ACBA to Honor State Rep. Dan Frankel, Attorney Lisa Herbert at Annual Ally Award Reception May 25

Award recognizes individuals who support diversity and inclusion efforts within groups where they are not obvious members or beneficiaries


Advocates work zealously to support groups and organizations from their own neighborhoods, places of worship or homogenous backgrounds. The ACBA Ally Award, however, is given to those individuals who are willing to step outside of their own comfort zones and support diversity and inclusion within groups and organizations where they are not obvious members or beneficiaries. Examples include heterosexuals supporting LGBT rights issues, whites who marched in the civil rights movement and faith-based organizations that raise funds for underprivileged people not of the same faith. This year's honorees certainly fit that description:

State Rep. Dan Frankel

During his more than 20 years as a legislator serving Pennsylvania, State Rep. Dan Frankel has been an outspoken advocate for civil rights and public health. He’s championed legislation to bring equality to Pennsylvania for LGBT residents, opposed efforts to limit women’s healthcare options and worked to improve the community’s overall well-being through legislation supporting strong public health measures and expanding access to health care and human services. He co-chairs the Women’s Health Caucus and the LGBT Equality Caucus. Additionally, he is a member of the Mental Health Caucus, the SAFE Caucus (which promotes responsible gun ownership and common sense gun regulation) and the Climate Change Caucus. His legislative priorities include ensuring that women, the LGBT community, immigrants, those affected by mental illness and/or drug addiction and other traditionally disenfranchised communities can avail themselves of the civil liberties guaranteed by the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions. Prior to being elected to the Pa. State Legislature, Frankel served as chairman of the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition, and he continues to advocate for the Jewish Community today, helping to ensure that anti-Semitic policies are brought to light and eliminated.

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Lisa Herbert

An attorney and Deputy Court Administrator for the Fifth Judicial District, Herbert is responsible for managing the court’s language access program for individuals who do not speak English, among many other tasks. Because of her sensitivity to the needs of this community, Herbert initiated this effort on behalf of the courts long before they were required to provide such services. She devotes many hours – beyond her regular workday – to educating judges, staff and interpreters on their legal responsibilities, so that limited English speakers in Pittsburgh are able to understand court proceedings in which they are a party. In particular, Lisa is devoted to the needs of Pittsburgh’s growing refugee communities, whose language difficulties often prevent them from legally challenging severely substandard housing conditions or other matters that are critically important to their well-being. She was nominated for the Ally Award for her dedication to the needs of those who are least able to speak for themselves, and for service far beyond her duties.

Event Details

The Ally Award Reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rivers Club in One Oxford Centre, 301 Grant St., in downtown Pittsburgh. The event is open to ACBA members as well as the general public; admission is free but pre-registration is required, as space is limited. To register or for details, visit www.ACBA.org.

The event is presented by the ACBA Diversity Collaborative Committee and sponsors Littler Mendelson P.C. and Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP. Ally Award recipients are nominated by the ACBA membership at large and voted on by the ACBA Diversity Collaborative Committee.

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About the ACBA

Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals.