

CELEBRATING  
60 YEARS

22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL  
**AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County





# PROGRAM

## WELCOME

**Ara R. Jabaghourian**

President, Legal Aid Board of Directors  
*Law Offices of Ara Jabaghourian*

**Karen N. Ballack**

Co-Chair Awards Luncheon Committee  
*Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP*

**Hon. Kirsten Keith**

*Attorney at Law*

## RECOGNITION OF JUDGES

**Hon. Jonathan Karesh**

*Presiding Judge, San Mateo County Superior Court*

## CLIENT VIDEO PRESENTATION

## BREAK

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Introduction by M. Stacey Hawver, Executive Director

**Willie Hernandez**

VP and Deputy General Counsel  
*Hewlett Packard Enterprise*

## PRESENTATION OF 2019 ANNUAL AWARDS

The George R. Corey – Linda M. Gemello Award  
M. Stacey Hawver, Legal Aid Executive Director

The Guardian of Justice Award  
M. Stacey Hawver, Legal Aid Executive Director

The Natalie M. Lanam Award  
Shirley Gibson and Hope Nakamura,  
Legal Aid Directing Attorneys

The Dorothy M. Wolfe Award  
Janet Seldon, Legal Aid Director of Pro Bono

## CLOSING REMARKS

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## **Willie Hernandez**

Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
VP and Deputy General Counsel

Willie is a senior executive lawyer with experience advising technology companies globally. Willie currently serves HPE as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel and head of legal for Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company. In this role, Willie advises the President and the executive staff on all legal and regulatory matters. Previously, Willie served in executive roles at Amazon Lab126 and IBM after starting his practice as a litigator with Jackson Walker, LLP.

Willie has supported these global technology companies across all legal functions and he has significant international experience. Between 2008 and 2011, he served in Shanghai, China as IBM's lead counsel for its services division across Asia-Pacific and the growth markets. At HPE, Willie is the Chair of the Legal Department's Inclusion and Diversity Committee and is an active member in the community on initiatives aimed at bridging the education divide among communities.

Willie is Board Chair of the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL) and Board Member of Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School. Willie also serves HNBA as the Regional President for Northern California and Hawaii. Willie graduated with a B.S. from UC Berkeley, and a J.D. from UCLA School of Law. Willie is admitted to the California and Texas bars.



# TREVOR YAN

## George R. Corey – Linda M. Gemello Award

The George R. Corey–Linda M. Gemello Award is presented in recognition of an attorney who exemplifies a commitment to work every day to obtain justice for all.



*Trevor demonstrates a deep intellectual curiosity about all aspects of his work. Like most great Legal Aid lawyers, he is a boundary-pusher, always willing to question our assumptions, creatively interpret ambiguous statutes, and tackle any tricky legal argument.*

- Shirley Gibson  
Legal Aid Directing Attorney

The George R. Corey – Linda M. Gemello Award was endowed by Joe Cotchett and Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP in honor of George Corey and Linda Gemello, leaders of the San Mateo County legal community who are deeply committed to Legal Aid's mission. This year's award is presented to Trevor Yan, an attorney whose dedication to equity and social justice makes him an admirable colleague and an essential part of our housing team.

Trevor grew up in San Francisco, where he attended Lowell High School and City College. Growing up in the City cultivated in him a sense of inclusivity and openness toward new ideas. When he went on to study communications and English literature at UCLA, Trevor sought out opportunities for public service through programs like the "Quarter in Washington." In DC, he gained experience in the halls of government by interning for then Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's Communications Office. Following his graduation from UCLA, Trevor continued on the path toward a career in public service by campaigning and working for former Governor Jerry Brown in Oakland and Sacramento.

In 2011, Trevor went east to DC again after receiving a scholarship to study law at Georgetown. Through his coursework and volunteering, Trevor identified strongly with the school's motto that, "Law is but the means—Justice is the end." His three years there included doing rights education for people experiencing homelessness, litigation for equal inheritance rights for Kenyan women and girls, and an academic focus on international human rights.

Trevor's heart for public service and personal stake in addressing the region's housing crisis led him to begin work in October 2016 as a Staff Attorney at Legal Aid. Over the past two years he has litigated eviction cases for tenants with disabilities in subsidized housing, advocated for state and local tenant protections, and even helped a client's misunderstood dog, pass an obedience test to keep their housing.

We are honored to present Trevor with this year's George R. Corey – Linda M. Gemello award.

# HAYNES AND BOONE

## Guardian of Justice Award

The Guardian of Justice Award is given each year in recognition of volunteers whose efforts are steeped in a commitment to justice for all the children, families and seniors in our community.

