



MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID

Advancing  
Human Rights and  
Justice for All

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Maryland Law Firms, Community Partners, and Individuals recognized at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast**

**BALTIMORE, Md.**, (June 12, 2019) - On June 4, Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council (EJC) hosted its 22nd Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards Warehouse. MLA and the EJC present the event each year to honor the law firms, community partners, and individuals whose contributions have supported MLA's mission to provide life-changing legal help to low-income Marylanders.

**Jessica A. duHoffmann, Esq.**, a principal in the Baltimore office of Miles & Stockbridge, was this year's recipient of MLA's prestigious *Executive Director's Award*. The award recognizes and celebrates Jessica's extraordinary level of service to MLA and the EJC. She is in the unique position of serving on both MLA's Board of Directors as well as the EJC, of which she is a member of the Executive Committee. Each year, Jessica spearheads a fundraising campaign among her colleagues at Miles & Stockbridge, which raises tens of thousands of dollars for MLA's mission. Since 2008, Jessica's efforts have led to Miles & Stockbridge and its attorneys contributing over \$130,000 in support of MLA.

Jessica's commitment to MLA's mission is demonstrated through her leadership, pro bono service, and generous personal contributions, which have done so much to improve access to justice for low-income Marylanders.

**Robert "Bob" Manekin**, Senior Vice President of JLL, received the *Champion of Justice Award* for his many substantive contributions to MLA, including providing expert real estate guidance to help MLA secure office locations in Prince George's County, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore. As a member of the EJC's Executive Committee, Bob devised a creative way to direct contributions to MLA by donating from JLL a set percentage of every real estate lease transaction he performs on behalf of law firms in Baltimore.

Recipients of the *Community Partner for Justice Awards* included **Chrysalis House, Inc.**, **EMPLOY Prince George's**, **Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP**, and **Men & Families Center, Inc.** for partnering with MLA in various ways to support MLA's mission.

## About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to people who are in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. The 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 14 jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, people with developmental and mental health disabilities, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects. Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative, which includes its *Lawyer in the Library* program, assists with expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody through clinics held in community centers, non-profit organizations, places of worship, schools, and other gathering places.

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