



Legal Services of
the Hudson Valley
Protecting Rights Promoting Justice

WELCOME TO THE 2024

*Equal Access
To
Justice Gala*



HONORING
Russell Yankwitt, Roger E. Woosley
&
Honorable Sondra M. Miller

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

PRESENTED BY

Paul | Weiss  Yankwitt
LLP



CEO MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I welcome you to the 2024 Equal Access to Justice Gala. As the CEO of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, I am honored to join you in celebrating our shared commitment to ensuring justice for all, regardless of economic status.

This evening, we come together to recognize the tireless efforts of our dedicated board of directors, staff, volunteers, and supporters who work relentlessly to provide free, high-quality legal services to those in need. Our mission is grounded in the belief that justice should not be a privilege reserved for the few but a fundamental right accessible to all.


The impact of our work is far-reaching, as evidenced in our 2023 progress data. We handled 12,140 legal matters impacting 23,836 Hudson Valley residents; answered over 17,000 calls on our intake hotline; received 2,500 online applications seeking assistance; and provided approximately 4,600 hours of pro bono volunteer legal assistance.

This evening, we are thrilled to honor the legacy of the Honorable Sondra E. Miller. Judge Miller was Chief Counsel to Goldschmidt & Genovese, LLP and lead their Appellate Practice and Mediation & Arbitration groups. She was appointed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Department by Governor Mario Cuomo in January 1990 (retired 1/1/06). We are proud to honor her posthumously with the Champion of Justice Award.

We are also thrilled to honor Russell Yankwitt, one of Westchester County's most highly respected attorneys, known for his impressive track record of case wins in the courthouse, in private arbitration, and at the settlement table. We are proud to present Russell with the Partner in Justice Award!

In addition to working with community leaders and organizations, LSHV has the privilege to celebrate Roger E. Woolsey. Roger is a seasoned aviation, hospitality, and branding expert, currently serving as the Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Million Air. We gladly honor Million Air with our Community in Justice Award!

Tonight's gala is not just a celebration of our achievements but also a reminder of the work that lies ahead. The stories of those we serve inspire us to continue our fight for justice, equity, and fairness. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and generosity, which make it possible for us to carry out this vital work.



As we look to the future, we are committed to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. Together, we can build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and where justice is truly accessible to all.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your presence here tonight strengthens our resolve and fuels our mission. Let us continue to stand united in our pursuit of equal access to justice for all.

I'd like to thank our Board of Directors, the event co-chairs Richard Gluckselig, Esq. and Nicholas Groombridge, Esq., the Development Committee, Sponsors, and donors for your inspiring commitment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and all families served by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, we thank you for joining us in the fight for equal justice for all.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Rachel C. Halperin, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

A MESSAGE FROM OUR
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the entire Development Committee, we proudly welcome you to the 2024 Equal Access to Justice Gala. It is our privilege to see so many dedicated supporters gathered here tonight. Your generosity and unwavering belief in Legal Services of the Hudson Valley's (LSHV) mission are the driving forces behind our continued success and impact on the community.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley stands as a beacon of hope and justice, providing free, high-quality legal services to those who cannot afford representation. Our mission is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their financial situation, has access to the legal assistance they need. By addressing issues such as Domestic Violence, Housing and Homelessness Prevention, Disability Advocacy, Elder Law, LGBTQIA+ Advocacy, Veterans & Military Families and more, LSHV plays a critical role in protecting the rights and improving the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community. The funds raised this evening will directly support these vital services, helping us to continue our fight for justice and equality for all.

We are also delighted to recognize two outstanding LSHV supporters for their dedication to legal services and the community. Congratulations to our "Champion of Justice" Honoree, Russell Yankwitt, and our "Equal Access to Justice" Honoree, Roger E. Woosley. Their unwavering commitment and support have made a significant difference in the lives of many, and we are honored to celebrate their contributions tonight.

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Thank you all for being here tonight and for your incredible support. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those who need it most.



Nicholas Groombridge, Esq.
Groombridge, Wu, Baughman & Stone, LLP
Co-Chair, Development Committee



Richard Gluckselig
Vice President, Associate General
Counsel and Assistant Secretary
Regeneron
Co-Chair, Development Committee



SONDRA M. MILLER

Honoring the Legacy of the Honorable Sondra Miller

It is with profound respect and admiration that we honor the late Honorable Sondra Miller with our organization's Champion of Justice Award. Judge Miller's remarkable contributions to the legal profession and her unwavering commitment to justice have left an indelible mark on our community and beyond.

A trailblazer in every sense, Judge Miller was a pioneer in her field, achieving numerous historic milestones throughout her distinguished career. She earned her law degree from Harvard Law School, where she was a member of the first class to admit women. This achievement alone is a testament to her tenacity and dedication to breaking barriers.

