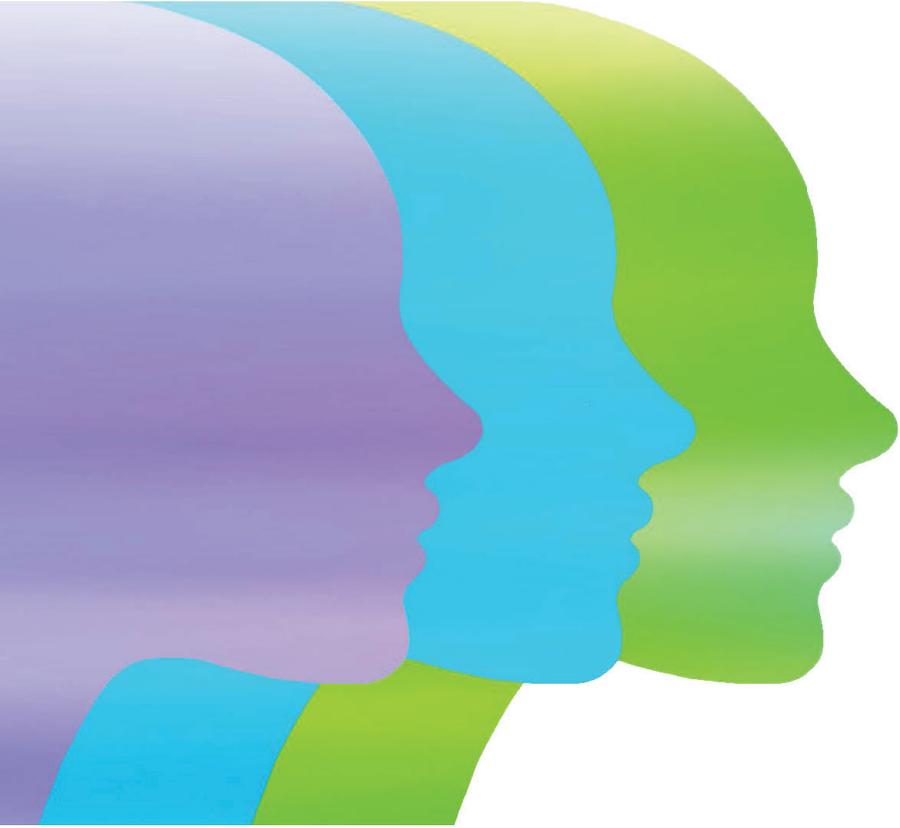


THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Changing the world for good.



2 • 0 • 2 • 1

VIRTUAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
AWARDS DINNER

Human Rights Awards Dinner Planning Committee

Thank you to the members of the 2021 Human Rights Awards Dinner planning committee who provided inspiration, ideas, and imagination throughout the process. We envisioned a virtually connected, locally-rooted global, pandemic-responsive and optimistically forward-looking event. You delivered at every step of the way. Thank you!

Hiba Al Hasnawi
Aviva Breen
Bridget Chivimbiso Chigunwe
Karen Evans
Loan T. Huynh
Mary Kariuki Ries
Kelly McLain
Mary Parker
Bindi Swammi

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Karen Evans	Anne Lockner Bernat	David Vander Haar
Dean Eyler	Alison McElroy	Emily Wessels
		X. Kevin Zhao

The Advocates for Human Rights' Team

Maryam Ahmed	Refugee & Immigrant Program Associate
Amy Bergquist	International Justice Program Senior Staff Attorney
Tom Bird	Refugee & Immigrant Program Associate
Kim Boche	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Sarah Brenes	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
John Bruning	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Christina Chang	Communications & Outreach Assistant
Stefani Conyers	Administrative Director
Theresa Dykoschak	<i>Pro Bono</i> Counsel
Michele Garnett McKenzie	Deputy Director
Lindsey Greising	Research, Education & Advocacy Staff Attorney
Liz Kelleher	Events & Individual Giving Coordinator
Elizabeth Lacy	International Justice & Women's Human Rights Program Associate
Amy Lange	Immigration Court Observer Project Coordinator
Madeline Lohman	Senior Researcher
Carter Mickelson	Program Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer Corps
Elizabeth Montgomery	Women's Human Rights Program Staff Attorney
Emily Olinger	Executive Administrative Associate
Peter Olson	Communications & Outreach Assistant
Rosalyn Park	Women's Human Rights Program Director
Sasha Phelps	Program Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer Corps
Robin Phillips	Executive Director
Anaid Plascencia	Development Assistant
Jennifer Prestholdt	Deputy Director
Thekla Rura-Polley	Development Director
Hanne Sandison	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney

Thank you to the more than 100 interns and work study students who accomplished critical research and advocacy.

