, in 1994.

He co-founded a private charter school serving at-risk youth in Philadelphia and served on the Board of Legal Services of New Jersey from 2002 to 2007. Frazier remains committed to the mission of that organization, stating, "It's really important—as we, as a society, try to decide what we're going to do with scarce resources—that we remember how important it is for us to provide the first principle of government, which is legal representation and equal access to the courts."

Throughout a successful career, Frazier has not wavered in his commitment to equal justice or his desire to help those less fortunate. He says, "There's some idealism that we all have, that makes us want to go to law school, and hopefully we don't lose that along the way. And, fortunately for me, there were people in my law firm and in my life who reminded me of the importance of lawyers in terms of the institution of justice."

In the words of former colleague and Cochran co-counsel, Seamus Duffy, "Ken has had the opportunity to serve the ends of equal justice from so many angles ... the fact that he has been able to do it in the court room and in the board room, I think, is just something to admire."

WYNONA LIPMAN

Evelyn Wynona Moore was born in 1923 in Lagrange, GA. At a time when many African Americans in the South subsisted through sharecropping, the Moore family was relatively privileged. Wynona's parents met and married while college students. John Moore owned a pharmacy and worked as a bricklayer, while Annabelle for a time worked as a teacher. Wynona and her three siblings attended public school in Lagrange, and received further

education at home from Annabelle. Their parents prized education, and the children went on to have successful careers; Wynona's two brothers practiced medicine, and her sister became a teacher.

After graduating high school at age 14, Wynona received a bachelor's degree from Talladega College, then a master's from Atlanta University, both in French. She began teaching French at Morehouse College, tutoring for a time a young Martin Luther King, Jr. Wynona received a Rockefeller Grant to study at Columbia University, and then a Fulbright Fellowship to study in France.

After marrying Matthew Lipman and completing her Ph.D. in French and Social Sciences, Lipman returned to teaching, but had trouble finding employment in higher education, particularly in the Northeast.

The Lipmans eventually moved to Montclair, New Jersey, where Wynona worked as a part-time teacher and became involved with the PTA and NAACP. Here began her interest in politics. After the city began dumping dirty snow with garbage on a playground, Lipman and other parents complained to the town's leaders. When nothing was done, they formed a human chain around the playground in protest. Her political activities caught the attention of the local Democratic Party, and she soon became a Democratic committeeperson, then a town chairperson.

Lipman was elected to a seat on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1968, becoming the first African American woman elected to a county freeholder board in New Jersey. In 1971 she was chosen as the board's director. That year she also ran for state senate, narrowly defeating incumbent Republican senator Milton Waldor by a margin of 928 votes. She became New Jersey's first black woman senator, and at the time she began was the only woman and the only African American serving.

According to a press account, "When Lipman arrived in Trenton, there were no ladies' lavatory facilities for her in the Senate chamber. The other senators didn't consider installing a restroom, so while they had a private men's lavatory, Lipman had to leave the chamber and use a public bathroom down the hall. That wasn't convenient, or always simple."

Meanwhile, New Jersey was redrawing district lines to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's "one man, one vote" mandate. Lipman's district was eliminated and she moved from Montclair to Newark to keep her seat. When Lipman arrived in Newark, it was still in economic and political

turmoil. Urban flight and a decline in manufacturing left Newark a poor urban center in the 1960s, surrounded by wealthier suburbs. Lipman proved herself an adept politician who served the interests of her constituents and fought for justice for the disenfranchised. Throughout her career, Lipman's focus was on those who had the least access to the political system. At the time of her death, she was the longest-serving member of the state senate, having served for 27 years.

Lipman requested and was put on the senate appropriations committee in her first term. She would use this position to combine economic and social issues to support minorities, women, children, and families. After the failure of a referendum proposing a state Equal Rights Amendment and an assembly bill to establish a study on sex discrimination in New Jersey, Lipman vowed to reintroduce the legislation and fight for its passage. In July 1978, Governor Brendan Byrne signed a law creating the Commission on Sex Discrimination in Statutes. With Lipman as chair, the Commission uncovered discrimination in New Jersey's laws and helped draft legislation to eliminate the inequalities. She would also go on to sit on the Governor's Council on AIDS, the Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the New Jersey Court Team on Domestic Violence.

