

#### ATTORNEYS STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS

QUARTERLY

**Spring 2024** 

**NEWSLETTER** 

#### Letter from our CEO

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to connect with many of you at our recent Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Reception. I was struck by the power of the community we have created in our first nine years of existence – over 1,000 attorneys who have chosen to become PBPO volunteers, corporate and firm sponsors who have said "yes" to our mission and generously donated, and partners who have rolled up their sleeves to make this work possible.

If you haven't already, check out our <u>2023 Impact Report</u> – hot off the presses – to learn more about all that we made possible together last year.

Having the opportunity to work with people like you is what makes me believe I have the best job in the world! <u>Thank you for the important role YOU play in bringing our mission to life.</u>

I have one request this spring – we need your help to expand our amazing community of volunteers and supporters. Thanks to you, we responded to a 71% increase in new nonprofit clients last year. As we continue to grow, we will need more attorney volunteers.

Do you have a colleague or friend who might like to get involved? <u>Take a moment to think of one person</u> <u>that you can extend an invitation to and encourage them to check out our volunteer opportunities</u>. Your effort will help ensure we can continue to respond to the growing need for our services.

Again, THANK YOU for ALL you do for PBPO and the nonprofits we are proud to serve.

Gratefully,

Erin Childs President and CEO

Welcome!

#### PBPO Board of Directors Members: Emily S. Pan & Scott A. Kane

The <u>PBPO Board of Directors</u> is pleased to welcome two new members.

**Emily S. Pan** serves as Vice Managing Partner, Cincinnati at Vorys, and **Scott A. Kane** serves as Partner and Co-Chair of Global Litigation Practice at Squire Patton Boggs LLP. Emily and Scott bring a deep commitment to our mission and legal expertise that will help ensure we continue to provide nonprofits with the legal services they need.



Emily S. Pan



Scott A. Kane

# Grow PBPO Members: Mike Keefe and Elisabeth Rotermund

<u>Grow PBPO</u>, an advisory council of PBPO, recently welcomed **Mike Keefe** and **Elisabeth Rotermund**, to its ranks. Mike serves as Assistant General Counsel at Fifth Third Bank. Elisabeth serves as Senior Counsel at Western & Southern Financial Group.



**VOLUNTEER & DONOR** 

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Mike Keefe

Elisabeth Rotermund

## **PBPO News**



It was a joy to celebrate our volunteers, supporters, and partners at our annual Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Reception on March 19th, presented by LexisNexis and hosted by Fifth Third Bank. Over 150 guests gathered to help PBPO recognize award winners and celebrate our positive community impact. Check out <u>event pictures here</u>.

### 2023 Award Winners

Great American Insurance Group 2023 Company of the Year

> Jackson Lewis P.C. 2023 Law Firm of the Year

**Bridget McGraw** (GE Aerospace) 2023 Corporate Attorney of the Year

#### Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor:

Adam Centner (KMK Law) 2023 Law Firm Attorney of the Year

Matthew Way (Bricker Graydon) 2023 Rising Star Attorney of the Year

Jennifer Rulon (Frost Brown Todd) 2023 Excellence in Nonprofit Service



#### **Amazing Turnout for our Nonprofit Legal Checkup CLE!**

Last month, over 40 talented attorneys attended PBPO's Nonprofit Legal Checkup CLE, hosted by Thompson Hine LLP and sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel, Southwest Ohio Chapter. After participating in a training on the top legal issues faced by nonprofits, the attorneys met with eight PBPO nonprofit clients to lead them through an issue-spotting legal checkup exercise.

The impact of this program extends well beyond the half-day session. Nonprofit clients are provided with a road map to strengthen their business foundation and attorneys are educated and energized to engage in more pro bono service for nonprofits. It's a win for all involved! PBPO Clients served during the Legal Checkup include Boys Hope Girls Hope of Cincinnati, First Tee – Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky, Magnified Giving, MindPeace, Ohio Alleycat Resource & Spay/Neuter Clinic, Our Daily Bread, Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank, and Tri-State Trails.

#### 2023 Impact Report – Highlights from Last Year

Have you checked out PBPO's <u>2023 Impact Report</u> yet? Take a moment to review highlights from last year. While we have hit the ground running in 2024, we still celebrate and extend our gratitude for all that we accomplished together in 2023. It was a remarkable year of growth!





#### Save the Date! PBPO Summer Classic: Cornhole for a Cause Wednesday, June 12 from 5 - 7 PM

Kick off summer by joining us for some friendly competition and a happy hour at our cornhole tournament on **Wednesday, June 12 from 5 – 7 p.m.** at OTR StillHouse. Form a team of two to compete in the tournament or join the "cheer squad" to have a good time and support PBPO's mission. Registration coming soon!

# Dinsmôre

### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

## **Catherine Dunlay, Bricker Graydon**

Cathy was one of our 2023 Rockstar Volunteers for her thoughtful work and willingness to assist Autism Connections in finding the best path forward when it was considering a major organizational change. She carefully reviewed their original plan and recommended another (better!) course of action, despite the extra time and effort involved. Her pro bono service with Autism Connections will have a lasting impact for the autism community in southwest Ohio.

"Whenever a new issue or concern popped up, she handled it with a smile and chuckle, and never seemed frustrated or flustered even though this was a far larger project than she had initially signed on for. She was simply amazing and went above and beyond... and deserves this recognition!" – Mary Helen Richer, CEO, Autism Connections

Read more about Cathy and her extensive community involvement.



Read More

#### **NONPROFIT HIGHLIGHT**

## **Autism Connections**

Autism Connections' mission is to uplift the Southwest Ohio autism community through education, connections, resources, and lifelong support. They work with autistic individuals and



their families from diagnosis through their lifespan by offering a range of programs.

PBPO volunteer Cathy Dunlay (see above) recently assisted Autism Connections as they worked through a major organizational change.

"PBPO has been an invaluable resource for Autism Connections. One of the biggest ways PBPO has supported us is when we made the decision to leave the national network and become an independent nonprofit. This was a daunting task to begin with and would have also been a very expensive and cost prohibitive task had we taken it on without PBPO. Now as a fully local Cincinnati nonprofit, we are able to make decisions about how we serve our local community that brings the most benefit to our community." – Mary Helen Richer, CEO

Learn more about Autism Connections



Read more

# Thank you to our supporters!(support received in 2023)



#### Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee

- Agnes Nordloh Charitable
   Trust
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- Bricker Graydon\*
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- Western & Southern Financial Fund
- Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation

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

# Thank you to the following volunteers who committed to assist a nonprofit on a legal project in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024!

Ned Babbitt Lindsey Baker Joe Beglane Larry Bennett Sam Berten April Besl Erin Borcherding Cooper Bowen Lindsey Boyd Jonathan Brodhag Kennedy Brooks Adam Centner Adriney Chepeian Kevin Clark Liz Cramer Tanner Dowdy Peter Draugelis Cathy Dunlay Karen Dunlevey Ashley Earle Lana El-Etr Kyle Fath Irina Garcia Iglesias Eleanor German

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#### 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.



Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio | 255 East Fifth Street, Suite 1900, Cincinnati, OH 45202

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