In 1986, Judge Miller made history by being elected to the New York State Supreme Court in the Ninth Judicial District, becoming the first Democrat to win a contested election in that district in nearly a century. Her appointment to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Second Department, by Governor Mario Cuomo in January 1990 marked another groundbreaking moment; she became the first woman from the Ninth Judicial District to serve in this prestigious role. Judge Miller's career was characterized by her profound legal acumen, compassion, and integrity.

Throughout her tenure, she held significant positions, including Chief Counsel at Goldschmidt & Genovese, LLP, where she led their Appellate Practice and Mediation & Arbitration groups. Her insights and expertise in these areas were invaluable, influencing countless cases and shaping the legal landscape.

Judge Miller was committed to lifting up the vulnerable. She served as a Family Court Judge in Westchester County from 1983 to 1986, demonstrating her dedication to the welfare of families and children. Her work in this critical area of law reflects her compassionate approach and deep understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

In celebrating the life and work of the Honorable Sondra Miller, we commit ourselves to uphold the values she embodied—integrity, compassion, and an enduring commitment to justice for all.



RUSSEL YANKWITT

Russell Yankwitt is one of Westchester County's most highly respected attorneys, known for his impressive track record of case wins in the courthouse, in private arbitration and at the settlement table. Unlike many litigators, Russell is not afraid to take cases to trial, which he leverages at mediations and during settlement negotiations to secure the best outcomes for his clients. His thorough preparation and ability to assess his adversaries' tipping points are key factors in his exceptional success at settling cases favorably.

One of Russell's standout qualities is his unwavering commitment to his clients. He deeply cares for them personally and advocates for them with unyielding determination and dedication. In addition, he always gives 100 percent, standing resolute and Yankwitt Tough until the case is fully resolved. For all these reasons, clients regularly turn to Russell for sophisticated yet sympathetic legal counsel.

Russell is an active member of the Westchester County community, serving on multiple not-for-profit boards and the Executive Board of the Westchester County Board Association. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Council. His leadership roles in the state and federal bar associations and his reputation for integrity and trustworthiness have earned him the respect of his peers and the judiciary, as well as regular recognition and inclusion in Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers, Chambers and Partners, and Benchmark organizations.

Prior to founding Yankwitt LLP in 2009, Russell worked at the prestigious New York City law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP and served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York and a federal law clerk in the Eastern District of New York, where he fostered relationships with the bar and bench that he draws on to this day.



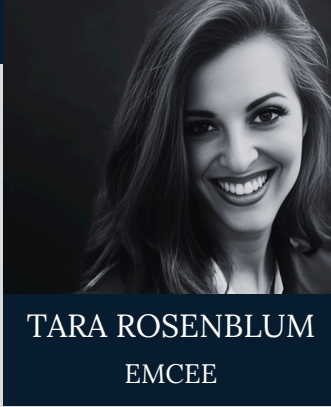


ROGER E. WOOLSEY

Roger E. Woolsey, seasoned aviation, hospitality and branding expert, is principal and chief executive officer of Million Air. Voted the #1 premier fixed-based operation (FBO) chain 11-years in a row, Million Air is the 3rd largest FBO chain in the world and provides upscale, private aviation services to airports, individuals and corporate flight departments. Million Air also provides aircraft charter, fuel, aircraft maintenance and support services through its 38-VIP FBO Terminals strategically located across the United States, Canada, and South America. Woolsey is an entrepreneur and C.E.O. that has successfully launched several companies, whose entrepreneurial drive and fascination with the science of customer service, business and flying spans a lifetime.

Woolsey is clearly a visionary and charismatic leader, with a passion for results and quality. He has been featured in and quoted in numerous books, magazines and news media outlets. Woolsey served as a bank board member, frequent guest speaker for both Universities and corporate keynote addresses. He holds the highest pilot rating available, the Airline Transport License, and is a Licensed Insurance Agent with authority to practice in 14 states. Alumnus of the University of Arkansas, USAF War College, Harvard Business School's Executive Education (Achieving Breakthrough Service, Executive Finance for Senior Leaders, and Owner President & Management (OPM-37)). www.millionair.com





TARA ROSENBLUM

EMCEE

Tara Rosenblum is a longtime anchor/host/reporter for the News 12 Network and currently focuses on the investigative and political beats.

Tara is one of the most award-winning local TV reporters in the country. Her more than 300 industry awards include 2017 & 2022 National Edward R Murrow Awards, 56 Emmy wins and 185 Emmy nominations (11 of them for New York's top general assignment reporter). In 2014 and every year from 2016 to 2022, she was the most Emmy-nominated TV reporter in the NY market.

Tara's passion is diving into breaking, political and investigative news stories and she has traveled the state, country and world to tell them. Some of the major coverage events include the Virginia Tech Massacre, the 2008/2012/2016/2020 presidential races and Hurricane Katrina.