Wynona Lipman sponsored the 1981 Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, which enhanced the protection of people suffering domestic violence. In particular, the law listed nine crimes of domestic violence, made it easier to file for restraining orders against abusive spouses, provided training for law enforcement officers in handling domestic violence and gave them greater authority to act to remove a batterer from the home, and improved statistical record keeping for domestic violence complaints. Lipman would go on to sponsor more domestic violence bills throughout her life, including the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1990, which expanded protections to elderly and disabled people. Today, New Jersey has expanded domestic violence legislation to include 19 crimes. The strength of New Jersey's domestic violence laws is a testament to Lipman's hard work and devotion to marginalized groups.

Of special importance to Legal Services, from the early 1980s until the end, Wynona Lipman was by far the strongest and most persevering legislative proponent for additional state funding for free civil legal representation. From the time she began her advocacy in 1982, until her passing, Legal Services' funding increased more than forty-fold. While Legal Services in

New Jersey has had consistent bipartisan support from the overwhelming majority of the legislature, no one cared more deeply than Wynona.

Lipman's legislation shows a concern for prevention and enforcement around issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, inequality, and protecting children. More than 145 laws were passed through her efforts. "If you want to create change, don't just get to know important people, become important people," she said.

Lipman died on May 9, 1999, but her legacy lives on. In 2000, the Senate and General Assembly passed an act establishing the Senator Wynona Lipman chair in Political Leadership at Rutgers' Center for the American Woman and Politics. Today, Wynona's House, a nonprofit founded in her name, addresses child abuse and neglect throughout Essex County.

THE SPECIAL AWARDEES

The Richard J. Hughes Career Public Service Award

RAFAEL V. AVILES

Rafael Aviles was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He attended Jersey City public schools from kindergarten through high school.

Post high school graduation, Rafael graduated from St. Peter's College, a Jesuit College in Jersey City, and Rutgers Law School in Newark.

His first law position was with the Legal Aid Society of Mercer County, from July 1976 to November 1977. In November 1977, he became a staff attorney at the New Jersey State Office of Legal Service in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The State Office of Legal Services provided legal services to many clients who could not receive services from the Legal Aid Society of Mercer County. Most of these matters were family cases involving custody of children.

In 1979, Rafael became Director of the State Office of Legal Services, a position he has held to the present. As head of this office, first located within the Department of Community Affairs and later the Department of Treasury, Rafael became the primary interlocutor and authority on Legal Services within state government—an essential resource. Without doubt,

were it not for Rafael's knowledge, insights, and support, Legal Services—and the clients they represent—would be measurably more disadvantaged than they are today.

The William J. Brennan, Jr. Citation for Justice

ELLEN D. FERRISE

Ellen Ferrise has been the Executive Director of the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey since 1998. In her time at IOLTA, she has overseen the collection of \$350 million dollars to be dedicated to grants for civil legal aid, improvements in the administration of justice, and education of the public about the law and justice-related subjects. She was previously Vice President and commercial lending officer at CoreStates Bank and Barclays Bank of New York, after launching her banking career at Chemical Bank. Her customers included law firms, rock stars, manufacturers, distributors, contractors, and importers.

Ellen came to IOLTA with experience in commercial banking, finance, and management. In addition to working with three very fine large banks before joining IOLTA, Ellen launched a consulting practice after leaving the banking industry, working with several small banks, a state university, and the NJ Department of Labor on various projects related to banking services, loan quality, and strategy.

A graduate of Pomona College in Claremont, California, Ellen grew up in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. Ellen and her husband Joe live in Plainsboro, NJ. Their two children and four grandchildren are frequent visitors.

Ellen has guided IOLTA through some of its most difficult periods, including a threatened constitutional challenge to its authority and loss of well over 80% of its revenue. Through it all, New Jersey typically was ranked first or second nationally in IOLTA revenues, due in large part to Ellen's wisdom, banking experience, calm and steady hand, and ability to engage with many different types of personalities.

