



PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

April 19, 2016

Omar Valverde
U.S. Administration for Community Living
Office of Elder Justice and Adult Protection Services
U.S. Administration on Aging
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Application of Pennsylvania Department of Aging for Model Approaches Phase II
Statewide Legal Assistance Systems

Dear Mr. Valverde:

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the oldest association of lawyers in the United States, we write to support the funding proposal of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (Department), in partnership with SeniorLAW Center, to enhance statewide legal service delivery systems for older adults in Pennsylvania focused on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Philadelphia Bar Association's mission is to serve the profession and the public by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the rule of law. We strive to foster understanding of, involvement in and access to the justice system and we are committed to access to justice for all. The Philadelphia Bar Association was involved in the founding of SeniorLAW Center and we are immensely proud of the impact it has made over the past 38 years in protecting the rights of the seniors of our community, and its leadership in the legal services community here in Philadelphia, throughout the state and the nation.

Through many of our committees, including our Delivery of Legal Services Committee, which was chaired by SeniorLAW Center's Director for the past 7 years, Public Interest Section, Civil Gideon Task Force, Law Firm Pro Bono Committee, Elder Law Committee and others, we explore ways to expand legal resources and representation, provide pro bono and training opportunities to our members, and pursue systemic change in the legal system to increase access to justice for those who so urgently need it. We are also proud members of a statewide Civil Legal Justice Coalition, with members from all corners of the Commonwealth, including judges, bar leaders, and legal aid directors.

We care deeply about the elders of our community. The Philadelphia Bar Association will support the efforts of the SeniorLAW Center to recruit volunteer attorneys to enhance the resources and capacity of legal services delivery to low-income seniors who are victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation; to strategize together to develop

low-cost and alternative mechanisms for providing legal services; and to help raise visibility and awareness of elder abuse and exploitation.

Pursuing access to justice is the hallmark of a Philadelphia lawyer. We will be proud to participate in this project and strongly advocate for its selection for funding.

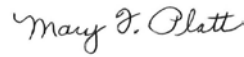
Sincerely,



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