

**NINETEENTH ANNUAL
HOWARD B. EISENBERG
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD DINNER**

**Saturday, November 4th, 2023
at The Madison Club
Reception 5:30 pm | Dinner 6:30 pm**





The Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund, Inc.

HOWARD B. EISENBERG
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD DINNER



As a sponsor of the 19th Annual Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP is proud to back WEJF's mission in providing support for the three largest pro bono civil legal services programs in Wisconsin. These programs are crucial to ensure equal access to justice. Having a long history of aiding people with limited means, we recognize donating our skill and experience can help strengthen our communities to bring meaningful change for people facing extreme challenges. This year's honorees are a true testament to this.

Congratulations to the 2023 award recipients on their exceptional dedication to pro bono legal services!

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Phoua Yang • Judicare Legal Aid

EISENBERG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Judge David D. Raasch

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am so very happy and privileged to welcome you all to the 2023 Eisenberg Dinner. We are gathered here tonight for several reasons: to honor the memory of Howard Eisenberg; to pay tribute to two colleagues who have devoted their careers to the cause of justice; to celebrate the good work we do; and to be mindful of the ongoing, constant need to raise funds for our beneficiary organizations: Legal Action of Wisconsin, Judicare Legal Aid, and Disability Rights Wisconsin.

Howard Eisenberg served as Dean of Marquette Law School from 1995 - 2002. Dean Eisenberg is remembered for his high ethical standards and commitment to improving access to justice. We continue to honor his memory and his legacy with our annual dinner.

Judge David D. Raasch and Phoua Yang have devoted their careers to providing legal assistance and advocacy to marginalized Wisconsinites confronted with challenging legal circumstances. You will hear during our dinner about their advocacy and accomplishments, and I am glad that you are all present to join me in congratulating them for their incredible work.

I am anticipating that we will have many attorneys and staff present tonight from our beneficiary organizations. Thank you for being here. I honor you all and appreciate your tireless work and dedication. Toward that end, I appreciate every single one of our board members. We all put a lot of effort into promoting the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund. We also do great work and tonight is the night that we are able to celebrate our efforts and achievements.

Our service organizations deliver greatly needed services to our most vulnerable population. They help with basic human needs such as shelter, food, safety, health, and child custody. These needs are, of course, crucial. We must all continue to do our part to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens do not get left even further behind. Our providers make a huge and positive difference in the lives of this vulnerable population. I am dedicated to having this continue.

Everyone deserves equal access to justice.

Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to ensure access to justice for all.

Attorney Marta T. Meyers
Boardman & Clark LLP
WEJF President

ABOUT HOWARD B. EISENBERG

Howard Eisenberg was born in Chicago in 1946. A graduate of the Chicago public schools, he received a B.A. from Northwestern University, with highest distinction, and J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, again with honors, in 1971. He clerked for Justice Horace Wilkie of the Wisconsin Supreme Court for one year and then served as the State Public Defender of Wisconsin from 1972 to 1978. In 1978, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as Executive Director of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association until 1983. Dean Eisenberg then served as a faculty member and director of clinical programs at Southern Illinois University School of Law until 1991 and as Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock from 1991 to 1995. In 1995, he returned to Wisconsin to serve as Dean and Professor of Law at Marquette University, where he remained until his death in 2002. Dean Eisenberg is survived by his wife, Phyllis Eisenberg, and their three grown children, Nathan, Adam, and Leah.



This Evening's Program:

Pre-Dinner

Welcome

Attorney Marta T. Meyers
Boardman & Clark LLP
Board President, Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund

Distinguished Service Award

Presenter: **Beth Ann Richlen**
Executive Director, Judicare Legal Aid

Post-Dinner

Keynote Address

Ron Flagg
President, Legal Services Corporation

Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award

Presenter: **Beth Ann Richlen**
Executive Director, Judicare Legal Aid

Closing Remarks

Aly Lynch
Executive Director, Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund

Musical entertainment provided by Jeff Hamann's jazz trio. Jeff is a faculty member at The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and bassist on the nationally broadcast NPR show "Whad'Ya Know."

Ron Flagg

President,
Legal Services Corporation
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ronald Flagg was appointed President of the Legal Services Corporation effective February 20, 2020, and previously served as Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel since 2013. He previously practiced commercial and administrative litigation at Sidley Austin LLP for 31 years, 27 years as a partner. He chaired the firm's Committee on Pro Bono and Public Interest Law for more than a decade.

Flagg served as president of the District of Columbia Bar in 2010-2011 and currently serves as Chair of the Bar's Pro Bono Task Force and on the Board of the DC Bar Foundation. He previously also served as Chair of the Board of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, Chair of the District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Center, Chair of the Board of the AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly, and as a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates, the Board of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, and the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission.

Flagg graduated with honors from the University of Chicago and cum laude from Harvard Law School. He began his career as a law clerk to Judge Myron L. Gordon, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and as attorney-advisor in the United States Department of Justice, Office of Intelligence Policy.



Judge David D. Raasch

Board Chairman, Judicare Legal Aid and Board VP, Tribal Law & Policy Inst.

HOWARD B. EISENBERG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

David Raasch is an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican

Indians and was born and raised on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation in Shawano County. He attended public school in Bowler, just off the reservation. He grew up prior to the economic development that Tribes enjoy today. After graduating high school and attending some college he moved off the reservation and worked at various jobs. In 1970, out of curiosity, he took a civil service exam for a law enforcement position with the Shawano Co Sheriff's Dept and was hired as a sheriff's deputy at the age of 22. This began an over 50-year association with the justice system. After about 6 years as an officer, he moved to Green Bay and became the Clerk of the Green Bay Municipal Court. During his 20 years with the Municipal Court, he was appointed by the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council as the Chief Judge of the Tribal Court. This was a part-time position, and the first duties were to create a court for the Tribe. It was a complex job requiring code development, rules, procedures, forms and training. When the court began operation, it opened his eyes to the need for affordable legal advocacy for those appearing in Tribal Court. It also began his search for an alternative to the divisive and punitive approaches of the adversarial system.

Indigenous Peacemaking became his focus. For most of his thirteen years on the bench, his main interest was to find ways for people to reconcile their conflicts peacefully and for sentences to have a healing aspect to them. Even though now retired, his passion remains in the areas of Peacemaking, and he continues to provide training and serve in an advisory capacity for groups or agencies interested in Peacemaking.

Currently, he is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Tribal Law and Policy Institute in West Hollywood, CA, and Board Chairman for Judicare Legal Aid located in Wisconsin. He serves in an advisory role for the National Native Center of Excellence headquartered in Illinois and the Restorative Approaches to Intimate Violence project in Colorado. An alumnus of The National Judicial College, he has served on the faculty of The National Tribal Judicial Center at NJC and continues to serve in an advisory capacity at the center. He also is a past president of the Wisconsin Tribal Judges' Association. Over the years he has assisted in the production of Tribal Nations: The Story of Federal Indian Law, which is a 60-minute documentary, and was selected to serve on the Tribal Law and Order Act Advisory Committee. Today, he continues to work as an independent consultant but mostly loves to brag about his 3 wonderful children, 6 wonderful grandchildren and his beautiful wife who has put up with him for 43 years.

Phoua Yang

Director of Client Services, Judicare Legal Aid

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

For the past 21 years, Phoua has been a steadfast presence at Judicare Legal Aid, quietly excelling in various client service roles. She began as a receptionist and Hmong interpreter, gradually advancing to become an intake specialist and PAL case manager. Today, she holds the pivotal role of Director of Client Services, where her contributions are immeasurable.

Phoua's technical expertise shines through her oversight of critical JLA technology upgrades, including multiple case management system implementations, server migrations, office relocations, and phone system transitions. She's the reliable force behind project completion, juggling tasks with unflagging enthusiasm to meet objectives.

Beyond her technical acumen, Phoua is a mentor and leader, guiding and supervising numerous colleagues. Her commitment to nurturing a culture of diligence, respect, and compassion

among the team underscores her dedication to clients and colleagues alike.

Phoua's dedication has garnered recognition, including the Unsung Hero of Wisconsin's Legal Community award from the Wisconsin Law Journal, the Hmong Community Appreciation Award from the Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association, Inc., and commendation from the United States Department of Defense for supporting the Guard and Reserve.

In her personal life, Phoua and her beloved late husband Lee Thao have three daughters, Celia, Keaira, and Crysania, two sons, Cloud and Kenneth, and one son-in law, Matias. Phoua continues to leave an enduring mark through her commitment and unwavering service.



