



ABA BUSINESS LAW SECTION

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## Nonprofit Organizations Committee

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2018 OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT LAWYER AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The ABA Celebrates Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyers

**Washington, D.C. – June 27, 2018:** The legal nonprofit community has named the 2018 recipients of the annual “**Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer Awards.**” The Nonprofit Organizations Committee of the American Bar Association, Business Law Section, recognizes accomplished and civic-minded nonprofit lawyers in the categories of Academic, Attorney, In-House Counsel, and Young Attorney. Additionally, the Committee bestows the Vanguard Award on a leading legal practitioner for his or her lifetime commitment to the nonprofit field. The 2018 recipients are:



**Vanguard Award** – for distinguished lifetime achievement in the nonprofit sector:

*Gregory L. Colvin*, Senior Counsel, Adler & Colvin



**Outstanding Academic Award** – for distinguished academic achievement in the nonprofit sector:

*Ellen P. Aprill*, Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles



**Outstanding Lawyer Award** – for distinguished service as outside counsel to nonprofit organizations:

*Eve Borenstein, Partner, BAM Law Office LLC*



**Outstanding In-House Counsel Award** – for distinguished service by a nonprofit in-house counsel:

*Aaron Stemplewicz, Senior Attorney, The Delaware Riverkeeper Network*



**Outstanding Young Lawyer Award** – for distinguished service by an attorney in the nonprofit sector who is under the age of 35 or has been in practice less than 10 years:

*Erin Bradrick, Senior Counsel, NEO Law Group*

**AND**



*Marla K. Conley, Partner, Conley Fleming LLP*

### VANGUARD AWARD

**Gregory L. Colvin**

Gregory Colvin is a leading authority on the federal tax laws governing nonprofit lobbying and political activities. He made valuable contributions to the development of the Treasury Regulations issued in 1990 interpreting Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code and resulting in significant improvement to the tax laws governing legislative advocacy by charities. He has written many articles on the political and lobbying rules affecting nonprofit organizations and is co-author of publications such as *Seize the*

Initiative (Alliance for Justice, 1996), *The Rules of the Game: An Election-Year Legal Guide for Nonprofit Organizations* (Alliance for Justice, 1996), and the legislative and political activities chapter of *Advising California Nonprofit Corporations* (Continuing Education of the Bar-California, 3rd edition, 2014).

Mr. Colvin also pioneered the field of fiscal sponsorship and is the author of a leading text in the field, *Fiscal Sponsorship: 6 Ways To Do It Right* (Study Center Press, 1993, 2005). He has instructed many nonprofit organizations on conducting fiscal sponsorship and continues to be an innovator in this area.

Mr. Colvin served as Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Political and Lobbying Organizations and Activities of the Exempt Organizations Committee of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association from 1991-2009. He also serves as co-chair of the Drafting Committee of the Bright Lines Project, sponsored by Public Citizen, which aims to develop and promote a clear, workable, objective, and universal definition of political intervention under the Internal Revenue Code. [www.brightlinesproject.org](http://www.brightlinesproject.org) Finally, he has advised a number of large membership organizations on their governance structures. For example, since 1994 he has served as nonprofit general counsel to Toastmasters International.

### **OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENT**

#### **Ellen P. Aprill**

Ellen Aprill is the John E. Anderson Chair in Tax Law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and is the founding director of its Tax LLM program. She has been a member of the Loyola Law School faculty since 1989.

Professor Aprill is one of the founders of the Loyola Law School Western Conference on Tax Exempt Organizations, considered by many to be the premier nonprofit law conference on the West coast. She has co-hosted this conference for twenty years and has been instrumental in bringing together leaders in government, academia and the nonprofit law bar each year for this conference.

Professor Aprill has written extensively on issues of nonprofit law and is a reliable source of knowledge both for her students and the public. Her other accomplishments include serving as a fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel and the American Law Institute, and serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the USC Federal Tax Institute and the Academic Advisory Board of the Tannenwald Foundation for Excellence in Tax Scholarship. She is a former Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Tax Section, which has honored her with the Dana Latham Award for outstanding contribution to the community and to the legal profession in the field of taxation.

### **OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARD RECIPIENT**

#### **Eve Borenstein**

Eve Borenstein is a leader in the nonprofit legal community who has dedicated significant time to improving understanding of the law and the operations of the sector, while also managing a small (solo or two-person) nationwide legal practice. Over the course of the past two decades, she has tirelessly advocated changes to the IRS in favor of improved Form 990 accountability and transparency, guidance clarity, and as a participant in several IRS Form 1023 improvement projects. With an in-depth grasp of both legal and accounting principles, Eve has served for more than a decade as the liaison between the American Institute of CPAs' and the American Bar Association's committees on exempt organizations.