Welcome

Defenders, witnesses, volunteers.

Thank you for participating in our 2021 Virtual Human Rights Awards Dinner. Our award recipients exemplify the amazing defenders, witnesses and volunteers at the heart of the international human rights movement:

- This year, our Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Awards will go to two groups that have been indefatigable in defending the rights of women and refugees, the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies and Women Against Violence in Europe (WAVE);
- We will honor the bravery of Darnella Frazier, the young woman who stood fast and took the video that reverberated around the world, documenting the murder of George Floyd; and
- We will, as always, recognize the achievements of the volunteers who do so much to serve the mission of the Advocates for Human Rights.

Our mission is to protect the legal rights of every human being to life, safety, justice, freedom and dignity. We work to change systems and conditions that cause human rights abuses. We fight injustice, improve laws and lives throughout the world, and represent individual victims of human rights violations.

The Advocates partners with defender organizations and diaspora communities around the globe. Our operational model relies on a highly dedicated and professional staff, whose efforts are leveraged many times by an extensive volunteer network. We are thrilled that, in fiscal year 2020, with an annual budget of only around \$2 million, our volunteers provided more than \$13 million in services dedicated to the cause of human rights. Our work involves hundreds of lawyers and non-lawyers, who observe and report on court proceedings, represent asylum seekers, investigate human trafficking and other abuses, advocate at the United Nations and various international and domestic forums, fight for racial justice, and much more.

We celebrate our amazing community of human rights advocates at this virtual event.

Thank you for your support,



Robin Phillips
Executive Director



Jim O'Neal
Chair, Board of Directors

Event Program & Auction Bidding

6:45 pm CDT **Musical Entertainment with Larry McDonough**

7:00 pm CDT **Live Event**

8:30 pm CDT **Online Auction Closes**

Participating in the Online Auction

To participate in the auction, go to www.fundraiser.bid/hrad21.

You will find exceptional experiences, delicious dinners, international items, and more. You can also buy mystery boxes and sets of beautiful notecards. All proceeds support the mission of The Advocates. The auction ends on Thursday, June 24 at 8:30 p.m. CDT.

You can browse the auction now, and bidding opens on Thursday, June 17 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. To bid on or buy items, you will have to register as a bidder. Once you are registered, you will receive notifications when you have been outbid.

Claiming Your Auction Winnings

Small items like notecards and gift certificates will be sent to the winners by mail. If you win a larger item, you will be contacted to arrange pickup at our office in downtown Minneapolis.

Special Thanks to:

Pat Brenna, auctioneer
Bill Cameron, photographer
Larry McDonough, musician
Thomson Reuters, printing
Bob Vaaler, videographer

Auction Donors

Big Event Productions, audiovisual support

Thank you to the host committee members who have invited family and friends, colleagues and neighbors to celebrate the event together, pandemic-style online or in their backyard.

2021 Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Awards

CENTER FOR GENDER & REFUGEE STUDIES (CGRS), UC HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW



CGRS protects the fundamental human rights of refugee women, children, LGBTQ individuals, and others who flee persecution in their home countries. Their programs focus on policy advocacy, training and technical assistance, and litigation.

CGRS was founded in 1999, following Karen Musalo's groundbreaking legal victory in *Matter of Kasinga*, to meet the needs of asylum seekers fleeing gender-based violence. In *Matter of Kasinga*, a young woman from Togo fled to the United States to escape female genital mutilation and a forced polygamous marriage.

CGRS is an internationally respected resource for gender-based asylum, renowned for their knowledge of the law and ability to combine sophisticated legal strategies with policy advocacy and human rights interventions. For more than two decades, CGRS has played a key role in every major precedent-setting victory in the area of gender-based asylum, breaking new legal ground and dramatically expanding the availability of protection for asylum seekers.