“Pro bono allows you to step back and to take a different perspective. Pro bono helps you to stay grounded and to reconnect with humility.

- Jennifer Lantz,  
Haynes and Boone Partner



Serving a common good is deeply embedded in the Haynes and Boone firmwide values. “We believe that a meaningful professional career is much more than just handling major business transactions or trying complex lawsuits. Our lawyers actively use the law for helping those people and organizations who need it most but are least able to pay. We are committed to supporting such opportunities for pro bono service and believe this kind of leadership is the right thing to do.”

The lawyers at Haynes and Boone’s Palo Alto office have been turning the firm’s values into reality through the pro bono program at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County since 2010. Attorneys from Haynes and Boone work on conservatorship, guardianship, housing and domestic violence cases, logging thousands of pro bono hours over time. “It’s a privilege to use our unique training and experiences to profoundly impact the lives of real human beings,” says partner Brian Kwok.

Partners and Associates regularly attend Legal Aid’s weekly housing clinics, helping tenants trying to maintain their affordable housing in a community where rents are exceedingly high. “I invite everyone to join me and volunteer at a housing clinic,” says partner Henry Welch, “because it allows them to develop many different lawyering skills that are not part of our everyday practice, while making a meaningful impact.”

Jennifer Lantz, partner and pro bono volunteer herself, notes that doing pro bono is also open to the firm’s entire staff. “We encourage everyone to participate and have been pleased with the enthusiastic bilingual language support of our staff, because it’s what our clients in the community need,” Jennifer notes. “Pro bono allows you to step back and to take a different perspective. Pro bono helps you to stay grounded and to reconnect with humility.”

Legal Aid is honored to present this award to Haynes and Boone for their meaningful commitment to pro bono.

# TERI CHIN

## Natalie M. Lanam Award

**The Natalie M. Lanam Award is in memory of a community leader whose passion for justice for all compelled her to become an important advocate for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County.**



*I value the partnership between the Fair Oaks Community Center and the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County which brings vital legal services and information that supports individuals and families in our community as they struggle to survive and thrive.*

- Teri Chin

The Fair Oaks Community Center (FOCC) is a hub of human services for low-income people living in Redwood City and North Fair Oaks. FOCC offers an onsite subsidized child care, an older adult activity center, intervention, food programs, shelter referrals, housing assistance, deposit and rental assistance, homeless services, immigration and citizenship assistance, and legal services.

Teri Chin, Redwood City's Human Services Manager, has been overseeing FOCC for the past 19 years, driven by her passion to find what people need to stabilize their lives and bring solutions to the community through FOCC.

Legal Aid has a weekly housing clinic at FOCC, which continues to be held every Friday from 9:00am-noon. "The housing clinic is always crowded," Teri says. "Because Legal Aid is onsite, people can raise concerns about health conditions in their living space, learn about their rights and get help with negotiations. Without the housing clinic at FOCC, more people would become homeless."

Beyond the Housing Clinic, FOCC has partnered with Legal Aid to support tenants in the aftermath of fire and flooding emergency disasters and mobile home owners at risk of losing their housing.

In 2012, in response to especially low utilization rates for CalFresh (Food Stamps) – especially amongst eligible immigrant households, Teri, along with Legal Aid, the Grove Foundation, and other community partners, founded LIBRE: Linking Immigrants to Benefits Resources & Education. A LIBRE Public Benefits Assistor is on-site at FOCC to educate immigrants about public benefits and to assist with the application process. Now more than ever during these uncertain times, immigrant families need accurate information regarding how accessing public benefits affects their eligibility for immigration options.

Legal Aid is honored to present this award to Teri for her unwavering support of her community.

# MIRISSA MCMURRAY

## Dorothy M. Wolfe Award

**This award is in memory of one of the first women attorneys in San Mateo County, noted for her deep belief in equal access to justice. Dorothy Wolfe was an ardent supporter of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County throughout her career.**

*"No one should be an island when they have a legal obstacle to overcome. Having an attorney allows you to be heard and to make your own decisions, and then to have your message delivered by the attorney to the court."*

**- Mirissa McMurray**



Equal access to justice is one of Mirissa's deeply held values. She unequivocally believes that unless everyone can access legal assistance, it's not really a system of justice at all. "No one should be an island when they have a legal obstacle to overcome," says the family law attorney who has been working closely with Legal Aid since 2007. "Having an attorney allows you to be heard and to make your own decisions, and then to have your message delivered by the attorney to the court."

