



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Advocates of Civil Legal Aid and Equal Access to Justice to be Recognized at the
26th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast with Keynote Speaker Maryland
Attorney General Anthony Brown**

BALTIMORE, MD., (April 29, 2025) – On Tuesday, May 13, Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council (EJC) will host its 26th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel. This event will celebrate 26 years of honoring the individuals, law firms and community partners that are helping to ensure that all Marylanders have a fair shot at justice. Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown is this year's keynote speaker.

AWARDS FOR 2025:

Leaders for Justice Award

Former Equal Justice Associates Executive Board members
Darryl Tarver, Aaron DeGraffenreidt, Ernie Dominguez, Megan Davis, Joanna Diamond, Alicia Shelton

Pillar of Justice Award

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP
Shapiro Sher

Pro Bono Partner of the Year

Gupta Wessler LLP

Executive Director's Award

Susan Carol Elgin
The Honorable Shelly L. Hettleman

Exemplar of Equal Justice Award

Richard L. Wasserman

The Equal Justice Council is composed of leading partners 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.

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.

Special Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor

The logo for Saul Ewing LLP features the name "SAUL EWING" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is centered between two horizontal green lines. Below the bottom green line, the letters "LLP" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

LLP

Event Details:	26th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast Details
What:	Maryland Legal Aid's 26 th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast
When:	Tuesday, May 13 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Where:	Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel 202 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

For more information about the Equal Justice Awards breakfast, visit <https://www.mdlab.org/equal-justice-awards-breakfast/> or email Director of Development Graham Cowger at gcowger@mdlaborg.

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About Maryland Legal Aid

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid is a statewide private, nonprofit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable people to address their most fundamental legal problems. From our 12 offices throughout the state, we help our clients preserve and access safe and affordable housing, maintain and regain custody of their

children, and be safe from domestic violence. Maryland Legal Aid increases our clients' economic security by defending against consumer debt, including foreclosures and tax sales, removing barriers to employment, and accessing critical income supports such as unemployment, food stamps and other vital public benefits. Through special projects, we represent elder adults, nursing home residents, migrant farm workers, and children in alleged abuse and neglect cases. In its advocacy, Maryland Legal Aid seeks systemic change through impact litigation, in our advocacy, and by storytelling.

