

2006 Judges Awards

This award will be given each year to the Judge selected by the Legal Services to the Public Committee as having made the greatest contribution to improving civil legal aid in the Commonwealth.

The Honorable Livingstone M. Johnson: Court of Common Pleas, Fifth Judicial District – Pittsburgh, PA

Judge Johnson is the Senior Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Fifth Judicial District. He was nominated for the Judges Award by the Allegheny County Bar Association's Public Service Committee for his commitment to equality of minorities and women. Judge Johnson has been called the "conscience of the Court" by Judge Strassburger in recognition of his commitment to equality. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Homer S. Brown Association and the Allegheny Bar Association.

The Honorable Judge Richard A. Lewis: Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas, Harrisburg, PA

The Honorable Judge Richard A. Lewis serves as President Judge of the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas, where he began his term on February 15, 2005. He served as the Juvenile Delinquency Judge from 2000-2004 and was the elected District Attorney for Dauphin County from 1983 to 1993.

President Judge Lewis, was nominated by Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Executive Director Samuel Milkes, in recognition of his vocal and visible leadership in promoting pro bono service for those who are in need. His leadership is impressive because he has pushed for the advancement of innovative pro bono initiatives. Sam Milkes, notes President Judge Lewis as "a powerful pro bono proponent and leader (who) uses his leadership and persuasive skills to encourage Dauphin County lawyers to do more pro bono work. Through Judge Lewis' leadership, the Bench presents a united front in partnership with legal services and the private bar to promote pro bono participation and funding to support access to justice in Dauphin County." Judge Lewis recently formed a task force including legal services lawyers, private pro bono attorneys and courthouse staff to design a program to assist pro se litigants. Judge Lewis not only calls on attorneys for their pro bono participation, but he thanks them and recognizes them for their commitment to the community. He is dedicated to public interest legal work.

President Judge Lewis is a member of the Prison Board, Dauphin County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules of Evidence Committee. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Dickenson School of Law, Widener University School of Law and Penn State Capitol Campus.