Squirrel Hill Resident Barbara Griffin Receives 2017 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award

Griffin Works as Director of ACBF Pro Bono Center

PITTSBURGH – Members of the Pittsburgh-area legal community are keenly aware of the contributions Barbara Griffin makes to help those with low incomes receive legal representation. Now, Griffin – the director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation Pro Bono Center – is receiving recognition throughout the state for her efforts.

Griffin was honored with a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) Excellence Award last week. PLAN Excellence Awards are presented each year “to individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have established excellence and diligence improving the availability and quality of civil legal services for low income people and victims of domestic violence in Pennsylvania.”

“I am humbled and honored to receive this award, however, attorneys who donate their time and expertise to help those in need do not do it for the recognition,” said Griffin. “There are so many people in Pennsylvania and across the country who can’t afford legal representation. It is the responsibility of all of us who work as lawyers to ensure everyone has equal access to justice.”

Under Griffin’s direction, the ACBF Pro Bono Center connects members of the Allegheny County Bar Association to some 34 projects and member organizations that provide direct legal services to low-income individuals. The center’s mission is to provide well-trained attorney volunteers to help meet the legal needs of the indigent in Allegheny County.

“One of the most important duties of any attorney is to provide pro bono legal services to those in need. No one is more passionate about this cause than Barbara Griffin,” said ACBF President Rick Wiedman. “Through countless hours of hard work, not only does Barbara directly provide legal guidance to those in need, she also works to connect hundreds of other attorneys with pro bono opportunities here in the Pittsburgh area. It would be difficult to envision a more deserving recipient of this award.”

For more information on the ACBF Pro Bono Center, visit www.PittsburghProBono.org. For more information on the PLAN Excellence Awards, visit www.PALegalAid.net.

-more-
About Barbara Griffin

Attorney Barbara Griffin joined the ACBF in 2007 as Pro Bono Center coordinator and became director in 2013. In this role, she develops, manages and monitors programs that provide free legal services to low-income residents of Allegheny County using staff and volunteer attorneys. She is responsible for developing educational programs and materials for volunteer attorneys, law students, paralegals and the general public. She also recruits and recognizes volunteers and promotes pro bono initiatives to the bar and members of the community.

A native of Washington, Pa., Griffin is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law; she holds a bachelor’s degree in foreign science from Georgetown University. She and her husband, Jeff Mukogosi, live in Squirrel Hill with their children Joan, Josphat and Kira.

###

About the ACBF

Incorporated in 1980, the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the heart of Pittsburgh’s legal community. The Foundation operates a variety of charitable, educational, pro bono, and public service activities.

About PLAN

The mission of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network is to ensure equal access to justice so that Pennsylvanians can have legal representation when facing important civil legal concerns affecting their safety, health, shelter and survival.