



# YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

**PROBONO**<sup>TM</sup>  
PARTNERSHIP / ATLANTA

# *Dear Friends and Supporters,*

Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta continued to serve our nonprofit community throughout 2023, supporting hundreds of organizations with thousands of hours of free legal services. These organizations, in turn, support residents across Georgia with critical programs and services. Our nonprofit clients span a wide variety of service areas – from refugee assistance, to food security, to youth education, to healthcare for the uninsured.

Over 35 of PBPA's nonprofit clients work in affordable housing, and 2023 seemed to be a particularly active year for many of them. This Annual Report includes a profile of one of those clients, Partners for HOME, and how PBPA supports the organization's work in providing housing for Atlantans.

These nonprofits independently make deep, positive impacts on the Atlanta community, and, working collaboratively, they are a driving force in working to ensure all Georgians have a place to call home. PBPA is proud to play a small part in this effort by supporting the legal needs of these organizations.

PBPA's free legal services and educational opportunities are made possible because of the incredible generosity of our donors and volunteers and support from Atlanta's legal, business, and philanthropic communities. Together, we create access for nonprofits to the same high-quality and specialized legal services as private companies without diverting funding away from their missions. By meeting the legal needs of Atlanta's nonprofit organizations, we help them to meet the needs of the millions of people they serve.



*Rachel*

**Rachel Epps Spears**  
Executive Director



*Faith Knight Myers*

**Faith Knight Myers**  
Chair, PBPA Board of Directors

# MISSION

Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta strengthens our community by engaging volunteer attorneys to provide nonprofits with business legal services.

## STAFF

Rachel Spears  
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**Education Director**

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**Staff Attorney**

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*Emeritus Board Member*  
Ben Garren

"It's been a dream-come-true to work full-time in the nonprofit realm, serving the organizations who exist to make our world better. The incredible talent and work ethic across the board at PBPA has only inspired me further!" - Eadaoin Waller, Staff Attorney



# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

# \$8 MILLION+

## VALUE OF SERVICES

**926**  
Volunteers



**46** New Clients

**316**



**1164** Matters Placed\*

\*19% Increase From 2022

**Clients Served**



**81** Education Offerings

**9 MILLION**

**Individuals Impacted**



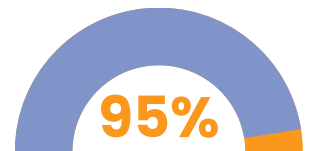
**2032** Education Consumers

## Our Survey Results



**Clients Satisfied**

**Direct Legal Services**

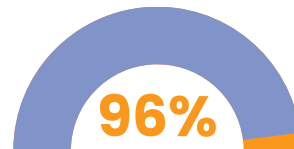


**Volunteers Satisfied**



**Clients Satisfied**

**Education**



**Volunteers Satisfied**

**Group Services**



**Clients Satisfied**



# CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

## Partners for HOME Addresses Homelessness in Atlanta

Finding low-cost housing options for people experiencing homelessness is a challenge in the Atlanta community. Many nonprofits help people find rapid and affordable housing, and Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta (PBPA) is assisting them with legal matters related to this important work.

In January, 40 unhoused people moved into The Melody, a new access-controlled housing complex on public land in downtown Atlanta featuring permanent housing in shipping containers. PBPA supported this effort by providing legal assistance to Partners for HOME (PFH), the lead agency through which the City of Atlanta coordinates its efforts to end homelessness.

The studio units at The Melody each have a bed, bathroom, and kitchenette. Conceived of and then opened in just four months, the complex offers a state-of-the-art camera security system, supportive services, personal case management, laundry facilities, and a dog park. It is named for Melody Bloodworth, a woman who was unhoused with behavioral health challenges and died on Atlanta's streets in November 2022. PFH owns the shipping containers and leases the land from the City of Atlanta.

Established in 2015 (with help from PBPA), PFH is focused on ending homelessness in the City of Atlanta. It creates and executes the strategy to do that by serving as the Collaborative Applicant for the Atlanta Continuum of Care – a HUD program that promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. PFH works with the City of Atlanta's Mayor's office and state and private organizations to leverage and align funding and vouchers for housing interventions and solutions.



