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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Society Honors Key Partners at 2026 Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** [held](#) its 2026 Pro Bono Publico Awards Ceremony at The Prince George Ballroom, honoring attorneys, law firms, and pro bono partners for their outstanding contributions to advancing equal justice for New Yorkers.

The annual Pro Bono Publico Awards recognize the critical role of pro bono volunteers and partners in supporting The Legal Aid Society's staff and the people they serve. This year's ceremony celebrated 225 individuals and organizations out of the more than 2,100 volunteers whose work has helped address urgent client needs, expand access to justice, and strengthen Legal Aid's ability to serve New Yorkers over the prior year.

The Honorable Rowan Wilson, Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, delivered remarks at the ceremony.

The 2026 Public Interest Law Leadership Award was presented to Neil Steinkamp of Stout Risius Ross, LLC, for his extraordinary contributions. A pioneer in providing pro bono financial analysis to legal services organizations, Steinkamp has used his financial, economic, strategic, and data-analysis expertise to support underserved communities nationwide. He is a three-time recipient of The Legal Aid Society's Pro Bono Publico Award. Steinkamp's colleagues at Stout were also recognized for their excellent service to the people and communities Legal Aid serves.

Claude Millman and Kostelanetz LLP were given the award for Outstanding Pro Bono Assistance to Ensure Access to Justice. Millman and his colleagues generously donated their time and expertise to guide Legal Aid in its negotiations and disputes involving contracting issues, especially those involving the Human Resources Administration, and in its relations with other legal services providers.

The 2026 awards also recognized partners in several additional categories:

- **Rapidly Responding to Unprecedented Client Needs:** Katherine Buckel, Sayoni Maitra, and Elyssa Williams of The Legal Aid Society presented this recognition to over 80 individuals from numerous law firms, corporate legal departments, and community organizations who have consistently dedicated their time and talent to projects and clinics serving emergent needs.
- **Exceptional Individual Volunteer Assistance:** Eric Snyder of Wilk Auslander LLP, presented by LT Tierney of The Legal Aid Society.

- **Extraordinary Pro Bono Advocacy for Public School Students:** Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, presented by Judith Goldiner on behalf of Susan Horwitz, both of The Legal Aid Society.

“The impact of pro bono volunteers on our ability to zealously advocate for the people and communities that need us is indispensable,” said **Twyla Carter, Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society**. “We are incredibly proud to honor this year’s outstanding individuals and firms and deeply appreciative of the impact their work has on the lives of our clients. Their partnership is essential to advancing justice for the communities we serve.”

“Recognizing today’s honorees reminds us, and demonstrates to others, that justice is strengthened when lawyers give generously of their time and talent,” said **Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson**. “Their work helps to close crucial gaps in access to legal services and supports and strengthens communities across our state. We honor their leadership and their profound public service.”

“The Legal Aid Society has transformed access to justice in NYC and inspired others around the country through comprehensive legal representation, community partnerships, and strategic litigation and law reform advocacy that have brought historic, systemic change. Having the opportunity to support the extraordinary and transformative work of the Legal Aid Society has been a tremendous honor. I am grateful to the entire Legal Aid team for their trust and partnership, and to my colleagues at Stout for their commitment and dedication to supporting Legal Aid and its clients and communities,” said **Neil Steinkamp, Managing Director at Stout**.

“Kostelanetz LLP is proud to represent the Legal Aid Society. While it’s always satisfying to represent individuals pro bono, helping Legal Aid get better funding arrangements from the City of New York is particularly fulfilling because we know that each pro bono hour that we devote to Legal Aid can multiply into many hours of public interest work by Legal Aid’s amazing staff,” said **Claude Millman, a Partner with Kostelanetz LLP**.

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 150 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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