Tara has had 12 days named in her honor in communities across New York and was presented with a 'key' to the city of White Plains in 2023 for her decades of local reporting. Other recognition includes:

- Cynosis Media's 'Top 100 Women in American Media' in 2023
- City and State Magazine's 'Power 100' list in 2019
- Voted 'Top Media Personality' by the readers of Westchester Magazine for six years
- MPAC organization's 'Woman of the Year' in 2019
- RDC Center's 'Spirit of Compassion' award in 2020
- Additional honors from the Guidance Center of Westchester, the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, The Alliance for Safe Kids and the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce for in-depth coverage of the heroin outbreak.

Tara was a 2005 Walter Cronkite political fellow and spends much of her time producing, writing and reporting News 12's political coverage. Tara has interviewed presidents, governors and reported live from state and national political conventions.

She has also reported on many high-profile criminal cases and led News 12's coverage of Bernie Madoff, Ben Novack Jr. and Robert Durst. Tara's investigative reporting of Durst made international headlines in 2021 and led up to his indictment in Westchester. Tara also spent four years covering the 9/11 health crisis.

Before joining News 12, she worked on-air at two NBC stations; first as a reporter in Iowa, then as a main anchor/talk show host in Elmira, NY. She started her career working jobs/internships at The White House, Capitol Hill, CNN's White House unit and CBS News during the 2000 presidential elections and travel writing for the Miami Herald. Outside of work, Tara's passion is the 'private race to space'. Her dream one day is to visit the final frontier on board a Virgin Galactic flight



Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Protecting Rights Promoting Justice

2023 By The Numbers

LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

12,140
CASES
HANDLED

23,836
INDIVIDUALS
IMPACTED

3,180
SENIORS
IMPACTED

8,392
CHILDREN
IMPACTED

194 Staff Members including:

- 107 Attorneys
- 48 Paralegals
- 26 Admins
- 9 Housing Counselors
- 4 Social Workers & Parent Advocates

9,232 clients served impacting:

- 7,298 Women
- 3,988 Cases for Persons with Disabilities
- 1,135 Domestic Violence Survivors
- 789 Veterans & Their Family Members
- 707 Cancer Survivors

We provide free, high-quality civil legal services to the vulnerable and low-income individuals and families in the lower and mid-Hudson Valley. Our experienced and compassionate attorneys, paralegals and support staff employ a holistic approach to making sure we provide the advice, counsel and representation needed.

The Legal Service Corporation's 2022 Justice Gap Report revealed that low-income Americans do not receive any or enough legal help for 92% of their substantial civil legal problems. More recently, in November 2023, NYS's Permanent Commission on Access to Justice estimated that it would cost \$1 billion of annual funding to close New York's "justice gap."



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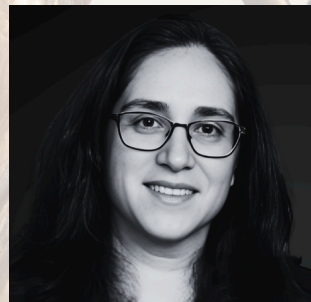
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Legal Services of
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“

I knew Legal Services of the Hudson Valley was the right place from the moment I spoke with Lisa. I consider it a blessing to have had the help of this organization.

*-Luane
LSHV Client*



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**“There can be no equal justice
where the kind of trial
a man gets depends on the
amount of money he has.”**

–U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

Congratulations to Yankwitt LLP Founder and Managing Partner **Russell Yankwitt**, and our esteemed client, Million Air CEO Roger Woolsey, for being this year’s **Equal Access to Justice Gala** honorees. Yankwitt LLP is committed to supporting the LSHV’s vital mission of ensuring equal access to justice for all.

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And their continued efforts of
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services to those in need.



Bond is proud to support **Legal Services of the Hudson Valley** and its mission to promote justice for all, regardless of income.

Congratulations to the
2024 Equal Access to Justice Gala honorees,
Russell Yankwitt and Roger E. Woolsey.



