

The logo for Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (PVLA) is displayed in a black rectangular box. The text is arranged in four lines: "PHILADELPHIA" in orange, "VOLUNTEER" in orange, "LAWYERS FOR" in pink, and "THE ARTS" in orange. All text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

**PHILADELPHIA
VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS FOR
THE ARTS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PVLA Benefit Celebration
Front & Center: Empowering Artists
June 1 at the Cherry Street Pier

(Philadelphia, PA)—[Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts](#) (PVLA) is pleased to announce their first in person fundraising event since the onset of the pandemic, ***Front & Center: Empowering Artists***, on Wednesday, June 1 from 6-9pm at the Cherry Street Pier. Featuring live performances by local artists, visual art, and awards for both Volunteer Attorneys and Law Firms of the Year, this celebratory benefit will highlight the organization's commitment to Philadelphia's arts & cultural community, while also celebrating the dedication of PVLA's volunteer lawyers and law firms.

PVLA's commitment to empowering Philadelphia's low income artists and small budget arts organizations is made possible by the devoted work done by volunteer lawyers and law firms that serve this community through consultation, full service representation, and speaking engagements. Since the start of the Covid pandemic, PVLA lawyers have volunteered on more than 145 matters, delivering over one million dollars in free services to clients in the creative sector. Within the last two years, PVLA has recruited over 100 active volunteers from over 70 law firms and corporations throughout the greater Philadelphia region with an average of 30 volunteer attorneys added each year.

This year, PVLA will honor **Volunteer Attorneys of the Year** [Alexander Brown](#) (Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP) and [Charles Hsu](#) (Dechert LLP). These two lawyers worked diligently on behalf of their clients, with positive results. With a background in entertainment, Brown was the perfect fit for his client, an actor wishing to resolve a dispute with a talent agency; "His time, effort and energy successfully helped me get back what was owed to me." Hsu logged in an astounding 450 plus hours, (which was in addition to the 200 hours already donated by the previous Dechert attorney on the case), securing a patent for a [wearable stress monitor](#). He continues to work on an additional patent for another version of the monitor.

The first of two **Law Firms of the Year** awards will go to [Blank Rome LLP](#) for the pro bono work done by six of their attorneys: Brady Craig, Jillian Taylor, Kipp Cohen, Matt Homyk, Riley Bauer, and Jeff Moller. In a variety of issues ranging from copyright, trademark, review of an employee handbook, to the

dissolution of a business, these six Blank Rome attorneys were acknowledged by their clients for their patience, resoluteness, knowledge, reliability, consistency and tenacity; “[My PVLA lawyer] was incredibly knowledgeable and informative and even supportive of my work. I felt like he was able to not only provide all of the answers that I need, but to do so in a way that acknowledged and aligned with my creative vision and values. I was blown away, and so grateful for everything he offered.”

The second award will go to the solo law practice of [Cheri D. Andrews, Esq.](#) which, since the onset of the pandemic, has provided free legal services to multiple individual artists on a range of matters affecting their creative livelihoods. Ms. Andrews has been one of PVLA’s most active pandemic-era volunteers, pro-actively seeking opportunities to be of service.

Front & Center: Empowering Artists will feature live performances that include aerialist and choreographer, Karen A. Furman ([Grounded Aerial](#)), dancers William Ernest Burden and Robert Burden Jr. of [Tap Team Two & Company](#), “Dream Poet for Hire” [Marshall James Kavanaugh](#), and viral sensation [Positive Movement Entertainment Drumline](#). The visual art of [Dennis Will](#), former long time faculty member and professor in the Art & Art History Department at Drexel University, will also be displayed.

WHERE: Cherry Street Pier, 121 N Columbus Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19106

WHEN: Wednesday, June 1, 6-9pm

TICKETS: \$35 (individual artist), \$60 (general admission), \$100 (general admission x 2)
Purchase tickets: <https://bit.ly/37DDBW1>

About Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts:

PVLA is a non-profit legal services organization through which lawyers assist artists and cultural organizations throughout the Greater Philadelphia area via legal representation, publications, advocacy, education, and counseling pro bono. [In 2019](#), PVLA began to resume operations as an independent nonprofit organization after 10 years as a program of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce’s Arts and Business Council. In recent years, PVLA has provided, on average per year, roughly 3,600 hours pro bono legal services valued at approximately \$1.4 million to more than 265 artists, arts groups and inventors. PVLA’s services to the legal and arts communities have also included continuing legal education for lawyers, free educational programming for artists regarding their legal rights, a speakers bureau offering speakers at no cost to arts organizations and schools, and other resources. For more information or to learn how to get involved, please visit www.pvla.org.

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