Ayodele “Ayo” Gansallo, Esquire, a senior staff attorney at HIAS Pennsylvania, an organization that aims to open doors for new Americans, was honored with the fourth annual Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Immigration Law Pro Bono Award on November 27, 2018, at a reception at White and Williams LLP.

The PBA Immigration Law Pro Bono Award, which is sponsored by the business immigration law firm of Green and Spiegel LLC and coordinated by the PBA Immigration Law Committee, was created to annually recognize the pro bono accomplishments of an individual or organization working with the PBA in the area of immigration law. The award is given to those that have provided a unique service resulting in a significant provision of legal services to the neediest of foreign nationals on a pro bono basis or as part of legal aid outreach. The winners are selected in consultation with PBA leadership.

Ms. Gansallo has devoted her career to representing victims of persecution, abuse and discrimination seeking asylum in the United States. She was selected to receive this year’s award in recognition of her years of tireless service on behalf of some of the most vulnerable members of our population – immigrants and refugees.

Having initially qualified as a Solicitor in England and Wales, Ms. Gansallo is also admitted as an attorney with the New York State Bar. She has been working on Immigration and Human Rights issues exclusively with non-profit organizations, both here and in the U.K., for over twenty-five years.

Ms. Gansallo joined HIAS Pennsylvania in 1998, following completion of her LLM at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law. She now focuses her practice on complex litigation before the Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Federal District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In addition, she provides mentorship and training on immigration issues to pro bono attorneys and community groups.

Ms. Gansallo has been an adjunct Lecturer in Law with the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Transnational Legal Clinic since the 2010 academic year and is the co-author of the publication, *Understanding Law and Practice*, a textbook and practice guide for paralegal and law students, and newer practitioners on the complexities of immigration law. Ms. Gansallo is actively involved in the leadership of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association.

“Ayo is everything this award represents,” noted Jonathan Grode, a partner at Green and Spiegel, in presenting the award. David Trevaskis, PBA pro bono coordinator, added his congratulations to Ms. Gansallo and thanked Green and Spiegel for the donation made in honor of the HIAS lawyer to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the PBA, to benefit the PBA Pro Bono Office. Wes Payne, a partner at White and Williams LLP, hosted the event and joined in celebrating Ms. Gansallo.
Founded in 1895, the Pennsylvania Bar Association strives to promote justice, professional excellence and respect for the law; improve public understanding of the legal system; facilitate access of legal services; and serve the lawyer members of the state’s largest organized bar association.