

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30PM–10:30PM

NATIONAL
CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia
VIP 45

ANNIVERSARY
GALA

Opening Doors to Advocacy: Celebrating 45 Years of Pro Bono

6:30 pm: Cocktail Hour

7:30 pm: Dinner & Program

Welcome Remarks

Chanda A. Miller, VIP Board President

Rida Haq, VIP Executive Director

VIP Impact Testimonials

Evette Dones, VIP Client

Marlena Masitto, VIP Client

Lee Zimmerman Memorial Fund

Dedication by Bob Scott

Benefit Auction

VIP Champion Awards

U.S. Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon

The Honorable Daniel J. Anders

8:30 pm: Music & Dancing

Featuring the West Philadelphia Orchestra

10:15 pm: Raffle & Auction Close



Opening Doors to Advocacy: Celebrating 45 Years of Pro Bono

In 1981, a group of service-minded Philadelphia lawyers responded to a federal funding crisis for civil legal aid by founding a pro bono program: VIP.

VIP's mission is to leverage the powerful resources of the legal community to provide quality volunteer legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians.

Forty-five years since its founding, Philadelphia VIP still **opens doors to advocacy** for our clients. We recruit, train, and support over 1,400 legal volunteers annually. Those volunteers in turn represent over 1,600 pro bono clients each year.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our mission. **Welcome to VIP's Anniversary Gala!**

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Joseph Nullmeyer
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Marc Zucker

In Memoriam: Lee Zimmerman



On November 9, 2025, Philadelphia VIP's community lost one of its guiding lights: our former Board President, longtime volunteer, and steadfast advocate, Lee Zimmerman.

Lee was a dedicated volunteer with a special commitment to representing Philadelphia businesses and nonprofits pro bono. He championed VIP within his own workplace, TE Connectivity. Through his mentorship and advocacy, he blazed a trail for corporate counsel to pursue meaningful pro bono activities through Philadelphia VIP.

In memory of Lee and in honor of his years of service to VIP's community economic development initiative, the proceeds from tonight's Gala will support the newly-created **Lee Zimmerman Memorial Fund**, which was inaugurated by Lee's friends and colleagues to aid Philadelphia VIP's program growth.

Support VIP: Silent Auction & Donations

Win big at our silent auction.

Place your bids at [**phillyvip.org/auction**](https://phillyvip.org/auction) until 10:15 pm. Prizes include top-notch Eagles, Sixers, and Flyers tickets; one-of-a-kind artwork; a priceless tour of the U.S. Capitol led by Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon; and more.

To participate, visit [**this link**](#) or speak to a VIP staff member at our auction table.

Try your luck at VIP's raffle.

Virtual raffle tickets (one for \$10; five for \$45) are available at [**phillyvip.org/raffle**](https://phillyvip.org/raffle).

Raffle winners will be announced when the auction closes at 10:15 pm.

Help support VIP's ongoing work of expanding access to justice.

Make a donation to VIP by visiting the donation booth upstairs or at [**phillyvip.org/donate**](https://phillyvip.org/donate). All money raised tonight supports the Lee Zimmerman Memorial Fund.

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Speakers & Special Guests



Chanda A. Miller

President, VIP Board of Directors
Partner, Barnes & Thornburg

Chanda A. Miller is a partner at Barnes and Thornburg LLP. Chanda is a trial attorney who serves as defense counsel for pharmaceutical manufacturers and medical device companies in high-stakes product liability litigation and complex commercial cases.

As a VIP volunteer, she primarily represents clients seeking name changes. Chanda chaired VIP's most recent strategic planning process and serves as Board President for 2025–2026.

Speakers & Special Guests



Rida Haq

Executive Director
Philadelphia VIP

Rida Haq joined VIP in 2015 as a Case Manager and moved into the role of Director of Volunteer Engagement in 2017. Since becoming Interim Executive Director in 2021, Rida is the first person of color and the first non-lawyer to lead Philadelphia VIP. Rida helped spearhead the rollout of Philadelphia's expanded tangled title and estate planning services under the City's Neighborhood Preservation Initiative. In 2022, Rida was recognized as a Women of Distinction honoree by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Speakers & Special Guests

Evette Dones

VIP Client
Preserving Income

Marlena Masitto

VIP Client
Owner, Philly Neat Freaks
Promoting Community Economic Development



Speakers & Special Guests



Bob Scott

Executive VP & General Counsel,
TE Connectivity (Retired)

Bob Scott is a VIP volunteer, a former VIP Board member, and the retired Executive Vice President & General Counsel of TE Connectivity.

As a VIP volunteer lawyer, Bob has dedicated countless hours over the years to a range of pro bono projects, with a special emphasis on homeownership (tangled title) and estate planning cases for low-income homeowners.

