

## ATTORNEYS STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS

### Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This fall, we celebrate National Pro Bono Week (October 23-29), to celebrate you, our community of supporters. Our main event is the annual [Volunteer & Donor Appreciation](#) celebration, scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 p.m., at the Fifth Third Atrium. We hope you will join us for our first in-person celebration and awards ceremony since 2019.

Most of our work happens behind the scenes, but in this edition, I am delighted to share a story that stands at the very center of our mission. The successful merger of Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati and Blue Manatee Literacy Project to form Queen City Book Bank is due in part to the excellent work and guidance of several PBPO volunteers.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming “thank you” events.



Erin Childs, Executive Director

## PBPO News



## VOLUNTEER & DONOR *Appreciation Reception*

### Join Us! PBPO Volunteer & Donor Appreciation – Thursday, October 27

Join the celebration on Thursday, October 27th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Fifth Third Bank on Fountain Square. Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor: Fifth Third Bank and our Event Sponsor: Ohio State Bar Foundation. We hope to see you there! [Register here.](#)



### We Love Our Volunteers a Latte!

During **National Pro Bono Week**, we would love to say hello and thank our awesome volunteers in person for their pro bono service to our community. Enjoy a free cup of joe on PBPO on Tuesday, October 25 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at 3 locations in downtown Cincinnati, downtown Dayton, and Madeira. Special thanks to our Pro Bono Week Sponsor –



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## Annual \*Free\* Professionalism CLE: Supporting Legal Access and Social Justice - Friday, November 18

**Free for PBPO Volunteers!** Grow PBPO invites you to attend our popular annual professionalism CLE on Friday, November 18 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Attorneys will hear from a panel of local attorneys who will share their diverse experiences improving access to justice. [Register here](#).

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## PBPO Awarded Grant from Supreme Court of Ohio Civil Justice Program

PBPO was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio Civil Justice Program. Established in 2016 to improve access to justice for low-income, underserved, and disadvantaged populations throughout Ohio, the program will support PBPO's work to strengthen community-based nonprofits in Southwest Ohio with pro bono business legal services and education. [Read more here](#).

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### Welcome New Grow PBPO Member!

PBPO recently welcomed Sam Berten, Fifth Third Bank, to Grow PBPO. [Grow PBPO](#) supports PBPO's mission through service, improved engagement in the community, fundraising and special events.

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## Founding Board Member of PBPO Honored with Prestigious Award

We are thrilled to share that one of our founders and former Board President, W. Breck Weigel, has been named recipient of the *2022 John and Ginny Elam Pro Bono Award*. Breck generously donated the \$5,000 grant to PBPO. [Learn more about the award and Breck's recognition here](#).



## PBPO is a 2022 Top-Rated Nonprofit

We are proud to receive this recognition from [GreatNonprofits](#) thanks to our volunteers, donors, and nonprofit clients that shared heart-warming testimonials and five-star reviews about PBPO. It is one of the only "people's choice" awards for nonprofits. [Read what people had to say about PBPO](#).

# Adam Centner, Keating, Muething & Klekamp PLL

Adam, Partner at KMK, recently volunteered on a transformative merger project for Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati to become Queen City Book Bank (read more below in the Nonprofit Highlight). Michelle Guenther, CEO of Queen City Book Bank, had this to say about Adam, "I can't say enough wonderful things about him. He is wise, humble, thoughtful, truly cares about our mission, and is spectacular to work with! Adam coached us through the merger and follow-up items with confidence and made it easy for our Board and team to trust we were in the absolute best hands possible." We are grateful to have Adam help our nonprofit clients navigate challenging situations.



[Read more](#)

[Read more about Adam and his love of trees](#)

## Why does Adam volunteer with PBPO?

*"PBPO's nonprofit clients are doing incredible work throughout our region, and I love playing a small role in helping some of those clients move past the legal issue at hand and focus on their mission. PBPO makes it so easy to learn about local organizations of all purposes and sizes that I otherwise may not have heard of, review the type of legal help needed, and decide where I can be useful and make an impact. Plus, as a volunteer with PBPO, I get to meet and work with some of the smartest, most interesting people around, so it's really a win for everyone involved."*

## NONPROFIT HIGHLIGHT

### Queen City Book Bank

Since 1986, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati has worked diligently to connect children and adults to programs and resources they need to become strong readers. As the educational needs of the community changed throughout the years, they worked to listen to those needs and adjusted their programming. In this past year, the Literacy Network officially became the Queen City Book Bank (QCBB) to serve as a regional book bank. In their new location, QCBB serves as a literacy hub by providing curated free book distribution, tutoring for children and adults, Little Free Libraries, and community outreach and educational support initiatives.



[Read more](#)

[Read more about Queen City Book Bank](#)

*"PBPO has truly been a critical partner as we launched our most expansive and impactful program yet, the Queen City Book Bank. Without PBPO's expertise and exceptional guidance, we could not have successfully navigated this important time in our organization's history. It has been a privilege to work with the team at PBPO and several of the volunteer attorneys, including Adam Centner, Matt Lake, Alex Mattingly, and Aaron Shepherd. The peace of mind of knowing that we were in such expert hands has been invaluable. Adam Centner was integral in leading this effort and we are forever grateful to him for his wisdom throughout this journey. I am confident that our organization is poised for the future because of the wise and thoughtful counsel of the PBPO team and volunteer attorneys we have the privilege to work with. We are stronger, more efficient, and wiser because of PBPO!"* – Michelle Guenther, CEO, Queen City Book Bank

## PBPO Supporter Focus: L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation

PBPO is grateful for the generous support of the [L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation](#), which helped facilitate our ability expand PBPO's educational programs over the past several years. [Learn more about the positive impact the Foundation has made for PBPO.](#)



### Thank you to our 2022 Supporters!



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*We help you help others.*

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|   | Squire Patton Boggs               |                                   |

*\*Special thank you to **Dinsmore & Shohl LLP** in Cincinnati and **Bricker & Eckler** in Dayton for donating office space to PBPO*

#### Mission:

Powered by attorney volunteers, we strengthen our community by providing free business legal services and education to nonprofits.

#### Vision:

We envision a just and equitable community enhanced by thriving nonprofits and engaged attorney volunteers.

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