Ms. Borenstein is recognized nationwide as a leading authority on Form 990 reporting issues. She was dubbed “Queen of the 990,” a moniker that was entered into the Congressional record when she testified in front of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee in July 2012. Eve has led hundreds of 990 seminars for nonprofits as well as for CPAs and other paid preparers, and her trainings on the Form 990 are considered by many to be the quintessential guide on how to prepare the Form correctly.

Ms. Borenstein has been involved in numerous *pro bono* projects to improve how those advising the sector may further nonprofits' federal tax law compliance. Her efforts to improve the capacity of the sector range from frequent intersection with both the IRS and with State regulators to generous fielding of practitioners' questions. In all of her efforts, she has brought to the table a profound understanding of the challenges nonprofits face in completing the 990-series of annual returns, along with the needs of regulators to obtain sufficient information to root out bad actors.

### **OUTSTANDING IN-HOUSE COUNSEL AWARD RECIPIENT**

#### **Aaron Stemplewicz**

Aaron Stemplewicz is a Senior Attorney with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, an environmental advocacy organization based in Bristol, Pennsylvania. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network works throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed as well as at the federal level on issues that impact the health of the watershed.

Mr. Stemplewicz plays a central role in the organization's legal action on energy issues. He has served as lead counsel and performed oral argument before the D.C. Circuit and has argued cases before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit Court of Appeals, D.C. Federal District Court, and Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He also has developed a litigation strategy for addressing infrastructure build-out activities in actions before both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for projects including: greenfield pipeline development, pipeline looping upgrades, compressor station siting and upgrades, valve and pump control station construction, and other fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Mr. Stemplewicz is active in his local community as a member of the Springfield Township (Montgomery County) Environmental Advisory Council, which advises the Board of Commissioners and other Township advisory boards, commissions, and committees on, and promote education about, issues relating to the management, promotion, use, and protection of the Springfield Township environment.

## **OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER AWARD RECIPIENT**

### **Erin Bradrick**

Erin Bradrick is Senior Counsel at NEO Law Group, where she provides corporate, governance, charitable trust, and tax counsel solely to nonprofits and exempt organizations. Erin also writes extensively on legal issues impacting the nonprofit sector, including as a columnist for The Daily Journal, California's largest legal news provider. She has written articles published by Taxation of Exempts, The Nonprofit Quarterly, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, and the ABA's Business Law Today, among others.

Erin is deeply committed to supporting and strengthening nonprofits and the sector at large and has led various advocacy efforts to this end. She also frequently speaks on nonprofit legal issues to various audiences and has been a speaker at multiple BoardSource Leadership Forums, the Western Conference on Tax Exempt Organizations, the ABA Business Law Section Conference, the State Bar of California's Section Convention, Northern California Grantmakers, and the Foundation Center - San Francisco. She often conducts trainings for nonprofit staffs on lobbying, advocacy, and election-related activities and for nonprofit Boards of Directors on a range of governance issues.

Prior to joining NEO Law Group, Erin was a litigator with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP and also clerked for the Honorable Dana M. Sabraw in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Erin is a graduate of UCLA, summa cum laude in Women's Studies and Political Science, and Yale Law School, where she was Submissions Director and Symposium Coordinator of the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism. In 2017, Erin was awarded the American Bar Association's "On the Rise – Top 40 Young Lawyers" by the ABA Young Lawyers Division.

**AND**

### **Marla K. Conley**

Marla Conley is a founding partner of Conley Fleming LLP where she focuses her practice on serving nonprofit organizations and their donors. Previously, she served as Co-Chair of the Nonprofit Organizations Practice Group and a member of the Tax and Wealth Management Department and Pro Bono Committee at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. She has spent her entire career working in the tax-exempt sector and particularly with charities serving youth in American cities.

Ms. Conley provides a range of free, educational training for nonprofits in Philadelphia. She also coordinates a group of local exempt organization attorneys out of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Tax Section who meet to discuss exempt organization issues. For this, and for her nonprofit practice and other community involvement, the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division awarded Ms. Conley the Craig M. Perry Community Service Award in early 2013. She also was awarded Schnader's Earl G. Harrison Pro Bono for her distinguished record of pro bono service, which included more than 1,000 hours to more than 40 pro bono matters in the prior five years.

Ms. Conley commits a significant amount of time each year to offering her insights at a variety of speaking engagements. She has focused especially on increasing awareness of nonprofit legal issues among nonprofit Board members, including through her support of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's Board Observer Program (which allows young attorneys to observe a nonprofit Board for one year and provides associated training). Ms. Conley currently serves as co-chair of the Property Committee for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania.