2007 JUDGES AWARD

This award is given each year to the judge(s) 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 Katherine B. L. Platt: Judge, Chester County Court of Common Pleas — West Chester, Chester County (Nominated by Wendy Hoffman, Executive Director, Chester County Bar Association.)

Judge Katherine B. L. Platt is a champion of pro bono service who is currently running a tutoring class for non-family law attorneys so that those lawyers in other fields know how to effectively conduct the pro bono representation of family law cases. The Chester County Bar Association notes that she has “single-handedly doubled the number of volunteers for pro bono family law cases”. Judge Platt has also opened up non-traditional areas of law for pro bono services, including both guardianships and small estates. Judge Platt works with her colleagues on the Chester County bench to positively reinforce pro bono work from attending events to honor pro bono lawyers to adapting court procedures to remove impediments to such service.

Judge Platt is a lifelong resident of Chester County who received her B.A. degree from Sarah Lawrence College in 1972 and her J.D. degree from Villanova University School of Law. Judge Platt’s earliest legal experience while still in law school was in public interest law. After graduating from law school, she maintained a general law practice concentrating in family law, real estate and commercial lending transactions. From 1980 through 1993 she served as a Hearing Officer for support cases in the domestic relations division, conducting hearings and deciding spousal and child support cases. Judge Platt was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County in November 1997, taking her oath of office in January 1998. She initially handled civil and criminal trials and is currently assigned to Family Court and Orphans’ Court. Judge Platt remains actively involved in community, school and church affairs.