



PCBA Annual Awards Luncheon 2017

By Cathleen Henniges & Charles Smith

This year's PCBA Annual Awards Luncheon was well-attended in an inspiring show of support for the many accomplishments of our fellow attorneys. President Ronald Zack called the luncheon to order by admitting and welcoming nine, new members to the PCBA. Hearty congratulations went out to our newly-appointed PCBA Board members Justin Castillo, Jeff Gould, Reagen Kulseth, and Robert Pearson. President Zack then joined us in thanking our luncheon sponsor, Nextrio, whose generosity is greatly appreciated.

PCBA next proudly presented a check in the amount of \$1,765 to Anthony Young, Executive Director of Southern Arizona Legal Aid (SALA), who accepted on behalf of SALA's Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP). This donation represents the generosity of PCBA members who made donations to VLP as a part of their annual membership dues renewal. Mr. Young also accepted a check in the amount of \$1,000, representing the most recent payment to SALA of the percentage fee proceeds from the PCBA's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) participating attorneys. Since January 2017, PCBA has presented SALA with a grand total of \$9,500 from the LRS percentage fee proceeds.

This year's John G. Hawkins Professionalism Award went to James E. Rogers College of Law student Nick Alsaka for exhibiting professionalism, integrity and commitment to public service. The Annual Robert Hooker Award was presented by Judge Richard Fields to Michael Bloom for demonstrating a strong commitment to community service, the highest standard of professionalism, innovation and selfless dedication to the improvement of the criminal justice system. Congratulations Nick and Michael!

The Bar Service Awards were then presented to departing PCBA Board members Hon. Bruce Macdonald, Jessica Ruiz, Natasha Wrae, and Hon. Greg Sakall for their dedication and service to both PCBA and the local community. A wholehearted thank you goes to each of you!

Special recognition went to PCBA's Strategic Planning Committee — Michael Aaron, Dave Deibel, Anne Elsberry, Joey Flynn, Dan Jurkowitz, Hon. Greg Sakall, Hon. Laurie San Angelo, Natasha Wrae, and Ronald Zack. Special Individual Recognition Awards went to Wendy Carpenter as a PCBA Board Liaison for NALS of Tucson & So. AZ; to Linda Mattern as a PCBA Board Liaison for the Tucson Paralegal Association; and to Hon. K.C. Stanford for his many years of dedication and service as co-editor of *The Writ*. Judge Fields presented certificates to the volunteer attorneys of "Community Court Night:" Michael Aaron, Steve Cox, Tom Curti, Lisa McNorton, Beverly Parker, Juan Perez-Medrano, Carrie Rednour and Beth Smith.

Members of Pima County Bar Foundation's Board of Trustees were also recognized: Hardy Smith, President; Hon. Gus Aragon; Steve Cox; Dan Jurkowitz; Frank Scerbo; Marissa Sites and Stanlee West-Watt. The Foundation was formed this past year and seeks to enhance access to justice, reward innovation in legal services and education outreach, promote the highest ideals of professionalism and public service, and support the community efforts of PCBA. A big thank you to all of those who graciously made an optional donation with their PCBA dues — the Foundation is off to a promising start because of your help! (And information about the Foundation's new "Excellence in Public Service" award can also be found in this *Writ* issue.)

Honorable mention went to the 25 volunteers of PCBA's 5th annual Law Day which helped over 100 people, as well as PCBA's 28 Patron Members, 80 Sustaining Members, 118 LRS attorneys and 28 QUILT attorneys. PCBA Executive Director Susan Trentham, PhD, Deputy Director Jane Souders, and LRS Coordinator Brenda Garcia, were also recognized and thanked for making PCBA such an outstanding organization. Vicente Reyna, the new PCBA Administrative Assistant, was introduced and welcomed.

The next order of business was outgoing YLD President Jessica Ruiz welcoming her replacement Jason Simon. Members of YLD have a great year ahead of them with CLE offerings, philanthropic events and much more! Executive Director Susan Trentham followed by recounting the PCBA's Top Ten accomplishments over the past year. The number one accomplishment was the establishment of the new Pima County Bar Foundation and officially receiving 501(c)(3) status.

As his last official act, PCBA President Zack handed the giant gavel to the new President Dan Jurkowitz. Congratulations Dan! Thank you, President Zack for your leadership and entertaining articles in *The Writ*. As usual, President Zack made sure that one of his last acts as PCBA President was to end the luncheon with time to spare!

The luncheon was a huge success with an inspiring show of support from our local lawyers for all of the accomplishments over this past year. Congratulations again to all of those honored at the luncheon and to the entire community for their support!