The Lipman-Franks Award

MICHAEL P. TORPEY

Michael Torpey began representing clients following a 15-year career in state government that began with an internship in the State Legislature.

His experience in the legislature included serving as Deputy Executive Director of the Assembly Majority. He later joined the administration of Governor Christine Todd Whitman where he eventually was promoted to Chief Counsel, serving as the Governor's top legal advisor.

Following Governor Whitman's reelection in 1997, Mr. Torpey was appointed Chief of Staff, a position he held for the Governor's entire second term.

Mr. Torpey attended American University and received his undergraduate degree from Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. He received his Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University School of Law and was admitted to the practice of law in New Jersey in 1989. Mr. Torpey and his children reside in Hopewell, New Jersey.

Since 2011, as the president and managing partner of A.F.T. Associates, Mike has been the principal outside legislature representative for Legal Services. His strong support for Legal Services' work has been evident in his dogged efforts to increase its funding, most notably the filing fee legislation enacted in August 2014, creating the possibility of an additional \$10.1 million in state funding. He also has assisted in numerous Legal Services substantive legislative initiatives, and generally assisted in facilitating improved communication between Legal Services and state officials, all to the great benefit of the clients serviced by Legal Services statewide.

The Equal Justice Medal Recipients

ATTORNEYS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

Donald T. Bonomo has been an extraordinary *pro bono* resource for Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) and is always willing to help NNJLS bridge the justice gap in any way he can. Mr. Bonomo has been facilitating bankruptcy clinics and handling *pro bono* cases for NNJLS for over six years. In 2016, he handled multiple bankruptcy cases and security deposit cases for Bergen and Passaic County clients. In addition to the direct, full representation he provided to these clients, he also facilitated four

bankruptcy clinics and will be leading a Bankruptcy CLE for *pro bono* attorneys in 2017. After the clinics are completed, Mr. Bonomo always stays to patiently answer questions from participants and provide clients as much guidance as possible. He has also been a tremendous resource in providing feedback and ideas on the NNJLS *pro bono* program.

Lawrence A. Brodsky has been volunteering for South Jersey Legal Services (SJLS) since the early 1990s. He has conducted innumerable consumer advice debt clinics over the years. During these clinics, which typically repeat four or five times each year, with five to 10 clients at each event, Mr. Brodsky provides information on how to respond to a summons and complaint, debt negotiation procedures, bankruptcy, and other debtor rights. After each seminar, he gives each client a private advice consultation, takes the time to answer every person's individual questions, and gives each client advice as to how to proceed, thus providing invaluable information that they might not have otherwise received. He is a true, longstanding partner with SJLS and has been instrumental in helping hundreds in the Atlantic County area over his many years of volunteering. More than the sheer numbers of low-income individuals he has assisted, he is honored for the respect, sensitivity, dignity, and patience he unwaveringly provides clients. He has dedicated hundreds of hours to providing legal services to the low-income population in Atlantic County and has proven his commitment and dedication to the indigent community in New Jersey through his steadfast support of SJLS for nearly three decades.

Donald A. DiGioia, a partner at Weiseman DiGioia in Mountainside, has been certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as both a civil and criminal trial attorney for over 25 years. In addition to his demanding private practice, Mr. DiGioia has regularly handled three expungements each year for Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS) since 2013. While the time spent on each expungement varies depending on the facts and complexities of each case, of the last three he has taken, one was an Early Pathway expungement that was strenuously objected to by the state. Mr. DiGioia filed additional documentation as to the client's character, to which the state also objected. However, after oral argument and testimony before the court, the expungement application was successful and ultimately granted. CJLS can count on Mr. DiGioia to go the distance for each client he represents and always take another case.

Arthur Guess, a sole practitioner, has been a tremendous asset to Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) clients in the much-needed

area of family law. Since January 2016, Mr. Guess has handled 16 cases in the areas of alimony, child support, child custody, divorce, and domestic violence in Hudson, Passaic, and Bergen Counties. Mr. Guess treats every *pro bono* client he assists with extreme care and kindness and, on many occasions, clients have called NNJLS to report how impressed they were with Mr. Guess's assistance and how he went above and beyond to advocate on their behalf. Mr. Guess has helped NNJLS clients obtain final restraining orders, maintain child visitation schedules, maintain custody of minor children, and increase child support. In addition to his law practice and taking *pro bono* cases for NNJLS, Mr. Guess serves as a local high school football coach, mentor, and tutor, and assists with obtaining support services for families in need. He is also an avid runner who will always run for a worthy cause or charity.