As a former staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Aid, Mirissa was a founding member of the Domestic Violence Collaborative, created jointly with Legal Aid, Bay Area Legal Aid and CORA. The Collaborative's vision was to recruit, train and provide support to private attorneys who agreed to represent low-income domestic violence survivors at their permanent restraining order hearings before the San Mateo County Superior Court.

The Domestic Violence Collaborative continues to exist today, and when Mirissa went into family law private practice in 2009, she continued volunteering with Legal Aid as a pro bono attorney and as a mentor to other pro bono volunteers who might need help with more complex issues in a case. "Doing pro bono work is an integral part of our function as members of the Bar. Mentoring volunteers who may have no experience with family law is great. I come from a family of educators," says Mirissa. "Helping pro bono volunteers allows me to take what I've learned and to share it with other lawyers."

Legal Aid is honored to present this award to Mirissa for her deep commitment to justice for all.



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF JUSTICE FOR ALL

Legal Aid fights for students' civil rights and defends a student who was denied admission to the College of San Mateo because he was a leader in campus protests

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County is founded by attorneys and community leaders to provide free civil legal services to low-income San Mateo County residents

Legal Aid successfully sues to end racial discrimination in day care facilities on behalf of a Redwood City resident whose three black children were not allowed in their local day care center and placed instead in the home of a black family

1959

1960's

1970's

1980's

Alaska & Hawaii are admitted to the Union becoming the 49<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> states • NASA announces its selection of seven military pilots to become the first U.S. Astronauts • The Xerox 914, the first plain paper copier, is introduced to the public

The Environmental Protection Agency is created and the Occupational Safety and Health Act is signed into law • Apollo 13 is launched toward the moon however, an oxygen tank in the spacecraft explodes, forcing the crew to abort the mission and on April 17 Apollo 13 splashes down safely in the Pacific

Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court • The Soviet Union ratifies a treaty with the U.S. and the U.K. banning nuclear weapons from outer space • Loving v. Virginia: The U.S. Supreme Court declares all U.S. state laws prohibiting interracial marriage to be unconstitutional



Legal Aid successfully reaches an agreement with the City of San Mateo on behalf of the low income and elderly households forced to move because of construction in the downtown redevelopment area • In response to a decline in federal funding, a Legal Aid pro bono program is inaugurated

Legal Aid offers weekly housing rights clinics at the Fair Oaks Community Center, Daly City Community Service Center, and San Mateo County Superior Court • The **Peninsula Family Advocacy Program** medical-legal partnership is founded with Lucile Packard Children's Hospital • To educate low-income families about access to public benefits and provide immigrants with accurate information about their immigration options, Legal Aid and other community partners launch **LIBRE**

Legal Aid kicks off three new programs to meet the growing demand for accessible legal services in the community - the **Teen Parents Project** focusing on the legal problems of teens and pre-teens, the **Clients' Rights Advocate** focusing on the legal issues of persons with disabilities and the **Health Consumer Center** helping older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income families improve their access to health care and health insurance coverage

Providing free legal services to more than 100,000 clients since its founding, so that everyone can have a voice in our system of justice, regardless of their means, Legal Aid celebrates 60 years; and with you by our side, looks forward to enduring equal access to justice for many more

80's

1990's

2000's

2019

Nelson Mandela is inaugurated as South Africa's first black president • Google, Inc is founded in Menlo Park • Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that federal laws banning on-the-job sexual harassment also apply when both parties are the same sex

President Donald Trump enters his second year of office • At the end of 2018, the median rent in San Mateo County was \$3,490 for a one-bedroom and \$4,390 for a two-bedroom

The first Macintosh personal computers are sold by Apple Computer • U.S. researchers announce their discovery of the AIDS virus • Cesar Chavez delivers his speech, "What the future holds for farm workers and hispanics" at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco

The first resident crew enters the International Space Station • History is made when Colorado opens the first shops in the U.S. licensed to sell recreational cannabis • Barak Obama becomes the first African American elected President

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*With gratitude* we acknowledge the 2019 leaders of our community who improve thousands of lives through justice.

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DE GHETALDI & RIDDLE LLP**  
*Attorneys at Law*

Corey, Luzaich, de Ghetaldi & Riddle LLP is a small town firm with a national reputation. With offices on the historic El Camino Real, in Millbrae, California, and in the coasts community of Half Moon Bay, our team of highly skilled and remarkably personable lawyers represents a broad array of clients, ranging from local families to the stockholders of major corporations.