CGRS provides invaluable resources to lawyers working on gender-based asylum cases. CGRS participates as co-counsel or *amicus curiae* in impact litigation, produces an extensive library of litigation support materials, maintains an unsurpassed database of asylum records and decisions, and works in coalitions with immigrant, refugee, LGBTQ, children's, and women's rights networks. Since its founding, CGRS has also engaged in international human rights work to address the underlying causes of forced migrations, specifically on violence and persecution, committed with impunity when governments fail to protect their citizens.



DON AND ARVONNE FRASER IGNITED THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. IN THEIR HONOR, THE DON & ARVONNE FRASER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION WITH SUSTAINED DEDICATION AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

2021 Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Awards

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE (WAVE)

Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) unites 160 women's organizations from 46 European countries under one umbrella: to prevent and combat violence against women and children. Since 1994, WAVE has been a fearless voice to promote women's human rights across Europe. It works tirelessly to influence policy makers, build the capacity of women's NGOs, share cutting-edge information, carry out research, and facilitate networking.



WAVE's campaigning activities are focused on fighting for the rights of women survivors and their children to receive specialist support and protection. The biennial **WAVE Country Report** provides up-to-date information on the status of women's specialist services in Europe. WAVE's training institute empowers women's organizations by building capacity and advocacy skills. And its annual conference brings together more than 300 women's rights defenders — where The Advocates reconnects with our partners and forges new alliances.

WAVE is a staunch ally of The Advocates in its fight against the backlash to human rights and especially the growing resistance to the Istanbul Convention, the most comprehensive treaty on violence against women. WAVE together with the Council of Europe and UN Women launched a powerful campaigning strategy to build understanding of the Istanbul Convention and how it saves women's lives. Many of its members are experts on the backlash or directly affected by it.

Many women's human rights defenders are working under threatening, even dangerous, conditions in their countries and rely on WAVE's support. Some face frivolous lawsuits filed purely to intimidate them. Others face personal threats and attacks. Amidst these great challenges, WAVE gives us transnational scaffolding on which we can stand. In WAVE's own words, "People are stronger together. We need to mobilize, organize and build communities capable of standing together and demanding change."

2021 Human Rights Defender Award

DARNELLA FRAZIER



Darnella Frazier changed the world with her stunning video documenting the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police. Her quick thinking and courage to bear witness to this horrifying event ignited a worldwide reckoning with systemic racism and police violence. Her video also contradicted the original statement issued by the Minneapolis Police Department, and provided the evidence necessary to charge and convict Derek Chauvin.

Mobile technologies such as smartphone video and mobile platforms make it possible to document human rights abuses as they occur and memorialize the facts to hold those responsible accountable. They provide an extraordinary tool to those brave enough to step forward as human rights defenders. As we work together to break down systemic racism and build a stronger, more just community, we owe a debt of gratitude to Darnella Frazier for making this moment possible.



THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AWARD HONORS THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATE COURAGE IN STEPPING FORWARD TO PROTECT, DEFEND, AND DEMAND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY EXEMPLIFY HOW EACH OF US HAS THE POWER TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

2021 Volunteer Awards

CARRIE BRASSER



Carrie Brassler has been volunteering with The Advocates since she moved to Minnesota in 2018. She is passionate, dedicated, and outstanding. Carrie has represented several of The Advocates' clients in complex asylum and bond cases. She has also been actively involved in our international justice work and joined our UN advocacy team in Geneva in 2019. She interpreted for our francophone partners, briefed members of the Human Rights Council, and presented statements to the UN Human Rights Committee on human rights issues in the United States. In 2020, Carrie helped us pivot to remote advocacy by developing issue summaries and speaking at several live events. We are very grateful that she shares her expertise and skills with us.

SCOTT SMITH



Scott Smith, a solo practitioner, has been a tireless *pro bono* lawyer across a variety of cases for The Advocates for Human Rights. Scott not only provides high quality legal representation, but he also goes above and beyond to support our clients holistically. He has coordinated with the Minnesota Freedom Fund to help clients post bond and return to their families and jobs. He has taken on a civil case impacting a trafficking survivor client and secured medical evaluation and treatment for a detained client. Moreover, Scott is also mentoring other *pro bono* lawyers and has been instrumental in training and supporting new volunteers. With his zealous advocacy and contributions to human rights, he inspires all of us.



VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING AT THE ADVOCATES. EACH YEAR, WE HONOR A SELECT NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY WITH A VOLUNTEER AWARD.

2021 Volunteer Awards

DOTTY BIEURANCE



RHONDA PHILLIPS



Dotty Bieurance and Rhonda Phillips are being honored for their extraordinary service during the pandemic, becoming core volunteer members of our Development team when we could not invite volunteers into the office. They hand-addressed and stuffed thousands of letters and invitations, box after box after box. Without them, the personal touch for which The Advocates is known would surely have been missed. These awards, however, can also be considered lifetime volunteer achievement awards. Dotty and Rhonda have been volunteers with The Advocates since 1995 and their willingness to support The Advocates has no limits. It is hard to encapsulate 26 years of being willing to support events, projects, and fundraisers, but for Dotty and Rhonda, no task has ever been too small or too big when they could find ways to help. They are amazing Advocates for Human Rights.

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and select global communities. We are a volunteer-driven 501(c) (3) organization.

OUR VISION

We envision a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace. We believe that every person has a part to play in building respect for human rights and expanding the human rights movement in the United States and around the world.

2021 Volunteer Awards

STINSON RAPID REGULATION RESPONSE TEAM

The Stinson Rapid Response Regulation Team stepped up to protect the right to seek asylum and receive due process in immigration proceedings. In 2020, the previous administration skirted administrative rules and proposed nearly 20 harmful regulations that would have gutted asylum and due process protections for victims of human rights abuses seeking protection in the United States. The Stinson team, led by Dennis Lane and Harvey Reiter, helped The Advocates respond quickly to these regulatory attacks and perfected an amicus brief on behalf of the organization. When the previous administration made it almost impossible for our Liberian community members to receive Liberian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act green cards, Dennis and Harvey crafted helpful sample language for *pro bono* attorneys to respond. Their outstanding legal efforts helped our community turn outrage into action and stopped the potential gutting of the rights of people under our immigration laws.



Left to right: Dennis Lane, Harvey L. Reiter, James Schoeberl, Michael K. Grigsby, William L. Greene, Yeun Gi (Jenny) Ahn

IMMIGRATION COURT OBSERVERS

A number of Immigration Court Observers have demonstrated extraordinary loyalty and leadership in the Immigration Court Observation Project since its inception in 2017. Together, these highly committed volunteers have completed more than 900 shifts at the Fort Snelling Immigration Court. Many of them have recruited and mentored other volunteer court observers and helped grow the project to what it is today. They have collected priceless information about the treatment of detained immigrants and the injustice deeply embedded in our federal immigration system.



Drawing on the international human rights practice of trial monitoring to increase transparency and accountability, their presence in court makes a difference to the defendants, their families, the other stakeholders, and justice itself. We are grateful to them for their incredible contributions to the human rights movement.

Standing: Heidi Wortel, Fran Bohlke, Pamela Kildahl, Peter Frederick, Joan Naymark, Miriam Goldfein, Dana Lindsay, Nancy Poechmann
Seated: Jeff Odendahl, Doreen Marie Von Berg, Susan Sexton, Florence Brammer, Amy Lange (project coordinator)

In Memoriam

THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT LOST THREE EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUALS THIS PAST YEAR. WE MOURN THE LOSS OF THESE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES AND CELEBRATE THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKING THE WORLD A MORE JUST PLACE FOR ALL.



WALTER “FRITZ” MONDALE



Walter “Fritz” Mondale was a hometown human rights hero. The Advocates for Human Rights honored him in 2004 for his decades of public service and leadership on human rights issues. He was an icon of Minnesota’s progressive traditions. Throughout his career — as Minnesota’s Attorney General; as United States Senator; as Vice President of the United States; and as United States Ambassador to Japan — his work reflected a profound respect for human rights, the rule of law, and social justice.

CHRISTOF HEYNS



The Advocates honored Christof Heyns with the Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award in 2016. He was a Professor of Human Rights Law in Pretoria, South Africa. As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions (2010-16), Prof. Heyns led the effort to update the **Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death**, groundbreaking international guidelines for death investigations that was developed by The Advocates for Human Rights and later adopted by the UN. He leaves the world better equipped to hold governments accountable and ensure justice for the victims of human rights violations and their families. We thank him for that.

