

Judge Platt Received Pro Bono Judges Award

PBA President Andy Susko presented Judge Katherine Platt with the Legal Services to the Public Committee's Judges Award at the Chester County Bar Association reception for Judge Platt in West Chester on Aug. 30, 2007. Wendy Hoffman, CCBA executive director, nominated Judge Platt and wrote of the judge, "Judge Katherine B. L. Platt is a champion of pro bono service." Judge Platt was honored for accomplishments including her current effort tutoring a class of non-family law attorneys so that those lawyers in other fields know how to conduct effective pro bono representation of family law cases. Hoffman also noted the judge has "single-handedly doubled the number of volunteers for pro bono family law cases." Judge Platt works with her colleagues on the Chester County bench to 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. from Sarah Lawrence College and her J.D. 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.

Susko commended the judge for her commitment to expanding access to justice for the poor, and he challenged all of the attorneys present to fulfill the PBA's pro bono aspirational goal.