Speakers & Special Guests



The Honorable Daniel J. Anders

Administrative Judge, Trial Division
Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable Daniel J. Anders has served Philadelphia as a judge since 2007. Before his appointment and then election to the bench, Judge Anders worked as an attorney at Pepper Hamilton for nine years, where he logged thousands of hours of pro bono legal services for LGBTQ organizations across the city and commonwealth. He is currently the Administrative Judge of the Civil Trial Division. Judge Anders was the first openly gay man to win elected office in Philadelphia.

Speakers & Special Guests



U.S. Representative Mary Gay Scanlon

Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District
Former VIP Volunteer

Before being sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018 following a special election, Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon was a VIP volunteer and pro bono counsel at Ballard Spahr for 15 years. In that role, she oversaw the firm's pro bono program and enlisted hundreds of lawyers in pro bono work serving Philadelphians. As a Representative, she chairs the House Caucuses on Legal Aid, Youth Mentoring, and Foster Youth, among other activities dedicated to serving the most vulnerable among us.

VIP Champion Awards: Meet the Honorees



Sierra Applegate

Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel
Champion Award for
Preserving Income

Sierra Applegate is a dedicated professional with a service-oriented approach to her Trusts & Estates practice. Prior to working at Astor Weiss, Sierra was a Deputy City Solicitor and a Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper.

Sierra joined the VIP community in law school as an intern on VIP's legal team. Since then, she has been a consistent volunteer with a deep commitment to her clients. She has served as a mentor and has led VIP estate planning trainings.

VIP Champion Awards: Meet the Honorees



Jared Bayer

Cozen O'Connor
Champion Award for
Preventing Homelessness

Jared (Jed) Bayer is a member at Cozen O'Connor, where he handles a wide range of commercial litigation matters. He also has an active appellate practice. As a VIP volunteer, Jed specializes in representing low-income tenants pro bono in eviction cases in Municipal Court. He has assisted with two dozen such matters. Thanks to his experience, VIP and Jed's own firm frequently call upon him to mentor other volunteer lawyers who are new to the practice of landlord/tenant law.

VIP Champion Awards: Meet the Honorees



Jacob Brownstein

Blank Rome

Champion Award for Promoting
Community Economic Development

Jacob Brownstein is an associate at Blank Rome, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of business tax and general corporate law. He was born and raised in the Philly suburbs and attended Drexel University's School of Law.

In his pro bono work for Philadelphia VIP, Jacob assists small businesses and nonprofits with a range of corporate issues. He has served over two dozen pro bono clients at our clinics and in lengthier representations.

VIP Champion Awards: Meet the Honorees



Cory Jacobs

Blank Rome

Champion Award for Promoting
Community Economic Development

Cory Jacobs is a partner at Blank Rome, where he advises a broad range of individual and business taxpayers. He is a frequent speaker and teacher on issues of corporate and partnership tax.

As a VIP volunteer, Cory dedicates his pro bono work to small businesses and nonprofits, particularly those in need of tax advice and assistance obtaining 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

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TOGETHER, LET'S ENGINEER THE FUTURE.

TE Connectivity congratulates Philadelphia VIP on its 45th anniversary and celebrates this year's Champion Award recipients and legacy honorees.

We are especially proud to honor the legacy of Lee Zimmerman, former Philadelphia VIP Board President and valued TE colleague, whose leadership and commitment to service continue to inspire us.



te.com

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Philadelphia VIP's Anniversary Gala

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Cozen O'Connor proudly supports Philadelphia VIP. We congratulate Jared Bayer on his Champion Award for Preventing Homelessness, and all of his fellow honorees.

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



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For more information, please contact:

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Greenberg Traurig is honored to join **Philadelphia VIP** at their Anniversary Gala, celebrating 45 years of pro bono advocacy.

Congratulations to the organization, staff, and all the volunteers on this incredible milestone!