KAO LY ILEAN HER



In 2006, The Advocates recognized Ilean Her with the Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award. The first Hmong woman admitted to the Minnesota State Bar and to serve on the Board of Regents at the University of Minnesota, she was among the most effective and admired advocates for refugees, immigrants, and women in the Twin Cities. Ms. Her dedicated her life to creating safe, healthy communities where everyone — regardless of where they were born — can live with dignity and respect. Minnesota is a more vibrant place because of her.

Fiscal Year 2021 Publications and Reports

Bearing Witness in the Moment: Report from the Immigration Court Observation Project (2020)

Immigration Detention and COVID-19: Illuminating Human Rights Concerns in Minnesota Jails (2021)

Turkey’s Withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention: A Step Backward for Women’s Human Rights (2021)

In the past year, The Advocates submitted 39 written reports to United Nations human rights bodies. The Advocates partnered with 16 human rights organizations to report on human rights issues in 29 countries. For details on these reports, please visit our website, www.TheAdvocatesForHumanRights.org.

Reports on LGBTI rights: Kenya

Reports on access to education, child and forced labor, early marriage: China, Nepal

Reports on civil and political rights: Belarus, Ethiopia, Rwanda

Reports on gender-based violence against women: Belarus, Hungary, Italy, Morocco

Reports on the death penalty and conditions of detention: Antigua and Barbuda, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Myanmar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Fiscal Year 2021 At A Glance



1,100+

Cases in which The Advocates provided legal assistance

1,300+

People volunteered to be advocates for human rights



35+

Partner human rights organizations worldwide

1,700+

Donors who supported The Advocates



Our Impact

THE ADVOCATES DEVELOPS PARTNERSHIPS AND MOBILIZES VOLUNTEERS TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES OF OUR TIME BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE HAS THE POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS. CLIENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND DONORS ALL CHANGE THE WORLD FOR GOOD.



Blaise Masinga: Supporting Agency and Self-Determination



Blaise Masinga is a confident, dynamic, community leader. Speaking to a room full of refugees and asylum seekers, he remembers a time when he was in their shoes. He had fled from South Africa to Minnesota, leaving behind his wife and two children. When he thinks about that time, he remembers the pain, trauma, and uncertainty. Like many asylum seekers, Blaise's path to safety and reunification with his family was long, unpredictable, anxiety-filled, and lonesome.

South Africa had actually been his refuge after fleeing from his birth country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a teenager. Blaise had built a life in South Africa, attending university and receiving a degree in marketing. He married and welcomed the first two of his children into the world. By 2010, he had advanced in his career and worked as a business manager for a multinational company. Outside work, Blaise noticed many forms of racism and discrimination. As a refugee himself, he became an activist for immigrant and refugee rights. After spotting corruption in a work project, he spoke up. For Blaise, speaking out against injustices was natural, but it also made him a target of the government, forcing him to flee South Africa in 2012.

With his life in danger, Blaise left his family, his home, his work, his community, and his activism. He found himself seeking asylum in Minneapolis. He didn't know it at the time, but it would be four long years before he would be with his family again. Remembering these years, he said, "I should've known that the process to win an asylum case in the United States is

"Don't let your circumstances pull you back, because otherwise you aren't going to win."

Blaise Masinga

a long journey that requires patience. It was a painful experience to leave my wife and kids."

At times he felt helpless and worked to regain agency over his life. "Let me be honest," Blaise says with a smile on his face, "the first good resource I found was The Advocates for Human Rights." The Advocates staff connected Blaise with a *pro bono* lawyer who helped Blaise win his asylum case and connected him to resources that helped him meet his basic needs. He joined a Mennonite church community. Blaise had all the right tools to begin rebuilding his life in the United States. During this time, Blaise volunteered with nonprofit organizations, and worked as a French to English interpreter for refugees, a cashier at Target, and a bank teller. His patience, stamina, and willingness to fight for himself allowed him to reclaim his independence.

Blaise still faces challenges in the United States, including discrimination. "In the United States, someone judges you for your accent, but not your brain," he explained, but "don't let your circumstances pull you back, because otherwise you aren't going to win." He followed his own advice and in 2018 he enrolled at Metropolitan State University to earn a degree in community development. Blaise's commitment, dedication, and resilience have been a driving force behind his work. He recently started his own nonprofit organization, the [Masinga Foundation](#). His work will focus on community empowerment for immigrants, refugees, and other marginalized communities.