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For more than 60 years, Baker McKenzie's people have helped nurture a unique global organization. From starting off with four lawyers, a secretary and fees totaling USD 75,000 in 1949, to becoming one of the largest law firms by revenues, markets and headcount today, Baker McKenzie's commitment to excellence underpins their path to success.



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**FOERSTER**  
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One of the oldest law firm-affiliated charitable foundations in the United States, the Foundation is funded chiefly by Morrison & Foerster partners, with additional support from the firm's professional staff and other individuals. Over the years the Morrison & Foerster Foundation has contributed \$52 million to organizations that share our vision of a better today and tomorrow.



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Founded in 1931, Weil has been a preeminent provider of legal services for more than 80 years. Widely recognized by those covering the legal profession as best in class, Weil's lawyers regularly advise clients globally on their most complex Litigation, Corporate, Restructuring, and Tax and Benefits matters.

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The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual *And Justice for All* Awards Luncheon Committee expresses its gratitude for the special consideration provided by the following: Copenhagen Balloons and Promotions, Jordan Katz, Jordan Katz Media and Florian Reidel, General Manager of the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley at East Palo Alto.



# YOUR DONATION AT WORK



**ARIANA** waits tables and is enrolled in a real estate program in her local college. Ariana is also a DACA recipient, who was brought to the United States when she was just 14 years old. DACA has allowed Ariana the opportunity to work, go to school, and plan for the future. When it was time to renew her DACA, Ariana came to Legal Aid. At Legal Aid Ariana received the help she needed to complete her application, and even got help

paying the \$495 application fee. Recently Ariana learned that her DACA renewal application was approved. She's on track to graduate and looks forward to starting her professional career. Your gift is connecting Ariana to the future she's working so hard for. ***You're keeping Ariana's dreams alive.***

**NADIA** mentioned to her daughter's doctor that she was concerned about Alexa's schooling. Alexa was still reading at a first-grade level even though she was halfway through third grade. The doctor referred Nadia to Legal Aid. The attorney met with Nadia and reviewed Alexa's IEP. After Legal Aid got involved, the school agreed to provide Alexa with a reading intervention specifically designed for students with reading disabilities. The school also agreed to provide Alexa with a tutor over the summer. Your gift to Legal Aid gave Alexa and her family what they needed: an attorney who listened to their concerns, explained the process, and advocated for Alexa. ***You helped Alexa learn to read.***



**VERA**, a senior, lived with her adult son, but it wasn't the kind of living situation she'd anticipated. Vera lived in fear that her son would hurt her. After being physically attacked by her son, Vera knew she had to do something. Her social worker called Legal Aid. At Legal Aid, Vera learned about her legal rights and got the answers she needed to make a tough decision. Vera got a restraining order against her violent son that required him to immediately move out of Vera's home. When Vera was most vulnerable, your gift to Legal Aid gave

her exactly what she needed: a lawyer to help her navigate the complicated and emotionally draining process of getting a restraining order against her own son. ***Your gift kept Vera safe.***

# LET'S CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF JUSTICE FOR ALL & MEET OUR \$10,000 BOARD CHALLENGE.

Your donation today will be matched 1:1 by the Legal Aid Board. Use the remit envelope in your Program or visit [bit.ly/2019LegalAidLunch](http://bit.ly/2019LegalAidLunch) to make a difference TODAY!

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \$125 & + & \$125 & = & \$250 \\ \text{YOU} & & \text{LASSMC BOARD} & & \text{YOU DOUBLE} \\ \text{DONATE} & & \text{MATCHES} & & \text{YOUR IMPACT} \end{array}$$

**\$125**

Advises  
seniors  
about fraud  
& scams

**\$250**

Educates  
immigrants  
about their  
legal rights

**\$500**

Teaches  
parents to  
advocate  
for their  
children  
with disabilities

**\$1000**

Helps families  
avoid homelessness

**\$2500**

Provides domestic  
violence survivors with  
representation  
in court

Together we're fighting social injustice through civil legal advocacy. Thank you for your donation.

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual And Justice for All Awards Lunch Committee

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The mission of the **Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County** is to fight social injustice through civil legal advocacy for people living in poverty.

Our vision is for every person to have the basic necessities of life, including safe affordable housing, access to health care, economic security, secure immigration status, an appropriate education and freedom from violence and abuse.

We strive to empower people to overcome the causes and effects of poverty so they can participate in their community with dignity and respect. We seek to remove barriers related to poverty, disability, race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation and immigration status through community education, legal representation, systemic advocacy and collaboration with community partners.