Yongmoon Kim, a sole practitioner with an office in Hackensack, has regularly accepted *pro bono* cases since beginning to work with Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) in 2015. Since that time, he has accepted 15 clients for representation in Chapter 7 bankruptcies. Mr. Kim was a presenter at Legal Services' annual conference in November, speaking on a panel about then-recent developments and new opportunities to achieve early dismissal in credit card collection suits. One of the cases discussed by the panel was *Midland Funding LLC v. Thiel*, 446 N.J. Super. 537 (App. Div. 2016), holding that partial credit card payments do not re-start the statute of limitations, and that store credit card accounts are subject to the four-year UCC statute of limitations for the sale of goods under N.J.S.A. 12A:2-725. Mr. Kim was familiar with the opinion as he had filed an amicus brief in the matter representing the Consumers League of New Jersey and the National Association of Consumer Advocates. The case had been brought by LSNWJ (Rich Mastro) and NNJLS (Neil Fogarty).

Eric LeBoeuf practices in a two-person firm (Esposito & LeBoeuf) in Ocean County. Since enrolling as a *pro bono* attorney with LSNJ, Mr. LeBoeuf has accepted 47 *pro bono* cases, principally Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Between June 19 and 23, 2015, he accepted six bankruptcies, all of which were successfully discharged. On two occasions, he has accepted three and four matters in a single day. Mr. LeBoeuf has also represented clients in foreclosures and home repair disputes and provided multiple representation to a single, disabled client in a putative Social Security overpayment claim and her ensuing bankruptcy, both of which were connected to the destruction of her home during Hurricane Sandy. The client was charged with failing to comply with the RREM program application

process and the state demanded she return \$10,000. Mr. LeBoeuf assisted this client with an appeal. More recently, Mr. LeBoeuf settled a foreclosure rescue scam in which the client lost her home in 2006 but had thereafter occupied it for 11 years. The estimated benefit to the client was over \$200,000.

Wanda Molina has thoughtfully contributed her expertise and time to not only represent Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) clients, but also to mentor new attorneys. In calendar year 2016 alone, she provided representation to several clients seeking divorces in Hudson and Bergen County and assisted one client seeking naturalization in Hudson County. Divorces, and family law cases more generally, can be the most challenging *pro bono* cases to place, and Ms. Molina is honored for assuming full responsibility for the multiple matters she has undertaken. She also generously shares her wealth of knowledge with new *pro bono* attorneys in the areas of family and immigration, which exponentially increases the ability to assist additional NNJLS clients.

Melissa Baggitt Scott, a sole practitioner in Skillman, has been volunteering for Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS) since 2013. Over the past four years, she has primarily assisted CJLS with guardianships of adult intellectually disabled children and grandchildren. Ms. Scott has been willing to travel to the CJLS offices in New Brunswick and Trenton to interview clients and accommodate this very vulnerable group. Recently, Ms. Scott also provided extensive legal advice to a 90-year-old client including guardianship and other planning options that are available through the State of New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities. Each guardianship can take nearly 20 hours or more to complete, and the benefit to the families of ensuring permanency planning into the future is immeasurable and long lasting. Ms. Scott has been appointed by the courts to represent alleged incapacitated adults in over 90 guardianship cases in New Jersey.

William Singer is with a small firm specializing in family law in Belle Mead (Somerset County). He has an interest in LGBT issues, is internationally recognized as a pioneering attorney in this area, and has offered to review all name changes and other LGBT issues for Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) clients. For LSNJ, he has handled four name changes for transgender clients, one of which involved a client who was afraid of publishing the name change because of potential violence against him. Pursuit of a name change anonymously on behalf of an LGBT individual became a time-consuming matter. Undaunted, Mr. Singer also was able to get the client's birth

certificate gender changed. Mr. Singer has recently accepted a case involving a transgender prisoner; that matter is pending. He has also assisted Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ), one of whose clients is the parent of a transgender child. Mr. Singer lent his expertise to the LSNWJ attorney and suggested a national organization that specifically dealt with the issues presented in this matter.