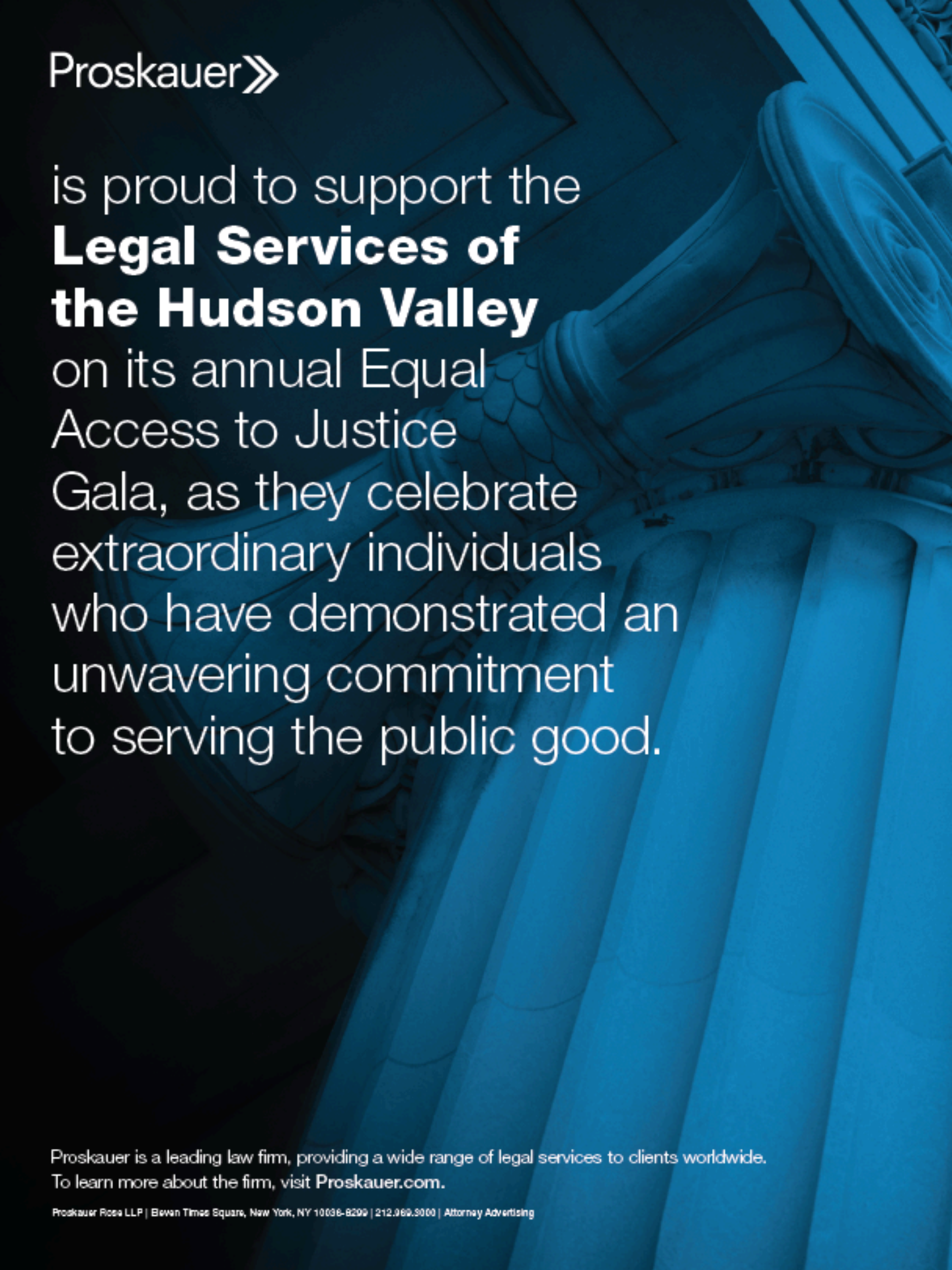
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Proskauer»

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Baker McKenzie is proud to support Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. We applaud LSHV's dedication and commitment to cultivating a society where all have equal access to justice and high quality legal representation.

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Congratulations to
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Partner in Justice
for his Support of Equal Access to Justice in the Hudson Valley



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AND

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YOUR HUMANITARIANISM AND CONTINUED
DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY IS AN
INSPIRATION TO US ALL!**

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“

Legal Services of the
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me a feeling of safety.

-Sarah Cizmazia

LSHV Client





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and
Roger E. Woolsey

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Congratulations to this evening's honorees, **Russell Yankwitt** and **Roger E. Woolsey**.



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and

Roger E. Woolsey



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Russell Yankwitt, Esq. & Roger E. Woolsey

Honorees of the 2024 Equal Access to Justice Gala



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Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano, LLP is celebrating 20 years of protecting the life savings of seniors and the disabled from estate taxes and the cost of long-term care. Boasting over 150 years of combined legal experience, the firm has grown to become a leading authority in elder law and estate planning across the region. Managing Partner Anthony J. Enea, Esq. is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, served as past chair of the New York State Bar Association's Elder Law & Special Needs Section, and, along with firm Partner Sara E. Meyers, Esq., has been certified as an elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation as accredited by the American Bar Association.

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RUSSELL YANKWITT, ESQ.
and
ROGER E. WOOLSEY

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of the
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HUDSON VALLEY
for their dedication
and daily service to those in need.*

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Congratulations to

ROGER E. WOOLSEY

+

RUSSELL YANKWITT

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for Continued Success to*

LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY



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and we congratulate this year's honorees:

RUSSELL YANKWITT and

ROGER WOOLSEY



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