



**MARYLAND
LEGAL AID**

Advancing
**Human Rights and
Justice for All**

For Immediate Release

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Advocates of Civil Legal Aid and Equal Access to Justice to be recognized at the 18th Annual Equal Justice Council Awards Breakfast

BALTIMORE, Md., (May 26, 2015) – On Tuesday, June 2, Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council (EJC) will host its 18th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards. This event honors and recognizes private attorneys and law firms in Maryland who advocate for and provide financial contributions in support of equal access to justice for all. **Roy Austin**, Deputy Assistant to President Obama for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, is this year's guest speaker.

Honorees include EJC Law Firm Campaign co-chair **Paul M. Nussbaum** of Whiteford Taylor & Preston LLP; law firms **Goodell DeVries**, **Saul Ewing LLP**, **DLA Piper**, and **Venable LLP**; and **Andrew Jay Graham** of Kramon & Graham P.A. and **Benjamin Rosenberg** of Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP, who will be stepping down after a combined 18 years of exemplary service as co-chairs of the Equal Justice Council. The recipient of the Executive Director's Award will be announced during the program.

The Equal Justice Council is composed of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community. Since 1997, members of the EJC have raised critically needed funds for Maryland Legal Aid in order to promote equal access to justice, while also serving as dedicated advocates who raise awareness of the organization's important work.

EJC members make an annual contribution of at least \$1,000 (Partner's Level) to Maryland Legal Aid and/or obtain an annual contribution from their respective firm or another entity of at least \$1,000. Additionally, EJC members are charged with increasing *pro bono* involvement among private attorneys and participating in fundraising activities such as educational sessions and contacting foundations and corporations. Maryland Legal Aid's Development Unit works closely with the Equal Justice Council to provide administrative and informational support to increase contributions to the organization.

Under the leadership of Andrew Jay Graham and Benjamin Rosenberg, the Equal Justice Council raised a total of \$3 million toward ensuring that all Marylanders have equal access to civil justice, regardless of their financial circumstances. This amount includes a total of \$410,000 that the Council raised in 2014.

The Equal Justice Council is pleased to announce that Martin Himeles, Jr. of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP and Lee Ogburn of Kramon & Graham P.A. have agreed to lead the EJC as the new Council co-chairs in 2015.

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About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income people statewide. We serve Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. Our firm handles cases involving a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, education, employment, and consumer law.

Maryland Legal Aid also represents children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings in 12 Maryland jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects.

For more information, visit www.mdlab.org or follow Maryland Legal Aid on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).