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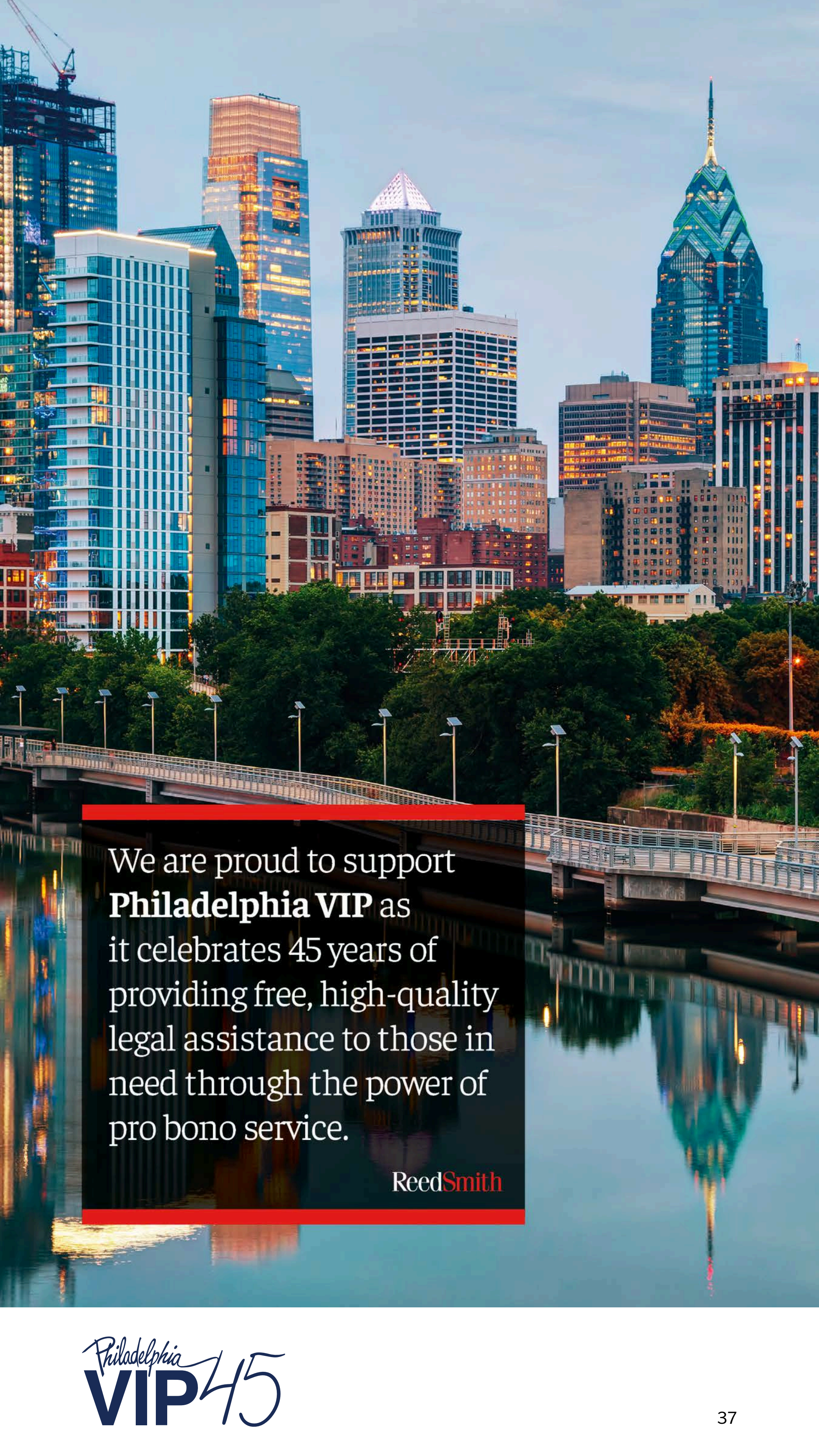


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We are proud to support **Philadelphia VIP** as it celebrates 45 years of providing free, high-quality legal assistance to those in need through the power of pro bono service.

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A faded, light-colored background image of Philadelphia City Hall, showing its iconic clock tower and ornate architecture.

**“We are very proud of
Philadelphia VIP and its
volunteers for the important
impact made providing access to
legal services for Philadelphia
families in need. We are honored
to support this vital mission.”**

– Bob and Didi Scott

We join in celebrating Philadelphia VIP at its 45th Anniversary Gala!

For 45 years, Philadelphia VIP has worked tirelessly to bring pro bono legal services to those in our city who need them most. We share that vision of community care, and that’s why we are proud supporters of Philadelphia VIP.

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McCarter & English is honored to celebrate 45 years of **Philadelphia VIP's** extraordinary commitment to ensuring equal access to justice. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone and the lasting difference Philadelphia VIP continues to make throughout our community.

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~~ Curtis J. Berger, NY Times Op Ed, July 6, 1976

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Congratulations to Philadelphia VIP on 45 years of pro bono legal services to residents, nonprofits and small businesses in this great City! The creativity and dedication of this organization -- bringing together legal professionals and those in need -- has had such a deep and positive impact.

Happy Birthday VIP, and best wishes for many happy returns!

- Michael and Elaine Reilly



Saul Ewing is proud to partner with **PHILADELPHIA VIP** and we applaud the organization on its exemplary 45 years of service to our community.

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Congratulations on another exciting
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– Bennett Picker + Terry Rogal

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VSCP Law proudly congratulates Philadelphia VIP on its 45th anniversary and celebrates its enduring impact in advancing access to justice.

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