



Dinner honors those who work for justice



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MAY 29, 2019

6:22 PM

THE 2019 Access to Justice Awards Dinner presented by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, and the Toledo Bar Association Pro Bono Legal Services Program at the Pinnacle in Maumee drew 450 community supporters.

Keynote speaker and legal justice advocate **James Bell** talked about the need for racial and ethnic equality in the administration of justice. Bell, the founder and president of the W. Haywood Burns Institute, is currently working with justice system leaders in Lucas County and for several years has worked with Toledo leaders, the police department, members of the judiciary, and others in the area. He has appeared on national television, conducted radio interviews, written blogs for the Huffington Post,

and has published anthologies on school discipline, youth justice history, and health.

Three individuals were honored for extraordinary service within public interest law and community advocacy.

Mike Ferner, founder of Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie, received the 2019 Community Advocacy Award for his efforts to keep Lake Erie drinkable, fishable, and swimmable.

Margaret Lockhart, associate general counsel for labor and employment at ProMedica, received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award for her longtime support of ABLE, LAWO, and TBA's Pro Bono Legal Services Program.

Megan Mattimoe received the 2019 Public Interest Law Award for her representation of people involved in human trafficking through Advocating Opportunity, the nonprofit she founded that provides outreach, education, legal services, and advocacy.

The money raised will be used to provide civil legal help to disadvantaged individuals and families.

Bravo to event co-chairmen **Heather Allred**, vice president and senior counsel for risk management at ProMedica, and **Sarah Skow**, an attorney at Spengler Nathanson.

NEARLY 200 guests gathered recently in the Toledo Museum of Art's GlasSalon for ProMedica's annual men's health event, Brews and Bros: Raising Awareness of Men's Health.

Around \$30,000 was raised at this year's event, bringing the total to more than \$110,000. The money has funded the Barbershop Program, founded in 2017 to help prevent health issues through early testing, many times at local barber shops. In 2018, the program was able to include preventative testing for colorectal cancer, hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. This year, the program has expanded to teaching hands-only CPR and offering financial management and career opportunity assistance at ProMedica's Financial Opportunities Center. Barbers are also training to take clients' blood pressure in their shops.

LOTT Industries for adults with developmental disabilities, founded in 1956, held its second annual dinner and auction, Enhancing Lotts of Lives, at the Hilton Garden Inn and raised \$31,790.

Dinner was served as **Corey Pappas**, who was born blind and has cerebral palsy, played the piano. His perfect pitch allows him to learn and play music by hearing it. He relies on his memory to play without the assistance of sheet music. Lott clients entertained with a dance number that brought a standing ovation.

Highlighted was the success of Lott participants who will soon achieve their dreams of home ownership thanks to a partnership with Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity. It is the first such partnership in the world, according to Lott Industries. Lott also partners with others including Food for Thought to assist with the food insecurity and encourage access to fresh and nutritional foods for a healthier life style.

Also fun was the auction by **Pam Rose**, which included art from Lott's Shared Lives Studio program and more.