Douglas T. Tabachnik, a sole practitioner in Freehold, has tirelessly accepted *pro bono* cases from Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS) since 2001. While his private practice focuses on commercial bankruptcy and commercial litigation, he handles personal Chapter 7 bankruptcies for CJLS. Bankruptcies are a vital service to Legal Services clients. Beyond the assistance of providing relief from medical bills and credit card debt, a discharge in bankruptcy allows clients to retain driver's licenses, essential for transportation to employment in New Jersey, and the clearing of credit records, critical for obtaining housing and utilities. Bankruptcies literally change lives. Mr. Tabachnik has handled three bankruptcies in the last year and many, many more over the 16 years that he has volunteered for CJLS. The clients report that Mr. Tabachnik is warm and down to earth and treats them with dignity and priority, completing the work in a timely fashion, which allows the clients to move forward with their lives and families.

IN-HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Honorable Kathryn A. Brock, Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey (retired), has assisted Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS) as a part-time, in-house volunteer since her retirement from the bench in 2012. Judge Brock interviews clients, conducts research, reviews documents, and drafts post-judgment motions and CIS statements. Current court rules do not permit her to sign pleadings or appear in court on behalf of CJLS clients, but her work on an average of 10 cases per year has been instrumental in numerous family law matters that are statistically the greatest need for Legal Services clients. These matters have included reversing an adoption, obtaining emancipation, and modifying many support obligations. Her patience and skill with clients puts them at ease while she provides them with the assistance and documents they need.

Lynn Gale began her commitment to Legal Services in 1973 as a volunteer for Essex County Legal Services (one of the programs existing prior to the merger of current Essex-Newark Legal Services). Ms. Gale moved on to private practice and then to the State of New Jersey as a child support hearing officer in Bergen and Essex counties, retiring in 2015. Since her

retirement, Ms. Gale has been a committed and dependable in house volunteer with Essex-Newark Legal Services (ENLS), maintaining a regular, two full-day per week schedule. Ms. Gale has provided assistance in the critically needed area of family law with over 300 cases, representing many more hundreds of household members from the Newark office. In calendar year 2016 alone, Ms. Gale assisted with 170 child support and child custody cases for ENLS. Her presence in the office and her dedication and commitment to the ENLS clients is a tremendous contribution to the work of the very busy Newark office.

Robert D. McLellan, “Bob,” has been a continuous in-house volunteer with Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ) since 2004. Bob came to LSNWJ upon his retirement from ExxonMobil and immediately dove into landlord-tenant matters and preventing eviction. Over the past 13 years, Bob has contributed his skills to supplement LSNWJ’s services to low-income and vulnerable seniors in our community. He has been the lead attorney on 525 cases over the years, providing thousands of hours of legal assistance. Sixty-seven families facing eviction benefited from Bob’s time and expertise in 2016 alone. Bob works a regular schedule in the Newton office, handling client consultations on Thursdays and appearing in court nearly every Monday. The court regularly refers tenants to Bob by name as he is the face of tenancy court in Sussex County.