ABOUT THE AWARDS

Howard Eisenberg exemplified the best in the legal profession by consistently maintaining a prodigious pro bono law practice. In his honor, Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund recognizes two individuals each year for their dedication to serving others through the provision or advancement of pro bono legal services.

The Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to the development and delivery of pro bono legal services. This may be through direct provision of services to underserved segments of the population, legislative or litigation based initiatives, development of innovative service methods, or advocacy for the need for the provision or funding of pro bono legal services.

The Distinguished Service Award honors an employee of one of WEJF's three member legal services providers who is a zealous advocate for the civil and human rights of those in need and displays an exemplary commitment to serving disadvantaged clients.

WEJF celebrates tonight's honorees, **David D. Raasch** and **Phoua Yang**, and recognizes the achievements of these past honorees:

Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award

2022

Thomas K. Zander
Clinical & Forensic
Psychologist

2019

David Pifer
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2018

Marsha Mansfield
UW Law School
Madison

2017

Michael G. Gonring
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
Milwaukee

2016

Rosemary Elbert
Wisconsin Judicare
Wausau

2015

Thomas C. Hochstatter
Hochstatter, McCarthy, Rivas
& Runde, S.C.
Milwaukee

2014

W. David Romoser
W. David Romoser LLC
Milwaukee

2013

James Botsford
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.
Wausau

2012

Lynn Breedlove
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Madison

2011

Tom Cannon
Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee
Milwaukee

2010

David J. Harth
Perkins Coie
Madison

2009

Honorable C.A. Richards
Reserve Judge
Hudson

2008

**Honorable James A.
Gramling, Jr.**
Milwaukee Municipal Court
Judge (Retired)
Milwaukee

2007

James & Gilda Shellow
Shellow & Shellow, SC
Milwaukee

2006

John F. Ebbott
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2005

Richard P. Perry
Hawks, Quindel, Ehlke &
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Milwaukee

2004

**Honorable Patricia D.
McMahon**
Circuit Court Judge
Milwaukee

2003

John S. Skilton
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Distinguished Service Award

2022

Matthew V. Hayes
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2019

Shirin Cabraal
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Milwaukee

Lisa Clay Foley

Disability Rights Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2018

Mary Jo Nyenhuis
Wisconsin Judicare
Wausau

2017

Michael Maher
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2016

Mitch Hagopian
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2015

Judith Stern
Wisconsin Judicare
Wausau

2014

Robert J. Andersen
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Madison

2013

Kit Kerschensteiner
Managing Attorney
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Madison

2012

Elizabeth Corbett
Attorney
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.
Wausau

2011

Jeff Myer
Attorney/WEJF Client
Advocacy Chair
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

2010

Joan Karan
Assistant Director
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Madison

2009

James Botsford
Director, Indian Law Office
Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.
Wausau

2008

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2004

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The Following Individuals and Families Are Members of WEJF's **LIFETIME GIVING SOCIETY**

These generous donors have contributed total funds of at least \$25,000 to WEJF since it started in 1997. WEJF is extremely grateful for their ongoing, dedicated support of WEJF and civil legal aid in Wisconsin.

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forward.***

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Quarles salutes the **Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund** and congratulates the 2023 Award Recipients **David D. Raasch** (*Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award*) and **Phoua Yang** at Judicare Legal Aid (*Distinguished Service Award*).



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Energizing Impact

As a proud supporter of the 2023 Eisenberg Dinner, Husch Blackwell celebrates the legacy of Howard Eisenberg and the efforts of the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund to provide low-income Wisconsin citizens access to pro bono civil legal aid. We firmly believe in equitable access to justice and salute tonight's honorees for their achievements in the delivery and development of pro bono legal services.

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We're proud to support the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund and their efforts towards providing equal access to legal services.



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“...and Justice for All.”

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren salutes tonight's Howard B. Eisenberg Lifetime Achievement Award honorees and all those in our profession who contribute their time, talent and resources to ensure that our Pledge is more than just words.

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PERKINS COIE is proud to support the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund. We congratulate the award honorees and applaud their dedication to the legal profession.

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We applaud this year's Howard B. Eisenberg
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Thank you for ensuring equal justice in our communities and for the people of Wisconsin.

For more information about Foley, please contact:

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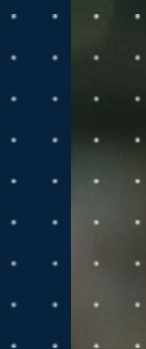
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