

2021 Earl G. Harrison Community Service Award

Kevin S. Blanton



Kevin S. Blanton, co-chair of the Business Services Department and chair of the Real Estate Practice Group, is being honored by the Firm with the 2021 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.

Blanton fully represents Schnader's commitment to public service. His volunteer efforts exemplify how attorneys and others can serve those in need. "Kevin's deep involvement and leadership for important nonprofit organizations inspire us to do more for the communities in which we live and work," said Stephen A. Fogdall, Chair of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee and Co-Chair of the Financial Services Litigation Practice Group.

Blanton primarily gives his time and assistance to AIDS Fund Philadelphia, where he currently serves as President of the Board of Directors, as well as to the Center for Responsible Funding and Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program. He is also accredited as a LEED Green Associate, signifying his expertise and leadership in the green building movement.

Blanton has been committed to helping those infected with and affected by HIV since college, where he witnessed first-hand the devastating effects that the disease caused and, as a result, became concerned about the lack of public support and awareness surrounding it. Blanton's involvement with AIDS Fund first began in the early 2000s through the Philadelphia VIP program, where he represented the organization, pro bono, in a contentious landlord/tenant matter. In 2007 he was asked to join AIDS Fund's Board of Directors, and in 2010 was elected as President of the Board, a position that he still holds.

AIDS Fund's mission is to educate about, and increase public awareness of, HIV/AIDS and to provide emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV disease in the Philadelphia region. AIDS Fund produces a variety of fundraising and awareness programs throughout the year, including AIDS Walk Philly, GayBINGO, Black-Tie GayBINGO, World AIDS Day, and workplace giving campaigns. AIDS Fund is also the Philadelphia affiliate of The National AIDS Memorial, curating panels of The AIDS Memorial Quilt for a local audience.

Through his affiliation with AIDS Fund, Blanton has been able to support various LGBTQ organizations and AIDS service organizations throughout the region and played a significant role supporting the work of the Center for Responsible Funding on a pro bono basis.

Within Schnader, Blanton has shown community service leadership through his membership on the Pro Bono Committee and his commitment to infusing the practice of real estate law with green and sustainable practices. He has handled a variety of pro bono matters, mainly focused on assisting individuals with housing insecurity and underfunded organizations in need of real estate advice.

The philosophy of AIDS Fund is that "by coming together, each individual can make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community." Blanton is committed to this mission, believing that service matters and that "coming together" can also give purpose to volunteer opportunities in a wide range of organizations. Through his volunteer experiences, he has found that there is both a personal and a civic importance in offering kindness, and giving back to others. He finds that, by giving of himself, he can assist, teach others, and also grow in his own appreciation of those who may need assistance. Blanton hopes to inspire others to see how easy and rewarding it is to give back to their own communities.