In 2021, PFH participated in a PBPA Nonprofit Legal Check Up to identify the organization's legal needs. Since then, PBPA has assisted in more than 20 other matters including revising bylaws, standardizing contracts, developing employee and volunteer handbooks, and establishing social media protocols.

"PBPA ensured we are legally sound and shored up how we operate," said Cathryn Vassell, Chief Executive Officer of PFH. "That helps us do our job more easily and sets the pipeline of funds for rapid housing initiatives like The Melody up for success. The caliber of lawyers PBPA brings to the table is always great, and we are incredibly grateful."

Michael Tippet, a PBPA volunteer real estate attorney with Carlton Fields, reviewed the land lease for The Melody, advising PFH on needed amendments. Alex Strang, a PBPA volunteer finance attorney with Polsinelli, set up a special purpose entity for The Melody to mitigate risk for PFH. Now, other PBPA volunteer attorneys are establishing the ownership governance structure.

Jack Hardin, a Partner with Smith, Gambrell & Russell, is on the PFH Board of Directors and assists other PBPA clients who work to provide affordable housing. "The Pro Bono Partnership is a lifeline to the nonprofit community of Atlanta," he said. "The contributions of volunteers to the innovative Melody project were critical, but just one example of mission critical PBPA assistance to nonprofits with which I have been privileged to be affiliated. PBPA is a gift to the Atlanta community."

PBPA is proud to provide free legal assistance to PFH and about 30 other nonprofits addressing homelessness and providing low-cost housing in the Atlanta area, including 3Keys, Star C Corporation, Open Doors Solutions, and Intown Collaborative Ministries.

# 2023 VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

## Law Firms

\*Law firms with 3 or more volunteers in 2023

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Travelport  
Under Armour  
United Parcel Service

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**92%**

***Percentage of 2023  
volunteers who said  
the opportunities  
provided by PBPA  
have increased their  
pro bono work***

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**\$50,000+**

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King & Spalding  
Eversheds Sutherland

## Founders Circle

**\$25,000+**

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The Coca-Cola Company  
Delta Air Lines  
The Home Depot  
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Troutman Pepper

## Leadership Circle

**\$10,000+**

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Greenberg Traurig  
The Homestead Foundation  
The John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation  
The John and Mary Franklin Foundation  
Jones Day  
The Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation  
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Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.  
The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation  
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The State Bar of Georgia Corporate Counsel Section

## Peach Circle

**\$5,000+**

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Bondurant Mixson and Elmore  
Dentons  
Duane Morris  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta  
Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner  
Ford Harrison  
McGuireWoods  
Morris, Manning & Martin  
National Vision, Inc.  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough  
SiteOne Landscape Supply  
Smith, Gambrell & Russell  
Squire Patton Boggs  
The State Bar of Georgia Labor & Employment Section  
Womble Bond Dickinson

***"We are proud of our longstanding relationship with the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta and believe strongly in their mission of helping local nonprofits thrive by connecting them with the right legal resources"***  
**- Troutman Pepper**



# 2023 CORPORATE & LAW FIRM DONORS

## Friends

### \$1,000+/ In-Kind Gifts

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McKesson  
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State Bar of Georgia Intellectual Property Law Section  
State Bar of Georgia Privacy & Technology Section  
State Bar of Georgia Nonprofit Section  
State Bar of Georgia Real Property Law Section  
State Bar of Georgia Tax Law Section  
Thompson Hine  
US Bank



***"PBPA's  
commitment to  
strengthening the  
community is an  
inspiration to us all."  
- DLA Piper***

# 2023 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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**\$2,000+**

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			Wayne Bradley



PBPA recognized Tom Rawls at  
our Annual Reception for his  
generous and continued support.

*Thank You!*

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We also had several anonymous donors, as well as donors under \$250, who have helped further PBPA's mission in 2023 and beyond. Thank you all for your support!

*Thank You!*



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