Social Work Interns: Supporting Clients Holistically

People who flee their home country seeking security and protection in the United States face a long and unpredictable asylum process, even when they can access free legal services like those offered by The Advocates for Human Rights. While many countries support asylum seekers' basic needs, asylum seekers in the United States do not receive temporary housing, a living allowance, or health care. They

must wait months before applying for a work permit, they have no access to federally funded programs such as SNAP or Medicaid. They lack local community connections, and often have little ability to connect with family left behind in dangerous situations. Meanwhile, the asylum process often lasts years.

"One size does not fit all. You need to sit with the client and really listen to what they need."

Almena Dees

The Advocates' social work interns help support clients during this difficult time. Partnering with several universities, The Advocates has hosted more than 10 social work interns since 2013. Currently **Emily Villanueva**, **Almena Dees**, and **Rachel Amerman** connect clients with trusted community resources.



Honoring Our Ties

As a global community, we have a duty to one another — to work together and protect human rights around the world.

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The interns sometimes focus on access to basic needs. For example, when a family could not pay their energy bills, but was denied assistance due to their immigration status, the interns utilized local networks and reviewed the rules. They found that the family did in fact qualify and then assisted them with the application process.

Beyond emergencies, the social work interns strive to foster resilience and put clients in control of their own lives. “One size does not fit all. When you have a client, you need to sit with the client and really listen to what they need,” explained Almena. If someone enjoys playing the piano or sports, for example, the interns look for access to those opportunities. The work relies on dynamic collaboration with The Advocates’ legal team, volunteers, and community partners. “Thankfully,” says Rachel, “the network of service providers for immigrants and refugees within Minneapolis and Saint Paul is a very tight-knit, strong community of people who are all working hard towards the same goal.”

The systemic racism that became highly visible after George Floyd’s murder deeply affects the experiences of our clients. As one of our clients said, “I am a young man who has come of age in times of great challenges mixed with great hope. As an asylum seeker in the USA, I thought I had never faced the wrath of racism and segregation because of my color... I realized that racism in America is much more than just physically being subjected to racial slurs.”

The reality for many of our clients is that it takes an advocate to access the resources needed to meet basic needs and to thrive throughout the long process of seeking asylum. Our social work interns bring compassion, deep listening, adept navigation of complex systems, and determination to change the world for good, one client at a time.

Patrick Finnegan: an Advocate for Human Rights

In the winter of 2004, Patrick Finnegan’s first-time volunteering with The Advocates as an interpreter was off to a rough start. “I managed to get myself into a fender bender on the way,” Patrick remembers. “Worse, it was my error... The lawyer almost had to call for another interpreter.” Thankfully, he made it. The interview went well, the client was granted asylum, and Patrick has been part of The Advocates ever since. “It was absolutely worth the accident.”

“I was raised by educators who believed that open-minded kindness is a crucial way to approach the world,” Patrick explains. “As such, I take my public moral values very seriously and I see them reflected in The Advocates’ work.” In the 16 years since those early days of interpreting, Patrick has remained a committed supporter of human rights. In 2005, as a staff member at the University of Minnesota’s Human Rights Center, he worked



“Our monthly donation may be a drop in the bucket, but with enough other drops, you end up with a full bucket.”

Patrick Finnegan

“We need to remember that during a public health crisis, all the big challenges of life are still there. Whether it’s non-COVID health problems, immigration, or asylum proceedings, human rights needs are still there...and The Advocates has been doing critical work to fill those needs.”

Patrick embodies how consistent acts of generosity can change the world for good and sees himself staying the course as a donor and volunteer. He refers to his family as a “human rights family” that believes in putting their money where their values are and — of course — offering their musical talents whenever possible. But he also says there are other ways to support human rights and to get involved with The Advocates. “Elections have direct human rights consequences here and abroad; study government representatives and the issues affecting our communities, and vote for candidates who support human rights.” He invites others to “look for volunteer opportunities or donate goods or services. Many organizations that serve vulnerable communities almost always need supplies that you may have around the house.”

