

2020 Earl G. Harrison Community Service Award

Jay Evans



Jay Evans, a partner in the Litigation Services Department, is being honored by the Firm with the 2020 Earl G. Harrison Community Service Award. This award recognizes a Schnader attorney or staff member who demonstrates an unfailing commitment to helping others and who has set an example for others to follow with regard to volunteering and giving back to the community.

Evans exemplifies Schnader's commitment to public service. His volunteer efforts and leadership roles over many years for several nonprofit organizations reflect a high standard for how attorneys and others can serve the community. "Jay's selfless involvement within the Pittsburgh community and beyond serves as a model inspiring us all to roll up our sleeves and give back," said Stephen A. Fogdall, Chair of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee and Co-Chair of the Financial Services Litigation Practice Group.

Evans is President of the Board for Pittsburgh's Arcade Comedy Theater. He started as a student and joined the Board in 2015. Arcade is Pittsburgh's only nonprofit comedy theater, located in the Cultural District, inspiring joy and nurturing community-building by connecting artists and audiences with the dynamic art form of comedy.

During 2020, Evans volunteered regularly as a Legal Observer for the National Lawyers Guild. The Legal Observer program is designed to enable people to express their political views as fully as possible without unconstitutional disruption or interference by the police and with the fewest possible consequences from the criminal justice system.

In the office, Gus, a service dog in training with Evans, was a visible example of community service. Evans is now awaiting his next puppy (with Canine Companions for Independence), and looks forward to raising another dog. CCI enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and support.

At Ridgewood Church, Evans and his family are involved with supporting its food pantry and teaching financial wellness classes.

Evans has assisted the Pennsylvania Innocence Project to raise awareness regarding the plight of the wrongfully convicted. He has also done *pro bono* work for PaIP, preparing and filing appellate briefs and motions. He even stepped in to teach the clinic for law student volunteers from the Pitt and Duquesne law schools in 2019.

Perhaps two of Evans' most enduring volunteer efforts were with Ligonier Camp and Conference Center (LCCC) and with North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO). LCCC helps children build confidence through outdoor activities. Evans began at LCCC in college, served on the board, and volunteered thereafter with personnel and governance issues. He served for 12 years on the board of NHCO and a predecessor, helping connect working people with reliable cars for transportation.

Q: Which activities have affected you the most?

A: I have watched with pride as Arcade's staff weathered the pandemic, pivoting to online and outdoor offerings to teach and entertain Pittsburgh safely when it needed it most. Also, being a Legal Observer this year has changed me as a person. Walking with people who don't benefit from my white male privilege and protesting for basic rights has been powerful and transformative.

Q: What sustained your commitment to community service over time?

A: When I became a lawyer, I felt it carried the responsibility to serve the community in addition to serving paying clients. I view "the higher calling of the law" as part and parcel of being a professional. Gratefully, Schnader is highly supportive of this approach.

Q: How do you think your community involvement can inspire others?

A: I enjoy finding "untraditional" charities. Everyone can find something great to do that helps others in need, even if it's more "eclectic." Get out there, find something that moves you, and make a difference!