Shefali Saxena started volunteering at the Hunterdon office of Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ) in early 2015 as a law graduate. She was admitted to the California Bar in June 2015 and continues to practice with LSNWJ under the Court Rule, under the supervision of former LSNWJ–Hunterdon Managing Attorney Martha Gonzalez and current Managing Attorney Alisa Grossman. Over the past two years, Shefali has provided 1,700 hours of legal assistance to low-income people in the LSNWJ region. She has assisted 99 clients in this period, having primary responsibility for more than 20 cases. Ms. Saxena assists in many areas, with a concentration on domestic abuse, tenancy, and SSI disability. She speaks five languages in addition to English (Hindi, Urdu, French, Arabic, and Czech) and has been invaluable in assisting clients who speak these languages.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Karen Ettelman and John Gough, Merck Somerset Tenancy Project, Intake Team. In June 2012, Legal Services of Northwest Jersey (LSNWJ) and Merck developed an initiative through which Merck paralegals conduct intake at Somerset tenancy court. As the court has gotten busier and the cadre of volunteer attorneys had increased, LSNWJ was handling more cases than in the past. LSNWJ trained Merck paralegals to handle intake at court. Karen Ettelman began as one of the first intake paralegals in June 2012, and John Gough started soon after. One, or both, has attended almost every court date since then. Court meets biweekly and the intake paralegals generally spend between two and four hours at court on each date. A few years into the program, Karen and John saw that they could do more to help prepare the cases for the attorneys. After receiving substantive training, both began going beyond intake and conducting more in-depth client interviews, reviewing the complaint, gathering facts and documents, and calculating rent paid and rent due. The attorneys, when given the file, have a work-up of the case that facilitates their work. In addition to the intake work at tenancy court, both John and Karen have handled conflict screening for LSNWJ for many years. When asked recently why they contribute in this way, they responded:

John: “I like the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life when they are at a very low point. To assist them when they think no one is willing to help them.”

Karen: “Working with the Somerset Tenancy Project provides a great deal of satisfaction to help those in need. There is no bigger sense of accomplishment than being able to help people stay in their homes. “

John retired from Merck on May 5 after 36 years, but he assures LSNWJ that he will continue to volunteer with the Merck Somerset Tenancy project. Karen recently took on a new position within Merck but it is hoped—and indeed expected—that she will also continue with the project.

CORY A. BOOKER
NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

June 7, 2017

Legal Services of New Jersey
100 Metroplex Drive, Suite 402
Edison, New Jersey 08817

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings as you gather for Legal Services of New Jersey's 2017 Equal Justice Awards Reception. I am delighted to recognize tonight's distinguished honorees, the Honorable Deborah Poritz, Kenneth Frazier, and the late Wynona Lipman, for their long-standing commitment to our communities and to the ideals of equal justice and access to legal assistance.

Over the past half-century, the staff and volunteer attorneys of Legal Services of New Jersey have worked tirelessly to provide free legal aid for New Jerseyans in need of counsel. The much-needed legal assistance that your organization provides each day to individuals across our state is critical to ensuring equal justice under the law. Your contributions to the well-being of the people of our state are truly commendable. Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do, in the service of justice.

Again, congratulations on 50 years of service. Please accept my best wishes for your continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C.A. Booker', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
By Senator WEINBERG, Assemblyman JOHNSON and
Assemblywoman VAINIERI HUTTLE

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to salute and commend the Honorable Deborah T. Poritz, a highly esteemed member of the Garden State community, who will be honored by Legal Services of New Jersey during the 2017 Equal Justice Awards Reception on June 7, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Deborah T. Poritz served with distinction as Attorney General of New Jersey and as Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, earning acclaim as the first woman ever appointed to these vital positions, and the depth of her knowledge and the breadth of her experience have contributed immeasurably to the successful function of these Offices; and,

WHEREAS, An admired graduate of Brooklyn College, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, , Deborah T. Poritz also lent her wisdom and expertise as Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, as a member of the Judicial Advisory Panel, as Director of the Division of Law, and as Chief Counsel to Governor Thomas Kean; and,

WHEREAS, Deborah T. Poritz, who previously made significant contributions and Partner at Jamieson, Moore, Peskin, and Spicer, has enjoyed a superb tenure at the Princeton Office of Drinker, Biddle, and Reath, and she shares her considerable insight as a resident professor at the Rutgers School of Law in Newark and in Camden; and,

WHEREAS, An array of honors and awards bear witness to the many accomplishments of Deborah T. Poritz and attest to the high regard in which she is held by her peers and colleagues, including the Roger Baldwin Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, Deborah T. Poritz has been upheld in her life's efforts by her beloved husband, Alan, and she takes great pride in her two sons; and,

WHEREAS, Within all the spheres of her life and work, Deborah T. Poritz has established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for this Legislature to recognize Deborah T. Poritz, and to salute her as an individual of outstanding character and exceptional determination; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby honors and congratulates Deborah T. Poritz, pays tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to the Honorable Deborah T. Poritz.

THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
By Senator WEINBERG, Assemblyman JOHNSON and
Assemblywoman VAINIERI HUTTLE

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to salute and commend Kenneth C. Frazier, a highly esteemed member of his community, who will be honored by Legal Services of New Jersey during the 2017 Equal Justice Awards Reception on June 7, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Frazier has served with distinction as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Merck and Company Inc., and the depth of his knowledge and the breadth of his experience have contributed immeasurably to the successful functioning of this enterprise; and,

WHEREAS, An admired graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and Harvard Law School, Kenneth C. Frazier previously enjoyed such superb positions at Merck and Company Inc. as President, Vice President of Public Affairs, Assistant General Counsel for Corporate Staff, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, and as Executive Vice President and General Counsel; and,

WHEREAS, In addition, Kenneth C. Frazier, a past Partner with the Philadelphia law firm of Drinker, Biddle, and Reath, has demonstrated an uncommon degree of dedication as a member of the Boards of PhRMA, Weill Cornell Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Science, Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Pennsylvania State University, and Cornerstone Christian Academy in Philadelphia; and,

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Frazier has given generously of his time and energies as a member many noteworthy organizations, including the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, the President's Export Council, the Business Council, the Council of the American Law Institute, and the American Bar Association; and,

WHEREAS, Within all the spheres of his life and work, Kenneth C. Frazier has established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for this Legislature to recognize Kenneth C. Frazier, and to salute him as an individual of outstanding character and exceptional determination; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby honors and congratulates Kenneth C. Frazier, pays tribute to his meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to Kenneth C. Frazier.

THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION
By Senator WEINBERG, Assemblyman JOHNSON and
Assemblywoman VAINIERI HUTTLE

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to salute and commend the memory of the Honorable Wynona Moore Lipman, a highly esteemed member of the Garden State community, who will be posthumously honored by Legal Services of New Jersey during the 2017 Equal Justice Awards Reception on June 7, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, Wynona Moore Lipman served with distinction as a Senator representing New Jersey's 29th Legislative District, and she earned a significant measure of acclaim as the first African-American woman to be elected to the New Jersey Senate and as the longest serving member at the time of her passing with twenty-seven years of exemplary public service; and,

WHEREAS, In addition, Senator Wynona Moore Lipman demonstrated an uncommon degree of public-spiritedness as a Democratic Committeeperson and Town Chair in Montclair, as a member and President of the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS and the Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect; and,

WHEREAS, An admired graduate of Talladega College, Atlanta University, and Columbia University, as well as a Rockefeller Foundation grant recipient and a Fulbright Fellowship recipient that led her to study at the Sorbonne in Paris, Senator Wynona Moore Lipman enjoyed a superb career as an educator, and she shared her considerable insight at such noteworthy schools as the Elisabeth Irwin High School, Montclair High School, Essex County College, and Morehouse College, where she taught French and tutored Martin Luther King Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, An array of honors and awards bore witness to the many accomplishments of Senator Wynona Moore Lipman and attested to the high regard in which she was held, including her induction into New Jersey's *Women's Hall of Fame* in 1998 and the dedication of the Wynona Lipman Child Advocacy Center and Kean University's Wynona Moore Lipman Ethnic Studies Center in her honor; and,

WHEREAS, Senator Wynona Moore Lipman was upheld in her life's efforts by her many extended family members and friends, and she took great pride in her children, Karyne Anne and the late William; and,

WHEREAS, Within all the spheres of her life and work, Senator Wynona Moore Lipman established a model to emulate and set a standard of excellence toward which others might strive; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for this Legislature to praise the memory of Senator Wynona Moore Lipman, and to salute her as an individual of outstanding character and exceptional determination; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby honors the memory of Senator Wynona Moore Lipman, pays tribute to her meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to the family of the Honorable Wynona Moore Lipman.



Legal Services of New Jersey completed 50 years of service to the state in 2016, providing representation in well over 2.4 million cases to over 7 million clients during that 50-year period.

Please plan to join us for our commemorative celebration this December! Details will be announced very soon.