The fender bender on his way to his first interpretation interview as a volunteer for The Advocates did not stop Patrick. Over the years he has continued to protect human rights in many ways. His commitment and enthusiasm inspire us and make us hopeful for the work ahead.



on collaborative projects with The Advocates. Later, he interned while attending graduate school and joined the staff 2016-17. Now he proudly continues to support The Advocates as a volunteer and monthly sustainer. His and other committed sustainers’ giving greatly strengthens the human rights movement. “Working together, we make The Advocates more effective. Our monthly donation may be a drop in the bucket, but with enough other drops, you end up with a full bucket.”

Patrick also puts his musical talents to good use. As “Dangerously Competent,” he and his wife Melissa performed a concert during The Advocates’ first ever virtual event last year. It even included a brief guest appearance from their cat, Cody. Melissa and Patrick spoke on the importance of The Advocates’ work during such unprecedented times.

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We are proud to sponsor the Human Rights Awards Dinner and the work of The Advocates for Human Rights.

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Row 3: Kathy Lenzmeier, Anne M. Lockner Bernat, Nancy Speer, Loan Huynh, Alison McElroy
Row 4: Kerry Bundy, Mary Kariuki Ries, Emily Wessels, Kelly McLain, Peggy Grieve (Treasurer)
Not pictured: Cristine Almeida, Hiba Al Hasnawi, Chris Bercaw, Bridget Chivimbiso Chigunwe, Hon. Tom Fraser, Jennifer Ives, Edwige Mubonzi, Daniel Supalla

The Advocates for Human Rights' Team



Row 1 (left to right): Elizabeth Montgomery, Emily Olinger, Amy Bergquist, Thekla Rura-Polley, Stefani Conyers
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Not pictured: Rosalyn Park

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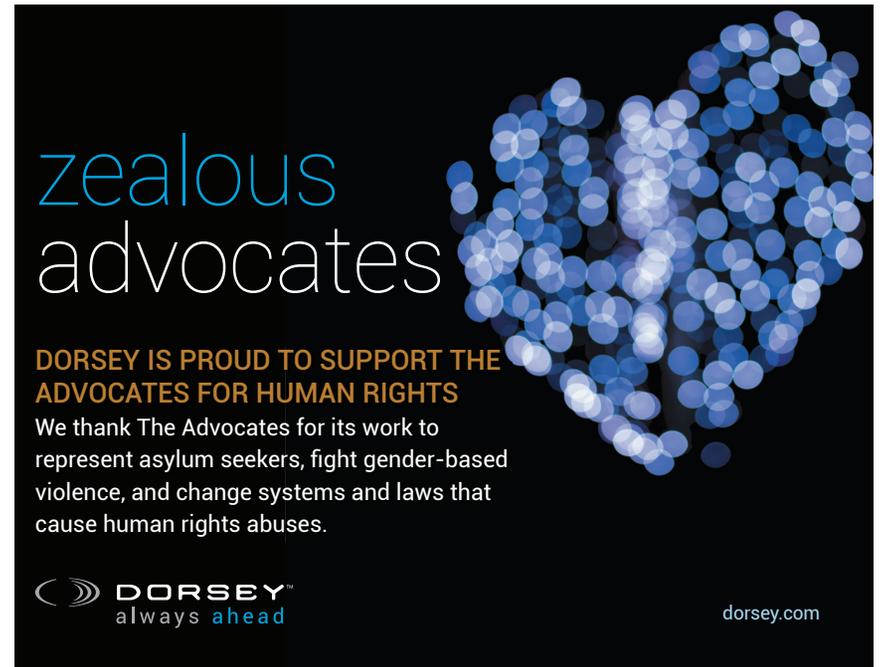
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ROBINS KAPLAN LLP is honored to celebrate extraordinary human rights defenders with The Advocates for Human Rights.

We support their mission to create a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, equality, justice, and peace.

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advocates

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We thank The Advocates for its work to represent asylum seekers, fight gender-based violence, and change systems and laws that cause human rights abuses.

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OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1983, we are an independent, nonpartisan, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees who are victims of human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and uses advocacy, research, and education to engage the public and policy makers in human rights.

The Advocates has a new podcast!



The Advocast dissects international legal standards that apply in the context of race, policing, justice, accountability, and safety. Available on Spotify, iTunes, and other podcast platforms.



Changing the world for good.

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