May 2020

This Report looks back at 2019, before our personal and professional lives were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to honor the significant contribution that you all made to GHLA, even as our low-income clients face even greater challenges in the year to come. At our 2019 “Celebrating Leaders for Justice” gala, keynote speaker former Attorney General of the United States Eric H. Holder, Jr. celebrated the GHLA Foundation’s commitment to equal access to justice. Invoking Dr. King’s observation that “only when it is dark enough can you see the stars” Attorney Holder said “we see [those stars] in lawyers who use their energy and resources to help those who are in the greatest need. Lawyers who serve as an example for the rest of us, of what it means to use the power of the law to fight for the greater good.”

Your example and your support helps families in the greater Hartford area who need a lawyer in order to meet their basic survival needs. Unaddressed, their legal problems often have serious consequences, such as continuing domestic violence, lack of income, diminished education and employment opportunities, hunger, and homelessness.

The pages that follow honor our vibrant partnership with lawyers, law firms and corporations who support our mission. Over the period covered by this report, January–December 2019, we are proud to report we raised a total of $541,359.

The Foundation extends special thanks to United Technologies Corporation and its attorneys, who gave so generously. UTC’s remarkable 2019 total was $169,500, with 100% of UTC’s Connecticut-based attorneys making gifts. Also, we want to highlight and thank Shipman & Goodwin for their outstanding gift of $50,000, and Robinson+Cole for their exceptional gift of $44,000. Finally, we want to thank UTC Attorney & GHLAF Board President Zachary R. Osborne and Executive Director, GHLA Jamey Bell, for their leadership, support, and contributions.

As GHLA continues its dynamic legal advocacy for the poor, the GHLA Foundation continues to broaden the base of financial and in-kind support for this crucial work. We increased the number of attorneys and corporations who support GHLA through individual giving, and we held our 3rd benefit gala, now a must-attend annual event. Thank you for the many ways you help secure a stable financial foundation for GHLA so that critical legal services remain available to our neighbors in the Greater Hartford area for many years to come.

Very truly yours,

Zachary R. Osborne
UTC Attorney & GHLAF Board President

Jamey Bell
Executive Director, GHLA

Our Mission

The Greater Hartford Legal Aid Foundation’s mission is to ensure equal access to justice by raising funds to preserve and expand civil legal services for low-income people in Greater Hartford by supporting Greater Hartford Legal Aid.
“All of us have a responsibility
to serve as sounds stewards
of our justice system — and
guardians of those it must
protect and empower.”

—Eric H. Holder, Jr., former Attorney General of
the United States, at the GHLA Foundation 2019
Celebrating Leaders for Justice gala
2019 GHLA Foundation Gala  Celebrating Leaders for Justice

Tom Goldberg of Law Firm Leader Day Pitney, accepting award from GHLAF Secretary Debra Ruel, of Ruel Ruel Goings & Britt

Ping Hsieh, Individual Leader; Sara Hsieh; Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr.

Harle Hoffman, GHLA Board member, & Lisa Levin, GHLAF Board member, The Hartford; Ricardo Arzalaldo, GHLA Board & General Counsel, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; David Robinson, Executive V.P. & General Counsel from The Hartford, accepting Corporate Leader Award

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"How grateful I am for an answer!"

...don’t take no at heart, and who truly care for the attorneys...